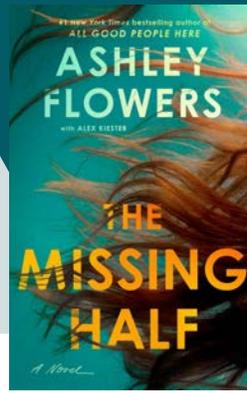




# May 2025

## The Top Ten Adult Fiction and Nonfiction Chosen Monthly by America's Library Staff

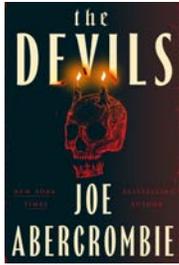
Find out more at [www.LibraryReads.org](http://www.LibraryReads.org)



**The Missing Half: A Novel**  
Ashley Flowers with Alex Kiester (Bantam)

Nic has been messed up since her older sister went missing. Enter Jenna, who is searching for connections between her sister's disappearance and Nic's. They decide to work together to uncover what happened, but the deeper they get the harder it becomes. A twist ending completely turns the tables on this tightly written thriller.

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX  
NovelList read-alike: *Night Will Find You* by Julia Haberlin



**The Devils**  
Joe Abercrombie (Tor Books)

In an alternative medieval Europe, a young monk is tasked to lead a disparate group of supernatural beings on a holy quest using very unholy methods. Abercrombie's endlessly quotable wit, deft character work, crackling dialog, and gift for large cinematic action set pieces are on full display. This novel about found families will absolutely draw in new readers.

—Gregg Winsor, Johnson County Library, KS  
NovelList read-alike: *The Maleficent Seven* by Cameron Johnson



**One Golden Summer**  
Carley Fortune (Berkley)

Alice is more comfortable behind a camera than living her life. When her Nan has surgery, Alice takes her for rest and relaxation at their favorite lake cottage. Alice falls for their handyman neighbor Charlie, who brings her out of her shell and lets her discover who she really is in this fun and flirty romance.

—Jacquie Daddato, Cherry Hill Public Library, NJ  
NovelList read-alike: *Summer Romance* by Annabel Monaghan



**Silver Elite**  
Dani Francis (Del Rey)

In a grim future, a military dictator sends forces after modified humans with psychic powers. Most have a tell when they use their powers. Wren wants revenge on those who destroyed her family, but she has a secret: she has powers, but no tell. Nonstop action, great world-building, and a blisteringly hot enemies-to-lovers romance make this a winner.

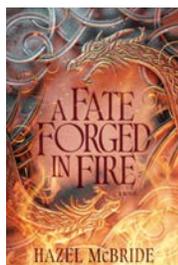
—Jayna McDaniel-Browning, Delaware Library, OH  
NovelList read-alike: *Spark of the Everflame* by Penn Cole



**The Names: A Novel**  
Florence Knapp (Pamela Dorman Books)

This debut novel is told in three alternating storylines based on three different names that the main character could have been given at birth. What results is a beautiful and nuanced story of a family attempting to survive and overcome domestic abuse and forge their own identities in the process.

—Jessica Sweetland, Manchester Public Library, CT  
NovelList read-alike: *The Paper Palace* by Miranda Cowley Heller



**A Fate Forged In Fire: A Novel**  
Hazel McBride (Delacorte Press)

Stakes are high for the kingdom of Tir Teine. A toxic influence looms in the form of the True Religion, a patriarchal group that condemns magic. Aemyra is fierce, headstrong, and unapologetically ambitious as she prepares to claim the throne. Fast action, romantic drama, mythical creatures, and the sinister allure of a dangerous cult will pull readers in.

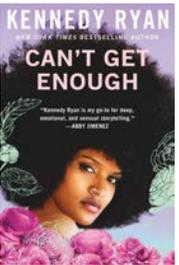
—Marcie Fitzherbert, Fort Myers Regional Library, FL  
NovelList read-alike: *Fever* series by Karen Marie Moning



**Maine Characters: A Novel**  
Hannah Orenstein (Dutton)

Two half-sisters meet for the first time at their father's lake house after his passing. Lucy and Vivian have led very different lives and knew very different versions of their dad. Readers will enjoy the characters, setting, and the twists and turns this story delivers.

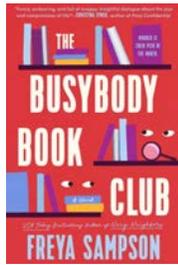
Shelby, Thomas B. Norton Public Library, AL  
NovelList read-alike: *If We're Being Honest* by Cat Shook



**Can't Get Enough**  
Kennedy Ryan (Forever)

Hendrix, a strong, intelligent Black woman, has big goals and no time for love. Then she meets billionaire Maverick, and everything changes. The characters are compelling and have strong chemistry. Ryan continues to excel at bringing big topics—in this case Alzheimer's and racism—to her romances.

—Laura, West Bloomfield Public Library, MI  
NovelList read-alike: *Forbidden Promises* by Synthia Williams



**The Busybody Book Club**  
Freya Sampson (Berkley)

In this modern take on a classic small-town mystery, book club members get drawn into amateur sleuthing when money to repair the town's community center goes missing. The characters are well drawn and likable, the setting is cozy, and the motives are plentiful. The mystery twists and turns with several reveals leading to a satisfying conclusion.

—Laura Eckert, Clermont County Public Library, OH  
NovelList read-alike: *The Mystery of the Crooked Man* by Tom Spencer



**Brighter than Scale, Swifter than Flame**  
Neon Yang (Tordotcom)

The tale of Yeva, a masked dragon slayer who has never felt truly at home, is both mythic and achingly human. Her journey to Quanbao sets the stage for an exploration of identity, duty, and love. The world building, storytelling, and representation has made Yang an author to watch in the realm of queer fantasy.

—Addy, Montrose Regional Library District, CO  
NovelList read-alike: *Singing Hills Cycle* series by Nghi Vo

### Bonus pick:



**A Showgirl's Rules for Falling in Love**  
Alice Murphy (Union Square & Co.)

### Notable Nonfiction:



**The AI Con: How to Fight Big Tech's Hype and Create the Future We Want**  
Emily M. Bender and Alex Hanna (Harper)

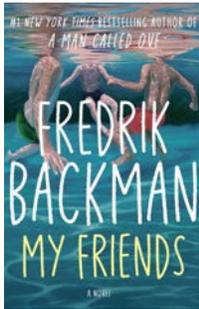
Be sure to check out our social media for the Bonus Pick annotations!



# May 2025 HALL OF FAME TITLES

The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly list since 2013.

Find out more at [www.LibraryReads.org/HOF](http://www.LibraryReads.org/HOF)



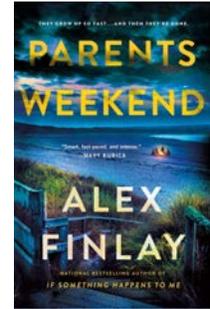
*My Friends: A Novel*  
Fredrik Backman  
(Atria Books)



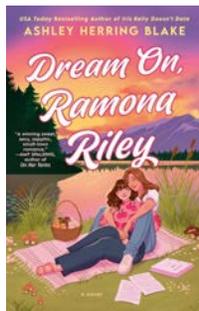
*The Love Haters*  
Katherine Center  
(St. Martin's Press)



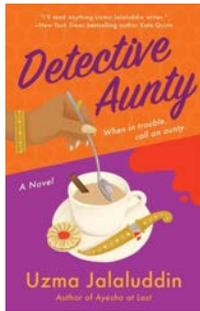
*Along Came Amor*  
Alexis Daria  
(Avon)



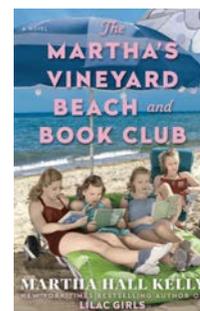
*Parents Weekend*  
Alex Finlay  
(Minotaur Books)



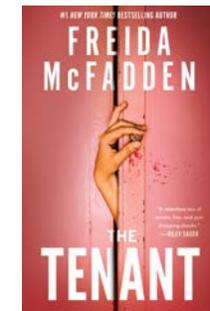
*Dream On, Ramona Riley*  
Ashley Herring Blake  
(Berkley)



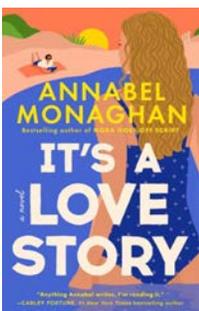
*Detective Aunty: A Novel*  
Uzma Jalaluddin  
(Harper Perennial)



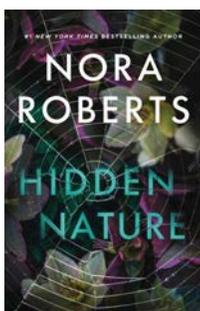
*The Martha's Vineyard Beach and Book Club: A Novel*  
Martha Hall Kelly  
(Ballantine Books)



*The Tenant*  
Freida McFadden  
(Poisoned Pen Press)



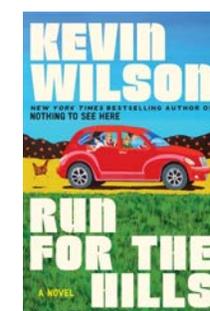
*It's a Love Story*  
Annabel Monaghan  
(Putnam)



*Hidden Nature*  
Nora Roberts  
(St. Martin's Press)



*What Happens in Amsterdam*  
Rachel Lynn Solomon  
(Berkley)



*Run for the Hills*  
Kevin Wilson  
(Ecco)