



July 2026

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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org



The Story Keeper
Kelly Rimmer
(Mira)



In this compelling gothic novel set in Australia, recently divorced 50-something Fiona buys her uncle's decaying country estate with plans to refurbish it. But the locals fear the place is haunted. When Fiona discovers a novel that appears to be set in the house, it becomes a dual-timeline story, with chapters from the book woven into the narrative.

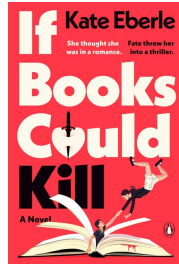
—Robin Beerbower, LibraryReads Ambassador, AZ
Novelist read-alike: *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan Henry



In Stormy Weather
Chelsea Curto
(Atria)

Two rival meteorologists who have been competing since high school end up spending a summer together storm-chasing while they both try to figure out the next steps in their careers. Readers will love this contemporary romance with characters who genuinely respect each other's intelligence and expertise.

—Gabrielle Lucas, Community Library of the Shenango Valley, PA
Novelist read-alike: *Chase Me If You Can* by Heather Frances



If Books Could Kill: A Novel
Kate Eberle
(Penguin Books)

Roxie wishes to live out her favorite romance author's next book, but ends up in a crime thriller instead, complete with a knife-wielding date. What follows is pure comedic gold as she kidnaps an anxious English professor to help her survive. This novel is a unique and engaging take on the romance genre.

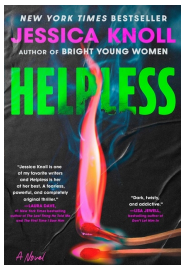
—Lupe Herrera, Mount Pleasant Public Library, TX
Novelist read-alike: *How to Kill a Guy in Ten Dates* by Shailee Thompson



The Exquisite Torment of Loving Your Enemy
Brigitte Knightley
(Ace)

The second book in the Dearly Beloathed Duology finds Assassin Osric and Healer Auriene struggling with their feelings while fighting a deadly Pox outbreak. This cozy romantasy features humorous banter, interesting characters and fantastic world-building.

—Sara Doyle, Hays Public Library, KS
Novelist read-alike: *Queens of Villainy* series by Stephanie Burgis



Helpless
Jessica Knoll
(Scribner)

Screenwriter Faye senses trouble when she runs into her ex, Henry, who she left behind for Hollywood and a hit show based on their relationship. When Faye wakes up drugged in a remote cabin with an angry Henry, motives blur, and the reader is left uncertain, fueling a tense, twisty thriller of kidnapping and revenge.

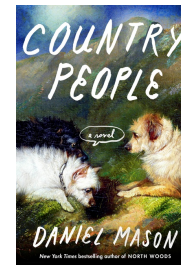
—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX
Novelist read-alike: *The Plunge* by Lila Raicek



Dominion
Jean Kwok
(Putnam)

Rubi Morningtail is a skilled ribbon dancer with no memory and minimal magic. Blake Axefire, the handsome Tyger Warrior leader, sees something in her. Thanks to his machinations, she becomes Bonded to a tygress and must train to fight as demons plot devastation. A steamy romantasy with all the popular tropes yet a distinctive world.

—Sarah Walker, Indianapolis Public Library, IN
Novelist read-alike: *We Who Will Die* by Stacia Stark



Country People: A Novel
Daniel Mason
(Random House)

Miles Krzelewski has stalled on finishing his PhD in Russian folklore for over a decade. When his wife Kate takes a visiting professorship in Vermont, they move their family across the country. Miles quickly fits into a warm local community rich in its own lore and legends. A joyful novel full of colorful characters.

—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, NJ
Novelist read-alike: *Alan Opts Out* by Courtney Maum



Die for Me: A Novel
Shirlene Obuobi
(Penguin Books)

What starts as a fun, age-gap romance quickly transforms into a suspenseful paranormal ride. Sean, the only Black female cardiologist at her hospital, is consumed by work and has sworn off love when she meets Julian, a breathtakingly magnetic much younger man. Obuobi expertly builds a slow-burning sense of dread that is both profoundly sensual and genuinely unnerving.

—Chasity Moreno, New York Public Library, NY
Novelist read-alike: *Son of Morning* by Akwaeke Emezi



Everything Was Beautiful and Nothing Hurt
Ben Reeves
(Avid Reader Press)

Death—aka Travis—moves through the world like a normal man. When not providing guidance and comfort to those who are passing, he keeps to himself and lives a quiet life. That changes when he forges a bond with his neighbor and her daughter. This novel explores the nature of grief, the beauty of lives both long and short, and the many ways humans deal with loss. A lovely, weighty, read.

—Jayna McDaniel-Browning, Delaware County District Library, OH
Novelist read-alike: *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi



Yes, Chef
Grace Reilly
(Avon)

Poppy and Jack are both in need of a second chance, having gone viral for a public breakup (her) and a public meltdown (him). They can't stand each other but somehow find themselves stuck together trying to revive a Florida restaurant. Entertaining and well-written, hitting all the right tropes (grumpy/sunshine, forced proximity, enemies-to-lovers).

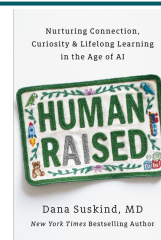
—Erin Gordenier, Librarian, OR
Novelist read-alike: *Just One Taste* by Lizzy Dent

Bonus pick:



When Mikan Road Was Ours
D. K. Furutani
(Atria)

Notable Nonfiction:



Human Raised: Nurturing Connection, Curiosity & Lifelong Learning in the Age of AI
Dana Suskind, M.D.
(Dutton)

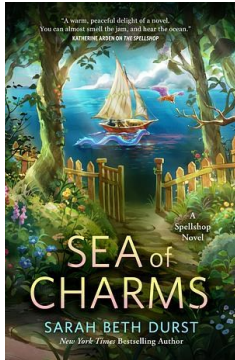
Be sure to check out our social media for the Bonus Pick annotations!



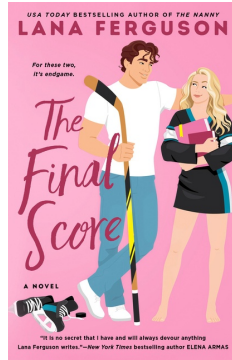
July 2026 HALL OF FAME TITLES

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

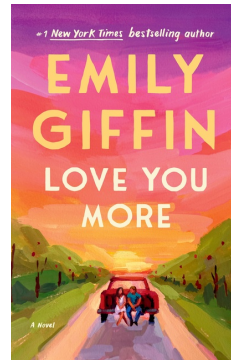
Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org/HOF



Sea of Charms:
A Spellshop Novel
Sarah Beth Durst
(Bramble)



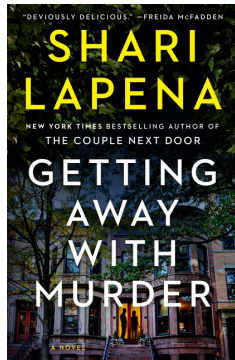
The Final Score
Lana Ferguson
(Berkley)



Love You More
Emily Giffin
(Ballantine Books)



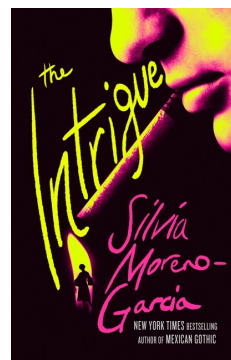
Meet Me in Paris
Kristin Harmel
(Gallery Books)



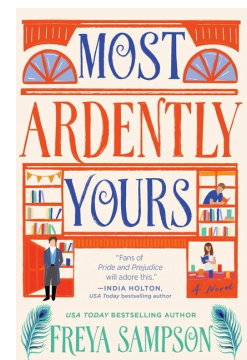
Getting Away with Murder
Shari Lapena
(Pamela Dorman Books)



The Romance Revival
Christina Lauren
(Gallery Books)



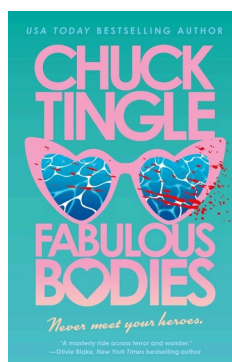
The Intrigue
Silvia Moreno-Garcia
(Del Rey)



Most Ardentlly Yours
Freya Sampson
(Sourcebooks Landmark)



Extracurricular
Rachel Lynn Solomon
(Berkley)



Fabulous Bodies
Chuck Tingle
(Tor Nightfire)



Cool Machine: A Novel
Colson Whitehead
(Doubleday)



Hot Girl Murder Club
Ashley Winstead
(Minotaur Books)