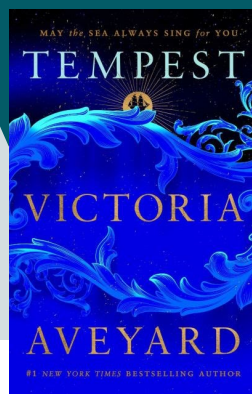




September 2026

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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org

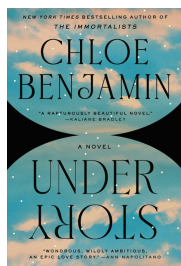


Tempest
Victoria Aveyard
(Harper Voyager)

TOP PICK

At twenty, Lady Rose is captured by marauding pirates and fights for her life. At thirty, bound for execution, her only chance at survival is her connection to the empire's most wanted man, Captain Kane. Fantasy readers will enjoy this new spin on pirate romance—especially because the two timelines don't meet in the middle, leaving readers anticipating what happens next.

—Kady Bischmann, Lawrence Public Library, KS
NovelList read-alike: The Crimson Sails series by Katee Robert



Under Story
Chloe Benjamin
(Putnam)

Laurel, a mushroom scientist, is working as a seasonal dishwasher at a research base in Antarctica, trying to escape her past after a tragedy. What ensues is a wild, brain-bending story. The science is written in a way that makes sense to the general reader. Readers will be thinking about this one long after it's over.

—Sydney Wirtz, Woodridge Public Library, IL
NovelList read-alike: *Lightbreakers* by Aja Gabel



Mazywood
Tananarive Due
(Saga Press)

From Old Hollywood to present-day, this sweeping tale follows generations of the Washington family working in the racist entertainment world and living with a deadly family secret. Told from multiple perspectives and with well-developed characters, this horror read is unputdownable and perfectly represents generational rage and its impact.

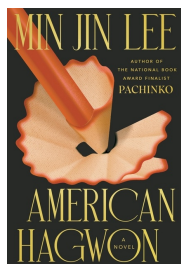
—Kristin Skinner, Flat River Community Library, MI
NovelList read-alike: Plain Bad Heroines by Emily M. Danforth



Trad Wife
Sarah Langan
(Atria Books)

Reporter Jenny is sent to Black Swan Farm, where Mia rules the roost over her seven—soon to be eight—children. It doesn't take long for Jenny to realize something strange is going on, and as she ingratiates herself into their world, she is plagued by visions. This is a layered, creepy, and shocking read.

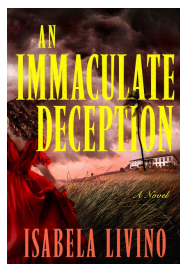
—Cari Dubiel, Twinsburg Public Library, OH
NovelList read-alike: *Trad Wife* by Saratoga Schaefer



American Hagwon
Min Jin Lee
(Grand Central)

This multi-generational book follows the Koh family throughout the decades. Lee writes effortlessly about multiple families navigating life in multiple locations. This is a powerful message about the struggles of not just immigrants, but of people finding their way in life. This book has captivating characters readers will care about, flaws and all.

—Amy Tippet, North Beach, MD
NovelList read-alike: *American Han* by Lisa Lee



An Immaculate Deception
Isabela Livino
(Dutton)

Madalena is young, in love, and pregnant—but in 1870s Brazil, in her family's religious household, that is just not acceptable. Convinced her lover will do the right thing, she stays at his deteriorating family estate, where darkness permeates every room and even her beloved Leandro seems strange and disconnected. The gothic vibes are spot on in this debut novel, and the twisty plot just doesn't quit!

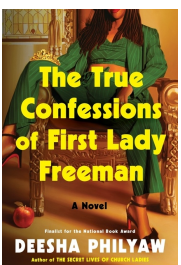
—Sharon Layburn, South Huntington Public Library, NY
NovelList read-alike: *The Hacienda* by Isabel Canas



Sophie, Standing There
Meg Mason
(Harper)

Sophie is going through a tough time after her husband leaves. To deal with her loneliness, she forms an imaginary relationship with her favorite author. The author's voice in her head offers friendship and advice, giving Sophie a way to work through her depression. A quiet and lonely story that will resonate with those of us who find solace in books and sometimes powerful connections to authors.

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX
NovelList read-alike: *Is This a Cry for Help?* by Emily Austin



The True Confessions of First Lady Freeman
Deesha Philyaw
(Mariner Books)

Scharisse Freeman's moment has finally come: on stage in the First Lady USA pageant, the ultimate validation for the wives of pastors of Black megachurches. She's an incredibly likable main character whose life verges on soap opera, but the author handles her story with the loving care it deserves. This blends the fun of soap and satire with genuine social critique and pathos.

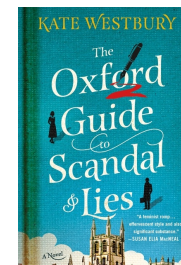
—Samuel Buelow, Santa Fe Public Library, NM
NovelList read-alike: *Dominion* by Addie Citchens



I Hope This Email Finds You in Hell
Mackenzie Reed
(Berkley)

Brie thought her biggest problem was surviving her boring office job, until she catches her boss performing an exorcism after hours. When her friend goes missing the next day, Brie gets pulled into a mission with her boss that leads straight to Hell. This is a chaotically fun mix of workplace humor and paranormal adventure.

—Julia F., Upper Perkiomen Valley Library, PA
NovelList read-alike: *Dearly Departed* by Chip Pons

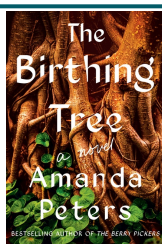


The Oxford Guide to Scandal and Lies
Kate Westbury
(Minotaur Books)

Set in post-World War II Oxford, students Ginevra and Sidney are recruited by MI5 to ferret out a Soviet spy. They come from very different backgrounds and have different goals but end up being thrown together. With interesting characters and a compelling plot this is an enjoyable read.

—Deirdre Routt, Omaha Public Library, NE
NovelList read-alike: *A Botanist's Guide to Parties and Poisons* by Kate Khavari

Bonus pick:



The Birthing Tree: A Novel
Amanda Peters
(Catapult)

Notable Nonfiction:



Live Laugh Love: The Secret History of White Christian Women and the World They Made
Kristin Kobes Du Mez
(W. W. Norton & Company)

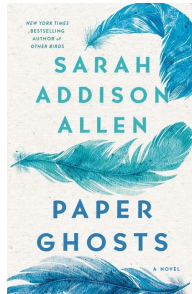
Be sure to check out our social media for the Bonus Pick annotations!



September 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.

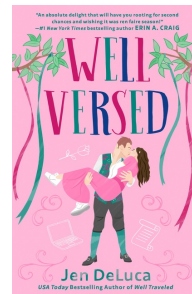
Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org/HOF



Sarah Addison Allen
Paper Ghosts
(St. Martin's Press)



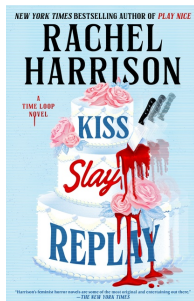
B.K. Borison
Grim Tidings
(Avon)



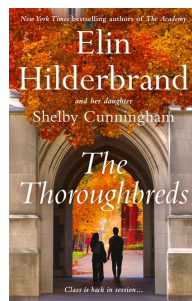
Jen DeLuca
Well Versed
(Berkley)



Lucy Foley (and Agatha Christie)
Murder at the Grand Alpine Hotel
(William Morrow)



Rachel Harrison
Kiss Slay Replay
(Berkley)



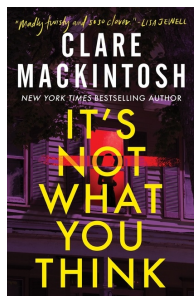
Elin Hilderbrand and Shelby Cunningham
The Thoroughbreds
(Little, Brown and Company)



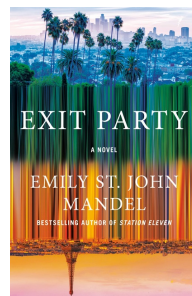
R.F. Kuang
Taipei Story
(William Morrow)



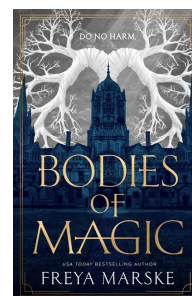
Ariel Lawhon
The Pirate Queen: A Novel
(Doubleday)



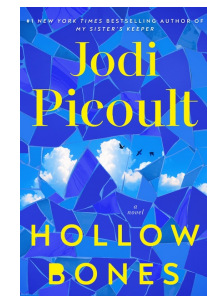
Clare Mackintosh
It's Not What You Think
(Sourcebooks Landmark)



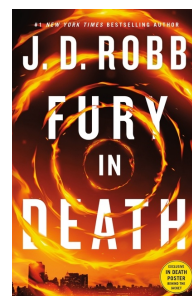
Emily St. John Mandel
Exit Party: A Novel
(Knopf)



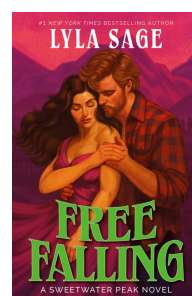
Freya Marske
Bodies of Magic
(Tor Books)



Jodi Picoult
Hollow Bones: A Novel
(Ballantine Books)



J.D. Robb
Fury in Death
(St. Martin's Press)



Lyla Sage
Free Falling: A Sweetwater Peak Novel
(Dial Press)