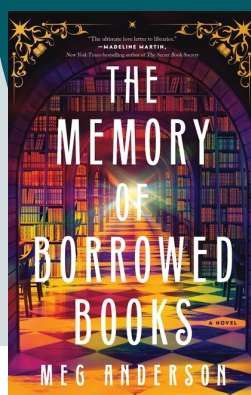




October 2026

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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org



The Memory of Borrowed Books
Meg Anderson
(Sourcebooks Landmark)

TOP PICK

An ode to how much libraries mean to those who need them. Hometown librarian Claire's beloved library is in danger, as the board has deemed it irrelevant, and developers are waving money around. Anxious about the library's fate, Claire discovers a door that leads her to books containing patrons' forgotten memories. As she pieces together a mystery of a broken friendship, she will also rediscover her own memories that the library has kept safe. With a whimsical yet compassionate storyline, this will appeal to library lovers as well as readers of deeply emotional stories.

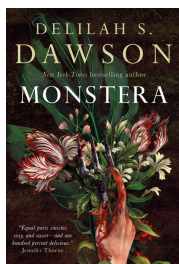
—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX
NovelList read-alike: *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods



Dive Bar at the End of the Road
Kelley Armstrong
(St. Martin's Press)

After an unavoidable accident, five strangers gather in a nearby bar to nurse their injuries and wait out the storm until morning. Soon they realize that the bar and surrounding woods are not as they seem, and they must work together to survive. An edge-of-your-seat horror tale by a beloved multi-genre author, this is a supernatural story not to be missed.

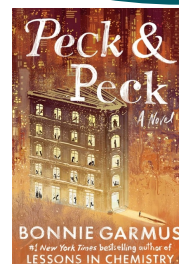
—Bree Dumont, Cleveland County Library System, OH
NovelList read-alike: *The Midnight Knock* by John Fram



Monstera
Delilah S. Dawson
(Titan Books)

When Lucy, a somewhat naïve young woman, moves into her dream apartment in Savannah, she is excited to be away from the iron rule of her grandfather and start a new life. What she does not expect is to become intrigued by her weightlifting, plant-loving neighbor, Saskia, a woman with a secret. Part horror, part romance, all intrigue, this is a sweet and sinister read.

—Terri Smith, Cornelia Library, GA
NovelList read-alike: *On Sundays She Picked Flowers* by Yah Yah Scholfield



Peck & Peck
Bonnie Garmus
(Scribner)

Landing a job at a prestigious poetry quarterly seems like a dream come true for Batter Gray, a recent graduate with an ear for poetry, until he becomes privy to the secrets of the Peck brothers and their editors. A gorgeous, empathetic novel following a character seeking his place in the world.

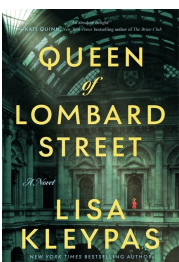
—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, NJ
NovelList read-alike: *Villa Coco* by Andrew Sean Greer



Once, Again, Always
Amanda Gayle
(Avon)

Molly's having a bad day. She wakes up in the hospital and discovers she's forgotten six years of her life. And she's married to her high school nemesis. Molly's horrified by this but her friends convince her to try. The couple grows closer again, but Molly may never regain her memory. Can they build a new life?

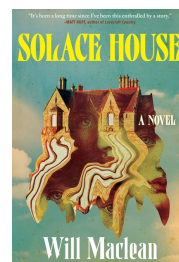
—Maddelyn Vanicell, Chicago Public Library, IL
NovelList read-alike: *Thank You for Remembering* by Emily Harding



Queen of Lombard Street
Lisa Kleypas
(Avon)

With the help of a powerful British banker, Rena is determined to build a women-only bank where women can have control of their money. A novel, interesting plot make it worth a read, but it's the nuanced and intriguing characters, based on real-life women, who really help this book shine. You will want to do more reading about these historic figures.

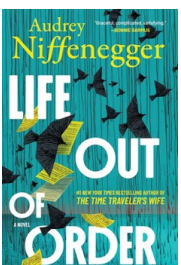
—Judy G Sebastian, Eastham Public Library, MA
NovelList read-alike: *The Tea Rose* by Jennifer Donnelly



Solace House
Will Maclean
(Grove Atlantic)

A group of university students spending a summer fixing up an abandoned asylum are tasked with cleaning up an imposing house nearby. After they find the journals of the eccentric and reclusive previous owner, odd things begin to happen. An intricate story that reflects the concept of time existing all at once.

—Grace Kranz, Blue Earth County Library, MN
NovelList read-alike: *Episode Thirteen* by Craig DiLouie



Life Out of Order
Audrey Niffenegger
(Hanover Square Press)

Alba's life is definitely out of order as she journeys into the future. She is the daughter of Henry of *The Time Traveler's Wife* fame, but this book does not rely on your reading of the previous book. The premise has the same internal logic as before and will send your mind spinning. Pro tip: Keep an eye on the dates and ages!

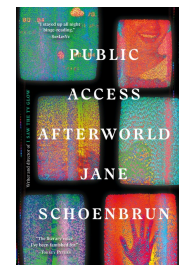
—Clare Etheridge, Brentwood Public Library, PA
NovelList read-alike: *The Ministry of Time* by Kaliane Bradley



Bad Words
Rioghnach Robinson
(St. Martin's Press)

A feud between an author and the literary critic who wrote devastating pans of his novels goes viral, but their animosity and banter starts to take on a flirtatious tone. This bookish tale takes a nuanced look at criticism, online culture, and intention versus impact, all grounded in rich, real emotions. A swoony, enemies-to-lovers slow-burn romance set amid a snowy NYC.

—Jenna Friebe, Oak Park Public Library, IL
NovelList read-alike: *Book Lovers* by Emily Henry

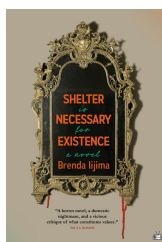


Public Access Afterworld
Jane Schoenbrun
(Hogarth)

A relentlessly strange but totally compelling journey into "Public Access Afterworld," the source of peculiar TV broadcasts that foster dangerous obsessions in all who see them. Readers who like their horror with a SF twist will devour this one.

—Mara Bandy Fass, Champaign Public Library, IL
NovelList read-alike: *Mister Magic* by Kiersten White

Bonus pick:



Shelter is Necessary for Existence: A Novel
Brenda Iijima
(Two Dollar Radio)

Notable Nonfiction:



Tyrant Lizard Queen: The Love, Life, and Terror of Earth's Greatest Carnivore
Riley Black
(St. Martin's Press)

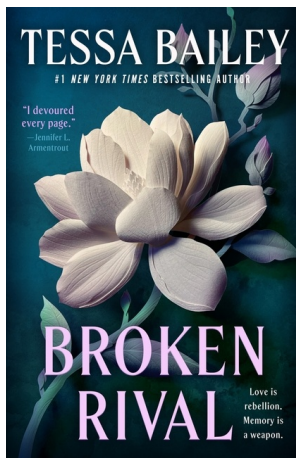
Be sure to check out our social media for the Bonus Pick annotations!



October 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.

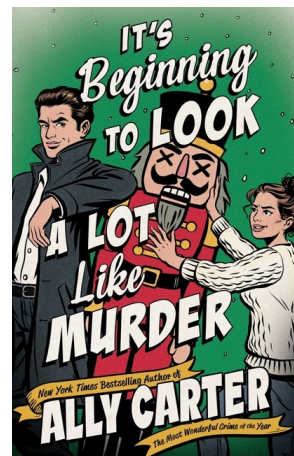
Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org/HOF



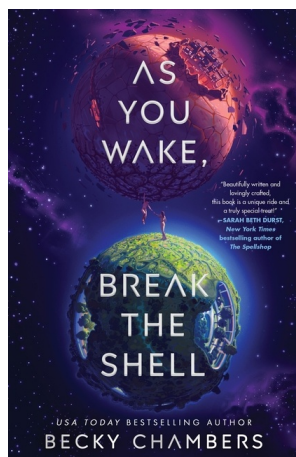
Broken Rival
Tessa Bailey
(Avon)



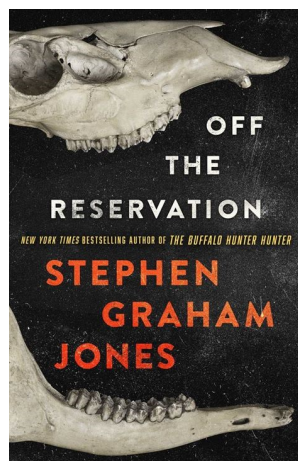
Legends & Lattes: The Graphic Novel
Travis Baldree, Samuel Sattin,
Shanti Rittgers, and Sarah Webb
(Ten Speed Graphic)



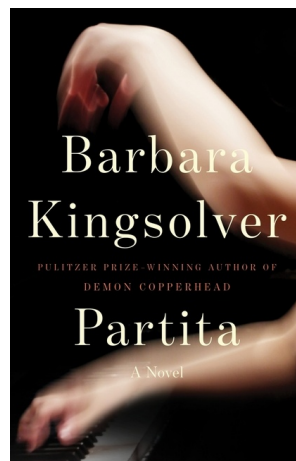
*It's Beginning to Look
a Lot Like Murder*
Ally Carter
(Avon)



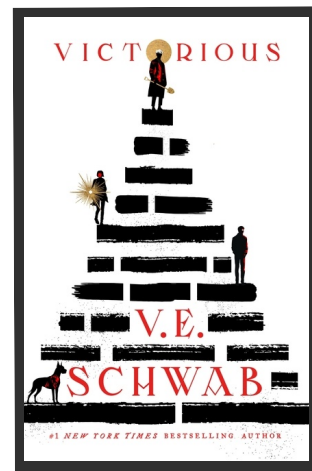
As You Wake, Break the Shell
Becky Chambers
(Harper Voyager)



Off the Reservation
Stephen Graham Jones
(Saga Press)



Partita
Barbara Kingsolver
(Harper)



Victorious
V.E. Schwab
(Tor)