



The Ballerinas
A Novel
by Rachel Kapelke-Dale
(St. Martin's Press)

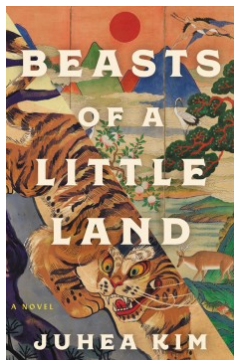
"Delphine is returning to Paris to choreograph her own ballet. Here she meets up with her lifelong friends and fellow dancers Margaux and Lindsay. This absorbing and thrilling character-driven novel explores the world of ballet and its mysteries and secrets. Give to fans of *Luster*, *Trust Exercise*, and *My Dark Vanessa*."

—Terri Smith, Cornelia Library, Mt. Airy, GA
NovelList read-alike: *The Turn-Out* by Megan Abbott



TOP PICK

December 2021 - The top ten books published this month that library staff across the country love.



Beasts of a Little Land

A Novel
by Juhea Kim
(Ecco)

"Hauntingly tragic and beautifully tender, the story of Jade Ahn is interwoven with the fate of Korea in the early 20th century. Jade is apprenticed to a courtesan at a young age, and her friendships there form an unbreakable bond that leads them through multiple tragedies and loves. Recommended for fans of Min Jin Lee and Amy Tan."

—Joy Matteson, Downers Grove Public Library, Downers Grove, IL
NovelList read-alike: *If You Leave Me* by Crystal Hana Kim



Bright Burning Things

A Novel
by Lisa Harding
(HarperVia)

"A searing portrait of addiction and recovery, told in the voice of Sonya, a former actress, raging alcoholic, and mother to four-year-old Tommy. When she almost sets the house on fire, her father forces her to rehab, if not for her sake, then for Tommy's. Sonya travels the difficult road to reintegrate into society and reclaim her beloved son. For fans of *Shuggie Bain* and *All Fall Down*."

—Lisa Burris, Bear Public Library, Bear, DE
NovelList read-alike: *Catch Us When We Fall* by Juliette Fay

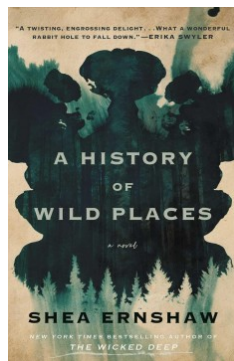


The Cat Who Saved Books

A Novel
by Sosuke Natsukawa
(HarperVia)

"A used bookstore, a grieving teen with an appreciation of reading, and a talking cat! What more could you ask of a fantasy? Throw in a mission to free lost and damaged books and a bit of readers' advisory, and you have a thoughtful exploration of the truths behind the pleasures of reading. For fans of author Roselle Lim and *The Little Paris Bookshop*."

—Lucy Lockley, St. Charles City-County Library, St. Peters, MO
NovelList read-alike: *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

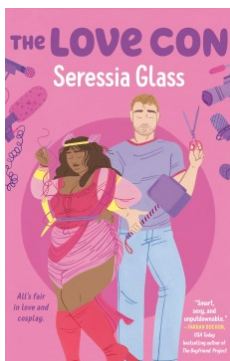


A History of Wild Places

A Novel
by Shea Ernschaw
(Atria Books)

"Travis has a gift: when he touches something, he experiences the memories associated with it. His path to find a missing author leads him to a remote commune. Then he too disappears. When one of the residents of that commune finds his truck years later, he realizes that the darkness they fled may already be in Pastoral. For fans of *Saint X* and *The Girls*."

—Deborah Smith, Weber County Library, Roy, UT
NovelList read-alike: *Mr. Splitfoot* by Samantha Hunt

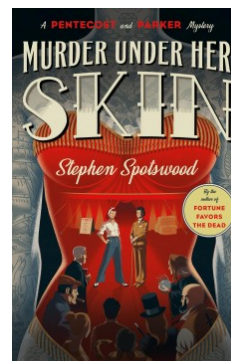


The Love Con

by Seressia Glass
(Berkley Jove)

"Engineer Kenya is a finalist on the reality show *Cosplay or No Way*, but to win she needs pal Cam to pretend he's her boyfriend. This is a fun friends-to-lovers, fake dating romance that will best suit folks into cosplay, cons, or geeky pursuits. For fans of Jen Deluca and Sara Desai."

—Alezandra Troiani, Sno-Isle Libraries, Marysville, WA
NovelList read-alike: *Conventionally Yours* by Annabeth Albert

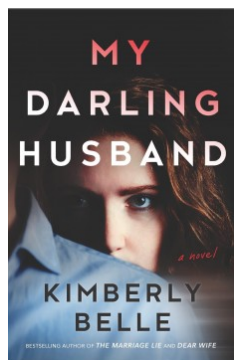


Murder Under Her Skin

A Pentecost and Parker Mystery
by Stephen Spotswood
(Doubleday)

"These fun throwback hard-boiled mysteries feature two female sleuths in the post-war 1940s--Lillian Pentecost, an unorthodox Brooklyn detective, and her unlikely partner, circus runaway Will Parker. Their second case involves a murder at Will's former circus, and is perfect for readers of Rex Stout and Agatha Christie."

—Patti Cheney, Pima County Public Library, Tucson, AZ
NovelList read-alike: *Blood and Circuses* by Kerry Greenwood



My Darling Husband

A Novel
by Kimberly Belle
(Park Row)

"Atlanta restaurateur Cam Lasky seemingly has it all, until a fire at his eatery and a terrifying home invasion threaten to destroy all he holds dear. With multiple perspectives adding to the mystery, this is another clever, fast-paced thriller from Belle. For readers of Lisa Gardner and Chevy Stevens."

—Jayme Oldham, Highland Park Public Library, Highland Park, IL
NovelList read-alike: *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave

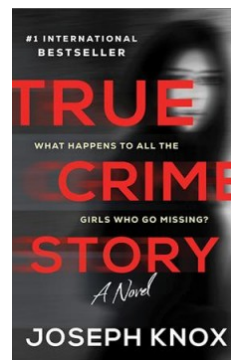


The Replacement Wife

by Darby Kane
(William Morrow Paperbacks)

"Elisa's best friend, fiancée to her brother-in-law Josh, has disappeared and no one else seems worried. Elisa is suspicious of Josh, especially since he already has one dead wife. Will anyone believe her before it's too late? For readers of *The Girl on the Train* and other unreliable-narrator thrillers."

—Chris Markley, Kingsport Public Library, Kingsport, TN
NovelList read-alike: *The Wife Upstairs* by Rachel Hawkins



True Crime Story

A Novel
by Joseph Knox
(Sourcebooks Landmark)

"What happened to Zoe Nolan? She walked out of her dorm room and hasn't been seen since. Knox weaves together interviews, emails, and police reports into an immersive missing persons case that will leave readers gasping for breath up until the last page. For fans of *The Word Is Murder* and the *Six Stories Series*."

—Carol Ann Tack, Merrick Library, Merrick, NY
NovelList read-alike: *Chasing the Boogeyman* by Richard Chizmar



December 2021

The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly LibraryReads list since 2013. When their third title places on the list via library staff votes, the author moves into the Hall of Fame.



The Midnight Hour
by Elly Griffiths
(Mariner Books)

"When retired theater impresario Bert is fatally poisoned in 1960s England, his wife—the prime suspect—hires the detective duo of former police woman Emma Holmes and Sam Collins to investigate. Griffiths is always excellent at plotting and character development, and this sixth Brighton mystery is no exception. Give this to fans of Louise Penny."

—Linda Tilden, Mount Laurel Public Library, Mount Laurel Township, NJ

NovelList read-alike: Constable Twitten mysteries by Lynne Truss