



October 2023

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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org



Wildfire: A Novel
Hannah Grace
(Atria)

This fun summer camp sports romance is a perfect beach read. The characters are complex, and the men (other than the 'bad guys') are written to be very respectful of and thoughtful to the women in their lives, whether in friendship or romance. The book is also very sex-positive. Readers who missed the first book in this series won't feel like they are missing anything, but will want to catch up!

—Jennifer Lizak, Chicago Public Library, IL
Novelist read-alike: *Never Been Kissed* by Timothy Janovsky



Let Him In
William Friend
(Poisoned Pen Press)

After the death of their mother, young twins Sylvie and Cassia find comfort in an imaginary friend, but their father begins to worry as things escalate. Grief and the paranormal are central to this book, and the story will leave readers questioning reality. This unsettling gothic read will keep readers turning the pages!

—Kristin Skinner, Flat River Community Library, MI
Novelist read-alike: *We Hear Voices* by Evie Green



The Hurricane Wars
Thea Guanzon
(Harper Voyager)

As enemies sworn to destroy one another, Alaric and Talasyn seem like unlikely allies, let alone candidates for a political marriage. This Asian-inspired fantasy series takes all the elements needed for a new world—alliances, royalty vs. rebels, magic powers, a fierce orphan with a secret destiny, and enemies-to-lover tension—then sets them in a world of horrific storms and a kingdom under siege.

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, TX
Novelist read-alike: *Daughter of the Moon Goddess* by Sue Lynn Tan



The Leftover Woman: A Novel
Jean Kwok
(William Morrow)

A Chinese woman desperate to find with the daughter adopted without her consent makes a dangerous journey to the U.S. Her story intersects explosively with that of an editor eager to recover from a career-ending scandal. Kwok hooks readers with an emotionally gripping story of two mothers willing to risk everything to protect what they love, skillfully balancing perspectives to a riveting climax.

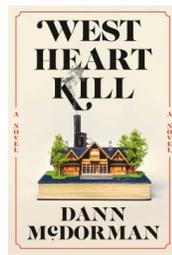
—Mara Bandy Fass, Champaign Public Library, IL
Novelist read-alike: *Say Her Name* by Dreda Say Mitchell



Better Hate Than Never
Chloe Liese
(Berkley)

Neighbors Kate and Christopher grew up together and over the years, snarky comments and shenanigans ensue until Kate flees home. When she returns years later, the animosity between them hasn't waned. With their families begging for peace, they determine they need to get along. Which they do...too well. Readers will find watching them fall in love to be nothing short of magical.

—Taylor Banze, St. Charles City-County Library, MO
Novelist read-alike: *Kiss Me Catalina* by Priscilla Oliveras



West Heart Kill
Dann McDorman
(Knopf)

In this twist on the trope of a locked room mystery, a private eye is trapped in an exclusive hunting cabin in the Adirondacks during a major storm with three dead bodies, while finding he is as much a suspect as the rest of the elite set of guests. A great original debut!

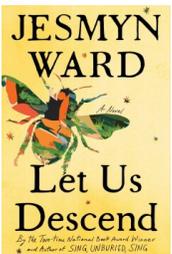
—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, NJ
Novelist read-alike: *The Word is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz



A Holly Jolly Ever After: A Christmas Notch Novel
Julie Murphy and Sierra Simone

When rule-follower Winnie decides to take part in a steamy Christmas movie, she doesn't have a clue how to perform racy scenes. She asks co-star Kallum, the former chubby football member of a boy band, for sexy practice sessions. As the two grow closer, can they get past their issues and have a real relationship?

—Jessica C Williams, Tiffin-Seneca Public Library, OH
Novelist read-alike: *Ship Wrecked* by Olivia Dade



Let Us Descend: A Novel
Jesmyn Ward
(Scribner)

On the long treacherous journey to the New Orleans slave markets, Annis turns inward, speaking to her lost mother and revisiting the stories of her African warrior grandmother. Ward's fluid prose assists the reader to travel alongside Annis, flowing between hell on earth and the comfort of memory. For fans of *She Would Be King* by Wayetu Moore.

—KC Davis, LibraryReads Ambassador, CT
Novelist read-alike: *Beloved* by Toni Morrison



Midnight is the Darkest Hour
Ashley Winstead
(Sourcebooks Landmark)

In this small corner of Louisiana, religion runs deep. As a teenager, the reverend's daughter Ruth becomes summer friends with Everett, and begins seeing the truth through his eyes. Ruth chose to follow the word of the church and stay put while Everett seeks more. However, when a skull is found in the swamp, Ruth begins questioning everything she thought she knew.

—Andrea Galvin, Mt. Pulaski Public Library, IL
Novelist read-alike: *The Toll* by Cherie Priest

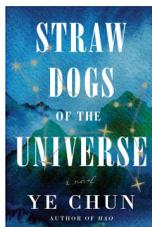


The Unmaking of June Farrow: A Novel
Adrienne Young
(Delacorte Press)

When her grandmother dies, June worries about falling prey to the family curse of hallucinations, which stole the sanity of her mother and grandmother. When a door opens leading to the past, June learns more about her family and discovers unexpected truths about herself—and her place in time.

—Nanette Donohue, Champaign Public Library, IL
Novelist read-alike: *The Invisible Life of Addie Larue* by V.E. Schwab

Bonus pick:



Straw Dogs of the Universe: A Novel
Ye Chun

(Catapult)

Notable Nonfiction:



The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year
Margaret Renkl

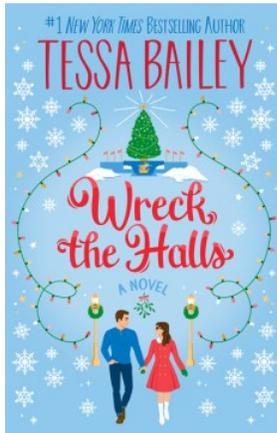
(Spiegel & Grau)

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



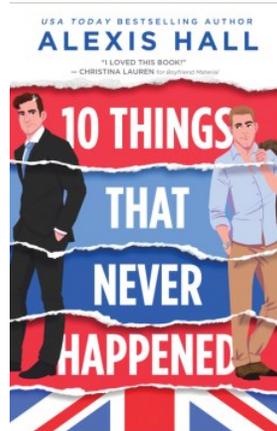
October 2023 HALL OF FAME TITLES

The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly list since 2013. Please visit our website for the full author gallery.



Wreck the Halls: A Novel
Tessa Bailey
(Avon)

Novelist read-alike:
All I Want for Christmas
by Maggie Knox



10 Things That Never Happened
Alexis Hall
(Sourcebooks Casablanca)

Novelist read-alike:
Season of Love
by Helena Greer



Starling House
Alix E. Harrow
(Tor Books)

Novelist read-alike:
The Hacienda
by Isabel Canas



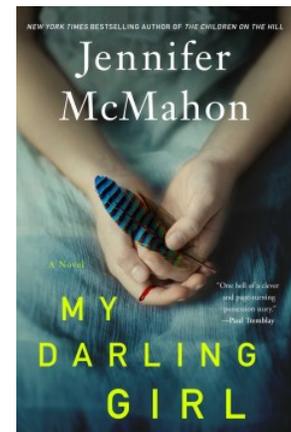
Iris Kelly Doesn't Date
Ashley Herring Blake
(Berkley)

Novelist read-alike:
The Fiancée Farce
by Alexandra Bellefleur



The Burnout: A Novel
Sophie Kinsella
(Dial Press)

Novelist read-alike:
Twice Shy
by Sarah Hogle



My Darling Girl
Jennifer McMahon
(Gallery/Scout Press)

Novelist read-alike:
Mothered
by Zoje Stage

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org/HOF