



January 2025

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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org



Good Dirt: A Novel
Charmaine Wilkerson
(Ballantine Books)

When Ebby was a child, she witnessed her older brother's murder. After being ditched at the altar years later, she escapes to France only to run into her ex-fiancé, Henry, and his new girlfriend. Ebby is forced to confront Henry and the trauma of her brother's death. Through a treasured heirloom pottery jar, the novel chronicles the history of Ebby's family and its resilience.

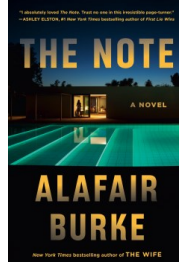
—Alison Zaya, Pollard Memorial Library, MA
NovelList read-alike: *Acts of Forgiveness* by Maura Cheeks



Out of the Woods: A Novel
Hannah Bonam-Young
(Dell)

In this follow-up to *Out on a Limb*, high school sweethearts Sarah and Caleb find that over a decade into marriage, their relationship has changed. They resolve to rekindle things through a weeklong couples retreat, camping in the wilderness. This second-chance romance features flashbacks and great character backstories that elevate it from the typical trope.

—Cari Dubiel, Twinsburg Public Library, OH
NovelList read-alike: *Before I Let Go* by Kennedy Ryan



The Note: A Novel
Alafair Burke
(Knopf)

Three friends reunite in the Hamptons only to have chaos ensue after a night spent out drinking. The fast-moving narrative features multiple narrators and lots of unexpected twists. Burke has delivered another excellent psychological thriller.

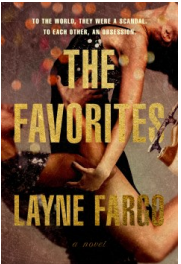
—Cyndi Larsen, Avon Free Public Library, CT
NovelList read-alike: *We Were Never Here* by Andrea Bartz



Babylonia
Costanza Casati
(Sourcebooks Landmark)

Semiramis was abandoned by a fragile mother and raised by a cruel stepfather. She grows up learning that to belong in a male-dominated society, she has to think and fight like a man. The author's research, vivid descriptions, and memorable characters make for a great read.

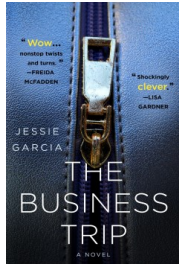
—Linda Sullivan, Mission Viejo Library, CA
NovelList read-alike: *Wings of Fury* by Emily R. King



The Favorites: A Novel
Layne Fargo
(Random House)

This novel looks at ambition and the elite figure skating world with a sharp eye and a fierce writing style. It's a dishy story of an Olympic ice-dancing couple with some truly romantic moments, the pacing of a thriller, and a documentary interview style that effectively propels the story along.

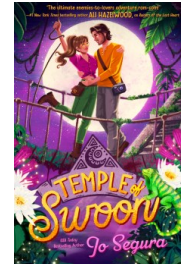
—Jodi Prather, Bartholomew County Public Library, IN
NovelList read-alike: *Carrie Soto is Back* by Taylor Jenkins Reid



The Business Trip
Jessie Garcia
(St. Martin's Press)

Stephanie, heading to a work conference, meets Jasmine, who is running from an abusive relationship. They find themselves connected to Trent, a raging narcissist. When both women turn up missing, evidence is found at Trent's house. This fast-paced plot will keep readers guessing until the very last page of the book.

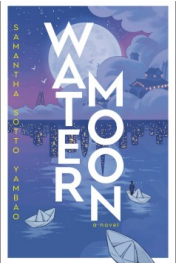
—Melissa Turner, Maricopa Library & Cultural Center, AZ
NovelList read-alike: *Leave the Girls Behind* by Jacqueline Bublitz



Temple of Swoon
Jo Segura
(Berkeley)

This delightfully madcap adventure through dangerous jungles and beautifully realized relationships will appeal to fans of Segura's first romance, but can be read on its own. Perfect for patrons who are looking for the quirky banter of India Holton or the academic wit of Ali Hazelwood.

—Clay Chiment, Ulysses Philomathic Library, Trumansburg, NY
NovelList read-alike: *The Jewel of the Isle* by Kerry Rea



Water Moon: A Novel
Samantha Sotto Yambao
(Del Rey)

At Hana's pawnshop in Tokyo, people can sell their regrets. While Hana provides relief for them, she desperately seeks answers for her father's disappearance. Enter Key and his scientific mind. A fascinating blend of magical realism, mystery, romance, and hope.

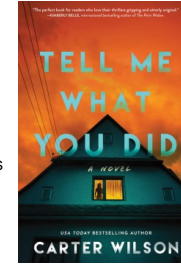
—Crystal Faris, Kansas City Public Library, MO
NovelList read-alike: *Sorcery and Small Magics* by Maiga Doocy



The In-Between Bookstore
Edward Underhill
(Avon)

In this aching "what if?" story, Darby goes back to his Midwest hometown and finds everything has changed but the In Between Bookstore—in fact, when he walks in, the person behind the counter is the sixteen-year-old version of himself. A tender look at how events change and create us—and how not even the closest people to us can know what's going on in our heads.

—Jessica Trotter, Capital Area District Libraries, MI
NovelList read-alike: *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig



Tell Me What You Did
Carter Wilson
(Poisoned Pen Press)

Poe, a popular true-crime podcaster, has the tables turned on her when a caller claims to know her past. Poe took out her mother's killer years ago, but the caller says she got the wrong person. This tightly wound cat-and-mouse game asks all kinds of moral questions, and readers will enjoy the many twists and turns.

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX
NovelList read-alike: *Listen for the Lie* by Amy Tintera

Bonus pick:



Wake Up and Open Your Eyes
Clay McLeod Chapman
(Quirk Books)

Notable Nonfiction:



Y2K: How the 2000s Became Everything
Collette Shade
(Dey Street Books)

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



January 2025 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



Beg, Borrow, or Steal:
A Novel
Sarah Adams
(Delacorte Press)



The Stolen Queen:
A Novel
Fiona Davis
(Dutton)



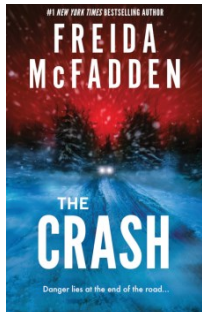
Witchcraft for Wayward Girls
Grady Hendrix
(Berkley)



Beautiful Ugly
Alice Feeney
(Flatiron Books)



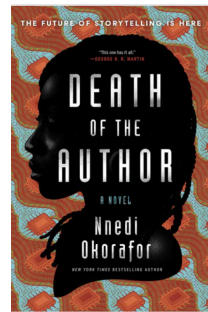
Once Smitten, Twice Shy
Chloe Liese
(Berkley)



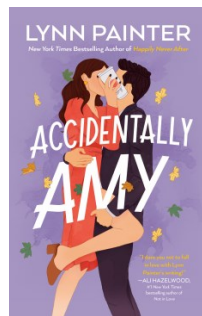
The Crash
Freida McFadden
(Poisoned Pen Press)



Adrift in Currents Clean and Clear
Seanan McGuire
(Tordotcom)



Death of the Author:
A Novel
Nnedi Okorafor
(William Morrow)



Accidentally Amy
Lynn Painter
(Berkley)



A Sea of Unspoken Things:
A Novel
Adrienne Young
(Delacorte Press)