



# February 2025

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

Find out more at [www.LibraryReads.org](http://www.LibraryReads.org)



**First-Time Caller**  
B.K. Borison  
(Berkley)



A cute story about Lucie, whose daughter calls into a radio show for people looking for love. Aiden, the show's host, is taken by her honesty and invites her to the show to document her quest for love. It's a bumpy ride, but Aiden is there the whole way! Readers will love the tension between Lucie and Aiden, and the secondary characters are chef's kiss.

—Claire Schroeder, Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library, OH

Novelist read-alike: *Is She Really Going Out With Him?* by Sophie Cousens



**Wooing the Witch Queen**  
Stephanie Burgis  
(Bramble)

This cozy romance features a librarian hiding out as a dark wizard, a witch queen who'd rather nerd out about experiments, and the most wonderfully supportive found family. This has all the tropes you love of romantasy with the added bonus of witty banter, snarky witch queens, and a heart-melting romance. Give this one to fans of *The Princess Bride*.

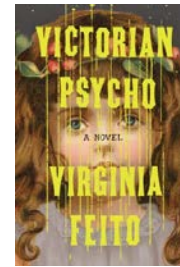
—Sarah Bean Thompson, Springfield-Greene Cty Library, MO  
Novelist read-alike: *Sword Crossed* by Freya Marske



**The Quiet Librarian**  
Allen Eskens  
(Mulholland Books)

Hana, a librarian in a small town in Minnesota, lives a quiet life until the day a detective informs her of her close friend's murder. Knowing her friend's death is tied to her, Hana's afraid she's next. This historical thriller alternates between present day and 1995 Bosnia with a plot that's intense and gritty, and writing that's moving and heartbreaking.

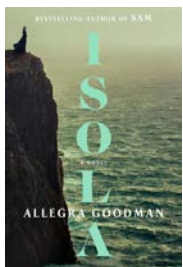
—Connie Laing, Great River Regional Library, MN  
Novelist read-alike: *Groundskeeping* by Lee Cole



**Victorian Psycho**  
Virginia Feito  
(Liveright)

Dark and diabolical, this is a tale of a governess pushed to the limit. Arriving at an estate to care for two spoiled brats, she must deal with a barrage of verbal and physical abuse, until Christmas arrives and she can take it no more. This gruesome gothic tale full of dark wit and horror is reminiscent of *Sweeney Todd*.

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX  
Novelist read-alike: *Maeve Fly* by CJ Leede



**Isola: A Novel**  
Allegra Goodman  
(The Dial Press)

This novel is based on the true story of Marguerite de la Rocque, an aristocratic French girl who was marooned with her lover on an island off of Canada in the 1500s. When her parents pass away, she's entrusted to a guardian who seeks adventure and uses her fortune to finance his travels. Readers will enjoy her adventures as she makes a new life.

—Claire Talbot, Greece Public Library, Rochester, NY  
Novelist read-alike: *Vaster Wilds* by Lauren Groff



**I Got Abducted by Aliens and Now I'm Trapped in a Rom-Com**  
Kimberly Lemming  
(Berkley)

When Dory Valentine is abducted and transported to another planet, she ends up falling for not one, but two sexy aliens. As you might expect, this book is funny, sexy, and very fast-paced. The subplot about her alien abduction—and the reasons behind it—is interesting and intricate. Readers will absolutely look forward to more from this up-and-coming author.

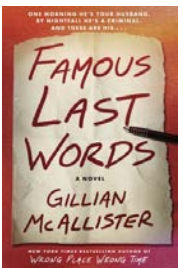
—Dontaná M., Oak Park Public Library, IL  
Novelist read-alike: *Ice Planet Barbarians* by Ruby Dixon



**A Killing Cold**  
Kate Alice Marshall  
(Flatiron Books)

When Theo arrives at her new fiance's family retreat, she realizes she has been there before. As the secrets this family has been holding onto for years start to come out, this drama goes in a dark, suspenseful direction. Just when you think you know where this is headed, it becomes full of twists and turns. Yes please!

—Paige N., LibraryReads Ambassador  
Novelist read-alike: *The Last One at the Wedding* by Jason Rekulak



**Famous Last Words**  
Gillian McAllister  
(William Morrow)

Cam can't believe it when her husband Adam takes three hostages in an abandoned warehouse. Seven years later, Adam's betrayal rears its ugly head again. Will Cam turn to amateur sleuthing, or put everything behind her and find closure? McAllister uses her standard smooth and emotional style to make sure all the puzzle pieces click together for a satisfying ending.

—Cari Dubiel, Twinsburg Public Library, OH  
Novelist read-alike: *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave



**Something in the Walls**  
Daisy Pearce  
(Minotaur Books)

Mina, a newly minted child psychologist, meets Sam, a journalist, who seeks her help on a piece about Alice, a teenager who claims to be possessed by a witch. Mina agrees, and they find themselves in a very unsettling small town, experiencing strange things that they can't explain. This book is just spooky enough that you may want to read it with the lights on!

—Melissa Turner, Maricopa Library & Cultural Center, AZ  
Novelist read-alike: *The Bog Wife* by Kay Chronister



**The Strange Case of Jane O.: A Novel**  
Karen Thompson Walker  
(Random House)

After Dr. Henry Byrd is summoned by police to see Jane O. at the psychiatric hospital, they want him to reveal her confidential information: has she really lost three days under a dissociative fugue, or is she faking it to cover up a crime? This unique novel explores the idea of alternate and parallel realities, grief, friendship, and trust.

—Donna Ballard, LibraryReads Ambassador  
Novelist read-alike: *The Possibilities* by Yael Goldstein

**Bonus pick:**



**A Forty Year Kiss**  
Nickolas Butler  
(Sourcebooks Landmark)

**Notable Nonfiction:**



**Fearless and Free: A Memoir**  
Josephine Baker  
(Tiny Reparations Books)

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



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## HALL OF FAME TITLES

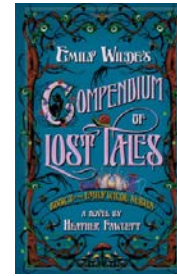
The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly list since 2013.



*Dream Girl Drama*  
Tessa Bailey  
(Avon)



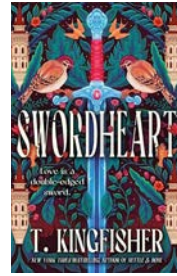
*The Queens of Crime: A Novel*  
Marie Benedict  
(St. Martin's Press)



*Emily Wilde's Compendium of Lost Tales*  
Heather Fawcett  
(Del Rey)



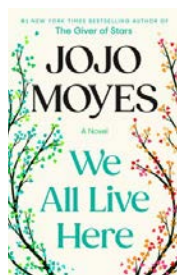
*Back After This: A Novel*  
Linda Holmes  
(Ballantine Books)



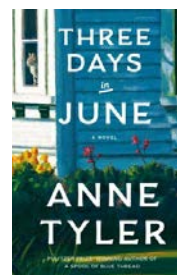
*Swordheart*  
T. Kingfisher  
(Bramble)



*The Bones Beneath My Skin*  
TJ Klune  
(Tor Books)



*We All Live Here: A Novel*  
Jojo Moyes  
(Pamela Dorman Books)



*Three Days in June: A Novel*  
Anne Tyler  
(Knopf)



*Close Your Eyes and Count to 10*  
Lisa Unger  
(Park Row)

Find out more at [ww.LibraryReads.org/HOF](http://ww.LibraryReads.org/HOF)