



# July 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)

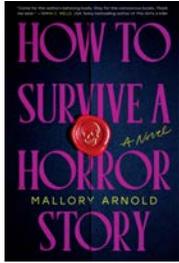


*The Enchanted Greenhouse*  
Sarah Beth Durst  
(Bramble)



On a remote island during a snowstorm, outside a magical greenhouse, Turlu the librarian wakes from her punishment as a statue—fully human again, and really cold. How did she get here? How was she freed? Who is the mysterious and attractive gardener, and can he help? Readers of cozy fantasy will be enchanted with this parallel story set in the world of *The Spellshop*.

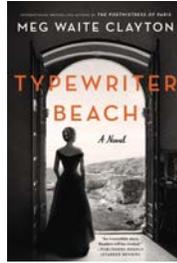
—Crystal Faris, Kansas City Public Library, MO  
NovelList read-alike: *The Honey Witch* by Sidney J. Shields



*How to Survive a Horror Story*  
Mallory Arnold  
(Poisoned Pen Press)

Seven strangers, all horror writers, are brought together for a reading of the will of Mortimer Queen. They have to survive the night in a classic old house. There are riddles, secrets, tales within tales, and a bit of gore wrapped up into an intricate and pulse-pounding evening. This debut is sure to appeal to fans of mystery and horror.

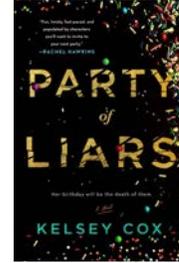
—Douglas Beatty, Baltimore County Public Library, MD  
NovelList read-alike: *The Writing Retreat* by Julia Bartz



*Typewriter Beach*  
Meg Waite Clayton  
(Harper)

A Hollywood starlet is sent to a cottage until her "condition" goes away. She creates a masterpiece with the outcast screenwriter next door. Years later, the screenwriter's granddaughter returns, finding closure with the legendary actress. Under the shimmer of 1950s movie magic and the shadows of the McCarthy era, this romantic, moody mystery spotlights life in front of the camera.

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX  
NovelList read-alike: *Death Upon a Star* by Amy Meade



*Party of Liars*  
Kelsey Cox  
(Minotaur Books)

A sweet 16 party at a Texas mansion takes a deadly turn. A host of unsavory narrators add to the story, revealing a myriad of shocking secrets. Multiple intertwined characters help create a sense of urgency and intrigue, contributing to a buildup of suspense to a shocking conclusion.

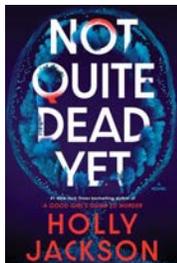
—Cyndi Larsen, Avon Free Public Library, CT  
NovelList read-alike: *The Block Party* by Jamie Day



*Savvy Summers and the Sweet Potato Crimes*  
Sandra Jackson-Opoku  
(Minotaur Books)

Savvy Summers is trying to keep her soul food cafe on the South Side of Chicago open, despite a customer being murdered via one of her own pies. She and her coworker, Penny Lopés, attempt to solve the case while fending off developers. This series has fun characters and good food, as well as interesting history and culture.

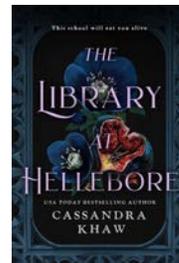
—Becky Abbott, Santa Fe Public Library, NM  
NovelList read-alike: *Body & Soul Food*  
by Abby Collette



*Not Quite Dead Yet: A Novel*  
Holly Jackson  
(Bantam)

Jet Mason has seven days to solve her own murder after being attacked on Halloween. Throughout the week, she uncovers shocking hidden truths about her family and community. This incredibly propulsive adult debut from a YA powerhouse author lives up to the incredible hook. Feisty, snarky Jet is such a fun lead, and the ticking clock towards her death will keep readers flying through the pages.

—Jenna Friebe, Oak Park Public Library, IL  
NovelList read-alike: *Don't Open Your Eyes*  
by Liv Constantine



*The Library at Hellebore*  
Cassandra Khaw  
(Tor Nightfire)

Things at school can be tough. Your roommate thinks you like her boyfriend, your friend won't shut up about her sorority, and sometimes the faculty's desire for flesh coincides inconveniently with graduation. What's a kidnapped, devil-touched girl to do? Flee to the library, of course! Come for the body horror, stay for the revolutionary spirit.

—Krista Feick, Columbus Metropolitan Library, OH  
NovelList read-alike: *The Library At Mount Char*  
by Scott Hawkins



*The Irresistible Urge to Fall for Your Enemy: Book 1 of the Dearly Beloathed Duology*  
Brigitte Knightley  
(Ace)

In a world of amazing and strange magic, a healer and a killer make an unlikely alliance that may inadvertently save the lives of thousands. This debut is an absolutely delightful spin on enemies-to-lovers with fantastic prose, intelligent characters, sarcastic and quippy conversation, and desperately denied pining.

—Brenna Timm, High Plains Library District, CO  
NovelList read-alike: *Spark of the Everflame* by Penn Cole



*A Witch's Guide to Magical Inkkeeping*  
Sangu Mandanna  
(Berkley)

Sera had great powers until she performed a spell that cost nearly all of her magic. Now, there's a chance she could get her magic back, and become more than just an inkeeper with a house full of quirky boarders under her (falling apart) roof. She will need the help of an attractive historian, a nefarious talking fox, and the rest of her hodgepodge found family. Utterly delightful, and a bit bittersweet.

—Sharon Layburn, South Huntington Public Library, NY  
NovelList read-alike: *The Crescent Moon Tearoom*  
by Stacy Sivinski



*The Satisfaction Café*  
Kathy Wang  
(Scribner)

Taiwanese immigrant Joan realizes her childhood dream—a café where hosts ask diners questions and provide pleasant conversation. Wang brings up the issues of sadness, isolation, and loneliness in a quiet, restrained way, and offers a graceful pragmatic character in Joan. If cafés can offer cats to make people happier, why can't true human companionship be offered?

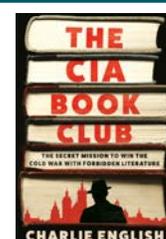
—Donna Ballard, LibraryReads Ambassador, NY  
NovelList read-alike: *Rental Person Who Does Nothing*  
by Shoji Morimoto

### Bonus pick:



*Maggie, or, A Man and a Woman Walk Into a Bar: A Novel*  
Katie Yee  
(Scribner)

### Notable Nonfiction:



*The CIA Book Club: The Secret Mission to Win the Cold War with Forbidden Literature*  
Charlie English  
(Random House)

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

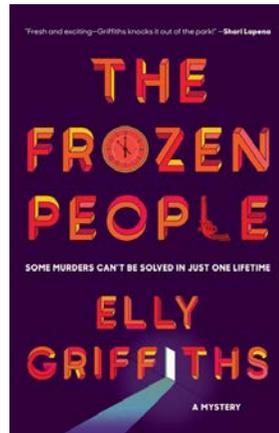


# July 2025 HALL OF FAME TITLES

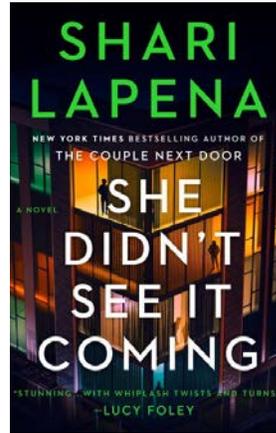
The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly list since 2013.



*Overruled: A Novel*  
Lana Ferguson  
Berkley



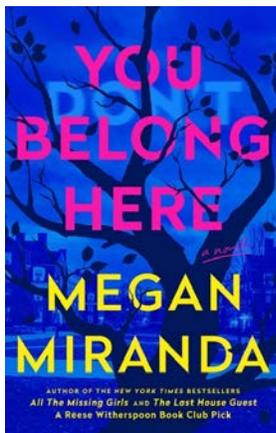
*The Frozen People:  
A Mystery*  
Elly Griffiths  
Pamela Dorman Books



*She Didn't See It Coming:  
A Novel*  
Shari Lapena  
Pamela Dorman Books



*These Summer Storms:  
A Novel*  
Sarah MacLean  
Ballantine



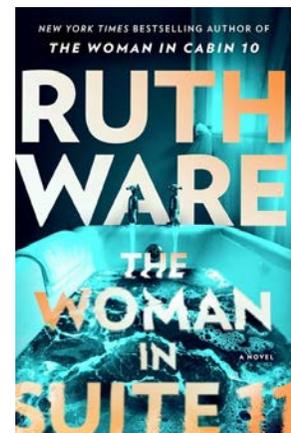
*You Belong Here*  
Megan Miranda  
Marysue Rucci Books



*The Bewitching*  
Silvia Moreno-Garcia  
Del Rey



*Maid for Each Other*  
Lynn Painter  
Berkley



*The Woman in Suite 11*  
Ruth Ware  
Gallery Books

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