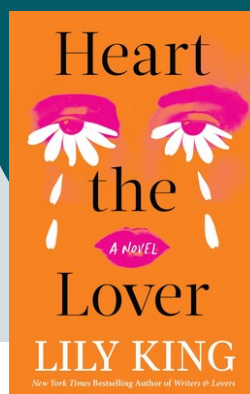




# September 2025

## 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)

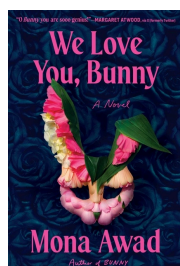


**Heart the Lover**  
Lily King  
(Grove Press)

**TOP PICK**

A young woman meets two friends, Sam and Yash, in her senior year college literature class. Impressed with their intellect, she gets pulled into their circle and starts dating Sam. This coming-of-age story begins as they are all completing college, then finishes as they reconnect as adults. With beautiful writing and a character-driven story, this novel is perfect for fans of Sally Rooney.

—Sophia Geron, Chesterfield Public Libraries, VA  
NovelList read-alike: *We All Want Impossible Things* by Catherine Newman



**We Love You, Bunny**  
Mona Awad  
(S&S/Marysue Rucci Books)

This atmospheric, wickedly funny prequel to *Bunny* is a treat. Readers get to know the bunnies and their first creation intimately. Arieus experiences many firsts: love, heartache, frat parties, being made a muse. Awad fans will rejoice and new fans will be made with this riotous little novel.

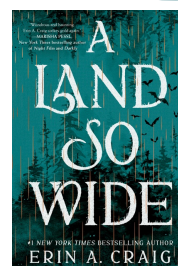
—Brooke G., DeKalb County Public Library, IL  
NovelList read-alike: *I'm Not Done with You Yet* by Jesse Q. Sutano



**People Watching: A Novel**  
Hannah Bonam-Young  
(Dell)

Milo, an eternal wanderer, and Prue, happily settled in her hometown, seem to have nothing in common. Through some tangled family challenges, they find that they have a lot to learn from each other. This wonderful romance features messy, moving, and complex characters who fight hard for their happily ever after.

—Sharon Layburn, South Huntington Public Library, NY  
NovelList read-alike: *Single Dads Club* by Therese Beharrie



**A Land So Wide**  
Erin A. Craig  
(Pantheon)

Greer, a mapmaker in the town of Mistaken who fantasizes about leaving, notices strange things happening. Then her lover mysteriously leaves town. In her attempts to save him, she learns about herself, her cursed town, and the lore surrounding both. This suspenseful and emotional romantasy is well plotted with great world building.

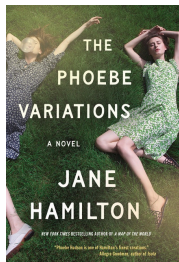
—Margaret Balwierz, Villa Park Public Library, IL  
NovelList read-alike: *A Spell for Change* by Nicole Jarvis



**The Wilderness**  
Angela Flournoy  
(Mariner)

Over the course of 20 years in New York and Los Angeles, Desiree, Danielle, January, Monique, and Nakia face both the universal hardships of growing up and the specific challenges of doing so in 21st-century America. These intertwining stories of five Black women finding their way into adulthood create a deeply moving portrait of friendship.

—Jennifer Alexander, St. Louis County Library, MO  
NovelList read-alike: *Wahala* by Nikki May



**The Phoebe Variations**  
Jane Hamilton  
(Zibby Publishing)

Told in flashback, Phoebe, about to graduate high school, is forced by her adoptive mother to meet her birth family, jumpstarting a search for identity and belonging that reveals layers of uncertainty and mistrust surrounding her best friend and the family of 14 who take her in. Illuminating and lush, this literary jewel will spark numerous discussions.

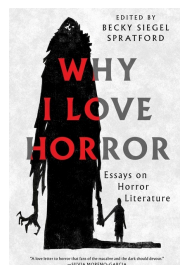
—Ron Block, Cuyahoga County Public Library, OH  
NovelList read-alike: *Sam* by Allegra Goodman



**Breathe In, Bleed Out**  
Brian McAuley  
(Poisoned Pen Press)

Hannah and four friends join a private retreat to relax and regroup after experiencing big life incidents and time apart. One by one, they start disappearing, and it's up to Hannah to figure out where her friends are and why. Readers will enjoy this blend of horror and suspense with twists they won't see coming.

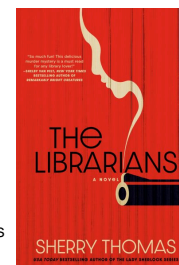
—Kristi Shepherd, Springfield-Greene County Library, MO  
NovelList read-alike: *My Heart Is a Chainsaw* by Stephen Graham Jones



**Why I Love Horror: Essays on Horror Literature**  
Becky Siegel Spratford  
(Saga Press)

With introductions and readalikes by renowned horror expert Spratford and essays from contemporary writers, this collection will be a great resource for library staff. The essays get to the heart of why horror is such an important genre and why it speaks to such a diverse audience, with personal and entertaining passages. Horror fans and anyone who recommends books will find this invaluable.

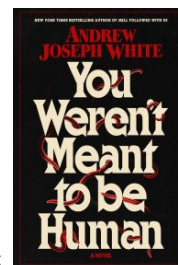
—Kristin Skinner, Flat River Community Library, MI  
NovelList read-alike: *101 Horror Books to Read Before You're Murdered* by Sadie Hartmann



**The Librarians**  
Sherry Thomas  
(Berkley)

This intriguing mystery is also an in-depth character study of a group of people working for a small public library in Austin, TX. No one is quite who they seem, but when two suspicious deaths happen in the area, with both victims having recently been in the library, the staff must band together to try to decipher what happened. Books about librarians are always a win/win, and this one is particularly well done.

—Douglas Beatty, Baltimore County Public Library, MD  
NovelList read-alike: *The Woman in the Library* by Sulari Gentill

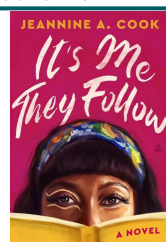


**You Weren't Meant to be Human**  
Andrew Joseph White  
(Saga Press)

Heed the trigger warnings. This book is about a self-harming, autistic trans man who finds himself unwillingly pregnant and forced to carry to term. The story is compelling and explicit enough as is, but then there's the Hive...which brings in a gross, sci-fi element. Very political, important, and memorable.

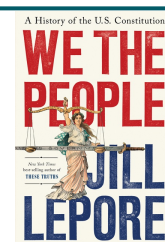
—Sarah Hamil, Twin Lakes Library System, GA  
NovelList read-alike: *Brainwyrms* by Alison Rumfitt

**Bonus pick:**



**It's Me They Follow**  
Jeannine A. Cook  
(Amistad)

**Notable Nonfiction:**



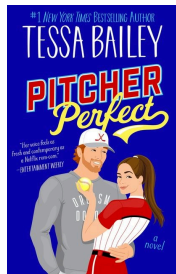
**We the People: A History of the U.S. Constitution**  
Jill Lepore  
(Liveright)

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



# September 2025 HALL OF FAME TITLES

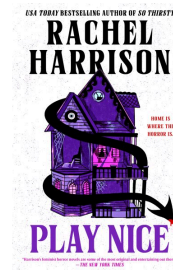
The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly list since 2013.



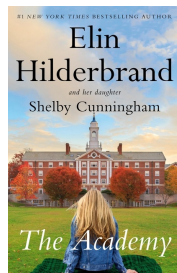
*Pitcher Perfect*  
Tessa Bailey  
(Avon)



*Every Step She Takes*  
Alison Cochrun  
(Atria)



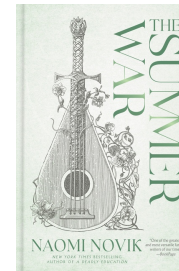
*Play Nice*  
Rachel Harrison  
(Berkley)



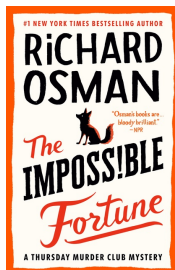
*The Academy*  
Elin Hilderbrand with  
Shelby Cunningham  
(Little, Brown and Co.)



*What Stalks the Deep*  
T. Kingfisher  
(Tor Nightfire)



*The Summer War*  
Naomi Novik  
(Del Rey)



*The Impossible Fortune:*  
*A Thursday Murder Club Mystery*  
Richard Osman  
(Pamela Dorman Books)



*Lauryn Harper Falls Apart*  
Shauna Robinson  
(Sourcebooks Landmark)



*Soul Searching:*  
*A Sweetwater Peak Novel*  
Lyla Sage  
(Dial Press)

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