



November 2025

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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org

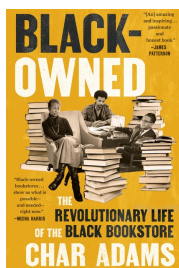


I, Medusa
Ayana Gray
(Random House)

TOP PICK

Medusa—legend, myth, monster—was once an innocent girl named Meddy who longed to see the world beyond her island. Meddy is a mortal born of two immortal sea gods in Poseidon's kingdom. When she catches the attention of the goddess Athena and is taken on as an acolyte in her temple, she thinks she has found her purpose, but a misstep angers the Gods and she becomes Medusa. A feminist tale that will capture readers' attention from the first page.

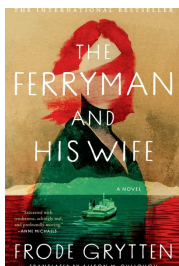
—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX
NovelList read-alike: *Medusa* by Nataly Gruender



Black-Owned: The Revolutionary Life of the Black Bookstore
Char Adams
(Tiny Reparations Books)

An extremely informative and well-researched book on a worthy topic. This comprehensive work looks at Black history in the United States through the lens of Black-owned bookstores, covering their functions as pillars of community engagement and social justice organizations as well. Readers will appreciate the book recommendations and the bookstore listed in the endnotes.

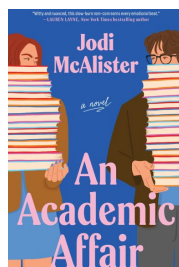
—Autumn Row, Hennepin County Library, MN
NovelList read-alike: *Prose to the People* by Katie Mitchell



The Ferryman and His Wife
Frode Grytten
(Algonquin Books)

This tale of a widowed Norwegian ferryman's last day of life is simple, quiet, and effortlessly moving. Nils navigates through his cherished memories, converses with the dead, and reevaluates his connection to all who crossed his path, whether in a single trip across the forge or a decades-long marriage.

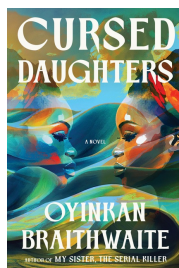
—Sharon Layburn, South Huntington Public Library, NY
NovelList read-alike: *The Buried Giant* by Kazuo Ishiguro



An Academic Affair
Jodi McAlister
(Atria)

Sadie and Jonah start off as rivals faking a relationship for job security, and accidentally fall into something real, messy, and deeply felt. With a sharp critique of institutional academia and a great sister-drama subplot, this is set to be one of the smartest, sexiest romances of the year.

—India Cureau, Cary Memorial Library, MA
NovelList read-alike: *Taste the Love* by Karelia Stetz-Waters



Cursed Daughters: A Novel
Oyinkan Braithwaite
(Doubleday Books)

Eniyyi has been haunted her entire life by her strong resemblance to her mother's cousin Monife, who drowned shortly before Eniyyi's birth. She has also been told that the women of her family are cursed to never find lasting romantic happiness. Is there any way for her to break free of her family's painful past? A beautifully told and emotional page-turner about confronting family trauma and finding peace and forgiveness along the way.

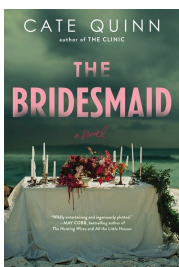
—Mara Bandy Fass, Champaign Public Library, IL
NovelList read-alike: *My Mother Cursed My Name* by Anamely Salgado Reyes



Best Offer Wins
Marisa Kashino
(Celadon Books)

The housing market can be murder. Find out how far one woman will go when she sets her sights on her dream home. And just when it seems our main character, Margot, can't surprise any more, she stuns readers once again. Once you settle in with this deliciously dark and twisty thriller, you won't be able to look away.

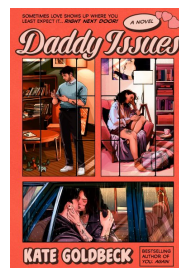
—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, NJ
NovelList read-alike: *The Sequel* by Jean Hanff Korelitz



The Bridesmaid
Cate Quinn
(Sourcebooks Landmark)

The Kensingtons invite you to the society wedding of the decade. There's just one hitch. You might not make it out alive. This book is full of intrigue and suspense that will draw readers into the pitfalls of high-society life, where nothing matters more than your social media clicks and lavish parties. Great characters and a shocking ending.

—Karen Troutman, LibraryReads Ambassador, IN
NovelList read-alike: *A Killer Wedding* by Joan O'Leary



Daddy Issues: A Novel
Kate Goldbeck
(Dial Press Trade Paperbacks)

The pandemic blew up every plan Sam ever had post-college, and now she's stuck living with her mom, working a deadbeat job. Her sad status quo is disrupted when Nick moves in next door with his young daughter. As Sam confronts her relationship with her father, she starts a relationship with Nick. This romance hits on the ways the pandemic affected everyone's lives.

—Olivia Wojnar, Seymour Public Library, NY
NovelList read-alike: *Totally and Completely Fine* by Elissa Sussman



Violet Thistlewaite Is Not a Villain Anymore
Emily Krempholtz
(Ace)

Violet's a witch who used her powers for terror and destruction as a sidekick to the ultimate bad guy. Now she's moved into a small village and is trying to start over, running a flower shop. But her landlord doesn't seem to like her, and it's hard to cover up the past. Can she be "good" and make her new life a success? This is a sweet, cozy romantasy.

—Jayna McDaniel-Browning, Delaware County, Dist. Library, OH
NovelList read-alike: *A Witch's Guide to Magical Innkeeping* by Sangu Mandanna

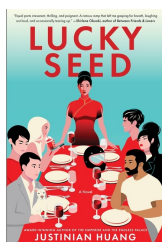


The Forget-Me-Not Library
Heather Webber
(St. Martin's Press)

Tallulah and Juliet are in need of healing and love from friends and family, and the town of Forget-Me-Not offers that in spades! The lovely townsfolk want nothing but the best for their community and those in need of its special magic. Perfect for readers who want a cozy, magical read to soothe away the troubles of the real world.

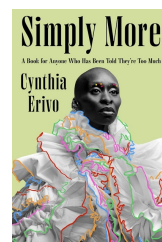
—Carmen Hughey, Greenville County Library System, SC
NovelList read-alike: *The Book Charmer* by Karen Hawkins

Bonus pick:



Lucky Seed
Justinian Huang
(MIRA)

Notable Nonfiction:



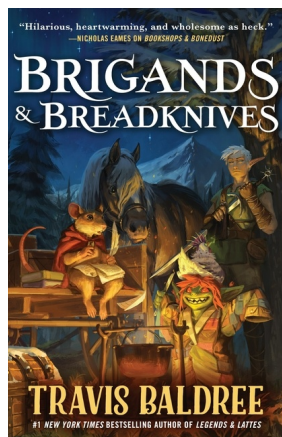
Simply More: A Book for Anyone Who Has Been Told They're Too Much
Cynthia Erivo
(Flatiron Books)

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



November 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.



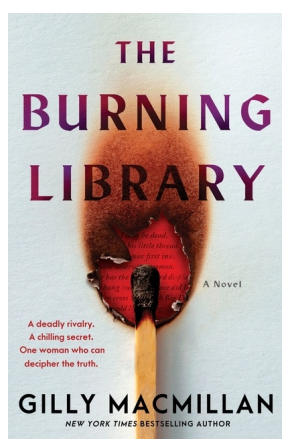
Brigands & Breadknives
Travis Baldree
(Tor Books)



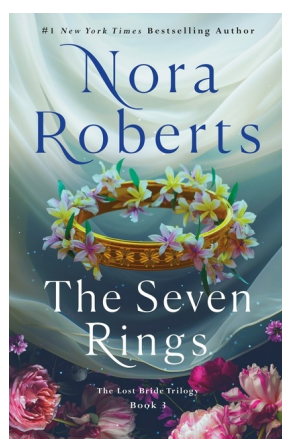
And Then There Was You
Sophie Cousens
(Putnam)



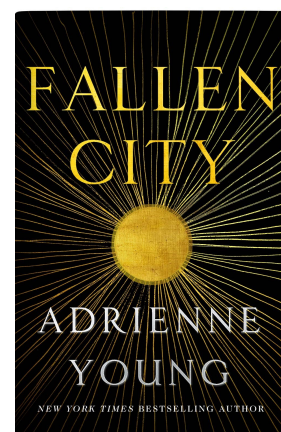
*Second Chance Romance:
A Harlot's Bay Novel*
Olivia Dade
(Avon)



The Burning Library
Gilly Macmillan
(William Morrow)



*The Seven Rings:
The Lost Bride Trilogy, Book 3*
Nora Roberts
(St. Martin's Press)



Fallen City
Adrienne Young
(Saturday Books)

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org/HOF