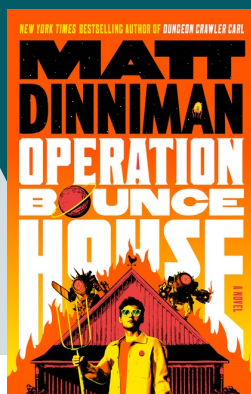




February 2026

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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org



Operation Bounce House
Matt Dinniman
(Ace)

TOP PICK

The colonists of New Sonora have spent decades settling the land when the gate to Earth finally opens. Looking forward to a greater connection to the rest of the universe, they instead get an eviction action where bored Earthers use AI soldiers from the comfort of their homes. Oliver and his friends fight to protect the land they colonized with farm equipment and ingenuity.

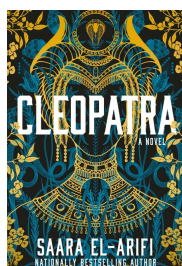
—Jessi Leister, Enoch Pratt Free Library, MD
NovelList read-alike: *Interstellar MegaChef* by Lavanya Lakshminarayan



Her Last Breath
Taylor Adams
(William Morrow)

Two friends get far more than they bargained for when they decide to explore a cave together in this fast-paced page turner. This unrelentingly tense read combines the heart-pounding, claustrophobic terror of navigating tight tunnels and turns with the added horrors of being stalked by a killer. Thriller fans, take note!

—Mara Bandy Fass, Champaign Public Library, IL
NovelList read-alike: *The Drift* by C.J. Tudor



Cleopatra: A Novel
Saara El-Arifi
(Ballantine Books)

This absolutely stunning novel weaves historic facts into a love story. Readers will see Cleopatra's life through her eyes as she ascends the throne of Egypt. They will watch the young Pharaoh battle with siblings and see her fall for a love parallel to her love of country. This moving story set across time and a landscape of destruction will cut readers deep.

—Andrea Galvin, Mt. Pulaski Public Library, IL
NovelList read-alike: *Cleopatra* by Stacy Schiff



This Is Not About Us: Fiction
Allegra Goodman
(The Dial Press)

In a series of linked stories, we follow three branches of one family as they maneuver their way around the pitfalls of living. This is a portrait of a group of people that come together, drift apart, and try to find a way back, as many families attempt to do.

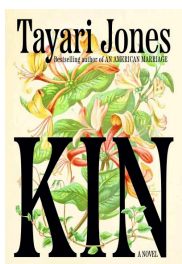
—Donna Ballard, LibraryReads Ambassador, NY
NovelList read-alike: *Strangers and Cousins* by Leah Hager Cohen



Keeper of Lost Children
Sadeqa Johnson
(Simon & Schuster: 37 Ink)

Inspired by true events, this story explores the reverberating impact of the actions of an Army wife who facilitated the adoption of mixed-race babies fathered by servicemen in Germany during WWII, finding them loving homes with Black families in the United States. Perfect for book clubs or readers who enjoy uncovering lesser-known historical events.

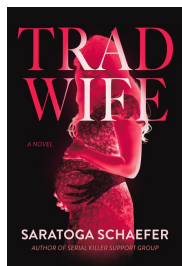
—Lori Hensch, Baltimore County Public Library, MD
NovelList read-alike: *Take My Hand* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez



Kin: A Novel
Tayari Jones
(Knopf)

It's amazing the different roads two lives can take, even when growing up in very similar circumstances. While the story is set long ago, the situations seem as if they could happen today. The feelings, reactions, and things the characters long for—belonging, acceptance, and love—are all timeless. Readers will be thinking about these characters for a long time.

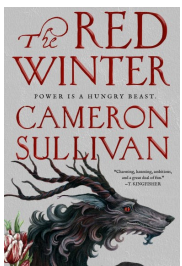
—Robin B., Pierce County Library, WA
NovelList read-alike: *Sula* by Toni Morrison



Trad Wife
Saratoga Schaefer
(Crooked Lane Books)

Influencer Camille has it all: a loving husband and a dream house, as long as she obeys his word. If only she had a baby, her husband wouldn't be pulling away. But nothing happens, until she makes a wish at a demonic well. Funny yet sad, this horror novel is a commentary on social media, conservative families, and the power men try to wield over women.

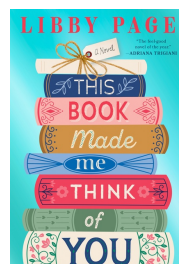
—Judy G. Sebastian, Eastham Public Library, MA
NovelList read-alike: *Tantrum* by Rachel Eve Moulton



The Red Winter
Cameron Sullivan
(Tor Books)

A (nearly) immortal, his demon, and a succubus walk into a werewolf story. The right mix of humor, heat, history, religion, and mythology combine to make this a unique and compelling queer historical fantasy debut. (The footnotes!) Here's hoping that there are more adventures of Professor Sebastian Grave in our future.

—Ann Finstad, Glencoe Public Library, IL
NovelList read-alike: *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova



This Book Made Me Think of You
Libby Page
(Berkley)

After Tilly's husband dies, she discovers he had purchased a dozen books for her to pick up each month from a beloved bookshop owned by Alfie. Each book brings gradual healing, new friends, and a feeling of wholeness. The books (and Alfie!) make for a truly wonderful reader experience. Your to-read pile will surely grow from the recommendations!

—Crystal Faris, Kansas City Public Library, MO
NovelList read-alike: *Pack Up the Moon* by Kristan Higgins

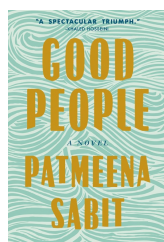


The Halifax Hellions
Alexandra Vasti
(St. Martin's Griffin)

These twin sisters are women of some infamy, purely because they shirk the rules and conventions of the day. Margo, a whirlwind of chaos and joy, and Matilda, the more staid and artistic of the two, are witty and wonderfully drawn. Readers who like spicy Regency romance will be delighted.

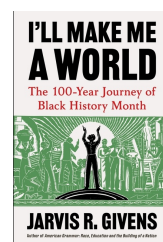
—Nicole Guerra-Coon, Morrill Memorial Library, MA
NovelList read-alike: *A Week to Be Wicked* by Tessa Dare

Bonus pick:



Good People: A Novel
Patmeena Sabit
(Crown)

Notable Nonfiction:



I'll Make Me a World: The 100-Year Journey of Black History Month
Jarvis R. Givens
(Harper)

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

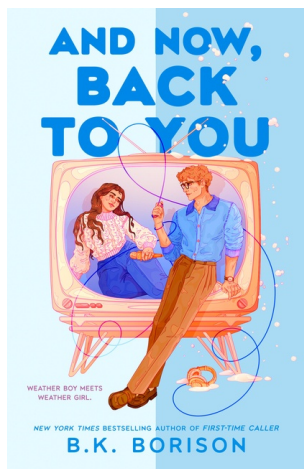
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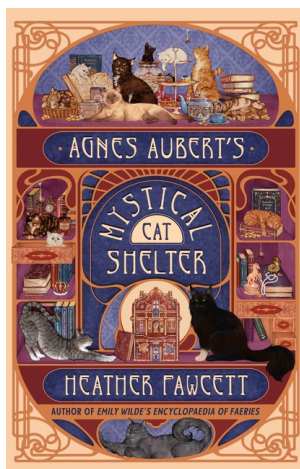
February 2026 HALL OF FAME TITLES

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



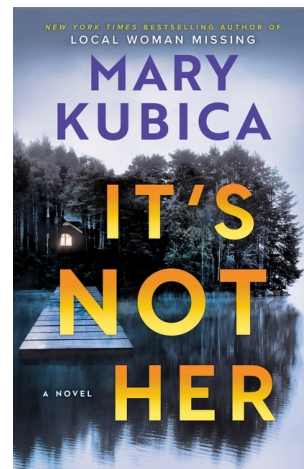
And Now, Back to You
B.K. Borison
(Berkley)



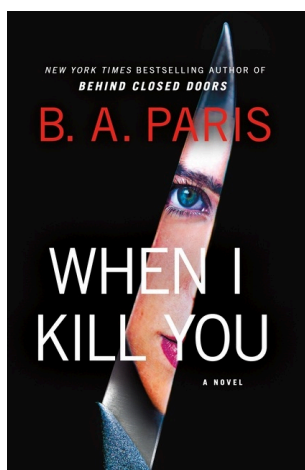
*Agnes Aubert's
Mystical Cat Shelter*
Heather Fawcett
(Del Rey)



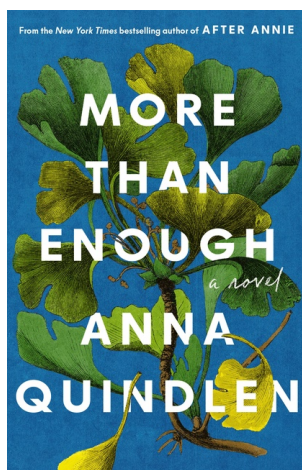
Brawler: Stories
Lauren Groff
(Riverhead)



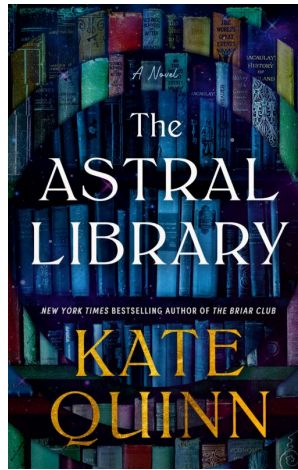
It's Not Her
Mary Kubica
(Park Row)



When I Kill You
B.A. Paris
(St. Martin's Press)



More Than Enough: A Novel
Anna Quindlen
(Random House)



The Astral Library
Kate Quinn
(William Morrow)



Where the Wildflowers Grow
Terah Shelton Harris
(Sourcebooks Landmark)