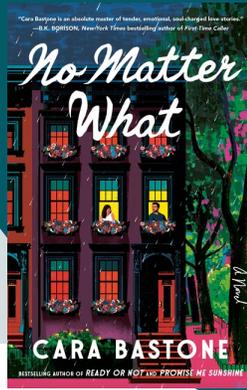




March 2026

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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org

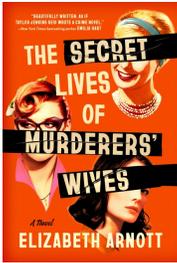


No Matter What: A Novel
Cara Bastone
(Dial Press Trade Paperbacks)



Roz and Vin have been married 8 years, but a terrible accident ripped their lives apart and left them reeling. This story is their slow journey back to one another. No tropes here—this romance is quiet and ordinary, and in that it's so powerful. It's a beautiful exploration of how even the strongest relationship can fracture, and how we repair and recover from damage. It's also a love letter to drawing and art, to storytelling and friendships, to how we care for and harm each other.

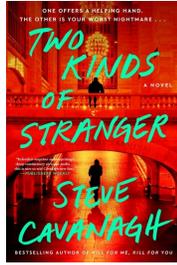
—Nyssa Fleig, Salt Lake County Library, UT
Novelist read-alike: *Left of Forever* by Tara DeWitt



The Secret Lives of Murderers' Wives
Elizabeth Arnott
(Berkley)

Three wives of convicted killers, fighting the guilt that they didn't know what was happening with their husbands, band together to search for a killer. Continuing the trend of stories of brave women who aren't taken seriously, this tightly woven crime novel has a bang of an ending.

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin TX
Novelist read-alike: *Good Husbands* by Cate Ray



Two Kinds of Stranger
Steve Cavanagh
(Atria)

Conman-turned-attorney Eddie's reputation precedes him. When Elly, a TikTok star, is convicted of a double murder she didn't commit, she requests his help to prove her innocence. He soon realizes he may have gotten more than he bargained for. When the case hits a little too close to home, Eddie relies on his (maybe not so legal) skills to save her life.

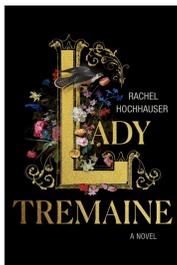
—Jessica Heatherly, Kingston Public Library, TN
Novelist read-alike: Jack Swyteck series by Michael Grippando



This Story Might Save Your Life
Tiffany Crum
(Flatiron Books: Pine & Cedar)

Joy and Benny are the perfect podcasting team, best friends who explain to listeners how to survive life-threatening situations. But when Joy and her husband go missing, it's time for long-held secrets to be revealed. This compelling mystery with a likable pair at its heart will keep readers turning the pages to find out if a happy ending awaits.

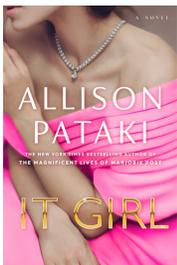
—Mara Bandy Fass, Champaign Public Library, IL
Novelist read-alike: *Listen for the Lie* by Amy Tintera



Lady Tremaine
Rachel Hochhauser
(St. Martin's Press)

This Cinderella retelling is particularly powerful at portraying the challenges of motherhood and surviving in the world as a woman. The dissection of what traumas and choices create a villain are a fascinating character study, and readers will love that Lady Tremaine is given depth beyond the stereotypical evil stepmother trope—after all, everyone could be a villain in someone else's story.

—Kara Seal, Arapahoe Libraries, CO
Novelist read-alike: *Malice* by Heather Walter



It Girl: A Novel
Allison Pataki
(Ballantine Books)

A compelling fictionalized story based on the life of Gibson Girl and Gilded Age "It Girl," Evelyn Nesbit. The author writes masterful historical fiction that illuminates exceptional women: their lives, their hopes, their triumphs and downfalls. Highly recommended!

—Karen Troutman, LibraryReads Ambassador, IN
Novelist read-alike: *Laura Lamont's Life in Pictures* by Emma Straub



Innamorata
Ava Reid
(Del Rey)

Haunting and atmospheric, this gothic tale of necromancy, revenge, and forbidden love will draw readers in. Lush writing, eerie vibes, and a heroine torn between duty and desire. Darkly beautiful.

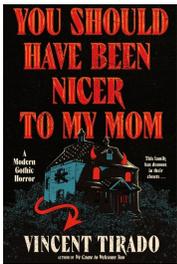
—Emily Snodgrass, Rogers Public Library, AR
Novelist read-alike: *The Bone Orchard* by Sarah A. Mueller



Lake Effect: A Novel
Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney
(Ecco)

In 1977, Nina and Finn begin an affair and make difficult choices that will ripple through their families and small community for years to come. Twenty-five years later, Nina's eldest daughter makes a selfish choice that sends shock waves from Manhattan back to Rochester. Keenly and sensitively written, readers will have great compassion for these women despite their choices.

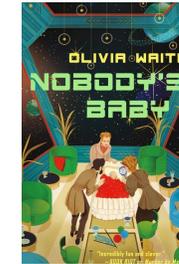
—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, NJ
Novelist read-alike: *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett



You Should Have Been Nicer to My Mom
Vincent Tirado
(William Morrow)

This slow, luxuriously paced gothic hinges on toxic family relationships. When Papi Ramon dies, the reading of the will mentions a demon among the family. Fans of *Knives Out* or *The House of Usher* will want to give this one a try!

—Adam Lopez, Lawrence Public Library, KS
Novelist read-alike: *They Drown Our Daughters* by Katrina Monroe



Nobody's Baby
Olivia Waite
(TorDotcom)

Our favorite "old lady" sci-fi detective is back at it, this time solving the mystery of a new baby on board (when that should be impossible on many levels!). A quick read, but Waite does a great job balancing a heck of a lot of world-building with a satisfying mystery and forward emotional movement by the heroine.

—Casey Chwiecko, Lincoln Public Library, MA
Novelist read-alike: The Investigations of Mossa and Pleiti series by Malka Older

Bonus pick:



Seasons of Glass and Iron: Stories
Amal El-Mohtar
(TorDotcom)

Notable Nonfiction:



The Beginning Comes After the End: Notes on a World of Change
Rebecca Solnit
(Haymarket Books)

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



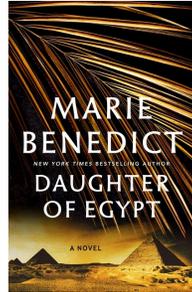
March 2026 HALL OF FAME TITLES

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



Ilona Andrews
This Kingdom Will Not Kill Me
(Tor Books)



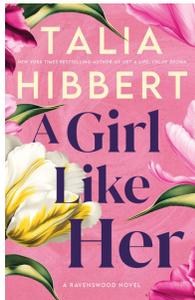
Marie Benedict
Daughter of Egypt
(St. Martin's Press)



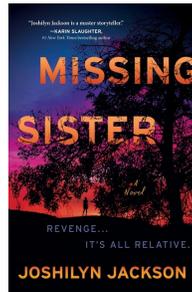
Elizabeth Berg
Life: A Love Story: A Novel
(Random House)



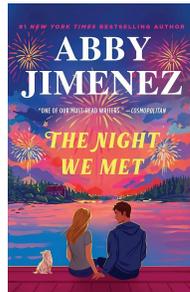
Tana French
The Keeper: A Novel
(Viking)



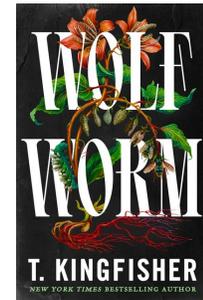
Talia Hibbert
A Girl Like Her
(Sourcebooks Casablanca)



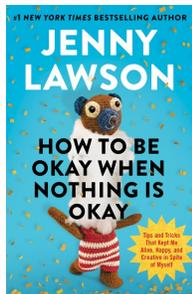
Joshilyn Jackson
Missing Sister
(William Morrow)



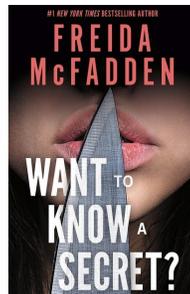
Abby Jimenez
The Night We Met
(Forever)



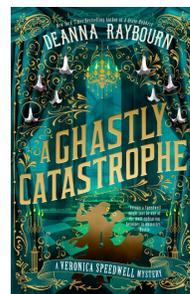
T. Kingfisher
Wolf Worm
(Tor Nightfire)



Jenny Lawson
How to Be Okay When Nothing Is Okay: Tips and Tricks That Kept Me Alive, Happy, and Creative in Spite of Myself
(Penguin Life)



Freida McFadden
Want to Know a Secret?
(Poisoned Pen Press)



Deanna Raybourn
A Ghastly Catastrophe
(Berkley Mystery)



Cat Sebastian
Star Shipped
(Avon)



Rebecca Serle
Once and Again
(Atria)



Benjamin Stevenson
Everyone in This Bank Is a Thief
(Mariner Books)