



# November 2023

## 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)

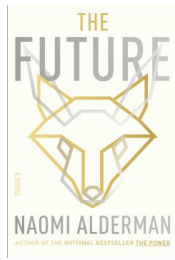


**Bookshops & Bonedust**  
Travis Baldree  
(Tor Books)



In this worthy prequel to *Legends & Lattes*, a young Viv is laid up in the quiet town of Murk after her enthusiastic inexperience leads to a serious injury. She gradually assembles a group of friends including a swear-happy bookshop owner, a mercenary turned baker, and an irrepressible Gallina, eager to join Rackham's Raiders. Murk doesn't stay quiet for long with Viv around, and there's plenty of coziness in the bookshop, eating delicious baked goods, and flirting with a new friend.

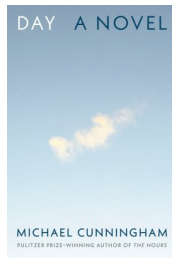
—Lauren Abner, KY Dept for Libraries & Archives, KY  
Novelist read-alike: *Under the Whispering Door* by TJ Klune



**The Future: A Novel**  
Naomi Alderman  
(Simon & Schuster)

What would happen if three companies (think Amazon, Facebook, and Twitter), were removed from the world and their money put to saving the planet and all of the people on it? Alderman once again places the reader in a world that is falling apart, run by greedy billionaires who don't care what damage they do as long as they keep making more money. Look into *The Future* and get an idea of how that might go.

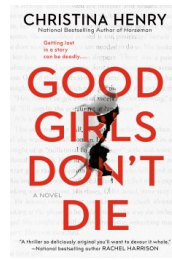
—Linda Quinn, LibraryReads Ambassador  
Novelist read-alike: *Stay This Day and Night With Me* by Belén Gopegui



**Day: A Novel**  
Michael Cunningham  
(Random House)

This intimate and almost claustrophobic book follows a family on the same day in three different years: April 5th of 2019, 2020, and 2021. The story is about endings, beginnings, aging, relationships, and the impact of Covid-19. A lyrical novel, with deft prose and a focus on the internal lives of the characters. Cunningham has a gift of providing just enough detail to engage readers without weighing the prose down.

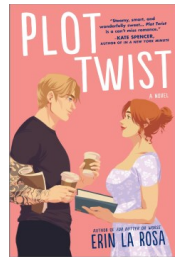
—Chad Cunningham, Monroe County Library System, NY  
Novelist read-alike: *Lucy by the Sea* by Elizabeth Strout



**Good Girls Don't Die**  
Christina Henry  
(Berkley)

Celia finds herself trapped in someone else's life. Allie's birthday trip turns into a slasher fest in a cabin in the woods. Maggie is kidnapped and made to play a dangerous dystopian maze game. All three women find themselves in situations reminiscent of their favorite horror fiction, and are fighting to survive. What is really happening, and is it possible to make it out alive? A thrilling page turner.

—Candice Machata, North Kingstown Free Library, RI  
Novelist read-alike: *My Heart is a Chainsaw* by Stephen Graham Jones



**Plot Twist**  
Erin La Rosa  
(Canary Street Press)

Romance writer Sophie has the hots for her landlord, former indie movie star Dash. He's stand-offish, but that's because he's harboring a secret crush on her. Their paths collide when, hungover, she barfs on him. Readers will be charmed by this sexy, low-stakes romance as the relatable characters slowly build themselves up to reach for each other.

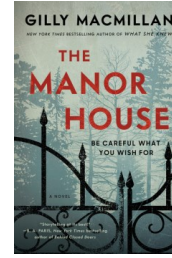
—Jennifer Rusche, William Jeanes Memorial Library, PA  
Novelist read-alike: *Exes and O's* by Amy Lea



**Class: A Memoir of Motherhood, Hunger, and Higher Education**  
Stephanie Land  
(Atria/One Signal)

Life after *Maid* is where *Class* begins, and takes us to the heart of systemic inequality that exists in this country. Unflinchingly honest and gripping, this is a memoir that is either relatable, pivotal, and/or eye opening. It will change readers.

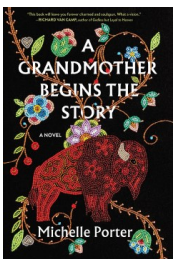
—Jessica Sweedler DeHart, Neill Public Library, WA  
Novelist read-alike: *How Far to the Promised Land* by Esau McCaulley



**The Manor House**  
Gilly Macmillan  
(William Morrow)

Childhood sweethearts Nicole and Tom win the lottery and are thrust into a life of splendor, including a dreamy glass mansion. When Tom turns up dead in the pool, Nicole doesn't know whom she can trust—was Tom's death a tragic accident or is someone trying to get a piece of the winnings? Macmillan's latest is perfectly paced suspense.

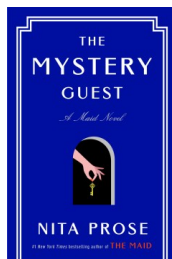
—Kaitie Stover, Kansas City Public Library, MO  
Novelist read-alike: *The Last Party* by Claire Mackintosh



**A Grandmother Begins the Story: A Novel**  
Michelle Porter  
(Algonquin)

A young Métis woman seeks to learn about her heritage as her mother tries to reconcile their lost years while protecting her daughter from what she perceives as the sins of her own mother. Told from the point of view of five generations of women, this is a beautiful and affecting debut.

—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, NJ  
Novelist read-alike: *Sabrina & Corina* by Kail Fajardo-Anstine



**The Mystery Guest: A Maid Novel**  
Nita Prose  
(Ballantine Books)

When a famous author dies before he can make an important announcement about his career, Molly can't help but insert herself into the investigation. Molly and her friend Angela work to prove the author was murdered, but solving the case is not easy. Fans of the first book in this series will not be disappointed, and the ending may mean another sequel.

—Cari Dubiel, Twinsburg Public Library, OH  
Novelist read-alike: *How Lucky* by Will Leitch



**The Other Half**  
Charlotte Vassell  
(Anchor Books)

There's something about the sleaze hidden beneath a thick veneer of lucre that is always compelling. The posh characters here are in and out of each others' pockets (and beds). When one winds up dead beneath a hedge, a trio of outsider detectives seek out who is responsible. The mystery is tidied up nicely, with enough hanging threads to leave readers excited for more.

—Krista Feick, Columbus Metropolitan Library, OH  
Novelist read-alike: *The Guest List* by Lucy Folely

**Bonus pick:**



**Calamity**  
Constance Fay  
(Bramble)

**Notable Nonfiction:**



**Dolls of Our Lives: Why We Can't Quit American Girl**  
Mary Mahoney and Allison Horrocks  
(Feiwel & Friends)

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



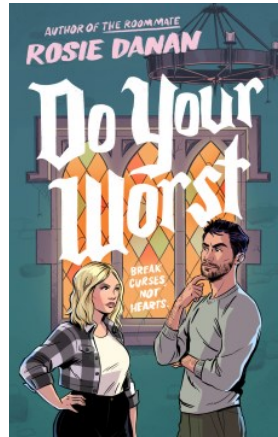
# November 2023 HALL OF FAME TITLES

The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly list since 2013. As of the October 2018 list, when an author's third title places on a monthly list via library staff votes, the author moves into our Hall of Fame.



*The Good Part: A Novel*  
Sophie Cousens  
(G.P. Putnam's Sons)

Novelist read-alike:  
*The Two Lives of Lydia Bird*  
by Josie Silver



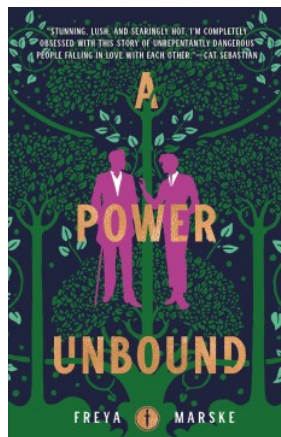
*Do Your Worst*  
Rosie Danan  
(Berkley)

Novelist read-alike:  
*Well Met* by Jen DeLuca



*The Kingdom of Sweets:  
A Novel of the Nutcracker*  
Erika Johansen  
(Dutton)

Novelist read-alike:  
*The Salt Grows Heavy*  
by Cassandra Khaw



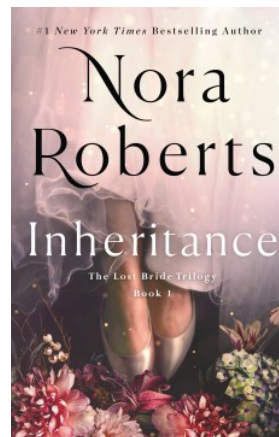
*A Power Unbound*  
Freya Marske  
(Tordotcom)

Novelist read-alike:  
Spellbreaker novels  
by Charlie N. Holmberg



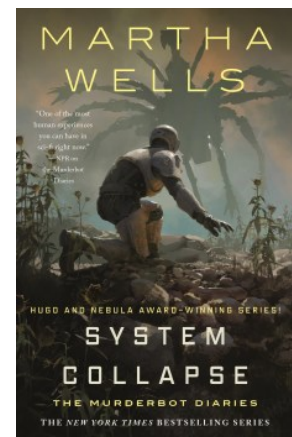
*Hunt on Dark Waters*  
Katee Robert  
(Berkley)

Novelist read-alike:  
Black Dagger Brotherhood  
series by J.R. Ward



*Inheritance:  
The Lost Bride Trilogy*  
Nora Roberts  
(St. Martin's Press)

Novelist read-alike:  
*Lost Lake*  
by Sarah Addison Allen



*System Collapse*  
Martha Wells  
(Tordotcom)

Novelist read-alike:  
Imperial Radch series  
by Ann Leckie

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