



In The Lives of Puppets by TJ Klune (Tor Books)

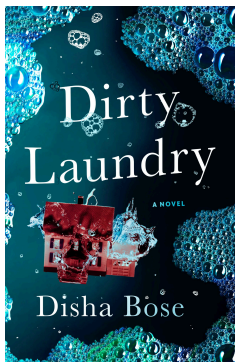
"Clearly if you need a book about a robot that's guaranteed to have you break out into heaving sobs, this is the novel for you. Klune's masterful retelling of Pinocchio—a little bit science fiction, a little bit dystopian, and a little bit book-clubby—is a sure-fire winner with so much appeal on so many levels it should prompt readers of all genres to step into something new and original. For fans of *The Maker of Swans* and *The Night Circus*."

—Douglas Beatty, Baltimore County Public Library, Baltimore, MD
NovelList read-alike: *A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers



TOP PICK

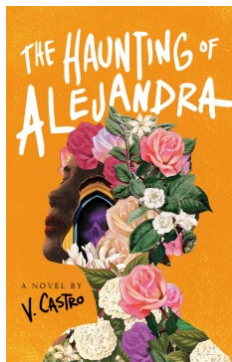
April 2023 - The top ten books published this month that library staff across the country love.



Dirty Laundry: *A Novel* by Disha Bose (Ballantine Books)

"Ciara is a perfect mom and influencer who knows what to do, buy, and promote in her small Irish town. Ciara also is an irresponsible woman who plays friends against each other, eats up and spits out all the town husbands, and seals her own fate with her reprehensible behavior. An Orient Express-like cast shines in this twisty domestic thriller about secrets and lies."

—Donna Ballard, East Meadow Public Library, East Meadow, NY
NovelList read-alike: *Regrets Only* by Kieran Scott



The Haunting of Alejandra: A Novel by V. Castro (Del Rey)

"Alejandra is a stay-at-home mother. Depressed because her life isn't what she thought it'd be, she consults a curandero: a folk healer and licensed therapist. She soon discovers the visions she's been having are tied to her ancestors' experiences. Castro has an innate ability to get into the head of her characters, while weaving together multiple plotlines and time periods."

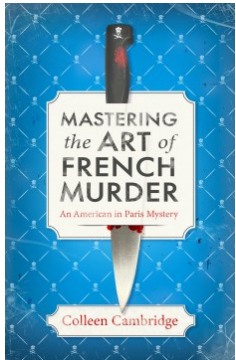
—Chloe Waryan, Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL
NovelList read-alike: *Bad Cree* by Jessica Johns



Homecoming: *A Novel* by Kate Morton (Mariner Books)

"Set in Australia, this novel examines the mysterious circumstances of a family tragedy on Christmas Eve in 1959. In the present day, a woman delves into her own past to uncover the secrets that impacted her life in ways she doesn't yet understand. Morton's books often contain well-developed characters, twisty plots, and family secrets, and this is no exception."

—Lesley Williams, Claymont Public Library—New Castle County Libraries, DE. NovelList read-alike: *Exiles* by Jane Harper



Mastering the Art of French Murder by Colleen Cambridge (Kensington)

"In Paris after WWII, Julia Child, her husband Paul, sister Dort, and Tabitha, a half French American ex-pat, are all recent arrivals. The romance, sights, sounds, and food of the city are delightful enough; add a murder committed with one of Julia's knives, and a wonderful series is born. For fans of culinary mysteries, historical mysteries, and *City of Light*."

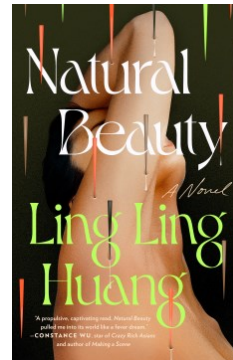
—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, Flemington, NJ
NovelList read-alike: *Peril in Paris* by Rhys Bowen



Moorewood Family Rules by HelenKay Dimon (Avon)

"Jillian Moorewood is out of jail after covering for the crimes of her grifting family. She heads home to the family mansion to take back control of the business and force them into legitimate jobs, but none of her extended family wants to change. Quirky characters, a hot bodyguard, attempts on her life, and a battle worthy of *Succession* keeps readers engaged to the end."

—Linda Quinn, Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield, CT
NovelList read-alike: *The Family Fang* by Kevin Wilson



Natural Beauty: *A Novel* by Ling Ling Huang (Dutton)

"This hauntingly beautiful and chilling novel showcases the otherworldly experience the main character goes through at the expense of her health and beauty, and how damaging it can be. It was bleak, but atmospheric and luminous in a weird way. The descriptions were interesting and drew me in further and further. A mind-bender that readers will plow through in a day or two!"

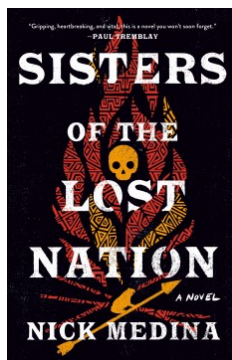
—Erin McLaughlin, Librarian in Austin, TX
NovelList read-alike: *Chlorine* by Jade Song



The Scourge Between Stars by Ness Brown (Tor Nightfire)

"Jacklyn 'Jack' Albright is first mate of the ship Calypso, en route back to earth after a failed attempt to colonize another planet. Jack's father is the captain, but he sealed himself in private quarters weeks ago as things are breaking down. The pacing and growing insidious dread in this novella are awesome. The crippling fear of the unknown makes for a delicious read."

—KatieLee Slinger, Boise Public Library, Boise, ID
NovelList read-alike: *Screaming From the Void* by Helen Tibbets



Sisters of the Lost Nation: *A Novel* by Nick Medina (Berkley)

"Anna Horn wants to know why young girls are disappearing on the reservation. When Anna's sister Grace goes missing, Anna and the tribe seek answers to the disappearances and discover that the tribe's difficulties are linked to the past. This mix of mythology and horror that deals with unsolved disappearances of Indigenous girls and tribal lore is a gripping read."

—Theresa Coleman, Indianapolis Public Library, Indianapolis, IN
NovelList read-alike: *Highway of Tears* by Jessica McDiarmid



Symphony of Secrets: *A Novel* by Brendan Slocumb (Anchor Books)

"In 1920s NYC Fred Delaney is about to be kicked out of his jazz combo when he meets Josephine Reed, who helps him improve. In the present day, Bern Hendricks, an expert on composer Delaney, is asked to look over a manuscript of a lost symphony. However, questions about attribution arise. This is a suspenseful book that will be fantastic for discussion."

—Joan Hipp, Florham Park Public Library, Florham Park, NJ
NovelList read-alike: *Sing Her Name* by Rosalyn M. Story



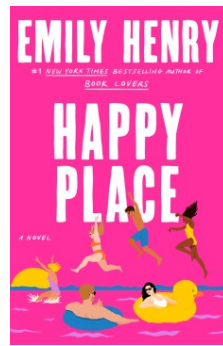
APRIL 2023



The Fiancée Farce: A Novel
by Alexandria Bellefleur
(Avon)

Bellefleur is back with a frothy, adorable, heartwarming romance. Tansy has been lying to her family about having a girlfriend just so they'll get off her back. Her fake girlfriend, Gemma, happens to be a real life cover model for romance novels who shows up at a wedding Tansy is attending! Gemma surprises Tansy by going along with the ruse since she needs a fiancée in order to inherit her grandfather's company. Save this story for whenever you need a pick-me-up!

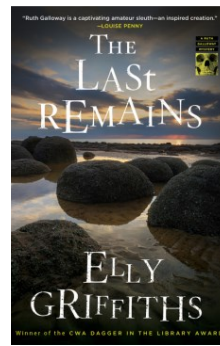
—Cari Dubiel,
Twinsburg Public Library, Twinsburg, OH
Novelist read-alike:
No Rings Attached by Rachel Lacey



Happy Place: A Novel
by Emily Henry
(Berkley)

Though they broke up six months ago, Wyn and Harriet pretend they're still together to avoid disrupting their college friends' last annual getaway to a cottage in Maine. This book takes the fake relationship trope to a whole new level with switching timelines that reveal how this former couple got to where they are now. Every character is flawed but lovable, and their banter is delightful. Emily Henry fans may have a new favorite!

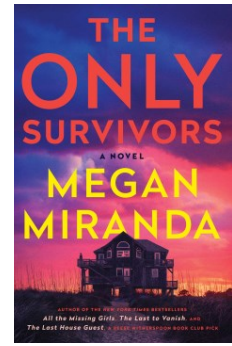
—Molly Thatcher,
Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, SC
Novelist read-alike:
The Bromance Book Club by Lyssa Kay Adams



The Last Remains
by Elly Griffiths
(Mariner Books)

Dr. Ruth Galloway faces the closing of the archaeology department at the University of North Norfolk while DCI Harry Nelson considers retirement. Both are at a crossroads personally and professionally when the skeleton of a former archaeology student is found after disappearing fifteen years ago. This intricate mystery is full of red herrings and local color, and features characters who continue to grow in a way that is seldom seen in series.

—Stacey Lunsford,
Irvin L Young Memorial Library, Whitewater, WI
Novelist read-alike:
A Murder in Tuscany by Christobel Kent



The Only Survivors: A Novel
by Megan Miranda
(Scribner/Marysue Rucci Books)

A group of former classmates reunite to mark the tenth anniversary of a tragic accident only to have one of the survivors disappear, casting fear and suspicion on the original tragedy. Seven hours in the past. Seven days in the present. Seven survivors remaining. Readers won't be able to put down this page-turner, and will want to reread it to see all the missed clues.

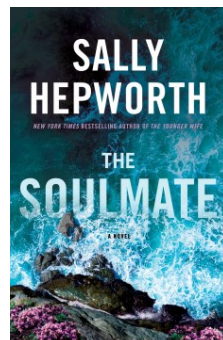
—Vanneshia Crane,
Love County Library/Southern OK Library System
Novelist read-alike:
The Final Girl Support Group by Grady Hendrix



Romantic Comedy: A Novel
by Curtis Sittenfeld
(Random House)

The Danny Horst Rule states that a gorgeous male celebrity like Noah Brewster would not fall in love with an average-looking woman like Sally Milz. So Sally can't fathom why Noah seems drawn to her as they prepare for the Saturday night comedy show where he is the guest host and she is a staff writer. This is a modern love story with intricately fleshed out characters and fresh dialogue, authentically set during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

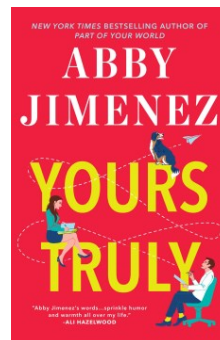
—Judy Haynes Sebastian,
Eastham Public Library, Eastham, MA
Novelist read-alike:
Funny You Should Ask by Elissa Sussman



The Soulmate: A Novel
by Sally Hepworth
(St. Martin's Press)

A tragic situation takes an ominously personal turn when Pippa's husband, first thought to be an unwitting witness to a stranger's suicide, is revealed to have a secret connection to the woman. As more is revealed, Pippa has to wonder if her husband played more of a hands-on role in the woman's death. Readers will be swept away with this twisty, well-crafted thriller.

—Sharon Layburn,
South Huntington Public Library, Huntington Station, NY
Novelist read-alike:
It's One of Us by J.T. Ellison



Yours Truly
by Abby Jimenez
(Forever)

After a terrible first impression, Jacob sends a letter causing Briana to decide to give her irritating coworker a second chance. Surprisingly, she finds him warm and funny. In this eye-opening, brutally honest, and vulnerable romance, the two fall in love while dealing with serious issues such as anxiety and kidney disease. Readers who enjoyed *Unlikely Match* by Laura Bradbury should enjoy this novel.

—Brenna Jaco,
Lubbock Public Library, Lubbock, TX
Novelist read-alike:
Take a Hint, Dani Brown by Talia Hibbert

April 2023 Bonus Pick
(New addition to the monthly list)



Some Desperate Glory
by Emily Tesh
(TorDotCom)

Kyr is the product of a petty fascist state that believes it's the last hope for humanity after Earth was destroyed by aliens. She's trained her whole life to be a consummate fighter, but when she's assigned instead to pop out babies for the cause, she leaves her restrictive community. A fast-paced space adventure! Read it instead of *Ender's Game*.
—Anna Mickelsen, LibraryReads Board