

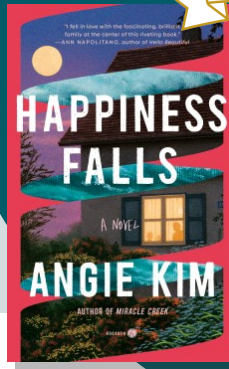


August 2023

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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org

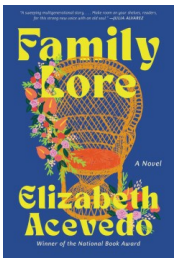
TOP PICK



Happiness Falls: A Novel
Angie Kim
(Hogarth)

During the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, 20-year-old Mia is adjusting to lockdown and living back at home. When her father goes missing during a walk in a nearby park, only her younger brother, Eugene—who has special needs and does not speak—knows what happened. Readers will enjoy this delightful and thought-provoking look at family secrets.

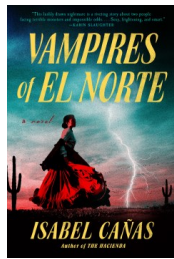
—Portia Kapraun, Delphi Public Library, IN
NovelList read-alike: *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave



Family Lore
Elizabeth Acevedo
(Ecco)

Woven with magical realism, this novel uncovers the buried secrets of Flor and her sisters as this Dominican-American family tries to find out why Flor is throwing herself a living wake. Poet Acevedo successfully translates her skill into fiction. Readers of her previous work will recognize her heart and style, displayed here in alternating narratives. A beautifully told story with all the complexities that make up families.

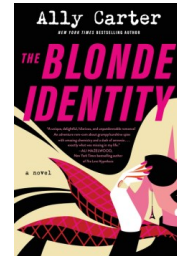
—Becky Phillips, Brown County Library, WI
NovelList read-alike: *Enchanted Hacienda* by Jennifer Cervantes



Vampires of El Norte
Isabel Cañas
(Berkeley)

Nena, a ranch owner's daughter, and Nestor, a peasant, know their love is impossible, but they still dream of marrying one day. That is until one night a terrifying beast attacks Nena. Believing her dead, Nestor flees in panic. Ten years later Nestor is back to help defend against Texas invaders and the supernatural creatures attacking their village. Set in 19th-century Mexico, this vibrant novel combines historical fiction, horror, and romance to tell a thrilling story.

—Migdalia Jimenez Chicago Public Library, IL
NovelList read-alike: *The Hunger* by Alma Katsu



The Blonde Identity
Ally Carter
(Avon)

It's the middle of the night in Paris and a woman wakes up with no memory. She only knows three things for certain: she has a splitting headache, the hottest guy she's ever seen is standing over her telling her to run, and—oh yeah—people keep trying to kill her. The banter throughout and wrap-up at the end are perfect. Readers will hope for a sequel or even a trilogy featuring this cast of characters.

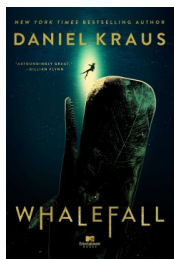
—LeTrail Hall-Nance, Denver Public Library, CO
NovelList read-alike: *Spare Me the Truth* by CJ Carver



Kiss the Girl: A Meant to Be Novel
Zoraida Córdova
(Hyperion Avenue)

This modern retelling of *The Little Mermaid* has pop sensation Ariel figuring out the next step in her life, away from her controlling father. Eric and his band are trying to get their big break. When Eric meets Ariel, he doesn't recognize her and offers her a job on his tour. Ariel accepts, seizing the chance to live in the real world. A story of life, love, and family—and making the choices that make you happy.

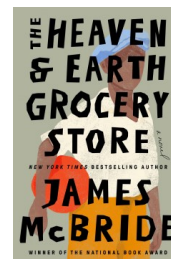
—Christine Markley, Kingsport Public Library, TN
NovelList read-alike: *All the Right Notes* by Dominic Lim



Whalefall: A Novel
Daniel Kraus
(MTV Books)

Jay, feeling guilty about his father's suicide, attempts a dive to find his father's remains. Swallowed by a hungry sperm whale, he has one hour to find a way out before running out of oxygen. A scientifically accurate, terrifying story for fans of *Jaws*, deep sea terror, survivors, complicated families, and explorations of death and grief.

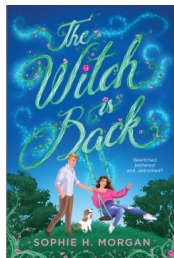
—Lila Denning, St. Petersburg Library System, FL
NovelList read-alike: *The Martian* by Andy Weir



The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store: A Novel
James McBride
(Riverhead)

In a small town where Jewish and Black Americans have prospered, four adults decide to help hide a young boy, which brings trouble to their doorstep. McBride has a gift for warm and witty dialogue spiced with scenes that both disgust and delight in their humanity. For readers of the character-rich stories of Amor Towles, Ann Patchett, and Jamie Ford.

—Kimberly McGee Lake Travis Community Library, TX
NovelList read-alike: *Before All the World* by Moriel Rothman-Zecher



The Witch is Back
Sophie H. Morgan
(Harlequin)

Emmaline has loved Bastian her whole life. When he disappeared shortly before they were meant to be married, he broke her heart. Now he's back and begging her to reinstate their engagement, for all the wrong reasons. Secrets, spells, heartbreak, and hope all come together beautifully in this charming tale! For readers who love Erin Sterling and April Asher.

—Sharon Layburn, South Huntington Public, NY
NovelList read-alike: *The Ex-Hex* by Erin Sterling



Codename Charming: A Novel
Lucy Parker
(Avon)

Pet is a human rainbow—colorful, sparkly, and vibrant, while Matthias is the personification of still waters running deep. Opposites attract in this contemporary workplace romance featuring a royal personal assistant and a bodyguard. Quirky, giggle-inducing humor is balanced by sweet moments. This was so satisfying and such a joy to read!

—Laura Eckert, Clermont County Public Library, OH
NovelList read-alike: *The Royals Next Door* by Karina Halle

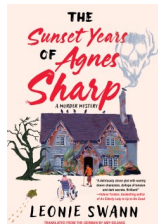


Mister Magic: A Novel
Kiersten White
(Del Rey)

When castmates from a children's program are brought back together to record a podcast about the show, the group feel like they are back where they belong. But soon they begin to wonder, are they here by choice, or have they been lured into a trap much more sinister than could ever be imagined? A terrifyingly creepy and realistic tale.

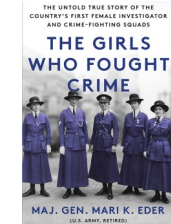
—Ninoshka Aviles, Osceola Library, FL
NovelList read-alike: *Burn the Negative* by Joshua Winning

Bonus pick:



The Sunset Years of Agnes Sharp
Leonie Swann
(Soho Crime)

Notable Nonfiction:

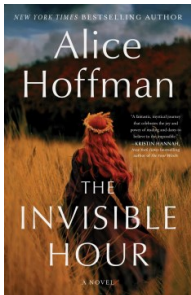


The Girls Who Fought Crime: The Untold True Story of the Country's First Female Investigator and Her Crime Fighting Squad
Mari Eder
(Sourcebooks)



August 2023 HALL OF FAME TITLES

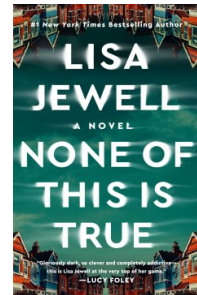
The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly list since 2013.



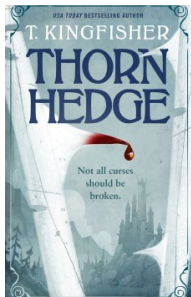
The Invisible Hour
Alice Hoffman
(Atria)
Novelist read-alike:
Sorrowland by Rivers Solomon



Dark Corners
Megan Goldin
(St. Martin's Press)
Novelist read-alike:
Pretty as a Picture by Elizabeth Little



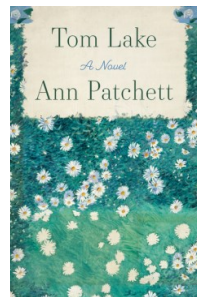
None of This is True: A Novel
Lisa Jewell
(Atria)
Novelist read-alike:
Greenwich Park by Katherine Faulkner



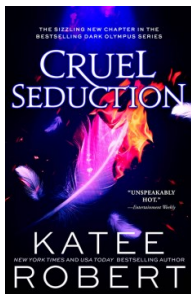
Thornhedge
T. Kingfisher
(Tor Books)
Novelist read-alike:
A Spindle Splintered by Alix E. Harrow



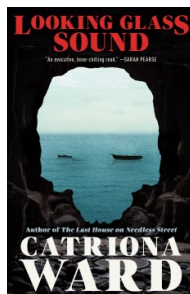
Knock Out: A Hell's Belles Novel
Sarah MacLean
(Avon)
Novelist read-alike:
The Duke Heist by Erica Ridley



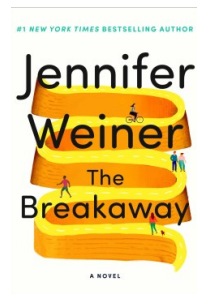
Tom Lake: A Novel
Ann Patchett
(Harper)
Novelist read-alike:
Flight by Lynn Steger Strong



Cruel Seduction
Katee Robert
(Sourcebooks)
Novelist read-alike:
Lore Olympus series by Rachel Smythe



Looking Glass Sound
Catriona Ward
(Tor Nightfire)
Novelist read-alike:
The Pallbearer's Club by Paul Tremblay



The Breakaway
Jennifer Weiner
(Atria)
Novelist read-alike:
Happiness for Beginners by Katherine Center

Find out more at: LibraryReads.org/HOF