

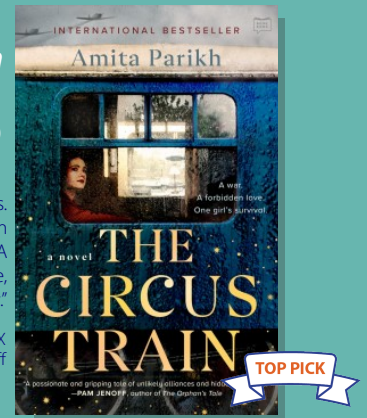


The Circus Train

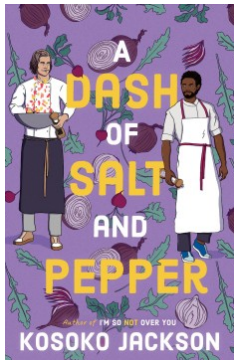
by Amita Parikh
(G.P. Putnam's Sons)

"Lena is a polio survivor whose father is an illusionist with a traveling circus. One day she rescues Jewish stowaway Alexandre. Growing to be more than friends with WWII looming, the two are torn apart when disaster strikes. A beautiful story mirroring the horrors of war with the innocence of young love, this is for fans of historical fiction and circus tales like *Water for Elephants*."

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX
NovelList read-alike: *The Orphan's Tale* by Pam Jenoff



December 2022 - The top ten books published this month that library staff across the country love.



A Dash of Salt and Pepper

by Kosoko Jackson
(Berkley)

"Moving back to his parents house after getting fired and dumped feels like failure to MBA graduate Xavier. He believes it is just a matter of time until he rebounds and gets his old life back. Then he meets Logan; chef, musician, father, utterly irresistible, and finds himself having to choose between love and his career dreams. You won't be able to put down this charming small town romance."

—Alicia Ahlvers, Henrico County Public Library, Henrico, VA
NovelList read-alike: *Chef's Kiss* by T.J. Alexander

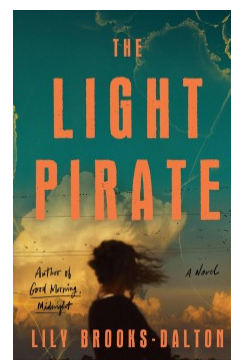


The Ingenue

A Novel
by Rachel Kapelke-Dale
(St. Martin's Press)

"Former piano prodigy Saskia returns home after her mother's death to find her family home has been bequeathed to someone else. Saskia is a believable and tragic figure as she searches for answers to questions that have been years in the making. What makes an ingénue and what destroys her? For fans of *My Dark Vanessa*."

—Courtenay Reece, Millville Public Library, Millville, NJ
NovelList read-alike: *The Turnout* by Megan Abbott

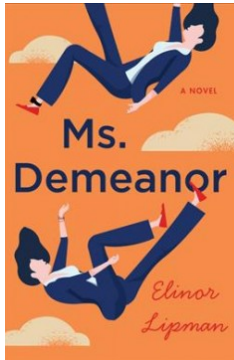


The Light Pirate

by Lily Brooks-Dalton
(Grand Central Publishing)

"As the effects of climate change begin to overwhelm America, we meet Wanda, a girl born during and named after a devastating hurricane. With civilization faltering in the face of mounting challenges, she must learn to live differently. The depiction of climate change and its effects here are bone-chilling, but Wanda's resilience is inspiring. For fans of *Station Eleven*."

—James Ludy, New Canaan Library, New Canaan, CT
NovelList read-alike: *Above the Ether* by Eric Barnes



Ms. Demeanor

A Novel
by Elinor Lipman
(Harper Perennial)

"After a neighbor's complaint, Jane finds herself with her law license suspended and wearing an ankle monitor for six months. Her sister persuades her to try food blogging and soon Jane's cooking for another house-arrested tenant while trying to discover the identity of her accuser. This is a breezy fun read with a dash of romance and mystery for fans of Tom Perrotta and Jennifer Weiner."

—Sharon Hutchinson, Keytesville Library, Keytesville, MO
NovelList read-alike: *The Candid Life of Meena Dave* by Namrata Patel

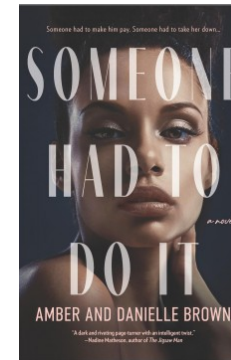


Queen of Myth and Monsters

by Scarlett St. Clair
(Bloom Books)

"Vampire King Adrian and his beloved Queen Isolde return in this searing erotic romance in which peril hides at every turn. St. Clair takes the reader on another high-stakes thrill ride as the couple works to establish their reign in a dark fantasy realm of mortals and immortals. Perfect for fans of Sarah J. Maas and *Guild Hunters*."

—Donna Rasmussen, Librarian-at-Large, Northern NJ Libraries
NovelList read-alike: *Shades of Wicked* by Jeaniene Frost

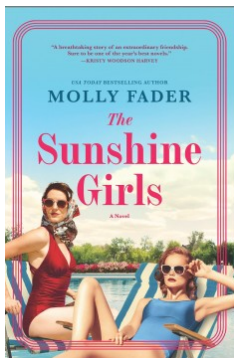


Someone Had To Do It

A Novel
by Amber and Danielle Brown
(Graydon House)

"An ambitious intern and a conniving rich girl clash in this riveting dual POV thriller set in the world of big New York fashion houses. A fun, fast-paced read with a villain who's a ton of fun to root against! For fans of *All Her Little Secrets*."

—Mara Bandy Fass, Champaign Public Library, Champaign, IL
NovelList read-alike: *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris

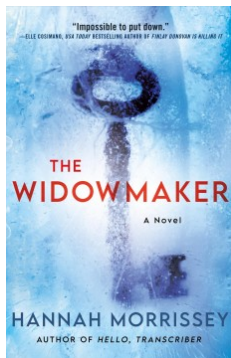


The Sunshine Girls

A Novel
by Molly Fader
(Graydon House)

"Clara and Abbie are mourning the loss of their mother, BettyKay, when a stranger named Kitty shows up. They attended nursing school, and through diaries and flashbacks, the reader learns about their loves, friendships, and secrets. Well developed characters made this an enjoyable story!"

—Debbie Lease, Hillsdale Public Library, Hillsdale, NJ
NovelList read-alike: *The Girls in the Picture* by Melanie Benjamin



The Widowmaker

A Black Harbor Novel
by Hannah Morrissey
(Minotaur Books)

"As the case of Clive Reynolds's disappearance 20 years ago unfolds, Detective Ryan Hudson discovers a link to his partner's murder. Skillfully woven together, the characters draw readers into a web of lies and deceitful actions that will keep them guessing who is the threat until the end."

—Janet Makouj, New City Library, New City, NY
NovelList read-alike: *When the Stars Go Dark* by Paula McClain



Witcha Gonna Do?

by Avery Flynn
(Berkley)

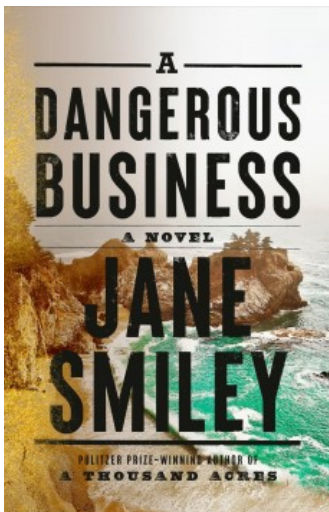
"This is a very light magical romance. When a witch with no powers curses her witch family, she must work with her hot nemesis to save her family – and the world from domination."

—Lou Ann Shultz, Mattoon Public Library, Mattoon, IL
NovelList read-alike: *Go Hex Yourself* by Jessica Clare



DECEMBER 2022

The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly LibraryReads list since 2013. When their third title places on the list via library staff votes, the author moves into the Hall of Fame.

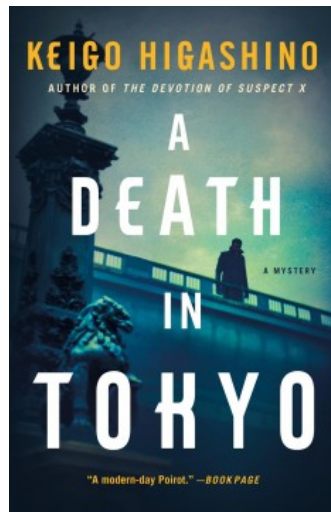


A Dangerous Business
A Novel
by Jane Smiley
(Knopf)

"In this mystery set during the California gold rush, Eliza Ripple works at a brothel after her husband is killed in a bar fight. When young women start mysteriously disappearing, Eliza and her best friend investigate using sleuthing skills gleaned from Poe's "Murders in the Rue Morgue." For fans of the Kopp Sisters series."

—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon Public Library, Flemington, NJ

NovelList read-alike: *Missy* by Chris Hannan

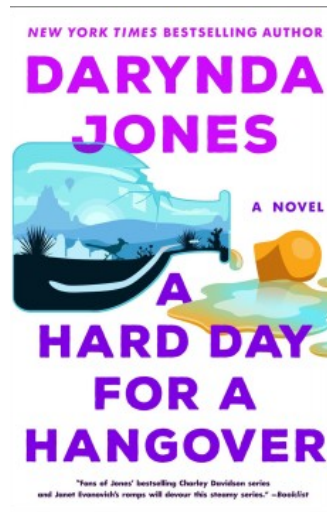


A Death in Tokyo
A Mystery
by Keigo Higashino
(Minotaur Books)

"A man is stabbed but keeps walking past a police station to die in the middle of a nearby bridge. Later an accident victim is found with the victim's wallet on him. Looking beyond the logical connection, Detective Kaga keeps digging to determine what really happened. A deliciously puzzling mystery that will be perfect for fans of Sherlock Holmes."

—Vicki Nesting, St. Charles Parish Library, Destrehan, LA

NovelList read-alike: Inspector Chen Cao series by Xiaolong Qiu

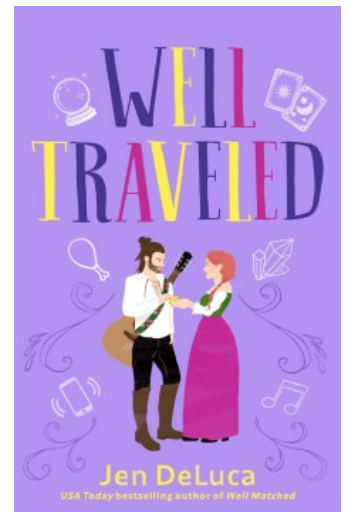


A Hard Day for a Hangover
A Novel
by Darynda Jones
(St. Martin's Press)

"Though her rebellious daughter survived a murder attempt just last week, Sheriff Sunshine Vicram is back on the job. Meanwhile, drama with her longtime crush Levi Ravinder is distracting her from solving a series of crimes involving women going missing in their small town."

—Seanean Shanahan, Douglas County Libraries, Parker, CO

NovelList read-alike: Detective Betty novels by Kathleen Kent



Well Traveled
by Jen DeLuca
(Berkley)

"Fed up with her demanding boss, lawyer Louisa "Lulu" Malone quits her job while visiting a Renaissance Faire. She continues traveling with the Faire, which means spending time with Dex MacLean of the Dueling Kilts musical troupe, who can't believe Lulu is immune to his charms. Readers will have a hard time putting this rom-com down!"

—Brenda O'Brien, Woodridge Public Library, Woodridge, IL

NovelList read-alike: Spoiler Alert series by Olivia Dade