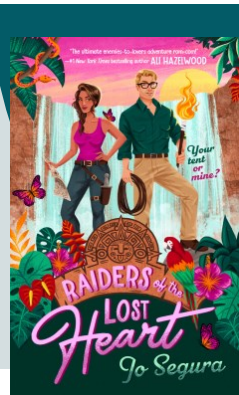




December 2023

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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org

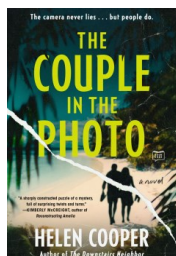


Raiders of the Lost Heart
Jo Segura
(Berkley)



Dr. Corrie's professional dream has come true: she's been invited on an archaeological dig to uncover an Aztec mystery. But there's one big catch. Her longtime rival, Dr. Ford, is the lead on the expedition. As they become better acquainted, their animosity transforms into an undeniable attraction—that is, until the truth behind Ford's motivations comes to light. Will they be able to find their happily ever after? This thrilling and steamy debut will appeal to fans of adventurous romances.

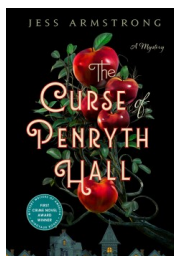
—Migdalia Jimenez, Chicago Public Library, IL
Novelist read-alike: *Do Your Worst* by Rosie Danan



The Couple in the Photo
Helen Cooper
(G.P. Putnam's Sons)

Lucy's perfect life crumbles when she sees a photo of her best friend on a romantic vacation with someone who isn't his wife. When she tells her husband, he tells her she must be mistaken and to leave it alone. Soon, the woman Lucy saw in the photo is found dead, making Lucy wonder if it's all in her head or if her husband is keeping something from her. Readers will be sucked into this well-written, fast-paced, twisty tale.

—Sarah Knight, Newton Public Library, IA
Novelist read-alike: *Just the Nicest Couple* by Mary Kubica



The Curse of Penryth Hall
Jess Armstrong
(Minotaur Books)

Unconventional American heiress Ruby is living in Exeter, where she runs a bookstore. Sent to deliver a box of rare and dangerous books, she ends up getting involved in a murder, an ancient curse, and the possibility that witches really do exist. The story is revealed slowly, giving readers a chance to guess the who and why. The possibility of the supernatural lingers like fog along the Cornish coast: with a view that's sometimes clear and other times, otherworldly.

—Janet Makoujy, New City Library, NY
Novelist read-alike: *The Cherry Robbers* by Sarai Walker



The Fake Mate
Lana Ferguson
(Berkley)

This paranormal rom-com follows two wolf shifters living in the human world, navigating the immense amount of shifter stereotypes to survive in the cutthroat world of medicine. Ferguson takes an interesting approach, creating a world where shifters are known—and for the most part, accepted—in society. Mack and Noah circle each other through the novel, fighting the pull of nature and attempting to navigate a relationship that is both fake and real.

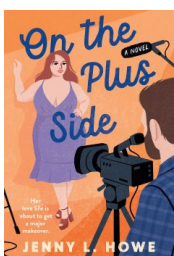
—Zoe Sucu, East Kingston Public Library, NH
Novelist read-alike: *Not the Witch You Wed* by April Asher



Familia: A Novel
Lauren E. Rico
(Kensington)

Gabby takes a DNA test and finds out she has a sister in Puerto Rico, and Isabella is convinced Gabby is her lost sister. The mystery of finding out what really happened, while switching between different perspectives and the rich characters, will keep readers intrigued. Puerto Rico in all its complexity is just as much a character. This is a great book club pick that explores what family and sisterhood means.

—Michelle Morris, Fort Worth Public Library, TX
Novelist read-alike: *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters



On the Plus Side: A Novel
Jenny L. Howe
(St. Martin's Griffin)

Everly has been chosen for a makeover show and is given the opportunity to see where she can go with her art and marketing skills, both of which she hides under a bushel. As she begins to grow and shine, she and the cameraman start falling for each other. Unfortunately, the show and Everly both become victims of sabotage. Can Everly and the show remain on the plus side?

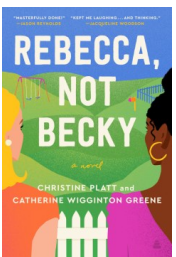
—Patti Cheney, Pima County Public Library, AZ
Novelist read-alike: *One to Watch* by Kate Stayman-London



The Other Mothers
Katherine Faulkner
(Gallery Books)

Choose your friends wisely! Tasha needs to jump start her journalism career, so when a nanny turns up dead in a neighboring community, she begins to investigate. She enrolls her son in school and becomes friendly with the other mothers. Exploring class and motherhood, this clever, twisty plot alternates between the nanny's past and Tasha's present narration of events.

—Jayme Oldham, Highland Park Public Library, IL
Novelist read-alike: *Mother of All Secrets* by Kathleen Willet



Rebecca, Not Becky
Christine Platt and Catherine Wigginton Greene
(Amistad)

Two mothers—one Black, one white—form an uneasy relationship when their daughters become friends at their "progressive" private school. A must-read for those wanting contemporary fiction that addresses important issues but maintains a brisk plot and relatable characters. Book clubs looking for something both funny and compelling should definitely consider this one.

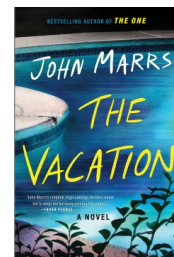
—Jennifer Schultz, Fauquier County Public Library, VA
Novelist read-alike: *Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid



This Spells Love
Kate Robb
(Dial Press)

Gemma just broke up with her ex, so her aunt, sister, and best friend Dax help her perform a love cleanse. Suddenly, she wakes up in another timeline where Dax doesn't know who she is! Though now she has her own store, she wants to get back to her own reality. Or can she have Dax here as something more than a friend? Readers of Lana Harper's *Witches of Thistle Grove* series will love this.

—Jessica C. Williams, Cleveland Public Library, OH
Novelist read-alike: *The Good Part* by Sophie Cousins

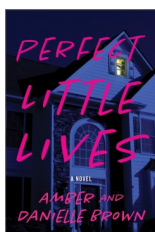


The Vacation
John Marrs
(Hanover Square Press)

As the reader explores the distance between unlikable and likable, each character reveals that they are not who they seem to be. When they intersect at a run-down hostel, these travelers—whether killers or caretakers—drive this fast-paced narrative in which each viewpoint is well fleshed out.

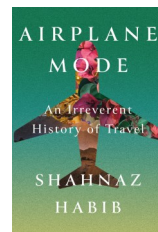
—Beth Emmerling, Enoch Pratt Free Library, MD
Novelist read-alike: *This Train* by James Grady

Bonus pick:



Perfect Little Lives
Amber and Danielle Brown
(Graydon House)

Notable Nonfiction:



Airplane Mode: An Irreverent History of Travel
Shahnaz Habib
(Catapult)

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



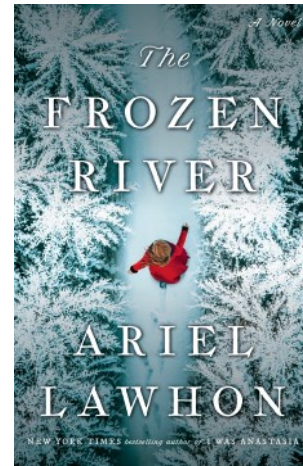
December 2023 HALL OF FAME TITLES

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.



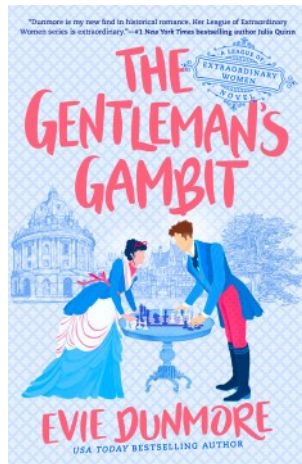
The Engagement Party
Darby Kane
(William Morrow)

Novelist read-alike:
The Twelve Days of Murder
by Andreina Cordani



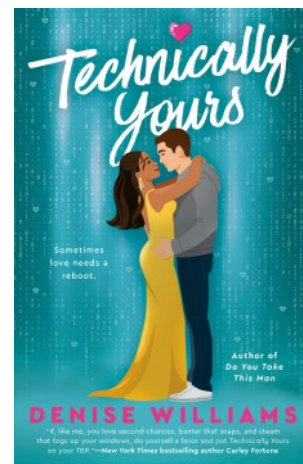
The Frozen River
Ariel Lawhon
(Doubleday)

Novelist read-alike:
Wolf Winter by Cecilia Ekback



The Gentleman's Gambit
Evie Dunmore
(Berkley)

Novelist read-alike:
The Queer Principles of Kit Webb
by Cat Sebastian



Technically Yours
Denise Williams
(Berkley)

Novelist read-alike:
Take a Hint, Dani Brown
by Talia Hibbert

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org/HOF