



February 2024

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



A Fate Inked in Blood:
Book One in the Saga of the Unfated
Danielle L. Jensen
(Del Rey)

We're all used to the Viking stories that center around men. This story features Freya, who has to marry a fanatical chieftain to protect her family and her land. She's been blessed with magical powers, and it's been foretold that she'll be the one to unite the kingdoms. This is a great start to a new series that will appeal to everyone who enjoys nonstop action with a strong female warrior and a steamy love story to boot.

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, TX
Novelist read-alike: *The Serpent & the Wings of Night* by Clarissa Broadbent

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org



The Tainted Cup
Robert Jackson Bennett
(Del Rey)

In a world where leviathan blood allows people to acquire amazing abilities, a brilliant investigator, Ana, and her sidekick in training, an "engraver" named Din capable of recalling details with amazing accuracy, work together to uncover the culprit behind the grisly death of a wealthy official. This hugely enjoyable fantasy and mystery blend will leave readers eager for another installment.

—Mara Bandy Fass, Champaign Public Library, IL
Novelist read-alike: *The Witness for the Dead* by Katherine Addison



The Book of Doors
Gareth Brown
(William Morrow)

Cassie likes her quiet life working in a bookstore in Manhattan. When one of her favorite customers dies in the shop one night, she finds a book in his possession with an inscription to her and the newfound ability that allows her to go through any door and come out wherever she wishes. This fantastical time travel novel has several interesting twists, including the final one.

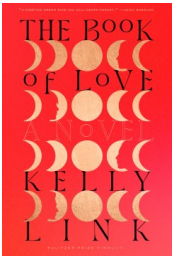
—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, NJ
Novelist read-alike: *Ink Blood Sister Scribe* by Emma Torz



The Fox Wife
Yangsze Choo
(Henry Holt & Co.)

This wonderful weaving of fantasy and folklore builds on ancient lore that foxes can change form into humans. When a young woman is found dead in the snow, Bao, a thoughtful investigator, is hired to explain her death. Rumor has it that foxes might be involved, and Bao follows clues shrouded in mystery to find the story of her death—and more. Highly recommended for fans of fantasy and whodunits that feature vivid characters and settings.

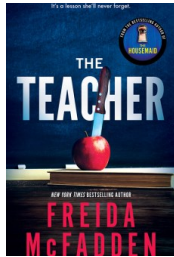
—Mitzi Sherwood, Honey Grove Library, TX
Novelist read-alike: *Unraveling* by Karen Torz



The Book of Love
Kelly Link
(Random House)

Three teens are newly back from the dead. Endowed with mysterious magical powers, they have to figure out how they died and what to do to keep from returning to the world of the dead. A huge cast of characters from the underworld and from their cute New England seaside town help (and hinder) them. This romantic, sexy, funny, and queer novel is recommended for readers who enjoy mythology and magical hijinks.

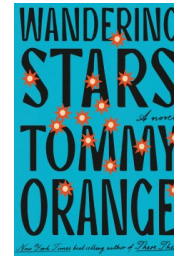
—Emily Heath, Brooklyn Public Library, NY
Novelist read-alike: *Magic for Liars* by Sarah Gailey



The Teacher
Freida McFadden
(Poisoned Pen Press)

Eve, a married high school math teacher, has been warned that Addie, a teenage student coping with trauma and alienation from her fellow classmates, could not be trusted. Inappropriate conduct soon occurs. The twists and turns in this psychological thriller will leave the reader with a deep feeling of unease.

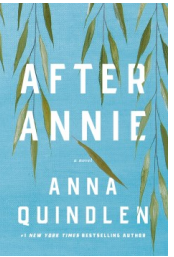
—Kristin Skinner, Flat River Community Library, MI
Novelist read-alike: *Reconstructing Amelia* by Kimberley McCreight



Wandering Stars: A Novel
Tommy Orange
(Knopf)

Orange's second novel is a stunning achievement, depicting over a century's worth of atrocities against the indigenous people of America, while also being a multigenerational family story full of the richly drawn, fascinating characters first introduced in *There, There*.

—Rachel Rooney, Mid-Continent Public Library, MO
Novelist read-alike: *Calling for a Blanket Dance* by Oscar Hokeah



After Annie: A Novel
Anna Quindlen
(Random House)

The aftermath of grief following the unexpected death of Annie is told through the eyes of husband Bill, 13-year-old daughter, Ali, and best friend, Annemarie. Written with tenderness and raw emotion, the novel lets readers see into the hearts of these characters as they deal with the day-to-day realities of surviving life minus the person they most loved.

—Sarah Siegel, Long Beach Public Library, NY
Novelist read-alike: *In Every Moment, We Are Still Alive* by Tom Malmquist



When Grumpy Met Sunshine
Charlotte Stein
(St. Martin's Griffin)

When Mabel meets ex-footballer Alfie to discuss ghostwriting his memoirs, it doesn't go well. After he convinces her to work with him, the press gets involved, and they decide to pretend to be a couple. Filled with playful banter, embarrassing mishaps, and believable, respectful relationship building, this is great rom-com.

—Lea Stapleton, Richland Library, SC
Novelist read-alike: *Business or Pleasure* by Rachel Solomon

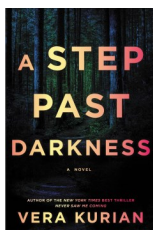


A Love Song for Ricki Wilde
Tia Williams
(Grand Central)

Ricki has been given an opportunity to achieve her dreams. Ezra is looking for an opportunity to be himself. They were destined to meet! With flashbacks to the Harlem Renaissance, this entertaining read is both modern and classic and does not disappoint. (Do yourself a favor and play some jazz in the background while reading.)

—Tonya Pearl, Memphis Public Library, TN
Novelist read-alike: *I Am Ayah: The Way Home* by Donna O. Hill

Bonus pick:



A Step Past Darkness
Vera Kurian
(Park Row)

Notable Nonfiction:



Why We Read: On Bookworms, Libraries, and Just One More Page Before Lights Out
Shannon Reed
(Hanover Square Press)

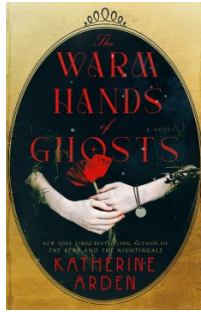
Be sure to check out our social media for the Bonus Pick annotations!



February 2024 HALL OF FAME TITLES

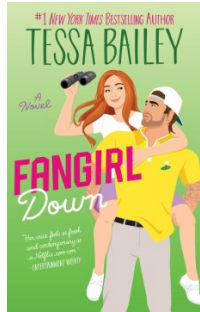
The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly list since 2013.

Find out more at ww.LibraryReads.org/HOF



The Warm Hands of Ghosts: A Novel
Katherine Arden
(Del Rey)

Novelist read-alike:
The London Seance Society by Sarah Penner



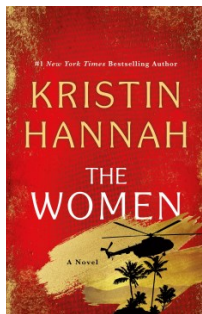
Fangirl Down
Tessa Bailey
(Avon)

Novelist read-alike:
The Graham Effect by Elle Kennedy



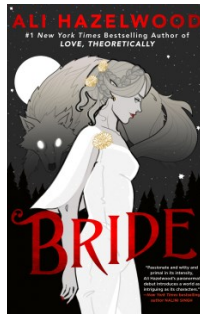
*At First Spite:
A Harlot's Bay Novel*
Olivia Dade
(Avon)

Novelist read-alike:
Yours Truly by Abby Jimenez



The Women: A Novel
Kristin Hannah
(St. Martin's Press)

Novelist read-alike:
The Lotus Eaters by Emily Clements



Bride
Ali Hazelwood
(Berkley)

Novelist read-alike:
Wolf Gone Wild by Juliette Cross



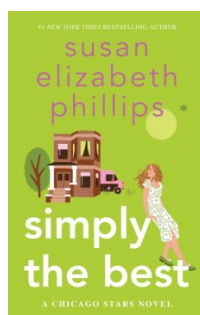
What Feasts at Night
T. Kingfisher
(Tor Nightfire)

Novelist read-alike:
The Haunting of Ashburn House by Darcy Coates



The Guest
B.A. Paris
(St. Martin's Press)

Novelist read-alike:
The House Guest by Hank Phillippi Ryan



*Simply the Best:
A Chicago Stars Novel*
Susan Elizabeth Phillips
(Avon)

Novelist read-alike:
The Hollywood Jinx by Sariah Wilson



The Phoenix Crown
Kate Quinn and Janie Chang
(William Morrow)

Novelist read-alike:
China Dolls by Lisa See