



The Writing Retreat: A Novel
by Julia Bartz
(Atria)

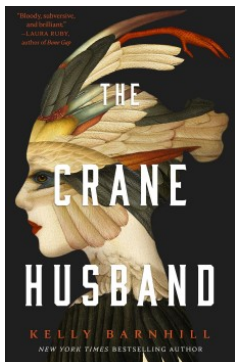
"Alex and her ex-best friend, Wren, along with 3 other women are picked for a writing retreat with infamous author Roza Vallo. They must finish writing their books in a month's time, and the best one will be published. Roza is a mercurial taskmaster, becoming stranger while the awe the women have for her turns to fear. This is an unusual horror story with many twists and turns."

—Judy Gaynes Sebastian, Eastham Public Library, Eastham, MA
NovelList read-alike: *The Dark Game* by Jonathan Ganz



TOP PICK

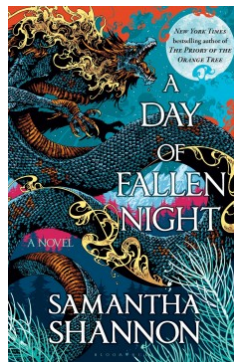
February 2023 - The top ten books published this month that library staff across the country love.



The Crane Husband
by Kelly Barnhill
(Tordotcom)

"An artist and her children live on a small farm. The teen daughter manages not only her mom's business but also the household and care of her little brother. It is a life she can handle until mom brings home a crane and declares him her husband. A unique fairy tale with a feminist message: don't trust a crane to make you complete. For readers who enjoyed *Juniper & Thorn*."

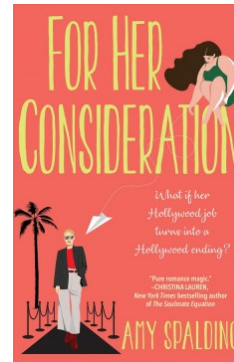
—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX
NovelList read-alike: *Boy, Snow, Bird* by Helen Oyeyemi



A Day of Fallen Night
by Samantha Shannon
(Bloomsbury)

"Fans of *The Priory of the Orange Tree* will be thrilled to revisit the intricately detailed world Shannon has created. In this standalone prequel, the stories of four women are spun out as the Dreadmount erupts and civilizations crumble. The large cast of characters is deftly handled, and readers will enjoy the fascinating mythology."

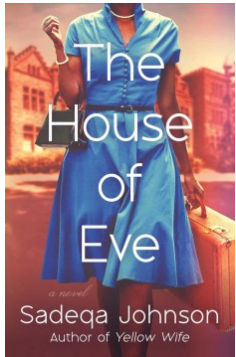
—Beth Mills, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY
NovelList read-alike: *Beneath the Keep: A Novel of the Tearing* by Erika Johansen



For Her Consideration
by Amy Spalding
(Kensington Books)

"Aspiring screenwriter Nina writes e-mails for other people, including Hollywood darling Ari Fox. Nina is enamored of Ari but a bad breakup made her vow never to date again. This rom-com with a queer actress and plus size woman offers great representation of realistic body positivity. Readers will root for the characters in this funny, smart, and heartwarming book!"

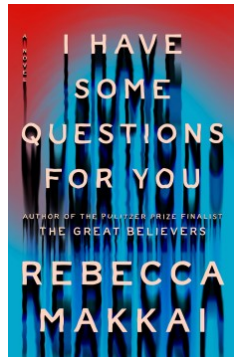
—Andrea Tucci, Glencoe Public Library, Glencoe, IL
NovelList read-alike: *Something to Talk About* by Meryl Wilsner



The House of Eve
by Sadeqa Johnson
(Simon and Schuster)

"Johnson's latest historical features dialogue that snaps and settings that perfectly evoke 1950s Philadelphia and Washington, DC. Readers will be captivated by this story of two young women who struggle to overcome racism and misogyny to have a family and a meaningful future."

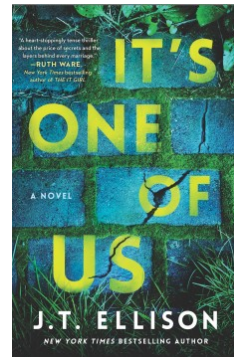
—Jodi Prather, Bartholomew Cty Public Library, Columbus, IN
NovelList read-alike: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett



I Have Some Questions for You: A Novel
by Rebecca Makkai
(Viking)

"Engaging story of a boarding school murder being solved 20 years later by true-crime podcast enthusiasts. Or is it a story of memories and how you interact with them, depending on your stage in life and your biases, or one about how as a teen you simultaneously know everything and nothing? Or is it all three? For fans of Jean Hanff Koretz."

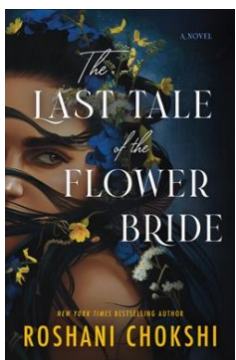
—Lorri Steinbacher, Ridgewood Public Library, Ridgewood, NJ
NovelList read-alike: *The It Girl* by Ruth Ware



It's One of Us
by J.T. Ellison
(Mira)

"JT Ellison has written a beautiful story from start to finish. Olivia and Park struggle with infertility. A woman is found dead, and DNA shows the murderer is related to Park. Not only is this a well-done mystery of whodunit, it is also a drama of what happens as a couple deals with loss. Another great book from an incredible author. For fans of *All the Dangerous Things*."

—Andrea Galvin, Mt. Pulaski Public Library, Mount Pulaski, IL
NovelList read-alike: *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave



The Last Tale of the Flower Bride
by Roshani Chokshi
(William Morrow)

"A husband cannot resist prying into his wife's past when he visits her childhood home. This gorgeously written gothic fairy tale about forbidden knowledge and dangerous love is perfect for fans of Silvia Moreno-Garcia or V.E. Schwab."

—Mara Bandy Fass, Champaign Public Library, Champaign, IL
NovelList read-alike: *The Death of Jane Lawrence* by Caitlin Starling



The Neighbor Favor
by Kristina Forest
(Berkley)

"Lily Greene needs a date for her sister's wedding but doesn't want her family's 'help' to find one. She ends up asking her hot neighbor Nick for help instead, but complications ensue when she realizes he's N.R. Strickland—the fantasy author who ghosted her. The lead characters who see the best in each other and help each other grow make for a satisfying second-chance romance. For fans of *The Love Wager*."

—Midge Loery, Mark Twain Library, Redding, CT
NovelList read-alike: *The Singles Table* by Sara Desai



Take the Lead: A Dance Off Novel
by Alexis Daria
(St. Martin's Press)

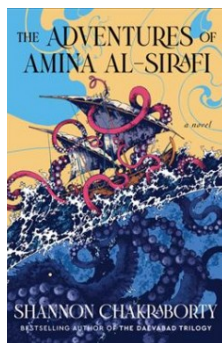
"Gina Morales, a professional on a dance competition show, is determined to win this season. However, instead of the Olympian she wanted as a partner, she is paired with survivalist Stone Nielson. Worse, her producer is pushing for a showmance! This is a fun and flirty romance with a wonderful cast of characters. Perfect for fans of *Dancing with the Stars*!"

—Tristan Draper, Dekalb Public Library, Dekalb, IL
NovelList read-alike: *Kiss Me, Catalina* by Priscilla Oliveras



FEBRUARY 2023

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

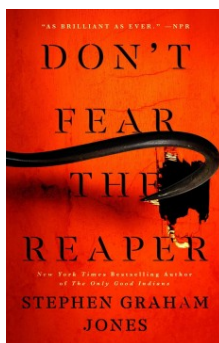


The Adventures of Amina Al-Sirafi
by Shannon Chakraborty
(Harper Voyager)

"*The Adventures of Amina al-Sirafi* works on multiple levels, from fantasy and adventure to family and love. Readers who enjoyed the *Daevabad* series will be excited to see Chakraborty start a new trilogy—and it does not disappoint. If you like pirates, magical adventure, and strong female leads, this book is for you."

—Aashna Kinkhabwala, Dover Free Library, Dover, VT

NovelList read-alike: *The Rowan* Series by Jaycee Bedford

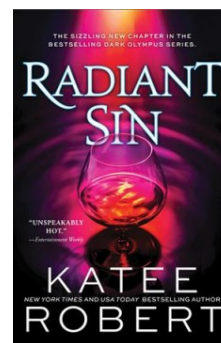


Don't Fear the Reaper
by Stephen Graham Jones
(Gallery Books)

"Jade just wants to go home and get back to her life after four years in prison, but Proofrock is not done with her as another serial killer has come to town. This sequel to *My Heart is a Chainsaw* amps up the action while giving slasher fans everything they could want—and then giving them even more!"

—Joseph Jones, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Cuyahoga, OH

NovelList read-alike: *The Summer is Ended and We are Not Yet Saved* by Joey Comeau



Radiant Sin
by Katee Robert
(Sourcebooks Casablanca)

"Apollo, keeper of secrets for The Thirteen, enlists his assistant Cassandra to join him on a getaway weekend party at a suspicious newcomer's house to uncover what he's hiding. But they must pretend to be a couple for the plan to work. Will their fake relationship lead to something real or will secrets destroy everything they've worked for? For fans of Greek retellings."

—Kari Bingham-Gutierrez, Olathe Public Library, Olathe, KS

NovelList read-alike: *The Hades Saga* by Scarlett St. Clair

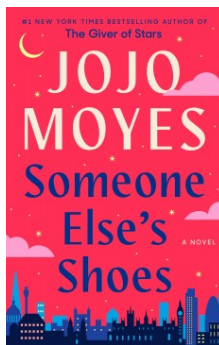


Secretly Yours
by Tessa Bailey
(Avon)

"Bailey's latest series starter is a grumpy/sunshine romance a bit different from her others. Julian is a buttoned-up professor prone to panic attacks from suppressed trauma. Hallie is a free-spirited gardener who has had an unrequited crush on him since high school and is dealing (or rather, not dealing) with her own traumatic past in a completely opposite way. When he comes back to their Napa hometown on sabbatical, she manufactures a run-in that doesn't go as she had hoped. Likable and believable characters make this a winner."

—Kaitlin Booth, Cuyahoga County Public Library, OH

NovelList read-alike: *To Sir, With Love* by Lauren Layne



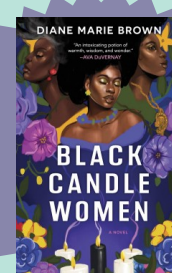
Someone Else's Shoes
by Jojo Moyes
(Pamela Dorman Books)

"A mix up at a gym forces two very different women to literally walk in each other's shoes, leading to a complete breakdown and reinvention of their current lives and world views. Sisterhood, mental health, a risky heist, romance, regret...this book has everything in perfect proportion and is a true page-turner to boot. Readers will love every page of this fantastic book."

—Sharon Layburn, South Huntington Public Library, Huntington Station, New York

NovelList read-alike: *The Switch* by Beth O'Leary

Feb 23 Bonus Pick:
(New addition to the regular list)



Black Candle Women: A Novel
by Diane Marie Brown
(Graydon House)

"A dual timeline moving from 1950s New Orleans to the present, three generations of strong magical women, a spell book, and a secret generational curse make for a very entertaining spin on family drama."

—Rebecca Vnuk, LibraryReads