
The Reading List 2013

*The RUSA CODES
Reading List Council*

Reading List Council

Reading List Council members: Megan McArdle, chair, Berkeley Public Library; Alicia Ahlvers, vice-chair, Kansas City Public Library; Stephanie Chase, Seattle Public Library; Craig Clark, Columbus, Ohio; Kathleen Collins, University of Washington Libraries, Seattle; Vicki Nesting, St. Charles Parish Library, Louisiana; Gillian Speace, NoveList, Durham, North Carolina; Valerie Taylor, Great Falls Library, South Carolina; Kimberly Wells, Denton Public Library; Jody Wurl, Hennepin County Library; and Michelle Young, Hawaii State Public Library System.

The expert readers' advisory librarians on the Reference and User Services Association's (RUSA) Reading List Council have selected their top picks for 2013 in eight popular genres: adrenaline titles (including suspense, thrillers, and action adventure), fantasy, historical fiction, horror, mystery, romance, science fiction, and women's fiction.

The council, which consists of eleven librarians who are experts in readers' advisory and collection development, selects one book from each of these genres, as well as a short list of honor titles, up to four per genre. The result is a list of recommended novels that will please die-hard fans as well as introduce new readers to the pleasures of genre fiction.

ADRENALINE

Flynn, Gillian. *Gone Girl*. Crown. (ISBN: 978-0-3075-8836-4).

It's her fifth wedding anniversary: where's Amy? Assumptions are dangerous in this chilling psychological thriller. The dark and twisty plot, unbearable levels of tension, and merciless pacing will rivet readers.

Read-Alikes

Highsmith, Patricia. *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.

Landay, William. *Defending Jacob*.

Watson, S.J. *Before I Go to Sleep*.

Short List

Hallinan, Timothy. *The Fear Artist*. Soho Crime. (ISBN: 978-1-6169-5112-2).

Haynes, Elizabeth. *Into The Darkest Corner*. Harper Collins. (ISBN: 9780062197252).

Hurwitz, Gregg. *The Survivor*. St. Martin's. (ISBN: 978-0-3126-2551-1).

Smith, Mark Allen. *The Inquisitor*. Henry Holt. (ISBN: 978-0-8050-9426-8).

FANTASY

O'Malley, Daniel. *The Rook*. Little, Brown. (ISBN: 978-0-3160-9879-3).

When Myfanwy wakes up with no memory, surrounded by corpses, she must immediately impersonate herself in order to unravel the conspiracy at the heart of a secret supernatural intelligence agency. This offbeat debut combines the fast pacing and suspense of a thriller with the gritty, detailed world-building of urban fantasy.

Read-Alikes

- Rees, Rod. *The Demi-Monde: Winter*.
 Fforde, Jasper. *The Eyre Affair*.
 Barnes, Jonathan. *The Domino Men*.

Short List

- Bennett, Robert Jackson. *The Troupe*. Orbit. (ISBN: 978-0-3161-8752-7).
 Carey, Mike, Linda Carey, and Louise Carey. *The Steel Segaglio*. ChiZine. (ISBN: 978-1-9268-5153-2).
 Jemisin, N.K. *The Killing Moon*. Orbit. (ISBN: 978-0-3161-8728-2).
 Wilson, G. Willow. *Alif the Unseen*. Grove. (ISBN: 978-0-8021-2020-5).

HISTORICAL FICTION

Mantel, Hilary. *Bring Up the Bodies*. Henry Holt. (ISBN: 978-0-8050-9003-1).

Ambitious royal advisor Thomas Cromwell is at the pinnacle of his power and uses it to subtly engineer the downfall of his enemies, including Queen Anne Boleyn and her inner circle. This intricately plotted character study presents a fresh perspective on the ever popular Tudor Court.

Read-Alikes

- Weir, Alison (NF). *Mary, Queen of Scots, and the Murder of Lord Darnley*.
 Bolt, Robert. *A Man for All Seasons*.
 Graves, Robert. *I, Claudius*.

Short List

- Grenville, Kate. *Sarah Thornhill*. Grove. (ISBN: 978-0-8021-2024-3).
 Miller, Madeline. *The Song of Achilles*. Ecco. (ISBN: 978-0-0620-6061-7).
 Moehring, J.R. *Sutton*. Hyperion. (ISBN: 978-1-4013-2314-1).
 Rash, Ron. *The Cove*. Ecco. (ISBN: 978-0-0618-0419-9).

HORROR

Nevill, Adam. *The Ritual*. St. Martin's. (ISBN: 978-0-3126-4184-9).

In the remote forests of Sweden, the friendship between four men disintegrates when they wander off the hiking trail and find themselves stalked by an unseen and increasingly violent menace. *Blair Witch* meets black metal in this dark and suspenseful horror novel.

Read-Alikes

- Smith, Scott. *The Ruins*.
 Dickey, James. *Deliverance*.
 Clegg, Douglas. *Neverland*.

Short List

- Novak, Chase. *Breed*. Mullholland. (ISBN: 978-0-3161-9856-1).
 St. James, Simone. *The Haunting of Maddy Clare*. New American Library. (ISBN: 9780451235688).
 Wong, David. *This Book is Full of Spiders: Seriously, Dude, Don't Touch It*. Thomas Dunne. (ISBN: 978-0-3125-4634-2).
 Zito, V.M. *The Return Man*. Orbit. (ISBN: 978-0-3162-1828-3).

MYSTERY

Faye, Lyndsay. *The Gods of Gotham*. Amy Einhorn. (ISBN: 978-0-3991-5837-7).

The discovery of a mass grave of child prostitutes spurs "copper star" Timothy Wilde to hunt a killer through the seamy underbelly of 1840s New York City. Colorful period slang enlivens this carefully researched story about the dawn of modern policing.

Read-Alikes

- Grecian, Alex. *The Yard*.
 Carr, Caleb. *The Alienist*.
Gangs of New York. Miramax, 2002.

Short List

- Friedman, Daniel. *Don't Ever Get Old*. Minotaur. (ISBN: 978-0-3126-0693-0).
 Krueger, William Kent. *Trickster's Point*. Atria. (ISBN: 978-1-4516-4567-5).
 O'Connell, Carol. *The Chalk Girl*. Putnam. (ISBN: 978-0-3991-5774-5).
 Penny, Louise. *The Beautiful Mystery*. Minotaur. (ISBN: 978-0-3126-5546-4).

ROMANCE

Callihan, Kristen. *Firelight*. Forever. (ISBN: 978-1-4555-0859-4).

Bartered as a bride to the masked nobleman Benjamin Archer, Miranda Ellis is a woman with a supernatural secret, who becomes Archer's only defender when he is accused of a series of murders. This is a dark and smoldering Victorian paranormal where love redeems two complex and damaged characters.

Read-Alikes

- James, Eloisa. *When Beauty Tamed the Beast*.
 Quick, Amanda. *Second Sight*.
 Ashley, Jennifer. *The Madness of Lord Ian MacKenzie*.

Short List

- Bourne, Joanna. *The Black Hawk*. Berkley. (ISBN: 978-0-4252-4453-1).

FROM COMMITTEES OF RUSA

Duran, Meredith. *At Your Pleasure*. Pocket Star. (ISBN: 978-1-4516-0695-9).

Shalvis, Jill. *Lucky in Love*. Forever. (ISBN: 978-1-4555-0372-8).

Grant, Cecilia. *A Lady Awakened*. Bantam. (ISBN: 978-0-5535-9383-9).

SCIENCE FICTION

Corey, James S.A. *Caliban's War*. Orbit. (ISBN: 978-0-3161-2906-0).

One wants control; one wants vindication; one wants his daughter back; and one wants revenge (and maybe a new suit). The shifting points of view of these four distinctive characters, an electrifying pace, and the threat of an evolving alien proto-molecule propel readers through this grand space adventure.

Read-Alikes

Herbert, Brian and Kevin J. Anderson. *Hellhole*.

McAuley, Paul. *Gardens of the Sun*.

Scalzi, John. *The Ghost Brigades*.

Short List

Banks, Iain. *The Hydrogen Sonata*. Orbit. (ISBN: 978-0-3162-1237-3).

King, Stephen. *11/22/63*. Scribner. (ISBN: 978-1-4516-2728-2).

Kress, Nancy. *After the Fall, Before the Fall, During the Fall*. Tachyon. (ISBN: 978-1-6169-6065-0).

McCarthy, T. C. *Exogene*. Orbit. (ISBN: 978-0-3161-2815-5).

WOMEN'S FICTION

Dilloway, Margaret. *The Care and Handling of Roses with Thorns*. Putnam. (ISBN: 978-0-3991-5775-2).

Galilee Garner's carefully managed routine of teaching, rose breeding, and kidney dialysis is disrupted when her teenage niece moves in. Readers will root for the growth of this prickly character as she discovers the importance of cultivating human connections.

Read-Alikes

Strout, Elizabeth. *Olive Kitteridge*.

Diffenbaugh, Vanessa. *The Language of Flowers*.

As Good As It Gets. Columbia Tristar, 1997.

Short List

Gideon, Melanie. *Wife 22*. Ballantine. (ISBN: 978-0-3455-2795-0).

Jackson, Joshilyn. *A Grown-Up Kind of Pretty*. Grand Central. (ISBN: 978-0-4465-8235-3).

Kinsella, Sophie. *I've Got Your Number*. Dial Press. (ISBN: 978-0-3853-4206-3).

Morton, Kate. *The Secret Keeper*. Atria Books. (ISBN: 978-1-4391-5280-5).