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# The Reading List

## RUSA Reading List Council

**RUSA Reading List Council** members include Alicia Ahlvers, Chair, The Kansas City Public Library; Craig Allen Clark; Stephanie Chase, BiblioCommons; Emily Anne Hamstra, University of Michigan Library; Jennifer Hendzlik, Anythink Libraries; Victoria Kemp, Flower Mound Public Library; Jared Mills, The Seattle Public Library; Vicki Nesting, St. Charles Parish Library; Gillian Speace, Vice-Chair, NoveList; Valerie Morgan Taylor, Chester County Library; Anne Chambers Theis, Henrico County Public Library.

The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) has announced its selections for the 2014 Reading List as well as the short lists and read-alikes. Established in 2007 by the CODES section of RUSA, The Reading List seeks to highlight outstanding genre fiction that merit special attention by general adult readers and the librarians who work with them.

The 2014 winners are:

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## ADRENALINE

Matthews, Jason. *Red Sparrow*. Scribner. (ISBN: 978-1-4767-0612-2)

This modern spy novel pits two covert operatives against each other in an intricate cat-and-mouse game. As Dominika and Nathaniel ply their tradecraft, they navigate the moral ambiguities of a post-Cold War world where no one is as they seem and betrayal is business as usual.

### Read-alikes

- Furst, Alan. *Night Soldiers*.
- le Carré, John. *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*.
- Huston, Charlie. *Skinner*.

### Adrenaline Short List

- Ahmad, A.X. *The Caretaker*. Minotaur Books. (ISBN: 9781250016843)
- Hobbs, Roger. *Ghostman*. Alfred A. Knopf. (ISBN: 9780307959966)
- Barry, Max. *Lexicon*. The Penguin Press. (ISBN: 9781594205385)
- Bolton, S.J. *Lost*. Minotaur Books (ISBN: 9781250028563)

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## FANTASY

Schwab, V.E. *Vicious*. Tor Books. (ISBN: 9780765335340)

A friendly rivalry turns vicious when college friends Victor and Eli obtain superhuman powers and use them for very different purposes. This dark paranormal fantasy, a riveting tale of vengeance and redemption, proves that extraordinary powers don't necessarily make superheroes.

### Readalikes

- Kirkman, Robert. *Invincible*.
- Clines, Peter. *Ex-heroes*.
- Sanderson, Brandon. *Steelheart*.

## Fantasy Short List

- Buehlman, Christopher. *The Necromancer's House*. Ace Hardcover. (ISBN: 9780425256657)
- Brennan, Marie. *A Natural History of Dragons*. Tor Books. (ISBN: 9780765331960)
- Jackson, Robert Bennett. *American Elsewhere*. Orbit. (ISBN: 9780316200202)
- Wecker, Helene. *The Golem and the Jinni: A Novel*. Harper. (ISBN: 9780062110831)

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## HISTORICAL FICTION

Kent, Kathleen. *The Outcasts*. Little Brown and Company. (ISBN: 9780316206129)

Love, morality and greed collide in this Reconstruction Era western. A whore without a heart of gold, Lucinda escapes from a Fort Worth brothel to begin a new life—and a new con. She and her lover are bound to cross paths with Texas Ranger Nate, who is chasing stone-cold killer McGill. Both Nate and Lucinda are unforgettable characters, driven by the need to survive.

### Read-alikes

- deWitt, Patrick. *The Sisters Brothers*.
- Portis, Charles. *True Grit*.
- *3:10 from Yuma*. (Lionsgate Films, 2007).

### Historical Short List

- Simmons, Dan. *The Abominable: A Novel*. Little Brown and Company. (ISBN: 978031619883)
- Baker, Jo. *Longbourn*. Alfred A. Knopf. (ISBN: 9780385351232)
- Greenwood, Kerry. *Out of the Black Land*. Poisoned Pen Press. (ISBN: 9781464200380)
- Lansdale, Joe R. *The Thicket*. Mulholland Books. (ISBN: 9780316188456)

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## HORROR

Nevill, Adam. *Last Days*. St. Martin's Griffin. (ISBN: 9781250018182)

Deep in debt, documentary filmmaker Kyle Freeman reluctantly accepts the financial backing of an enigmatic self-help guru to make a movie about infamous cult The Temple of the Last Days. Unique, atmospheric and deeply disturbing, Nevill delivers a visceral horror experience that will haunt readers long after they put the book down.

### Read-alikes

- Campbell, Ramsey. *The Grin of the Dark*.
- Danielewski, Mark Z. *House of Leaves*.
- *Paranormal Activity*. (Paramount Pictures, 2009)

## Horror Short List

- Logan, Michael. *Apocalypse Cow*. St. Martin's Griffin. (ISBN: 9781250032867)
- Winterson, Jeanette. *The Daylight Gate*. Grove Press. (ISBN: 9780802121639)
- King, Stephen. *Doctor Sleep*. Scribner. (ISBN: 9781476727653)
- Percy, Benjamin. *Red Moon*. Grand Central Publishing. (9781455501663)

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## MYSTERY

Morrell, David. *Murder as a Fine Art*. Mulholland Books. (ISBN: 9780316216791)

London, 1854: The Artist of Death ritualistically recreates the sensational Ratcliffe murders inspired by the writings of the notorious opium addict Thomas De Quincey. In this fast-paced mystery, filled with colorful characters and authentic period detail, Scotland Yard detectives, along with De Quincey and his daughter must find the Artist of Death before he executes another macabre masterpiece.

### Read-alikes

- Gallagher, Stephen. *The Bedlam Detective*.
- James, P. D. and T. A. *Critchley*. The Maul and the Pear Tree: the Ratcliffe Highway Murders, 1811.
- Moore, Alan. *From Hell*.

### Mystery Short List

- Lemaitre, Pierre. Alex. *The MacLehose Press*. (ISBN: 9781623650001)
- Blair, Peggy. *The Beggar's Opera*. Pintail: The Penguin Press. (ISBN: 9780143186427)
- Penny, Louise. *How the Light Gets In: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel*. Minotaur Books (ISBN: 9780312655471)
- Faye, Lyndsa. *Seven for a Secret*. Amy Einhorn Books. (ISBN: 9780399158384)

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## ROMANCE

Dare, Tessa. *Any Duchess Will Do*. Avon. (ISBN: 9780062240125)

Desperate for grandchildren, the Duchess of Halford strikes a bargain with her only son, Griff: pick a woman—any woman. If she can transform her son's choice into duchess material, he must marry the girl. Griff picks the least likely candidate in bluestocking barmaid Pauline, only to quickly realize he has no idea who he is dealing with. A humorous and clever historical romance with engaging characters you won't soon forget.

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## FROM COMMITTEES OF RUSA

### Read-alikes

- Boyle, Elizabeth. *This Rake of Mine*.
- Quinn, Julia, Eloisa James, and Connie Brockway. *The Lady Most Willing*.
- Balogh, Mary. *Then Comes Seduction*.

### Romance Short List

- Gracie, Anne. *Autumn Bride*. Berkley Books. (ISBN: 9780425259252)
- Milan, Courtney. *The Heiress Effect*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. (ISBN: 9781490994710)
- MacLean, Sarah. *One Good Earl Deserves a Lover: The Second Rule of Scoundrels*. Avon. (ISBN: 9780062068538)
- Simsion, Graeme. *The Rosie Project*. Simon & Schuster. (ISBN: 9781476729084)

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## SCIENCE FICTION

MacIntosh, Will. *Love Minus Eighty*. Orbit Books. (ISBN: 9780316217781)

Cryogenics adds a darkly humorous twist on dating, love, and relationships in the twenty-second century. This multi-perspective story provides a thought-provoking and poignant social commentary on power dynamics, gender, class, and the ethical issues surrounding life after life-after-death.

### Read-alikes

- Bujold, Lois McMaster. *Captain Vorpatril's Alliance*.
- Kiernan, Stephen. *The Curiosity: A Novel*.
- *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. (Universal Studios, 2004).

### Science Fiction Short List

- Corey, James SA. *Abaddon's Gate*. Orbit Books. (ISBN: 9780316129077)
- Hamilton, Peter F. *Great North Road*. Ballantine Books. (ISBN: 9780345526663)
- Silverberg, Robert. *Tales of Majipoor*. ROC Trade. (ISBN: 9780451464989)
- Howey, Hugh. *Wool*. Simon & Schuster. (ISBN: 9781476735115)

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## WOMEN'S FICTION

Moyes, Jojo. *Me Before You*. Pamela Dorman Books. (ISBN: 9780670026609)

Unemployed twenty-six-year-old Louisa takes the only job she can find: as a "care assistant" to thirty-five-year-old quadriplegic Will. When Louisa discovers the depth of Will's unhappiness, she embarks on a mission to convince him that life is worth living and in the process begins to think about her own future. This bittersweet, quirky novel recounts an unlikely friendship while grappling with complex issues in a realistic and sensitive manner.

### Read-alikes

- Evison, Jonathan. *The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving: A Novel*.
- Berg, Elizabeth. *Talk Before Sleep: A Novel*.
- Wildgen, Michelle. *You're Not You: A Novel*.

### Women's Fiction Short List

- Moriarty, Liane. *The Husband's Secret*. Amy Einhorn Books. (ISBN: 9780399159343)
- Chamberlain, Diane. *Necessary Lies*. St. Martin's Press. (ISBN: 9781250010698)
- McCreight, Kimberly. *Reconstructing Amelia*. HarperCollins. (ISBN: 9780062225436)
- Picoult, Jodi. *The Storyteller*. Emily Bestler Books. (ISBN: 9781439102763)