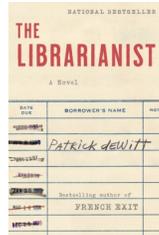


## Fiction A to Z

August 2023

### Recent Releases



### The Librarianist

by Patrick deWitt

**Meet:** Bob Comet, a 71-year-old retired librarian who has lived alone for nearly 50 years in the same Portland, Oregon, house he grew up in.

**What happens:** A chance meeting with a confused elderly woman leads to Bob volunteering at a senior center, which offers him a place to belong as well as a few surprises.

**Why you might like it:** Award-winning author Patrick deWitt (*The Sisters Brothers*) also revisits Bob as a recently wed (and quickly betrayed) young man in his 20s and as an 11-year-old runaway in this "quietly effective and moving character study" (*Kirkus Reviews*).



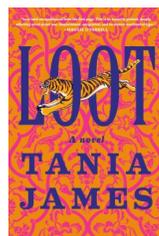
### Promise

by Rachel Eliza Griffiths

**Coastal Maine:** In their small town, the teenage Kindred sisters are growing up loved and happy in the 1950s, friends with the daughter of the only other Black family around and a poor white girl. But as the girls become teens and the civil rights movement accelerates, their relationships are tested and racism and violence become all too real.

**Don't miss:** the lyrical, richly detailed writing that saturates this powerful debut novel by an acclaimed poet.

**Try a sample:** "We mourned summertime's ending and made predictions about autumn and ourselves."



### Loot

by Tania James

**Called to the palace:** In 1794 in the Kingdom of Mysore (now part of India), talented 17-year-old toymaker Abbas is ordered to work with French clockmaker Lucien Du Leze to craft a life-sized wooden tiger that growls and makes music.

**What happens:** In 1799, the British defeat Mysore's ruler, prompting Lucian and his daughter to flee to France. Abbas follows a few years later, eventually ending up in England where he hunts for the looted tiger.

**Reviewers say:** "At once swashbuckling and searing, this is a marvelous achievement" (*Publishers Weekly*); "rich, sprawling, picaresque" (*Booklist*).



### No One Prayed Over Their Graves

by Khaled Khalifa; translated from the Arabic by Leri Price

**Syria, 1907:** A flood destroys a small village outside of Aleppo, leaving almost everyone dead, but young fathers Hanna, a Christian, and Zakariya, a Muslim, were out carousing together and survived.

**What happens:** Tormented by the tragedy and trying to make sense of their lives, the men struggle in a novel that ebbs and flows between the past, present, and future.

**Why you might like it:** Examining change, love, and death, this moving novel by an acclaimed Syrian writer is lush and thought-provoking.



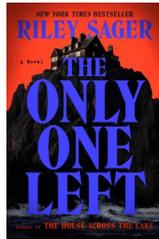
### Excavations

by Kate Myers

**Featuring:** Elise, Kara, Zara, and Patty, four very different women with varying problems (including issues with each other).

**The discovery:** While working on an archeological dig in Greece where ancient sporting events occurred, they unearth a stunning find and must come together to deal with their obnoxious boss and save it.

**Why you might like it:** This evocative debut expertly depicts excavation details and is "fresh, funny, intelligent, and deeply satisfying" (*Kirkus Reviews*).



### **The Only One Left**

by Riley Sager

**Coastal Maine, 1983:** After her last job ended badly, live-in caregiver Kit McDeere takes the only position open to her: working with elderly Lenora Hope, who everyone thinks murdered her family when she was a teen.

**What happens:** At the large cliffside home where the killings occurred and now-disabled Lenora still lives, Kit settles in, though with some misgivings. Then Lenora says she's going to tell her the truth.

**Read this next:** For other suspenseful novels with twisty plots and mysterious mansions, try Ruth Ware's *The Turn of the Key*, Jess Kidd's *Mr. Flood's Last Resort*, or Simone St. James' *The Book of Cold Cases*.



### **Watch Us Dance**

by Leila Slimani; translated by Sam Taylor

**What it is:** a compelling look at a biracial French Moroccan family against the turbulent backdrop of late 1960s and early 1970s Morocco.

**What happens:** Middle-aged married couple Amine and Mathilde are wealthy but unhappy, and then the installation of an inground pool divides them further. Meanwhile, their adult daughter Aicha studies, hoping to be a doctor, while their son Selim hangs out with hippies.

**Series alert:** Though *Watch Us Dance* is the atmospheric 2nd in a trilogy following *In the Country of Others*, it can still be enjoyed on its own.



### **Holding Pattern**

by Jenny Xie

**Home again:** After her fiancé ends things, Kathleen takes a leave of absence from her doctoral program and goes home to California.

**What happens:** While her formerly depressed mother is now fit, sober, stylish, and planning her wedding to a Silicon Valley tech entrepreneur, Kathleen wonders what her own future holds while working as a cuddle provider for a new therapy startup.

**Read this next:** Kristen Mei Chase's *A Thousand Miles to Graceland*, another funny, heartwarming novel starring a mother and daughter.

**Contact your librarian for more great books!**

**Learn More About NextReads**  
[www.ebscohost.com/novelist](http://www.ebscohost.com/novelist)