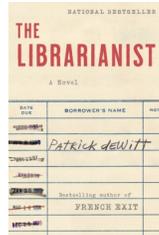


Fiction A to Z

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*).



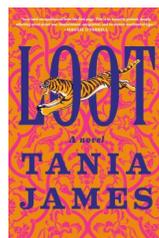
Promise

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.



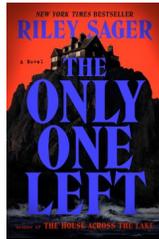
Excavations

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!

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