

NEWS

For Midwinter On-Site Distribution Only
January 25, 2009

2009 Reading List Winners Announced

DENVER—The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) has announced its selection for the 2009 Reading List award.

The Reading List annually recognizes the best books in eight genres: adrenaline (which includes suspense, thriller, and adventure), fantasy, historical fiction, horror, mystery, romance, science fiction, and women's fiction. This year's list includes novels that will please die-hard fans as well as introduce new readers to the pleasures of genre fiction.

The winning titles were selected by the Reading List Council, whose members include:

Neal Wyatt, Chair, Richmond, VA
Jennifer Baker, The Seattle Public Library
Arlene Griffin, LSSI Library North Jackson Madison County Library
Mirja Johanson, Perrot Memorial Library
Lucy Lockley, St. Charles City-County Library District
Robert Renwick, Brooklyn Public Library
Joyce Saricks, Vice-Chair, Downers Grove, IL
Jacqueline Sasaki, Ann Arbor District Library
Sharron Smith, Kitchener Public Library
Tapley Trudell, San Antonio Public Library
Alan Ziebarth, Chicago Public Library

The 2009 winners are:

Adrenaline



***Blue Heaven* by C.J. Box, St. Martin, 9780312365707**

In this relentlessly paced story two children witness a murder, elude crooked ex-cops, and find refuge with a taciturn rancher. The evocative landscape and emotional depth, along with the engaging characters and provocative story line, combine to create an unforgettable novel.

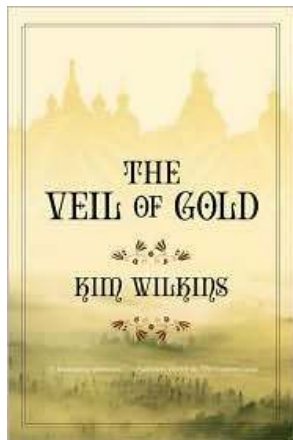
Read-Alikes:

Killer Weekend by Ridley Pearson
Nothing to Lose by Lee Child
Hombre by Elmore Leonard

Shortlist

The Dirty Secrets Club by Meg Gardiner, Dutton, 9780525950660
Hold Tight by Harlan Coben, Dutton, 9780525950608
L.A. Outlaws by T. Jefferson Parker, Dutton, 9780525950554
Rules of Deception by Christopher Reich, Doubleday, 9780385524063

Fantasy



***Veil of Gold* by Kim Wilkins, Tor, 9780765320063**

The discovery of a golden bear in the walls of a derelict St. Petersburg bath house lifts the veil between the real world and that of fairy tales. Treachery is rampant and death is ever-present: stories aren't safe, and love can't rescue anyone—or can it?

Read-Alikes:

The Book of Lost Things by John Connolly

Enchantment by Orson Scott Card

Forests of the Heart by Charles de Lint

Shortlist

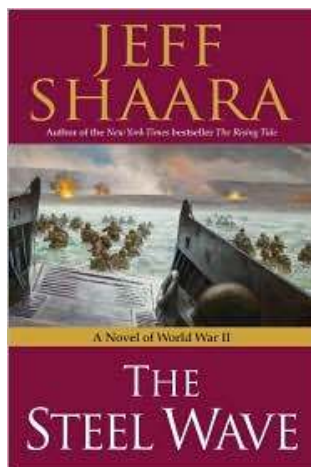
The House of the Stag by Kage Baker, TOR Books, 9780765317452

Ink and Steel by Elizabeth Bear, Roc, 9780451462091

Shadowbridge by Gregory Frost, Ballantine, 9780345497581

Small Favor by Jim Butcher, Roc, 978045146189

Historical Fiction



***The Steel Wave* by Jeff Shaara, Ballantine, 9780345461421**

In this riveting tale of D-Day and its aftermath, Shaara closely follows events through the lives common soldiers and generals, Allies and Axis alike. A journalistic style underscores the drama of events, and the engaging warts-and-all portrayals add to the immediacy of the novel.

Read-Alikes:

Sharpe series by Bernard Cornwell

An Army at Down: The War in North Africa, 1942-1943 by Rick Atkinson

Killing Rommel by Steven Pressfield

Shortlist

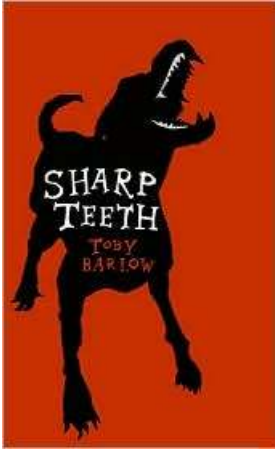
Dreamers of the Day by Mary Doria Russell, Random House, 9781400-64717

The Given Day by Dennis Lehane, William Morrow, 9780688163181

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows, Dial Press, 9780385340991

The Whiskey Rebels by David Liss, Random House, 9781400064205

Horror



***Sharp Teeth* by Toby Barlow, Harper, 9780061430220**

The insiders' perspective and lyrical language of this haunting free verse novel offer a sympathetic glimpse into the lives of urban werewolves, a nightmarish noir world where violence and heartbreak go hand in hand.

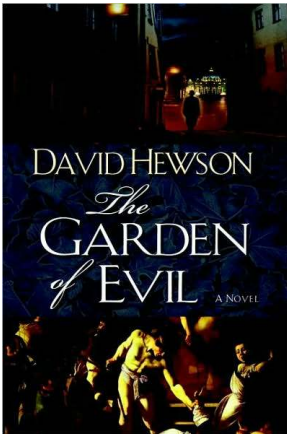
Read-Alikes:

Bitten by Kelley Armstrong,
The Wolfman by Nicholas Pekearo
The Joe Pitt series by Charlie Huston

Shortlist

Coffin County by Gary A. Braunbeck, Leisure, 9780843960501
Infected by Scott Sigler, Crown, 9780307406101
The Killing Circle by Andrew Pyper, St. Martin's Minotaur, 9780312384760
The Wolfman by Nicholas Pekearo, Tor, 9780765320261

Mystery



***The Garden of Evil* by David Hewson, Bantam Dell, 978-0385339575**

In contemporary Rome an unknown lascivious painting by Caravaggio, grisly murders, and a heart-stopping chase mark series detective Nic Costa's return. The perfidious villains can only be outwitted by inventive police work and an unexpected ally in this masterfully crafted puzzler.

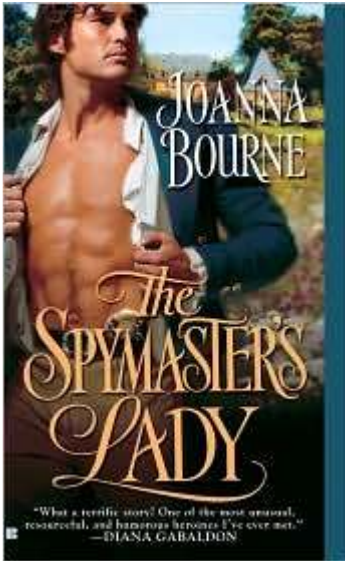
Read-Alikes:

The Flanders Panel by Arturo Perez Reverte
Dressed for Death by Donna Leon
The Death Artist by Jonathan Santlofer

Shortlist

The Black Tower by Louis Bayard, William Morrow, 9780061173509
The Calling by Inger Ash Wolfe, Harcourt, 9780151013470
The Cruellest Month by Louise Penny, St. Martin's Press, 9780312352578
Vienna Blood by Frank Tallis, Random, 9780812977769

Romance



***The Spymaster's Lady* by Joanna Bourne, Berkley
9780425219607**

Take a British spymaster and a resourceful French agent, spice with clever banter, toss in a refreshing and unexpected plot, add a heaping measure of sexual chemistry, and the result is an irresistible read with Napoleon's ambitions for England hanging in the balance.

Read-Alikes:

Scandal by Amanda Quick

It's in His Kiss by Julia Quinn

Seduced by a Spy by Andrea Pickens

Shortlist

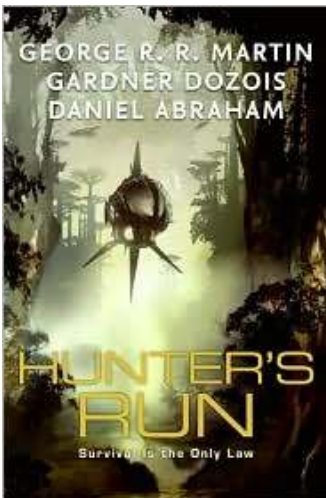
My Lord and Spymaster by Joanna Bourne, Berkley, 9780425222461

Private Arrangements by Sherry Thomas, Bantam Books, 9780440244318

The Seduction of the Crimson Rose by Lauren Willig, Dutton, 9780525950332

Your Scandalous Ways by Loretta Chase, Avon Books, 9780061231247

Science Fiction



***Hunter's Run* by George R. R. Martin, Gardner Dozois and Daniel Abraham, Eos, 9780061373299**

On a dangerous backwater planet, a criminal outcast stumbles across an alien race in hiding in this relentless and gritty adventure. Forced into a life-threatening hunt, he is irrevocably changed and learns what it means to be truly human.

Read-Alikes:

Downward to the Earth by Robert Silverberg

Enemy Mine by Barry B. Longyear

Thirteen by Richard K. Morgan

Shortlist

The Automatic Detective by A. Lee Martinez, Tom Doherty, 9780765318343

City at the End of Time by Greg Bear, Ballantine, 9780345448392

Matter by Iain M. Banks, Orbit, 9780316005364

A World Too Near by Kay Kenyon, Pyr Books, 9781591026426

Women's Fiction



***Every Last Cuckoo* by Kate Maloy, Algonquin Books
9781565125414**

Set against the richly textured landscape of rural Vermont, Maloy's optimistic and heartwarming novel chronicles one woman's experience of widowhood as she remembers the pains and pleasures of her long marriage and moves into a new phase of her life.

Read-Alikes:

Broken for You by Stephanie Kallos

The Lost Garden by Helen Humphreys

The Year of Pleasures by Elizabeth Berg

Shortlist

Belong to Me by Marisa de los Santos, William Morrow, 9780061240270

Certain Girls by Jennifer Weiner, Atria Books, 9780743294256

The Sugar Queen by Sarah Addison Allen, Bantam Dell, 9780553805499

Thank You for All Things by Sandra Kring, Bantam, 9780553591491

The Reference and User Services Association, a division of the American Library Association, is the foremost organization of reference and information professionals who make the connections between people and the information sources, services, and collection materials they need. For more information, visit www.ala.org/rusa.