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Each monthly issue of *Booklist Reader* is packed with author interviews, top 10 lists, featured articles, and recommendations for high-demand, newly released books published during the cover month. *Booklist Reader* is filled with high-interest lists that showcase books and audiobooks readers of all ages can check out now. *Booklist Reader* is is sold as bulk print copies and is always free for library visitors. Subscriptions include access to Booklist Online so you can share issues digitally from your website!

Booklist

Leading book discovery

Booklist is a book-review magazine that has been published by the American Library Association for more than120 years and is widely viewed as offering the most reliable pre-publication reviews to help libraries decide what to buy and to help library patrons and students decide what to read, view, or listen to. It comprises a print magazine, an extensive website and database, e-newsletters, webinars, and other resources that support librarians in collection development and readers' advisory.

*Subscribing to **Booklist** and **Booklist Reader** helps support ALA's mission and library workers.*

Top 10 Uses for *Booklist Reader*

1. HELP YOUR PATRONS FIND THEIR NEXT READ
2. HELP PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS FIND BOOKS TO SHARE WITH LITTLE ONES
3. HELP PATRONS FIND THEIR NEXT GREAT LISTEN
4. KEEP UP WITH THE HOTTEST NEW RELEASES
5. KEEP UP WITH LIBRARIAN RECOMMENDATIONS VIA LIBRARYREADS
6. EXPLORE MULTIMEDIA CONTENT WITH PBS BOOKS
7. GET IDEAS FOR DISPLAYS
8. SHARE READ-ALIKE LISTS
9. CHOOSE BOOK-GROUP BOOKS
10. TRAIN STAFF

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In order to maximize reading value to library patrons and all readers, *Booklist Reader* partners with LibraryReads and PBS Books. Readers will find our partner content in every issue.

LIBRARY READS

LibraryReads is the monthly nationwide library staff picks list for adult fiction and nonfiction. LibraryReads' goal is to help connect readers to as many books as possible, while drawing upon the incredible power that public library staff has in helping to build word-of-mouth for new books and the important role that libraries play in creating audiences for all kinds of authors.

PBS BOOKS

PBS Books is a multi-platform initiative celebrating the love of reading. Through social and digital engagement and live coverage of important literary events across the country, PBS Books celebrates books and writers and works to foster a passion for reading among public media viewers and listeners.

What Library Workers Say

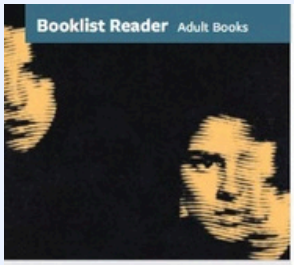
"Having *Booklist Reader* available every month has been a great tool in reader's advisory. The **short write-ups, eye-catching visuals, and curated lists** make it easy for our librarians to recommend books to readers with a variety of tastes."
~ Rachel from Flora Public Library (Indiana)

"You could ask me, what doesn't *Booklist Reader* do? It's **timely coverage** of **all the types of materials** that we offer, including audiobooks. And the reviews are **bite-size** which is exactly what people in a hurry want."
~ Erica from Catawba County Library System (North Carolina)

"Booklist Reader has **improved our library's reader advisory services**. It is a great resource for staff to refer to when it comes to making recommendations for patrons and in turn allows our patrons to suggest books they would like to see added to our collection."
~ Vanessa from Hornell Public Library (New York)

"Our avid readers use it to find titles they would like to read and they are always on the look out for the new issue. I also bring some to our assisted living and rehabilitation to **help patrons who can not use or have access to the internet** when looking for new books."
~ Ashley from Conneaut Public Library (Ohio)

"Our Bookmobile patrons like the *Booklist Reader* because it's a way for them to find out about other titles that may be available or of interest to them. Being on the Bookmobile limits their browsing capabilities and ***Booklist Reader* helps bridge that gap**."
~ Alice from Moore County Library (North Carolina)



Pop Culture Read-alikes

Euphoria

By Abby McCabe

This past May, the wildly popular HBO series *Euphoria* aired its third and final season. *Euphoria* follows a cast of high-schoolers navigating trauma, identity, and addiction. With a five-year time jump from the second season, the story no longer follows high-schoolers, with the characters now in their early 20s with new careers, relationships, and satisfying character reunions. Find the same sex, drugs, and drama beyond the screen in these titles featuring addiction and sobriety, toxic love, vice-like friendships, and plenty of party favors.

Art from the covers of *The Four Spent the Day Together* and *Blue Sisters*.

Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea. By Jessica Guerrieri. 2025. Harper Muse.

When Lucas swept free-spirited Leah off her feet, she had no idea marrying into his family would become an eternal strain. While her relationship with her mother-in-law is tense and resentful, Leah falls into alcoholism. Leah's path to sobriety is, well, sobering, and readers will be cheering on her recovery.

Blue Sisters. By Coco Mellors. 2024. Ballantine.

Youngest of the four sisters, Lucky's journey of addiction, and later sobriety, connects with Rue's own journey in and out of AA. Oldest sister Avery is a recovering heroin addict promising Lucky there's a light at the end of the tunnel. Sisterhood is the heart of this novel and will entice fans who enjoy *Euphoria*'s friendship and sisterhood dynamics.

Come as You Are. By Jennifer Haupt. 2022. IPG/Central Avenue.

Another title featuring flashbacks and a time jump, Haupt's second novel follows misfit teenagers Zane and Skye who have a baby and try to make it work but Zane's addiction renders this impossible. The story jumps to Skye who has built a happy life with a new man, just for a sober Zane to come crashing back into her and their daughter's lives.

Dare Me. By Megan Abbott. 2012. Little, Brown/Reagan Arthur.

Maddy and Cassie would approve of villainous cheerleaders Addy and Beth ruling the cheer squad with iron fists. As the team makes an enemy and trains for their final game, a mystery begins to unfold. This outstanding novel truly brings the glamour and drama of season one to the page while also getting dark, commenting on eating disorders and the teens' inner lives.

Darkening Song. By Delphine Seddon. 2026. St. Martin's/Saturday.

Seddon captures angst galore following young pop starlet Alora as she falls into a vicious cycle of depression and addiction. Alora's expensive and exclusive life practically pops out of a Sam Levinson universe. Check out the audio for original music; Alora's style is dubbed "misery pop," not unlike *Euphoria*'s wildly popular original music by Labrinth and main Zendaya.

The Four Spent the Day Together. By Chris Kraus. 2025. Scribner.

Enjoy all those *Euphoria* flashbacks and the new time jumps! Kraus' three-part novel follows Catt from her rebellious teenage days all the way to her adult years working as a writer. Catt's second husband Paul also battles addiction and struggles in his work as a rehab counselor.

A Gorgeous Excitement. By Cynthia Weiner. 2025. Crown.

Nina is popping pills and snorting cocaine while attempting to lose her virginity before she leaves for her freshman year of college. Sounds like season two. Mature teens who already enjoy *Euphoria* or are comfortable with mental illness and addiction will also enjoy this pre-college adventure.

Margo's Got Money Troubles. By Rufi Thorpe. 2024. Morrow.

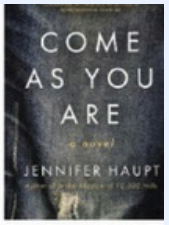
Nate and Cassie know a little something about money troubles this season—Nate is targeted by the mob while Cassie takes matters into her own hands by starting an OnlyFans account, just like Margo. As Margo's career choice is lucrative but alienates her from her friends and family, readers will find a thoughtful examination of who dictates what women can, and should, do.

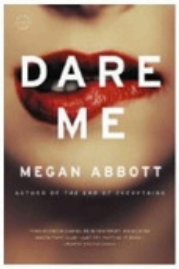
Maybe This Will Save Me: A Memoir of Art, Addiction and Transformation. By Tommy Dorfman. 2025. Hanover Square.

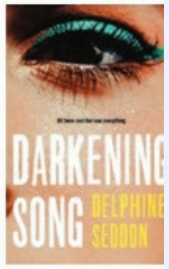
Just like Rue, Dorfman grew up partying as an outwardly gay teenager and was led into a life traversing addiction and eventually finding sobriety. Dorfman's memoir also follows her transition, reminiscent of Jules' character and her struggles with identity and sexuality seen from childhood all the way to young adulthood.

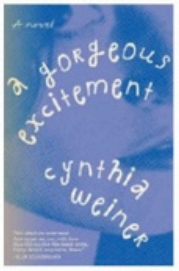
The Note. By Alafair Burke. 2025. Knopf.

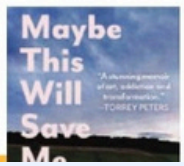
Another group of scandalous girlfriends? Yes, please. This thriller follows a trio of #canceled women reconnecting on a girls' trip, but trouble continues to find them.

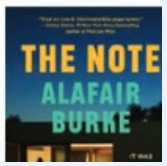












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Which Witch?

by Sarah Hunter

Witches are all over graphic novels and manga lately, and they really run the gamut, from cozy and cute to creepy and complicated. The following titles for middle-grade and YA readers offer just a glimpse of this popular subgenre in a variety of manifestations, including little kid witches learning to fly brooms, gentle forest witches just doing day-to-day magic, and vicious witches seeking absolute power.

Older

Aria of the Beech Forest, v.1. By Yugiri Aika. Art by the author. Tr. by Yumi Tanaka. 2024. Yen. Gr. 6–12.

This cozy, magical tale set in the forests of Ireland follows young Aria, a witch living on her own in the woods, who befriends a mysterious talking white wolf. Alongside warm depictions of cooking and gardening, this manga hints at deeper undercurrents about Aria.

The Book of Murmurs. By Candice Purwin. Art by the author. 2026. Fantagraphics. Gr. 8–12.

Immersive world building and surreal, intricate art give this eerie story of a teen witch discovering her powers while searching for the creature who stole her parents a sophisticated feel that's deepened by interspersed snippets of folklore.

Coven. By Jennifer Dugan. Art by Kit Seaton. 2022. Putnam. Gr. 8–12.

A sudden cross-country move drops Emsy into small-town New York and her mother's old coven, which is suffering after the brutal murder of one of its families. Emsy is called on to hone her neglected magic skills while an unsettling power struggle swirls in the background.

Orchard of the Tame. By Marlo Meekins and Nick Cross. Art by Nick Cross. 2024. Pegamoose. Gr. 7–12.

River Siren, a mermaid, makes new friends while fleeing frog-like witch Ainsprid, her viciously abusive captor, in this skewered fairy tale rendered in a thrillingly distinctive visual style.

Pizza Witch. By Sarah Graley and Stef Purenins. Art by Sarah Graley. 2025. Image. Gr. 7–10.

In a world in which witches create delicious foods, Roxy aspires to be a Pizza Witch, serving up slices with magical ingredients. Her parents are not thrilled with her pizza dreams, but Roxy's determined to prove herself on a series of rollicking quests.

Red and the Wolves. By Cherry Zong. Art by the author. 2026. Andrews McMeel. Gr. 7–12.

In this dark, sapphic retelling of the classic tale, nonmagical Red hunts magical creatures in the forest, but when she rescues a wolf-girl called Sil, she learns earth-shaking truths about the power-hungry witch, Grand Mother.

Season of the Bruja, v.1. By Aaron Durán. Art by Sara Soler. 2023. Oni. Gr. 9–12.

In this series opener integrating whimsy and thrilling magic with Latine culture, Althalia is one of the last brujas being pursued by the church, just as her ancestors were centuries ago. Her abuela has tried to prepare her, but Althalia still has much to learn.

Witchlight. By Jessi Zabarsky. Art by Jessi Zabarsky and Geov Chouteau. 2020. Random/RH Graphic. Gr. 7–10.

Gently atmospheric and suffused with intriguing magic, this quiet story about witch Lelek, who's harboring a secret, and Sanja, a merchant's daughter up for adventure, focuses on their growing closeness rather than tension.

Young Hag and the Witches' Quest. By Isabel Greenberg. Art by the author. 2024. Abrams/Amulet. Gr. 7–12.

Greenberg raises powerful questions about heroes and villains of Arthurian legend in this smart story about Young Hag and her grandmother, Ancient Crone, who are on a quest to restore magic to Britain.

Middle

Brume, v.1: The Dragon Awakens. By Jérôme Pélissier. Art by Carine Hinder. 2025. Astra/Hippo Park. Gr. 2–6.

In a tiny medieval French village called Groach lives an even tinier, feisty wannabe witch named Brume, who's utterly convinced she's the descendent of the town's last witch protector, Naïa. Lushly painted artwork cinematically renders her mayhem-filled adventures.

Jazzy the Witch in Broom Doom. By Jessixa Bagley. Art by the author. 2025. Simon & Schuster. Gr. 3–7.

Gentle witchy vibes abound in this comic about a young witch who's trying to follow her own path. Jazzy's not that excited to practice flying on a broomstick, especially when she discovers her true passion—bikes!

Mabuhay! By Zachary Sterling. Art by the author. 2023. Scholastic/Graphix. Gr. 3–7.

JJ's struggling to feel like he fits in, but when his uncle visits from the Philippines, he finds himself embarking on a thrilling, fantastical adventure when he discovers that his mom—along with him and his sister—has both witchy powers *and* a nemesis.

Pacheco and the Witch of the Mountain. By Juan E. Zambrano. Art by the author. 2025. Andrews McMeel. Gr. 5–8.

Pacheco longs to learn magic, which is forbidden to boys, but the exiled Witch of the Mountain takes him on as an apprentice anyway, despite the island's prejudiced magical law council, which literally hunts down witches to root out unregulated magic.

Salt Magic. By Hope Larson. Art by Rebecca Mock. 2021. Holiday/Margaret Ferguson. Gr. 5–8.

When an eerily mysterious woman in white curses the only water supply of her family's farm, Vonceil sets out on a quest that brings her face-to-face with a witch, magic, death, and loss as she tries to save her family from total ruin.

Witches of Brooklyn. By Sophie Escabasse. Art by the author. 2020. Random/RH Graphic. Gr. 3–6.

In this series opener, Effie moves in with her very strange aunts in Brooklyn and discovers that she, too, is a witch, which comes in handy when a pop star needs a magical remedy.

1. Aria of the Beech Forest, 2. The Book of Murmurs, 3. Coven, 4. Orchard of the Tame, 5. Pizza Witch, 6. Red and the Wolves, 7. Season of the Bruja, 8. Witchlight, 9. Young Hag and the Witches' Quest, 10. Brume, 11. Jazzy the Witch in Broom Doom, 12. Mabuhay!, 13. Pacheco and the Witch of the Mountain, 14. Salt Magic, 15. Witches of Brooklyn.

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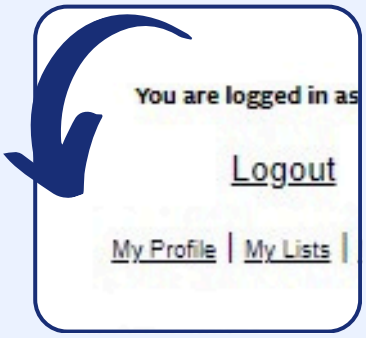

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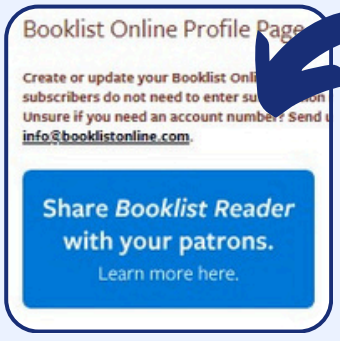

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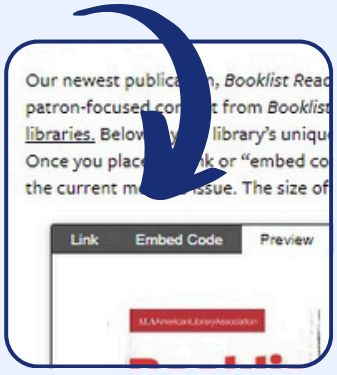
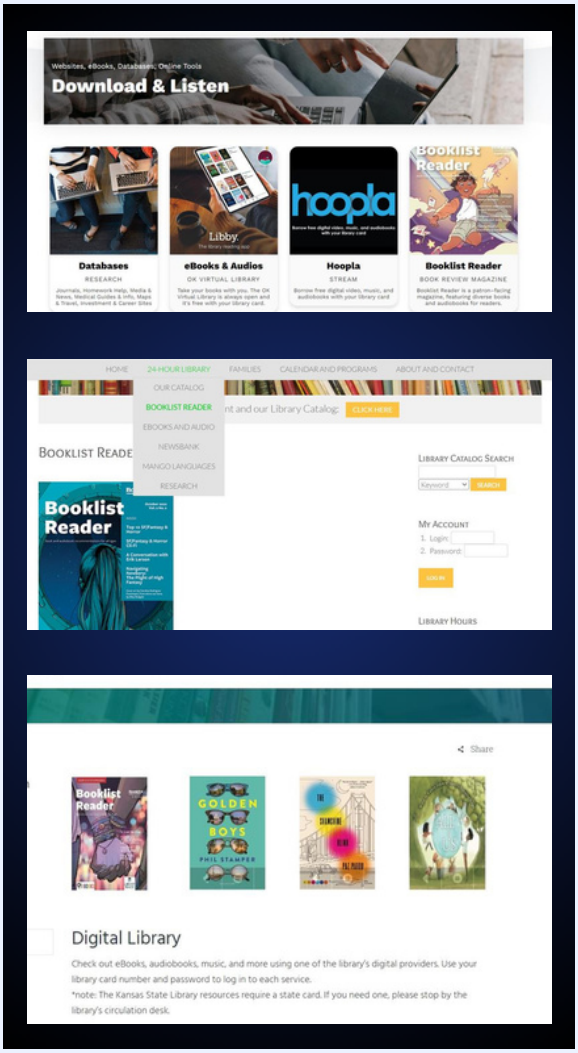
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