



## 2026 Reading List

Since 2009 the goal of the Lariat Adult Fiction Reading List has been to highlight outstanding fiction that is simply “a pleasure to read.” This year, 30 outstanding fiction titles were selected by a nine-member committee.

\* Denotes a Top Ten Title

***Atmosphere: A Love Story*** by Taylor Jenkins Reid (Ballantine Books an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2025)\*

Reviewed in Library Journal.

***Back After This: A Novel*** by Linda Holmes (Ballantine Books an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2025)\*

Reviewed in Kirkus.

***The Blackbirds of St. Giles*** by Lila Cain (Dafina an imprint of Kensington Publishing, 2025)

Reviewed in The Times and Daily Mail in London.

***The Book of Lost Hours: A Novel*** by Hayley Gelfuso (Atria Books an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2025)

Reviewed in Library Journal.

***Broken Country*** by Claire Leslie Hall (Simon & Schuster, 2025)\*

Reviewed in Booklist.

***Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil*** by V.E. Schwab (Tor Books, an imprint of Macmillan, 2025)

Reviewed in Kirkus and Publishers Weekly.

***The Correspondent: A Novel*** by Virginia Evans (Crown an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2025)\*

Reviewed in Kirkus.

***Culpability*** by Bruce Holsinger (Spiegel & Grau, 2025)\*

Reviewed in Publisher's Weekly.

***The Dream Hotel: A Novel*** by Laila Lalami (Pantheon an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2025)  
Reviewed in Kirkus.

***The Favorites: A Novel*** by Layne Fargo (Random House an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2025)  
Reviewed in Library Journal.

***Harlem Rhapsody*** by Victoria Christopher Murray (Berkley an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2025)  
Reviewed in Kirkus.

***Hollow Out the Dark*** by James Wade (Blackstone Publishing, 2024)  
Reviewed in New York Journal of Books.

***The Human Scale: A Novel*** by Lawrence Wright (Knopf an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2025)\*  
Reviewed in Library Journal.

***I See You've Called In Dead*** by John Kenney (Zibby Media, 2025)\*  
Reviewed in Booklist.

***Julie Chan Is Dead: A Novel*** by Liann Zhang (Atria an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2025)  
Reviewed in Publisher's Weekly.

***Make Your Way Home: Stories*** by Carrie R. Moore (Tin House an imprint of Zando Publishing, 2025)  
Reviewed in Kirkus.

***The Names: A Novel*** by Florence Knapp (Pamela Dorman Books an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2025)  
Reviewed in Kirkus.

***Old School Indian*** by Aaron John Curtis (Hillman Grad an imprint Zando Publishing, 2025)  
Reviewed in Kirkus.

***The Once and Future Me: A Novel*** by Melissa Pace (Henry Holt & Co. an imprint of Macmillan, 2025)  
Reviewed in Booklist.

***Promise Me Sunshine: A Novel*** by Cara Bastone (Dial Press an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2025)\*  
Reviewed in Library Journal.

***The Road to Tender Hearts: A Novel*** by Annie Hartnett (Atria Brooks an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2025)  
Reviewed in Booklist.

***Salt Bones: A Novel*** by Jennifer Givhan (Mulholland Books an imprint of Hachette, 2025)  
Reviewed in Publisher's Weekly.

***The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau: A Novel*** by Kristin Harmel (Gallery Books an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2025)  
Reviewed in Booklist.

***This Book Will Bury Me*** by Ashley Winstead (Sourcebooks Landmark an imprint of Sourcebooks, 2025)  
Reviewed in Publisher's Weekly.

***What Kind of Paradise: A Novel*** by Janelle Brown (Random House an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2025)  
Reviewed in Publisher's Weekly.

***When the Moon Hits Your Eye*** by John Scalzi (Tor Books an imprint of Macmillan, 2025)  
Reviewed in Booklist.

***The Whyte Python World Tour: A Novel*** by Travis Kennedy (Doubleday an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2025)\*  
Reviewed in Kirkus.

***Wild Dark Shore: A Novel*** by Charlotte McConaghy (Flatiron Books an imprint of Macmillan, 2025)\*  
Reviewed in Publisher's Weekly.

***Witchcraft for Wayward Girls*** by Grady Hendrix (Berkley an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2025)\*  
Reviewed in Booklist.

***You Deserve to Know*** by Aggie Blum Thompson (Forge Books an imprint of Macmillan, 2025)  
Reviewed in Publisher's Weekly.

The 9 members of the 2025-2026 Lariat Adult Fiction Reading List Committee are Miranda Robbins (Chair), Kelly Brouillard (Vice Chair), Tina Oswald, Samantha (Sherece) Johnson, Mary Jo Humphreys, Mary Woodard, Emily Raymond, Joanna Bliss, and Laura Laguerri.