



Vocabulary.com notes that “August is not just the eighth month of the year; it also describes something esteemed.” A wide range of esteemed and engrossing novels are set in August – which makes this the ideal month to enjoy them!

***Enchanted August*** by Brenda Bowen (2015)

Four women struggling with loss, disappointment and overwork rent a small summer cottage in Maine, where they find wholeness in regional comforts while sharing their respective stories and rediscovering their passions.

***August*** by Gerard Woodward (2008)

The novel traces the life of the Jones family through 15 summer camping holidays in Wales. Strangely enough, the rural site seems to change in conjunction with their city life, creating a parallel universe instead of a getaway.

***The Girls of August*** by Anne Rivers Siddons (2014)

Every August, four women would gather together to spend a week at the beach. But when one of the Girls of August dies tragically, the group slowly drifts apart and the vacations stop. Years later, a new marriage reunites them and they make startling discoveries that will change them in ways they never expected.

***Juliet In August*** by Dianne Warren (2012)

Juliet, Saskatchewan is a blink-and-you-miss-it kind of town – the welcome sign promises a population of 1011 – so it’s easy to believe that nothing of consequence takes place there. But the heart of Juliet beats with rich stories of its inhabitants. They all bring the prairie desert and the town of Juliet to vivid life in this funny, tragic and touching novel.

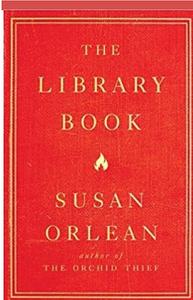
***The Dry Grass of August*** by Anna Jean Mayhew (2011)

In 1954, 13-year-old Jubie, traveling with her family and their black maid Mary Luther – who has always been there for her, making up for her father’s rages and her mother’s neglect – encounters racial tension and tragedy.

***Light In August*** by William Faulkner (1932)

Four characters – the guileless Lena Grove, in search of the father of her unborn child; the disgraced minister Gail Hightower; Byron Bunch, who thought working Saturdays would keep a man out of trouble; and the desperate, enigmatic Joe Christmas, consumed by his mixed ancestry – find their lives entangled in the inexorable succession of love, birth, and death.

*\*Summaries adapted from the OSL catalog*



## BOOK OF THE MONTH:

***The Library Book*** [Non-Fiction; Los Angeles Public Library; Fire]  
by Susan Orlean

The Los Angeles Public Library suffered a devastating fire in 1986, that swept through the library in one day, destroying 400,000 books, and shutting the library down for seven years. Susan Orlean, bestselling author of *The Orchid Thief*, tells the dramatic story of the fire and its aftermath, weaving in the history of the library, the colorful patrons, and the fascinating staff, both past and present.

The fire was a defining moment, changing the library forever. Orleans' description of the fire is spellbinding; the fire moved through the stacks, which acted like chimney flues, causing an extremely intense heat, keeping firefighters at bay. By the time it was over, three out of four wings of the library were destroyed. When the staff was allowed in, they were overwhelmed by the loss.

Eventually, the library reopened, and a few years later, was able to expand, finally taking its' place as an anchor in the city, a community center, shelter for all, and a beacon of education and culture.

Orlean's talent lies in her ability to spin a mesmerizing tale that covers much more than the fire. She combines her story with a true crime element, investigating Harry Peak, a charming man and consummate liar. Peak was long suspected of starting the fire, but it was never proven, although his alibi changed seven times. The history of Los Angeles is woven in, as the author paints a picture of the upstart frontier town that became a sprawling city. Orlean spins a story that is a love letter to libraries, investigating all of the colorful personalities that made the library unique, that shaped the library's mission, and fought to bring it forward to become a vital part of the community.

Mary Anne

All Staff Picks are available through the Ocean State Libraries system.

### Colleen

- \* ***The Castle on Sunset: Life, Death, Love, Art, and Scandal at Hollywood's Chateau Marmont*** by Shawn Levy [Biographies - Hollywood; Chateau Marmont - History]
- \* ***The Ghost Ships of Archangel: The Arctic Voyage That Defied the Nazis*** by William Geroux [History – World War 1939 – 1945; Naval Operations]
- \* ***After the End*** by Clare Mackintosh [Psychological Fiction; Domestic Fiction; Terminally Ill Children]

### JAYNE

- \* ***Brilliant, Brilliant, Brilliant Brilliant Brilliant: Essays*** by Joel Golby [21st Century; Humor]
- \* ***Sorry I'm Late, I Didn't Want to Come: An Introvert's Year of Saying Yes*** by Jessica Pan [Humor; Self-Help]

### Jen

- \* ***Tales of the City*** by Armistead Maupin [Fiction; San Francisco, LGBTQ relationships]
- \* ***This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism*** by Ashton Applewhite [Non-fiction; Self-realization]

### Kristin

- \* ***They Called Us Enemy*** by George Takei [Graphic Memoir; Japanese Internment Camps]
- \* ***When Darkness Loves Us*** by Elizabeth Engstrom [Horror Fiction; Novellas]

### Niles

- \* ***Americans at War*** by Stephen Ambrose [Non-Fiction; Military History]
- \* ***American Jezebel: The Uncommon Life of Anne Hutchinson, the Woman Who Defied the Puritans*** by Eve LaPlante [Biography; Social Reformers; Freedom of Religion]