BKLYN BookMatch: Our Favorite Books from 2018

BookMatch librarians have teamed up to share their 100 favorite reads of 2018, in every genre and age group. Happy browsing!

Created by lrochford

Sanpaku
Gavino, Kate, author, artist.
FIC GAVINO
A funny, heartfelt graphic novel for pre-teens to adults (especially Selena fans).

Monday's not coming
Jackson, Tiffany D., author.
FIC JACKSON
A gripping tale about a girl gone missing and a community that let it happen.

The Late Bloomers' Club: a novel
Miller, Louise (Chef), author.
FIC MILLER
Sisters, a small town diner, a missing dog, baked goods, capable (and nice and handsome) men. ;)

The library book
Orlean, Susan, author.
027.4794 O
If you are a fan of Orlean's "Orchid Thief" you will love this book.

Black women who dared
J 305.4889 M
Comprehensive children's resource for information about Black, Indigenous and queer history. Beautiful illos!

Emergency contact
Choi, Mary H. K.
FIC CHOI
This book captures the good kind of adolescent/young adult awkwardness you wish you could return to.

In pieces: a memoir
Field, Sally, author.
B FIELD I
This is not your typical celebrity memoir; it will haunt you with its authenticity and sly wit.

Halsey Street
Coster, Naima, author.
FIC COSTER
When Penelope returns to Bed-Stuy from PA, everything is different. Except for her past...
And now we have everything : on motherhood before I was ready
O'Connell, Meaghan.
306.8743 O
An insightful, funny, occasionally scary account of childbirth and motherhood. Perfect for book clubs!

If Beale Street could talk : a novel
Baldwin, James, 1924-1987.
FIC BALDWIN
Exceptionally well-written book about black life; now a movie!

Lone pilgrim : stories
Colwin, Laurie.
FIC COLWIN
Short stories about falling in love and cooking delicious meals. Every sentence is a dream.

Jagannath : stories
Tidbeck, Karin, 1977- author, translator.
FIC TIDBECK
Weird tales with a Nordic bent that will leave readers dazed, disturbed and delightfully enchanted.

You'll miss me when I'm gone
Solomon, Rachel Lynn, author.
FIC SOLOMON
A beautiful novel about family, illness and Judaism.

Standard deviation
Heiny, Katherine, author.
FIC HEINY
Hilarious, sad and weird. Read this book to meet your new favorite character.

The friend
Nunez, Sigrid.
FIC NUÑEZ
A book about grief that will make you laugh. It won the 2018 National Book Award!

A tyranny of petticoats : 15 stories of belles, bank robbers & other badass girls
FIC T
The title says it all.
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**Fight or flight**
Young, Samantha, author.
FIC YOUNG
A fun twist on two tropes: enemies-to-lovers and a chance airport meeting that leads to more!

**Spy of the first person**
Shepard, Sam, 1943-2017, author.
FIC SHEPARD
So clean and so true. No frills fiction at its stripped-down best. Sam Shepard, RIP.

**Born a crime : stories from a South African childhood**
Noah, Trevor, 1984- author.
B NOAH B
Funny, absurd stories about growing up in South Africa.

**Find colors**
Shopsin, Tamara, author.
J-E SHOPSIN
Use BPL’s Culture Pass and take this book to your favorite museum to find color in a new way! Brilliant!

**Book**
Miles, David, author.
J-E MILES
It’s Reading Rainbow in a book. This book shows how reading is liberating and powerful!

**Making friends**
Gudsnuk, Kristen, author, artist.
J FIC GUDSNUK
Middle school drama compounded by magic and shojo antics.

**Calling my name**
Tamani, Liara, author.
FIC TAMANI
Coming of age and spirituality with lovely prose.

**American sonnets for my past and future assassin**
Hayes, Terrance, author.
811 H
O to buy poetry impromptu, read it on the subway home and feel more hopeful about the last two years.
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Call me by your name
Aciman, André, author.
FIC ACIMAN
A sensual coming of age story about a young man who finds and loses love in the 1980s.

The Belles
Clayton, Dhonielle, author.
FIC CLAYTON
Absolutely stunning!

Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine
Honeyman, Gail.
FIC HONEYMAN
Eleanor is a truly unforgettable character.

Bittersweet orange
Fuller, Claire, author.
FIC FULLER
An abandoned (haunted?) estate, so many biscuits and bottles of wine, plus unreliability galore!

The poet X
Acevedo, Elizabeth, author.
FIC ACEVEDO
This incredible novel-in-verse hits you in the gut and inspires you to write your heart out too.

Brazen : rebel ladies who rocked the world
Bagieu, Pénélope.
FIC B
A beautifully illustrated, graphic novel-style anthology of badass women throughout history.

All out
FIC A
Queer love stories FOR queer teens (and some queer adults). None of the tropes, all of the nuance.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author/Creator</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camino Island</td>
<td>Grisham, John</td>
<td>Art heist!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petra</td>
<td>Coppo, Marianna</td>
<td>A spunky, smartly illustrated shot of optimistic imagination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One day in December: a novel</td>
<td>Silver, Josie</td>
<td>This book will make you believe in true love.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binti: home</td>
<td>Okorafor, Nnedi</td>
<td>A marvelous tale quite unlike most of what’s out there, told in a truly unique voice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>Lutes, Jason</td>
<td>Incredibly nuanced and precise look at the rise of fascism in Berlin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who eat darkness: the true story of a young woman who vanished from the streets of Tokyo and the evil that swallowed her...</td>
<td>Lloyd Parry, Richard</td>
<td>Excellent longform journalism that puts our justice system into perspective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than true: the wisdom of fairy tales</td>
<td>Bly, Robert</td>
<td>Sleight-of-hand fairy tales that say more than you realize, symbolically, with Bly analyzing charmingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La belle sauvage</td>
<td>Pullman, Philip</td>
<td>The long-awaited prequel to His Dark Materials does not disappoint.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author/Artist</th>
<th>Review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black bird yellow sun</td>
<td>Light, Steve.</td>
<td>Could this be the first board book to win a Caldecott? It's gorgeous!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long 'til black future month?</td>
<td>Jemisin, N. K., author.</td>
<td>This short story collection takes science fiction to a whole new level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedtime for Batman</td>
<td>Dahl, Michael, author.</td>
<td>Batman! Enjoyed how a young boy's bedtime routine parallels the Dark Knight's superhero mission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane child</td>
<td>Callender, Kheryn, author.</td>
<td>Root for Caroline in this luminous tale, as she navigates adolescence on a small Caribbean isle!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The darkness</td>
<td>Ragnar Jónasson, 1976- author.</td>
<td>Never been to Iceland but this novel's chill and deep, shadowy layers make me feel like I have.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Strange the dreamer
Taylor, Laini.
FIC TAYLOR
This book starts with a magical librarian, and somehow only gets more compelling from there.

Blood water paint
McCullough, Joy, author.
FIC MCCULLOUGH
An approachable verse novel about a talented and historically important female artist.

The last black unicorn
Haddish, Tiffany, 1979- author.
817 H
Her ability to find the humor in any situation is so admirable!

Front desk
Yang, Kelly, author.
J FIC YANG
Heartfelt, funny and inspiring. A must-read for all ages!

Things Jolie needs to do before she bites it
Winfrey, Kerry, author.
FIC WINFREY
Funny, feel-good perfection for fans of high school musicals, Applebee's and sister stories.

Kudos
Cusk, Rachel, 1967- author.
FIC CUSK
Compelling storytelling at its best.

Eternal life : a novel
Horn, Dara, 1977- author.
FIC HORN
Rachel has a problem: she can't seem to die. How will she find meaning in her immortality?

I'm afraid of men
306.768 S
Already a huge fan of Shraya, this book added a new layer to her body of work.
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The ministry of utmost happiness
Roy, Arundhati, author.
FIC ROY
India during the Separation—a search for identity both as a nation and as a transgender person.

Some trick : 13 stories
Dewitt, Helen, 1957- author.
FIC DEWITT
An utterly unique set of stories both devilishly funny and mind-bendingly experimental.

Josh and Hazel's guide to not dating
Lauren, Christina, author.
FIC LAUREN
Everyone deserves love, especially the people who think they are too weird to be deserving of it.

An American marriage
Jones, Tayari, author.
FIC JONES
This is the closest example to a Great American Novel that I've read in a while.

Always look on the bright side of life : a sortabiography
Idle, Eric, author.
B IDLE A
Idle has a heart of gold, yet is always ready to say something utterly tasteless and uproariously funny.

Speak
Anderson, Laurie Halse.
FIC ANDERSON
The monsters that float in your dreams elegantly drawn on paper.

The fact of a body : a murder and a memoir
Marzano-Lesnevich, Alexandria, author.
364.1523 M
Forced me to look at an uncomfortable topic from different angles.

Motherhood
Heti, Sheila, 1976- author.
FIC HETI
I love this book for its shocks of insight and for the narrator's willingness to change her mind.
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The largesse of the sea maiden
Johnson, Denis, 1949-2017, author.
FIC JOHNSON
"Strangler Bob" rates with anything from Jesus’ Son and "Triumph Over the Grave" is nicely swan-songy.

Soul friends : the transforming power of deep human connection
Cope, Stephen.
177.62 C
Insightful discussion of how people connect to each other.

Everything you love will burn : inside the rebirth of white nationalism in America
Tenold, Vegas, author.
305.8009 T
A journalist embeds himself over several years in White Nationalist groups in the US.

Little Truck
Gomi, Taro.
J-E GOMI
It’s the cutest truck on the block. Little readers will ask for it again and again!

The war before the war : fugitive slaves and the struggle for America’s soul from the Revolution to the Civil War
Delbanco, Andrew, 1952- author.
973.715 D
A must-read for anyone who wants to understand what led to the Civil War.

The Inn Between
Cohen, Marina, 1967- author.
J FIC COHEN
Bittersweet story about dealing with major life changes that is told in a whimsical, horrifying way.

The fifth season
Jemisin, N. K.
FIC JEMISIN
The entire trilogy took me out of my comfort zone.

Julián is a mermaid
Love, Jessica.
J-E LOVE
Gorgeously watercolored Julián inspires the inner Mermaid in all of us. Set in Brooklyn! Yay!
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Strangers on a train
Highsmith, Patricia, 1921-1995.
FIC HIGHSMITH
In her debut novel, Highsmith proved why she’s high priestess of the psychological thriller.

Strange grace
Gratton, Tessa, author.
FIC GRATTON
An eerie fantasy, a sexy love triangle and a thoughtful interrogation of toxic masculinity.

The kiss quotient
Hoang, Helen, author.
FIC HOANG
I loved the #OwnVoices characters!

The serpent's secret
DasGupta, Sayantani, author.
J FIC DASGUPTA
When everygirl Kiran discovers that she’s the daughter of Divine Royalty, all Heaven breaks loose!

Fence. Volume one
Pacat, C. S., author, creator.
FIC PACAT
Fence is an unabashedly LGBTQ sports-themed manga filled with tension and diverse PoC characters.

The song of Achilles
Miller, Madeline.
FIC MILLER
Beautiful, lyrical and an amazing take on a classic epic tale.

Space opera
Valente, Catherynne M., 1979-
FIC VALENTE
Both laugh-out-loud fun and razor-sharp wit make this novel a thoroughly enjoyable ride.

The tethered mage
Caruso, Melissa, author.
FIC CARUSO
Inventive fantasy, packed with intrigue!
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On a sunbeam
FIC WALDEN
Epic yet quiet space opera with amazing art, beautiful story and best cast of characters.

Star in the jar
Hay, Sam, author.
J-E HAY
Beautifully teaches readers that love sometimes means letting go of something/someone we care for.

909.8312 C
Love this book for it covers important news that doesn't make it into the mainstream media.

Rosa loves dinosaurs
Spanyol, Jessica, author, illustrator.
J-E SPANYOL
This tot loves all things dinosaur and little readers will fall in love with her!

My sister, the serial killer : a novel
Braithwaite, Oyinkan, author.
FIC BRAITHWAITE
This fast-paced thriller is twisted and sinister and funny as well.

Social creature : a novel
Burton, Tara Isabella, author.
FIC BURTON
A fast-paced and absorbing psychological thriller about identity in the Instagram age.

A tale for the time being
Ozeki, Ruth L
FIC OZEKI
Gripping story about a struggling novelist who finds a diary of a suicidal Japanese teenage girl.

The flame : poems, notebooks, lyrics, drawings
811 C
Leonard Cohen still burns bright in poems, notebooks, lyrics and goofy/grim pencil self-portraits.
A handbook of disappointed fate
Boyter, Anne, 1973- author.
818 B

This collection of essays by poet Anne Boyer is filled with wondering, anger and beauty.

My year of rest and relaxation
Moshfegh, Ottessa, author.
FIC MOSHFEGH

Brilliantly satirizes NYC and modern expectations of women.

Freshwater
Emezi, Akwaeke, author.
FIC EMEZI

African Psychological Sci-Fi / Magical realism that makes you want to hiss, cut, dance and scream.

A more beautiful and terrible history : the uses and misuses of civil rights history
Theoharis, Jeanne, author.
323.1196 T

An incandescently angry destruction of national civil rights myths.

Circe : a novel
Miller, Madeline, author.
FIC MILLER

Being an exiled goddess of magic has its perks.

A duke by default
Cole, Alyssa, author.
FIC COLE

What’s not to love about a hero affectionately known on social media as #swordbae?

Disoriental
Djavadi, Négar, 1969- author.
FIC DJAVADI

A luminously drawn portrait of one Iranian family’s struggles in the era of revolution.

Homegoing
Gyasi, Yaa.
FIC GYASI

Reframes the history and context of the slave trade throughout colonial Europe.
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The Gilda stories
Gomez, Jewelle, 1948- author.
FIC GOMEZ
Black lesbian vampire novel that starts in the antebellum South and ends in the year 2050.

The immortalists
Benjamin, Chloe, author.
FIC BENJAMIN
If you knew the exact day when you were going to die, how would you choose to live?

Sadie
Summers, Courtney, author.
FIC SUMMERS
Dark and gritty with a unique twist.

Asymmetry
Halliday, Lisa, author.
FIC HALLIDAY
Wholly original.