

The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley

By Hannah Tinti

Samuel Hawley isn't like other fathers. A loner who's spent years living on the run in constant struggle with his violent past, he's done his best to raise his daughter, Loo. As Loo nears adulthood, Hawley gives up their nomadic life and risks moving them to Loo's late mother's hometown. Though the pair struggle to adjust, they do their best. But the consequences of Samuel's violent past soon catch up with them, while Loo's quest to know more about her mother's death may end up fracturing her bond with her father forever.

September 2017 WITCC Lifelong Learning Book Club Read

Read-alikes compiled by Sioux City Public Library Staff

Flawed, Yet Sympathetic Characters:

[Night Passage](#) (*Jesse Stone Mysteries*)

by Robert B. Parker (Mys Par)

With his marriage and career with the LAPD in ruins due to his drinking, Jesse Stone takes a job offer to be police chief of a small Massachusetts town where he discovers a hotbed of moral and political corruption.

[The Son](#) by Jo Nesbo (Mys Nes)

Sonny Lofthus agrees to take the fall for crimes he didn't commit in exchange for an unending supply of heroin—a habit he developed after his father—a dirty cop—commits suicide. While in prison, Sonny finds out the truth about his father and breaks out of prison to avenge his death.

[So Brave, Young, and Handsome](#) by Leif Enger (Fic Eng)

In 1915 Minnesota, writer Monte Beckett, looking to find inspiration, leaves his everyday life to go on a quest with a mysterious outlaw who has a shady past. Trying to avoid the ex-detective who has pursued the outlaw Glendon for several decades, their trip takes many unexpected detours.

[Descent](#) by Tim Johnston (Fic Joh)

While vacationing in the Rocky Mountains, the Courtland family is fractured when their 18-year-old daughter disappears during a morning run. The family tries to pick up the pieces over the next two years, hoping for news of their daughter, Caitlyn.

[Dead Man's Bridge](#) by Robert Mrazek (New Mys Mra)

Jake Cantrell, a veteran turned campus security officer in upstate New York, is still haunted by the men who died under his command in Afghanistan. When a body turns up hanging from a bridge on campus, the administration is quick to rule it a suicide, but Jake is compelled to uncover the truth.

Coming-of-Age Thrillers:

[My Sunshine Away](#) by M.O. Walsh (Fic Wal)

Baton Rouge, summer 1989. A neighborhood best known for cookouts on sweltering summer afternoons, cauldrons of spicy crawfish, and passionate football fandom is rocked by a violent crime when 15-year-old Lindy Simpson—free spirit, track star, and belle of the block—is attacked late one evening, scarring forever this once-idyllic community.

[The Little Friend](#) by Donna Tartt (Fic Tar)


Growing up in a small Mississippi town in a family haunted by the murder of her brother, Harriet Cleve Dusfresnes lives in her own imaginary world, until, at the age of 12, she decides to find Robin's murderer and exact her revenge.

[The Life We Bury](#) by Allen Eskens (Fic Esk)

Dealing with the crushing guilt of leaving his autistic brother in the care of their unreliable mother, Joe Talbert reluctantly leaves for college. In English, he's given a writing assignment: interview a stranger and write a biography of the person. What should be a simple task quickly turns into a cold case investigation, and has Joe racing to clear the name of a local Vietnam veteran.

[The Wildling Sisters](#) by Eve Chase (New Fic Cha)

When Margot and her sisters arrive at Applecote Manor, they expect a nice, quiet country summer, but instead, find an aunt and uncle still reeling from the disappearance of their daughter Audrey. Audrey's spirit is everywhere and as secrets and jealousies are revealed, the sisters' close bond is tested. 50 years later, Jesse moves her family back to Applecote, where they quickly find themselves swept up into the old mystery.

More great read-alike suggestions on the back 



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Read-alikes compiled by Sioux City Public Library Staff Continued

Compelling Crime Stories:

[Headhunters](#) by Jo Nesbo (Mys Nes)

Roger Brown is a corporate headhunter who dabbles in art theft to support his luxurious lifestyle. After meeting Clas Greve, Roger discovers that he owns a priceless painting. Planning to steal it, he breaks into Greve's apartment, but finding more than just the art, swiftly realizes that Clas Greve may be the worst thing that's ever happened to him.

[The Cold Dish](#) by Craig Johnson (Mys Joh)

After 25 years as sheriff of Absaroka County, Wyoming, Walt Longmire hopes to finish out his career in peace. His hopes are dashed when the body of Cody Pritchard, a young man who was once convicted for assaulting a Cheyenne girl, is found dead, prompting Walt, his deputy Victoria Moretti, and friend Henry Standing Bear to investigate.

[Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore](#)

by Matthew Sullivan (New Mys Sul)

As the shop is closing for the day, bookseller Lydia Smith finds that one of her favorite customers has hanged himself with a childhood photo of Lydia in his pocket. Leaving her his small horde of books, Lydia finds an intricate set of clues within their pages, propelling her into an investigation of the reasons for Joey's suicide and the mystery surrounding the unsolved childhood trauma she suffered so many years before.

[What My Body Remembers](#) by Agnete Friis (New Fic Fri)

Unable to recall the fateful night her father murdered her mother, Ella begins suffering crippling panic attacks that land her in a psych ward and separate her from her son. The situation compels her to kidnap her son from his foster family and flee to the Denmark town of her youth, where she confronts painful demons and negotiates for custody.

Tales of Children Raised by Criminals:

[The Girl Before](#) by Rena Olsen (Fic Ols)

A woman taken from her seemingly happy home in an FBI raid is interrogated until it is revealed that, as a child, she was kidnapped by a human trafficking ring. She is forced to come to terms with her role in managing other girls brought in by the nefarious family who raised her.

[She Rides Shotgun](#) by Jordan Harper (New Fic Har)

After being released from prison, Nate McClusky and his 11-year-old daughter Polly are forced to go on the run from an Aryan gang that vows revenge because Nate killed one of their members. A touching father-daughter relationship develops as Nate trains Polly to fight for her survival.

[Never Tell Our Business to Strangers: A Memoir](#)

by Jennifer Mascia (921 Masci, J Mas)

As an adult, Jennifer discovers that her beloved parents were criminals formerly involved with the mafia and hiding from the law. She develops a new understanding of her nomadic childhood as she uncovers the secrets of her family's past.

[All the Ugly and Wonderful Things](#)

by Bryn Greenwood (New Fic Gre)

Wavy, the daughter of a drug dealer and a meth addict, lives in chaos and struggles to take care of her younger brother. She develops an important relationship with Kellen, one of her father's drug runners, as she comes of age and learns how to make a life for herself.

[After Perfect: A Daughter's Memoir](#)

by Christina McDowell (306.874 McD)

The daughter of a business associate of Jordan Belfort (the "Wolf of Wall Street") describes her opulent lifestyle growing up and the devastating repercussions to her family after her father's fraud conviction and prison term.