



## Read-alikes compiled by Sioux City Public Library Staff

### [Fates and Furies by Lauren Groff](#)

Every story has two sides. Every relationship has two perspectives. And sometimes, it turns out, the key to a great marriage is not its truths but its secrets. At the core of this rich, expansive, layered novel, Lauren Groff presents the story of one such marriage over the course of twenty-four years.

#### **Compelling stories of high drama and epic love:**

[A Reliable Wife by Robert Goolrick](#) (Fiction Goo). Ralph Truitt, a wealthy businessman from rural Wisconsin, places a newspaper ad for “a reliable wife” in the winter of 1909. The woman who answers is not the “simple, honest woman” that he is expecting. Catherine Land is both complex and devious, haunted by a terrible past and motivated by greed. As lust and rage threaten to consume Truitt, Catherine discovers that he has secrets of his own.

[The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty](#) (Fiction Mor). Cecilia Fitzpatrick has a ‘perfect’ life—three perfect daughters, and a perfect marriage until she finds a dusty letter from her husband to be opened only in the event of his death. She can’t resist and reads the letter, which reveals a secret that shatters her world, and the lives of two other women.

[The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger](#) (Fantasy Nif). Rare-books Librarian Henry De Tamble, finds himself unavoidably whisked around in time. His unpredictable traveling is due to a genetic condition and often triggered by stress—while his destination is usually connected to an important event in his life. On one of his travels, he drops in on beautiful teenage Clare Abshire, and a lifelong passion is born.

[The Dressmaker by Kate Alcott](#) (Fic Alc). Tess Collins is a young woman who has ambitions of becoming a renowned dressmaker. By chance she ends up on the Titanic as a personal assistant to a famous designer. While on board, Tess gains the attention of both a wealthy, older businessman as well as a handsome young sailor. As the drama unfolds for the Titanic’s survivors, Tess will find her loyalties and affections tested.

#### **Lyrical works of domestic fiction:**

[Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See](#) (Fiction See). A story of friendship set in nineteenth-century China follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language.

[Sweetland by Michael Crummey](#) (Fiction Cru). Sweetland is both a place—a small island off the coast of Newfoundland—and a person, Moses Sweetland—and both have seen better times. There aren’t many citizens on the island, and there’s soon to be none, as the Canadian government is offering a resettlement package, but only if everyone leaves.

[On Beauty by Zadie Smith](#) (Fiction Smi). Struggling with a stale marriage and the misguided passions of his three adult children,

art professor Howard Belsey finds his family life thrown into turmoil by his son’s engagement to the socially prominent daughter of his archrival, right-wing icon, Monty Kipps.

[The Weird Sisters by Eleanor Brown](#) (Fiction Bro). Sisters Rose, Bean, and Cordy—the book-loving, Shakespeare-quoting, and wonderfully screwed-up spawn of Bard scholar Dr. James Andreas—unwillingly end up under one roof again to help their breast cancer-stricken mom. However, the real reasons they’ve trudged home, are far less straightforward.

#### **Introspective characters with dark secrets:**

[The Ice Queen by Alice Hoffman](#) (Fiction Hof). After having believed all her life that a childhood wish caused her mother’s death, another wish seems to come true when a loner librarian is suddenly struck by lightning. She then embarks on a journey of redemption and discovery, finding meaning in life and love for the first time.

[The Kitchen God's Wife by Amy Tan](#) (Fiction Tan). Pearl and her mother, Winnie, have had a distant relationship since her father’s death, and Pearl has avoided telling her mother that she suffers from multiple sclerosis. When a family friend forces Pearl and her mother to confront each other, devastating secrets from Winnie’s past life in China come to light, which changes Pearl’s perception of her own life and gives both women newfound strength and understanding.

[Abide with Me by Elizabeth Strout](#) (Fiction Str). After his wife’s sudden death, Reverend Tyler Caskey begins to lose his faith as his small town turns its back on his family. While he struggles to hold on to his family, congregation, and sanity, his fall from grace is reflected in the community that surrounds him.

[Mudwoman by Joyce Carol Oates](#) (Fiction Oat). M.R. Neukirchen has built herself up from nothing to become the first female president of an Ivy League school; however, at the peak of her success and facing important new obstacles, her past as a victim of poverty and abandonment comes back to haunt her and threatens to drag her down.

[A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara](#) (New Fiction Yan). For three decades, four college friends support and strengthen each other as they face life’s hardships. Their deep connection ultimately revolves around Jude, whose traumatic childhood left him with emotional scars that keep his friends coming together again and again to save their friend from himself.

