

Roseburg Readers Share Favorite Books Kris Wiley for The News-Review

Roseburg Public Library patrons are sharing their favorite books this summer and providing reading inspiration for the community.

Thirty-eight adults responded to the library's recent survey with five of their favorite reads from the past five years, and there were some common threads.

Most surprising to me was the variety of romantasy books listed by local readers. Romantasy, as the name suggests, is a blend of romance and fantasy, and the genre has taken over bestseller lists with blockbusters such as the A Court of Thorns and Roses (ACOTAR) series by Sarah J. Maas and The Empyrean series by Rebecca Yarros.

Five survey respondents listed "Fourth Wing," the first book in Yarros' series, in their top five of the past five years. Samantha summed it up well: "I fell in love with this book! I may forever be looking in the sky for dragons. It was the perfect mashup between 'Divergent' and 'How to Train Your Dragon.'"

Maas is a prolific writer, and several readers shared titles in her Throne of Glass and Crescent City series.

Patrons also mentioned "The Ashes and the Star-Cursed King" by Carissa Broadbent ("A good bridge for the ACOTAR drought," said Leesa) and "Curse of the Wolf King: A Beauty and the Beast Retelling (Entangled with Fae)" by Tessonja Odette.

Author Kristin Hannah received the most votes, all for three of her historical novels: "The Nightingale," set in World War II France; "The Great Alone," set in 1970s Alaska; and her latest, "The Women," which features American nurses serving in Vietnam.

About "The Women," Tiffani wrote, "Vietnam is such a heavy tragedy that so many faced, and the women who were a part of it all deserve to be remembered as well. 10/10 read!"

Other popular authors included Sweden's Fredrick Backman, who received a number of mentions for "A Man Called Ove" and the Beartown trilogy; romance writer Abby Jimenez; and J.K. Rowling for her Harry Potter books.

Other popular books included "A Little Life" by Hanya Yanagihara, "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver, "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee and "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens.

Thanks to all of the local readers who participated in the survey. Your recommendations helped my to-be-read list grow even longer.

Next up, we're asking adults to share recommendations for books that fit some of the prompts on the Summer Reading Program log. One winner will be drawn randomly from all fully completed submissions and receive a \$25 gift card to Old Soul Pizza at 525 SE Main St. in Roseburg.

Participants must share a title and author that fits the following five categories:

- A book set on the West Coast of the U.S.
- A book written by an author currently under age 40
- A book with a title that includes a geographic location
- A book that takes place on a holiday
- A book that has been translated

To participate, visit the library's website, and click on "Summer Reading Program." Click on the link labeled "July Bonus Survey" to complete the survey. Alternately, stop into the library for a paper survey, or email me at kwiley@roseburgor.gov with your responses. The survey closes July 27.

This Week's Library Events

Monday, July 15-Saturday, July 20, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - StoryWalk® at Beulah Park

Tuesday, July 16, 10 a.m. – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

Tuesday, July 16, 1-2 p.m. – Children's program: cardboard construction with Makedos

Wednesday, July 17, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime at Stewart Park Pavilion

Thursday, July 18, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime at library

Thursday, July 18, 1-2:30 p.m. – Teen program: tie dye T-shirts (shirts provided)

Thursday, July 18, 3-5 p.m. – Teen volunteer hours

Friday, July 19, 10:30-11:30 a.m. – Children's program at Stewart Park Pavilion: messy paints