Monthly Adult Recommendations from the Staff at Deerfield Public Library

**In My Dreams I Hold A Knife**
Ashley Winstead

A heart-racing thriller that I literally couldn’t put down (I read it in one fell swoop). In My Dreams, I Hold A Knife managed to somehow simultaneously make me nostalgic about college and never want to go back again. Twists and turns galore! ~Anne J. (CW: murder, rape, sexual assault, consensual sex (explicit), eating disorders, mental health)

**Body Work**
Melissa Febos

In this collection of four essays, Melissa Febos gives great advice on writing. In one essay she defends memoir, considered a “lesser” form of writing than a novel by some who claim the genre too emotional and lacking in nuance. The author successfully tears down these arguments. ~Stephanie K.

**A Curious Beginning**
Deanna Raybourn

Intrepid lepidopterist Veronica Speedwell gets entangled with the dashing Revelstoke Templeton-Vane, a reclusive natural historian and taxidermist, while trying to uncover a plot against her life. Witty banter, eclectic characters, and romantic tension make for a delightfully entertaining mystery series. ~Melissa S.
Old Enough

In need of something cute and low stakes? Old Enough is here for you! A long-running Japanese reality show that just dropped on Netflix, Old Enough follows very young children running their first ever errand for their parents. Charming and delightful with very short episodes. ~Anne J.

The Handmaid's Tale

Margaret Atwood

There are too many reasons to list about why this book is so important. If you haven’t already, please consider it for your next read. ~Felycia N. (CW: death, forced pregnancy, hanging, rape, suicide, enslavement, physical abuse, mental abuse)

Lost & Found

Kathryn Schulz

The author weaves the story of meeting her partner and losing her father into one tight introspective narrative, and the writing is exquisite. ~Stephanie K. (CW: death)
The Andy Warhol Diaries

His paintings are iconic but how much do we know about Andy Warhol’s personal life? This fascinating documentary series reveals Warhol’s personal life and relationships which were often complex. This is an intimate look at a great American artist. ~Ted G. (CW: explicit sex scenes, eating disorders, drug use)

The Complete Poems
Walt Whitman

A bisexual man runs loose across America writing down everything he sees, and I loved it. While Whitman glorifies it all, he refuses to polish any of it. ~Chase S. (CW: explicit content throughout)

Iron Widow
Xiran Jay Zhao

This YA sci-fi from a debut author turns dystopian tropes on their head! Love triangle? How about a polyamorous triad relationship instead! Plus it is an alternative history in which humanity has giant robots to battle aliens in; what more could you want? ~Emily K. (CW: physical abuse; alcohol addiction)
Sideways

This film follows two friends on a trip to wine country. They may not be perfect, but their personalities balance each other out. Miles is intelligent but has low self-esteem, Jack is full of life but doesn’t make smart decisions. Overall this is a great buddy comedy. ~Joseph G. (CW: alcoholism)

A Cosmology of Monsters
Shaun Hamill

"Life makes monsters of everyone, but it's always possible to come back. Pain and death are real, but so are love, and family, and forgiveness." A little bit of fantasy, a little bit of horror. Really this is a story about facing our monsters, whatever form they take. ~Chase S. (CW: suicide)

Sharks in The Time of Saviors
Kawai Strong Washburn

Kawai Strong Washburn has entwined legends of Hawaiian gods into an unputdownable, lyric and tender family saga with characters who are somehow equally tragic, endearing and comical. You may feel in reading, that you’re engaging with a close friend. ~Jamie G. (CW: animal death; death; self-harm; suicidal ideation)