



Read-alikes for *Kassandra Montag's After the Flood*.

By Annie Bostrom.

Grieving the loss of her first child, Row, Myra embarks on a perilous sea quest with her seven-year-old daughter, Pearl, in *Kassandra Montag's After the Flood* (2019), the first book selected as a Libraries Transform Book Pick, a new digital reading program for public libraries. One hundred years in the future, mountaintops are the only dry land left in America, and Myra and Pearl survive by fishing from the small boat on which they also live. During a dangerous encounter with pirates, Myra learns that Row might still be alive in a faraway northern colony, and becomes determined to find her.

After the Flood was chosen as a Libraries Transform Book Pick for its bold themes of transformation—of protagonists as well as their world—and because it's sure to provoke lively discussion among a broad swath of readers. Among the book's many appeal factors are its strong, complicated heroine; high doses of adventure and adrenaline offset by genuine emotion; and visual, evocative, and sensory-driven writing. These 13 read-alikes came to mind for their variations on some of *After the Flood*'s themes and appeal factors.

American War. By Omar El Akkad. 2017. Knopf, \$16.95 (9781101973134).

In El Akkad's well-informed speculative novel, a family is torn apart by terrorism and radicalization in a future climate change-ravaged American south.

The Country of Ice Cream Star. By Sandra Newman. 2015. Ecco, \$16.99 (9780062227119).

After most Americans have died from a mysterious disease, young Ice Cream Fifteen Star fights to find a cure for her brother's sickness in this dystopian epic that blends elements of American history, popular culture, and political allegory with romance and suspense.

The Electric State. By Simon Stålenhag. 2018. illus. Atria, \$35 (9781501181412).

This haunting illustrated novel, featuring Stålenhag's hyperrealistic paintings, is a fine example of graphic storytelling and bleak, emotionally rich dystopian sf.

The End We Start From. By Megan Hunter. 2017. Grove, \$14 (9780802128591).

Narrating in spare, image-heavy prose, a woman survives with her baby son after a massive flood forces them from their London home.

Fierce Kingdom. By Gin Phillips. 2017. Viking, \$16 (9780735224520).

When a mass shooting breaks out during a trip to the zoo, a woman must protect her son at all costs in this impossible-to-put-down novel of both nerve-fraying intensity and beautiful imagery.

Fourth of July Creek. By Smith Henderson. 2014. Harper, \$15.99 (9780062286468).

With a strong sense of its Montana setting, Henderson's gritty novel brings a social worker, working through his own family troubles, into contact with a malnourished boy and his survivalist father.

Parable of the Sower. By Octavia E. Butler. 1993. Grand Central, \$16.99 (9781538732182).

Written in diary form, Butler's seminal dystopian fantasy is the story of a young woman traversing California with other refugees fleeing violence amid rampant socioeconomic decay.

The Road. By Cormac McCarthy. 2006. Knopf, \$16 (9780307387899).

McCarthy's postapocalyptic tale of a father-son journey to the sea became an instant classic for its spare, rich language and devastating, hypnotic storytelling.

Redemption in Indigo. By Karen Lord. 2010. Small Beer, paper, \$16 (9781931520669).

In Barbadian author Lord's retelling of a Senegalese legend, steeped in fantasy and magic, a woman leaves her husband and comes into control of an object with the power to alter human disasters.

Station Eleven. By Emily St. John Mandel. 2014. 336p. Knopf, \$16.95 (9780804172448).

Taking place after a deadly flu has wiped out most of the world's population, this postapocalyptic novel reveals the origin of the calamity in small doses, in a tale both achingly beautiful and startlingly plausible.

The Water Knife. By Paolo Bacigalupi. 2015. 384p. Knopf, \$16.95 (9780804171533).

Sympathetic, if not entirely virtuous, characters join forces in this cli-fi epic, in which the southwest U.S. has run out of water and political instability and human depravity reign.

Wave. By Sonali Deraniyagala. 2013. Knopf, \$15.95 (9780345804310).

Economist Deraniyagala's indelible memoir is her true tale of surviving the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami in which her husband, children, and parents perished.

The Year of the Flood. By Margaret Atwood. 2009. Doubleday/Nan A. Talese, \$16
(9780307455475).

Atwood's resilient and contemplative heroes, survivors of the world-decimating "Waterless Flood," experience hair-raising adventure in the second book in her wise, dystopian MaddAddam series.



Booklist

