Recent Reads August 2025

Fiction

Emma by Jane Austen

A bright, capable young woman accustomed to commanding any company she finds herself in is brought up short by the arrival of a woman of superior talents, and by her own misjudgment when advising a woman of lower status she has taken under her wing. Austen's trademark wit and insight make Emma Woodhouse's self-reckoning delightful.

The Oligarch's Daughter by Joseph Finder

A fast-paced, action-packed thriller about a man who thought he'd escaped his past, only to find it right behind him and quickly gaining ground. Mainers will enjoy the local settings in the beginning of the book. Try if you liked *The Firm* by John Grisham.

The Great Transition by Nick Fuller Googins

Set in the near future after a climate catastrophe, when civilization has moved north and reorganized itself in order to survive, this book speculates on what life might be like if nations cooperated (both within themselves, and with other nations) in order to secure the existence of humankind. But make no mistake: this is an adventure story above all, and one that delivers. A Read ME/Book Club selection.

Audiobooks—available on CloudLibrary

Creation Lake by Rachel Kushner

Sadie Smith, a freelance intelligence agent of dubious morality with a history of poor decision-making, infiltrates a French group that may be contemplating an act of domestic terror. As she establishes herself, she intercepts emails to the group's leader from a mentor, a veteran of the 1968 Paris uprising, whose ramblings on wide-ranging subjects intrigue Sadie—although not enough to effect any change in her chaotic methodology.

The Grey Wolf by Louise Penny

A complex plot threatens all of Quebec, including Three Pines, and Inspector Gamache and his team find themselves at a disadvantage as they race to identify both the perpetrators and the target. Penny previously wrote a humdinger of a thriller with Hillary Clinton (*State of Terror*) and this is just as heart-pounding.

Stone Yard Devotional by Charlotte Wood

Her marriage has failed, and she questions the validity of her life's work as a conservation activist; although she is an atheist, the unnamed narrator of the book is drawn to the idea of a retreat from the world in a convent close to her childhood home. The world, however, will not be

shut out, and as she helps the nuns manage the various ensuing troubles, clarity follows. Wood's prose, concise and economical, packs a powerful punch in this contemplative tale.