

## Recent Reads—October 2025

### Fiction

*Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen

A romp of a novel that gently pokes fun at the heroine's runaway imagination, fed by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century craze for gothic horror novels. Catherine Morland, a perfectly average girl from a perfectly normal, nothing-special family, is invited to travel to Bath with family friends. There she meets a young woman who has formed a relationship with Catherine's brother, as well as another young woman with an attractive brother of her own; the behavior of their fiery-tempered father causes suspicions to arise in Catherine.

*My Friends* by Hisham Matar

A young Libyan man studying in the U.K. forms a friendship with the expat whose short story greatly influenced his life. Set against the backdrop of the Arab Spring, this provocative and introspective novel features well-drawn characters and a glimpse into a society much different from our own. Its leisurely pace encourages pondering the many questions raised. A Book Club selection.

### Audiobooks

*The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters

An indigenous family travels to a Maine blueberry farm from Canada every year to work the harvest; a shocking event one year changes all of their lives forever. Will appeal to readers who enjoy family dramas as well as those interested in Native American stories.

*Christmas at the Shelter Inn* by Rae Anne Thayne

Natalie Shepherd vowed not to be tied down the way her parents were to their family business, an inn. She's a freelance writer and house- and pet-sitter, traveling all over the world without the usual adult commitments—until a cry for help arrives from her very pregnant sister, a mother of two young daughters who runs the inn now that their parents are gone, and has just been ordered on bedrest. Natalie returns to the family home for the holiday season and confronts her past as well as her future. Charming and heartwarming, perfect for getting into the holiday spirit.

*Falling Home* by Karen White

Cassie Madison left her hometown in Georgia after her sister ran away with her boyfriend and never returned. Now her father is dying, and Cassie must return to face his loss, along with all the other losses. Long but satisfying, with a strong sense of place and a slow-burn romance.