

## Recent Reads—September 2025

### Fiction

#### *Isola* by Allegra Goodman

In 16<sup>th</sup> century France, a young girl inherits a sizeable estate after the death of her parents; unfortunately, her age and her lack of rights as a female place her entirely within the power of her unscrupulous guardian, an advisor to the French king. When he is sent to colonize Canada with Jacques Cartier, she is brought along to the wilderness with disastrous results. Based on a true story, this exciting and thought-provoking novel is recommended for all fans of historical fiction, as well as lovers of adventure stories.

#### *A Witch's Guide to Magical Innkeeping* by Sandu Mandanna

A young witch who lost her power after using it to bring her great-aunt back to life has lived quietly in the country ever since, running a cozy inn with her aunt and trying to remain under the radar of the more powerful, vengeful magical beings running things. When a magical historian winds up at the inn along with his younger sister, whom he has removed from their neglectful parents, all the pieces begin to fall in place to ensure a happily ever after for all.

#### *Candide or Optimism* by Voltaire

In this classic satire, naïve Candide, cast out of his home after being caught fondling the daughter of the house, must learn to survive by his wits and little else. But as his mentor Dr. Pangloss teaches, everything that happens is for the best. A Book Club selection.

#### *The Village Library Demon-Hunting Society* by C.M. Waggoner

A small-town librarian is shocked not only by a series of murders in her town, but by the seeming possession of her beloved cat by an ancient demon, and must figure out how to foil the forces of evil without knowing who may be trusted. A fun and engaging mashup of mystery and horror—and with that title, how could you resist?

### Audiobooks

#### *\*The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year* by Ally Carter

Maggie Chase and Ethan Wyatt are both represented by the same publisher, but Maggie, a mystery writer, has kept Ethan, a thriller writer, at arm's length ever since overhearing a comment he made about her at a Christmas party. When both are invited to the home of the bestselling mystery writer in the world for the holidays, Maggie is less than enthused, while Ethan sees an opportunity; an unexpected turn of events, however, upends both their plans. A skillful blend of English country house mystery and romance.

*Ruth Run* by Elizabeth Kaufman

A hacker learns she's been compromised just as she completes her most ambitious theft yet and goes on the run, hoping to find either a way out of the country or a safe bolt hole in which to lie low. The plot twists and hectic pace will sweep you up into rooting for Ruth despite her flaws. Try if you loved *Gone Girl*.