

Recent Reads February 2026

Non-Fiction

Abundance by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson

An intriguing proposition from the *New York Times* columnist (Klein) and contributing writer at the *Atlantic* (Thompson): "Much that we need for the world we want, we already know how to build." And, in their view, government can and must fund "the risky technologies whose payoff is social rather than economic." What follows is an examination of how the political practices of the last century have led, it seems clear to the authors, a false sense of scarcity. Provocative and sure to lead you down a rabbit hole of additional reading.

Fiction

The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

Tells of the friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune, a Black woman and founder of Bethune-Cookman University. An impressive span of history is covered, along with the remarkable achievements of both women.

A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki

A package washes up on an island in British Columbia, and winds up in the hands of a writer, Ruth. It contains a diary, written by Nao, a Japanese teenager who was brought up in America for most of her life before going back to Japan; letters and a diary written by her great-uncle Haruki, a kamikaze pilot in WWII; and a wristwatch. After getting help translating the diary and letters, Ruth becomes obsessed with finding Nao—has she survived the 2011 earthquake and tsunami? The novel touches on many subjects, from feminism to WWII, bullying to quantum physics. Ozeki skillfully brings us along for the ride as together we put the pieces together of Nao's family's lives. Unusual, compelling, peaceful.

Audiobooks

The Hallmarked Man by Robert Galbraith

Cormoran Strike and Robin Ellacott are hired to prove that the man found murdered in the vault of a jeweler that specializes in Masonic silver was their client's missing partner, and father of her newborn. As Galbraith's plots do, this one unspools but only grows ever more complicated; rather than clarify the plot, Galbraith introduces more characters, more motives, more red herrings. (This is enjoyable.)