

Recent Reads January 2026

Non-Fiction

Breaking Bread: Essays From New England on Food, Hunger and Family, collected and edited by Deborah Joy Corey and Debra Spark

Short reflections offered by both well-known and lesser-known New England writers show the universality of our relationships to food—we must have it in order to survive, it can be a form of comfort, artistic expression, even love—as well as our unique experiences. Interestingly, some of the most thought-provoking essays are not from the expected big names. A Book Club Selection.

Fiction

The Woman in Suite 11 by Ruth Ware

In this follow up to *The Woman in Cabin 10*, Lo Blackstock is married with 2 children, living in New York City, and has published a memoir detailing her traumatic experiences aboard a luxury cruise ship after witnessing a crime. Looking to revive her career as a travel journalist, she accepts an invitation to a luxe hotel launch in Europe, where her past catches up with her. Great plot twists and a vulnerable but self-reliant protagonist make for a real page-turner.

Audiobooks

Katabasis by R.F. Kuang

Alice Law and Peter Murdoch, two post-grads in the Department of Analytic Magic at Cambridge, must travel to Hell to bring back their advisor after one—both?—of them accidentally kill him while he is performing a spell. Kuang references the greats (Dante, Virgil) and crafts a thrilling adventure story as Alice and Peter battle their way through the eight sections of Hell, meeting unforgettable characters and fighting off malevolent rivals. Dark academia meets fantasy.

The View from Lake Como by Adriana Trigiani

After living in the Italian-American enclave of Lake Como, N.J., her entire life, marrying her first love and taking care of everyone but herself, Jess Baratta is forced to make a change after being confronted by family secrets that make it impossible to remain in Lake Como. She travels to her family's ancestral home in Italy, and slowly Jess learns how to care for herself, advocate for herself, and even love herself. Funny and heartwarming.

Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros

Violet Sorrengail was meant to join the Scribes for her adult work, but her general mother insisted upon the Dragon Riders, the most dangerous occupation in the country of Navarre. Small and physically fragile after a childhood illness, this seems like a terrible fit for Violet, but she discovers hidden strengths and hidden powers. Gripping and fast-paced fantasy.