Recent Reads August 2026

Non-Fiction

Marilyn and Her Books by Gail Crowther

Despite her ditzy bimbo image, Marilyn Monroe was a thoughtful, dedicated reader, and at the time of her death had assembled an impressive library of contemporary fiction. Crowther examines records and receipts to paint the picture of a woman who, though famed for her physical beauty, was seriously interested in self-improvement and living a life of the mind. Reading from the list of titles in her library would be a fun project!

The Gardener's Mindset by Stephen Orr

The former editor in chief of Better Homes and Gardens magazine details his gardening history in delightful essays, accompanied by striking photography. From a rooftop garden in New York City to a seaside one on Cape Cod, Orr has learned to adapt to conditions and acts of God, never losing his passion or optimism. This will appeal to both the seasoned gardener and the novice; treat yourself during the cold, dark months.

Fiction

Yesteryear by Carol Claire Burke

A trad wife influencer finds the polished veneer of her life cracking after she hires a new assistant. Burke's view of women's choices (or lack thereof) is quite jaded; but the fast pace and addictive plot—and oh, the twist!-- don't leave much time for reflections such as these. Try if you like fiction based on current events.

Audiobooks

Spectacular Things by Beck Dorey-Stein

Sisters Mia and Cricket have always had an unusually close relationship. The daughters of a promising soccer star who wound up foregoing her college career after becoming pregnant her senior year of high school and being cast off from her family, they formed a tight little triangle with their single mother, absorbing her fierce work ethic and devoting themselves to the sport she gave up. When a health crisis demands change, Mia and Cricket must reckon with family secrets, family dynamics and family sorrows to find a way forward. An absorbing family drama with a hefty dose of excitement and suspense, and a tender portrayal of the love between siblings.

Other People's Summers by Sarah Morgan

Two best friends, one a world-famous actress, the other the manager of a countryside resort, reconcile from an estrangement after the actress turns to the resort owner for refuge when a

scandal breaks. Both find peace and healing in each other's presence in this satisfying women's fiction.