Recent Reads September 2026

Non-Fiction

The House at Schumanstrasse 7 by Edith Netter

Years of research supplement family stories in this engaging "memoir" in the author's grandmother's voice. After experiencing the grandfather's internment on the U.K.'s Isle of Man during WWI, the well-to-do German Jewish family returned to Germany and built a family home at number 7, Schumanstrasse. Kristallnacht, a concentration camp, and the Kinderstransport all lay ahead. A riveting Holocaust tale told from a unique perspective.

Fiction

The Jellyfish Problem by Tessa Yang

A jellyfish appears off the coast of Maine, one that has never been seen in these waters. A jellyfish expert, mourning the recent loss of best friend and research partner, is called in by an old college friend to try to identify the creature, and things start getting strange: if you see the jellyfish, it becomes physically impossible for you to leave the island. Offbeat speculative fiction set in an isolated Maine community results in a quirky and unusual read.

Audiobooks

The Names by Florence Knapp

Knapp has crafted her novel around the premise that, contrary to Shakespeare's assertion that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, names *do* matter and can affect not only oneself by those around you. A woman with a new baby must register the birth, and her abusive husband insists the child be named after him. In one plot line, the woman follows the husband's wishes; in another, takes the suggestion of the baby's older sister; in the third, gives the baby the name that speaks most to her. This is a thought-provoking look at the power of names and the idea of fate, and while the audiobook is extremely well done, you may wish to read the physical book to better keep track of which "life" the boy is living.

Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid

The first female astronauts are the subject of this entertaining mashup of historical fiction, sci-fi thriller and love story. Reid does an excellent job of making the science accessible while maintaining the suspense of the plot. Try of you liked *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon, or the work of Kristin Hannah.

Saints for All Occasions by J. Courtney Sullivan

Two sisters emigrate to the U.S. from Ireland in the mid-twentieth century in this sprawling family drama. Nora, 21, is introverted and cautious, engaged to a neighbor who came to Boston ahead of her. Theresa, 17, is vivacious and outgoing. The book follows the pair over 50 years,

through drastic change, heartbreak, and quiet moments of joy. Sullivan excels at portraying the little scenes that add up to a vivid portrayal of Irish Catholic life in the last quarter of the 20th century.