My Year in Reading

The numbers first

Before the lists, count your own year. A year in reading is not a number of books - it is the books you remember, the genres you lived in, and the month you read most. Fill this page in first, before you look at anyone else's list.

My year	My number
Books finished in 2026	
Pages read	
Books abandoned (and why, below)	
New authors discovered	
Books re-read	
Longest book	
Shortest book	
Favourite genre this year	
Genre I read least	

The book I abandoned, and why: _____

The book I came back to after abandoning it: _____

My Top 10 of 2026

The books that made the year

Ten books, in order, with one line each about why. If you cannot fill all ten, fill five - a top five you believe in beats a top ten you padded. The line matters more than the order: in a year, you will remember the line, not the ranking.

1. Title: _____ Why it made the list: _____

2. Title: _____ Why it made the list: _____

3. Title: _____ Why it made the list: _____

4. Title: _____ Why it made the list: _____

5. Title: _____ Why it made the list: _____

6. Title: _____ Why it made the list: _____

7. Title: _____ Why it made the list: _____

8. Title: _____ Why it made the list: _____

9. Title: _____ Why it made the list: _____

10. Title: _____ Why it made the list: _____

The book I recommend to everyone: _____

The book I recommend to one person only: _____

The Best Books of 2026

What the lists said

The year-end lists are out, and they disagree with each other - which is what makes them useful. Amazon Editors' Best Books of 2026, published 12 November 2026, puts Min Jin Lee's American Hagwon at number 1 and Tayari Jones's Kin at number 4. Publishers Weekly's Best Books 2026, public since 23 October 2026, has a top 10 of its own, including The AGI Chronicles, Cool Machine and Transcription. Country & Town House's Must-Read Books of 2026 (10 November 2026) and Stylist's 39 best books round out the picture. No list is the truth - together, they are the map of the year.

From the lists - titles to know

Book	List that named it
American Hagwon - Min Jin Lee	Amazon Editors, #1
Kin - Tayari Jones	Amazon Editors, #4
The AGI Chronicles	Publishers Weekly top 10
Cool Machine	Publishers Weekly top 10
Transcription	Publishers Weekly top 10

A note on Kin: it is also the Thanksgiving book-club pick of the season - the same book appears on the year's best list and on the table. When a book does that, read it first.