

Listening Plan

August 8, 2026 → November 24, 2027

Already done: Unreasonable Hospitality, The Psychology of Money

In progress: Whistler

That leaves 57 titles across roughly 15.5 months (~68 weeks). At an estimated average audiobook length of ~13 hours, that works out to about 1.5–2 hours of listening a day to stay on pace — realistic for a regular commute or workout routine, with room to breathe.

Sequencing logic

- **One “big” book per month, not two.** The truly long listens (The Covenant of Water, A Fine Balance, The Goldfinch, The Count of Monte Cristo, Lonesome Dove, A Little Life — all 25–36 hrs) are each given their own month, paired only with shorter, lighter titles so no month is overloaded.
- **Tone alternates.** Heavy, emotionally demanding fiction (Demon Copperhead, A Little Life, East of Eden) is always followed or preceded by something lighter (mystery, memoir, a short self-help title) — never two gut-punch books back to back.
- **Seasonal fit where it's free.** Theo of Golden and A Man Called Ove land in December (warm, generous, holiday-appropriate); Lonesome Dove lands in July (a sprawling Western epic for long summer days); The Count of Monte Cristo gets June, right before it, so it's not two multi-week epics in a row.
- **Growth books are spread, not clustered.** Habits/leadership/psychology titles are threaded throughout rather than front- or back-loaded, so no stretch of the year feels like “homework.”
- **The finish is intentional.** The Bee Sting and The 60-Something Crisis land in the final month — a big, rewarding novel and the one book written directly for this moment, closing things out on purpose rather than by accident.

Month	Titles, in order
Aug 2026 (from today)	Whistler (finish) → Atomic Habits → The Four Agreements
Sep 2026	A Gentleman in Moscow → Games People Play → The Happiest Man on Earth → The Obstacle Is the Way
Oct 2026	The Book Thief → Circe → Why We Sleep → The Little Book of Stoicism → The Poisonwood Bible
Nov 2026	The Covenant of Water → Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine → How the Best Leaders Lead
Dec 2026	A Man Called Ove → Theo of Golden → The Alchemist → Black Cake → Beartown
Jan 2027	Deep Work → Essentialism → Maybe You Should Talk to Someone → Influence → Pachinko
Feb 2027	A Fine Balance → Magic Words → Mind Management, Not Time Management
Mar 2027	The Kite Runner → The Road Less Traveled → Anxious People → When Things Fall Apart → East of Eden

Month	Titles, in order
Apr 2027	Project Hail Mary → The Body Keeps the Score → Breath → 12 Rules for Life
May 2027	The Goldfinch → The Vanishing Half → Educated
Jun 2027	The Count of Monte Cristo → The Great Gatsby → Thinking in Systems
Jul 2027	Lonesome Dove → Family of Spies → The Remains of the Day
Aug 2027	James → Demon Copperhead → Dune
Sep 2027	A Little Life → The Silent Patient → The Organized Mind
Oct 2027	48 Laws of Power → How to Work with Complicated People → Gone Girl
Nov 2027 (through the 24th)	The Bee Sting → Own the Day, Own Your Life → The 60-Something Crisis

A few notes on using this

- Order within each month matters more than exact calendar placement — feel free to let a great book run a week long and just shift the next one back; the sequencing (not the dates) is the important part.
- Audiobook run-times above are estimates, not pulled from a live catalog — listening at 1.25x–1.5x speed (common for a lot of audiobook listeners) will likely run ahead of this pace rather than behind.
- If any month looks too packed once it's being lived, the easiest release valve is nudging one of the short self-help titles (The Four Agreements, The Alchemist, Essentialism, etc.) into the next month — they're not season-dependent the way Theo of Golden or Lonesome Dove are.