

Calista

*The Librarian of Crooked Lane: The Glass Library Book 1* by C. J. Archer

A handsome, wealthy war hero comes to librarian Sylvia Ashe's rescue. Beneath their budding friendship, they partner together to solve the crime of missing, magical paintings. The questions of Sylvia's past also get wrapped up in this light romantic mystery.

Platforms: Libby (ebook and audiobook), Hoopla (ebook and audiobook)

Eileen

*Her Hidden Genius* by Marie Benedict

Rosalind Franklin has gotten belated recognition for her foundational work in the discovery of DNA in the 1950s, but what was it like to actually be in her shoes as a female scientist in the 1940s and 1950s? Marie Benedict investigates the interior life of real women from the past. She tells the story you thought you knew with respect and new insight.

Platforms: Belmont Public Library (book), Hoopla (ebook)

Kelly

*Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah

The quote "Sometimes when you open the door to your mother's past, you find your own future..." on the inside cover of this book instantly intrigued me after years of seeing this book and its beautiful cover go in and out of BPL. I also was encouraged by a patron's recent enthusiastic recommendation.

This is a story of a family struggling with the loss of the pivotal person in their lives; a loss that forces the mother and two adult daughters to finally deal with their disjointed relationships with each other. The book also brings us back via memories to war-torn Russia at the beginning of World War II. I love when a novel includes a history lesson - what it was like for people living in the city of Leningrad at this time; their hardships and unbelievable will to survive; all told through the lives of the women in this family.

I found it interesting on many levels and while a bit "stuck in second gear" in the middle of the book as I would put it, it was, overall, a solid 8/10 on a scale of 1-10. I definitely would recommend it for a wintry read, focused on family dynamics and relationships, but redeeming in the end. This one will stay with me for quite some time.

Platforms: Belmont Public Library (Book)

Linda

*Back to the Prairie: A Home Remade, A Life Rediscovered* by Melissa Gilbert

Millions of fans will remember Gilbert as Laura Ingalls Wilder on the NBC Television show *Little House on the Prairie* that ran from 1974 to 1984. This memoir is an easy read. Gilbert is not one to sit still and her life reflects her wide-ranging interests. Still, she never imagined the twists and turns that awaited her. She meets the Love of Her Life and leaves Hollywood without any regrets.

In search of a sanctuary, Gilbert and her husband purchase land in upstate New York. It is a fixer-upper and they take on the roles of general contractor and laborers. Then the pandemic known as Covid-19 appears and their weekend getaway becomes their primary residence. Gilbert makes a seamless transition from west to east coast living and creates a fulfilling life that is completely different from her days under the spotlight.

Platforms: Belmont Public Library (Book)

Rebecca

*The Diviners* by Libba Bray

1920s! New York City! Speakeasies Galore! Right there I thought I had found 3 perfect aspects for a new book series. Now add six teens with special gifts and you have a time that I want to travel back to.

Evie is a funny character that creates a world that is entertaining. She knows how to make everyone know who she is. I was really intrigued with how Evie's life would intertwine with the 5 other teens.

Platforms: Belmont Public Library (Book), Libby (ebook and audiobook)