

Calista

Lincoln (2012 DVD)

With the nation embroiled in yet another year of Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln brings the full measure of his passion, humanity, and political skill to what would become his defining legacy: to end the war and permanently abolish slavery. Having great courage and moral fortitude, Lincoln pushes forward to compel the nation, and those who oppose him, to aim toward a greater good for all mankind.

Platform: DVD

Eileen

The woman they could not silence : one woman, her incredible fight for freedom, and the men who tried to make her disappear / Kate Moore.

1860: Elizabeth Packard's husband has her committed to an insane asylum in Illinois. She is not insane . . . This book is packed with details of Elizabeth's personal life and the wider world of nineteenth century law and medicine. Elizabeth used her experience to inform and fuel a quest for improved conditions for the mentally ill and better legal rights for women. It's a reminder of the not-so-long-ago past and of how far we've come. Kate Moore is the author of Radium Girls.

Platform: book, Libby (ebook and audio), hoopla (ebook)

Erica

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

"Set in the days of civilization's collapse, Station Eleven tells the story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior, and a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity."-Goodreads.com

I was open to this book because it was recommended to me as 'a science fiction book for people who aren't into science fiction.' I enjoy literary fiction and Mandel delivered with this dystopian novel. Her writing is descriptive and beautiful. Her character development is engrossing. I went on to read two more of her books in succession that I enjoyed as well- Sea of Tranquility and The Glass Hotel.

Platforms: book, Libby (ebook and audio)

KELLY

Getting out of Saigon by Ralph White

For those of us old enough to remember April of 1975 it doesn't seem that long ago, but it's been nearly half a century since the US evacuated troops and US civilians from the chaos of Saigon, thus ending our official involvement in the Vietnam war.

At 27 years old White was asked by senior management of Chase Manhattan Bank to keep the Saigon branch open as long as possible and to rescue only the senior Vietnamese employees if the branch had to close. This memoir tells White's personal account of the complicated and harrowing evacuation of not only the bank's senior employees but all employees and their families. He had more unexpected obstacles ranging from the Vietnamese government prohibiting its citizens from leaving the country and a lack of civil aviation in and out of Saigon to the delusional U.S. ambassador refusing to support the evacuation of any of the bank's Vietnamese employees.

Thankfully White discovered a clandestine evacuation channel and was successful in evacuating all of the staff and their family members just days before Saigon fell. I remember seeing plenty of film on the news depicting the fall of Saigon and the chaos and death that ensued, but this little microcosm of one group's triumph in the face of certain death was amazing. It was also unbelievable how a young man not yet 30 was able to succeed against insurmountable odds. To this day White and the group of survivors occasionally gather to reminisce and share personal updates. I highly recommend this book which does also include photos.

Platforms: book

Linda

The Widows of Malabar Hill by Sujata Massey

Perveen Mistry is a woman ahead of her time. Born in India and educated in Oxford, England, she is the first female to practice law in 1920s India.

Readers will learn about the way in which the lives of women were both framed and constrained by the cultural, societal, and religious norms and practices of that time period. Readers will cheer as Perveen circumvents and challenges those strictures. Her professional working relationship with her father, a well-known lawyer, offers emotional support and a safety net.

Platforms: book, Libby (ebooks), hoopla (audio)

Rebecca  
**Harriet**

Is there a better way to honor Black History Month than immersing yourself in the history of one of America's famous heroines? From her time held as a slave through her escape, and then the dangerous missions she

led to liberate hundreds of slaves through the Underground Railroad, HARRIET shows the story of heroic abolitionist Harriet Tubman. Starring Cynthia Erivo, Leslie Odom Jr., and Janelle Monae.

Rating: 5/5 stars.

Platform: DVD

Samantha

Murtagh by Christopher Paolini

“In this gripping novel starring one of the most popular characters from Christopher Paolini’s blockbuster *Inheritance Cycle*, a Dragon Rider must discover what he stands for in a world that has abandoned him. *Murtagh* is the perfect book to enter the World of Eragon for the first time . . . or to joyfully return.” –Goodreads

If you’re looking for some kind of excellent fantasy novel, almost Lord of the Rings-ish, then I would definitely recommend *Murtagh*. It’s exciting, full of magic, danger, and, of course, dragons. There is a brief summary in the beginning of the book about the events of the previous *Inheritance Cycle*, to which this novel is a sequel, so if you haven’t read the series before, you don’t have to worry about that. However, for maximum enjoyment and understanding of *Murtagh*, I would suggest reading the *Inheritance Cycle* first. If you’ve read the *Inheritance Cycle* already -welcome back- then you’ll probably enjoy *Murtagh* as well, though it is a bit different.

Platform: book, Libby (audio)