

Calista

The Lost City

An evil treasure hunter kidnaps a recluse romance novelist as she is going on her book tour. The cover model for her novels swoops into the hero role and is off to the jungle on a rescue mission. Fraught with danger around every turn, this movie also is very silly and funny. Will romance also bud from this grudging friendship before they are completely doomed?

Platforms: DVD

Eileen

*The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

I liked *Rules of Civility*, and I adored *A Gentleman in Moscow*, so I was excited when *The Lincoln Highway* came out. Amor Towles' Great American Road Novel tails four boys — three 18-year-olds who met in a juvenile reformatory and a kid brother— as they set out from Nebraska in June, 1954, in an old Studebaker. Spanning just ten days, the action-packed plot has a memorable cast of characters. I appreciated the multiple viewpoints and deeply detailed settings.

Platforms: book , Libby (ebook & audiobook)

Kelly

*Dead Wake* by Erik Larson

This is one of the best non-fiction historical books I have ever read. Erik Larson is a great storyteller. I so enjoyed his retelling of the story of the sinking of the passenger ship *Lusitania* during WWI prior to America's joining the war. Mr. Larson's writing reminded me of the storytelling documentary style of filmmaker Ken Burns (also a favorite). I thoroughly enjoyed all of the little details about the passengers, their belongings, and their stories before, during, and after the torpedo struck the ill-fated passenger ship. There were also very interesting historical facts about the *Lusitania*'s connection to the war effort; quietly carrying munitions and other supplies to England from America. This fact was entirely unknown to the ships' passengers and most of the crew.

The story of the submarine crew of U-20 who fired the deadly torpedo at the *Lusitania* was also told in detail, something I also found very interesting. Life on a submarine was vividly portrayed through Larson's words; the smells, the confined spaces and even a pet dachshund. They abided by the maritime rules of wartime engagement at the time by allowing crew and passengers to abandon ship before destroying it, after which they usually confiscated valuable

food and other items. A U-boat crew (U-boat being shorthand for submarine) rarely went hungry and usually ate very well. Unfortunately, it wasn't long before the Germans changed their minds about not killing the humans on board a target and began sinking anything they could so as to help hasten the end of the war and their victory.

Another interesting piece of the puzzle in this story was the politics. American president Woodrow Wilson had strong feelings about staying out of the war entirely. He also was enduring a personal struggle due to his wife's death. The British intelligence's Room 40 was really intriguing and a bit shocking. There are some who believe they could have helped avoid this disaster on many levels. Room 40's part in the disaster was top secret until the 1970's.

This book tied up the story with a neat bow by giving quite an epilogue, telling of the fates of both captains along with the highlighted passengers. If you enjoy history, this author does an amazing job painting a picture and putting you in the middle of it. It was a great read and I have already begun reading another book by Mr. Larson.

Platforms: book, Libby (ebook & audiobook)

Linda

*The Rescue* by T. Jefferson Parker

This is a book for Lovers of Dogs. It's an easy, pleasurable read. The protagonist, Felix, is a Mexican street dog. Felix shares his thoughts and feelings with readers. During her work as a reporter, Bettina meets Felix in a rescue center where he is recovering from a gunshot wound. His 30-day stay is up: by law he must be euthanized. On the spot Bettina decides to adopt Felix. Someone else (the Mexican cartel) is looking for Felix and will pay Big Money for the little dog.

Bettina knows how to protect herself: her dad taught her how to use a firearm. Although capable and smart, Bettina knows that running from the cartel is a losing proposition. Instead, she uses her reporter smarts and orchestrates safety for herself and Felix.

T. Jefferson Parker is a New York Times bestselling author.

Platforms: book

Rebecca

*The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins

Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning and night. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to daily watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck. She's even started to feel like she knows them. Jess and Jason, she calls them. Their life--as she sees it--is perfect. Not unlike the life she recently lost.

And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel goes to the police. But is she really as unreliable as they say?

Rating: 4.5/5 stars. Can you believe everything you see when you only have a minute to witness it? How do you make others believe you? *The Girl on the Train* questions what you can believe that you see. Great thriller for the month of Halloween!

Platforms: Belmont Public Library (Book), Libby (eBook & Audiobook)

Rebekah

Elvis

Elvis is a biographical film that tells the captivating story of the legendary musician Elvis Presley. It shows his rise to fame from his humble beginning in Mississippi to his iconic status as the king of Rock and Roll. The movie explores his personal life, his relationships, and the challenges he faced along the way. With a mix of drama, music, and heartfelt moments, *Elvis* is a must-see for fans of the iconic artist.

Platforms: DVD