

Calista

*The Trail* By Meika Hashimoto

Toby and his best friend Lucas have made a list of things they must do before they enter middle school. An accident occurs as they are fulfilling one of their last adventures and Lucas is tragically killed. Toby is devastated but determined to finish the list for Lucas.

The final item is to hike the Appalachian Trail from Velvet Rocks to Mt. Katahdin. 400 miles in the wilderness is an enormous task to accomplish, especially for a young, ill-prepared boy. Toby adopts a stray, starved dog that he calls Moose and together they begin to heal.

This ends up being more about the journey than the destination, and Toby realizes that he might not finish the last item, but that it's the life lessons that he has gained that are really important.

Eileen

*The Killing Floor* by Lee Child

I watched the Jack Reacher Amazon series early this summer, then reveled in the book series for the rest of the season. 6 foot 5 inch Reacher (as even his mother called him) is the most incredible action hero, never daunted by odds of seven to one, thriving on no sleep, needing no one but himself. He has his own rules, and Reacher has no mercy if you break them. Reading so many of the books in a row, I started watching for his quirks and catchphrases, relishing the effect on the other characters, who truly don't understand how formidable he is. We have most of the books in print here at the library, but I read a lot through the Libby app because I couldn't wait to start the next one. Got to wait until October for book 27 though!

Kelly

*Cats I've Known* by Katie Haegele

Sometimes while shelf reading at the library I run across a little gem of a book that is new to me even though it has been in its place for a while. This is the case with *Cats I've Known*; a cute non-fiction read about - you guessed it - cats the author has known. I confess to being more of a dog person than a cat person, but I was intrigued.

The author had me at: "Coco's body spreads out when she lies down somewhere and she melts into a puddle of cat. A pudgy, fuzzy puddle made of velvet." Her wonderful descriptions of her feline acquaintances and their funny and interesting traits kept me reading on. Each cat is given just a few pages to entertain. It reminded me of James Herriot's *All Creatures Great and Small* book and shows where the animals' personalities and quirks are discussed and appreciated, but more of a reader's digest version and of course all about cats. This is a great little book to pick up and enjoy for 5 minutes at a time or, if you are like me, much longer as I couldn't stop turning the pages, looking for the next silly and/or heartwarming short cat story. Maybe someday someone will write a similar book on dogs or horses or cows or pigs....

Linda

*East: 120 vegan and vegetarian recipes from Bangalore to Beijing* by Meera Sodha

For some time now I have been thinking about the merits of eating more meals that are plant-based.

My repertoire of vegetarian/vegan meals is limited and I want to enjoy learning how to shop and prepare these meals. The layout of the book is appealing: the ingredients and directions are on one page and a photo of the prepared meal is on the opposite page. Nothing daunting! A wide selection of up-to-date cookbooks are available.

Rebekah

Passengers

This movie is one of my all time favorites. Two passengers, Aurora (Jennifer Lawrence), and Jim (Chris Pratt), on a spaceship that is going to land on a new world in 90 years. While everyone on the ship is sleeping, Jim and Aurora wake up 90 years too early because of a malfunction on the ship. As they try to find ways to go back to sleep, they begin to feel helpless. After a few years on the ship they start falling for each other. But, as the ship starts failing, it is up to them to save 5,000 people on the ship.