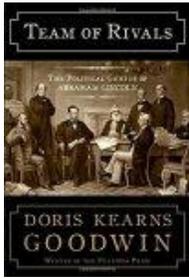


Eileen



***Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin**

Sometimes I'm in the mood for serious history - and this is serious history. The author has a stellar reputation and shows how she earned it. Read these 756 pages when you can concentrate on them - not to be skimmed. What I appreciated most about this is the thought that political rivals can work together if the cause is great enough. Also, a little humility helps.

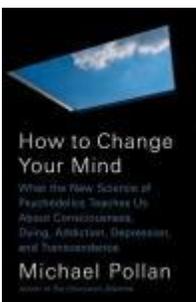
Linda



***A Boy Called Bat* by Elana K. Arnold**

If you like bats or are interested in bats, this book is for you. If you don't like bats and have no interest in bats, it is strongly recommended you check-out this book at your earliest possible convenience! The author instills each character with individual traits and brings them to life. Readers can readily identify with Bat, his sister Janie, and their mom, a veterinarian. Bat's parents have separate households and this arrangement and the challenges children must negotiate are tactfully presented. Readers will learn what makes bats unique as well as the important role bats play in supporting a healthy ecosystem. This story is for readers of almost any age especially between the ages of 6 and 106. *A Boy Called Bat* is located downstairs in the library. Do not let the "J" (Juvenile) category discourage you from reading this sweet story.

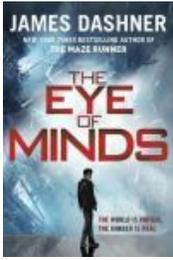
Sarah



***How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression, and Transcendence* by Michael Pollan**

A gripping exploration of the history of psychedelics and their potential for use in navigating existential crises faced at the end of life. Michael Pollan takes us on a deep dive into the usage of psychedelics in controlled medical and therapeutic settings, and in cultural uses. He takes the reader with him on trips, both literal and psychological, and successfully illustrates instances where psychedelics have provided a deep sense of well-being in patients facing death and extreme mental health crises. This is a book that will encourage you to open your own mind and exploring historical and contemporary uses of psychedelics and their potential for compassionate end of life and mental health care.

Calista



***The Eye of Minds* by James Dashner**

Virt-Net gaming is all the rage. It offers a total mind and body experience. With enough money, anyone can travel to other galaxies, risk their lives without any real consequences, or just make virtual friends. Michael is a gamer that spends most of his time in the Virt-Net. Michael is also a hacker of which the government is aware. They need Michael's help to catch a hacker that has gone beyond all bounds of rule breaking. There are rumors of hostages being stuck inside the Virt-Net, being tortured and even "Killed" (Being declared brain dead in the real world.) It is a dangerous and deadly game for anyone to play. Can Michael discover who this gamer is and put a stop to his colossal destruction?

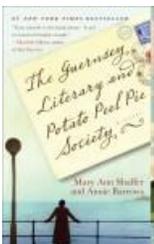
Amelia



***The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky**

With the New Year's ball starting to roll, high expectations of change are rolling along with it. Teenagers, the ones who are most involved in this so called "change," are realizing that with their generation's decade ending, it's time to start growing up. What can help them better themselves than a coming of age book? *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is the perfect book made just for those instances of growing up and starting to deal with responsibilities. Charlie Kelmeckis is dealing with that same problem of maturing having just started freshman year of the famous, life changing experience called "High School." Having to deal with PTSD because of his Aunt Helen and best friend Harry's earlier death, Charlie is still going into high school with his head up. Continuing to be faced with the challenge of eating alone at lunch, not being able to talk to anyone in his classes, and having nothing to do on his Friday nights (except sit at home and listen to endless recordings of *Asleep* by The Smiths.) That was his day-to-day routine until he meets, his later on, life-changing best friends and first love, Sam and Patrick. With his new friends trying to help him deal with people socially and help him with knowing how to handle some of the problems he is going through, Charlie begins to uncover more and more about what happened to him in the past. Figuring out his life and slowly, but surely figuring out what happened to his Aunt Helen, this heart-warming, yet deeply captivating book, dives deeper into what some people's lives are like and will make you realize what life can truly be.

Kelly



***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows**

Set in 1946 – post WWII. After finding writer Juliet Ashton's name and address inside a favorite book a farmer from the isle of Guernsey (off the coast of England) sends a letter requesting the name and address of a bookshop in London so that he may order additional books written by the author, Charles Lamb. In Dawsey's letter he also tells her of life during the German occupation of his little island off the coast of England during the war; the hardships, the heartbreaks and the triumphs of the Guernsey

Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. Juliet responds by sending him a book by Charles Lamb and thus begins their correspondence culminating in her visiting the island, intending on meeting Dawsey and the other members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society and delving more into their story. Well, she gets more than she bargains for and quite the story in the process with a few surprises in the mix. As an avid history buff and lover of all things British this book was a double delight. I also enjoyed reading this book because it is written in the epistolary (correspondence/letter writing) style.