

A NOVEL IDEA: VIRTUAL BOOK DISCUSSIONS

FEBRUARY 2021

The books are real; the discussion is virtual. Place a hold and pick up the selection at your local branch. Limited eBook availability: <https://monmouth.overdrive.com> Sessions will be conducted on Webex and are free of charge. Registration and internet access are required to attend. Register on the Library website's **Upcoming Events list** to receive emailed information on how to access the discussion. The link will be emailed the day before the program between 3:00 and 4:00 pm, after registration closes at noon.

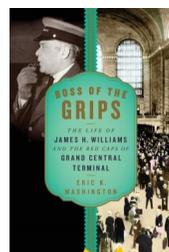


Wednesday, February 3 at 10:30 am

The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See

A story of female friendship and family secrets set on a small Korean island. *The Island of Sea Women* begins during a period of Japanese colonialism in the 1930s and 40s, followed by World War II, the Korean War and its aftermath, through the era of cell phones and wet suits for women divers. Throughout this time, the residents of Jeju find themselves caught between warring empires in this beautiful, thoughtful novel that illuminates a world turned upside down, one where the women are in charge, engaging in dangerous physical work.

Moderated by Beth Miller, Eastern Branch

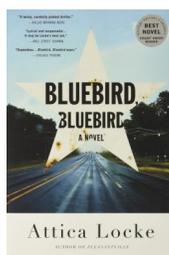


Wednesday, February 10 at 10:30 am – VIRTUAL HISTORY BOOK DISCUSSION: WHO TELLS YOUR STORY? IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH AUTHOR ERIC K. WASHINGTON

Boss of Grips: The Life of James H. Williams and the Red Caps of Grand Central Terminal

Meet author Eric K. Washington, as he discusses his book, *Boss of Grips*, a feat of remarkable research and timely reclamation, in which he uncovers the nearly forgotten life of James H. Williams, the chief porter of Grand Central Terminal's Red Caps—a multitude of Harlem-based black men whom he organized into the essential labor force of America's most august railroad station. Examining the deeply intertwined subjects of class, labor, and African American history, Washington chronicles Williams's life, showing how the enterprising son of freed slaves successfully navigated the segregated world of the northern metropolis, and in so doing ultimately achieved financial and social influence.

Moderated by Robyn Miller, Library HQ

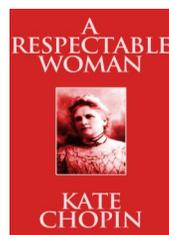


Thursday, February 18 at 10:30 am – MURDER, THEY WROTE VIRTUAL MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION

Bluebird, Bluebird: A Novel by Attica Locke

Darren Matthews, Texas Ranger, heads to the East Texas town of Lark to investigate two murders—a black lawyer from Chicago and a local white woman. He has to solve the crimes before Lark's long-simmering racial fault lines erupt. Winner of the 2018 Edgar Award.

Moderated by Jeanmarie Kantor, Library HQ



Thursday, February 25 at 10:30 am – VIRTUAL SHORT STORY DISCUSSION

“A Respectable Woman” by Kate Chopin

The wife of a wealthy plantation owner is torn between her secret yearnings and her need to preserve her reputation. The story will be emailed after registration.

Moderated by Mary Patterson, Hazlet Branch



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