

Book Review The Lincoln Highway  
Meet and Eat Book Club  
Debbie Gregory-Dailey  
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The Lincoln Highway  
by Amor Towles

Born and raised in the Boston area, Amor Towles graduated from Yale and received an Masters of Arts degree in English from Stanford University. He had always wanted to be a writer, but took a detour working as an investment professional for over twenty years. His first novel, *Rules of Civility* (2011), was a New York Times bestseller. His second novel, *A Gentleman in Moscow*, was ranked as one of the best books of 2016. Both novels have been translated in over fifteen languages. His latest novel, published in 2021, is *The Lincoln Highway*.

In *The Lincoln Highway*, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska in June 1954 by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. With his mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can begin new lives. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm had hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, the two young men have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction—to New York City. Spanning ten days and told from several points of view, Towles's third novel provides an array of new and richly imagined settings, characters, and themes.

The Lincoln Highway refers to the nation's first transcontinental highway that goes from Times Square to San Francisco. This novel is an adventure story first and foremost. I loved the tone and atmosphere which made it easy for me to look forward to what would happen next. I also liked the author's development and backstories of his four main characters. I did not love this book as much as I loved *A Gentleman in Moscow*, but as one reviewer stated, "there's plenty of discovery, adventure, and fun hijinks" if you decide to read *The Lincoln Highway*.