

*The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

This book looks a bit thick, but it kept me turning pages so fast that I didn't notice the length at all. I enjoyed Towles' novel *A Gentleman in Moscow* very much, and this was very enjoyable too. Very well-written, the novel skips among the viewpoints of three young men, each having recently left a juvenile work farm. One had served his time; the other two stowed away in the trunk of the warden's car.

Emmett wants to take his eight-year-old brother Billy and head to California for a fresh start. His friends Duchess and Wooley have other ideas; they wish to head to New York City, and Emmett finds himself driving them there in spite of himself. Their adventures and misadventures are funny, sometimes outrageous, and also sometimes poignant. I was reminded of Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* – if Tom and Huck could drive, if the setting was the 1950's, and if the conniving Duke and Dauphin came along for the ride.

I also enjoyed the chapters told by Sally and the role of Billy, whose love of in-depth information comes in surprisingly handy. Towles does such a good job of keeping the reader entertained while commenting on some rather serious sides of life. The characters are definitely not predictable, and remind us that every person has a nuanced story.