

Spring has sprung! Well, kinda. Today's date is after the vernal equinox and we've experienced a few days with 60+ degree weather, but those days are also wet and rainy. So, maybe the season is here. Maybe. I won't say it's official until I know the threat of snow has abided.

Nevertheless, it's time for everyone's favorite activity: spring cleaning! Spring cleaning is different for everyone. Some people exorcise their closets of clothing they no longer wear. Some shift furniture to vacuum the dust and loose change that has accumulated. Others rid themselves of clutter by going through paperwork, throwing out owner's manuals of appliances they no longer have, combing through the classic "junk drawer" where they combine items they think they'll use (but never do) with items they can't live without, or finally making the decision to get rid of materials they enthusiastically bought when they thought they'd get into underwater basket weaving.

Save for the few of us who love organizing, we can agree that the task of roaming around the house doing chores is boring. I would rather be reading a book or watching a movie, but sadly these are both traditionally stationary activities. However, there is good news! An antidote to spring cleaning boredom exists, and it is located on the shelves of the Kirkland Town Library.

Audiobooks have been around a long time. In elementary school, my teacher brought out the CD player and enthralled us with the recorded version of Gary Paulsen's *Hatchet* as we followed along in the book. For me, this was a dream come true long after the age of bedtime stories when my mom decided it was time for me to read on my own.

In 9th grade we listened to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* read dryly from a cassette tape in English, and during biology class we heard our textbook read even more dryly at the end of the school year. Never understood the reason for that one - who reads a textbook cover to cover? - but it was definitely better than reading it on my own.

My most recent audiobook was Frank Herbert's *Dune*, listened to during a road trip through the midwest. The narrator vividly describing the mountainous and sandy landscape of Arrakis made driving through the Badlands in South Dakota even more magical. *Dune* was a book I always wanted to read, but could never get motivated to make it past Herbert's extremely dense imagery, lengthy chapters, and long passages of exposition to introduce the world of the novel. Somehow, listening to it made it more bearable and I was able to stay awake while driving through the flattest part of North Dakota. If you're familiar with the flatness of North Dakota, then you also know how essential an audiobook can be to make it through a mundane task like spring cleaning.

With hundreds of books on tape located at the KTL, and thousands more available digitally in the Mid York Library's catalog, it would be difficult not to find something to help get you through purging your closets. For royal escapism, you could listen to Prince Harry narrate his own biography, *Spare*. If you like John Grisham and his engrossing courtroom dramas, you can listen to his new collection of novellas entitled *Sparring Partners*. Can't get enough of the gang in Scranton, PA? Listen to Jenna Fischer and Angela Kinsey discuss their bond during and after

the making of *The Office* with *The Office BFFs*, available as a downloadable audiobook from Overdrive. There are titles that get kids motivated to read, like *Judy Moody Gets Famous* and the Percy Jackson series, and classic novels narrated by famous actors, such as Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* narrated by Claire Danes. If you want, you could probably even listen to a book about decluttering for more motivation.

I know that many of you are purists who want to feel pages in your hands, and I understand that. For the most part, I am too! However, accomplishing a set of boring tasks is much more manageable while listening to a book. Keep your hands busy and your ears full with a new audiobook from the KTL!