



Season 5, Episode 20: Going Off the Deep End + Book Tracking Extravaganza

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 • 1:01:35

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:10

Hey readers. Welcome to the Currently Reading Podcast. We are bookish best friends who spend time every week talking about the books that we've read recently and as you know, we won't shy away from having strong opinions. So get ready.

Kaytee Cobb 00:23

We are light on the chitchat, heavy on the book talk, and our descriptions will always be spoiler free. Today we'll discuss our current reads, a bookish deep dive, and then we'll visit the fountain.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:33

I'm Meredith Monday Schwartz, a mom of four and full time CEO living in Austin, Texas, and Kaytee, sometimes I still can't believe people listen to us every week.

Kaytee Cobb 00:43

I'm Kaytee Cobb, a homeschooling mom of four living in New Mexico, and being with fellow bookstore lovers brings me so much joy. This is episode number 20 of season five, and we are so glad you're here. Meredith, I have a lot of questions.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:57

Okay, well, I've got a lot of answers I've got, I'm excited to go. I've got millions of answers for you.

Kaytee Cobb 01:02

So many answers. Okay. First, I'm gonna let everybody know right here at the top that our deep dive today is about book tracking. Why should you do it? How should you do it? Should you do it at all, and what's the best way to do it. And first, today, we want to let you know that this is our last episode of 2022. We are off for our Christmas break on December 19, and the 26th. We will return to your earbuds on January 2 with our best books of 2022 episode. We cannot wait of course, because that's one of our favorites and most downloaded episode of every year. That's our mischief.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:38

I will be waiting all the way until like January 1 to make my list. And we're going to have to have a fast turnaround because I want all of December to be able to possibly have another book for the top 10.

Kaytee Cobb 01:51

Yes, all the goodness, we got to squeeze it in for sure. All right, but first, we're gonna get started the way we always do, which is with our bookish moments of the week, Meredith, what is yours?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 02:01

My bookish moment of the week is the moment in the middle of this week, Kaytee, where you and I looked at our stats on Libsyn and realized that we had crested the 3 million download number. And two things amaze me. First and foremost, amazing. It is constantly nothing short of shock to me that people regularly tune into our show. And also how quickly we went from 2 million to 3 million. It was so much faster than we expected. So all of that is just to say not that we're so great, but that we so appreciate the fact that you guys take the time in your busy weeks to have us in your earbuds all the time. It it literally blows my mind.

Kaytee Cobb 02:44

It does. It blows our minds that we have that many listeners, that many Patreon supporters, that many people leaving, like nice reviews for us. It's astonishing, especially when we look back four and a half years and we say we just want 10 people, we just wanted 10 listeners. And that I mean, we have a lot more than 10. And we're very grateful for you.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 03:05

Exactly. It's so amazing. All right, what's your bookish moment of the week?

Kaytee Cobb 03:09

Okay, my bookish moment this week was Small Business Saturday at my favorite local bookstore. So at Garcia Street Books, they call it Customer Appreciation Day. It's not Small Business Saturday there. They give a discount to every customer. You draw out of a bucket. So it's a mystery discount somewhere between 10 and 25% off of your entire order. And you don't know until you get up to the register.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 03:32

Okay, so you don't get to draw your your thing and then find out and shop based on your discount. Okay.

Kaytee Cobb 03:39

Luckily, yeah, that's nice. Yes. And at the end of the day, you take your little discount slip and you put your name and phone number on the end and one lucky customer wins \$100 gift card. I did not win the \$100 gift card again this year. But I still love going and I love being there on Small Business Saturday, when it's just chock full of people who took time out of their Thanksgiving weekend to toggle over to the bookstore and get some biscochitos and spiced apple cider which they give out for free on Customer Appreciation Day. So everybody is like having a nice little snack and a drink and walking around and enjoying books and looking for books. And I'm pretending I'm a bookseller and I'm trying to point people towards really great books. And then we all get to have our discount revealed at the register. It's just a delight. And it makes me so happy that there are local bookstores that are very much appreciated on that Small Business Saturday. It's a holiday.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 04:34

That is so much fun. I love that I love that we support independent bookstores, on their own special day of the year and on Small Business Saturday. I think that is so much fun.

Kaytee Cobb 04:45

So much fun. I loved it so much and I was just like surrounded by happy people family ish and friend ish bookish bookstore lovers. So it was great.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 04:56

Wait, how many books did you buy?

Kaytee Cobb 04:57

Maybe like five... maybe seven. I don't... it was a lot. It was a lot, I got 10% off it was I got the minimum discount, and I bought the most books.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 05:07

You know how I gauge when I need to stop shopping at Fabled? It's when, because people are always asking you when. Because they, you know, they're really great at customer service that people will be like, "Can I take those and put them up in the front for you?" But now they know, you know, and I see them coming. And I'm like, "No, no, no, I'm gonna carry my books. Because when I can carry them no more, I am done." But if you keep grabbing them...

Kaytee Cobb 05:32

Stacks up to your chin, right?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 05:35

Oh, yeah. And I'm strong. I'm may be old, but I'm strong

Kaytee Cobb 05:39

We weight lift for a reason. Right. So you can carry more books at the bookstore, exactly. It's a problem. Okay, let's get into what we've been reading from those stacks, which probably we weren't reading from those stacks. We were reading from other stacks. Meredith, what are your current reads this week?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 05:54

All right. Well, Kaytee, I have to say I am so proud of my holiday reading this year. Because, you know, I've talked about this before. I feel like sometimes I really get my seasonal reading wrong, as it has to do with the podcast because I'll be like, "Well, I read it too late to bring it in". And well, this year. I timed it more right. So last week, I brought Jenny Colgan's The Christmas Bookshop, which is a great little light fluffy Christmas read and this week, I listened to a new Christmas favorite. It's Hercule Poirot's Christmas by Agatha Christie. This was so much fun. All right, here's the setup. On Christmas Eve at Gordon Hall, the Lee family is gathered together. Not altogether happily, though. But when the old man calls, you come running, especially when you're relying on him to help pay your bills. But soon the melancholy festivities are shattered by a crash of furniture and a haunting, wailing scream. Upstairs in a

totally locked bedroom, the patriarch Simeon Lee lies dead in a pool of blood, his throat slashed. Our favorite Hercule Poirot offers to help but he soon realizes that there's not a lot of love lost in this family. But there is a heaping mountain of suspicion. It seems that everyone and I mean, everyone, had a really good reason to despise old Simeon Lee, but only one followed through with his or her murderous impulse. Oh my gosh, this was so much fun. Of course, I listened to it because you guys know that that's what I do with my Agatha Christie, right? And this was Hugh Fraser. So it was absolutely perfect. This was a book that was published in 1938. And you've got all the requisite Agatha ingredients that we know we have to have. We have the Manor House, the cast of faintly nasty, rich people, we have the murderer, but this one doubles down on a few things that made it especially enjoyable. The patriarch of the family Semion Lee is such a memorably villainous character. He's old and he's sick, and he's frail and shriveled. And yet his mind is as sharp as ever. For some reason that combination freaked me out. Like he was really like sharp as a tack right? And the only joy that he had in his life remaining, was screwing with his family in the meanest most horrible ways. He sees the weakness in every single family member and just stomps on that as hard as he can. If he wasn't so delicious in his evil devilry, it would have been seriously upsetting. But as it is, I kept laughing. He was so terrible Kaytee. He was kind of like if Rumpelstiltskin had come to life. And he was like a shriveled old man. He was like, I think he gets called something like a mischievous demon. I think somebody calls him that in the actual book. And that's a really good description. The family dynamics here are also really interesting. You, you know that you often find dysfunctional families that play in Agatha Christie's work, but this one went deeper, much deeper into the relationships. The characters, even in this very short novel, were really well developed and I loved seeing how they played off of each other, as they were all pulled through the drama of this Christmas holiday and the murder was especially bloody. You don't often see that in Agatha Christie. She goes in for very British poisonings or murder with tiny tiny guns. But in this case, just throat slash blood everywhere, gruesome, gruesome, and the solution was pure Agatha genius. It was perfectly solvable and yet completely impossible to figure out. I was grinning from ear to ear as Hercule walked us through the solution.

Kaytee Cobb 09:58

It feels like Knives Out Christmas.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 10:01

Yes, this one actually does have quite a Knives Out vibe to it for sure. I wanted to be sure to bring this novel today, obviously, it's our last show before the holidays, and because so many people reach out to me regularly saying that they want to read Agatha, and I am here to say that this one would be a great place to start. It's a lovely introduction to her work, and to Hercule who is I think her greatest detective. This one, I will say I used my Agatha Christie strategy on which I've talked about before I listened to the first two chapters, which are short, two times. That helps me to get my head around the characters. She introduces a lot of characters really quickly, and we sort of just jumped into the room with them without a lot of explanation or context. Listening to the first couple chapters twice is always helpful, but it was especially helpful here. I will say that I listened, I only listened to my audio at 1.2 speed and I got through this in less than four hours. So it's completely possible to just spend a little bit of time to find out if her work would be a good fit for you. I just love this one. It's Hercule Poirot's Christmas by Agatha Christie.

Kaytee Cobb 11:15

That sounds perfect for the season, especially for the people that are not wanting fluff and romance and like small town bookshop vibes.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 11:26

And also the other thing that I want to say is, I have I've been having... just to be a little bit personal, I have been having to step a little bit lightly through some of the Christmasy stuff in this early part of the season. Because it's been hitting me in a little bit of a sad way. Because some family stuff, some family memories and those kinds of things. This book was good, because it didn't it wasn't heavy on the Christmas, I could feel like I was in the holiday but it wasn't heavy on the Christmas elements of things. Sometimes my brain needs a little safe space from anything that might make me feel emotional. And this one kind of was just the right fit there. Kind of a weird thing to say about a book. But that was true for me here and I just wonder if that might appeal to someone else.

Kaytee Cobb 12:09

Yeah, that makes sense to me. I've been a little grinchy about Christmas this year too. So I have to step in to some Agatha. Okay, my first book this week is Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask by Anton Treuer. This was a November slow but steady for me and I read it with bookish friend Candace. We picked up the young readers edition of this book last year during Customer Appreciation Day but didn't want to read it until this year because it's Indigenous Peoples Month and Nonfiction November here in the US. So Anton Treuer is an author and a professor from the Ojibwe nation in Minnesota. He's also the brother of David Treuer, who wrote The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee, which is super well known across the nonfiction world. And I also read that in November. I did not know they were brothers until I was about a third of the way through and I was like, Oh, weird that they would have the same last name and also both be incredible authors. Right?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 13:08

Very interesting.

Kaytee Cobb 13:09

Yeah, it was a Treuer heavy month. This one is formatted like a series of questions and the answers divided by topics since it's written for young readers, which I would consider YA rather than like middle grade young readers. I would not hand this to my 9, 10, 11, 12 year old but 14, and up probably could handle it. It's easy to get into and read just a little chunk at a time. He did design this one to be dipped in and out of. So every once awhile, it feels a little repetitive. So the idea being that you could go look up a question in the index, and then just go read about that. But that means if you're reading straight through, sometimes you hear the same thing over and over again, because he already dealt with that in another question. He also answers questions that feel a little obvious. But they're ones that he's legitimately been asked, like, "Why are all Indians alcoholics?" And you read questions like that and you're like, "Did you punch the person when they asked you?" like, it's very frustrating to read, but it's stuff that people want to know And again, the title is, but were afraid to ask right? So some people were not afraid to ask and he wants to make sure that if you are afraid to ask, he's dealt with that question. The text has black and white photos printed throughout, many of which come from his personal photo albums and include his very large family and relatives. And when I say very large, I mean he has nine

children. I mean, like it's a large family, and they're all different colors and shapes and sizes. And he likes to talk about each child individually and it's very enriching to hear about so many different experiences along with his extended family, and other people of the Ojibwe nation. And then he also comes to other parts of the country. So I got to read about my personal stomping grounds Arizona, where I grew up... New Mexico, where I live now. It felt very applicable and personal to my life. Between the history and politics sections, I got a really good feel in digestible, bite sized increments of past and current issues that face Native American nations today. I also got a better feel for the shape of social issues and education, and cultural touchpoints like going to powwows and Indian frybread, and where do all those fit in the zeitgeist. It was really great to again have someone to discuss this one with all the way through. Candice and I sent messages regularly to each other. She lives in Minnesota where Treuer lives, where the Ojibwe nation is, and I go there pretty regularly. And then I was able to bring that New Mexico feel from the southwest. So every time he referenced New Mexico, I felt like teacher's pet like, "Oh look. Now he's talking about me." Not talking about me, he's talking about this area. This book overall inspired me to not only be more aware of and connected to the Native people around me, but also to be sure that my kids are connected and aware. It has changed our conversations around the Thanksgiving table, as has happened over the past few years. And my kids will not grow up with the glorified version of Thanksgiving that we all learned in kindergarten, where it's like, Yay, pilgrims, yay, Indians, we all love each other. But they will grow up giving thanks and being aware of and acknowledging the Native nations that still live around us today. Books like this make me aware and make that possible. So this was Everything You Want to Know About Indians, but Were Afraid to Ask by Anton Treuer.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 13:35

So just to be clear, the version that you read was the young adult version?

Kaytee Cobb 16:24

Yes. And that was an easy way to read. And I think probably the adult version does not have as many pictures in it. And I do think that really added to the experience.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 16:34

Okay, good to know. All right. My next book is very, very different. But you know, different flavors for different people. There are, did you know, people who want to read about serial killers smack in the middle of December, and I'm here for those people. This is my, this is my legacy that I'm leaving.

Kaytee Cobb 16:53

Maybe you have a difficult family situation, and you need to read about serial killers. These things might go hand in hand.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 17:00

and it would be better... you would rather live in the world of serial killers. Exactly. So I read The Butcher by Jennifer Hillier. Here's the setup. A whole passel of grisly murders has taken place in Seattle until the infamous Beacon Hill Butcher was finally hunted down and killed by police chief Edward Shank in 1985. Now some 30 years later, Edward Shank is retired and widowed, and is giving up his large rambling Victorian house to his grandson, Matt. Shank and his wife raised Matt, so this is the logical

next step for their family. So Matt is settling back into his childhood home and doing some renovations in the backyard to make his house feel like his own when he stumbles upon a locked crate. Doing what any of us would do, certainly what I, this us would do, he picks the padlock and makes a discovery so gruesome, that it will forever haunt him. Faced with this deep dark family something, Matt must decide whether he's going to keep what he knows buried in the past, or go to the police, or take matters into his own hands. All right, there's a lot more to the plot here. But that's as much as I can give you without ruining some of the really fun stuff that's there for you. Okay, so I'm going to stop there. This is my second novel by Jennifer Hillier, and I wouldn't say that she's auto buy for me. But I'm finding that she is a great slump buster for me, especially on audio. So there were multiple things that I liked about this book. It absolutely sucks you in from the start. I mean, it's that kind of book, you are five minutes in and you're like, oh, great, I now I just have to sit here and do this all day. It's paced really well. And it keeps feeding you just enough to keep things very, very interesting. It's well plotted and closed all the really many loops that there were to close. It was kind of a feat and like she really lands to the plane. The story was just plain interesting, as we try to figure out who we can trust, which is not to say that this is an unreliable narrator story, it is not and you guys know, I don't really prefer an unreliable narrator. So I wanted to make that distinction here. The main character is someone you know, you can believe from the beginning. But some of the ancillary characters, I found myself guessing about, there were a few things that I didn't love. Especially in the beginning, y'all there are some parts of the plot of this book that were so hard to swallow, that I was actually laughing out loud on my walks. But it should be said that some of those elements that were laughably unbelievable at the beginning, do actually start to make a lot more sense as you get into the back half of the book. So I'll just say that but at the beginning, oh my lord, the narration was fine, but it did erode. See this is back to my this is back to my thing, right? That it's the what's the women that everybody loves? And she writes all the books and she's

Kaytee Cobb 20:01

Bahni Turpn.?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 20:02

No. She's fantastic.

Kaytee Cobb 20:04

Julia Whelan.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 20:05

Yeah, you know, just she, you know, her male voices this woman does this guy does female voices. And he sounds, all of the female voices sounded like children. And it really, really, really bugged me. So there's no question that this is not a perfect book. It is not great literature. It is not even what I would call perfect crime fiction. But it is a riveting story told well, that is a super fast listen on audio. Again, if people are saying I need something because I'm taking a long ride to grandma's house. If it's just you, I mean, don't let your kids listen to this book. Okay, this is not a family... Yeah. Well, I just want to be sure I just want a bright line that I'm not saying this is a family listen, but like if it's just you, yeah. And you're like, I do not feel like going to Christmas with this group of people. But I'm going to drive there because I'm a good granddaughter, listen to this book on your way there. It will take your mind off of your

problems. So I finished almost an entire puzzle listening to this book, because I just couldn't stop. It was really really it was great for that. This is The Butcher by Jennifer Hillier.

Kaytee Cobb 21:14

Sounds terrifying. I love butchers. I wonder if she'll do a series. We have the baker and the candlestick maker next.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 21:22

Oh, Kaytee. Oh, that's such a good idea for a serial killer series. Oh, what would the baker be like? Oh and the candlestick...

Kaytee Cobb 21:35

Like Sweeney Todd? And the candlestick maker melts down that people and turns them into wax. So he makes candles...

Meredith Monday Schwartz 21:43

Or covers like entombs them in wax. So you can sort of see them. Yes. Yeah. That's a great idea.

Kaytee Cobb 21:51

Like a wax skull. Like just Oh, yeah. They're going to have us committed.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 21:56

That's the guy you gotta watch out for.

Kaytee Cobb 22:00

Okay. All right. I've got some fluff. Y'all ready for some fluff now?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 22:04

Oh, wait, wait. What if the candlestick maker is in fact a woman? And she has like this super popular like Instagram, bajillionaire candle company. But down in her basement where she keeps her secret fragrances? Yeah, she's ensconced her like competitors in wax. Oh, this is a great idea.

Kaytee Cobb 22:28

She gives those candles special names that only she realizes aren't like creepy tributes to who contributed? Yes.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 22:37

Oh, I love it. Maybe Oprah has it is one of her favorite things. And we're like, "No. Jenny's in there. Yuck." Oh, that's a good idea. I'm liking... let's quit the podcast and write this series.

Kaytee Cobb 22:52

Okay, we're writing. We're authors now, guys. Sorry. Be right back. Okay, I have fluff. I have fluff. Y'all ready for fluff? Good. My second book this week is A Lady for a Duke by Alexis Hall. This book is fun behind the scenes tidbit we just recorded our end of the year Indie Press List roundup. This was one of

the titles that Bookmarks in North Carolina suggested for the November Indie Press List. And then we ended up going with another title, which you'll have to listen to the November Indie Press List to hear about that one. But this title made it high onto my TBR anyway, so I dove in. Thanks to libro.FM for making sure that I had an audio copy of it just waiting for me when I got excited to read it. So this book completely captured my romance loving heart. Alexis Hall has given us a fantastic trans heroine in a historical romance at a time when we typically don't see a trans anyone in these stories. Our heroine is named Viola. And she fought side by side with her childhood best friend, the Duke of Gracewood at Waterloo, presenting as a man because men fought in Waterloo. When she was gravely injured and presumed dead, she took the opportunity to finally live as herself. Years after the war, she is suddenly in a situation to reconnect with the Duke whose name is Justin. And she sees what losing his forever bestie has done to him. He is grieving because he feels like he buried his best friend on the battlefield. Of course, Viola knows that eventually she has to tell him the truth. He has retreated into grief. He's barely recognizable as the man she knew and she is no longer recognizable as the man he knew. Right? They're both completely unrecognizable. And it doesn't help that seeing each other in this new light, they start to develop feelings for each other pretty quickly. Viola has to eventually tell them the truth. And that is the crux of this romance. Alexis Hall is a pen name. He's the author of Boyfriend Material, which show regular Mary Heim and I both loved when it released in 2020. That one was contemporary and delightful and mostly closed door when this one came across my desk with a quintessential romance cover, gorgeous yellow dress, gorgeous blues in the background. I'm like obsessed with this cover. I love it. I knew I would be excited to get into it. And was I ever. Most of our listeners know that my sister is trans. And I'm constantly searching for more trans rep on the page, I did not expect to find it in a story of joy, and romance and love. Because a lot of times when I find a trans protagonist, it is a hard story. These are hard stories, right? We have heartbreak, and sometimes abuse or death or murder. Like it's, it's hard to find a joyful story about trans representation. In this case, we have a beautiful and sure of herself woman who is fully drawn and interesting the whole way through. We have a hero who feels genuine and true both in grief and in love and then losing his best friend and finding her again, in a new body. This novel ticked so many boxes for me. I did really love it from beginning to end and listened to it while working on my bathroom renovation. All that being said it is long. It is 460 pages, that is historical romance. Yes, even on audio, it's 15 and a half hours. Well, this could have easily been cut down by 50 to 75 pages, and we all would have been better for it. I can even picture like the chunk that I would have taken out about the sister and the coming out ball and et cetera, et cetera. Like, we just didn't need it. And it slowed down the action quite a bit. It also rates at about a three on my personal spicy scale, meaning things happen in the bedroom and we know things are happening, but the way it's written doesn't involve body parts and fluids. It's more foggy and hazy than that. That doesn't stop me from saying that this romance has skyrocketed to the top of my favorites list. And I'm super grateful to Bookmarks in North Carolina for putting it on my radar and to libro.FM for making sure that I had that ALC so I could binge it right away when I was ready. It was an excellent historical romance novel and I loved it. It's A Lady for a Duke by Alexis Hall.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 27:06

Yeah, that one looks like it was going to be a really, really good time. Well, I have some historical fiction ish to talk about. All right. Yes, I want to talk about a book that I loved, loved, loved, loved, called Rizzio by Denise Mina. Here's the setup. This book Rizzio is a fictional take on one of the darkest and most famous episodes in Scottish history. The bloody assassination of David Rizzio, the private secretary to

Mary Queen of Scots, on the evening of March 9 1566, Poor Mr. Rizzio was killed right there in the Queen's chambers. He was stabbed 56 times by a group of assassins working for wait for it, Mary, Queen of Scots' husband, and the husband wants to be sure that the wife is there to watch all that happens. This book puts us right in the room for the events leading up to the murder. And then right after as Mary processes all that happens, and plots her next move. You know, you do not want to mess with Mary Queen of Scots. I mean, she is a fantastic character. All right. Denise Mina, if that name sounds at all familiar to you is the author of one of my favorite pieces of crime fiction called Conviction. It couldn't be any more different than the book that I'm talking about today. I was browsing through Blackwell's in the UK. I wasn't browsing in the UK. I was browsing through the website for Blackwell's UK and I ran across this book. And just I was like "What? Denise Mina writes historical fiction? Add to cart immediately". So this book is a slim 128 pages. It's only two and a half hours regular speed on audio. It's really of course more of a novella than anything. But more than anything, this is like a little tiny slice of something that I often feel like I'm in the mood for. It's a little slice of palace intrigue. It's an intensely boiled down look at politics of the royal palace in the 1500s. It's all of the brutality and the manners and the Lords and the ladies and the betrayals that I love about this period of time. And of course, I have to talk about the quality of the writing in this book. As I was reading it I kept flipping back to the cover and asking myself was this written by Lauren Groff? The writing was so sharp, so succinct, and beautifully brutal. It was in turn funny and violent. And it was more than anything incredibly intuitive. Denise Mina looked straight into the heart and the motivations and the fears of the people involved in this scene in Scottish history. It was incredibly fascinating. I found myself looking things up online over and over again to see exactly how this roughly two day period of time played into the rest of the life of Mary, Queen of Scots. I think overall, what I was left with was the feeling that I had finally gotten what I keep looking for when I want to read Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel, but I can't seem to get into Wolf Hall. This book seemed to get me where I wanted to be. And I loved it for that ratio, which is actually very little about its titular character was an incredibly satisfying dip into this part of history. I feel like I had stuck my head between two curtains and that period of time came completely to life in front of me. But I didn't stay there long. And I didn't have to. It was just that perfect kind of novella. This is Rizzio by Denise Mina.

Kaytee Cobb 30:59

That sounds very good. And I like that even your like historical fiction is like, and then he was stabbed 56 times.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 31:07

Yes, yes. Well, there has to be something interesting happening, right? Of course. Oh, man, it was really, really good. It was very good. And it very much is in line with what the historical documents tell us was happening. So if you like that, and a lot of people messaged me saying that they had actually been in that room when they went to Scotland and took a tour of the castle. They had been in the room where it happened. Oh, that sounds so great.

Kaytee Cobb 31:34

Are there bloodstains on the floor?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 31:36

No? I don't think it's that good. But, yeah.

Kaytee Cobb 31:41

Okay, I had also one more book that I wanted to squeak in before our Christmas break. It's one that I just finished recently. It's *An Immense World* by Ed Yong. And I wanted to bring it to the show right away, because I can think of approximately 12 billion people that this would be a perfect gift for. And so I was like, you know, on December 12, if people are still looking for a gift, this is it. This is a perfect option. I'm excited to say it's also my third five star read of this episode. So this book, from beginning to end, even when it felt like my brain was not smart enough to handle it completely astounded me. It was so good. Ed Yong is already a New York Times bestseller for his book, *I Contain Multitudes*, which is about the bacteria and microbes that make our bodies and our world their home. I haven't read that one yet. But now it's on my TBR. This one is more outward facing. So that one's very internal. In *An Immense World* we discover the word *umwelten*, which is the sensory experience that makes up the way that we experience the world. And then we get to explore the senses that make up the *umwelten* of various animals. So this book is divided by chapters into senses. We explore the typical five senses that we think of that you and I think of when we say the word sense, like sight, touch, hearing, taste, etc. But then we go much deeper, and we get to learn about and understand the way that these senses differ from one species to another, for example, our sense of sight, which is how so many humans perceive the world is very different from the sight of birds, and the mantis shrimp, and dogs. And we are limited by how much we can understand of each of those animals worlds because of the way that we perceive our own right, like we can't really imagine what it's like to see an ultraviolet. We can't really imagine what it's like to have four cones in our eyes that that perceive color, because we have three. And that's how we look at the world. And we just don't know what it would be like to have a fourth one. We also get to learn about the senses that we don't get to experience for ourselves like what is it like to use echolocation? How about using magnetic fields to find your way home or find your prey? What's it like to have a brain that's not centrally located like our central nervous system is but extended out into your eight arms like an octopus, right? Like, I mean, there's just so many ways that other creatures experience the world that are hard for us to fathom. The entire experience of this book is enhanced by the photo inserts that allow us to see the tiny details that make the *umwelten* of these animals function in the way that they do. Whether it's the eyes of scallops, or what a dog sees when it only has two cones in its eye versus our three. Every chapter found me flipping back and forth between the color photos and the pages I was reading and also laughing out loud at Ed Yong's side commentary and his footnotes, which absolutely killed it and enhance the reading experience for me. His footnotes are hysterically funny. Wow. Just footnotes from him. He is hysterical. I read this one along with Katie Proctor. And we used the Fable app for just the two of us to read together. So Fable is supposed to be for like a big book club experience, but we're using it just for the two of us. That way we could send individual comments about jaw dropping moments. and send links for photos and videos that brought the facts we were reading to life. I also mentioned this one a few weeks ago when we talked about covers because this book requires the UK cover from Blackwell's and I realized I just said it's December 12...13 days until Christmas. Put in the order today if you want the Blackwell's cover because the US cover is garbage. And you need the Blackwell's cover in your life or for the perfect gift. The UK one makes actual hearts and rainbows come out of my eyeballs like they actually manifest in literally, in front of me.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 35:35

This was the one that you said people in the airport were after stopping because of the cover. Yeah, yeah.

Kaytee Cobb 35:41

Yeah, it's that gorgeous. And then after we recorded I sent you that video like so. So pretty. All that to say that if you are even a little bit interested in the world that we live in, and the animals that inhabit it with us, this book is a must read. It got five fantastical, immense stars. For me, it is An Immense World by Ed Yong.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 36:03

That one sounds so interesting. So interesting.

Kaytee Cobb 36:07

For so many people. It, like even if you're like, "I don't even want to leave my house. I just like my cat". This book is still gonna like have amazing things in it for you.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 36:16

It seems like they should also make like a docu series to go along with it too. Because you can see how there would be a lot that they could do. You know, in a video realm, that would be really great.

Kaytee Cobb 36:27

That would be amazing. I would watch like a 10 part miniseries on this for sure. So we're going to become authors and film producers. That's that's what we've decided in this episode.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 36:36

Right. Right. Exactly. We've got a lot of work to do.

Kaytee Cobb 36:41

There's a lot to do. Exactly. Okay, those were our six current reads. Now we get to get into our deep dive, which is about one of my favorite things. Book tracking.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 36:51

Yes, yes, we love to talk about book tracking, but I want to say right at the top of this, it is okay if you don't track your reading at all. It is completely okay. Skip through this deep dive, because we are not trying to convince you, if you are completely happy with the system that you have of just reading with reckless abandon, that is totally okay. But if you find yourself thinking, I love the end of the year conversations that people can have about their favorite books of the year but I can't participate because I don't even know what I read this year. Because I don't know, Kaytee, I, gun to my head, I probably would have a hard time telling you the last three books and authors that even I read, and I have to prepare things for the show. So just relying on our memory makes it really, really difficult. And also, you know, tracking your reading can be done very, very simply. Go get a paper bag and a crayon, and every time you read a book this year, write down the title of it. Literally, you're tracking your reading, if that's what you've done. And I'm not saying that disparagingly. I'm saying like, let's really boil it down to the

most simple way that it can be done. That is it right? And then if you like the benefits of knowing what you read, and maybe being able to recommend books to friends, because now you have a list of some things, are you then there's lots of ways that we can go from there. Right. And so we just want to make room for people who are like, but I don't want to check my books. That is totally okay.

Kaytee Cobb 38:28

It is. It is. I will also add, though, that we get numerous bookish friends, especially that are like, listen, "I just picked up a hold from the library, I was very excited to get it into it. I read 50 pages and realized I've already read this book". And if that is something that happens to you, maybe it would be good to start writing down. The books that you've read is that is that's all I'm saying. Right?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 38:53

Right. And for me the single biggest reason that I track my reading other than the fact that you and I are responsible for doing an interview or episode and it's helpful to have that yes, is because and this happens to a lot of readers... People ask us what they should read next. And my reading tracker, which I've had in a Google Sheet for a really long time. But then last year, I, you know, I upgraded to a much better system. And I'm so glad I did. We're gonna get to that. But it's been in a Google sheet or a spreadsheet for more than a decade and it gives me the ability to quickly find using some key words, books that I then can recommend really easily to my friends and family. And so over and over again that has been the real reason that I wanted to track my reading.

Kaytee Cobb 39:43

Yes, that has absolutely happened to me too. And again, even something like reading a book at the airport. I will then sit next to somebody on the plane who will say, "Well, what's the best book you've read lately?" or "What have you read lately that you would recommend to me?" Well, I don't I don't know you. Who are you? But I can go into my spreadsheet or at least my little note that I keep on my phone and say, oh, you know, last month I read this. And I think it would be a great book for you seeing what's on your Kindle right now, I think that might be a good option. And that gives me a point of connection with a stranger. That gives me a way to recommend a book that maybe they've never heard of before. It might give me an opportunity to diversify their reading in a way that they haven't considered before. Because it's easy to not do that, right. It's easy to just go to the airport bookstore and look at that top 10 shelf and say, "Well, I know James Patterson, there is might as well pick that one up", right? So having that long list of titles, and I also have about 10 years worth of records on Goodreads. And I have a spreadsheet going back to 2017. That is very useful for recommending books for connecting with others.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 40:51

So you can keep track of your books in a myriad different ways. If you love, if you have a bunch of notebooks, and you love colored pens, use this as an opportunity to use one of those notebooks Right? Like, there's kind of sometimes you just want let like thing that you can do with your hands. And it can be very, very simple. But Kaytee, for those of us who have graduated to or have found that keeping a digital log is really, really helpful. And then we started using the currently reading reading tracker that you have been putting out and I fall into this category, we put it out for a couple of years, but I already had, like I said already was using a Google Sheet. That was perfectly fine. It tracked what I needed to

track. But it didn't track, I was finding, there were some things that I was like, Oh, I wish I wish I had something a little fancier to just kind of like, do some figuring for me and you last year, came out with a version of the tracker that I started using, because one single light bulb went off in my head. I don't want to track every thing. And the track, the reading tracker that you put out gives you the ability to track everything so much, we're gonna go over some of those things. But we each all have different things that are important to us. And I probably only wanted to track maybe 20% of all the things that you, that real data geeks want to track, right. And I figured out that I could easily hide very simply without knowing a lot of you know, the ability to like work in sheets, I could hide the columns of everything that wasn't important to me. And I would then have only the things that I cared about tracking. And I would also have the charts and graphs and everything that you've created for us. So let us say in order to get the currently reading, reading tracker, which is available, now you have to be a currently reading bookish friend on Patreon. Which means that you pay us \$5 a month. Or guess what, you could just pay us \$5 for one month and get the reading tracker, and what the heck are we going to do about it? I mean, really, right. You can and it is worth the price of admission. Most people end up staying because there's also a whole lot of other content there and the bookish community that you can be a part of. But if you're asking yourself, well, how do I get a hold of this tracker that they're talking about? You go to patreon.com/currentlyreadingpodcast, and join us for \$5 a month, come January, you will then get the first episode of the Indie Press List. And you're never gonna cancel again. But go ahead and do it for the currently reading reading tracker.

Kaytee Cobb 43:39

and I will add that as of just recently, we now are on a month to month billing with Patreon. So if you join today, on the 12th of December, you won't be charged again until mid January. Which means you do get that first episode of the Indie Press List. You do get that first episode of All Things Murderful. You do get Trope Thursday for December like you get a full month worth of stuff, even if you only want to spend that five bucks.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 44:04

and we're okay with it. I mean, I'm totally okay if people are like, you know, the only thing that I really need it because I don't have time to listen to all that stuff. I really needed the the reading tracker. I'm totally fine with that.

Kaytee Cobb 44:17

Definitely. Absolutely. I'll also add, though, that we do have people throughout the year that break their tracker, want to add this thing, that thing the other, want some technical support in some way, And these are not onerous requests for me, and I do to current patrons provide tech support all year long. So if you need help copying that thing over from your 2022, tracker to your 2023 tracker. It's not a, it's not an extra thing. Current patrons they have that access, they know how to get a hold of me and I'm happy to help in that way. Or make it possible for them to do it themselves, which I think is also worth five bucks, is what I'm saying.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 44:58

Especially when you start relying on your reading tracker like you will, once you find out all that it can bring to you. So Kaytee, let's talk a little bit about the kind of base level things that are reading tracker helps you track. And then let's talk a little bit about the bells and whistles, because you've added, it's already awesome and you added some things that just made me squeal with glee this year.

Kaytee Cobb 45:19

Yes, So I feel like a basic reading tracker, which any of y'all could make in Google Sheets so that you can access it anywhere, that's the key about Google Sheets is that it's not on your computer at home, you can pull it up on your phone, and it has the exact same information on it that you already worked on your computer at home, that could only include the title, the author, and maybe the date read. And that would be enough, because maybe that's enough for your head, or maybe you add a Notes column, and it says, great for fantasy lovers or murderfull excellent. You know, like it has three words in it. That's also excellent. And that gives you the tools to be able to provide recommendations to others. Now, what makes it more robust - I've added recommendations columns, where you can divide it out by person that recommended it to you, and you get an average star rating for those recommenders. So you know who your book twins and who your anti book twins are, at the end of the year, who gave you the best, most solid recommendations of what you read in that past year. There's a nation of origin columns, if you're like Roxanna, and you're trying to read the entire world, maybe you want to keep track of where those authors are from or what settings you've read from. And then we'll make a map for you so you can see where you're really lacking and where you've read a lot. And I think that's really useful. Maybe you're a Mindy, and you want to make sure that you are not reading anything spicy. This year, I added a spiciness rating column. And that's useful for us as recommenders as well, right? Almost every time, we try to make sure to include a romance if it has a spicy scene or not whether it meets a certain bar, and I don't remember the book that I read fifth in 2022 how spicy it was. But if I keep track of that, my spreadsheet can remember it for me.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 47:08

Right. People ask that all the time. I was so excited to see that spicy meter, because I was like, Oh my gosh, this is going to be so that is the first thing I forget about a book was how open or closed or that it was. So I thought that was a really, really smart thing. I also I love being able to keep track, you know how many of my how much of my reading is fiction versus nonfiction, how many of it is, you know, male writers, female writers, non binary writers, how many of my books that I'm reading are own voices. I also have a...we include a Notes column, I include my entire write up that I do for each book, I just copy and paste all of that right into that Notes column. And it's hidden from like, we it's formatted in a way that that I don't have to like look at that big block of text. But when I go to do a find, for any of the words that I've put in those notes, it comes up for me. We also track star ratings down, you can decide if you want whole stars, half stars, quarter stars. Kaytee, you also added a great thing to help us with ratings this year. So we've always been able to track our star ratings, right?

Kaytee Cobb 48:19

Right. Yes, this year, as Meredith discussed a few episodes back, probably 10. At this point, she talked about the CAWPILE rating system, which breaks your rating into seven different factors. So I added a tab for that, which allows you to either just use it once and then reset it for every book that you want to use that rating system for. But you give a rating from 1-10 for each of those seven factors. And then it

uses a calculation to give you a general star rating so that you can then say, well, I use quarter stars and three doesn't feel quite right. So I'm gonna go up to three and a quarter or three and a half, because there's a little bit of intuition and gut feeling there too. And it just allows you to really break it down and say, "Here's what really enhanced my enjoyment of this book. And here's where it fell short for me specifically," because that cawpile rating sheet has so many rows, you can keep that data if you want to. So that you can go back and say, Well, you know, I remember reading A Lady for a Duke, but I don't remember why I gave it four stars. Where did it fall short of five for me. And you can go back and look and say, Oh yeah, the plot or the intrigue was not quite what I wanted it to be exactly,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 49:29

or so all of that might really get your juices flowing. And those are pieces that really matter to me in my reading. So I am really going to avail myself of that particular part of the functionality. But if you're listening to Kaytee talk about all the rating stuff in the cawpiles, and you're like, No, this is the beauty of this reading tracker. You just hide all of that. And it's as if it does not exist. If you don't want to give star ratings because you're not into tha, you hide that column. It does not exist for you. And so all these things that we're talking about, we want to let you know what's available to you. But know that it can also be as if it doesn't exist. If that is not useful to you in your reading, tracking,

Kaytee Cobb 50:14

Yes, you can hide columns, or you can hide whole tabs on the tracker. So if you could care less about charts, you can hide the chart tab completely so that it's not even cluttering up your view anymore. You don't have to skip it. You don't have to scroll past it. You just put it away. It's in the drawer. Nobody needs to see it.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 50:31

Can I tell you, Kaytee, one of the dumbest, simplest things that has just been a joy to my life, is that when I started using your tracker, the way my previous one was set up, because it was all on one sheet, it didn't do this, because I use your tracker now, which gives me a year on one worksheet. And then next year, I will have, you know, all my worksheets will be in the same document, but on different worksheets. It counts my books for me, Kaytee. So now at the end of every month, when I go in and put in all my because I just do it once a month. I'm like, Oh, look, I've read 116 books, and I don't, I was literally having to count that by hand, every single time. I know. So like, that's just like the dumbest thing. But it helps you know, like, How many books have I read this year, in addition to the fact that it gives you charts that show you like a bar graph or bar chart, which is what the ones that look like buildings, what did I never remember what that's called?

Kaytee Cobb 51:27

Yeah, bar chart,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 51:28

a bar chart, where it's like January, is next to February is next to march. And you can see like, wow, I consistently read a ton in April and not a lot in October. But like it gives you all the visuals for all the things that you're tracking. That's what I love about it.

Kaytee Cobb 51:44

Yeah, one of the things I'm really excited about adding this year is year over year stats. So if you have any kind of tracking from previous years, you can simply put in, you know, I read this many books in this year, this many books on this year, and it will make a graph based on that data you put in so you can see like, I'm very excited about the fact that I have six years worth of data about how many Own Voices books I read. And that chart, because I have been intentional about it because it matters to me. And it doesn't have to matter to you as a reader. If you're listening and you're like, I don't want to hear about this. It matters to me, I got to put that in because I was working on this tracker. And I got to see how my intentionality has changed that percentage over the past six years. And I got to see the actual spike in the graph. And that brought me a lot of joy. And it said, Kaytee, what you're doing and the choices you're making, they matter because this is the result, rather than just floundering and saying, I don't care what I read, I'm just gonna do whatever I want, which is fine for any number of readers. For me, it matters.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 52:46

Well, we say at work all the time, what you measure, you can move. And so we this is a you know, a real example for that. It helps you you know, I don't care about tracking my quantity of books, except for the fact that the end of the year episode, I need to be able to, you know, give totals, but like numbers of pages, I don't track that. But that because it's not important to me. But for other people, that's something that's really important. And you give them lots of interesting ways to be able easy ways to be able to do that.

Kaytee Cobb 53:12

Definitely, I also added an audiobook speed rating this year. So if you have a standard speedy listener, it actually made me feel a lot better as a mom to know that I was not actually neglecting my children for this average number of hours today, it was actually far less than that, because my actual listening time because when you speed up your audio, you listen to more and less time was much lower than what looked like six hours at the outset and was actually closer to two.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 53:39

Got it. Got it. Yeah, so this I mean, yes, and there are so many other things that this reading tracker gives you the option of keeping track of.

Kaytee Cobb 53:52

Definitely. It's it's robust in a way that I hope it meets the needs of nearly every reader and can be minimized in a way that I hope it meets the needs of almost every reader. That is my goal with this, that it's expansive enough to fit all the trackers and it is small enough, or can be small enough to fit the most basic tracking.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 54:17

Yeah, and it's pretty. It's pretty too. All right, Kaytee, well, I feel good about the fact that we have let everybody know that this tool is available to them. And again, even if you don't want to use this tracker, get out the piece of paper and a pencil and just write down just play around with how it would feel to

write down the title and the author and the date that you finished and just see how that feels to you. And if it's useful to you, maybe you decide to do a little bit more next year.

Kaytee Cobb 54:46

Yes, it can be 10 seconds per book, and that's also perfectly great. Okay. That was a fun deep dive for me. My data loving heart loved that deep dive. Let's visit the fountain Meredith, what is your wish?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 54:59

This week oh, my wish is a heartfelt one Kaytee. I am, as soon as we finish this, I'm going to go make dinner for my family, and then I am going to watch the first two episodes of Three Pines. And my very vulnerable heart is scared to death about doing this because it feels so personal to me, which of course it's not. It's not personal, it has nothing to do with me. But I just am so like, "Oh, I just want it to be good. I want it to be good". So that's my wish. I am crossing everything that I've got that that is going to be good because apparently there's going to be a second season. So the way that they're doing it, we know a lot more. Now it is they're skipping the first book in the Louise Penny Three Pines series completely. I think probably because there's already been a movie made about Still Life, right, or based on Still Life. But what they're doing is two episodes per book for the second, third and fourth books in the series. And then the seventh and eighth episodes are about her novella that she wrote called The Hangman, which she wrote as a part of a literacy program for prisons in Canada a long time ago. But apparently, they took that and then they've made those last few episodes of the season about that. So that'll be like I read it a really long time ago, but I have no memory of what it was about. So that'll almost be kind of like brand new to the canon for me. So I'm just really wishing for Louise Penny's sake, I am really, really wishing that the series is good, because I will tell you what I'm halfway through A World of Curiosities, her new book, and it is fantastic.

Kaytee Cobb 56:36

Oh, good. I'm so glad I'm waiting on my library hold.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 56:40

It's dark. But it is so good. So good.

Kaytee Cobb 56:45

Well, I feel like this requires that we also mentioned that if you don't listen to What Should I Read Next, you have to pop over there and listen to an interview with Louise because it was it was so great. It brought me so much joy.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 56:58

Yes, absolutely. I think that well, no, that's not possible. I was gonna say I think that that might be where I heard but I started reading the series way, way, way before but I feel like when I started listening to What Should I Read Next, I found out that there were a lot of people who love the series too. And that felt really Yeah, that felt good to.

Kaytee Cobb 57:16

Okay. Yes. I'm also crossing all things, all the toes and fingers and everything else.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 57:22

Are you going to watch it?

Kaytee Cobb 57:23

Oh, yeah, for sure.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 57:24

You are. Okay. Maybe we'll talk about it a little bit at some point.

Kaytee Cobb 57:27

That would be fun. I would like that. That would be very fun. Okay, my wish this week is I wish to institute Jolabokaflokkur at my home, and to encourage others to do the same. This is not an unknown thing. A lot of people have seen this on the internet's right for years. People are very excited about this, but if you haven't heard of it or made time for it in your home in the past, it might feel like I have something new and different for you today. Jolabokaflokkur takes place in Iceland on Christmas Eve. Everyone drinks hot cocoa with a new book in front of the fire. This started in 1944, when most things were rationed during World War Two, but paper was not. The Icelandic book trade ever since then, has sent out a book bulletin to every household, just like the phone book in the middle of November. And it includes every book released in Iceland that year.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 58:19

Really?

Kaytee Cobb 58:20

and that happens. Yes, this is part of it. So that happens during the Reykjavik Book Fair in mid November. People use this catalog to order books to give to their friends and family on Christmas Eve, the main gift giving day in Iceland. After all the presents are open, everyone grabs a cup of hot cocoa and cozies up to spend the rest of the evening reading their books, hopefully in their pajamas. This year at my home or my parents home which is where we will be on Christmas Eve we will eat appetizers all night as we do every Christmas Eve and I will allow for an early present for each kid which will of course be a book we will put on our Christmas jammies and read for hours. And my wish involves all of you sharing your Jolabokaflokkur pictures with me as well. So post them and tag me. I want to be flooded my Christmas book flood photos on Christmas Eve and the day following. That is my wish. Ping splash.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 59:13

That is a great wish. I wish that I had married an Icelandic man.

Kaytee Cobb 59:17

Oh, that sounds lovely. Would his name be Sven?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 59:20

Probably. And we'd live in Iceland and actually have a real...Do you know what my 11 year old would do if I tried to give him a book on Christmas Eve and go make him? He would laugh and laugh.

Kaytee Cobb 59:29

Well, he could have a book about Minecraft?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 59:33

No.

Kaytee Cobb 59:34

It could be about football?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 59:36

No, he's just not gonna read a book on Christmas Eve. But man, I love the idea of it's such a wish because I wish it too.

Kaytee Cobb 59:45

What if you hit the main power on the house? And there's no anything else like literally nothing to do except read. Could you do it?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 59:53

I mean, I feel like he would just go get his lacrosse stick and just start throwing it a ball against the wall. I know. I know. No, he is he is impossible. But it's just a season. It's just amazing when it's when he's an adult man, he may absolutely love reading and then I will laugh and laugh. I will laugh and laugh when his 11 year old doesn't want to.

Kaytee Cobb 59:54

Like "Mom, why didn't you do this with us when we were children?"

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:00:08

Exactly. But I love that wish Kaytee. It's, it's really I feel it in my soul. Alright, that is it for this week. As reminder, here's where you can connect with us. You can find me, I'm Meredith at @Meredith.reads on Instagram.

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:31

And you can find me Kaytee at @notesonbookmarks on Instagram.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:00:34

Full show notes with the title of every book we mentioned in the episode and timestamps, so you can zoom right to where we talked about it can be found on our website at currentlyreadingpodcast.com.

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:45

You can also follow the show at @currentlyreadingpodcast on Instagram or email us at currentlyreadingpodcast@gmail.com.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:00:51

And if you want a fantastic reading tracker, or all the other content that we do every single month, become a bookish friend and join us on Patreon for just \$5 a month. You can also rate and review us on Apple podcasts and shout us out on social media. All of those things will give us a really happy Christmas.

Kaytee Cobb 1:01:09

Merry Christmas. Bookish friends are the best friends. Thank you all for helping us grow and get closer to our goals and don't forget about our break next week.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:01:18

Right. Until next year Kaytee, may your coffee be hot

Kaytee Cobb 1:01:22

and your book be unputdownable.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:01:24

Happy reading Kaytee.

Kaytee Cobb 1:01:25

Happy reading Meredith.