



Season 3, Episode 49: Very Special Episode - Best of Season 3!

Mon, 7/19 • 46:37

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 don't shy away from those 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. This week, we're throwing our regular format out the window.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:31

I'm Meredith Monday Schwartz, a mom of four and full time CEO living in Austin, Texas. And I am having a lot of fun planning my summer reading.

Kaytee Cobb 00:40

And I'm Kaytee Cobb, a homeschooling mom of four living in New Mexico. And 147 episodes later, I still love doing this. This is episode number 49 of season three. And we are so glad you're here.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:52

Is this really 100 and the 147th episode of Currently Reading?

Kaytee Cobb 00:57

Of the Big Show of Currently Reading, yeah. Of course, there's more than that. We have minisodes, we have lots of Patreon bonus content. But this is the Big Show Episode 147.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:08

Right because of the decision that we made early on about numbering them per season, as opposed to in total. Sometimes I forget to do that math in my head. And I forget kind of where we are. 147 Big Show episodes is the big deal, Kaytee. So yes, this is the last episode of season three, we are going to do a very special episode as we do every year we like to end the season with what we call our best of episodes. So we are going to go through several different kinds of kinds of questions that we ask ourselves at the end of every season. It's a way to look at the season as a whole and pick out the stuff that we loved most, the stuff that maybe we regret, and just generally take a look at it. And then we take a summer break. So Kaytee, do you want to talk a little bit about how we make that summer break happen, and most importantly, how it will affect our listeners.

Kaytee Cobb 02:02

We call this the behind the scenes podcast magic. We have one crazy weekend in June, where right now Meredith and I are recording the fourth episode in two days. And what that equals for you guys is that we get to have a big, long, juicy summer break with lots of great books and maybe some traveling. And you only have one week that you're not getting a brand new episode of Currently Reading. So on July 26, next week, there will be no new episode of Currently Reading. But that's okay. Because we will be right back in your earbuds on August 2 with the beginning of Season Four.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 02:41

And for our Patreon subscribers and you can become one of those for just \$5 a month you will still be getting all of our normal content we're not you know, you are not going to take a month long break, you will still get All Things Murderful. You still will get Kaytee Reads Too Much, you still will get The Indie Press List. And so don't, don't worry, you are still getting all of that. But yeah, it is great. It's great for us to be able to take a breath at the end of the season. And then really that helps us to begin with renewed energy as we get to August and we start Season Four which I know we're both really looking forward to.

Kaytee Cobb 03:16

Season four. Meredith, can you believe it?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 03:19

I cannot. I cannot believe that people have have for this long wanted us to be in their earbuds every week. We're so grateful for it. So, alright, so taking a little bit of a look at the season. Let's talk about first and foremost Kaytee, what was our most downloaded episode of Season Three?

Kaytee Cobb 03:38

Wow, Meredith, you and I both really love stats. And so we love taking a look at this every week we message each other about it. Our very highest downloaded episode of Season Three was our best books of 2020 episode. That is followed by mere like 10s by Jamie Golden's episode, her fans, plus the giveaway that we did that week gave that one a bit of a secret sauce bump. So even though it was pretty recent, which we do see like over time, those episodes keep growing and growing. It is one of our biggest numbers ever. And we love the fans of Jamie Golden who came out for us for that.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 04:15

Yes, that yes, I think we knew that that was going to be that was going to be a big episode for us. And we've been just completely delighted that so many of you listened to that episode and then decided to stay on and hear more of what we're doing. So we're so grateful for that one. So, Kaytee, when you looked back at the entire season, what did you decide was your favorite episode of Season Three?

Kaytee Cobb 04:39

Neither of us is that great at following the rules. So even as I look at this episode prep doc where we both put on our comments, I couldn't pick just one. I couldn't I couldn't pick just one. My favorite guests that we had this year, we had great guests this year, but getting to talk to Jamie Golden was just a complete dream come true, especially because and here's a little behind the scenes for you guys. She honored us so much by by having listened to so much Currently Reading to prepare for that show, and

came in and said, you know, Meredith, I know your taste. And I know how great you are describing books. And Kaytee, I know you love a book that makes you sob on the floor. And she loved on us by doing that. And it just felt so special. I have goosebumps talking about it even now. And then I have some favorites that are just the two of us. So I'm going to stick with Jamie Golden, but I loved the enneagram one. And I love the one where Meredith surprised me with a deep dive. That was delightful as well.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 05:37

That's right, Kaytee, I surprised you when we normally we you know the the deep dive is the one thing that we both know going in, right? So we don't tell each other what our current reads are going to be what our press is going to be. But we do decide in advance what our deep dive is going to be. In this instance, I surprised you with a topic that was what do you do when you and your best friend read a book and you completely have divergent opinions upon it. And that's because I had recently read *The Bookish Life of Nina Hill*, which going into it I knew you had really loved and so when I didn't love it, I was so conflicted. Because I didn't want to make you feel bad. So you're right. That was a really, really great episode. And yes, all the love for Jamie Golden. We also were lucky enough to talk to Laura Tremaine. Again, what a fantastic guest she always is. And we were lucky enough to be on her show this year for the first time, which was awesome and gave us a bump to our listenership. And then of course, we had Gretchen Rubin on our show, another bucket list guest who I know, we were both really nervous about what it was going to be like to talk to her. But in reality, she was absolutely lovely. So I think one of the things that this season especially has done for me has been to really help us get used to talking to people who feel above our pay grade. And to to not even I didn't I didn't eat for three days before we talked to Jamie Golden, I was just ridiculously nervous. And so I think by doing it more and more you realize over and over again, that they are just normal people. And then it helps you not be such a weirdo when you're actually doing the show, or at least I hope so. And then the other thing that continues to occur to me after even after we have these big shows that we're doing, because we want to talk to the person and because we know it's going to mean an opportunity for us to gain some new listeners. I always just am so happy when we get to go back to doing our normal episodes. Just you and me at there's just something about you and I talking about books, just the two of us that nothing else replaces that for me, no matter how big a guest that we get.

Kaytee Cobb 07:48

I agree. And, and I'm a little verklempt about you saying that because I just I just love that we get to do this every week. And even the regular normal, boring episodes that are just there our daily marriage to each other. They make me really happy. Really (inaudible) it up. But we really like being together too.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 08:11

Sometimes a threesome is a good thing, Kaytee. So what was our most commented upon Instagram post because one of the things that happened this year is that we hit 10,000 followers on Instagram, which was one of our goals. And, and so we have some great discussion happening on Instagram.

Kaytee Cobb 08:29

We do we always every every time I look at this, I'm always surprised to see that "bookish moments of the week" continue to be... it's a standard format post, the photo does not change. It's not even that exciting, but people love chiming in about their bookish moments of the week. So week after week, we get a lot of comments over there. When I take those out and giveaways out, the one that got the most comments was "favorite literary tropes". And that's because there was a lot of interaction in those comments. So somebody would list their tropes, and somebody else would come in and say, "Oh my gosh, I've never thought that about that thing and I love that you pointed it out for me". So that was that was not even that long ago. That was in May of 2021. But people got really excited to talk to each other about that topic. And those deep dive posts continue to do really well as well. So be sure you're following us on Instagram because on Thursdays we get great conversations happening in those comments.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 09:24

Right and I know I I say all the time about myself that I have a cold dead heart but those bookish moment of the week posts and the comments that are on those threads... So many times they will make me tear up just because there'll be just so sweet how people how you know books and reading have added to their lives and it just brings me so much joy. I love those. Alright Kaytee, so with the very, very good and there is so much very, very good about season three. There also every season is a regret. We every we are human people, there is always a regret. What is your biggest regret of Season Three?

Kaytee Cobb 10:07

We asked the same question every year. And season three is the first time that I did not have to think about it, I knew exactly where I was going with this moment. So on episode eight of season three, I called JK Rowling a garbage human. And that was a very strong opinion. And we do say on our show, we do not shy away from strong opinions, so get ready. But by making my comments about her personal rather than about her opinions, I made it into a personal attack. And the result of that was that readers who really love her series, and there are a lot of them out there, there's a lot of series, and there's a lot of readers felt that I was personally attacking them for their opinions for loving this author. And while I do stand by the fact that I vehemently disagree with her opinions about trans people, I would avoid that personal attack on her if I were to record that episode again. It was, it was really hard to field those comments in the following week for people who felt really hurt by the things I had said. And it really like it also helped me get my feet under me a little bit and say, Well, why do you feel so strongly? And why is this so important to you that you wouldn't ask Meredith to cut that out after the fact. So that kind of leads into Meredith, what was your biggest regret for Season Three?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 11:34

Right. And, and this also, for me, didn't, I didn't have to think about it, I really have spent a lot of time. I don't spend a lot of time regretting but I've spent a lot of time thinking about why I didn't push you hard, harder to take that comment out. Because obviously I edit the shows I had the ability to do that. When I heard it when we recorded live and then when I heard it as I did the edit, I I decided not to take it out, because I first and foremost, before the show, I love you. And so I know why that opinion, is so important to you. And I know where your heart was when you said it. And I know like I knew I had all the context for what brought you to that moment. And because of that, I very much didn't feel it was my

place to push you to take that out, it felt like a step too far for me to ask you to take that out. I knew that you were going to get the show back and you were going to get the ability to listen to it one more time. So you were going to have that moment again later. And I wanted to leave that to you without feeling any pressure from me, because I just felt like it was too... It was a step too far for me. And so I stand behind the fact that we left it in and I stand behind the way that you handled the comments that that came from there, because you really did take the brunt of that. And I think it also led to some good discussions between you and I about how we handle these issues moving forward. So overall, I think it ended up really adding to our relationship to our relationship as a partnership for the show, and to the show itself and our relationship with listeners because man Kaytee, I think it's a big deal for any of us to express a strong opinion and then realize later that although we stand by that opinion, the way we delivered it also caused a big reaction and some pain and you were able to really stand there and to realize it and to sort of own your part, but then also own your your opinion about it. And that's not an easy needle to thread. And so I think I think it you know, I'm I think we're glad that it happened because I think we learned a lot.

Kaytee Cobb 14:07

Yeah, we do. We continue to learn every year. It's weird that we just have to keep learning new lessons every year. And all of it

Meredith Monday Schwartz 14:18

Right and as our listenership, I mean that one of the biggest things that's happened is our listenership has just gotten so exponentially much bigger every year that we have more and more. We have we have more and more kind of people with differing opinions to deal with. And also, I mean, let's just be real Kaytee, this last year that we just lived through Season Three happened at the most divisive time in our country's history. So there were a lot of things that we talked about tangentially or were affecting our reading, that were affecting the overall kind of mood of the listenership that came into play here. And when you have, when you have a show where you have many 1000s upon 1000s, who listened to you every week, you really, you absolutely are almost guaranteed to piss off somebody every single week. And that's something that we've had to get... We've had to get harder shells around. And we've had to get better at, really, as we're talking, taking into account how that might be heard, while also still wanting to be authentic and transparent. This is not easy to do.

Kaytee Cobb 15:33

You can say that again. Right?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 15:35

Right. All right. So kind of paired with that but on an easier level, what would you say was your biggest flub, because every year we always have we always have a flub, this is just like a mistake that we made in recording or whatever. What was one that stands out to you, Kaytee.

Kaytee Cobb 15:53

So this for the diehard listeners did get left in as an Easter egg at the end of an episode. But I forgot completely to write in a bite size intro one week. And we've completely lost it about that. I mean, I

started out the way I always do. And I just said, I'm a homeschooling mom of four living in New Mexico. And I didn't write a bite sized intro. And we just lost it, even though it was funny. It was just funny.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 16:19

Right? The way that you just said it, and you're like, Yeah, I got nothing for you. That's it. There's something that struck me. So yeah, we had a hard time rallying back to getting that episode going. And then for me, there was one episode where I set up a book. And for the life of me, I can't remember which book this is. But I set up a book and I realized that I had included kind of two first pick because sometimes I'll do multiple drafts of how I want to set up a book. That's that's actually one thing in Season Three, that I really wanted to get better at. Because Kaytee, you have always, since the very beginning of the show, you've always done such a good job of how you set up a book. And when we say set up, we mean when we when we tell you guys, kind of what the book is about. Because we want it, we say I say here's the setup, we want it to be spoiler free, but we want to give you enough that you know whether or not you're going to be interested in it. And so that's one thing in Season Three that I have actually started spending quite a bit more time on. So what I'll do often is I'll take a couple different runs at it. In this particular episode, I left in the first paragraph. And as I was recording the show, you can hear me give it to like, it doesn't make a lot of sense. Because you're like, wait, didn't you already? Didn't you say that, but just in a slightly different way. I can't remember what book it is. I wish I could remember. But I know for sure because when I did the edit, I was like good Lord Meredith, get yourself together. So it caught that actually, they won't hear that because I did hear I, you pulled it. I pulled it out, right. Alright, what's the most purchased book on our Amazon affiliate link, because that is part of how we make money on the show. Right? So people, we have people who are Patreon subscribers, we don't do ads anymore. So that in Season Three was a big change that we made, we decided not to do any more advertising. And instead we concentrate on our Patreon but we also do make some money from our Amazon affiliate links. And those are the links that appear in our show notes. So what was the most purchased item? Using that Amazon affiliate link Kaytee?

Kaytee Cobb 18:20

Yeah, the thing that people clicked over to Amazon to buy the most often were the SoundPeat's true wireless earbuds that I use and talk about religiously. They are my precious, I love them. And they're very affordable. And there were like 60 people who bought SoundPeats earbuds this year, from the links.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 18:44

Are they that much less expensive than at the Apple AirPods that I use? They are?

Kaytee Cobb 18:51

They're only I mean, Amazon prices can change at any time, but they're usually around \$30.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 18:56

Okay so a third of them.

Kaytee Cobb 18:58

Yes. So I just I mean, I have multiple pairs, and I'd leave them around the house. They're all paired to my phone. Because if you lose one, it's fine. I had a dog eat one. It's fine, because it was only \$30. So, but with the books, we sold a heck of a lot of Share Your Stuff, I'll Go First from our beloved Laura Tremaine after her episode. Everybody wanted to get their hands on that book. Strangely, this was the outlier for me. There was a lot of people who bought We Are Unprepared Meredith.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 19:28

I do not understand. That that one surprised me so much.

Kaytee Cobb 19:34

Yeah. That was just yeah, that was when I was looking at these. I was like, This is weird. And then another one that really surprised me. At one point, my bookish moment was about Noah learning how to read and I talked about Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons, which tied with Just One Damned Thing After Another as the as the third and fourth spot on that list of top three books that we sold this year and that I mean, I was expecting into the drowning tip, definitely to be on there. I mean, I wasn't surprised about Laura and Share Your Stuff. I was expecting any number of books, but I never would have pulled those other three off of that top four list off out of my head to say, Oh, this is probably this is probably one of them.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 20:17

Right? See, I wasn't surprised about the 100 Easy Lessons, just because I think a lot of people are looking for that great kind of books system to help their early readers get into reading and so that that didn't surprise me. But yeah, We Are Unprepared. And Just One Damned Thing After Another is a fantastic book in the beginning of a really great series. But yeah, just it didn't necessarily follow that that would be one of our top four purchases with our amazon link. But hey, if you have couches to buy or outdoor furniture, go ahead and use our affiliate links.

Kaytee Cobb 20:48

Large TVs...you can absolutely do that.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 20:50

Football is coming you guys. Buy a new TV, but go to Currently Currently Reading for

Kaytee Cobb 20:55

Yeah, and the way that works is you click any book link in our show, it pops you over to Amazon and it starts a browsing session. So if you then buy your groceries or your toilet paper, because COVID or whatever else, all of that gives a little tiny kickback over to Currently Reading. So if you do buy a large TV, it's kind of like you became a patron for a year because it's a nice little chunk of change.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 21:17

Absolutely. Okay. What was your favorite moment in our recorded episodes in our Big Show episodes? Kaytee, what stood out to you?

Kaytee Cobb 21:27

This one again, goes back to that episode where you surprised me with a deep dive. You started talking about a friend. You read a book, you weren't sure. And you decided that you did not love it. And I and you and you said I don't know what to say to this person. And I said, Well, does this friend listen to the podcast? said Oh, I'm I'm sure she listens to the podcast, Kaytee, because it's you. And I died. Right? That moment. I'm currently coming to you from the grave because I died that moment. It was so funny to me that I could listen to this entire setup from you, and not have any idea that you were still talking about me.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 22:08

Right? So this is season three, Episode 29, which is called "Tragic Things Happen. And When You Hate a Book Your Friend Loved". That was absolutely such a great a great moment because you were so game Kaytee because when we record we were looking at each other, right? So we're not just hearing each other. We're looking into each other's faces. And you were like very concerned for me like, Oh, well, does this friend listen? So, so funny.

Kaytee Cobb 22:37

What about you, Meredith, what was your favorite moment?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 22:39

Okay, I have two favorite moments, Kaytee. And both of them have to do with that exact issue. So I love it when we're recording. And I well, I love it anytime I can make you laugh anytime that whatever I say just really, really cracks you up. And but in this case, you made me laugh, because when we recorded the episode on the enneagram, and how the enneagram affects your reading, and that is Episode 37: "Recommendations from Listeners and How Each Enneagram Type Chooses Their Next Read". You had done and we'd both prepared for this deep dive but you had enjoyed your preparation for that episode so much that when I just let you run with it, because you just did such a great job. And I just kind of added in things at the margins. And you just everything about your face told me you were you were just having the best time talking about how you thought each enneagram type chose their next book. It was so funny. And then the pure joy. That was the look on your face when I told you that I had read A Court of Mist and Fury by Sarah J. Maas and that I had absolutely loved it because this is the second in a series. I it starts with A Court of Thorns and Roses, which I had read early on in the podcast and I had it was okay. Right. I didn't hate it. But it was okay. And you had told me multiple times to read that next book because it was really so good. And it was the reason to read further in the series was a reason to read the series at all. And so when I finally did, and the look on your face when I revealed that to you is one of my current reads was just one of my favorite, my favorite favorite memories of this season because you were so happy about that.

Kaytee Cobb 24:26

We do have a lot of fun just being able to interact. Like I remember when you talked about The Good Sister by Sally Hepworth. And the way that you talked about her getting going and I said how you feel how she would feel about you using horse analogies but it wasn't that you had been using horse analogies you just were using like a reining motion right?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 24:45

I was using a horse riding a horse motion which you were looking at on Skype.

Kaytee Cobb 24:49

Right so anything that that comes from the visual that we also get while we're recording that has to then get translated to audio. I just I love moments like that.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 25:00

Now, Kaytee, we should take a second because we know what people are going to say. Because they always say it. Why don't you guys do if you're, if you're already doing it on video, why don't you record that? And put that on YouTube? Here's the answer to that. Because when we record our Big Shows, we edit the SH out of them, so that you get the polished, tight, final product. It's really less about us editing content, because it's fairly rare that we edit out a large swath of content. It's more that we you know, we we just feel like the product that we put into your podcast feed, we want it to be really polished and tight. And so when you do that on video, you don't get the option to do that. So we made a decision a long time ago that we weren't going to YouTube our episodes, and we've stuck by that so far.

Kaytee Cobb 25:49

Yeah, we're gonna we're gonna continue to stick with that.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 25:53

I will end also, right? I never I always look so terrible when we do these recordings, because it's like, late in the afternoon on a Saturday. So I've like been swimming or working out or I just I look terrible.

Kaytee Cobb 26:03

That's not true.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 26:04

Yes, it is. It's horribly true. Okay. Another thing that we like to do at the end of every season is we love to think a little bit about a few ways that the podcast has changed our lives in this past season, or has added to our lives in this past season. So Kaytee, when you thought about this, for this year, what did what what were your thoughts?

Kaytee Cobb 26:26

I guess I just had a really vulnerable year because this one gets a little vulnerable, like my biggest regret. So this year, I really got to grow into myself, we just talked about this a little bit with Mindy and Mary on our Ask Us Anything episode. But I have discovered that this podcast is not right for every person. And that's okay, it's okay to let them go. We did have a period of time, early in season three, when we got a number of negative reviews, over and over again, mostly talking about me, and my book choices. And I was taking them really personally, I was loading them onto my shoulders and beating myself up and saying, "Kaytee, you're not the right person for this podcast". You know, just really like taking it in internally. And through the course of this year, I have become okay with it. I have made peace with the fact that not everyone is going to love Currently Reading. And as much as I would love to be friends with everyone in the world, that we're not exactly the right podcast for every listener and

every reader. And I don't know how long it would have taken me to learn that lesson for myself as a as a pretty decently obsessed people pleaser without the podcast. My other small but very strong lesson that I learned this year is that bookish friends are the best friends. And they've just come out for us over and over and over again. Anytime we need anything. They are there for us. And I love that.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 27:58

Yeah, there's no question. I mean, one of the things I thought about too, with this season brought our first or my first in person get together with with bookish friends here in Austin. And that was so much fun. And it was so rewarding. And afterwards and you you also did went to New Mexico at your house. And we talked a lot afterwards about how much we enjoyed doing that and about how much everything we do on Patreon really, for us comes back to what we love is the community that's that's happening there. Every one of the bookish friends who's joined us, there's just it just takes relationships and bullishness and love of books to a new level when you can share it with people who become your friends, whether they're internet friends, or as we did with our get togethers that you can become in real life friends. So and also, I think for me to to touch on what you're talking about, Kaytee, I really do think that this year brought us to a new level as to our competence. With our with our format, like you said, we we have a show that is different than any other book podcast in that we have spicy opinions, we have strong opinions, we talk about books that we don't like, that's different in the landscape. And because of that, you know, it engenders strong opinions, right. And so I do think as a show, we have really come into confidence of the exactly as you said, This show is not for every listener. And I think we've both become really okay with that not in a screw you go away kind of way. But just in a It's okay, that our format or our beliefs, as a partnership or individually are not okay with everybody. We're so much more interested in doing a show where we can talk about things honestly, rather than trying to constantly edit ourselves or edit each other. That we've just decided, you know what that It's okay. And for the people for whom we are right, I think we're really, really right. And that's all that really matters. I think there's been a lot a lot to be learned from this season. So one of the questions that we get a lot is, what advice would you give to people who are thinking about starting a podcast or a book podcast? What would you? Can you What's your advice, as you finished three seasons of a book podcast?

Kaytee Cobb 30:27

I will pound into anyone's head until it is tattooed on their forehead that if you are not having fun, if you cannot sit behind that mic, day after day, week, after week, year after year, and continue to enjoy yourself, it's probably no longer a fit for you. And it does take a long time to realize that sometimes things aren't fun anymore. But like I said, at the beginning, were 147 Big Show episodes in. And that does not include all the other times that we talk to each other every week, and produce extra content and do all the other things. And every time, I'm still so glad to get to sit behind this mic and talk about books. So if you don't love your partner, if you don't adore that person from the very beginning, it's not gonna get better than hating, you know, or being annoyed with them. You got to love someone to make it for the long haul. And Meredith, I love you.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 31:21

Awe. Thanks, Kaytee, I love you too. And I continue to just feel like I'm so lucky to have such a great partner in you. I feel like our strengths, and our weaknesses, complement each other where I'm weak, you are really strong, and vice versa. And I just think that that that has really helped. And also, you're

right, if you don't love the content of what you're doing, then you're not going to be able to sustain it for a long period of time. And so my advice, I have three pieces of advice. So the first thing is, if you're thinking about starting a podcast, please know it's going to be way more work than you think it will be. That's my number one piece of advice. It doesn't mean don't do it. It doesn't mean it's not going to be worth it because we have found it absolutely is. But it is so much more work. And as you grow, the work exponentially increases. I stand by the fact that having a partner makes things so much easier. The single best thing I did when I decided I wanted to have a book podcast, Kaytee was reached out to you and say I only want to do it with Kaytee, best decision that I ever made. And get a good mic. Spend money on your mic because good audio quality, it really matters. You can hear when that when the audio quality is poor and it will subconsciously make you think that the content is poor, even if it's not so spend money on your mics.

Kaytee Cobb 32:49

Agree with all of those things.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 32:52

All right, Kaytee, what are your favorite two or three books that came out of this season?

Kaytee Cobb 32:57

Okay, I have, I have a lot. My my first one that I can think of right off the top of my head was Lobizona. I love that book. I love getting to talk about that book. I loved it when then you, I got you to pick up that book and you loved it as well. I of course, as we already mentioned, when you read and talked about A Court of Mist and Fury. I would started sparkling out of each of my pores because I was so happy. And then for further books for me when I talked to Rebekah Hoffer about romance and I mentioned A Pho Love Story. And I talked about how it reflected my own love story, and how that's just a really like delicious part of romance for me. I just got really excited realizing why that book was so important to me. And finally, the situation we had this year with Love Letters, and Love Lettering, two very different books and all the fallout from the confusion about those two titles. It just makes me really happy. I like the confusion. I like that I get to go on to people's Instagrams would be like that's not the book that Meredith was talking about. I just loved the whole thing about that.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 34:12

Oh right cuz I read I read Love Letters by Katie Fforde. Katie F-forde and hated it, despised it but one of my spiciest opinions of the entire year I was just like, this book is bad. And I and really, we like we tried and it was because I didn't like the way that the female character the arc of the female character. I felt like we shouldn't teach our girls about this. We try really hard not to say this book is bad. We tried to say this book is not for me. But in this case, that book was just bad. But it was confusing, because there was this other book Love Lettering which seemed really similar.

Kaytee Cobb 34:47

And which is very popular and the author's name is Kate Clayborn. So there was the Kate Katie, like all of it, it was just very confusing for people.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 34:56

All right, for me, the absolute highlight of the entire season no question is the phenomenal rise of Into the Drowning Deep. We never really know when or really why a book that we talked about is going to go really, really big and just grab on. But the countless people who read and most of the time really loved Into the Drowning Deep by Mira Grant, this is the mermaid horror book you didn't know you needed. And the fact that it just was absolutely everywhere after we talked about it makes me so happy. And then you get I don't think we've talked about this on a big show. When we had our Austin get together, one of our bookish friends who came to the get together, she knitted a horrible, wonderful, scary looking mermaid that is from Into the Drowning Deep for me as a gift and it is one of my most prized possessions. I have actually pinned it up on my wall which is nearest to my books. I love it. I will save it in a fire. It is so wonderful. She has she has blood dripping from her fangs. It is just absolutely wonderful. So Into the Drowning Deep, my absolute favorite book. Most recently, I talked about Project Hail Mary. I love it when there's a book that all four of the hosts love with the same arder. I'm like we just absolutely Kaytee, you most recently finished it. And all of us being able to talk about it together in our thread is really, really fun for me. So that was a book that we love too most recently here. Alright, an episode that we thought was interesting or useful. What fell into this category for you, Kaytee?

Kaytee Cobb 36:45

Okay, the one that I feel like a lot of people, it really resonated with them and brought a lot of food for thought was how we do book readings, which was Episode 30 of season Three. And we talked about what what does one star mean, for each of us? What does five stars mean for each of us? Where do we go? Whose ratings do we care about? And man, there were just a lot of comments on that one, a lot of messages. And a lot of people just thinking it was really funny that one star meant a steaming pile of poo, for me and for you. Oh, and it was just it was great. And then I loved the enneagram episode, and I loved Episode 10 of season three, which was books I'm jealous that you get to read for the first time, mostly because when I told you that I really want to see someone else sob at a book that I sobbed that you were like "you're actually a terrible person".

Meredith Monday Schwartz 37:38

Beyond my understanding,

Kaytee Cobb 37:40

It just did not make any sense to you. That was something that that I really would love to experience again for the first time.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 37:48

In the exact same way that whenever I talk about the fact that I love it when a book scares someone to the point where they can't sleep alone at night. I'm like, Oh, yes. And you're like, that sounds terrible.

Kaytee Cobb 37:57

You're so mean, you're so mean.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 37:58

Just awful. So this is why we're so good together because we're awful in different ways.

Kaytee Cobb 38:03

Yes, complement.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 38:05

So for me, I there were two episodes that stuck out in my mind. So Kaytee, your episode with Rebekah Hoffer, which is Episode 33, where you talked about romances. I thought I was so glad that you did that episode. I adore Rebekah. She's such a great reader. And you guys had a great discussion on a topic that I think our podcast is pretty light on. We don't bring a lot of romance to the show we do a little bit but just not a lot. I was so glad that we got to double down on that. In that episode, I thought it was very useful. And I came up with a few books for my own TBR from that episode. And then in Episode 23, we actually did something that we'd never done before. But we are going to do again every year. And that is we talked about our goals for our reading for the year. This is in January. But we also talked about our goals for our podcast or for our business. And we wanted to share those with you guys because we're nothing without our listeners. And so we wanted to really let you guys know, kind of the why behind why we do what we do. And then also, what are the really specific measurable goals that we are driving toward one to bring you guys in on that. And so let's talk a little bit about that Kaytee. So we a lot of our goals have to do with Patreon. And so Kaytee, do you want to talk a little bit about the goal that we set and how that's gone so far?

Kaytee Cobb 39:29

Wow, Meredith in December when we set those goals, we thought that we were being pretty ambitious, and we came up with a couple numbers that we were pretty excited about. We said that we wanted to try and hit 1000 patrons and at a stretch, just to see if we could do it. We wanted to try and hit 1200. Well, by May, we had hit both of those numbers. And so now we've set a new goal, which is amazing that we would even get to think about a number, like 1500 patrons for the podcast. One of my favorite things about that episode that we did is by sharing our goals with our listeners, we're able to tell them exactly how to help us make those goals happen. So when we said we really want to hit 10,000 followers on Instagram, they are the ones who made it happen. They shared and shared and shared and shared. And then they celebrated with us, which was fantastic.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 40:17

That was so much fun. The fact that there were so many people who were watching that number, click up and get ready to click over to 10,000. I honestly was completely surprised by that. I was so... it just made me so happy. And it really, it underscored what we already know to be true, which is that the the community that is being built amongst readers and listeners of the podcast, I mean, it's just, we just feel so lucky to have met these people and to get to do this every every week in in concert and in conversation with everyone who listens to the show to the show. So that's really, really fun. Okay, so so many great things have happened in season three Kaytee. It's just been, it's been a wild ride for everybody, for our entire country for all of our listeners. And it's been a wild ride for us, but a good one for the show. So let's talk a little bit again, just about dates about how this summer break is going to work. And when we're coming back for season four.

Kaytee Cobb 41:17

Yeah, like we mentioned at the top of the show, Meredith and I get to have a big long beachy vacation. Five weeks off, which I don't know if we've ever pulled off five full weeks before.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 41:29

We have not.

Kaytee Cobb 41:30

We're pulling it off this year. So there will be no new episode just one time for you guys in the dark week, which is July 26, of 2021. But don't you worry, because on August 2, we will be right back in your earbuds bright and early Monday morning with the premiere of Season Four.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 41:46

Yes. And so one other question that we've gotten is what we'll be coming up new in season four. So a year ago, we were getting ready, we were concentrating on brand new collateral and branding a whole new look for the show. And we also were spending a lot of time building our Patreon content. So what do we have? You know, what are we doing anything new and different Kaytee for episode or for Season Four?

Kaytee Cobb 42:15

This year, we we basically we want to keep a good thing going. We are really excited about everything that we've grown and done over the course of season three, especially and of course, seasons one and two as well. You can't get to season three without season one and two. And we're excited to see how we can continue to build community, especially within the podcast listenership as a whole and the bookish friends community. We want to try and take the advice of listeners and maybe secret sauce here, changing up the charge for Patreon content in the future. So if you want to be a bookish friend, I would say that this July, this August is a good time to be joining that. To get a good flavor for what's on offer over there, there's over 70 bonus episodes, and only exclusive to Patreon, which is pretty exciting as well so...

Meredith Monday Schwartz 43:09

That's a lot of content. And you're right, Kaytee we want to make sure that we spend a lot of time over the course of Season Four really concentrating on continuing to put out great episodes of the show, not changing the format of the Big Show, because Lord knows we get so much pushback out aloud as we make any change that we're not putting in anything new. We're not changing anything. We're not taking anything out. We've heard you guys. And also with the Patreon content, I think it's super important that we concentrate on The Indie Press List. We need to grow it and we need to pay a ton of attention to how we're growing it and how we're making our choices for bookstores and the books that we put on The Indie Press List. And because we want to give it that really careful time and attention, that is going to be our area of focus along with all of our other Patreon content. So you're right, Kaytee, now is the time to become a subscriber and to become a Patreon subscriber and supporter. And it will give you those 70 pieces of content to listen to as we go into a week where they're not going to get an episode.

Kaytee Cobb 44:12

Yeah, but if you're worried about the dark week, this is this is how you can get through it. I think I think really what that comes down to is that we want to be a force for good in the book community. We want to be a force for good for indie bookstores, for bookish friendships, for spicy opinions about books. All of that is like that's our superpower, Meredith, that we could be a force for good in the book community.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 44:35

Right, exactly. That's what we want to do every single week and we're so lucky to be able to do it with you guys. Alright, that is it for this week. That is it for this season. As a reminder, here's where you can connect with us. You can find me I'm Meredith at @Meredith.reads on Instagram.

Kaytee Cobb 44:53

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 44:57

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 45:07

Thank you, Megan, for making that happen every week. You can contact us directly at @currentlyreadingpodcast on Instagram or via email at currentlyreadingpodcast@gmail.com.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 45:18

And if you really want to help us, become a Patreon subscriber and support us that way. Also rate and review us on Apple podcasts and shout us out on social media. That makes such a huge difference towards us continuing to be able to grow our perfect audience.

Kaytee Cobb 45:35

Yes, your recommendations, your shares, your shoutouts your Patreon support are all helping us become a force for good in the book community. Thanks for doing that.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 45:45

Alright, until next season. Happy reading Kaytee.

Kaytee Cobb 45:48

Happy reading Meredith.