



# Season 5, Episode 10: Repeat Authors, Good and Bad + Getting Into a Rut

Mon, Oct 3, 2022 • 1:04:00

**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 you need to get ready.

**Kaytee Cobb** 00:25

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

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 00:38

I'm Meredith Monday Schwartz, a mom of four and full time CEO living in Austin, Texas and drinking lots of coffee in Austin, Texas. And I am happiest when my values align with my reading.

**Kaytee Cobb** 00:50

And I'm Kaytee Cobb, a homeschooling mom of four living in New Mexico, and the mood boost I get from libraries is its own kind of joy. This is episode number 10 of season five and we're so glad you're here. Meredith, I love it when my values align with my reading also.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 01:05

Well, I gotta tell you, I'm a little worried for our audience with this episode, because I am overly caffeinated you are right at the same place that I mean, this episode could go off the rails real quick.

**Kaytee Cobb** 01:18

But everybody loves it when that happens. So I'm not too worried about it.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 01:22

They love it. But then I ended up either needing to put an explicit warning on the show or I end up having to apologize.

**Kaytee Cobb** 01:30

I will remind you, I'm the only one who has been bleeped on the show thus far. So Okay. Let's see what happens. Okay. Okay, before we get into all the goodness, I will let you all know that today, we are going to be talking about genre ruts, and rating ruts. What happens if you read a whole bunch of one

kind of book? Does it affect your ratings? But before we do that, we have some mischief to manage once a month. As you all know, the first Monday of the month, we do an ad for ourselves. It's the only ad you ever hear on Currently Reading. And we want to talk to you a little bit about Patreon and becoming a bookish friend over there with us for five bucks a month.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 02:08

Right. So you get a lot of great content, which you probably know about because you've probably been listening to us talk about getting All Things Murderful, Trope Thursday, of course The Indie Press List and you get to be involved in our Facebook group, all the good stuff, right? We talk about that all the time. But Kaytee, you today had the brilliant idea to say hey, there's one thing that might be standing in people's way of actually taking the plunge becoming a bookish friend. It's only \$5 a month. So that can't be the problem. Kaytee, what might be standing in their way?

**Kaytee Cobb** 02:41

Yes, this this comes from a lovely listener who reached out last month and said, I really want to become a bookish friend. But I don't know how to get those episodes into my podcast app. And y'all it is so easy. Every bookish friend gets their own personalized RSS feed that's active for as long as you are a patron. That link is it's just an HTTP link. But it can be added to your regular podcast listening app to almost all of them, except just a couple of them. And Patreon will let you know if you're using an app that it won't play nicely with. But it's super easy to Google, add my patreon to Apple podcasts, Google podcasts, whatever you're using to listen to us every week. And then those podcast episodes will drop into your regular podcast app, just like everything else that you listen to on a regular basis. So on a Thursday, you might get an Indie Press List, and it'll just pop up there exactly like you would expect it to. And you don't have to do anything more. It's already there waiting for you. It's very low barrier to entry, but it is kind of confusing sometimes. So we want to make it clear that not only is it not that hard, but also over on Patreon and through our email, I'm happy to answer questions, y'all. I'm like the tech support behind the scenes for Currently Reading. And I love making sure that everybody has access to the content that we're creating for them. So send us an email if you get stuck. I'm happy to help.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 04:04

Yes. And it really is as easy as copying and pasting one link into a very easy to find place on your podcast app. They know that this is how Patreon works. They've made it easy to do so and set it and forget it. So I'm glad that you brought that up because that is the kind of like low level hurdle that keeps me from doing things sometimes. That actually is going to come up in my bookish moment of the week, Kaytee.

**Kaytee Cobb** 04:28

Perfect. So if you want to join us over on [patreon.com/currentlyreadingpodcast](https://patreon.com/currentlyreadingpodcast), again, it's only five bucks a month, or you can join annually for a little discount. And we would love to have you check us out and become a bookish friend. Mischief Managed.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 04:43

Mischief Managed.

**Kaytee Cobb** 04:45

What is your bookish moment this week, Meredith?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 04:47

Okay, well, speaking of low level hurdles that have been like, you know, just as things were like, I really need to do blah, blah, blah, but then you just don't get to it. One of the things so far ever I for years and years pre podcast forever, the way that I've listened to audiobooks has been with Audible. Right? And we all know that

**Kaytee Cobb** 05:11

I thought you were going to say CDs, and I was gonna eye rolling hard.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 05:15

No, but I am old enough to have done that. No. So Audible, owned by Amazon, Now, I want to say right at the start, I love me some Amazon. I buy everything from batteries to dresses from Amazon. So I this is not a Meredith ranting about Amazon like I am, I am right there with you. But I try really hard not to buy my books from Amazon, because it's very easy for me to buy books from my local independent bookseller online, right. So Audible though had been one of those places, you know, when you use something for a really long time, and you've built up a library that's existed for a really long time. And you're sort of like, oh, man, okay, I've wanted to switch to Libro FM for a really for a long time. Because through Libro FM, I can listen to the same audio books that I've been listening to as far as like you have access to all of them. But I can give a good amount of those purchases straight to any independent bookstore that I choose. And they make it super easy to switch it around. So if every different audio book that I download, I want that goodness to go to a different bookstore, they make it easy to have it happen. So Kaytee, finally, this week, I was like, You know what, this and no further, I am making the switch. I opened up my Libro FM account, I downloaded a couple of books. I set Fabled, of course it's my independent bookstore to start, and I just feel like my values, our values here on the show, are aligning with what I'm actually doing. Like we talked so much about supporting independent bookstores. I felt like this was a place where I wasn't as clean and tidy as it needed to be from a values perspective. So now I'm just feeling really good about it. And you know what, it took me less than five minutes to make the switch. So I'm not trying to get anyone else to do that. That's like, again, you what ever however you want to take your books and library, you know, independent bookstores, Amazon, B&N whatever. That's not my point. My point is, sometimes things that we put off for a long time, don't take very long, and we feel a lot better when we do it. So that was my bookish moment of the week. The first book I downloaded was Fairy Tale by Stephen King, which I am buddy reading with my husband.

**Kaytee Cobb** 07:38

And that is a great value, because can we talk about it's the same exact structure, you get a credit, you spend about 15 bucks a month, and then you get to spend that credit on any book in their catalogue. Pretty much every once awhile, you'll find an exception to the rule. But that means you're listening to some like 30 hour audiobook for 15 bucks and benefiting an independent bookstore. That's like win, win, win, win win.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 08:01**

Right? Exactly. And it was just so easy to do. I just feel better about it.

**Kaytee Cobb 08:04**

I'm so glad. I love libro FM. I love their app. I love the interface. I love everything about it. So I'm very excited that you're over there as well now. Okay, my bookish moment also has to do with my bite size intro. We went to the library, just Levi and I and it was my mood boost. This week, I have been in a capital M. Mood actually all four capital letters MOOD mood this week. It's a lot of randomness. I'm getting over being sick. We have construction in our house making it very dusty, which makes me feel sick still, even though I'm done being sick with stuffy noses. I've been in a little bit of a book slump, etc. So today I snapped up my middle boy Levi, we popped over to the library as part of some errand running, He had lots of holds to pick up I had lots of holds to pick up, we browsed a bit, especially the displays for Hispanic and LatinX Heritage Month, and Banned Books Week, which is what's happening right now in real time. We picked up a new puzzle to do together. And we chatted with the librarians. I couldn't believe how much that that one little 20 minute visit to the library turned my mood around. We had to head to Sam's Club afterwards. And it was a complete zoo there. But we both just floated through the aisles and made jokes and laugh together. And I was so grateful for what turned into basically a free antidepressant. I was like it was a total 180 just from walking through the doors, my favorite place in town and talking to some of my favorite people and getting to commune with the books there. So I mean, libraries are a mood boost for me and I love it.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 09:38**

That is a great bookish moment. Sometimes that is all it takes. I haven't been going to my library as much as I've discussed and I really really miss it. I miss the people there. I miss going to the library. So after football season is done when I get my Saturdays back, I think I'm going to go. I think I'm going to go into a little bit of a library mode again because I just love it. I love everything. about the sort of ritual of going

**Kaytee Cobb 10:02**

Yes, yes, the ritual. That's exactly what it is. It's like communion with the library. Okay. Let's get into some current reads. Meredith, I can't wait to hear what you brought this week.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 10:13**

All right. My books this week are all over the place because my reading has been all over the place. Kaytee, I don't know what is with my reading. I'm up. I'm down. I'm slumping. I'm five starring multiple. I'm all over the place. Okay. There's highs and lows. Right, exactly. So today I'm bringing a book that is a new emotional support book. I'm bringing a book I'm going to destroy, and I'm bringing a book that is five stars and firmly in my murderous wheelhouse. So it is a it is a feast for the senses what we've got going today. First Book is a book called The House Witch by Delemhach. Here's our setup. So our lead character in this charming confection of a book is a young curmudgeon. His name's Finley... Kaytee, you're gonna love him. Finn has recently joined the staff of the King and Queen of Daxaria. He's very good at his job as a castle chef, but he is definitely making sure that he keeps his distance from everyone. No one knows where he comes from, or how he came to be where he is. And that is exactly the way that Finn wants it. He satisfied simply serving as the Royal Cook, keeping annoying people

which, in his mind, I will say is pretty much everybody, out of his kitchen and whipping up some truly mouthwatering meals. But because this is a book and something has to happen to move the plot forward, Finn's secret identity doesn't stay hidden for long. As his powers as a house witch are gradually discovered by the court, Finn finds himself involved in all manner of castle goings on like protecting one of his staff from some really douchey knights, to helping care for a pregnant queen, fending off the big fat fraud of a royal mage and uncovering a spy in the castle. All that and he catches feelings for someone, which is hilarious because Finn does not like feelings, but he really...

**Kaytee Cobb** 12:16

I know someone like that.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 12:18

It's very, very sweet. Well, no, I like romantic feelings. Those are the only kind of feelings I do like Kaytee. So what I need to say is that he's a house witch, and I love the powers of a house witch. I'm not gonna say anything more about them, because it's really delightful to discover in the book. But I would love to be a house witch. I think I can find some really great ways to use his powers. It's really, it's really, really awesome. So a bookish friend mentioned this sweet novel in a post in our Facebook community and said that it was really similar to one of my favorites and your favorites too Kaytee of the year, Legends and Lattes. And that, of course, is catnip to me. And I immediately downloaded it because I'm forever looking for books on my TBR that I can grab when I'm in a really specific mode. That is when I need an emotional support book, right? Emotional support book is fun and light and frothy. And this book definitely fits the bill. There is so much to like here. It's light. It's low stakes. It's filled with likable characters, and some comfortably unlikable characters. So it's very clear who we're rooting for and who we're rooting against. It has the coziest castle and the sweetest Castle kitchen. It has a lead character who is handsome, but not overly handsome. And he's a really, really good chef. It has some of the best food and drink in any cozy book that I've ever read. It even makes the food in Louise Penny look kind of meh to be honest. There is a scene with a grilled cheese sandwich in this book that made me literally get up and make a grilled cheese sandwich. The author describes food really, really well. So this book has found family. It has a familiar who's a black cat and I love a book with a familiar. It's got really good guys and really bad guys. And it's Oh, so satisfying for what it is. I enjoyed it all the way through. But the big but I would be remiss if I did not say that this book is probably 40% too long. Kaytee, when you get it you are going to gasp aloud. This book is almost 500 pages

**Kaytee Cobb** 14:32

What...

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 14:33

It doesn't need to be. It could have been two really, really good books in a series. It really could have been because about halfway through. I was grinning, and I realized when I still had another half to go that my grin was getting a little bit forced. Now it's not to say that it's not good all the way through. It's just a lot of it in one place. You know what I mean? Right? So I did feel that I read the last third pretty quickly. I read it but I read it pretty quickly. I was very happy with the ending. And I was happy to see that there are other books in the series, I will be really, really interested to see how long said books are. There's also a preview of the next book, in at least the Kindle version. I set it aside because I was like,

You know what, I'm going to give it some time, because I can't wait to be back in this world. But I'm ready to segue into something a little more murderful right now. So if you always need an emotional support book on your TBR, a book that you can just pick up and feel good and calm and peaceful and doesn't demand a lot of you a book that will make you chuckle and happy to be in the company of its characters. You definitely want to grab this one and just put it where you can reach it when you need it. This is *The House witch* by Delemhach.

**Kaytee Cobb** 15:48

Okay, can you enlighten me about the name at all? Because I was Googling I was trying to figure out was this like a user name? Is this fan fiction? What is happening?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 15:57

It's it seems to be a Canadian author, who is non binary. Okay. And so I think maybe for that reason, just the one name I don't know, I didn't find a lot either. I didn't, I'm really just guessing about about that particular thing. But I love the way that they write. I was thoroughly charmed by their story. And I guarantee you, I will dip back into this world.

**Kaytee Cobb** 16:20

So fun. Okay, I can't wait to get my copy. I know this is kind of an indie published thing. So it takes a long time to get a paper copy of it in my bookstore for whatever reason. It's like multiple weeks of waiting. So I'm trying to be patient.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 16:35

Well, I really feel like I could give everybody permission to read the first half and be like, Okay, I read the first book in this series. I'm just gonna put my bookmark here. And then I'm gonna mark it as read. Right? And then just say like, okay, cuz man, it could have so easily been two books.

**Kaytee Cobb** 16:53

Wow. Yeah. Okay. I have an unexpected theme this week. I'm still like, as we're sitting here recording, I'm still trying to decide what order I want to put my books in. But mine are all revisiting authors I have previously loved and sometimes that goes great, and sometimes not so much. So I'm going to start with *Year on Fire* by Julie Buxbaum. I'm going to start with this one because it's YA and so that way, Meredith can take some time and just check her phone and not listen to me talk about this book and get another coffee.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 17:29

I do not check my phone when you are when you're talking about books.

**Kaytee Cobb** 17:33

Not even YA books? Come on. No. Okay. Okay, so this is the author of a previous press of mine a book I pressed into yours hands, it was *Tell Me Three Things* which I pressed way back in season one. It is one of the best YA novels of the 21st century in my not so humble opinion. In this one, *Year on Fire*, we've got a childhood friendship between a trio of friends. Archer and Immie, who are boy girl twins. Let your ears perk up at that one at least, and their best friend Paige. Everything changed this past summer

right before junior year started when Immie admitted to kissing someone that Paige had big feelings for. That makes it even more complicated when on the first day of school, they all three meet Rohan Jackson, a new student who catches Paige's eye. Immediately she calls dibs on him. But the problem is that Immie likes what she sees as well. And Immie feels like she can't argue with Paige. Especially after the summer kiss that could have changed everything. Cue big drama. She feels like she's skating.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 18:37

I'm gonna... I'm I'm gonna go check my phone.

**Kaytee Cobb** 18:39

Okay, perfect. She feels like she's skating on thin ice as it is. Meanwhile, Immie's twin brother Arch is getting closer and closer to Paige's ex boyfriend whose name is Jackson. And wouldn't that just blow everything up in their faces if something started happening there in a male male relationship with Paige's ex boyfriend. If it sounds like we've already put a lot of plotlines in play here know that I've only given you the bare bones of this novel. There's also an arsonist at school, troubles at home, self harm ideation, a teen who might run away from home, a married couple living across the ocean from one another, and a whole mess of other issues in this book, and I say mess with all the love in the world. But I'll tell you what it felt like every time I turned the page, there was a new issue being introduced into the story. I considered taking notes on a YA novel that's not like high fantasy or anything, just to keep track of all the bullet points that I needed to put under each freaking character. And that's a lot. This is just a YA novel. I think this would have been perfectly served by paring it way down. There could have been at least one person in this central cadre of friends that was fine, just fine, just doing fine. Just a cornerstone on their building of friendships so that when everything else came crumbling down around them, we know how to rebuild correctly because we have this cornerstone friend who is solid and strong, that we don't have that here. Instead, I called this a kitchen sink book in my notes about it. If there's an issue that you think might be affecting teens today, it's probably in here at some point. All that to say, I gave it three and a half stars. And it's now the third book of hers that I've read, plus one more that I abandoned. I think she was just right for me at a time. When I read Tell Me Three Things. But now it's time for me to move along and for other YA readers to enjoy her books. So unfortunately, Year on Fire, it will be my last one by Julie Buxbaum.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 20:40

You know, I mean, I totally understand to support that decision for her. I mean, I would never want to want to read that book. And yet, as you said, there's probably a whole lot of teens for whom it would be like, the perfect, you know, the perfect thing, it would just be everything that they want to read about and speak to exactly where they are. So, so yeah, but you that's important that you let us know, what is in there, what you liked about it. And then what was, you know, difficult for you so much.

**Kaytee Cobb** 21:08

There's so much in there. It's like It's like sitting on a suitcase that you've packed to full and she's like, like, Here, come stand on this with me so I can get the latches shut.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 21:16**

Well, I fully understand picking up a book from an author who is known to you, who you have enjoyed in the past, okay, and being sorely disappointed, because I had that experience in the not too distant past Kaytee, and I'm gonna tell you about it. I read a little book, which is coming out November 8, because NetGalley is a problem for me, called Murder at Black Oaks by Phillip Margolin. Alright, here's our setup. You know, Phillip Margolin is? I love Phillip Margolin. Okay, it's because you're not a child of the 90s. Phillip Margolin, and I'll just say this in my thoughts later, but I'm just gonna tell you now because you're looking at me with blank eyes, so Phillip Margolin was writing really good legal thrillers when John Grisham was, so there was like this whole heyday in the early 90s when I was in college, that were these great legal courtroom dramas were coming out my dad and I used to just like trade Phillip Margolin back and forth all the time. I absolutely love his books, including Gone But Not Forgotten. That's probably my number one favorite of his. The Associate, Wild Justice. I mean, just, he's, he's a known quantity to me. Now, I haven't read him for a couple of decades, but like, he's a known quantity.

**Kaytee Cobb 21:16**

But you're on Net Galley. And you're like, I have an idea.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 21:24**

Oh, jeeze, just stab me in the eye. Okay, here's the setup for this new book called Murder at Black Oaks. Our story starts with hotshot defense attorney Robin Lockwood. Okay. She is asked by a retired District Attorney, a guy named Francis Melville to meet with him at his estate at Black Oaks, the manor he owns up in the Oregon mountains. And by up I mean, up in the mountains. So the manor, of course, has an interesting history. It was originally built back in 1628 in England, and then it was moved to Oregon. And there's like a metric ton of bad stuff that is rumored to have taken place there. And it has the requisite curse attached to it. And so someone in their infinite wisdom in the early 1900s was like, You know what, this is the house that I want to spend millions of dollars moving from England, to the Oregon mountains. That sounds like a good idea. Hook it up, Charlie. Anyway,

**Kaytee Cobb 21:24**

How do you even do that?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 21:30**

I don't know people do it. But why would you do it? When there's like a curse on a house? Why would I just why would why? Okay, this is the beginning of lots of questions that we have. Okay. All right, but we go on. Okay. So DA Melville, right, he was a district attorney. He's now retired, he asks this defense attorney, hey, come to my cursed manner. And I need to talk to you because I need your help writing a wrongful conviction from my days as a DA because years before, this guy Melville had took to trial a young man named Jose Alvarez, he got him convicted of murder. But years after that, da Melville goes into private practice and starts representing this total douchebag, who not only gets off on another trial that he's on, but admits to having committed that crime. And he admits that he committed the crime that Jose Alvarez was convicted for, but now, Melville has a problem, right? Because all that was told to him under attorney client privilege. So he goes to Robin Lockwood and says, You gotta help me figure out how we you know make right this wrong that I unknowingly committed. Okay, so stop breathe. That's



that should have been the book. That right there is pure Phillip Margolin that should have been the book

**Kaytee Cobb 24:56**

Already sounds a bit complicated, to be honest.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 24:58**

There's more and trust me when I say that Margolin is just getting started at this point. So Robin, so Robin does what she set out to do. She gets this guy who's been wrongly convicted, she gets him off, she gets him out, okay? And they're so excited that Melville the DA who started this whole thing says, Hey, Robin, come back to Black Oaks, my cursed home for a second time and we're gonna have a celebration as one does. Lockwood then brings herself and Jose Alvarez, who is pretty pissed off at the guy who's hosting this celebration, am I right? He's the guy who got him convicted of this crime, right? So she brings Alvarez, he's also been invited because Melville wants to make good. But then, and this is all marketing copy you guys. I'm still in the marketing copies. I mean, I'm still giving you my version of the marketing copy. Melville, the guy who started all this rockin and rollin is found murdered with a knife connected, of course, to the original curse on the house. And Lockwood is trapped because of course, there's a storm and the roads are blocked. Because this is what we do. Now, we block everybody in on an island or a house or a mountaintop in this situation. And of course, somebody's getting murdered and who's going to be next? Okay, here we go. All right. Again, I have to say I picked this book up because I have read Phillip Margolin. And he used to be good. But here's what I think happened. I think Phillip Margolin has been writing books for 35 years. And he's got a really, really great contract. And so at some point, he said to his 17 year old daughter, hey, Madison, I don't know what is I don't even know if he has a granddaughter? Hey, Chloe, come over here. This will be hysterical. You write, see, I was writing this legal thriller, which is what I do, and that's what I do well, but my publisher just called and said, locked room is where it at where it's at Philip. So we need for you to pivot. But Chloe, Madison, Chloe, Madison, could you please write the rest of this book? Because it'll be hilarious if we do that. And we get it published as if it's me. Because I swear to you, Kaytee, that's exactly what this book sounds. That's who it sounds like wrote this book. It is so badly written in the first chapter. I was like, oh, no, oh, no. What has gone? What has gone wrong? The writing is so painfully bad. And then the locked room element is so shoehorned in, and then I can't tell you this next part. But there's been a large piece of the plot that that came in the book that was so laughable that I threw my head back, cackled my best witch's cackle and said okay, now I'm hate reading. Yes, because that is the most ridiculous thing. I have. Just now I'm like, consider me having downshifted on the uphill because now I am hate reading this book, and I'm going to do it. So I hate read the rest of this book. It this.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 28:11**

Y'all, we deserve better than this. This, this book is horrible. And it never, ever should have seen the light of day. Because just the things that I have discovered, then there's a whole other third that gets tacked on to the end of it. When Phillip Margolin takes over from Chloe Madison, and starts writing the book. He really continues writing the book he wanted to write before, but it's all been mish mashed into this one book. And it is so badly done. It is I can't it makes me angry it. Okay. Well, I want to talk about books with grace and equanimity because we know that every book is a labor of love. But this one was so shockingly not good by a man who's been writing and being paid to write for so long by a man who I

know for sure can write better that I felt like this is not okay with me. Because whatever he was paid to write this book, whatever is going to go out to Barnes and Noble to give him an end cap when this book comes out and don't miss there will be an endcap when this book comes out. There's there's entire shelves of his books at Barnes and Noble and again, I love Barnes and Noble. That's not my problem. That marketing money that contract money did not go to so many other books and things and authors. And instead it went to this guy. And that is the piece that really had me downshift in hate read the whole rest of the thing because I wanted to be able to read all that so that I could talk about the fact that this is the problem that is getting better. I firmly believe that it is getting better in the publishing world. I think we are making strides. Publishing houses are hearing our voices. It is getting better. But there is so much work left to do. and case in point, Murder at Black Oaks is coming out on November 8. That's how we know we have more work to do. So I stand by his early work. I've really do you guys, if you love Grisham and you haven't read Phillip Margolin, Gone but Not Forgotten is a treasure. It's so much fun. Is it going to win the Booker? No. But it's so good. This was a steaming pile of garbage created for us by a man who's capable of a lot better. This is my issue. Murder at Black Oaks. Get it if you dare.

**Kaytee Cobb 30:35**

If you Oh, no, now you've dared them, Meredith.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 30:38**

I was telling Betsie about this book at lunch and she was like, no, why do I want to buy it? And I'm like you, my friend have missed the point.

**Kaytee Cobb 30:47**

The worst. You're fired Betsie.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 30:49**

No, I don't think she's I do not think she's actually going to buy it. But you know what I mean? Like, sometimes when you really say a book is so bad. It's really hard not to be like, Oh, wait, well, I just want to read it. Yeah, exactly. Exactly. And I totally get that. I totally get that. I've done that myself. But oh my gosh, this. This book had me fired up.

**Kaytee Cobb 31:09**

I see that. I see that. We hear you, Meredith. We're here with you.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 31:13**

Thank you.

**Kaytee Cobb 31:15**

Okay. My next book this week is from my author crush, Mike Gayle. I read his new release The Museum of Ordinary People, which and he wrote my favorite book of 2021 All the Lonely People, right? I had a great interview with him. I adore him from afar. I pre-ordered this new release from Blackwell's because it releases across the pond first and I was still going to get it before it released here. And I read it as soon as I had it in hand. Here's the setup. It's been almost a year since Jessica's mom died suddenly. I want to I want that out there right at the top because that's going to make this book a no go

for some people, right? Burying our mom is difficult and when that's a tender place for you as a reader, this book is not for you. For Jess though it's time to start moving forward. So she has put her childhood home up for sale and needs to empty it of its contents. She finds an old set of Encyclopedia Britannica was gifted to her by her mother, which she has no space to keep in her small London flat, but she's sentimentally attached to them. In this way, it just stumbles across the Museum of Ordinary People, and it's reluctant owner Alex. Alex, our mysteriously scarred hero is the new owner of a moving and estate company. But he had no idea how he came to inherit it, or what his connection to the previous owner may have been. When he finds out there's a quirky museum attached he just about blows a gasket. But as Jess and Alex delve into the history of the museum, and the objects in their care, they start to unravel the stories of how those objects came to be part of this museum, and decided to make a real go of turning it into an actual place to visit. Each item was either found in the rubbish bin or left there intentionally, left at the museum intentionally because like Jess, they have sentimental attachment to it, but no place to store it. And there's a small card with the provenance written out in spidery handwriting. Jess, as a museum curator herself knows there's something special here in the objects of everyday life. So this is not a museum where you go see Van Gogh. It's the museum where you see, you know, the dress that the housemaid wore and the sewing machine that grandma used. The story continues on as we peel back the layers on the objects, on Jess and her grief and the crappy relationship that she's currently in. And the mystery of Alex and his burns and the museum itself. Each of those storylines, twists and turns weaving through grief and loss along with the ways that we hold on to the ones who are no longer with us on this plane on this earth. Mike Gayle writes these poignant and emotional stories, but I can tell those of you with cold dead hearts, this one did not leave me bereft, crying, or sobbing my eyes out. I was fine. Instead, I gave it four stars. It felt kind of jumbled to me. Like the museum itself, like, like everything was just kind of thrown in there together. It was fun and sweet and full of compassion for the people who were facing up to grief and memory. But I didn't get that cathartic moment at the end where every storyline comes together and I'm at disaster level eleventy billion, which is what I was hoping for, because that's what All the Lonely People did to me and I wanted that's same beautiful moment. Meredith cannot handle thank God though.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 34:39

That's your that's your journey.

**Kaytee Cobb** 34:40

That's my journey. I gave it four stars. I passed along to another friend who I hope will love it. And I do think there's there's a great idea here. I would love to go to the museum of ordinary people in real life. And check it out and poke through other people's old stuff and then know that I don't have to take any of it home with me. It can stay there. And those memories can be part of somebody else's journey, if we will. But it didn't have, again that that sweet and bittersweet moment at the end that I was really craving. So it was fine. It was the Museum of Ordinary People by Mike Gayle.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 35:17

So do you want to tell us the friend that you let that you handed this to? And are you gonna ask them what they think about it later? And what if they really loved it And they're like, "It's my favorite book of the whole year. How could you not have given it five stars, Kaytee?"

**Kaytee Cobb 35:28**

Oh, I think Stephanie, who I love, Stephanie Bonin who I sent it to and is a very faithful listener of the podcast, I think, should that she'll like it. I think she'll probably also land at about four stars. And I also think that she'll connect a little better with the characters because she has buried her mom in the past. So but it's far enough away now that she is not like a fresh grief. So I think that she'll have a different level of connection with it than I did.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 35:54**

All right, good. All right, Stephanie. Let us know what you end up thinking about.

**Kaytee Cobb 35:56**

Yes, please do.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 35:58**

Alright, my third book is the one that is just absolutely in my wheelhouse. My Murderful wheelhouse. And it was five stars. I am so excited to talk about this book, cuz I feel like so many people would love this book. It's called The Keeper of Lost Causes by Jussi Adler-Olsen. Here's the setup. So The Keeper of Lost Causes is the first in what's called The Department Q series. And our lead character is Chief detective Carl Morck who used to be one of the best homicide detectives in Copenhagen. But then a really horrible thing happened on the job with some suspects and two of the people that he was working with two of his colleagues were horribly injured, and one of them was killed, and Mark was injured too. But now he blames himself for what happened that day and his whole department basically is giving him side eye. So he is completely shocked when he is brought in and told that he is not only not being let go that he is being promoted. It turns out that Carl has been selected for a very specific reason, to run department Q, a new Special Investigation Division that is tasked with looking into the coldest of the cold cases in Copenhagen. And he's the Department of one. The other thing is that he's ignominiously shoved down to the basement of the police building, and it's just clear that he's been put out to pasture. So Carl is as surprised as anyone when a case that he's looking at down there in the basement actually captures his interest. A missing politician vanished without a trace five years earlier. The world has always assumed that she was dead. His colleagues laugh at him for taking the time to even look into this case. That's how open and shut it is. But Carl may have the last laugh and redeem himself in the process because we know something that they don't. The missing politician is not dead yet. This book, this book is so good. It is Nordic noir so it is you know it is out of writer who's out of Copenhagen but it is just pure literary mystery wonderfulness. It is so well done. I loved loved loved this book. Elizabeth Barnhill from Fabled brought this to us initially, in an episode of All Things Murderful. I knew I wanted it immediately. And I wanted it immediately and I started listening to it on a drive down to Memphis, I actually listened to eight hours of it without stopping on that car ride I was, so I had like an hour left to listen to. And so as soon as we got where we were going, like after we like saw Mark and Devon and Jeffrey and got back to our place. I immediately laid there for an hour and finished it because I had to find out what's gonna what was gonna happen. I love the lead character, Carl Morck. He is my favorite kind of, you know, really acerbic but good guy, like he's not toxically bad. He's like a good guy, but he's just, you know, lonely and troubled and he's been through a lot. But you guys, he has this assistant, I absolutely love this assistant who falls in his lap. He these two are so so so good together. Absolutely one of my favorite parts of the book. It's told in a dual timeline, where we're following Morck with this

cold case investigation. And then we have this other portion, which I'm not going to talk about, but the going back and forth between these two ratchets up the tension, like you would not believe. Now, there is no question that there are a lot of trigger warnings here especially hear me say this. If issues of torture are difficult for you, this book is replete with it. So definitely be aware of that for sure. It's absolutely horrible. It's not sexual, but it is torture. And there are lots of gory things that happen in this book. But if that doesn't put you off of it, this is it's just incredibly well plotted and really, really well written. As I said, I did this one on audio, I loved it this way, the pronunciation of all the Danish words was super helpful. And I will say that it took me probably a half hour of listening to really start to get into the story, not much longer than that, but it took a little bit, you need to get past the first couple chapters where we're kind of, like getting our feet under us with Carl Morck and like, how he finds himself where he is. But once he gets down into the basement, we are rocking and rolling in a major way. It's really it's really worth waiting through those first couple of chapters. This is an absolute page turner, and it's part of a series. I've already downloaded the first three on audio for my trips back and forth to Memphis because they are absolutely perfect. This book is so so good five stars for me. This was *The Keeper of Lost Causes* by Jussi Adler-Olsen.

**Kaytee Cobb** 41:09

That does sound very good. I have the mind of a 12 year old boy. So every time you said he had to go to the basement before we get rockin and rollin. I had a problem. I'm sorry.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 41:21

Well, the you know what I should have made clear, the missing politician is a woman. And I don't think I said that. But that I think that that's important for people to know. The person who we're following with a woman.

**Kaytee Cobb** 41:34

Good to know. I'm going to talk about a middle grade book now. So, today I'm going to talk about as my final book, because now I've hit an adult novel, a YA novel. And now I've got a middle grade novel for you. I want to talk about *Sisterhood of Sleuths* by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman. Timing wise, when this episode releases this book comes out the next day. So basically I timed it perfectly and I'm very proud of myself. If this author sounds familiar, it's because we have a long standing love affair with *The Book Scavenger* series around here, including giving it also a place on the press list when we were pressing books into your hands. In her newest novel Bertman returns with another Middle Grade mystery based around books, which is the best kind. Maizy is our main character, and she's very close with her grandmother Jacuzzi, who we must assume was a hippie child because she has a name like Jacuzzi. Maizy's mom owns a vintage thrift store filled with treasures of all kinds. So when a book box gets left outside, it's kind of a run of the mill occurrence no big deal. What she finds inside though, is not. It's chock full of the original Nancy Drew books. Maizy starts to look into the title, she's never read any Nancy Drew books before, which I can clearly identify with. She finds a photo of her grandmother in the box and she is pictured alongside two other women. But Jacuzzi claims no knowledge of the photo, or the women who are in it with her when Maisie shows it to her. Curiouser and curiouser. As Maisie gets more and more interested in finding out the truth, she enlists her two new friends Nell and Cam in her quest to figure out is this Jacuzzi? Are these her friends? Does she know this person? And what does Nancy Drew have to do with everything? They turn it into a class project, researching Nancy Drew, and

Carolyn Keene, the famed authors pen name. This story is introduced generational and has a bit of mystery. But what I loved most was the burgeoning friendship between the three kids. And the way that we as readers get to learn about the iconic series of books that turned a few generations really of people into readers. The nods to Nancy Drew plotlines are fun, her fashion. And the way we get to unpack updates to the series over time are what really drew me in. I would say that this one reads slightly younger to me than The Book Scavenger series does. So it would be a great fit for your eight and nine year olds especially. But I found it utterly charming as an adult reader as well. This book has a fun story attached to it. Jennifer herself reached out to us she is a bookish friend. And she contacted us and set up a book train for a huge number of bookish friends to get to read an arc. So my book came from Colorado, and then I sent it off to Tennessee. And each of us were getting to read from this single arc or she sent I think three of them around the story about the email when she sent it to us to set this thing up, still makes me smile to this day. And getting to get this book in my hands and knowing that it came straight from a bookish friend and was going to another one really added to the experience for me, because it felt like having a pen pal, like Nancy Drew would have done in the 1940s. I loved it. This was so delightful. It was easy. There was never a scary moment. It was all fun mystery for middle graders. This was Sisterhood of Sleuths by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 45:02

Oh, I love that. I love her. I love The Book Scavengers. Not only is it on our press list, it's on my forever middle grade shelf, which I don't have, you know, that I have a very high bar for these books which I plan on passing on to my further generations in my family. So I love her writing. I'm so glad that that was a good one.

**Kaytee Cobb** 45:19

Yes, me too. Okay, we did it. Those were our six current reads, We are well into this episode, because we have a lot of words about them. So now we get to get into our deep dive, which is about reading ruts and genre ruts. And this came from an email from our bookish friend Alex Cox way back in April. Here's what she said. "Today, I was updating my reading log spreadsheet and I hit a wall. I entered a few books I have read since the beginning of April, and I noticed something. It seems like when I read several books within the same genre back to back, I begin giving them lower ratings. I was wondering about a deep dive into how reading the same genre for an extended period of time might affect your ratings". Meredith, as our murderful queen, does this happen to you?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 46:04

Yes. And I actually think that this has a lot less to do with the murder elements of things. And more to do with the fact that I think in this email, she described herself as a chaotic mood reader, right. I think that actually is more at play. This is my theory. For Alex, who's one of our favorites, I absolutely adore her. It's that if, for me, I have found that if I read in the same genre, really, I mean, I almost never even read two in a row, I try to do this rotation for this exact reason. But every once in a while I will get in this in for whatever reason, I will read a bunch. And usually it's mysteries or thrillers, and there is a diminishing return that happens. So I don't think she's wrong. I think that when I find that that happens for me, it's that I find that usually there's something going on that's weird in my life, or my mood is weird for a particular reason. And I'm defaulting to the genre that's easiest for me or that I have the most of. And that's never, for me as a mood reader, the best, most effective way to choose a book. And what it

can end up doing is then getting getting me into reading books where I'm like, Okay, this is fine. And then that becomes a three star book. But if I'd read it a different time, then maybe it would have been more so. So that's my theory that it has more to do with her being a mood reader and less to do with the fact that she's in just this specific books that she's read.

**Kaytee Cobb** 47:39

Right? Yes, that makes sense to me as well. I also don't have this problem, partially because like we've talked about, I'm a planned reader, right, I really like to know what's coming. And even if I have a plan to stack, I will never finish, let's say, a middle grade book and go straight to another middle grade book. Because I know, I don't want any kind of monotony in my reading life. But what I do find happening, which I don't think there's any way to prevent is if I'm, let's say I'm reading a book, and I'm listening to a different book, if there is any similarity anywhere in the plot, like they both went to the grocery store and saw someone dropped something on the floor. I'm like minus a star. I, it makes me feel like there's nothing new under the sun. Like, like authors have run out of ideas. And so...

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 48:32

how do you how do you keep that from happening?

**Kaytee Cobb** 48:34

You can't. That's why That's why it makes me so mad when it does happen. I mean, sometimes it feels like serendipity, like Oh, how funny. Both of these people went to a concert and had a drink spilled on them. That's something that happens in real life, right? It's not a problem. But if it happens in a romance, and it's happening in a mystery, and then they that person gets taken home and murdered, and the other person gets taken home and slept with. I'm still like, wait a minute, y'all couldn't talk to each other beforehand and make sure that nobody else was getting drinks spilled on him at the same time. I get very at that weird about it.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 49:12

That is dumb. That is a dumb thing to let affect your rating. I'm sorry. I'm just gonna call I'm just gonna name it. But it's not, it has nothing to do with the book being good or not happenstance. That's like me saying but I'm reading, I'm reading this brand new Stephen King and if Johnny happens to wear a teal t shirt tomorrow, I'm going to take a star off of Stephen King. That makes the same amount of sense.

**Kaytee Cobb** 49:39

But the quality of the book you read beforehand also does not affect the one that you're reading now.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 49:45

No, but that's different. That's not the same thing because I think what it does is so you know how, when you eat a perfect piece of chocolate cake.

**Kaytee Cobb** 49:58

Sure.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 49:59

It's perfect. And then if the very next thing that you eat is to chocolate cake, even if it was a better chocolate cake, you're like, chocolate cake is really not doing it for me like it was, you know, that's a good analogy too, you know, I'm right, that's, that's the difference is that what what Alex is talking about is books in a row that are just like too many pieces of chocolate cake. They're all delicious chocolate cake, but at some point, you're sick of chocolate cake. That is wholly different than then two people accidentally spilled a drink, and it affects nothing else about the book at all, and one gets slept with and one gets murdered. And you're going to take a star off for that.

**Kaytee Cobb** 50:38

Okay, my analogy, if we're gonna go with food here is that I've ordered a drink at the beginning of my meal, and it's a lavender Lemon Drop martini, and then I order ravioli and it turns out my ravioli also has lemon in it, and I did not realize it. And so now all of a sudden, I got lemon all over my meal. And it's not my fault. And it's not even really the restaurants fault. But it does affect my experience.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 51:05

Hasn't it also created a theme? I mean, there are a whole I'll bet you you can find restaurants that create entire themes around lemon being and everything. Because it can be theming. Kaytee, you're not going to convince me.

**Kaytee Cobb** 51:14

It's not lemon, it's anchovies in my Margarita and my ravioli

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 51:19

That, and I would say that is a you problem, my friend. If you ordered an anchovy Margarita, I can't help you, whatever, I can't help you. Hey, let me actually be helpful, though. Okay, so we're going to talk about ratings. And Kaytee, I don't actually believe that you do that, because I know that you are generous rating stars. You're Yes. And you're very smart about how you rate your book. So it but it is an interesting thing to be weird about. But one thing that I have been really helped by where my star ratings I think have been monumentally better since I found it. I don't think I've talked about on the show, did I? Maybe I did, and I'm just going insane. But at the CAWPILE system, have you heard about this? The CAWPILE system?

**Kaytee Cobb** 52:06

I've seen it referenced?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 52:08

Okay, so the CAWPILE, which is CAWPILE is an acronym. So it stands for characters, atmosphere, writing style, plot, intrigue, logic or relationships and enjoyment. Okay, so seven categories of things. And so here's what you do to use this rating style. You basically you go through each of those seven things, you think about the book you just finished, and you go through each of those seven categories. And you think like, Okay, what, on a scale of one through 10, how did I think that the characters were developed in this book? How did how did I feel about the way that the atmosphere was created in this book? How did I feel about the writing style, so you think about these things separately. And by the way,



it only takes me about three minutes to do this. So this is not something that's like writing a, you know, a dossier. But you do all of that, right? You come up with your one through 10 for each of those seven things, and then you divide the result by seven. And then there's this corresponding star rating, which we can share in the show notes, but I just have created a note with this in it. So if like, if I end up with a score of somewhere between 1.1 and 2.2, then the book gets one star. And all the way up to if I have if my cawpile score is somewhere between nine and 10, that would give me five stars, there's a whole it's laid out. So it's very easy for you to tell it's a very simple system. It takes me three minutes, but I feel so much more sure of my five star rating now because I'm looking at it, kind of like how we talked about when we talk about the book on the show. Like we don't want to just excoriated a book based on a gut feeling. We want to actually say like, okay, that Murder at Black Oaks book, okay, I'm gonna give it the fact that it was propulsive. I was continually wanting to find out what was going to happen, right. So like, this way, you just break it down in a way that enables you to at least enabled me to rate my books in a way that I feel is a more accurate, more fair rating overall. Now, this doesn't solve Alex's problem, because I think Alex's problem is a book choice problem and not a book rating problem. But I wanted to touch on both.

**Kaytee Cobb** 54:25

I think that is very useful. And I think it also does something useful in that for those of us who are emotional readers like myself, you're not just going off of how big did I feel at the end of this book? Or how small did I feel at the end of this book? There's a better way to look at the metrics it does seem very type one because you're finding like the exact right number for each book.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 54:50

That's why it's so satisfying. My five star rating when I'm done with this is exactly right.

**Kaytee Cobb** 54:55

I like that. I like that. And we'll probably have to work this into next year's reading spreadsheet because you know, I love a good reading metric.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 55:03

Well, you know, I am dead serious when I tell you that when I started doing this, I was like, Okay, but how is this gonna make me less efficient because I'm spending time doing this? So I like timed myself.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 55:14

How long did you know, because I wanted to know, like, should I just, you know, gut level the rating and move on because I have so much to do or like, is this a good expenditure? My time? Three, three and a half minutes.

**Kaytee Cobb** 55:14

Oh, I like it.

**Kaytee Cobb** 55:25

Okay. Okay, I like it. Okay, that was a lot of words about that. And we thought that was gonna be a short Deep Dive. But here we are. So now we get to the fountain and make some wishes. Meredith, what would you like to wish for this week?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 55:40

Okay, well, I'm gonna wish for one thing, which is when I was talking about The House Witch. I wish that I had mentioned that it was bookish friend, Kelly Flynn, who gave us that fantastic recommendation. So shout out to Kelly Flynn. Thank you very, very much for making sure that we all knew about that. And that's the great thing about the bookish friends group, so many books come to our attention through that bookish friend script that we wouldn't have found otherwise. Okay, I want to actually suggest that everyone read a great book, that is the perfect fall read, and that is The Unlikely Escape of Uriah Heep by HG Parry. Now, I read this a couple of years ago. Part of the reason that I love the ability to say I wish that the right readers would read this is much easier than me pressing this book, because I'm not sure this book is right for everyone. Because it's pretty heavy on the like literary themes and the like. It's got a lot of Dickens and Homles and all of that in it. But here's the setup. So our lead character is Charlie Sutherland. And he has a concealed magical ability as all the best story lead characters do. And he has a really hard time controlling it. He can bring characters from books into the real world and this is not as fun as it sounds, y'all. Because at some point in our story, literary characters start causing trouble throughout the city and threatening to destroy the world. And he's brought some, he's accidentally brought some pretty terrible baddies into the world. So this is a possible thing. And Charlie learns that he is not the only person who can actually do this, bring characters into the world. And there's another person who is purposely purposely bringing these baddies back and out into the real world. And all sorts of chaos ensue. I love this book, because it is a book about books. I picked it up from total bookish serendipity. It's a great book for Fall reading, if you want to have that kind of like book about books, you know, traditional cobblestone kind of Dickensian feel, but you don't want to read about witches or ghosts or you know, any of the spooky stuff. This will give you the right vibe is one that I really, really loved. I've pressed it into lots of people's hands. They've really loved it too. But I would say that it really helps to have a working knowledge of Dickens and the Sherlock Holmes stories in order to really, really enjoy this. But I do have a couple of friends who didn't and they read it anyway and liked it. It just gives me all the right vibes for fall again, especially if you're not looking for a horror or something really Halloween oriented. So this is The Unlikely Escape of Uriah Heep by HG Parry, and I wish that more people would read it.

**Kaytee Cobb** 58:28

That is a great rec. Meredith Did you throw a coin?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 58:31

Ping splash.

**Kaytee Cobb** 58:33

Alright, I wish because of what I got to do last weekend, I wish that everyone had a local group of readers to get together with. So last weekend we had another meeting of the New Mexico bookish friends hosted by one of my besties Katie proctor at her house. It was only six of us. And we sat around

and ate snacks talked about what we're currently reading because they're all Currently Reading bookish friends. And the way that that conversation spun off into the best concerts we've ever been to and what books would pair well with the current season was just really delightful. We had a book swap as well, which we try to do anytime we're not meeting at a bookstore. And we planned our next gathering for October. I would love it if everyone had the opportunity to meet with other readers and chat about books in person on a regular basis. There are people out there we hear this all the time, that that you and I Meredith or our team, is the only people that these people know that love books the way that they do, right? There are people out there in your town, I promise, that love books the way that you do and you do not have to love the same books. You don't have to all read the same book and get together and have a traditional book club and talk about Murder at Black Oaks by Phillip Margolin and hate your lives. You can just talk about what you're currently reading and get together with people who love talking books like you do and like we do. And so my wish is that it, even if you're a little nervous about it, that you reader would be willing to reach out to the person that you see often at the library, or reading a book at your child's soccer game or whatever, and find your bookish people around you that you can be in person contact with on a regular basis, and talk about what you are currently reading. That is my wish. Ping splash.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:00:23

Absolutely, that's a great wish. And I will tell you, I'm gonna be totally honest with you guys. You know how introverted I am, right? So, I started, I can't believe I'm gonna admit this, but you know, she doesn't listen to the show. So I'm not, I'm not gonna be too worried about it. I met one of my best friends here in Austin, and found out that she likes to read as much as I do, because I started, when we first moved here, we put Jackson in a flag football team. And I didn't know anybody. But I started just bringing a book, a print book, to the games and just having it out next to me, even though it wasn't really the right time for me to be reading, because it was sitting there I had more than one conversation about books just because I had a book sitting there like, Oh, do you like to read? I like to read too. And I wasn't the one starting those conversations because I am V bad at starting conversations period with any stranger. So that is a trick that I used. And I ended up making really, really good friends with someone who now is one of my very best friends here in Austin. And it was all because I took a prop to a football game in the hopes that I would meet a bookish friend. So I'm just going to tell you that even book podcasters have to sometimes resort to

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:01:38

trickery,

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:01:39

trickery, in order to make bookish friends but that's a trick you might use.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:01:45

That's a great tip. Meredith, I love it.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:01:47

Bring the book to work, put put a stack of books on your desk at work. And just like have it sitting there.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:01:53

You never know what could happen. You could end up starting a podcast.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:01:56

You could Yes, exactly. All right. That is it for this week, we're going to land this plane Kaytee. 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** 1:02:08

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

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:02:12

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](http://currentlyreadingpodcast.com).

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:02:22

You can also follow the show at @currentlyreadingpodcasts on Instagram or email us nice things only please at [currentlyreadingpodcast@gmail.com](mailto:currentlyreadingpodcast@gmail.com).

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:02:30

And if you really want to help us or you just want so much more of this stimulating book talk become a bookish friend. It's only \$5 a month and you get to hear from us three more times than you normally would. You can also rate and review us on Apple podcast, nice reviews only please. It will make a huge difference toward us being able to find our perfect audience

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:02:53

Glennon Doyle says, if you're not gonna leave us five stars, that's okay. You can just go do something else.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:02:59

It's perfect. Excellent. All right, five star reviews and nice comments only.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:03:05

That's what we're insisting upon now. Okay, bookish friends are the best friends. Thank you all for helping us grow and get closer to our goals.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:03:12

Alright, until next week, may your coffee be hot and decaffeinated

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:03:17

and plentiful. And your book be unputdownable

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:03:20

Happy reading Kaytee.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:03:21  
Happy reading Meredith.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:03:28  
Do you have like 38 pages of notes? How many pages do you have in front of you right now?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:03:35  
My notes for this episode ended up being 12 like 11 pages? I don't know. I don't know.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:03:39  
Oh, my God,

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:03:40  
it's a lot. Well, I always do a hard page break in between all of my books because I don't like to have. I don't like to, you know, have to go back and forth and flip the pages. Yeah. So that's that's why. Nobody cares about that Kaytee. Nobody cares.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:03:55  
I know somebody does

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:03:56  
but it is a lot of pages.