



Season 6, Episode 20: Acts of Service + Themed Reading Months

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Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:11

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

Kaytee Cobb 00:24

We are light on the chitchat heavy on the book talk and our descriptions will always be spoiler free. Today, we have a very special episode for you. I'm

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:31

Meredith Monday, Schwartz, a mom of four and full time CEO living in Austin, Texas. And I love a best of list.

Kaytee Cobb 00:40

And I'm Kaytee Cobb, a homeschooling mom of four living in Arizona, and I'm ready for a whole new year of stories and learning. This is episode number 22 of season six. And we are so glad you're here. Meredith, we are want to always one of the last people to produce our top 10 lists for the year. We are Yes,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:58

ours comes in really, really late. But we made a decision year one that we just felt like, we absolutely had to wait till the end in the end of the year. And I mean, this year was an example I had one 5,6 days before the end of the actual year of 2023. That slipped into my top 10. That's

Kaytee Cobb 01:17

so awesome. That has definitely happened to me. In the past. It didn't happen this year. But I have had some really great reading experiences this past week. So it could have been there could have been waiting for me and you just don't know.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:29

Exactly, exactly. Okay, so

Kaytee Cobb 01:31

today we're talking already, you already know about our top 10 books for each of us of 2023. And that means we read them and 2023 Not necessarily that they were released in 2023. But before we get started with that, instead of bookish moments, we're gonna have a little bit of an overview of our reading yours. So Meredith, we both use a pretty fancy spreadsheet to get some stats about our reading. What stood out to you about your reading, you're in 2023. All

Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:58

right, well, there were a few things about my reading year in 2023, that were different than yours before, it was my highest number in aggregate of books that I've ever read, I had 133 books total, that was 13% higher than last year, which was higher already than any year before. So definitely gotten a really, really good rhythm to my reading, which is great. That was a problem that I needed to solve. And for whatever reason I've been able to do it doing anything for six seasons will will get you good at it right

Kaytee Cobb 02:31

for sure.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 02:32

I spent some time though thinking through my sort of the themes of my my reading year because this really was a singular year for me, the first thing that stuck out to me with that I really devoted myself leaned into doing more close reading. Now A Journey to Three Pines, the series that we do on the Three Pines book series is the reason that I kind of started doing that a very close read, which involves underlining and highlighting and thinking deeply about themes and all of that. Well, what I found is, I so enjoyed reading those books in that way that I found myself grabbing my highlighter and my flags and my pins, even when I was reading just a normal book for normal reasons, even if it was like a mystery. Historically, I didn't mark up my books this year, I marked up a lot of books that brought me a ton of enjoyment. The other thing Kaytee this year, I DNF more books than ever before, I don't have I don't keep numbers on that, because I don't keep any records on what I DNF. But I know that I was very quick to say this is not bringing me joy. And that I think led to the fact that my overall rating for books was a whopping 4.3. My overall average rating was a 4.3 up from a 3.9 last year. Now for me in my rating system 3.75 And four is really where books start getting good for me anything above four I really liked. So a 4.3 average meant that I chose to finish books that were actually working for me. So those were my themes for this year. What about you what stuck out to you?

Kaytee Cobb 04:13

I took a peek at my stats. Of course, before we started recording, I did have to update my spreadsheet in order to get some good stats. But I read 270 books total in 2023. And I also had about twice as many DNFS as any year I've ever had before that I've tracked it because I also got better at setting things aside that weren't working for me for any reason at all. Instead of trying to force myself through it. It still isn't a high number it was still only like 15 but that's twice as many as I've ever done before because I used to be such a stickler for just being like Well, I started it I must want to read it. I better keep trying. And I think that made my reading life better as well. My average was 4.2 stars for the year which I'm pretty happy with three quarters of my books were fiction and the other 25% were nonfiction, which is up a little bit from previous years. And 63% were Own Voices reads which as you know, is one of my

favorite metrics to track one of the things that I really wanted to look into was my biggest recommendation sources and how effective those people were for me. So amazingly, my best recommendation source or the book, the source that I read, the most books recommended by this year was the indie press list. 40 of my 270 books were books that bookstores from around the country, recommended to us directly and our patrons to read. And some of those ended up on my top 10 list, which I'm pretty excited about. That was immediately followed by Katie Proctor, then you Meredith, and then the Novel Neighbor specifically, was right after you in best recommendation source, which is pretty cool as well. They consistently give me really good books that I really love.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 05:53

So Kaytee, you're right, this element of my reading has become really, really important to me. And I tracked it closer this year than ever before. Because I do think that this is one of them. Probably top three keys to having a successful reading year. Know your recommendation sources. Yes. So for me 32% of my reading was books by authors or series that I read before, that's pretty normal. For me, I tend to I have a lot of auto buy authors, the person, the single person who's my number one recommendation source is not going to surprise anyone. Elizabeth Barnhill came in with 11% of all of my reads, which is a really, really high number in their books I enjoy, they average 4.3 stars, so she is a trusted recommendation source. For me, the thing that was new for me is that a full 8% of my reads came from bookish friends, people who are our Patreon subscribers and who we get to know each other in the Facebook group. And obviously, they know us because of the show. And they will oftentimes DMS directly with recommendations 8% of my reads were from that source with an average rating of 4.2. So that and then Roxanna came in third, with she recommended six books with an average rating of 4.2. So that all really worked for me, I will tell you what did not work for me. Oh, the recommendation source that overall was the lowest is any book that I just found off of Bookstagram Oh, interesting. So not our bookish friends, just my own people that I follow an average of only 3.7 stars. So that's a math reading for me. So you know, I'm really really paying attention to that. The other thing Kaytee Did you pay much attention to your publishing houses? Because this was my first year really tracking this, and I'm watching this closely. I

Kaytee Cobb 07:53

did track it. But I did not pull that data for this episode. So I can pull it up and look at it while you talk about yours.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 08:00

Okay, so I found that there were three publishing houses that were far and away the best for me. They are Minotaur, Tor, and Berkeley those three houses are great for me. The thing I found that does not work for me and actually is the single lowest aggregate star rating of anything I tracked is any book published by William Morrow, I asked those average just three stars for me. So I started really looking at so I started looking at my Kindle and I was like, how many of these books that I've downloaded from Net Galley are from William Morrow, I had several thrillers and I just deleted them off my Kindle, because I just decided, You know what, I have too much noise in my TBR kind of ranking stuff. Let's get out of there. The thing that has shown to be unsuccessful, so William Morrow, I'm sure you're very nice person. But in 2024, I am not going to be prioritizing work. So I mean, I'm sure there might be an exception. Um, you know, but for me, the your reading tracker, let me know this is not working

Kaytee Cobb 09:09

Interesting Okay, so I also Tor is one of my highest and highest rating publishers. Berkeley is also one of my highest and also my lowest rated publisher for the number of books that I read from them. I read nine Berkeley books with an average of 3.9, which is quite a bit lower than my average star rating for the year. And then my third highest one is Flat Iron Books with an average of 4.1 and seven books read from that imprint. And that tracks I like picking up books from those three, but it seems like Berkeley is not really paying off for me.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 09:45

Yep, yep. So it's definitely something to watch right? And these stats, like it really doesn't take very much time to find this data and enter it in but when you have it, it makes all the difference at the end of the year. I also found a This isn't going to surprise anybody. I also found that the highest number of books for me 48 of them were I rated a four, which means more plot driven than character driven. And the second highest number, but by far, the highest rating is a three, which is a mix of character and plot, this isn't going to surprise anybody. But the numbers don't lie. When I have that sweet spot of real substantial character development. With an excellent plot, it's going to be a winner for me. So that's something that I'm watching out for, I can find a lot of that out in story graph, before I even open up a book. So this year, I'm going to be prioritizing things when I can, I mean, one of the things that I really think about this year is that I read a lot more. But a lot of the books that I had were fluffy er than normal. So for example, I only had 6% nonfiction this year, Kaytee Oh, very low number. It's been trending lower and lower since we started the podcast. But that's by far the lowest it's ever been. And that just came up to brainspace. For me, I had a really tough year workwise. This year, my day job challenged me more than ever before. And that affects my reading, and it affects my reading choices. So I was choosing more brain candy, because that's what this year needed me to choose. And that's totally okay. That's completely okay. Still had a great reading year. But I can see what kinds of books I was gravitating towards. Yeah.

Kaytee Cobb 11:35

Yeah. That makes sense to me. How about the format that you read in is any updates there? Because I feel like you've been trending up and up on Kindle as well.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 11:44

Yes, exactly. My digital percentage was up by a full 10% this year. So I am at 48.6%, in print 35.6% in digital to Kindle, and then only 16% on audio. So that Kindle number is really the number that moved. And that comes down to that darn dark mode that I that I discovered this year. I am reading longer at night, because of that dark mode. I'm just finding myself putting in an extra 10, 15, 30 minutes each night, because I'm not worried about keeping Johnny awake. Yeah,

Kaytee Cobb 12:20

yeah, it's a game changer for sure. My print reading went back up a little bit to 28%. This year, which I'm happy with, I keep wanting to sit down and read more paper books. I think the reason I didn't make as much progress on that one, as I hope to this year is because we moved in the middle of the summer. And that means I had busy hands, either packing boxes, unpacking boxes, or renovating a house for

months at a time. And that was a lot. So it makes sense that it didn't go up as much as I hoped to. But I do hope to see that number continue to increase. Audio stayed at about 60, which is where I've been tracking for the last like five years now.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 12:59

Right, exactly, it will be very interesting to see if that number stays there over the next five years. Yeah, you know, I'm very interested to see. The other thing that was interesting to me about my reading is that I was at, again, 49% of my reading is mysteries or thrillers that's in and of itself. not that interesting. But fantasy ticked up and middle grade continued to tick down. Again, I'm not reading much in the way of middle grade anymore, which is really interesting, because for a while there, I was reading a lot. I think that's pretty much I mean, I what I found this year more than ever before, was that having the the reading tracker doing it the way that I do it once a month, I go in into my books, it doesn't take a lot of time, it's maybe a half hour, once a month for me I average about 11 books a month, it gave me so much robust data that I can actually use as I go into this next year. So that's I mean, again, the plug to just become a bookish friend for just one month if you want to. That's all you need to grab that reading tracker. We're at January 8, you're not too late to start tracking your reading. This is really not at all about us wanting you to become a patron subscriber, it would be great if you did, and I think you would really enjoy it. But more than anything, I think you will enjoy your reading more if you are tracking it.

Kaytee Cobb 14:23

Yes, that's that's absolutely what I found. This is now my seventh or eighth year tracking my reading. And it has continued to improve every single year, the more data and the better data I get so that I can really focus in on what works for me as a reader, which is not the same as what works for everybody else. So we talk a lot

Meredith Monday Schwartz 14:43

at this time of year about reading goals, Kaytee and you and I mean, you and I are the same in this way. I do not make a goal for a number of books that I'm going to read every year. There's no problem if you do if that's important to you, but finding the metric that actually means your reading life is more satisfying is super important. And I would just ask everyone to think, is it the number of books you read, that is going to make your reading life more satisfying. Or so it could be that your average rating, when you look at your entire year of reading, watching that tick up, because you're making better choices for yourself, your DNFS being faster, you're looking at your recommendation sources, you're figuring out what genre really is consistently a higher rated genre for you. All of those things come together to give you that higher average rating. To me watching that number go up is the true metric that says, I'm either becoming a better reader for me and the kind of reading I want to do or not. And so I just, you know, I want everyone to just think about, what's the result you're looking for with your reading. And what's the metric then that helps you track that result? Well,

Kaytee Cobb 15:55

on here, I'll put in a small plug for Megan, our assistant that does our editing and our management and the back end of the podcast, she made some monthly and yearly reading goals for 2024 that she shared on her Instagram, which I'm sure she'll link to in the show notes for us. But they are not at all numbers driven. She made goals based on what works for her reading life. Like I want to read at least

one book of this type each year, I want to continue reading in this series, etc. And that is a totally different way of looking at goals than a lot of us are used to because we're used to like it has to be measurable and smart and blah, blah, blah. But she chose metrics that matter to her that make her reading life richer. And I think even just taking a peek at her post gives you some ideas about different ways you could tweak what it means to make a reading goal for the year that isn't about I want to have completed so many pages or so many books.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 16:47

Absolutely. And it would be easy to add a worksheet on to the reading tracker that would enable you to put in your own bespoke goals and then kind of monitor as you're as you're meeting those, which would be really interesting. All right, Kaytee, they are probably really, really here for the for the lists, I would bet. It's so

Kaytee Cobb 17:05

true. And Meredith just said lists. And that's because we have two separate lists to share with y'all. This year. We're doing something we've never done before. But we really wanted to talk about some of our favorite reading experiences that we had this year. And this was Meredith's idea. So I'm gonna let her introduce it to you. But that list is coming up first. So Meredith, what are we doing hair at the beginning? Right,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 17:25

exactly. So this as I came to the end of the year, I just texting Kaytee and saying, Kaytee, I feel like my year of reading in 2023 requires two different things. And it goes back to something we have bandied about before. And a topic we're gonna deep dive on later, in 2024, the idea that there are differences between my best books of 2023, and favorite books of 2023, or some of my favorite reading experiences, those are two different things. And I think as we go through our lists, it will become a little bit clearer. So Kaytee is indulging me and letting me do this. So yes, it means we're each going to be talking about 15 books, there will not be any that appear on both of our like, so my favorites are not the same as my best stuff. So I will have 15 different books that I'm talking about. So all right, my number five favorite reading experience. And again, this is just these are books that I just was so happy the entire time I was reading them, they might not be great literature. In fact, in several cases, I can tell you, they are not. But for me, I was having fun. I was enjoying it. I was just living my best readerly life the entire time. So those would be my number five is *A Court of Silver Flames* by Sarah J. Moss. Now, this is I can't even remember the fourth or the fifth. And that's the I can't remember where it fourth and the fourth, I did not expect to like this one. Roxanna and I read it together. And we had the most fun. We enjoyed it. From the first page to the last. We were so happy to be back in this world. Again, great literature. No, ma'am. No. But it was fantastic. It was so much fun. It was all about recovery from trauma and female friendship. And those two things don't sound like a rollicking good time. But in Sarah J Maas's hands, they really really are one of my favorite breeding experiences of the year. Okay,

Kaytee Cobb 19:31

my fifth spot for this mini list that we're doing is really going to emphasize that difference between favorite and best because my fifth favorite reading experience of the year is when I read *Unhinged* by Vera Valentine yes, this is what I mean. I gave his book two stars. Yes, maybe one and a half. It was

not a good book, but the experience of reading it and live messaging Katie and Shad as I read, and then figuring out how to record a small snippet of audio so that Meredith could hear the door sound effects, including the boing of the doorstop. And then sitting down with friends that came over for dinner and saying, Let me tell you about this book I just read and giving them a five minute plot synopsis that had people like crying tears down their face crying with laughter, as I reenacted these situations, that experience was phenomenal. And like I want, I want that experience again, without ever having to read Unhinged again in my life. Well,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 19:32

I mean, absolutely. And I think part of what was going on there, too, is that it was a shared experience, right? So a lot of us were reading it at the same time. Also, it was, what 71 pages or something. So it was like this thing you could do. So it was a fast experience. It was a shared experience. It was a singular experience. That's a great example of this mini list that we're starting out with, it's not going to make your top 10 of the year. But it's memorable. It's all get out.

Kaytee Cobb 21:04

It is that okay, what's your next one Meredith?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 21:07

Okay, my next one is a thriller. And I didn't have any straight up thriller, very, I don't think I have any of my top 10 list. But this one, The Overnight Guest by Heather Gudenkauf this one I did on audio. This is just the perfect. Listen, while you have a few hours in the car, kind of drive, it's going to make those miles disappear. Because you are completely into what happened. There's this woman, she's at this cabin, there's this gigantic storm. And then there's a little boy who ends up out in the snow in front of her cabin. Where did he come from? What the heck is happening, it's really, really good. Again, it's not going to muscle out one of my top 10 of the year. But I really enjoyed that experience. It was the perfect audio experience. For me.

Kaytee Cobb 21:58

I love a perfect audio experience. It's one of my favorite things as well. My next one is a graphic novel. It's the Garlic and the Vampire and Garlic and the Witch they're both part of a series. And they're the graphic novels that I taught Noah how to read graphic novels with. So when I got these two books from the library, he sat down next to me on the couch. And we talked about how to actually look at the different pictures on the pages and how to follow it correctly. Because it's not like following text on a page. And getting to point out, you know what shakey letters mean? Because it's not communicated with he said that nervously right. So getting to share it, the decoding of a graphic novel with these two, just perfectly lovely books with my now seven year old was such a singular experience. And that is only slightly overshadowed by the fact that Onalee learned how to read this year. So once again, getting out my trusty Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons book Fourth time's a charm worked out great for her also. So now I have four kid readers in the cop household and garlic and the vampire was able to bring you know up to a new level of reading into this graphic novel decoding kid and it was just so special to have him snuggle up right in my armpit, my skinny little third kid and read this book together. That

Meredith Monday Schwartz 23:16

is really, really fun. And again, another really memorable reading experience. Yes, definitely. Well, my third one, I went back and forth with this one about it being on my top 10 list because I just have thought about it so much since I read it and that is Cover Story by Susan Righetti. This was a book that was interesting to me, because first of all, I just I could not stop reading. This is the con artist book about this woman who's doing this long con and people and I don't normally like a con artist story that's not a trope that is usually attractive to me. And I'd heard so many people talk about this book, but I think I had kind of just turned my ears off to it. When I finally picked it up. I was like, Oh, wait, what? And I got so sucked in. I talked to so many people when I via DMS when I finished reading it because I just needed to talk about this book. This would be a great book club book, but also it's so page turning. So I ended up putting this on this list instead of my top 10 because it it just had to be somewhere. Right? It had to be somewhere because I just so enjoyed Cover Story by Susan Righetti.

Kaytee Cobb 23:17

Excellent. Okay, my third one also has to do with my kids. I know y'all are not here for kids, but this year I read aloud as a reread for me a book that my friend wrote to my kids so one of my in real life friends obviously is Katie Proctor you hear me talk about her all the time. Her first book is called My Storied Year and this year I read it aloud as part of our homeschool read alouds to the kids. So I have already read it but this was the first time that they listened to this story and she didn't know that I was reading it to them. She found out when I sent her our call Her poetry, which is an activity that happens within the book to let her know that we'd been reading it, we both burst into tears talking about it, it was so special to say to them, you not only know this author, you've hung out with her, You're best friends with her kids. And she was so impressed with your poems like they just did such a good job. Bringing the book to life in this really special way. It added depth and goodness to our our homeschool year. And like that's such a singular experience. I mean, to get to read my friends book to my kids and have that cross generational connection. So special, so great. That is very,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 25:37

very fun. Okay, my second one is The Rook by Daniel O'Malley. This is another one that I've gone back and forth on being in the top 10 or not, because this is a really, really good book. This is the one just to remind you, where the the woman wakes up, doesn't know where she is, but she's surrounded by people who are dead. And they all have blue latex gloves on. And then she has like notes in the pocket of her coat from anyway, it is so fascinating. And smart. And I just enjoyed every single page. It's funny. If you liked Starter Villain, then The Rook would be a great book for you. Those those two books would play really, really well together, a lot of humor, but then also some, like adventure, very page turning smart. I love it. The Rook by Daniel O'Malley such a great reading experience. So

Kaytee Cobb 26:35

good. I love that one. Actually, one of my reading adjacent favorite experiences of the year was when we were recorded with Laura Tremaine and you told her about that book, and watching her face light up. And like the way that she was like putting it on hold, as you talked about it buying it on her Kindle was just perfect. I love it when that happens when you get to see it happen in real time. So okay, my second one this year, of course, one of the biggest things that we did was go to the UK with our family of six and before we left I read the book Waypoints by Sam Heughan. The man who plays Jaime and

Outlander by Diana Gabaldon. This book is his memoir, and I've read more by him while we actually traipsed around Scotland and London. But having this book to pave the way and having his voice in my ears, as he told me his story, everything about it was perfect. I smiled like an idiot. He's very funny, self deprecating, and just like warm hearted in the way that he writes to his readers. And it just, it made me so happy. And it's not my favorite book of the year. But it is one of my favorite experiences in that it ties so closely with some of the other experiences that I got to really enjoy this year. Yes,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 27:47

that one I have been very tempted by because I know that he's got such a beautiful voice. And that's a really good one and paired with your your trip so perfectly.

Kaytee Cobb 27:57

Yes. All right. Well,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 27:59

you're not gonna be surprised that probably the number one reason for the fact that we have two separate lists this year, you know, best and favorite. Is that my favorite reading experience of the year? No question was Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros, it probably appears on a lot of your favorite reading experiences, but maybe not in a lot of your top 10 lists of the year, because you probably like me said, well, it was such a great book. I am so glad that I read it. It was a wonderful experience. Is it the most high quality book? No, but the experience was so good. I have not yet gotten into iron flame. I'm not ready to go there. Because I just want to hold on a little bit longer to my fantastic experience reading for Thring, what a singular journey. Many of us were on this year with that book. And I think a lot of it too, was again, that shared experience, a lot of us were reading the same book at the same time. That's a lot of fun.

Kaytee Cobb 27:59

It is a lot of fun. I love it. When that happens. It sort of ties in to my favorite reading experience, which is also about rereading, but it's the introduction of popcorn in the pages this year. So all four books that we've done this year so far, were books that I've already read, but getting to experience them in a new way. You talked about close reading at our beginning of the episode recap, getting to take notes on books that I already know and love getting to closely watch the movies and then getting to sit down with my best friend of 27 years, maybe a lot of years. It's a lot of years and talk about them and just be our regular ridiculous selves on mic together. That is one of my favorite things that happened this year and it you know, it's only every other month. It's not like I'm doing this all the time, but that means that I cherish it even more when it does happen. So that was Jurassic Park. The Hunger Games, Red White and Royal Blue and A Christmas Carol were the four books that we read this year as part of popcorn in the pages and it was perfection. I loved it.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 29:55

I'm so so glad that you guys are doing that series. It is so much fun for me to listen to those were all books that I had read before or read right when you guys were putting out the episode and yeah, the two of you together. It's, it's just so much fun and I Yeah, it's it's, I mean, it's a different vibe than you and I have together but that's exactly why we wanted to do it right yes. So that we can, we can tap into

all those different parts of our personality and the things that we like. So I love that's one of my favorite things of 2023 is that we were both able to leverage the things that we love the most for you popcorn and pages for me Journey to Three Pines with Roxana and bring that to our reading audience to that's been a lot of fun. And really what we wanted it to do it has done which is it's helped continue to let us be creative. Yes,

Kaytee Cobb 30:45

yes. And that is a fantastic experience for your reading life. Like who doesn't want that? I love that. Okay, and we'll call that our mischief for the episode. And now our mischief is managed. And we're, I don't know, 30 some odd minutes in. But now we have our actual top 10 lists our top best books of 2023 lists and I told Meredith I do have some alternates prepared, because I know that we're going to have some duplicates and our list so I'm prepared for that eventuality. Okay.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 31:16

All right. Well, I'm glad that you did because I suffered. So I suffered mightily putting this list together, I put things on and flip things around and fam, it was really, really hard. And I didn't even have half of the books that you had to deal with. So we are going to put these in ranked order. So we are going to go from 10 to one and we for me that is going to start with Slewfoot by Brom again, you're probably going to hear a few different titles on our top 10 that are from novel neighbors October in the press list. This is one of them. This was also recommended to me by Betsie Ikenberry and Kiara Hartney, both who had already read it and then we were sitting around talking about it, and I was like, What is this book? This is the book that's sort of folk magic. It's illustrated. It is kind of about Puritans kind of about witches kind of about monsters. It is so good. It's so perfect in October. It's absolutely beautiful. I recommend it in print if you're going to get it if you like a fairy tale retelling, but make it dark, dark, dark, and with feminist rage Slewfoot by Brom is the book for you. I loved it. Love

Kaytee Cobb 32:34

that. And I will note right here that Megan is going to link to the episodes that we discussed these books on if you need to go back and listen to a full setup. Those will be linked in the show notes, even if we don't mention them.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 32:46

Thank you, Megan.

Kaytee Cobb 32:47

Thanks, Megan. Okay, so my number 10 spot actually we already mentioned her this was a difficult pick. It's one of my few nonfiction on this list. It's The Life Council by Laura Tremaine. And this does touch on that reading experience thing. But it was the resonance that I felt with my own life while I read Laura's book that rocketed it into my top 10. I read this book in April, right after it released, mostly because I wanted to read it with Katie, this was one of them that we read and discussed each chapter together and shared about who occupied the spaces on our life councils. And where we felt a lack or a hurt. And we read it in April, which was right after I had a lot of stuff going on in my life, we decided to move at the end of March, I suffered a number of losses. And so it was exactly poised to enter into that

tender space for me. And that's what made it so resonant and so impactful for me. And it had to be on my top 10 because of it. So that was *The Life Counsel* by Laura Tremaine. I

Meredith Monday Schwartz 33:49

love you, Kaytee. I'm so glad that that book was so helpful to you. I know that was a really difficult time. So I'm glad that that book was there to walk alongside you.

Kaytee Cobb 33:56

Yes. Yeah. Me Too. Okay.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 33:58

My number nine book of 2023 is *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese. This one is again, not surprising. This one was almost made to be on a top 10 list. Going back to that issue for me, a mix of plot and character. This mean, I think a lot of these books I'm going to be able to say that about that's my sweet spot. This book was right there. I didn't. I was never able to make it through his previous novel *Cutting for Stone*. But this one, Roxanna and I buddy read it from the first paragraph of the first page. I was in it. I love a sweeping family drama. I love a generational story. This one is incredibly accessible. It's interesting, all the way through, you feel like you live a million lives. It's just a really, really good story. That's what I said about when I talked about it the first time. It's not just a good book. It's just a good story. Yes. And I was in it so deeply and I think about it all the time.

Kaytee Cobb 35:00

Yes, and this is one that I had kind of floating around as I could put this in as an alternate if I need to. And then I found out that Meredith was going to include it in her top 10. So now it's not going to be on my top 10. But it's right there. Right there. So, it's so good, just incredible writing and I love his previous book to you, but I think *Covenant of Water* far surpassed it for me. So,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 35:23

okay, that's interesting, because I know that *Cutting for Stone* was one of the first books that we talked about

Kaytee Cobb 35:28

earlier in the podcast. Yeah, early in like Season One, I'm sure of it. Because I love that book also. Yeah. Okay, my number nine spot goes to my dragon book of the year. It's *To Shape a Dragon's Breath* by Moniquill Blackgoose. This came to us via the indie press list. And it is this fantastic coming of age young adult new adult fish out of water story with a young Indigenous woman who bonds to a baby dragon. Her name is Annette goofs. And then she has to go to an English not English run school, because it's a little bit alternate history. There's amazing mythology woven through here. I can't wait for more in this series, which is not something I'm used to saying. But I just loved the world building here. The depth of the writing the fantastic character building. It was unputdownable for me. I loved it. Yes. And that was Elliott Bay Books that brought that to us. And that was a fantastic it was August of the indie press list. That was a great list. Yes, that was a great list. Okay,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 36:30

my number eight is Starling House by Alix E Harrow. Another one that came to us via the indie press list. Novel Neighbors October list for us was really, really solid. This one by the author of The Ten Thousand Doors of January also might well also in my top 10 but was my number one book of the year a couple of years ago and Starling House is just that perfect seasonal book. I love a house. That is a character in a story. This one was deeply felt characters that were so perfectly created, that you feel like you know them. And then a story of just figuring out where you come from. And what does that have to do with where you're going but make it scary and creepy. I just really loved it. I love Starling House

Kaytee Cobb 37:22

with the house as a character, which is Yeah, huge sell for me also, this one I did put in my number seven spot on my list. So right around the same spot, which is why I knew I needed an alternate because they knew it was going to be on Meredith's

Meredith Monday Schwartz 37:36

list. So we'll get there. So you're gonna give us a different number seven,

Kaytee Cobb 37:40

I'm gonna give you a different number seven, but originally, it was Starling House by Alis E Harrow. My number eight spot. Meredith, you don't even want to hear it. It's Tom Lake by Ann Patchett. I'm so sorry.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 37:51

No, it's great. I'm so glad it worked for

Kaytee Cobb 37:53

you. Exactly. And this is like reader know thyself. Not every book is for every reader. For me. It again harkens back to the experience. I was at home in my mom's house and the home I grew up in getting to hear stories from her while I read this generational story from Ann Patchett. And a mom telling stories to her daughters. And that connection for me, I still get goosebumps right now as I think about it, because it was so special to have my own mom and that really fantastic relationship in my life. So beautifully mirrored on the page. I love Ann Patchett and sometimes she has done me wrong, but this was not one of those times. So Tom Lake by Ann Patchett had to be on my list. All

Meredith Monday Schwartz 38:36

right, my number seven is In Light of All Darkness by Kim Cross. Okay, and this is the one and only piece of nonfiction that is on my list. It is true crime. This is the story of the Polly Klaas abduction and murder. And it was just we got a lot of really good True Crime this year, I read several that I rated 4.5 or higher. So that was an interesting thing about 2023. But In Light of All Darkness was absolutely one of my favorites. My number one true crime and one of my favorites of the year because of the fact that it just ticked every box for me. It was a case that I knew a lot about but not everything. It was written in a way that was incredibly easy to read just as for narrative nonfiction, this read like any mystery that you could possibly read, but also she was able to weave in so much about how police handled the case and what was the science behind how they did the work that they did and how decisions were made. It just

altogether was an excellent reading experience for me. I think it's really really well done. So that's In Light of All Darkness by Kim Cross.

Kaytee Cobb 39:50

Excellent. I was wondering if there was going to be a nonfiction on your list since you said it was such a small number for you this year. Yeah. Okay, my number seven spot again. was going to be Starling House. So I planned a replacement. Guess what that replacement was The Covenant of Water. Abraham Verghese so my new replacement again, this is still like the top 12 of my top 10 right is Divine Rivals by Rebecca Ross. This is one of the latest ones that I read from my top 10 list in the year this year. I loved it. It was war time it was Gods but it wasn't our war and it wasn't our gods and everything about that made it great. I loved the You've Got Mail tie ins here it is YA but not really. But it is but I do I want to call it that because it doesn't feel like YA to me. Everything about it, especially the beautiful copy that I have from Fairyloot which of course is staying on my shelves forever. Because I loved this book and I loved these characters, and I can't wait. Again. Dang it Kaytee I can't wait for the second one which just released but I have to wait for my pretty copy from very loose so I won't be reading it for a while. This was Divine Rivals by Rebecca Ross.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 41:02

I know a lot of people I'm seeing that on a lot of people's top lists for sure. Alright, my number six is Search by Michelle Huneven. This is not going to be surprising to anybody that I mean, all of these are not going to be surprising, right? If we loved it this much. You've definitely heard about it on the podcast probably more than once. This is about a search for a new minister at a UC church. That sounds so boring. But somehow in Michelle Hahnemann hands. This was one of the most interesting books that I read all year, it really had me looking deeply inside myself. It had me wishing that I could be best friends with the lead character. Something about her just really spoke to me. I just felt like we would be friends if she was real person. And I love a book that surprises me. And this book really did, because who knew that it could be that interesting to find a new minister. There's so much cattiness and gossip and group dynamics are fascinating to me. And you have that in spades in this like the way a group comes to a decision. consensus building is absolutely fascinating to me, but also just like who they going to pick, that was interesting. So just I loved it. That is Search by Michelle Huneven. Excellent. That one is on my list waiting for 2024 Read. I'm very excited. It's on my shelf, waiting for 2024 read. It's got a great cover, too. I just love that cover. Yes. Okay,

Kaytee Cobb 42:32

my sixth one. This is another one that I'm kind of worried might be somewhere on your list, but I think it might be safe at this point. It's The Swifts by Beth Lincoln. I read this one Meredith and I both read this one in May before the June indie press list, which was from Capital books on K. It is the most delightful middle grade mystery and by far my favorite middle grade of the year. I loved the family. The house has a character which we've talked about a lot this year, how that really adds to a story for both of us. I loved the naming convention and getting to assign names to ourselves and the rest of our team right here on the show. Even though not everybody was happy with their swift name, the paper book the way it was formatted and the joy it brought me to read it. It makes me smile like an idiot. Even now everything about it was perfect. It's The Swifts by Beth Lincoln.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 43:22

Yeah, there's no question that if you'd said, Okay, best middle grade that you read all year, which I did read a goodly amount. I would no question far and away, *The Swifts* is my favorite. I mean, it's right up there with *Nevermoor* for me. I've really loved that book. Okay, my fifth favorite book of 2023. And the book I read most recently, but it just elbowed its way onto this list at number five, *North Woods* by Daniel Mason, this is a book that you're gonna see on so many people's top 10. Again, for a really good reason. What I love here, the construct is very interesting. This is the book that instead of following a character, or a family, you're following a house through hundreds of years, when I was describing it to Johnny, he was like, Oh, so this is sort of like if Walls Could Talk. That's exactly what this says. It's what would the book be like if walls could talk because that's what's happening. We get to see this house all the way back from the 1500s through the mid century, the most recent century and just masterfully done. This was long listed for the Pulitzer Prize. So you know, it's well written, and yet, just like we talked about with *Covenant of Water*, this is a story that is more interested in telling you a story than it is impressing you with its Pulitzer Prize winning language. So when you put those two things together, it is chef's kiss. *North Woods* by Daniel Mason, and easy, easy number five on my bed stuff list. Nothing

Kaytee Cobb 45:01

about what I've seen of that cover makes me think of anything you just said. I hate that cover. I'm sure it applies to the book, like I'm sure other people are gonna be like, no Kaytee it's actually perfect because blah, blah, blah. But I have looked at that book and been like, I don't want that.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 45:16

Right. So what I will say is the cover does the British covers better duh. Yep. And even that covered doesn't do what I think I mean, it should this house is very well described. And it would be easy to have just put, but I think there's actually a reason that they didn't put the house I think, I think maybe that just felt too on the nose. Okay, and so the Panther or the cormorant is what you see on the cover. And it does play into the story. And once you read the story, at least for me, once I read the story, I love the cover, but I did not feel that way going into it.

Kaytee Cobb 45:52

Okay, fair. Yeah. Okay, my fifth best book of the year is the only other nonfiction on my list. And it's a sophomore contribution. It's *Congratulations, The Best is Over!* by R Eric Thomas. I brought this one to the show just a couple of months ago. But his debut collection of essays was one of my favorites of the year that it released. And this one delivered on every level for me again, I did not expect to go into this book, and read it and identify so much with a gay Black man living in Baltimore. But this straight white woman in Arizona after a big move, felt a lot of fields reading this book, and I loved the way he approached relationships, faith, and family with humor and kindness. It was one of the books that I did read with Katie this year, and we did tally it up. We read over 50 books either together at the same time or one after the other this year. So it's a it's a lot of reading, and this was my favorite one that we read. Right at the same time together. It's *Congratulations, The Best is Over!* by R Eric Thomas. Alright,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 47:00

mystery coming in strong and this is definitely my top mystery of the year. This is *Strange Sally Diamond* by Liz Nugent. Again. This is a book I do not need to set up for you. You guys have heard

about this? Absolutely everywhere. I love Liz Nugent. I've read her before. But man talk about a breakout turn with strange Sally diamond. The character is a character that you don't expect stranger, Sally herself is done really, really well. It's a family story. It's a found family story in a huge way. And oh, by the way, also a really, really well plotted mystery. So you don't get a lot of genre mashups like this. It's clearly a mystery. And this is not for HSPs. There's a lot of big tough stuff that happens in this book, but incredibly well done. Sally has my heart forever and ever. And I for one, love the ending. Now I know a lot of people didn't feel the same way. But it was done so well from start to finish that it absolutely is my top mystery of the year.

Kaytee Cobb 48:11

We're at number four. And that was your top mystery with 50% of your books are mysteries. Weird, very intrigued by this. Okay, my number four is my only romance on the list. Its Happy Place by Emily Henry. I love this book. It was one of the few times that I've audibly cried on the show just completely broken down. Because, again, of exactly where it meant me in my life. It was a book that I read in April, that beginning of April timeframe, those were some really impactful but books for me because that was a lot going on in my life. So the ones that were able to cut through the emotional turmoil that I was in, really stuck with me for the long haul. And it spoke to the medical profession, which is of course something I'm very close to because my husband is a doctor, finding your own happiness even when the what's happening around you is not joyful. And it's really one I've been learning about for myself and chasing for these past six years with the podcast and finding my own identity as a human. That's not just Jason's wife and the mother of four children. I am my own person. I'm really proud of this person that I'm becoming and Happy Place encapsulated that in a way I did not expect it surprised me on a very deep level. And for that I love it. So it's number four on my list. Happy Place by Emily Henry.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 49:33

Isn't that interesting? And I'm so I mean, this is what I absolutely love about top 10 lists and just our reading in general is that a book can be so impactful to one reader for a variety of reasons Yes, and leave another reader completely irritated or but thank heaven we each find the books that are the right books for us. That's I absolutely love that so much Okay, getting down to it. We're at our top three, top three of 2023. My number three is Stone Blind by Natalie Haynes. I love this book again, books for me and 2023 that were standouts were often ones that were standouts for either their narrative voice or their construction and stone blind hits it out of the park on both levels. This book, obviously, a Greek retelling, having to do with Medusa, but really not because that is not completely what this book is about. This book is about the narrative voice telling the story of these gods in these humans and the stupid sh that they do to each other. And the voice Enos is so perfect, it's so wonderful to see people get what they deserve. And then also so difficult when people don't get what they deserve. Natalie Haynes just hit it out of the park with this one. I remember some of the specific lines. I mean, it's got some of the best lines. It's so wickedly acerbically smart, and yet also an amazing story. I loved Stone Blind, just a huge favorite.

Kaytee Cobb 51:18

So good. Excellent. Yeah, even that epigraph, which I think you read on the show, when you brought that one to the show that very first quote at the beginning, yeah, or dedication. It's like the very first two

lines of this book and you read it aloud on the show. It gives me chills to think about it and I haven't even read this book.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 51:36

It's I mean, it's this it's feminist rage. Yeah, for sure. And it's just done really, really well.

Kaytee Cobb 51:42

Excellent. I love a good women kicking behind story. So my number three spot goes to *The Adventures of Amina El-Sirafi* by Shannon Chakraborty. This was one of the first paper additions that I read from Fairyloot. So those really gorgeous books, and the experience was so fantastic. I traveled the world with Amina we together, it felt like I got to ride shotgun on her adventures. We kicked butt. We were pirates. She is a badass woman. And it's the start of a series. Despite that fact, I feel like the first one wrapped up so well, that you could read it as a standalone if you're not a series reader, but it sets up perfectly for more adventures of feminine awesomeness is really what is like she's just so she surrounds herself with this powerful group of piratey friends, and they just go into the world and kick butt and I loved it. It's fantastic. It's the adventures of Amina El-Sirafi by Shannon Chakraborty.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 52:45

Yeah, this one is definitely on my list for one of those times when I have a little more bandwidth. And because I know that this one takes a little bit to get into, but then the vast majority of reviews I've seen on it, people have really, really loved it. I love this book. All right, number two, my number two I read in this last bit of the year, this is *Cold People* by Tom Rob Smith, this book, absolutely grabbed me by the throat and shook me shook me. This is the book where it's have this great ice cover. But this is a book where aliens come to the world in 2023. And basically take over and they say, humans, if you if you get to the Antarctica by x, like in 30 days, then you'll we'll let you live there. And anyone who doesn't make it there will not live. So it's about a mass exodus to Antarctica. It's about living in Antarctica. It's about who the heck are the cold people because spoiler alert, they are not the aliens. And it's one of these books that is both filled with it's so page turning, and it's filled with oh my gosh, holy crap, holy moments. But also, it makes you think big thoughts about humanity and what it means to be human. And should humans survive? Is there a reason for us as a species? Or is there any? Are we redemptive enough to survive? Like, does it even matter? Or should we really, maybe not big thoughts, and also monsters, and it's scary and cold, cold, cold? Absolutely fascinating. I'm like tearing up. I like this. I liked this book so much. I may reread it this year. It's so good. This is *cold people* by Tom Rob Smith. This is sci fi so this year, I just did a Greek retelling and then a sci fi so

Kaytee Cobb 54:45

okay, my number two is dystopian, okay, *Chain Gang All Stars*. by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah which I said when I first brought it to the show, and then subsequently made Meredith read it that I knew it was is going to be on my top 10 list this year, the experience of reading this book was doubly enhanced by getting to meet and interact with the author at the Santa Fe Literary Festival in May. He is such a fantastic speaker. And this book blew my mind in a really big way. It gave me a lot of fields, not all good fields. And I could see how much he poured himself into this book and how much he was passionate about it. And that jumped right off the page for me and into my brain. I loved the characters I audibly gasped out loud while I was reading this book, especially at the end, and then had to go back and read

it again to make sure that I was completely in it and with the characters as they went through what they're going through. Again, like I don't need to set this up, but it's a dystopian world where the for profit prison system has been turned into entertainment, the Cape's system, criminal action, penal entertainment. I think it didn't write that down. But there's like gladiator matches of people who have been sentenced to life in prison or not life in prison, and they fight to the death. You're following these characters. You're following CEOs, you're following protesters. The way the story came together, still gives me chills six months later, and I loved it. Chain Gang All Stars by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah

Meredith Monday Schwartz 56:24

Yeah, no. Well, I will say that this ended up in my top 15. And I ended up not putting it either in my favorite or my best just because it not because of it. But because of other books that I read. Put crowding it out. You and I are going to be recording tomorrow morning a co video, we actually haven't done that in a really, really long time. She's two years. Yeah. So you meet and Roxanna and Mary are the all four hosts of the currently reading podcasts are going to get together on video, this will go out to our bookish friends, our Patreon subscribers. Another reason for your \$5. Right, and we're gonna do some superlatives. And so this book will come up on that show for sure for me. Yeah, because it is. It's all the things that you said it is. It's incredible.

Kaytee Cobb 57:08

It's good. Yeah. Okay. Also incredible. Our number one books of the year

Meredith Monday Schwartz 57:13

number one book of the year for me. And I don't think you're going to expect this, Katie. But when I took a really close look at my entire reading year, it became very clear to me that there was only one book that could have this spot for me. And that is Clytemnestra by Costanza Casati. Okay, this book was absolutely everything. This book was a Greek retelling of Clytemnestra. It hues pretty closely to the actual story. So this is not a book that is taking you in a bunch of different weird modern directions or doing anything interesting with a construct. It's a story told in a very linear fashion. I didn't know a lot about Clytemnestra. But oh, my gosh, this book and what she goes through, and what it shows us about being a woman and having resilience and what women have to do to create a life that they want. I loved this book so much. Again, this combination of I couldn't stop turning the pages. And yet I was feeling so deeply. I cried so many times reading this book, I cried out of sadness. I cried out of anger of what she Clytemnestra was going through. I cried about some things that happened to her family. It's just an amazing story. Absolutely, perfectly told, and I will never ever forget it. It's, it's perfect for me. It's absolutely perfect. So that's Clytemnestra by Costanza Casati.

Kaytee Cobb 58:54

I did not expect that. Yeah, not even a little. Yeah,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 58:58

I read it many months ago. Yeah. But it has had such staying power for me. And it's just one of those books that I just felt like it was being written. Yeah, you have that sometimes where you you read a book and you're like, I feel like this was written for me. Yeah. And this, it just it spoke to me so deeply. I mean, I could literally burst into tears right now thinking about it. But it's not all like it's not a weepy

book, right? It's not a make you cry. poignant story at all. It's just a story of Clytemnestra's life and what she went through and what she did, and she's a kick ass woman, and she does what needs to be done and sometimes that's not pretty. And not everyone liked her. But she did what needed, you know, she does. She does what needs to be done. I just I just I love the story.

Kaytee Cobb 59:53

I love that. I love everything about that. Also a

Meredith Monday Schwartz 59:56

story that came to me at a really specific time and it makes

Kaytee Cobb 59:59

sense to me. Huge difference. It really does when those books meet us exactly where we are, especially when you feel like it was written for you, right?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:00:07

I mean, it was just a book that I could, it was like it was there to give me a place to go away from other things that were happening. It wasn't an easy, it's not an easy book. It's not a fluffy read at all. I mean, it's excessively written, but it's like, there's a lot of really tough stuff happening. But like, for whatever reason, it just, like allowed my brain to turn off to real life because I was so sucked in by the story. And at that point, that felt like being saved to me.

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:35

Yeah. Okay, my number one book of the year. I read way back in February. It's Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson. This is backlist. I don't know why it didn't come to me in years past when it was first released. But coming to me at the beginning of 2023, when I needed a book to capture me in this way, the experience is not replicable in any way, because of this book. For the rest of the year. I talked about books with Cheeto chapters, which are chapters so short that you just have another and you have another and you haven't had her Yeah, yeah, this is the book that first made me think of chapters as Cheetos where you can just pop another one in your mouth. Because some of these chapters are a paragraph, and some are four pages. And that's on the long end, for most of these chapters, like there's nothing that's 25 Pages for a chapter. And because of that, I just kept drinking it down. There's a central mystery, there's two timelines, about 30 years apart, maybe 50 years apart. And we are mourning the death of the matriarch of a family through her two children, and then learning the life story of someone that feels familiar in the background. And the way those storylines come together was so perfect for me afterwards, I found out it was being turned into a limited series on Hulu, which I have not watched yet, because I'm so precious about this book. And I'm so worried that it's not going to live up to everything I feel for it when I think about it. And you know, when I first finished it back in February, I knew it was going to be on my top 10 list. And throughout the year I just kept thinking about it kept circling back to it. People would say, well, what's the best book you've read recently? Because I'm sure people ask you this. They're like, oh, a book podcast. What's the best book you've read recently? And most of the time, I have no idea. And this year, every time I was going back to February and saying, Well, it's a backlist pick, but it's Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson continued to just be the superlative experience for me, I loved it so much.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:02:43

So good. Excellent. Well, Kaytee, that makes perfect sense to me that that would be the book that really stood out to you. And I think that it is interesting, as we now have chosen our top 10 list, differentiated that from Best versus favorite. And then as we even got closer in the rankings, it's really interesting that both of us chose books that we read many months ago as our number one. And then also books that felt that were just came to us at the right time. I think you said it really well, the experience is not replicable. But it's just such a impactful experience at the time, that it just leaves a mark on you in the best possible way. And um, you know, I think, as we it's you know, it's interesting to think when we choose top 10 lists, like, what makes your top 10? How do you make that choice? And it's just interesting, what ends up being those really impactful reading experience, I'd be willing to bet that for a lot of people, it's their most memorable experiences. I read a lot of great mysteries this year. Not a lot of them made my top 10 list. Because I think for me, it's a book that is impactful at the time, but also stays with me.

Kaytee Cobb 1:03:57

Yeah, I think so too. I think our Top Books leave us changed somehow. And I think a lot of the really great books that we read, do, they, we are different readers when we finish than when we opened that first page in some way. And it could be because we wept and we accessed emotions that we didn't have beforehand, or that it wasn't easy to reach into beforehand. Or it could be that they opened us to a new experience. Or it could be that we thought about something in a new way. But we are a new person by the time we finished those really best books that we've read. And I think that's part of what makes them so important. By the end of the year. Yeah, it's worth doing this. Exactly,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:04:40

exactly. Well, I hope you guys enjoyed this. I hope that you're not burnt out listening to top 10 lists. By the time this lands in your ears. But Kaytee, it is always a joy for us to be able to look back on our reading year together

Kaytee Cobb 1:04:53

is I wouldn't change it for the world. It's my favorite part of Well, I don't know it's so hard for to say my favorite experiences now that have to do with currently reading, but this is definitely in my top 10. Top

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:05:06

10. Exactly Good. Well, that's I think that that's well said. All right, that is it for this week. As a reminder, here's where you can connect with us. You can find me I'm Meredith at [@MeredithMondaySchwartz](#) on Instagram.

Kaytee Cobb 1:05:17

And you can find me Kaytee at [@notesonbookmarks](#) on Instagram, full show

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:05:21

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

Kaytee Cobb 1:05:31

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Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:05:38

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Kaytee Cobb 1:05:59

Yes, bookish friends are the best friends. Thank you all for helping us grow and get closer to our goals.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:06:05

Alright, until next week, may your coffee be hot

Kaytee Cobb 1:06:08

and your book be unputdownable.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:06:09

Happy reading Kaytee

Kaytee Cobb 1:06:11

Happy reading Meredith