



Season 6, Episode 34: Comfort Listening + A No Prep Episode

Mon, Apr 1, 2024 • 1:06:05

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'll discuss our current reads, a bookish deep dive, and then we'll visit the fountain.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:33

I'm Meredith Monday Schwartz, a mom of four and full time CEO living in Austin, Texas. And I'm always surprised how much I need books to just live my day to day.

Kaytee Cobb 00:43

And I'm Kaytee Cobb, a homeschooling mom of four living in Arizona, and sometimes my bookish life is more about buying books than reading them. This is episode number 34 of season six and we are so glad you're here.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:55

All right, Kaytee. Well, we are ready to talk about whatever book buying spree that you've been on, or book, talking spree. I know you've been doing a lot of book related things lately.

Kaytee Cobb 01:07

Yes, I have been living a bookish life lately. Even though my reading life has been a little slumpy. Like we talked about two weeks ago, things are not working perfectly yet. We're making progress. But first, I'll let everybody know here at the top of the show our deep dive today because it is April 1. And we tried this last year, and it was a huge hit we are doing yet again, our no prep current reads episode, which means neither Meredith nor I knows what book we're going to talk about for our current reads today. And it's a surprise to both of us. We'll see when we get there. In the meantime, we have a little mischief to manage, it is the first Monday of the month, it is the first of the month. And that means it's time for our only focused ad for ourselves every month, where we talk about our Patreon. Meredith this month, we were super excited, because we just recently did our survey to talk about one of the things

that continues to come up all these many years later, in that we had almost 1300 People respond to our patron listener survey. And almost 1000 of them said that one of the most important reasons that they support the show is our lack of ads. So every month, we say you're only gonna hear one ad for ourselves every month. And this is it. And that is really important to our supporters. They love that they can come here for 100% book talk, that it's always our voices, no annoying music, no random changes in volume. We are here talking books for that entire hour, every single week. And that is worth the price of admission for them to make sure that we continue to deliver on that same level, right? I

Meredith Monday Schwartz 02:40

mean, what we didn't know is that I guess there are some listeners that use us to go to sleep at night, that predictability in the sound levels is really important. I'm not sure how I feel about people listening to it, because it sort of implies that we're boring, you know, boring, but but at the same time, maybe we should it's a big win to be comforting, unpredictable. And I think there's a lot to be said for that.

Kaytee Cobb 03:03

Definitely, that's a shout out to one of the bookish friends that I got to meet in Tucson. We talked about this for a while. Hi, Karen. And she said that she has listened so many times to each of our episodes that they are now a comfort listen for her. So it's not that she's listening first thing on Monday morning, and also needing to go to sleep. Thankfully,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 03:22

that's true that that's true. That's that's something different. Like I don't mind going to sleep to Modern Family, because I've seen every episode a million times, and I know it by heart. So that that totally makes sense. Well, the other thing is that it makes it really easy for us when we have people approach us wanting to be an advertiser on the show, or have us join their larger ad network where they say like, Hey, we'll take care of all the, you know, shenanigans involved with ads, the fact that we have so many people who've said, You know what, the major reason I'm a patron supporter is because you don't do ads. And so we it makes it just really easy for us to turn that down. So that's wonderful. It also, of course, opens up our time to be able to concentrate on creating content for you as a patron like All Things Murderful and the indie press list and our new poll piece of content that we are going to be revealing in not very long. And so you get all of that great content. And you're a part of the bookish friends group on Facebook, which is over 2000 members strong, super active group there. So you get all of that. But maybe most importantly, no ads in the big show.

Kaytee Cobb 04:32

Yeah, it's a big deal for sure. And it works for all of us really well.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 04:36

Exactly. So it's \$5 a month you join us on Patreon. Go to patreon.com/currentlyreadingpodcast and make it really really easy. And then you just a couple of steps. You can then grab the RSS feed and put it into your podcast player. So all the extra content will be available right here right where you're listening to The Big Show. Super easy and we appreciate you so much Yes.

Kaytee Cobb 05:00

And that's our Mischief Managed for the month. No more ads all month long. Excellent. Let's get into our regular standard format and get started the way we normally do with our bookish moments of the week. Meredith, what do you have for us? Alright, well,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 05:13

I said that it never ceases to amaze me how much books are necessary for me getting through my day to day life this week, I've been at a leadership retreat for here comes the guide, me and my leadership team, there's six of us, all of whom I absolutely adore. I look forward to this week, every single year, it's such great time together, work wise. But also these five women are so important to me in my life, and my my personal life, it's really great time. And also, it's a lot of words for a lot of hours of the day, right? Because we work together. But then we get up early in the morning, we have our coffee together, and we have breakfast, and then we work a 12 hour day, and then we make dinner together and then we talk for a hugely long time. It's a long day. It's wonderful. But my introverted self, at some point starts to shrivel up like a raisin. And it is only when I get into bed and can read at least a chapter. Sometimes it's not more than a chapter because I'm relieved. I'm tired, I'm sleepy, but at least one chapter and I sort of start to plump up like a grape again, instead of being shrunken like a raisin. So it just is interesting to me how much even a few minutes of dipping into a book will make me feel more like myself again, it just became very, very clear to me this week, like

Kaytee Cobb 06:33

those plant watering videos, where they like, put the bottom of the plant and a little plate of water. And you know, speed up the yep, that's how I feel to work. Yeah. And then my leaves all of a sudden start going vertical, where they're supposed to be.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 06:47

Right, right. We're beautiful, beautiful plants once again. So yes, thank heaven for books in so many situations, but certainly in that one. Alright, what's your bookish moment of the week?

Kaytee Cobb 06:58

All right. So two weeks ago, Meredith right after you and I last recorded together, I did leave for Tucson to go to the Tucson Festival of Books. That was two very full days of content. Wonderful though, I got to meet up with bookish friends, listeners from all over the country. I met authors in person, they walk around book festivals, just like us, you know, like that People Magazine such groups like just like getting Indian food. They're just like us. So fun. And just talk about books all weekend long, like you were just talking about, or a lot of talking. My bookish moment, though, and my back saving moment was twofold. I did buy quite a few books at the book festival that weekend. And I also brought along a lot of books from the authors that I knew I was going to get to see at the festival. But rather than hauling around 50 pounds worth of books for that whole weekend, I made a very wise decision. First thing, first morning, I bought a \$15 festival t shirt and had every author sign that so fun, because many of them had never signed a shirt before. So we had to kind of figure that part out together. But everybody, almost every author has a Sharpie with them. That's how they prefer to sign books. And so I would just hold the shirt tight for them. And they would sign a book, not book, a t shirt for me. And now I have one small thing that fits easily in a drawer rather than 38 books to hold on to as a memory of that entire weekend. I

thought it was so fun. And I'm looking forward to doing that in future. Festival attendance is as well. That

Meredith Monday Schwartz 08:27

is a really, really good idea and probably much nicer and less attention getting than my idea when I talked to Elizabeth where I said she should have

Kaytee Cobb 08:36

a wagon. Oh, that's also a good idea. There were people that had wagons.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 08:41

When we go to Hamptons Whodunit. I think I'm going to get a wagon. I'm not going to fly with a wagon, but I think I'm going to like get a wagon. Use it for the festival. dump everything into my extra suitcase that I'm bringing, and then get rid of the wagon somehow, but

Kaytee Cobb 08:56

also just bring a suitcase as long as it's a rolling suitcase.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 08:59

But then, don't you think then it looks like what what she headed to the airport like you know what I mean? It's like even weirder,

Kaytee Cobb 09:06

it's like a band across it that says My books are in here. People will totally get it because I saw people with those like collapsible file drawer things that you can use. I saw people with suitcases. I don't think I saw any wagons but it's a very good idea. Also, we had Shad carry almost all of our books, which was really great. Also, he was like a camel

Meredith Monday Schwartz 09:30

book camel. I love that. Well, your the t shirt idea is brilliant. I love that and I'm sure so many people just had light bulbs go on over their head. That's really smart. I love it. Very

Kaytee Cobb 09:40

fun. Okay, now we get to play our game that we do once a year. It's like nerve wracking and exciting.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 09:47

This always sounds like such a good idea in theory when we're like oh here and the show is dropping on April 1 Which is perfect. And we're like, oh it's such a great way to shake things up. And I mean it is it is important We continue to shake things up just in our process so that we stay fresh. Right? Like that's, that's a big reason why we do this, but it is flipping nerve wracking. Like when we record I never get butterflies. Like I could literally be half asleep probably. And I wouldn't that's not true. But you know what I mean? It doesn't raise my blood pressure. I am so nervous that I look like a dingdong when I do this.

Kaytee Cobb 10:26

I'm more nervous this year than I was last year because now we've done it. And we've set a bar, right?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 10:31

We didn't sound like ding dongs. If we just like spouted by problem,

Kaytee Cobb 10:35

people thought we still sounded good. And now here we are. And we want to do it again. And I feel like it's gonna be like, well, I guess that was the real deal. Last year was fake.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 10:43

I stand by the notion that it is helpful for everyone to hear that the only reason we are good at talking about books is because we prepare in advance, which makes me think that anybody could do this. Also, we

Kaytee Cobb 10:57

have an editor important to know, I know. But you

Meredith Monday Schwartz 11:00

can only edit into something good if you have something good to start with. And I feel like you know, when you and I start every episode, we kind of have a sense of who's going to be tongue tied and who's going to have trouble with their words that day. You and I both are kind of struggling today. This does not bode well, for the overall performance on this. So anyway, let's get over with Well, I

Kaytee Cobb 11:22

have good news for you. Because you get to kick us off. Yeah, sure. Last year, I had to start. Yes. And this year, it's on you, my friend.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 11:30

All right, you're gonna explain how we're doing it. Yeah.

Kaytee Cobb 11:33

So I have a list of about 20 to 25 books that Meredith sent me that are books that she's talked about, that she hasn't brought to the show every once awhile. There's one in here that says already discussed. Don't show it.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 11:46

No, it's books that I've read, but haven't talked about. What did I say? Talked about books already

Kaytee Cobb 11:52

watch the show. This was gonna go great. I'm so excited. Right? See, this is a list of about 20 to 25 books that Meredith has read, that she has not brought to the show yet. And so I did a little poking around, tried to figure out some of the titles because sometimes there's not even an author name on here, including one of these books that I'm going to talk about, that I'm going to ask you to talk about

because I know nothing about it. So let's go ahead and start there. This one is just called Cold. And I was like I can't even Google search that how do you search Cold book that doesn't even mean anything. I don't know the author. I know nothing about this book. But now I want to know about this book.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 12:30

I am very, very glad that you asked Kaytee. This, this is a book that I read over my reading retreat, and it has one of my favorite covers of all time. I'm actually going to send you this link to see you can see this cover. This is a book called Cold by Drew Hayden Taylor. This book just came out in January. And I heard about it on From the Front Porch. This is one that they talked about. And I was like, This sounds so interesting. So the book kicks off with a plane crash. And it is a very, like if you're afraid of plane. This is a very visceral plane crash kind of scene. And then there's a plane crash but then they go down in a very mountainous like in the middle of a huge snowstorm. So this whole first scene, it has us meeting Fabiola Halen, and she is a journalist and she becomes famous because she is one of just a couple of people who survived this plane crash. So she goes on to write a book and she's she's on tour. We also are following Elmore Trent, who's a professor of Indigenous Studies. And he has run into some trouble. He is a professor who likes to have some shenanigans with some maybe student aides that he shouldn't. It's see he's having some marital problems. And then we also were following Paul North, who plays in the IHL, which is the indigenous Hockey League. And he is kind of aging in his career. And he's trying to figure out what his next stop is going to be. So these are the three characters that we meet at the start of the book. And then this is one of those fantastic books where everything starts to come together. You start to find out why we care about Elmore Trent and Paul North and Fabiola. And then it all kind of is brought together by Detective Ruby Birch, who is investigating a series of really, really violent, very violent murders that don't that have clues that just don't make a lot of sense. So this is this is where we start with Cold. What I thought most of all, is that this book was very, very surprising at every point. I didn't know what to expect next. And I loved that premise. It does. As I said, we're getting to know three separate people, right, so it takes a couple of chapters to get into as we meet these different characters. But we'll Once their stories start to string together, this book is a lot of fun. There was a ton of research that went into this story. And I ended up doing some rabbit holes, because there were several different indigenous myths and legends that are at the heart of the story. And some of them are truly fascinating. And there were a couple of truly terrifying legends that were involved here that I had never heard of before. And this book does an excellent job of bringing those legends to life. I love that like how would a fairy tale look in the modern day, I loved the writing too. Drew Hayden Taylor is funnier than you would expect. In a book like this. I laughed out loud multiple times. And although we are seeing this story from several different points of view, there's somehow a very cohesive narrative that he puts together, that drives the pages forward, I just kept thinking in another author's hands, the story would have felt very fragmented. Here, there was a real coalescence from the start, ended up reading this over the course of just a single day, as I said, Because I read it at my at our reading retreat, so that several hours more reading and probably read it in the course of eight hours. But it was so nice not to have real life get in the way of the story, because it was very, very propulsive and page turning. Now, I definitely have to tell you that there are parts of this book that are very, very graphically gory, so please be aware of that. Also, as I mentioned, the story starts out with a harrowing small plane crash, it's a small plane. And so trigger warning for that to the ending was fine. To be fair, there were parts of the ending that were probably bordered a little bit on the silly if I'm honest, but this story was not an

easy plane to land. And I feel like Taylor did the best job he possibly could. That ending silliness, didn't ruin the experience. For me, it was very minor compared to the overall great reading experience. But I wanted to mention it, because I didn't want people to think I didn't notice that when when they read it. I wanted to I want to know, like, I felt what was going on there. But I wanted to hang in this book is truly a genre mashup, in this case, a mash up of murder mystery, thriller, indigenous horror, and police procedural. So if you love those kinds of things, and you'd love it when authors fit them together in a really smart way. You will love Cold by Drew Hayden Taylor.

Kaytee Cobb 17:35

Okay. I am very excited about this now, like I you know, it was one word on your list, I have no idea what to expect. But as you know, I'm super into indigenous horror and working that legend into a story. Yes. And I can hang with a messy and or an ending that doesn't feel quite right if the rest of the book can carry me through. So I feel like this might be a really good fit for me.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 17:59

Yeah, I think you might really like it. What I have said before, is that often, historically, indigenous pieces of horror or mystery isn't something that's going to draw me in. But Better the Blood and cold have really put me on a different track. And I am now seeking out this kind of reading because there is just so much myth and legend to explore. And when it's done really, really well. It is nothing short of terrifying, and also weirdly beautiful, in a way and this book does that really, really well. I think that Cold needs to find a much larger audience and it has I haven't heard anyone talk about it. And I think so many people, including you, Kaytee would find a lot to like here. This is a real page turner.

Kaytee Cobb 18:48

All right. I love it. Okay, now I get to have my own anxiety attack. So excited. Right. Okay.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 18:55

All right. I get to pick your book. Okay. All right. Part of what's interesting about this is that is the books that we choose, because I am positive that I'm going to choose books that are not the three that you would have brought today. Right? Yeah. And this is selfishly because they're just books that I want to find out what you thought about them. Yes. Like, should I Kaytee's gonna tell me whether or not I should read these books. Okay, the first book that I want to hear about is I want to know what you thought about Family Family. Oh

Kaytee Cobb 19:23

my gosh, me. Here it is. Well, this is very lucky for me because that still might be the most recent. Now. I have finished one more book since that one more, but it's very recent. It's very recent. So this is a good fit for me in that every thing is right there fresh. I loved Family Family, by Laurie Frankel. Oh, my goodness. And y'all know especially if you've been here for a long time that Laurie Frankel had already really captured my heart with a story that ended up after I read it being very personal to me, and This Is How It Always Is. That story ended up becoming even more important to me as the years went on after I read it because of my own personal family story. So going into this one, I was like, Well, I do love her. I love her writing. I've enjoyed other works of hers, but nothing will ever be This Is How It Always Is. Right? That's not possible. Oh, enter Family Family. So this is Laurie Frankel's newest novel, it just

came out earlier this year, within the last few weeks, I want to say, and I picked it up after my reading partner, Katie had read it and she said, Kaytee, I'm pretty sure you will love this one as well, even though it's not going to replace This Is How It Always Is. You know how you have another child and your heart grows, or you have another grandchild and your heart grows? Yes, your heart can encompass both of these books. So our main character is named India Aullwood. She is a Hollywood darling. And we get to see her life from basically one week in the present day, which is happening during COVID. So probably 2020 to 2023 ish. There's people in masks that kind of thing. And also her life through the years. So we started out we meet her, why did her mom name her India, etc. And it turns out even as a very young girl, she knew she wanted to be an actress, but she could not sing at all. She's terrible at singing. So Broadway, musical theater, all of that is closed to her. So she has to become a real actress, a dramatic actress. Right? It's, it's a point of tension in the book. At the very beginning of the story, she has just had a new film come out which was filmed during the pandemic called something with the word flowers in it. And it happens to be a story of adoption. This film portrays adoption as very traumatic. It traumatizes the birth mother and the child in a way that both of them become addicted to drugs. This is very, very first to setup of the story. And then by the end of the movie, they find each other and it's amazing, and everything is better. And so the internet does not like that. Especially adoption advocates on the internet, do not like that. Do not like the portrayal of adoption as something that leads to people being addicted to drugs, and do not like the portrayal of birth families coming back together as the only thing that can save you. Both of those things, rubbed them the wrong way. What they don't know. And what we find out very quickly, is that India Aullwood Our main character is not a stranger to adoption. She has adopted out babies in her past one when she was only 16 years old in high school, wanting to graduate wanting to go to college, wanting to make sure that she could follow her own dreams. And one a few years later, that the Internet doesn't know that. So when her adopted out baby Bex gets online and says, India Aullwood is my birth mother, it starts a firestorm. And that's when we start to really unpack what family means. India has her own twin children now named Fig and Jack. And of course, their names come up later. So you figure out why they're named what they are, she is a very well known public personality. And the Internet is aflame, especially because it's COVID. So just like we just saw with Princess Kate, people want to focus in on something, they want to put their energy towards something. And that means we get to pull apart the many different twists and turns that India's life has taken over the years in order to figure out what makes her tick. And what made that road that she followed possible. This is a story about India, but it becomes a pretty large cast of characters as we move through the book. And every single one of them. I could cry talking about them right now. They each become like friends on the page. So so it's family, and everybody in the book is family. But you kind of feel like, well, maybe I'm family too. Maybe this isn't just about the Aullwood family and the little nucleus that she has at the middle that reaches out to all these other people. Maybe Kaytee Cobb is part of that family also, and it tells a different story of adoption. Laurie Frankel includes in her authors know how personal this story is to her just like this is how it always is and how personal that story is to her. And you can tell the love she has for the characters and for the process and the heart and the beautiful in adoption and in family. By the way, she writes this book, I loved it so much. I do think it'll end up on my top 10 This year, which does surprise me and also doesn't surprise me because I knew that she would be able to hold my heart just right as this one. This is Family Family by Laurie Frankel. I didn't cry, but it got real close and I'm proud of me for that.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 24:44

Wonderful you did a great job. I wonder how many more I know that she does infuse so much of her personal experience and her emotions into her books. I wonder how many more books she has in her at this level?

Kaytee Cobb 24:57

Yeah, I don't know because she did have the one in between these two, which was called One Two Three, which is about different sisters that were growing up kind of by a toxic waste situation. That's right, right. Yes. One of the sisters is named Monday. I think Monday. Yeah, that I want to make sure Meredith got her hands on it at one point, but it didn't feel like it had that personal connection. And I don't feel like it hit at the same level. So it does feel like if she really wants to get her reader, she's gonna have to draw on her personal self quite a bit. Yeah. Yeah.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 25:28

No pressure. Okay.

Kaytee Cobb 25:29

Right. Yeah. Give of yourself, Lady and we'll love you for it. All right, now

Meredith Monday Schwartz 25:33

you get to pick another one. For now. It's

Kaytee Cobb 25:35

my turn again. Okay, I am going to go. I'm gonna go with Everyone is Watching. And this one does have an author name. It's by Heather Gudenkauf?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 25:47

Yes. Well, how wonderful Kaytee that you have chosen this in the perfect slot, as everyone knows, or, as I've said many times, my second book is often if I'm if I'm gonna include one that was not super big hit for me, I will include it in the second slot. And this one falls into that category. The benefit of this, Kaytee is that this book does not require a ton of setup. The setup for this one is very, very simple. And you really, you don't want a lot of setup. Basically, we have five people who've been chosen as contestants for a show called one lucky winner. And the prize for winning. One lucky winner is \$10 million. Night, right. So they get like these special invitations and who's going to not take them up on a \$10 million possible price with only five contestants. So they go to a secluded estate in like the Napa area like Northern California. And they know in advance that this is this game is going to be live streamed all over the world from start to finish. They also know that once they're there, they can't leave, they have to surrender their cell phone. They can't have any contact with the outside world whatsoever. That's all you need to know going into the spot. The blurb does does go further. And I think it's just absolutely too much. Okay. So The Overnight Guest is another book by Heather Gudenkauf and it was so good that it was in my it was the only thriller on my list of top 10 books of 2023. It was the only thriller. The Overnight Guest is incredibly well done. I loved it so much. So I very happily jumped into the ARC of this book because this book comes out on well, by the time the show comes out on March 26. So by the time this show drops, it'll it'll be available. But I jumped into the arc immediately because I

loved the overnight guest. This one, though, was a hit and a miss for me. I absolutely love the premise. I love a locked room. No question, even though you definitely could say that locked room has become overdone in this last little bit. But this premise, the the kind of game show, part of it made me very, very interested. And right from the start, I wanted to know why these people specifically had been chosen, like, what's going on with the game? And how serious are things going to get on this reality show. So I loved that. Also, this book is a super fast read again, we've got short chapters and pacing, it keeps up all the way through. So for that reason, I'm gonna say this is definitely genre wise, a straight up thriller, and it's a great one nightstand book, palate cleanser, however you want to however you want to talk about it. I think there are really big reasons to have one nightstand books. But there were some things that were amiss for me, again, we come back to the premise, yes, it is something that I liked. And something also that was a miss for me. The premise is not only locked room, but I think even in the marketing copy, it mentions that it's kind of based on a very famous novel. And if you've read that novel, right from the start, you kind of know a lot. So for that reason, I felt like it was going to be really easy for this book to be predictable. And I was hoping that Heather Gudenkauf would have a different take on it or kind of take it into a different direction. But she didn't answer the fact that it was so predictable all the way through had me cringing by the time I got to 75% The other thing and the thing that really has it at just three stars for me, which for me is a pretty low rating is that the writing was sloppy, and I absolutely hate saying it but I have to be honest. I just felt like the whole book felt very rushed, and lazy. The characters were flat and their backstories which were really key to the story being meaningful, were hastily laid out at best. I think honestly what happened here is that she's now releasing books too quickly. And I think she started to get some traction as an author. And now they're like, hey, we need a book every year, and it's just happening too fast. So I would definitely say that this is a palate cleansing thriller. It's not bad, it would be kind of perfect for like a drive somewhere where you just want to stay focused on something. But you also don't want to have your brain overly engaged. But the overnight guest was far better than this one. This one was just middling, and I hate saying that. But this is Everyone is Watching by Heather Gudenkauf

Kaytee Cobb 30:35

Such a bummer. That does make me think though, because you mentioned that we've talked about there's a place for those one nightstand books, right where you can just get in, and maybe it's a palate cleanser, maybe it's just a way to remember why you want to turn pages so fast sometimes, right? And we do have a whole episode about that. Yeah, this

Meredith Monday Schwartz 30:54

this book is exactly that, because it's very skimmable. And so I mean, I read the whole thing, but I really had my fast reader brain on it, because and the thing is that that's fine. But there was no reason to slow down. There was no, there was nothing grabbing me. It was like, it was like you were just sliding across the ice. We weren't like, purposefully going across the

Kaytee Cobb 31:18

ice, you know. Still a bummer, though. Yeah. All

Meredith Monday Schwartz 31:20

right. But thank you for letting me talk about that and get it over with. Now, I would love it if you would talk about Come and Get It by Kiley Reid. Oh,

Kaytee Cobb 31:33

interesting that this is in the second slot.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 31:38

I thought we might get something spicy here. Okay.

Kaytee Cobb 31:42

Yes, Come and Get It by Kiley Reid is also a new release from an author that I have previously enjoyed. And even that is a little bit of a spicy take. Because she also wrote Such a Fun Age, which I really liked. And a lot of people threw against the wall. They were not fans of that book.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 32:00

But a lot of people loved it. I mean, it was really, really popular,

Kaytee Cobb 32:04

yes. And sometimes infuriating for many readers, which is fine, we don't all have to agree on books. So Come and Get It is now it's been about four years. I want to say since that last one was released maybe three years. And we've been waiting for a new book from Kiley Reid, especially those of us who did really enjoy that first book of hers. Here's the setup for this one. We are at a university in Arkansas. And we have a number of players at the university that we're kind of following in the story. One is a professor, her name is Agatha. One is a student named Millie. And then there are a few other you know, roommates, dorm mates and ex girlfriend of the professor. All as part of this story, the professor named Agatha moves to University of Arkansas in order to pursue some research about social dynamics and the ways that we behave in groups. And she has a research group with a number of young women. This one is about marriage and weddings and what people think they want, or especially young women sorority girls especially think they want to get out of becoming married and what they want their weddings to look like and what kind of expectations they have societally about how that wedding gets paid for and what counts as an expensive wedding versus an inexpensive wedding and that kind of thing, which might make it kind of interesting for you, Meredith. But that's just the very beginning of the setup. Millie, is an RA on the floor of the dorm where she's mostly pulling these research subjects from and as Agatha and Millie get to know each other, they also realize that in Millie's room, you can hear you can overhear eavesdrop on conversations in the rooms next door, including a set of three girls that there's some weird dynamics there. So maybe not. So on the up and up, Agatha starts listening in to those conversations in the room next door, taking notes on them, potentially using them for research or her next book. In the meantime, we're kind of piecing together what's going on with these three young women next door that are all probably 18 to 19 years old, in their first year at college, and the ethical and moral dilemmas around the way they interact with each other the way that Agatha is taking advantage of Millie's proximity to the question to the situation. And then the way that their relationship starts to change on a person to person level, get real gray real fast, where you're like, oh, no, this just got lucky. Oh, that is also icky. Wait a minute, is all of this icky? And so the entire thing

you start to think, wow, our girls this horrible. Our professors whether they are women or men always out to take advantage of somebody like it's hurts to make you doubt the way people behave around you and start to look for like nefarious motivations behind the way they act, the way they treat you the way they treat each other. So I listened to this one, it was an ALC, from libro FM, I listened to it really fast. But mostly that was because I wanted to be done with this story. And I wanted to distance myself from the characters and what was going on between them throughout this plot. And that doesn't mean that it's not a good book. And that I think that's exactly what Kiley Reid, was wanting to do here. And she had a goal and she wrote it, and she executed it well, however, I didn't enjoy the experience. And I didn't want to continue reading because it was so scintillating, but rather because I wanted to get my Heebie Jeebies out and and figure out how it ended. So it was on audio, I definitely couldn't just flip to the end and see, you know, who gets paid off? Who gets killed who nobody dies? I don't think I don't think anybody does, nobody died. But okay, so it wasn't something that I could just flip to the end and get over with. I had to get through it in order to understand what she was doing. And for that reason, I mean, I do think it was well written, I gave it, you know, three and a half 3.75 stars because of that, but I just did not enjoy my experience with it. And it certainly wasn't something that I will put on my shelf and continue to look at relatively fondly years later and say, Well, I don't like that. Other people didn't like this book, but I really did, which is how I feel about such a fun age. So this one was mostly a mess for me. It's Come and Get It by Kiley Reid.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 36:50

Yeah, this one the reason I said I was expecting it to be spicy is because it seems like overall, there have been a lot of a lot of similar opinions. Yeah, yeah, I think there are people that didn't say that it didn't find its audience. But But yeah, I've just a lot of a lot of people I think went in with high expectations. And we're kind of like, not my favorite.

Kaytee Cobb 37:09

Yeah, exactly. Okay. My third one from you. This week, as I was going through your list. You know, I love doing this. Meredith, I was trying to find some interesting themes. Like, why are these all books that Meredith has not brought yet and I found a lot of family secrets in this stack, which is interesting. So I'm gonna pull one of those family secrets books. I would like to hear about First Lie Wins by Ashley Elston. Okay, okay. And I haven't read this. All my guesses about family secrets come from trying to figure out which books these were and reading blurbs on story graph and Goodreads and such. So I don't necessarily know that that's the theme of this book. It just was something that I saw pretty often. Well,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 37:56

you're absolutely right, that a theme of this book is secrets. I mean, firstlight wins. But this was a Reese pick. So this one has been kind of everywhere. So this is another book. And this is kind of true of a lot of the books that I read where I can't give you a ton of setup, because you you kind of just need to know that our lead character is a woman whose name is Evie Porter. When we find her she is this, like Southern beauty. She has a very rich, successful boyfriend. They live in kind of the perfect house and garden. Just kind of got it all right there living this life. But it turns out that absolutely nothing about Evie Porter is what it seems. And she basically has been given this identity. And she's been assigned to take up the life of Evie Porter and she's been assigned to become the girlfriend of successful doting

boyfriend, Ryan Sumner. This is her assignment. So the book is about how why who hired her all you know what, why is this her job? What are they hoping to find? And there are lots and lots of twists that come after that. This is another one that is a straight up thriller. And it doesn't happen very often that we get thrillers that get this amount of hype at this point. And there are a lot of people, especially a lot of people who don't read in the genre a lot who have said this is like one of my favorite thrillers that I've read. Now, honestly, for me, a con woman con man plot a con plotline is just never that appealing to me. Because my natural Enneagram oneness has a hard time rooting for anyone who kind of comes into the book without clean hands. You know what I mean? Like the legal version of like coming in with clean hands. So I went into this when with a very big huge dose of skepticism and low expectations. And honestly, my plan was to just read the first little bit. I had an arc of this and I just wanted i Lots of times I just want to get a sense of a book and then just be like, Okay, I can kind of see what people are talking about here. But I will admit that I got completely sucked in. And there is a lot to like in this book. And I understand now why it's gotten so much hype, and it has the Goodreads ratings that it has, because it has a 4.2 rating on goodreads on over 144,000 ratings. Isn't it brands? Oh, no, not? Well, it was

Kaytee Cobb 40:38

a Reese book. Okay. Okay. Okay.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 40:42

So the writing is actually really well done. Unlike the Heather Gudenkauf, the writing didn't get in the way. The story for me here at all the chapters move quickly. It's the writing is very sharp and clear and smart. So from that point of view, it's it's a step above a normal thriller, for sure. And it has a very interesting construction, I found for me, I found it easier to do in print than I would have on audio just because I think on audio, I would have gotten gotten confused with some of the things that they're doing with timeline here. So I really liked it in print. And I will say that unlike a lot of thrillers, this one has a lot of interesting sort of puzzle aspects to things. It lets you play along and mentally chew on the different players and what they have to gain by the different things. And who might be playing who it was actually quite a bit of fun to try to figure that piece out. It isn't the kind of book that's going to be on a top 10 list for me, because I'm not sure even now I saw I read this in January, actually, I'll talk a little bit in our deep dive that we're going to do afterwards why I hadn't yet brought it to the show, because there's a specific reason. And also, it didn't have enough to make me remembered the ins and outs of the plot. I don't think about this book all the time. And whatever ends up on my top 10 list or books that I that I really think about I carry along with me for a long time afterwards. But I enjoyed this one very much. And I you know, as we've already seen, I say said in January, I think there's going to be a huge audience that this is their favorite thriller that they read all year. I think that that has been borne out in the you know, in the succeeding two months. And I think it's a quality thriller. This is First Lie Wins by Ashley Elston.

Kaytee Cobb 42:24

Okay, so for those of us who are not steeped in the genre, you know, if you're a I read Gone Girl, I read Girl on the Train something like on the train. And now I'm ready for one more big thriller. Maybe this is the right one.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 42:40

Yeah. So for example, this is one that I said to Roxana, who kind of falls into that category, right? Like, she doesn't read much at all in the mystery or thriller genre. But every once in a while, she really needs a shot in the arm of adrenaline and needs to be kind of smart and fast. It was like put this on that list and grab it when you're in that specific mood because I would feel really good about saying like, yeah, this when you're in that mood, this will be a hit for you. Perfect. So yeah, again, I mean it I think for a lot of people, this book will be a really big win for them. It's a well done. Puzzle filled page turner. Yeah. What's not to like? Yeah, well, I guess my only the only reason I'm not raving about it is because of that whole I just don't love a con and like a long con or like fit like that is just always something that I'm like, How can I really root for the people involved here? But this one kind of does some interesting things with that construction.

Kaytee Cobb 43:38

Okay.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 43:40

All right. All right. Are you ready for your last one?

Kaytee Cobb 43:44

Well, I don't understand why I'm getting so anxious every time like it's been fine. But still

Meredith Monday Schwartz 43:48

don't know me to me to know I feel the exact same way. I'm really glad that my three year done all right. I'm gonna choose one that I have no idea what it is whatsoever. So I'm going in completely blind unlike these other two, I'm going to choose a book called Evil Eye. You said that it was a read your shelf so you had it on your you had it on your shelf.

Kaytee Cobb 44:07

This is actually also a relatively new release by Etaf Rum who wrote A Woman Is No Man a few years back. She is a Palestinian author. And this one came out I think right at the end of 2023 because I definitely still had it in hardback rather than paperback. So Evil Eye is a little bit interesting. Actually. Meredith, you picked three authors that I have read their books before, but Evil Eye by the author of A Woman is No Man I did not very much like A Woman is No Man. So I did not intend to put Evil Eye on my TBR and then you know how sometimes you go into a bookstore and you kind of blackout? Blackout and you have 14 books and you're like, I don't know what happened. That's what happened here. And then it just it caught Well, to me, while you're waiting you it, it jumped off the shelf into my hands. And I don't really understand why I do think she was she was at the Tucson Festival of Books, but I did not go to her panel. But it may be that her name on there triggered because I read it before I went, but I don't know. I don't really know why. Anyway, I did enjoy this book. So we are talking about a Palestinian family in Brooklyn, New York. And Yara is our main character. And that's Y A R A, and she is kind of a young, she's not a professor. She's like a young adjunct maybe at a local school, even though she is a Palestinian woman from the Middle East. She is She was born in the US. But you know, she's like that first generation American. So she was raised by two very staunch Palestinian parents, and married a husband who seemed to be supportive of the idea of no women do not always have to

stay at home and just bear children and cook and clean. And so she was able to continue on with her studies and get a job. And it seems like things are pretty okay for her. But right at the beginning of the story, she's feeling some discontent. But she realizes or she finds out that her college is doing a study abroad program where they are the students are studying abroad, but they need faculty to kind of chaperone right. So different faculty members are supposed to apply to be a chaperone, and their entire airfare and board will be covered as they get to travel across the ocean. And she is very into art and photography. And this trip involves either going to the Louvre, or maybe the British Museum, but she's going somewhere in Europe, that has a lot of artwork that she's very excited to see. So she goes home and tells her husband, I'd really like to apply for this job, or for this visiting professorship, chaperone position that would be all paid for. And I think it would be a really great opportunity, and really just a dream come true for me to get to do this. And he basically flat out tells her no, that's not happening. You who would raise the children who would be here to cook and clean. And she's like, wait, what? So it feels like a big turning on its head of what she was hoping for and expecting. And the worst part is that her co workers are like, Well, isn't it kind of obvious it's because you're Middle Eastern. And she was like, what? So she gets into a little bit of a kerfuffle with a co worker. And there might be a little bit of yelling, a little bit of messiness. And as part of the discipline that comes out of that situation, her boss asks her to go to counseling, and it's through counseling, it's through talking to a trained professional, as well as other people outside of the situation, that she realizes that her life was better than the one her mom had hoped for, for her, but it was still not a full, fulfilling life, and it was still not the life she dreams up for her own daughter's. And in that way, it's very introspective. So the evil eye in Turkish Middle Eastern Syrian Palestinian lore, you've I swear, you've seen these, it's kind of like a teardrop shape with blue and then white in the middle and then dark in the very center. And it's supposed to kind of draw evil to it, which keeps it out of the spaces around it. So you might put it by your front door to keep evil out of your door, because it stays there. She wears one on a necklace, and it's supposed to keep evil away from her because it all gets trapped into this evil eye. And her mother has given her this evil eye necklace in hopes that her daughter's life will be different, will be more fulfilling, will not have an abusive husband at its center, like her mother's dead. So this book, really like I just didn't expect to like it. But that evil eye on the cover, it drew me in and maybe that means I'm evil, I don't know. But it drew me in to the point where I really not just felt for Jada, but really wanted to know her and hoped for good things for her and and was very curious about how this would all turn out how could it possibly turn into a situation where she found joy and contentment when this was the road that had been paved for her? How was she going to forge a different path? So it surprised me on a number of levels, not just how much I enjoyed it, but how much I see similarities between my own life and Yara's story, although even as a white woman in the place of my birth, you know like completely not a routed from anywhere. I did feel some sympathies for her that I didn't expect and empathy for her that I didn't expect. But the characters, Yara and her co workers and her children and her mother, and the different people around her, pulled me in in a way that I wasn't expecting. And I ended up really liking this one, I either gave it 4.2 or 4.5 stars, because by the end, I cared deeply for a character that at the beginning, felt like, well, what she's just going to blow up her perfect life, what and and that's not what it is. It's not that story. And the surprise there and the twist there, which it's not like it's not a thriller, it's not a twist, like a big reveal. The turning on its head of the story I was expecting is what really made me enjoy this one and fall for it and beautiful way. So this is Evil Eye by Etaf Rum.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 50:55

So it's interesting what we can see from those books. And it's comes up a lot. But definitely from the books we've talked about today, the ones that we went into with low expectations, we ended up liking a lot more in the winter, we went in thinking like, Oh, this is gonna be great, because the previous book had been so so good. Right? It struggled to meet that expectation. So, you know, and then also this element of it was more than I thought it was there was some element of surprise in our own reaction to the book. Yeah, that will often times raise a rating for sure.

Kaytee Cobb 51:30

Yeah, that is interesting, because that did come up multiple times today, even though I do feel like that's a pretty regular thing that happens in our reading, right? Then a book will surprise you in a good way or surprise you in a bad way. And it really impacts your experience of it right. But to have so many of our books this week, kind of show that over and over again is that's an interesting connection.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 51:51

That is interesting. And we had said that we weren't going to do really an official and which is why at the top of the show, we didn't announce like an official deep dive, we kind of wanted to just give ourselves the ability to chat as we wanted to about the experience of talking about our books with no prep whatsoever. One thing that I'm noticing right off the bat, Kaytee, I know you are too. We are at fifth right now we're at 59 minutes recorded. And normally when we get done with our reads, we're closer to 45 minutes. So just in having no prep, we've gone 15 minutes longer. Now, it's not a hard and fast rule that we live by. But it's just because we've done it so many times we know the rhythm of it. So that's interesting, right that we may have talked longer than we would have if we had prepared. The other thing I'm thinking about is the fact that kind of what we're doing right now is kind of I think the way when I had the idea for the show, I thought that it would go that we would literally just talk about the last three books that we had read. And when when I go back and look at some of my notes from season one, some of my documents from season one, some of them will be two pages long. And now my notes for the show are regularly nine plus pages printed. So we clearly have have really gone towards a lot more prep. But I think this kind of like just off the cuff was what I was thinking it would be. So I don't know, is that a good thing? Is that a bad thing? I think we're constantly taking a look at that. Like we don't want to feel overly scripted.

Kaytee Cobb 53:20

Right? Well, and I do think it's different and that I agree when I go way back in my folders and binders and stuff because I do print every set of show notes or every outline. They have gotten longer over the years. But I do think that mostly that serves us and serves our listeners well not in that we are just reading copy from that we've already tinkered with until it's perfect, but that we understand the story better, and we can pull it together in a more cohesive manner. Because I didn't have anything written down in front of me for this. And clearly we talked a long time.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 53:59

Right? Right. So again, is it better? Or is it worse, like is there I think that the prep that we do makes it better because we can be more cohesive, because we can think through better comps, which are always really helpful. And you'll notice I mean, I don't at least for my books, I don't think I comped really

any of them. Whereas a lot of times when I do full prep, I will have get on some cops or some vibes or you know, something like that. So I think we can do that we can just kind of pull our thoughts together a little bit more coherently. But then there also is kind of something fun about letting it just come out. The other thing is that that has happened that wasn't true. When we first started doing the show is that we both even I now have like you said at any given moment, I have 25 to 30 books that are sitting there on my queue ready to be brought to the show. So then what happens is you can get a little bit choosy about right okay, well what 3am I going to bring and how we make those choices. is I think it's, it's kind of like we don't want to talk about this for a long time, because we don't want the show to get crazy long. But at this point, when you look at your list, how are you making your choice about what three you're bringing? Like, what are you thinking about? Now, as we're ending season six, as opposed to back in season one,

Kaytee Cobb 55:17

I almost always try to make sure that there's a big variety. And that could be almost like PTSD from some of the comments that I used to get a long time ago about how Kaytee will only read middle grade and ya like, which I don't think I've ever done brought only middle grade and ya to a show. Or she only reads diverse voices, or she only blah, blah, blah. But like, people were really wanting to fit me into a box. So for at least the last few years, I would say, it's been really important to me to look at all three books as a whole and say, Do I have three very different books in here, for one reason or another? Maybe it's that they're not all the same genre, or that there's not even two of the same genre. Maybe it's that there's not too much nonfiction or there's not too much middle grade, or why or there's not too much of anything. So now as I choose books, it's really important to me to not only have a range of whether I liked them or not, but where they would be shelved in the bookstore is really important to me as well. Yeah. Yeah,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 56:18

I definitely think about variety, for sure. Although there are many, many, many shows where I bring to that fall into the mystery and thriller, category, I mean, many shows where that's where that's the case, but I'm trying to make them as like I wouldn't, I wouldn't have ever put, Everyone Is Watching and First Lie Wins in the same show. Right? And so I said that I was gonna say so with First Lie Wins, I read it all or read it back in January. So okay, why haven't I brought it yet? The other thing that I think about is, I think about how much has that book been everywhere? How much hasn't been talked about on Bookstagram and other book podcasts and kind of in the zeitgeist. And I think if it's been everywhere, like that book was, if I don't have a really interesting take on it, which doesn't necessarily mean that I didn't like it because I actually don't relish bringing, like super spicy opinions to the book. Every once in a while. There'll be a book that I you know, I'm relishing tearing down, I'm looking at you John Grisham. But most, for the most part, I'm much more interested in bringing the books that I really enjoyed and have some interesting take on it some something to say about the book. So I would say those are those are the two things I want to have variety. And then I want to have something that makes it worth the listeners while you know that I can add to the conversation. Yes. And then and then I do you know, I do have to, at this point, it's probably every other show. But for a long time it was every show that middle that number two slot was almost always a book that was either and or I didn't like so every once in a while I have to bring some of those that are kind of middling I try really hard not to just because a three, three and a half star book, that I'm just like, oh, it was fine. Who the heck wants to listen to me say that?

Right? Yeah, so so that is something that I think about too, but that variety, and then also I'm trying to pick books, I'm trying to choose books that I think you won't choose, and you're doing the same thing for me so that we're bringing, you know, again, that variety. So think back when we started my idea, again, the 10 listeners, we were sure we were gonna have Yeah, I think I thought, you know, without much prep at all. Maybe on a Friday afternoon, we'll talk about books for 40 minutes. And that was really what it was going to be. And so it is what it was. And so it's just grown from there. But I think in good ways.

Kaytee Cobb 58:47

Yeah, I agree. So that is always such a fun exercise, like you said, to keep us sharp to keep us, you know, on our toes, and interested the whole way through a full season of currently reading, which is 50 episodes usually. So there's a lot of content here. And this is a different way that we like to play with it now that we're in our sixth season. And I'm glad that we do it, even if I maybe need to take a nap afterwards, right now. But now we get to move to our woowoo fountain where we make our wishes and we throw our coins and we put good energy out into the bookish world. Meredith, what are you wishing for this week?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 59:23

All right, my wish, just in thinking about the exercise that we just went through. And I know that a lot of questions that we will get that happened last year were like, but you sounded like you didn't know what book was going to be chosen. But when you were talking about what you thought of it use it still was cohesive. You still like it was a book you read several months ago, but you still remembered what you thought about it. There's one reason and one reason only that that happens. And that's because the second I finish a book, I create an email with the photo of that book so that I know what it is I forward that email to myself and then I just start dictating into my phone using my The voice recorder in my email functionality. And I just start talking, just literally off the top of my head. But it's the moment I finished that book. So I'm grabbing all of my thoughts, not in a way that has to be perfect or ready to go out to you guys, but in just a top of mind stream of consciousness kind of way. And I think that more people would benefit from doing that. Because even if you're not going to be on a show, or you're not going to, what this does is it helps me to prepare for the show. But it also gives me something to quit, copy and paste into the notes field for that book in my book tracker. And the benefit of that is when someone asks me when I'm out at one of my get togethers, and this happens to you guys all the time, someone will say what were some of the best books you've read recently, or whatever. Having that there gives you the ability to really quickly remind you what you liked about a book. And it gives you the ability to recommend books better. And it also gives you the ability to do searches in that document for words that have come up when you're just doing the stream of consciousness like locked room came up when I you noticed as I'm talking about the book, well now locked room is there under Everyone is Watching. In my book shocker. So when I go to search for my favorite locked room mysteries, this will, this will be one of the ones that comes up. So I just wish that everyone would, it literally takes less than three minutes most of the time for me to do that. And yet it just grabs, it grabs a very specific moment in time in your reading. So my wish is that more people would just give that an experiment. I

Kaytee Cobb 59:34

like that wish. I think that's a very fun idea. And we do get a lot of comments like, how do you even do this? I can't remember the last book I read much less three months ago, that book that I read. So right I think that's a good idea. Like my wish this week is for a book recommendations on call service. So here's an excerpt this comes from Jason started a new job recently, right? He works for one medical now, which is owned by Amazon. So it's connected to your prime account, whatever. But I don't want to talk about that. I want to talk about the fact that it's a membership that gets you on call video visits as needed, right. So you can be like, Hey, doctor that's on call, I have a wart on my finger. What should I do about it, and they can address it immediately. And it might not be the regular doctor, you see, it's just going to be a doctor that knows what's going on with you. Right. So I'd like an advice line, kind of like the butterball advice line for Thanksgiving turkeys, you can call in maybe it's 511, right instead of 911 or 811, or whatever numbers we use. And you can tell them, which book is winking at you on your shelf. Or you could tell them you've read seemingly everything in the mystery and thriller genre. And what's the newest, greatest thing? Or you could tell them? These are five books on my TBR? Which one should I pick up next. And maybe it's connected to bookshop.org. And they just send you the next three books you should read. Okay, Mrs. Cobb, Thanks for your call today. Those are now in the mail. And it's a membership service, where you can call as often as you need. And it's so it's a boss my TBR situation, but they are helping you. Like if you get stuck, whether it's at midnight when you can't sleep, or it's at 2pm when you have like post work malaise and you are not post work, malaise, mid afternoon malaise, and you just need a little pep to get back into your step to move forward with your day. It's always there it's on called bookish care. That's my wish this week, ping splash.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:03:43

I mean, I love that. And I think all of us would absolutely love that. I would just like to add that it would be great if you also could call in and be like, I needed a new new True Crime documentary to watch or listened to as i like i like

Kaytee Cobb 1:03:56

about playing. But not right TV book podcast,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:03:59

combination of those. I just think that would be so great. I love the idea of just getting them in the mail. Like you don't know exactly what they recommended. So you get them. I love that.

Kaytee Cobb 1:04:09

You have so many fun. Yeah,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:04:11

I mean, if if Amazon ever would take its head out of its booty, they could do exactly this. And then just send it right to your Kindle. So like you could have, like a whoosh sound and then they just it just ends up in your Kindle. So, again, amazing. We could have an entire podcast called things Amazon would do if it would pull their head out of their patoot. But this was super fun. Kaytee, I'm really I love doing this.

Kaytee Cobb 1:04:37

I do too Meredith.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:04:38

It also kind of feels like when we do it. You know what I'm just realizing. It also kind of feels like you and I are like swimming in the deep end together. We're out there holding each other up making sure that no one drowns. Like we got each other so I can. That's fun. 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 1:05:01

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:05:05

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

Kaytee Cobb 1:05:16

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:05:24

And as we said at the top, if you want more bookish content from us, there is so much more to be had. If you become a patron subscriber, you will become a bookish friend and it's just \$5 a month. You can also leave us a review on Apple podcasts and shout us out on social media. All of those things help us to find our perfect audience.

Kaytee Cobb 1:05:45

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:05:51

Until next week, may your coffee be hot,

Kaytee Cobb 1:05:53

and your book The unputdownable.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:05:55

Happy reading Kaytee

Kaytee Cobb 1:05:56

Happy reading Meredith