



Season 6, Episode 37: New Hobbies + Our Love For Memoirs

Mon, Apr 22, 2024 • 1:01:28

Kaytee Cobb 00:11

Hi 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 already know, we don't shy away from having strong opinions. So get ready.

Mary Heim 00:23

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

Kaytee Cobb 00:32

I'm Kaytee Cobb, a homeschooling mom of four living in Arizona, and I think I might need to switch back to a dumb phone.

Mary Heim 00:38

And I'm Mary Heim, a therapist and mom of one living in Wisconsin. And I am reveling in the feeling of having added my first contender for topic of the year to my read list this week. This is episode number 37 of season six, and we are so glad you're here.

Kaytee Cobb 00:54

Oh my gosh, Mary, that is the best feeling. I love that.

Mary Heim 00:58

It's always like a little bit of a sigh of relief. Do you ever feel that until you start to have a good book? I'm like, Oh, no. What if this is gonna be the year? I don't like anything.

Kaytee Cobb 01:07

I have zero top books of the year.

Mary Heim 01:09

I got none. But no, it always comes in its own time. For me. It happened in April. And that's

Kaytee Cobb 01:16

okay. That's a long time into the year though.

Mary Heim 01:19

I was getting a little nervous, but he made it. Yeah.

Kaytee Cobb 01:21

Okay, I like it. I'm gonna let everybody know right here at the top that today, we're gonna be talking for a deep dive about five star memoirs. And that could be famous people that could be not famous people. And I want to talk a little about the difference between reading those two types of memoirs. But before we do that, we're going to start the way we always do with our bookish moments of the week. Mary, what is yours this week? So

Mary Heim 01:43

Kaytee, as you may know, if you've spent a second on Instagram lately, I've recently learned how to needle felt, which is basically the craft of stabbing a bunch of wool with teeny needles over and over again until you sculpt them into shapes. And it is both very cathartic and also relaxing and super fun. Along with this new hyper fixation hobby. My audiobook consumption has finally kicked back up again. I was listening to the recent episode where Meredith talked about her audiobook reading and watercoloring. And I was like, Yes, this is also me. I truly lost a lot of my audiobook time once I lost my commute. And my job is now a job that ever has really mental downtime to be able to listen and work at the same time. So to finally have a hobby where I can just give just enough brain power to what I'm doing and also have the capacity to listen to books again, more regularly has felt like so much fun. It's I just would love like if you need me, I will be in my cozy chair right in front of the window on a sunny day stabbing away, listening to an audiobook. That's my happy place.

Kaytee Cobb 02:50

Okay, I have a few questions. One is what happens to all your goodies like where are you sending them to people? Do you have a whole army of felt creatures at your house? Like what's going on at the house of Heim?

Mary Heim 03:03

Excellent question. So far, I have given away almost everything that I've made. I started just making things mostly I would give them to my kid and she's got like a shelf in her room now filled with and I was like, Okay, we can't do this forever, because that's gonna drive me insane. I'm not going to add to the tchotchke you know, levels in my home. But it's been really fun to like, make gifts. I have a couple things I've kept for myself, but I am making something so cool and bookish for my husband for his birthday, but he's probably gonna listen to this episode, which I'll show y'all later in late May what that is I made a really cool gift for my sister and for my mom. And so Kaytee, if you end up with something needle felted you know, in your mailbox soon. Don't be surprised. You'll know there is gonna be it's gonna be very evident that that is mail for Mary Heim. But yeah, for the most part I've been making and giving away, but with a couple exceptions of keeping things for myself.

Kaytee Cobb 03:58

And this does involve needles. Are you accidentally injuring yourself occasionally, high blood, sweat and tears involved?

Mary Heim 04:07

Yes, so most of the time, it's a little pinprick. But I will tell you just skip the 15 second button if y'all don't want to hear about my worst injury to date. I have something called like a multi needle tool, which was where you put like four needles in one block basically. And now I wear finger protectors or wait no, I think I had finger protectors on but I was just kind of stabbing with abandon and I like stabbed straight into my pointer finger and it ballooned up. Now I recognize it probably like I probably broke the blood vessels under my skin but because the needle is so small, the blood didn't have anywhere to go. So My finger got blistered. Yeah, like humongous. And I was like I called my doctor sister and I was like, do I need to go to urgent care? And she was like, just like, see if you can. She walked me through it. Do go ahead, I will say that but after that I've been more careful. And also I've gotten as I've gotten better, I injured myself last. But yeah, it is not a risk free hobby. Like you

Kaytee Cobb 05:11

need a shirt now that just has stabbing with abandon, because I think that's a great phrase. And it would like play in well with the murderous crowd, it would just go really well, I think

Mary Heim 05:22

I need that or I need to like make myself a mug on Zazzle that's like, something about audiobooks, we'll get there.

Kaytee Cobb 05:29

We're gonna, the think tank is, is working is on it. I love it. Okay, as I alluded to, in my bite size intro, my bookish moment this week was a realization that many of us have probably had over the years, but it hit me hard this week that I am wasting my life doing nothing on the internet. I have an app, you know, to be mindful. And it tells me at the end of the day, how much I used my phone that day. And it's been pretty constant over the year, year and a half since I've had it like I, you know, I waver up and down a little bit if there's something big happening, like an eclipse, or if there's something going on in the world, and sometimes it goes quite a bit down. But this past week or so especially, it's been way up like an hour or two hours more than my average, I dread getting that notification every night, this first week of April, the week before, this was actually pretty great reading wise for me. And then it totally stalled out. And I could see exactly that corresponding uptick in my phone usage. So my bookish moment this week is that it took me sitting down to evaluate my reading life over the past few days and say like, well, Kaytee, what's your bookish moment, and my bookish moment was that I was freaking out that I didn't bookish moment because my life has been so subsumed by my phone lately. And I'm pretty sure I'm using it as a bit of a coping mechanism, maybe some numbing, and I need to do some deeper thinking to figure out either how to deal with whatever is underlying that, or pivot back to my regular coping numbing mechanism, which of course, is reading. But I like that better for myself as a coping mechanism. So I mean, basically, my bookish moment is that I need to do a little thinking, do a little deep searching and figure out how I can transition some of that time back to where I would rather it be, and what's going on internally to make me turn to my phone instead of my books, because it's not making me happy. It's not filling my life in any great way. So I figured it was a good thing to talk about with my non therapist, therapist.

Mary Heim 07:32

I think that you, right, I think so many people are gonna be so seen in hearing you say that me included, right? And I love that you have that mindful awareness, but just to be able to notice, right, so that it didn't like go on for weeks. And then you're like, Why do I feel like crap you like, caught it early enough to be like, Okay, what, how would I feel better by reading instead of scrolling? May it be so I feel like we all probably

Kaytee Cobb 07:54

we're gonna send those good intentions out into the universe and then hopefully, actually make some concrete changes, and I don't think it's actually a dumb phone. But sometimes it feels like that might be a really good solution. Okay, let's get into our current reads though. I did. I did read earlier in the month. What have you been reading lately? Okay.

Mary Heim 08:11

So Kaytee, my first book this week is *Bride* by Ally Hazelwood. I started this last night. Really? Okay. So I am definitely the romance outlier here in that reading *Bride* was my first Ali Hazelwood experience but after how much I enjoyed it, I don't think it's gonna be my last. Okay, so here's the setup for everybody but Kaytee, because you already know. Misery Lark is the only daughter of the most powerful vampire in her territory, and she has been forced into a marriage of convenience for politics sake, but that in and of itself isn't really new to her. Misery spent her first many years as a collateral in the human world in order to keep the peace between humans and vampires when the ground between werewolves and vampires becomes tenuously shaky. Misery must cross over into weird territory and put herself at risk, not just for the sake of her people, vampires, but in order to have a chance to save the thing that matters to her most right off the bat. If it's not already obvious. This is an open door paranormal romance and do things get weird. Yes, they do. They so just know that this is not like the you know, like a sweet little rom com right? But also did I totally inhale this right in the middle of a big old book slump and enjoy every second. I thoroughly thoroughly Did you know that I love a romance that doesn't take itself too seriously. And in fact, I'm realizing that's kind of a necessary prerequisite for me with romance. This one totally fits that bill. This story takes place in our modern world, but one in which vampires and werewolves aren't really as mystical or magical, but really just kind of these subcultures almost to coexist in their societies along with the rest of us. There is romance, of course, but there's also mystery and political intrigue, and some surprising self discovery thrown in there as well. If you are looking for a kind of snarky paranormal heart pumping romance to spice up your TBR this would be a fun one to fit the bill that is *Bride* by Ali Hazelwood and I'm curious Kaytee how you're liking it so far.

Kaytee Cobb 10:08

Okay, I'm only I read the prologue and one chapter before bed last night so I'm not very far in. But it is very different from other Ali Hazelwood book. Yeah, right. Like, you know this. Yes, she This is her first published foray into paranormal fiction of any kind, including romance. But I think basically, you know, last week or two weeks ago, I talked about *Wolfsong* by TJ Klune. Yeah, I think that kind of paved the way for me to be like, I could get behind some not totally human situations. I'm good with that now.

Mary Heim 10:38

Yeah, yes, I'm okay with it. And it like eases you in to it a little bit. I also feel like this is the romance. For those of us who were teenagers in the twilight era, my fellow millennials, like you, you already have this, you know, neural pathway in your brain, you just need to light it back up.

Kaytee Cobb 10:59

If you were born in the mid to late 80s, you're probably you're probably primed for

Mary Heim 11:05

already. You're ready for this. I will say okay, my one caveat. By the end, I was kind of glazing through some of the steamy scenes that I was like, Oh, all right, like come on. We get it. I understand. Let's like it's just kind of the same thing over and over again, which might have just been the mood that I was in. It's like it was fun to read. But there is just some weirdness right to be prepared for that.

Kaytee Cobb 11:31

Did you read it? Or did you listen?

Mary Heim 11:34

I've read it I get out of get out of here with those romances. Got it? I am a no ear buds romance kind of gal. So yes, I read and it was really fun.

Kaytee Cobb 11:44

Yeah, I am reading it on paper and I do think I have realized that as far as paranormal and other worldly situations go I mostly need to read them on paper and not have you know door voices in my ears when I'm listening to Unhinged. That was that's an experience. I can never live so. That changed you forever. Yeah, and imprinted on me and not in a good way. Not

Mary Heim 12:07

in a good way. No, I think you're gonna like this one. But I'll be real curious. I would like you to message me Okay, as you go along in the journey, because I'll be very curious. You will be

Kaytee Cobb 12:18

neatly timed for that. So perfect timing. I love I'm gonna set up a group chat with you and Candice and we're going I love it. Okay, my first one this week. I feel like I kind of chose some of these for you. Mary. Have you read Renegades by Marissa Meyer?

Mary Heim 12:31

No. Okay, but I have read Marissa Meyer, right. We

Kaytee Cobb 12:35

love Marissa Meyer around here. This is the start of another series by Marissa Meyer, who of course, we love for the Cinder series, which is actually called the Lunar Chronicles, as well as quite a few others. She has standalones she has lots of series she is prolific. Right, she writes nearly exclusively in the YA genre. Oftentimes it's retellings of fairy tales or fantasies. This one is superhero sci fi and I was excited to dive into it after our Patreon regular Bunmi Ishola talked me into it. Here's the setup, the

Renegades have overthrown society, and especially the villains who used to run the country and the world like the capitalists the fascists, right? The Renegades are superheroes. They are benevolent overlords blessed with various supernatural abilities like impenetrable skin, which is great for needle felting invisibility skin that can poison others if they touch it or the ability to control bees and wasps. We've got people can stop time, and some others that are even further afield, like a young man who can draw something on his skin with a pen and it will add special abilities to his body. Like he draws springs on his feet and then he can jump really?

Mary Heim 13:42

What right that's awesome.

Kaytee Cobb 13:44

The Renegades are tasked with keeping the rest of the world safe by persecuting prodigies, which are people who have special abilities. It feels a little hypocritical, right? You're like, wait a minute, that's what these people are. Exactly. That's the problem. The only thing standing in their way is the anarchists another group of superheroes who are against the absolute power of the Renegades. Nova, our young heroine has joined the anarchists, she often is acting as her alter ego Nightmare. She's sure that her parents and sisters deaths can be blamed on the Renegades during the time of the overthrow. So she's out for vengeance. Luckily for her Nightmare doesn't need to sleep and is able to put others to sleep when she touches their skin. She's sent on a secret mission to infiltrate the Renegades through an alter ego that she decides to call Insomnia. She only says she doesn't need to sleep because if she says if I touch you, you'll fall asleep. They'll know exactly who she is. Insomnia meets the son of two members of the renegade Council not knowing his own powers and they start to form a friendship. As Nova uncovers more and more behind the scenes of the Renegades power structure she realizes there are far more secrets and lies than the public knows about or would even expect is the first in a trilogy and it definitely ends in a way that most people will want to keep going with the others in the set. I read it a few months back and I haven't yet picked up book two but not because I'm uninterested even when I sat down and worked on prepping for this episode and getting that story fresh again in my brain. I was like, I think I need to go grab a book two now like it's time I give it enough space in between. As to this one alone, I can say I really did enjoy it. It's not the Cinder series. You have to back away from that idea, but it's not supposed to be. This is definitely even more sci fi focused Cinder has androids in it like it's not completely away from sci fi, and it plays firmly into the hero and antihero tropes that really we all love, right? We've talked before on the show about loving the ability to root for a good villain. And this book keeps those lines sufficiently blurry so that you can blast antihero in the background and feel pretty good about your choices. I'll absolutely recommend it for readers who loved Extraordinaries by TJ Klune, or any classic superhero comic series like X Men or the DC Series, Marvel any of that. For me, it was a solid four star read. And I'm hoping that it continues to excel throughout the series. As with many of them, the number of ratings go down as you get from one book to the next but the overall average ratings go up throughout the series, so it sounds like very promising setup. I am looking forward to more. This is Renegades by Marissa Meyer.

Mary Heim 16:14

Oh, now Kaytee you're making me wonder like why didn't I pick that one up? This sounds like it would be a fun one to dig into. I love that and I also wish that nightmare would just come visit me just like real quick around like 10 o'clock every night and just like put me on the nose right there. Yeah, no melatonin necessary. Love it. That sounds really good. And I trust Marissa Meyer to like, take me to a place that I'm interested to go with your story. So she still wanted that.

Kaytee Cobb 16:43

Alright, let's hear about your second one. All right, Okay, I'm interested. I haven't read any popcorn thriller free stuff lately, either. Yeah, I feel like it might be time

Mary Heim 16:45

my second book this week is Listen for the Lie by Amy Tintera. Now I am at the point in my reader know thyself journey that I don't typically pick up a thriller more than maybe a handful of times per year at most but when I do I just really want it to hit for me I'm looking for something intriguing page turning fast paced, keeping me guessing until the end and I found this one to totally check those boxes. So here's our setup. Everyone thinks our main character Lucy killed her best friend Savvy. But here's the thing she might have. She might not have. She's not totally sure after the night of yes, you're not totally sure she's not totally sure. After the night of Savvy's murder Lucy is found wandering the streets covered in Savvy's blood with zero memory of what happened before all of this Lucy and Savvy were living the dream. Lucy was married to a dreamy guy living in the biggest house in their hometown and Savvy was the social butterfly right? Everybody loved her. Since Savvy died, Lucy has left her marriage and skip town. But now a hugely popular True Crime podcast has decided to try and solve Savvy's murder. Lucy is forced to return to the play she vowed to never set foot in again in order to help solve her friend's murder even if she is the one who did it. Now Kaytee, for me as an only occasional thriller reader, did this book changed my life? Of course not. But it did really work for me. And I think it will work for a lot of our listeners as well. I love a book with a mixed media element. And I found the interspersing of the podcast to be really well executed here, especially on audio. And it just really kept the plot moving for me and short chapters, things are really clipping along. And that is exactly what I needed. When I picked this book up, our narrator is almost comically unreliable, in that she remembers absolutely nothing of the night Savvy was murdered. But I found the author using this to her advantage in a way that kind of flipped the trope on its head a little bit. And it took some turns that I was definitely not anticipating or even if I maybe was I was happy to be along for the ride. I'll advise that the writing maybe does feel just like a little bit YA, but not in content or characterization, but just perhaps in tone or readability, which if you know me and my enjoyment of a YA thriller, I found to my advantage, but you know, just be aware. There also are some triggers that should not be ignored. So please check story graph before digging in. If you know that about yourself. This of course, I think falls into the category of popcorn books that's going to go down quick and addictive. Nothing wrong with that when that's what you need. And that's totally what I needed. You'll probably be ready for a full meal once you're done, but it's gonna be delicious the whole way through. That is Listen for the Lie by Amy Tintera. like I am. Most of the time. I'm not. I'm not hooked when I see them all over the internet, right? Or it's like every once in a while. I'm like, Yeah, that sounds really good. And it was exactly what I needed it to be. Exactly when and then I'll probably forget about it. And but I'll be like, Man, that was enjoyable,

Kaytee Cobb 19:47

fun while it lasted. It's a one night stand book. Exactly. Yep.

Mary Heim 19:50

All right, Kaytee what else have you got this? Okay,

Kaytee Cobb 19:53

my next one is a full meal. It's called An Inconvenient Cop by Edwin Raymond. So Edwin Raymond wrote this memoir and it's one that I had seen around but then Booktenders in West Virginia put it on their best of the rest list when they worked with us on the Indie Press List. I had already grabbed a copy at a 50% off sale at a local store, but this is what pushed it to the top of my list Booktenders being like, listen, it's time to read this and I said, okay, yes, ma'am. Because they are really good at selling books. Raymond entered law enforcement as a young man with hopes that he would be able to change the police force from the inside. He's a young black man, he was sure that the many interactions he had had as a black man with police officers over the course of his life were all due to just bad apples rather than a systemic issue. His memoir is written with alternating chapters, his time in the police academy, his training, his work are all interspersed with his upbringing and childhood, his teen years and his young adulthood. We learned concurrently about both timelines, which was a little bit convoluted for me as a reader, especially when sometimes his dad has passed away. Sometimes he's very sick. Sometimes he's totally fine and encouraging Eddie to get into policing, right? But what wasn't convoluted was the way that he described the New York City Police Department and its training and practices. As much as Eddie Raymond wanted to change the way that his community interacted with the police department. So much of those interactions was baked into the system. It's just the way the training happens. He peels back the layers to show us as readers how the quota system was dismantled, but still retained in other ways. He shows us the ways that minor infractions turn into life changing charges how jumping a turnstile at the subway station can turn into a felony with a warrant out for your arrest. He shows us how police officers he worked with good men and women were molded and shaped by the people and systems above them and above them and above them. Until they operated the only way that they knew how to turn by turn page by page over and over again. Raymond is brought in for disciplinary action for evaluation for encouragement, and told he needs to fall in line. As a reader, I became angry and discouraged. I wanted his desire for change to translate into stories of policy change and better outcomes. This memoir has the subtitle my fight to change policing in America. And that was more of what I was hoping to get in this book, an actual change in policing in America. While I loved the inside scoop on so many pieces of the system. I was also hoping for more the memoir is one of the books that I put in my messy middle shelf, and that much of what's happening within still feels unfinished. To me, there's a court case that is not finished at the time that the book releases. It's not a clean cut ending. Instead, we're left with quite a few more questions. I was also though happy to find out that there is a documentary about Edwin Raymond and the other NYPD whistleblower cops on Hulu called Crime and Punishment. And it won an Emmy in 2019 for the work there as well. So I was excited that like, oh, I can go and learn a little more about this. Although 2019 This released in 2023, it's still not going to answer the other questions I have. I was very glad to have read this book. But it's not the last that I'll read about policing in the US. I wanted it to go deeper on a number of levels. And I'm still glad I read it just didn't tick every single box for me. absolutely recommend it though. It's An Inconvenient Cop by Edwin Raymond.

Mary Heim 23:17

That one went right on my list. It's hard. And it's good. Yeah, it sounds to me too, right? Like this could be a good one as like the inclusion of I don't want to call it a book flight. Right. But like, almost like if we were to put together a syllabus of like reading on this topic, like this one needs to be in there. And there's more reading to do to fill it out. But I love that it's first person memoir, somebody, right, like with that experience as person of color? Absolutely. Adding it. Yeah,

Kaytee Cobb 23:46

it's really I would, I would love to hear what you thought about it. I ended up pressing it into the hands of our roommate, he is having some of his own discoveries regarding policing and white privilege, especially in the US judicial and policing systems. So it was really great for him to read it and then kind of report back to me as he got through the book as well. We had some really great conversations about the content. That's fascinating.

Mary Heim 24:10

I love that. Yeah. I my early career was as a therapist in the juvenile justice system. So I feel like yeah, so I'll be really curious to see obviously, it's not the same thing, but

Kaytee Cobb 24:21

All right, what's your third one?

Mary Heim 24:23

So Kaytee, here is my contender for first five star or first top 10 Book of the Year, this this year and I'm also just going to say I'm pretty sure this one really says the day after this episode drops, so you're not necessarily going to be able to drive out to the bookstore and buy it today. Monday listeners but get ready for tomorrow, because it is totally worth the spot on your TBR this is A Letter to the Luminous Deep by Sylvie Cathrall. Kaytee, I just I don't even have words for how much I loved In this whimsical epistolary fantasy set in a magical underwater world, yes, that's right, I said under water world in a setting that feels both like Regency England and also a post apocalyptic underwater seascape all at once. We have our mysterious reclusive, E., our main character who lives in her family's home built underneath the water. E one day discovers something miraculous that spurs her to write to renowned scientist Henerey Clel, for his opinion, which starts a written correspondence between the two together through their letters they uncover a mystery from the unknown depths destined to transform this underwater world that they both love so much, but in an unfortunate turn of events a sea quake destroys E's home and in the process E and Henry vanish This story follows E's sister Sophy and Henerey's brother Vyerin as they parse through their siblings, letters, sketches and field notes to discover what exactly they were up to. And perhaps what they discovered before their mysterious disappearance. Kaytee, when I tell you this book had everything, there's mystery, there's this gentle and sweet romance, the most magical and immersive world building and incredible mental health representation to boot. It is no wonder I loved it. I don't often see OCD well represented in fiction. And this book did a spectacular job of showing what real OCD can look like made even more impactful by the author's sharing in her end note about how she used her own experience to inform how she portrayed the disorder within the book. Now I will say I found myself kind of joking with a bookish friend the other day that this book was kind of a triple agent for me by first look, it look totally like a Mary book.

And then I read some of the early reviews of readers comparing it to Emily Wilde and finding their hopes really dashed as I didn't live up to them. And then I like lowered my expectations out of fear that it would be a total mess and then I read it and I ended up adoring it not for what it was comfortable with. But for what it is on its own for a fantasy for I mean, I suppose not for fantasy, but for like an epistolary fantasy. This is a longer books is like 450 pages, you could make the claim that it's maybe practically all exposition. It kind of throws you in the deep end pun intended with the world building and just kind of hopes you'll fend for yourself and figure it out. This book again, like I said, is entirely epistolary. So if you don't enjoy reading letters and journal entries, just know thyself reader, but truly, I was enamored, I found the world so fascinating. It was like putting on a scuba suit and going for a dive to discover that Atlantis is a fully thriving city in magical Technicolor that Oh, yes, also has some other worldly and potentially nefarious things going on. So you'd better stay around to see what happens. I inhaled this chunker and I did not want to put it down. It was one of those reading experiences where you spend so much time in a book over the course of a few days, that it really feels like you just live there now and closing the book to realize that you're not currently underwater was kind of disorienting. This book ends on a cliffhanger friends and I am already counting down the days until I can get book number two in my hot little hands. That was A Letter to the Luminous Deep by Sylvie Cathrall.

Kaytee Cobb 28:12

Oh my gosh, I requested it on NetGalley and put in a pre order while you were talking. The Cover every now Mary, how have I not heard of this before now. It's

Mary Heim 28:23

so beautiful. Our bookish friend Ginny, who I think is @Ginnyreadsandwrites, also is bookstore owner. And she shared about it on her Instagram and I was like sold I need I need this book. And it's funny because I realized after reading it, I was like, Okay, I need this on my forever shelves. And I went and looked and saw that Fairyloot was going to make an exclusive edition. But I missed the pre order because I'm not actually a Fairyloot member Candice is my hookup and I wouldn't have I wouldn't have known that I was going to love this right. So now I can just hope to do my best on the second hand market because I'm sure the Fairyloot edition is going to be stupid, beautiful. Yeah,

Kaytee Cobb 29:06

I mean, they do usually show up on Pango like a month within a couple of weeks after people get them. Yeah. So

Mary Heim 29:13

I pay for that. I really loved it. And I know in the reviews, it was not for everybody. It's pretty character driven. But also I was just so sucked in. It just worked for me it so everything

Kaytee Cobb 29:26

about it worked for me. It sounds perfect for me. You

Mary Heim 29:29

will I think you will love it. The only thing that is missing here that would make it like a 5000 stars if there

Kaytee Cobb 29:36

were occupied cliffhangers not because I am concerned about that. That too. Yeah, we know how Kaytee feels about cliffhanger sometimes. And this is a cliffhanger that's like, like mid scene because those are the ones that really bother me. It's not

Mary Heim 29:50

necessarily mid scene but it's like are you kidding me? This is like what we Is this too spoilery to say like this is what we've been building towards this whole off

Kaytee Cobb 30:02

Okay, it's good to know I am going to have it in my hot little hands here very soon. But maybe knowing that going in, I won't be as mad.

Mary Heim 30:11

Maybe, maybe that doesn't seem to bother me. Like that didn't bother me with I'm just thinking Truly Devious. Like, what are these other if a book has captured me enough? That doesn't bother me, but I can understand why it would bother people.

Kaytee Cobb 30:26

Okay, I actually just had this conversation and Megan, you're gonna have to make some good decisions here about what needs to get cut. But I just had this conversation about Divine Rivals, which is, but the point where is a cliffhanger is not what we've been hoping for. For the whole book. That reveal has already happened. Yeah, right. And so I'm like, I don't care. I love that book. It's amazing. You know? So I don't know, that's gonna be

Mary Heim 30:53

there is something though you do get not in the same satisfying way of Divine Rivals. But you do get some you do get something you're hoping for in this story. And it's also not a super surprise. Like it's very evident. The sister and brother aren't like they are doing the investigative work that you see their letters in the book as well talking about like, oh, and then they went here and then they did this and let's check this out. So you know that something is building. Okay. But you don't you don't get to have this fully satisfying. It's it's a little complicated. Yeah,

Kaytee Cobb 31:29

it sounds it sounds complicated. Relationship status. Complicated. Got it? Yes. Yep. Okay. I also have the start of a series, but it's complete. For my third book, another start of a series. That's three now for today's total. So it's going great here, y'all. Between Mary and myself, we started a lot of series this week. Mine is A Natural History of Dragons by Marie Brennan sitting on my shelf right now, as it should be. Actually it should be in your hands already. Okay. It was about two weeks ago that I talked about my first book from the February Indie Press List from Booktenders. And this is the actual list of five right that one was Betty. While this is a bit of theme, and that the last one I discussed also got pushed up my TBR for this by the store. This is a book I had never heard of, and it's a backlist pick published in 2013. The start to a complete and unique series, published in 2013. A Natural History of Dragons follows the fictional Lady Trent, written as her memoir, now that she has lived a full life fiction written as a pretend

memoir. She's looking back upon her adventures, and in this book, we get to see who she was as a young girl and a young woman. First, let's open this book, we find a map. Of course we do. Of course we find a map. Throughout the story, we will find pencil line anatomical drawings of dragons as well. Starting from when Lady Trent or Isabella is very young. She found a baby dragon and preserved it in spirits as a young girl. And that specimen follows her throughout her life. That's what started her obsession. She is a remarkable woman obsessed with science and dragons in a time when women are mostly ignored, hopefully ignored. She started as a bookish young lady, passionate about dragons and ignoring the ways that she is told she should behave. She should be a Jane Austen esque heroine. She should play piano and read novels and do needlepoint which I wrote, obviously before, we talked about needle felting. But maybe that's what she could be doing. I don't know. Here, we finally get to hear from her directly about her upbringing, her marriage and the ways that she enmeshed herself into the study and science that her husband performed through his adventurous expeditions. This book is the first in the series of five. And for me, it was basically perfect. Its feminist and fierce but seated within the classic timeframe and society that we've come to expect. Isabella Trent is a heroine that we cannot help but root for. She is the Emily Wilde of dragons. Basically we have a lot of great comps for you this week, if you love that book, but she's also made it to her later years and is reflecting back as an older lady, so she's not snippy or snide or flighty or dumb, she's smart and passionate, and it's perfectly communicated on the page. This book was a keeper for my shelves and the fact that it had released more than 10 years before this particular indie press list episode made it so clear to me that this is why we love working with local bookstores. Same with Letters of Luminous Deep, right like if you hadn't heard directly from a bookseller maybe you wouldn't have put that on your list. What a tragedy it would have been if I had never read this one because I loved it. I gave it five stars. At the time. It was one of my favorite books of the year so far, like I was just thrilled to read it to discover it should fall into it with both feet. It's A Natural History of Dragons the fictional Memoirs of Lady Trent by Marie Brennan. You

Mary Heim 34:56

just I mean, that one was already high on my list. Yes. As soon as I heard it on that in the press list I was adding to cart. And I'm feeling like I've wanted to say that for the perfect time, you know, and I think now is the perfect time. I can't wait right now. Right? Literally as we finish this episode, yeah, you get your data

Kaytee Cobb 35:16

on and then like, go get started. That's okay. I love that we had a lot of excited words about all those books today. But now we get to talk even more excitedly about some of our favorite memoir, which for both Mary and I is this genre that we like to get into quite a bit. And so when I knew I was recording with Mary today, especially because Meredith is on the record as saying, I don't love a memoir, I do. And I wanted to talk to somebody else who loves a memoir. So marry me. Let's talk about memoir, hearing a person's story told in their own voice, whether it's hearing or written on the page. What is it that appeals to you about that? You know,

Mary Heim 35:58

so as I was reflecting on this, I was like, Why do I love a memoir, and I've always loved a memoir. And what really matters for me in a memoir that I love is a strong narrative voice, as Meredith and Sarah's bookshelves would say, give me a voicy memoir, literally and figuratively, all day long. And I'm

wondering if it has something to do with how much I love to hear people's stories, right? That's like my paid job, my full time job is to hear people's stories. And it's something I feel, you know, it's that old quote, right? There isn't anybody you couldn't love when you until you've heard their story, or whatever it must be. But that's really what it feels like to me of like, we're all such complex and nuanced, human beings. And there's so much more beneath the surface than we could ever just portray in any one, or two or 10 million interactions. And I really love that about a memoir is that we get to hear someone's story from them, and hear like the complexities and just see like how beautifully human beings how beautifully nuanced we are as human beings, and I love that I'm obsessed with it. I love that about a memoir. Yes, definitely.

Kaytee Cobb 37:10

I have said for a very long time, I have a picture of myself holding a sign that says this actually a long time ago that the reason I read is to walk somebody else's shoes, and to experience a world that I never could write, whether it's to be a pirate on the high seas, which I'm never going to do as much as that would be very fun. Or to know what it's like to be a famous movie star. Like, I'm never going to do that either. So the reason I read fiction and pretend to be a serial killer, I'm not pretending to be these people, obviously. But getting to try on this other life through fiction, or nonfiction is really special in my reading life. And memoir is like the purest distillation of that, right? It's not try on this life by imagining what it might be like, it's like, sit down. I'm gonna I'm gonna put the clothes on you. So you can see it directly. You can look in the mirror and see exactly what this would feel like. And I love that. Yeah.

Mary Heim 38:07

And I think too, as you're talking, I'm realizing like something else that I really enjoy is that memoir requires introspection, right? I mean, maybe not. But a good memoir, a really great memoir requires someone to sit down and reflect on their story and these pieces that have made them who they are. And I'm just drawn to that, like, I really, that's something that that vulnerability is necessary and important for me in relationship. And it's like, you just get a little peek of that of somebody else that they're willing to kind of give and share to you and it's so compelling to me. Okay,

Kaytee Cobb 38:40

do you have feels about memoir versus biography? Like, would you rather read it directly from the person?

Mary Heim 38:47

1,000% I have big feels about that. Because I think biography, to me feels like a textbook, which is fine, sometimes and necessary sometimes. And maybe that's all that's possible sometimes. But I'm much more interested in hearing someone's first person story because two, there's nobody who can tell their story quite as well as they could or quite as nuanced, right.

Kaytee Cobb 39:13

internal motivations. Yeah, right. The background

Mary Heim 39:18

there's something that's missing from biography for me that is present in memoir that makes a big difference what about you? Yeah,

Kaytee Cobb 39:25

same and and I don't think there's a right or wrong here like I do enjoy reading biography now. Although I know there's somebody could go find a clip of me on the show saying I don't read history, and I don't read biography and whoa, whoa to that reader, because how wrong I was. I didn't think that was interesting to me at all. And then I have read since then, a number of really interesting fully fleshed out biographies, most notably, *The Black Count* by Tom Reese, which is where I got to say I was wrong. I was very wrong about biography, but it still doesn't hit for me in the same way. It doesn't be less personal, it doesn't feel as intimate. It doesn't feel as invited. It's more like, here's what we know publicly about this person all distilled into a single package. And it can be very well written, it can be narrative and voicey and thrilling, but it's also not anything internal. Unless they wrote it down. Right, like Alexander Hamilton. Maybe we know that he skipped a coma the one time. Yeah, so we can read all we want into that, but we didn't hear it directly from him how he was in love with Angelica. Right? Yeah, spoilers for Hamilton.

Mary Heim 40:34

I think you're totally right. And I'm also realizing two I think I'm, I think I'm past you. I think I'm pre, I'm pre having really dipped into biography. I'm willing to have my mind not mind change, because I'm not anti biography. I'm just like, it really just doesn't work for me. But I don't know that I have anything really to substantiate that. I think that I need to actually go and read some biography and see how it feels and where it lands. I am you in the past and willing to learn, I'm willing to learn but I still just I gravitate to memoir because I love hearing someone's story from them. Yeah,

Kaytee Cobb 41:12

yeah, me too, for sure. Okay, let's talk about some of our favorites. Do you want to start with famous people, which I'm defining as like somebody you would probably recognize if you saw them on the street, versus non famous people who still wrote a book that we maybe fell in love with?

Mary Heim 41:27

Right, right. Yes, I have. I've got some subcategories here. And I call this one celebrity, right. Like perfect. Yes. Okay. So first one that I really feel it's interesting because this is an older backlist, right *My Life in France* by Julia Child that it's like, it's so narrative, that book, right? It makes you feel like it's in France. And you're like It's like reading and love like food and a memoir,

Kaytee Cobb 41:53

right? You want to pick up a cigarette and tie a scarf around your head and yeah, totally

Mary Heim 41:58

go like have a picnic under the Eiffel Tower. And I have a lot of love for food memoirs and it's like this one was an original. Like she wrote the literal book she made the blueprint for so many that came after. And you know, it's interesting because yes, Julia Child is a celebrity but at the time of writing this right, these are like her letters. She wasn't writing as a celebrity. I adore that book that's on an all time Fave

shelf, some other like really voicey almost like tell all celebrity memoirs that I loved. Mindy Kaling Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me and Why Not Me are spectacular on audio. I think I've read almost all of these celebrity memoirs on audio, because it's so fun to hear this. A lot of times like performer, right, perform their own words. Bossy Pants, by Tina Fey is another classic on audio. That's spectacular Spare by Prince Harry. That was a long book. And I was like, I would not listen to all of that military stuff from anyone but you, Prince Harry. But it was like he's especially right, here's like this peek behind the wall of celebrity. Another one I have on here too, that I think fits in that category Becoming by Michelle Obama. We are not hearing these stories from these massively influential people in political power. And then they open the door for us. I mean, is like that is a category all its own. I also felt this one surprised me from a book club that I read with friends that I don't know that I would have picked up on my own. But it's Stories I Only Tell My Friends by Rob Lowe, okay. And that was another one that I was like, this is a peek behind the curtain that you don't necessarily get and he really goes all in that I really love. And of course, I had to round out this list. I'm a little biased. This one is I Have Something to Tell You by Chasten Buttigieg. Chasten is a friend of mine, so I'm biased, but he writes us such a good memoir. And he as a human being is just very voicey. And it really comes through in history and in his narration. And there's an adult one and he has written a young readers edition of this story. Specifically, if you love anybody who has any letter in the LGBTQ plus world, or if you're just you know, human being, I love his shoe, and it feels weird to include him in Celebrity, because I'm like he officiated my wedding. But he's he technically is a celebrity. And his book is excellent. So you should go read it. I

Kaytee Cobb 44:25

love that. And I also sometimes claim a little bit of fame just via that like proximity to power. Well, I technically I don't know Pete, but I follow him on somebody feed Phil and I'm like his husband officiated my friend's wedding. So basically, we're friends. Okay. So in my celebrity section, I, first of all, I totally agree, especially with celebrity memoirs that listening to them and having Michelle Obama actually in your ears to tell you her story is Yeah, chef's kiss perfection. You need it, but I will start with Waypoints by Sam Heughan, plays Jaime on Outlander, and not everyone would necessarily recognize him on the street, but some people would climb him like a pole. And I'm just saying that's a possibility. And having him tell his story in your ears is chef's kiss amazing with that Scottish brogue love anybody from the Queer Eye cast, especially Jonathan Van Ness has written some really eye opening and vulnerable memoirs that having their voice in my ears was really special. I did include Michelle Obama on mine as well, Finding Me by Viola Davis was very difficult, very interesting. And for me, it kind of straddles a line here, because I probably wouldn't have recognized Viola Davis on the street because I haven't watched scandal or a number of the other things that she has really, like, headlined, and won awards for and just been lauded and praised for but listening to her memoir made me more interested in her acting in her career in her as a person. And now I feel like not that we're friends, obviously, but that I'm more interested when I see her name on a headline because she has let me hear her story in a way that I wouldn't have been before. And then the one that I always always include in memoir list is, of course, As You Wish by Kerry Ellis, of course, who is just an upstanding, amazing gentleman have a human and that memoir, especially on audio, having the entire cast pop in and read sections. It is a work of art. It absolutely must be listened to the paper book is fun, too, because there are images included, but being able to hear not only him tell his story about his career, but mostly about the making of The Princess Bride is amazing. He is a forever love of mine.

Mary Heim 46:52

I love that. And you are making me realize too, I want to also add to my list a Year of Yes by Shonda Rhimes. I felt similarly like that I read that book how many, 5,6,7 years ago and I still think about it. And she's one to like Viola Davis that obviously everybody knows Shonda Rhimes. Right, but you don't really know her. She's like, famous for her work, but she's not a huge like personality, right and that she's in the headlines. But I felt like she really opened the door to say like, come on into my experience and the audio narration she just killed it. It was so good. That's another one that I would throw in that category.

Kaytee Cobb 47:31

Oh, love it. Okay, what's your next category? Because I just split them into famous people in normies.

Mary Heim 47:36

Oh, okay. All right. I've got some subcategories for us here. So the next one, maybe I'll jump into this from the Shonda transition. I'm calling poetic feminine. Okay, this I've got a couple in here, two by Beth Ann Fennelly. The first one is Great with Child: Letters to a Young Mother, which I brought to the show a long time ago. And the other one is Heating and Cooling, which is micro memoirs, which she wrote like a little, almost like poem, right? There's like 52 Micro memoirs within here, both by her. I've also got Glitter and Glue by Kelly Corrigan, which I know we both adore. These Precious Days by Ann Patchett. This category really felt to me like these are the women that I want to like sit at their feet and learn from like, I want them to be like my wise and my wise older sister, just really bringing in this experience of their lives well lived as folks who, you know, share a lot of similar experiences or narratives are just as I do love all of these. So that's my poetic feminine category.

Kaytee Cobb 48:42

Okay, when you first mentioned that category name, I thought you were gonna go full poetry memoir like Kate Baer.

Mary Heim 48:48

Mm hmm. I almost did. I almost didn't, I was like, well, that's like crossing the line. But I could absolutely go Kate there.

Kaytee Cobb 48:56

And since April is National Poetry Month, we'll go ahead and throw that in there. And then of my normies, I could put in also into this category, Soil, the story of a black mother's garden by Camille T. Dungy, which I brought probably three or four months ago to the show really wonderful. Definitely a book for you, Mary. And then An Exact Replica of a Figment of My Imagination by Elizabeth McCracken is a book that I read, I want to say about 13 years ago, it was pressed into my hands after a dear friend of mine lost a child late in pregnancy. And this book was the one that she said, if you really want to understand what I'm going through, here's what I want you to read. And it is stunningly written very feminine, of course, because it's a mom losing the worst hardest thing and just very touching. So even as I sat down and prepared for this, I was like, Well, I have to include this book on my list. Obviously check trigger warnings. If this is a personal story for you, it's going to be very hard to read or you're

going to feel very seen. Yeah. I'm very loved by being wrapped by Elizabeth McCracken and her words in this book,

Mary Heim 50:05

love that. If I can maybe segue into my next one I have categorized as feelings. But a lot of grief books in here obviously, just because that has been my experience the last year I felt very seen in reading grief memoirs, and it's interesting for me that after losing my dad, it was like that was not a trigger for me because I was like, Well, I've done it. I've lived it. Like I want to hear other people who share that experience. Dancing at the Pity Party by Tyler Feder, which made my top 10 List last year a graphic memoir of losing her mom. What Looks Like Bravery by Laurel Braitman is a memoir of her losing her father. After This by Claire Bidwell Smith, which was my favorite book of the year last year, the whole saga that book you can hear about in past episodes to other really good ones. Another grief memoir that I read years ago and actually led a therapist book club on this one is called Tragedy Plus Time by Adam Cayton-Holland and this is the author lost his sister to suicide. So again, be really mindful of triggers, but it's spectacularly well done. And then not grief specific, but a book as a therapist and a human that I really loved is Maybe You Should Talk to Someone by Lori Gottlieb, which I think does a fantastic job of pulling back the curtain on what it's like to be a therapist and also what it's like to be in therapy and just to be human. I love that book. I loved it.

Kaytee Cobb 51:28

Okay, for that one, I will add When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi, which is a feelings book in that it's dealing with the grief of his own diagnosis and his own upcoming death. It's another sobbing on the floor book. So be aware.

Mary Heim 51:42

list because I just finished it with Yeah, I think should we pivot a little bit to something a little bit less dark and sad and depressing? Probably. I like it. I've got to hear in my next category adventure of A Woman in the Polar Night by Christiane Ritter oh, I can't wait to hear what you thought. And then a little bit more recent At Home in the World by Tish Oxenreider. I really loved that book of like a homebody traveling with her family. I love those two.

Kaytee Cobb 52:08

Yes, definitely. And there are there are a lot. I wish I had coordinated with you better about the actual categories that you were bringing because there's so many great ones in this but a lot of them are what we might consider like stung journalism. I tried this for a year and I wanted to see how it would go right but sometimes that adventure is what you need to push yourself out of your comfort zone. Like A Woman in the Polar Night that book Holy Moly

Mary Heim 52:33

Did you like it?

Kaytee Cobb 52:34

I was intense. Everything about it was intense. I was like I would have died so many times. So

Mary Heim 52:38

many I would have been dead on the first day just freeze me into

Kaytee Cobb 52:41

the Nordic ice because that's that's all that's happening here. Okay,

Mary Heim 52:44

I've got one more category. Okay. This one is kind of all time faves. That defy subcategory a little bit. The first one Animal Vegetable Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver. Which I just love that book. I know. It's I think it's pretty divisive. You either love it or you can't stand it but I loved it. This one toe is a line of memoir or skirts the line of memoir is The Anthropocene Reviewed by John Green and a final all time fave. All of these are on my all time Fave shelf is A Homemade Life by Molly Wizenberg. Which I feel like Julia Child walked so that Molly Wizenberg could run or Julia Child walked so that Molly Wizenberg could walk next to her beside her because Julia Child also ran right but those two I feel like are just perfectly in line. Those are some like all time faves for me. What about do you have others? Yeah,

Kaytee Cobb 53:32

my final category would kind of encompass a lot of the social justice memoir that I read in order to kind of prepare me for that journey that I went on, have been going on for years now. So The Sun Does Shine by Anthony Ray Hinton and Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson would both fall in there The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore, who now is Mayor of Baltimore, maybe running for Senate as well, but he is a well known political figure. He was not at the time he was just a guy who found somebody with his same name, and talked about how their paths diverged, Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer could probably go in the poetic feminine category that Mary came up with, but it also would go on my all time favorites shelf. Yeah, so beautiful. It's so wonderful. And then I Take My Coffee Black by Tyler Merritt is another one that you have to listen to. You have to hear his story from his lips because it's so powerful. And the way that he emotes on to the mic is so wonderful and lovely. Oh I love that book. So a lot of these ended up being some of my very favorites but they're because of the way that someone else's story legit changed my life. Yes. Which that's that's big praise. That's saying some big things right. But that's what really powerful memoir can do. Not just let us see inside the story. Let us walk in their shoes. Let us try it on for size but change something pivotal in our own lives. And that's why I love it. I love it so much.

Mary Heim 54:56

Yes, the power of like shared humanity and and not shared humanity, but just the power of humanity. I love it.

Kaytee Cobb 55:03

Yeah, yeah. Well, we're all human. So it is shared humanity. Right? Exactly.

Mary Heim 55:07

Maybe not the same story shared amongst humanity. But yes, shared humanity. Yeah. Love it. Okay,

Kaytee Cobb 55:13

excellent. All right, let's move over to the fountain. What are you wishing for this week, Mary?

Mary Heim 55:19

Kaytee, my fountain wish this week is going to look suspiciously close to a press. And that's probably because it is. I have long loved The Ember Quartet by Sabaa Tahir that's four bucks, starting with Ember in the Ashes now completely published in their entirety. So maybe our bookish friends can absolve me of bringing a first in a series with a cliffhanger ending, because here I am presenting to you four spectacular bucks, and I have kind of taken it as a personal goal to get as many of my friends as possible to read this series. And generally I have succeeded, but I realized it's been a while since I've chatted about it on the podcast, and I truly think this deserves a place in the press list of my heart. This series takes place in a fictional fantasy landscape inspired by ancient Rome and follows a young soldier Elias and a young Slave Leia as their paths intertwine within the backdrop of the Empire's greatest and most brutal military academy. Now, listen, there is so much more to this series than just the setup, but I'm gonna promise you you do not want me to spoil it for you. You hear Military Academy and you're probably like, not for me. No, don't even just that's just a small piece of the puzzle.

Kaytee Cobb 56:25

It's definitely a problem for me. Yeah, that is

Mary Heim 56:28

just where we're beginning. That is not where we go the first book released in 2016. And by the time the series wrapped in 2021, it had secured a place as an all time favorite. For me. These books are filled with myth based in the author's actual Pakistani roots. We've got adventure, love and loss and truly fantastical, deliciously complex villains. If you are a reader who adores ACOTAR or Fourth Wing and wants truly fantastic fantasy in the same vein, these books are totally for you. And dare I say it, if you are like me and found maybe both or either ACOTAR or Fourth Wing, maybe a little bit wanting, it was called hedging. This is called hedging and trying to enemies. Lee's give this series a try. Oh, it is so good. I almost wonder if I struggle with having ACOTAR and Iron Flame not live up to this series for me, because this is where it began. This was my doorway in to this kind of fantasy. So I think that it's just hard for other things to live up because this one did it first. For me. While I haven't read these on audio, I hear the narration is spectacularly well done. So if you are a audiobook listener, that might be a great way to pick these up. That is the Ember quartet beginning with An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir unprecedented, press press press.

Kaytee Cobb 57:53

So many presses I have only read the first one because I did it wrong. And I listened or read the first one when it was the only one out. And I got mad, because you start me on a series and then there's no more books in the series yet. And so I haven't come back to it, because I'm a bad reader. But I there's no bad readers. But I will go back to it. It's a plan now

Mary Heim 58:13

do it on audio and promise me this is the first two are more grounded and rooted in kind of this militant real world. The second to lean heavier on the myth. And I think for you, Kaytee, I'm telling you make it through the third book, just make it through 75%. So for you.

Kaytee Cobb 58:32

That's fine. Everything's fine.

Mary Heim 58:34

Yeah, it's fine. What about you? What's your wish this week, my

Kaytee Cobb 58:37

wish this week is for more bookish board games. But that's rooted in the fact that I want to tell you about a bookish board game. So I was so excited this week to grab a copy of By the Book by Fox games, because all my kids have been super into board games lately, and we've been playing a lot as a family. This one is pretty simple. It involves 12 books of different sizes, two little wooden bookshelves a cat, a little cat figurine, and a potted plant that has a level in it. So you grab a card, you grab the indicated books on the card and balance them on a shelf per the rules of the game. And then stack the second shelf on top and check for level with your little potted plant. It's very simple, easy to execute. But it's strategy logic balancing and it prepares you for the real world in that you'll always have too many books to actually fit on your shelf. So you're gonna have to figure out how to balance that the kids are loving it. I love all kinds of games along with of course anything bookish so if you have recommendations for other bookish games, this one is fun, delightful, easy for kids fun for adults. Very cute. You can play it solo or in a team lots of fun. That one's called By the Book by Fox games.

Mary Heim 59:44

I am buying this immediately. It is so cute.

Kaytee Cobb 59:47

your daughter would love it. Onalee loves it. The little cat you just have to make sure that she doesn't like run off with it because I mean Oh, it's so cute. That's what happens in my house. I lose pieces because I have little nefarious in the teacher. Yes, thanks.

Mary Heim 1:00:03

We've been instituting cozy hour the hour before bed of like, where we play games or do puzzles or make like crafts together. And I feel like I'm a buy this right now and we're gonna do this. Tonight. It will be amazing. Yes. Oh, that's so fun. I love it. All right,

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:19

that is it for this week. As a reminder, here's where you can connect with us. You can find me Kaytee notesonbookmarks on Instagram, and Meredith is at @MeredithMondaySchwartz.

Mary Heim 1:00:29

And you can find me at @Maryreadsandsips on Instagram full show

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:33

notes with the title of every book. And there are so many I'm sorry, Megan, that we mentioned in this episode and timestamps, so you can jump right to where we talked about them can be found on our website at currentlyreadingpodcast.com. You

Mary Heim 1:00:44

can also follow the show at [@currentlyreadingpodcast](https://www.instagram.com/currentlyreadingpodcast) on Instagram, or email us at currentlyreadingpodcast@gmail.com And if you

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:51

really want to help us if you want the indie press list or the best of the rest list, become a patron it's five bucks a month it helps support the show it keeps us ad free. You can also rate and review us on Apple podcasts or shout out about us on social media. It makes a huge difference in our finding the perfect audience. bookish

Mary Heim 1:01:08

friends are truly truly the best friends. Thank you for helping us grow and get closer to our goals.

Kaytee Cobb 1:01:13

All right, until next week, may your coffee be hot

Mary Heim 1:01:16

and your book be unputdownable.

Kaytee Cobb 1:01:17

Happy reading Mary.

Mary Heim 1:01:19

Happy reading Kaytee