

S4 E36 Transcript

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Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:10

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

Kaytee Cobb 00:23

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:33

I'm Meredith Monday Schwartz, a mom of four and full time CEO living in Austin, Texas. And I love it when a book knocks me on my booty.

Kaytee Cobb 00:43

And I'm Kaytee Cobb, a homeschooling mom of four living in New Mexico and I love how reading can impact all aspects of my life. This is episode number 36 of season four, and we are so glad you're here.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:55

All right. Well, Kaytee, we're gonna get to both of those things because I am going to talk today about a book that absolutely knocked me on my booty and it's going to come towards the end of our current read. So make sure you guys listen all the way through. All right, today, we are going to talk about pet peeves from Bookstagram, our bookish pet peeves from Bookstagram. We're also going to talk about a few things that we actually really love.

Kaytee Cobb 01:18

Right, because we were getting a little crotchety, I think. Well, I was getting a lot crotchety.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:23

Exactly. But there's a lot to love on Bookstagram. So we want to talk about that, too. So that's coming up later in the show. But Kaytee, let's start out with our bookish moments of the week. What have you got?

Kaytee Cobb 01:33

Sounds good. Meredith. I already reported back to you directly. But I want to publicly say on the big show here that my bookish moment of the week is turning my laundry bookish. I spent the last 24 hours devouring Laundry Love by Patrick Richardson, which you brought to the show with Mindy on episode 33 of season four. I had heard about this book a few places, but you were the one that convinced me to put it on my TBR. Now, not only have I totally fallen in love with Patrick and the way he loves clothes

and laundry, I'm nearly irrationally convinced that this is going to solve all the frustrations I've had since we moved to our home in Santa Fe about three years ago. And our like water septic situation completely changed. I've been visiting his website. I'm ready to throw away all my chemical ridden soaps and detergents as soon as my new items arrive, and I'm thrilled to know that I never need to go to a dry cleaner again. That is amazing. This small book is joyful and delightful and informative. And really, that's like a life goal for me as well. I want to be joyful and delightful and informative. So thank you for bringing it to the big show. It makes me so happy. It's my bookish moment. My laundry is my bookish moment.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 02:43

Jackson keeps saying, "Mom, is it weird or great that oftentimes there are hedgehogs in our dryer?"

Kaytee Cobb 02:51

It is awesome.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 02:52

It is awesome. Jackson, it is awesome. So you if you read that book, you will find out why hedgehogs might be in your dryer. And we have found it to be very, very effective. All right, good. Well, I'm glad that that's been helpful for you. I love that book, too. So okay, so I have a bookish moment of the week. And then I have a question for you that I want to talk about just super quick before we go on to our current reads. Okay, so my bookish moment of the week is something I have been mulling. And that is a couple episodes ago, and on From the Front Porch, Annie B. Jones, and I love From the Front Porch. She is such a smart reader, as we all know. And I like her show not because I mean, she's my anti book twin, right? We know this. So she is so helpful to me, because she's so good at talking about books, that even though it might be a book that didn't work for her, she will talk about it well enough that I can sense when it might be really, really work for me, and vice versa. And so I just love her show, but she's also really wise about reading. And one thing she said a couple episodes ago, Kaytee, you probably heard it, she got a question from one of our listeners asking about, you know, a lot of times people love, you know, they love the first half of the book, but I struggle with the second, but struggled with the second half. This listener was saying, "I struggle with I struggle with getting into books. I don't always love the getting in portion". And so what Annie said was, "I think a lot of the time we forget how important the starting of a book is to our overall enjoyment of it." And by that she meant, are we starting it at a time where we can really sink into it and give it time and attention in those first few chapters. Because I think sometimes we might be starting it when maybe we've just put down our last book and we're still kind of mulling on it or maybe we just have a few minutes and we're like, oh, I just want to get a little bit into this book. And then we don't give it enough, if we don't sink into it enough, and for some reason that just really struck me that I wonder if the books that ended up being a big hit for me, that maybe kind of surprised me. I'm thinking back to think were those books that when I started them, I really started them. Right? I really gave them their due in a quiet concentrated way for you know, a half hour to an hour to really get into it. Or did I give it short shrift at the beginning? It's just something I'm considering.

Kaytee Cobb 05:34

Interesting.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 05:35

Yeah. Because I think sometimes I can speed through all of my I feel like sometimes I speed through all my reading. And...

Kaytee Cobb 05:43

same

Meredith Monday Schwartz 05:43

We really just. right, we really just need to sometimes allow books, especially books that might be a little bit of out of our comfort zone to sink in. So think about what you're doing when you start a new book. Consider that and listen to From the Front Porch, for sure.

Kaytee Cobb 05:58

Of course, yes.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 06:00

Okay. So my question for you is Kaytee, this today, we're recording on April on Friday, April 15. Today on Apple TV, the new limited series Roar comes out now based based on the short story collection, by...

Kaytee Cobb 06:18

Cecilia Ahern.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 06:19

Thank you, which is a book that we, many of us, hundreds and hundreds of us read because I said I mean, for many reasons. But one of the things I will take responsibility for the fact that I was saying, "Hey, let's read this together as a group." We did. We had big strong feelings as a group.

Kaytee Cobb 06:35

Yes.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 06:36

But my question is how many of us are going to watch the series because it is getting it's got big, big names in it. Nicole Kidman is in it. Several big names and It's done by Apple TV. So it looks really good. Right? Are you going to watch it? What are you going to do? Would you get, do you have Apple TV?

Kaytee Cobb 06:55

Only because of Ted Lasso?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 06:57

Oh, right. Yeah, yeah, exactly. Okay, so are you going to watch it?

Kaytee Cobb 07:00

I do not intend to watch it. I don't really want to relive that story collection.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 07:07

But what if it's an improvement? What if it's,

Kaytee Cobb 07:10

I feel like it has to be an improvement? I don't think there's a lot of ways it could have been a disimprovement.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 07:20

Well, I know that they cover the eating The Eating Photos story. I know that they cover The Bite Marks. Right, exactly.

Kaytee Cobb 07:27

And The Woman on the Shelf.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 07:29

Okay,

Kaytee Cobb 07:29

That was definitely in the preview. I watched the preview and even that, I was like, okay, I'm good. What about you? Are you excited to see it? What do you...

Meredith Monday Schwartz 07:41

you know, I think what I will do and what I do much more often than I really should, because I always like I I don't have fomo with books, but I do have fomo with tell with certain TV. So I will often, Johnny and I will dip into one or two episodes of something, just because I want to get a sense of it. Yeah. And I don't necessarily want to watch all of it. I definitely don't feel like I need to finish something when I start it on TV. So I probably will watch the first episode, just to get a sense of it. See what they've done.

Kaytee Cobb 08:12

Okay, well, as we know, you're the one who pushes me outside of my comfort zone. So if you come back to me and you're like, "Listen, Kaytee, it is phenomenal." I'm gonna be like, "Dang it Meredith." Rude.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 08:24

Right. I'll let you know. I'll let you know if I think it's worth your because I know you don't have a lot of TV watching time. So we want to use it judiciously.

Kaytee Cobb 08:30

Correct.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 08:30

Okay. Yes. All right. And also, we're eight and a half minutes into our recording here today, I just realized that I took over driving, and it's your episode. It's an even numbered episode, which you guys are probably caught on to the fact that means even number Kaytee drives, odd number I drive. Yes. And yet I just took it. I just took it right out from under you.

Kaytee Cobb 08:51

Well, that's okay. I don't feel that great today.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 08:55

Okay, maybe I sensed that.

Kaytee Cobb 08:57

I'm good to like hand the reins over and take a nap.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 09:02

Okay, well, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I don't do it purposely Kaytee at all. Right. Okay, well, I'm gonna let you, I'm gonna let you do your thing now. But we will go to current reads.

Kaytee Cobb 09:12

So we're going to start switching back and forth in the other direction, which will be great. And you guys can understand what driving really means for the two of us. So Meredith, we've done our bookish moments. We've talked about Roar. Let's talk about some current reads. What have you been reading lately?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 09:26

All right. Well, I'm bringing today a book that I absolutely loved, but completely surprised me. I want to talk today about Hench by Natalie Zina Walschots. Now this book is interesting because it's an it was an Indie Press List pick from one of our favorite stores, An Unlikely Story. Of course, the Indie Press List, you guys all know the content that we do for our patrons subscribers for \$5 a month. You get lots of content, but one of the things that you get once a month is the Indie Press List. An independent bookstore chooses five books for us every month. So this month it was An Unlikely Story. We had this great stack of books and right at the end, my book boyfriend Bill from An Unlikely Story, shot in with this recommendation for a book called Hench that when he told us about it, we were like, "What? Why don't we know, why didn't we know about this book?" Here's the setup. I loved the the first line of what Bill from Unlikely Story said. He said, "Imagine a Marvel Universe Avengers movie only seen from the eyes of one of the many henchmen and henchwomen", which is a very interesting premise. Alright, so our lead character, Anna is a temp, who works for supervillains. She asks us early on, "Is it really worse than working for an oil conglomerate or an insurance company?" As a temp, Anna does truly boring work. But when she finally gets a promising assignment, everything goes wrong and an encounter with so called super hero leaves Anna badly injured. So because now she can't work, and she's got no money, and she's got very few options, so she sits at home, and heals and seethes. And she does what she does best, research and data collection. And soon she discovers that her suffering at the hands of a hero is far from unique. When people start listening to the story that her data tells, she realizes that

the heroes are actually doing quite a bit of damage, and not nearly as much good as they get credit for doing. So now Anna goes on a mission, convince the world that the heroes ain't so great. So she rallies herself and gets a job with one of the worst supervillains on Earth. And she becomes an increasingly valuable lieutenant to him with her ability to collect, analyze, and weaponize the data that she loves, she also becomes increasingly comfortable with her role, and a whole new villain is born. Kaytee, I love this book, because the premise is so different. It's done really well. But who has heard of this book? Like nobody? Where has this book been? I absolutely love it. This is my favorite thing, when we come across a book that we love that is not absolutely everywhere. So I think that besides the fact that it was, so I absolutely hadn't heard about it, it was perfect when I got into a mood where I didn't want a mystery or thriller, but I didn't want fantasy. This was kind of a perfect out of the box combination of the two which you don't find a lot. So as I said, when we were doing our Indie Press List recording, I am not a Marvel fan. I am not a comic book fan. I don't watch those movies. So you don't have to like this kind of thing to really, really, really like this book. The author was asked what three words describe this book in her opinion, and she said furious, hilarious and grotesque. And I think that's a really good description. I think it absolutely nails the book. There is a lot of anger and fury here, fury on the part of the working poor, fury of those who are considered collateral damage and forgotten when these heroic, you know, the big fights happen, fury of those who are disempowered by the people who are supposed to be protecting them. And there's a lot of hilarious here, the dialogue crackles and Anna herself is a joy to be with, even when she's at her lowest ebb. And the story also just doesn't take itself too seriously. I especially loved Kaytee that I imagined that in an alternate world, you would be the character of Anna.

Kaytee Cobb 13:44

I'm Anna.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 13:46

The idea of weaponizing data and becoming a villain with that being your superpower. It's so, it's so so great. It's absolutely great. I do want to say that that third word grotesque. I want to say that it is here. There are several scenes that are visceral and violent in nature, including the scene at the end that will be haunting me for a long time. Because it was so visual, and pretty long. That one was a doozy. The book resolves its central mysteries but leaves itself open for a sequel and I found myself really hoping that we see one. This is Hench by Natalie Zina Walschots.

Kaytee Cobb 14:26

I loved this book too. I devoured it right when Bill gave it to us. I couldn't wait. And then I only brought it to Katie Reads Too Much because I was really hoping that you would get to bring it to the big show. And I'm so glad you did. One of our bookish friends Alex said that this is like superheroes plus, because it has a lot of "yes, and" elements to it. So much great representation that's just seamlessly worked into the story. I thought it was incredible.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 14:50

It was so good. And what I keep thinking about is I keep thinking about the fact that and also there was this like slow burn will they won't they kind of romance in it. That was very interesting to me. But it is by no means a romance, but it was just an element that just it just there's so much going on in this story. And it's just so different. I love love, love this book.

Kaytee Cobb 15:13

So fun. Loved it too. Cosign 100%. Love it. Okay, my first book this week is also from that very same month of the Indie Press List, Meredith, and we do not plan this ever, we never check with each other beforehand about our current reads. Thankfully, it wasn't the exact same book from the same month of the list.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 15:34

Right? Exactly. We try hard not to bring a ton of Indie Press List titles to the big show, because we do want to keep that content for our Patreon subscribers. But every once in a while they make their way in. It is a tiny percentage of the books that we cover on Indie Press List. But still, we are aware of the fact that we're doing two of them this episode, and it doesn't happen very often. So just be patient.

Kaytee Cobb 15:55

Right. And both of these are from the February list. So our patrons have already had this information for almost three months at this point. And a lot of them have already read these books. So today, I want to talk about *How High We Go in the Dark* by Sequoia Nagamatsu.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 16:09

Oh, yes.

Kaytee Cobb 16:10

This book is incredible and remarkable and unique in a lot of ways. It's been a month since I read it, and two months since I heard about it, and I can't stop thinking about it. So let me tell you what Emily said when she added it to the Indie Press List in February of 2022. She said, "This is a beautifully compelling work of speculative fiction spanning continents and epics of human civilization. In the opening chapter, archaeologists excavate a burial site, newly exposed from the melting permafrost and unwittingly unleashed a virus that has lain dormant for millennia. This inventive and intricately structured novel in stories has a timeline that waxes and wanes through the centuries, much like the moon on the gorgeous, gorgeous cover. We get characters ranging from a gentle but broken tinkerer who spends his days mending robo-dogs to a genetically engineered pig, who could schooled us all on the meaning of empathy. Discerning the links between the chapters and the characters. Some tenuous, some heartbreaking made me feel a bit like the archaeologists from the first chapter perpetually on the brink of discovery and elimination." This book I just loved. Like, Emily has a way with words. I loved the ways that she wove this story together. And when you and I pre-read this for the Indie Press List, we just read a little chunk and then we mentioned that there are some tough themes in here and we said it would be great to read with a group of buddy readers. So when that episode came out, I, being the spreadsheet person that I am decided to organize a lot of buddy reads for people that wanted to read it quickly, or slowly, or really spread it out and then set up a Zoom meeting for the end of when everybody should have been finished with it. We all got together. And I did my own buddy read as well and having others to discuss this novel with and help make those connections between chapters is why I decided to bring it to the big show. I am very bossy, as we all know about books, and especially about buddy reading, and especially about slow but steady reads. But being able to have everybody's eyes on a single chapter in a single day. And have everybody thinking through it at the same time was so cool,

because we could all glean from each other. Oh, do you remember when we saw such and such in this chapter? I wonder if that's related, and then being able to make those ties together. It was like a scavenger hunt through the book. And it was so fun. It was so delightful.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 18:39

Yeah. I mean, it is interesting to use words fun and delightful.

Kaytee Cobb 18:43

I know,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 18:43

because that element is definitely true. And Johnny and I, Johnny read it, really, really loved it. I had read much more by the time he read it. And yes, that that element was very enjoyable.

Kaytee Cobb 18:57

But there's a big "but" for this book, which is that we talked about trigger warnings when we set it up for the Indie Press List. The second chapter of this book, especially I kind of want to dive into a little deeper it's called City of Laughter. This virus is kind of ravaging the world. It's hitting children first and hardest. And an eccentric billionaire builds basically a Make A Wish Foundation type camp. But at the end of the day, children get on a roller coaster that they never wake up from because they are gently lulled to sleep in order to avoid the really terrible things that happened because of this virus. Again, this is at the beginning of the book. So many readers that I talked to were like, "I needed a heads up about that. I needed, I needed to know if that was going to be a theme for the entire book, or if we were just visiting that for one chapter." And, and even when we did our zoom discussion, people were like, "Oh, I almost couldn't continue that chapter was too difficult." And so I wanted to address it here because that is one of the difficult themes in this. But, but there is lightness, there is kind of a detective mystery element to it where you're trying to make these connections. There's a lot that's not about children on a roller coaster of death. And that element that makes this book really hard at the beginning. So there were chapters that made me feel like my brain might explode and chapters that gave me hope or kicked me out or left me bereft. And I think that this author is extraordinary and talented in so many ways. I cannot wait to see what he does next. This book is How High We Go in the Dark by Sequoia Nagamatsu.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 20:36

So Kaytee, do you I couldn't agree more. I mean, it's it's an amazing work. It's an absolutely amazing work. Do you think that people with the heads up that you gave them which I think is really important, can they read... can they just skip that, that chapter? Because that is a buttkicker times a million. I mean, that's one of the hardest chapters I've ever read in all of literature and in my life.

Kaytee Cobb 21:04

Yeah, exactly. I think it would be okay, knowing overall, that's the general arc of that chapter to walk away from that one and skip to the next one. There are very few connections that you will not make through the rest of the story, but not enough to say, Well, now you've ruined it. Now, you'll never get it. So I think it would be okay.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 21:26

Yeah, you could still get a lot, you could still get a lot out of it. All right. Good. Well I'm glad that you bought that book. Absolutely incredible. And one of those that I probably wouldn't have picked up but for the Indie Press List, but incredible. Okay. All right. My next book is a left turn from that. We're going to go from emotionally gut wrenching to really, really practical. So Roxanna recommended a book to me, or she was actually reading a book and discussing it with me, called Sleep Smarter by Shawn Stevenson. And this was one of the most useful books I've ever read. So I really wanted to bring it to the show. So as far as setup, there's not a lot that I need to set up for you because the tagline does it. So the book is called Sleep Smarter: 21 Essential Strategies to Sleep Your Way to a Better Body, Better Health and Bigger Success. You guys know, in my nonfiction, I like practical more than anything. And by that I mean a book that doesn't just tell me what is wrong, but specifically how to fix it. I've been obsessed with sleep for a long time, but especially since Fitbit introduced its sleep stats, its enhanced sleep stats, and most importantly, it introduced Kaytee, a sleep score.

Kaytee Cobb 22:40

Yes.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 22:41

So every morning, when I wake up, I get up and I and I check my sleep score and, and I try so hard to get into the 90s with my sleep score.

Kaytee Cobb 22:51

I have never had a 90.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 22:52

Yeah, I'm, I mean, I'm obsessed with it every like seventh day, I get a 90 and it just makes me so excited. Okay, but it's one thing to want to sleep better, and it's another thing to actually know how to do that. So I think in theory, we all know, you know, sleep seven hours, stop using a screen, blah, blah, blah. What I like about this book is that it doesn't only go deeper into how things like what we eat, and when we sleep affect our overall quality of sleep. But it gets into the specifics about how to tweak the dials on your own particular routines and habits. To get the best quality of sleep for you. I learned several things that I immediately put into practice, like it's best to get 30 minutes of UVA, UVB light so sunlight onto your skin within within the first two hours of waking up in the morning. That will actually really help your sleep later that night. I've been doing that and my sleep quality has been better. We also learned that moving your body doesn't just keep your heart healthy, it makes your sleep better, that your best sleep happens when your house is somewhere between 60 and 68 degrees. So we really need cool to sleep well. And that there are supplements that can help you reach your best sleep, but melatonin is not one of them, and so much more. This is a book that is best read with a highlighter and an underlining pen in hand. So for that reason, I definitely recommend that you get it in print. It also includes a 14 day plan to help you get your best sleep and the hardcopy is really useful for that too. Overall, my favorite kind of nonfiction, this is Sleep Smarter by Shawn Stevenson.

Kaytee Cobb 24:36

This is great Meredith. Over the past I would say six months you have now brought books to revolutionize our breathing, our laundry and now our sleep. So I feel like you're on a roll. If you could revolutionize every part of our lives, that would be great.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 24:49

I am reading so much more nonfiction in 2022 and just really blasting through it. I'm going to have another piece of nonfiction coming next week and I'm going to revolutionize another part of your life

Kaytee Cobb 25:00

Ooh, I cannot wait, I can't wait. Very excited. Okay, I do not have nonfiction this week. I do have a backlist gem that I'm excited to talk about. It's The Between by Tananarive Due. This book, you know that song the it's b a n a n a s? This book is bananas.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 25:21

Bananas,

Kaytee Cobb 25:22

Bananas. It is bananas. The Between was first published in 1995. So I'm going way back. Like to my childhood.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 25:31

Devon was born in 1995 My oldest daughter.

Kaytee Cobb 25:34

Good. I was 11. I was a baby. Okay, I already had Tananarive Due on my radar, but then I listened to a short story by her read by the amazing LeVar Burton on his podcast LeVar Burton reads, that one is from December 6 and called The Wishing Pool. And a side note here, Meredith, especially if you liked The Drowning Kind by Jennifer McMahon, go find that short story episode, because The Wishing Pool is creepy and delicious in the same way. That'll be linked in show notes. In this book though, The Between, we find something so deliciously creepy, and it completely got inside my head. Here's our setup. Hilton is our main character. When he was a young boy, seven-ish, he was swimming and got caught in an undertow. His grandmother saved him, but lost her life in the process. Ever since, he has felt like he's been living on borrowed time. It's now 30 years later, and Hilton thinks that that time might be running out. His wife is the only Black judge in their county in Florida. And she has been receiving racist hate mail from a man who she wants prosecuted. Hilton can't sleep. Obviously, I did not intend to it. Attach this to your previous book. Hilton can't sleep because of his nightmares. And it's leading to really strange occurrences when he's awake. As we all know, being unable to sleep can really mess with your head. I wrote all this before you talked about the sleep book, I swear.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 26:58

You had no idea.

Kaytee Cobb 27:00

Which is so fun. Okay, which is why it's so unfair. That Tananarive Due wrote this scary book that absolutely kept me up at night. The way that we are inside Hilton's head as his lack of sleep makes him feel like he's losing it. And there's creepy stuff happening inside and outside of his home is a recipe for sleepless nights. I felt like I was hearing things, seeing things and even smelling things that weren't really there. This book got inside my head in the best and creepiest ways. Tananarive Due is a professor of Black horror and Afro futurism at UCLA. And in this book, she took me to school like it was her job because it is, the 90s have a really strong vibe in this one, all while managing to avoid feeling dated. It's really just a question of not having cell phones, so you can't immediately check in with somebody if it feels like something's a little off. Our mutual bookish friend Betsy Ikenberry picked this one up after I did and sent me WTF faces throughout because this is that kind of book, she could not handle it. I'm putting more of her work on my TBR for exactly this type of thing when I need to be creeped out and like be brought back into my own skin because I'm so freaked out. And I hope everyone else does as well. This one is *The Between* by Tananarive Due.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 28:17

That sounds excellent.

Kaytee Cobb 28:20

It's so good.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 28:21

That sounds so good. Man, we are just loading up people's TBRs on this.

Kaytee Cobb 28:27

Sorry not sorry, friends,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 28:28

Right? I don't know if how many episodes it's been since all of our current reads have been big hits for us.

Kaytee Cobb 28:35

I got another big one too for my third one.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 28:37

Yeah. And okay, so I'm going to do my third one and it is an absolute five star book for me. So Kaytee, you know that I just finished this book this morning.

Kaytee Cobb 28:45

And I'm halfway through it because you made me.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 28:46

Right. Thank you. Because I needed a friend. I don't normally bring books that I literally just closed a cover on because usually, you know, I'm a couple of weeks behind and my the way that my reading

queue is up, but this one I said I have got to bring it right now because very frankly, I just feel like everyone needs to know about this book. This is *The Anomaly* by Herve Le Tellier. Here's the setup. Now, I'm going to do a setup because that's what we do here. But if you're the kind of reader who likes to go in blind, because you know that that's going to serve you well with certain books, this is that kind of book. So if you want to just say Meredith really liked this book, I'm gonna trust her, skip over what I'm about to say because you would be served well, but for those of you who need a little bit of something, let me tell you. Here's what we got. A bunch of people get on a plane from France to New York. Among them, we have a contract killer who's living a double life as a family man, we've got a Nigerian Pop star who's doing all he can to hide his homosexuality. We've got a Black American female attorney who's sold her soul to represent Big Pharma, but she's got big reasons for doing so. In their own way, many of these passengers that get on this plane were all living double lives when they boarded the plane. When they're about to start their descent into JFK Airport, they hit a shockingly violent patch of turbulence emerging on the other side to a reality both perfectly familiar, and utterly strange. This book knocked me on my booty. I finished this book. And first of all, I read it in the course of maybe three reading sessions, so I just inhaled it. Because I cannot remember where I heard about it. It's driving me absolutely crazy. I think it might have been on like a list of recent reads from people. I don't think it was a direct, I definitely don't think it was a direct recommendation. But I wish I knew who to hug for putting this on my radar. Because it's a fringe book, it's in translation, it's about 400 pages. So it's not super long, but it's not super short. I would call this a very intellectual literary thriller. And you guys know, that is a rare breed. I didn't just say a literary thriller, I said, a very intellectual literary thriller, because you got to have your big girl pants on to read this book, right? This is not *Falling* by TJ Newman, which I absolutely loved. But that's a whole different kind of airplane book. By the way, no crashes take place. This is not so this is not crashing,

Kaytee Cobb 31:23

or hostage.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 31:24

Right or hostage book, right? That's we're not we're not doing that. This is what would happen if Amor Towles wrote the TV show *Lost*, that's what we would get. That's the kind of thing we would get here. This is a book in translation, like I said, but I found it to be incredibly readable right from the start. The French author's narrative is more spare than most English writers, but it created an economy of language that, given that he was telling so many stories, and so much story, I think was really, really important. I very frankly, don't think a lot of authors can pull off what this guy's done in this book, the first third feels like a set of interconnected short stories, not unlike *How High We Go in the Dark*, not in vibe, but just in style. But they're very interconnected. Again, just like that book, and the more and more you go on, the author gives you more and more of these little clues that help you put things together. And in this way, this book reminded me of Piranesi, often as I was reading it, it gave me that same feeling of being in very sure hands of this author and being positive that he was going to make everything clear to me, which he does. When I was discussing this book with Jackson, I was discussing with my 10 year old because I was literally sitting stunned on my bed, and he needed me to get up and make breakfast, I was telling them all about the book. And he said, "It sounds like you found it to be both interesting and confusing". And that's actually a great way to describe it. Because in certain ways, it was both, I was absolutely riveted by every single story, every character in their life is very fully

developed in a very short amount of time. So you're invested from the start as to not only what's going to happen on this plane, because you know, something's going to happen. But what will happen in the aftermath, and I think that was a hard needle to thread too. You have to care about the individuals. This book touches on many themes in a very interesting way. It touches on deep scientific theories so you got to be ready for some of that, mind bending ones. It touches on deep philosophical and religious theory. So you also have to be ready for that because this is going to touch your soul too. It touches on issue of identity, issues of second chances, and more than anything, at the end of this book, I find myself wanting to sit silently and just think, to imagine what I would do in a similar situation. As I began reading this book, I pressed it into the hands of a few of my favorite readers, including you Kaytee, who I felt would really like it mostly because this book is a book that begs to be discussed. This would be an excellent book club choice. We're giving them lots of that. It's very readable, so people won't have a hard time finishing it. But there's also so much to discuss. The last chapter in and of itself is a doozy. There's 45 minutes of discussion just on that one chapter. I definitely want to mention that there are triggers in here, especially for turbulence during flight, suicide, sexual abuse. And overall, I just wouldn't read this book, if you're in a very sensitive state of mind. It's a lot to take in. As I finished it, I realized that the word that best describes how I felt was stunned. I should also mention that I was lucky enough to grab this one in print and that really is the way I think it is best taken in. I found myself doing lots of flipping back and forth to just double check certain details and that really added to my enjoyment in the book overall. By the end of this I found myself wondering, why are we reading any other airplane book when we can be reading this airplane book? This is The Anomaly by Herve Le Tellier.

Kaytee Cobb 34:57

Well, I wanted to get to it as soon as possible once you told me it was a book I needed to read, so you could discuss it with me. And so that meant I did pick it up on audio because it was immediately available for my library. It's narrated by Dominic Kaufman, who is an incredible narrator, most well known in my ears for his role in the Wanderers by Chuck Wendig. So it's fun to kind of have that voice back in my head again. And I do wish that I could flip back while I was listening to it. So I think the narration is great. I think the audio is great. But I do wish that I had a paper copy so I could revisit some of the chapters that I have already passed, because I'm making those connections halfway through. And I really wish I could go back a little bit.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 35:42

That's, that's just going to continue as you read further, you're just really going to want to be able to refer back. So this is what I mean, I'm really confident that most readers are going to find something that they would really like here. So go ahead and buy it from your independent bookstore. The French publishers who put this out are going to wonder all of a sudden, why this book that I think came out in 2019. Alright, and look not to I mean, it's not Oh, no, December of 2021. So it came out separately came out a few months ago, I think will give them a little bit of a bump, and they'll be like who's reading this book all of a sudden, but y'all, you gotta get this one. It is so smart. And it is so interesting. So good.

Kaytee Cobb 36:24

Okay, I've got something totally different as you may have expected.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 36:28

Good.

Kaytee Cobb 36:29

My third book this week, is From Blood and Ash by Jennifer L. Armentrout.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 36:35

Okay, great.

Kaytee Cobb 36:36

If you are an ACOTAR fan girl, that's A Court of Thorns and Roses and you cannot get enough of Feyre and Rhys and Tamlin and Cassian, listen up, because I have got your next obsession. His name is Hawk and he is the dark and brooding soldier who co-stars in this amazing series. He stands alongside Poppy. The maiden Poppy was chosen by the gods to be the Maiden in all caps, when she was just a child. She is solitary and untouchable, waiting for the day of her ascension, which means the entire kingdom and its future rests on Poppy's shoulders. As she waits for that day, the captain of the guard Victor has taken her under his wing, in secret, to teach her to fight. She can draw a blade or knock an arrow in a flash. She might be the Maiden but she's no pushover. That's why it's so strange that when we meet Poppy at the beginning of the story, she has snuck out of the palace to see what the outside world holds, what kind of secrets there are there, and maybe to try to steal her first kiss because she's supposed to be untouchable. Nobody's touching her. Picture Jasmine sneaking out of the palace and Aladdin just a taste, just a peck, right? While she's cavorting in a brothel, she meets Hawk who infuriates her to no end. When he, it turns out, is a palace guard assigned to be her personal guard, he starts to learn about her secrets, not just sneaking out to see the world or the secret training she has undergone to protect herself and become a deadly weapon, but the ones she holds a little closer to her chest like the ability to sense the feelings of others. Tensions start to mount in the kingdom as a fallen ruler attempts to take back his throne. Riots break out unexpectedly. Occasionally, the Craven armies take over the city attempting to kill everyone in their path. Picture the Craven, they're kind of like zombies, right? They're like out for blood. This book is steamy and propulsive and will absolutely scratch that smutty new adult fantasy itch. And sometimes that's the itch that needs scratching.

Kaytee Cobb 37:25

That smutty itch. New mug. Scratch that smutty itch.

Kaytee Cobb 38:39

Okay, perfect. I already went on to book two in this series.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 38:45

What??

Kaytee Cobb 38:45

Which is amazing.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 38:47

Right on the heels of it? Like you went boom boom?

Kaytee Cobb 38:49

Yeah like two days later. Basically, the first one is 20 hours on audio. The second one is 24. I finished both of them within like four or five days, including a day off in between. It's ridiculous. Wow. I don't know if I would have liked it as much on paper, especially since the spelling of some of these names is super eye roly. Like Penelope, Poppy is spelled with like two Ns, two Ls, two Ps like It's like stupid. Why? Why did she do it like this. It's stupid. Suffice to say I do plan to continue with this series. The next time I want to sink into a dark and violent world filled with creepy monsters a kick butt heroine and a hate you but I love you romance. But I think any reader needs to be in the mood for the new adult fantasy angstyness and ridiculousness that you get across the board in books like this. This is book one of a planned six book series. Four are out now. So you can't, you cannot binge all six friends.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 39:48

Right. They are beautiful though. The covers are beautiful. Let me ask you a question. Is this, the first book that you just talked about, is it akin to Feyre's from ACOTAR, her angstyness in book one or her, not quite as angry and much more fun to be with in books two and three?

Kaytee Cobb 40:06

I would say that Poppy is more like Feyre in book two, except she has a lot of internal doubt because she hasn't been out in the world. She's been so closed away from everybody. So that is annoying and much more like Feyre in book one.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 40:25

Okay.

Kaytee Cobb 40:26

Her internal monologue is much more like Feyre and book one. So take that as you will. This is From Blood and Ash by Jennifer L. Armentrout.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 40:37

All right. That's a good one, putting that one on hold in the library for sure.

Kaytee Cobb 40:40

It's like 600 pages Meredith.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 40:42

Yeah. That sounds great. That's what she said.

Kaytee Cobb 40:46

Okay, so those were our six current reads. That means it's time to get into our crotchety old lady deep dive, which is known as Bookstagram pet peeves that we had to lighten up after the fact, I put those lighten ups on a post it note, because I had already printed my notes for this episode.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 41:01

All right. Well, I was when I had the idea for this episode. And then when I went to do it today, when we went to actually prepare for the episode, I was like, "Oh, crap, I think when I had the idea, I was feeling really like jacked up and irritated. But I'm not feeling as irritated today." So I was having a harder time. And that's why I was like, "Kaytee, maybe we should add some things that we love about Bookstagram". And you're like, "I have a bunch of lists of things that I hate." So let's start with your list of things that you hate. I do have some things too. But let's start with you. Because you seem to have a stronger sense of things today.

Kaytee Cobb 41:32

I have a lot of a lot of things to say.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 41:35

Good. Let's talk. Let's hash it out.

Kaytee Cobb 41:37

Oh, my gosh, I felt so like I'm a millennial, but I'm actually also 75 years old today. So just go with me here, folks. Number one is reels. Why can't we just have pictures and videos and captions? And that's fine. Why do we have to spend three hours making a 30 second video? It makes me crazy. And then that's how you like, boost your posts. And that's what people see. And that's what people interact with. No, why can't we just be nice and Instagram... pictures? That's it. That's all I want.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 42:06

Right. Pictures, videos, exactly. Reels drive me crazy, especially when it's like, not reels about actual books. But it's like reels without like, let me make a joke about like the reading life. I'm just, it's just so overdone. It's not to say that it can't be done well, but it's just like now, it's so clearly overdone that it's just like eye roll. It's very eye roll.

Kaytee Cobb 42:31

Well, and especially because reels, a lot of times are not giving us like great info. It's like, here's five historical fiction books with lady's backs on the cover. And you're like, Yeah, well, I could walk through Costco and see that I don't need you to make something that takes my feed.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 42:45

I know. Well, akin to that like, right, right along those lines. I am loving how many people are doing really good TikTok reviews. So using video on TikTok to really talk about their latest read and what they thought about it basically exactly what we do here, only they're doing it on their on their TikTok. But then it's great, because I guess on Instagram, you can post your you can post your TikTok. You can like import them over, except you can't watch all of it. So you get like, some amount of seconds, and then you get cut off and you can't link over to it. You can't you're just like, okay, so then if I care enough, I have to go over to TikTok and do a search for that content provider. And so it ends just ends up it's like just the tip situation. It ends up just irritating me more than any unsatisfying, right like I'm not, I'm not titillated, I'm irritated and you don't want me to be irritated. So, but that's not a content creator issue. I

think that's more of an Instagram issue. Like, let us watch TikTok videos, if you're going to let us import them at all. Let us actually just watch them or at least link over to them.

Kaytee Cobb 43:50

Oh my gosh, yes. Okay, the next thing I am crotchety about why can we still not edit comments, Zuckerberg? What in the heck, right? How many times have I accidentally pushed enter or like misspelled something? I just want to change the one word. And I'm like, sorry, I'm an idiot. Right? Sorry I don't know how to spell in the English language. I hate my life.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 44:12

You can change it on Facebook. Why can't we change it on Instagram?

Kaytee Cobb 44:15

Where's that functionality on Instagram? That is making me crazy. Just give me an edit option.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 44:21

All right, you know what else drives me crazy, and this is a content creator issue. When people put up posts that are like, I'm just jumping into this or considering this book, but then they never circle back and actually give an opinion about it one way or the other. Even if it's just like circling back three stars and they don't want to say anything like whatever. But like, again, just a tip.

Kaytee Cobb 44:43

Yeah, it I have exactly that thing on here.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 44:45

Why are you hashtagging the book title so that when I do a search for that hashtag your post which says absolutely nothing about the book because you haven't read it comes up when I do a search for the hashtag. So maybe that's really what I'm saying is don't use the book hashtag like the title if you don't actually say something about what you thought about the book.

Kaytee Cobb 45:06

Right. On that same note only sharing positive things. So you might have all these, I'm just about to jump into blah, blah, blah, and then no circle backs. And in my head, I'm just assuming they hated every single one of those books, right? Because if you're not going to share the ones that you did love, or the ones that you didn't, then your feed is not useful to me. I just assume that you hate everything you read, right? Because why else are we here? I need your review, right? I need to know, the end of the story of your personal reading journey through this book isn't going to be a good fit for me.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 45:39

And I think that you've just now touched on what I'm really looking for. And I love Bookstagram and I'm on it all day long. That's my major place where I spend time on social media. I really, really love it. And that's because you can find a lot of people to follow and interact with, that are giving this real information about the books that they're reading, so that you're finding good books, you're finding good book recommendation sources, you're finding good bookish friends and potential buddy readers. I love

Bookstagram for that reason. There are a lot, there are a lot of people, the people that immediately like Lonestarwords is one of my favorite follows because she's a great example of someone who is just really there for now, she also has great animal content in her stories. But if that's not your bag, you don't have to follow that. Follow her for the books, because she's doing a really, really good job. She gives like a quote, to give you a sense of the book and the way that it's the way that it sounds. And then she gives you a summary. And she gives you what she really thinks. And she doesn't just post the books that she loves. Again, it's up to everybody, if they feel comfortable not talking about a book that they didn't like, I understand that it can be really, really uncomfortable. You and I know have a strong feeling about the fact that you can publicly talk about a book that didn't work for you in a way that may actually open that book door to a lot of other people if you do it right. But when people do that, it makes their feed really useful to me book it so Betsy Ikenberry, at @bookishbetsie she's another great follow because she is regularly posting, she's posting about the books that she's reading, right? When she's either in the midst or finishing them. She doesn't mind saying how she feels, she's not going to tear it apart. Like she's not. She's very constructive. No. Right. And, and really helps me to understand what books she's reading might be a good fit for me and which ones aren't. So those are just kind of, that's what I'm looking for. Is that sort of usefulness. Do you think Kaytee, are we, have we moved past or has just my personal curated feed, because I'm in control of who I follow, moved past the days of the incredibly staged Instagram photo of books where we've got like 98 book related accessories laying around the what are we past that?

Kaytee Cobb 48:04

I truly do not know, I don't know if that is gone. Or if I stopped liking and following all of this. Right? Because I don't like it. It's not useful to me to see it like that you that you repainted a wall in your house to match the cover so that you could then make a flat lay or a wall lay that was 15 feet by 15 feet or whatever, like I just, why do I, why do I need that in my life?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 48:29

Right. Now, if you pair something like that, with really good data on the book and a little bit about what it's about, and you know a little bit about what you thought about it, that I could maybe overlook your highly curated photo, but for the most part, just really clean, simple, well lit book covers or stack photos. And then a really good sense of what you thought about those books.

Kaytee Cobb 48:52

Okay, I do have a few non crotchety things to say. I do really, really love how accessible authors are on Instagram, and that they can see your positive review a book. Sidenote, do not tag an author if you have a negative review of a book, just a positive one, but that they can come over and be like, "Oh my gosh, I'm so glad you love my story." And you can connect with them that way. Love that. Love that. Yes. I also love like we've been talking about posts with strong opinions, but the ones that generate discussion in the comments that really you can get into why it worked really well for that reader, but not this one, and who is a better fit for you. And what plot point really didn't sell it for them. I think rather than you know, hey, has anybody else read this? Yes, that's not useful. I want to know why it was a good fit for you. And if somebody else disagrees, I want their strong opinion as well. Again, if we could edit comments, those strong opinions would be easier to put in.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 49:50

No, absolutely. How do you feel about people who "review" I'm gonna put air quotes around that, a lot of books that they're getting for free, which I have no problem with, we get books for free, right? Like reader, advance reader copies are just copies of books because people want us to read them. But they know that we might say, we loved it, we might not read it. And we also might say, Wow, I really, this book really wasn't for me. So but people who almost exclusively post five star reviews of books that they got for free, where I'm like, it's really possible that you all of these books were five stars for you.

Kaytee Cobb 50:27

Well, I do get dubious about all five stars, all arcs, because I've read plenty of arcs in my life and there are plenty that are not fit for human consumption

Meredith Monday Schwartz 50:41

Right. What are the odds that all the ones that you've got?

Kaytee Cobb 50:45

How are they picking every great one that ever existed? I don't think that's useful. I also, but I do appreciate overall, people who let us know about books that are coming up, people who let us know about a great book and people who read ahead for any reason, maybe it's to tell us about a great book that's coming up, or maybe it's to steer us away from a book that's not fantastic. I love people who read ahead, I think that's very useful. I just want the real opinions on those books. And to know that, that you're being genuine in your reviews.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 51:16

Right. Exactly, that we're gonna get the whole story in the most constructive way or those that's, that's who just I've follow fewer and fewer people, because I've gotten very, very clear on what makes a great follow for me, and it doesn't necessarily need to be someone who reads the kinds of books that I read, because I really, Instagram is great because it often will take us out of our comfort zone.

Kaytee Cobb 51:40

It can.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 51:41

So I will tell you the last thing I want to say is the the one thing I wish that would never happen to me again, in my DMs and I love DMs especially when people DM me like with a "Hey, have you ever read this book? I think you'd really love it". Some of my best recommendations have come that way. I love that. But people who DM me and probably you Kaytee, they certainly DM the show saying "I'm blah, blah, blah, percentage through blah, blah, blah book, should I continue? I'm bored." I just want to explode every single time because the reality is, I can't answer that question for you. Right. And more importantly, it's so important I think that we all know ourselves as readers enough to be able to say, "What is it about this book that's not working for me? And if and whatever that is, that's okay it's not for me right? Now, let me move on to something else instead of trying to crowdfund my opinion about a book that I'm already not enjoying." Like, am I just being touchy about that?

Kaytee Cobb 52:42

No, I definitely agree. I don't do that. Because I don't think it's useful, like you, as a reader should know yourself well enough to say, very, very infrequently. I will say, if you have not gotten to 26%, because that's where a thing happens, then you should try and make it there. Right? But then after that you choose, you're the reader. This is your reading life, right?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 53:10

Go read some reviews about it if you need to. But the reality is, don't make that a chore for somebody else to have to decide for you. Because that's really what they've done. Right? So that's just something that I wish wouldn't happen just overall, whether it's on Facebook or Instagram or anything, reader know thyself and be confident in your choices.

Kaytee Cobb 53:30

Yes, agree. Hard agree there. Okay. That was a fun whiner session.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 53:36

I know. We were whining just a little bit there, but we love Bookstagram

Kaytee Cobb 53:40

We do love Bookstagram and we love connecting with you all on Bookstagram messages about other things. We do want to talk to you. Yes. Okay. Let's press some books into people's hands. Meredith, what have you got?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 53:51

All right, I wanted to bring a book that is both a smart thriller since we're reading smart books today, and one that I think is perfect for summer reading. This book is both. It's also a book that lives rent free in my head, so it fits a bunch of our recent deep dives. The book is *The Marsh King's Daughter* by Karen Dionne. Here's the setup. Our lead character Helena is a woman who is filled with secrets. Her life is rife with secrets. She has what looks to be a loving marriage, two gorgeous daughters and a really strong business. But she is really the daughter of a woman who was kidnapped by a famous criminal. She was raised for the first 12 years of her life in the swamps of Michigan's Upper Peninsula by this man, this criminal, her father, and by her young teenage mother, who is her father's kidnapping victim. Our story starts with Helena as a young mother herself, trying very hard to hide her past and live a normal life. But then her father, the kidnapper escapes from prison, and you guessed it, the only person who can find him is Helena. They're really good bye I actually really, really love this. It's fast and propulsive, it's perfect for summer reading, it's well written and the plot moves along. It doesn't have that dreaded middle of the book, mushy middle, and it has a really good amount of suspense. It's not overly gory, but it has a good amount of suspense. There are trigger warnings for abuse. Obviously, for that reason, if that bothers you, HSPs I would stay away from this. I liked it too, because it has such a deep sense of place that it reminds me a lot of what would happen if *Where the Crawdads Sing* was mixed with the *Silence of the Lambs*, and was also a full blown mystery with a horrible criminal at its center. This book is fantastic. This is *The Marsh King's Daughter* by Karen Dionne.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 53:56

Excellent. I love the cover of that one. Yes, like, very Marshy.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 55:47

Yeah, it's got a great sense of place.

Kaytee Cobb 55:52

Okay. My book that I want to press this week is not out of my comfort zone. It's not a brainiac book. It's just a book I loved. It's All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. It's no secret around here that I love Jason Reynolds. He writes really accessible middle grade stories, stunning novel novels in verse and even helped Ibram X Kendi adapt Stamped From the Beginning into Stamped for young adults. I'm a huge fan girl. This novel though, is a little different. Jason met Brendan Kiely on book tour right after the George Zimmerman verdict. And while he was reeling personally, he got to know this new person. A few years later, they had formed a friendship and wrote this book together which was published in 2015. Each one is writing a different point of view. We've got Rashad who is a young black teen, he excels in school, especially art and sticks hard to the straight and narrow path in his ROTC program. The story gets going when Quinn a young white classmate, watches his best friend's older brother beat the daylights out of Rashad at a convenience store. That brother's a cop and he's justified because Rashad was caught stealing chips from a store, or at least that's what it looks like. And that's what matters because now Rashad is missing school day after day as he recovers in a hospital room. And Quinn doesn't know if he should tell anyone what he saw or heard. Is it really his place, if not his than whose? We alternate points of view in this story from Ashad to Quinn and back again as their stories converge, and each boy reckons with where he is at this moment in time at this moment in history. It's an incredible and propulsive story that leaves the reader tearing through the pages from first page to last. Again, it was released in 2015. But of course, it's relevant today. Of course, it's opening eyes and hearts. It could have been released this month and felt exactly like stories we've seen play out on the news. This is one of many Jason Reynolds books that I've kept on my forever shelves and it will absolutely be part of my own kids high school homeschool learning. It's All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 57:57

That sounds excellent. I love that is a really good sounds really good one. 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 @Meredith.reads on Instagram.

Kaytee Cobb 58:09

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 58:13

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

Kaytee Cobb 58:22

You can also follow the show at @currentlyreadingpodcast on Instagram where we will be crotchety old ladies or email us at currentlyreadingpodcast@gmail.com

Meredith Monday Schwartz 58:30

And if you want more of this kind of bookish content, you can become a patron subscriber a bookish friends for \$5 a month. You can also help us by rating and reviewing us on Apple podcasts and shouting us out on social media. That makes a huge difference toward us finding our perfect audience.

Kaytee Cobb 58:48

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 58:54

Until next week. May your coffee be hot

Kaytee Cobb 58:56

and your book be unputdownable.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 58:58

Happy reading Kaytee.

Kaytee Cobb 58:59

Happy reading Meredith.