



Season 4, Episode 7: Generational Reading + Conflicted Feelings About a Favorite Author

Mon, 9/13 • 1:08:31

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:10

Hey readers, welcome to the Currently Reading podcast. We are bookish best friends who spend time every week talking about the books that we've read recently. And as you already know, and this week more than ever, we have strong opinions. So get ready.

Mindy Brouse 00:25

We are light on the chitchat, heavy on the book talk, and our descriptions will always be spoiler free, no matter what. We'll discuss our current reads, a bookish deep dive and we'll press books into your hands.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:36

I'm Meredith Monday Schwartz, a mom of four and full time CEO living on the face of hell, or in Austin, Texas. And I honestly believe that there is no such thing as too many books.

Mindy Brouse 00:49

And I'm Mindy Brouse, a mom of seven living in the mountains of New Mexico. And I think you should never stopped buying books no matter what. So Meredith, that's funny. We didn't even plan that.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:00

Funny.

Mindy Brouse 01:01

This is episode number seven of season four. And we're so glad you're here.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:06

Mindy, you we were on the same page.

Mindy Brouse 01:08

We clearly are mind melding for this episode,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:12

which is going to be a really really good thing because we have a lot to talk about. And you and I both have very much been looking forward to recording together. So our deep dive today is going to be filled with fraught. It is going to be fraught fraughtly filled, because we are going to be talking about in

general, what happens when your very favorite author comes out with a brand new book and your feelings about that book are complicated. I will say that we are going to be doing a deep dive within the deep dive talking about Louise Penny's new book, The 17th book in The Three Pines series called The Madness of Crowds. So that is going to be coming up later. Mindy and I had to be the ones to talk about it together because we read it at the same time. Mindy allowed me to kind of text her in real time as I was going through it. So we need to hash out our feelings about this brand new book. We'll do that later on.

Mindy Brouse 02:16

We have feelings we do. Yeah,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 02:18

We definitely do. All right. But first, let's start out the way we always do with our bookish moments of the week. What have you got for us, Mindy?

Mindy Brouse 02:25

Okay, my bookish moment is that I really wanted to read a book that had piqued my curiosity with it set up. It is futuristic set in 2047 and a band's music has developed a cult like following long after they've disbanded, the music is gone. But this book, *Forgotten Work* is in rhyming verse. The entire book Meredith. It's like reading Shakespearean sonnet for one long story and 300 pages. That is not easy task for me. I struggle with poetry, and it wasn't on audio. I think everything should be on audio. Anyway. So I messaged my eldest, 24 year old Hannah that to ask her if she would read it to me, because she used to perform slam poetry. So I knew she could set the rhythm for me and maybe get me going. So sure enough, she pulled up the book on hoopla. And I called her, she read to me for about 20 minutes, it was so special to listen to her read it while I followed along. My heart exploded and I was just one big grin. I ended up loving. The book is super great. But that bookish moment, I may never forget having Hannah read it to me. It was like such a beautiful turn of the tables having her read aloud to me. After all the years of me reading aloud to her. It was pretty great.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 03:42

Wow, that's a very, there's so many things about that book's moment that are really great. And really interesting. So I love I love that that is so that actually says a lot about the fact that she would be willing to do that for you. I always think as the mom of grown children, I always think for me, I feel like the mark of my parenthood is do my grown children still want to have anything to do with me. And I am happy to report that so far, three of my four children still want to have something to do with me. So

Mindy Brouse 04:11

There you go Meredith

Meredith Monday Schwartz 04:12

I do I think good odds, I think I think it's a good sign when I say three of my four because obviously my fourth is little

Mindy Brouse 04:18

He's still little. All right. What about you? What's your bookish moment?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 04:21

Well, it's sort of on the other spectrum of raising readers. So last week, I talked about the fact that my daughter is having is having a baby boy in February. And I talked about the fact that one of the things I'm most looking forward to is will Devon and Mark have empowered me, which I feel is a great and precious honor. They have empowered me to completely create my grandson's library.

Mindy Brouse 04:47

Shut the front door.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 04:48

I just feel like that is such an honor. Right? And now of course, obviously they're going to buy other people are going to buy books for them obviously, and yeah, and well, they should, but the fact that I get to actually create kind of his core library. I have found so many ways Mindy to make it okay for me to spend too much money on this endeavor, because I'm thinking okay, he's, you know, they'll surely probably, I mean, if things go the way we think they'll probably have more than one child, right, so I'm really, I'm really creating a library for all of their children, not just one child, right? And she'll probably keep all of those books and maybe my great grandchildren will leave it. So I'm really, I'm really creating a library for generations of children.

Mindy Brouse 05:36

So this is like your dream right here. You're basically a librarian that gets to buy whatever she wants for children.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 05:42

Exactly, exactly. And so then I key and then I was also thinking, well, what if, you know, for for several months, this past year, our libraries were completely closed. Like it could happen again, that like, they might not be able to get to the library. So I have just found more I set a budget for myself, and then blew past it. And I just thought, this is the honor of my life. And I just can't I have, like I said, in my bite size open, like you said, in your bite sized open, there just is no such thing as too many books, especially for your grandbabies. I'm having so much fun. Okay. Let us get into the meat of things and start talking about our current reads. Mindy, what's your first current read this week?

Mindy Brouse 06:26

Okay. The first book I want to bring to the show today is The People We Keep by Allison Larkin. You guys need to read this book. I absolutely loved it. Okay, so here we have it's 1994 small town New York. So I was already drawn in because it was the 90s. I'm like, you bring that on. I graduated in 1988. So it was fun. We have April Sawiki, who's basically on her own. She has a boyfriend and she has a job at a diner but her mother has completely abandoned her. She's a senior in high school and her father has left her with zero money in a rundown mobile home than he won at a poker game. And he has basically, basically gone and started a new life with a new wife and a new kid. April's trying to have a really good

attitude, but she's a hard worker. You know, she has plans. She has dreams for a future. She has a boyfriend. But one night, she takes her very precious guitar. She loves music. She's a writer. She's a musician. She's steals a car, neighbor's car, and goes and plays and an open mic. She thought it would be a part of her dream, like getting towards getting there. But what actually happened is it gave her a view of her life that she had never seen before. From what it looked like to other people, and where she was headed. And she goes home that night, and really starts thinking through. And before she can change her mind, Meredith, she steals a car again. So you see a theme here. She leaves her boyfriend, she leaves her home. She goes to the unknown. She has zero plans zero money, well she has a little money, but zero plans, she drives and drives to anywhere. And she lands in Ithaca, New York, and gets a job at a coffee shop. She's sleeping in her car. And our story unfolds from there. What, what's going to happen to April? How is she going to find her dream? Will she? And is it what she thinks it is? Meredith I loved this book. Oh my gosh, April's determination and growth and ultimately, the love of the people she finds along the way. I am a huge sucker for books like that. You bring me a character who needs love, and goes and sets out on her own and then finds it in really unexpected places. And I'm like, throwing money at that book. Yes, I will buy that book. But it's the love of the unexpected people that actually changes her from the inside out. We have found few we have found family. We have music. We have a coming of age book for a young woman that you desperately want to succeed like the whole time you're like, April, that was probably a really bad decision. But girl, I really hope this I hope this pans out for you. Maybe your maybe your next decision will be better. And you're going to meet characters you're never going to forget. You're going to cry, you're going to cheer. And even for non huggers I think you're going to hug this book. Now. As much as I love this book.... You're if you pick this up, which I'm assuming now clearly if you're all going to.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 09:31

Yep,

Mindy Brouse 09:32

There is a portion of this book that will bother you readers. You may then message me, like I messaged to Joy and like Katie Proctor messaged me going "Wait a minute, red flags. This is bad. Why is this good? Why Why is this a good part?" And I almost failed. If you're an adult reading this, you are going to maybe want to bail at this part of the book. Message me and I'm going to tell you to keep reading. So if you get some red flags, and you're like, Oh, this is probably the scene that Mindy is talking about, trust me and keep reading because it took me a while. It actually took me til I finished the book Meredith that I realized that part of the book is supposed to bother you, because it doesn't bother April. And you're supposed to be bothered that it is not bothering April. The end of this book, I'll probably cry about forever. This is a serious, serious keeper. This is The People You Keep by Allison Larkin, and I loved it.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 10:33

Alright, good. That's a good one. Mindy. I like that a lot. Okay. All right. So my first book that I'm bringing, I'm bringing for a couple of reasons. First of all, we talked last week about the way that I choose my books, when I do book flights and kind of how bookish serendipity falls into play. The book that I'm going to bring today is one of those books where literally, I happened to just glance at the cover

glance at the back, and I was like, Oh, I literally didn't give it more than two thoughts. I put it in my book bag at the library, came home, put it in my stack and did a one of my stack photos for Instagram, got hundreds of comments from people weighing in on which one of those books they wanted me to read and not a single person wanted me to read this book, because nobody knows anything about it at all. And because it has a terrible title. This book, it's a book that is called D (A Tale of Two Worlds) and it's by Michel Faber. Alright, here's our setup, you guys. It all starts our whole adventure starts one morning, when the letter D disappears from the language. First event it disappears from Dhikilo's... our lead character, her name is Dhikilo. First it disappears from her parent's conversations at the breakfast table one morning. Then it disappears from the road signs outside and from her school dinners. Soon, the local dentist and the neighbor's dalmatian are missing. And even the Donkey Derby has been canceled. Those though she doesn't know why, Dhikilo is summoned to the home of her old history teacher, Professor Dodderfield and his faithful Labrador Nelly Robinson, who by the way, is one of my favorite books in all of fic... one of my favorite characters in all the fiction, this Labrador named Nelly Robinson. And this is where our story begins. The story is set between England and the wintry land of Liminus, which is a world enslaved by the monstrous gamp and populated by fearsome, enchanting creatures. This is our adventure. So when I wrote my notes here, I wrote sigh, the best possible sigh. You guys, before I tell you any more of what I think of this book, I need to tell you that it is blurbed by Neil Gaiman. He says, "This story is glorious. It's a story that will be found and enjoyed and dreamed about for years to come". This is what Neil Gaiman said about this book. I absolutely loved this book. This book, unlike the second book in the Narnia series. This book gave me the Narnia vibes that I am always I feel like I'm always chasing in my middle grade fantasy fiction Right? those Narnia.

Mindy Brouse 13:31

It's a bar. It's a bar set. Yeah,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 13:33

Exactly. And also very much has Wizard of Oz vibes too and because Faber is this he absolutely loves Dickens. It also has Dickensian vibes. Now I really liked Charles Dickens. And I really like Michael Faber's writing, he wrote a book called The Crimson Petal and the White. If you love Dickens, and if you love historical fiction, go find The Crimson Petal and the White, the White, very different book from the one we're discussing today. But I love his writing in both of these places. So it's being marketed.... Here's the problem with this book. First of all, it I don't, I couldn't find it on Instagram, because how do you find a book called D on Instagram? It's impossible. It's called D (A Tale of Two Worlds). It's absolutely impossible to find it anywhere. It's a middle grade book, but even my library had it she had it shelved as regular adult fiction. So somehow this book by this amazing author, has, has just not found its place. And it makes me want to cry because it is so so good. It is such an adventure. You love Dhikilo and everything about her. You love the professor, you love Nelly Robinson and there's going to be a lot of reasons that you love Nelly Robinson that right now you can't even imagine. The Gamp is a horrible, horrible villain. What is happening with the letter D is very interesting how it affects Britain in the present day, how it's affecting the world of Liminus. This book is just delightful. It is just delightful in the same way that The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe is delightful. I loved it so much. It's very British. And it's made even better because it has a smart, brave female, African British 13 year old lead. And I loved Dhikilo so much. So this you guys, it's a book, I'm going to urge you to go find if you love

middle grade fantasy. Let's drag this out of the No Man's Land of the marketing, the publishing world. This is *D (A Tale of Two Worlds)* by Michel Faber.

Mindy Brouse 15:58

That sounds fantastic. That sounds like when I need to get for Paul Lewis to go camping next week.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 16:03

Oh, yes. Paul Lewis would love it Micah, Kaytee's Micah would absolutely love it. It's just you know, if you loved *Amari And The Night Brothers*, this is going to be, this is gonna it's not exactly the same. But it's going to be along those same lines of a book that you would like. I just am like, it's so frustrating to me, but also kind of exciting to me, when I can find a book that is in the no man's land and has fallen through cracks and bring it to the show because this one is really quality.

Mindy Brouse 16:33

Well, and that seems to be your superpower. As far as the bookish world, I feel like that is a strong, strongest superpower you have. Yeah,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 16:42

I like it. Okay, I would love that. Okay, what's your next book?

Mindy Brouse 16:45

All right. Well, my next book is brought to me from the bookish friends group by a friend Katie Sikkes sent me this book. And this isn't in no man's land, but I don't think I ever would have picked it up, Meredith and I don't think I would have sought it out on my own. This is *The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Demaline. Alright, this is a futuristic book. And I tend to not go there very often, just because I feel like I'm dealing with enough. The current world.

Mindy Brouse 17:14

And a lot of futuristic worlds tend to be not so exciting or positive about what our future holds. So, in this world, Native American people are taken for their blood and marrow. The white world has lost its ability to dream and experience life as they always have. But Native people are immune from it. And so instead of learning and copying their culture and learning things, instead, we hear about a story where Native people are first recruited to quote "help", and then they're tricked into quote, "helping" and then the helping is clearly not happening and they're captured and they're hunted for their blood. The Native American people are basically killed and tossed away. This book starts with a young boy Frenchie, a teenager hiding in a tree with his brother, and hopes of not being captured by recruiters and that's what they call them, which I think is a little too nice. This moves more and more into heartbreaking captures and near capture scenes. We watch people from tribes all over the country, finding one another on, in the woods in the country hiding as they basically are migrating to escape to the North in hopes of safety. This book reminded me of *Lonesome Dove* meet some kind of terrible hunting people situation. It's a look at how residential schools sought to destroy the language and heritage and people of native Native peoples in a really unusual storytelling way. This book sounds heavy and and that's because the the theme is heavy. But I loved it. The Author Cherie ... Cherie Demaline does what I consider a brilliant

way of bringing a very tough topic and very hard theme and tells it in a beautiful story of found family which Meredith I tried to bring some really new and different themes today. You know, sometimes I feel like I need to bring something different because I seem to be known for bringing love great happy ending books and all these things. But I could not not bring this. I love found family and I'm not ashamed of it. I love this book from start to finish, but I am likely to never ever forget the ending. The theme I found the ... sorry. This is a much harsher experience for found family than the previous, my first current read. This is not an easy read. The premise is tough and it gets tougher seeing this theme carried out. There is loss. We lose people along the way. The way that the characters find each other and protect one another brings tears to my eyes even now. I am not likely to ever forget Wab and Miig and Chi-Boy and Minerva, and Rose. Oh my gosh, These people are not all from the same tribes, because they found each other as they've escaped. And I love how we get glimpses of many different tribes and languages. But we also see how similar they are in different ways. And how they value their ancestors, how they value family and the how they value children. You bring that to the table on a book for me that's not got a ton of sex Meredith and I'm there. Right so this is a YA book and lands squarely in the YA category so I don't feel like this goes into the the new adult, you know, genre, that some YA books are kind of hinting towards now. But it's definitely not what I would call middle grade because of the loss. I absolutely loved it. I can't think Katie Sikkes enough for sending it to me. It is worth the read guys. I hear I hear you. It's a tough theme. But you're gonna be so glad and when you finish this book. If that ending doesn't stick with you for all time, then don't let me know. But if it does, then go ahead and message us because we want to hear about it. That's *The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 17:14

Sure.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 21:31

Okay, my second book for the second week in a row, my second book is nonfiction, which is not completely normal for me, but I am finding after about two years of really kind of being off of nonfiction, I am finally able to slot it in again. And so I'm really I'm really happy. And I'm really happy that I read this one because I read the *Empire of Pain*. This is by Patrick Raddon Keefe. So this was a buddy read that I did with my buddy read partner Roxanna Kassam Kara, and it was one that I was so glad that we did together because you guys know that well let me set up the book and then I'm going to tell you why I wouldn't have tackled this alone. Okay. So, before I read this book, I actually didn't know I had sort of heard of the Sackler family, but I really didn't know being from California, especially I didn't know much about them. But their name adorns the walls of Harvard, The Met in New York City, Oxford, the Louvre. Like they're they have entire wings that are you know, Sackler family wings of major institutions and museums, and they make lavish donations to the arts and sciences. But the thing is, for many, many years for decades, the source of their fortune was really kind of not know no one really know knew how the Sacklers got as insanely wealthy as they were. And actually one of my favorite parts of the book in the beginning, *Empire of Pain* tells us the story of three doctor brothers, Raymond, Mortimer and the incalculably energetic and amazing Arthur Sackler. Arthur Sackler reminded me a lot of Hamilton in just that kind of non stop element of things for that's really the comparison that I'm making. Yeah, the Arthur Sackler character, in the first third of this book is worth the price of admission. And I feel like this element of the book is not necessarily being given that much focus, but it was by far my favorite part of

the book. So they basically build, they, they, they're doctors, they work in mental institutions, and they see all these horrible things happening, and they want to do better for people being treated for mental illness, they actually have good intention. So, Arthur has a genius for marketing. And he and he also has a genius for pharmaceuticals, and how they can be used to treat people with mental illness. And so he devises the marketing plan for Valium, and that built the first part of the great Sackler fortune. So then he from that money, he purchases a pharmacy, a small pharmaceutical company called Purdue Fred Frederick, which goes on to be run by his two brothers. 40 years later, Purdue Frederick has become Purdue Pharma, which is going to be a name that is familiar to all of us, right? Basically, this company goes on to produce the most blockbuster drug product ever legally sold in the United States, and that's Oxycontin, which goes on to generate \$35 billion in revenue just for that one particular pill. That pill of course is the beginning of the opioid epidemic, the marketing, the way that the marketing is done, the way that the FDA is dealt with by the Sackler family, and the people running Purdue Pharma, is what really makes the latter half of this story interesting. So I know that we've heard this book several places, but I wanted to bring it A, because any nonfiction that I read, I want to be sure when I really love it, I want to bring it. But again, I wanted to bring it for a couple of reasons. I've talked very publicly on the show that I have a very close family member with an opioid addiction, and it has wrought an unending amount of pain into so many lives.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 25:46

For that reason, I shied away from this book for a really for you, not forever. I mean, it just came out not too long ago, but I shied away from this book initially. But then Jamie Golden spoke, who is a trusted source for me, she spoke about it being really, really interesting, and really giving her some insight into the opioid epidemic, that I thought, well, you know, what, I need insight into this topic, because I need to understand it better because of how it's affected my family. And I better do it in a nonfiction way. Because I don't think I can read like, I haven't read Long, Bright River. I don't, I don't think I can do it in fiction, because I have lived, I have lived what it does to an actual life. So I think I needed to do it in nonfiction. So Roxanna and I read it together, actually read this mostly in the biggest chunks when I went to Hawaii with with my best friend. And I read it on our two eight hour plane rides. And so this was perfect for that, because something about the white noise of the plane. And just the focused time to read it really made this book fly the pages absolutely flew. If you so yes, read this book if you're interested in the opioid epidemic, and basically, how it's not so much about what happened to actual people, because although there is some of that this is much more about how did the Sacklers build their empire. How did they go to sleep at night? How did they get past regulations that should have protected all of us from what they were doing? Where did they break the law, and where did they very frankly, not have to break the law because all they needed to do was donate a wing to a something. It is a story about all of that the latter half of the book is a story about all of that, and it is a barnburner story. But the first half of the book was the revelation to me, because I knew I was gonna get that whole second half the first half of the book about the three Sackler brothers and the way that they went from practically nothing to everything that they built, the way that those three personalities work together with their kind of natural proclivities to actually start out doing something that they I think, very much intended, at the start to do good. And to see it morph, and to see it change and to see it become bigger than any one person. And then how they almost convinced themselves that what they were doing was okay, this book gets to the heart of the human condition on every level. It is amazing. I loved every page of it. And so

did Roxanna, for those of you who are following along for the the way that she does this reading, too. So this is Empire of Pain by Patrick Raddon Keefe and I absolutely.

Mindy Brouse 28:53

You've just convinced me, to, to give this another go and Meredith, I think you could have just helped a lot of listeners who are in a situation like yours, right? Based on the numbers of this, this epidemic for this addiction. There's somebody listening, who maybe needed to hear that this was good for someone like you, because they are someone like you, and maybe this book will help them too. So I'm really glad you brought it. Thank you.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 29:18

Yeah, it helped me to understand that maybe the people who I thought were responsible, were hoodwinked, too. I think that I'm glad that you said that Mindy because you just gave me the end to be able to, I think draw a firmer line there for me. This is a hard book. I'm not sure I would recommend for everyone to pick it up right now where we're all dealing with other kinds of ridiculousness in the world. But maybe put it on your To Be Finished Later pile for a time when the world maybe becomes less complicated, because this book is very much about you know, things that make you want to tear your hair out or throw the book across the room because you just want people to do the right thing.

Mindy Brouse 29:55

So Meredith, what a book to bring. Thank you so much.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 29:58

All right. What's your what's your last current read?

Mindy Brouse 30:00

So guys, I am bringing The Reading List.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 30:03

Oh, yes, yes, yes. Yes. I'm so glad I have been waiting!

Mindy Brouse 30:08

So I am bringing The Reading List by Sarah Nisha Adams. And guys, it is everything it sounds like if you look at the cover, you're going to be intrigued. If you're bookish, it's your I know your book is because you're here. And this is a book you're gonna want to read. I promise. Alright, so we head to London in this book. And curmudgeon books are a theme. Right? We've talked about those. But curmudgeons are old people who are grumpy. Well, turns out, sometimes we can have a millennial curmudgeon, like, we find today we have Aleisha. She is a teen volunteer for this summer at the library. She's super not happy to be there. She's a little frustrated with her life, rightfully so. She has a mother who is in a very, very unhealthy and dangerous place mentally. And she is having to care for her. She has to tiptoe around her house, like gets to the level of a really difficult life. She and her brother having to care for her for their mother. So she goes to work and Meredith, she's not. She's not the librarian you guys we want to talk to you. She is really, she doesn't want to talk. She tries not to talk to anybody. She

doesn't want to talk about books. It's it's comedic because you're like, Aleisha, you know, you're working in a library, right? But she doesn't care. And then we meet Mukesh, who is a widower. He is struggling after losing his wife two years earlier, who was a big reader. And he decides to go and I won't say why, because it's part of the beauty of this book, to go to the library and ask for a recommendation. But unfortunately, who does he asked? He asks millennial curmudgeon, Aleisha. Not a great, not a great moment for either one of them, it goes terribly. She gets in trouble because of how badly it goes. He leaves with no book. It's just the saddest thing. And she tries to make amends. It's awkward and funny, because Mukesh is awkward. And Aleisha is awkward, but they're both trying. And you reader listener, you can't help but be so involved. What happens is Aleisha finds a list of books at the back of a copy of To Kill a Mockingbird. And it's a list of books that you guys will be familiar with. I'm not going to say which ones they are because it's a part of the journey. But she then takes To Kill a Mockingbird to Mukesh and keeps a list she was about to throw it away. But I told you there's some serendipity here, and she does not. You guys, more people from the library get drawn in to this story and this list. And it is just perfection. You guys, the brilliance that the author does is every section is another book on the reading list. And so not only do they start reading the books, but the events in the story, mimic the book that is on the list. I love it. It is freaking perfection. It's a feel good, wonderful book. You are going to read it and you're going to want to create your own reading list to put in the back of all the books you hand out so that maybe somebody is going to find it and read your presses. I couldn't have been more happy I read this book. I will tell you I kind of shied away from it because I was like, maybe I want to read a deeper book. Maybe I want to read something that's a little more thought provoking. And then I was like, No, actually, I don't. I want to read a book that makes me happy. And that fit, this book fits the bill in spades. So The Reading List by Sarah Nisha Adams is one you will never forget. And I think it would be a fabulous fabulous book club chat. So go get it guys.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 34:02

Oh, I'm so glad that you liked it. I am like number 82 on hold for this book in my library. Alright, I'm going to this next one is my real wahmp of today. But I have to I have to talk about it. This is a book that I am not conflicted about how I feel about it, Mindy at all. But I wanted to talk about it. This is Survive the Night by Riley Sager. Who is just the my favorite and simultaneously just the worst. Okay, so, so I but I keep buying his books.

Mindy Brouse 34:34

Because so his publisher still loves you.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 34:37

Yes, I buy all of them. Okay, here's the setup for this this story. Alright. Good lord. I can't okay. It's so here's the thing that but this he draws you in with the premises. Okay, so here's the premise. It's November 1991. I had just graduated from high school. I was early in college so I'm this is my safe space. Right. Nirvana is on the tape deck, George H.W. Bush is in the White House and our lead character good Lord, the movie obsessed college student, Charlie Jordan. Girl is in a car with a man who might be a serial killer. Okay, so this is a fantastic setup. Josh Baxter, the man behind the wheel is a stranger. They just found each other on this job like drive board like a board where you find rides ride board. Both have reason that they want to get out of town. For Charlie, it's guilt and grief over the

murder of her best friend who became the third victim of the man known as the Campus Killer. And for Josh, it's to help care for his sick father or so he says. Can you guys hear me rolling my eyes right now? Because I Oh my god. So the longer she sits in the passenger seat, the more poor stupid Charlie notices that there's something suspicious about Josh from the gaping holes in his story about his father to how he doesn't want to let her see inside his trunk. This is where I this is exactly where I start hoping bad things happen to Charlie. So they're on a long, empty, twisty highway. And Charlie begins to think that maybe this wasn't such a good idea. One thing is for certain, Charlie has nowhere to run, and no way to call for help. She's trapped in the terrifying cat and mouse game on this pitchblack highway and we all hope that she can survive the night although I didn't know what hope that she was going to survive the night I literally was like, go Josh.

Mindy Brouse 36:52

When Meredith has stopped pulling for you character, it's not a good sign.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 36:57

Exactly. You guys know. Okay. All right. I don't want to yuck anyone's yums because it's really, really important to me that I do realize that sometimes a book is just perfect, even if it's not a perfect book. So anyone who read this book and really liked it, I am legitimately happy about it. Okay, so I'm, I am totally, I don't want to yuck your gum. But this kind of book is the kind of book that irritates me for two well, for three reasons. First of all, I have a really hard time with protagonists, that just like, every single thing tells them that something bad's gonna happen. And yet, they just they see the thing, and they just proceed past it because then just need to get help. I can't root for someone like that. Okay. Secondly, this anytime a book feels like what I term, a summer house book, which I think I got from the Popcast, a book that or a beach house book, a book that's being written by an author because they're like, I don't know, maybe I need a beach house and to then like, I'm just gonna dash this book off. Okay, that's what yeah, that's definitely from the Popcast. So I'm gonna, I'm, I'm appropriating that here because it's such an appropriate term. That's what this book felt like to me. Riley Sager, I really do like some of his books. I think that he does a good job with a great premise. And I think he does a good job with those short chapters propulsive writing pulls you all the way through. Absolutely. So like, I get that that is there. And that's why we want to read those books. But in this case, there just was no there there. I just, it just irritated me that it felt so absolutely phoned in. And that's, that's really where it like it's Oh, it's okay. We talked last week about a popcorn, a popcorn thriller that I was like, you know, I'm okay with it. Because maybe I'm not gonna remember the details forever. But when it feels like the author wrote the book in two weekends, and it was just sort of slapdash, and big twists happened that completely changed major pieces, but there's no like, through line where you can kind of see that coming. For me, that's what this book felt like, again, I am open to listening if there were people who were like, no, this was the best Riley Sager ever. I'm very open to listening. But this felt like a slapdash. I owe my publisher a book and I want to go out on my boat so let's just get this over with that's with this felt like to me.

Mindy Brouse 39:37

This makes me think, you're making me picture a Mad Lib like that somebody has a Mad Lib on how to write a book, a Riley Sager book book and he just fills in. Insert character name here, insert creepy... problem,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 39:52

right problem that she has that she has to solve despite horrible red flags, right insert creepy villain

Mindy Brouse 40:00

Yeah just kind of dropped in Yes, the stuff and that's that doesn't sound fun for me to read and and I can see where when you have some discerning taste on certain levels of thrillers and we all know that you that you know you love those kinds of things, mysteries and all of that. I could see where you'd be like, Don't bring me a Mad Lib book no ma'am.,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 40:23

Right?

Mindy Brouse 40:24

No sir. No Riley

Meredith Monday Schwartz 40:25

Especially because he's got a book like Home Before Dark in him, which is the opposite of that. It's still a thriller. But and it may be even could be described as a popcorn thriller. It's also ghost story. Actually, if you guys are getting into that fall reading mode, and you want a great ghost story that is actually well thought through and well written. Instead of picking up Survive the Night, I'm going to humbly suggest suggest that you pick up Home Before Dark. So again, right I get frustrated when I feel like the author has a better book in them, but we just don't get that better book. So this is Survive the Night by Riley Sager. We now are going to get to our deep dive. And the general higher level kind of deep dive that I want everyone to think about. Even if necessarily the book that we're going to deep dive into today isn't one that is super of interest to you. I want you to think about do you have authors that, so we all have auto buy authors, I'm talking about something kind of even more than that, even more than an auto buy author, we're always hoping the best for auto buy authors. I'm talking about those authors who you hold in your heart, you have a special place in your heart, chunked out just for them. And when they have a new book that comes out you just more than anything on the planet, you want to absolutely love it. And when you do it is the best feeling ever. And when your feelings are instead complicated, it's just it just it. It's fraught, so many we were the way that we You and I are getting into this topic is that for both of us, we were super looking forward to it. And part of the reason by the way, we are deep diving into this is because there are a huge number of Louise Penny fans who are fans of Currently Reading so if you are not a fan of Louise Penny, if you are maybe just a couple, we're not going to talk about any spoilers at all. So don't be worried about it at all. There will be no spoilers even though this book it's the 17th in the series, so don't be worried. But if you're not interested in hearing about our thoughts about the latest book or you're not interested in Louise Penny at all, please do me a favor and just skip through to the timestamp that you see in the show notes where we start talking about our our books that we want to press because I don't want anyone to listen to this deep dive who's not interested in The Three Pine series. We're going to deep dive a little bit into the latest book, which is called The Madness of Crowds that just came out as we record here today on September 4. It just came out the previous Tuesday because the her books come out you know let we're lucky enough to get them almost every single third

week of August, which is just the best thing ever. Alright, so let me set up The Madness of Crowds generally leaning on what we get from the marketing copy because again, we want to be so careful that we don't give anything away we do not want to spoil any of the books and we do not spoil we don't want to spoil this book. So the setup here for Madness of Crowds, as with all Louise Penny's books, things start innocently enough. While the residents of the Quebec village of Three Pines take advantage of the deep snow to ski, to drink hot chocolate in the bistro, the chief inspector Armand Gamache finds his holiday with his family interrupted by what seems like a really simple, easy request. He's asked to provide security for what promises to be a non event, a visiting professor of statistics of all things will be giving a lecture at the nearby University. While he, Arman, is perplexed as to why the head of homicide for the Surete du Quebec would be assigned this task. It sounds easy enough. That is until Gamache starts looking into Professor Abigail Robinson and discovers an agenda so repulsive that he begs the university to cancel the lecture. I'm going to leave it right I'm going to leave it there. The marketing copy even goes a little bit further. There is a murder that is there is a murder that happens. I don't want to go any further because I think part of what is so great about her books is the way that she does not roll things out like other mystery and thriller author author of authors do. Louise will take, Louise like she's my good friend,

Mindy Brouse 44:54

you know, yeah, she is we know your BFF right,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 44:56

Louise Penny will take her time. She is going to roll it out in the way that she wants it to and, you know, we Penny pushers are along for the ride. And this was absolutely the case in this book. She builds momentum expertly through the first 10 to 12 chapters. And you slow there's this creeping dread element you slowly are beginning you're getting these little hints about what we're actually dealing with here. And your eyes get wider and wider.

Mindy Brouse 45:29

Right. And you also are, I think the other build up for me was who is going to die? Yep. And I feel like Meredith, it, that was the first time in a Louise Penny book that I was like, Oh my gosh, there's so many possibilities who who's dying because clearly someone has to right because it's, it's a Gamache book. So somebody's dying, right. So,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 45:52

What is something, one of the things I loved about this book more than any other is the construct of the book. She each its construction is different even than books that she has done and I and I loved it. First. So, first, I want to say that I believe that this is a very good book. I very much want to say that right at the top that I believe that it is a very good book. If we are talking about all books everywhere. This is a very good book. If we are however, as we are want to do for those of us who are obsessively in love with The Three Pines series, if we are comparing itself to itself, this book had some problems. For me, it is still a very good book. Also, I want to say that my feelings about it today are a little bit morphed from my feelings the moment that I close to the book. And that happens I think with a lot of really good books. Leave the World Behind is up is a book that fought that falls into that category. You close it and

you have strong feelings. But then you sort of think and marinate on it. And I did that with this book. So here are my problems with it. Maybe you can let me know if you think I'm totally off base. The first 100 pages were exactly in some ways exactly what you expect not in its construction, but in the way that you were completely it was completely propulsive. You just the pages were turning. Then we got to the middle of the book. And I felt like what happens when a hurricane begins to turn over the ocean and it just kind of all forward motion stops. But there's still a big storm a churning in the eye. Uh huh. You know, and I felt like that's what was happening toward the middle of the book, which bothered me only in it, you know, it got going again. But it bothered me only because that rarely happens in her books. And again, I'm comparing Penny to Penny here. Okay, but also part of what I love, why are these are my favorite books of all time, my favorite series of all time, is that I feel like she brings in, in, in all of her books, one main theme, that she's working skillfully through every part of the story, the plotline, the mystery, the characters, there's this theme that has been expertly drawn through out like a amazing choreographer, drawing these notes out from the background of whatever's happening. But in this book, I felt like she had five big themes. I felt like unlike an expert composer, bringing a theme through in different ways, until the kind of big ending when you have five themes you're trying to do that with it becomes cacophonous. And for a while, in that center part of the book, I felt we were turning and not really going anywhere. And I felt a cacophony, a theme related cacophony in my brain where I felt like she didn't, it wasn't moving through in a clear sort of way. Did you any do any of those things many resonate with you with your experience?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 47:02

Yes, and no, I, I felt like the theme was continuous for me and I didn't feel like she brought too many. But I could see where something I'm pegging as a character that came in and a theme there and a sort of a plotline felt off, and it didn't feel like it was part of that symphony. It felt like it was thrown in or not a part of her normal writing at all. Okay, so here's the thing, Meredith, if sometimes I'm really good at ignoring certain parts if I don't like them, because I like something else so much more and the general theme was so personally connected for me. Immediately, like I got messages. Are you gonna be able to read this?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 49:12

Yeah, you got one of those from me.

Mindy Brouse 49:54

From you, I was, and Morgan and a few others who contacted you even who were like, Hey, have you talked to Mindy...

Meredith Monday Schwartz 50:07

Have you heard from Mindy? Right? Yep. Um,

Mindy Brouse 50:09

and I do want to say right off the bat, for my, my point of this book is that if you start this, if you're a Penny pusher and you start this and it feels different, that's because it is completely different than any of her other books. And that's okay. I had to sit and decide, can I trust Louise and keep reading this?

And I decided to trust her. And I'm really glad I did. But as far as that cacophony, for me, there was one Gong, there was like, a gong in there. For me, that didn't feel like it was a part of the symphony. Right.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 50:47

Right. And that's a good way of describing it. Yeah, that's a good way of describing it. So, I mean, as we as we move through it, and we're going to, we won't get too much more into any of this part of it, we just want to stay really high level because again, we we don't, we don't want to come anywhere near ruining anyone's ruining this for anyone. And there's so much that is so interesting in the book that it's, you know, it's it's really worth reading. Again, this is a very good book. My problems are comparing Penny to Penny. So I just, I really want people to understand that. I am not, there was one point in the book where I felt like I was a little bit slogging through it. And I'm just not used to feeling that with her books. But then, in the last third, it did pick up. And I do have to say that especially the last 40 pages of the book, have me doing that marinating. And that kind of chewing, and and make. And so I had, I had talked about this with Roxanna, when I still had those last 40 pages to read. And she said to me, you know, it's still possible because she's as good as she is, that it may be those last 40 pages are going to put things kind of back into melody for you. And to a certain extent she was right. And going back to that trust of Louise Penny. She is so so good. And there isn't. And this book only underscores that. I do think it's another thing that Roxanna said to me. And so this goes to all of us who've read all the way through the series, Roxanna said, "Meredith, I'm worried. I was worried with you going into this book, because of how much you loved All the Devils are Here", which was the 16th book. I it's one of my top two favorites of the entire series, the other one being The Brutal Telling. And so Roxanna said "I was worried about this one, because it was just a year ago, you had such an experience with that book, you loved it so much. How could a book written by anyone really have lived up to it without a comparison that was maybe not going to be so favorable", so I'm really taking that into account, too. So again, this is not my favorites in the series. But if we judge it against all books being written, you know, everywhere, The Madness of Crowds is still an amazing book. And I could stand by the fact that this is the best series being written in the mystery genre today. Full stop. There's this book simply makes me want to see that more. It does not make me want to say it less.

Mindy Brouse 53:22

And I will say for me, so. I am you've said you've said people like it when we disagree. Trusting that Yep, I All the Devils Were Here was probably my least favorite until the end. And if you've read it, then you'll know why the ending is just Yeah, okay. But the certain conversations and character issues and that one really landed wrong for me, but it's because of how I'm wired and because of my life, and issues I have as a parent, so I was really irritated. So for me, Meredith coming into this one, because of the ending. I was ready. I was like, okay, but like I said to you in our chat, she comes out swinging in this book. Oh, yeah. And I actually loved it. But I will admit, and this is a flaw that I have among many is that I can totally in my head, take out a plotline and put it on a shelf. Because that gong that one bothered me, but because of everything else and all the other things that Jean-Guy especially because that is my favorite Yeah. goes through. I was able to ignore that part. Is that does that make me a terrible reader that I can do that in a book?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 53:34

No, but you know what, you just gave me the biggest aha moment Mindy. Because I think you just what you just said, cued me in to two things. First of all, by the way, a lot of people All the Devils Were Here, book number 16. A lot of people didn't love it for the reasons you pointed out. And also because it was set in Paris it wasn't set in Three Pines and a lot of people are like I want this to be in Three Pines. Here's my aha moment. You just said Jean-Guy, Jean-Guy is my favorite and his plotline here was really you know, resonant resonant for you. And it makes perfect sense and it was a fantastic part of the book I loved, loved loved it. I identify so much with are the Armand Gamache character. He is like my adopted literary father, he is a type one like me, I see myself in not in who like he's such a great man. I'm not saying I see myself in him, but I see his struggles resonate with me. He is very lost in this latest is he is very lost, he is very directionless. He is conflicted, and, and paralyzed in ways that in other books, he is sure and decisive. And that is the aha moment for me. Maybe you just said what needed to be said to nail it. That is why this book was such a struggle for me, because of what was happening with because I couldn't take that piece out of it. That piece was overshadowing everything else. That's what was giving me and now I'm pointing to my stomach because enneagram ones we're gut, we're in the gut triad,

Mindy Brouse 55:02

and I have chills.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 55:41

Yes. That is you have gotten to the guts of what was bothering me about this book like, thank you. That's exactly why I wanted to talk about this with you. That was the thing.

Mindy Brouse 56:36

I think I think this book has a lot to offer. And I love that you're struggling with it. Meredith in a way I it makes me appreciate your reading and your connection to this series even more, that you have conflicted reasons to be that shows that you're not just reading it and buying into any everything right?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 56:56

I love that. And I love that you were willing to say why did this land weirdly for me? Right, and there it is. Well, and also, I really want to say and this goes back to conversate other conversations that we've had about other books. I talked, of course, several weeks ago about Gentleman in Moscow. And one of the things I really I said that was so important to me that everybody here was that I was saying I don't think this is the book for everyone at every moment. In the Louise Penny series now that I've been reading it for 14...14 years now of at least 15. Seven. Yeah, I think I found them in 2008. There have been books, like Trick of the Light, where I read it. And I was like, Huh, went back and re read it later. And it very much landed with me differently. So with any book, I think we need to be open to the fact that it might not land at that moment. And a reread later might unearth something totally different. But part of the genius of the Louise Penny books, is they are even better in some ways in the reread again, like I always say I want to say, if you guys if you tried Still Life or the first couple of books, and you maybe didn't love them, try them on audio. If one of the books like for me Trick of the Light, I read it in print, and then I ended up it didn't land for me very well. I went back listened to it on audio a couple years

later, I was a different reader. And it was a different format. It was a totally different experience. So I know that I will reread *The Madness of Crowds* at some point. And I am very sure that I will bring something different to the reading and to the book will give me something different. And that's why that's one of the things that we absolutely love about books and reading. Right. So

Mindy Brouse 58:45

Well and as a part of this conversation, when I was preparing, I think this is harder. So when we talk about and think about what do you do with a favorite author? And you have a conflicted book. Now, I think that's even more complicated when it's a series, because that brings a whole different level because you have characters that you've been invested in. You have history, right? Yeah. So when I was approaching this, and I was preparing, I was like, I don't have that. I don't have a long term series. I don't have a series that I'm completely invested in yet, except for Eddie Flynn and Steve Kavanaugh. So I just got the new book. And I was I was constantly Okay, so how would I approach this, you know, as what Meredith is struggling with. So here's my healthy way of handling this Meredith.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 59:36

Okay, good.

Mindy Brouse 59:36

Okay, so I avoid totally, so if I am worried about an author landing off for me, so for me right now, it's Maggie O'Farrell. I loved *Hamnet* so much. Yeah, I cannot pick up anything else by her. I've been gifted a copy of a book and honestly, Meredith, I can't do it right now. She She, I need her to stay where she is. Yeah. But it's different in the sense that it's not a series right. So I don't have characters that I feel like are waiting for me. Yeah, it's for me for a series. I have... *Gamache* and *John-Guy* are waiting. Pick the book up Mindy, but I don't have that when it comes to Maggie O'Farrell. Same thing for *Fredrik Backman*. For me, *Fredrik Backman* is up there and I started *Britt-Marie* and I put it down. I was calling it a DNF until your recent discussion, I'm calling it a pause. But Meredith, it's been paused for over a year and a half.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:00:35

That's okay.

Mindy Brouse 1:00:36

Because I love him so freaking much. Like, I love his books, they they give me goosebumps just when they start on audio I I just get emotional when I when I hang out with him on Instagram, because you know, we hang out all those things. So what I do is I delay or I avoid, or and this is my other super, super way of handling a super healthy way, Meredith is that I just don't even look for other books by the author.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:01:05

You just say this was enough.

Mindy Brouse 1:01:08

This was it. Harry's Trees by Jon Cohen. I do. I don't want to look for any other books by Jon Cohen. I feel bad for him because he probably has, you know, payments and bills he would like to pay by writing. I'm guessing he probably has other books. But Meredith, I'm not going there. No, I'm just not. So I think about it. And I that's how I approach it. And so for me, I'm avoiding this struggle that you had to face. But the only time I could face it is with Steve Kavanaugh. So if an Eddie Flynn book lands differently, I'm going to be calling you and you're going to have to walk me through right what you've walked through.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:01:45

Absolutely. Well, and I think you're right that when it's a series, it is really different. Because So, you know, Amor Towles has a new book coming out in October, The Lincoln Highway, and so I'm very much looking forward to it. And there's it's there's some trepidation, but it's not like A Gentleman in Moscow. What happens next where I would feel like I had to you know what I mean, there it would be even further loaded, that the trepidation, the expectation would be even further way down. So good. Well, Mindy, thank you for talking about this with me because I feel so much better about the fact that I had that aha moment. I kind of want to go back and reread The Madness of Crowds right now. Because I kind of feel like I would already bring a new lens to it. Just having this aha moment. So I love bookish therapy.

Mindy Brouse 1:02:35

Yay, yay, Meredith. I'm glad I can help. And I I think you having Roxanna that helps you see these things, too. It's so good. I love hearing when you bring that up.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:02:46

All right, Mindy. So we are going to press some books into your hands. We're going to try to do it in a speedy way. Because we have talked a lot of book talk today. So what book do you want to press into our listeners hands today?

Mindy Brouse 1:02:58

Well, Meredith, I don't think you're gonna be surprised. And I was super, super happy. I got to record with you first and season four, because this is I feel like I'm Indiana. Meredith press. I am pressing the perfect book Project Hail Mary, by Andy Weir. Yes, guys. I tried to wait to give this book time to be on shelves longer and be read more. But here's the truth. I kind of think this is a perfect book. Yeah, it has everything. It has flawed humans. It has what and what we do when we realized we aren't who we thought we were. And we have to make redeeming decisions or think through who we are. I think this is a stunning look at what it means to connect to others. And how it changes us when we do. And the irony is that it's all in space by a guy named Ryland Grace who wakes up on his spaceship and he doesn't know how the heck he got there, or why he's there. Just makes it even more fun. I think this is a book everyone should read. And it for sure had to be on the press list. So y'all if you haven't read it, you're in trouble. Go get it right now Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:04:04

I'm glad that you're putting it on the press list and not waiting because I agree it deserves its place there. All right, well, I'm going to press a book that we've talked about a few different times, but just recently in the bookish friends group, and on the big show of this book came up. If you love true crime, I just want all of you to know I'm adding to the press list. My favorite true crime or one of my two favorite True Crime books. This one is *The Yoga Store Murder: The Shocking True Account of the Lululemon Killing* by Dan Morse. Now really carefully you guys need to know follow the link in the show notes because there's apparently some other True Crime talk about the same crime. This is the one by Dan Morse. This is the one I'm pressing, not the other one. This is this is only available in some horrible mass market paperback or I think it's available on Kindle. So you know, you might want to get it that way too, but it's here. Just bear with the mass market paperback because if you like True Crime listen up. So the setup this crime is so on ... in March of 2011 two young Lululemon sales women were found brutally attacked inside a Lulu store in Bethesda, Maryland. 30 year old Jayna Murray was dead, slashed and stabbed more than 300 times. Investigators found blood splattered on walls and size 14 men's shoe prints leading away from her body. 28 year old Brittany Norwood, her co-worker was thankfully found alive. She was tied up on the bathroom floor. She had lacerations, a bloody face, her clothes were bet she told investigators that two masked men had slipped into the Bethesda Maryland Maryland, Lulu store just after closing, planning to rob it. She spoke of the night of terror that she and her co-worker had experienced. Investigators were sympathetic. But as the case went on, Brittany's story began to unravel. Why rob a business that mostly deals in credit card charges? And why was Jayna murdered but Brittany was left alive? You guys, this book is pure True Crime goodness. I challenge you to open it up and be able to stop reading before you finish. It's not super long. Again, it's maybe 250 pages in a mass market paperback. We're talking about a couple hours of reading. This is true crime gold. So it's it's gory. Its gory.

Mindy Brouse 1:06:40

But isn't this a TV show now too?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:06:42

I don't know

Mindy Brouse 1:06:43

Or is that a different one?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:06:44

I don't know.

Mindy Brouse 1:06:45

I think it is Meredith. But I'll double check. But I think Amy Allen Clark invited me to watch it, buddy watch this. And I was like, what the what? Oh, now I'm gonna have to read it.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:06:55

Yeah, no, I'm gonna look for that. I have not seen this on screen at all. But this story is amazing. And at the end, it's written so well in this book. It's amazing. And sad that it's true. It's It's true. It's really really tragic. So that is The Yoga Store Murder: The Shocking True Account of the Lululemon Killing by Dan Morse.

Mindy Brouse 1:07:18

Creepy, wonderful, Meredith. Perfect press.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:07:22

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.

Mindy Brouse 1:07:29

And you can find me Mindy at @gratefulforgrace on Instagram.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:07:33

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

Mindy Brouse 1:07:43

Our website also includes links to all the ways you can support the show like Patreon and our merch. You can also contact us directly at @currentlyreadingpodcast on Instagram, or via email at currentlyreadingpodcast@gmail.com.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:07:57

And if you really want to help us rate and review us on Apple podcasts and shout us out on social media, you guys, those shout outs make the hugest difference toward us finding our exact right audience.

Mindy Brouse 1:08:10

We especially love five star reviews, so don't be scared to take the time to do that. Thanks so much.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:08:16

Alright, until next week. Happy reading Mindy.

Mindy Brouse 1:08:19

Happy reading Meredith.