



# Season 4, Episode 43: Fantastic Summer Reads + The Books From Childhood That Impacted Us

Mon, 6/13 • 1:03:29

**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 read recently. And as you know, we won't shy away from having strong opinions. So get ready.

**Kaytee Cobb** 00:24

We are light on the chitchat, heavy on the book talk and our descriptions will always be spoiler free. Today we'll discuss our current reads, a bookish deep dive, and then we'll 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 will make hard choices in order to support the joy of my reading life.

**Kaytee Cobb** 00:35

And I'm Kaytee Cobb, a homeschooling mom of four living in New Mexico. And summertime means margaritas and books, which are not hard choices. This is episode number 43 of season four and we're so glad you're here.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 00:57

Margaritas and books are definitely not hard choices. Summer Reading is some of the most fun reading.

**Kaytee Cobb** 01:03

It truly is imperative. I like that our bite size intros were basically opposite today.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 01:09

Yes, they definitely were. Alright, so we are going to get into our bookish moments of the week, which will shed some light on those bite size intros. But first, we want to tell you that our deep dive today, ironically, we're going to talk a little bit about our school lives. So we've had a couple of people ask us this question, what were the books that you read in school that had an impact on your reading, or that you loved? I have a lot of thoughts about this. I can't wait to talk about this later on. As I thought about it deeper, I realized I have a lot of thoughts about the way that I was educated to read material.

**Kaytee Cobb 01:46**

It was interesting for me to trace some roots back to see where some of the things I love or hate now came from.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:54**

Right? Absolutely very, very interesting. Okay, the other thing, the other sort of mischief we need to manage, not an ad for ourselves, actually something we want to give you guys an opportunity about... you love it. You know it, you love it. The listener press episode is on the horizon you guys. Every year, countless of you send in your thoughts about a book you want to press into all of our listeners hands. Kaytee, do you want to tell them how they can do that? And most importantly, what their deadline is for doing it?

**Kaytee Cobb 02:25**

Yes, y'all. This is one of our favorite episodes of the year. Meredith and I get to get books pressed into our hands by all of you, and it blows up our TBR in a huge way. We love it. You love it. Everybody comes to us and says we want more. We want more. Well, here it is, here's your chance. What we need from you is a voice memo. You just record it on your phone using your Voice Memo app, make sure you include your name, where you live, a title for the book that you want to press, the author, a description of it and why you love it.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 02:57**

So when we say a description of it, we want you to say, "Here's the setup".

**Kaytee Cobb 03:01**

That's right. Those are the magic words. If you just tell us why you love it, then we don't know what the book's about. And sometimes that's even more important information, you can rest assured that we will make you sound as great as we possibly can with the memo you send. If you stumble over your words and have to retake, it's okay. Do not beat yourself up and look for perfection in this. It'll be great. Just send us what you're excited about. We want those voice memos by the end of this week, y'all. Right now, today is June 13. We're going to record that episode at the end of this week. So we need them by Friday. Please send them in as soon as you listen to this message. Just pop a note in your phone and say, "Send Meredith and Kaytee an email". We want to hear from you. We're so excited to get this episode put together and get all your voices into our ears.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 03:51**

Absolutely. And like Kaytee said, it's very easy. You probably already have in mind what book you've been thinking you want to press. Just go to your Voice Memo app. It is native to your phone, at least an iPhone. Kaytee, is it native to Okay, so it's just go in that app, speak extemporaneously and send it over to us in an email. The app makes it super simple to send it to [currentlyreadingpodcast@gmail.com](mailto:currentlyreadingpodcast@gmail.com) Don't be afraid to do this you guys. This is one of our most popular episodes of the year. We absolutely love it. So, okay. Mischief is managed. So let's talk about our bookish moments of the week. Kaytee, what have you got this week?

**Kaytee Cobb** 04:32

Okay, Meredith, I'm kind of cheating here. Last week we had the amazing Kendra Adichi on, but that was also our first episode of June. So we did not do an ad for ourselves. So today I want to talk about, my bookish moment of the week is actually our Indie Press List episode, which in real time just dropped yesterday for us, but now has been out in the world for about a week and a half for the bookish friends. We are working this month with Cafe Con Libros in Brooklyn, New York. Having released that episode, having gotten a list from them, that is all women, all Own Voices, all just fantastic, amazing books that run the gamut of summer reading. It just reminds me how much I love the indie press list. And actually, while we were recording that episode, Meredith, you're the, you're the reason that I wanted to bring this as a bookish moment. Because you said, I love it when we're in the first month with a new bookstore, because they just don't know. They just don't know what's about to happen to them. The bookish friends are amazing, and they just like lavish themselves onto a brand new bookstore. And then that that episode drop day comes, and that bookstore is like, holy bananas.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 05:45

We didn't think it was gonna be like this, right? So no matter how much we try to prepare them, they are never prepared. They're never prepared.

**Kaytee Cobb** 05:51

It's amazing.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 05:52

And I have to say that historical romance that has just taken off that's on that list is perfect summer reading. So yes, right. If you have been wondering when is a good time to become a Currently Reading Bookish Friend, The Indie Press List from this month is a great time to join us. You can also get All Things Murderful with me and Elizabeth Barnhill, if scary books are your jam. So Kaytee, I'm glad that you brought that up. We didn't do that last week. You're right. We were so enraptured with Kendra Adachi, which one of my favorite episodes we've ever done.

**Kaytee Cobb** 06:21

So it's an ad within a bookish moment, but mostly I just want to be excited about Cafe Con Libros. So join us. Five bucks a month. It's worth it.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 06:29

Absolutely. Okay. My bookish moment of the week is good. Well, it's, it's not so great wrapped in what is eventually good, or ultimately good. So you guys know a few months ago, I redid my office in my house and I made it into my library right? So I got all these bookshelves and I did you know and I just made it exactly what I wanted it to be including ordering a bespoke Blue Velvet chair and ottoman. It is stunning. It is stunning. It looks so good in that room. Love. Except Katie, that bespoke Blue Velvet chair is not comfortable.

**Kaytee Cobb** 07:13

Oh no.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 07:15**

I am bereft. My husband is bereft because I spent a pretty penny on that chair. But you know what I was realizing. And I think this is the reason for me to bring it from my bookish moment of the week, I started to realize that although I had I had been using that room all the time before that chair came because the library was put together except for the chair for several flicked for three months. Once it was there, all of a sudden, I was taking pictures of that room, but I was no longer being drawn to sit in it and read and a couple I kept thinking, Oh, well, maybe it's just like the flow of my life. No, Kaytee, it was the chair being uncomfortable. So finally, I had to just say to Johnny, I am so sorry. But I have to make a move here. And so I had him help me hoist that beautiful blue chair upstairs and then my comfortable, much less expensive, just standard, got it from Wayfair chaise lounge, came back into that room and all of a sudden, Kaytee, I am sitting in that room again.

**Kaytee Cobb 08:24**

This is amazing. I am very sad, of course about this entire thing. But I am very excited that you do have a comfortable space to sit there that will draw you in to that room. Right?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 08:37**

Because the most important thing was that I had a place where I wanted to sit and spend time not that it looked a certain way. So we figured that out and we made it happen. And so Jackson actually has it upstairs now and he's like "Mom, I actually kind of like the really weird lowliness and hardness of this chair". I'm like, "Go with God, sweetie. Go with God".

**Kaytee Cobb 08:59**

Oh, Jackson. Bless her heart, honey.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 09:03**

All right. Okay, so, Kaytee, I am so excited to talk about current reads this week and I'm going to tell you why. There are a couple of things that are very different about my reads this week and I know I'm getting ready to toss it over to you but let me just tell you right up at the top. I am doing something I almost never do which is I just closed the cover on a book and I am bringing it today. Literally I finished it 30 minutes ago. I almost never do that because I like to think on things and script them a little bit more. Now, this one you have to hear about. Also, all three of my current reads are new releases. They are all three out right now. So you will be able to get your hands on all three of them. I almost never have fresh fresh reads like this. And I'm so excited to talk about all three of them. I have a book that is going to creep you right out. I have a book that is going to give you all the juicy salaciousnes that your summer could possibly want. And I have a book that is such a rollercoaster ride from start to finish that your heart will be pounding. I have three great books to talk about today, Kaytee.

**Kaytee Cobb 10:09**

Sounds fantastic. I also have three great books to talk about today. So I'm going to get started with my first.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 10:15**

Do it, do it.

**Kaytee Cobb** 10:17

This book has been buzzy for a little bit, but now I already feel like it's died down a little bit. So I'm very excited to bring Taste by Stanley Tucci to the podcast today. Yes. I was looking at my May reads to prep for this episode and I had chosen something else for this first slot. But then I spent 10 minutes on the phone gushing to a friend about this book and I knew I had to swap it in right away. So Taste is subtitled with My Life Through Food. And folks, Stanley Tucci is a full Italian, raised by a very Italian family, and you will be hungry reading this book. Please note, pasta will be consumed. Yeah, he starts with his childhood, when he would bring a full Italian meal to his elementary school for lunch, like a meatball sub with a salad and garlic bread and treat it with a friend who had a pop tart and fruit roll up because kids are weird. And that's what they do. And now he looks back at himself. And he's like young Stanley, what were you thinking? We move through his life. But all through his experience around the table. This book has some language in it that I think is perfectly placed and totally perfect to the story. But tender ears might have a hard time with it. When he drops an F bomb, about a fantastic bowl of Alfredo sauce or about adult humans who cut their spaghetti with a knife and fork, which makes him so livid. It brings me to tears from laughing so hard every time I think about it. It's amazing. There is some behind the scenes celebrity gossip in here, but nothing yucky. Right? Mostly he's not talking about other people except about how much he loves working with other actors and actresses how great Ryan Reynolds is and Meryl Streep, like he just is is loving and sweet to everyone, which makes me very happy. Mostly he's sharing about his own life, the ups and downs and his path to startup. The audiobook here is a must if you like a memoir read by the author, because you truly cannot go wrong with his voice in your ears for sevenish hours, or less if you speed it up like I do, I did find one thing in the audiobook annoying, and that he would recount conversations between a whole group of family members and the way that was narrated really grated on my nerves. Thankfully, that only happens a handful of times in the book. It's not frequent. So that grating was very short lived. Overall, I have a book metaphor for you, Meredith.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 12:40

Oh, good. I love it. I love it.

**Kaytee Cobb** 12:42

This book is like a big bowl of spaghetti carbonara. A bit salty, packed full of flavor and fittingly complex, but made with simple ingredients. I found myself laughing out loud, often and loved nearly every minute. It's Taste by Stanley Tucci.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 12:59

That is a perfect book metaphor. I know I'm sure I have to have pasta for lunch today. But so Kaytee, let's talk just a little bit about some feedback. I haven't read or listened to Taste yet. But I have heard almost everyone who's talked about it say that they really liked it. But I have heard that you need to manage expectations a little bit. Because a lot of people I think are going into this thinking they're going to get more of a memoir that maybe includes more of his sort of career related things. And this is by the title we should know. Right? Right. This is really mostly about food. I just heard a lot of people say "If I'd known that, I think I would have liked it even more." What do you think about that?

**Kaytee Cobb** 13:44

Yes, I agree. Even when he's talking about career stuff, it almost always has to do with food, like the food that's served on set when you're filming a movie, or the show that he did where he visited different restaurants and got to know the chefs. It's not "And then I went for an audition and thankfully so and so dropped out. So now I got that part". Like this, that's not what we're doing here.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 14:09

Exactly. Right. And I just think that knowing that especially, you know, again, from a couple of people who read it who said like if I, if that's where my mind had been, I think I could have relaxed into it even more. So. Okay. All right. That's good to know. Okay. Are you ready for my first of three perfect summer reads?

**Kaytee Cobb** 14:25

I am. I'm so excited.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 14:27

I have got to talk about Hidden Pictures by Jason Rekulak. So you guys have heard about this. We got a sneak peek about it, again, if you're not a Currently Reading Bookish Friend and you love mysteries and thrillers, what are you doing with your life because On All Things Murderful Elizabeth Barnhill often puts these books on our radar so we can have them pre ordered or held in our library super early. That's how I heard about Hidden Pictures. Here's the setup. So as our story starts, Mallory Quinn, our lead character is taking a job in the picture perfect leafy green suburb of Springbrook, New Jersey. She's going to be a babysitter for golden couple Ted and Caroline Maxwell. They are absolute perfection. She's going to look after their five year old son Teddy, who is a sweetie sweetheart. Mallory immediately loves her job. She is a recovering addict who's very, very much on the road to recovery. Her recovery means everything to her. So living in the Maxwells pool house, going up for nightly runs, it's all the stability that she's been craving and what she really needs, and she starts to very much bond with sweetie sweetheart, Teddy, who is just absolutely adorable. And he is never without his sketchbook and pencil. His drawings are the usual five year old stuff that we see right trees, rabbits, balloons, but then one day, he draws something different. He draws something very different, my friends. You are not ready. And one of those things is a man in a forest dragging a woman's lifeless body. Now, the setup for this book in other places has gone further and tells you more than you need to know. I'm gonna stop right there. I'm just gonna give you two warnings. First, I will say you will be woefully disappointed if you get this book in any other format other than in print. You only need the print version of this book. Yes. Second warning. Keep the lights on. You are not ready. Okay, five star summer read Kaytee. This was so so so good. And I say that having gone into it with really high expectations, which can be dicey. Right. I was a little bit worried because well, two things I worried how can a thriller live up to the hype? You guys know that that is so often not possible. And also, I was a little worried about these pictures that we'd heard so much about it felt like it was going to be gimmicky, and I was a little uncomfortable about that. But I should always trust Elizabeth Barnhill. She never steered us wrong. She knows her thrillers. She knows the difference between good ones and bad ones. So I waded in. And within the first 10 minutes, I knew I was going to read this book in a day. And I was texting. Elizabeth saying I was not ready. You literally scared the TT out of me.

**Kaytee Cobb 17:17**

On your new chair?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 17:18**

No. Luckily, I was not. Luckily, I was outside. So it was fine. Oh,

**Kaytee Cobb 17:24**

and the pool is great.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 17:25**

Right? Pool reading.. No, no, I was not in the pool. All right. So the creepy pictures are everything. They definitely give a vibe to this book. And even better, I was so happy to find they actually mean something in the story, something you have to figure out. It's not just to play for attention. I was so happy about that being the case, regarding these pictures. All the info is there, you just don't know how it all works together until the end. It is such a hat trick. In fact, not only was this book not gimmicky, it was one of the most creative books I've read in a really long time. I say that knowing that I recently said that about The Appeal. And I actually think if you liked The Appeal, but you wanted a little more creep factor in your puzzle solving, this will hit a sweet middle ground for you. It does have a supernatural element of things. But it's done in a way that again, makes sense. It's not crazy or out of left field and it's grounded in reality. And I actually think that that supernatural element makes this book even more effective rather than taking away from it. Also, I want to say something that I haven't heard anyone else say about this book, which is that the narrative style is really interesting. One of the blurbs on the back mentions that being straightforward, and I actually think it's a great description. The 21 year old narrator Mallory never bothered me, usually 21 year olds do. In fact, I liked her a lot right from the beginning and I was very much rooting for her. And her narrative style is so clear and vibrant. I felt like I was sitting across from Mallory while she was relating this entire thing to me face to face. So it was very visceral in that way. This is that rare thriller that has characters you want to root for twists you don't see coming and a creep factor that makes you want to keep the lights on and a resolution that makes you very happy. In short, this is a thriller that has everything and it should definitely be on your list of summer reads. This is Hidden Pictures by Jason Rekulack

**Kaytee Cobb 19:37**

So excited I remember listening to that episode of All Things MurderFul because like we've mentioned before, that's one of the things that I kind of don't touch until it comes out to everybody else and it's really fun for me to get to experience it with everyone else and I loved not just seeing the buzz but like watching people being like, Okay, wait, can I handle this picture book like picture book? Oh my god.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 19:58**

So, right it's not because it's a full novel, so I definitely I definitely don't want anyone to think that we're in graphic novel territory here or Wimpy Kid territory. It's a full novel. It just has pictures in it. You are not ready.

**Kaytee Cobb 20:12**

I'm not ready.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 20:14

So good. All right, Kaytee, what's your next book?

**Kaytee Cobb** 20:16

Okay, this is very different. Obviously. I have a middle grade novel for us. A little different than Hidden Pictures. Okay, this book that I'm very excited to tell you how this book came into my hands. So this book is called A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll. And it came to me from a new source, one of our bookish friends, Lexi Largent, who's that @readLexieread, got her husband to join Bookstagram and he's at @thewilltoread. He listens regularly to the podcast. Like very few, very few dudes, listen to the podcast. So we appreciate every single one of them as an individual, and he sent me a message saying he had just read a fantastic debut by a neuro divergent author that made him think of me because I love middle grade, and I love diverse reads. So I snagged it from the library right away, I had to get my hands on it. Elle McNicoll writes the first person story of Addie, who is neuro divergent on the autism spectrum, and living in a small Scottish town when she learns about the witch trials that took place there centuries before young women who were different in one way or another were burned at the stake or hanged or drowned. And young Addie is not standing for the town sweeping this history under the rug. She can't handle it. She she's not she's not about that game. She has to face up to her own fears and lean into her own strengths in order to make a difference in this tiny town. And she does so with aplomb. She is fantastic. This is middle grade. So it isn't long. But between Addie and her twin sisters and the other girls in town, you get a real feel for an entire village and the different types of people who live there. Elle McNicoll may be a debut writer, but she's certainly excellent at crafting a sentence and a character in a way that gets you right in the fields. I gave this middle grade novel five stars, good job Bill, way to put it into my hands for the way that it interwove history with current day, and the way that she told one child's story of being on the autism spectrum. And we know every child story and every adult story that's on the spectrum is different. This is not trying to be a novel for everyone. It's just Addie and her story. There's some intense bullying in this book by a teacher. And of course, you have a whole range of responses from the other kids and at his class, the tie ins to the witch trials and the way that Addie learns and then finds her own voice through the historical event. were exceptionally well done. I really, really loved this one has a great cover. It was excellent on audio with that Scottish narrators accent and I'm so grateful to Bill for making sure that I read it. It's A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 22:57

That sounds really, really good. And I do have to say, Lexy is a part of our Austin Literary Society. Good friend, I highly recommend that you follow her on Instagram. And Bill is a great follow to I love a couple that reads together. Yeah, they have great. They're really good readers. They bring interesting books, they have interesting and sometimes hot takes on books that are sweeping Instagram, but they talk about books in a way that really are constructive. They're both really, really great follow. So I'm so glad that you listened to Bill's recommendation. All right, my next read this is our salacious, juicy if you love to sort of peek behind the doors, of famous houses, or in this case, famous castles, you're really, really going to love this. I had to bring this book today because as we sit here right now, it is the third of June, we are deep in the midst of celebration of the Platinum Jubilee for the Queen of England. And so I had to bring The Palace Papers by Tina Brown. The setup here is simple. This is nonfiction of the absolute



page, turning kind if you love anything about the Royals. Tina Brown, of course, is not only a royal watcher of the last 30 years, but she also is a fantastic author, and she was the editor of Vanity Fair. So she knows how to find a great story. She knows how to research a great story. And that's what we're getting here. The notes that actually sort of the receipts on what she talks about in this book are a very large portion of this book. So be aware of that. She really really did her homework here. In this book *The Palace Papers* Tina Brown explores the personal lives of the Royals of our generation, the Queen and Prince Philip all the way to Harry and Megan. It's billed as picking up where Tina Brown's masterful *the Diana Chronicles* left off, and *The Palace Papers* reveals how the royal family had to reinvent itself after the traumatic incidents that happened on Princess Diana's death. It starts though, way before that. It goes into details about the Queen's childhood, and Prince Philip's childhood, things I had never heard before. This book goes there, but in a very well researched way. I will say I used this book as my airplane book. That's how page turning it was. I had it on Kindle. I also had it on hardback because I wanted to get all the pictures and everything. It is interesting from the first to the last page. If you love the Royals, you will be rubbing your hands together like a supervillain when you get your hands on this one. The first thing I want to say is I love Tina Brown's writing style. She has an amazing way with words. She's kind of like a tiger, who knows how to bite, but just hard enough. She really really lets you know that you do not want to mess with her. But as long as you stay on her right side, you're going to be all right. There is so much history in this book. It is juicy, juicy, juicy, but again, I'm not into juicy unless it is sourced to the max and this one is this book spills the tea on all things Camilla and Charles. It gives you a peek inside why Will and Kate work so well together and maybe saving the monarchy for the future. And it gives you all the insider drama on the entire Harry and Megan brouhaha. I should also warn you that there is quite a deep dive into the whole Prince Andrew Jeffrey Epstein situation and that is yucky from start to finish. Trigger warnings abound in that chapter for sexual abuse, human trafficking and general douchebaggery. You can however, skip that entire chapter and enjoy the rest of the book. There is no reason that you have to read it. It's clear that Tina Brown very much respect to the Queen and the British ideals of the stiff upper lip and bearing adversity quietly and without complaining and that Tina Brown has very little patience for anyone who is lazy, entitled or leads with ego. She saved some of her worst criticism in this vein for Harry and Megan. She is however a big fan not only of the Queen, but also of Kate and Camilla. And I have to say I was kind of surprised by that. I'm tempted to say that this book isn't going to change anyone's mind on anything. But then I thought she actually changed my mind on several things upon reading this book. I have way more compassion than ever before for Prince Phillip rest his soul. his backstory is amazing. I have way more respect for Camilla than I did before. Bless her blonde bouffant. That woman has gone through a lot and she has had the quintessential stiff upper lip. I have also had a solid rethink on my position on the Harry and Megan stuff. They don't come off as well as I'd hoped when the dust cleared. So no, this book might not change everyone's minds. But if you're a lover of all things royal you will want to check out *The Palace Papers* by Tina Brown.

**Kaytee Cobb** 28:00

Sounds fun. Now this one makes me think of the Elizabeth Holmes so many thoughts. Book is this is a much deeper dive right?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 28:13

Well, Elizabeth Holmes her HRH book, Her Royal Highness is very much actually it would be a great flight to do together. Okay, it would be I mean, those books would talk to each other really, really well. Elizabeth Holmes books, which and I'm the biggest Elizabeth Holmes fan, follow her. Well, I can't tell you this in real time, because right now she's doing the Jubilee in London and her stories are everything. But if you love the Royals, you got to follow our homes. But her book is largely about the women of this current royal family but a lot through fashion and the way that they really communicate. It's very interesting how they communicate through fashion and accessorizing and what gets worn and who's made it and all of that. It's got absolutely gorgeous visuals. So I love that book. Those books would go really, really well together if you're wanting to take a summer deep, deep deep dive into the House of Windsor.

**Kaytee Cobb** 29:06

Oh, that sounds fun. And then you could add like the gown and all all kinds of like fiction around the royal family who that could be a fun summer adventure. Absolutely.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 29:16

You could do something very interesting to theme your summer reading. That sounds really fun Kaytee.

**Kaytee Cobb** 29:21

Yeah, yeah. Red White and Royal Blue. Oh, oh. Oh, I can't see. I think Yeah.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 29:27

Wait, is it Majesty? What's the first?

**Kaytee Cobb** 29:29

American Royals.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 29:30

Okay, only American Royals and then you don't go any further.

**Kaytee Cobb** 29:33

And nobody read the second one. Okay. Okay. My third book this week is World of Wonders by Aimee Nezhukumatathil. I was a mere four essays into this book before I bought it as a gift for my mom. It is beautiful and touching and easy to read while also being willing to go there. I went back to find the original posts that made Katie Proctor my buddy reader, my Roxanna really Katie Proctor is my Roxanna, and I both pick it up. And it was Sherry Oerr in the bookish friends group who said that she was reading one story a day. She said, she loves books that and I quote, touch my heart and leave me better than I was. If you love our world and all its wonders, you won't want to miss this one. Between that reinforcement and the gorgeous cover that I cannot get over, Kaytee and I both ordered a copy that day and decided to start it on May 1. Aimee is a Filipina, South Indian American, born in Chicago. She is a poet first and has lived all over the United States from a mental institution in Kansas where her mom was a doctor on call to the desert of Arizona. All like she's been all over the place. She lived in a mental institution. Meredith crazy. That is crazy. Crazy. Okay, so from the catalpa tree in the American

South to the mighty Swaro of Arizona. To the whaleshark she encountered an aquarium to the octopus her children brought back from a sea dive, she brings us into her life story through the wonders of the natural world that have graced it. She tells us about drawing a peacock as a child and learning about what girls were and were not allowed to like, namely the color blue, which is personally offensive to me. Yes. And to you. I know. Yes, she tells us about the call of the putt and the magic of fireflies. We visit her wedding through the gorgeous saris and the superb bird of paradise, which dances like Indian women in sorry, every time I opened this book, I first gasped at the beautiful illustration for that chapter. And then I sunk into a short three to five page essay that brought a new animal to life and connected it to her story in a fascinating way. While you could absolutely binge read this one in a single day, it's only 165 pages. I'm so glad that Katie and I read it the right way and sank into it slowly. This book would be a perfect gift for the friend that loves to be outside the nature lover in your life. Or the perfect morning read for you friend. If you are that person. I adored it from beginning to end i It's going on my shelf. But I also like I've watched by it multiple times pulled it off the shelf again, and just opened to a random page and found the nearest illustration and then remembered the story associated with it. They're beautifully done. I'm obsessed with it. It's World of Wonders by Aimee Nezhukumatathil.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 32:23**

Excellent. That sounds really really beautiful. Especially when you talked about birds of paradise looking like an Indian woman in the sari. I'm not going to look at them the same again.

**Kaytee Cobb 32:35**

Oh, they're so fantastic. I want a little clip of a bird of paradise clearing its little dancing stage. Doing it's dance for its potential mate because that encapsulate this book perfectly. I love it so much.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 32:48**

Love it. I love it. Okay, all right, Kaytee, are you ready to talk about this one that I just finished reading a half hour ago and I have to talk about right now. Okay, I have to hold it in my hands for a couple of reasons. You guys I'm doing I'm going commando here. You know, I normally have a full setup and I know exactly what I'm going to tell you. So this is all extemporaneous. This is all just a brain dump because I need you guys to know about this book right now. I can't wait any longer. You need it for your summer reading. This book is Hide by Kiersten White. It has one of the most epically epically creepy covers that I've ever seen. You've probably seen it. It's a bright yellow book. It has a ferris wheel at the top. And then it's got all of these roots growing down from it in the most creepy way possible. All right, I buddy read this with Betsie Ikenberry. We just finished it together. We were just talking about how the heck to talk about this book without giving anything away because you must have the same experience we had you like I can't ruin anything for you. I cannot. But I have a few things to say. And that's going to start with me reading the inside cover, which gives you the perfect little intro. Here's what it says the challenge. Spend a week hiding in an abandoned amusement park and don't get caught. The Prize? Enough money to change everything. Even though everyone is desperate to win. Every one of the contestants are desperate to win Mack our lead character is sure that she can beat the competition. All she has to do is hide. And she is an expert at that. In fact, her ability to hide is the reason that she is there and her entire family isn't. But as the people around her begin disappearing one by one, Mack realizes that the competition is way more sinister than she imagined and that working together might be the only way for them to survive. 14 competitors, seven days everywhere to hide but nowhere to run.

Come out come out wherever you are. Alright, now I'm going to show you this Kaytee and then everyone again you got to get this book in print. You guys I'm sorry. I'm bringing you two books that you have to bring in print. Kaytee, look at the map on the inside of the book. Have you seen it? And down here on the map on the inside of the book, it says "RIP little Patty Stratton." On page two. Do you know what figures prominently on page two of this magnificent summer read? We have an overgrown amusement park so overgrown that the bushes that were little 50 years ago are now right up at your eye height. And right up at the top of the bush on page two is an empty black, Mary Jane shoe, the perfect size for a little girl.

### **Meredith Monday Schwartz 35:37**

Okay, this is another five star book you guys and again, another perfect summer read. First, I have to note that at least 10 people, 10 separate people contacted me to make sure I knew about this book. Because somehow when they saw creepy, amusement park, they thought about me first and I really have spent some time. I figured, yeah, I've spent some time really figuring out what does that mean about me and my legacy in the book world. Alright, but we're gonna leave that aside for right now. Because the reality is they were absolutely right, this book fulfills its promise in the creepy amusement park genre. It's not a long book. But author Kiersten White does an amazing job with both setting up a perfectly paced thriller. Let me say that again, it is perfectly paced from start to finish. And also offering us something more on several levels, it would definitely be an apt description to say that this book is Hunger Games mixed with Fantasticland. But that description doesn't do it all. Because this book, again is more it is more layered. It's definitely better written than Fantasticland. So don't let that comparison draw you off. If you felt that Fantasticland was overly violent and not very well written, this one is violent HSPs, you're going to have to watch yourself very carefully here. But it is not violent for violence sake, everything here makes sense. And it is very well written. The narrative style here really is a trick. There are a lot of characters that you're keeping track of, especially in the first half of this book. That was buddy reading it. As I said, with Betsie, both of us are type ones, both of us immediately started keeping a list and checking things off as people met their fate, which was actually really, really fun. But that level of complicated narrative structure wasn't difficult to follow, because the author somehow found a way to seamlessly on the very same page, go back and forth from different points of view. And you were never confused as to what was happening, or who was saying or feeling what that is a major feat of engineering from a pros perspective. And like I said earlier, thrillers are all about pacing. And I hate nothing more than a book that starts out strong, and then falls off in the second half or lols. In the messy middle. This book, kept it up, kept the heart pounding, from the very first page all the way to the last, every single plot point that she raised up in this slim book made Betsy and I want to keep reading 90% of our back and forth in the day and a half it took us to read this book together was about us being mad because something or other in our lives was keeping us from reading this book. That's how page turning it was. We were like, Oh, my kids need dinner. Why do we have kids? Oh, my husband wants to blah, blah, blah. Why do we have husbands I mean, this is a we literally started talking about an island where all you have to do is read because all we were just so irritated. We couldn't just read this book start to finish. We couldn't wait to find out what was going to happen. And lots and lots of things happen. But it never loses the core of its linear thread. It never goes down too many rabbit holes, it just firmly holds you in its grip from start to finish, I found several characters to root for in this book. And I was very satisfied. By the ending. I will say that there are several things that I'm dying to mention to you in this setup. But I can't again, we really, really, really want you to have the experience that we just had

reading this book. So I'm being very careful. But I am going to give you this easter egg after you finish this book. I want you to send me a direct message. Yes, I know that hundreds and hundreds of you're going to do this but this is how important it is to me. I just want to make sure that there's a piece of the puzzle that you have, because Betsy had it and because we were buddy reading it, she was able to give it to me after we finished it because she's a good buddy reader and a good friend. She wasn't going to spoil anything for me, but when she did, I was like, had blown up emoji. I couldn't I felt like a ding dong for having missed it. But then I was so grateful because it made me like the book 10 times more, and it made me immediately want to do a reread of it. So promise me that you will DM me after you read it to so I can be sure that you have this piece of the puzzle, but not before. If you haven't read all the way to the end and I'm going to check I am not going to tell you about it. This is an absolutely perfect summer read if you like a heart pounding thriller. This is Hide by Kiersten White.

**Kaytee Cobb** 40:26

Sounds so good. Now I want, now I want a plane trip so that I can binge it in like three hours.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 40:33

Oh, Kaytee do the whole thing at once. This would be the perfect book for like a half country flight like that three and a half hours. If you don't have any other person around you needing your attention. This would absolutely be the perfect plane book. Oh my gosh, it's so so so good.

**Kaytee Cobb** 40:51

Love it. Oh, amazing. So many good books.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 40:55

I know we did have we did have really, really good books. All right, Kaytee. So we're going to take a little bit of a left turn here in June. But we are going to answer a listener question, which is, what are some books that you read for school? Or not for school, but when you were a kid that really impacted your life as reader and Kaytee, you are a homeschooling family now. But you went to public school when you were growing up?

**Kaytee Cobb** 41:19

Yep, I was a public school kid from preschool all the way on. My parents worked so I was in public school, and then after care for public school for my entire formative years of education, right?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 41:33

Just like all of my kids, right? Yep.

**Kaytee Cobb** 41:36

I turned out perfectly weird, just like all of your kids. Exactly.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 41:40

Exactly. wouldn't have it any other way.

**Kaytee Cobb** 41:42

and my kids. My kids are also perfectly weird.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 41:45

Exactly. So what are so when you first thought about this deep dive was there one book that popped in your mind that you couldn't get out of your mind?

**Kaytee Cobb** 41:53

Well, I have one that I really couldn't get out of my mind. And that's gonna be my press today. I'm gonna, like, foreshadow that a little bit right here. So in case anybody's listening, and they're like, I can't believe that this book didn't get brought up, maybe that's where it's gonna come in. But the first one that I could not get out of my head. I honestly don't remember if it was assigned reading or not, but I remember reading it during summer school. And my my best friends and I all in one class together talking about it. But I don't know if we were taking a class that involve this. Or if we just had all decided to read it together. It's First Person Plural, My Life as a Multiple by Cameron West. It's nonfiction. And actually, it makes me think of hidden pictures a little bit, because Cameron West has multiple personality disorder. Oh, he this is like his journals. Basically, as he starts going into therapy, he starts peeling back the layers and figuring out what turned him into a person with multiple personality disorder. And you get to see pictures that he drew in his journal, when he was in one of his dissociative states that I read this at, like 15. And 23 years later, I'm still like, oh, that book was so good. It's crazy. It's so good.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 43:10

Very interesting. Now this is one that I have never heard of. But boy, the whole multiple personality thing which I know we're supposed to call, we need to call something different. My Criminal Minds watching should be helping me figure out but there's another term that we should be using for multiple multiple personality disorder, but 70s and 80s kids, we were very much obsessed with this idea because there was a lot of that going on, you know,

**Kaytee Cobb** 43:38

Yeah, right.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 43:39

Sybil was you know when I because I'm, what 10, 13 years older than you aren, Sybil was the big book when the big nonfiction book that was about that when I was growing up,

**Kaytee Cobb** 43:48

right? Yeah, very, very interesting. That's one that I don't even know if it was assigned. Or if we just all decided to read it together. I have a lot more, of course. But what's the first one that popped into your head Meredith?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 43:59

Well, the first thing that popped in my head until a lot of the books like you that I thought about were ones that I think I was not necessarily reading for school, but that I read, they like all those memories

are kind of mishmash because, you know, it's like school, and then I was reading. But for school, the first one that popped into my head is my mom didn't do a lot of volunteering in class because my mom was a working mom. So she she was doing her thing. But when I was in third grade, she volunteered to lead a reading group on Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH. And so she read the book, and I read the book and we all read the book, and then we were talking about it and I loved the book itself is that's a great read aloud, which of course is a very well known classic. It was so much fun. What I remember is of course how much I love the book, but I remember how much I loved reading the same book as my mom. My mom when I was growing up was always my memories of her or that she loved to read magazines, mostly cooking and food related magazines. And then she loved to read cookbooks. So I saw my mom read reading a lot. But she didn't read the way that I read. And so I didn't feel like our reading guides kind of were joined together, I was kind of led to read by my aunt who did read like me. And then she was one who took me to library a lot and all of that. But thinking about Mrs. Frisby in the Rats of NIMH just makes me it's just such a great crystal clear reading experience. And I just loved that interaction with my mom.

**Kaytee Cobb** 45:27

I think that's wonderful. I love that you still have that shared memory with her too. Yeah, that's really special.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 45:35

It's one of the reasons that as my kids, my older kids, and now Jackson growing up, I've always really, even my oldest Thomas, who he was nine when I came into his life, we immediately started buddy reading books, because again, I just feel like that's such a bonding is such a way for us to spend time together. But like good books, because I realized that I was thinking about my reading Kaytee and I know I'm talking a lot I'm so over caffeinated. I, first of all, as I look at my reading, that was mostly old white men who were the authors of the books that I was being given in school. And which is not to say that, that I didn't love some of that A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens is one of a very impactful read. For me. I love Charles Dickens to this day. It was a book that I felt was going to be hard, but it ended up being really interesting. It opened me up and impacted me as a reader because it made me say, okay, books are not always what you think they're going to be. But most of my reading was old white men. And I'm so glad that Jackson's reading today, here in Texas has been very diverse and layered in a way that my never was. And I know that you're doing so much of that with your kids too. But so, you know, I just this conversation, this topic made me really think about that.

**Kaytee Cobb** 46:51

Yeah, I was definitely finding a lot of that in my school reading as well. Like, like To Kill a Mockingbird. I feel like has to go on this list by Harper Lee, of course. And, and this book now. Now, looking back now, right, we can say, well, that book is about white saviorism. And that book has a black character that's portrayed terribly, and Gregory Peck, or Atticus Finch comes in and he saves the day. But for me, when I was growing up, it, it helped me lean into getting my feet underneath to do the right thing, even when it wasn't popular or easy. And while I don't want to be a person on a white horse riding in to save the day, I do want to have the strength of conviction to say, this is not popular or easy, but I will do it anyway. Because it's important, right? And it's the right thing to do. And so flawed as it may be, it still was really

pivotal for me as a kid to see that example. And to see Scout looking up to her dad like that. She I mean, she's a very important character to me. Yeah, absolutely, that I read it.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 47:57

Right. And, you know, I thought about that a lot, too. In fact, the book that I'm gonna press is related to this. As you know, our press is usually related to our deep dive where we can, but there are some things about my press that I'm like, probably some things that on a reread I would be like, not you know, I kind of wish that had been don't love. But it was written in 1981 and made an impact on me in a positive way, much the way that that you're talking about so there were other books that I really, I mean, there's no question you cannot be born in 1973 As I was and not be completely made, like your spine is literally constructed by Judy Blume books. That is the way it is. Period. End of story. So, Are You there? God, it's me, Margaret. Kaytee, I'm waiting for you to bring that as current read because I need you to read that book.

**Kaytee Cobb** 48:46

Okay, I'm gonna read it this summer, I promise.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 48:48

I need you to bring it as a current read. We need to talk about. We must, we must we must increase our bust. Okay. Also, Deenie, I was positive that I had scoliosis for five years after reading Deenie. Tiger ice, Blubber... I am positive. There's a lot about Blubber that is problematic. But again, I am constructed from tip to toe by Judy Blume books and I am totally fine with that. We aren't even going to talk about Forever, which was my favorite of the Judy Blume books and I am convinced made me the very, very sexually healthy woman that I am today because I read it when I wasn't supposed to. And it really formed a lot of my stuff.

**Kaytee Cobb** 49:28

I wish you could see Meredith right now with her hands.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 49:32

It's it's my stuff. And Judy Blume is the master of the teenage girl novel or the tween. And you know, she and she has some you know, books that were you know, even even younger than that. I love me some Judy Blume.

**Kaytee Cobb** 49:46

Okay, I've got one that I like I was scarred for life. So it's not my spine. It's the it's the slices into my skin death by 1000 cuts. It's Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls, which is the the worst thing that anybody ever made a child read, because every child will die to read this book. It's horrible. It's so good.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 50:09

So I met I just mentioned our oldest son Thomas, who's 33 now, he, when he came into my life, and he was nine, the book that was assigned to him as we began making a life together, no was Where the



Red Fern Grows. So I said, Oh, sweetie, that's a horrible book. It is going to ruin you. Let's read it together. That was our first buddy read together because it ruins children.

**Kaytee Cobb 50:31**

Yeah. And now you had to be bonded for life because you went through a traumatic experience together. It's Oh, my word. Oh, I can't even talk about that book. Okay, I've got I've got some more. Some I had, I had some diversity in my reading in that I was thinking about banned books, and how that's a big issue right now. And I was thinking about Maus, which was not around when we were children, mouse by Art Spiegelman, but what I did read was Night by Elie Weisel, and the Diary of Anne Frank, which is, of course, by Anne Frank. And those two books are both nonfiction both holocaust, it is so disheartening to me to read statistics about the number of millennials who do not have a grasp of the numbers related to the Holocaust, or do not believe it happened. And it is horrifying to me that now they there's like banned books to the point that it's just gonna get worse and worse. I use banned books lists, as my shopping list for my children, because I'm like, Oh, perfect. Thanks for making this list for me, of all the books that people don't want us to read. Kids gather around, shall we, because that's exactly what we need to be reading.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 51:41**

That's exactly. And so I'm not a homeschooling parent. But I sure as shootin have the ability to make sure what Jackson is reading when he's not reading what he's reading for school again, I've been really, really surprised and delighted by the diversity in his Texas public education. But also, I can make really sure as a working mom with my kid who goes to public school that we're reading from that banned book list, too. So every one of us has the power and we don't need to be worried about what they're reading in school. They're not in school all the time. Right? Correct. Yes. Well, I did think about the fact that when I was I think I was in seventh grade. We were we read two books by SE Hinton. And again, if you're born in the 70s, you know, large parts of your soul were created by SE Hinton. Certainly, if you like bad boys, it's probably because you read Rumble Fish, and The Outsiders, by S.E Hinton and those were ones that were assigned in class, again, written by a woman. But more than anything, those were books that impacted me as a reader, because it made me say, Oh, wait, okay, so these books that are literature are not necessarily about stuffy things that happened in palaces or a long time ago. They are about guys in leather jackets. They're about young kids who are smoking out back. And they're about real issues that these kids were having in their broken broken families. These were books that were page turners, but they also were ones that we were reading in school, and very much made me go. I mean, you didn't have to convince me as a seventh grader to read. But I know I have a few friends who were like S.E. Hinton was the reason I started thinking, okay, maybe I want to read on my own,

**Kaytee Cobb 53:19**

which is the best like transition that a kid can make, right? Is that decision to say, oh, no, there are books out there exactly for me. I love that. I have some plays to bring because I was not only a drama nerd, but I was in orchestra in the pit. So West Side Story, very formative for me into the woods was another one that I played the orchestra music for. So I knew every line of that play musical. And then I was in Much Ado About Nothing by Shakespeare. I love that play. I love that movie. And then we also put on a production of Raisin in the Sun, and Driving Miss Daisy, which were some of the very few plays or works of literature that I saw black people live in their regular daily lives. And that was important to

me as well. So I did want to bring in that little bit of expansion to it not just novels, or not just even nonfiction, but the play and the works on the stage can be really eye opening for kids to

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 54:19

Well, absolutely. And when you have a really great teacher or teachers, you know, I mean, we talk about old white men, Shakespeare you don't get any older or whiter than Shakespeare, but I will fight you. I will fight anyone who says that you shouldn't read Shakespeare because I will. First of all, I am an English major. I do have a concentration in Shakespeare. So I spent a lot of my college career concentrating on Shakespeare, led by some great teachers who really, really helped us see beyond the old white man dust and really opened my eyes to a lot of issues that Shakespeare can open your eyes to, and also had a great teacher who taught us *The Odyssey* and the *Canterbury Tales* of both old white men. But under the tutelage of a fantastic teacher, *The Canterbury Tales* was largely the reason that I decided to become an English major and ended up reading it in Middle English as I got my English degree, what you can do with a great professor, or a great teacher opened in the eyes of young young people, as to more than just what's on the page, but what it actually means or what the themes are, how we see those themes in current day. Yes, I absolutely believe strongly in with such passion, that we need to make sure that our children are reading more than old white men. But it needs to be an and not an or. Because there's a lot from those plays and those works, you know, the long form poems that really, really, really, they are things that we need to know about today. They inform us today. And I think that's really interesting. I'm very I could talk forever about how much I love Shakespeare.

**Kaytee Cobb** 55:56

Yeah, I wasn't sure about this deep dive, but I feel like we could do a full hour show just on this topic. I think this was excellent. Absolutely.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 56:05

All right. So now we're going to press a couple of books related. We've already said to this deep dive Kaytee, what are you going to press?

**Kaytee Cobb** 56:12

Okay, I have had this book on my to press list that I keep on my phone for years now. And I have not reread it in that time, which is the only reason it didn't make it to the press list before today. I still haven't reread it but it is one of those books that was so pivotal for me, it's *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. This book ceded all my love for dystopian literature, every dystopian story I've ever loved came from this book for middle graders. Every single time I get to drop into a world that is not my own and imagine the world just slightly tilted off its axis, it's because I loved *The Giver* as a child. Here's the setup. We meet 12 year old Jonas, he lives in a world known as the community that is perfect, albeit boring, because everything runs exactly as it should. There's no overwhelming joy. There's no war or pain. Citizens here it can apply for and be assigned compatible spouses, and each couple is assigned exactly to children. The children are born to birth mothers who never see them and spend their first year in a nurturing center with other babies or new children born that year, when their children are grown, family units dissolve and adults live together with childless adults until they're too old to function in the society. Then they spend their last years being cared for at the house of the old until they're finally released from society. It's very utopian. Very organized, is it right? At 12, everyone received their assignments for life.

You may be a sanitation worker, or a nurturer or teacher. But Jonas is chosen to be the receiver of memory. So he begins to work with the Giver. The Giver holds the memories of true pain and pleasure in life. Because the community is uniform and controlled, there are no highs and low lows. There are scenes from this book, like the first memory that Jonas receives that still playing inside my head 25 to 30 years later, and I have not let them go. I read this book long before the movies released. So I don't think I've ever seen either of them. But the 2014 version has a bang up cast and terrible reviews, both of which made me want to do this as a read with my children, then we can watch the movie, because I love doing that to them being like see how the book was so much better.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 58:32

Yep, that's life lessons is yeah,

**Kaytee Cobb** 58:34

It's it's got life lessons up the wazoo. I still think about it. Well, how many decades later so many decades later. I loved it. I need to reread it. So don't come at me and tell me that I'm wrong and all the ways but I hope that you pick it up and give it a shot. It's The Giver by Lois Lowry.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 58:50

Well, Katytee, I'm so glad that you pressed it because this is actually a book that I did not read in my childhood. Somehow it didn't make our reading list. But I recently read it...

**Kaytee Cobb** 59:00

Do you know why?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 59:01

Why?

**Kaytee Cobb** 59:01

Because it came out in 1994. So

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 59:04

Oh, well. There you go. Yeah, yeah, exactly. I was getting ready to graduate from college. So I read it just a couple years ago. In fact, I read it since we've started the podcast. It is fantastic. It is it doesn't read middle grade. To me. It felt very just if you like dystopian, and you haven't read The Giver, this is a great way. And there aren't very many ways like this to read a book that is totally amazing. And a classic. So you can kind of check both those boxes

**Kaytee Cobb** 59:33

and short and a woman author like there's a lot of great stuff about this.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 59:37

All right. Well, the book I wanted to press is another book that I did read in third grade and that teacher Mrs. Fisher, she really chose some fantastic books and this is one that has always been in my memory. It's not one that is like going to change everyone's lives but it's a fantastic read aloud. I read it aloud to

all of my kids. They all loved it. They all talk about it. In fact Jackson I ended up reading it, I read it to him and then he ended up listening to it and we watched the movie. This is The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:00:08

pivotal for me also.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:00:10

Yeah, here's the setup. Everything in the story starts with a birthday present that our lead character, Omri did not want, a small plastic Indian that was of no use to him at all. But an old wooden cupboard and a special key brought his unusual toy to life, and strange and wonderful things begin to happen. And that's really all you need. As far as setup. This book is about imagination. This book took eight year old Meredith on a wild ride. I mean, even eight year old Meredith was very practical and not given to feats of imagination. But this book really made me say, books can take me to a whole other place, a place I'd always wanted. When my Farrah Fawcett, you know, makeup head where you did her hair and makeup, I wanted her to come to life so badly, it would have been super creepy, because it just would have been her head and like the top of her shoulders, but I stand by the fact that it still would have been delightful. And this book really, really gives you that delight again, it's a fantastic read aloud. And if you have especially little boy but my girl Devon, she loved it too. This is by no means a boy's story in any way, shape, or form. I do want to say again, it's called the Indian in the Cupboard. I am positive if I reread it again today, there would be some things about some of the language that's being used that I would not be okay with. This book was written in 1981. And because it impacted me in that it spurred my imagination and love of reading. I mean, give it a pass and oppress. This is the Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:01:41

Cosign I love it. And I like the movie too. Yes, that one is not one of the ones where it's like, look how trashy that's yeah.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:01:50

I mean, it's not better than the book. But I think it's a really good companion. So maybe it actually makes sense for us to have talked about some of the stuff because this is the time of year that for all of us public school parents, we have more of our kids time and attention. I know that I like to keep Jackson reading even during the summer so that it has the gears in his brain don't stop completely. So hopefully we've given you some good ones today. All right, that is it for this week. As a reminder, here's where you can connect with us. You can find me on Meredith at @Meredith.reads on Instagram.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:02:21

And you can find me Kaytee at @notesonbookmarks on Instagram

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:02:25

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](https://currentlyreadingpodcast.com).

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:02:34

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

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:02:41

And if you really want to help us and you want the fantastic Indie Press List that Kaytee talked about in her bookish moment of the week, become a currently reading bookish friend for just \$5 a month you are going to get a lot of fantastic content and you also keep this big show commercial free. You can also rate and review us on Apple podcasts and shout us out on social media. All of those things help us to find our perfect audience.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:03:07

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

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:03:12

Until next week. May your coffee be hot,

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:03:14

and your book be unputdownable.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:03:16

Happy reading Kaytee

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:03:17

Happy reading Meredith