



Season 5, Episode 34: Many Generations of Readers + No-Prep Current Reads

Mon, Apr 3, 2023 • 1:06:45

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 know, we won't shy away from strong opinions. So get ready.

Kaytee Cobb 00:23

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:33

I'm Meredith Monday Schwartz, a mom of four and full time CEO living in Austin, Texas. And I am embracing possible imperfection.

Kaytee Cobb 00:42

And I'm Kaytee Cobb, a homeschooling mom of four living in New Mexico, and I come from a long line of readers. This is episode number 34 of season five, and we are so glad you're here. Meredith, I'm excited to hear a little bit about imperfections and how that relates to your reading life. But first, we have some mischief to manage this month. It is the first Monday of April and that means, as always, it's also time for our one and only add on Currently Reading podcast.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:09

That's right. That's right. So as you guys know, our episodes at this point for the big show are averaging about an hour, and you get that every single week. And in four hours of bookish content you are only having to sit through or fast forward through one ad. And so we thought we would tell you that the reason we're able to do that is because we put all our time and intention, and income, focus on our Patreon. So for \$5 a month, one of the many things that you get as a Patreon subscriber or a bookish friend, as we call them, is you get the ability to listen to four hours of bookish content for free with no ads.

Kaytee Cobb 01:56

But that's not all in true infomercial style. Once you join as a bookish friend, you also get many other additional hours per month of bookish content. We have multiple bonus episodes over there. We have a Facebook group that never sleeps, ever. Yes. Right? Yes, there's like a whole bundle of fantasticness over there. And we have talked about this before, it's a little bit selfish of us that we don't want to spend

our time courting advertisers figuring out ways to fit them into the episodes. We want to spend our time talking books with you all. And this is the way that we've made it happen. So if that feels worth your while, and if that feels like worth five bucks a month, we would love to have you join us as a bookish friend over on Patreon at patreon.com/currentlyreadingpodcast.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 02:40

All right, Kaytee Mischief Managed for the month.

Kaytee Cobb 02:43

Yay. I love when we get to check that off. So I also want to let you all know right here at the top that this week for our current reads and our deep dives, we're trying a new thing. And we're going to kind of reflect on it. So basically, I'm saying it's a surprise, it's gonna be a surprise to Meredith and I. And it's a surprise to all of you. And you'll understand when we get there.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 03:03

Yes, we have no idea how this is going to go and probably will never ever do it again. But we're going to do it this one time. And we're just going to show y'all how it would be.

Kaytee Cobb 03:15

Yes, this is a little bit enigmatic right now. But we're excited to give you a peek behind the curtain. So now we're gonna get into our bookish moments, which we did prepare for. Meredith, what is your bookish moment this week?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 03:28

Yes, my bookish moment of the week is that sometimes serial killers bring families together. Let me tell you, tongue in cheek obviously, I'm meaning that but this week, Jackson and I were watching a show together. I don't even remember exactly what show it was. But in whatever show, they mentioned something about John Wayne Gacy. And Jackson said, "Oh, yeah, that's the guy who dresses up as a clown". And I was like, wait, what? And I paused, whatever we were watching. And then he went on to tell me several salient facts about John Wayne Gacy. And I was like, "I've never loved you more than I do right now", first of all, which is saying a lot. Secondly, "how deep does this knowledge go?" when he's like, Well, I've been watching some tiktoks and this and that, you know, it's so turns out that my youngest child has a little serial killer fascination that he got from his mother. And so I said, "Well, you know, they actually write books just about this. It's called true crime". And it's real life stuff, but it's about this and he was like, Ooh, that sounds really interesting. Now, remember, Jackson's 11. He's my reluctant reader. My three adult children all read on their own in a fantastic way, which I'm so grateful for. But I said, What if I got you a book on Ted Bundy? Some are what's it called? The murderer....

Kaytee Cobb 04:51

The Stranger Beside me?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 04:53

The Stranger Beside Me. Thank you. And he said, Well, could we buddy read it and I said abso frickin lootutely. So, anyway, I know I'm getting gonna get a lot of pushback about all of this, which I won't

read. And I won't, frankly care about because I grew up reading books that were way more than what I should have been reading at the time. But it really was the kinds of books that I wanted to be reading. And so with my children, all of my children, I've always allowed them to read stuff, especially if we were reading it side by side. And we could contextualize and talk about it together. And also, of course, I will be watching very carefully to see if he is overly freaked out or scared. And then of course, at that point, we will pull back. I am a responsible parent, hold your comments, because I got this. But the point is that sometimes you never know, what kind of reading is going to spur a love of reading. So I'm very hopeful about this.

Kaytee Cobb 05:54

This is really exciting. And I do wonder if there might be a market out there for like, young readers editions of true crime classics, where it's like, this is the real story. But we took out a little bit of the detail to make it like slightly less scary for you young reader who is very interested in this.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 06:16

Could be. As a young reader, I would have been like, can I get the real stuff here? Because I know sort of like how I never wanted to listen to like Kidz Bop, because

Kaytee Cobb 06:26

right, like, don't take out the F bombs. We want them.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 06:30

not like Kidz Bop was out when I was a child, but you know what I mean? I just like they do this with Nancy Drew mysteries. Have you seen this? They have like, new politically correct and young versions of Nancy Drew mysteries. And I'm like, Oh, my gosh. I read one of them just when I was with the kids in the library at one point, and I was like, This is terrible. Give me the real thing. Like I don't like I don't want to, like dilute things down to protect our children from whatever, although I get your point, Kaytee, that you're making. I definitely understand what you're talking about. But just as a parent, I'm always like, let's watch the thing together or, you know, read the thing together and contextualize and put perspective to it. But like, I'm not my, you know, my kids going to know if they're not getting the real stuff.

Kaytee Cobb 07:17

I mean, and don't we all like near beer, it will never, never measure up.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 07:21

Exactly. Exactly. All right, Kaytee, what's your bookish moment of the week?

Kaytee Cobb 07:25

Okay, so you are talking about the generation below you and I get to talk about the generation above me. Last week, we stopped for a night at my parents house. And I went through my cubby, which I'm going to explain here for a second. I've had this since I was a little girl. It's where my parents put stuff that's for me or now for my family. So it might have been like a permission slip when I was seven. And now it's sometimes collects charging cords or socks that got left behind from our last visit. But my mom

also clips items from newspapers and magazines that she thinks I might be interested in and pops them into the cubby as well. Last time we were there, I brought the whole stack home with me. And I realized I hadn't done so in two or three years because some of these were date stamped from 2020 and 2021. It was maybe 10 things it wasn't, you know, a novels worth of reading. But I flipped through them this morning, because I'm still finding my groove back into reading as I mentioned in last week's bookish moment, and I found a few really lovely gems to share. So first was a New York Times article from April of 2022. About New Yorkers reading in a city of 8 million people. It included photos from decades of New York Times archives of people reading in all sorts of places all over the city. And brought to mind the way that spying on someone reading and trying to figure out if you'd be friends that way, is one of my favorite things to do, right, like trying to peep the cover to see like, oh, oh, I read that book. I love that book. This is like very reminiscent of Hot Dudes Reading on Instagram, right after it goes back decades and decades and sometimes 100 years. And it's still like it still feels fresh and relevant today. So that I will put a link to in the show notes as well. And the other one I want to highlight is from October of 2021. And it talks about audiobooks and the ways that sometimes an audio experience is even better than a paper reading experience. I have wish I could just sit down and read you all the entire article right now. But instead again, I will be sure to link it in the show notes. And I'm so glad that my mom thought of me and saved it for me in my cubby. I'm rather hoping a few more of these little items and tidbits that she saved for me will make it onto the show in some format or another soon as well. Again, those links will be in the show notes and I love like these like readerly the light waiting for me in my cubby at my parents house.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 09:40

I love it. I have a shelf that I do the same thing for Devon and Mark and Jeffrey, where all of the stuff that I want to be sure you know like the Tupperware containers and like those kinds of things that were that were going back and forth and I have a shelf in their house too. But what I hadn't been using it for is for things like that articles or We trade books back and forth that are mostly digital, but that kind of thing. I love the idea of the cubby. That's really lovely.

Kaytee Cobb 10:06

Yes. I love that little cubby situation. And I didn't realize that I basically created the same thing right by my front door. So like when I want to bring Katie a book, I can stick it right there so that I know the next time I see her I just need to go through that area and say, Oh, these were for Katie. Like, yeah, exactly. Perfect. Exactly. Okay, now we're gonna do a thing. We are we're gonna do an idea a few weeks ago, and we're both nervous about it and excited. Meredith, do you want to explain it?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 10:34

Yes. As we came up towards April Fool's Day, I started thinking what would be like a fun, we don't want to do an April Fool's joke or anything like that. This is not that. But what would be like a fun kind of turn an idea on its head or do something different that may end up being silly and awful, which is how I associate April Fool's Day, not my favorite holiday. And so the idea I came up with was, what if we do a no prep show? Now normally, Kaytee, you and I do, and we'll get into this a little more in the deep dive. But we do a fair amount of preparation before we go on the show. And lots of times, the feedback we get from, you know, lots of people is "you guys are so good at talking about books, your setups are cohesive, your thoughts flow, and they're, you know, not too long, not too short. I could never talk about

books like that". And what I always say is, "oh, yes, you could, if you spent the time that we do preparing for every show", so we thought we would disabuse everybody of any notion that we are better than you at talking about books, because we are going to do a no prep show. So we're going to do current reads just like normal. But Kaytee has seen my list of books that I have read and not talked about on the show, and I have seen Kaytee's much longer list of that she's read and not talked about on the show. We are going to choose them live on mic for each other. We have no idea I do not have any idea which ones Kaytee's gonna choose for me and vice versa. And then we're going to do our dead level best. From memory. And from a few notes that we have that are the notes that we would use to prepare normally for a normal show. We will talk about the books. So do I think that this is going to be my best appearance on Currently Reading? No, but Kaytee, you know me, I love to do things that embrace me not looking as smart as I normally would. That's a fun thing from for me.

Kaytee Cobb 12:40

Yes, that is something you really, really embrace in your actual real life all the time,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 12:45

right hallmark of my personality. I love looking stupid.

Kaytee Cobb 12:52

Okay, yes, this is as we prepared today, as we sat down to record, we both said, I'm equal parts nervous and excited. And I think we will finish this episode and say I never ever want to do that again. So I mean, mark your calendars, folks, because this is not happening again.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 13:08

Right? don't unsubscribe, just because if you're brand new to Currently Reading me, and we invite you to listen to one of the other 250 million shows we've done before you listen to this one.

Kaytee Cobb 13:23

Yeah, just click back. You can come back to this one later.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 13:27

Please don't make this your only experience of us.

Kaytee Cobb 13:30

Okay. Well, lucky you, Meredith because I'm driving this week, which means I'm in control, and you have to start. Sad for you.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 13:40

right. Here we go. Let's just jump in.

Kaytee Cobb 13:42

So the first one that I want to hear about from you is one that you posted about on Instagram and got me excited to hear about it. I want to hear about Cover Story by Susan Rigetti.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 13:51

Okay, yes, this this will actually not be a difficult one for me to talk about because it's very memorable. I liked it so, so much. Okay. So basically what we have with Cover Story is we have and we know from the beginning, we're reading a con artist story. Right? So we're in the magazine world. We're at like the equivalent of like an Elle magazine type of situation. And our lead character is a young woman whose name I do not remember at all.

Kaytee Cobb 14:27

Yep, if I right, we use Goodreads and Amazon and such to prep. Right

Meredith Monday Schwartz 14:32

So young woman. She is our lead character. She is getting a job as an intern at this magazine. She meets one of the CO editors of the magazine, one of the big wigs of the magazine who's this very, very dynamic and beautiful. And also foreign think she's from Austria. And they meet and they end up working together. And the story that we follow is told in mixed media, which is become my new obsession. This mixed media story is my new obsession. I've read several now I can't get enough of them. Mixed Media, of course, is when we have a mixture of different sources instead of just expository prose all the way through. So we've got journal entries, we've got transcripts, we've got receipts, we've got all manner of original sources that were that we're reading, and they all work together to tell the story. This book was one that I heard about so much last year, it was all over podcasts, bookstagram, everything. But as sometimes happens for me, I never really fully caught on to what the book was about. Somehow I would hear the title and then I would blank out. Yes, I don't really know why that was happening to me. But when I actually picked it up, because my friend Whitney, I was at Fabled with my friend, and now coworker, Whitney. And she said, Meredith, have you read Cover Story, because I think you would really, really like it. So we were at Fabled, I grabbed a copy immediately and took it home, jumped into it that same day and flew through this book. It will be on my list of top 10 of the entire year, because it is that kind of book, that kind of reading experience that it's surprising, sucks you in, totally propulsive has you gasping at different times, it has enough twists, that you never know what's going to happen. But the twist makes sense. I love a book that makes me want to go back to the beginning, the moment I finish it. It that is such a favorite reading experience for me when I'm like you got me. And now I have to go back and see all the places that I missed what was really happening. The pacing was perfect. And when I finished it, all I wanted to do was immediately talk about it with other people because there's so much of this book you can't talk about because you would even spoil things. And I am never going to spoil such an amazing story, as Susan Rigetti has written. Now what's interesting, what I didn't know, is that Susan Rigetti was actually the original whistleblower, she wrote a book called Whistleblower, she was the original whistleblower on Uber, and the sexual discrimination taking place within the tech bros, you know, sort of system that they had going into at Uber. And so she didn't write that story here. But she's very confident in writing about how people can present themselves as one thing and be something totally different. And you really get that in this story. I absolutely loved this book, if you love a mystery, that if you Well, first of all, obviously, if you liked The Appeal, by Janice Hallett, you're going to want to read Cover Story. It's so readable. And it's so smart. And again, I inhaled it. So one of my favorites of the year. This is Cover Story by Susan Rigetti.

Kaytee Cobb 18:28

That was excellent. And I just want to point out that this section probably got tightened a little bit in editing. But Meredith just did that all from the top of her head, which makes me feel like I'm just about to like, dive off a cliff and crash and burn.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 18:45

Well, no, I mean, immediately, I know for a fact that if I had prepared for this, I would have done a better job with the setup, which I talked to you in advance, say that's going to be the place where we're going to suffer, we're going to suffer is that is in the setup, because especially with a book like this, you don't want to give anything away. And you don't want to step wrong. And so when you're doing it from memory, it's kind of like, oh, I don't want to I want to I want to say so little because I don't want to step. So for sure. All right. All right, Kaytee, there, were just an embarrassment of riches on your list. But a lot that I really wanted to hear about too. So I ping pong back and forth multiple times as to which books I was going to ask you about, but there is one book on this list that I know you know, I have to hear your thoughts. You know that this is The Yoga Store Murderer. I must you have to tell us, you know, remind everybody why I must hear about it and then tell us what you thought about my favorite True Crime book of all time.

Kaytee Cobb 19:47

Okay, well, this one. This is like a softball lab to me because even though I do read a lot, this is actually the most recent book that I had finished when I sent you my list because I got so slumpy over the past two weeks that I haven't, I haven't finished anything since even though that was almost a week ago. So it's still very fresh in my mind. The Yoga Store Murder by Dan Morse is classic true crime. I just looked it up right before and I'm pretty sure it released in 2013. In March of 2011, we have a Lululemon store right next to an Apple store in a beautiful suburban luxury area of Bethesda, Maryland, which is like outside of DC. I believe it was March 11 of 2011 because it was happening really close to when I was reading it in real time. So I was very cognizant of the dates. The Apple Store employees are staying late because they're about to release the iPhone two or something like it's that long ago in tech timeline. And they hear some noises from the wall next door like on their adjoining wall with the Lululemon store. The next morning, the store, the Lululemon store is not open the way that it should be. The manager for that shift comes in, she gets somebody from waiting outside the Apple store that is trying to get a new phone to come inside with her because she's a little freaked out. She can hear someone moaning as she finds two of her co workers, one who has been brutally brutally murdered, and one who is bloodied and zip tied and says she was raped by multiple assailants. That is the setup for this story. What happened with I think it's Gina and Brittany inside the store, who came along to cause this like horrible havoc inside this otherwise idyllic picturesque, very, like safe and calm area. In an in a very wealthy neighborhood. I, when I when I mentioned that I had not read this book yet Meredith, I mentioned it was because I only had it in mass market paperback. And I hate putting that format into my hands. Well, as you suspected, as soon as I picked it up, and I got through that first... that's the first chapter, right? We find all that out in the first chapter. As soon as I got through that first chapter, I had finished it in less than 24 hours because I could not put it down. And I kept flipping through to the pictures in the center, the black and white photos to try and figure out if I could get ahead of the police investigation. If I could, you know, spoil myself almost I was so freaked out reading this book. I could not put it down and I loved even though it was published pretty soon after everything

happened with this case, which does get solved, does go to trial, which is important for me to know, as a true crime reader, I cannot have a loose end. It really messes with me mentally. So I have to know going in, we're going to figure out an ending here. But it all I mean, it all takes place very quickly within these pages. And then he gets the story out in a published book form within a year of the trial kind of finishing up. And I felt very much in this story, freaked out by I ended up googling afterwards because now we're 10 years out from when it was published. What else can I find out about what was going on here? It was definitely some of the conversation that we've even seen in the bookish friends group recently about what does true crime consumption really mean? What does that mean for victims? What does that mean for perpetrators that kind of like some of that came up in my belly as I was reading this book, because it's very interesting to see how injuries are catalogued how truth comes out? What happens behind the scenes at the police station, how interviews are conducted? And what does that mean for the family that was left behind? And how are they processing these events, especially when you get to hear in the afterword about when they were willing to come in and not in newspaper articles and book interviews. So it was I absolutely understand why this is your top true crime. I do wish it were either on audio or in a better book format, because then I would be more likely to be like, here. I got this book for you just read it because if you're feeling slumpy and honestly that could be part of why I've been so slumpy the past week because I ate this book up so fast. Yeah, that all my mojo was gone afterwards.

Kaytee Cobb 24:34

Yeah, it was very book hangover situation. So that's, I think that's all I'm gonna say about it. That was The Yoga Store Murder by Dan Morse.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 24:34

You were hung over.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 24:46

Well, I am so so glad I didn't have any doubts because this is just a humdinger. But I am so so glad that you enjoyed it and don't if you're if you're interested in finally getting it don't Google anything, just read the book first. But yes, favorite true crime ever. I just think it's an I've been chasing that in true crime since I read that book and I don't even remember. Well, you know what it came. I do remember, the reason that it came onto my radar is because I had I went through like a LuluLemon obsession. Uh huh. And it was right around the time that I like, a couple years after I had Jackson. And I had Jackson in 2011. So probably, you know, like, somehow it was like on a forum or I used to be in all these, like, I was insane for a while. Not anymore. Not anymore. But that's how I'm sure that's how it came on my radar, but very good. Okay.

Kaytee Cobb 25:44

So he talks about like, the branding behind Lululemon and the way that they form their business to make people get obsessed with them, like on a on a really like nuclear level. So yeah, that part was interesting

Meredith Monday Schwartz 25:59

training and how it affected how they handled employees. Yeah, very interesting. Very interesting. Okay, Kaytee, the next book, I really want to hear your thoughts.

Kaytee Cobb 26:08

Now I get to pick a book for you.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 26:10

Oh, geez. I got so excited. I was so excited about hearing about your books. Okay.

Kaytee Cobb 26:16

You'll get to hear about it. I promise. The ones that I want to hear about. I'm trying. I have like a humdinger that I think I'm saving for the end. So we'll see how it goes. But the next one I want to hear about is Venco by Cherie Dimaline.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 26:31

I knew that you were going to talk about this one. And this one is going to be so hard for me to set up because I knew when I read this book that this book was going to be hard for me to set up.

Kaytee Cobb 26:45

Do you want me to swap it?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 26:47

No, no, no, because then that no, we let's, let's let's do let's, let's do the hard ones I am, we did say that we could take a quick glance at the setup from Goodreads or you know, wherever we want to get that. So I'm gonna take a quick glance just because I literally right now, I read it long enough ago that I won't do it any justice. And this is a book that I actually want to do justice on. I listened to this book.

Kaytee Cobb 27:16

Yes, it was a libro.FM ALC. Because sometimes with those, we have to argue about them a little bit like, are you going to take this? Or am I is this safe for me to binge listen to? So that's that's definitely why I was interested in hearing about it. Do I need to pick it up?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 27:32

Right. So hard to set up because there's just like, layer upon layer upon layer with this, okay. Our lead character is a very memorable lead character, her name is Lucky St. James and she is from Toronto. She's very, very poor. She lives with her mom, and her grandma. And the three of them have just been doing everything they can to survive. And so at one point, through a set of circumstances, Lucky finds a spoon and on it is the word Salem. And for some reason, she doesn't really know why, but she tucks it into her pocket. Right. So the other plotline we're following is we're following Venco, which is this company that is a front company for basically a group of witches. But it's a very, it's very modern, and this is how I got sucked in. From the beginning is that we're following this front company of witches, all run by women, and very much looking like a true, like, corporate conglomerate type of situation. So they have a boardroom and they have board conversations, you know, all of this is very interesting.

Suffice it to say, a lot happens, the spoons come into play, magic comes into play, there is a very, very memorable villain, whose name is Jay Christos, and he is out to take down this group of powerful witches. That's the very best that I can do in this case of setting up Benco.

Kaytee Cobb 29:20

Now I get it's like a dark Here Comes the Guide.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 29:22

The sort of Yes, yes. And so as I said in my notes, and my overall feeling about this book is that I actually quite liked it. I liked my experience of reading it. I liked it all the way through. I loved the characters. I loved hearing about their lives and their motivations. Their emotional set, were very fully drawn and I very invested in what happened to them as characters. And I did like some of the magic elements of the story and the setup and the narrative voice was very much what drew me in the first couple of chapters really, really drew me in. But I couldn't escape the fact that I felt like what I expected and wanted this book to be was very different from what it was. Again, as we've talked about with Aurora, the last one of the last books I talked about, that doesn't mean that the book wasn't good. It was really good. It was just very far from what I thought it was going to be from the marketing blurb. And even from the first couple of chapters of the book, I also definitely kept feeling like I wanted the book to move on to the next part of the story. That was my overwhelming feeling. I felt like this kind of thing was set up. And I kept thinking, when are we going to get to that thing? Right? But we don't in this book, it said, to have another book. Now, that doesn't mean what happened in the first book wasn't interesting. It just wasn't the thing I thought it was going to be. So I kept having okay, maybe, okay, here we go. No, okay. Okay, maybe here we go. So that was part of it. The other thing is that, and this doesn't happen to me very often, but I really didn't like the audio narration of the book, the actual audio performance, it kept me distanced from the story, there was something very stilted about the way that the narrator was reading. And there were also many times, and I wondered, Kaytee, if this had to do with the fact that we got it in advance, I don't know. But there were many times where the narrator would read something in her phrasing in a way that made it make no sense. And it was almost like she was told, "you need to do this in one take. And no matter what happens, you can't stop and we can't redo it". So it felt like she was reading it for the first time. She would miss phrase something right, it would be wrong syllable. And then she would just keep going. And I was like, "That makes no sense what you just did there". And so the narration kept taking me out of it. Another peccadillo of mine. And this is a very particular peccadilloes that most readers do not share, which is why I'm calling this a peccadillo. And not a problem with the book is that a lot of the book, it features dreams. And just a weird thing about me. When a book does that, I just don't love it. I just I don't, I don't love that particular style, where dreams feature really, really heavily I find myself skipping and wanting to skim and get past it to get back to the real action. Because I think I feel like I can't trust what happens in a dream. But this one very much focuses on that. But none of those things except for the fact that I will warn you about the audio narration if they haven't updated that, none of those things will keep me from recommending this really well written female, very female centered story of magic, and finding your right place in the world. It wasn't completely perfect for me. But it was a book that I liked very much, which is a weird way to sum up a book. So I am I continue to be conflicted. Star rating was really, really hard for me on this Kaytee. So that is Venco by Cherie Demaline.

Kaytee Cobb 33:31

Interesting. I definitely have had the experience of their narration feeling on finished even in an even in a finished book, where I was like, why didn't they retake when she said that word completely wrong or whatever. So I'm, and it takes you out of the story so completely. I was interested in this one, especially because it is witchy. And it also has that Indigenous viewpoint. I know Cherie Demaline is an Indigenous writer. And even in the blurb I was kind of looking at it when you pulled it up as well, to see that the main character is Matisse, which is one of the Indigenous tribes of Canada. So I do like that.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 34:13

and those stories, those aspects of it and the aspects of magic being inherited from your ancestors. Those are the pieces that I really liked. And I wasn't expecting it was just like the book was marketed a little bit off from what it actually was. Right? But you know, it's still was very, very good, by the way. Venco coven.

Kaytee Cobb 34:38

Right. It's a flipper do Yeah,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 34:40

flipper. flipper do there's a better word. There's a real word for that. But I much prefer flipper do

Kaytee Cobb 34:45

I get like a pangram? Maybe an anagram. anagram

Meredith Monday Schwartz 34:49

something like that. But anyway, yes. All right, Kaytee, now I get to hear about a book of yours. I got The Attic Child as my book of the month a couple of months ago. I'm very interested in it and I really want to know to do what did you think of it?

Kaytee Cobb 35:08

Okay, I am excited to talk about this one. The Attic Child was written by Lola Jaye. And it is really good. I will say I did get sucked in by the beautiful cover, which is a silhouette with some orange purple on it. You all know I love a purple book.

Kaytee Cobb 35:08

Well, Venco has purple on it too.

Kaytee Cobb 35:24

purple on Venco also. See this is a recurring theme for me. We have in this book two timelines, one that takes place in the early 1900s. It's a young Black boy named Celestine, who, much like our protagonist in Babel is taken from his homeland in Africa, brought to England to be almost a pet for a very wealthy English gentleman. All different kinds of languages. He learns how to eat formally at a table, he learns how to recite poetry and dance waltzes. And he's basically a showpiece in this collector's collection. It's icky. We don't love it. So and he's given the name Celestine by this white father figure that kind of pulls him over to the UK. In the 1970s. We also meet a young woman named Lowra, which is L O W R A.

And her name is a thing. Like, people make fun of it, isn't it supposed to be Laura etc. So Lowra It's an interesting name. She has just inherited a house from kind of a wicked step mother figure that has passed away. And she's not sure she wants to keep this house because her childhood time that she spent there was pretty traumatic. As you can guess, from the title of this book, *The Attic Child*, the attic of this home, plays prominently in both storylines that we're learning about here. So we're piecing together the early 1900s, the 1970s, trying to figure out we're hearing directly from Celestine, learning about his life, how he came to be the person he was and then in the 1970s, learning about what came of him later, when Lowra finds a necklace in the attic, that she's pretty sure it belonged to this little Black boy that she finds in photos. And we get to put those storylines together. I went into this book, knowing it was called *The Attic Child* and basically expecting my heart to be stomped on. Because anytime you have a child being really mistreated, it tears at the heartstrings, right. And there's no storyline, where you're like, oh, there was a child in the attic and everything was lovely and wonderful in their lives, right? Like that's not you can't expect that ever with a title like *The Attic Child*. What I found, in addition to that there is some heartstopping. There is also this really fantastic dual timeline story, a little bit of mystery, a lot of history, a lot of interesting looks at the ways that white and Black culture interacted, especially in the early 1900s In the UK, and then going forward into the 1970s, as we discussed a couple of weeks ago, that does make this historical fiction on both timelines because right 1970s And early 1900s. And both times that time really plays a role. We don't have cell phones. Lowra and her co conspirator in the current or in the more contemporary timeline, have to go to the library and look at microfiche to find information. And that really plays into the story here. I gave this one either either four and a half or five stars. I really, really enjoyed it. And by the end, I was so glad that I had picked it up. So that was *The Attic Child* by Lola Jaye

Meredith Monday Schwartz 39:05

Excellent. And too, did you remember the names and everything just completely from memory? Or did you pull it up?

Kaytee Cobb 39:11

When we were getting ready for this episode, I made sure that my book, my reading log was updated, my spreadsheet was updated so that I could send it to you and you would have all the titles that I had read. And at that time I put at least one sentence little blurbs in in my notes so that I could make sure that I knew what I wanted to maybe touch on and thankfully, from the time that I did that to now I did remember people's names.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 39:34

Okay, got it. Got it. Okay, good to know.

Kaytee Cobb 39:37

Okay, Meredith, for your third one. This one I'm choosing and you're gonna have to say her name and I'm gonna have to say her name. I'm choosing *Silence of the Sea* by Ursa Sigurdardottir because we both loved *I Remember You* so much and I really want to get a feel for her other books.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 39:56

Right. Excellent. I V very much want to talk about this one, I have been looking forward to talking about it because I really like Yrsa Sigurdardottir. And I really am loving, I want to eventually be a completist of her work just because I think she's really, really good. And she writes in a couple of different ways. All right, let's talk about The Silence of the Sea. Lucky for me, Kaytee, This book is one of those where even if I had done a bunch of preparation, I wouldn't be giving you a ton of setup, because this is the kind of book that you benefit from only knowing just a little bit about it. So at the very beginning of The Silence of the Sea, we have our inciting action, which is that we are on a pier in Reykjavik, Iceland. And there's a group of people waiting, because there is a boat that is due to come in. Well, it doesn't show up when it's supposed to. Pretty soon this boat, which is in fact a luxury yacht, a big huge, very luxurious yacht comes in, but it crashes into the pier, like decimating the pier entirely, because the boat is empty. There is absolutely no one on board. And the big question is, what happened to the family? Mom, dad, kids, that were supposed to be on board and coming in that day. This is all we need to know about the setup, because it jumps off from there. We it just absolutely jumps off to answer your question right from the outset. If you've read, I Remember You, which is a standalone, a standalone novel of hers. You remember that? That one was V scary. Yes. Very, very, very scary. This one is very interesting, very propulsive, but it doesn't have the same level of fear. This is in fact, the sixth in a series of what would be better described as a police procedural. And so we have our lead character who's a woman whose name I don't remember, I wouldn't even be able to pronounce if I did, but she so she's a female lead character, female police officer, and she is in charge of the investigation as to what happened to this family. And you know, what exactly brought us to this place? This is just total sweetspot reading for me 100% Because we have a crime novelist who knows how to keep the pacing going. Again, my notes tell me to emphasize that this is much more crime fiction than supernatural ghostly horror that you find and I remember you, but it is very puzzling piece of crime fiction. And I say that in the best way possible. You guys know that vanishings and especially vanishings of a group of people are such a sweet spot for me. Absolute catnip. And so we have that here in spades. I really like the character, the police officer, no idea what her name is, and Thora, right. And then she has a "dottir" last name.

Kaytee Cobb 43:13

Yeah. Gudmundsdottir.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 43:14

Okay, got it. So I absolutely liked her. I liked her especially because unlike in I Remember You, we have again, I like police procedurals, because I like to have that point of view, if some creepy or freaky things are happening, I like to then go back to the points of view from the police officer, I feel safer, I feel a little more grounded. That's what you have here. I also will say that one of the things I loved is that we've got the short chapters with revolving viewpoints, and a crime fiction with substance. So very much I would say, if you like Catherine Ryan Howard's writing, and maybe you've read everything that she has to offer, The Silence of the Sea, or probably the entire I'm gonna go back and read all of the books in this series. Again, this one is the sixth in the series. Why did you start at the six when Meredith? Are you being an animal? Yes, this was what was available at my library. And I just was in such a mood. So I was like, I'm an animal. And I, I jumped into it, and I absolutely loved it. So not a thriller. I want to be super clear. This is crime fiction with the side of police procedural, but I am very, very interested, I can

tell you that one of the notes I made is that I would not be getting onto yacht anytime soon. But on the pier, I assume or on the daily that is not something that will affect my life in a really, really fantastically great way.

Kaytee Cobb 44:49

in landlocked like Central Texas.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 44:52

Exactly. Not a lot of not a lot of big yachts I'm being invited on. So this is *The Silence of the Sea* by Yrsu Sigurdardottir.

Kaytee Cobb 45:01

So fun and I love her cuz she's from Iceland. Everything takes place in Iceland. These are translated to if I remember correctly, yes. So like the sea and the, the wet dampness of Iceland. I feel like she's really good at portraying and her books.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 45:18

All right, Kaytee. I Kaytee, I definitely want to hear what you ended up thinking of *Station Eternity* by Mur Lafferty?

Kaytee Cobb 45:27

Ooh, fun. Okay, so this was an Indie Press List book in February of 2023, from Schuler Books, and I chose it as a buddy read for our currently reading bookish friends, which I always will announce on the episode itself. So that book was revealed on February 2, or fifth or something. And then we discussed it on March 20 or so just recently, which means I had to read it somewhere in between, I had to finish the entire thing. When we first pick up this book, which has a stunning cover is so beautiful. And it's one of those covers that as you read, you start to figure out what some of these little tiny icons in the book mean, which I love about it. It's very graphic and striking. So as we get started with this book, we meet Mallory, and she is living on *Station Eternity*, which is the first space station that humans have really gotten to connect with, where they get to meet legit extraterrestrials. *Station Eternity* is a sentient space station. So it has opinions of its own about what should be allowed on board, who should be allowed on board, etc. Mallory is an interesting main character because in the human world on Earth, she has found herself surrounded by a lot of murders. It seems like wherever she goes, somebody ends up dead, and she will help the police investigate these murderers. She's not culpable. So I want to make that clear. At the beginning. You're never wondering like, is Mallory actually a serial killer? No, she's not untrustworthy. She's not unreliable. She just is around a lot of people who die. And that has led her to be really disconnected. She doesn't like to make strong friendships, strong relationships. And so when an option came available to join *Station Eternity* out in space, she was like, maybe that's the way I can keep people safe by not being around them anymore in person.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 47:37

Right? Poor Mallory. I just feel so bad for her.

Kaytee Cobb 47:40

She is. She's very lonely. There are only two other humans onboard Station Eternity. There's an ambassador from Earth, whose name is something I don't remember. I think I want to say Adrian, he is a capital D. O. U C H E. He is a horrible human. We don't like him. There's also a young man named Xan, X A N. and he is a stowaway on board the station. The ambassador does not know that Xan is there. Maybe the station doesn't even know that Xan is there, but he is living quietly on a spaceship that is docked on the station. Mallory and Xan get to know each other. And then of course, as has to happen, she has to hit the fan. There is another spaceship approaching the station that station eternity decides to blow up. Chaos ensues. There are humans on board, we get some of their backstories we have to figure out what happened what is happening with these humans that the station decided that it did not want them there. There is a whole collection of amazing extra terrestrial species or like additional types of beings, including the nice and the silence. Like there's all these different types of beings that Mur Lafferty really has a lot of fun with developing what they look like, what types of personalities they have, what their interesting little quirks are to them, including one that looks like wasps that are very interested in Mallory, and they examine her by crawling all over her body. If that freaks you out. Yep, that happens a lot in this book. Yep, there's a lot of Wasp crawling situations happening here. And it's like a very visceral level. When I discussed it with the bookish friends, there were a lot of varying opinions about who loved it, and who thought that it was a little too much. One of our dearest bookish friends called it a baggy mystery like like it was too fluffy there was too much kind of crammed into one thing so you know how like Santa's bag of toys is like all lumpy around the outside. Oh because it's so like stuffed full and it doesn't have that like nice sleek cohesiveness yes story that you might want? Yeah. However, I really enjoyed it. I think this first one in the mid solar murderers series did have a lot of world building to it. And I expect that in the next books in this series, we will get a tighter storyline because she does not have to set up that entire world for us. So I do think that I will continue reading it when the next one comes out, which I think is November of this year. This was such a good book and if there's anything that's like sci fi plus murder mystery that appeals to you, this is such a great crossover option. A highly recommend it's Station Eternity by Mur Lafferty.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 50:42

Yeah. Betsie Ikenberry, one of our good bookish friends read it recently and really loved it. And she was talking about that sub genre of like sci fi mystery and that it's a good example of that, and that there are more, there are more of those. So if you're interested in that sub genre get you to bookish Betsie, because she will point you in the right direction for some of those. She loves that, that she's a great resource. We love her. Yes. All right, Kaytee, we did it.

Kaytee Cobb 51:08

We did it. And you know, when I came downstairs today to record I was like, I don't know if this is going to be a 25 minute episode, right? This is going to be an hour and 25 minute episode. I have no idea.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 51:19

Right. So I was just thinking, as we kind of segue into our we'll do a mini deep dive here because we are already at 54 minutes of the recording. Normally, when we finish our current reads, we're somewhere closer to 40,45. Yes, so we so one of the things I think that tells us is that when we're just going off the cuff, we are we're not as tight. Yes, as as we know, it's not to say that we do short setups

or short. I mean, like we let ourselves run, we let ourselves we give ourselves runway for whatever we want to do. We don't put ourselves in like you have five minutes to talk about that book. But that is an interesting thing to point out. And I mean, I guess for me exactly what I thought was gonna happen is happening, which is that I always feel like I want to do really well for the listener, especially in the setup, because I think that's the place I mean, sure they care about, you know, what our experience was with the book, but really, whether or not they're going to want to read it as individuals, I think lives and dies in the setup. Yes. And I feel like, and some books are easier to set up than others. Some books are more memorable than others, like the tiny details are more memorable. But I do I am having the feeling that that's the piece, I'm going to walk away saying like, okay, those might have been the three books that I would have chosen for this week anyway, because it's a nice, you know, you chose a nice mix of books, which is what we tried to do. But I could have set them up better, especially poor Venco. I'm feeling really guilty about being it's a really good book, you guys. I didn't set it up very well. I'm sorry.

Kaytee Cobb 52:57

I feel the same. I was trying to think through, you know, if I, if I sit down on a Thursday or on a Friday morning, because we normally record on a Friday afternoon, I budget for myself at least an hour, maybe an hour and a half to make sure I have all the pieces in place for an episode and the large chunk of that is the current reads. Yeah, making sure that those are cohesive and put together well. And making sure that I know the characters, and I remember the plot points and doing a little like mini review of myself, especially if I'm talking about something that I read six weeks ago or eight weeks ago, right? Because it's not as fresh if there's been, you know, 10-15 books in between. So that's where, you know, this, this episode took 15 minutes to prepare a bookish moment and a wish at the fountain. And it shows that it's worth it to put in that effort. Because it is so much easier to say like, Okay, I know what I'm going to say, I can answer questions about it if I need to write, you know, and making sure that I have a good balance of like, well, I did have some lumps. So I want to make sure that I'm working those in at least every once in a while. Yeah, yep. For sure. I don't want three like yuck books on one week either. So, right, like really balanced those out.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 54:20

By far. I mean, and right, I do about two hours of prep, that's about my average is two hours. And you're right, the vast majority of that is on current reads because some of them I've read for a long time. And I always am kind of switching things around trying to it's more important to me to bring a quality three stack of books, when to bring the ones that most because sometimes I might read like three thrillers in a row, which you know, that wouldn't be interesting to talk about on the show or three books that didn't work for me that well, that wouldn't be interesting on a single episode. So yeah, I think the the thing that I've enjoyed the most about doing this is because I actually quite like preparing for Are the show so not having to prepare for it wasn't necessarily like, Oh, thank God because I hate doing that, because I think you feel the same way. But what I've really liked the most about it is the fun of choosing your books and you choosing my books, I think that was by far the thing I was most interested to hear. It was just so fun to be like have all of these books, I get to choose the ones that I asked Kaytee about because that's something that we are bookish besties. But we don't talk about our reads with each other, so that we can do the show

Kaytee Cobb 55:32

keep it spoiler free basically for each other. Right and right.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 55:35

So we don't, it's very rare sometimes Comfort Me with Apples, sometimes. But very rarely do we talk about, you know what we're currently reading with each other? how we felt about it, because we want it to be fresh for the show. And I think the show benefits from that. But being able to like, ask you those things was just, it was just very joyfilled for me.

Kaytee Cobb 55:36

It was really fun. And even as I was going through your list and trying to pick, you know, what kind of balance do I want to try and strike with Meredith's current reads this week. I also was thinking about how because we are not every day, weighing in on each other's reading lives. It might be fun, although also very difficult to someday choose each other's TBR. Like, one book I really want to hear you discuss on the show is this. So I'm putting it on your TBR. And I want to hear about it kind of like that accountability situation like yoga store murder, right? That's basically what happened, right? Where you were like, You need to pick it up. And I did, and I loved it. And then I got to talk about it.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 56:37

Yeah, I do think that's fun. And I think more than ever, in my reading life, I'm open. Like we wouldn't do that for like three, you know, there are some shows where they do really directed topics, and they'll they'll read specifically for right. I just think you and I could never do that. No, but I mean, I think it's I think it's awesome and interesting. But I just the way I am I could never do that. But I do I am at a place where if you were like Meredith, I really, really, really want you to read this. And I want to hear what you think about it. I would absolutely do that. I think that would be super fun. Maybe for our birthdays, we we can celebrate our birthdays in that way where we like, Give each other a book. And then the gift that we give to the other person is that we read it and we're talking about.

Kaytee Cobb 57:16

You read the book I choose for my birthday. Yeah. And I read the book you choose for your birthday. Okay, I do like that. I was like, Wait, I don't want to be forced to read a book for my birthday.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 57:24

No, no, no, no, exactly right. The gift would be getting to hear about it on the show about like particular book. I think that was fun. Now, what I am inordinately interested in is the stuff that you and I can't weigh in on, which is, we want to know how you got what did you notice in doing this? What did you notice was there or not there was polished or less polished? Or you know, I'm very, very interested in how your experience as a listener was,

Kaytee Cobb 57:57

yes. How did this come off on the other side after we gave this experience to each other?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 58:02

Yeah, yeah, that was fun.

Kaytee Cobb 58:04

Okay, let's get into the fountain. We're just going to splash around in it today. That's what get into the fountain means today. So yes, let's make a wish. What are you wishing for it the fountain today,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 58:14

I'm because we are running a little bit longer. I'm going to make a really short wish. But it is a wish that just makes me giggle all the time. And this is some I'm gonna bring it full circle here. One of the things that Jackson loves to do, again, my 11, almost 12 year old, one of the things that he loves to do is to pick up my books, our house is filled with books. So he has ample opportunity to do this. And he will read the first paragraph out loud and follow that with "and that's when the murders started". And so what he's always trying to do is to pick up a book that he thinks that won't make it and obviously a lot of the books I have are mysteries and thrillers, but he tries to find books that he think it will make no sense. So like he'll pick up like a Wallace Stegner book and then say and that's when it's i My wish is that everyone would try that at least once. Pick up a book at random read the first paragraph, not chapter paragraph, and then say in that voice, and that's when the murderer started. It makes me laugh every single time. It's dumb. It's pointless. It's not gonna get you anything. It's totally pointless. Except it makes me giggle every single time.

Kaytee Cobb 59:25

Oh, I can totally see Micah latching on to this idea and running with it. Yeah, this might be his multimillion dollar YouTube idea. We'll just have Jackson and Micah do yes.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 59:36

Well, first of all, I would regularly tune into that channel or that tiktok. Secondly, Jackson does it when I'm like randomly telling a story about work or something He'll interrupt me with and that's when the murder started. Or he'll tell me something about his day and he'll say, so we use that a lot in our family and I just had to wish that everyone would try it at least one.

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:00

Oh, I love it. That makes me so happy. Okay, my wish this week also kind of circles back around, but it feels like it circles back to our ad at the end of the show. So my wish is to encourage people to support the creators they love. I spent this last week really slumping badly in my reading life in my actual just regular life, like everything felt like I told one of the bookish friends that my life is a dumpster right now. And this week, I set it on fire. That's what I did. Yep, it legit. And there's a lot going on, my reading is paying the price. So all that being said, my favorite creators are the ones that have kept me company, especially through their bonus content. Knowing I can listen to Knox and Jamie talk about what's new in pop culture or listen to Laura Tremaine's amazing bonus content gave me somewhere to put my attention in a very scattered week. I also love bonus episodes from Sara's bookshelf live. And from Sorta Awesome in this hard week, I'm grateful for those creators and many more and the work that they are doing. So I would be remiss to not mention the ways they've gotten me to smile on days that I felt broken. And the small amount that I pay each month to access their content is more than worth it as a mental health support. I pay for therapy, I pay for Patreon. And they both are good for my heart. And so I wanted to wish for whoever you are listener to find what brings you joy and support that creator. And it

doesn't have to be us. I mean, the rule is you don't talk about other people's Patreon, right? Like Laura Tremaine says, right, but, but there are people doing amazing, great work and that five bucks a month is so worth it to keep them going. And to keep yourself going. It's fantastic.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:01:54

alright, I think that's a really good wish, Kaytee, because I also had a tough week this week for a lot of the same reasons. And I found myself listening to a lot. Of course, you guys know The Popcast is my favorite podcast. And their Patreon is, I mean, if they quadrupled the price, I would pay it because of exactly what you're talking about Kaytee is this, the fact that we can have them in our ears when things are hard. That's that's a mental health care. You're absolutely right. I've never quite looked at it exactly like that. But you're absolutely right. So Kaytee, because you and I both had a difficult week in the not too recent past, we wanted to just take this time to say, part of what we're talking about here is that in the last couple of weeks, we had to make a really, really difficult decision. And that was one that prioritized the show over our own personal feelings. And sometimes in a business, you have to do some of some of those things. And so the decision that we made is that Mindy Brouse will no longer be a show regular of ours. But what we really want to say about that is that though there were really good reasons, and it was not a sudden decision, that Mindy is someone who we both love, and respect and support. And more than anything, Kaytee, I think for both of us when I say we want Mindy to be happy in whatever she does. We will continue to listen to her where ever we can listen to her because she is bringing amazing perspectives. I love talking with her about books. I love hearing her talk about books. So if you want more Mindy, and she has a big following amongst our listeners, please make sure you follow her at @gratefulforgrace, where you can find out about all the different things that she's doing, including my favorite thing that she does, which is her zoom with Mindy, which she does great curated conversations about books that are new and old and a really great mix of things. And so if you'll miss hearing her on the show, and I know that a lot of people will that is the thing to do and support her in those ways. And just know Kaytee, you and I really from the authentically from the bottom of our hearts, we love her and we absolutely want people to be able to follow her and get the benefit of all her great bookish conversation.

Kaytee Cobb 1:04:24

Yes, and I will tie that even back to my fountain wish and say that the other favorite thing of ours that Mindy does is kind of something that we asked for to be put into the universe which is her midlife series with Mindy and Meg, on Sorta Awesome podcast. Yes, a lot of our listeners are either staring down the barrel of menopause, or they're in the thick of it or they're just past it and they wish that they had had somebody to talk to about it. That series is fantastic and happening regularly on the sort of awesome feed. So yeah, there are still a lot of really wonder for ways to get some Mindy in your life, and we are so grateful for the period of time that she did spend with us talking books and connecting with all of you.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:05:11

It's worth a lot. It's worth a lot. We're so grateful for that. Absolutely. Okay. Thank you for being patient with us as we worked through some of these really important things. We always want to be sure that we are keeping everybody apprised on exactly what's happening. And we appreciate the grace with which everyone has handled conversations around this because they aren't easy. And we're real people, and how everyone talks about all of these things matters to all of us, including Mindy, me and Kaytee. So

thank you for your grace with that. Alright, that is it for this week. As a reminder, here's where you can connect with us. You can find me I'm Meredith at @Meredith.reads on Instagram.

Kaytee Cobb 1:05:49

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:05:53

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 at currentlyreadingpodcast.com.

Kaytee Cobb 1:06:02

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:06:08

And of course, as we've discussed, you can become a bookish friend for \$5 a month. You can also rate and review us on Apple podcasts and shout us out on social media. All of those things make a huge difference in our being able to find our perfect audience.

Kaytee Cobb 1:06:23

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:06:28

Alright, until next week, may your coffee be hot,

Kaytee Cobb 1:06:31

and your book be unputdownable.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:06:33

Happy reading Kaytee

Kaytee Cobb 1:06:34

Happy reading Meredith