



# Season 5, Episode 6: A Shot of Joy + Seasoned Protagonists

Mon, 9/5 • 1:04:09

**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 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 visit the fountain.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:34**

I'm Meredith Monday Schwartz, a mom of four and full time CEO living in Austin, Texas. And finding a new bookish habit makes me happy.

**Kaytee Cobb 00:42**

I'm Kaytee Cobb, a homeschooling mom of four living in New Mexico, and creating new things brings me so much joy. This is episode number six of season five. And we are so glad you're here.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:54**

All right, we've got a theme going Kaytee. We've got some new things that we're trying out to talk about in our bookish moments of the week, which is always fun.

**Kaytee Cobb 01:02**

Yes, it is always fun. And I like when our bite size intros play with each other. Meredith, I want to let everybody know here at the top of the show that for our deep dive today we are going to talk about books with seasoned protagonists. Seasoned, not like salted, although that would also be fun. But like older, a little a little on the later side of life. Maybe a fall season protagonist.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:26**

Yes, I'm very much looking forward to that. So many good books.

**Kaytee Cobb 01:29**

As am I. But today, before we get started with our regular content, we do our single ad for ourselves, which we only do once a month, very first episode of the month, no other ads on Currently Reading. And today we have something that is very close to my heart that we get to talk about as far as our Patreon content goes.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 01:48

Yes, Kaytee, you have introduced a brand new show into our Patreon feed, which is very, very exciting. The first episode of which we all just got to hear a little bit ago. So the exciting part is in order to really make sure that all of our listeners have had a chance to hear this goodness, we are going to drop an episode of your new show, which normally would be behind the paywall at \$5 a month, you can join us and you can get the Indie Press List. You can get All Things Murderful with me and Elizabeth Barnhill and you get Kaytee's brand new show. Kaytee, tell us about what you're doing now.

**Kaytee Cobb** 02:23

Yes, as of this month for the start of season five, I introduced what we're calling Trope Thursday with Kaytee and Bunmi. Trope Tuesday is a thing, Meredith, but our bonus episodes are always on Thursdays, which is why this is Trope Thursday. And what we do, what Bunmi and I do is we tackle one trope in the bookish world, and these are not tropes, like enemies to lovers, although that could be there. Instead, it's a type of book that you might find out in the world. Our first one is debut novels. The reason that I chose Bunmi to do these episodes with me is because she is an editor at Penguin Random House. So she has all this amazing behind the scenes knowledge that you can't get anywhere else. There's nobody else doing a podcast like this as far as I know, that I've ever seen. And so it's really exciting for me to get to pick her brain for people to get to hear about publishing from that perspective. And I've really loved getting to brainstorm with her and put it together.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 03:21

And I loved the fact that you know, sometimes when you talk someone who's an insider, I sort of worry that everything that they say is going to sound really couched and you're not really going to get the true inside scoop, you're gonna get like a very varnished version of it. Bunmi is ready to just talk about the real publishing industry situation, what really goes on and give us a true insider's perspective. So I was super happy to find that out. I like her so much.

**Kaytee Cobb** 03:50

I like her so much too. This first episode that we're dropping is a little long, and it's because it's the very first iteration of this new thing. So we've got how Bunmi and I met, how we started on this new venture, and then the actual meat of the episode. I hope that when you find that extra hour in your podcast feeds this week on Friday, that you are excited about it, You listened all the way through and that maybe it makes you come over to Patreon to join us for more of that content.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 04:17

Exactly. So it's totally worth it. For \$5 a month, you get all of this additional content and you keep Currently Reading ad free. Alright, Kaytee. Mischief Managed for the month.

**Kaytee Cobb** 04:30

That was all our mischief. It's so fun to check that off our to do list. And now we get to get started the way we usually do, which is with our bookish moments of the week. Meredith, what do you have for us?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 04:39

Okay, I have a new very simple habit that is making my life so much better and why what happened I've been doing this forever is the question I'm asking myself. So I've talked about for a while that what I'm trying to do is I'm trying to read more of the books that I have actually here at home, the majority of my life library, the majority of the books that I have here in the actually I'm recording in my library now are books that I have not read yet. I have a couple of shelves for favorites. But the majority of my library is books that I have purchased or received and I just can't wait to read. And I love that feeling of potential and expectation all around me, right. It's like the very best kind of library. But the new habit that I've put into place is as I get books in and I buy way too many books, because now I have this idea that I can buy books, and oh, they'll be in my library and they're waiting. It's a problem. That's a problem. But that's a habit to fix on a different day. For this one, when I as I get books in, I am immediately taking a very specific post it note, and I'm writing where I heard about the book or why I wanted to read it. And I'm putting that on a post it so I'm not actually writing in the book, because I might want to sell it on Pango or you know, whatever. But I'm putting it on a post it note putting it right on the inside of the very first page of the books. It's the first thing I see when I open up the cover. And now I don't have to worry about remembering where I heard the recommendation or why I wanted to read the book. Maybe I just got it. Maybe I just purchased it at an independent bookstore. But maybe there was a piece of it that I was like, Ooh, that's a piece. It's really interesting to me. So past Meredith can help future Meredith remember exactly what that thing was. And that that particular thing is helping me make better choices to choose the book that's perfect for the mood that I'm in.

**Kaytee Cobb** 06:29

We always want to make good choices. Meredith, I have a question for you. Are you putting the date that you added it to your library? On the post it note?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 06:39

No, that is not something that I have been doing, but I'm going to start doing it because that's an interesting piece of information, too. Because it would be super simple to just add that, then but yeah, I'm gonna do that. Because then it will be interesting to be like, Wow, past, Meredith, you bought this three and a half years ago, right?

**Kaytee Cobb** 06:55

That's the question is like, if something stays for so long does it then become maybe it's time to unload this? Or maybe it's finally time to pick it up? Does that? I mean, does that play into your decisions at all?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 07:06

It wouldn't play into my decision. But it does add an interesting piece of information. So I'm going to start adding that. Thanks, Kaytee. It's a good idea.

**Kaytee Cobb** 07:13

Oh, I love a post it note. I love data, you know this. So this is a perfect marriage for me. Okay, Meredith, my bookish moment this week, is about my reading life as a whole. It's about it's about how I want to protect my time and my space and my energy, so that we can continue to do the show. As you know,

Meredith, we get a lot of really wonderful emails, and reviews and messages from people who really feel like currently reading has something wonderful to offer them. And of course, not everything we do is for everybody. Sometimes, we read books that people aren't interested in. Sometimes we say things that land wrong, for whatever reason. Regardless, all of us, you and I and our show regulars are human beings with feelings. And yes, even the ability to be very hurt by messages and comments. While many of us would happily chat with any listener, about a book we brought to the show, and even have a spicy discussion disagreeing about our opinions on it. I'm setting a boundary. This is my bookish moment, I'm setting a boundary around my reading life as a whole. Much like our episode a few weeks ago, when we talked about secret reads and I mentioned that I don't keep my reading secret, because I read what I want to, I am also not interested in opinions, that I should be reading anything different than what I am... less diverse, fewer LGBT books, fewer graphic novels, less romance, whatever it is, it's my reading life. And unfortunately, this past week has been especially rough for me. And a little bit rough on you too. We've both had to deal with a few messages of this nature. So when messages come in on any of our channels that imply that any of the people you hear on the show should change the way they read, or live, or speak or even laugh in order to fit the taste of a single listener, they will be deleted from here on out I'm, I'm not going to entertain them anymore. I'm not going to respond to them. And I I guess I'm asking for this to be a group bookish moment that, that if we've been in your ears for four years, and you think of us as friends, because we talk to you every week, and you wouldn't send that message to your friend, it probably won't land well here either. So my bookish moment is a boundary. And Meredith, I'm wondering how you deal with some of those direct messages and some of the stuff that comes in on your side of things?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 09:40

Well, I mean, certainly there are occasions where I have said something that I wished leader I had said differently right and that's kind of a different thing that what you're talking about. I think what puzzles me most because in you get the majority of this particular kind of feedback what puzzles me most well, I want to see two Because the first thing I want to say is that I've long been telling you that you should just delete these emails. And so I'm so glad that you have arrived at a place not because of anything that I've said, but in your own self, where it feels okay to say, this particular opinion doesn't require my feedback. And I think that that's a really healthy boundary to set. The piece that puzzles me more than anything about the feedback, and you get the lion's share of this kind of feedback about your reading, because you do read diversity in all ways, is that for this very small, it's a very small subset of people compared to the number of people who listen to us, it's a, it's a minute minute percentage that actually take the time to send you an email, right? And it's really hard to receive the kind of feedback because it's very, it's really hurtful. So that is a personal element. I think that's the personal. Well, it's very and so your reaction makes complete sense to me. What puzzles me is that these people, and there are very few of them seem to think that when you bring a book that is about a different culture, or LGBTQ, or whatever it is, first of all, they're very focused on only that piece of it, instead of the story at large. And secondly, they somehow think that because that's what you're reading and bringing to the show, that you somehow are trying to get them to read differently, which you're not. You believe as strongly as anybody that we all need to read the books that feel right to us. Right. And so that's the piece that just puzzles me. I don't read all those same books that you do, but I A. love that you do. B. respect your right to and would jump in front of a train to protect that, right? And C. understand that you are not trying to convince me to read any differently. And I just wish that I hope, because I know we have so

many 10s of 1000s of listeners who do understand exactly this. And they're probably shaking their heads right now thinking, why would someone take the time to write a nasty email? And so these, some of these emails have been nasty, you know, to actually say like, oh, you know, you're you're so woke, or you're trying you're trying to be so woke, you're trying to convince all of us that we should only read books like this. And it just puzzles me because it's, it's just not true. And it's just such an output of their energy in a way that is not helpful to anybody. So I agree that's a healthy boundary does that I fully support, you know, your right to do that I will continue if I receive an email that I find not to have merit, because some, there's a lot of feedback that we get that is difficult for me to read that I think you know what, but that person was right, what I said I could have, I could have chosen my words differently. And so that is valuable feedback. I think I want people to be able to say, hey, you know, I would love for you to think about this particular thing. I love that you do too. It's the feedback that we know that no matter what we say in response, it's not going to it's not going to matter. In fact, it could only add fuel to the fire that I think the best thing to do is to just go ahead and set it aside and move forward with other things. So I'm glad that you're doing that, Kaytee.

**Kaytee Cobb** 13:20

Thanks, Meredith. I'm really glad that you're my teammate.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 13:23

Absolutely.

**Kaytee Cobb** 13:25

Okay, let's do something fun. Let's talk about current reads. Anything scandalous on yours today?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 13:31

Nothing scandalous. But I do have some very interesting reads. And I have some reads that I liked, but I also had some problems with but it but I still liked the book. And I think that kind of crunchy texture when you get done with the book is interesting. So I have a couple of those today. So the first one I want to talk about is *The Twin Paradox* by Charles Walchter. And this is a book that had been recommended to us in the 2021, so a year ago this summer, listener press episode, it's got a fantastic setup. So let me tell you about it. Here's the setup. We start our story in what feels like an upscale Magnet High School with a scientific bent. We meet a fairly standard group of kids as they head toward their graduation date. But there is something definitely strange about this graduation day. Their parents seemed to be sad and almost contrite instead of excited. It turns out, and this is not a spoiler that these kids are in fact, genetic twins of famous artists, leaders and scientists of history. Their education has been given to them for free. But as we know, everything comes with a price. Elsewhere, there is a biosphere in the middle of Texas because of course, inside 10 Years pass for every three minutes that pass in the outside world. Now this causes a lot of problems. Planes fall out of the sky, evolved species are on the hunt, and people die inside one of the most vicious ecosystems ever grown. All a result...well, I'm not going to tell you that even though the marketing materials do. There's a lot of fun finding out what the heck is happening. And then the bigger surprise of why it's happening. So this has such a great premise, right? We're dealing with a couple of really big things, these twins of these famous people, and then the time paradox, right? So as I said, just a listener press, and I don't know why, well I downloaded it then, I don't know why I didn't immediately pick it up. But I just picked it up

recently. And it was perfect to get me out of the slump that I had been in. Now, I will say *The Twin Paradox* is not a perfect book. But it is very, very interesting. So here's what I liked about it. It has a very propulsive writing style. When I found out that the author had a long career in TV and film, it made perfect sense to me. Everything about this book feels like it's made to be made into a movie or more appropriately, a longer series, right? Okay. And that's not a bad thing. It fit perfectly in with this summer's reading for me, which was big, action packed. And I just wanted that kind of like big splashy book. And this was that, from the very start, we follow several different points of view, each one more interesting than the next. And then the chapters race by as all the storylines begin to converge together. So not only do I love the obvious premise, the twins element, and that played out really, really interestingly, but I absolutely loved the the puzzle of the time paradox. I love the science behind the cloning of great minds and this incredible creativity that the author showed when it came to what it would be like if Americans threw a bunch of ingredients into a blender and then let 1000 Years go by. What creatures and plant life would evolve and how could those be manipulated or used by the world's biggest brains? It's a totally fascinating and terrifying premise. Some of the scenes are incredibly memorable. In fact, I found myself having dreams about them while I was reading the book. Here's what I didn't love so much. After about the first 70%, the book kind of goes off the rails. The last 30% was like one big action movie with scene after scene of we won't survive being yelled by one of the characters. And then they do. It's normally I like an action scene. But when there's so many stacked one after the other with no respite in between, the pacing felt really off and it almost became comedic by the end, to be honest, by the time it was over I was I was breathless, and really, really glad to be out of this world because very frankly, I was stressed out. Overall, I ended up giving it four stars, which means that I liked it and it was memorable to me. I think if you liked the science elements in *The Kiju Preservation Society*, and *Jurassic Park*, and especially if you love books that play with the elements of science and ethics, then this book will definitely be for you. If you need a ton of character development, though, back away, my friend. But again, I I tend toward action pack stories like this one, especially for my summer reading. I'm really, really glad that I read this and I find myself thinking about it over and over. This is *The Twin Paradox* by Charles Wachter.

**Kaytee Cobb** 18:46

It sounds very interesting. I definitely have read a few books like that, though, that by the end, you're like, Okay, let's take a breath here. Settle down. So, yeah, I get that.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 18:57

But it's, it's very, very interesting. And it's very smart.

**Kaytee Cobb** 19:01

I remember being very like, intrigued by it a year and a half ago when we first heard about it, so I'm glad you brought it to the show. Okay. My first book this week is called *Honey and Spice* by Bolu Babalola. This is Bolu Babalola's debut novel, but she's already an internationally best selling author with her collection of stories called *Love in Color*. I have that one on my shelf, but I haven't picked it up yet. Even though y'all think I only read short stories sometimes haven't read that one yet. In this novel, we are centered in a new adult world of Whitehall University. So again, young adult is like the 13 to 18 year old range once they're graduated and can abuse all the substances they want and have left the nest then they become new adults, right? Our main character is named Kiki, which is fun, because that's my



mom's nickname for me, and she is the host of a student radio show called Brown Sugar. Her stated mission for her show is to keep the Black women of the university out of the hands of the players and help them avoid heartbreak. So when she publicly denounces Malakai Korede as the newest player on campus, it's a dramatic situation in all caps when she kisses him at a big party the next day. Basically, everyone sees it, but everybody already heard her trash talk him the night before. This starts a fake relationship in order to attempt to save both of their reputations. They broadcast together on the late night radio show, and are also working on a joint video project since that's where Malakai's main passion is. As a side note here, the radio show is similar to the vibes of The Ex Talk by Rachel Solomon, which I talked about, I want to say last year sometime, and the video they are creating reminds me of the little couple interview vignettes interspersed through the late 80s classic When Harry Met Sally, with Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan, I love those vignettes. I will watch that movie just to watch the vignettes. Both of those connections brought me a lot of joy. The tension between them continues to ratchet up as they pretend to fall harder for each other. They're just pretending right? It's a fake relationship. It's all pretend. When I tell you that this is a romance novel, you'll understand where it's going. The spice level here is about medium, its infrequent and mostly it's about tension that's driving the story rather than action driving the story. The fleshing out of Black joy and creativity really made this one sing for me, and I enjoyed it, especially on audio. The accents of the narrator bringing these Caribbean and Nigerian voices to life are really exceptional. I got this one as an ALC from Libro.fm, and I'm really glad they sent it to me. Since this one is new adult I don't want to point out that mostly these people are acting like mature adults, but there's some angstiness because they're like, you know, 21, 22 for those of you that might be turned away by that aspect. Overall, though, I gave it four stars and really enjoyed it. It was Honey and Spice by Bolu Babalola.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 21:58

Excellent. That sounds really good. I mean, not like something that I would pick up but it sounds perfect for the genre. Right? And of course that is because I'm not crazy about young people in love

**Kaytee Cobb** 22:09

Correct. Yes, that YA slash New Adult timeframe. We know that's not for you, Meredith.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 22:14

Unless there's wings involved. I'm not interested. Okay, I'm gonna talk about another book going along with this crunchy texture of I really liked it. I'm thinking about it all the time since I read it actually bumped my star rating up in like few months since I read it because it just marinated really well. But I had some issues with it. Okay. Little Darlings by Melanie Golding. Did you read this one?

**Kaytee Cobb** 22:37

No. I read her other one.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 22:40

The Hidden.

**Kaytee Cobb** 22:41

Oh, yes, I did read The Hidden.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 22:42

Yes. So *The Hidden* was an IPL choice, an Indie Press List choice from last year. This is a Little Darlings and Elizabeth Barnhill told us about it. And she set it up so perfectly. It's just it's got a great premise. It's very, very interesting. This is one I'm highly going to recommend on audio. So get your Libro.fm subscription. Ready? Okay, here's the setup. Our lead character is brand new mom Lauren Tranter and Lauren, poor dear Lauren is exhausted. Everyone around her and the reader knows she needs some rest. Because she just had twins like just

**Kaytee Cobb** 23:22

You have a twin theme happening today.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 23:24

Ooh you're right. I hadn't put that together. Okay. Well, her babies are Morgan and Riley. And Lauren is as any new mom, let alone new mom of twins, she's completely exhausted. But she also knows she is not crazy. She knows what she saw. Right after she had the babies, she was alone in the hospital at night recovering and a woman tried to take her babies and replace them with her own. Yet when the police arrived, they could find no evidence of this whatsoever. Even on the cameras that show the hallway leading to her room. Everyone her doctor, her husband, her friends think that she is imagining things. So a month passes. And I'll just insert here that we live this month with Lauren and it is a brutal month in the book because this book does a better job of portraying the first few weeks of newborn hood than almost any book I've ever read in my life. You are in it here with just what life with a newborn is like one morning Lauren finally pulls herself together enough to go to the park. She goes to the park their babies, and the babies disappear from her side at the park. But when they're found not very long later, something is different about them.

**Kaytee Cobb** 24:39

Nope.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 24:41

The infants look like Morgan and Riley to everyone else. But to Lauren, something is off. As everyone celebrates their return, Lauren begins screaming, "These are not my babies." And so now Lauren has to figure out if she should trust her gut and continue to search for her real babies, or risk everyone around her thinking that she's off her rocker and taking these babies away from her because of it. So this is the setup. I have a lot of thoughts about this book. So again, it's Elizabeth brought it. As soon as she talked about it on *All Things Murderful*, I was like, Holy heck, put that in my veins,

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 25:17

right.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 25:18

And Elizabeth also said, "You got to get this on audio." And I'm telling you friends, you know, I'm not a big audio person I go real slow, like audio is. I think, actually, if I look at my handy dandy spreadsheet, I think audio is less than 10% of my reading. So it is really when I say I recommend something on audio,



because it will be better on audio. This is really true. And this book, hold on to your hats. You are not ready, because I knew I was ready. But I was not ready. I stopped dead in my tracks. I mean, there's a moment and you will know the moment. Oh my god. Okay. This is this is a fast read. I definitely wanted to know what was happening the whole way through. Golding does a great job of giving you just enough to stay interested in what the truth might be, because we're kind of ping ponging back as far as far as what we think is really happening. Right? Golding's writing is amazing. She described some things in a way that just made my skin crawl, but she doesn't overdo it. And that's a balance that's really hard to find, especially in the mystery genre, and especially in a debut which this is. I love, also the way that she has given us DS Jo Harper, who is the who is the police officer, who grounds this story in reality, which is really, really helpful. It added a lot for me to the reading of this story. I felt deeply for our lead character, Lauren, again, the scenes that focus on the birth experience. And there's, we start out with that and then the few weeks that follow were visceral. And as a portrayal of postpartum mental struggles, this is incredibly realistic. I felt like I was experiencing all of it right along with Lauren. Here's what I struggled with. This book has a tough case of the mushy middle. It just hangs out in the middle section like that spinning hurricane, rolling around going nowhere. I started to really feel it. And just as I did, we got to the last third and things started to really rock and roll again. There's no question that the ending of this book is divisive. I was totally fine with it. But I don't struggle with endings the way that some readers do. I felt that it gave us enough that I knew exactly what happened. Now, obviously, from what I've said to you already, you know that there are huge trigger warnings for this book. And I just I need everyone to really hear me say all things newborn new mom, pregnancy, new baby, I would never give this to anyone who is within five years of giving birth honestly, like, just don't just wait. Put it on list. Do not read it. If you have babies, my friends, just do not do it. But overall, if you're done having your babies or you haven't had them yet and you're not going to for a long time, or you're just never gonna have babies and that's a fine choice, too. It's very worth your time. It's compelling. And you'll be best served if you go in on audio and know that it's a study and what happens to this new young mom rather than thinking it's another kind of mystery. This is Little Darlings by Melanie Golding.

**Kaytee Cobb** 28:31

Melanie Golding has a thing about motherhood and her mysteries and I will say that The Hidden which I did read by her, which was excellent, also has DS Jo Harper in it and she was a great character in that one too.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 28:47

Yeah, I like that character a lot. This in Yeah. Ooh, Little Darlings is intense.

**Kaytee Cobb** 28:54

Okay. I will also point out that the audiobook for Little Darlings is available on Hoopla, which I thought to look for because that's where I listened to The Hidden so if your library has Hoopla, it's very likely that you would be able to get access to it immediately. Which is what I will be doing as we know, from the way I just searched for it,

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 29:12

Get ready, turn the lights on,

**Kaytee Cobb 29:13**

All the lights will be on. Okay. My second book this week has no babies in it has no disappearing and it has no murder. There's no detectives required. It's just a fun, easy read. And I'm going to talk about *In Her Boots* by KJ Del'antonia. So when we start this story, Rhett Gallagher is our main character. She's on her way home to take over the family farm after the death of her grandmother. This is very cozy book. It's a good thing she has somewhere to land because her long term Argentinian boyfriend just broke things off with her and she's not sure where she wants to go next. But as she gets off the plane and heads towards home for the first time in years, the Today Show calls to try to get her to do a spot about her book, *The Modern Pioneer Girl* written under a pseudonym,. Rhett knows that she will absolutely freeze in the spotlight so she persuades her best friend, self assured Jasmine to step in, in her place, because it's a pseudonym, nobody knows what the modern Pioneer Girl looks like. Their prank turns into something more when the controlling mother that Rhett hasn't seen in two decades, announces her intent to sell the farm Rhett loves and expected to make her own. She wanted to have the little donkey and the horses and the farm stand, and her mom was like we should sell it to the college and make good money on it. And she's not pleased. To Rhett's dismay, her mother is far more impressed by the fake author, her friend Jasmine than she's ever been by Rhett. To save her inheritance and her identity. Rhett has to concoct a scheme that will save the farm and prove to her mother and herself that she is in fact able to stand on her own two feet. This book is small town New England farm fives, that little donkey, the horses. I mean, the goats I cannot It's so cozy. The farm stand the way you picture it with like its shiplap siding and its espresso bar inside. You want to go there. You want to be there. You don't want to leave this story at all. It's mixed with a possible reconnection with an old flame and strained mother daughter dynamics. It's cozy and fun. But mostly it's about adult female friendship. It's about Rhett and Jasmine, this is not a romance of any kind. Instead, it's about walking next to your friend when she's making decisions that maybe you're not so sure about. It's about standing up for a friend when they need someone in their corner. It's about those friendships of decades that sustain us and challenge us and everything in between. I read this one in just a few days on my Kindle, which says something because much like Meredith's audio Kindle is like 10% of my reading. It goes very slowly for me. And while I didn't always agree with the choices that Rhett made the cast of animals on the farm, and the cast of characters in this tiny New England town kept me coming back for more. I really enjoyed it. I thought it was a lot of fun, if a bit fluffy. This was *In Her Boots* by KJ Dell'antonia.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 32:17**

That sounds like perfect fall reading. I love New England in the fall, Vermont in the fall. I mean, that's just perfect. I love that. That sounds really good.

**Kaytee Cobb 32:26**

Yes, anybody that's looking to put something like very light, not witchy at all on their fall TBR, this might be a good fit.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 32:34**

That's a book that I think is going to appeal to a lot of readers. And so now I'm going to take a left turn to a book that is going to appeal to very few readers. But But strangely, I've had a lot of people asking me, Hey, when are you going to talk about *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell* by Susanna Clarke. Today is

the day ladies and gentlemen, I chose this book, which if you haven't seen it, pull it up online. It's got this gorgeous black cover it is 960 pages. So it is a big, big chunker and I read it as a slow but steady on my Instagram. I tried to do stories about and keep people abreast of my progress through my slow but steady. So I think people got a little bit involved with you know how my reading was going what I was going to think about this book. So Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell is by Susanna Clarke who is the author of Piranesi. That's part of the reason I'd seen this book. But when I read Piranesi, I knew for sure that I wanted to jump into it. So here's the setup. Alright, the plot, which is very hard to summarize, I'm going to give it my best shot here. It goes like this. A Yorkshire magician named Gilbert Norrell arrives in London in the early 1800s. He intends to rehabilitate the reputation of English magic, a subject long deemed more suitable for academic study than for practical application. So the magicians of the time are more likely to study magic than do magic. Mr. Norrell thinks that should change. Though seriously lacking in charisma and he really is just kind of a wet sponge, Mr. Norrell hits it big and makes a name for himself by publicly bringing the dead fiance of a cabinet minister back to life because in the early 1800s with no social media, you had to do something really big to make a splash right to really get people talking. So you bring someone back to life. Then the young Jonathan Strange, talented, handsome, impetuous arranges study at Mr. Norrell's side, but he soon becomes competition. So Jonathan strange effects the course of the Napoleonic wars with some truly spectacular magic, and he has the luck to meet and perhaps inspire all kinds of characters including Lord Byron Shelley, Mary Shelley, Jonathan Strange has hit the big time too. So we have these two really popular magicians that are very different in nature. Meanwhile, a figure from long ago history named John Uskclass is attempting to set upon the throne of England, a king to rival its current occupant. George the Third, we all know about him from Hamilton, Uskglass's magic comes head to head with that of Mr. Norrell and Jonathan Strange, and that magical combat makes for an interesting story. Okay, it's really hard to summarize this book. And it's hard to talk about it in a very short, concise way like I need to do here because there is just so much about this book, I feel like honestly, someone should do a podcast only on it like for an entire season. Overall, as a starting place, I will say that this book has all of my Dickens vibes that I love so much one of my favorite times in history, if there was magic in Great Expectations, you'd be close to what we experienced here. But it's so evocative of the early 1800s that you feel every time you read it, like you are cracking open the cover of the book, and just wedging your body down into it and straight on to the foggy cobblestone streets. It's that just immersive. Also, overall, I will say I loved this book but it's so hard to say exactly why. There's absolutely no question that for the life of me, I cannot figure out how Susanna Clarke pitched this book to get it published. I keep imagining that she's like, okay, it's the 1800s. It's two magicians, but they are not really like fabulous magic makers. They're more like, regular guys. It's a lot of war and talking and things don't make a lot of sense. And it's 900 pages. Is it a go?

**Kaytee Cobb** 36:55

How did she get this? I don't know it I don't I don't understand.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 37:01

It's not to say that it's not well written, because every word of it is incredibly well written. But I just kept thinking that it felt like a Victorian fever dream, a Victorian fever dream that took its time moving from weird interesting thing to weird, interesting thing. Now that I finished it like I what I really want to do is take a class and have a professor lead me through all of the themes, because I feel like I've gotten a lot

of it. But I'm positive, there are things that I missed because it takes its time where Piranesi has a real economy of language and dealt in the world of ideas, this book is all words. It revels in its wordiness. And I don't mean that in a negative way. It's just that the two books are so very opposite. It's hard to imagine they were written by the same author. There are vividly memorable moments in this book. There are ships made of rain, there's a fairy zombie army, there's torture dancing at a ball that never ends. These scenes were so well written that they gave me chills. And it also bears mentioning that this is a book for book lovers and anyone who sees book buying and collecting as not just a hobby, but a calling, you will find your soul companion and Mr. Norrell. He loves books, and he wants people to admire his library, but not really touch anything. And the idea of books being borrowed and leaving his library gives him a fit. Poor Mr. Norrell. In fact, for both our lead characters, the idea of books and library are an obsession, almost a character in and of itself. This is a major theme of the story. I'm immensely glad that I read it. And I'm still a huge obsessed fan of Susanna Clarke. I will read anything she puts out. But I have no idea who I would recommend this book to because it is a commitment. It's a journey, but it's one I'm so glad I took. This is Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell by Susanna Clarke.

**Kaytee Cobb 39:03**

So I'm really glad to hear you talk about this on Meredith. I this was a DNF, I called it a DNF at the time for me, I want to say six or seven years ago and partly it was the footnotes that did me in where there were some footnotes in the paper copy that took up half a page. And I was like, this is a this is a novel why? Why are there footnotes this long? I couldn't handle it. So I had to set it aside. Of course, I had multiple young babies at the time who even knows where my brain was. But I liked the idea of trying again in a slow but steady way and just giving myself time to step in and out and wedge myself between the pages like you said of 18th century or 19th century Dickens Dickensian England.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 39:50**

Yes, and I will say a word about the footnotes. I read this my favorite way the only way that I do slow but steady reading is I have it on my Kindle and then I also have the paper copy right because the paper copy is just too unwieldy darn big for me to actually read. But I really loved that it has some illustrations in it, it really, you know, I loved being able to have it as a companion. In the Kindle version, you see the number and you can click on it to get the footnote. But the footnote is not in front of you. So what I found, I was reading it completely ignoring the footnotes, then as I would move my bookmark through every couple of chapters that would move my bookmark through and if there happened to be a footnote that I especially wanted to glance at or read, I would do that but I would say about 75% of the footnotes I did not read and it did not affect my enjoyment of the book at all. So just you know, I think I think that bears mentioning because when you do open up the print copy, it looks pretty intimidating. So I would recommend this one on Kindle and have a copy of the book by your side just to kind of feel the progress as you make it through this huge book.

**Kaytee Cobb 40:58**

Okay, I like it. I like that plan. Excellent. Okay, my third book this week is The Secret Life of Albert Entwistle by Matt Cain. Albert Entwistle.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 41:10**

It's excellent, that's amazing.

**Kaytee Cobb 41:13**

Albert I love him. He is a private man with a quiet simple life. He works for the Royal Mail and has plenty of interesting connections with the families he knows through their mail delivery through his route, because he's been doing it for decades. But three months before his 65th birthday, he gets a notice a government notice that retirement at 65 is mandatory. But thank you kindly for your decades of service. As retirement looms, Albert realizes he has no connections to the outside world. Without his work, what is even the point of his life. He has his cat Gracie, but no one else even knows the real him. They certainly don't know anything about his past, and the lost love that haunts him and has left him living with regret. So he steps out of his comfort zone and bravely plans to start living. His coworkers, his neighbors, maybe even that lost love. It's time to make connections and fast. As Albert starts to come out of his shell, he finds an extraordinary life awaits him. He finds allies and friends and gives us all a reason to say hello to the person you pass on the street every day. This book is like A Man Called Ove mixed with All the Lonely People mixed with The Guncle. It's about turning over a new leaf, dealing with your grief, stepping outside of a comfortable but lonely life and accepting who you truly are. Maybe for the first time at age 65. I am of the firm opinion that any book that includes a drag queen is automatically just a touch better, like we see in One Last Stop by Casey McQuiston. And this book is no exception. It made me think of the ways that the people we interact with on a daily basis all have their own secrets and struggles. It could be your barista at Starbucks or the person who checks you out at the grocery store, or the librarian that helps all of us with our addiction to books, right. Albert Entwistle is "just" a postal worker, right? That's in quotes, but he's also an integral part of his community, while also feeling totally disconnected from the people around him. I wanted to hug him have him over for tea and biscuits. And I really loved the way that the people around him surprised him when he was finally willing to let them in. I went totally postal and gave it five raving stars. But even without the drag queen, I still would have loved it. This is The Secret Life of Albert Entwistle by Matt Cain.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 43:35**

Kaytee, I really like how you've brought three really light hearted books to the show today. Did you do that on purpose?

**Kaytee Cobb 43:41**

I did not. But as you know, from my bookish moment, I was in a bit of a funk this week. So I wanted some joy. I needed some joy. I needed some books that made me smile when I talked about them. These are what rose to the top.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 43:53**

Excellent. I love it. Love it. Love it, love it.

**Kaytee Cobb 43:55**

Okay, those are our six current reads. Which means now we get to talk about seasoned protagonists, which is part of why I put Albert at the end of my current reads, because he's a perfect lead in to seasoned protagonists. So Meredith, why do we like books with older people at their center?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 44:12

Well, I mean, I think I am starting to really like books with older people, because I am getting to be an older person.

**Kaytee Cobb** 44:18

See, now.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 44:20

You know, I'm, I'm 49. I'm gonna be 50 next year. So I am really finding that that middle aged or middle aged and older protagonists in some of the books that we're going to talk about today is really interesting to me in a way that when I was in my early 30s, it just wasn't. So I think part of it partly it's that, but I think also there's no question that we are just getting more of these books. I think this has become more of a thing in publishing. The season protagonist is really having its day. And I think probably you and I would agree there is one particular book series that has really given a lot of wind to that sail.

**Kaytee Cobb** 45:00

Oh, I definitely think that we are talking about the same thing. I'm wondering, since you mentioned mentioned being about to turn 50 Next year, where do you draw that line? What makes somebody seasoned for you? Is it like not 25?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 45:17

I think I would, I think I would put seasoned now because I think I'm seasoned. I think I fall into the category of seasoned right. So I would put that probably at 45, I would say, there's an older protagonist that I would probably put at 65, which I think is another 65. And then I think there's a truly elderly protagonist that we that we're seeing. So I think we're seeing all through that all through that realm.

**Kaytee Cobb** 45:44

Right. Do you have a favorite? Is it the ones that reflect to your current age in life? Or is it even older?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 45:51

Yeah, I think for me, if I'm being truly honest, I think for me, I'm loving books about women who are my mom's age. So that's mid 70s. And I'm loving a protagonist who is has that much life experience, but who is also still really living a vibrant life, it's kind of the concept of man, many, many people are going to live into their 90s and older. So like, how are we using the back half of our lives? I've talked about this before, this is something that I'm really obsessed with right now for my own self. So seeing a protagonist, living it, at that age, that 75 to 80 range, but still having a lot of life to live. And also, when they're also giving back to the people who are younger than them in the story and kind of bringing them up, that's also something that I'm looking for. I also just really, really like it when old ladies are also killers. That because I am telling you truly when I get if I am blessed enough to live into my 90s I 100% am considering beginning to just try to kill people and get away with it.



**Kaytee Cobb** 47:04

because I mean, because what's gonna happen, what's gonna happen to you, especially if you have this great like, like Dexter ish motive, right, where you're ridding the world of unsavory characters.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 47:16

Exactly. And that's only the only thing that I would be interested in doing. But like, you know, the people who really deserve it, like an old Bidy given it to him, Oh, I just love it. I love it. Love it, love it.

**Kaytee Cobb** 47:27

I love that too. I will echo what you said. And, and when you said it out loud, it rang true for me. Also, my mom is 72. So our moms are actually not that far apart. But that's the generation that I especially love reading about. I do not usually want to read about someone that's exactly my age, or even 10 years younger than me, but I'm willing to go older, which now this is sounding like a weird dating profile. That's not what I was doing with this, but but I like that, you know, 30 years ahead of me, what is further down the road, and I like I like seeing killers. I like murders. I like solving crimes. I like making friends. And I like falling in love. Those are the four main categories of seasoned protagonists that I really appreciate. So it sounds like we're ready for murders first.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 48:17

Yes, well, yes. And can I just tell you at that my favorite book about an elderly protagonist who is also just a kick ass assassin is The Old Woman with the Knife by Gu Byeong-Mo. This was an Indie Press List choice. I read it just a couple, I read it this summer. I loved this book, South Korean translated so, smart, translated book in translation. So smart, little bit of a slow burn beginning, but once you're in with this lead character and the career that she's had and what she's currently going through, and the way she does what she does, and the cat and mouse game. I loved this book.

**Kaytee Cobb** 48:58

In real time, like this weekend after we record, but before this episode airs, I get to do a buddy read discussion with our patrons about that book. And I was, I was so proud of myself for choosing it from a Cafe Con Libros Indie Press List choices, because I think it's so interesting. This was the top of my list too. It's the very first one I wrote down under killers. Because she is Hornclaw, she is just a fantastic main character. It's such an interesting story.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 49:26

It's so so good. And of course I think we've all heard about An Elderly Lady Is Up To No Good by Helene Tursten fantastic, short stories. There's actually more than one in the series. And if you just really love the idea as I do, of getting to be older and then getting away with murdering really bad people, people who just deserve it this I mean, you cannot be better than than this elderly lady and she is up to no good.

**Kaytee Cobb** 49:52

And that one's really tiny. So it's easy to pick it up. And it's I mean, it's not short stories, but each chapter on its own Yeah, exactly. So you can pick it up. You can read one little chunk of it and be like, Oh, that was satisfying to have her murder that ass that

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 50:08**

Yes. and not get caught. That's the thing. That's how she's so smart about it.

**Kaytee Cobb 50:14**

Definitely. I also recently got the galley for but haven't started yet Killers of a Certain Age by Deanna Raybourn. Have you seen this one? It's like it's basically like a knitting club. Except because it's it's a whole group of older ladies that kill people.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 50:29**

Yes. And I got that galley too. And I have not picked it up yet. And there's one reason that I have not picked it up. And that is because the elephant in the room of this conversation is The Thursday Murder Club series, which of course is beloved, I loved it. You loved it. The first two books are fantastic. I even just read the third one The Bullet that Missed, which is not out yet. And it is great. It's a series like no other with 70 year old, four, seventy year old people who are in a rest home, a retirement home together, and they solve murders. And it's so great. The murders are, so the mystery. It's so fantastic. The interplay between the septuagenarians is so wonderful that what's happened now is we're getting a lot of copycat books, a lot of books that are like that worked really well. Let me try to enter this Deanna Raybourn one feels like that to me. So I haven't, haven't picked it up because it just feels too close to that. Like, it's just that like they're just trying to copy that success.

**Kaytee Cobb 51:35**

Interesting. I felt that because The Thursday Murder Club is solving crimes and these ladies are killing she she was trying to combine The Elderly Lady is Up to No Good up to no good and The Thursday Murder Club those two things together, which both given were wildly successful, so why not try to combine them? Right. Would we count, don't take offense to this, please? Would we count Armande Gamash as a seasoned protagonist at this point? He's a grandfather by now. Right?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 52:07**

Right. And I don't take offense. I mean, he's definitely you know, my dad sort of aspiration right. So I think of him as being older than I am. So yes, but I'm not sure that that exactly fits what we're talking about here. I guess mostly because the stories while he is an important part of the story, that story doesn't sort of center on him.

**Kaytee Cobb 52:31**

Okay. Okay. But it's not a Three Pines book without it being a right. It's not about him being elderly. I agree with that.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz 52:40**

exactly. But but he is a seasoned protagonist. I do agree with that. I mean, I think probably the most famous mystery, seasoned, truly seasoned protagonists are Agatha Christie's two famous detectives, Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot both who are in their 60s and 70s, both who are as smart as a whip, both who are using their vast life experience to solve these mysteries, both of whom are underestimated because of their age. And yet they they use that to their, their great advantage. So I

think those those are great examples. And they kind of steer us a little bit toward a genre that has long embraced the seasoned protagonist and that is the cozy mystery because there are so many cozy mysteries where our lead character is older or elderly. My two favorites if I had to narrow it down, of those are the Agatha Raisin series by MC Beaton. Feisty sassy Agatha Raisin. She is. Absolutely. I mean, she's smart. She's retired advertising executive, she moves to this tiny town. She is just absolutely fantastic. She has no filter, and she solves mysteries. I love her. And then we have Mrs. Pollifax the series by Dorothy Gilman. If you'd like your elderly protagonist, a little more buttoned up a little more in the Miss Marple, you know frame of things. Mrs. Pollifax is going to be your pick, but she goes all over the world to solve her mystery. So a lot of international travel with Mrs. Pollifax.

**Kaytee Cobb** 54:19

See now I was at the thrift store yesterday and I saw an Aunt Dimity book and I thought for sure you were going to throw an Aunt Dimity out there.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 54:25

Well, no because the Aunt Dimity is dead. She's, she's dead. She's Uh, she's very, very old.

**Kaytee Cobb** 54:34

her birthday was a very long time ago. That makes her Yes. Okay. Okay, I the other ones that I have are all, you know, heart happy books. So of course, I've got like A Man called Ove, All the Lonely People and The Secret Life of Albert Entwistle which I already talked about all three of those today. But then the falling in love books. I think this is really it's a harder sell. sometimes to do older protagonists falling in love. So I could only think of a few and one of them even made me mad. It was The Royal Holiday By Jasmine Guillory which I had a whole rant about how she writes very open door. But then here that was not appropriate. And why is that? And what is it about our brains that makes that inappropriate? But also The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg? And Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson,

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 55:29

Right, well, I mean, I think we have to talk about if we, if we're going to transition a little bit towards away from mystery away from cozy and into something that's a little more straight fiction, then I think we have to talk about Elizabeth Berg, my favorite book of hers is The Confession Club, which is about a group of women whose ages range but there are several that are in the category that we're talking about. And the way that they come together and the way that they share with each other, what's going on in their lives and how the older women, really in a mensch like way, use their knowledge to help the younger women is a great. I've read multiple Elizabeth Berg books, she's one of my favorite authors. And anytime I want to be in that kind of space, where it's, it's not a cozy, but there's a lot of cozy elements. But then there's also real life and real poignancy in her books. And so I think Elizabeth Berg does a seasoned protagonist really, really well beautifully. The other book that I was thinking about that I feel like I have to mention, I haven't read it myself yet, but I'm going to Johnny recently has been turned on by a friend I met in Memphis to the Kent Haruf books. And he has a book called Our Souls at Night, that has been highly recommended to us. It's not very long, but it's about two very elderly people who have both been through a loss and they basically end up coming together. At the very beginning of the book, the woman asks the man if he will sleep with her, but she means actually sleep, which isn't to

say that elderly people can't have, you know, robust sex life. That's not what I mean. But that's not the point of this book. And as they do that, they really end up talking and baring their souls to each other at night in the dark under the covers in a way that maybe they wouldn't have in real life. And so *Our Souls At Night* is about that sharing of those long life experiences. So I just felt like I wanted to be sure to put a plug in for that book, because I'm really looking forward to reading it. It's one that Johnny is going to read because I think it's going to be completely up his alley. And this is by the same woman who recommended *The Son* to me by Philipp Meyer. And so I really, I really, really trust her taste, good source there.

**Kaytee Cobb** 57:41

Excellent.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 57:42

I cannot end this segment without saying my favorite example of this, of course, is the book that I so recently talked about, which is *The Shell Seekers*, which has the lead character Penelope is an absolutely incredible 68 year old woman who is just sucking the marrow out of life. And also, reading that book gave me so many thoughts as to my own parenting, my own motherhood, what is our relationship with our grown children? How can that look? What should it look like? What do we owe our children versus what do we owe ourselves? *The Shell Seekers* is a great example of this kind of protagonist.

**Kaytee Cobb** 58:25

I love that. And I love that you read it so recently, and then we got to talk about it again today. Perfect. That was a great collection, a whole list of titles. If you're looking for somebody as your protagonist that is a little older, a little salt and pepper, perhaps or all salt. That's great, too. And a whole gamut of different genres, too, which is another great discovery. Right? I love it. Okay, so today. Now we are done with all the main segments and we get to visit the fountain. Meredith, what fountain are you picturing today and what is your wish?

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 58:57

All right, well, I am picturing the fountain that was sure to exist in the garden that Penelope Kaling from *The Shell Seekers* had been spending so much of her time growing, because she was really into gardening. And so there is a beautiful fountain there. It's not very big, but it is just exactly right for the gurgling water that we wanted to have. So my wish today is that I wish that people would read *Rewind* by Catherine Ryan Howard. I feel like I need to put a plug in for this book, because it is probably after *The Nothing Man.*, it is my favorite of all of her books. And it's a little bit harder to find because not every bookstore will have *Rewind* in stock, but *Fabled* does if that's where you shop. And every third book that she writes, she has told us she writes a book that is for her. That is something that she wants to talk about. And this book *Rewind* has that really interesting construct that we have begun to really know is a hallmark of her writing. So I'm just gonna give you a little bit of setup because this is the kind of book that shouldn't have a ton of setup. Andrew is a manager of the Shanamore holiday cottages. He watches his only guest via a hidden camera that is in her room. One night, the unthinkable happens. A shadowy figure emerges on screen, kills the guest and destroys the camera. But who is the murderer? And how did they know about the camera? *Rewind* is such a great example of Catherine Ryan

Howard's work of how smartly she constructs her plots and I feel like it is a book that just doesn't get enough attention in her cannon. So that's my wish that more people would read Rewind by Catherine Ryan Howard.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:00:50

While this is perfect, Meredith because I actually had to pause Run Time in order to record today, and I have like 30 minutes left. I'm so close to the end. But I had to pause because we had a thing. So I'm gonna get there. And I you know, I want to be a completist like you basically I love Catherine Ryan Howard, love the interview you did with her just want to hang out with her all day. So, okay, so my wish this week is very practical. I wish that if a book is a series, it would always include the book number on the spine, and the front cover. This comes from a trip to our library. Yesterday, I picked up a book from the middle grade section called Spirit Hunters: The Island of Monsters by Ellen Oh. The cover was appealing. The author bio mentioned that Ellen Oh is a founding member of We Need Diverse Books. And the setup on the front flap looked great. I took another look at the spine and realized it had a number two on the top. So I pulled up the library catalog and it was in fact Book Two in the series. Thank you, Ellen Oh, and her cover designers and her publishers had that number two not been there, I would have been an animal, I would have taken home the books in the wrong order. Instead, I did things the right way. And I requested book one in the series, which is just called Spirit Hunters, and we'll pick it up soon. So my wish is from the fact that especially if you collect a series or a series is very long, this can get really confusing publishers, please stop us from melting our brains and put the stinking number of the series on the spine of the book and the front cover for the love. I'm aggressively throwing my coin today. It gets a pink splash but it's very loud in my head.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:02:31

A big splash.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:02:32

Yeah, it's a large coin. It's like a it's like a pirates dubloon. It's big wish. Please put those numbers. It's such a tiny thing. Put the numbers there.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:02:42

I mean, I think it's such a tiny thing if we know for sure that it is a series right? I think probably when they if they do a rerelease they they probably always do a better job of that. But I mean, maybe not. Maybe not. But I do. I mean it would be great if it had that because I've run into that myself many times. 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** 1:03:09

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

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:03:13

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** 1:03:23

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

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:03:30

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**Kaytee Cobb** 1:03:49

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

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:03:53

Alright, until next week, may your coffee be hot

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:03:56

and your book be unputdownable.

**Meredith Monday Schwartz** 1:03:58

Happy reading Kaytee.

**Kaytee Cobb** 1:04:00

Happy reading Meredith.