



Season 5, Episode 11: The Magic of Bookish Friends + Reading With Guests Around

Mon, Oct 10, 2022 • 1:02:12

Kaytee Cobb 00:10

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

Mindy Brouse 00:23

We're are light on the chit chat, 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.

Kaytee Cobb 00:33

I'm Kaytee Cobb, a homeschooling mom of four living in New Mexico and I'm thanking my past self for great preorders.

Mindy Brouse 00:40

And I'm Mindy Brouse, mom of seven living with earbuds in all the time while homeschooling in the mountains outside Albuquerque, New Mexico. And I think there should be a special separate carry on bag for books that doesn't count as luggage. This is episode number 11 of season five and we are so glad you're here.

Kaytee Cobb 00:57

That's right, Mindy, A. we are so glad you're here. And B. You're packing for a very special trip.

Mindy Brouse 01:04

I am I am. That happens to be my bookish moment of the week. I'm sure you're not surprised by that at all.

Kaytee Cobb 01:09

Well, I'm very excited to get into that. But I have a quick question, which is do you bring a lot of paper books on planes? Or like why would you need a special carry on just for books because I don't feel like you're a huge paper reader.

Mindy Brouse 01:21

I'm not, but I try to do that on planes because it's the one time that I know I can sit and not be interrupted. You know, I mean, one of my issues with paper books is the people here, right responsibilities and all the interruptions and that's why audiobooks are my jam. But for a plane, especially because I'm traveling alone, it's a perfect time for me to sit uninterrupted with the paper book.

Kaytee Cobb 01:45

I love that and that actually kind of plays into our deep dive for later. We're going to talk about what it's like to read with guests in your house, how to balance having people over being an extrovert like both of us are and needing time to yourself to read as well. So I'm excited to talk about that. But first Mindy, I cannot wait to hear about your bookish moment. Please tell us all about it.

Mindy Brouse 02:07

Okay, well hands down the very best bookish moment of my life much less this week is that bookish friends via you surprised me two weeks ago and put together funds to send me to see Fredrik Backman in Chicago and I leave tomorrow morning. I'm not sure I'm gonna sleep tonight. Not only do I get to see Fredrik Backman, but I get to stay with Jessica Bearak I get to meet Liz Hein and some more bookish friends who I don't even know yet are coming. All while visiting a city I've never been to I am so stunned. I am so excited for Fredrik Kaytee. He has no idea of course what is happening in my life. But it's a big deal for me. And it's another stop on his book tour. But for me, it's a beautiful, beautiful, bookish moment that just came out of nowhere for me and I can't wait. I can't wait.

Kaytee Cobb 03:04

I cannot wait either. I want you to basically live stream the entire thing from beginning to end from getting on the plane to what books you're reading while you're there. The brunch you have with the bookish friends, the meeting with Fredrik Backman, what his what his signature looks like inside the book. I want all of it. I want a complete over gram. And I want everybody to make sure they go visit like a story highlight after the fact since this episode will air afterwards.

Mindy Brouse 03:29

Exactly Kaytee because I'm pretending like I'm taking you with me which you know and so I have to do everything. And so whoever stumbles upon my Instagram this next four days is probably going to be like, is she like with him? Is she related to him? No, I'm just a fan. But I will save the entire trip and the highlight so that not only you Kaytee, but other friends can travel with me for this super fun, super, super fun, bookish moment.

Kaytee Cobb 03:58

I am so excited. This was all Jessica Bearak's brainchild. But really the bookish friends came through in this amazing way where within hours we had enough for the plane ticket and then within another few hours, we had to say no more sorry, friends, the Bank of Mindy is closed because we had enough to pay for all your meals and all your everything for the entire weekend. And I am just thrilled. It's so overwhelmingly wonderful to be part of a moment like that where you get to see kind of the goodness of humanity poured out on one person that really deserves it. So I'm very excited for you Mindy.

Mindy Brouse 04:31

Thanks, friend. I'll probably be crying the whole time. I know that doesn't shock you either.

Kaytee Cobb 04:35

No it doesn't surprise me.

Mindy Brouse 04:38

All right, what about you? What is your bookish moment of the week?

Kaytee Cobb 04:41

Okay, my bookish moment this week, I got two emails about pre orders that I had made long ago finally shipping and I was kind of worried because two emails in the same day and I don't get an email every week about a pre order. So I was like, "Oh no. Oh, no past Kaytee what did you do?" First, I got an email from Barnes and Noble about my pre order of *The Winners* by Fredrik Backman, which of course you knew had to be one of the two of them. Right? Cool. I knew that was coming. Obviously I'm very aware of when *The Winners* released, no big deal. Then a couple hours later, I get an email from bookshop.org saying my order had shipped. Oh, no. What have I done? Right? That's like that to that viral soundbite where it's like, oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. Right? I open the email. And it turns out, I had pre ordered a book in January, that is nine months ago, for those of you keeping track called *The Door of No Return*. And y'all I had no idea what this was and it had already shipped. And I was like, "What book did I order?" So gave it a quick Goog and I figured out that this is the new middle grade verse novel by Kwame Alexander, who is a beloved author of mine. He wrote *Booked* and *The Crossover* which are both on my permanent middle grade shelves. This one is about a Ghanaian boy, 11 year old Kofi and I know enough about the actual *Door of No Return* to know that enslavement of Africans is going to be part of this story. Reading about the setup, I got very excited about it all over again. So thank you to past Kaytee for making sure that I put in a pre order and then completely forgetting all about it. Embarrassing, and also lovely. Both/and.

Kaytee Cobb 05:06

Yeah, it's like a little gift to yourself that you sent, that previous Kaytee sent to current Kaytee. I love this.

Kaytee Cobb 06:28

Yes, she was thinking nicely of future Kaytee and future Kaytee was grateful. So excellent bookish moments. I love it. Let's get into some current reads. Mindy, I am dying to know what you've brought to the show today.

Mindy Brouse 06:40

All right, I can't wait. I am grateful to have stumbled on a book while scrolling Scribd a few weeks ago, Kaytee because now it's a new fave and it's likely to be in my top 10 for the year but since we still have three months of reading, as you know, Currently Reading regulars and hosts we make no decisions until January 1. So that could change but I found *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn and I loved it so much. This book came out last year. I don't know how I missed it. It was right in my wheelhouse and I think it will be in many of yours also. So here we go. Now, before I get started, Kaytee Yes, this is a world war

two book. Okay, stop. Don't roll your eyes. Don't fast forward. Keep hearing me, keep hearing me. I know we often think we don't need another World War Two book but sometimes we're wrong. Just like Address Unknown by Kathrine Kressmann Taylor, which is probably the most powerful thing I've read in years, and it is only 67 pages long. It doesn't even really count as a book kind of like a booklet. It was stunning. And quite a few of us in the book as friends group agreed and chatted about this book this past spring. Sometimes we find another World War Two book, that's a real keeper and add to the collection in a beautiful way. And The Rose Code by Kate Quinn is that book. This historical novel start to 1947 with Beth, a woman who is locked in a mental institution sending coded messages to former friends who are no longer speaking to her or each other. Then we go back to early 1940s to see how, where, and why these women get to know and mean something to each other. Y'all this is based on real women and you will not even believe the story of codebreaking team to see international intrigue, more love royal family and some awesomely quirky characters. Now, you know, I like quirky characters, Kaytee, and these, this team is it. So you got to think of a bunch of engineers, a bunch of math people, a bunch of people that just love puzzles of all kinds, but don't necessarily like people. That's that's who we're working with here. And they are so fun. The timing of my reading of this was really amazing. Especially since I didn't know this aspect of the book. Now, I know you're not shocked Kaytee that I didn't read anything about the book. That I saw the cover and the title and I was like, "Yeah, that sounds good. I'm gonna read it." But one of the characters Prince Philip's girlfriend before he married Elizabeth. I was reading this when Elizabeth died and Queen Elizabeth... I shouldn't just say Elizabeth like she's a you know,

Kaytee Cobb 09:20
she was your bestie

Mindy Brouse 09:21
or something. It's fine. Yeah. When Queen Elizabeth the Second died. When he entered the story, my jaw dropped because I was like, I had no idea. The story centers around Beth Osla and Mab, unusual names. Three very different women, a socialite deb a rough East Ender and a 25 year old mouse of a woman under her mother's control. Y'all we have to find out why these women went from close friend at the start in the word to hating each other in 1947. Now, I loved every bit of this book, don't be daunted, it is 656 pages, because the theme of being loved and appreciated for who you are in all your oddness in your differentness lands squarely in a really good place for me, and I think many of you the other aspect that is totally my jam is when a group of misfits come together, to love each other and value one another while doing amazing things like mind blowing things that no one told us was happening. Now granted, I wasn't alive in World War Two. I still didn't know about Bletchley Park. And now I want to go there. This book made me think of both Just One Damned Thing After Another by Jodi Taylor, because of the team and the hilarity, but also Code Name Helene by Ariel Lawhon because of the badass women of World War Two that we didn't know about. So when I finally get to England to meet Stacy Chin, I am going to visit Bletchley Park. Also, I'm going to drag her there. But this book was so much fun, enlightening and unputdownable, which is saying a lot for a big book. This is The Rose Code by Kate Quinn.

Kaytee Cobb 09:43

Have you read anything else by Kate Quinn, Mindy, or is this your first from her?

Mindy Brouse 11:00

I don't know. Maybe I have.

Kaytee Cobb 11:06

She had a really famous one a few years ago called The Alice Network. Did you... no? That's the only one I've read of hers. But I know she does write those very powerful, very women centered stories based in World War Two. So I'm so glad this was a hit for you. That's so wonderful.

Mindy Brouse 11:23

Yeah, it was really really good.

Kaytee Cobb 11:25

Okay, great. Okay, I am bringing a little bit of a hot take for the first one, but I think you're on the same page as me. So I want to see what you think about this. The first book I want to bring this week is called Future Home of the Living God by Louise Erdrich. Did you read this one? Yeah, I see some nodding. Yes. Okay. Good. So we're going to talk about that in a little bit. First, I'm going to give you the setup. Here's what Goodreads says about it. This is a startling portrait of a young woman fighting for her life and her unborn child against oppressive forces that manifest in the wake of a cataclysmic event in this dystopian novel. Even that that's like word salad in my mouth. 26 year old Cedar Hawk Songmaker, adopted daughter of a pair of Minneapolis liberals is as disturbed and uncertain as the rest of America around her. But for Cedar this change is profound and deeply personal. She is four months pregnant. Though she wants to tell the adoptive parents who raised her from infancy, Cedar first feels compelled to find her birth mother, Mary Potts, an Ojibwe to understand both her and her baby's origins. As Cedar goes back to her own biological beginnings, society around her begins to disintegrate, fueled by a swelling panic about the end of humanity. I don't even I still don't even understand what that blurb means. Even though I've read the entire book. There's a lot in the setup though. There's like code words in here that are kind of Kaytee catnip. I love a dystopian novel. I love a cataclysm. And this is a combo of both. I love a comp to The Handmaid's Tale, although now that's almost like a comp to Gone Girl because it feels like every dystopian novel has a comp to Handmaid's Tale, right, right. I love a Native American author and protagonist and when I look at my spreadsheet breakdown for the year, I consistently rate those books with Native American authors really highly. I don't read a ton of them, but they always end up with like four or five stars, six stars if I gave them right, they're just really highly rated. But a few weeks ago, when I listened to Mary and Meredith talk about their diverging opinions about The Sentence, which I have yet to read, I also realized that I have read two of Louise Erdrich books so far. And both of them gave me the trouble that Meredith was talking about. It is hard for me to find a through line in the plots of these books. This one felt so much like there was a lot of character development, but I didn't care about any of those characters, because it was so winding. The action of the story didn't really feel like it started to happen until at least 60% through the book, and by then I was feeling like we were in Shawshank Redemption all of a sudden. But I couldn't really pinpoint why all of this wasn't working for me until that conversation between Mary and Meredith. And that's why it's so important to be able to thoughtfully discuss books that we disagree about. However, I don't think that

this is a book that we disagree about, Mindy. I think I read this one and it was not a fit for you. Oh, can you tell me?

Mindy Brouse 14:14

Yeah, no, I it wasn't a fit for me there for the same reason. Like I think a lot of people think I'm I lean towards character driven, but I am hard and fast to say I really need both. I need a solid character development, but I need to know what's going on. And I need to understand and follow their movement through the story and this book, and I really wanted to like, I kept being like, you're gonna get there. Maybe it's probably you, but then the longer I read, I was like, I think maybe it's not me. And I don't know,

Kaytee Cobb 14:46

Right. Yeah. So and this is a this is a concern for me, because this is now the second book of hers that I've given three stars. And I own The Sentence in both paper and audio. I have multiple formats of it because I was so excited about it. I'm not even sure now when or if I'll pick it up because it's possible that Louise Erdrich herself is just not my fit for me. She is a fantastic author. There's lots of people who really, really love her and love her writing. And I just don't think that she and I give in the same way, which is totally fine. Right. But it's helpful to know that right?

Mindy Brouse 15:19

It is helpful, because I think we all find there are certain writing styles that speak to us so deeply. But there's also some that we can do like, there's kind of a spectrum like some that are our jam so much that we like, want to marry them. And then we have some that are like, yes, let's, you know, let's go do things together, go have lunch, go to dinner, bowl, but then there are some that are like, no, maybe you're just like a coffee date. That's it, you know? And then there are some who are like, you know, I'm so sorry. I'm really busy. I can't my calendar. I know. I just, yeah, I just Yeah, it's a bummer. And it's not because they are bad writers. It's just not a fit. And I can totally see this. And I even though I did like this sentence. I didn't love it. But I did like it a lot. And I but if I was you, I don't know that I'd pick it up. Yeah,

Kaytee Cobb 16:09

right. Yeah, it might be a three strikes situation. But again, this is only two of hers that I've read. But we'll see when I get there. I do know, I'm gonna have to put a long time between this book and picking up that next one. So this was Future Home of a Living God by Louise Erdrich.

Mindy Brouse 16:25

All right, you ready for my next one? So randomly, it's so like, you're not even gonna see this one coming. So. Okay, so currently reading listeners who are not on Bookstagram, which I know are many, many, if not most of you like, well, the regulars and the hosts, we feel like everyone's on Bookstagram. We know that is not true. And we know some of you listen to the show, and depend on that, you know, only for your recommendations and books that have come out. So yesterday, a book released September 27. We're recording on September 28. That has been much anticipated. I'd love to share some thoughts with you about it. It is The Winners by Fredrik Backman. I know you're shocked. Okay, we are shocked. Alright guys, this is the third and final installment in the Beartown series. And I want to

start by saying that Backman's writing in this series could not be more perfect for me. Like we just talked about, this is the kind of book I marry. This is the kind of book that gets buried with me. All of those things. His dedication in this novel, just even even speak to me

Kaytee Cobb 17:31

Don't cry, Mandy,

Mindy Brouse 17:33

I'm not gonna cry. I promise no crying, but even his dedication in this book. When I first started reading, it was like, Oh, he wrote this just for me. But some of you, you know, get to read it, too. That's so nice. I love this. I mean, you get to enjoy a book that Fredrick Bachman you know, for me. Is it okay if I read the dedication? It's not spoilers. "To you who talk too much and sing too loud and cry too often and love something in life more than you should? Oh, my God, I was like, Well, okay, so I'm crying at the dedication is totally fine. No big deal. Alright, fellow readers, who are like that, I see you. I'm here for you. So let's do this setup for this book. Everything takes place in two weeks time and two years after Us Against You. A storm hits the forest, the forest we've come to know and love but are kind of glad we don't live in because it's a little too cold. A series of events of events that are brewing get pushed into starting and it's kind of like a domino effect. Honestly, I don't want to say too much about the setup for two reasons. One, this is our last time in this world and I want it to be everything it can be for you. As you read without any pre knowledge of this story. Two, y'all, there is so much happening in this book. If you thought Beartown and Us Against You have a lot going on, buckle up because Backman gives everything in this book. If I were to summarize it, you might think you can't follow it. And you may not pick this up. And that is simply not true because of his genius at telling this particular storyline. We all know Backman has other books, but this is his heart and he can tell it amazingly. I will say though Kaytee, the older generation and the younger generation in this book, both bring amazing lessons to each other and us. The first line will hit you hard and I'm here for you. Our towns of Hed and Beartown grow in ways that we don't expect and through people we know and people we don't know but get to meet every single OG character except Kevin is here. I've heard some say that the first 200 pages are recapping the previous books and I am going to disagree. There is a lot of recapping and honestly this novel could stand alone because of it. Now, we are not condoning that in any way shape or form. Right like we are not I want you to we do not we are not animals. We do not want you to do this but for some reason he did do a lot of recapping but in those 200 pages, and I've read the book one and a half times, I'm halfway through my second reading, so I did double check on this second time. While he is reminding us all that happened, he also introduces an entirely new family of six members. He introduces to people who are doing nefarious things who we already hate just from the very first moment we meet one of them. We meet a character who it seems to be the key to this domino series of events, and he introduces a theme that is new. So, as usual, while he tells us an amazing story, our characters also make us feel seen while feeling so real. These are real people. I mean, we all know that these are all real people now. Backman brings us a new season of Beartown, see what I did there like season like a hockey season, and hope, in many ways, but breaking our hearts. My thoughts, though, are that this novel is not for everyone. And that's because this time y'all he fully immerses us in Beartown, like, it's pretty shocking Beartown and Hed and their people, we are fully there, he gives it everything. It is almost 700 pages. So he brings everything he wants, all of our beloved characters have developed and get time in the spotlight each character. And that's saying a lot, because there's a lot of

characters. It's immersive. It speaks to marriage, family, parenting, friendship, trauma, misguided faith in this one betrayal, in ways that hit our hearts and take our breath away. It may be my favorite of this series now. And that is saying something. I won't know for sure until it settles a little bit more. But that is *The Winners* by Fredrik Backman.

Kaytee Cobb 21:39

I was so glad you brought it to the show. I'm about 20% of the way into my first read of this novel, because it's a really long, so that's 140 pages. I'd be almost halfway through a regular book at this point.

Mindy Brouse 21:53

I know. Right? Yes, exactly.

Kaytee Cobb 21:56

And just like you said it, the timeline is so compressed, I'm really only a few hours into the storm that is the preface for this novel or the setting for this novel. So I'm very excited to see where he goes with it. And what develops with these characters. So I'm delighted to hear you talk about it. And hopefully by the time this episode releases, I will have finished it.

Mindy Brouse 22:18

Exactly. So now you say you're about 15% Is what you said? Yeah, are you doing on paper or audio right now?

Kaytee Cobb 22:25

Kindle, both Kindle, cuz I have the galley, which means I have it on my Kindle.

Mindy Brouse 22:32

Well, a side note, I'll send you my audible. Okay. Anyway. It's also on Scribd, just so you know. But the audio is *Marin Ireland*, which we all know and love. I'm curious, do you feel like it's doing too much recapping?

Kaytee Cobb 22:45

You know, I don't feel like it's recapping the previous books very much. But I am noticing this time and I do think it's just a style of Fredrik Backman's writing that he writes very layered, like, you know, it's very oniony. So if you finish a chapter, and you go visit somebody else in the book, he comes back, and he's like, remember, when we were in the forest in that car, here's what's happening with that car. So he's not just counting on the reader to remember, that's where you were with these characters. He's layering on top of that, rather than picking up a thread where he left off. And I think that doesn't make it feel like a recap of previous books, but it makes it feel like like this artistic layering of paints even on a like a masterpiece.

Mindy Brouse 23:28

Okay, that's great. Because I, I've been worried that people are going to not pick it up, because I've seen a couple of reviews on Krays and Jordy. And some others who are like really frustrated, like this is

too much retelling. And I'm like, Are you reading the same book? Or because I critically went in the second time to make sure and get a read on that. And so I just I wanted to know your opinion.

Kaytee Cobb 23:49

Yeah. I also haven't read I know you did a reread of the other two before you start.

Mindy Brouse 23:55

I didn't

Kaytee Cobb 23:56

Oh, okay. So I had not read Beartown or Us Against You since they first, each of them since they first released. I've never done a reread of either of them. So I didn't have that. Like, come on. We just heard about this with anybody in the story. Yeah. So that's the other thing.

Mindy Brouse 24:12

Well, and I and people have asked me and they've probably asked you too, should I reread? And my honest answer is I think you shouldn't. And there's two reasons. One, he does enough to help you remember if you've already read them, but also, I just don't know that you need that much emotion in a month's time to have all three of those books in in one month. But that's a lot.

Kaytee Cobb 24:36

Yeah, that is a lot. I agree. I agree. Okay, well, I'm excited to get the rest of the way through. I'll keep you posted as I go as you're flying to actually see him. I'll be like now I'm at 30%

Mindy Brouse 24:48

Perfect. All right, what's your second current read?

Kaytee Cobb 24:51

My second one is one that I actually sent you when I was reading it. So I want to see if you are interested now and picking it up. It's called My Body is Not a Prayer Request by Amy Kenny. So a note for the listeners here, it's probably obvious from the title but this book that I'm about to talk about is heavily steeped in the Christian church and Christian ideology and Christian language. And that is part of this memoir slash book of essays. So just know that as I set it up. You can totally skip forward if that's not your jam. Here's the setup. The church has forgotten that we worship a disabled God whose wounds survived resurrection. It's time for the church to start treating disabled people as full members of the Body of Christ, who have much more to offer than a miraculous cure narrative and to learn from their embodied experiences. There's language in here that really opened my eyes about the way we talk about and to disabled members of our society as a whole, but especially in the church, like the fact that there's a frequent narrative about being whole and unbroken in heaven, but that might change the essence of who someone is. This book is written by a disabled Christian, and it shows that the church is missing out on the prophetic witness and blessings of disability. Kenny reflects on her own experiences inside the church to expose unintentional ableism and cast a new vision for Christian communities especially to engage Disability Justice shows that until we cultivate church spaces, where people with disabilities can fully belong, flourish and lead, we are not valuing the diverse members of

the entire body of humanity. When I started listening to this book, Mindy, I sent it straight to you, since I know you've had a number of conversations along these lines with members of your own faith communities, especially regarding Jubilee. This book is approachable and convicting on many levels. Every chapter includes a top 10 list at the end, that bullet points really easily the things we shouldn't say, or the ways we shouldn't minimize the disabled experience or the like a key phrases she's had thrown around about how everything happens for a reason. All like in very easy, top 10 lists, right? She tackles everything from the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the way that churches were exempted from the legislation, to the hymns that are sung in church and the word choice around prayer requests, which are what she puts it, like when she holds a flashlight up to it you're like, Why? Why would we say that to people? Why would that be the phrasing? Some of the most interesting things I learned in this book include the ways that able bodied people have benefited without realizing it from the technology and accommodations made for disabled humans. Everything from touchscreens, to curb cutouts to automatic doors. Add to that the fact that being a human in a body in the world nearly guarantees that at some point, you listener reader will lose some of your abilities as you age. And that's not only expected, but hoped for right? We hope to become old enough to lose some of our abilities. If you didn't, if that doesn't happen, it's because you missed out on a chunk of your life, right? It might be vision, or mobility or hearing or otherwise. But as our bodies age, they veer away from the standard of able bodiedness. So this sounds like a niche issue like ableism in the church, but it's truly an issue for all of us. If you're a human in a body, or you love a human and a body, which is everyone, everyone, this book is for you. You just have to know as I stated at the start that it's geared toward Christians in the capital C church. So there's some language that will be difficult for some readers. Even for me, like I haven't been inside a church for a few years now because of a number of reasons. But at this point, I still consider myself a Christian. And it was still sometimes very difficult for me to read. I still think it's worth the read or the listen. And I gave it five stars. I thought it was excellent. I thought it was vulnerable. I thought it was convicting. I really loved her voice on the page. It was wonderful. This is My Body is Not a Prayer request by Amy Kenny.

Mindy Brouse 29:02

Oh, Kaytee, I just added this to my trip list a few days ago, you're not shocking. But when you first sent it to me, I wasn't ready because of things going on in my life. And you, you knew about that. And I was like, I might not do nice things to people if I read this. I need a little time. And yeah, is that we, as a family have suffered because of the mindset of ableism in our church, and in our church family and in our Christian community. And I too, haven't been attending church in years because of everything. But this was my final straw. Right? So this book got brought up to me again in our book club where we two times recently one when I talked about True Biz back this summer when we did a zoom with the author Sarah Novic. And that was fantastic. That book got brought up in the discussion and And then, when I was reading with some friends, we were reading The Story of Beautiful Girl, which I have shared about here before, it's one of my favorite books, but it's about a character with intellectual disabilities and a Deaf Black man character. And that book got brought up again, because of some things that happen in both of those books. And I just want to go ahead and say to when the person sharing it recently, she wasn't a person of faith, and she valued it just as a person who wants to learn more. And so while I totally respect and understand when people don't necessarily want to pick up a book that's geared towards Christians, I will say, this one has intrinsic value in a lot of areas that I think would be worth anyone reading, like you said, so I agree with you on that one, but I'm doing it in paper. See, this is an

example because I need this one to underline. Right, and I guess I can't do that in audio. And I'm not great about remembering to transfer it to a notebook or something like that. So great. Oh, great book. Kaytee. Yeah.

Kaytee Cobb 31:04

Oh, um, I'm very excited to hear what you think about it, and what resonates with you, and what you want to like, write into a text and like, accidentally sent to 100 people. Oops, sorry. That wasn't for you.

Mindy Brouse 31:17

Sorry. Did I tag you on that post? What?

Kaytee Cobb 31:20

Oh, my gosh, I'm so sorry. That wasn't intentional. Weird. Sorry.

Mindy Brouse 31:23

Not sorry. And then you're in the background doing a happy dance. Yeah, it'll be good. Yeah,

Kaytee Cobb 31:26

my witchy cackle for sure. What's your third book, Mindy?

Mindy Brouse 31:30

Well, it's this is fascinating. Again, listeners, we do not know when each is bringing to the show, we surprise each other. The last book in my current reads has stuck with me in a way that I didn't predict. And it's not Hamnet level writing or bear town. But I think this one will change your perspective and give you insight in ways you didn't know you needed just like it did for me. And today I bring The Sign for Home by Blair Fell. This is a coming of age novel like no other I've read because our main character Arlo is a deaf blind, young adult. He's also in a strict Jehovah's Witness family, and has no autonomy at all, because his uncle controls absolutely everything in Arlo's life. Now, when we know that a person has no autonomy, and they're a young adult, but they're hearing or seeing, we know that other influences can creep into their lives and bring them something and maybe give them a path. But it's different when a person is deaf blind and is controlled, to the extent where they where they get to go, who they get to be around, and anything that is interpreted for them. So people who are deaf blind use ASL interpreters, but they put their hands on the interpreters hands, to, quote, read the signs. So they can't hear the music, they can't see the situation. So when somebody is controlled, to that extent, their life is completely different than any way we can really fully understand. The novel is centered around Arlo, as he starts going to a community college writing class, which is a really big deal that his uncle is letting him do. It took a whole lot of cajoling not only for the uncle, but for the professor sadly. So we start off right away not only with the family's mistreatment of Arlo, but very quickly see prejudice and misunderstanding of people who are deaf blind by the professor who thinks Arlo can't do this class. But as he learns to write his life, we learn his truth. We see his residential deaf school time and what happened there, he discovers language, love and his life options there. But then he is told something tragic happens. And he is taken out of that place and put in the environment where only his uncle controls his life now, but we start to find out that maybe he's not been told the truth. He pines for the love, he had his love of his life at the School for the Deaf. Y'all this story is often told through the

interpreters point of view and the struggle between doing the right thing and the code of ethics that interpreters have. Interpreters are only supposed to interpret what is being said. They're not supposed to give any kind of any other input. But imagine if you will, if you were an interpreter, and you saw that the other interpreter was not telling him everything, was controlling his life, was in cahoots with the uncle, all these things as the interpreter. He's not supposed to step in. But what's the right thing to do? The author is an ASL interpreter so he brings authenticity to the story. As a former interpreter and foster mom to a deaf child, man, oh man, he nails some things really well. But life for deafblind people it's much different than it is for just people who are deaf. Arlo makes his first adult friend, the new interpreter. And that difference coupled with his bravery and his desire for truth and autonomy, make our story painful to watch. But y'all, you will be cheering Arlo on. People around you are going to have to say, "Who is Arlo? Why are you yelling for him? Settle down." This novel will introduce many of you to the vulnerability of deafblind people and will provide a glimpse into a world you probably won't stumble upon on your own. I think it's worth reading. Not only do you learn, but the story is just a beautiful, pick this up this story is sweet and powerful and I'm not going to forget it. That is *The Sign for Home* by Blair Fell.

Kaytee Cobb 35:27

Okay, Mindy. I have seen the cover for this one. And yeah, looks like a contemporary romance. Is that not?

Mindy Brouse 35:35

It 100% looks like a romance and in a way, it's a love story. Okay. Okay. And so I guess that's why they were doing that because Arlo only not only is he growing and coming of age, but he really wants to find the love of his life and he thinks she's gone. But then when some things happen, and you realize that may or may not be true, the journey shifts, and that is his focus. But this is not a romance. There's no sex. There's no nothing in there. But it is a love story. Coupled with a coming of age and social commentary book. It's very good.

Kaytee Cobb 36:13

Right? Yeah. Okay. Well, I'm glad to hear more about it. I definitely had some some misconceptions about it based on what I had seen. So I'm glad you brought it to the show. Okay, my third book this week, I'm so excited to tell you about it's called *Tumble* by Celia C. Perez. Here's our setup. 12 year old Adela, whose nickname is Addie has a big decision to make because her stepfather has just proposed adoption to her. He wants to make her legally his. Addie loves Alex, her stepfather. He's the only father figure she's ever known. But with a new half brother due in a few months and a big school theater performance on her mind, everything suddenly feels like it's moving too fast. She has a million questions. And the first one is about what happened to their family Christmas sweater photo from when she was one year old. She has every other one hanging on the wall, but that one is missing. When she finds the photo hidden away in her mother's things, she has more questions about the young man next to her. Could he be her biological father? Addie's sleuthing takes her to a New Mexico ranch and her world. I know. I love your face right now. And her world expands to include the legendary Bravos family, Rosie and Pancho her paternal grandparents and former professional wrestlers, Eva and Maggie, her older identical twin cousins who love to spar in and out of the ring. Uncle Matteo, who's lucha couture and advice are both unmatched. And Manny, her biological father, who's in the midst of a career

comeback as "The Mountain". As luchadores, which I assume everyone knows from Nacho Libre, but it's the Spanish word for wrestler, the Bravos family legacy is strong. But being part of a family is so much harder. It's about showing up, taking off your mask and working through challenges together. Oof, even this setup gives me goosebumps. I love how excited you got, as I described, this book takes place right here in our home state of New Mexico, firmly planted in the big skies and beautiful mountains that we love. From the setup, it's clear that this is a middle grade novel. And our 11 year old protagonist has a lot to deal with. This is not like middle grade for seven year olds that are like I really just want to read a story about dogs, right? There's a lot going on here. I thought that this was going to be a book solving the mystery of who her dad is. But instead, she figures that out within the first 15% of the book. Instead, it's about the family we're born into, and the family we find along the way. It's about memory loss and Christmas sweaters and women wrestlers and accepting who you are. It's about how we deal with the disappointment of a dream, something that we had to let go of for whatever reason, and a fantastic spin on the Nutcracker, and a little about drag queen storytime. As I've mentioned before, adding a drag queen to your story bumps it up half a star automatically for me and this one's just a passing mention but it did not disappoint. I pressed this immediately into the hands of Levi my nine year old because it has so many things in it that I knew he would love as well. He gave it five stars and told me to let you know that he loved it. I gave it four and a half because the ending dragged out a little too long for me but otherwise I completely adored it. And I dare you to look at the cover and not be like I need this book immediately.

Mindy Brouse 39:37

Oh my god that cover is fantastic. Kaytee, I just tried to borrow it. So that I can get my hands on it. Oh, it's beautiful.

Kaytee Cobb 39:44

It's fantastic. I love it so much. So this is Tumble by Celia C. Perez.

Mindy Brouse 39:49

Oh my gosh. Well, you know, this is going to be a hit with me. Because you know, we had a Nacho Libre birthday party here. So I am I am all themed luchadores stories bring them on but that this sounds amazing. Where did you Where did you listen to this? Or did you do this on paper?

Kaytee Cobb 40:04

I listened to this one, and I have another library card. But I listened to it through the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

Mindy Brouse 40:16

No wonder I can't find it. I'm sure it's somewhere. All right. Oh, that's wonderful. So the audio was great. And the accents are good. You give approval?

Kaytee Cobb 40:24

Yes, yes. And the way that the Spanish is worked in, you can tell that this is a native speaker, working Spanish in for herself. I listened to it in one day as I sanded drywall, came out looking like a future image of myself my first gray hairs because I had drywall dust all over me. And my kids were like,

Mommy, did you see a ghost in there? It was so awesome. And I was like, No, that doesn't matter. Levi, this book. You need it right now. Ignore the old lady hair. Focus on the book. And he got very excited. He borrowed it right away.

Mindy Brouse 40:55

Well, it sounds so good. And I you know, I love that New Mexico aspects it brought in which one of the things the drag queen library reading. That was a thing... A big thing here?

Kaytee Cobb 41:07

There was a kerfuffle about it for sure. It's a kerfuffle. Okay, so those were our six current reads, we have been all over the place. Very excited about like the different views that we brought today. And now we get to talk about our deep dive, and we're already very many minutes into this episode, but we're gonna get started on our deep dive, which is about being a here's what I'm calling it being a bookish person, when you're also a people person. What are you gonna do? Is that perfect, right? So this topic recently came up in the bookish friends group as a point of discussion. Here's what Holly said, "Deep dive request - how to cope when people are visiting you, or staying with you. When it comes to fitting in reading. I'm always stressed because I want to read but feel rude and struggle finding that time for myself. Even with friends and family, I'm happy to see it's a struggle, especially when it's more than just a day or two. How do you cope?" So the question here is twofold. Right? Is it rude to read while someone is staying with you? Are you obligated to entertain with them? And secondly, how do you do it? How do you make that time happen? So Mindy, let's tackle that first part. How do you feel about reading when you have people staying with you? Is it is it rude? Is it you know, I invited them here and now I have to be in charge of them the whole time? How does that feel?

Mindy Brouse 42:25

Well, the other complication for me is that I'm a two so my, my need to keep people happy and, you know, taken care of them also comes into play here. And another part for those of you listening probably, if you're Southern, you've been taught that that's what you do. Like, hospitality is huge deal. But, y'all, I am also going to say that just like, we need our caffeine in the morning, readers gotta read and because people are going to need to have book time and I think it's okay, to do that. And I think there's a bunch of different ways we can make it happen. But I don't think it's rude. I think it's rude I mean, if we, you know, take The Count of Monte Cristo or something and go read that entire book while they're there. Yeah, that would be rude.

Kaytee Cobb 43:18

Be right back, I only have 1200 pages to go.

Mindy Brouse 43:21

Yeah. Yeah, it's no big deal. I'm just gonna read this brick, see you in a little bit. Um, but I do think having time set aside for reading is totally appropriate and, and healthy. And for yourself and them. Yeah.

Kaytee Cobb 43:32

Yeah. I said, we have to tackle the elephant in the room, because I love elephants. And if there's a chance to tackle one, I actually I want to get on that. So my like, all caps statement here, it is not rude to make time for self care, even if you have guests. First of all, it's possible that they need time also, right? It's possible that they're waiting for you to say, Hey, is it okay if I go read in my room for a bit because they actually have been wanting to not talk to somebody for a little bit, right? Not everybody is extroverted as Mindy, and so you could be giving them a gift but worried that you're taking something away from them, when in fact, that is something they need. It's also possible that you're not your best self. If you have not given to yourself first, right as as moms, which is where we're coming from Mindy, we certainly see this in our daily lives, right? Like I get up stupid early every day to work out because I know that if I don't, I will not be as nice of a person, I will not be as forgiving as I could be. If I didn't take that time. I get cranky by like 9am if I have not moved my body before my children got up so so that means I have to get up early because I have to make that time somewhere and it has to be before they're awake. It's also possible that your guest also loves to read right? Sometimes, Meredith and I just talked about this last week that sometimes it's easier to make that overture by just setting a book next to you. And by saying, Hey, I happen to like reading. There's a book sitting next to me because we are friends me in this book. And your guest is just waiting to talk to you about books, or to get a book recommendation from you. And if you don't make space to open that conversation, they might not know. So that's a possibility. Right? All of those are ways to give to the people that you love that are staying with you.

Mindy Brouse 45:26

I agree. And this is timely because I have 12 guests coming next Thursday to the house that yeah, so in addition to the seven who are already live here, and I've been thinking about that, so I love the timing on you asking about this because I do need that. And even though I'm super extroverted, like capital E bold type, extrovert, I do need time with my fictional people also. And so I do that as you know, several different ways and I do think is healthy. So Julie Stockwell which is one of our bookish friends. She and I have developed a friendship. And when I go visit her from the very beginning, I just said, Hey, is it okay if we just parallel read like you sit there, I sit here we both read. It is one of my favorite activities, which you know, I love doing that with you. So my extrovert needs get met because I'm by you. But we're both reading and we don't talk and Julie and I do them. She's like, Oh, yeah, because most of my friends are introverts. So they're all super happy, good, don't talk. That's perfect. But then we just sit there and read. And I think it is a self care thing for me and all of us that we take time to ourselves, whether that's for reading, or you know, whatever you go listen to some music, you take a walk when you have guests, and it can be awkward if you make it awkward. I think if you just say, hey, I need to go have some time, a little bit. I'm just gonna go read and kind of recharge for a little bit. I'll be back in a little bit. Is there anything I can do for you before I leave, like don't say is that okay? Which is my tendency to just just say that, you know, I often when they when guests come I say, "Well, it's time for me to call it a night." Because I have this weird thing. Like, I don't like saying I'm going to bed if I'm not really going to bed because I feel like I'm lying. I know it's a problem, but, but I say "Hey, it's time for me to call it a night," and I come up to my room and I read for a little bit. And that's okay. I do also leave books out for people. So like, I will have my book out, but then I casually accidentally and leave some books out that I think they might like. And last time Noah and his friends came to visit, Razorblade Tears was out. And sure enough, his friend James picked it up, took it home with him, you know. And

so James and I just had some, we're gonna sit and read and the rest of the crew was playing a video game. So I think coupling it kind of like this thing you've taught me about peering activities. And I often pair it with video game activity. So we often have young adults or young people come visit. And they're going to play games. I do not do that. So I just sit there and read. I'm still with them. They're laughing, they're talking but none of them feel like I'm you know, ignoring them. They're doing their thing. And I'm still a part of things. I also plan my audiobooks ahead of time if company is coming. Because for me, like, I get super anxious if I feel like I'm wasting time trying to figure out what to download. I don't know why. But I'm like, I need to have them set if I'm going on a trip or people are coming. Because I don't want to take time away from them to like, look up things. That's me for some reason. But if I know and I have them downloaded and ready straight to reading, and and it feels good like it, it does refresh me even though I'm an extrovert, it refreshes me.

Kaytee Cobb 48:52

Yeah, I agree. I think well, there's a couple of things I want to pull out of there first. As you know, I am an old lady inside my body. And I will say I'm heading to bed or I have to call it a night at nine o'clock. And that means I will actually be passed out by 9:07. Like my, I just said, I get up at 5:30 every morning. I don't have any bandwidth left. And that means for me, I need to find time during the day or in the morning to take that reading time. That's not I just go to bed early because that that is not a functional option for me. I'm already going to bed early. If I want to go to bed early to sneak in half an hour reading I'll be like, well, the kids just went to bed at 7:58pm I guess I'll head to bed too and they'll be like Kaytee, are you ill? What's? What's wrong with you?

Mindy Brouse 49:41

And I will say that is my modus operandi. You know that when I put Jubilee to bed, I'm like, okay, she's in bed and then I go to my room and read, but I can't do that with guests like you're saying peace out it's 8:02. exactly.

Kaytee Cobb 49:52

The other thing is that there were a lot of comments on this thread in the bookish friends group about guests being okay with sitting and scrolling their phones, and sitting in the same room, and that being an acceptable option, but why isn't reading and to you, I say, reader, it absolutely is. It absolutely is. And you can walk to somewhere else, you can say, "Hey, I'm gonna go read for a little bit. And I just need it to be, you know, kind of quiet, because it's hard for me to concentrate," or what have you, and go sit somewhere else and read and then even if they come sit by you, and they scroll their phone, they know that you need this time to be quiet, right? And that's okay, too. You're not hurting anybody, you're not making their trip terrible, if you want to sit there and read and take some time. So I would be remiss here, not to mention that Meredith's solution admitted by her is just don't have guests, which is fine. This is another option, right? It's also totally acceptable to draw a boundary and to protect your time and your space and say, "I can't wait to visit with you while you're in town. Let's grab lunch, let's go to a bookstore, let's have a visit," but not open your home for people to stay there or eat there or what have you. Because that's easier on you as a human right? Like Mindy and I are tackling this from the extrovert point of view. But But please note, you can absolutely say, "I'm sorry, I don't have space for guests." Or "I'm sorry, I don't have the bandwidth for guests right now." And that doesn't make you a bad person.

Mindy Brouse 50:19

I can do that to my kids? I can do that to my kids?

Kaytee Cobb 51:05

Totally, like "Children, there's a tent, and a backyard, a large backyard,"

Mindy Brouse 51:28

we are setting the pop up. Yeah,

Kaytee Cobb 51:31

it doesn't have to mean that friendships are gonna suffer if you limit your time together. Yeah. And finally, you know how precious I am about my sleeping, right? I need the white noise, the darkness and everything. If I can help it, I do not sleep away from home. If my bed is an easy drive away, I would rather lose one hour of sleep driving and be in my own bed than spend the night elsewhere. And this is like a personal affront to Mindy. This is the same principle. You reader, you know what makes you tick and how you function best and it's okay to make time and space or drive for those things. Even when there's other people around that you love that you want to spend time with. It doesn't have to mean they get every piece of you.

Mindy Brouse 52:16

I agree. Yeah. And I think this plays also differently depending on the guests. So Right. Like, if, like when Julie and I the first time we were together, it was a little more awkward. But I just because we were bookish friends, I could say hey, "We're going to read right?" But if it's not that, it's okay to be like, hey, I need to go rest for a little bit. You don't necessarily have to, you know, explain. Just say I need to rest. And Kaytee, even as an extrovert, when I'm a guest, that does make me feel better. Because again, my twoness comes in, I want to make sure I'm making them happy as the guest. And if they give me permission to go be alone for a little bit, that that is good for me and I need but I often need that permission, especially if I'm the guest, I don't feel comfortable being like, I know you're having me here. But by playing it from the other end, it's very good for someone to do that for me. I also feel like we should just include or conceal, honestly invite them in, or just conceal what we're doing if they won't handle it well. And here, I'm kind of thinking about mothers, or maybe mother in laws, or people who bring some extra baggage, shall we say to the visit and extra expectations for us, right? So those people might be a little bit harder to navigate. And that's when we either include or we conceal, we include a "Hey, would you like to go sit on the patio and read with me? Did you bring a book or I have plenty? Would you like to choose one? I would love to sit and read with you for a while." Right? They say no, you're like, okay, and then what you do is you say later, not at the same time because it will it will be too obvious. A little bit like, "Hey, I need to go do something in my room from I'll be back. If you need anything, let Paul know." It's that's called a tag off. You go up to your room. The final one that works with this kind of scenario too, is "I gotta go grab something from the store. I'll be right back." But this one, Kaytee, you have to prepare, right? You have to have your keys in hand your shoes on and you are walking out the door when you say this, because if you have too much time, then the mother or the person or whatever is gonna say Oh, good. I'll go with you. So you, you really kind of got to say it and then shut the door and go to your car. And then if you drive a block away and you read your book,

good for you. That's brilliant. Go do it. Yeah, include or conceal whichever way it has to go, Kaytee, I am a fan of either routes.

Kaytee Cobb 54:38

And all of those are under the umbrella of self care. And self care is good thing readers. Amen. Okay, Mindy. I feel like we have a lot, we have a lot of great solutions. And now I'm so excited to take you on your very first trip to the fountain. So please tell us and tell our listeners why. It kind of fountain Do you like to wish into?

Mindy Brouse 55:03

Okay, so my favorite kind of fountain is one that is gentle sounding. It's not very big. I don't like a big, ostentatious kind of fountain, just like a very mild one that I can hear. But it has a view behind it. So a couple months ago, I just got to stay at a house that had this beautiful fountain and the entire mountain behind it. And I was like, I am never leaving this house. I'm so sorry. I know it's yours and I'm only house sitting. But I have officially moved in. That's my kind of fountain. That's what I love.

Kaytee Cobb 55:33

I love that. Okay, so now you get to toss a coin and make a wish. What is your wish?

Mindy Brouse 55:39

Plink. I wish that book jacket copy and bookstores and Amazon summaries would stop ruining books for all of us. It is become like movie previews. I don't even watch movie previews anymore. Because it ruins the movie. It shows me all the good parts, it spoils things. I want to just pick up a book and read it. I prefer not knowing much of what is going on what is gonna happen. I often do know or I have been told that I don't remember what a book is about and I just pick it up. I know you know that about me. Most of the time I go into a book with no expectations or preconceived notions. Now sometimes that does bite me in the behind. But I would still rather that than knowing too much about a book. And having those aha or Oh, or what moments robbed of me when I'm reading a book. This is where in the bookstore, employee notes and Currently Reading win the day for me because in the store, employee notes are often sustained. Usually just a general feel on the book versus like this long summary. And you admit it, and the other regulars are great about doing the same. Plus, honestly, Kaytee, when I'm listening to you guys, when I'm listening to the show, I write down a title. And then I never remember what it's actually about, because that's how my brain operates. And I just know I wanted to read it. So I just pick it up. But I am just tired of book jackets, and Goodreads and Amazon summaries, ruining books and telling us almost everything. So my wish is that that would end or that somebody would hear our cries because I just don't think I'm alone on this wish. And make our wish come true and tell us just enough to know if this is a book for us to pick up but not ruin it for us.

Kaytee Cobb 57:32

I think that's a great wish.

Mindy Brouse 57:34

Yeah, it makes I mean, I kind of live that life. Right. But I have been forced into that. Because I refuse to read those summaries. I'm like, nope. If the cover looks good, the title sounds good and somebody has mentioned it, and they liked it. Okay, I'll pick it out enough. All right, good enough.

Kaytee Cobb 57:53

I like it. Okay, my wish this week is I'm kind of throwing back to the press list a little bit. I wish that I could put *The Once and Future Witches* on everyone's TBR for fall. So if you are listening on release day, today is October 10, which means we are smack in the middle of Halloween and spooky reading season. I read this one in October of 2020. And I think it's perfect for the season. This is *The Once and Future Witches* by Alix Harrow. This novel drops us in New Salem in 1893. Here there's no such thing as witches. There used to be in the wild dark days before the burnings began. But now witching is nothing but tidy charms and nursery rhymes. If the Modern Woman, The 1893 modern woman wants any measure of power, she has to find it at the ballot box. But when the Eastwood sisters James Juniper, Agnes Amaranth, and Beatrice Belladonna, join the suffragists of New Salem, they begin to pursue the forgotten words and ways that might turn women's movement into witches movement. These three sisters are seeking each other, seeking power and seeking the words and ways of their grandmother and of "the last three" that's in caps, who were burned centuries before. The words are woven into women's words, which is folklore and fairy tales, nursery rhymes passed from mother to daughter, and the little sayings that women use to communicate to each other. Alix Harrow's writing is lush, and expressive and breathtaking. This plot moves. It doesn't plod but this book is about the characters and the setting and the writing, the search for a place to belong and what costs you'll have to pay to get that place. The villain here is a dastardly devil. The women are wily and intelligent, and the message is one of justice and empowerment for those on the margins. There's no such thing as witches in this world, but there will be this book is witchy and feminist and sometimes a little thrilling and action packed. It's not gory, or terrifying though, which is why I want to put it on everyone's fall TBR. Pick it up for its rallying cry of feminist power and wonderful characters. Ashes ashes. We all rise up. That is my wish. Plink Splash.

Mindy Brouse 1:00:11

Kaytee

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:12

What? What happened?

Mindy Brouse 1:00:14

Kaytee, I've never been sold on that book until now.

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:17

Really?

Mindy Brouse 1:00:18

Yes. I was like, oh, okay.

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:23

Perfect fall read. It's so good.

Mindy Brouse 1:00:26

Nothing could nothing sounded like it was something I would enjoy. And other reviews that I've heard, but that what you just said I'm like, Yes. Download.

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:37

Download done. Yeah.

Mindy Brouse 1:00:39

That was your wish, your wishes came true for one person.

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:43

How fun. I love it when my wish comes true. Okay, that is it for this week. As reminder, here's where you can connect with us. You can find me Kayee at @notesonbookmarks on Instagram. Meredith is at @Meredith.reads.

Mindy Brouse 1:00:58

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

Kaytee Cobb 1:01:01

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

Mindy Brouse 1:01:10

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

Kaytee Cobb 1:01:17

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Mindy Brouse 1:01:37

Bookish friends really are the best friends. Thank you for helping Currently Reading grow and get closer to its goals.

Kaytee Cobb 1:01:43

Until next week. May your coffee be hot

Mindy Brouse 1:01:45

And your book be unputdownable.

Kaytee Cobb 1:01:48
Happy reading Mindy.

Mindy Brouse 1:01:49
Happy reading Kaytee.