



Season 5, Episode 18: So Many Tentacles + Book-Adjacent Gift Ideas

Mon, Nov 28, 2022 • 1:04:59

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 00:23

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:34

I'm Meredith Monday Schwartz, a mom of four and full time CEO living in Austin, Texas, and my pets are conspiring against my bookish happiness.

Kaytee Cobb 00:45

I'm Kaytee Cobb, a homeschooling mom of four living in New Mexico, and I will talk books with anyone in the unlikeliest of places. This is episode number 18 of season five and we are so glad you're here. What are Lou and Blue doing to you, Meredith?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:00

I am going to tell you and it is a story that I have been saving for this episode.

Kaytee Cobb 01:06

Oh, that's exciting. Okay, I'm gonna let everybody know at the top here that our deep dive today is book adjacent gift ideas. Sometimes it's hard to Christmas shop for a bookworm, or holiday shop of any kind. So we're going to talk about what we're giving, and what we're hoping to receive this holiday season. But first we'll get started the way we always do, which is with our bookish moments of the week. Meredith what's going on over there?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:27

All right. So for those of you who are keeping track, I have a cat, Lou, who is 10 years old, and I have a new puppy Blue, who is six months old,

Kaytee Cobb 01:40

Are they intentionally rhyming? I don't think I've ever said them in a row before.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:44

Okay, and they're tangent therein lies the problem, because I shouldn't have named Blue Blue because I'm a complete dip. I don't know why it didn't occur to me, it did not occur to me that I would then have Lou and blue. But I'm gonna tell you another secret. So obviously, you guys know all know that my daughter's name is Devon. And then 16 years after I had Devin, we were getting ready to have Jackson, right. And to John, Johnny and I were going over names going over names, going over names. And I was like, one day I was like "Johnny, I've landed on it." I swear to God, this is true. I was like "I finally figured it out." We had cried we had fought and I was like "Terfect name is Evan".

Kaytee Cobb 02:26

No.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 02:27

I swear to God, it had never Johnny looked at me. And he goes, "You want to have Evan and Devon?" And I was like oh crap. And I did it with Lou and Blue in the exact same way that time. And I don't know why. So anyway, I've got Lou, Lou the cat who is 10. Blue, the Boston Terrier, the blue Boston Terrier, who is six months old. They are both menaces in their own way. And I love them both. But lately, they have started to work together on things. It's not a good thing. It's not a positive development in the Schwartz house. But really. So last week, I told you guys about my puzzle, my Murder Castle puzzle, the HH Holmes puzzle. This puzzle is really difficult. It's like all in shades of grey and beige. And it's really kicking my butt. Right? So I have it on my dining room table. It's in process, I finally got the entire frame put together and I'm starting to make progress, right starting to get to the fun part. And then the other evening, Wednesday evening, I'm on the phone with my best friend who's also my CEO. And we're talking about a very fluxing work problem, right? Like I'm very involved in the conversation that I'm having. So much so that my eyes see something happening. It hasn't fully gotten into my brain because my brain is very much dedicated to this work problem. I'm chewing on what I see, but cannot act upon because my body hasn't joined into my brain yet is that Lou, the cat, the big cat is sitting on top of the puzzle which to be fair, he does a lot. That's not really usually a problem. But in this case, he is lounging kind of on his side in all of his girth. He's mammoth, and he is purposely pushing the bottom of the frame of the puzzle with his feet more closer and closer and closer to the edge. Well, what do you think Blue is doing? Six month old Blue is sitting on my dining room chair where I normally sit to do the puzzle. And he's there waiting for those puzzle pieces to be close enough to the edge so that he can get them and Lou finally in one big push pushes the entire row of probably at least 150 pieces off the ground onto the floor into Blue's awaiting jowls and within and finally my body catches up to my brain and And I go I say to Lisa, "Hang on for just a second." I go running over there. He's got 10 pieces, at least in his mouth. And they are completely already. It's I don't know what is in his mouth. He's not a drooly, Bostons don't drool. But he had some concoction of chemical in his mouth that within seconds, had reduced at least 10 pieces to unrecognizable, completely wet cardboard.

Kaytee Cobb 05:30

This is torture.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 05:32

I was livid. I could. And the thing is, I had seen it happen. I had seen and I, I fully blame Lou the cat. Because he knew exactly what he was doing. Right. He knew that Blue was waiting. Blue's just down there ready to put anything in his mouth that he can possibly put in his mouth. And Lou uses that to his advantage. Because, you know, Lou is in love with my husband, and is always conspiring to get me out of the way. And so this is just his way of getting back at me. I was so frustrated. So my bookish moment that week is I got to, you know, because the puzzle was completely literally, me way too many pieces gone to ever consider finishing it. And so I was like, Well, that's it. So I put it away. Got my table ready. I'm getting ready to decorate for things for Christmas anyway, which involves decorating my whole dining room table. And I just said we'll start again on puzzles in the new year when hopefully Blue will be testicle free and have more of a brain in his head. I don't know.

Kaytee Cobb 06:31

I've heard those are correlated for sure. Yeah. Meredith, this is what so how are you getting rid of the puzzle? What's the plan?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 06:40

I got rid of the puzzle. Because now, it doesn't have all its pieces, you know? I mean, I can we can I can order it again. It is still available. We put the link in the show notes last week. And now poor Megan's gonna have to go find the link and put it in the show notes for this week.

Kaytee Cobb 06:54

It's copy paste she will be fine.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 06:55

And so it is available again. But it was really hard. Kaytee, I don't... I like colorful puzzles. Like the shades of black was not my jam was not my jam anyway, so...

Kaytee Cobb 07:09

Okay, okay. Well, fair enough.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 07:12

That's my, that's my horror story. What's your bookish moment of the week?

Kaytee Cobb 07:16

Okay, my bookish moment of the week actually is still part of my moment from last week, but I decided to split it into two separate stories. So last week, I mentioned that I did some flying and some plane reading. When I was in the Phoenix Airport flying home, I sat by the charging desk to make sure my phone was all charged up. And a kiddo about the same age as Micah, my oldest came up to charge their headphones, and then got in a tizzy. They had to go like, "Wait we need food and can I leave this here? Like somebody's gonna steal it Mom, I don't know what to do". And I was like, "Hey, honey, I'm gonna sit here. You can leave those all watch them. And I'll be here when you get back". "Oh, my gosh, thank you so much". So they go and they get food. And they come back. And what do I do? I tackle them with bookish conversation. Oh, no, the mom is very grateful, of course that I babysat headphones

for her. But it led to this whole conversation with the mom and her child when they returned. Since I was reading it started with "What book are you reading", wanting to talk about *An Immense World* by Ed Yong. She showed me what she was reading. Then we started talking about genres we love. And I actually gave her a currently reading podcast business card, which I keep in my wallet all the time, because my husband asked me to print them for him so he can hand them out as well. He's very supportive all of a sudden. So she came back after we had finished up the headphone transfer of cost of custody and she showed me what books they bought, when they were getting food. She wanted to know my opinions about her child reading a certain book that I said, "Oh, yeah, that's a good one sounds really great". And then actually, it turned into this like conversation that got a little personal with regard to why it was important to both of us to read certain types of books and certain ways of reading. So I never even got her name. We aren't best friends now. It's fine. But the conversation left me smiling from ear to ear, knowing that she found a bookish friend and an ally in an airport and an unlikely place just because of a charging port situation like we talked about this before. You can just lay a book next to you and sometimes it starts conversation. And in this case, she was genuinely grateful and overjoyed to have somebody that wanted to talk books and was kind which was like is that the bare minimum of human decency perhaps, but it was bookish for me.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 09:33

Or it is the ultimate in human decency. It's either the bare minimum or the very best that we can offer to the world. So I think that that is so great. Books make it so much easier to connect, right? I mean, they just no matter where we are, no matter who we are, it doesn't matter when you love books. We can talk you know, we can talk endlessly. I love books as connectors.

Kaytee Cobb 09:57

Yeah, we can talk for 250 Episodes of a podcast over five years, right?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 10:03

Oh my gosh, I wonder how many minutes that is Kaytee?

Kaytee Cobb 10:05

Oh gosh, I'm not doing that data, but I could if somebody needed me to. Okay, let's get into current reads. Meredith, what is your first current read this week?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 10:16

Okay. Now I want everyone to hang with me, including you Kaytee because you're gonna think I lost my mind. All right?

Kaytee Cobb 10:21

I got one of them today too.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 10:22

Okay, well, the book that I want to talk about first, stay with me is *Glass Houses* by Louise Penny. Now why would I need you to stay with me? First of all, because it is a Louise Penny book, *The Inspector Gamache* series. You guys know, you know, why would I need to talk about a book in that series?

Secondly, it's the 13th in the series. Why would I be talking about that one, right? So there's, I have a good reason, though. I promise. There's a method to my madness. So I have mentioned before that I'm doing a re-listen of all of the books in the series. And I was on Glass Houses. And so I re-listened to it. And I absolutely loved it. And it occurred to me that the 18th book, of course, is coming out tomorrow, A World of Curiosities. It's the day that I look forward to more than Christmas Day is the day that the new Louise Penny comes out. So trust that that is a big day of excitement for me. So I wanted to do something to kind of celebrate that. But also, I think that Glass Houses is worth discussing, even if you haven't read any book in the series, because it perfectly illuminates four things that I think make the series what it is. And if you hear me give you those four things, it may help you figure out whether or not the series in the long run might be good for you. Because there's no question that we get more emails and DMS, I get more DMS about Louise Penny than almost anything else. So I think that this 13th book is good for that reason. So let me tell you what it's about. Here's the setup. At the start of our story, a mysterious figure appears in Three Pines on one cold November day. This figure is just standing there watching all the time. Armand Gamache and the rest of the villagers in Three Pines are at first curious, and then slowly, they they and we get more and more freaked out. Through rain and snow and hours and hours and days, this figure stands there on the green, unmoving staring ahead. Just that is so freaky and weird, right? The peaceful village being disrupted by something so strange and silent and still, Chief Inspector Gamache suspects that the creature has a dark purpose. And yet, Gamache does nothing. because what can he do? No one's broken any laws. He can only watch and wait. But when the figure vanishes overnight, and a body is discovered, it falls to Gamache to discover what's at the heart of this strangeness. We also get a separate timeline in this story, a construct that Louise doesn't normally use, where we see that months later, on a steamy July day as the trial for the accused murderer begins in Montreal, Chief Inspector Gamache continues to struggle with the actions that he took back in that previous November, because those actions had deadly consequences. All right. I love this book for so many reasons. But let me tell you again, this Glass Houses perfectly, it's perfectly emblematic of the entire Three Pine series for these reasons. First, many of the books and Glass Houses have complicated odd plots. One thing that stands out in all of her novels is that she does these great plots, but they are both complicated and just a little bit offbeat. There's no getting around it. In this book, the figure dressed in black standing on the village green staring for days into the shops on Main Street is so unsettling. And we when we find out the why of it and the history of it and the backstory you just find yourself shaking your head and thinking no one does plotlines like Louise Penny. You have to pay attention. She'll make you work for it, but she always lands the plane. Secondly, what stands out about the series as a whole and it's certainly seen in Glass Houses is the writing is just so good. Penny is at the height of her powers in Glass Houses. Her prose is in turn funny and poignant, straightforward and poetic. I found myself wanting to highlight so many lines. And this is true in every book, especially from books four on, she has really come into her own at this part of the series. Third, we have slow burn starts to most books, but again along with these great plotlines come slow burn starts. I have endless patience for her writing, and I love the way she starts her books, but compared to others in the genre, especially modern mystery, and certainly thrillers, I'm aware that there are a lot of readers who just can't abide the slow burn start. And finally, we have the backstory of main characters who are shown to us even when the story doesn't focus on them. There's a scene in the book in which we learn a huge pivotal piece of information about a key character. And Glass Houses is not about this character, not really at all. She's just there as she is in every book in the series. And yet, in one conversation, Penny tells us so much about this one character. For reader of the entire series,

this small scene is a gut punch, it literally brought me to tears, it led me to stop reading completely and just consider what I'd learned for several minutes. And again, it's almost done as an aside, it's brilliant. This is what sets Louise Penny apart from any other mystery writer doing work right now. So for all of these reasons, this series is my favorite. And I hope that looking at it in this way, will help you figure out if it might be perfect for you too. As I always say, of course, this is the 13th book in the series, this is Glass Houses by Louise Penny. Obviously, if you want to start the series, especially with this one, you must take yourself all the way back to the beginning, start with the first book, which is Still Life. And you won't hit the real meat of the series until the fourth book. But that is me once again, after so many years of podcasting, trying to communicate what I so love about Louise Penny, and no, let's all cross our fingers that this new book lives up to this impossible standard she sets herself.

Kaytee Cobb 17:17

Indeed, indeed, Meredith I was actually talking with a friend the other day about being a series reader versus not a series reader and not a serious, a series reader because I said that kind of fast. And Louise Penny is probably the only author that I have read 17 books in a row of her work and will read the 18th when it comes out. And I don't have other series authors that I'm willing to sink into that way, sometimes even three, "I'm like, three books? Do I have to?" So it's interesting the way that she continues to build on the characters and the place and comes up with weird but interesting plot lines and mysteries for us to solve. I think she really does have a true gift.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 18:02

She really does. And I mean like you that's the only series that I read in this way. And you know, of course the the new show Three Pines is going to come out on December 2, just a few more days from now that's going to be on Amazon Prime, starred Alfred Molina as Inspector Gamache. And I think a lot of new readers are going to come to her from seeing, you know, meeting her characters in that way. So that's another thing. I've got every appendage I've got crossed, that is...

Kaytee Cobb 18:29

Let it be good. Let it be good. Okay, I am going to talk about a book that I was absolutely sure had already been brought to our show, but I checked eight ways to Sunday, and it hasn't been on the big show yet. So today, I'm going to talk about The Measure by Nicki Erlick. I did bring it up on our first episode of Trope Thursday as my next up book. And I did follow through on that. So that's why I finally have it to bring to the big show. Here's the setup, which you've probably heard everywhere. On a regular day in March, everyone in the world that's over the age of 22 opens their front door and finds a small wooden box with their name on it. Inside is a red thread whose length corresponds to the length of that person's life. Chaos ensues. No one knows where these boxes came from. They don't know how they got delivered. They arrived at the heads of homeless people sleeping on the street and the doorsteps of mansions all over the world on the same day. The next day, anyone who turns 22 years old wakes up to a box on their doorstep. The threads inside are unbreakable, uncuttable, unchangeable. Some people, including some of the characters we're following in the story, choose not to open their boxes. Others rip them open right away, measuring them accurately and then plug the length into online calculators that spring up as the meaning of these threads becomes clear those measurements give you a few year window of when your life will end. Support groups spring up for short stringers, and those who love them. This changes everything. Instead of tax returns, politicians

are pressured to disclose the length of their threads. At hospitals, you have to need acute care to be admitted, not just be worried about having a short string in your box. Some people with long strings start taking risks because they know they will survive. It affects relationships, jobs, the military and decisions about parenting. This book is speculative fiction, the best kind that feels completely real and relevant. I forced my husband to sit down so I could give him the entire setup of this book, just so that I could pose the hypothetical question to him. Would you open the box? Because I think that's so interesting. And it's such fun to dig into that idea together. Even though we can't open this hypothetical box, right? We will never know. If you open your box, would it change how you live? Would you tell others about the length of your string? Or would you keep it to yourself? When you first get started on this book, it feels like you're going to have to keep track of a bunch of characters. But the way that Nikki Erlick, a debut author, weaves their stories together and makes each personality and storyline distinct. For me, the experience was seamless. I didn't need notes, or a character map. I knew and cared about each of the central eight main characters as individual people. I know we've mentioned Sarah's bookshelves pretty frequently lately, but her interview with this author is excellent and makes a great pairing with the book. It's spoiler free. So I listened to it before I read it and then I listened again after I read it because it gave me new information both times. This book would be an excellent book club choice, not only because most readers will love it, according to Goodreads. It's got like a 4.15 average reading right now. But even if somebody doesn't, there's still a ton to discuss here like those conversations I was forcing Jason to have with me at the dinner table. I thought it was an excellent first novel will totally be looking for more from Nikki Erlick. And I really enjoyed the entire process of reading this one. It was *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 22:13

Kaytee, there's no question that is one that I have that I am very interested in and I have not read because I just have felt like it's been so heavy. It's been everywhere. And partly because I was worried that because of the hype, I wouldn't be interested and partly because I was thinking like, "Oh, people aren't gonna want to hear it." But now you have done such a good job setting it up and bringing in some different things that I didn't even know were in the story. Now I want to read it again. So now, now, what am I going to do?

Kaytee Cobb 22:42

I felt the same. I mean, I felt like everybody read it in September, or August. And I was like, "Well, I'm not reading it now because I don't feel like it". And so by October I was like, "Well, now I said it on that podcast episode. I guess I should finally read it". And I was glad I did.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 22:59

I'm so glad that you that you liked it. Okay. My next book is called *The Duke Alone* by Christi Caldwell. It is not going to surprise you, Kaytee, this is Regency romance. This is a little confection that is so perfect for this time of year so I've been saving it because if you like a romance that is also a holiday read, this is perfect. I really liked this one. Here's the setup. Lady Myrtle McQuoid has always felt a little bit forgotten and this Christmas season is no exception. Her boisterous and I do mean boisterous family leaves their London townhouse for their country house and poor Myrtle finds that she's been left behind. But all she needs to do is stay warm, keep herself fed and keep herself busy until her relatives

realize their mistake and sends somebody back to collect her. Did I mentioned, this is in Regency London?

Kaytee Cobb 23:59

So like Home Alone?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 24:01

This is basically a Home Alone retelling. But, but but it's a romance in there. It's so much better than Home Alone. Okay, but it is but it and also it's a Home Alone retelling. Okay, so next door. We have got no, no, no, it's so much better. It's so much better than Kevin McAllister. It's brooding widower Val Bancroft, the Duke of Aragon because don't you always wish that you had the Duke of Aragon live next door? All right. And he has he's my perfect kind of Duke because he has shut himself off from the world. He just craves solitude. He has a loyal dog, a silent house, and his own company. And that is all poor Val Bancroft requires. He certainly does not need the nonstop chattering of an opinionated young woman next door who can't figure out how to light her own fire literally or figuratively. So, there is a potential threat lurking in the winter shadows and Myrtle may need to pluck up the nerve to approach the reclusive Duke next door. And Val is not one to turn his back on a vulnerable lady. So beneath the blanket of snow under the silent night of London could the light of a new love be kindling? Yes, yes. Yes. I love this book. It is so this just came out in October. I got it from Net Galley just because I wanted again, we're chakra clearing. I wanted something just super quick and light and this is that. I read this right after I read the new Grady Hendrix which I loved but I really needed to be cleared out a little bit. So you guys know I love a romance with a surly Duke and Val, our surly Duke du jour is surly for a good reason. He's had some trauma in his recent past and the poor man just wants to be left alone. I love a man who's been through trauma, and yet looks great in riding boots. Okay, enter Myrtle McQuoid. Poor Myrtle. Okay, now she is different than we usually see in our main characters, because she is complete, she has this huge Scottish family. I mean, this, like she's got 10 siblings or something. And what's interesting is that the one thing that is really an outlier in this book is that the author does a really good job of showing in the first like third of the book, that for reasons kind of nobody can explain, and the reality is sometimes this is just the case, the rest of her family seems very, like all connected to each other. But for some reason, she's always kind of on the outs, not because she's a jerk or not because they're jerks or not, because they just don't click, but like the whole rest of the family does. She always feels like she's just on the margins. So she's not actually that surprised when she wakes up and they've forgotten about her. Which, yes, there's like the haha of Home Alone element to things, but also kind of made me sad for her. So I'm like, that was just something a little bit different. So then, of course, she says she's home by herself. She's trying to start her fire. She's trying to figure out oh, what do I how do I eat without maids? Because, you know, through this rich family, so she's, you know, trying to figure all this out. And then she's finding reasons to need to go next door because she spied the surly Duke next door. And then there is the reason because there's danger lurking outside. So romance ensues. Absolutely no question. It's entirely predictable. You don't read this book to be surprised. You read this book because their romance is charming, and you do want them to get together, or at least I really, really did. You read this book in late November, early December for the holiday vibes that feature strongly, it is wonderfully Christmassy and snowy. But mostly you read this book if you like romances, but you don't like a bunch of open door sexy time. This one has a single sexy time scene and it's very close door. Our dear friend Mindy would be so happy with this romance. It ticks a lot of boxes. If you've

heard me talk about Tessa Dare's books but you don't love the open door stuff, which is definitely in the test of their books, then this one will be perfect for you. I will say because I have to that Myrtle is young in this book and the Duke must be at least in his late 20s. There's a big age discrepancy. That did give me pause but he isn't predatory. And I know that 17 was different in 1813 than it is now. But I still felt that I need to mention it just in case that would be an issue for you. But on the whole, this is a quick palate cleansing confection of a chaste romance. And I am here for this one. This is *The Duke Alone* by Christi Caldwell.

Kaytee Cobb 29:09

The Duke alone.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 29:11

Well and get it on Kindle. Actually, it's on Kindle Unlimited. Get it on Kindle, because it's got one of those terrible covers, right? Like, this is embarrassing.

Kaytee Cobb 29:21

Speaking of terrible covers that are embarrassing. Meredith this was already going to be my second book today but goes right along with what you just talked about. I'm going to talk about *The Kraken's sacrifice* by Katee Robert.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 29:36

Yes. Oh, oh, I'm so glad we're finally going to find out what the Kraken gift is. What's his gift.

Kaytee Cobb 29:44

He has some gifts. This is for sure, it is, of course not safe for Mindy, much like the first book in this series, *The Dragon's Bride* which Meredith brought to episode three of season five. If you didn't want to hear about that one, you don't want to hear about this one and you should skip to her next current read.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 30:02

Because you guys remember what book this is right? It's the one with two peens.

Kaytee Cobb 30:07

That's correct. If you haven't skipped yet, you're skipping now. Right? Okay. So the setup for these books for all the books in this series is that there's a demon realm that also includes the kingdoms of various beastly kings. A bargainer demon named Azazel travels to the human realm and makes bargains with four human women. They are to be sold in an auction in the demon world, and they live there for seven years. When their time is up, they can return to the human realm, and they get something precious and no time has passed. So in the first one, we had an abusive marriage, and her husband was permanently removed from the human realm, and that was her payment for this contract she entered into. In the meantime, in those seven years, they live with the creature that chose them and said creature is allowed to try to seduce them. If any harm comes to them, the creature forfeits their kingdom to the bargain or demon. That's the setup for all four of these. Okay, in this installment of the series, we are following Catalina, and the Kraken King, Thane. The Kraken King,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 31:14

The Kraken King.

Kaytee Cobb 31:17

Catalina has been told that she is too much by everyone in her life, in the world. It feels like she is plagued by self doubt. And it's constantly self deprecating when she makes a deal with the bargain or demon. All she really wants is money, lots and lots of it. So she never has to worry about money again? Yes, but also so that she can basically buy friendships. She wants people to want to hang out with her. She doesn't care if they're only hanging out with her because she's loaded with cash. She just wants people around. She wants to be with people. When she is auctioned to Thane, she is immediately entranced by his tentacles. Which same girl same. This is the reason I'm reading this book, right? I had people tell me, Kaytee, you asking about the tentacles, we need you to read this book. We need you to follow up with us. Okay, Thane is grieving the death of his husband. He just wants to make it through the seven years with Catalina unharmed so he basically locks her in a tower. Since this girl is so down on herself anyway, this leads to her further self flagellation and pretty much depression until he realizes that the way he's treating her is cruel. In order to help her see her worth, Thane occasionally gives her orgasms, and then leaves again, just to help her feel a little better about herself. It's very wham bam. Obviously, it's a romance. So this is the setup, things get better for them both. There is some reciprocity in this book. When I went into this book, I was expecting a bit of a plus element like we had in The Dragons Bride where our main character dealt with trauma and soul. The dragon with two peens helped her work through it. Here our plus element was female insecurity. I found Catalina completely insufferable. Every time she had any thoughts about anything ever, it was countered with well, but nobody likes me anyway, which made me want to strangle her. Seriously, Thane brought slightly more of that plus element with his grief over a lost love. But that also left him feeling disengaged and removed from the action and I'm putting action in quotes. A review from my friend Kelly said he could have been doing his taxes while his tentacles were busy doing their things to Catalina. And that feels totally accurate. He's got eight tentacles. He uses them to great effect. And there's no teeth like there is in a Dragon's Bride where you're like, wow, that got super intense, really fast. And now there's bite marks in very strange places. The tentacles leave hickeys but not much more than that. There's less of that. Yeah, yes. Like it. Yeah, yeah, exactly. The sexy scenes were steamy. And for those who didn't appreciate the teeth in Dragon's Bride, this one's gentler, while still being pretty corny. This has fully finished my foray into mythical beast erotica and I will not be picking up any more of these books. I wanted to figure out what the deal was with the tentacles. And I decided that my octopus obsession will stay in the real world with real octopuses and maybe science fiction ones that take over the planet, but not in the sexy time realm anymore. So this was The Kraken's sacrifice by Katee Robert.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 34:31

I'm bummed that it wasn't as good as The Dragon's Bride, because but yeah, I mean, for all the reasons that you said. It's just, you know, like, The Dragon's Bride was so good because it had all of those great things. It had a character you really cared about and were rooting for it. Yes, the dragon character was really great. And then they were really into each other, but like, for real reasons. And yeah, so we knew that there's no way that every Yeah, okay, well, I'm glad that you read it. Kaytee, thank you for taking one for all the beasts kink team.

Kaytee Cobb 35:02

Yes Indeed, indeed. And I want all the weird octopus things sent to Meredith instead of me. Thanks so much.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 35:11

Okay, all right. My third book is definitely a left turn. But I think we're all going to be happy to take this particular left turn. Everyone can come back in. Okay. So I want to talk about a book that I just read and really, really loved called *The Hangman's Daughter* by Oliver Potzsch. Kaytee, have you read this one?

Kaytee Cobb 35:32

I did read this one, but it was many years ago, and it was on Kindle. And I don't remember very much about it. I'm sorry.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 35:37

All right. Well, I will help you remember here as I give you the setup, so here it is. Our story is set in Germany, which back then was called Bavaria in 1660. And the story starts when a dying boy is pulled from the river with a strange symbol found on his shoulder. Almost immediately, 1660 Bavaria whispers start about witches and witchcraft. After all, the last person to see the boy alive was that woman that midwife with all her highfalutin words and her education and her always helping women when they need help with things with their bodies. Well, when more children disappear, and an orphan boy is found dead, marked by the same tattoo, the mounting hysteria threatens to erupt into chaos and into unfounded allegations. Before the unrest forces him to torture and execute this woman this midwife she who had helped him the birth of his own children, our lead character, Jakob Kuisl, must unravel the truth. He is the town's Hangman, and he doesn't just kill people. As I said he helps to torture them to get them to confess, but from the start, yaka believes that this midwife is innocent. So with the help of his clever daughter, Magdalena and Simon, the university educated son of the town's physician, Jakob discovers that a killer is indeed loose in Schongau and more will die if he is not stopped. This book is so great. This is literary historical fiction. It is wonderful. It is so so good. I'd had this book on my TBR ever since early 2020. In fact, this was a book that I got in my very first trip to Fabled the first time I ever met Elizabeth Barnhill. It's got a fantastic cover and a great setup. But then somehow you guys have had this happen. I was so excited about this book, and then it languished on my shelves for two and a half years. I think that is one of my top five favorite literary things when the books been sitting there and then I finally pick it up. And I'm like, Where have you been all my life. The other thing about this book, and I did post about this on Instagram is that it's the kind of book that is a slow burn in its writing style. Again, back to the kind of slow burn, this is not nonstop action, what's going on here. The story is very much focused on setting and time period and history. And I honestly kept wondering, when I was going to get bored. I kept feeling like it's it's going to happen, right? It's got to happen. This is a big, huge chunk of a book, I'm gonna get bored at some point. But amazingly, I never did, I found myself invested the entire way through in the outcome of the situation. And I want to say that the murder mystery itself is interesting. But the resolution of it is not necessarily groundbreaking or gasp inducing. It is very satisfying. But it's not really the mystery itself is not really the point of this book. What I enjoyed about this book, were exactly the things that it concentrates on. On the setting of 1660s, Bavaria. I kept telling Roxanna as I was reading it that I felt every time I opened up the book, like I was cracking open a big doorway and just like going down a ladder and shutting it above me. And all of a sudden, I'm in Bavaria

and this I mean, that's how immersive it was. We also get a chance to really explore the lives that these people lead the beliefs that they have, and some that they're beginning to fight against the different statuses of social standing and how these play out in their everyday lives. And the one thing I really loved is the fact that this book delves deeply into the beginnings of medical science. It does a great job of telling us about all the very historical beliefs that people had about the different medical sciences. Then we're right at the crux of history where some people are beginning to see the the wisps of true science, and we see our lead characters that hangman Jake Jakob and Simon, his kind of protege or two of the people in the story who are thirsty for and fighting for actual medical knowledge. So I definitely want to say that this book is not a book about witchcraft. And it's not a traditional murder mystery, it does have some elements of both. I just think that if readers going in feeling like either one of those two things are the crux of the story, they'll be disappointed. And more than anything, I think you'd be missing what is really the point of a story, a beautiful, character driven work of historical fiction, I will definitely read further into the series, because I'm invested in what happens to these characters as they move forward. I don't know however, why this first book is called The Hangman's Daughter, because the other thing you need to be aware of is that the hangman does have a daughter, but she doesn't really play that much of a part. And that's fine. She doesn't need to, except that somebody decided that the book is called The Hangman's Daughter. So that's something I feel that I need, I need to say, several readers did reach out to me after I posted about it and told me that they have read further into the series, and that it just gets better and better. So I love that. And I think I may try to go deeper myself. I will also say this is another book that's available on Kindle Unlimited. And they've done some really interesting things. I read it in print, but go pull it up on Amazon, you guys know, I don't normally tell you that. Go look at what they've done with the cover and with some of the things that they are offering in the Kindle edition, including a really cool video trailer for the series. They've done a really interesting job. This is The Hangman's Daughter by Oliver Potzsch.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 41:23

That does help me remember all kinds of things about it. It's translated. Yes. And I don't know what the German title means, but die Henkerstochter. Sounds pretty fun, too.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 41:59

I think I mean, I think that probably means The Hangman's Daughter.

Kaytee Cobb 42:02

But it could mean something different, right? Like, what if he chose something different? And his translators were like, you know, that kind of sounds like The Hangman's Daughter because it's not daughter at the end. It's like talk to her.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 42:12

Oh, well, yeah. If any, we know that. We have listeners in Germany, please let us know what that means.

Kaytee Cobb 42:17

Yeah, I would love to know that sounds fun. I pulled it up while you're talking. I read it in 2014. And I also really enjoyed it, that the layering in the story was really special for me stuff,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 42:29

and really good for this time of year. Like it's that kind of reading. I love to do it this time of year.

Kaytee Cobb 42:35

For sure. Excellent. Okay, so my last current read this week is nonfiction and this book I'm about to talk about is excellent, but difficult. So this is now the second book in a row where I'm going to say that if you have triggers around sexual assault, you can go ahead and skip to the deep dive because it's hard to talk about *Picking Cotton* by Jennifer Thompson Cannino, Robert Cotton and Erin Torneo, without stepping into those waters of sexual assault, so skip skip skip. This nonfiction memoir starts with Jennifer Thompson, one of our authors, and Ronald Cotton at a kid's ballgame. They're sitting next to each other as friends. When someone asks how they know each other. They say that their longtime friends. This is the story of how they formed that friendship. First, Jennifer tells her story. She was raped at knifepoint in her apartment, a man broke in while she slept. She retained a vivid detail of the attack included in the book, and thankfully she was able to escape. Over the next few days she worked closely with the police was able to recreate a suspect sketch with an artist and faced a lineup of potential suspects and then identified Ronald Cotton as her attacker, the same Ronald Cotton that is sitting next to her at the baseball game as a family friend. The trial proceeded, even though there was conflicting evidence from a second victim on the same night, who was unable to identify Ronald, but was also suffering enough PTSD to make her an unreliable witness. They kept telling Jennifer, "You are the perfect witness. You completely understand. Your testimony is ironclad. It is perfection." Ronald Cotton knew he was innocent. But as a Black man, the odds were stacked against him. He was sentenced to life in prison. After 11 years, DNA technology had advanced enough that both Ronald and Jennifer were approached for samples. The DNA cleared his name and led to the conviction of another person. And Jennifer then has to come to terms with the fact that her testimony sent an innocent man to prison for 11 years. After his release, she approaches him to ask for forgiveness and from there, their friendship is able to bloom. We start this book knowing the ending knowing that they are friends. But the journey there is difficult. If you put together *Know My Name* by Chanel Miller, and *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, you'd have this incredible memoir from two people that were inside the justice system without having very much control over the process themselves. Jennifer and Ronald do not shy away from the harrowing details of their experiences. Jennifer's in her attack, and Ronald for what he experienced in prison. This book is chock full of those details, but it's also a story of redemption. The subtitle is "Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption". And it is both of those things, injustice and redemption. I do strongly recommend this title. And I think, I think the person whose name I lost who recommended it, to me, it was a great rec for me, even though it was hard. Do not go into it lightly. Tread carefully, and you will be rewarded with grace. It is worth the read, especially if those themes and those other books have been interesting to you in the past. So this was *Picking Cotton*, by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino, Robert Cotton and Erin Torneo.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 46:04

Oh, man, that is a lot. That is a lot for sure. Did they ever did they ever find the person who actually did it?

Kaytee Cobb 46:12

They did. And he was in prison with Ronald for another crime. So Ronald knew the guy that actually committed the crime that he had gone to prison for. It's it's a really incredible story. Like, I have goosebumps. I'm wearing a sweatshirt and I have goosebumps up and down my arms talking about it. But it's It's tough. It's a tough one. Yeah. Yeah. Okay. Okay, so, now we're gonna talk about presents. Let's do a deep dive.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 46:38

I know it's it's one of those tone deaf segues like we really we don't plan it this way people.

Kaytee Cobb 46:44

It's not intentional. It's not intentional to give you whiplash like this. But we wanted to deep dive today, because the holidays are coming up about book adjacent gifts, because sometimes bookworms are hard to shop for. Meredith, what is on your list this year?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 47:02

But do you really think bookworms are... I think for other bookworms we're not hard to shop for. Right? Don't you think it's easy to come up with a bookish gift for the book for the book lovers in your life, but the people who aren't book lovers seem completely flummoxed by buying. I'm always like, I'm so easy to buy for.

Kaytee Cobb 47:21

Right. This was me making a wish list that I will hand to my husband and say, "Honey, I know you don't want to, you know, buy me books because you're terrified of how much I read. But you can get me these things. And that's fine."

Meredith Monday Schwartz 47:33

Right. Well, for me personally, but then I know a lot of people do the same thing. I always tell people wherever you go, wherever you travel, if you think of me, buy me a bookmark, like buy me a bookmark that is somehow speaks to the location or the bookstore or something. So for me a really beautiful bookmark that is from a store that I've never gotten a chance to get or a place I've never gotten a chance to go. That just makes me really, really happy. I collect bookmarks. So that may you know a bit again, I know a lot of people do that. So that is the number one thing that pops into my mind. The other thing is, I feel like if you have a book lover in your life, why haven't you bought them? At least two coffee warmers, tea warmers, mug warmers is what they're called. Mug warmers. I mean, really, what I have 11 in my house, I feel like everybody needs a mug warmer for one reason or another. So for me, those are two really just off the cuff and inexpensive. Gifts, stocking stuffers gifts however you want to however you want to do it.

Kaytee Cobb 48:42

Yes, I have two mug warmers in my house and I need to get at least three more because my kids now love to make tea in the wintertime and they all want a mug warmer to themselves. Because they put too much ice in it first and then they need to warm it back up again. Which is very fun. The the easy, small dollar entry level ones that I I'm like go to and always ask for are book darts, which I asked to be put

into my stocking every single year because then then I don't have to be precious about them. I don't want just one tin of book darts because then when I finished that book, maybe I have to take them all out because I'm going to read something No, I want to be able to open a new tin and go crazy in another book with them. So yes, I want them like a plethora of book darts. There's no such thing as too many book darts. I also love erasable pens and highlighters. This is actually a Roxanna rack for the pens. I use Pilot FriXion pens now which are erasable ink. It's amazing. Which means I can use a pen in a book and even if I mess up like my line isn't beautiful, I can erase it and go back and do it again which makes me so happy. Same thing with the highlighters which I don't know how they made highlighter technology that is erasable. But these highlighters erase completely clean. And they are also made by Pilot FriXion. So both of these the same technology, you could get a four pack or a six pack of either of those great stocking stuffer great for somebody who loves to interact with their books and make notes in it and make it their own in some way.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 50:19

Absolutely. I was going to say book darts for the win. This was really my first year of using book darts, like 2022 was the first year I really started using book darts. And exactly, you're exactly right. You don't want to have to be precious with them. You want to just be able to use them with reckless abandon. So a lot get having a lot of bookmarks, book darts. And then I use a really particular pen. I only use this is very like me I pick like pick it and stick it I only use one pen. Yes, exactly. And it is it is we'll put a link to it. It's a it's a Sharpie. Pen, it's literally called the Sharpie Pen. It's very fine tipped, it has a cap that comes off. It's not gel, it's ink because I don't like gel because gel gets away from me. Yeah, it has the, the just the perfect ink. It's like a graphite gray. So it, it looks really great on the page, but then it absolutely does not show through at all on the other page, which is something that means a lot to me. So again, 2022 is the year that I started really, I mean, I guess other than my college books and kind of getting back to that interacting with my books, and I'm really loving it. And those are my two favorite, favorite ways to do it.

Kaytee Cobb 51:35

Definitely. I love that. Okay, another thing that I've got on my list to buy for somebody I love is a libro FM gift membership. So you can get a three, six or 12 month membership, not only to libro.FM, of course, you can get them all over the place. There's Scribd, there's Bookshop.org, any of these online retailers that allow you to access books, and even better benefit, the indie books are of your choice, which is what you get with bookshop.org and with libro.FM. So if budgets are tighter, though, you can get a ThriftBooks gift card, which allows you to do maybe 20 bucks instead. And they could get four or five books easily with a \$20 ThriftBooks gift card. They're going to be used but that's still a great boon to a Book Lover.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 52:23

Absolutely. And so along those lines this year was obviously the year that my grandson Jeffrey was born. And one of my favorite gifts that I've given him all year long, is a gift membership to Fabled Story Bound Society for kids. And every month he gets, He's, uh, you know, he was a newborn, and now he's getting older, you know, he's coming up on his first birthday. And so the books are age appropriate. He's getting board, you know, two board books at least every single month that they've chosen. Their Story Bound editor does such a good job of making these choices. Every single one of the books that they've

gotten Devon, his mom and I have just been really absolutely so excited about their perfect additions without being overly precious. Like they're not overly precious books, right? So if you have a baby or a child in your life Fabled Story Bound subscription. Also, if you're looking for a gift for any of your friends here, you know, in Currently Reading land, you guys know that our indie press... you could buy them a Patreon gift certificate, and so you could actually buy them a year of being Currently Reading bookish friend. But our January store is Fabled and you guys know that so you could buy a gift certificate for a bookish friend so that when the indie presses comes out in January, they have a gift certificate to immediately buy whatever their choices are.

Kaytee Cobb 53:49

Which is so fun. One of our bookish friends did that for Mindy when she went to Chicago. They reached out to me and asked what the next month's bookstore was, which we announced at the end of every episode, and then she bought Mindy a gift card to that store so that she would be able to take advantage of one of the titles on that list, which I thought was such a wonderful way to connect through books. I was like We love the indie press list. We love indie bookstores, we love Mindy. Let's put those things together.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 54:14

I love it. The other thing that I thought about Kaytee just super quick is our a really good library tote bag is always a great bookish gift. And we, our Currently Reading library tote bag which we have which will link to that we have a couple of different ones but one of them says "Read, Return, Repeat" on one side on the other side, it has our logo and they're just the perfect size to the perfect weight. They fit a lot of library books, like I've had 30 or more books in my bag and I use mine absolutely all the time. So that's another really easy, bookish gift.

Kaytee Cobb 54:49

Yes, there's a lot of great I mean Zazzle, we get like a pittance on all those sales but there's a wonderful throw blankets. There's a ton of mugs over there. Yeah and so if you're looking for somebody that you love, that's also a listener or you want to turn them into a listener of the podcast, maybe that is a great option. I do have one other higher dollar amount item, which is that I still two years later gets so much joy from my Lego bookstore. This is like a 3d puzzle for puzzle lovers. It's like ages 16 and up. It's not, it's not the LEGO sets that you're that you're giving to your five and seven and 10 year olds. This is complex Lego building, it has almost 2000 pieces. And I love it. I love showing it off to people, I love opening the top and like rearranging my people inside. I keep it away from my children. And it's super nerdy. But I love it, it brings me so much joy. Every time I come into my studio to record, it's on the shelf behind me. So I just it, it makes me very happy. It is a higher dollar item but of course, even if it's just a puzzle lover in your life, my favorite bookish puzzles come from Galison and White Mountain. And both of those would be great options for something that is book adjacent for the book lover and your life.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 56:08

Alright, and of course, my high dollar item, if I am giving a really luxe gift to a bookish friend is I will give them my three favorite books of all time or three books that I think are going to be perfect for them. And I will pair that with the Barefoot dreams throw blanket in a color that will match wherever their reading

nook is in their house. And that is a very expensive, but very memorable way to show the book lover in your life that you really really love her or him.

Kaytee Cobb 56:43

Indeed, that is a luscious, excellent way to love on somebody. Okay, I feel like we loaded up some wish lists. I feel like we loaded up some carts. And I feel like now it's time to load up the the fountain with coins. So we're gonna go visit the fountain. What are you wishing for this week Meredith?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 57:00

All right. Well, my wish kind of goes back to what we were talking about. We were talking about Louise Penny and series and how we don't read a lot of series Well, earlier this week, I was sent by one of our fantastic bookish friends an article that I think Book Riot had done on like the 25 best cozy mystery series. So I was just glancing through it really, really quickly and prominently featured was my favorite cozy series of all time. So my wish is that if you're looking for cozy holiday reading that you dip into the Aunt Dimity books by Nancy Atherton. Now, these books are as cozy as they get. They are set in the Cotswolds. They are set in a thatched cottage. They are feature a fantastic group of characters, all of whom are just the best people that you've ever met without being overly saccharin. And they also feature a ghost anonymity. But these are not ghosty books. And that's the thing I really always want to make clear is that these books are not about ghost, Aunt Dimity has passed beyond the veil but she still communicates with our lead character, Lori Shepherd through writing in a special book. So Lori, when she is befuddled by a problem in her life, which she is quite a bit, she will open up this book, and she will just kind of be pondering out loud to Aunt Dimity and then Aunt Dimity will respond in a beautiful cursive handwriting that appears on the page. So again, we're not talking ghost, occult, anything like that. It's all very, very sweet. Very Cotswaldy. Everyone's wearing boots and tramping about in the mud and going to the village fair, just all the good, cozy, cozy stuff. There are 25 books in the series, 25 books in the series, I did not read all of them. I bet I definitely read the first 10 ish, I think, I think the first 10 are really the ones that are most worth reading. And certainly the first five, they're very short. They're predictable. They're cozy, they're comforting. And sometimes at this time of year, that is exactly what I'm looking for. So that's my wish that you give a try to the Aunt Dimity's books starting with Aunt Dimity's Death, which is the first book. Yes, you need to read them in order by Nancy Atherton. Plink splash.

Kaytee Cobb 59:21

That is so fun. I know, I've heard you describe these books before, but they have never given me so many 90s Kid vibes, as this time when I was basically picturing one of my favorite shows to watch when I was a child, which was called The Ghost Writer on PBS. And these children would attempt to solve mysteries and they would write in a notebook and the ghost writer would write back to them using this like special ink that appeared and disappeared. And I had totally forgotten about it until right now. So I love that I got to have that little walk down memory lane.

Kaytee Cobb 59:54

I was not a teenager when you were a teenager because I would have loved that.

Kaytee Cobb 59:55

No, yeah. And I was probably like eight or nine when this was happening. So it was like young kids PBS. I watched that and wishbone. Those were my main stays after school in the 90s.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:00:12

Wow. Okay. All right. I was an Electric Company kind of girl. I don't you've never heard of that. Have you? Have we right now we're making a lot of listeners laugh. A lot of different listeners are laughing at both of us.

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:26

Oh, no. Okay. Okay, I have a wish this week. It's maybe somewhat reflective of the way I spent my week this week. I wish that book festivals and author events got the same hype as Taylor Swift. Yeah, this is my wish. Okay, I'm a little spicy this week, because I was not once but twice burned by Taylor Swift concert tickets. I bought into the hype, I got super excited, I had a pre sale code, I was let down over and over again. And the same is true for 15 million other people, but whatever. What I would like is to have my entire feed filled up with book festivals, and author events instead. And have these events be so exciting that I get texts about them, put them on my calendar, queue up for tickets with other fans and have to be decisive about who I get to see and how I spend my time. The problem is that even following my local bookstores and keeping eyes on their events, I miss stuff that's in my area. Half the time, I might not have cared anyway. But I also miss the stuff that's drivable. That would have, I would have been thrilled to see Ibram X. Kendi when he was in Albuquerque last week. And I had no idea until the event had passed. I'm following these authors online that I would love seeing live and falling bookstores close by I'm on email list. But I still miss out on the events that I would be interested in. Like other talks and book festivals. I wish that the same hype here in my personal life, as we get in the world at large about big, big concerts coming to town. That's what I want. I want to be just as excited, just as hype. And then I can take my eyes off of the Taylor Swift concert tickets prize, and be very excited about the celebrities that I love coming to my area instead. That's my wish. Plink splash.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:02:14

He does seem like something that should be much more achievable now than ever before. And you know, and I'm following all the places.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:02:23

Right. Right. What was the place that was doing Ibram X Kendi that didn't tell you about it? Like what was the

Kaytee Cobb 1:02:31

It was at UNM, the college, which like, I'm not following the college, but I'm following Ibram X Kendi, because they don't do book events for public people very often, but just makes me mad.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:02:42

Yeah, that does seem like a missed opportunity.

Kaytee Cobb 1:02:48

This is a wish that involves a little teary eyed emoji.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:02:53

I know cuz I'm trying to think like, how would he have made sure that you I mean, I guess his people need to be everywhere that he's going where it's possible to procure tickets, they need to be putting that on his feed, but then the algorithm might not serve you all of those things.

Kaytee Cobb 1:03:09

Exactly. Exactly.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:03:11

Right. All right. Well, this is not interesting audio. But now if it's one of those now, now, I want to solve this problem. But maybe somebody else can Kaytee. Who knows you all your wishes come through.

Kaytee Cobb 1:03:22

It does feel like a lot of my wishes come true. I really like it.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:03:25

But I know I know in the next week, at least one person is going to send me tag me on instagram and show me their face next to a copy of Aunt Dimity stuff and my wish will have come true. It will be my favorite narrative. They will be my favorite, my favorite person. I love it. All right. That is it for this week. As a reminder, here's where you can connect with us. You can find me I'm Meredith at @Meredith.reads on Instagram.

Kaytee Cobb 1:03:52

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:03:56

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.

Kaytee Cobb 1:04:06

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:04:13

And if you want more of this content, you can become a bookish friend, which is a Patreon subscriber. It's just \$5 a month and you get a ton more where this came from. You can also rate and review us on Apple podcasts and shout us out on social media and send us pictures of you with books that we want you to read. All of those things make a huge difference towards us finding our perfect audience

Kaytee Cobb 1:04:36

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:04:43

Alright, until next week, may your coffee be hot

Kaytee Cobb 1:04:46

and your book be unputdownable.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:04:48

Happy reading Kaytee.

Kaytee Cobb 1:04:49

Happy reading Meredith