



Season 5, Episode 48: The Listener Press!

Mon, Jul 10, 2023 • 1:01:26

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:10

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

Kaytee Cobb 00:24

We are light on the chitchat heavy on the book talk and our descriptions will always be spoiler free. Today, we have a very special episode for you.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:31

I'm Meredith Monday, Schwartz, a mom of four and full time CEO living in Austin, Texas. And choosing between great book recommendations is a terrible Sophie's Choice.

Kaytee Cobb 00:42

And I'm Kaytee Cobb, a homeschooling mom of four living in New Mexico. And I love giving my TBR a heaping shot of espresso. This is episode number 48 of season five. And we are so glad you're here. Meredith, we're almost done with season five,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 00:58

we are almost done with season five. And even more importantly, we have arrived at what I am positive is my favorite episode that we do every year. Katie, I am filled with excitement about this episode, even if putting it together caused me some consternation.

Kaytee Cobb 01:17

Yeah, we had to make some very serious, very big decisions leading into this episode. And that was whittling down the amazing selection of listener presses that we got sent to us this year.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 01:29

Yeah, we got so many good ones. And at first you gave me a number. And I was really excited because I was like, okay, I can work with and then you were like, actually, can you cut that down further? And I was like, What? No, I can't. No, I'm wedded to these choices. But But I did. And you did. You did the same thing. Yeah. And we've got 20 listener presses,

Kaytee Cobb 01:54

Which is the biggest episode we've ever done of listener presses. Usually I tell both of us that we're limited to seven each, which is 14. We couldn't do it this year.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 02:03

Right. But I want to say right here at the top. And I you guys know I mean it when I say it, if you didn't get chosen, it's not because we didn't love the way you talked about your book or anything about it. We try to come up with when we choose the 20. Just like when we choose our stack for indie press list or anything else that we're doing even our current reads, we try to make a grouping that makes sense and has kind of something for everyone. We want to do backlist, we want to do frontlist, we want to do all different kinds of genres. So again, if you don't hear your press here, it doesn't mean that we weren't madly putting that book on our TBR. It doesn't mean you might not hear it in a different venue later. All of that because man, you guys showed up and showed out for this in a big way

Kaytee Cobb 02:50

for sure. Meredith, did you feel like there was any overarching theme to the presence of this year? Like I noticed a lot of sci fi a lot more than we normally get, which I thought was interesting.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 03:01

Yeah. What I noticed was, we got the kind of listener presses that make this episode so great, which is a bunch of stuff you're not seeing everywhere else. I mean, this is why we came up with this idea back in the day when no one else was really doing this yet, because your favorite books are ones that I mean, we had one where someone said it's like a 15 year old book, and there were 20 ratings for it on Goodreads. And yet, it was one of their favorite books of all time. This is the kind of gold we're talking about. So that was the theme that I noticed. Yes, I definitely noticed sci fi dystopian, there were mysteries and thrillers that had never been on my radar, lots of things that were just there, these hidden gems, and that's what I loved about this episode, you just never know what you're gonna get. And many of the ones that we ended up reading, because you and I both put, you know, listener presses on our TBR. And we read them and they come up as current reads, some of those have made it on my best books of the year. So I mean, this is gold for us as far as just finding books we want to read.

Kaytee Cobb 04:08

Definitely. I love it. That's why I call it a big shot of TBR espresso, because I mean, we're just like loading up and getting all amped up about these books that we're so excited about.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 04:18

The other theme that I noticed here Kaytee was how well people spoke about the books that they were pressing. I mean, these are some really thoughtful setups, some really fantastic ways of speaking about these books from from the people who left us voice memos. And again, some easy process, right? We're just asking them to do a voice memo on their phone and send it in to us. So it's not like they need any big podcast equipment or anything. You just need to take the time to really think about what you want to say and these listeners did that but I really didn't hear any that came in that I didn't feel that way about these were all really thoughtful presses. that we received.

Kaytee Cobb 05:01

Very excellent. Let's stop teasing everyone and get into the goodies shall we? Yes, we should open up this box of chocolates. Okay. Our first one is from a friend of the show Bill Lexi's husband. And he is going to tell us, Bill this bill is

Meredith Monday Schwartz 05:18

Bill is a reader of his own. He's not just Lexi's husband. He is He is a great reader. And I feel sorry for Bill because he is such a great reader. But you know what, it is really hard for great male readers to find the same kind of niche that great female readers have and it bums me out.

Kaytee Cobb 05:39

That is a very true statement. And Bill is going to tell you in his press where you can find him on Instagram and we do recommend you go follow him because he has some great book reviews over there and he's a great follow.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 05:51

He's a great follow.

Bill 05:53

Hi, this is Bill from Austin, Texas. You can find me on Bookstagram at thewilltoread. The book I want to press today is The Mere Wife by Maria Dahvana Headley. Here's the setup. Two mothers, a suburban housewife and a veteran suffering from PTSD struggle to protect those they love in this modern retelling of Beowulf. You don't have to be a Beowulf scholar to enjoy this one. It's incredibly accessible and has some like Desperate Housewives Stepford Wives type energy, right, Dahvana Headley is legit Beowulf scholar. She's got a recent reprint of the novel, but she's also a very gifted writer and storyteller. It's set in a near perfect modern suburbia that's nestled in the mountains. Within these pages. We feel the toll and the price of motherhood and it's trauma war, and it's trauma and PTSD, gentrification, racism, classism, and so much more that are intertwined with skilled prose and some very creative chorus chapters that you're going to love. I combo'd the book on audio, as well as the pages and the narration is fantastic. So if you take books and audio, it's a great one. Again, that's The Mere Wife by Maria Dahvana Headley.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 06:56

Yeah, this one is so good. I don't know why it hasn't been on my radar, but it sounds so anytime we've got Desperate Housewives or Stepford Wives energy that's catnip. For me. I love the utopia that isn't a utopia.

Kaytee Cobb 07:11

Definitely. I love that this author Maria Dahvana, Headley went and did a translation of Beowulf a modern translation of Beowulf and and she was like, You know what, this really needs a queer retelling. I want to add that in for myself, and she like this looks fantastic. Did you look at the cover that I have not seen the cover? Gorgeous, I want a print of it for my wall. And I'm just so excited about this, like we did Renaissance lit for my homeschool year for this past homeschool year. And so Micah had to read Beowulf as part of that. And now I'm totally into the idea of getting this modern retelling of it. Yeah, this

one is a really, really good one. And it came out in 2018. So really, I don't know who failed us, but it wasn't us. Thanks, Bill for making sure that we know about this one. Next, we are going to hear from Karrie, that I'm very excited about this one. This one is called At Least You Have Your Health. Let's hear what Karrie has to say about it.

Karrie 08:09

Hi, I'm Karrie from North Texas. I wanted to recommend At Least You Have Your Health by Madi Sinha and I was debating whether or not I should send this in. But when I saw it only has 1000 ratings on good reads I knew I needed to share this great feminine rage and empowerment novel. In this story. A dedicated gynecologist ends up in hot water at her job when she's finally hit her boiling point and loses her composure on a woman of privilege who's demanding special treatment. So instead of being forced to apologize for what she believes in, Dr. Maya Rao decides to quit. But Dr. Rao doesn't just sit home and sulk about the problems in the US healthcare system. No, Maya decides to use her time off to fight for proper sex and body health education at her daughter's private school. Coincidentally, she meets one of the other moms who has just started her own wellness clinic. This modern take on health care specializes in house calls, and just so happens to need a gynecologist to round out their staff. But this isn't an open access clinic. It is an elite service where the patients are called clients and many are opting for outrageously priced holistic treatments, offering a great salary and a chance to set her own hours. Dr. Rao agrees to take on the challenge until she figures out what she will do next and spend more time with their family in the meantime, of course, the job not only brings unique situations to women's health that might never encountered before, but you will also be faced with making choices to follow the business model and let the patient dictate their own care or to fire boss once again and do what she knows is right. I'm telling you this plot will take you on a wild ride. Will Dr. Rao fly with her almost full term client to give birth in a faraway ocean? Where did that client get a crystal stuck? Not to mention there's a mystery surrounding the daughter of the clinic founder or is there this novel is billed as women fiction but it is so much more than that. I think satire on women's health education and the US healthcare system are calling out problems with class race, privilege and more all while learning about the main character and her journey through life. I know it seems like there's a lot going on here but the author Madi Sinha somehow makes it all work. Sinha herself is an Indian American who As a practicing physician, she uses her own experiences to really bring his novel to life. If your voice or intelligence has ever been brushed aside or if the US healthcare and education system has ever felt far from perfect, you can feel validated while also enjoying a great novel. As you can imagine, there are definitely trigger warnings associated with health and motherhood. So make sure you check those before picking it up. But I definitely recommend At Least You Have Your Health by Madi Sinha.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 10:22

Another catnip thing for me. Any book that asks the question, where did you get that crystal stuck? I just immediately add to cart.

Kaytee Cobb 10:31

Yes, I'm so excited about this one. I love that she set it up like guys, feminists rage, it's all the rage right now. Everybody loves reading about feminist rage, but it has so many plus elements to it. Of course, we've been talking about women's health in the zeitgeist as well. So I am very excited to pick this one up. It's from 2022. I've never heard of it. I have no idea where this book has been.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 10:53

Right? It also has a beautiful cover.

Kaytee Cobb 10:56

Oh, I didn't even look at this one.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 10:57

Oh, yeah. Go take a look at this one. Oh, I'm

Kaytee Cobb 10:59

so excited about it.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 11:00

By the way, you guys should be doing what I'm doing. As we record this, I have my fabled fable. Does my independent bookstore have their app open on my computer or not their app, I have their website open in a tab on my computer. And as we're recording, I'm just going back and forth and adding things to cart.

Kaytee Cobb 11:15

Yes, this cover is gorgeous. I love it. I want it. I want this book. I know that sounds really really good. Another one buy Add to Cart. Thanks so much. This is going to be a very expensive episode for me. I know

Meredith Monday Schwartz 11:27

it always is the most that nothing's more powerful. So this next one, Kaytee I'm so glad we have it on the list. I'm very excited about this next one.

Kaytee Cobb 11:35

This is our oldest one on the list this year released in 1995. We get to hear about Coming Home by Rosamunde Pilcher.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 11:44

Yeah, listen for the way that she brings this one home.

Ruth 11:47

My name is Ruth. I'm from Salida, Colorado, and today I'd like to press Coming Home by Rosamunde Pilcher. Coming Home was the very first novel by Pilcher that I ever read. It made me fall in love with the author, and it has remained my favorite. I've read it half a dozen times, even though it's quite a chunker. Seriously, it's huge. But wait, you're saying I've heard of that book? Isn't it a world war two novel site really what we want right now another world war two novel, but I really don't think it is. Here's the setup. It's 1935 and Judith Dunbar is preparing to be separated from her family for possibly years. Her father is employed by some colonial British company, and he will be working in Singapore for the foreseeable future, and Judith will be left behind at boarding school. So that's how the story begins. But

it's told as only Rosalind Pilcher can tell it, full of warm sunshine and beautiful seaside scenes. The story ranges from Cornwall to London to Singapore extends over the next decade, and we watched you to throw up. It's a beautiful and epic story told in a quiet way. It's a story about family and friendship. Love, Loss, devastation, yes, even a little bit of war. But it's all just told in that perfect Rosamunde culture way. Makes you feel like you're sitting in that small cottage in Cornwall, with the brilliant Sun streaming in. It's a little cold outside, but you're warm. There's a fire. There's a blanket, a bowl of flowers on the table, a dog curled at your feet in the cottage is filled with the warmth of family and friendship and love. It's perfect. It's Coming Home by Rosamunde Pilcher

Meredith Monday Schwartz 13:40

that's so good. It's the ending of that review that just gets me it's because that's everything that Rosamunde Pilcher does.

Kaytee Cobb 13:46

That was like an ASMR room. Like yeah, I'm gonna put that on repeat when I'm like, staying up too late and can't sleep.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 13:53

Right? Having a panic attack. That's exactly what what you need, like you're in the cottage. Right? It's cold outside, but you're warm. There's a duck. So it's everything I love. It's everything I love about the Rosamunde Pilcher books that I've read. And so the way that she says it, it's just absolutely perfect. I love it so much.

Kaytee Cobb 14:13

Good job, Ruth. Okay, our next one is one that I got to hear about gushed about on one of our currently reading bookish friend zooms where we talk about some things that we've been reading lately. We like play currently reading on zoom with our patrons once every quarter. And our friend Stephanie gushed about this book. And now I'm so excited for y'all to get to hear. Nancy, tell us about it.

Nancy 14:38

I currently reading friends my name is Nancy Tompkins and I'm from Poplar Bluff, which is in Southeast Missouri. I want to press the book, The River of Doubt, Theodore Roosevelt's longest journey by Candice Millard. This is for the nonfiction in history buffs of the group. It was pressed to me by my dad who is also an avid reader. Here's the setup we know Teddy Roosevelt for his avid hunting adventures. After losing the election in 1912, he decided that he wanted a new adventure he decided to explore the tributary of the Amazon River in Brazil. Known as the River of Doubt, the River of Doubt has been unexplored and unmapped. Up until now, he assembles a team, but they cannot predict what is going to come up ahead. His team has to overcome encounters with indigenous people of Brazil rapids, illness and injury. What I loved about this book was the author was able to describe an expedition in a way that was very suspenseful, and at times, I honestly thought how they were ever going to manage to finish the exploration. It's amazing to me what they were able to accomplish with no internet, no ways to communicate with the outside world. I feel like this would be a good press for a husband or a father or a brother who is also a reader in your life. Happy reading.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 15:52

Oh, yes, that one does sound interesting. Yeah,

Kaytee Cobb 15:55

it's one of those journey voyage books kind of like Endurance about Shackleton's voyage across the North Pole, by Alfred Lansing. But this whole like Amazonian exploration, we had multiple people in that Zoom talk about how they've read this book multiple times, because it's so transported. If it takes you all the way to the Amazon, you're on the river with this crew that's like facing up to things that they did not expect on their journey. Very excited to get into this one.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 16:25

Yeah, that one sounds really, really good. Plus just the whole, like circumstances that seem insurmountable. That's always really interesting to me too. That's a really good one.

Kaytee Cobb 16:36

Definitely love that. The next one is from Tara, who is telling us about I Who Have Never Known Men, which is very interesting title. I can't wait to hear about this one.

Tara 16:47

Hello, readers. My name is Tara and I'm a mom of three boys and NICU nurse living in Wisconsin. I read a book in May, that I think about literally every day, and that is not an exaggeration. This book was pressed into my hands by my favorite booktuber Books with Emily Fox. She read it last year and in her words, she harassed all her followers until they read it. This book is a backlist gem first published in 1995. It's also a work in translation originally written in French. This book is also on the short side. My copy was 188 pages, and I read it in two sittings. The book is called I Who Have Never Known Men by Jacqueline Harpman. Here's the setup. 40 Women are locked underground. They have no memory of how they got there. They are not allowed to touch each other and are guarded by armed men at all times. But one day, something happens and the women are able to break out. They run up the stairs to the surface. And the world that they find is one of the most haunting things I have ever read. If you do read this book, do not read the foreword, because it gives away way too many spoilers for the book. If you want to find out what the 40 women find on the surface, then please read this book. I was completely immersed in that story and utterly transported to a bleak dystopian world like no other. This book is part The Road by Cormac McCarthy, The Wool series by Hugh Howey with the same mysterious feeling as the TV show Lost. This book has grabbed hold of my brain and not let it go. This book was a five star read for me. This book is I Who Have Never Known Men by Jacqueline Harpman. And I hope you can read it and experience the story for yourself. Oh, I

Meredith Monday Schwartz 18:45

love a book with a premise like that.

Kaytee Cobb 18:47

I love a comparison to Lost I love the comps she gave us all across the board. I'm picturing like a not funny, Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, where it's like she emerges from her bunker where there's only

one right. And in that show. It's very funny. It's very tongue in cheek, it's very sitcom. But this is like some kind of crazy stuff has happened. This is

Meredith Monday Schwartz 19:08

definitely some kind of crazy that is this is for sure when I'm going to need to read not. And interestingly, it doesn't seem that it's available on audio. It looks like it's just available in print and Kindle.

Kaytee Cobb 19:18

While it only came out in 1995, which as we know, audio has really taken off the last few years. Maybe the bookish friends can change that if we put in enough orders. Yeah,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 19:28

there'll be like, people actually want to read this. So let's bring it back. Oh, that's a good goal.

Kaytee Cobb 19:32

I like it. I like it. All right. Our next one is from our friend Holly. She's our podcast pal over at Hearts and Daggers. We want to make sure you know about that show as well and she is pressing a chunker we've had this is our second chunker so far. It's the Priory of the Orange Tree.

Holly Farrell 19:49

Hi, Meredith, Kaytee, co hosts and listeners. My name is Holly Farrell. I'm a longtime currently reading addict. And I'm so excited today to press into everyone's hands. One of my favorite books I've read so far this year, a book that has become a lifetime favorite for me. I know this is the year that everyone is obsessed with a certain dragon fantasy book, the fourth wing, but I have a different dragon fantasy that I need you to pick up. And that's The Priory of the Orange Tree by Samantha Shannon. This book is Chunky. But don't be intimidated by its size. It packs a punch in both writing quality and readability, which is the perfect sweet spot to me. The books plot is centered around a fantasy world where there's centuries of tension and division between the East and the West, the people that religions, their magic, and even their dragons, and how these two sides must ultimately come together to face a greater evil that threatens them all. There's pulse pounding action, elemental magic and powerful are fruit trees, multiple types of draconic creatures, Royal and political intrigue, but the kind that's juicy, not the kind that bogs you down. There are pirates and Assassins lovely queer romance, ancient texts and clues for how to find them. There's a secret matriarchal order led by the prioress, which if I can't think of any other ways to say, Meredith read this. There is even this kind of sisterhood element, I could go on and on. I would definitely liken this to Game of Thrones slash house of dragons. But without the dense, slow parts that are in that book series. It's a little bit avatar in the propulsive action and the amazing characters, but I would say with more high quality writing, and then there's a splash of the TV show Avatar The Last Airbender, with its elemental magic and world divisions. So if you do pick this book up and read it, I have good news. The Prequel just came out this year, which is called A Day of Fallen Night. And at 60 pages in I can already attest that it is just as good as priory. So I hope you pick this one up, if it strikes, any chords, that sound at all interesting to you. This is the Priory of the Orange Tree by Samantha Shannon, thanks.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 22:02

Oh, yes, several people have reached out to me and said that they think I would like this. But she did a bang up job of setting up this book, she included all the little morsels that we need to know are there to get us to pick up a book that is really, really big. Now what I'm going to do in this case, is what I always do with my slow, but steadies that are really big chunks, I'm going to get it on all the formats, not all the formats, I'm going to get it on Kindle. And then I'm probably going to have it I have the hardcopy and sort of move my bookmark through it. But the book is really so big that I like to read a book that's that big on my Kindle because partly because it saves my hands and my arms and my face accidentally fall asleep, but also which has happened to me. I'm looking at you Jonathan strange and Mr. Norrell, but also it helps me to not be so focused on the length and just be focused on where I am in the story. So I think that that's a great way to do it. But man, Holly, just set the crap up on that book.

Kaytee Cobb 23:05

Definitely. I remember listening to this when the audio is fantastic. Early in the pandemic, I puzzled for like three days straight, and just listened to the whole time because it's a chunker. It's probably a 25 to 30 hour audiobook, if I remember correctly, and I was just happy with my puzzles. Drinking in this world completely closed off from the outside world because it was the pandemic but even everything that was happening my house I was in the story for

Meredith Monday Schwartz 23:32

sure. Yeah, no, that one sounds really, really good.

Kaytee Cobb 23:35

Excellent. Our next one is our first YA pick of this episode. There's not very many of those this time, but it has a time travel element that I'm very excited about. This one is called Throwback.

Christy 23:46

Hello, currently reading my name is Christy Broderick and I live in a small town in Michigan kind of near Jackson. The book that I'm going to be pressing today is called Throwback and it's written by Maurene Goo. It was a super fun book. I tell you, I read it as an arc originally, it just released back in April of this year. So I really liked the nostalgia that this book brought to the table and I had family relationships as the main focus. So if you love Back to the Future in the wild adventures that Marty goes on to change certain events in the past to reflect in his future, then you will love marine goos latest book after having a fight with her mom, Samantha Kang, the main female character ends up time traveling in a ride, share and get stuck in the 90s who she has to help her teenage mother when homecoming queen to fix an event that happened in the future and figure out how to get back home to her current timeline. What Sam finds out along the way could help her learn about her family how to change attitudes and outlooks during that time and deal with the current crush on a guy named Jamie who also has a secret of his very own. I have loved reading many of marine goos book is obviously and was very excited when this book released and I instantly added it to my shelf when I got it there was a pre order campaign and it included a 1990s necklace of your choosing you could pick the year you wanted I of course got the year I was born which was 94 and just because I'm a kpop fanatic, I was very excited when I saw BTS mentioned a couple of times so if you know Kpop or BTS at all, you will like the little snippets thrown in

as well along with this read. So again, it was Throwback by Maurene Goo I hope you get a chance to read it and if you enjoy it find me and let's chat

Meredith Monday Schwartz 25:42

about it. Oh that is so much fun. And Christy is so much fun.

Kaytee Cobb 25:46

She is a lot of fun. She is a big BTS fan girl she is the reason I know about BTS truly. So when everything happened with the BTS memoir earlier this year, I was like Christy Broderick, that's who needs to know all of this news right now.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 26:00

She's gonna be so excited and Throwback sounds really good.

Kaytee Cobb 26:03

Yes, I love a time travel element, the tie in to Back to the Future and like going back to help your own parent. I just think that's so fun. And so funny. I haven't read anything by this author, even though it sounds like she's pretty Beloved. So I'm excited to pick this one up. Our next one that we're going to hear about is called Hummingbird. And I know nothing about this book that released in 2022.

Amanda 26:26

Hi, my name is Mandy and I live in a small town in the East Tennessee mountains called Elizabethton. I'm a children's public librarian. And I want to tell you about the book I'm trying to press into the hands of every middle grader who comes in my library this summer it is Hummingbird by Natalie Lloyd. Here's the setup. Olive lives in the most idealic little town in East Tennessee in the mountains. I wonder why I would like that. She has been homeschooled all her life because she has a condition called osteogenesis imperfecta or brittle bone disease. And she's confined to a wheelchair most of the time, but she's ready to start public school. And that's sort of what this book is about at the beginning. On her first day at public school. One of her teachers tells the class about a legend of a hummingbird that appears literally once in a blue moon about every 50 years when the conditions are just right. And if you find the hummingbird the night of the blue moon, it will grant you a wish. So olive teams up with some new friends. And they're going to try to find the hummingbird and get their wishes. Granted why I love this book is because number one it's just beautifully written when I find beautifully written middle grade, I get so excited. And Natalie Lloyd is a master of this. There are so many wonderful quotable lines in this book that I'll go back to again and again. Also, it's magical realism, which is my favorite genre. I just love it. I love the way that Natalie weaves in a lot of diversity and inclusion in this book without making a big deal out of it. It's just literally part of the story. But if you live where I live, you know that it's a bigger deal than that, that she's included so much diversity and inclusion in this book. I hope that you will read it it made me feel so good and so happy and I just really loved it and I hope you'll give it a chance give middle grade a chance.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 28:27

If it's so much fun. Yes, give middle grade a chance and this book seems like a great one to start on. If it's one that you have you don't read a lot of middle grade

Kaytee Cobb 28:36

definitely and she says it makes her feel happy and sometimes y'all we just need a book that makes us feel happy. You know? That is not like dark. Just fun.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 28:47

Middle Grade is so often my comfort read I might you know what my go to if I just am feeling really frenetic or anxious middle grade is such a comforting space to go to and this Yeah, Hummingbird sounds so good.

Kaytee Cobb 28:59

Okay, this next one is one of the only ones that I already had on my TBR from the list today, but I'm very excited to hear about it because Alex kind of personally talked me into it and I know she's going to talk all the rest of you into its You Could Make this Place Beautiful.

Alex C. 29:16

Hi, I'm Alex Cox from Paris, Tennessee. And the book I'm bringing to you today is You Could Make This Place Beautiful by Maggie Smith. Here's the setup. In her long awaited debut memoir, You Could Make This Place Beautiful award winning poet Maggie Smith explores in lyrical vignettes, the end of her marriage and the beginning of a surprising new life. A story that starts with Smith's personal particular heartbreak quickly grows into a reckoning with contemporary womanhood, family, work and patriarchy with a spirit of reflection and empathy she's known for and razor sharp wit. Smith interweaves snapshots of life with meditations on secrets, anger for goodness and narrative itself, you can make this place beautiful is an unflinching look at what it means to live and write our own lives. It is a story about a mother's fierce and constant love for her children, and a woman's love and regard for herself. Above all, this memoir is an argument for possibility. Smith reveals how in the aftermath of loss, we can discover our power and make something new, something beautiful. The reason I really loved this memoir is I followed Maggie Smith's poems, since she put Good Bones into the world. One of her first poems that she wrote for publication, my son's gifted this book to me for Mother's Day, this year, and they along with my husband, in lieu of a card, they wrote me a message or a letter in the front of the book. And I really love this memoir, because Maggie Smith never claims to have her life figured out. And it's not self help. It's self navigation.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 30:57

She did a great job with helping us understand what we're going to find in that book for sure. And I love the, the the cart like the book as a gift with writing in the front of it. What a point in time, what a great way to give a gift to a bookish mom,

Kaytee Cobb 31:15

definitely I might have to suggest this to Jason in the future. If you're looking for a gift, I have an idea for you. This sounds so good. And as we've seen with books written by poets in the past, a poet knows their language so well. So I know that this one is just gonna be packed with lyrical prose that sings off the page, which is one of the things I love about reading non poetry written by poets.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 31:46

Absolutely, absolutely. This one is Yeah, and I've dipped into this one and yes, the language. It's just one of those that just gives you the equivalent of a gut punch, but to your heart,

Kaytee Cobb 31:57

a heart punch. That sounds dangerous. Yeah.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 32:00

This one is dangerously good.

Kaytee Cobb 32:02

Dangerously good. All right, one of the few dudes that gave us a listener press this year, we are going to hear next from Cody about Going Zero.

Cody 32:12

Hey, everyone, my name is Cody, and I am a full time digital nomad currently coming to you from Park City, Utah. Today I'd like to press a book called Going Zero by Anthony McCarten. I'm stoked about this book because it falls into a category which I think is sorely underserved. And that is the HSP friendly thriller. So here's the setup. In this present day story, the CIA is partnering with a tech giant whose CEO may be reminiscent of a particular American billionaire in order to test out a highly effective new surveillance program called Fusion. This is being done in the name of national security, of course, and the idea is that anyone, anywhere can be found very quickly using this technology. In order to test fusion. This CIA tech partnership has launched a competition in which 10 American citizens will be given a two hour Headstart to turn off their phones and go zero, meaning get themselves completely off the grid. After their Headstart the state is sending out capture teams in order to locate these individuals. If anyone is able to avoid capture for 30 days, they win \$3 million. If the capture team locates you before that it's game over and you go home empty handed, our main protagonist is an unassuming librarian from Boston named Caitlin. And it appears as if she was included in the program as a sort of gimme, the Fusion team expects her to go down pretty quickly. But as the days go by, and Caitlin not only evades capture, but toying around with the capture teams a little bit, we start to figure out that she's got a lot more to her than what everyone has expected. As the story unfolds, we'll learn more about our protagonist and the real reason she has her playing this game. The reason I love this book was because I tend to love fast paced and intriguing plots. But thrillers are usually a miss for me because I don't like reading about death and murder. And I don't like being scared because I spend a lot of time out hiking and camping alone. This book was perfect for me because it was high stakes enough to be very propulsive, and keep me excited throughout the whole story, but low stakes enough to not be upsetting or anxiety producing. It was also super thought provoking about the kinds of surveillance technology that our government almost certainly already has the ethics of surveillance in the name of security, the kinds of infringement of privacy that we've come to allow in our daily lives. And it also made me think a lot about whether or not I could successfully get off the grid for 30 days with the government chasing me All in all, this was a really fun and interesting book that I'd recommend for pretty much anyone I am on Instagram. It's not a very bookish Instagram, but I'd love to connect with people and chat about this book or any others if you want to. You can find me at C O D Y H I L L and

then two underscores So I hope someone out there gets some enjoyment from this relatively quick read. Thank you add

Meredith Monday Schwartz 35:05

to cart immediately. That sounds so good and the genre the the sort of non murderly thriller. He's absolutely right we need more of that. Also Cody we need for you to get a Bookstagram account going we need more guys to put out their Bookstagram account so they can connect with us and with each other

Kaytee Cobb 35:25

yes make it a whole like dude Instagram. Yeah community

Meredith Monday Schwartz 35:30

I lat I'm so much more interested in people like Cody and Bill. Real readers. I don't really want to be bothered with the like, hot guys reading thing. Like yeah, that was fun a few years ago. I'm into like, I'm sure. I mean, Bill and Cody are hot, too. But like, reader guys reading is what I'm looking for.

Kaytee Cobb 35:49

Any guy who's reading, it doesn't matter what they look like. They're all hot.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 35:54

Exactly. Especially if they're talking about books in this way. So So yes, but Going Zero. I've actually heard about it in a couple different places written by screenwriter I think we probably can expect it's going to be pretty cinematic in its scope.

Kaytee Cobb 36:06

Yes. I think this sounds great. And I love that he knows himself like he's out by himself hiking a lot. He doesn't want to be terrified. And this was the perfect it sounds like it was written for Cody really, to talk about like digital detox when he's a digital nomad to talk about being off the grid when he loves being outside hiking, like 100% of it sounds perfect.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 36:28

Love this reader know thyself, and Cody knows himself.

Kaytee Cobb 36:32

Exactly. All right, here is our next YA pick for this episode. I think our last YA pick as well. It's the cheerleaders.

Laura 36:41

I can't wait for this one. Hello, my name is Laura. And I'm from Alabama. And the book that I want to press into everybody's hands is The Cheerleaders by Kara Thomas. It is a YA thriller mystery where there are no more cheerleaders in a small town because five years ago, they all died in a weird, tragic way. And now we have the main character who sister is one of the cheerleaders, that died and she is

trying to find out how all the deaths were related. And what all happened. It was a five star read for me back in 2018. And I think that people who enjoy why enjoy mysteries would enjoy it. Thanks.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 37:24

Doesn't that sound so good? Who killed all the cheerleaders? The

Kaytee Cobb 37:28

cheerleaders oh my gosh,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 37:29

how did I not hear about this? Come on.

Kaytee Cobb 37:33

Yeah, 2018 Again, I you know, we were kind of busy in 2018 Getting a podcast started so

Meredith Monday Schwartz 37:39

maybe in the in the cover, Kaytee Have you can you see the cover? I know with the blood stains, just a little cheer skirt. Yeah. With the blood splatter. Oh, I got put in my vein. What I want?

Kaytee Cobb 37:54

Yes, I actually told Mary on the episode we recorded a few weeks ago, I don't know what time is right now that she is really good at bringing us kind of these ya mystery trophy books. And so I feel like this is going to be a really good fit for her as well. So hopefully Mary is listening and she hears this description because I think she would really love this one.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 38:17

Yes, this is where Mary and I's Venn diagram overlaps. We will. Absolutely. We will love this one. I'm so glad that that we got this recommendation.

Kaytee Cobb 38:27

Definitely. Okay. Our next one is the only romance on the list this year, although there were quite a few that came in. It's for 2019 it's called The Best Thing.

Judith 38:37

Hi, my name is Judith and I'm calling from Benton, Arkansas. In the book I like to press is The Best Thing by Mariana Zapata. Lenny DeMaio, is set on moving on with her life she has done dwelling on her past. She's going to focus on her family and running her family's mixed martial arts gym, and then in walks Jonah Collins, the rugby player that disappeared after a serious sports injury. The man Lenny had a worldwide romance in spent almost a year trying to get a hold of the one who didn't answer any of her texts, phone calls or emails. Mariana Zapata is the queen of slow burns and this one doesn't disappoint. The best thing is a contemporary Second Chance romance with a two out of five spice level set by the will have you fall in love with badass Looney large but shy brute, Jonah and most of all, the unforgettable grandpa Gus while I read it on Kindle. One of my friends do the audio instead it was a must just to hear Jonah speak in this is The Best Thing by Mariana Zapata.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 39:35

The slow burn oh my gosh, she was ghosted by a rugby player.

Kaytee Cobb 39:40

Judith, this sounds so good. No, and he was like a tall drink of water. Like what's not to love about that? She's feisty and badass in her own right. I love that. Also give me more strong women and our romances. Yes, please. And thank you. Okay, our next one is a book about books which of course we love. It's Fellowship Point.

Ashton 40:02

My name is Ashton and I'm recommending Fellowship Point by Alice Elliot Dark. This book is about two women in their 80s, who've known each other their whole lives. It's set on fellowship point, which is the sort of coastal enclave in Maine passed down via rigid legal restrictions through a very few very wealthy families, including those of our protagonists. The setting is beautiful, and also very skillfully and intentionally used in this book. I've seen fellowship point described as being about female friendship. And it is but like female friendship, it's about everything. It's about the way women know each other and know ourselves, which is to say deeply and very complicated, ugly. I really love an older female protagonist. And this book exemplifies why exactly, these women are good, they have flaws, they're misunderstood. And what I liked the most is that they're changing still, they have new ideas, new experiences, they change their minds. I think Alice Elliot Dark really challenged the typical portrayal of the elderly, in literature and specifically of elderly women, these women have a tremendous potential contribution to their families and their communities. But the people around them don't always see that because it's in conflict with their ideas about old women. I think that the depth of character in this book is what makes it gorgeous. And instead of making it feel slow, that made it feel immersive. As I was reading this book, I expressed that I was less into this book and more in this book, these characters are so well written that they seem like fully real people in my mind. It's not page turner, which I actually think at almost 600 pages is kind of a good thing, but it's also not a slog. I sort of let it pull me along in this way that felt pleasant. It does gain momentum as you go, which I think is nice and a long book, and I absolutely felt sad As I neared the end, you know that I wouldn't get to be reading it anymore soon. Alice Elliot Dark ends this book quietly. But on a dime, it actually shocked me how perfect the ending was and how beautiful if you also like books that make you feel feelings about being human, if you like books about books, books about love, and children and quiet feminism and family drama and wealthy people behaving a little badly and old ladies and friendship, you should absolutely read Fellowship Point by Alice Elliot Dark.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 42:19

I think this sounds like the perfect summer read. I love every theme that she talks about here.

Kaytee Cobb 42:25

Yes, I agree. I love the elderly woman protagonist. I love it. It's a big chunker and it has that great sense of place. Everything she said especially when she said I wasn't into this book. I was in this book. Yeah, that's a perfect way to describe a book that's that's like pulled you in so completely. I think that's

awesome. Yeah, so good. Okay, our next one is called Hurricane Girl and it's a literary horror. Let's see what this one's about.

Britt 42:53

Hello, my name is Britt, and I'm calling from Buffalo, New York. And the book that I'm calling about as my listener press is Hurricane Girl, by Marcy Dermansky. Here's the setup. Alison Brody has just purchased a little house near the sea after managing to flee her movie producer boyfriend. But then a category three hurricane makes landfall and scatters her home up and down the shore. Leaving Alison adrift. In the midst of her lost dream, Alison is faced with questions. Should she go home from the bar with the strange cameraman who was in town to cover the storm? Did he just smash a glass vase on her skull? Can she get in the car and drive to her mother's or maybe find help along the way? That she really loved the brain surgeon who saves her or she just using him for a swimming pool? And is it possible to ever truly heal without seeking some measure of revenge? This book is magical, thought provoking and amazingly propulsive. I found it very hard to put it down. It's a five star read for me, and I hope it will be for you as well. Again, that book is Hurricane Girl by Marcy Dermansky.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 44:00

No, doesn't that sound good?

Kaytee Cobb 44:02

Has that like cli-fi element that we've been loving lately too?

Meredith Monday Schwartz 44:06

Yep. Yep. That's like a grab you by the throat kind of premise. I love it.

Kaytee Cobb 44:11

Definitely. Yes, yes. Yes. Okay, our next one is nonfiction. Only a few of those this year. This is middle grade nonfiction though, which I'm excited to hear about from an author I really love. It's All Thirteen.

Meghan 44:25

Hello, my name is Meghan Shackleton and I'm from Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. Today I'd like to press All Thirteen: The Incredible Rescue of the Thai Boys Soccer Team by Christina Soontornvat. This book is in middle grade nonfiction about a boys soccer team who went for a cave exploration adventure in 2018. During Thailand's rainy season, while they were exploring the cave filled with water trapping the boys and their coach inside Christina soon torn that does an incredible job of describing how something like this could occur. The book is beautiful with full size fold grass, rescuers and action working to free these boys. The book gave me goosebumps as she described how they had professional divers flown from across the world to work together on this great mission. She describes in great detail how cave diving is so unique compared to diving in the sea. I could not put this book down. I was amazed by all of the teams that gathered to accomplish this great feat of rescuing these boys. The odds were not great. I had to pause reading several times to describe in great detail the whole story to my husband. I really hope you pick up All Thirteen by Christina Soontornvat.

Kaytee Cobb 45:34

This one sounds like it would pair great with one that Roxanna got so many people to pick up which was called Into the Planet by Jill, Heinerth about cave diving. Everything about this completely freaks me out. cave diving completely freaks me out. This would be like a, like an immersive anxiety experience for me. But it sounds incredible.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 45:54

It does. It sounds really, really good. But I would really be struggling with my anxiety. Just that story in and of itself when it was taking place in real time. I was like, Oh my gosh, I can't even think about it. I can't even think about it. But that yes, it sounds incredibly page turning.

Kaytee Cobb 46:10

Yes. And it sounds like definitely pick this one up on paper if you're looking into it because those full color photos are going to really add to the reading experience. Yeah. Okay, this next one, I am the most obsessed with the cover of this one of all the presses we got this year it's The Memory of Animals by our friend Liz Hein, who is telling us about it. Hi, all

Kaytee Cobb 46:32

I did see the word octopus and the blurb for this one. And I was like even the cover has a little bit of tentacles situation on it. And I hate that this is my identity. And I also love it.

Liz H. 46:32

This is Liz Hein from the Instagram account, Lizisreading_ underscore here to recommend The Memory of Animals by Claire Fuller. This is a pandemic book not COVID-19. But a different type of pandemic where organs are swelling, and then mines are being lost. And a lot a lot of people are dying, and a small group of people are selected for a vaccine trial. And that includes our main character Neffy. Neffy, wakes up in the facility where she signed up for the vaccine trial very groggy, and delirious and quickly realizes that the doctors are gone, the nurses are gone. Is everyone gone. But actually there's a few people left with her. And they might actually be the only people left on earth. It's very scary and the tension and the plot builds from there. But it's also paired with really great writing, if I have any speculative fiction fans as well. There's also this really cool technology element where you can travel back in time to a personal memory of yours and sort of relive it the sounds, the smells, everything. And so you get to see Neffy experienced that and kind of ask yourself, would I do this? If I could? Where would I go back to really interesting stuff. And I know Kaytee, this will make you not want to read it. Because you don't like people telling you to read something. But there's also some really lovely octopus stuff in The Memory of Animals that flows really well. I don't want to spoil anything. But there are letters to an octopus throughout this book as well. It's just all kinds of good. Highly recommend this to readers everywhere in The Memory of Animals by Claire fuller.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 48:12

Well, I mean, yeah, octopuses are not that bad. But this one the pandemics that the it just all sounds so so great. She had pressed this into my hands earlier and so I bought a copy and I saw that amazing cover when it came out. I can't wait to read this one.

Kaytee Cobb 48:29

I can't wait to read it either. And I know Claire Fuller has written some other really great stuff like she is an established well writing author. And so I'm very excited to get into this one. Another one that I have to buy again, very expensive episode. What are we doing to ourselves? All right, for left let's see how many of these I'm gonna purchase. The next one is a graphic novel memoir called Button Pusher.

Stephanie 48:54

Hi, Katie Meredith and all the wonderful humans who make currently reading happen. I want to tell you today about a book I really enjoyed called Button Pusher by Tyler Page. It was published in 2022. It's a graphic novel that is a memoir of Tyler's experiences being diagnosed with ADHD. In his late youth early teens. It follows his experiences in school, making friends and with his family, as well as the treatments he discovers along the way such as medication and therapy. It's also a great look at a young man who is funny, artistic, a great friend and just trying to learn to navigate the world. As someone who works with people with ADHD. I think this book is a great representation of diagnosis and learning about how diagnosis affects someone's life day to day and also how it affects their family. millionaire community. I really enjoyed learning about Tyler and just seeing his transformation. I think it would be a great option for families who have a loved one who is newly diagnosed, people who have been newly diagnosed, or just for someone who wants to learn more about how ADHD can affect an individual's life. Again, that's Button Pusher by Tyler Page.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 50:28

That does sound really good.

Kaytee Cobb 50:30

It sounds perfect on a number of levels like being able to hand this to a kid or a family that has a new diagnosis or has a friend with a new diagnosis and have them have this like accessible way to get into the story. I just think this is like the power of books. I love this for us as like, What a time to live in that we can be like, Look, this exists this exact thing that we were hoping existed a graphic novel memoir that brings all the things we love together. We can learn a new thing. I just think that's perfect. I love it. Love that. Okay, our next one is a mystery. It's called Slow Horses.

Andrea 51:09

Hi, my name is Andrea Montague. I live in New Milford, Connecticut. I love your show. I want to tell you about my press. Slow Horses by Mick Herron. Here's the setup. A collection of disgraced spies are transferred to slough house, a crumbling office building in a cryptid section of London. Management calls them slow horses. They've made mistakes. Left computer discs on a train to get found by a reporter botch an important job drink too much. Rather than being fired they are given soul crushing desk jobs in the hope that they will quit. The leader of slack house is Jackson Lamb, a profane, crude, rude brilliant veteran spy. He constantly insults his Joes as they are called, but he's willing to defend them with his life. Spies are meant to be doing boring jobs to keep them out of trouble. But of course they want to get involved in something more serious. A young man is abducted his kidnappers threatened to behead him live on the internet. Slow courses eager to prove themselves wind up getting in way over their heads. Jackson Lamb suspects there was more going on behind the scenes than it seems. There's a great deal of humor mostly from the comments of Jackson Lamb who has been

around long enough to know not to trust anybody. This is the first in a series of eight books so far. This is now a series on apple plus TV Starring Gary Oldman as Jackson lamb.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 52:33

Now, I actually started watching Slow Horses on Apple TV, because Jamie Golden from The Popcast has greenlit it and talked about it multiple times. And I really liked it Johnny and I really liked it. But I kept saying, Why isn't this a book? Like I feel like I would like this more. If it was a book. I did not even know that it was a book. So when I saw this here, I was like, Oh my gosh, my dreams have come true.

Kaytee Cobb 52:58

My dreams came true 13 years ago in 2010. Right, exactly waist, right.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 53:03

I was like, Oh, this is going to be because yeah, the Jackson Lamb character is really he's a jaded fellow.

Kaytee Cobb 53:11

Okay, well, I can see that with Gary Oldman playing him. I feel like that's a perfect casting. Okay, this next one is also a sci fi Lit Fic and has another cover I love it's The Last Animal.

Christine 53:25

I'm Christine from North Vancouver BC and I'm pressing The Last Animal by Ramona Ausubell. Here's the setup. Just read the first sentence in this book in the Age of Extinction, to tagalong daughters travelled to the edge of the world with their mother to search the frozen earth for the bones of woolly mammoths. The little family is still grieving after the death of their father and the mother is trying to find a foothold in the sexist world of science. Our heroines are smart and brave, but in their grief that makes them reckless choices and the result is an actual baby mana. What I loved about this book is the feeling it gave me I think the right word is poignant where at one moment you feel delighted by some new detail that gets revealed. And the next moment you feel really sad, the imagery is going to stay in my head for a long time. And I'm not a good visualizer. So that means a lot to me just imagine a baby mammoth on the grounds of an elaborate mansion on the shores of Lake Como. The characters in this book love each other, but they also wear each other out and use each other up in a way that is clearly meant to parallel our relationship to the world in the time of climate change. And that works great too. Happy reading.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 54:38

Oh my gosh, another person who just so brilliantly describes this book.

Kaytee Cobb 54:44

Yes, I'm obsessed with everything about this a i just finished Jurassic Park recently. And so the idea of like, bringing something back from extinction, it's very fresh in my reading right now. And I love that this is a slower character. You're driven study of that rather than like Michael Crichton is fast paced like and now his leg has come off and then this person gets eaten. Like, I want to kind of sit in that a little longer.

And as we all know, my other obsession other than octopuses is elephants. So a baby woolly mammoth. This is like a dream come true for me. I can't wait to see what goes horribly wrong.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 55:20

I know. Exactly. It sounds so good. And another fantastic cover. So what are we going to do

Kaytee Cobb 55:26

with that baby woolly mammoth? We're gonna that's what I'm gonna do. That's

Meredith Monday Schwartz 55:30

yes, we're supporting independent bookstores. We're doing the Lord's work Kaytee

Kaytee Cobb 55:33

we surely are. We surely are. I have to like put all these in my cart and then not hit Buy for a week because moving on will be like, how come there are 35 books at my door today, Kaytee? I don't know mom. Sounds like a you problem. Okay, our last one of this episode, but really, there are so many more great presses. What are we gonna do Meredith, we have so much good stuff to share with you all. Our last one for this episode, though, is *The Other Side of Night* from 2022.

Carolyn 56:08

Hello, readers. I'm Carolyn from Cleveland, Ohio. And I'd like to press *The Other Side of Night* by Adam Hamdy. Here's the setup. This book features two storylines first author David Asha is writing about his biggest regret his separation from his son Elliot. The other storyline features disgraced police officer Harriet Kelty, who finds a note written in a book that says help me he's trying to kill me. Her investigation into this note leads her to the ASHA family's doorstep. And Ben, a man she briefly dated who is now Elliott's guardian. This is not a thriller, but it is a very skillful genre mashup that includes elements of a police procedural to tell more would spoil the surprising twist these two storylines take, in the end, it becomes a thought provoking look at what would you sacrifice for love. If you enjoy a book where you aren't really sure what's going on, such as Piranesi than I think you should pick up *The Other Side of Night*.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 57:09

Anytime there's Piranesi comp. I'm interested in this one, I have to say I've heard several people talk about saying that it's one of their favorite books of this time, but that it's really hard to describe. So this one, I think is one that makes a really lasting impression. And it's very singular. It's not like anything you've ever read.

Kaytee Cobb 57:28

Yeah, another gorgeous cover on this one. The color combo reminds me of the original Currently Reading logo with like the brights and the darks put together. I love it. Yeah, I'm here to I have, like 17 books in my cart.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 57:42

I know. It's a I know. This is why I'm telling you just do it through your your local indie, and then you can feel like it's almost like charitable giving is the way I look at it.

Kaytee Cobb 57:53

Yeah, if you just write it off on your taxes and consider it a business expense. That's exactly that's what I'm gonna do. That's what I'm gonna do. Okay, this was fantastic. As we alluded to a few times, a lot of the rest of these presses are going to show up somewhere you might want to be following currently reading all the different places. If you're curious about the other 34 books that we had pressed into our hands, this was only this was less than half.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 58:21

Yes, right. We haven't decided 100% how we're going to use the rest of this but or when, but definitely follow us, you, you might want to also consider becoming a bookish friend on Patreon, because usually when we have good stuff when we have goodies, or bookish friends, or at the very least the first to receive it, so for \$5 a month, you get more of this kind of content, excellent book recommendations. And also the you get all of these episodes, you keep them ad free, which is something that as you've listened to this over an hour of back to back to back book recommendations, I hope he noticed that it was completely ad free, which really, let's see, it's an immersive experience when you do it like that. Truly,

Kaytee Cobb 59:02

it is yes. Because who wants to hear about whatever in between these fantastic book recommendations,

Meredith Monday Schwartz 59:08

right? Just keep the book recommendations coming. And the way we do that is that our bookish friends support us in all the ways we give them great extra content. And we all get to enjoy book after book. So yes, Kaytee, this is so much fun. This listener press episode always makes me so happy and does cost me a lot of money.

Kaytee Cobb 59:28

It does cost me a lot of money as well. If you heard your voice, especially make sure that you share this episode. Tell your friends Hey, I was on a podcast because that's how we get new listeners. They get your personal recommendation for coming to listen to currently reading which is one of the best ways to help us grow.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 59:44

Absolutely. Plus, they probably are just going to be really interested to hear you talk about a book that you're really interested in. Definitely. 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 a new handle on Instagram, @MeredithMondaySchwartz.

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:02

Gonna be so confusing. Cuz now episode 49 It's gonna have the old one. You know

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:00:07

what time is a construct? You're all just going to need to going forward follow at

@MeredithMondaySchwartz.

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:14

There you go. And you can find me, Kaytee still at @notesonbookmarks on Instagram, full show

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:00:20

notes with the title of every single book we mentioned in the episode, and we're so sorry, Megan, for all that, those show notes and the timestamps so you can zoom right to where we talked about that book can be found on our website at currentlyreadingpodcast.com.

Kaytee Cobb 1:00:36

You can also follow the show or tag the show at @currentlyreadingpodcast on Instagram or email us with your own listener press at currentlyreadingpodcast@gmail.com.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:00:46

And as we mentioned, lots more fantastic content can be found. If you join us as a patron subscriber at Patreon. It's just \$5 a month. You can also rate and review us on Apple podcasts and shout us out on social media. All of those things make a huge difference in our being able to find our perfect audience.

Kaytee Cobb 1:01:04

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

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:01:10

next week, may your coffee be hot,

Kaytee Cobb 1:01:12

and your book be unputdownable. All of them.

Meredith Monday Schwartz 1:01:15

All of them. Happy reading Kaytee

Kaytee Cobb 1:01:17

Happy reading Meredith