Show Notes

Date: 1/13/2023

Name of Podcast: Read. Return. Repeat. A ReadICT Podcast.

Episode Title and Number: ReadICT 2023 Kickoff: Live with Books & Whatnot (Season 3, Episode 0)

Episode Summary: In this bonus episode recorded before a live audience, co-hosts Sara Dixon and Daniel Pewewardy join Suzanne Perez and Beth Golay from the KMUW podcast Books & Whatnot to celebrate the 2023 kickoff of the #ReadICT challenge. A departure from the usual podcast format, these book aficionados and fellow podcasters talk about the history of the challenge and explore each category and how it might be approached differently by readers. This episode is full of great recommendations for each category (including some from a few very brave audience members) as well as their own reading plans for #ReadICT 2023!

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**Books recommended in this episode (by challenge category):**

**Category 1: A book with a non-human narrator**

*Penny*, Karl Stevens

*The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak

*Klara and the Sun*, Kazuo Ishiguro

*Circe*, Madeline Miller

*Watership Down*, Richard Adams

*Interview with the Vampire*, Anne Rice

*Robopocalypse*, Daniel H. Wilson

*The Giving Tree*, Shel Silverstein

*Remarkably Bright Creatures*, Shelby Van Pelt

*Cinder (book #1 of the Lunar Chronicles)*, Marissa Meyer

*Hollow Kingdom*, Kira Jane Buxton

*Nutshell*, Ian McEwan

*The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*, Mitch Albom

*The Travelling Cat Chronicles*, Hiro Arikawa

**Category 2: A book with a long title (7+ words)**

*A Swim in a Pond in the Rain: In Which Four Russians Give a Master Class on Writing, Reading, and Life*, George Saunders

*The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got Trapped in an Ikea Wardrobe*, Romaine Puértolas

*We Had a Little Real Estate Problem: The Unheralded Story of Native Americans & Comedy*, Kliph Nesteroff

*The Faceless Old Woman Who Secretly Lives in Your Home: A Welcome to Night Vale Novel*, Joseph Fink and Jeffrey Cranor

*How to be Perfect: The Correct Answer to Every Moral Question*, Michael Schur

*Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City (Pulitzer Prize Winner)*, Andrea Elliott
Please Don’t Sit on My Bed in Your Outside Clothes: Essays, Phoebe Robinson
You Can’t Touch My Hair: And Other Things I Still Have to Explain, Phoebe Robinson
Good Omens: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch, Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett
The Republic of Pirates: Being the True and Surprising Story of the Caribbean Pirates and the Man Who Brought Them Down, Colin Woodard

Category 3: A book about friendship
My Best Friend’s Exorcism, Grady Hendrix
Dinosaurs: A Novel, Lydia Millet
A Little Life, Hanya Yanagihara
Girl, Woman, Other, Bernardine Evaristo
Little Women, Louisa May Alcott
Best of Friends: A Novel, Kamila Shamsie
An Evening with C.S. Lewis: My Life’s Journey, David Payne
The Rachel Incident: A Novel, Caroline O’Donoghue
Such a Fun Age, Kiley Reid
Any Jane Austen Novel
It, Stephen King
My Glory Was I Had Such Friends: A Memoir, Amy Silverstein
Love & Saffron: A Novel of Friendship, Food and Love, Kim Fay
Rules for Visiting: A Novel, Jessica Francis Kane
Fairy Tale, Stephen King
The Pickwick Papers, Charles Dickens
The Change: A Novel, Kirsten Miller

Category 4: A guilty pleasure read
The Girl Who Drank the Moon, Kelly Barnhill
Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow, Jessica Townsend
The House in the Cerulean Sea, T.J. Klune
Cutting for Stone, Abraham Verghese
The Covenant of Water, Abraham Verghese
So Far..., Kelsey Grammer
Greenlights, Matthew McConaughey
World War Z, Max Brooks
Eligible: A Modern Retelling of Pride and Prejudice, Curtis Sittenfeld
The Thousandth Floor, Katharine McGee
Rat Queens (Comic Book Series), Kurtis J. Wiebe, Roc Upchurch and John Upchurch
The Disaster Artist: My Life Inside the Room, the Greatest Bad Movie Ever Made, Greg Sestero and Tom Bissell

Category 5: A book told from a villain’s point of view
The Unfolding, A.M. Homes (or anything by A.M. Homes)
A Ladder to the Sky, John Boyne
The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde
And Then There Were None, Agatha Christie
My Sister, The Serial Killer: A Novel, Oyinkan Braithwaite
Frankenstein: Or, The Modern Prometheus, Mary Shelley
God Emperor of Dune, Frank Herbert
Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West, Gregory Maguire
Hench: A Novel, Natalie Zina Walschots

Category 6: A book about time
Watchmen (Graphic Novel Series), Alan Moore
Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow, Gabrielle Zevin
This Time Tomorrow: A Novel, Emma Straub
The Impossible Lives of Greta Wells, Andrew Sean Greer
Before the Coffee Gets Cold, Toshikazu Kawaguchi
11/22/63, Stephen King
A Tale for the Time Being: A Novel, Ruth Ozeki
Sea of Tranquility, Emily St. John Mandel
Station Eleven, Emily St. John Mandel
Oona Out of Order, Margarita Montimore
Dark Matter: A Novel, Blake Crouch
Kindred, Octavia E. Butler
The Immortalists, Chloe Benjamin

Category 7: A book with a color in the title
Redbone: The True Story of a Native American Rock Band, Christian Staebler and Sonia Paoloni
Redshirts, John Scalzi
The Red Tent, Anita Diamant
The Goldfinch, Donna Tartt
Red Rising, Pierce Brown
White Teeth, Zadie Smith
The Woman in White, Wilkie Collins
Brown: Poems, Kevin Young
Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America, Erik Larson
The Color Purple, Alice Walker
The Last White Man: A Novel, Mohsin Hamid
Demon Copperhead, Barbara Kingsolver
Anne of Green Gables, L.M. Montgomery
Daughter of Black Lake: A Novel, Cathy Marie Buchanan

Category 8: A book featuring a LGBTQIA+ protagonist
Matrix: A Novel, Lauren Groff
Less: A Novel, Andrew Sean Greer (or any book by Andrew Sean Greer)
A Psalm for the Wild-Built, Becky Chambers

Manhunt, Gretchen Felker-Martin

Alice Isn’t Dead, Joseph Fink

The City We Became, N.K. Jemisin

The Broken Earth Trilogy (The Fifth Season, The Obelisk Gate, The Stone Sky), N.K. Jemisin

The Guncle, Stephen Rowley

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo, Taylor Jenkins Reid

Skye Falling: A Novel, Mia McKenzie

Category 9: A book about death or grief

Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant? (Big Read Title), Roz Chast

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End, Atul Gawande

This Is Where I Leave You, Jonathan Tropper

The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir, Thi Bui

Lark Ascending, Silas House

Annihilation (The Southern Reach Trilogy), Jeff VanderMeer

The Furrows, Namwali Serpell

A Grief Observed, C.S. Lewis

A Severe Mercy, Sheldon Vanauken

Under the Whispering Door, TJ Klune

Category 10: A book set in the Great Plains

The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck

The Children’s Blizzard: A Novel, Melanie Benjamin

William Least Heat-Moon (Travel Writer)

Plainsong, Kent Haruf

The Four Winds, Kristin Hannah

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl, Timothy Egan
Save What’s Left: A Novel, Elizabeth Castellano

The Last PowWow, That Native Thomas and Steven Paul Judd

Winter Counts: A Novel, David Heska Wanbli Weiden

The Chicken Sisters, KJ Dell’Antonia

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI, David Grann

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants, Robin Wall Kimmerer

Bleeding Kansas, Sara Paretsky

Category 11: A book about a secret or closed society

The Unfolding, AM Homes

The Secret History, Donna Tartt

If We Were Villains: A Novel, M.L. Rio

Unfollow: A Journey from Hatred to Hope, Megan Phelps-Roper

Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith, Jon Krakauer

The Department of Truth (Comic Book Series), James Tynion IV

Rabbits: A Novel, Terry Miles

The Husbands, Chandler Baker

Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism, Amanda Montell

The Girls, Emma Cline

We Ride Upon Sticks: A Novel, Quan Barry

Category 12: A book by an author visiting Wichita (in-person or remotely)

Hang the Moon, Jeannette Walls

The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls

Half Broke Horses: A True-Life Novel, Jeannette Walls

Storm Watch (A Joe Pickett Novel), C.J. Box

The Lost Apothecary, Sarah Penner

The London Séance Society, Sarah Penner
The Grammarians: A Novel, Cathleen Schine

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Thanks to My Mom: 101 Stories of Gratitude, Love, and Lessons, Amy Newmark and Jo Dee Messina

**Other Books Mentioned in this Episode:**

*Tenth of December: Stories,* George Saunders

*Lincoln in the Bardo,* George Saunders

*How to Sell a Haunted House,* Grady Hendrix

*Home Fire: A Novel,* Kamila Shamsie

*Slaughterhouse-Five,* Kurt Vonnegut

*David Copperfield,* Charles Dickens

*Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants,* Robin Wall Kimmerer and Monique Gray Smith

*Now Is Not the Time to Panic: A Novel,* Kevin Wilson

**Special Thanks to our audience members for sharing their recommendations!**

**Upcoming Author Events in Wichita**

C.J. Box @ The Advanced Learning Library, March 2\textsuperscript{nd}

Sarah Penner @ The Advanced Learning Library, March 28\textsuperscript{th}

Cathleen Schine @ Watermark Books, March 30\textsuperscript{th}

Jeannette Walls @ The Advanced Learning Library, April 12\textsuperscript{th}

**Resources & Links:**

Books & Whatnot Podcast

Marginalia Podcast

KMUW’s Literary Feast

1,000 Books to Read Before You Die

Wired Article: Is Becky Chambers the Ultimate Hope for Science Fiction?
2023 Tournament of Books
Big Read Wichita
Which Are the Great Plains States? (And Which Are Not!)
Watermark Books Event Calendar
Watermark Books Newsletter: News & Notes
Wichita State University Writing Now, Reading Now Series
Beanstack
Read the New York Times with Your Wichita Public Library Card
Stream Movies and Great Courses Titles on Kanopy (With Your Wichita Public Library Card)

Full Transcript: https://wichitalibrary.org/BooksMore/podcast/Pages/rrr_s3e0.aspx

New to #ReadICT? Join the challenge! For more information visit wichitalibrary.org/readict.