

**Date:** 12/22/23

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

**Episode Title and Number:** Volcano Lair? In This Economy? Featuring John Scalzi (Season 3, Episode 10)

**Episode Summary:** Sara and Daniel interview prolific sci-fi author John Scalzi for #ReadICT category 12: A book by an author visiting Wichita. They talk about John's most recent novel *Starter Villain*, hyper-intelligent cats and what it's like receiving celebrity fan mail.

**John Scalzi Bio:**



John Scalzi is a science fiction author and former president of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. He is best known for his *Old Man's War* series, three novels of which have been nominated for the Hugo Award, and for his blog *Whatever*, where he has written on several topics since 1998. He won the Hugo Award for Best Fan Writer in 2008 based predominantly on that blog, which he has also used for several charity drives. His novel *Redshirts* won the 2013 Hugo Award for Best Novel. Other awards he's received include the Locus, the Audie, the Robert A. Heinlein, the Seiun and the Kurd Lasswitz awards. Scalzi is also a recipient of the 2016 Governor's Award for the Arts in Ohio, and the 2023 Budapest Grand Prize. His works have been translated into 30+ languages. He has written non-fiction books and columns on diverse topics such as finance, video games, films, astronomy, writing and politics. He served as a creative consultant for the TV series *Stargate Universe*, is a writer for the video game *Midnight Star* (by Industrial Toys), is the Executive Producer for *Old Man's War* and *The Collapsing Empire*, both currently in development for film/TV, and wrote several short stories that were adapted into episodes of the Netflix series *Love, Death + Robots*.

### **Topic Index with Timestamps:**

John talks about his book *Starter Villain* 3:52

What does it mean to be a villain? 6:01

Animals in the book and their inspirations 12:15

Tech bros 14:40

James Bond influence 24:09

Supervillain tropes 25:50

How Covid affected his writing 28:18

Cultural/societal influences for *Starter Villain* 30:55

Standalone vs. Sequel 34:54

The *Fuzzy* series 39:59

Netflix's *Love, Death + Robots* 43:18

John's recent trip to Wichita 49:30

On being a sci-fi "rock star" 55:54

Fan mail from Tom Hanks 1:00:09

What's next 1:04:24

### **Books recommended in this episode:**

*Between Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of a Life Interrupted* by Suleika Jaouad

*The Unmaking of June Farrow* by Adrienne Young

*We Are All the Same in the Dark* by Julia Heaberlin

*Minor Detail* by Adania Shibli

*The Last Romantics* by Tara Conklin

*Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

*Dick and Henry: The Space Saga* by Kenneth Buff

*Loki: Where Mischief Lies* by Mackenzie Lee

*A Spark of Light* by Jodi Picoult

*Maeve Fly* by CJ Leede

*The Ride of Her Life: The True Story of a Woman, Her Horse, and Their Last-Chance Journey Across America* by Elizabeth Letts

*Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy* by Angie Thomas

**Special Thanks to our reading community on Facebook for sharing their recommendations!**

## About John Scalzi

[John Scalzi's Website](#)

Twitter/X: [@scalzi](#)

Instagram: [@jscalzi](#)

Bluesky: [@scalzi.com](#)

Threads: [@scalzi](#)

Mastodon: [@scalzi@mastodon.social](#)

For a complete list of John Scalzi's writing, including books, novellas, short stories, anthologies, non-fiction and more, go [here](#).

## Resources Mentioned in this Episode

[Investopedia: Non-Fungible Token \(NFT\): What It Means and How It Works](#)

[USA Today: Orcas Strike Back \(Again\), Sinking Another Yacht in Europe After 45-Minute Attack \(November 7, 2023\)](#)

[Mary Robinette Kowal \(author\)](#)

[Time Magazine: What Happens When Tech Bros Run National Security \(September 20, 2023\)](#)

[Shark Tank \(reality television series\)](#)

[First Nations Development Institute: Seed Saving & Seed Sovereignty Fact Sheet](#)

[Axios.com: How the Ballooning Subscription Economy Reduces Consumer Choice \(November 23, 2023\)](#)

[Fortune.com: Tech Billionaire Who Spends \\$2 Million a Year to Look Young Is Now Swapping Blood with His 17-Year-Old Son and 70-Year-Old Father \(May 23, 2023\)](#)

[Elizabeth Bathory](#)

[H. Beam Piper \(author\)](#)

[Tim Miller \(film director\)](#)

[David Fincher \(film director\)](#)

[Blur Studio](#)

[Love, Death + Robots \(Netflix series\)](#)

[Hugo Awards](#)

[Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America](#)

**Full Transcript:** [http://wichitalibrary.org/BooksMore/Podcast/Pages/rrr\\_s3e10.aspx](http://wichitalibrary.org/BooksMore/Podcast/Pages/rrr_s3e10.aspx)

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