Date: 12/1/23

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

Episode Title and Number: Chillin’ Like a Villain (Season 3, Episode 9)

Episode Summary: Sara and Daniel talk with author Natalie Zina Walschots, author of *Hench*, where they take a closer look at ReadICT Category 5, a book told from the villain’s point of view. In this episode they examine the lives of the hired help of supervillains, why nobody thinks about the real-world cost of superheroes destroying everyone’s favorite coffee shop, and why even henchies deserve universal health care.

Guest Bio:

Natalie Zina Walschots is a writer and game designer. She is the author of *Hench*, a novel about the mistreated and undervalued employees of supervillains, which was a finalist on the 2021 season of Canada Reads and nominated for a Locus Award for Best First Novel. She is presently working on the sequel, entitled *Right Hand*, which is due to be released in Fall 2024. Her work also includes LARP scripts, heavy metal music journalism, video game lore, and weirder things classified as "interactive experiences." Her writing on the interactive adventure *The Aluminum Cat* won an IndieCade award, and her poetic exploration of the notes engine in *Bloodborne* was featured in Kotaku and First Person Scholar. She is (unfortunately) the author of two books of poetry: *Thumbscrews*, which won the Robert Kroetsch Award for Innovative Poetry, and *DOOM: Love Poems for Supervillains*. Natalie sits on the board of Dames Making Games, a space for queer and gender-marginalized people to create games freely, where she hosts interactive narrative workshops. She plays a lot of D&D, participates in a lot of Nordic LARPs, watches a lot of horror movies and reads a lot of speculative fiction. She is presently relocating from Toronto to Nova Scotia, so she can write by the sea.

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**Books recommended in this episode:**

*The Christie Affair*, by Nina de Gramont

*Rock Paper Scissors*, by Alice Feeney

*Yellowface*, by R.F. Kuang

*The Custom of the Country*, by Edith Wharton

*And Then There Were None*, by Agatha Christie

*Not a Happy Family: A Novel*, by Shari Lapena

*The Atlas Six*, by Olivie Blake

**Special Thanks to our reading community on Facebook and callers to our book review hotline for sharing their recommendations!**
Resources & Links:

About Natalie Zina Walschots

Natalie’s website
Facebook
Instagram: @nataliezed
Tumblr
Twitter: @NatalieZed

Books by Natalie Zina Walschots

*Right Hand (Hench #2)*, expected publication 2024

*Hench*, 2020

*The Secret Loves of Geek Girls: Redux* (contributor), 2017

*The Secret Loves of Geek Girls* (contributor), 2015

*The Best Canadian Essays 2014* (editor), 2014

*Dumb: #1 + 2* (introduction), 2014

*Doom: Love Poems for Supervillains*, 2011

*Thumbscrews: poems*, 2007

Interviews/Articles

Atomic Carnival Books: Interview with Natalie Zina Walschots, April 25, 2023

Augur Magazine: An interview with Natalie Zina Walschots, November 17, 2022

Author talk w/ Brandford Public Library, April 12, 2022 (Video)

Book Lust with Nancy Pearl interview, December 29, 2020 (Video)

Books that Burn podcast interview, March 6, 2023

CBC Books: 10 books Hench author Natalie Zina Walschots loved, March 4, 2021

CBC Canada Reads: Paul Sun-Hyung Lee & Natalie Zina Walschots discuss Hench, March 2, 2021 (Video)

Interview with Rachel Barenbaum, September 21, 2020 (Video)

Los Angeles Public Library blog: Interview with an author: Natalie Zina Walschots, October 15, 2020
Kobo in Conversation podcast: Natalie Zina Walschots on good bosses and bad guys, March 6, 2021
The Next Chapter podcast (CBC) interview, February 12, 2021

Other Resources
Maryville University: A guide to activism in the digital age (November 25, 2019)
Women in refrigerators
Gail Simone (writer)
The Boys (TV series)
The Venture Bros. (Animated TV series)
Harley Quinn (Animated TV series)
Despicable Me (animated film)
Association for Psychological Science: From Voldemort to Vader, science says we prefer fictional villains who remind us of ourselves (April 22, 2020)
Thedailyfandom.org: What shapes our appeal to the villain? (September 26, 2021)
Andypeloquin.com: The ultimate guide to villains and antagonists in fiction (November 27, 2017)
Comicvine.com: The 8 major superhero archetypes
Heroicworld.com: Heroic archetypes
Doctor Doom
Canada Reads
Paul Sun-Hyung Lee (actor)
Cleveland Clinic: Spiral Fracture
Nursing Times (November 29th, 2001) Psychological aspects of wound healing
Wounds UK Journal (2011, Vol. 7, No. 4) The psychological consequences of wounds – a vicious circle that should not be overlooked.
Sinus Lift
PC Mag: The best VR games of 2023
Beatsaber (VR game)
Room Escape Divas: Live play-through of “The Aluminum Cat” online immersive experience (video)
Whatgeek.com: Difference between mechanical keyboard and normal keyboard

IBM Model M keyboard

Full Transcript: http://wichitalibrary.org/BooksMore/Podcast/Pages/rrr_s3e9.aspx

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