Season 4 Episode 1: Gotta Collect ‘Em All (the feelings) featuring Ross Gay

February 23, 2024

In this episode
Sara and Daniel interview writer Ross Gay to talk about his essay collection, *Inciting Joy*, which was released in 2022. In this conversation, which explores ReadICT Category 4: A Collection, Ross talks about the meaning of incitement, the interconnectedness of everything and why inefficiency can be a great act of self-care.
About Ross Gay

Ross Gay is the author of four books of poetry: Against Which; Bringing the Shovel Down; Be Holding, winner of the PEN American Literary Jean Stein Award; and Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude, winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. In addition to his poetry, Ross has released three collections of essays—The Book of Delights was released in 2019 and was a New York Times bestseller; Inciting Joy was released in 2022, and his newest collection, The Book of (More) Delights was released in September of 2023.

More About Ross Gay

- Ross Gay’s website: Rossgay.net
- Follow on Twitter/X: @RossGay18
- Faculty bio at University Indiana-Bloomington, Department of English

Books by Ross Gay

- The Book of More Delights (2023)
- Inciting Joy (2022)
- Be Holding (2020)
- The Book of Delights (2019)
- Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude (2015)
- Lace & Pyrite: Letters from Two Gardens, co-authored with Aimee Nezhukumatathil (2014)
- Bringing the Shovel Down (2011)
- Against Which (2006)

Books Recommended by Ross Gay

Chrome Valley: Poems by Mahogany L. Brown

Gaza: An Inquest into its Martyrdom by Norman Finkelstein

Revolutionary Letters by Diane di Prima
Topics discussed in this episode (with timestamps)

- *Inciting Joy* and the meaning of incitement 5:30
- Sharing sorrow 9:59
- “Remembered to us” 17:45
- Gardening as metaphor 22:12
- Making time our own 28:28
- Ross and poetic language 34:50
- Update on the community orchard mentioned in *Inciting Joy* 39:23
- Ross’s improvisational writing style 45:23
- Communal learning 47:43
- The joy of inefficiency 51:29
- Ross and music 54:55
- Ross’s book recommendations 57:55
- Ross shares his vegetarian chili recipe (sort of) 59:21

Relevant links to topics mentioned in this episode

- [Ross Gay interview with Tricycle magazine: Inviting Sorrow in for Tea (April 2, 2023)](link)
- [NPR’s “It’s Been a Minute”: Ross Gay on Inciting Joy While Dining with Sorrow (January 2, 2024)](link)
- [W.H. Auden (poet)](link)
- [Studiobinder.com: What is Intertextuality? (September 3, 2023)](link)
- [Bloomington Community Orchard](link)
- [Storylosopher: Save the Cat Screenwriting Book Review (July 22, 2020)](link)
- [Do the Right Thing (1989 film)](link)

Link to episode transcript

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