Read. Return. Repeat.
A ReadICT Podcast

Show Notes

Season 4 Episode 4:
A Lost Episode (featuring
Kiersten White)

June 7th 2024

In this episode
Sara and Daniel interview author Kiersten White, author of the 2023 novel *Mister Magic*. As they explore ReadICT Category 3: A book about something lost or found, Kiersten shares her thoughts on what she calls “toxic nostalgia,” problematic Punky Brewster episodes and how sometimes when you escape a cultish upbringing, you have to go write a horror novel about it.

About Kiersten White
Kiersten White is the #1 New York Times bestselling, Bram Stoker Award-winning, and critically acclaimed author of many books for readers of all ages, including the And I Darken trilogy, the Sinister Summer series, the Camelot Rising trilogy, *Star Wars: Padawan, Hide, Mister Magic,* and *Lucy Undying*. Her books have been published in over twenty territories, and her novel HIDE is currently in development with Universal Television and Peacock.

Photo courtesy kierstenwhite.com
More about Kiersten White

Kierstenwhite.com

Instagram & Threads: @authorkierstenwhite

X: @kierstenwhite

Books by Kiersten White

Hide (2022)

Hide: The Graphic Novel (2023)

Mister Magic (2023)

Lucy Undying: A Dracula Novel (coming September 2024)

For a complete list of books written by the author, visit kierstenwhite.com.

Books, films & other media mentioned in this episode

The Peanut Butter Solution (1985 film)

Channel Zero: Candle Cove (2016 TV series)

I Saw the TV Glow (2024 film)


The Program: Cons, Cults and Kidnapping (2024 documentary series)

Whalefall by Daniel Kraus

The September House by Carissa Orlando

The Muderbot Diaries series by Martha Wells

Topics discussed in this episode (with timestamps)

- About Mister Magic 3:39
- Nostalgia vs. confronting the truth 7:57
- The impact of childhood experiences on memory 13:50
- Parasocial relationships and children’s media 17:43
- Creepypasta, childhood memories and the horror genre 25:06
- Engaging with fandoms 32:30
- Licensed Properties she’d like to work with in the future 40:53
- The ethics of controlling the narrative 46:57
- The “troubled teen” industry and behavior modification camps 51:36
- Why a book about a children’s TV show to write a book about trauma? 56:13
• About *Hide* (novel and graphic novel adaptation) 1:00:34
• About her upcoming novel *Lucy Undying* 1:07:37
• Favorite genre to write 1:14:20
• Kiersten’s book recommendations 1:16:16

### Relevant links to topics mentioned in this episode

Scout magazine “Why the real villain of pop culture is nostalgia.”

Toydejour.com blog post (March 30, 2021) “Previously, on Punky Brewster.”

[Creepypasta.com](#)

Medium.com article (November 29, 2019) “How the Internet has made fandom culture powerful.”

Religion News Service Article (October 5, 2023) “Kiersten White, bestselling novelist, explains why she left Mormonism.”

Standford Report article (February 10, 2022) “Graphic novels can accelerate critical thinking, capture nuance and complexity of history, says Stanford historian.”

[Dracula Daily](#)

Filmdaze.net (March 11, 2021) “Queer coding in ‘Bram Stoker's Dracula’.”

Smithsonian National Postal Museum: [Epistolary Fiction](#)

### Link to episode transcript

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