

Read. Return. Repeat.

A ReadICT Podcast

Show Notes

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.



Photo courtesy rossgay.net.
Photo by Natasha Komoda.

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

[Link to episode transcript](#)

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