**Read. Return. Repeat.**

**A ReadICT Podcast**

**Show Notes**

**Season 4 Episode 5:**

**Sara fangirls, but not too hard (featuring N.K. Jemisin)**

July 7th 2024

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**In this episode**

Sara and Daniel interview author N.K. Jemisin, a celebrated sci-fi and fantasy author who won the Hugo Award for her novel *The Fifth Season*. Tying in with ReadICT Category 1: A Book with a Map, this episode focuses on Jemisin’s Great Cities duology, *The City We Became* and *The World We Make*, a series that explores neighborhood stereotypes, gentrification and all the people that make a place unique, but with monsters!

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**About N.K. Jemisin**

N(ora). K. Jemisin is a New York Times-bestselling author of speculative fiction short stories and novels, who lives and writes in Brooklyn, NY. In 2018, she became the first author to win three Best Novel Hugos in a row. She has also won a Nebula Award, two Locus Awards, and is a recipient of the MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship. *(source: nkjemisin.com)*

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*Photo by Laura Hanifin, 2015*
More about N.K. Jemisin

nkjemisin.com

Books by N.K. Jemisin

The World We Make (Great Cities #2), 2022
The City We Became (Great Cities #1), 2020
Far Sector (graphic novel), 2019
How Long ‘Til Black Future Month? (short story collection), 2018
The Stone Sky (Broken Earth #3), 2017
The Obelisk Gate (Broken Earth #2), 2016
The Fifth Season (Broken Earth #1), 2015
Shades in Shadow (An Inheritance Triptych), 2015
The Awakened Kingdom (Inheritance #4), 2014
The Shadowed Sun (Dreamblood #2), 2012
The Killing Moon (Dreamblood #1), 2012
The Kingdom of Gods (Inheritance #3), 2011
The Broken Kingdoms (Inheritance #2), 2010
The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms (Inheritance #1), 2010

Books, films & other media mentioned in this episode

Gargoyles (television series)
Magnus Archives (podcast)
The Curse (television series)
The Horror at Red Hook (Lovecraft short story)
The Mound (Lovecraft short story)
If on a Winter’s Night a Traveler by Italo Calvino
The City Born Great (Nora’s short story that became The Great Cities duology)
Hiding in Plain Sight: The Invention of Donald Trump and the Erosion of America by Sarah Kendzior
Two Graves by Genevieve Valentine (graphic novel)
Death and the Maiden (story)

An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us by Ed Yong

Topics discussed in this episode (with timestamps)

- About the Great Cities duology 4:22
- Inspiration for the duology 06:24
- Characterizing the boroughs 08:44
- How are the avatars chosen? 15:08
- What caused the “birthing” process of cities to fail (in the book) 19:20
- On complacency 21:57
- The audiobook production of the Great Cities Duology 26:36
- Constructs and magic in The City We Became 29:24
- The impact of the book during Covid lockdowns of 2020 34:32
- Gentrification 36:08
- Real-life influences for the avatars 44:34
- Indigenous representation in the books 50:50
- H.P. Lovecraft 55:37
- Writing in second person (point-of-view) in the Broken Earth series 1:04:33
- N.K. Jemisin’s book recommendations 1:10:17
- “I hate maps” 1:12:14
- What’s next 1:16:51

Relevant links to topics mentioned in this episode

The New Yorker: “N.K. Jemisin’s Dream Worlds” (January 20, 2020)
Launch Pad Astronomy Workshop
Time Magazine: “I feared my enslaved ancestors had been dishonored in death—but the African Burial Ground in New York City tells a different story.” (March 24, 2020)
USA Today: “NYC Mayor Eric Adams wants changes to sanctuary city laws, increased cooperation with ICE.” (February 28, 2024)
Courbanize.com (blog post): “Community Engagement’s Role in Preventing Gentrification” (February 22, 2022)
The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape: Our tribal history
Nnedi Okorafor: "Lovecraft's racism & The World Fantasy Award statuette, with comments from China Miéville" (blog post, December 14, 2011)
Pratt Institute Libraries: We need to talk about Melvil Dewey