



## Fantastical Fantasies

### **Transcript:**

00;00;07;13 - 00;00;18;22

Sara

**[SARA]** Hello and welcome to the Waves of YA a podcast focused on young adult literacy brought to you by the Ocean County Library's Teen Literacy Workgroup. My name is Sara. I'm the branch manager at Waretown. Joining me today, we have...

00;00;18;22 - 00;00;20;07

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Have Colleen in Lacey.

00;00;20;26 - 00;00;22;06

Summer

**[SUMMER]** And Summer in LBI.

00;00;22;17 - 00;00;49;12

Sara

**[SARA]** In today's episode, we will be discussing fantasy. It remains a pervasive and influential genre throughout children's young, adult and adult literature. Its appeal is simple the magic, the supernatural, the worlds not like our own. And yet the stories can be quite complex. Today we are going to discuss some recent fantasy trends and our latest favorite reads. Starting off, what is the book that you feel, like, first really got you guys into the fantasy genre?

00;00;50;02 - 00;00;59;23

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** So I was trying to think of what I read as like a really young child that was fantasy, and the only thing I could think of was Goosebumps, because even though it's horror, it still had like fantasy elements.

00;00;59;23 - 00;01;04;08

Summer

**[SUMMER]** That, like, paranormal is like the mix of, like, horror and fantasy.

00;01;04;12 - 00;01;20;20

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah. So I guess it's the paranormal appeal that I had really young and I read all like because I was a huge Buffy the Vampire Slayer fan. I think this is every single podcast I talk about Buffy and I read all of the little novels that they had. That was what most of my reading as like a 12, 13, 14 year old was.

00;01;21;03 - 00;01;22;27

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** That just set me on my journey. I guess.

00;01;23;02 - 00;01;34;09

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I got into Buffy, too, as a teenager, you must be in the same podcasts as me, I can't remember exactly, but I also always end up talking about Buffy. It's so important.

00;01;35;03 - 00;01;35;17

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yes.

00;01;36;05 - 00;01;57;23

Sara

**[SARA]** Yeah, I think I also got into fantasy pretty early. I wasn't a huge Buffy fan. Sorry, but I remember very distinctly when I was in second grade, my teacher had in like the free reading section, *The Hobbit* by Tolkien, and I picked it up and I read it. And from then I was completely enamored. I was like, this is like nothing I've ever read before.

00;01;58;03 - 00;02;09;22

Sara

**[SARA]** And it was so magical and so much and so all encompassing. And after that I went on the full *Lord of the Rings* binge. And I think that's where not only my love for fantasy started, but my love for high fantasy started. Yeah.

00;02;09;23 - 00;02;10;29

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** My God, you read that early?

00;02;11;12 - 00;02;22;12

Sara

**[SARA]** Yeah, I just, I think what attracted me to the book was that it was different. Um. And, and I'm glad that I did, because now I'm still to this day, a huge *Lord of the Rings* fan.

00;02;22;22 - 00;02;34;21

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Oh, yeah. And I didn't read them until I was in my teens when the movies were coming out. And I slog through those and then read that and actually then read *The Hobbit* after that. And *The Hobbit* was just so superior and just a better story.

00:02:35:14 - 00:02:55:14

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah, I guess *Lord of the Rings* is probably a lot of people's, because I was going to say I was trying to think about my intro into fantasy, and before I even read *Lord of the Rings* books later in life, it was one of those movies that was always on in my house because my dad's a huge *Lord of the Rings* fan, which made me be one later in life, my wedding, was *Lord of the Rings* themed, and...

00:02:55:14 - 00:02:55:29

Sara

**[SARA]** That's awesome.

00:02:56:23 - 00:03:10:24

Summer

**[SUMMER]** And but I try to think of like a book and I feel like the earliest one I can remember is a book I got from the library called *Vampire Island* by Adele Griffin, which we no longer have in the system, I checked.

00:03:10:24 - 00:03:30:13

Summer

**[SUMMER]** It's about these three vampire children, it's a vampire family that live in New York and they're just dealing with kid stuff, like each one of them, one is like the black sheep, one of them is a teenager, got their teenager stuff, but they happen to be vampires. But, they're more like fruit bats because they only eat like fruit vegetables. Like that's their thing.

00:03:31:04 - 00:03:34:12

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I love vampires from a very early age, obviously.

00:03:35:06 - 00:03:35:21

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Oh, yeah.

00:03:36:05 - 00:03:45:08

Summer

**[SUMMER]** And then I was thinking of another series that I really liked in middle school was *The Sisters Grimm* by Michael Buckley, which is so good.

00:03:45:08 - 00:03:47:21

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** You're making me feel very, very old right now. I must say, Summer.

00;03;50;29 - 00;04;18;15

Summer

**[SUMMER]** That amounts to really dark and very supernatural as well for anyone who doesn't know, who's listening, it's about these two young girls who realize that they are the descendants of the Brothers Grimm and that all of these fairy tale stories are actually documentations of actual events that may have been changed or watered down for the public. But the fairy tale creatures are very real and very dangerous, and they have to kind of control them in this small town.

00;04;18;28 - 00;04;25;04

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** So that is a great middle grade series, I'm always trying to think of them and put them in my back pocket to remember, 'cause middle grade is really difficult.

00;04;26;00 - 00;04;30;00

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I reread the first one as an adult, like, last year, and it held up. It was still really good.

00;04;30;00 - 00;04;32;01

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Okay, maybe I can give that a whirl.

00;04;32;28 - 00;04;42;10

Sara

**[SARA]** That's always great when you go back and you're like, is it just nostalgia glasses or is that actually good? And you do get the satisfaction of learning that it was just actually really that good.

00;04;42;15 - 00;04;55;24

Summer

**[SUMMER]** It was like nothing I'd ever read before. I remember things like what you said about *The Hobbit*. Like I was just like mind blown. Like even the fact that it wasn't just fairy tale characters that were real, but nursery rhyme characters and Shakespearean characters.

00;04;55;24 - 00;04;56;29

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** So that is super fun.

00;04;57;19 - 00;04;58;19

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Like top of the...

00;04;58;19 - 00;05;09;20

Sara

**[SARA]** We talked of the past and how that kind of shaped where our love of fantasy came in. So now in the present, what are some of our favorite YA fantasy books or authors that we have now.

00:05;10;11 - 00:05;25;17

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Just for the schmaltz and the soap opera-ness of it, I love Cassandra Clare and like it's like we can make fun of her writing like all day long, but like, I love I go back to her, I read every single one of her books because there's going to be a crazy twist. It's going to be a crazy love story.

00:05;25;22 - 00:05;41;21

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** There's going to be a really different cast of characters. There can be everybody from any kind of life is going to be in there and it's just so much fun to read. So I love all of her books, like the Mortal Instruments, the Infernal Devices, even the new ones set in Victorian England, like when there's a new book out, it could be a thousand pages, I'm going to read it.

00:05;43;03 - 00:05;51;04

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Actually, I saw this TikTok once that was like, shout out to the librarian that gave me the mortal Instruments books when I was 13. And that was really nice.

00:05;52;11 - 00:05;52;20

Sara

**[SARA]** That was great.

00:05;53;14 - 00:06;09;05

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** It was probably me, like, read this. And then I also really love like more in a more serious fantasy, like a really super romantic fantasy. I love Cinda Williams, Chima, her series, and I love Melina Marchetta as Lumatere Chronicles. That's like my all time favorite like trilogy.

00:06;09;18 - 00:06;14;19

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Oh, are you talking about the Winters Promise?

00:06;15;06 - 00:06;17;09

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** The first one is called Fennikin of the Rock.

00:06;17;09 - 00:06;19;24

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Oh, I think I misheard you when you said that.

00:06;20;29 - 00:06;33;25

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Melina Marchetta. She's an Australian author and she writes some fantasy, but she also writes contemporary fiction. It's heart wrenching. If you want to like a fantasy that you get to cry over, Melina Marchetta is for you. It's just so wonderful.

00;06;34;21 - 00;07;01;12

Sara

**[SARA]** I guess I could write that down. I feel like people, every book I read winds up making me cry, always. It doesn't need to try hard. I'm a big crybaby when it comes to reading. Of me, I'd say that my favorite, especially in recent favorites, I've been really, really loving everything that Leigh Bardugo came out with. And of course, that Six of Crows, Shadow and Bone was turned into a series, the Grishaverse.

00;07;01;29 - 00;07;15;10

Sara

**[SARA]** And the Netflix show, I honestly thought was so much fun. I know that like they really took leeway with the book, everything and changing things as they always do. But I think if I, I've learned to separate the two.

00;07;15;20 - 00;07;30;29

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yes, it can be very difficult. We should do actually do a podcast on like adaptations of YA books that we've hated and loved. But like I like that what they did with it, because they kept true to the characters there and they just gave them a new story. And I think that's what did really well with the TV show.

00;07;31;13 - 00;07;57;19

Sara

**[SARA]** I think that's a really good point, and what, because when you read a book, what do, what you fall in love with is the world and the characters, generally. And you can take some leeway really with the plot as long as the characters remain true to themselves. Because I think you see people getting upset over adaptations when it is the characters that are being changed or they're making decisions that the characters usually wouldn't make.

00;07;58;02 - 00;08;00;03

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, I agree.

00;08;00;19 - 00;08;18;27

Summer

**[SUMMER]** One of my all time favorite YA authors is actually one that I don't hear a lot of people talk about, which I find strange because I would associate her style with people who like Leigh Bardugo, or Sarah J. Maas, would like her books, but I don't really hear her talked about much, Laini Taylor.

00;08;18;27 - 00;08;23;14

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Ah, love her! I've read every single thing she's ever written. Yes.

00:08;23;14 - 00:08;26;23

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Amazing. Okay, well, then I stand corrected.

00:08;26;25 - 00:08;29;11

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** I do agree though, I don't think she's as well-known as the others.

00:08;29;16 - 00:08;40;04

Summer

**[SUMMER]** So her first series came out, I feel like before, it was the Daughter of Smoke and Bones series. And what I say is that the title trend of the blank of blank and blank, she was one of the first people to do that.

00:08;40;09 - 00:08;44;06

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, I think it really did kind of start back then and that was a that's pretty old.

00:08;44;06 - 00:09;05;03

Summer

**[SUMMER]** That was like early 2000. That trilogy is amazing. And then her duology, Strange the Dreamer, is also amazing and it made me, I love it, I love a Duology as well. And then she has another series called The Faeries of Dreamdark. I've only read the first one, but the second one I think is out of print because you can't find it anywhere, even on Amazon, like, you can't get it.

00:09;05;12 - 00:09;07;22

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Oh my gosh, that's so sad.

00:09;08;08 - 00:09;17;26

Summer

**[SUMMER]** But the book doesn't end on a cliffhanger or anything, it can be read as a standalone, and she's working on a secret book. I'm on her Instagram page. It's working on a secret book. I don't know what it is, and...

00:09;17;26 - 00:09;24;28

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Oh my God, I'm so excited. Yeah, it's so funny when Strange the Dreamer came out, it was like this monster of a book. It was so...

00:09;24;28 - 00:09;25;15

Summer

**[SUMMER]** So good.

00;09;25;15 - 00;09;43;24

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** And I like, I listened to a lot of my books in the past five years. I'm like an audio book listener anymore. And as I'm listening to, I'm like, what is happening? Because it's such a strange world. It's like it's there's nothing that I could recognize as from our world. I was crazy. But, it was so interesting that, well, they had me because he was working in a library, so I'm, like, okay.

00;09;44;04 - 00;09;48;08

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah. Any book with a librarian character, I'm here for it.

00;09;48;11 - 00;09;55;26

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah. So, but that. Oh my God, that is. And I really appreciated that it was a duology because the books were really thick. So I'm like, I don't know if I could have done a third one.

00;09;56;07 - 00;10;11;21

Summer

**[SUMMER]** And I just feel like, again, like how her writing and her world and the magic she creates is like nothing I've ever read before. It's, like, so unique. Yeah, but my other favorite, this is like some of the, a couple of the authors that like, I will read anything they put out, is Holly Black.

00;10;11;28 - 00;10;12;13

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yes.

00;10;13;09 - 00;10;21;18

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I really love Spiderwick Chronicles when I was a kid and then her wicked, sorry, her Folk of the Air series, the Cruel Prince was amazing.

00;10;21;19 - 00;10;22;12

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** So romantic.

00;10;22;23 - 00;10;25;02

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah, romantic in an interesting way.

00;10;25;02 - 00;10;25;20

Coleen



**[COLLEEN]** Yeah. Yeah.

00;10;26;29 - 00;10;31;21

Summer

**[SUMMER]** And I have a couple other of her books I want to read. Like, she also has a vampire book, the Coldest Girl in Coldtown.

00;10;31;29 - 00;10;45;09

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** That's very good. It's really weird. I remember listening to that as I was walking around, like when I lived in Edison, I had a very distinct memory of it was just so creepy and cool and awesome. That's a great Vampire book.

00;10;45;09 - 00;10;50;25

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I will read any of her books. I have in my personal library at home, I have one bookshelf that's just dedicated to vampire books.

00;10;51;10 - 00;10;58;26

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Oh, that would be fun to organize my shelf by, like, fantasy genre or like supernatural, or like monster genre.

00;10;58;26 - 00;11;03;10

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah, it depends on, like, if you had a lot of one thing. Yeah. And I, a lot of vampire books.

00;11;04;06 - 00;11;05;03

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah. I'm a lot of YA.

00;11;05;18 - 00;11;20;10

Sara

**[SARA]** The vibe that you're into the paranormal type vampire fantasy. And I think as I mentioned before, I prefer like the high fantasy, although I will sometimes stray outside of that. And how about you, Colleen?

00;11;21;03 - 00;11;40;28

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** I will read everything and anything that is fantasy. So, but I do particularly really love high fantasy as well. But I find I'm reading more adult high fantasy than YA, even though there is some, there is a lot. But sometimes it's like the adult is just and I love way so much, but occasionally there be like an adult book.

00;11;40;28 - 00;11;45;23

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** I'm like, ah, this is just superior to anything I've ever read that was YA.

00;11;45;27 - 00;12;03;23

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I do like high fantasy. I do think I probably read more or lean more towards like Urban Fantasy or I like when it's like our world got a little different, but I do like I then, like I do like a Court of Thorns and Roses and I love Lord of the Rings, as I said.

00;12;04;19 - 00;12;11;03

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** But I have a whole high fantasy sub-genre in my goodreads. let me pick on that, but it's probably mostly like adult.

00;12;12;00 - 00;12;47;01

Sara

**[SARA]** I think it's for me, one of those things that I never realized that until I sat down and actually analyzed that I do read the occasional urban fantasy, but when I look at my goodreads, like you said before, it's just, and I look at the fantasy genre, it's a massive amount of high fantasy, and then like a smattering of urban fantasy. As Summer was saying, like when it like takes place in our world, more so I think like the opposite of you, probably more so in adult, I'm into an urban fantasy, okay, but in YA, I'm like, give me the high fantasy. Like, let's go all out. I want fairies.

00;12;48;02 - 00;13;03;05

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Well, that's what I like about Cassandra Clare's all of her books because they're like in Hyde Park fighting demons. But there's normal people walking around like, what's going on? So like, I think it's kind of fun to see. Like they have to try to hide their whole universe and it's kind of fun that way. Like, I'm getting caught doing magic.

00;13;03;21 - 00;13;38;13

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Holly Black, too. I like her. Well, there's her Folk of the air, and then it's also her Modern Faerie Tale series and her stand alone, the Darkest Part of the Forest, which are all in the same universe. And I like how she interprets faerie like faerie as its own world, kind of like, they were here for a long time. They have existed in the world forever, but they had to adapt because of how humans have taken over the world and they still have their own set of rules and courts and intrigue. But it's evolved because of how humanity's evolved, and I think that's cool.

00;13;38;15 - 00;13;56;22

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** And I think that's what we like about vampires and fairies, how they're like eternal and ageless, like, oh, the queen of the fairies been around for 2000 years. It's just like so, I wish I could live

*that long. It's just like something, like, that we humans strive for. We never want our lives to end and to be immortal would be really awesome.*

*00;13;57;10 - 00;14;17;00*

*Sara*

**[SARA]** *I think, absolutely. There's like this appeal, especially because you learn about these things as very, very young children. So it's interesting to see these ideas kind of grow and also be used in different ways because as young children, you introduce the fairies, say, for example, as like Tinkerbell, and vampires, as like, oh, Dracula or something like that.*

*00;14;17;01 - 00;14;40;17*

*Sara*

**[SARA]** *And as you grow these ideas, you start to wonder if these ideas are more complex, and as they become more complex, there's like this element of more intrigue, and that makes it so much more interesting in the YA and in the adult genre. And on that note, also about fairies, I heard somebody, brought this up before, and I don't know who, we do, kind of need to figure out how to spell it collectively.*

*00;14;41;26 - 00;14;48;10*

*Coleen*

**[COLLEEN]** *Yeah. And do we say fairies or would you say fairy or the Fey, or like what? There's so many words.*

*00;14;48;11 - 00;15;02;03*

*Summer*

**[SUMMER]** *I think it there's I think it's open for interpretation that I don't agree with F A I R Y very much because it sounds too much like our Western interpretation of fairies. But I like. And the other spelling.*

*00;15;02;12 - 00;15;10;03*

*Coleen*

**[COLLEEN]** *Yes, not that one. I think. I agree. And it's like that's not how we thought of Tinkerbell as that fairy like this little thing, but they're really not.*

*00;15;10;13 - 00;15;17;01*

*Summer*

**[SUMMER]** *I think it's that the like the beings are fairies, but the world they inhabit is fairy.*

*00;15;17;01 - 00;15;19;07*

*Coleen*

**[COLLEEN]** *Yeah. We can have a whole podcast on fairy books.*

*00;15;19;19 - 00;15;20;05*

*Summer*

**[SUMMER]** *Yeah.*

00;15;22;02 - 00;15;36;01

Sara

**[SARA]** Well that's another that kind of genre is the twisted fairy tales or how many, yeah, exactly. Like, for example, I read recently *Gilded* by Marissa Meyer. Yeah. Yeah, and that's the twist in the story of Rumpelstiltskin

00;15;36;06 - 00;15;47;23

Sara

**[SARA]** Which you caught me halfway through it, I was like, stop, I need to spoil it for myself. I Googled the story of Rumpelstiltskin and I don't know why that was going to help me, like she was going to stick to the original plot.

00;15;48;18 - 00;15;50;10

Summer

**[SUMMER]** You never read the Rumpelstiltskin fairy tale?

00;15;50;25 - 00;15;53;03

Sara

**[SARA]** I did, but I was very young, so I really didn't remember.

00;15;53;03 - 00;15;57;24

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** It's really creepy, so I can imagine you maybe you blocked it out of your mind.

00;15;57;25 - 00;16;00;09

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I love, I loved *The Lunar Chronicles* by Marissa Meyer.

00;16;00;09 - 00;16;09;12

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Ah, loved the *Lunar Chronicles*. I was a little disappointed with *Guilded* because everything else she's written, I've loved. I'm going to read the second one, if there is, there's a second one, right?

00;16;09;12 - 00;16;11;08

Sara

**[SARA]** I certainly hope so because it ended on a cliffhanger.

00;16;11;08 - 00;16;24;13

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** It ended on a cliffhanger. I didn't think it was going to be part of a series, but then it ended like that. So I'm still going to read it because I still do like her, but I just hope it's a, a little better than that, because I only gave that, like a three, when normally I'm like a 5 for her.

00;16;24;14 - 00;16;34;03

Sara

**[SARA]** I'd say it was kind of run of the mill, but I still wound up enjoying it. And I was, as well as you, taken by surprise when the book finished, or rather I looked at my audio book and I said 30 minutes left, and I was like, oh no.

00;16;34;03 - 00;16;35;20

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Can't possibly finish in 30 minutes.

00;16;35;20 - 00;16;44;17

Sara

**[SARA]** That sinking feeling when you're like, wait, why is there such short time left? What's happening?

00;16;45;22 - 00;17;02;16

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I thought that Gilded was going to be like, a one off, but I guess not. And on that note, I want to ask, do you guys prefer a very long series, a trilogy, a duology, or a standalone in your fantasy, or do you have a preference? I have a lot of opinions on this.

00;17;02;18 - 00;17;20;05

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, I think when I was younger I really loved a series and now like as I get older, like I, I don't remember, if this book came out a year or two years ago, I don't remember what happened. So now I have to try to figure out what happened so I can read the next one. And it's very frustrating for me, whereas when I was young, I could binge everything.

00;17;20;05 - 00;17;34;18

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** So I'm I try not to start a book if I know it's a series until like they're all out. So I'm like waiting to read Victoria Aveyard's Realm Breaker, because I don't want to read it and then forget, but like I don't know when the other ones are coming out, so like, that's on my list to read, but I haven't done it yet.

00;17;34;26 - 00;17;37;24

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** So like, I'm liking one offs lately.

00;17;38;19 - 00;17;56;18

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah, I really like a standalone that's kind of refreshing. Like, I know that everything's going to be wrapped up by the time I finish it, but like I said, I also love the duology like Strange the Dreamer and another duology that I read last, this year, that was amazing was The Sands of Arawiya, and the first one is We Hunt the Flame.

00:17:56;27 - 00:17:59;04

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Oh, yes. I haven't read the second one yet.

00:17:59;10 - 00:18;11;04

Summer

**[SUMMER]** It's so good that series like, chef's kiss, it was amazing and that book was great. And the author's coming out with a new book, I don't know when, but it's called Like Vampires in the Tea Room or something.

00:18;11;04 - 00:18;12;13

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Oh, that's like written for you.

00:18;12;22 - 00:18;23;22

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yes, it's vampires. And I think she said it's going to have like mafia elements, like like Peaky Blinders and vampires. And I don't know, that sounds cool. I'm like, yeah, actually.

00:18;24;08 - 00:18;38;18

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Duologies are really like happening right now which is kind of cool because you get to do instead of having maybe a thousand page book, you'll do like two 500. So and it's not quite like as daunting as a trilogy or series, but you get to tell a bigger story.

00:18;39;04 - 00:19;00;18

Sara

**[SARA]** Yeah. So I'm not going to stand out from you guys the same thing. I generally prefer standalones, although again, I remember as a kid very much. I would easily love to take on a series because I wanted more, more and more. I do think part of that also feeds into the nature of my job and maybe your guys jobs as well, because we're trying to read so many different authors over so many different genres and so many different age groups.

00:19;01;12 - 00:19;30;12

Sara

**[SARA]** You really feel like, Oh gosh, I don't have time for a whole series, but you really try to get that variety. So like a monster, I very often only read the first book in a series and I'm like, Oh, that's nice. And that's it. I stop there and unless I'm, like, super, super in love with it. For example, one book that I know I'm keeping tabs on to come back to later but, also did the surprise, were actually a Duology, was *Beasts of Prey* by Ayana Gray.

00:19;30;28 - 00:19;33;01

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Okay, I've been meaning to read that. That was good?

00;19;33;12 - 00;19;58;19

Sara

**[SARA]** I cannot recommend it enough. A Pan-African fantasy story that happens where they have to go into the woods. There's this nice, like kind of different system of magic. It's very different from what you usually experience with some elements of the same thing, I would say, like the main character still gives off the same main character vibe that we get from a lot of YA fantasy main characters, but in a good way, all the good parts of it.

00;19;58;19 - 00;20;06;02

Sara

**[SARA]** So that's one that I definitely will be keeping tabs on. But I would say very rarely, most of the time I just drop it, what's the next one.

00;20;06;02 - 00;20;15;24

Summer

**{SUMMER}** I think that makes sense, if you weren't in love with it, then you didn't want to put your time and energy into reading the rest of the series because you could find another book that you love even more.

00;20;16;03 - 00;20;22;24

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, yeah. I'm all about stopping reading something. If it's not engaging to you. I do it all the time like I have time for this. There's millions of books out there.

00;20;23;15 - 00;20;31;07

Summer

**[SUMMER]** One of my favorite podcasts is called Reading Glasses and they have a catch phrase which is, dump that book. If you don't like it, you're like...

00;20;31;07 - 00;20;33;24

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, people are like, oh, I have to finish it, no you don't!

00;20;33;24 - 00;20;40;12

Summer

**[SUMMER]** No reading guilt in this house. Another Duology that was amazing was The Hazel Wood.

00;20;40;12 - 00;20;44;24

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Oh, you know, I actually did not like that first one, so I did not read the second one.

00;20;45;01 - 00;20;47;24

Summer

**[SUMMER]** *And I loved so much how dare you? I'm kidding!*

00;20;48;02 - 00;21;05;12

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *I tried to explain to somebody what I didn't like about it, and I could not grasp my finger. I think I just didn't like the characters. And if I don't like a character, I like, like I was saying, I can I could read terrible written words, but if the character I like, because I do watch soap operas as a child, I think that's why, like I watched General Hospital, I was ten years old.*

00;21;05;21 - 00;21;10;04

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *So I like, I have my characters I love. So I think that's what did it for me for that one.*

00;21;10;04 - 00;21;10;19

Summer

**[SUMMER]** *Okay.*

00;21;10;27 - 00;21;14;27

Sara

**[SARA]** *I had a book recently. I didn't like the character The Traitor's Game by Nielsen.*

00;21;15;22 - 00;21;17;19

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *Ah! Thank you. Thank you so much.*

00;21;17;21 - 00;21;18;21

Sara

**[SARA]** *So you felt the same way?*

00;21;19;02 - 00;21;27;22

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *Yes and I loved her other series so much. So I'm so excited to read that, then I'm like, oh, I'm like ten pages in they're already in love? I'm like, I don't understand it's happening here.*

00;21;27;22 - 00;21;29;17

Sara

**[SARA]** *Yes! What was that?*

00;21;30;01 - 00;21;35;18

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *And I love a, an enemies to lovers, an enemies to lovers thing. I love that, it's just too much.*

00;21;35;25 - 00;21;44;07

Summer



**[SUMMER]** *As an avid romance reader, I think insta love can be done, if it's done right. Yes, it has to be done correctly.*

00;21;44;07 - 00;21;53;08

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *Yeah. I have to believe that these characters could possibly, this can really happen. And I'm willing to believe that. So if it's done right, I'm on board, but sometimes it's not.*

00;21;53;23 - 00;22;02;00

Sara

**[SARA]** *Absolutely. And this was an example of it not being done right. So that was disappointing. I read the whole thing because I kept having hope that it was going to get better.*

00;22;02;00 - 00;22;17;20

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *But no, I gave up real quick. I'm like, forget this, dump it and leave it. And that happens to me with Sarah J. Maas' *The Throne of Glass* series. I loved her and the one character from the second book, and then they broke up and then all of a sudden in the next one, she's dating this other guy, I was like, no, it's like, I don't accept this.*

00;22;17;25 - 00;22;19;22

Summer

**[SUMMER]** *Wait, spoilers!*

00;22;19;22 - 00;22;29;15

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *Oh, sorry, guys. Yeah. No names, though. And then other than, but I don't know how it ends. No idea how it ends because I gave up and there's like six books and I'm like, I don't care, okay?*

00;22;29;15 - 00;22;55;16

Summer

**[SUMMER]** *I really like Sarah J. Maas' *Court of Thorns and Roses*, and I read her *Crescent City* series, which is not technically YA. And then I put the second one on hold and I started reading it. I didn't dislike it. I just think it wasn't the right time for me to be reading it because first of all, it's a brick. Second of all, a lot was happening immediately and I just could not deal with it at the moment. So, I might go back to but later, but I don't know.*

00;22;56;19 - 00;23;24;11

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *That's totally true. Sometimes you're not ready for the... I, so I went to read this book *Seraphina* by Rachel Hartman. When it came, I don't even know when it came out ten, ten or some years ago. And I was like, Oh, I don't like this. I don't know why everybody's saying this is so great. What's going on? But then I wanted to read the sequel, *Tess of the Road*. And I'm like, oh, I can't read that until I*

*read, actually finish Seraphina. So I went back and read, and I was like, oh, this book is fantastic. What the heck was wrong with me at the age of like 22 or something? Like, I just wasn't feeling it at the time.*

00;23;24;21 - 00;23;30;00

Summer

**[SUMMER]** *I got the same way about A Discovery of Witches, like it took me a third time reading it for me to like it.*

00;23;30;16 - 00;23;32;19

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *Oh, so should I try again? Because I actually hated that book.*

00;23;32;19 - 00;23;43;05

Summer

**[SUMMER]** *Maybe. I think I started reading it in like the beginning of September, and that's like when the book starts at the beginning of September. So maybe like the fall vibes were on point?*

00;23;43;23 - 00;23;44;05

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *Mm hmm.*

00;23;44;23 - 00;23;58;14

Sara

**[SARA]** *Yeah, I. I want to, like A Discovery of Witches, and Deborah, because I like Deborah Harkness as a person, and then, so I'm like, of course, I'm going to like her writing, but sometimes there's just that divide. So, I'll try again.*

00;23;58;14 - 00;24;02;16

Summer

**[SUMMER]** *You need, you need to be in the mood for slow paced fantasy.*

00;24;02;16 - 00;24;03;01

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *Yeah.*

00;24;03;11 - 00;24;09;21

Summer

**[SUMMER]** *Do you have a subgenre fantasy that you like? Like romance, horror or...elves?*

00;24;09;21 - 00;24;10;08

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *I don't know, oh, elves.*

00;24;10;08 - 00;24;32;27

Sara

**[SARA]** I was thinking about this, and at first I was saying no. And then just like before the high fantasy, the urban fantasy, I looked over my selections. I was like, wow, I read a lot of fantasy horror. I didn't know that about myself. I wouldn't consider myself a horror fan. And then I read recently, *Within These Wicked Walls* by Lauren Blackwood, that kind of horror.

00;24;33;12 - 00;24;39;18

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** All sounds familiar. I was like, why does that sound familiar? That one, I don't think I've read it, but maybe I've just seen it.

00;24;40;13 - 00;24;54;03

Sara

**[SARA]** *Within These Wicked Walls*, it's kind of like about her purging demons from a haunted house. And then one of the ones I really liked was *The Keeper of the Night* by Kylie Lee Baker. And that's about her being, she's half Reaper, half Shinigami.

00;24;54;25 - 00;25;04;18

Sara

**[SARA]** And then also *Beasts of Prey* also had some very horrific elements within it. And I had to admit, I was like, I guess I have a horror preference.

00;25;05;22 - 00;25;23;01

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** So, yeah, I don't really have a favorite like subgenre of fantasy. I just like so many different things. But I'll read really anything if there's a romance in, it's like, I don't like something, just purely romance. But if it's a mystery with also a romance, if it's a fantasy with a romance that just elevates any book to me.

00;25;23;08 - 00;25;30;23

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** And I'm like, looking at my all time favorite because I have a favorites list on Goodreads. And besides, like *Harry Potter*, everything has a romance in it.

00;25;31;16 - 00;25;36;26

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah, I know, I know. I don't mind if it's the romance is main, and fantasy around it, I can do either.

00;25;37;05 - 00;25;53;28

Sara

**[SARA]** I don't mind the romance, but I don't specifically go seeking it out. And it is important to me when there is a romance that it is believable and engaging. And I guess I'm also biased towards certain types of romances appeal to me more than others.

00;25;53;29 - 00;26;16;29

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I'm like the opposite. I love fantasy and I love paranormal books as well. But I also am, and it only started like this past year, I got into romance as a genre and now I am like an avid romance reader. I have such a diverse romance collection in my house that's more like adult romance, not young adult romance. Although I'm, I also read that, but, so I kind of like...

00;26;16;29 - 00;26;24;29

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, I'm reading a really chicklity book right now, a young adult romance book right now, but I'm loving it as it's just light and fun and it's like what I needed right now in my life.

00;26;26;08 - 00;26;33;18

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I don't like that term chicklit, I hear it a lot and I don't like it because it gives you the idea that because a book is aimed towards women, it's like that.

00;26;33;18 - 00;26;35;10

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, it does have bad connotations.

00;26;35;20 - 00;26;47;01

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah, so, but I go all over the chessboard. I will read like a bunch of different genres and subgenres. That's a non-answer question. Sorry.

00;26;47;01 - 00;27;09;02

Sara

**[SARA]** No, it's okay. It's good to it's good to have some variety. And you were talking about how you really like adults romance. And I think I was mentioning I like some things in adult and other things in YA, etc. So when we're moving from YA to adult fantasy, there is some differences and there are some similarities. What are some books that you think blurred that line?

00;27;09;18 - 00;27;36;05

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I have so many for this. Okay, I think for one thing, Erin Morgenstern's two books, *The Night Circus* and *The Starless Sea*, they give, it's all about the vibes for me, the vibes give very, it's reminiscent of YA, but it's like a step above and they're usually longer, but they are definitely accessible if you want to get into adults, but you're not ready for anything too crazy yet.

00;27;36;15 - 00;27;57;23

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Also Seanan McGuire's books as well, *The Wayward Children* series, which I think could be YA, especially as most of the characters are teenagers. And those are very short too. So if you don't want a honker of a book, those are great. And those are about children that have all fallen through portals into other worlds, like *Alice in Wonderland* and they're trying to acclimate into society.

00;27;58;07 - 00;28;10;26

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Also, her book, *Middlegame*, is pretty good. That's like sci fi fantasy where there's like alchemy and magic and it's an adventure. Yeah, anything by Seanan McGuire or Erin Morgenstern, definitely.

00;28;11;16 - 00;28;25;26

Sara

**[SARA]** I was very confused that *Every Heart a Doorway* was not a YA book? I thought for sure it would be. And when I was reading it and when I saw that the tag on it said it was Adult, I was a little surprised, but it was very pleasant. I liked it alot.

00;28;25;26 - 00;28;43;00

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I felt the same way about, there's this book by Catherynne Valente called *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*. And I thought that would be J. I thought that would be a middle reader, but it's in YA. So it's just interesting, how they decide these things.

00;28;43;00 - 00;29;27;11

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, well, for me, Naomi Novik is my favorite, like, adult fantasy. And some of hers are like, you know, like, some of them are a little boring. Like her whole series with *Dragons*. I read her *His Majesty's Dragon*, something like that, was, um, felt adult to me. But she has these other ones that feel very youthful, like this book, it's called *Uprooted*. It's like almost like a fairy tale and like *spinning silver*. And even like I read one of my favorite books of the year was *The Priory of the Orange Tree*, I think it was called. Super Long, super, super long, but fantastic. The best book I read that year and then I like I guess I guess I felt that I understood why it's an adult, but I think that it could be read by people who enjoy young adult or at least like a transitioning into adult.

00;29;27;18 - 00;29;41;26

Sara

**[SARA]** I think that's one of those books that I picked up at the wrong spot in my life because I picked it up for like a summer read and I definitely needed something lighter. And then I felt like a bad guy because I couldn't finish it and I feel like it's my obligation to finish it.

00;29;42;07 - 00;29;47;11

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** I think you should read it just because it was fantastic and it had a really wonderful story.

00;29;47;18 - 00;29;51;08

Sara

**[SARA]** Yeah, no, I think I don't really need to try it again because...

00;29;51;29 - 00;30;08;03

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** It's very daunting because it's so big. I guess I actually because I didn't, they didn't have an audiobook version of it. So I actually read that book. So I was very proud of myself because I can. So I had it on audiobook and I gave it to my coworker to read us like I loved the book, and she's like, I can't read that, it's too big!

00;30;08;24 - 00;30;15;03

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I always think that about big books, but that's what my absolute favorite books have been huge, like *The Starless Sea*, *Ninth House* by Leigh Bardugo.

00;30;15;13 - 00;30;17;25

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Oh, that's another one that could be YA, I feel.

00;30;17;25 - 00;30;25;07

Summer

**[SUMMER]** *Strange the Dreamer*, like, they're all huge, especially in hardback, when they came out in hardback, they're huge. But I read those so fast because they were so dang good.

00;30;25;13 - 00;30;36;17

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** And there was like in *The Priory of the Orange Tree*, there's always something happening. And you are invested in every single character and it's like, oh so good. I actually am a little sad that it's not a series, that is a standalone, but.

00;30;36;29 - 00;30;58;17

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Another good transition adult fantasy that I read was *For the Wolf* by Hannah Whitten, which kind of, it's like, simultaneously a reimagining of *Red Riding Hood* and a reimagining of *Beauty and the Beast*. But the story and the world are very much their own. It's more like hints at the fairy tales, and that's definitely high fantasy and it was really good.

00;30;58;25 - 00;31;22;11

Sara

**[SARA]** Another one that I would recommend would be V.E. Schwab's *A Darker Shade of Magic* series. Yes, because I felt like that, that had all the elements, of it was like upbeat and fast paced and definitely had the intrigue, the mystique, the vibe to be a YA book. And then, her other books I really, really loved, but I don't think those are good transition books. This one definitely is the right series for that.

00:31;22;11 - 00:31;37;15

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, that one is a little bit, yeah, a little lighter, even though there's crazy things going on. But that was a great series and she has a new one and I can't wait to read that one. I have no idea what it's about. I just saw the title. I just saw the cover. I haven't read anything about it yet, but I'm like, oh, I have to read that just because it was by her.

00:31;37;15 - 00:31;38;00

Summer

**[SUMMER]** New, new? How new?

00:31;38;09 - 00:31;43;07

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** It's in my new books section, so it's got to be within three months.

00:31;43;22 - 00:31;50;07

Summer

Okay. Because *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* was like the newest I knew of, but I haven't read yet. Sara, would that be a good translation book?

00:31;50;19 - 00:32;03;17

Sara

**[SARA]**No. So, that's what I was talking about. Her darker *Shade of Magic* series, yes, absolutely. Addie LaRue, again, like I it's not about the content itself, it's the feel. The feel of it to me is middle aged.

00:32;04;03 - 00:32;06;11

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I use the word *vibe* way too much but it really is all about the vibes.

00:32;06;11 - 00:32;09;13

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** True, like the mood, like how it, like...

00:32;09;13 - 00:32;10;15

Summer

**[SUMMER]** The *ambiance*.

00:32;11;17 - 00:32;15;05

Sara

**[SARA]**Yeah, the mood of it is very, very adult. Depressingly adult.

00:32;15;15 - 00:32;16;02

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Oh, no.

00:32;16;15 - 00:32;17;24

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** It was a great book, it was really good..

00:32;17;24 - 00:32;18;27

Sara

**[SARA]** Oh, love it, love it.

00:32;18;28 - 00:32;21;01

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Oh, it's called Gallant, the new V.E. Schwab book.

00:32;21;16 - 00:32;34;09

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Oh, yeah. That's another one that I thought was going to be I thought they were I had the galley of that and I mean, it's out now, but I have an ARC copy and I thought they were going to put that in middle reader, but I guess it's YA, that just goes to show you.

00:32;34;09 - 00:32;37;26

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, that's why we're not publishers, I guess, we're just trying to be librarians.

00:32;39;08 - 00:32;44;09

Summer

**[SUMMER]** We know that Seanan McGuire, Erin Morgenstern.

00:32;44;21 - 00:32;51;18

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** So have you noticed we've really been talking about women fantasy writers in YA? We haven't thrown out a lot of like men, male names.

00:32;52;05 - 00:33;25;21

Sara

**[SARA]** Yeah, absolutely. A lot of women, fantasy writers, a lot of women fantasy main characters. And this is something that I heard brought up a lot, that YA Fantasy and YA Sci Fi is like a girl's genre, because of the lure for creation, of the female authors, and of the female main characters. I don't know exactly why or when that trend started, but it definitely has been something that I see on the shelves I see and or reading selection.

00:33;26;03 - 00:33;39;07

Sara



**[SARA]** So it can be difficult sometimes if I have somebody that wants to identify with the main character, maybe it wants to get into fantasy. We don't really have anything, especially in YA, it's more I see that in adult fantasy.

00:33:39:07 - 00:34:04:04

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah, I was going to say I wonder if it's like a trickle down from the publishing industry. I don't know about the publishing industry itself because I don't work in it. But I wonder if it's like easier in some way for men to get published in adult fantasy sci fi and or harder for women to, and therefore easier to access YA fantasy sci fi in some manner? I don't know why that maybe that's like a trickle down effect.

00:34:04:04 - 00:34:21:11

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Or, it's like an overcorrection. Like, we didn't have as many women writers in the past and women characters, so like, oh, we need, we need more of that. But like, we don't want more of one thing. We want a variety. We want to hear just because I want to hear this one voice, doesn't mean I don't also want to hear a man's voice.

00:34:21:11 - 00:34:50:09

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, like, but I was just looking at my lists. So for things I read in my early twenties, there were a lot more men names there, like, Joseph Delaney has the Great Rangers or is it Ranger? No, that's John Flanagan does Ranger's Apprentice. Joseph Delaney does like, the Spooks Apprentice. So those are like really awesome series for boys. But that again, that's like 15 years ago and like I was looking I see Herb Brennan in there. Like, I don't see those big names currently.

00:34:50:16 - 00:35:11:16

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah, I was, one of my favorite authors is Neil Gaiman, but I wasn't sure if his books would be a good transition book because a lot of them do have very intense subject matter that does give a more adult vibe. Although he does have several middle grade books like The Graveyard Book and Coraline, Stardust might give more of a YA vibe, but he's one of my favorite authors of all time.

00:35:12:03 - 00:35:15:06

Sara

**[SARA]** I was going to say Stardust, or maybe, maybe Neverwhere.

00:35:15:10 - 00:35:18:06

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, Neverwhere or even, what about Anansi Boys?

00:35:18:16 - 00:35:24:09

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Oh, yeah, Anansi Boys. Maybe, or his even his, his Sandman comics as well, I think are very accessible.

00:35;24;13 - 00:35;36;10

Sara

**[SARA]** As we talk about it, I think, of a lot of main male characters and authors in fantasy that are on the shelf in the adult section, but not so much in the YA section. So that's definitely something to, I guess, be aware of.

00:35;36;26 - 00:35;54;26

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** But a good transitional male author is Brandon Sanderson. I love his YA books. He does science fiction and fantasy and then his high fantasy series are, right now I'm in the middle of the Way of Kings, and it's just some of the best fantasy I've read since I've read like, Game of Thrones, like 15 years ago. And it's like phenomenal.

00:35;55;05 - 00:35;59;22

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** And it's going to possibly make me finish The Wheel of Time, which I have not.

00:36;00;05 - 00:36;05;11

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah, I noticed we've been ordering more copies of The Wheel of Time since the show came out, which is exciting.

00:36;05;26 - 00:36;12;27

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** I've been watching it a little bit. I like the look of it. It looks really good, but it's only okay, so hopefully it gets better.

00:36;12;29 - 00:36;34;09

Sara

**[SARA]** And Brandon definitely has a very interesting magic system. Definitely. I think sets the mold for a hard magic system where there's rules and regulations to everything. While, I think a lot more of the time what you see in YA is more of a soft magic system where it's kind of you're making it up as you go along.

00:36;34;11 - 00:36;35;14

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** That's really interesting.

00:36;35;23 - 00:36;54;24

Sara

**[SARA]** And I think a lot of times in like adult fantasy, there'll be more, not always, but they'll be more common. You'll see a hard magic system where it's more like that there's a magic that the magic is very scienced, almost in a way, where there has to be certain rules, regulations, interactions, etc..

00:36;54;24 - 00:37;21;13

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, yeah. That's how like mist born was. It's like you can deal with all these different elements, but like these people can do specifically this and this and this and this. Then the world is already there. It's not like we're experienced, like a lot of YA we're experiencing the the world along with the character. Like we experience Hogwarts for the first time with Harry Potter, but like a lot of adult series, you're just meant to like, you're like thrown in and like the character knows about it. The character knows how it works. You're not, like, learning about it. You have to, like, kind of learn it by osmosis.

00:37;21;27 - 00:37;32;06

Sara

**[SARA]** But you have to, you know, to pick up through context. And I think that also makes it like a little bit more challenging to get immersed in the world with adults, you have to say, because that isn't explained to you so much.

00:37;32;15 - 00:37;51;26

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I have a couple of more transition recommendations. I have *The Library of the Unwritten* by AJ Hackwith, who I think might be nonbinary, but I'm not certain. And then *Among Others*, by Joe Walton, which is kind of again about fairies, and it's set up boarding school in England. And so that one is really exciting. I got I.

00:37;51;26 - 00:37;54;01

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Haven't read that in so long. I forgot about that book.

00:37;54;06 - 00:38;10;05

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah. And anything by Gail Carriger, she does paranormal steampunk fantasy set in Victorian London. It's incredibly diverse. We have lots of LGBTQ wrap. It's very again like it's an adult book, but the energy is very fun, and...

00:38;10;07 - 00:38;11;17

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, I was going to say that's really light like...

00:38;11;19 - 00:38;19;07

Summer

**[SUMMER]** And they're like, they're like beating people up with their parasols and they're riding air ballons and there's werewolves like running through London and it's amazing.

00:38;20;04 - 00:38;29;23

Sara

**[SARA]** That sounds like fun. And actually a book that I have read with a male main character recently, I read, this past year, I think it came out, Witch King.

00:38;29;23 - 00:38;31;16

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Oh yeah, I wanted to read it!

00:38;31;16 - 00:38;45;02

Sara

**[SARA]** Yes, so I did. I can't say I love, love, loved it, but it was fun and it was different. And that did have a guy main character. I don't know who wrote it, but.

00:38;45;03 - 00:38;49;04

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah, was that a transgender main character as well?

00:38;49;07 - 00:38;50;02

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** I think so. Yes.

00:38;50;02 - 00:39;00;10

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah, I'm reading a book with a transgender vampire librarian and it's oh, it's an adult book. It's called Undead Archives, I think, oh no, Undead Collections.

00:39;00;18 - 00:39;03;07

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** That sounds great. Anything with a librarian, as we say.

00:39;03;15 - 00:39;25;07

Sara

**[SARA]** So instead of just looking to read the adult fantasy, if somebody was looking to just get into YA fantasy at all, where would you recommend that they start? I would say definitely to stay away from the meatier series because I think of those can be a little intimidating when you're like, read this and oh, if you read this, you're kind of obligated to read the next five ones.

00:39;25;22 - 00:39;35;10

Summer

**[SUMMER]** *Maybe go for a standalone, maybe go for a standalone instead. Like Holly Black's Darker, The Darkest Part of the Forest is a standalone, but it's set in her overall world, so if you like it...*

00;39;35;10 - 00;39;37;05

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *Like her, her reading, yeah.*

00;39;37;13 - 00;39;37;27

Summer

**[SUMMER]** *You can go ahead, but you don't...*

00;39;37;27 - 00;39;56;24

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *My go to for young girls that want to get into it is I always give them Cinder, the first Lunar Chronicles book because I think it can it kind of like you can if you don't read the rest of it. I guess it's a little sad, but you can kind of just read the one and I'm like, If you like it, there's more, you know?*

00;39;57;13 - 00;40;02;12

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** *It's a really good, fun, awesome, romantic book for younger people.*

00;40;02;21 - 00;40;25;04

Sara

**[SARA]** *A standalone I really liked recently was, not super recently, but The Gilded Ones, by Namina Forna. I like that because it read very fast paced and almost felt like as I was reading it, that I was like watching a movie. So I think that that was something that was pretty easy to get into and there wasn't too many complicated concepts in it as regarding Magic.*

00;40;25;08 - 00;40;51;20

Summer

**[SUMMER]** *A book, I literally just finished was Elatsoe by Darcie Little Badger, and that is a paranormal fantasy mystery. It's about this girl who she's indigenous as she's Apache, I believe, and her family has this power to connect with the dead, mostly through just spirits of animals, because ghost spirits are too dangerous and her cousin passes away.*

00;40;51;20 - 00;41;15;09

Summer

**[SUMMER]** *But she thinks it's under mysterious circumstances. And so she's trying to solve this murder with her friends in this town. And it's really like detail, insight into grief. And you learn a lot about the practices of about indigenous people as well as it's a, like I said, a world where everything's the same, but it's kind of different because paranormal creatures exist in this world and everyone's kind of just aware of it.*

00;41;15;25 - 00;41;20;12

Summer

**[SUMMER]** But, it's chill. And that was really a standalone, as far as I would know.

00;41;20;22 - 00;41;36;29

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** So I was going to say, like, if you're I think it really depends on your collection. If we're talking about like as librarians, what do we recommend to people? Like, I have to know what I have here. And so often there's I have like, oh, I have the second book in the series or like, but I can request them like so it's really hard.

00;41;37;08 - 00;41;46;10

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** So that's why I think my go to is usually Cinder because it's always there or like The Rangers Apprentice, I'm like, here, or like just something that I always have in my branch.

00;41;46;14 - 00;41;52;12

Sara

**[SARA]** It's something that, you know, is good too. So and also you have to take the person into consideration and what they're into in mind.

00;41;52;17 - 00;41;54;16

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Twilight's coming back into popularity.

00;41;54;26 - 00;42;03;05

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Yeah, it keeps coming around again. Yeah. I mean, cheesy love story with vampires. I loved that when I first read it. I can't lying. Like.

00;42;03;25 - 00;42;21;05

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I kind of think of Twilight as almost a cult classic now, especially with the amount of, like, memes about it and the fact that most people who read it when they were middle school and high school are now adults. So they kind of look at it with nostalgia glasses. I think all the movies are on Hulu now. I just saw.

00;42;21;18 - 00;42;23;05

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Are they on Hulu now? They were on Netflix.

00;42;23;06 - 00;42;27;22

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Yeah, I just saw them on Hulu, though, I do not like the new covers of the Twilight books they just put out.

00;42;27;28 - 00;42;31;11

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Oh well I hate it when they put the the movie on it. I like like the...

00;42;31;11 - 00;42;37;04

Summer

**[SUMMER]** No, this they basically did the same thing but they made the font a lot bigger and it looks awkward.

00;42;37;17 - 00;42;38;05

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Now that's weird.

00;42;38;15 - 00;42;43;04

Summer

**[SUMMER]** I don't know why they did that, but yeah. Any last comments? Questions?

00;42;43;04 - 00;43;02;24

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** Can I just do one more shout out to like one of my books I was as I was going through looking for a like standalone I would recommend. So it's by Sabaa Tahir, I think that's how we say her name. It's the series of four books and I found that out as I was finishing up the third book. And I'm like, again, I'm like, This is not wrapping up.

00;43;02;24 - 00;43;03;14

Summer

**[SUMMER]** Is it Shatter Me?

00;43;04;06 - 00;43;22;21

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** No, it's called *An Ember in the Ashes*. That's the name of the first book and that's the name of the series. And it's high fantasy. It's in this magic, It's almost, it's almost like Roman times where they're like warriors and like it's there's just a lot going on. And the characters are fantastic,, and, like, I cry the whole, the whole book, every single book.

00;43;22;21 - 00;43;29;26

Coleen

**[COLLEEN]** There's four books I cried the whole time. And all of them, it's like heartbreaking. But it's one of my favorite fantasy, like books series that I've ever read.

00;43;30;02 - 00;43;46;18

Sara

**[SARA]** Thank you for joining us today. Be sure to check out the Ocean County Library's website for more podcasts and events on our website calendar of events page. All titles mentioned in today's episode can be found in the Ocean County Library free with your library card until next time, happy reading.