



## Waves of YA, Ep 20, This Book Slaps

### ***Transcript:***

00;00;06;23 - 00;00;21;03

Cecilia

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

00;00;21;11 - 00;00;25;22

Summer

[SUMMER] Summer, I'm the Teen librarian at the Long Beach Island Library.

00;00;25;22 - 00;00;29;06

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And I'm Lindsey. I'm the teen librarian at the Brick Branch.

00;00;29;20 - 00;00;49;00

Cecilia

[CECILIA] So in today's episode, we will be focused on books that slap. We can't stop talking about these amazing titles. We'll share what makes a good book for us and what titles we love. This would be very interesting because we're just talking about books that we love and probably you won't be able to get us to shut up about.

00;00;50;04 - 00;00;51;15

Summer

[SUMMER] Our favorite thing to do.

00;00;51;22 - 00;00;59;02

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yes. The first question we have is what makes you obsessed with your favorite YA books?

00;00;59;21 - 00;01;04;03

Summer

[SUMMER] Are we talking like specific titles that we're obsessed with? I just asked...

00;01;04;03 - 00;01;10;12

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, the qualities that make you be like, I can't put this down.

00;01;10;12 - 00;01;11;27

Summer

[SUMMER] Hmm.

00;01;11;27 - 00;01;14;02

Cecilia

[CECILIA] You'll pry this book out of my cold, dead hands.

00;01;14;13 - 00;01;29;05

Summer

[SUMMER] I think, well, I really like when there's a good romance in it, because I'm a romance reader in general, YA and otherwise. And I read romance novels really quickly, so if there's a good romance in a YA novel, I'll be, I won't put it down

00;01;29;05 - 00;01;54;10

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, I would say not even for me, for just romance, I think the relationships between whatever characters there are, have to be pretty strong and interesting and not like these random people coming in and out for whatever purpose. But yeah, I think relationships in general for me is definitely the number one.

00;01;54;10 - 00;02;11;11

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I think for me, there has to be some kind of reason why I'm going to keep reading this book, like whether it's, oh, I want to know about her back story or I want to know if they get together or who killed this person or what, why is this happening or something like that.

00;02;11;24 - 00;02;47;00

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, I think, um, this just reminded me of a conversation I had about romance novels, but I think it leads, it's applicable to the idea of the relationships as a driving force in the book, I was talking about why I love romance novels with one of my friends and someone we knew had said they didn't like them because in their opinion, nothing really happens. And, I'm using air quotes, and, um, and my response, and our response was like, well, a lot does happen, but it's not structural plot, it's emotional plot.

00;02;47;08 - 00;02;47;22

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Mm hmm.

00;02;47;24 - 00;03;00;02

Summer

[SUMMER] All the plot happens in the development of the characters relationships, and that can be romantic or platonic. So, I think that's like, emotional plot is really big in YA.

00;03;00;14 - 00;03;17;28

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yes, definitely. I think, well, I think it depends on the genre, but I think a lot of YA can be very character driven over plot. But then there are genres that I don't read that I, I think are probably more apply at being plot driven.

00;03;17;28 - 00;03;19;06

Summer

[SUMMER] Maybe, like, dystopian.

00;03;19;14 - 00;03;21;07

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, exactly.

00;03;21;17 - 00;03;24;06

Summer

[SUMMER] I don't really read dystopian because it makes me too stressed out.

00;03;25;25 - 00;03;32;15

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I read a little bit of it, but not too much. I also think maybe, like, sci-fi stuff is probably a lot to do with the plot.

00;03;32;22 - 00;03;33;05

Summer

[SUMMER] Mm hmm.

00;03;33;26 - 00;03;37;09

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] But I definitely prefer character driven 100%.

00;03;37;23 - 00;03;46;25

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Mm hmm. I thought that was the case for me, but I'm looking at, like, all the titles I wrote down, and 90% of them are plot driven.

00;03;48;19 - 00;03;59;25

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, mine, some are, too, but there's also really good characters and character development in the ones I have chosen too, so, I don't know.

00;04;00;08 - 00;04;11;20

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, I feel like it's both, because I also feel like some of the books I really like, there is a lot of plot, but it's like the plot is just the mode of transportation for the character development.

00;04;11;28 - 00;04;14;13

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Hmm, it's true.

00;04;14;25 - 00;04;43;09

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, like one of my favorite YA series is, well, I'll read anything that Holly Black writes but the Cruel Prince series I really love and a lot happens in those books plot-wise, but I feel like it's all centered around the main character's development. Like, Jude, who she is at the beginning, how she gets to the end, and a lot of stuff happens, but it's like the core of it is her relationships with other people in the book and her development as a person.

00;04;43;09 - 00;04;48;20

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Especially throughout like a series like that, too, because you can go from like, book one, to like, book what?...

00;04;50;05 - 00;04;54;06

Summer

[SUMMER] There's four, there's three, and then the fourth one's like a fluffy novella.

00;04;54;29 - 00;04;56;18

Cecilia

[CECILIA] And I think there's another one coming out, right?

00;04;56;26 - 00;05;12;09

Summer

[SUMMER] Yes, it's The Stolen Heir, it's coming out in January, and I really want to try to go to, she's, Holly Black is doing a talk and signing at the Barnes Noble in Union Square in New York, and I really want to go, but it's also going to be virtual, so if you can't, if I can't go, I could do a virtual.

00;05;12;09 - 00;05;14;15

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Field trip!

00;05;14;15 - 00;05;15;09

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] There's a plug.

00;05;16;13 - 00;05;23;00

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, sorry, I'm not sponsored. Not sponsored by Holly Black. I'm just really excited about The Stolen Heir.

00;05;23;23 - 00;05;27;27

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I feel like we all are sponsored by Holly Black.

00;05;27;28 - 00;05;35;10

Summer

[SUMMER] The Stolen Heir is a character that's, like, a young child in Cruel Prince, is the main character in The Stolen Heir, so it's a continuation.

00;05;36;25 - 00;05;37;01

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, like a spinoff.

00;05;37;10 - 00;05;41;14

Summer

[SUMMER] Holly Black is from the area, she's from like, Monmouth, Ocean County.

00;05;41;18 - 00;05;42;11

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I forget which.

00;05;42;19 - 00;05;43;26

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I have never read her.

00;05;44;11 - 00;05;46;16

Summer

[SUMMER] You must, simply, you must.

00;05;46;27 - 00;05;50;16

Cecilia

[CECILIA] She is really good. That was like, me getting into YA.

00;05;50;28 - 00;05;58;21

Summer

[SUMMER] I read The Spiderwick Chronicles first, which is her and Tony DiTerlizzi. Holly Black is, like, the queen of faery. I love everything she writes.

00;05;59;05 - 00;06;01;08

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Have you read her White Cat series?

00;06;01;08 - 00;06;07;28

Summer

[SUMMER] I have not. That's, like, that, and The Coldest Girl in Coldtown, are, like, the only ones by her I haven't read, and Coldest is on my shelf.

00;06;08;04 - 00;06;18;23

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] That one I've heard of, The Coldest Girl in Coldtown. And I think, I forget what author I like that loves it, like raves about it. But that was the only one I think I ever looked into but never read.

00;06;19;12 - 00;06;25;06

Summer

[SUMMER] If you want to just try out one of her books but you don't want to commit to a series, you should read The Darkest Part of the Forest.

00;06;25;16 - 00;06;26;13

Cecilia

[CECILIA] That's s a really good one.

00;06;26;18 - 00;06;31;26

Summer

[SUMMER] Because it takes place in the world, her larger world of fairy, that's all connected, but it's stand-alone.

00;06;32;24 - 00;06;34;10

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I'm not good at series so that would help.

00;06;34;25 - 00;06;43;02

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I remember that one was like really trippy because you were like figuring things out as the characters were, you're like, Oh my gosh, that's happening? Like...

00;06;43;05 - 00;06;55;19

Summer

[SUMMER] Want to know something cute? I read it and then I told my younger sibling to read it and they did a piece of art for it. And then Holly Black liked it on Instagram and they were like, this is the best day of my life.

00;06;55;19 - 00;06;58;27

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Like a famous, like, fan art. Yeah.

00;06;59;08 - 00;07;02;21

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, that's a good Holly Black gateway. Yeah, yeah.

00;07;03;17 - 00;07;06;14

Summer

[SUMMER] If you don't want to commit to a series, *The Darkest Part of the Forest*.

00;07;06;23 - 00;07;09;14

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Okay. Okay. I wrote it down.

00;07;11;03 - 00;07;11;14

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Good.

00;07;13;04 - 00;07;22;13

Summer

[SUMMER] My next question is, what titles, in your opinion, are your must reads? Like, what's the first thing you recommend to somebody who wants to read a YA book?

00;07;22;26 - 00;07;24;19

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I always recommend Jason Reynolds.

00;07;25;04 - 00;07;25;26

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Oh, yeah.

00;07;26;03 - 00;07;33;08

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Especially, *Long Way Down*, because I think, because it's written in verse, it's just accessible.

00;07;33;18 - 00;07;36;08

Summer

[SUMMER] I feel really dumb, I don't know who that is.

00;07;36;18 - 00;07;37;13

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Jason Reynolds?

00;07;37;14 - 00;07;38;23

Summer

[SUMMER] I don't, I've never heard...

00;07;38;25 - 00;07;39;02

Cecilia

[CECILIA] He's a YA author.

00;07;39;02 - 00;07;42;13

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Well, you have to put that on your list.

00;07;42;27 - 00;07;45;06

Summer

[SUMMER] Is it, well, what's the genre?

00;07;45;06 - 00;07;46;04

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] It's realistic.

00;07;46;04 - 00;07;46;15

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, realistic.

00;07;47;09 - 00;07;50;02

Summer

[SUMMER] Ok, I won't, I won't read it, then.

00;07;50;02 - 00;07;52;13

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] But you should, he's a very important writer.

00;07;52;13 - 00;07;55;24

Summer

[SUMMER] No, I'm sure he is. I just do not read realistic fiction.

00;07;56;18 - 00;07;57;08

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] But you should.



00;07;58;01 - 00;08;00;07

Cecilia

[CECILIA] He's got a couple of poetry books, too.

00;08;00;14 - 00;08;03;19

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] You should read Long Way Down, because it's written in verse.

00;08;03;19 - 00;08;04;04

Summer

[SUMMER] Okay.

00;08;04;04 - 00;08;07;06

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] It'll take you a very quick time to read. It's very impactful.

00;08;07;18 - 00;08;09;17

Summer

[SUMMER] Okay, I will, I will make note.

00;08;09;17 - 00;08;24;24

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] That's always one I suggest, because, you know, it's hard, especially when they don't know what they want to read, or they don't like to read, I always push novels in verse because I feel like they're like, Oh, look, there's no words on the page, okay, I can read that.

00;08;26;09 - 00;08;55;13

Summer

[SUMMER] And it's also a good gateway to poetry because I feel like poetry is another thing that's, like, super scary. Yeah. My go to is probably, well, I said Holly Black, but, but I've already talked about her, is Laini Taylor, who has the Daughter of Smoke & Bone trilogy that I think she, the first one came out in, like, 2005. or I, no, 2005, I'm thinking of Twilight. Why am I doing that? I think it was more like. 2012, or something, that the first one came out.

00;08;55;26 - 00;08;58;08

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, but like early 2010's.

00;08;58;20 - 00;09;12;27

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah. Like at least 2010's, yeah. And then she also has the Strange the Dreamer duology, which came out in 2019 and she has a couple of books prior to the Daughter of Smoke & Bone trilogy, but that was, like, her first, like, hit.

00;09;13;11 - 00;09;16;17

Cecilia

[CECILIA] 2011. Yeah, I want to be technical.

00;09;17;06 - 00;09;27;04

Summer

[SUMMER] And I always say, as, like, to be funny, you know that a lot of books are titled the The Blank of Blank and Blank. I think, she did it, she was, like, one of the first people to do it.

00;09;27;04 - 00;09;28;05

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Pioneer.

00;09;28;05 - 00;10;11;13

Summer

[SUMMER] Yes. Because that was like before the title sequence became popular, the Daughter of Smoke & Bone. I just say that she's a fantasy writer, but her use of language is very unique. I think it's unlike anything I've ever read before. Her wording is very lyrical and kind of gives you this sense of being in a fairy tale. And her Daughter of Smoke & Bone trilogy is set both in our world and in a fantasy world, like, you go in-between. And then, Strange the Dreamer is set fully in a fantasy world and they're both incredibly good, and the characters and their relationships with each other, so that, and there's like a hint of romance, it's not like the main plot, but there's always some kind of love story in a Laini Taylor book. She's just amazing, and I love her in every sense of the word.

00;10;12;21 - 00;10;14;00

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Another one I haven't read.

00;10;14;24 - 00;10;28;13

Summer

[SUMMER] And I haven't, like, met anyone else except for our friend, Colleen, from Brick, she has read her, but she's like the only other person that I know who's read her.

00;10;28;13 - 00;10;30;06

Cecilia

[CECILIA] They're thick books.

00;10;30;06 - 00;10;33;01

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, that's my problem with, like, a lot of authors.

00;10;33;01 - 00;10;37;21

Summer

[SUMMER] But you read them so quick, like, you know, the Keepers of the Lost City?

00;10;37;21 - 00;10;38;01

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Lost City.

00;10;38;10 - 00;10;43;22

Summer

[SUMMER] They're so chunky, but these kids read them in, like, a day because they're so good. It's like that.

00;10;43;28 - 00;10;54;27

Cecilia

[CECILIA] It's true, it's true. It's just like, sometimes it's intimidating. You're like, this, speaking of books that slap, this book will slap me in the face and I'll go unconscious!

00;10;54;27 - 00;10;56;29

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Like, it's a big time suck, too.

00;10;58;16 - 00;11;17;05

Summer

[SUMMER] So, like, Daughter of Smoke & Bone, the premise, also her premise is so interesting. It's this girl, her name is Karou, and she's an art student in Prague, first of all, amazing setting. She finds out she was raised by this group of like magical beings called chimaera who are kind of like monsters, and she doesn't know where they come from.

00;11;17;05 - 00;11;34;05

Summer

[SUMMER] And she has a lot of secrets about her past, but her, like, adopted father can grant wishes. And she goes on these magical errands around the world from him, where she's always acquiring teeth and she gives him the teeth, but she doesn't know what he uses them for other than the fact that he can give you, give wishes.

00;11;34;24 - 00;11;52;14

Summer

[SUMMER] And then this thing happens where all blank hits the fan and she has to figure out the secrets of her past. And she runs into this angel or not like a heavenly angel. Like an angel from another dimension and she doesn't know what's up with him. And it's a whole thing and it's so good.

00;11;53;20 - 00;12;01;16

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I think I did start reading it at one point and then, like most things, I ran out of time. This is sounding vaguely familiar.

00;12;01;16 - 00;12;07;28

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I quit a lot of books, especially lately. I'm having trouble getting into anything.

00;12;07;28 - 00;12;27;02

Summer

[SUMMER] And, Strange the Dreamer is this, is, the main character is a librarian, first of all, so there's one thing for me. I'll always read a book if there's a librarian in it. One of the little standing points is like he had his nose broken by a falling book of fairy tales when he was younger. And his name is Laszlo Strange.

00;12;27;02 - 00;12;44;01

Summer

[SUMMER] And he goes on this journey with this group of people to find this lost city that no one ever has believed is real. But it is real. And they're trying to free it from the shadow of the past where they had these gods ruling over them. And then they killed the gods.

00;12;44;12 - 00;12;56;28

Summer

[SUMMER] But, there's still this, like, looming shadow of their presence over the city, they're trying to help them free themselves from. They're still magical, though they're so magical and fun, even though they sound super intimidating from the way I'm describing them.

00;12;57;16 - 00;13;10;18

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I always read anything that Elizabeth Acevedo or Tiffany D. Jackson writes. The one of the last ones I read was the Weight of Blood, which was so amazing,

00;13;10;18 - 00;13;12;03

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Really?!

00;13;12;03 - 00;13;14;04

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, was it not your spiel?

00;13;14;04 - 00;13;14;24

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I didn't read it.

00;13;14;24 - 00;13;15;10

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Oh, okay.

00;13;15;10 - 00;13;16;10

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Did you read White Smoke?

00;13;16;16 - 00;13;17;04

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I did.

00;13;17;18 - 00;13;18;23

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Did you like that one?

00;13;18;23 - 00;13;20;03

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I did.

00;13;20;03 - 00;13;29;16

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Because I think I read, like, mixed about White Smoke, so I was like, eh, I'm not going to read it, and I'm not going to care about the other one either.

00;13;29;16 - 00;13;29;20

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Sounds familiar.

00;13;29;20 - 00;13;55;07

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And because with Tiffany Jackson, I really like a lot of her other books, but when I was reading Monday's Not Coming, and I'm pretty sure I've said this already on a podcast, at some point, it felt a little gimmicky and repetitive from like what happens in her other books, and I don't know the order of how she wrote them, so I kind of got turned off a little and was like, Uh, but if you say it was great, I will read it.

00;13;55;12 - 00;14;00;21

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I think, definitely, horror is her genre because these last two ones have been...

00;14;01;03 - 00;14;05;18

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Which makes sense, because some of the stuff that are in...

00;14;05;22 - 00;14;06;14

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, some of the...

00;14;06;14 - 00;14;06;15

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] her other...

00;14;06;20 - 00;14;19;05

Cecilia

[CECILIA] It was like light horror, heavy mystery, but these are, like, just like full, full on, like, White Smoke is like a haunted house story, and The Weight of Blood has multiple narrators.

00;14;19;17 - 00;14;20;16

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Oh, that's even better.

00;14;20;22 - 00;14;23;14

Cecilia

[CECILIA] And, it also involves a podcast.

00;14;23;14 - 00;14;23;27

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Oh, that's even better!

00;14;24;06 - 00;14;30;05

Cecilia

[CECILIA] It is, um, it is a retelling of Stephen King's Carrie

00;14;30;05 - 00;14;30;29

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] What?!

00;14;30;29 - 00;14;32;03

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yes.

00;14;32;03 - 00;14;33;01

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Oh, cool.

00;14;33;01 - 00;15;02;20

Cecilia

[CECILIA] But, modern times, and with a biracial protagonist in a town that is currently in the process of having their first integrated prom. And, this is no spoiler because it happens at the beginning of the

story, the entire town, like in Carrie, is pretty much all dead, kind of like, I think, like, 200 people die during this prom night massacre and if you know the...

00;15;03;11 - 00;15;04;28

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Oh, I'm looking at the cover and it's beautiful.

00;15;04;28 - 00;15;14;21

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yes. And if you know the story of Carrie, you pretty much know what happens, but she makes it so much more interesting with...

00;15;14;21 - 00;15;17;22

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Well, we needed an updated version. so...

00;15;17;22 - 00;15;32;06

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yes, so she has the podcasting element in there, so you're listening to these two podcasters, one's like a skeptic, and one's like, convinced that this was, something supernatural is afoot., so they're investigating and interviewing people.

00;15;32;06 - 00;15;32;29

Summer

[SUMMER] That sounds like Sadie.

00;15;34;01 - 00;15;37;05

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, yeah. It's very reminiscent of Sadie.

00;15;37;05 - 00;15;38;03

Summer

[SUMMER] What's this called again?

00;15;38;03 - 00;15;39;13

Cecilia

[CECILIA] It's called The Weight of Blood.

00;15;39;14 - 00;15;42;26

Summer

[SUMMER] Okay, cool. Because I know a lot of people like Sadie and I will recommend this as a dupe.

00;15;42;26 - 00;16;19;29

Cecilia

[CECILIA] So it goes between the podcasts and, like, articles and stuff. The main character the Carrie-esque character whose name is Maddie Washington, and then two other people in the school who are relevant to this story. And in all Tiffany D. Jackson books there's a twist of some kind, and, I think, this is a twist I actually didn't see coming, that happens in the book. Yeah. So it kind of follows like the same beats and plot points of Carrie, but like more modernized. I love it. And it takes place in 2014.

00;16;20;01 - 00;16;25;01

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I'm very excited, because I actually haven't felt excited about a book in a while, so.

00;16;25;01 - 00;16;28;28

Cecilia

[CECILIA] That was, like, I could not put that down.

00;16;29;20 - 00;16;30;10

Summer

[SUMMER] You In a book slump, Lindsey?

00;16;30;10 - 00;16;34;03

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I am. I am in a very big slump.

00;16;34;11 - 00;16;35;04

Summer

[SUMMER] Oh, no.

00;16;35;04 - 00;16;38;29

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I'm reading little books here and there, like, toilet books, I call them.

00;16;39;01 - 00;16;43;26

Summer

[SUMMER] When I'm in when I'm in a book slump, I like to reread one of my favorite books.

00;16;43;26 - 00;16;45;26

Lindsey

{LINDSEY} I should do that, right?

00;16;46;04 - 00;16;49;16

Summer

[SUMMER] Because it is still because it still counts as reading.

00;16;49;16 - 00;16;55;00

Lindsey



[LINDSEY] Because, usually, when this happens, I'll at least be reading audio. But right now I can't, I'm, it's nothing.

00;16;55;11 - 00;17;01;24

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, I would reread, like, one of your absolute favorite books because then, it'll give you, like, the satisfaction of reading, but it's familiar and comforting.

00;17;02;04 - 00;17;04;18

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah. Especially like a favorite author or something.

00;17;05;02 - 00;17;08;17

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, I picked up a middle grade yesterday because it was so small.

00;17;08;26 - 00;17;13;23

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, those are, those are good to kind of, like, lure you back in.

00;17;15;00 - 00;17;20;15

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I did reread a graphic novel that I previously read just because the second one's out, so.

00;17;20;15 - 00;17;21;22

Cecilia

[CECILIA] what's that one?

00;17;21;22 - 00;17;23;08

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Incredible Doom.

00;17;23;19 - 00;17;27;01

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Oh, wow, why does that sound familiar?

00;17;27;17 - 00;17;49;23

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] It's really cool. It's a graphic novel and I read it when it first came out, I want to say that was early this year or last year, it takes place in, like, the 90's, and it's, like, right where the Internet starts, three kids, all separate storylines, and then they kind of come together. But it's so great.

00;17;50;15 - 00;17;52;23

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Sounds very Stranger Things-esque.

00;17;52;23 - 00;17;56;11

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] A little bit, but not as sci-fi.

00;17;57;00 - 00;17;57;13

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Got you.

00;17;58;08 - 00;18;00;16

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Is it four kids? There may be four, I forget.

00;18;00;16 - 00;18;12;21

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] But, I just, I just read it yesterday and I don't remember, Summer, this is what I'm talking about. But it's really excellent and the second one's out, so, I wanted to refresh.

00;18;13;02 - 00;18;24;10

Summer

[SUMMER] I feel like I get this moment when I'm reading, like especially if I'm almost done with the book, where I, like, get so excited to finish it because then my brain is, like, once I finish it, I get to pick out the next one and I'm like, excited.

00;18;25;06 - 00;18;46;17

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I do that a lot. I speed right through the end to finish and then I miss a lot of stuff and I just want it to be over, not want it to be over, but I want to be done and move on. So what kind of reader are you? Do you like to read your favorite authors? Like do you have authors on auto borrow? Are you a mood reader? Do you read by genre?

00;18;46;17 - 00;19;03;13

Summer

[SUMMER] I'm definitely a mood reader. Like I try my best to like pick out a couple books from my many bookshelves and make like a tiny little pile of stuff I want to read. But I very rarely stick to it because I might be like, I really want to read this book, but then a week later, I'm like, no, I don't. Goodbye.

00;19;03;22 - 00;19;22;07

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I am so bad with that, I'll collect books, pile them up, I'm like, alright, I'm so excited, I'm going to read all of these books. And then I'm like, like, there's this one and then this one and then this one. And then by the time I'm ready to go back to the pile, I don't want to read any of them anymore. It's like when I have to wait too long for my holds.

00;19;23;00 - 00;19;24;05

Summer

[SUMMER] Oh, yeah.

00;19;24;05 - 00;19;25;22

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And then, when they're ready, I don't care anymore.

00;19;25;22 - 00;19;36;11

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah. And I might, like, want to read, I might pick up a book and say, okay, I'm going to read this one, and then, afterwards, I'm going to read this one. But then halfway through reading the book, something in the book will influence me to want to read a different book.

00;19;37;03 - 00;19;40;03

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yes. And I'm definitely a mood reader, too. I totally agree.

00;19;40;03 - 00;20;17;25

Summer

[SUMMER] And you have to, like, give yourself the freedom of that, because I'll start reading a book and I'll know consciously that I like it, but it's not the right time for me to read it. Like I just started reading Sarafina, by Rachel Hartman, and I liked it and I thought it was super interesting and a book that I think I will really enjoy, but I was just not reaching for it when I was ready to read, so, I was like, you know what, it's not, me and Sarafina, it's not our moment. Well, if she, but she will not be the one that got away. We will have our moment in the sun. Just not now.

00;20;17;25 - 00;20;21;09

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, I feel that way with way too many books.

00;20;21;16 - 00;20;35;11

Summer

[SUMMER] But, that was me with A Discovery of Witches. I tried to read it three times and could not get into it. And two years ago I read it and I was, like, oh, it clicked. I think it's because the book starts in the beginning of September and I started it in the beginning of September, so like...

00;20;35;11 - 00;20;37;24

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] If at first you don't succeed.

00;20;38;01 - 00;20;39;14

Summer

[SUMMER] The season was right.

00;20;40;01 - 00;20;45;24

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] All right. But, I do like authors, too. You know, if I have a favorite, I'll always look for that. What about you, Cecilia?

00;20;46;16 - 00;21;04;12

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, I think because we were talking about character driven, the more I think about it, I think if I don't care about a character, why am I going to care about this story? So it kind of has to, like lead me and make me fall in love with the character because I've read books where I'm like, I hate this character.

00;21;04;12 - 00;21;23;25

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I like, I want something bad to happen to this character. And sometimes that'll get me to read it to see what happens, if they get their comeuppance, or if anything happens to them. I'm looking at this list right now. Most of them I liked all the characters. Yeah. I'm usually like, I want to know what happens at the end.

00;21;23;25 - 00;21;41;25

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I want to see, like, if there is a journey that has gone on. There's genres that I will specifically look for, like romance or mystery or horror or, like, paranormal, supernatural. I don't think I'm really like a mood reader, more like, genre, and, like, character.

00;21;42;03 - 00;21;59;05

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I'm a little bit of everything, but definitely I think mood is the top because I'll be like, oh, I'm going to go home and read tonight, put on my fake fireplace on Netflix and, and it's dark outside now and it's cold. So what do I want to read that's going to be cozy?

00;21;59;07 - 00;22;14;12

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, this is not a YA book, but I think it's, like it could be, because there's nothing in it that's so adult that a teenager couldn't read it, it's *The Starless Sea*, by Erin Morgenstern, because that is a really good winter book, she considers it her winter book.

00;22;14;20 - 00;22;16;28

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Okay. You have recommended it to me before.

00;22;16;29 - 00;22;28;28

Summer

[SUMMER] It's so good. I read it several times. I describe her as an author, as she writes in a very sensory way. The smell, the feeling, it's very atmospheric and you can, like, all your senses are heightened.

00;22;28;28 - 00;22;31;00

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I like that. Yeah.

00;22;31;00 - 00;22;34;11

Summer

[SUMMER] And, it's also about like an underground labyrinth of books as well, so...

00;22;34;13 - 00;22;39;06

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I just need to sit down and open a book.

00;22;39;10 - 00;22;43;10

Summer

[SUMMER] It's a big book, but don't let that discourage you.

00;22;43;10 - 00;22;49;07

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Any book. I need to just do it. I used to read every single morning with coffee and now I'm just...

00;22;49;19 - 00;23;16;17

Summer

[SUMMER] I love Booktalk and bookstagram as much as the next person, and I think it's a wonderful way to have a reading community, but I also think it brings with it a sort of pressure to always learn, to always be reading, and to read a certain amount. Whereas, I kind of miss the feeling of, when I was in middle school or below and I would, and I would just read because I wanted to. Also, that I never read book reviews when I was young, obviously, so, so I would...

00;23;16;17 - 00;23;17;23

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] You just went in blind.

00;23;17;23 - 00;23;19;17

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah. And I kind of miss that.

00;23;20;04 - 00;23;21;06

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I miss that, too.

00;23;21;06 - 00;23;28;15

Summer

[SUMMER] And I've been trying to, like, recapture that, too, like, not read book reviews and just kind of go into it blind...

00;23;28;21 - 00;23;41;07

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] That's something, yeah, definitely influences me and I get mad because I'll be so excited for a book and then I go read the reviews and I'll be like, next. Or maybe leaning towards, like, a three or under star, and I'm, like, oh, but then I change my mind.

00;23;41;26 - 00;24;00;17

Summer

[SUMMER] But then I have to remember that books that I've loved, I've also seen get really, gotten really bad reviews, so it doesn't matter. My point is, I think that reading has become part of the hustle culture, in a way, and you have to make it more, like, switch the lens from something you have to do, to making it a self-care item, making it an indulgence almost.

00;24;01;25 - 00;24;02;27

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] It's true. I like that.

00;24;03;12 - 00;24;06;24

Summer

[SUMMER] I, yes. I'm so wise. So wise am I.

00;24;08;13 - 00;24;11;15

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] It is! Those, that's some wise, those are some wise words.

00;24;11;20 - 00;24;17;01

Summer

[SUMMER] Thank you. I told you my soul is old. It's an ancient soul.

00;24;17;15 - 00;24;24;29

Cecilia

[CECILIA] If it doesn't slap, will you quit? How long do you usually give a book to hit before you make a decision to just stop reading?

00;24;25;19 - 00;24;27;01

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Really depends on...

00;24;27;01 - 00;24;27;14

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah.

00;24;28;00 - 00;24;31;29

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, I've stopped books, like, halfway into them.

00;24;32;03 - 00;24;45;24

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I've given 100 pages and more and then been like, nah, I can't do this. Or, I'll get towards the end and just skim to the end because I hate it and I just want to know what's going to happen.

00;24;45;25 - 00;24;58;14

Summer

[SUMMER] I think if I'm halfway, I will finish it. It's not necessarily that I feel guilty, it's more just, like, I put so much time into the story, I need to, like, find out what happens.

00;24;58;14 - 00;25;02;11

Cecilia

[CECILIA] You get, like, angry. You're like, I don't want this to be a waste of time.

00;25;02;15 - 00;25;10;22

Summer

[SUMMER] But, I feel like that doesn't often happen, because most of the time, I will decide very early on, if I want to read it.

00;25;11;15 - 00;25;14;26

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, I think the earlier the better, definitely.

00;25;14;26 - 00;25;35;25

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Sometimes, my issue is, too, that it's not even that it's bad, or anything, I'm just not there, like, all the way, like, focused when I'm reading it. Whether it's listening or, like, physically reading. So, I'll start zoning and miss a lot and it's just too much to go back and reread. So I'll just give up.

00;25;36;19 - 00;25;45;00

Summer

[SUMMER] And that's why I get so confused when I read really negative book reviews, because I'm like, if you hated it so much, why did you finish it?

00;25;45;19 - 00;25;45;26

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah.

00;25;46;09 - 00;25;49;18

Summer

[SUMMER] You could have just put it down and read something you actually liked.

00;25;49;20 - 00;25;50;06

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah.

00;25;50;06 - 00;25;57;26

Summer

[SUMMER] Why are you mad? What do you prefer, a standalone, trilogy, or a long series, etc.?

00;25;58;05 - 00;25;59;22

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Standalone for sure, for me.

00;25;59;22 - 00;26;02;05

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah. I don't think I have time to commit to...

00;26;02;09 - 00;26;09;26

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] There's too many books and stories for me to engage in a 12, 15 book series that are doorstep. And I just, I'm sorry.

00;26;10;00 - 00;26;27;16

Summer

[SUMMER] I get really, I, I feel like I never got out of that childlike wonder of a series because I, you know, like, when you interact with middle grade readers, how excited they are about a series, I am still like that, I am still like that.

00;26;27;16 - 00;26;29;02

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I used to be like that.

00;26;29;28 - 00;26;43;17

Summer

[SUMMER] If I find an author and I realize they have a huge backlist, I'm like, amazing! This is amazing! Especially for romance novels. Again, not YA, but, but I love, I love a good series. I also love a duology.

00;26;44;05 - 00;26;45;02

Lindsey



[LINDSEY] I could do two.

00;26;45;14 - 00;27;01;18

Summer

[SUMMER] I feel like a duology is like a really good number. Another author that I'm really excited to recommend all the time, and she only has like two books out, but she's working on a third, is, I don't want to say this wrong, Hafsah Faizal, she wrote We Hunt the Flame.

00;27;02;02 - 00;27;03;03

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yes, yeah.

00;27;03;20 - 00;27;11;18

Summer

[SUMMER] A duology which I read last year and I loved so much. And on her Instagram she said she's writing another book and I'm really excited.

00;27;12;08 - 00;27;16;24

Cecilia

[CECILIA] That's one that's always on my list, but, again, there's, like, so many.

00;27;17;07 - 00;27;32;04

Summer

[SUMMER] I might buy it for my Dad for Christmas, I hope he doesn't listen to this, because I describe it as, like, it's a classic quest story, but it's set in a fantasy world inspired by ancient Arabia. And it's so good.

00;27;33;02 - 00;27;44;06

Summer

[SUMMER] But also, I even, most of the book takes place on a desert island, like an island, in which there is a desert. But I consider it a winter book in my brain because I read it last December.

00;27;44;28 - 00;27;51;11

Cecilia

[CECILIA] The cover of the, the first book, it has very wintery color scheme.

00;27;51;12 - 00;28;09;26

Summer

[SUMMER] And, I think her, like, home village is wintry, but most of the book takes place in a hot climate. And, also, it's a dual point of view, so you get, like, there's, like, a slight romance and it's not, like, the main thing, but it's there. But, you get the main guy and the main girl's perspectives, both of them, and I love a dual point of view.

00;28;10;03 - 00;28;16;03

Summer

[SUMMER] When there's just one point of view, you only get the one perspective, but when it's at least two, you get varying perspectives.

00;28;16;03 - 00;28;20;19

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I definitely agree and I think it, I don't know, it just makes it more dynamic and interesting.

00;28;21;09 - 00;28;21;18

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah.

00;28;22;02 - 00;28;23;26

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Overall, in every way.

00;28;24;00 - 00;28;48;09

Summer

[SUMMER] Especially because, and this is not a spoiler, in *We Hunt the Flame*, one of the characters is an assassin. And, if we just got the main girl's perspective of him being an assassin, we would think that he was just, like, evil. Until she learns he isn't. But from his perspective, you understand, like, why he's doing this and how he's been, kind of, forced to do this. And you understand his complexities of character, as well.

00;28;48;09 - 00;28;56;22

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, I'm looking at my list of books and trying to see, like, a lot of them have dual perspectives. So it's just more interesting that way.

00;28;57;29 - 00;29;05;02

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] It just is, yeah, it breaks it up. I feel like it could get drawn out or feel long if it's like the same person.

00;29;05;11 - 00;29;24;09

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah. And, like, sometimes you'll go back and see, like, a similar scene from that character's perspective or, like, the continuation of that scene and, like, the other person was feeling one way, especially like, in romances and it'll just be, like well, the guy is definitely not feeling this way, whether...

00;29;25;11 - 00;29;29;23

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] There are definitely books. I do like a lot that, you know, it's just one perspective, but...

00;29;29;23 - 00;29;44;17

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, now that I'm thinking about it, most of the books that are my favorites are dual perspectives. Another good duology is the Hazelwood Duology by Melissa Albert, I love that duology so much.

00;29;44;26 - 00;29;46;17

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] It's so pretty to look at. Yeah.

00;29;46;27 - 00;29;47;14

Summer

[SUMMER] Not dual...

00;29;47;15 - 00;29;49;15

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I see it all the time and I'm, like, it looks so nice.

00;29;49;18 - 00;29;54;04

Summer

[SUMMER] And the first one is not dual point of view, but the second one is.

00;29;54;04 - 00;30;06;19

Summer

[SUMMER] Which is interesting now that I'm thinking about it, I do like a fairy tale retelling, but more so than a fairy tale retelling. I like a book that has the feeling of a fairy tale without mirroring a specific one.

00;30;07;05 - 00;30;07;20

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Okay.

00;30;07;22 - 00;30;43;17

Summer

[SUMMER] Like, it has the feeling, like, I'm reading a book that's about the history of fairy tales, and it's, like, a literary criticism about fairy tales and how we perceive them as a culture. And they talk in depth about what makes a fairy tale. And more than anything, it's like this, they're so ingrained within our identity as a collective consciousness that we know a fairy tale when we're reading one. For example, there can be a story with a fairy in it, but that doesn't make it a fairy tale. And, so, I like books that have the feeling of a fairy tale without necessarily being a retelling of a specific one like Little Red Riding Hood or something.

00;30;44;00 - 00;30;50;06

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] This is not YA, but, it could be. Did you read Katherine Arden's Winternight trilogy?

00;30;51;24 - 00;30;53;26

Summer

[SUMMER] It's on my list. I actually have the first one...

00;30;53;26 - 00;30;58;09

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] That's, like, what you're describing is, like, that's what it's reminding me of.

00;30;58;10 - 00;31;14;19

Summer

[SUMMER] But that one, I do believe, is also inspired heavily by Russian fairy tales as well, which I, it's actually on my holds list. I think I had like a series of winter themed books set on a hold to activate today. And now I'm kind of regretting it because I know they're all going to come in for me at the same time.

00;31;14;19 - 00;31;27;14

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] At the same time, yeah. I read the first one and I just got the second one, so we'll see. But I really loved the first one and it definitely sounds magical and like fairy tales, like you're saying.

00;31;27;24 - 00;31;31;00

Summer

[SUMMER] Sorry if my little tangent was, like, extremely nerdy.

00;31;31;00 - 00;31;32;02

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] No, I love it.

00;31;32;15 - 00;31;40;20

Summer

[SUMMER] We have a question we missed. It was, does the cover of the book factor into if you like it or not, will you pick it up a lot more if it's pretty?

00;31;40;20 - 00;31;44;11

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yes, I, yeah, plain and simple.

00;31;44;12 - 00;31;49;15

Summer

[SUMMER] And I was just curious because I feel like the answer's always yes, like don't judge a book by its cover, but...

00;31;49;20 - 00;31;54;01

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] But we always judge books by its cover, 100%.

00;31;54;06 - 00;31;56;15

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, it's the first thing you see.

00;31;56;24 - 00;31;59;26

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Everyone does it. You get drawn, you're attracted to it.

00;31;59;26 - 00;32;04;22

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah. Are there any, is there any kind of book cover that you, like, don't like? That you hate?

00;32;04;22 - 00;32;05;27

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] But, you like the book?

00;32;06;13 - 00;32;22;03

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, like, maybe you do or you don't, but, like, a book cover, like, what are your book cover turn offs? They don't do this as much anymore, but I remember when I was younger, in YA, it was popular, when there's, like, real people on the cover, like a photograph, I'm like, no thanks.

00;32;22;03 - 00;32;24;08

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Like photographs, yeah, it's not too often, anymore.

00;32;24;08 - 00;32;27;21

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah. Now they're more, like, portraits or illustrated, yeah.

00;32;27;25 - 00;32;52;21

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, although with, um, again, this is not a YA title, like, but in the romance genre community there is a heavy leaning towards that very simple silhouette illustrated covers, which I don't like as much because I love, for example, I love historical romance and I am a huge fan of the cheesy, classic, historical romance covers.

00;32;53;08 - 00;33;16;04

Summer

[SUMMER] A lot of people think they're cheesy and they don't like them or they're embarrassing. I think they're cheesy and wonderful. And, I like that. That's, like, the classic, you can tell that it's going to be a

good, classic romance by the cover. But when it's, like, an illustrated, simple silhouette cover, I'm kind of like, is this going to be what I want, or not?

00;33;16;13 - 00;33;21;16

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I'm looking at my book list and I'm looking at, I think you guys both know the book, Fable.

00;33;22;08 - 00;33;23;14

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Oh, yes, yeah.

00;33;23;19 - 00;33;29;20

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Like, a photo like that, okay. That is esthetically pleasing.

00;33;30;00 - 00;33;34;20

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I think what turns me off is if it's a whole body.

00;33;34;26 - 00;33;50;03

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yes. Then I'm looking at Leah Johnson's Rise to the Sun and I hate it. I liked the book, and I can't even tell if it's a photograph or just a very well-drawn piece of art. But, I don't like it.

00;33;50;19 - 00;33;51;03

Summer

[SUMMER] Because I don't...

00;33;51;03 - 00;33;54;06

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Because I want to picture what they look like on my own.

00;33;54;18 - 00;34;37;17

Summer

[SUMMER] No, exactly, like, you know how Ali Hazelwood has been really popular lately, I read The Love Hypothesis for a book club I was in and I knew that it was based on a Star Wars fan fiction, which is fine, but the, the illustrations on the cover looked so much like the actors that I, I'm telling you, I took a sticky note and I put it over their faces because I didn't want to imagine them as the actors, because A, like I said, Lindsey, I like to imagine what they look like myself. And, B, it felt very invasive towards the actors. I felt like I was invading their privacy by imagining it as them.

00;34;38;06 - 00;34;39;05

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Did you like that book?

00;34;39;17 - 00;34;42;06

Summer

[SUMMER] I liked it. It wasn't my favorite, but I enjoyed it.

00;34;42;06 - 00;34;44;06

Cecilia

[CECILIA] It didn't slap.

00;34;44;06 - 00;34;56;25

Summer

[SUMMER] But also, it was a contemporary romance and I tend to like more of a genre romance, like fantasy sci-fi, historical. I don't bar myself from reading contemporary. It's just not always my favorite. Like it has to really have something.

00;34;57;15 - 00;35;02;08

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, I get you, I feel that. That's how I am with, like, fantasy.

00;35;02;11 - 00;35;07;17

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah. I feel like I'm that way with fantasy, too, it has to have like that something, like, umph.

00;35;09;02 - 00;35;20;16

Summer

[SUMMER] I always love fantasy novels in general, like, I'll read any I see, but that's how I was as a kid, too. So, like, I think it's, our read, our reading tastes, I feel, like, are cemented very young.

00;35;20;16 - 00;35;21;01

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Mmm.

00;35;21;23 - 00;35;25;23

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Well, like, I used to read a lot of fantasy when I was...

00;35;25;23 - 00;35;27;20

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I read so much slasher stuff.

00;35;27;29 - 00;35;28;15

Cecilia

[CECILIA] ...younger.

00:35;28;28 - 00:35;32;12

Summer

[SUMMER] Maybe I'm wrong, I could be wrong. I just read...

00:35;32;12 - 00:35;34;10

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And I liked more fantasy, too.

00:35;34;23 - 00:35;44;22

Summer

[SUMMER] I just feel, like, when I was young I loved, I read anything fantasy, anything fairy tale, anything magical, or with fairies, but, specifically, fairies. And I was, and I'm still doing that.

00:35;45;00 - 00:35;46;29

Cecilia

[CECILIA] That's what I read, and I read none of that, now.

00:35;46;29 - 00:35;50;03

Summer

[SUMMER] Why do you think that is? I'm curious.

00:35;50;03 - 00:35;56;05

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Maybe it's because I'm jaded, now. Now, I'm, like, my fantasy is, like, a healthy relationship.

00:35;56;29 - 00:35;59;01

Summer

[SUMMER] Well, then you should, well, then you should read...

00:35;59;01 - 00:36;00;12

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I'm just looking for people to relate to.

00:36;00;12 - 00:36;09;18

Summer

[SUMMER] Cecilia, Cecilia, if that's your if that's your version of fantasy, you just need to get really deep into romance novels. I have some recommendations for you, I'll email you later.

00:36;09;20 - 00:36;14;07

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yes. Yeah. I do want to get more into, like, romancy stuff.

00:36;14;17 - 00:36;22;17

Lindsey



[LINDSEY] Yes. Does anyone have, like, a real great book they read this year, since it's soon we're moving on to 2023.

00;36;22;17 - 00;36;50;18

Summer

[SUMMER] I, the two that I put on my the best books of 2020, were the new Melissa Albert book, Our Crooked Hearts, the author of The Hazelwood, which was good. I like that. I didn't like it as much as The Hazelwood, but that's hard to beat because I loved it so much. Our Crooked Hearts was really good, it's very witchy, dual point of view with the mom and the daughter, and, like, different timelines, which was really cool. And, I also read A Far Wilder Magic.

00;36;50;18 - 00;36;52;28

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Oh, I wanted to read that, was it good?

00;36;52;28 - 00;37;22;09

Summer

[SUMMER] It was so good. Again, it was, like, there was stuff happening, a lot of it was, like, it was a speculative history, where it's like 1950's-ish America, but, because they don't specify the year, I think. But it's as if, like, alchemy is a respected field that everyone knows exists and it's, like, it's just part of everyday life. And it's this girl who's a sharpshooter, very Annie Oakley, and this boy who's training to be an alchemist.

00;37;22;09 - 00;37;43;28

Summer

[SUMMER] But he's, like, been kicked out of every apprenticeship he's ever had. And they join together on this yearly hunt that this town has for this magical creature that you need to have, like, an alchemist and a sharpshooter to join the hunt. But it's also really a lot about family dynamics for both of them, because he has big family, that's like five older sisters and they're very poor.

00;37;44;22 - 00;38;18;28

Summer

[SUMMER] And she has this one mother that is like always traveling and away, and is kind of, like, this absentee mother, who, she just wants her love. And it's also really cool because it reflects a lot of social issues of today, but also that it's set in, like, a past time, but it's not a specific past time. For example, the boy, his family is, they don't call it being Irish Catholic, but they are definitely Irish Catholic, but they just use a different word for it and there's a lot of prejudices on them where they live.

00;38;19;11 - 00;38;46;16

Summer

[SUMMER] And the girl is definitely they use a different word because again, it's like a speculative history, but she's definitely Jewish and she has a lot of prejudices in the town she lives in on her. So you get a lot of historical nuances and social nuances, but it's in an alternate history. So, it's like, like our world but different. So all the words are different. The countries are called different things like...

00:38;47;06 - 00:38;49;07

Cecilia

[CECILIA] It's just a layover of whatever it's supposed to be.

00:38;49;25 - 00:38;57;07

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, like, the countries and the cities are all different names and all the ethnicities have different names. But you can tell through reading it.

00:38;57;27 - 00:38;58;15

Cecilia

[CECILIA] What they are...

00:38;58;15 - 00:38;59;12

Summer

[SUMMER] What it's meant to be.

00:38;59;12 - 00:39;00;28

Cecilia

[CECILIA] ...in relation to us.

00:39;00;28 - 00:39;20;26

Summer

[SUMMER] Yes, because in an alternate history, because there are fantasy elements, too. And there's also a romance. And it's a dual point of view. And it's, it was so good. And I want to, and this author only has, like, one other book she's written and I want to read it and she has another book coming out in 2023 about this fantasy world and this girl who's, like, a magical dressmaker.

00:39;21;17 - 00:39;27;23

Summer

[SUMMER] And so I was like, amazing, going to read it. But in my brain, I'm like, Okay, that also means I have to read her previous book too, so I cover all the bases.

00:39;28;15 - 00:39;56;28

Cecilia

[CECILIA] The one that I put on that was a graphic novel is called Blackwater, and I think Goodreads describes it really well. It's for fans of Heart Stopper and Teen Wolf. Yeah, so it's about a track star that gets involved with the quiet boy who can also see ghosts. And there may, or may not, be werewolves and ghosts and teenage drama.

00:39;56;28 - 00:40;00;22

Summer

[SUMMER] It's much like Teen Wolf. I liked Teen Wolf when it was out, but I never finished the series.

00;40;01;06 - 00;40;03;20

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Oh, apparently it used to be a webcomic.

00;40;03;20 - 00;40;04;14

Summer

[SUMMER] Oh, cool.

00;40;04;14 - 00;40;08;01

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Oh, there you go. I read it, I liked it. Is there any more, do you know?

00;40;08;10 - 00;40;17;23

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I don't think so. It was really good. It was one of those ones that there could be another one or it was fine, just as is. I also really like...

00;40;17;27 - 00;40;18;13

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I would like another one.

00;40;18;22 - 00;40;20;28

Cecilia

[CECILIA] ...werewolves, so that was a plus for me.

00;40;21;18 - 00;40;22;28

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yes, that was cool.

00;40;23;20 - 00;40;29;26

Cecilia

[CECILIA] There was there was another werewolf story I read this year Artie and the Wolf Moon, I think that's what it's called.

00;40;30;23 - 00;40;34;02

Summer

[SUMMER] Are werewolves one of your go to's? Like, you'll pick up any werewolf book?

00;40;34;13 - 00;40;34;29

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah.

00;40;35;15 - 00;40;37;07

Summer

[SUMMER] That's cool. Did you read Squad?

00;40;38;03 - 00;40;44;18

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I did. That one, I loved the artwork in that, but it did not hit for me. I don't know what it...

00;40;45;01 - 00;40;48;20

Summer

[SUMMER] I felt like, I really liked it, but I feel like it broke off really abruptly.

00;40;48;28 - 00;40;49;26

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Mhmm, yeah.

00;40;50;07 - 00;40;54;10

Summer

[SUMMER] I would have liked it to be longer, or a series, because, you know, I love a series.

00;40;54;10 - 00;41;03;28

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, like, it ended really abruptly and I was like, oh, how did we get there from here? Like, I didn't understand why it ended the way it did.

00;41;04;05 - 00;41;05;13

Summer

[SUMMER] Maybe if it was just longer.

00;41;05;19 - 00;41;24;29

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, I think if it was longer, if there was more character development or something in it. Are there any books that are on your, I'm just curious, if there's any books on your list that hit it for you but are not in a genre that you normally read? For some reason you're like, I don't read this type of fiction, but...

00;41;24;29 - 00;41;58;07

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, I have one. One of them was Burn Down Rise Up. And I only read it because it had Stranger Things vibes. Apparently, it sells it as Stranger Things meets Get Out. I really loved it. I thought it was so weird and cool. It takes place in the Bronx and there's like a whole underground. This girl, because people keep going missing, so she has to figure out what's going on.

00;41;58;16 - 00;42;15;05

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] But it's Stranger Things meets Get Out in this sapphic horror debut from nonbinary, Afro-Latine author, Vincent Tirado. It was really cool and different and yeah, definitely had Stranger Things vibes, but it wasn't, you know, it wasn't a rip off or anything because really, I loved it.

00;42;15;20 - 00;42;18;03

Summer

[SUMMER] And is it, is it, like, a genre you don't normally read?

00;42;18;04 - 00;42;43;26

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, well, like, it's kind of like sci-fi, like, I don't like horror, I guess a little bit and I don't read a lot of that stuff. I feel like I'm only now getting into it because I like Stranger Things so much. Yeah. So definitely something I'm not used to, and it was surprisingly wonderful, so.

00;42;44;01 - 00;43;07;04

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, I was just saying earlier that I don't read contemporary, one of my favorite books, especially to recommend, is Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell, which I read when I was in high school. So I've liked it for a while, but I really like it. I think it's special just because it's a book about like a really nerdy character, and I really like a nerdy character, and I find the way it's written very soothing.

00;43;07;04 - 00;43;09;20

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Ok, I didn't read it, but I just finished the...

00;43;10;17 - 00;43;13;26

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Manga? They have a manga version of it now.

00;43;14;00 - 00;43;14;10

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] No, Rainbow Rowell's...

00;43;14;10 - 00;43;15;11

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Carry On?

00;43;15;22 - 00;43;17;13

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] This new story collection...

00;43;17;13 - 00;43;20;01

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Oh, the rainbow, it has a rainbow on the cover.

00;43;20;14 - 00;43;22;03

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, Scattered Showers.

00;43;22;14 - 00;43;24;06

Summer

[SUMMER] Oh, I didn't know about that one.

00;43;24;12 - 00;43;32;06

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] It's like short stories and I really liked a lot of them and her writing so. And I read Eleanor & Park.

00;43;32;15 - 00;43;34;16

Summer

[SUMMER] Yes. Yeah, I read that one, too.

00;43;34;16 - 00;43;42;28

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I read that one a long time ago but I haven't read anything else really. And I really kind of feel like I want to get into more of her because...

00;43;43;08 - 00;43;44;05

Summer

[SUMMER] Fangirl's good.

00;43;44;05 - 00;43;45;08

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] ...I read the short stories.

00;43;45;08 - 00;43;48;10

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I know! Everyone tells me to read it.

00;43;48;10 - 00;43;58;13

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Well, there's like a couple of the short, and I know in the collection, I think one couple in the story was from Attachments, which was another book that she wrote.

00;43;58;21 - 00;44;01;23

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, she wrote a couple of adult books.

00;44;02;17 - 00;44;08;16

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And I want to say and Landline is another one. I want to say there is...

00;44;08;23 - 00;44;31;29

Summer

[SUMMER] Another book I read that's kind of, like, different than the things I usually read is Catfishing on CatNet. It's science fiction, and I do read science fiction, but this one was set in our world and it was about an AI, which isn't normally something I'd reach for, in general, but it has, like, a really weird premise and it's a short book, so I read it and I really liked it. I think again, like there was just something about the writing style that I found soothing,

00;44;31;29 - 00;45;06;06

Summer

[SUMMER] And, it's about this girl, and she's been moving around her whole life from town to town with her mom. And she's always been told that they're on the run from her father, who is a bad guy. And, he's going to find them at some point, and so they keep moving around. And that's all she really knows. She is always on this social media forum called CatNet, which is kind of like discord, but it's specifically for like sharing cute animal pictures. She has, like, a community of friends she really likes, and CatNet, and it's a dual point of view.

00;45;06;06 - 00;45;30;01

Summer

[SUMMER] But the second point of view is from an AI who runs CatNet, the social media forum. What's different about it is that the AI isn't the villain. It's like a super friendly AI that loves cat pictures and it, literally, all it wants to do is talk to their friends on the cat website and share cat pictures and like protect their friends.

00;45;30;20 - 00;45;52;23

Summer

[SUMMER] And, you kind of find out, the girl starts slowly finding out, that it's an AI and kind of not sure what to do, if they can trust it. Lalalala. But, you're also getting the point of view of the AI, which is super cool and unique. And, again, like, I feel, like, whenever you read science fiction with AI, they're always the villain, but, this AI is, like, super sweet, like marshmallow.

00;45;53;13 - 00;45;55;25

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Got me trying to place a hold on it now, but...

00;45;56;16 - 00;46;05;09

Summer

[SUMMER] And it was super short too. And it's LGBTQ friendly, the character, it's like, um, like there's like a tiny bit of romance, it's not the main plot, but it's there.

00;46;06;24 - 00;46;15;24

Cecilia

[CECILIA] I feel really dumb. I did not realize it was about cats. Even though it says it in the title. Like, I don't know what in my brain...

00;46;16;01 - 00;46;18;08

Summer

[SUMMER] CatNet, for me, I think was how I knew.

00;46;18;10 - 00;46;19;21

Cecilia

[CECILIA] A blog or whatever.

00;46;19;21 - 00;46;24;14

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And I'm looking at the cover and she has a hoodie on with cat ears.

00;46;24;14 - 00;46;28;09

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, there's a sequel that I haven't read, but I will at some point, it sounds really good.

00;46;28;09 - 00;46;30;15

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Chaos on CatNet.

00;46;30;27 - 00;46;51;02

Cecilia

[CECILIA] So I think mine, in a genre that I normally don't read, was Before We Disappear, which is a historical fantasy, I want to say, or speculative fantasy. It's basically The Prestige meets What If It's Us?

00;46;51;02 - 00;46;51;21

Summer

[SUMMER] Oh, was it good?

00;46;51;21 - 00;46;59;18

Cecilia

[CECILIA] It was really good. It was one of those ones where I kept stopping it just because it's one of those hefty books. It's like a 400 pager.

00;46;59;24 - 00;47;41;25

Cecilia

[CECILIA] And I kept stopping it, but I kept renewing it, like, trying to go back and continue finishing it, because there was, it's just the whole, like, it takes place in 1909, it's in the Yukon Pacific area, so it takes place in Seattle during the World's Fair and it's these two boys that are magicians assistants that



fall in love. And one of the boys actually has magic powers. But, there's sinister things afoot. The people that they work for are, like, not who they appear. And, they're trying to run away together, basically. And it, it ended really, that's spoilers, but it ended really happily and...

00;47;42;14 - 00;47;44;16

Summer

[SUMMER] Ok, I thought you were going to say it ended tragically, and I was, like, no!

00;47;47;02 - 00;47;49;24

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I read him before so I'm curious.

00;47;50;01 - 00;47;57;24

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah, I was hesitant because I think I read a book by him and I despised it.

00;47;57;26 - 00;47;58;10

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Why?

00;47;58;17 - 00;47;59;17

Summer

[SUMMER] That is so weird.

00;47;59;27 - 00;48;21;19

Cecilia

[CECILIA] And I was just like, I love the premise, and I don't normally read historical fiction, and I don't really read fantasy now. And it was sort of an alternate history too, because LGBTQ, like, issues were, like, nah, this is normal. It's, no, it's fine. They're going to go out and party and hold hands and be fine.

00;48;22;13 - 00;48;33;28

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah I know. Well, We Are the Ants was really popular that he wrote. I haven't read it but I read The Past and Other Things That Should Stay Buried and it's, like, about the girl's death.

00;48;34;07 - 00;48;38;02

Summer

[SUMMER] How do you feel about books that, like, have open-ended endings?

00;48;38;28 - 00;48;40;28

Cecilia

[CECILIA] That depends.

00;48;40;28 - 00;48;42;08

Summer

[SUMMER] Did either of you read Horrid?

00;48;43;02 - 00;48;43;17

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yes.

00;48;44;02 - 00;48;44;24

Summer

[SUMMER] Because that one had...

00;48;44;24 - 00;48;46;08

Cecilia

[CECILIA] That, that's a good cover.

00;48;46;08 - 00;48;47;22

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, that covers is main.

00;48;47;29 - 00;48;50;11

Summer

[SUMMER] Because that one has an ending where, like, it...

00;48;50;11 - 00;48;52;06

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] What happened? I can't remember.

00;48;52;08 - 00;49;10;00

Summer

[SUMMER] I don't, what, should I say it because it's a spoiler? Okay, like skip ahead, like, a second, it has an ending that's sort of, she almost, like, succumbs to her own darkness, I would say, that's vague enough. But it's, but it's very like open-ended, like you're not really sure what she's going to do next.

00;49;10;21 - 00;49;15;08

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Is that, is it weird that that slight spoiler made me want to read it more?

00;49;15;15 - 00;49;38;23

Summer

[SUMMER] Oh, no, not at all. But I read it as an audiobook and I, I didn't, I didn't hate the narrator enough to stop reading it, but I'm just weird with narration where, like, a voice will gently grate at me over time. I'm just like, super particular about voices in narration.

00;49;38;25 - 00;49;49;10

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Me too, oh, me too. And I will quit books and not read them physically or anything. But to answer your question, Summer, I think it really depends on the kind of book it was the whole time.

00;49;49;11 - 00;49;50;06

Cecilia

[CECILIA] That's true.

00;49;51;04 - 00;49;53;02

Summer

[SUMMER] I think, especially with horror books...

00;49;53;02 - 00;49;55;10

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] With horror, I think it can be cool.

00;49;55;12 - 00;49;55;29

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah.

00;49;56;14 - 00;49;59;13

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] But I really think it depends, like what it's, actually the story is.

00;49;59;15 - 00;50;10;12

Summer

[SUMMER] Because with horror, I feel like it can heighten the suspense, like, to leave you, like, suspended at the end. But if it's not horror or anything, I feel like it can just leave you unsatisfied.

00;50;10;22 - 00;50;13;03

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah. Yes, I really, yeah.

00;50;13;20 - 00;50;14;27

Summer

[SUMMER] So, I was just thinking about that book before.

00;50;14;27 - 00;50;20;20

Cecilia

[CECILIA] A bad fantasy book that has a cliffhanger ending is always terrible.

00;50;20;20 - 00;50;22;19

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, especially if it doesn't have a sequel.

00;50;22;19 - 00;50;23;14

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yes. Yeah, exactly.

00;50;24;00 - 00;50;25;29

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Don't they all have cliffhangers?

00;50;26;08 - 00;50;27;13

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Yeah...

00;50;28;06 - 00;50;33;27

Summer

[SUMMER] I don't, I feel like most of them have cliffhangers, but usually the cliffhanger is not, like, they're actually hanging from a cliff, or something.

00;50;34;00 - 00;50;44;09

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Like a bad cliffhanger where they don't explain, like, you have to wait for, like, every single question in the next book. Like, it did not explain anything.

00;50;44;09 - 00;51;04;04

Summer

[SUMMER] Did either of you guys read the Percy Jackson series? Because there's a book where they're literally hanging from the edge of a precipice at the end of one of the books and then in the second book, in the dedication page, the author apologizes for the cliffhanger, but then goes, like, sorry, not sorry, hahaha, on the dedication page, which just is, like, the kind of author he is. He's amazing.

00;51;05;26 - 00;51;26;24

Cecilia

[CECILIA] Thanks for joining us today. Be sure to check out the Ocean County Library's website for more podcasts and events. All titles mentioned in today's episode can be found through the Ocean County Library, free with your library card. Until next time, happy reading.