



Waves of YA, Ep 22, Survival Stories

Transcript:

00;00;06;29 - 00;00;23;04

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Hello and welcome to Waves of YA, a podcast focused on young adult literacy. Brought to you by the Ocean County Library Teen Literacy Workgroup. My name is Lindsey and I'm a teen services librarian. Joining me today, we have...

00;00;23;05 - 00;00;25;06

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Colleen, I'm another teen services librarian.

00;00;25;12 - 00;00;29;03

Courtney

[COURTNEY] And Courtney, a third teen services librarian.

00;00;29;21 - 00;00;36;27

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And on today's episode will be focusing on stories about survival, dun, dun, dun.

00;00;38;04 - 00;00;39;02

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Ooh.

00;00;39;13 - 00;00;41;28

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Oh, I love survival.

00;00;42;06 - 00;00;55;16

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Talk about survival. Like, I, we were talking about it before this started. It's, like, I picture being on an island and, you know, you have to survive. But it's really a lot of different stories can be books on survival.

00;00;55;16 - 00;01;00;12

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Mm hmm. It's really true. Anyone have a favorite title they want to share first?

00;01;00;27 - 00;01;09;05

Colleen

[COLLEEN] So actually, one of my favorite YA books of all time is actually a story of survival in Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys.

00;01;09;17 - 00;01;12;25

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Oh, yes. I love that book! And, I didn't even think of it.

00;01;13;00 - 00;01;35;28

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Because like, I recommend it for, like, really emotional, heartbreaking stories. But it's really about this group of teens that are trying to evacuate during World War II, and their boat is attacked and they have to survive the sinking. It's almost like Titanic, but less drama? More drama, because it's real life? But so is Titanic. So but yeah, it's, it's like, really wild.

00;01;36;06 - 00;01;41;20

Colleen

[COLLEEN] It's a great book. It's really emotional. And it's like, I still can't believe some of these people, like, lived through it.

00;01;42;18 - 00;01;50;24

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah. And actually, I didn't read that one. I was thinking of Between Shades of Grey, which is also another one, a survival story.

00;01;50;25 - 00;01;58;13

Colleen

[COLLEEN] So, a lot of historical fiction, like during World War II, or any war, is really just about survival, for sure.

00;01;58;19 - 00;02;13;06

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] What do you prefer? Do you prefer like, like a war story, or do you prefer, like, a dystopian survival, like, Hunger Games, or, Lost in the Woods? Do you have a preference? Courtney, do you have a preference?

00;02;13;06 - 00;02;38;26

Courtney

[COURTNEY] For me, I feel like it is that, Lost in the Woods, because for me, I read, Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen, so many times when I was a kid. I don't know why, I wasn't super outdoorsy, you know, like, I wasn't I wasn't doing that in my free time. I was just reading this story about this kid who is on a private plane to go see his dad or whatever.

00;02;38;26 - 00;02;46;14

Courtney

[COURTNEY] And I say private plane, too. That sounds fancy, but I imagine almost everyone I've talked to has read Hatchet. But like, just in case you haven't. So...

00;02;46;14 - 00;02;47;25

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I haven't.

00;02;47;26 - 00;02;48;16

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah, I actually never read it.

00;02;49;05 - 00;02;50;02

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Seriously?

00;02;50;02 - 00;02;50;21

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah.

00;02;50;22 - 00;03;21;24

Courtney

[COURTNEY] This is amazing. Okay, so it is on this tiny little, like nothing plane over the Canadian forest. Just the wilds, I imagine, take up, like, most of Canada up there. But, like, this plane goes down and crashes and the pilot dies and he is in the woods. He has a hatchet with him because it's set in, like, the eighties. And I guess it used to just be okay to randomly get an ax and take it with you on plane flights.

00;03;21;24 - 00;03;38;29

Courtney

[COURTNEY] And he has to survive in the woods and try and find a way to get rescued. And it's just all of it. It's so, it just caught my imagination so much. The way he has to find and build shelter and really figure his stuff out. I still recommend it. I mean, it's...

00;03;39;22 - 00;03;49;24

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I also recommend it, even though I haven't read it! Because I know it is a classic, and everyone pretty much loves it and it's short.

00:03;50;20 - 00:03;52;09

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Yes, that's true. It is.

00:03;53;01 - 00:03;55;11

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] So, I usually go for that.

00:03;55;22 - 00:03;58;05

Courtney

[COURTNEY] And there are sequels, there's like...

00:03;58;07 - 00:03;59;05

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, I noticed.

00:03;59;08 - 00:04;17;14

Courtney

[COURTNEY] A regular sequel where it's, like, he gets hired by a Sporting Equipment Company to go back and show someone how he did it. And it's supposed to be like, hey, show us how you survived in the wild with our cool gear to help you. And the whole time he's like, oh man, this is nonsense because this isn't really survival.

00:04;17;14 - 00:04;30;21

Courtney

[COURTNEY] And then of course something goes wrong and it turns back into real survival. And then there's another one that's like alternate sequel where it's like, if he didn't get rescued, how he survives his first winter in the woods.

00:04;30;24 - 00:04;32;09

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Wow! That's kind of cool.

00:04;32;22 - 00:04;38;27

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Yeah, it's just a very unique thing to do. It's like an author just going in, like writing some fan fiction.

00:04;38;27 - 00:04;40;02

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Choose your own adventure stuff.

00:04;40;02 - 00:04;40;29

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Yeah.

00;04;41;24 - 00;05;07;29

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Well, yeah. I also do like stories like that too. Like, my favorite stand out from 2021 was, Be Not Far From Me, about this girl who's camping with her friends in the woods. She gets upset because her boyfriend's cheating on her, so she, like, runs off. Can't, she gets lost, can't find her way, falls down, hurts herself. So, like, her foot is bleeding. She's wandering through the woods, and, like, it's just this wild story of her, like, trying to find home.

00;05;08;08 - 00;05;09;01

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, like...

00;05;09;09 - 00;05;13;29

Colleen

[COLLEEN] She has to attack a possum at some point, I think, like, oh, my God, it's so good.

00;05;13;29 - 00;05;15;14

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I read that...

00;05;15;14 - 00;05;16;00

Colleen

[COLLEEN] It sounds silly, but it's not.

00;05;16;00 - 00;05;40;10

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I remember when I started reading it and the fact that she was at that party and then she walked away, I was like, she's really going to get lost, like, that easily, that close to her friends. And I thought, this is not going to be very good because that sounds weird and kind of silly. But then I loved it.

00;05;40;10 - 00;05;41;11

Colleen

[COLLEEN] I think that's realistic, though, you really can get lost that quickly.

00;05;41;11 - 00;06;03;19

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I know, well, that I mean that it's true. Like, especially in like the woods, you can get turned around so easily and it's like if there's just trees everywhere, there's nothing to tell you, which way is what. But yeah, I love that one, too. I listened to that on audio and the narrator I really thought did an excellent job and I didn't want it to end.

00;06;03;19 - 00;06;14;09

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And I was like, Oh, I remember laying in my bed listening to it before I was going to sleep, and I wouldn't shut it off because I was just so into it. I was so into it, so.

00;06;14;09 - 00;06;18;11

Colleen

[COLLEEN] And that's another kind of short one that's not very long. So like a really quick story.

00;06;18;27 - 00;06;20;04

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah, definitely.

00;06;20;04 - 00;06;23;10

Courtney

[COURTNEY] I had that one on my list, too. That is Mindy McGinnis.

00;06;23;10 - 00;06;24;07

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yes.

00;06;24;07 - 00;06;25;06

Courtney

She writes a lot of like...

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

Colleen

[COLLEEN] She is fantastic.

00;06;25;19 - 00;06;36;12

Courtney

[COURTNEY] ...thrillers. Again, with this one, one of my favorite things about Mindy McGinnis is she has these female main characters who just seem so real to me.

00;06;36;23 - 00;06;38;16

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] She's awesome.

00;06;38;16 - 00;06;52;11

Courtney

[COURTNEY] They're very, like, very flawed in a realistic way and can be kind of dark in a way that you don't get to see female characters always end up. But yeah, so I really enjoyed that one.

00;06;52;26 - 00;07;11;29

Colleen

[COLLEEN] And like another, when I was looking up survival stories, one that came up that I had just read in the fall, it's called, Ten. It's a murder mystery, but they're on this island. So I think it's based on Agatha Christie's, And Then There Were None, or whatever. And that's like you don't think of a murder mystery really being a survival story, but it is because she's trying not to get killed.

00;07;12;03 - 00;07;19;01

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Just like, you're trying to survive and not being killed by the forest. There's a murderer running around and you're trying to live.

00;07;19;01 - 00;07;41;19

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Mm-hmm, I think a lot of books, you know, when people hear survival, they automatically think a super scary situation, violence. It's whether you're being taken or in the forest alone. But it can also just be surviving the day, whether it's at school or work or whatever. So that all counts, too. There's a book I like, it's called, Punching the Air.

00;07;42;02 - 00;08;13;26

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] It's by, I think you say, Ibi Zoboi, and it's written in verse and it's about a kid who gets wrongfully convicted of a crime and he gets incarcerated and he's in jail and he's dealing, and he turns to art, and it's, it was really beautiful. And the cover is amazing. But another situation where you don't think, oh, yeah, duh, you're in jail. You can't let it get to you, you got to survive and hopefully get out one day, especially if you're wrongfully convicted of something I can't even imagine. It's probably one of my worst fears.

00;08;14;08 - 00;08;33;20

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah. So another kind of different story that I really liked was, Dry, by Neal Shusterman. Have you guys read that one? Really? It takes place only like a week. There's a huge drought and it takes place in California. There's no water to be found, just like randomly one day. The parents leave their kids at home to go in line to get water, and they don't come back.

00;08;34;03 - 00;09;01;15

Colleen

[COLLEEN] And we're thinking, this is the beginning of the end of the world. So there's chaos going on. The kids are trying to find water. They're really trying to survive, not knowing when their parents are ever coming back. People are like obviously starting to fight and kill people over water. It's like crazy. But I forget what happened to the parents, they got detained or stuck, but they were fine. They were alive. So like at the end of these days, the water got shipped in and everything was okay, but they had to survive on their own among all this dangerous stuff for a couple of days. And it was just wild.

00;09;01;28 - 00;09;02;10

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah.

00;09;02;14 - 00;09;22;27

Courtney

[COURTNEY] I read, All That's Left in the World, by Erik J. Brown, and that is a post-apocalyptic. I read it fairly recently because for most of the past couple of years I've avoided stuff like this because of post-apocalyptic, because there's a deadly pathogen that kills off most of the population. And I could just do without for the most part. Yeah. Yeah.

00;09;24;06 - 00;09;25;08

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Anxiety inducing.

00;09;25;22 - 00;09;36;28

Courtney

[COURTNEY] There's one cover image, I don't think it's a cover image that I see when I look it up now, like not the one that shows up in the catalog. But there was an older cover image that was really, really cool looking.

00;09;37;21 - 00;09;38;27

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I think I'm looking at it.

00;09;39;27 - 00;09;40;28

Courtney

[COURTNEY] With the sign and stuff.

00;09;41;20 - 00;09;43;02

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And the truck. Yeah.

00;09;43;02 - 00;10;07;21

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Yes. And I was like, okay, this looks really cool, but it was really good, whichever cover it's got. But it's two boys who both survived and the one boy is just walking through the woods. I don't even remember if he's going someplace or if he's just like, well, I lived in Philly, I can't stay there. I'm going to just walk through the woods and he ends up getting hurt by like a bear trap or something.

00;10;08;00 - 00;10;51;04

Courtney

[COURTNEY] And so then he's limping through the woods and stumbles upon the other boy's house, and it's kind of set up like an off grid, kind of decent, they've still got electricity and water that's pumped up and, whatever, they reluctantly kind of become allies cause they've both found that you can't trust other people in this post-apocalyptic world. Then a local group of survivors is who is definitely proving that

you can't trust people in this post-apocalyptic world finds them. So then they have to like hit the road and try and find someplace else. So they're getting closer and becoming friends and it eventually turns into romance and they find other survivors. It's, it's really good.

00;10;51;24 - 00;10;55;07

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] It has good ratings. I'm going to read it.

00;10;55;25 - 00;10;57;01

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah, that sounds really great.

00;10;57;13 - 00;11;28;04

Courtney

[COURTNEY] I liked it. I think that it's realistic enough and obviously, like, bad stuff happens, but it's not like super dark, depressing. Like, it's, overall, I would say it's like a nice love story set in a post-apocalyptic survival scenario. It's funny that we started talking about this because when I was looking at this book, I'm like, I don't know if I can count post-apocalyptic as survival, because if it's post-apocalyptic, is it default a survival story?

00;11;28;18 - 00;11;50;08

Colleen

[COLLEEN] But technically we're just surviving now. We go to work so we can pay to eat, to survive and live. So are we in our own survival stories? Yes, it's not as extreme. And then I was thinking any kind of science fiction story where they're like, they explore the universe and get away from Earth, because Earth is dying, like, that's a survival story.

00;11;50;08 - 00;12;03;03

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Like, *The Last Cuentista*, was that the new YA book this year? Oh, was like a middle grade book? That was about them leaving Earth and trying to keep their stories alive and that's the survival of the human race, that was a great book.

00;12;03;10 - 00;12;56;17

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And Courtney, when you started talking about, *All That's Left in the World*, I'm reading the review and it's, or the Good Reads page, and it's compared to, *How I Live Now*, did you guys read that? It's kind of old, by Meg Rosoff, and they made a movie of it with Saoirse Ronan. And I remember seeing the movie first, and it's about this girl who's from Manhattan and then she goes to England and her three cousins are there. And then all of a sudden London is attacked and everybody's gone. Yeah, and I liked it a lot. There's a wonky romance between her and her cousin. But, otherwise, it was good and I liked it. I like Meg Rosoff, in general. So yeah, that's, I guess, dystopian a little bit. I also read, *Girl, Stolen*, which was also a popular one maybe ten years ago.

00;12;57;13 - 00;12;57;25

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Yes.

00;12;58;18 - 00;13;21;05

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And that's about a blind girl who's in the car, she's waiting for her mom. And then, someone comes and steals the car and she's kidnaped and they take her hostage and she goes on this adventure has to figure out how to get away from this guy. But then she kind of likes him.

00;13;21;05 - 00;13;22;28

Courtney

[COURTNEY] I think I did read that.

00;13;23;17 - 00;13;27;15

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah. I think there's always a good survival story in most books we read.

00;13;27;25 - 00;13;31;09

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah, I'm trying to think of anything that, you can spin survival to almost anything.

00;13;31;27 - 00;13;34;27

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Mmhmm, you really can.

00;13;36;01 - 00;13;59;08

Courtney

[COURTNEY] I just reread The Hunger Games trilogy because me and my my brother and my sister-in-law decided to watch the movies because when they came out, I think I saw the first and maybe the second, but I didn't see the last ones. So, so we watched it and definitely holds up. But I reread the books and it's, like, that is right in that survival genre.

00;14;00;08 - 00;14;13;12

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah, because at first she's just going out and hunting and surviving and trying to feed her family. And then she's thrown into this game where she's literally has to directly fight for her life in a short period of time, so, it's really interesting on multiple levels.

00;14;13;16 - 00;14;14;26

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Do you read Beauty Queens?

00;14;15;15 - 00;14;16;09

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] No.

00;14;16;11 - 00;14;17;02

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah, oh, yeah!

00;14;17;02 - 00;14;18;09

Courtney

[COURTNEY] That's by Libba Bray, right?

00;14;18;24 - 00;14;23;18

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah, Libba Bray, it's basically Lord of the Flies with beauty queens.

00;14;25;06 - 00;14;33;03

Courtney

[COURTNEY] All the participants in the Miss America, or the whatever, some pageant, are on a plane and it crashes on a desert island.

00;14;33;05 - 00;14;35;03

Colleen

[COLLEEN] I forgot all about that book.

00;14;35;13 - 00;14;47;25

Courtney

[COURTNEY] The cover is so cool. It's like a ammo thing. I don't even know what it's called, but with lipsticks and instead of bullets, you know, the thing that you wear across your chest or you do if you carry a bunch of bullets on this sash thing.

00;14;47;25 - 00;14;49;05

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] A bandolier.

00;14;49;17 - 00;14;51;00

Courtney

[COURTNEY] A bandolier! Okay.

00;14;51;27 - 00;14;52;05

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Okay, a bandolier.

00;14;52;16 - 00;14;59;09

Colleen

[COLLEEN] I've heard bandoliers described many times in books, I don't think I ever put it together that that's what they were talking about.

00;14;59;09 - 00;15;06;26

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] You're just, yeah, whatever that means. And then you have memoirs of people who've gone through it.

00;15;06;26 - 00;15;07;22

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah. Oh, yeah.

00;15;08;01 - 00;15;18;15

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] So do you guys have any favorite memoirs of people that have survived their life? I just read Matthew Perry's book, which I think is a little controversial right now.

00;15;19;07 - 00;15;21;11

Colleen

[COLLEEN] It's just him surviving his addiction.

00;15;21;25 - 00;15;46;28

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Right. Exactly. Yeah. I mean, I enjoyed it. I listened to it. I enjoyed listening to it. Oh, I know. I have a good one that is not a YA, but it would definitely appeal to YA readers, I think. It's fiction, it's called, These Silent Woods, and it's about this guy and his daughter, and they're hiding. But the daughter doesn't really know why they're hiding.

00;15;47;05 - 00;16;08;13

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And then it unfolds, what actually happened and why they're out there. But it was so great. The little girl in it is Finch, and she has like this wild imagination and it's almost got, like, a slight, it's not magical realism, but it feels that way. The writing is really good, but it's, like, a father daughter story, but they're surviving in the woods.

00;16;08;26 - 00;16;10;28

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And I don't want to spoil why, but...

00;16;10;28 - 00;16;12;17

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah, that's a really interesting, I kind of really want to know why.

00;16;12;18 - 00;16;15;05

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I read it last year, and I really enjoyed it.

00;16;15;13 - 00;16;24;08

Courtney

[COURTNEY] While we're on the not YA books kick, um, Project Hail Mary, by Andy Weir, he wrote The Martian, which is another very good book...

00;16;24;08 - 00;16;25;12

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Even The Martian!

00;16;25;12 - 00;16;42;11

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Yeah, they're both, I don't see any reason why they couldn't appeal to young adult readers, and they're just great space, misadventure, survival stories. Space is really scary. We're not meant to live out there for any amount of time.

00;16;42;11 - 00;16;48;12

Courtney

[COURTNEY] And the fact that, in real life, people actually go there, is mind blowing to me.

00;16;48;22 - 00;17;02;03

Colleen

[COLLEEN] I find it terrifying. I'm always like, if the Earth's dying, you know, I'm going down with the ship. And my husband's like, I want to be on the spaceship to Mars. I'm like, you can go, I'm not leaving my house.

00;17;02;03 - 00;17;08;03

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Being on a plane for, like, 2 hours is terrible. Being on a spaceship must be awful.

00;17;08;19 - 00;17;16;03

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I got to say, I have no desire to go into space, and I think it's scary.

00;17;16;03 - 00;17;17;18

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah, it's horrifying.

00;17;18;19 - 00;17;21;29

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I think it's not for me.

00;17;22;14 - 00;17;36;03

Colleen

[COLLEEN] You never know what you're going to encounter. Just like the classic YA book, *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, they find a new planet. And it's, it's weird, it's really weird. Have you guys read that?

00;17;36;11 - 00;17;37;29

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I have it at home and I haven't read it and I want to.

00;17;37;29 - 00;17;51;22

Colleen

[COLLEEN] And so, like, something in the planet makes it that they're, all their thoughts are, like, aloud, it's, so it's like speech bubbles of everything you're thinking and they have to adapt to that. And it's, like, so bizarre. It's such a great series.

00;17;51;25 - 00;18;15;16

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] That's wild. Okay, I might try it one day, I hope. There's too many books! I did read a good middle grade survival story, it's called, *Alone*, by Megan E. Freeman. And this girl, everyone gets evacuated. I forget why she is by herself. She might have been sleeping, I don't know, but she's...

00;18;15;16 - 00;18;20;11

Courtney

[COURTNEY] I just read about this on goodreads. It's like she's trying to sneak a sleepover, so...

00;18;20;11 - 00;18;20;21

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yes!

00;18;20;21 - 00;18;25;23

Courtney

[COURTNEY] ...like, some sort of, like, hijinx, with telling her parents she's going to be one place and she's not, or whatever.

00;18;25;23 - 00;18;49;00

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And then all of a sudden, the town is evacuated and everyone's gone. Oh, and so she has to survive. So she's raiding people's houses for food. But eventually, as time goes on, that stuff runs out. She has a dog with her. It's written in verse. It would take you one minute to read. I really liked it. I thought it was a great middle grade and I think it would have appeal to older readers too.

00;18;49;19 - 00;18;54;14

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] We have a lot of books that we talked about today, so far. Wow.

00;18;54;14 - 00;18;56;20

Colleen

[COLLEEN] And I mean, I can just go on and on and on, but.

00;18;56;29 - 00;19;02;23

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Because I'm, like, writing them all down and, wow. So many.

00;19;02;23 - 00;19;27;06

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Another middle grade novel in verse that I read was, *The Canyon's Edge*. Dusti Bowling is the author. It's this girl and her dad, and they go to explore a canyon because they hike and rock climb and stuff like that. And they're going to explore this canyon. And it's a year since her mom died in a random shooting while they were out at a restaurant.

00;19;27;06 - 00;20;07;26

Courtney

[COURTNEY] And it's obviously been a terrible year. And her dad is, like, they're not going to public places. She's not allowed to go to school or whatever. But they go out to do this hike. And then, while they're exploring the canyon, there's a flash flood and they get separated. So then she's separated from her dad and I think she's like 12 or 13, so, pretty young, and trying to get through the canyon and survive in the desert and find her dad and escape. And it's really good. It deals with her like PTSD, and trying to process all of the trauma around what happened when her mom died.

00;20;08;18 - 00;20;37;21

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yes. Oh, my goodness. It sounds sad. And I have another sad one to add. This is also adult, but it's about teens. The protagonist is a teen. It's called, *In an Instant*, and it's about this family that is going on a trip and they get in an accident in the snow. The 16 year old lead girl is thin and she doesn't die, but she's not alive.

00;20;37;21 - 00;21;09;29

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] She's kind of like in the in-between. So she's witnessing her family trying to survive in the snow with no help. And people are injured and they're trying to figure out what to do. It's very heavy and very sad, but also super well-written and so good. Like, can't stop reading it even though it's so heavy and sad, but, highly recommend. Definitely a crossover, I think, for teens and adults. Don't cry yet, Colleen, you didn't even read the book.

00;21;09;29 - 00;21;13;09

Colleen

[COLLEEN] I don't have to! Haha.

00;21;13;09 - 00;21;18;24

Courtney

[COURTNEY] I was rereading the Illuminae Trilogy.

00;21;18;24 - 00;21;19;18

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I haven't read that one.

00;21;19;26 - 00;21;20;26

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Oooh, so good.

00;21;21;13 - 00;21;27;26

Courtney

[COURTNEY] As it gets towards the end of the year, I find myself doing more rereading. It's like I really want that, like, familiar comfort read.

00;21;28;18 - 00;21;42;00

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah, December's like that. I don't read, barely, I know that, I'm not going to really read in December, so I don't stress out about it anymore. It's just, I'm going to be watching Christmas movies I've seen a million times. I'm going to reread something I've already read. I think it's the proper month to do that.

00;21;42;21 - 00;21;43;00

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Oh, and Lindsey...

00;21;43;00 - 00;21;43;26

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] I'm over here.

00;21;43;26 - 00;21;50;17

Courtney

[COURTNEY] You like audio books, and, The Illuminae, the production quality on the audio books is fantastic.

00;21;50;22 - 00;21;54;29

Colleen

[COLLEEN] So good. I just got it.

00;21;54;29 - 00;22;16;14

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Well, that's what I was going to say, you're saying, oh, you know, December, don't really, like, your rereading and not really reading anything now. And I'm over here, all I've done today, all day, is add to my TBR, and I requested a crap ton of books on my library card because I think that I'm going to go and read and I'm just not, and they're going to pile up.

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

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah, I have the same pile of books at home that I had when I went on vacation in September.

00;22;20;12 - 00;22;21;04

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Yeah. Wow.

00;22;21;20 - 00;22;37;13

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yes. And then that happens, and I'm, like, okay, well, those books have come and gone. I do not want to read those anymore. So I'll put them back and I'll get a new stack that will just sit there and I'll think, I'm really going to read these, I'm really going to read these. I might, like, crack one open, and then, yeah.

00;22;37;17 - 00;22;48;29

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] But I think survival stories, some of these are really good for reading slumps. Yeah, they're action packed, some of them, like, you never read The Hunger Games. Come on, yeah.

00;22;49;06 - 00;22;50;18

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Oh, I've got one more, can I talk about it?

00;22;51;01 - 00;22;51;25

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah.

00;22;52;16 - 00;22;57;22

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Okay, it's called, Cold The Night, Fast the Wolves. The author is Meg Long.

00;22;58;02 - 00;22;59;00

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Oh, I think I've wanted to read that.

00;22;59;00 - 00;22;59;04

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Me, too.

00;22;59;18 - 00;23;05;27

Courtney

[COURTNEY] It's science fiction and there's a wolf, and she has to train the wolf.

00;23;06;13 - 00;23;08;12

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] And it looks good, the cover.

00;23;08;29 - 00;23;39;27

Courtney

[COURTNEY] It's so good. The wolf ends up loving her (spoilers). It's science fiction. Main character is a girl named Sena. She lives on this frozen world. And every year there's a sled race. And it's because during that season, the trail is passable to get to this place where you can mine some sort of valuable, whatever. She hates the sled race, even though everyone's obsessed with it because her moms used to do the sled race and they died doing it five years before the story starts.

00;23;39;27 - 00;24;05;24

Courtney

[Courtney] So, she's working for this local gangster guy, trying to do, like, odd jobs to survive and ends up getting hired to take care of one of his wolves. Then, stuff happens, and she gets caught trying to, like, steal something, and he's like, alright, well, now it's either you help out on my sled race or I'm going to kill you and anyone you've ever spoken to.

00;24;06;04 - 00;24;33;18

Courtney

[Courtney] So, she ends up having to do this race. Meanwhile, she's got this wolf. Having your own wolf, I know that, IRL, it doesn't actually work and they don't make good pets. But, like, just having a wolf that loves you is, like my, you know, 12 year old Courtney's dream, so it was very, very satisfying in that way. My notes for this, I wrote the words wolf and puppy with exclamation points. That was my notes for this book.

00;24;34;10 - 00;24;41;24

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] The cover is stunning and it sounds really cool, so one day, I'll try it. One day.

00;24;41;24 - 00;24;42;03

Courtney

[Courtney] Yeah.

00;24;43;10 - 00;24;47;00

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yes, that's great. We did so many books.

00;24;47;11 - 00;24;57;05

Courtney

[Courtney] Okay, so, to wrap things up, if you had to pick one of these worlds to survive in, which one would you do? Oh, boy.

00;24;57;29 - 00;25;26;01

Lindsey

I would probably choose the middle grade book I mentioned, Alone, where everyone just evacuated. I would probably choose that one because she started out having access to everybody's food, everybody's house. There was no electricity. But, I feel like she had more supplies than a lot of people do in a true survival situation, if we're talking, like, all alone somewhere or in the woods.

00;25;26;01 - 00;25;26;05

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah.

00;25;27;08 - 00;25;29;21

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] So, a regular neighborhood, please.

00;25;30;00 - 00;25;51;03

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Yeah, I don't know, I always say, if something happens, that I'll just die. So, how am I going to live if I can't get a new prescription for my glasses every year, like, I'm not going to be able to see one day. Somebody steps on my glasses, I'm done. and, just dragging everybody behind me, at that point.

00;25;52;04 - 00;26;06;19

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Though, I think, that if I had to pick, I would just pick, I guess, Be Not Far From Me, see if I can survive in the woods for a couple of days. If I can, then, I'm good. If I don't, I was never going to survive the apocalypse. So that's it.

00;26;08;12 - 00;26;30;04

Courtney

[Courtney] I think for, for all I was talking before, like, if I had to pick one of the scenarios, like, maybe, space because, like, if I'm going to start off in a treacherous situation, I'd like to have NASA, you know, set me up for it. Like, it seems, like, that might help because, just on my own, I do not have the skill set to just survive in the woods if you drop me in and break my ankle.

00;26;31;04 - 00;26;33;29

Courtney

[COURTNEY] All right, well, this has been a lot of fun.

00;26;34;13 - 00;26;35;02

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Yeah.

00;26;35;13 - 00;26;39;18

Courtney

[COURTNEY] Thank you for all of the good suggestions and the expanded to be read pile.

00;26;40;08 - 00;26;40;24

Colleen

[COLLEEN] Oh, my yes.

00;26;41;04 - 00;26;44;06

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] It's always so long. Good chatting.

00;26;44;06 - 00;27;03;05

Lindsey

[LINDSEY] Thanks for joining us today. Be sure to check out the Ocean County Library's website for more podcasts and events on our website's Calendar of Events page. 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.