

Show Notes

Date: 12/5/22

Name of Podcast: Read. Return. Repeat. A ReadICT Podcast.

Episode Title and Number: No Place Like Home (Season 2, Episode 9)

Episode Summary: In this episode, co-hosts Sara Dixon and Daniel Pewewardy close out Season 2 of the podcast by exploring category 12: A Book by An Author Visiting Wichita in 2022. Joining them is author Silas House, who visited Wichita in late October to promote his most recent novel, *Lark Ascending*. Silas talks about what inspires him to write about climate catastrophes, how music and poetry influence his writing, his favorite authors and more.

Guest Bio: Silas House is the nationally bestselling author of the novels *Clay's Quilt* (2001), *A Parchment of Leaves* (2003), *The Coal Tattoo* (2005), *Eli the Good* (2009), and *Same Sun Here* (co-authored with Neela Vaswani) (2012), and *Southernmost* (June 2018) as well as a book of creative nonfiction, *Something's Rising*, co-authored with Jason Howard (2009), and three plays. His new novel, *Lark Ascending*, was published on September 27, 2022.

House is a former commentator for NPR's "All Things Considered". His writing has appeared recently in Time, The Atlantic, Ecotone, The Advocate, Garden and Gun, and Oxford American. House serves on the fiction faculty at the Naslund-Mann Graduate School of Creative Writing and as the NEH Chair at Berea College.

He is a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, the recipient of three honorary doctorates, and is the winner of the Nautilus Award, an EB White Award, the Appalachian Book of the Year, the Storylines Prize from the New York Public Library/NAV Foundation, the Lee Smith Award, and many other honors, including an invitation to read at the Library of Congress.

(source: Silas-House.com)

Topic Index:

Silas talks about his newest book, *Lark Ascending* (2:14)

Why Ireland? (5:01)

Glendalough and "thin places" (6:56)

The dog Seamus (9:59)

What inspired *Lark Ascending* (14:25)

Silas's research and inspirations for writing about climate catastrophe (16:42)

Poetry and musical references in the book (22:00)

On southern writing and writing a book set outside the American South (27:12)

Authors Silas recommends (30:45)

Country Music (33:10)

Covid-19, remote work and migration to the South (37:11)

Upcoming projects, writing and more (41:28)

Books recommended in this episode:

Devil House, John Darnielle

The Babysitters Coven, Kate Williams

Life on the Mississippi: An Epic American Adventure, Rinker Buck

Resources & Links:

About Silas House

Silas House's Website: Silas-House.com

Facebook: Facebook.com/SilasHouseOfficial

Instagram: [@silashouse](https://www.instagram.com/silashouse)

Twitter: [@silasdhouse](https://twitter.com/silasdhouse)

YouTube Channel: [@silashouse7043](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsilashouse7043)

Berea College Loyal Jones Appalachian Center: [Staff Biography](#)

Media

[Deep Down: A Story from the Heart of Coal Country Documentary](#)

[Hillbilly Documentary Trailer](#)

[The Hills I Call Home Documentary Trailer](#)

[Lark Ascending \(music\) playlist on YouTube](#)

LitHub Article: ["On Grief and Book Tours"](#)

[Silas House on Season 4, Episode 21 of PBS Show America ReFramed](#)

Time Magazine Article: ["The Christian Nationalist Forces That Terrorized Me As A Child Have Grown Only More Powerful"](#)

[Books and Authors Mentioned in This Episode](#)

[Barbara Kingsolver, *Flight Behavior*](#)

[Ben Lerner, *The Topeka School*](#)

[Lee Smith, *Fair and Tender Ladies*](#)

[Luke Geddes, *Heart of Junk*](#)

[N. Scott Momaday](#)

[Sarah Smarsh](#)

[S.E. Hinton, *The Outsiders*](#)

[Wendell Berry](#)

[Willa Cather, *My Antonia* & *Death Comes for the Archbishop*](#)

[Zack McDermott, *Gorilla and the Bird*](#)

[Silas House's Favorite Country Music Artists](#)

[Brooks & Dunn](#)

[Charley Crockett](#)

[Dolly Parton](#)

[Dwight Yoakam](#)

[Emmylou Harris](#)

[Loretta Lynn](#)

[Patty Loveless](#)

[Trisha Yearwood](#)

[Tyler Childers](#)

[Other Musicians Mentioned in this Episode](#)

[R.E.M.](#)

[U2](#)

[John Prine](#)

[Brandi Carlile](#)

[Adele](#)

[Other Resources](#)

[2022 Central Appalachia Floods](#)

[Climate Central](#)

[Dale Hollow Lake, Kentucky](#)

[George Meredith Poem, "The Lark Ascending"](#)

[Glendalough, Ireland](#)

[Grand Ole Opry](#)

[Greta Thunberg](#)

[Local History Resources at the Wichita Public Library](#)

[NPR Article \(2006\) "Celebrating the History of Appalachia"](#)

[Paducah, Kentucky](#)

[Seamus Heaney](#)

[Sedona, Arizona](#)

[Vaughan Williams' classical music piece "The Lark Ascending"](#)

[Wichita History Walk](#)

[Wichita Short Story Dispenser](#)

[W.B. \(William Butler\) Yeats](#)

Full Transcript: http://wichitalibrary.org/BooksMore/podcast/Pages/rrr_s2e9.aspx

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