

Show Notes

Date: 1/13/2023

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

Episode Title and Number: ReadICT 2023 Kickoff: Live with Books & Whatnot (Season 3, Episode 0)

Episode Summary: In this bonus episode recorded before a live audience, co-hosts Sara Dixon and Daniel Pewewardy join Suzanne Perez and Beth Golay from the KMUW podcast **Books & Whatnot** to celebrate the 2023 kickoff of the #ReadICT challenge. A departure from the usual podcast format, these book aficionados and fellow podcasters talk about the history of the challenge and explore each category and how it might be approached differently by readers. This episode is full of great recommendations for each category (including some from a few very brave audience members) as well as their own reading plans for #ReadICT 2023!

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History of the ReadICT Challenge (2:12)

List of #ReadICT 2023 Categories (5:15)

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Episode Wrap-Up: Upcoming Events and Other Announcements (1:25:45)

Books recommended in this episode (by challenge category):

Category 1: A book with a non-human narrator

Penny, Karl Stevens

The Book Thief, Markus Zusak

Klara and the Sun, Kazuo Ishiguro

Circe, Madeline Miller

Watership Down, Richard Adams

Interview with the Vampire, Anne Rice

Robocalypse, Daniel H. Wilson

The Giving Tree, Shel Silverstein

Remarkably Bright Creatures, Shelby Van Pelt

Cinder (book #1 of the Lunar Chronicles), Marissa Meyer

Hollow Kingdom, Kira Jane Buxton

Nutshell, Ian McEwan

The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto, Mitch Albom

The Travelling Cat Chronicles, Hiro Arikawa

Category 2: A book with a long title (7+ words)

A Swim in a Pond in the Rain: In Which Four Russians Give a Master Class on Writing, Reading, and Life, George Saunders

The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got Trapped in an Ikea Wardrobe, Romaine Puértolas

We Had a Little Real Estate Problem: The Unheralded Story of Native Americans & Comedy, Kliph Nesteroff

The Faceless Old Woman Who Secretly Lives in Your Home: A Welcome to Night Vale Novel, Joseph Fink and Jeffrey Cranor

How to be Perfect: The Correct Answer to Every Moral Question, Michael Schur

Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City (Pulitzer Prize Winner), Andrea Elliott

Please Don't Sit on My Bed in Your Outside Clothes: Essays, Phoebe Robinson

You Can't Touch My Hair: And Other Things I Still Have to Explain, Phoebe Robinson

Good Omens: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch, Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett

The Republic of Pirates: Being the True and Surprising Story of the Caribbean Pirates and the Man Who Brought Them Down, Colin Woodard

Category 3: A book about friendship

My Best Friend's Exorcism, Grady Hendrix

Dinosaurs: A Novel, Lydia Millet

A Little Life, Hanya Yanagihara

Girl, Woman, Other, Bernardine Evaristo

Little Women, Louisa May Alcott

Best of Friends: A Novel, Kamila Shamsie

An Evening with C.S. Lewis: My Life's Journey, David Payne

The Rachel Incident: A Novel, Caroline O'Donoghue

Such a Fun Age, Kiley Reid

[Any Jane Austen Novel](#)

It, Stephen King

My Glory Was I Had Such Friends: A Memoir, Amy Silverstein

Love & Saffron: A Novel of Friendship, Food and Love, Kim Fay

Rules for Visiting: A Novel, Jessica Francis Kane

Fairy Tale, Stephen King

The Pickwick Papers, Charles Dickens

The Change: A Novel, Kirsten Miller

Category 4: A guilty pleasure read

The Girl Who Drank the Moon, Kelly Barnhill

Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow, Jessica Townsend

The House in the Cerulean Sea, T.J. Klune

Cutting for Stone, Abraham Verghese

The Covenant of Water, Abraham Verghese

So Far..., Kelsey Grammer

Greenlights, Matthew McConaughey

World War Z, Max Brooks

Eligible: A Modern Retelling of Pride and Prejudice, Curtis Sittenfeld

The Thousandth Floor, Katharine McGee

Rat Queens (Comic Book Series), Kurtis J. Wiebe, Roc Upchurch and John Upchurch

The Disaster Artist: My Life Inside the Room, the Greatest Bad Movie Ever Made, Greg Sestero and Tom Bissell

Category 5: A book told from a villain's point of view

The Unfolding, A.M. Homes (or anything by A.M. Homes)

A Ladder to the Sky, John Boyne

The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde

And Then There Were None, Agatha Christie

My Sister, The Serial Killer: A Novel, Oyinkan Braithwaite

Frankenstein: Or, The Modern Prometheus, Mary Shelley

God Emperor of Dune, Frank Herbert

Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West, Gregory Maguire

Hench: A Novel, Natalie Zina Walschots

Category 6: A book about time

Watchmen (Graphic Novel Series), Alan Moore

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow, Gabrielle Zevin

This Time Tomorrow: A Novel, Emma Straub

The Impossible Lives of Greta Wells, Andrew Sean Greer

Before the Coffee Gets Cold, Toshikazu Kawaguchi

11/22/63, Stephen King

A Tale for the Time Being: A Novel, Ruth Ozeki

Sea of Tranquility, Emily St. John Mandel

Station Eleven, Emily St. John Mandel

Oona Out of Order, Margarita Montimore

Dark Matter: A Novel, Blake Crouch

Kindred, Octavia E. Butler

The Immortalists, Chloe Benjamin

The Time Traveler's Guide to Medieval England: A Handbook for Visitors to the Fourteenth Century, Ian Mortimer

Category 7: A book with a color in the title

Redbone: The True Story of a Native American Rock Band, Christian Staebler and Sonia Paoloni

Redshirts, John Scalzi

The Red Tent, Anita Diamant

The Goldfinch, Donna Tartt

Red Rising, Pierce Brown

White Teeth, Zadie Smith

The Woman in White, Wilkie Collins

Brown: Poems, Kevin Young

Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America, Erik Larson

The Color Purple, Alice Walker

The Last White Man: A Novel, Mohsin Hamid

Demon Copperhead, Barbara Kingsolver

Anne of Green Gables, L.M. Montgomery

Daughter of Black Lake: A Novel, Cathy Marie Buchanan

Category 8: A book featuring a LGBTQIA+ protagonist

Matrix: A Novel, Lauren Groff

Less: A Novel, Andrew Sean Greer (or any book by Andrew Sean Greer)

A Psalm for the Wild-Built, Becky Chambers

Manhunt, Gretchen Felker-Martin

Alice Isn't Dead, Joseph Fink

The City We Became, N.K. Jemisin

The Broken Earth Trilogy (The Fifth Season, The Obelisk Gate, The Stone Sky), N.K. Jemisin

The Guncle, Stephen Rowley

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo, Taylor Jenkins Reid

Skye Falling: A Novel, Mia McKenzie

Category 9: A book about death or grief

Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant? (Big Read Title), Roz Chast

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End, Atul Gawande

This Is Where I Leave You, Jonathan Tropper

The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir, Thi Bui

Lark Ascending, Silas House

Annihilation (The Southern Reach Trilogy), Jeff VanderMeer

The Furrows, Namwali Serpell

A Grief Observed, C.S. Lewis

A Severe Mercy, Sheldon Vanauken

Under the Whispering Door, TJ Klune

Category 10: A book set in the Great Plains

The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck

The Children's Blizzard: A Novel, Melanie Benjamin

[William Least Heat-Moon \(Travel Writer\)](#)

Plainsong, Kent Haruf

The Four Winds, Kristin Hannah

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl, Timothy Egan

Save What's Left: A Novel, Elizabeth Castellano

The Last PowWow, That Native Thomas and Steven Paul Judd

Winter Counts: A Novel, David Heska Wanbli Weiden

The Chicken Sisters, KJ Dell'Antonia

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI, David Grann

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants, Robin Wall Kimmerer

Bleeding Kansas, Sara Paretsky

Category 11: A book about a secret or closed society

The Unfolding, AM Homes

The Secret History, Donna Tartt

If We Were Villains: A Novel, M.L. Rio

Unfollow: A Journey from Hatred to Hope, Megan Phelps-Roper

Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith, Jon Krakauer

The Department of Truth (Comic Book Series), James Tynion IV

Rabbits: A Novel, Terry Miles

The Husbands, Chandler Baker

Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism, Amanda Montell

The Girls, Emma Cline

We Ride Upon Sticks: A Novel, Quan Barry

Category 12: A book by an author visiting Wichita (in-person or remotely)

Hang the Moon, Jeannette Walls

The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls

Half Broke Horses: A True-Life Novel, Jeannette Walls

Storm Watch (A Joe Pickett Novel), C.J. Box

The Lost Apothecary, Sarah Penner

The London Séance Society, Sarah Penner

The Grammarians: A Novel, Cathleen Schine

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Thanks to My Mom: 101 Stories of Gratitude, Love, and Lessons, Amy Newmark and Jo Dee Messina

Other Books Mentioned in this Episode:

Tenth of December: Stories, George Saunders

Lincoln in the Bardo, George Saunders

How to Sell a Haunted House, Grady Hendrix

Home Fire: A Novel, Kamila Shamsie

Slaughterhouse-Five, Kurt Vonnegut

David Copperfield, Charles Dickens

Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants, Robin Wall Kimmerer and Monique Gray Smith

Now Is Not the Time to Panic: A Novel, Kevin Wilson

Special Thanks to our audience members for sharing their recommendations!

Upcoming Author Events in Wichita

C.J. Box @ The Advanced Learning Library, March 2nd

Sarah Penner @ The Advanced Learning Library, March 28th

Cathleen Schine @ Watermark Books, March 30th

Jeannette Walls @ The Advanced Learning Library, April 12th

Resources & Links:

[Books & Whatnot Podcast](#)

[Marginalia Podcast](#)

[KMUW's Literary Feast](#)

[1,000 Books to Read Before You Die](#)

[Wired Article: Is Becky Chambers the Ultimate Hope for Science Fiction?](#)

[2023 Tournament of Books](#)

[Big Read Wichita](#)

[Which Are the Great Plains States? \(And Which Are Not!\)](#)

[Watermark Books Event Calendar](#)

[Watermark Books Newsletter: News & Notes](#)

[Wichita State University Writing Now, Reading Now Series](#)

[Beanstack](#)

[Read the New York Times with Your Wichita Public Library Card](#)

[Stream Movies and Great Courses Titles on Kanopy \(With Your Wichita Public Library Card\)!](#)

Full Transcript: https://wichitalibrary.org/BooksMore/podcast/Pages/rrr_s3e0.aspx

New to #ReadICT? Join the challenge! For more information visit wichitalibrary.org/readict.