

# Show Notes

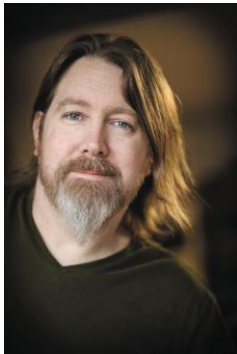
**Date:** 3/17/23

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

**Episode Title and Number:** I Want to Be Where the Humans Aren't (Season 3, Episode 2)

**Episode Summary:** In this episode, co-hosts Sara Dixon and Daniel Pewewardy take a deep dive into category 1: A Book with a Non-Human Narrator. Joining them on the podcast is author and filmmaker C. Robert Cargill, author of post-apocalyptic robot westerns *Sea of Rust* and its prequel, *Day Zero*. From robot morality to the history of swearing to why Isaac Asimov was a pessimist, this is an episode you won't want to miss.

## Guest Bio:



C. Robert Cargill is a co-founder of Crooked Highway, the Clarke Award-shortlisted author of *Sea of Rust*, and such books as *Day Zero*, *Dreams and Shadows*, and *We Are Where the Nightmares Go*, as well as the co-writer of such films as *Sinister*, Marvel's *Doctor Strange*, and *The Black Phone*.

(Official biography provided by Crooked Highway Films, photo credit Jessica Cargill)

## Topic Index:

Cargill talks about *Sea of Rust* (1:42)

Influences and favorite non-human characters (4:06)

This is not a "dude" book (12:05)

On morality (15:02)

Sociopolitical themes in the book (19:35)

On memory (24:40)

On swearing and slang (31:59)

Thoughts on the current state of AI (44:53)

Defying your programming (55:37)

Isaac Asimov's Laws of Robotics (59:57)

How writers contribute to society (1:04:40)

Writing authentic non-human characters (1:08:03)

Are we heading toward utopia or dystopia? (1:14:31)

Cargill's upcoming projects (1:23:14)

**Books recommended in this episode:**

*Flush*, Virginia Woolf

*Watership Down*, Richard Adams

*Fox 8*, George Saunders

*The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*, Mitch Albom

*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, Kate DiCamillo

*Dog On It*, Spencer Quinn

**Special Thanks to our reading community on Facebook for sharing their recommendations!**

**Resources & Links:**

About C. Robert Cargill

[IMDB](#)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/massawyrm](https://www.facebook.com/massawyrm)

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

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

Books by C. Robert Cargill

*Dreams and Shadows* (2013)

*Queen of the Dark Things* (2014)

*Sea of Rust* (2017)

*We Are Where the Nightmares Go and Other Stories* (2018)

*Day Zero* (2021)

## Films

*Sinister* (2012, co-writer)

*Sinister 2* (2015, co-writer)

*As They Continue to Fall* (2016, screenwriter)

*Doctor Strange* (2016, co-writer)

*Into the Dark* (2019, executive producer)

*No Man of God* (2021, writer – credited as Kit Lesser)

*Shadowprowler* (short film, 2021, co-writer and executive producer)

*The Black Phone* (2021, co-writer and producer)

*The Gorge* (currently in production, producer)

*The Outer Limits* (currently in production, co-writer)

*V/H/S/85* (upcoming short film, projected release date fall 2023 on Shudder)

## Other Media/Interviews

Scriptmag.com: [Developing the Short Story: An Interview with C. Robert Cargill and Scott Derrickson About 'The Black Phone'](#)

[Screencraft's Full Q&A with Screenwriter C. Robert Cargill](#) (Video)

Indiewire.com: [Film Critic Turned Author C. Robert Cargill's Top 5 Books](#)

Austin American Statesman: [Meet the Austin Writer Who Brought 'The Black Phone' to the Big Screen with Ethan Hawke](#)

My San Antonio: [San Antonio Native, Screenwriter C. Robert Cargill Brings Darkness to 'The Black Phone'](#)

## Films/Videos Mentioned in This Episode

*The Wild Bunch* (1969, directed by Sam Peckinpah)

[Coyote and Badger Hunting Together](#) (YouTube video)

*Minority Report* (2002, directed by Steven Spielberg)

Other Resources

[Crooked Highway Films](#)

Crooked Highway on Instagram: [@crookedhighway](#)

Crooked Highway on Twitter: [@crookedhighway](#)

[Spaghetti Westerns](#)

Frontiers in Psychology: [Emotional Memory in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: A Systematic PRISM Review of Controlled Studies](#)

The Conversation: [English Swearing's European Origins](#)

Medium: [7 Truly Remarkable Events in the History of Swearing](#)

Wisconsin Public Radio: [The Power and History of Swearing](#)

60 Minutes: [The New World of AI Chatbots Like ChatGPT](#)

The Hill: [Artificial Intelligence Will Destroy 'Laptop Class' Workers](#)

The Guardian: [Is the U.S. Government Ready for the Rise of Artificial Intelligence?](#)

[Chat GPT](#)

[Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics + the Zeroth Law](#)

[Brookings Institute: Isaac Asimov's Laws of Robotics Are Wrong](#)

[Arthur C. Clarke](#)

[Stan Lee](#)

[Robert E. Howard](#)

[Conan the Barbarian](#)

The Public Purpose: [Evaluating Case Studies: Girls Education Stabilizes Population Growth in Developing Countries](#)

University of Pennsylvania: [The Decline in Fertility: The Role of Marriage and Education](#)

Worldpopulationhistory.org: [Women's Status and Fertility Rates](#)

Big Think: [Could We Build a 'Star Trek' Utopia?](#)

Business Insider: [The Utopian Future of 'Star Trek' Doesn't Work Without Extreme Inequality and Some Slavery](#)

Pop Matters: [Star Trek's Utopia: Dilemmas of the Early 21<sup>st</sup> and Late 24<sup>th</sup> Centuries](#)

[Misbegotten Missionary by Isaac Asimov](#)

NPR: [A Churchill 'Quote' that U.S. Politicians Will Never Surrender](#)

[Miles Teller](#)

[Anya Taylor-Joy](#)

[Shudder.com](#)

[Calvin and Hobbs](#)

**Full Transcript:** [https://wichitalibrary.org/BooksMore/podcast/Pages/rrr\\_s3e2.aspx](https://wichitalibrary.org/BooksMore/podcast/Pages/rrr_s3e2.aspx)

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**Want to be featured on a future episode of our podcast? Check out our new book review hotline! Call 316-261-8507 to leave a review for one of our #ReadICT categories!** *Please limit your recording to no more than 3 minutes. Please listen to the recording at the beginning for what category we are collecting reviews for. Be sure to state your name, location if you live outside Wichita, ReadICT category name, title and author of book and a few words of why you are recommending the book.*