

Read. Return. Repeat.

A ReadICT Podcast

Show Notes

Season 4 Episode 5:

Sara fangirls, but not too hard (featuring N.K. Jemisin)

July 7th 2024



In this episode

Sara and Daniel interview author N.K. Jemisin, a celebrated sci-fi and fantasy author who won the Hugo Award for her novel *The Fifth Season*. Tying in with ReadICT Category 1: A Book with a Map, this episode focuses on Jemisin's Great Cities duology, *The City We Became* and *The World We Make*, a series that explores neighborhood stereotypes, gentrification and all the people that make a place unique, but with monsters!



About N.K. Jemisin

N(ora). K. Jemisin is a New York Times-bestselling author of speculative fiction short stories and novels, who lives and writes in Brooklyn, NY. In 2018, she became the first author to win three Best Novel Hugos in a row. She has also won a Nebula Award, two Locus Awards, and is a recipient of the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship. (source: nkjemisin.com)

Photo by Laura Hanifin, 2015

More about N.K. Jemisin

nkjemisin.com

Books by N.K. Jemisin

The World We Make (Great Cities #2), 2022

The City We Became (Great Cities #1), 2020

Far Sector (graphic novel), 2019

How Long 'Til Black Future Month? (short story collection), 2018

The Stone Sky (Broken Earth #3), 2017

The Obelisk Gate (Broken Earth #2), 2016

The Fifth Season (Broken Earth #1), 2015

Shades in Shadow (An Inheritance Triptych), 2015

The Awakened Kingdom (Inheritance #4), 2014

The Shadowed Sun (Dreamblood #2), 2012

The Killing Moon (Dreamblood #1), 2012

The Kingdom of Gods (Inheritance #3), 2011

The Broken Kingdoms (Inheritance #2), 2010

The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms (Inheritance #1), 2010

Books, films & other media mentioned in this episode

[Gargoyles \(television series\)](#)

[Magnus Archives \(podcast\)](#)

[The Curse \(television series\)](#)

[The Horror at Red Hook \(Lovecraft short story\)](#)

[The Mound \(Lovecraft short story\)](#)

If on a Winter's Night a Traveler by Italo Calvino

[The City Born Great](#) (Nora's short story that became The Great Cities duology)

Hiding in Plain Sight: The Invention of Donald Trump and the Erosion of America by Sarah Kendzior

[Two Graves by Genevieve Valentine \(graphic novel\)](#)

[Death and the Maiden \(story\)](#)

An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us by Ed Yong

Topics discussed in this episode (with timestamps)

- About the Great Cities duology 4:22
- Inspiration for the duology 06:24
- Characterizing the boroughs 08:44
- How are the avatars chosen? 15:08
- What caused the “birthing” process of cities to fail (in the book) 19:20
- On complacency 21:57
- The audiobook production of the Great Cities Duology 26:36
- Constructs and magic in *The City We Became* 29:24
- The impact of the book during Covid lockdowns of 2020 34:32
- Gentrification 36:08
- Real-life influences for the avatars 44:34
- Indigenous representation in the books 50:50
- H.P. Lovecraft 55:37
- Writing in second person (point-of-view) in the Broken Earth series 1:04:33
- N.K. Jemisin’s book recommendations 1:10:17
- “I hate maps” 1:12:14
- What’s next 1:16:51

Relevant links to topics mentioned in this episode

[The New Yorker: “N.K. Jemisin’s Dream Worlds” \(January 20, 2020\)](#)

[Launch Pad Astronomy Workshop](#)

[Time Magazine: “I feared my enslaved ancestors had been dishonored in death—but the African Burial Ground in New York City tells a different story.” \(March 24, 2020\)](#)

[USA Today: “NYC Mayor Eric Adams wants changes to sanctuary city laws, increased cooperation with ICE.” \(February 28, 2024\)](#)

[Courbanize.com \(blog post\): “Community Engagement’s Role in Preventing Gentrification” \(February 22, 2022\)](#)

[Bowery Boys \(podcast episode\): “Land of the Lenape: A Violent Tale of Conquest and Betrayal” \(July 23, 2020\)](#)

[The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape: Our tribal history](#)

[Nnedi Okorafor: “Lovecraft’s racism & The World Fantasy Award statuette, with comments from China Miéville” \(blog post, December 14, 2011\)](#)

[Pratt Institute Libraries: We need to talk about Melvil Dewey](#)

[Link to episode transcript](#)

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