

Read. Return. Repeat.

A ReadICT Podcast

Show Notes

Season 4 Episode 8:

Reading & Rhinos (featuring Jillian Forsberg)

December 20th, 2024



In this episode

Sara and Daniel interview local author Jillian Forsberg to talk about her new historical novel *The Rhino Keeper*. Jillian shares what inspired her to write a book based on the most famous Rhino in modern history, but also why she believes every story, even unpleasant ones, should continue to be told, as we explore ReadICT Category 7: A Book Someone Told You Not to Read.



About Jillian Forsberg

Jillian Forsberg is a historian and author with a master's degree in public history from Wichita State University. In addition to being the former editor for Wichita State's *The Fairmont Folio*, Jillian is an essayist whose articles have been published in academic journals. She lives in Wichita, Kansas, with her husband, child, and pets, where she owns a bridal store. She's currently working on her third novel.

Photo courtesy jillianforsberg.com

More about Jillian Forsberg

Website: jillianforsberg.com

Facebook: facebook.com/jaforsberg

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

Threads: [@jillianforsberg](https://threads.com/@jillianforsberg)

X (formerly Twitter): [@ForsbergJillian](https://twitter.com/ForsbergJillian)

Books and other writing by Jillian Forsberg

[Jillian's work on *Writer Unboxed* \(contributing writer\)](#)

The Rhino Keeper (2024)

The Porcelain Menagerie (coming fall 2025)

Books, films & other media mentioned in this episode

Clara's Grand Tour: Travels with a Rhinoceros in Eighteenth-Century Europe by Glynis Ridley (2005)

The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer (written circa 1387-1400)

Bring Them Home/Aiskótáhkapiyaaya (Documentary film, 2024)

The Return of Wolves: An Iconic Predator's Struggle for Survival in the American West by Eli Francovich (2023)

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls (1961)

Old Yeller by Fred Gipson (1956)

Black Beauty: His Grooms and Companions, the Autobiography of a Horse by Anna Sewell (1877)

Butcher & Blackbird (The Ruinous Love Trilogy, #1) by Brynne Weaver (2023)

My Darling Dreadful Thing by Johanna Van Veen (2024)

The Fox and the Hound (Animated feature film, 1981)

Balto (Animated feature film, 1995)

Nightbitch by Rachel Yoder (2021)

The Fly (Feature film, 1986)

The Substance (Feature film, 2024)

Lord of the Rings book series by J.R.R. Tolkien (1954-1955)

Topics discussed in this episode (with timestamps)

- About *The Rhino Keeper* 2:05
- Historical accounts of Clara 6:45
- Use of a dual timeline 10:31
- Animal exploitation and conservation 13:33
- Flash fiction & NYC Midnight 17:00
- Tasmanian tigers and other extinct animals 19:20
- *The Rhino Keeper* audiobook 28:17
- Jillian's "Do not read" list 31:55
- Benefits of content warnings vs. censorship 35:36
- Great books with bad reviews 37:28
- Moo Deng Mania 42:21
- What's next 49:38

Relevant links to topics mentioned in this episode

[About Clara the Rhinoceros](#)

[Douwe Mout van der Meer](#)

Salina Journal: ["Kansas author returning to Rolling Hills Zoo, inspiration for 'The Rhino Keeper'" \(October 31, 2024\)](#)

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art: The Grand Tour](#)

[Rhino Conservation at Tangyanika Wildlife Part \(October 27, 2021\)](#)

[NYC Midnight \(Flash fiction writing challenges\)](#)

Smithsonian Magazine: ["A 110-Year-Old Pickled Thylacine Head Helped Build the Most Complete Ancient Genome to Date, Says 'De-Extinction' Company" \(October 28, 2024\)](#)

Smithsonian Magazine: ["'New' Footage of Benjamin, the Last Tasmanian Tiger Ever Seen Alive" \(June 1, 2020\)](#)

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Endangered Species](#)

NPR: ["Meet Moo Deng, the baby pygmy hippo so popular you can visit her for only 5 minutes" \(September 18, 2024\)](#)

[Lisztomania](#)

[Johann Kändler](#)

[Link to episode transcript](#)

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