

Date: 12/1/23

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

Episode Title and Number: Chillin' Like a Villain (Season 3, Episode 9)

Episode Summary: Sara and Daniel talk with author Natalie Zina Walschots, author of *Hench*, where they take a closer look at ReadICT Category 5, a book told from the villain's point of view. In this episode they examine the lives of the hired help of supervillains, why nobody thinks about the real-world cost of superheroes destroying everyone's favorite coffee shop, and why even henchmen deserve universal health care.

Guest Bio:



Natalie Zina Walschots is a writer and game designer. She is the author of *Hench*, a novel about the mistreated and undervalued employees of supervillains, which was a finalist on the 2021 season of Canada Reads and nominated for a Locus Award for Best First Novel. She is presently working on the sequel, entitled *Right Hand*, which is due to be released in Fall 2024. Her work also includes LARP scripts, heavy metal music journalism, video game lore, and weirder things classified as "interactive experiences." Her writing on the interactive adventure *The Aluminum Cat* won an IndieCade award, and her poetic exploration of the notes engine in *Bloodborne* was featured in Kotaku and First Person Scholar. She is (unfortunately) the author of two books of poetry: *Thumbscrews*, which won the Robert Kroetsch Award for Innovative Poetry, and *DOOM: Love Poems for Supervillains*. Natalie sits on the board of Dames Making Games, a space for queer and gender-marginalized people to create games freely, where she hosts interactive narrative workshops. She plays a lot of D&D, participates in a lot of NordicLARPs, watches a lot of horror movies and reads a lot of speculative fiction. She is presently relocating from Toronto to Nova Scotia, so she can write by the sea.

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Books recommended in this episode:

The Christie Affair, by Nina de Gramont
Rock Paper Scissors, by Alice Feeney
Yellowface, by R.F. Kuang
The Custom of the Country, by Edith Wharton
And Then There Were None, by Agatha Christie
Not a Happy Family: A Novel, by Shari Lapena
The Atlas Six, by Olivie Blake

Special Thanks to our reading community on Facebook and callers to our book review hotline for sharing their recommendations!

Resources & Links:

About Natalie Zina Walschots

[Natalie's website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram: @nataliezed](#)

[Tumblr](#)

[Twitter: @NatalieZed](#)

Books by Natalie Zina Walschots

Right Hand (Hench #2), expected publication 2024

Hench, 2020

The Secret Loves of Geek Girls: Redux (contributor), 2017

The Secret Loves of Geek Girls (contributor), 2015

The Best Canadian Essays 2014 (editor), 2014

Dumb: #1 + 2 (introduction), 2014

Doom: Love Poems for Supervillains, 2011

Thumbscrews: poems, 2007

Interviews/Articles

[Atomic Carnival Books: Interview with Natalie Zina Walschots, April 25, 2023](#)

[Augur Magazine: An interview with Natalie Zina Walschots, November 17, 2022](#)

[Author talk w/ Brandford Public Library, April 12, 2022 \(Video\)](#)

[Book Lust with Nancy Pearl interview, December 29, 2020 \(Video\)](#)

[Books that Burn podcast interview, March 6, 2023](#)

[CBC Books: 10 books Hench author Natalie Zina Walschots loved, March 4, 2021](#)

[CBC Canada Reads: Paul Sun-Hyung Lee & Natalie Zina Walschots discuss Hench, March 2, 2021 \(Video\)](#)

[Interview with Rachel Barenbaum, September 21, 2020 \(Video\)](#)

[Los Angeles Public Library blog: Interview with an author: Natalie Zina Walschots, October 15, 2020](#)

[Kobo in Conversation podcast: Natalie Zina Walschots on good bosses and bad guys, March 6, 2021](#)

[The Next Chapter podcast \(CBC\) interview, February 12, 2021](#)

Other Resources

[Maryville University: A guide to activism in the digital age \(November 25, 2019\)](#)

[Women in refrigerators](#)

[Gail Simone \(writer\)](#)

[United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction \(UNDRR\): The human cost of disasters: an overview of the last 20 years \(2000-2019\)](#)

[*The Boys* \(TV series\)](#)

[*The Venture Bros.* \(Animated TV series\)](#)

[*Harley Quinn* \(Animated TV series\)](#)

[Despicable Me \(animated film\)](#)

[Association for Psychological Science: From Voldemort to Vader, science says we prefer fictional villains who remind us of ourselves \(April 22, 2020\)](#)

[Thedailyfandom.org: What shapes our appeal to the villain? \(September 26, 2021\)](#)

[Andypeloquin.com: The ultimate guide to villains and antagonists in fiction \(November 27, 2017\)](#)

[Comicvine.com: The 8 major superhero archetypes](#)

[Heroicworld.com: Heroic archetypes](#)

[Doctor Doom](#)

[Canada Reads](#)

[Paul Sun-Hyung Lee \(actor\)](#)

[Cleveland Clinic: Spiral Fracture](#)

[Nursing Times \(November 29th, 2001\) Psychological aspects of wound healing](#)

[Wounds UK Journal \(2011, Vol. 7, No. 4\) The psychological consequences of wounds – a vicious circle that should not be overlooked.](#)

[Sinus Lift](#)

[PC Mag: The best VR games of 2023](#)

[Beatsaber \(VR game\)](#)

[Room Escape Divas: Live play-through of “The Aluminum Cat” online immersive experience \(video\)](#)

[Whatgeek.com: Difference between mechanical keyboard and normal keyboard](#)

[IBM Model M keyboard](#)

Full Transcript: http://wichitalibrary.org/BooksMore/Podcast/Pages/rrr_s3e9.aspx

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