Ep 12 The Last Wish & Wyrd Sisters

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Lilly 00:05
Hello, and welcome to fiction fans, a podcast where we read books. And other words, too. I'm Lily.

Sara 00:12
And I'm Sara. And I am so thrilled that today we have with us the wonderful duo of Charles and Dylan from the friends talking fantasy podcast.

00:21
That's us. Yes. Hello. Yeah, we're happy to be here. Yeah,

Sara 00:24
happy to have you.

Lilly 00:27
It's so nice to be the hosts. This time you get to be our guest.

00:31
I was gonna say it's super nice to be the guest. This time. I'm just here. I'm going with the flow, you know, not recording or responsible for editing, whatever.

00:41
You're responsible for all the things I might say at this point from here on.

Lilly 00:47
Oh, wait, can I do that, Sarah? It's always your fault now. No. I'm sorry, Dylan set the precedent I'm allowed to.

Sara 00:57
But see, Dylan is the Sarah of their duo. I get to do that. You don't get to.

Lilly 01:05
I'm sorry. I called it. Before this devolves into too much nonsense. Let's kick Julie. I know. It's gonna be a good show. Let's kick this off with something great that happened this week. Sarah, I know you prepared something. So I'll call on you. First.

Sara 01:22
I did. So Neil Gaiman announced that there's going to be a season to have good omens. And I am cautiously optimistic that that qualifies for my something good.

Lilly 01:33
cautious optimism that that's still great. It's better than dread, I suppose. Yeah.

Sara 01:38
I mean, I'm, I'm more enthusiastic about season two than I was about season one when it was first announced.

Lilly 01:45
So I mean, they've proven their chops, right? Yeah.

01:49
It's a great show. I like it. Yeah, I

Sara 01:51
was kind of astounded to learn that both of you didn't realize that that was the case.

01:57
Yeah, we're a big TV fan. So we see a lot of stuff.

Sara 02:03
So now I have to get you guys to read good omens,

02:06
you could probably talk me into that. Okay, got it. You got us to read Weird Sisters. So good. omens won't be that hard to sell?

Sara 02:14
I will keep that in under consideration.

Lilly 02:18
How about either review? Anything great happen?

02:21
Don't you? Would you like to do the honors of? Well, I

02:24
start playing tennis again after a pretty long break. So yeah, that was pretty big for me. Tennis a big part of my life. So yeah, but I wasn't playing for a while I lower injury. So start playing again. I'm excited to get back into it.

Lilly 02:40
Oh, that's great. And just in time to enjoy the summer. Yeah,

02:43
definitely. Well, for me, I guess I would say I have my my mother's coming to visit I just doing a lot of like Home Improvement stuff. And I barely know how to hold a drill. So the little accomplishments like oh, I hung a shelf today is like, you know, it's pretty awesome. And then yet, we got to you know, record recently with just a quick plug for fantasy for the ages, Jim and Zach. They had us on their show. And that was so much fun, too. So always excited to talk fantasy. And I've been looking forward to that we plan this months ago. So I'm just like, super excited to let the States finally come.

Lilly 03:22
I know we've been like watching this episode steadily approach on our calendar. Like, it's an friends talking fantasy episode. It's finally here.

03:30
I know. It's exciting. I will say really quickly. I've already told the story like maybe twice on our show, but I'll say it really quickly at the top here. When we did all systems read the murder bot diaries on our show. I get two separate text messages from my parents separately. And they're like, oh, that show you did with those two with those two women. It was really good. Okay. Something about our collaboration really spoke to them and they loved it. And that's kind of like what they keep going back to. That is that episode. I'm like, okay, okay, I see. So, our fans loved you guys on so we're super happy to return the favor now.

Sara 04:10
I think your parents of your parents have been taste.

04:14
Fantastic taste.

04:16
I was like, Okay, well, you know, that makes sense. It was a great episode. I was like, have you read all systems right now? Neither one of them have read it, but they enjoyed the episode. Anyway. I don't know what they got out of it. But they enjoyed it.

Lilly 04:28
My mom listens to our episodes and hasn't read any of the books either. I don't know. Just

Sara 04:33
bought some of them though, hasn't you?

04:37
I'm just very excited to hear your mom your wonderful mother Rosemary Charles. If she happens to bring it up again when she's visiting. So and tell her I say hi Charles.

04:49
Well, I will do that. And you know I've when this episode airs. I'll have something else right. I'm gonna listen to like,

04:55
okay, yeah, let us know next time. We'll be around. Alright,

Lilly 05:01
Well, my great thing is that I went camping last weekend, a friend of mine organized and all vaccinated women camping trip to the Olympic Peninsula. And so we went out there for four days, and it was during the middle of the heatwave in the Pacific Northwest. So it was a situation.

05:22
Are you like an experienced camper? Or was this like some new ground for you?

Lilly 05:27
I am awesome. I don't usually go camping in like 115 degree heat.

Sara 05:36
Yeah. Sounds kind of miserable.

Lilly 05:40
We didn't go hiking at a rainfall. That was like walking through soup. Wasn't what I got out of the house. I saw a new place. It was so wonderful.

05:52
Oh, that is exciting. That is a good thing.

Lilly 05:56
Other than that anyone read anything good lately, other than podcast stuff, because we all know everything that we read for this podcast is good.

06:03
Okay. Can we say stuff that we're reading over for FDF artifacts space by Christian camera, while miles Cameron is a name that he uses when he's writing sci fi and fantasy is really awesome. I'm really enjoying that one. And I'm going to be a broken record with the tennis stuff because I'm kind of getting back into it open by Andre Agassi. Yeah. Yeah. I don't mean to keep bringing it up. But I am reading it and it's a really good book. So yeah, that's that's been enjoyable, of course. Went to Weird Sisters and pumped to get into discussing that. i Yeah, full disclosure. I didn't reread The Witcher stuff in anticipation of this. But I you know, up here from our last read

06:55

Yeah, Dylan and I have a very identical reading schedule between Witcher weird sister and artifacts base that's kind of taken up all my reading commitments. And I'm, you know, I was enjoying Yeah, when

07:05
you pick up open by Andre Agassi. Charles. Next up, that's

07:08
next on my TBR I haven't seen on our schedule. Exactly. Yeah, I haven't read that one yet. But

Sara 07:18
you guys did have a wonderful interview with Myles Cameron right. Oh, yeah. He's a great guy that I feel like this is a good opportunity for you to plug that in. As long as I've really enjoyed listening to that.

07:27
Yeah. So right before the book was released, we had the opportunity to interview him. He was super awesome guy and super generous with his time and experience. And he's got a really cool Twitter account. He does these videos called Writing fighting, which I recommend any fan of fiction fans and any fan of ours to check that out over on the Twittersphere. And then yeah, we're gonna have him back on to discuss the book in all of its spoiler filled glory. sometime next week. We have to schedule it, but yeah, yeah, he's

07:57
an awesome, dude.

Lilly 07:58
I can't wait. It sounds awesome.

08:02
Yeah, he's great. Sarah, you

Lilly 08:03
have to ask the next question. So it's not me the whole time. Okay,

Sara 08:07
I will. But are you going to respond to what you've been reading?

Lilly 08:13
Books for the podcast? I would can't pick an answer.

Sara 08:19
My answer for what I've been reading is Towers of Midnight. I was hoping to finish last night but then it was 11 o'clock. And I still had just left.

08:27
Yeah. I saw you tweeting that last night. And I was like, wow, I was mad props if you finish it. So when you told me you didn't know, I was like, okay, at least. At least you're not like some kind of like insanely fast reader.

Sara 08:41
I was. I was a little too optimistic there. But I do really want to finish it tonight. We'll see if that happens. It's only 140 pages like that's an hour and a half tops of reading probably

08:51
are faster. So like,

Sara 08:55
I can do it. I am pretty faster. Don't ask me how well I remember things that I read but not relevant. I do at least. Yeah. Okay, so last question. A very important, the most important. What is everyone drinking tonight?

09:11
I'll go first I did a throwback to the days where Charles and I used to hang out in New Orleans when he lived there. And we would drink a lot of this abita Brewing Company. A betta Purple Haze is a raspberry lager apparently. Oh, yeah, I just grabbed it because for old times sake, Charles when was last time Yeah, I

09:35
appreciated the purple. Hey, yeah, maybe. Maybe

09:39
these days we'll all get to a con and New Orleans or something and, and have I'd love that. Some of these. That would be the dream. Yeah,

09:47
that's the dream right there.

Sara 09:49
Charles, what are you drinking?

09:51
Right. So you know, I this was something that I've been preparing for. Like we said earlier this recording has been on the books for a while and I know you guys always do that. What are you drinking at the beginning? So I did some research and I think I found the right drink. So there's a website called lemon baby. Don't ask me how I found it Google search. And they had a witcher themed cocktail called the White Wolf that has Earl Grey tea in it as well. So I was like, What's your tea cocktails? I'm combining all of it today. It's got rye, whiskey vermouth, Earl Grey and then bitters and orange. Cherry. So it's interesting. It's interesting. Yes, nice young show it off to the chat here. But it's good. You know, I like it.

It's I've never had it before. But I'm excited that I got to combine all these different things into the show today. So I'm very excited.

Sara 10:46
Would you would you make it again?

10:49
Um, you know, the next time I'm online, oh, which your theme? Other tea enthusiast, I would highly recommend it. But yeah, it's basically like an old fashioned plus tea and vermouth.

Lilly 11:04
It's also just the iconic friends talking fantasy fiction fans. Over drink. This is the only time that it's appropriate. Exactly.

11:13
So I highly recommend and after retiring afterward, yeah, exactly. If you're gonna do a fiction fans collab, I highly recommend pairing really well right now.

Lilly 11:25
And Lily, I am drinking a Chardonnay from the Columbia Valley. And it counts as local if it's within state,

Sara 11:32
right. 100 councils local.

Lilly 11:35
But I had to go white wine because it is too hot. To drink something not cold.

Sara 11:40
Also, I just want to point out that it's not from a box

Lilly 11:45
through a whole bottle. It's everything.

Sara 11:49
Breaking out the fancy stuff for friends talking fantasy

11:53
guests on? Yeah, sounds like you guys are moving Highlife over there.

Lilly 11:57
No, we just, we just respect you. That's all.

12:02
We'll take give all the respect to Charles, please. Yeah, definitely don't

Lilly 12:10
I'm Sara yourself.

Sara 12:11
I have gone back to my good old standard of blind with cider. I have mentioned them on the podcast before but their local cidery and the people who who run it are lovely. And I love them a lot. And everyone should go and buy their cider.

12:24
Nice. Yeah,

12:25
I've only had like some generic. Like a brand ciders. Yeah, sorry, orchard. Yeah, yep. I've had, which is good. But I feel like you need to kind of take me under your wing a little bit. Sarah and you get me into the world of cider some more? Yeah.

Sara 12:40
Angry MBR changes. Okay. It's a little too sweet for me. Yeah. I know, Benjamin, that's at literature and Lo Fi. He works for a cidery for a cider company over in the UK. He can probably give you some good advice, too.

12:54
Oh, so between the two of you. I'm more well connected than I thought.

13:00
You're entrenched in the slider community.

13:04
I didn't realize how good my network was.

Sara 13:06
will turn you into one of us.

Lilly 13:10
Absolutely. Now, Sarah, you gave us a little teaser with the fact that you've been reading we'll have time but I also saw your flurry of texts while you were reading it. So.

Sara 13:25
So I do have a little bit of a Wheel of Time check in for us today. I'm not going to do anything super spoilery. Because Dylan, I know that you haven't read the entire series yet. No, I'm a little ahead of you. Appreciate it, sir.

13:37

Of course.

Sara 13:38
This is not like when you're listening. And you can just skip ahead.

13:41
Yeah, it really can't you just tell me what time just because I had to in the future. I thought that Tom

13:47
just walked out of the room for a second

Sara 13:54
Yeah, Lily. Anyway, so we'll have time. I'm not gonna name names, but person A and person B, saw each other and fell madly in love because they're both beautiful people. And heaven forbid that single people in an epic fantasy, like series stay single. And I'm just I'm mad.

14:15
Every book of Wheel of Time that person a person will fall madly.

Sara 14:21
At least at least there's because it because it happens earlier in the series. There's a little more time for the relationship to develop. And for like, these are these are both I don't want to call them minor characters, but they're not like major characters. And it was just so out of left field. It was so random. And I yeah, get frustrated.

14:44
I hear yes. Yeah, I've said on our podcast, you know made similar noises about this. So just like you know, I like to say Robert Jordan has a lot of talents when it comes to character writing and relations. You're probably burn romance is not? Yeah, Charles says this. Yeah, Charles, you said that thing about how he's like got the right people together. But he doesn't know how to get them, actually to there. So he just had sort of thing.

15:20
Yeah, he's a great planner, great world builder. He puts the right people together. But sometimes, you know, it's an older book. We love it, warts and all. But I see exactly what you're saying, Sarah, I think I know what people are talking about. Oh, it's been a while since I've booked for. But I agree.

Sara 15:38
Yeah. Just let single people be single. I mean, to be fair, we'll have time is not the only series where I have this issue. But since that's what I was reading, that's what I'm complaining about.

15:54
It is an issue in the I mean, in the fantasy genre that like Everon storyline has to end with them pairing off and a lot. I think some of the newer stuff I'm seeing is moving away from that. But yeah, it's it's pretty

rampant. I feel like especially in older stuff, like from the 90s. Like, we'll have time, although you're probably in the Yeah. Yeah, in the brand science and stuff. Yeah. I'm glad you have it in front of you. So you can check the date. It's because I was like, I'm gonna put her on the spot. Do that. Okay.

Sara 16:30
I do. 2010

16:33
Oh, geez.

Sara 16:35
I mean, to be to be fair, to Brandon Sanderson. I don't know if this is something that Robert Jordan specifically said like, I want these two. I intend for these two characters to end up. Which is possible. Yeah. But if it's just Brandon Sanderson being like, No, these are these, these people are gonna fall in love, then. Shame on you.

16:54
Wow.

Lilly 16:58
He could have done it. Well, yeah.

17:05
Word Count, right.

Lilly 17:08
issue was not that characters got together, the issue was that it was, you know, awkward and hamfisted. Standing of your complaint, I have not read books.

Sara 17:19
About that's about 90% of the complaint. I mean, 10% is that I just want people to stay single, more often. Like not everyone has to pair off. But the majority of my complaint comes from the fact that it's just out of the blue. Yeah.

Lilly 17:34
Because I know you can appreciate a good romance storyline.

Sara 17:37
I do. I do sometimes. And I call myself not a romance reader. But I've come to realize that I do actually read a lot more romance than I thought.

17:45
Yeah, I know, you're a big fan of the way crystal writes romance and all that right.

Sara 17:52
Legacy of the bright wash. Yeah, because there's a lot of buildup and a lot of tension. And it's not just these two people see each other and are suddenly madly in love.

18:02
Yeah, that's kind of how I feel about romance. storylines, too, is that idea of like, if it's really badly Donek and like we're in a, we're in a book by can really mess up the experience of reading a book. And if it's then well done, they can really enhance the experience. So yeah, props to Crystal for the for getting them from point A to point B in a way that makes sense.

Lilly 18:36
One of the books that we read for this week was the last wish by Andrzej Sapkowski, which is a collection of short stories in The Witcher saga. Many people are probably familiar with this by the series of video games, or the Netflix series based on this series, which I have now used 10 times in one sentence

18:56
was only like pretty good. Thank you. Hey, everyone. We'll see if you can get to 10 Hey, this is we're drinking now this is like, we don't do this. Yeah, so maybe you can just make that into a drinking game where

Lilly 19:14
every time I repeat a word too many times. Good luck everyone at home. Because now I'm going to get into a brief timeline of this series. Just because I think it's really interesting how this series now I'm doing it on purpose. It did start as short stories, and then was compiled into collections and then has a series of novels, but its first adaptation was actually into a series of video games. Which I I would not consider myself a huge video game aficionado. But there are definitely people who consider the Witcher one of the best video games of all time, which is Just think is important to include in the conversation because this is a story that has been extremely influential in many different media. The first short story was published in a literary magazine in 1986. The translation into English was done in 2007, which was also when the first Witcher video game came out. The third game came out in 2015, which is the one that I'm playing and is, as far as I understand, considered, probably is one of the better ones, the best one, maybe. And then, of course, Netflix did their adaptation, their first season of their series in 2019. So we have a couple of decades of this story just sort of growing and expanding and yeah, kind of getting picked at different parts of the timeline into different storytelling mediums. And it's just you don't see that journey in a lot of different places, huh?

21:00
Yeah, that's well said. It's definitely for some reason that's like multimedia phenomena that's also been like this slow burn that's rapidly more and more ingraining itself in popular culture. I want to say the video game company that made it CD Projekt RED is Polish. So that may be the connection that oh, yeah, I believe that their polish and then when those games got popular, some publisher was like, We got to translate these because they'll every everyone in America isn't playing this game. So yeah. And then from there, it's like, can we get Superman to play the Witcher? Right? Here we are.

Lilly 21:40
I love how the video games or I should say the third one, which I am playing. I think all three of them are like far in the future from the from the short stories in the books, which kind of gives them a really cool way of being able to play in the world but then do their own stories entirely.

21:59
Right? I believe Witcher three is also far ahead of The Witcher saga as well. There's like a series of books. That's like one long story and I believe it takes place after all that as well. So you can jump into it and not feel like anything's getting reimagined or spoiled for you or anything like that.

Lilly 22:20
I think we've mentioned this when I first started playing it, but the Gwent cards in the video game, have a lot of really fun Easter eggs that if you're familiar with the world, add charm. But if you're not, it's just a blurb on a card, it doesn't matter.

22:35
Yeah, and also just like the different characters you might run into, or different just like mentions of a short story that may have been in last wish or things like that. There are these Easter egg things that somehow we got world building past the books into RPG video games. So you're like, Oh, I remember from the book from the video game to the show that it's kind of fun. It's kind of fun.

Lilly 22:57
But then the show goes back and is a much more close adaptation of Well, the last wish specifically. And Charles, you've read more? Have you read more of them, Dylan? Or is that I've,

23:08
I've we both read the Sword of Destiny?

23:11
Oh, yeah. Yep. And we watch the TV show. I've never played the video games.

Lilly 23:16
So our question. Ours being Sarah in mind, when we were talking about this was how much of the show is pulled from later books. Because I would say there were like two or three short stories that are very closely adapted to the show.

23:34
There are some episodes of season one that are because the second book sort of Destiny is a similar style of like a bunch of short story anthology kind of things. So there are some of those short stories that appear in season one of of The Witcher show there's one with a dragon, for example. And that is like the first story and sort of destiny i believe so yeah, they kind of cherry picked they kind of cherry.

Lilly 24:00

One of my big comments is I really loved the characters in the show. And I don't think they all shined quite as brightly in the short stories. But that could have just been because they didn't get as much screen time. So I don't know, screen page time.

Sara 24:17
I also think that it suffered a little bit from the translation. Like I to be perfectly honest, I wasn't a huge fan of the translator. It felt a little bit clunky. And it felt like I was reading a translation. Not that I was reading something that had been written like natively in English. Yeah, it's not that you couldn't read it and enjoy it. It's just that I didn't notice it.

24:41
Yeah, I hear you, sir. I had I had something of a similar reaction of like, being aware at points in which as you're eating like, Yeah, this is probably something from the translation, and just phrasing stuff, but yeah, and I think comparing the show and the Uh, the short stories, I do agree with you Lily like kind of more nuanced and fleshed out characters in the show in a lot of ways. Like they went for more of this like morally gray just like aesthetic. And like you could tell Game of Thrones seemed to be something of an influence for the way that they went about it. And then, yeah, something about the short stories I like is that that is almost kind of like missing from the show is this almost like zaniness and this charm to it? That there seems to be this kind of Yeah, like something silly about a lot of it. That is just not in the show. Because the show really double down on the gritty dark elements of it. Yeah,

Lilly 25:45
the show was definitely darker. I maybe because I watched it before I read it that didn't like have I didn't have any problem with that when I was watching the show. But I could definitely see how if you were going into it expecting that tone, it would be like, Wait, hold on. Hold on a second.

26:02
I kind of see it. I also think that the Netflix show made the conscious decision to have not just Geralt of Rivia via main character, they wanted Siri to be a main character. And they wanted Yennefer to be a main character. So they're trying to tell all their stories from the beginning and follow them throughout the whole season. Which if you follow the story of the last wish, like you have to get like to the end of the book before we meet Yennefer and serie isn't even mentioned, we're building up to Siri. So it's like, okay, well, if you want it to have both of them knowing that they're famous characters from the games, and further books and things like that, we have to tell the story from the beginning. And that's why the show I still like, jump around in time, so much where the books just kind of start at the beginning and focus on Geralt until girl's story the whole way to bring in these other characters. So it's a different way of telling it. And I'm actually okay with the Netflix version.

Lilly 26:56
I actually disagree with you there a little bit. I think the Well, I agree that I've I quite prefer the Netflix version. But two of the things that I thought that it actually had in common with the short stories was how it jumped around in time, because the sort of conceit for this collection is that Geralt is recovering in a temple. And he is telling these stories to Iola, one of the priestesses there. And so we're still getting

that kind of time jump on a much smaller scale, perhaps that's fair. But like, it's that actually that struck me as a similarity. When I first started reading.

27:32
The stories are told, I believe, chronologically, but you're I heard the frame story takes place after pretty much all of them. So it's true. I think

Lilly 27:43
someone called him the Butcher of black akin really early. And then we see that happen. Right, right.

27:49
Okay. Yeah.

27:50
So I think you're not quite Yeah. In the frame story. They call him the butcher block. And like, really? Yeah. within it. Yes. But you do get that kind of sensation of jumping through time, like you're talking about? Well, a Yeah.

Lilly 28:05
They also named Rob Yennefer. Right. Yeah, getting but you don't find out is like Charles was saying until right. Yeah. Right. I also, from watching the show loved Jennifer so much.

28:16
So it was such a dish.

Lilly 28:19
Yeah. And calamity. I was a little disappointed with that. I had not enough that it turns me off of the book. But I was like, Oh, I can see how this character grew into the woman that I loved. And the show. The female characters

Sara 28:35
in general in the show are a little bit stronger. Because it is more. I mean, it was it was written for modern sensibilities. And this book was written in 1986. I think you said the first story, the first story. Okay, so that so this particular collection was published in 1993. Yeah, yeah. And it does suffer a little bit from being written in the 90s.

29:01
Yeah, well, you're

Lilly 29:03
taking on sort of a fairy tale aspect, which is the only way to ignore the fact that 14 year olds are marrying 30 Something year olds.

29:13

Yeah, still kind of hard to ignore sometimes. I don't know. I mean, I I think I talked about this on our episode of some Charles I know I didn't deep dive into it. But yeah, just some things that didn't age well that that Charles Charles and I always try on the podcast to view things in their context you know, we're just like well, we'll dive and all this kind of stuff. Yeah, did not age well and do a read as being sexist. I think now, but I don't want to throw those terms around. Like at authors or anything like that is a different time. So

Lilly 29:52
yeah. I feel like this book walks through the line pretty well. I would say the the worst examples of All of it were from characters that I wasn't necessarily supposed to like. Which makes it much easier to swallow. You know? Yes, stray Gabor is summoning visions of a person is only described as a naked girl, which is very vague in a troubling way. Right? He's also not a good guy. So maybe that's just supposed to say something about him.

Sara 30:25
Even even the, the, I don't want to say the good guys, but like some of the monsters that we're supposed to root for in the end, they also have pretty misogynistic views. But not as

Lilly 30:37
bad. I will say the worst parts were from bad guys.

Sara 30:41
But it does, it does permeate all of the characters views. It's not just the bad guys,

30:48
I would say there's like, you know, little instances scattered throughout where I was like, oh, yeah, I don't know if this would fly today. But I also, you know, to shake up the perspective here, what I see is a series that was written in the 80s. And in the published in the early 90s, that was maybe actively trying to change some things, you know, I do think like Geralt himself has is a, you know, pretty open minded guy. And like Lily was saying some of the situations within which there were some of the worst cases, these characters either weren't meant to be liked, or weren't particularly likeable, or that kind of stuff wasn't portrayed in the most positive way. It was just something that was happening. So in those cases, I like to give it some slack, although I do recognize it as not being perfect by any means. And certainly, like just reading descriptions of Yennefer. And the words like, why are they both taking a bath together now that they've just match and she couldn't make another room somewhere?

Sara 31:50
Actually, I think because I had the context of the show, like I watched the show first. And so I had seen the relationship develop. So I was like, okay, these two people can fall madly in love. That's fine. There is development there, whatever.

32:01
Yeah, I mean, bad scenes in The Witcher, I just pass

Lilly 32:07
it. Okay, so I was watching the show. And Danny, my husband, who has played the games, was watching it with me. And I tried to make a funny joke. Like, oh, they're trying to make the most out of hiring Superman for this, you know, they're doing this gratuitous bad scene. And he just turns to me and says, This is what the Witcher is

32:34
like that was a shot for shot recreations of a witcher three moment that very famous

Lilly 32:39
game opens on Geralt in a bathtub.

32:43
The same like spread eagle feet up on the rim of the back with his face in between.

Lilly 32:48
Wild it's a very rare thing to be famous

32:51
for. Oh, yeah, definitely. But it's equal

Lilly 32:55
opportunity. Horny, which we love on this.

Sara 32:59
Do you love on this podcast?

Lilly 33:01
We were talking for a hot second about translations. And then we got a little bit away from us. But I do want it to laugh about dandelion. Yeah. Who is Gehrels Bard? The BFF. Yeah, except his name is your skier, which they kept in the show. Another thing that the show got, right.

33:22
And yeah, yeah, it's pretty incredible.

Lilly 33:25
It's wild that the the true translation of your skier is Buttercup. But then they decided that was too girly. So named him dandelion, in,

Sara 33:34
in the game. I also like how in this book, they actually misspelled dandelion the entire time, like, they have an eye instead of an E. And I believe that, that changes in the rest of the series.

33:48

So here's what's interesting, and I if you if anyone, probably you audio book fans out there listening to this, you'll listen to the last wish. It's the same Narrator Peter Kenny throughout all of them, but in the first one, he says Dan Dillion and then he in books too, and on he goes to dandelion, so it's just a total mess. Like, it's like, I'm not calling this character Buttercup. And I guess we'll call him dandelion, but maybe we should change it a little bit. Now, let's not change it a little bit. Let's bring it back. So you know, it's like, it's like, whatever. People are only playing the video games anyway, like, that's kind of how it felt when they were treating it. But yeah, it was Dan Daly in the audio book for this one, but then it's just like, oh, dandelion, we said dandelion the whole time when you're talking about from like, Book Two, all the way through this, like, boom, or something like that, but yeah, it's it's pretty funny. Yeah, I

Lilly 34:36
didn't know that. I kind of love Dan Dillion. Actually.

34:40
It's not a bad name.

34:41
It's kind of cool. Yeah. Suits. It

34:43
suits his personality. Yeah,

Sara 34:45
I mean, that's definitely how I pronounced it when I like saw it. Initially. I only pronounced a dandelion because I knew like I had heard that it was supposed to be dandelion. Yeah. But I liked dandelion,

34:56
too. That's what Peter Kenny says anyway, then. Then deadly?

Sara 35:00
Yes, that's my new headcanon. For him. His name is Dan Jillian's

35:04
nice.

Lilly 35:06
I also loved how they lifted some dialogue, almost word for word from the book into the show, but in slightly different contexts, but the lines were almost identical. So that was really fun to run into the line, or the conversation about lesser evil. Well, that one, I think was,

35:24
yeah, the Lesser Evils, one of our favorites. And there was more, but

Lilly 35:27

I didn't write it all down.

Sara 35:28
I don't actually remember the show well enough to have

35:32
picked up on that. It was the first episode was

Sara 35:35
yeah, my memory doesn't go back that far. I was like, December or something. It was a long time ago.

35:41
Right? There's this whole thing about like, you know, when it comes to choosing between two evils, I prefer not to choose at all or something. And it's like identical to the English translation as well as the show. So yeah.

Sara 35:55
When Lily and I were writing our show notes, we realized that the blurbs on the back of our two copies were different. I don't know if you guys have your copy of the last wish handy. But I just thought that it would be interesting to discuss, like how different they are, because it was kind of funny, actually, in my opinion. Anyway,

Lilly 36:15
they're also both very wrong, except for one thing, and those one things are different.

36:21
Mine was the same one that you have there, Sarah, that I can see on the Zoom call. So yeah, I'll let myself off the hook here for not having my

36:29
I audiobook that I didn't. There was no getting involved.

Lilly 36:34
So first of all, Sara, I don't think we should read this word for word, but probably not. Hers starts with Andrzej Sapkowski. is an award winning blah, blah, blah, like all of his,

Sara 36:47
yeah, it's a bio of him. So hers is at the

Lilly 36:51
like, front and center at the top. And mine is at the very end and small font. So that's interesting. Just philosophically, I think the only thing they truly have in like, word for word, not all monsters are evil. And not everything fair is good. See, the

Sara 37:07
only the only thing that they have is the evil and not everything fair is good, because mine says but not everything monstrous looking. It's not like a monster.

Lilly 37:16
Wow. Pig by might be a little better there. I don't know. The back of mine also says one man holds the line against the demons that plague humanity. There's a whole guilt of Witchers.

37:28
Yeah, that's not

Lilly 37:34
what this is about?

37:36
Someone wants to write that book. Great. But that's not this one.

Lilly 37:39
It's just extremely misleading, right? Like that's not at all this book.

37:43
Yeah, not at all. It's not about holding back monsters for the sake of humanity. If anything, it's the opposite.

Lilly 37:51
I loved that about this. I would say that was absolutely my favorite part of this collection of short stories was the exploration of what is a monster? And the difference between monsters and evil? And that whole sort of conversation?

38:08
Oh, yeah, absolutely. You know, this idea of what makes a monster and then I also like to say the witches about, you know, girl fighting monsters and the people that make them because you like this, these stories. And I think what inspired this RPG style video game is, the decision is not always clear. For girls. He's a monster hunter. But the more he investigates the more he realizes what other nefarious deeds are going on around the same time, and he has to choose what side he's gonna take. And yeah, he always tries to do what's right by his own his own code. And that's not always very clear. So that's what makes his book so great.

Sara 38:46
It's a really nice reframing of the traditional fairytale story where you get a little bit more nuance to it. It's not just that it's black and white. But like, as you said, you know, they're, the monsters aren't aren't always evil.

38:59

Yeah. And he grapples with that sort of monstrous identity himself, too, which is interesting. And that's something that doesn't translate as well to the show when it's like Henry Cavill, walking around, and it's like, it's like, everyone's scared of me. When I walk into a room. It's like, like, Henry Caveau, if you got some mud in his hair, or whatever, but in the book, he's described more monstrous and in a way that if he walks into a tavern or whatever, people look at him like he, he's a monster himself. And he's obviously a Witcher and that comes with its own, like biases that people project onto him. And I feel like yeah, the book does a really good job of exploring his identity struggles with like, I'm a monster hunter. But am I a monster and then this bit that all All we're talking about with are the people out there who are hiring me to kill these quote unquote monsters, the real monsters and things like that and the other folks he runs into along the way. It's like that what makes a monster concept is so freakin cool to watch. Explore in so many ways throughout these different forms of media.

Lilly 40:22
And I answered the question a little bit. Well, we answered the question a little bit before I asked it, but that's why you should read this book. Yeah, I would say, yeah. Read it for the conversation on monsters and identity and fun fairy tale retellings?

40:40
Yeah. Definitely, yeah. Second that

40:44
there's some great creatures in here. There's great action pieces. It's a little bit introspective as well. It's kind of this like Gothic McCobb kind of vibe and certain stories as well, which I really liked to.

Lilly 40:57
I definitely glazed over a little bit in some of the action scenes. I was like, this is another page. All right. I'll say that's a me problem.

41:07
So when I was first recommended to read The Witcher or even just to watch a show, I actually had this idea in my head that The Witcher because it was a video game and things like that was just like Basham kill the monster type thing. And that's not really my stick as much as these more like psychological and philosophical questions that are actually explored. So I will say it took me longer to get into the Witcher than then maybe I could have especially because I really enjoy it. So it's like, if there are any folks out there who were like me before I picked it up who were like, is this going to be exploring things are actually gonna be interesting to me or is it just gonna be a bunch of monsters slaying? And that's it, then? Yeah, I do find it's it's really interesting morality. And like you said Lilly identity. And you said something else that I'm blanking on. By the way, that was really smart. Me too. But I'm

Lilly 42:07
sure to avoid spoilers for The Witcher, skip to 103 10. One of the short stories that is almost directly adapted is the story of King full test and his daughter who is cursed to be a monster, whom Geralt saves in both the story and the TV show. The TV show does it in a much more interesting way. I

thought, not that the plot points change at all. But in the story Geralt just runs into people who tells him what's going on?

Sara 42:50
It's how they reveal the information, yeah, differs

Lilly 42:53
in the show, he has to actually solve a mystery, which I just thought was more compelling.

Sara 43:00
I think that the show in general has tighter pacing, because it's made for, again, a modern audience in a different medium. And that worked for me a little bit better than the books did I, I found the books to be kind of info dumpy at times, whereas you have to work for all of the information that you get in the show. That's

43:21
fair, I see the last wish, Army I'm sorry, The Witcher was the name of the short story. It's tied with the lesser evil for me, it's my favorite in the book. And I thought it was a great episode of the show as well. I thought the show nailed the look of like the stringer and that whole Gothic vibe. It wasn't afraid to get extra grim and violence. So I appreciated all of those things. But I could talk all day about the Witcher. I think it's a fantastic short story. It's the one that was written first and wasn't published first and won all these awards that that inspired the rest of what we've gotten from The Witcher. So it kicked off everything. And it kind of feels like it stands out in that way too. It definitely is more Titan contained. But I thought the book did an excellent job. I do think like a lot of the like pacing issues and dialogue issues come from the translation. But to me, I I think this is a fantastic like, short story. I think it's great.

Lilly 44:21
I almost entirely agree. I just think the fact that Geralt doesn't have to work for any of the information in the short story. People are just offering him all of this knowledge. And he everyone he meets is like, let me tell you everything. Yeah, it's just it's just less complicated, which is not a huge complaint. I love that this is one of the first stories because it really introduces that concept of I think I even fell into it. Witches are not Monster Hunters. They are protectors and one of the ways that they protect people is by curing you cursed people or monsters or whatever. And this does a really good job of not only introducing that, but also introducing the risks of that. Right? I

45:11
kind of think it was like they're monster experts, but they're not necessarily like Monster Exterminators. So they're, they know what his trigger is. And they know that they can lift the curse. And he's actually going to try and do that. So that's what I liked about it. But then it's contextualized by all these people coming up to him and being like, hey, I'll pay you money not to kill this creature because of these reasons, or I'll pay you to, you know, kill the creature, or I'll pay you to leave right now, or this or that. And it gives you the sense that this town, this kingdom is so plagued not just by monsters, but by their own greed, or gluttony, or wrath, or lust, or whatever, that the whole environment is just very toxic and became this breeding ground for a monster. Like you took something innocent and was so cursed, that

it became a monster. So I was like, well, it's just like, really, actually quite interesting. If you can look past like what's being presented and kind of read into what's happening. It's kind of it's a pretty deep story that Andrzej Sapkowski, tried to try to weave in here and I thought it was very clever.

Lilly 46:22
It introduces Geralt as such a thoughtful introspective person that I don't think we get as much of in the show. Yeah, I will say Geralt is the one character that I think got short fold in the show. But in this story, he is willing to save this little girl, even though it is much more dangerous. Like they they make it very clear. And that's a very long action scene, you know, he is fighting for his life in a way that he wouldn't have to.

Sara 46:51
I also I also like the realism of him saying that I'll do my best to save her. But like, if it's her life, or mine, I'm going to prioritize my life. So it's not just that he's blindly trying to save everyone. I mean, he is trying to save everyone. But he's also

Lilly 47:08
a realist, but he's not taking the shortcut of well, I'll just kill it and get it over with.

47:12
Yeah, yeah, some people Yeah. And he he was getting offered money just to not do anything. Yeah. So he could have just turned around and left and made all the money. So there's, that's what's so interesting about girl he is very practical and very much a realist, but sometimes he'll make the dangerous choice. He's a man of morals, too. Yeah. But like his own weird moral. Like, I'm just gonna do the good thing all the time. It's like, I'm gonna puzzle this out and do what I think is best, which is what makes it so interesting.

47:44
That introspection that y'all been talking about, as well as just his, I guess he's got this almost intellectual curiosity about morality and things like that, where he's every new person that he talks to. And that's kind of how I remember this short story being is just like, he goes to one person. And they tell him like, hey, yeah, definitely do this. Like, this is the best play with this trigger, and then another person, and then it's like, it's always more complicated, but something that girl does is he doesn't lock himself into the first thing he starts thinking is the right path. He's always questioning and he's always listening to the next person in front of him trying to take it in and fit it into his own very nuanced and complicated moral code. And yeah, like, you've all been saying, a great introduction to the witcher Geralt? Yeah, he's almost

Lilly 48:37
a scientist in that way. He's always willing to see the new information and change his conception of what's going on based on the whatever he's finding out. Yeah, it's much more thoughtful. Okay. Okay, I have this headcanon let's hear the Netflix show girl. We all know he's a him though.

Sara 49:00

He does think with his muscles. He is

Lilly 49:03
He is not displayed as this like thoughtful, considerate person, as we are seeing

49:12
books tough because he's externally so much just like grunting and moving and things like that. And the show, just by nature of the format almost has to be exclusively external. I mean, they're not I don't think the show would be positively affected by Geralt internal monologue or something. But yeah, it feels like it

Lilly 49:36
kind of talks to

49:39
something that I feel like he displays it in his behaviors in the show. He's got this complicated morality but you don't get to see the process you don't you get the destination that you're now you know, he's must be thinking through it. Because of how what he decides to do and how it's not always the easy choice, but in the books you get to see the journey more and I mean, yeah, it's I think he's

Sara 50:05
a lot angrier in the show than He is in the books. And he expresses that anger, you know, not necessarily healthy way like he's really mean to yeah, here for example.

50:15
I totally agree.

50:17
Yeah,

Lilly 50:18
that's also where I was going with it. Why is he so mean?

Sara 50:23
Like, like we don't that's not something that we get or at least that's not something that I got from the books. Like I he seemed much more even keeled in the book

Lilly 50:31
even in the short story that where they met which is the same events how they met in the show yeah, already nicer to ya skier in

Sara 50:41
and he's a lot more concerned about your skier tail say

50:44
he he's like, best friends for life with you Oscar dandelion or whatever. I never really question they rub each other and all that kind of stuff and make fun of each other. But in the books, they just yeah, they're just like, befalls. And it's and in the show there was Yeah, it feels very much this game to me Game of Thrones inspired. Like every relationship is complicated. And everyone's Ken and I love Game of Thrones, I mean, folks buy or wherever that they listen to our show or whatever. But yeah, it feels like they wanted to make more relationship drama. And what they lost was this, like very pure friendship that exists between the two of them in the box.

51:33
Right. I also think it's Henry cavils depiction of girl with this gruff exterior, he's really committing to that. And I think someone like Jessica, who's like, closest to him, I guess he's still putting up these guarded walls. And that's what they're going for. I kind of I do like their relationship more in the books. And I like certain plot points that happen as a result of their friendship and the books over the show. But I think Henry Cavill does a does a good job. But there's a piece that's missing for me that I just wish they explored more. And to me, it's like, like, The Witcher is a man who's obviously hurting, he doesn't really like himself that much. He's got this bit of impostor syndrome. He's full of full of self doubt, and self loathing. And it's not even that obvious in the books. It's like, he's not about that. But it permeates through everything that he does. It's a really subtle character detail that I think the show is just completely missing at this point. And I hope they tell

52:33
him. Yeah.

Lilly 52:35
You ready for my head? Yes, I think they are going to show us Gehrels character growth over the course of having to become a father. They're showing us him being very angry and immature, and mean, frankly, and he is going to have to grow up if he's going to raise Siri. And so this way, they're giving us a starting point so that we can see him turn into this thoughtful, introspective, mature, which are that we know.

53:09
Yeah. Yeah, there's this angle, that girl tells himself he can't be close to anyone. He can't love anyone. And I think you know, the shows made that very clear the way he treats people, but I think that's kind of what they're doing is like, Oh, get away from me. Like, I don't want to be I don't want to have anything to do with you. Or oh, Jessica, I'm gonna say mean things to you, because you're around. And yeah, I think it's developing that relationship with Siri and maybe some other people in his life that will cause him to kind of put down the walls a little bit more and maybe buy into the fact that maybe I do feel like a freaky monster sometimes. But that doesn't mean I can't have meaningful interpersonal relationships. You know, it's like a pretty interesting premise. Yeah. Oh,

Lilly 53:51
I really hope they go there. Because you to come on again. Yeah. You could be so good.

Sara 53:56
I guess we'll see. Because we're getting season to some point the small army

54:01
soon. I don't know if there's a date set or what but it seems like yeah, I'm the year.

Lilly 54:06
I have a couple of notes here of characters that I thought were better in the book, versus better in the show versus entirely identical, which is just your skier other than his name, dandelion, or Buttercup or your skier. He's gonna Jillian,

Sara 54:23
Jillian,

Lilly 54:25
he's the same

54:26
and props to that actor. For being able to Job Charisma on Yeah. Charles talks about this. With Yeah, Charles, you you got that whole take about how hard it is playing that kind of role?

54:41
Yeah, I mean, it's hard to deliver like the comic relief over the top flamboyant character without feeling like you're harping on a roll that we've already seen a dozen times to make that feel original and and fresh and part of the story and not be cringe worthy. especially impressive and the fun Aren't they added those songs? Really?

Sara 55:03
Didn't get tossed a coin?

55:06
Yeah, yeah. I know. I know.

55:11
It should be on that audio book there, Charles. It was

Lilly 55:16
absolutely job of making your skier a flirt without being weird or creepy about it, which is a very hard line.

55:28
Yeah, he does a good job of kind of like reacting to some of the stuff like, he's kind of like a voice for the audience sometimes in some of these crazy situations, like in the last wish when he's like peeking out

of here, like I can't do it. He's like, Oh, what's going on? And I'm like, yeah, what's going on? So it's like the way he mirrors audience reaction. You know, it's great.

Lilly 55:49
characters that were better in the book. Were Nikki, Nikki, Nikki. Charles.

56:00
I think Nikki is like, because she

Lilly 56:04
existed in the book. I really liked her though. I had no idea that she existed, obviously, from watching the show. But she's a very cool, like, matron of a temple, who takes no shit from Harold or anyone else. And was excellent.

Sara 56:26
I hope she shows up in the show. I really enjoyed her. Yes.

56:30
Yeah, it's the Temple of mojito or

Sara 56:35
something like that.

56:37
But yeah, she's great. I love the I love the framing story. I liked it. It's all part of this thing from the lesser evil where he just wanted to check and make sure that this girl was okay and took this fatal wound and, and you know, those kinds of things. And yeah, the fact that she's kind of like, no nonsense, trying to give him some guidance, and he's like this, you know, badass Monster Hunter, and she's telling them like what to do is we

Lilly 57:02
need some mothering. And she can do it.

57:06
Sure does. Heard. You read more? double down on that, for sure.

Lilly 57:15
I'm familiar with some spoilers. Fanfiction is an interesting fusion of all types of the story into one thing, so I have a weird conglomerate of knowledge. But I say that

57:33
Geralt seems like a good character to breed some very interesting and diverse kinds of fanfiction.

Lilly 57:43

Okay, calamity and Yennefer. I said it during the non spoiler section, because I couldn't help myself in the show. And I don't know if all of those events in the show are in later short stories, because we don't see that much of her in the book.

Sara 58:03
She has a lot more screentime in the show than just in this one. Anthology

58:08
is. There's a lot more to this whole Siri backstory stuff that we get. And I would guess Siri, given her very little page time in the books is gonna make your life better in the shower. Right? Like,

Lilly 58:22
she's not even named in that we read for today.

Sara 58:26
She's just hinted Oh, yeah, I

58:27
forget. Oh, okay. Yeah. And the question of the question is pregnant and it's like, okay, well, that's the whole thing. Don't

Lilly 58:36
even confirm that. It's only implied that Pavetta is pregnant with Siri. That is That is how little of Siri we see. Yeah,

58:43
she's so great in the TV. I really appreciate the performance. And she does such a great job and some Arya Stark vibe.

Lilly 58:55
I was pleasantly surprised in The Witcher three Wild Hunt. You get to play as Siri for portions of the game, which really gives this character agency in a way that was unexpected, but completely loved. Like that was very cool.

59:13
Yeah. Yeah. Siri is like is a great character. And her you know, her absence in this book is kind of unfortunate, but it's all part of building up to her presence. You know, it's like, what's interesting about you know, when Geralt does meet Siri, you know, in the show, we've got that moment, but in the book, it's like Geralt already has so much history with this character that he's been trying to avoid for forever. And so when they finally meet, it's like, wow, okay, there's all this stuff that has now happened, that Geralt knows that Siri does and so but I understood like I totally agree with Netflix. Like this was an awesome character. We need her in episode one. Right away. So it's a it's a line. Yeah. Okay. The balance

Lilly 59:58
as to people who have read more of The Witcher than I have, it feels like the Netflix show realized these were amazing characters and needed to be in it from the beginning. Yeah. Are the plot blinds that we see? You know, Jennifer's backstory, Siri growing up clampy a being a badass bitch. Do those actually happened? Or

1:00:23
I don't want to, like get too much into spoilers for the books. But almost everything that happens was either a short story in the last wish or sort of destiny, except for the Yennefer stuff, which was just a throwaway line in the last wish that turned into this whole backstory thing that I had no idea what was when I was watching the shows, like part of this is this. Oh, I get it. Now, this makes so much sense. So yeah, it's it's kind of interesting, because I believe there's like a throwaway Ryan in the last week where it's like you used to be a hunchback, and I'm

Lilly 1:01:01
not even looking at Yennefer. And it's like, oh, I can see where they fixed you. You must have been a hunchback before in his head. And Yennefer sees him looking at her and he's like, come on. Come on guy.

1:01:19
All right. So her story up until again, I'll just say this, like the end of the season where there was a big showdown that is in the books, but like much later on. So it's like they had to kind of man, it must have been a tough job. But they basically like smashed all the different scenes from all the books and reorganize them. So they could have all the characters at their stories at the beginning, and somehow weave them all back and forth. And together while still having some sort of impression that the show has gone up. It is a very ambitious project by the show, but I get why they did it. And I think we did a good job

Lilly 1:02:01
of that I enjoyed Yeah, quite a bit more. Because we got these implications of very cool characters in the book, but not enough for me to really go. Oh, yeah, I love Yennefer Yeah, collab, right. Greatest. None of

1:02:15
yeah, there's a part of me that would really enjoy the slow burn of meeting care. But then it's like, Come on, everyone already is going into this loving series. So it's got to give it to them right at the beginning. It's not a character you could just sleep on for a whole season and then reveal in season two. I mean, you could but it's very ambitious. And I think they're really trying to sell this project. I don't know if they thought it would be as successful as it was. So

Lilly 1:02:41
I also think from another angle Siri deserves to have that shown, you know, like for sure her character she went through that and let us see her adventure.

1:02:52
Yeah, her and Jennifer are two great characters that you don't think I don't blame on the show runners. Netflix didn't want to sleep on too strong female lead characters. It's like let's not have them in this season. It's like no, let's but Tom from the beginning. Let's have an ensemble cast here.

Sara 1:03:13
Okay, so the entire genesis for getting you on for this particular episode was to make you read to make you read Pratchett Yeah. So for this fire for the second book for this episode, we're gonna be talking about Weird Sisters by Terry Pratchett, which follows the witches it's really the first in his series that focuses on the witches that was published in 1980

1:03:39
We did it Are we are we are Yeah, we did it. We read the Weird Sisters. Thanks to your encouragement

Sara 1:03:47
regardless of your opinion on it I will rest happy knowing that you have at least read Weird Sisters.

1:03:53
Well, that's the thing because I had listened to your episode you did a while back Yeah, of where to start with Discworld and I was one of the people that champion you guys to make that by the way back in the day. I was like, please just let me know. And of course there were like at one point episodes do you like so? Which episodes should buy which books did you not start with? Magic and more. It's like well, okay, those are the two though. Forgive me for reading the first one. In theory,

Lilly 1:04:25
not read the correct books first. So I don't think no one no one's gonna blame you.

Sara 1:04:31
Yeah, to be fair, Charles. Like I started there too. I read them in publication order. I didn't I didn't read them and maybe the the best way to get introduced to this area's

1:04:40
right no one says to read it in publication order to it's like a heavily contested conversation I see online everywhere. It's like where to start with.

Sara 1:04:49
It's not the best place to start.

1:04:51
No, but thankfully, we had you guys to say read Weird Sisters. So I didn't have to like go through all that online discourse and stress out you You guys made it very easy.

Sara 1:05:01
I could at least convince you drag and drag you on to talk.

1:05:05
Yeah. Yeah, you're like our shamans through the Pratchett mountain, you know, it's like if you start right,

Lilly 1:05:15
put that as my byline on my resume.

1:05:20
Of course, Charles. was Terry Pratchett. Shaman,

1:05:24
I am curious what made you go for weird sister? I know. I listened that episode too. And my sense was you were kind of like, pick the topic that interests you as a reader, because there's all sorts of like, different kinds of stories for me. I'm going to existentialism. So the death stuff interests me. And that's why when more except you're like the one exception to that rule is more. We tried so far. We

1:05:55
tried which

1:05:56
you? First book you tried to blame me for that I followed the advice that they hadn't yet given except for the one caveat to the advice. Sisters as our next foray into Terry Pratchett's work, so I'm kind of curious, like, what was it about this book that is it just why your favorite or something else?

Sara 1:06:18
So for me, I will say that I actually Weird Sisters is not my favorite of the witches novels. I like witches abroad, and lords and ladies better. And Carpa Yogi alum too. I like I like that as well. I don't know if I'm pronouncing the title correctly, but whatever. But I think that there there is some character development to the witches that you get in Weird Sisters. That means that while you can skip it and start later on in their arc, you're a little bit better off if you don't

Lilly 1:06:52
Weird Sisters is an excellent introduction to Discworld because it has a lot of the concepts that we really love about Discworld. And it also introduces some of the characters that Well, I personally love. Like, Nanny, argh, can we talk about nanny? I know we have loved on Granny Weatherwax before who is one of the which triumph tram Brits. Yeah. Does that work correctly? Yeah.

1:07:24
Yeah. You're not gonna get any pushback from

Lilly 1:07:28
all right. There's always the three witches. That's a thing. And we have met Granny Weatherwax before who is the badass single, unattached, you know, wonderful lady.

Sara 1:07:42
If you think of witches as maiden mother Crone. She is fills that, you know, the crone role.

Lilly 1:07:48
I think that sells her short.

Sara 1:07:52
I mean, it's it's certainly a

Lilly 1:07:55
it's one way of looking at at the art. Yeah, definitely.

Sara 1:07:58
It's just a it's a reduction. It's a shortening

Lilly 1:08:01
maybe is too revealing about myself to say that manioc who you're reading fulfills the mother's role.

Sara 1:08:09
I mean, by practice reading, too. That's not just me.

Lilly 1:08:11
Yeah. She is a little bit more Well, they're both crass. But Nanny Ogg is crass in a different way. And her matriarchy is just so wonderful.

Sara 1:08:25
Granny speaks more to my soul the nanny

Lilly 1:08:28
I think. I think we're being a little bit honest with that.

1:08:37
I think I'm gonna steal the spotlight and then yeah, Div of this book. I think

Sara 1:08:42
nanny has some good moments. But she is not like granny is more the main character in all of the witches books like she takes precedent. That's well,

Lilly 1:08:54
Granny is Granny Weatherwax is the character who has been introduced earliest Yeah, because she appeared in please help me equal rights equal rights. Thank you.

Sara 1:09:07
Book Three.

Lilly 1:09:08
But we discussed her as the one character who was introduced the earliest and has stayed the steadiest throughout the entire series, which is pretty impressive

1:09:21
as a lot of books. Yeah. And

Lilly 1:09:23
she's not in every to be fair.

1:09:26
Yeah, I mean, as a relatively novice reader over here, it was Granny Weatherwax. That stuck out for me too. There's a line have a quote or anything, but it's like, out of the hierarchy that they didn't have. She was at the top and I was like, yeah, that's pretty good.

Lilly 1:09:45
Yeah, that was the perfect way.

1:09:48
Yeah.

Lilly 1:09:48
It's wonderful. I would like to take a slight detour to talk about how different but the same No witches are between the Witcher, which we discussed previously. And in this book, they both change their appearance in The Witcher, it's permanent. But in this book, there's some line about how the body knows where it's supposed to be. And so it wears off by tea time or something. And they also are so reliant on respect and reputation. And these books are so different in so many ways, and finding that overlap was kind of magical to me.

1:10:37
Interesting, there's also this idea of like skirting Deston. Yeah, that kind of permeates through both in very different ways in which they skirt destiny. But still, the fact that that theme is central to both books is also a parallel that is very interesting.

Sara 1:10:56
There's also the idea of retelling a known story where in The Witcher you know, that's fairy tales, and we get a kind of different look at that. And in Weird Sisters, it is Macbeth by Shakespeare that we're seeing from a different point of view.

Lilly 1:11:13
Well said, I would also like to interject Hamlet. Yeah, I was. I mean, the play, play within a play is definitely so.

1:11:21
Yeah, so I was thinking about the Lion King, and I'm vaguely aware that the Lion King was based on Hamlet, so I was going to pretend to be like Lily actually is and be like, a little like Hamlet. Yeah,

1:11:33
Macbeth had the three witches.

1:11:37
Yeah, I got drawn from both depending on what your but this like, all this kind of messed up uncle cat. Yeah. And you

1:11:45
have this like matriarch whispering into the ear of the patriarch. Like those kinds of things, too. That's Macbeth to

1:11:53
Mr. Miller.

1:11:56
Our English teacher. We'll get him famous. We definitely read Macbeth. I don't remember if we read Hamlet, but that's why I know the whole witches thing. And

Lilly 1:12:08
no, there's, there's I mean, the in the Duchess. Well, hold on. We're spoilers break. And the Duchess, I say ominously.

Sara 1:12:22
I mean, all of all of the beats of the plot are from Macbeth. And some of like, the you know, there's the aspect about the forest and the blood on the hands and like that's all from taken from Macbeth, but,

Lilly 1:12:33
but the main conflict is from Hamlet, which is the plays the thing. That's true.

1:12:41
Yeah. was a big thing. Pratchett did a lot like having not read a lot of his work. Like what did he heavily draw from like Shakespearean stuff? Or just like, the it's just this book was kinda what he was doing anything and everything.

Sara 1:12:57
Yeah, I mean, I think he he decided what to satirize, and then he just went for it. And in this case, it's Shakespeare. But that's not the case. Like for the color of magic, for example, you know, he's which we have said is not really, quote unquote, true Discworld? Yeah.

Lilly 1:13:16

I think that's a bad example. I think it's a bad example. I think a better example is the Phantom of the Opera.

Sara 1:13:23
Well, there's there's that too, like that's, that is Yeah, book

Lilly 1:13:25
that is the Phantom of the Opera. Yeah, there's,

Sara 1:13:30
I mean, the the color of magic is very clearly a play on four different like, you know, there's you've got your Anne McCaffrey, there you have your Jules Verne, like, it's, it's kind of the genesis of what you see later on, where he's taking one idea and then riffing off of it and telling it from a new perspective. But it's not it's not always Shakespeare.

1:13:54
Yeah, yeah. No, I mean, I probably went over my head what it was in more, but it's,

Sara 1:14:00
I mean, he doesn't he doesn't do that. Like, it's not that he does that for every single book. Yeah. So more. I don't, at least to my knowledge, that's his own unique story. Yeah. But there, there are some novels where he is playing on a story that's already been told, in, you know, modern cultural perception.

1:14:21
Yeah, makes sense. Definitely comes through. It's interesting thinking about it as being in 1980. It's pretty far back. Compared to I mean, yeah, that's 41 years ago. That's well, that's a long time ago. Yeah,

Sara 1:14:40
yeah. You guys are mostly modern data, see readers right?

1:14:44
Me even. Yeah, Charles has a little more context.

1:14:49
Yeah, we've read all over the place, but 80s would be the oldest wizard

Sara 1:14:56
to gravitate towards the modern stuff.

1:15:00
Yes, yeah, yeah, we do on our show especially Yeah, a lot. Most of the stuff that we cover is modern with a few nods to the classics.

Lilly 1:15:11
One of the things we mentioned earlier, that is central to the Weird Sisters plot is this idea of the Crone, mother, and Megan. And one of my favorite conflicts is between the crone and the mother, or granny and nanny, and they have a insult circle. If that's not the right way to describe it, there is a point where they are in a fight, and they're flinging insults at each other. And they're basically both sex shaming the other but from the other side. And it remains funny because neither side wins. We get to see these arguments and these jokes from both angles, and neither one is displayed. As right. In the text. There's there's being grumpy. And that's fine.

1:16:14
Yeah, this, I was kind of, I don't know what I was expecting going into this. But there's a lot of like sexual innuendos and talk and things like that. It was funny. I appreciate it. I was laughing. I was appreciating it. But I wasn't expecting that from the Weird Sisters. But yeah, they go at it.

Sara 1:16:35
It's an unexpectedly dirty book.

1:16:37
Yeah. Yeah. Sarah, would

Lilly 1:16:39
you feed us your dirty quote?

Sara 1:16:42
Okay, I can, I can read the quote that I picked out as being particularly noticeably dirty.

1:16:48
I have one. And if this is the one you're trying to pull, stop me, but I don't have the actual quote. But there's a point where they had the baby and they're like, shouldn't we give it some sort of magical gift? Isn't that like what witches do? And I think granny was like, Oh, well, you know, we could. And then all Pratchett wrote was all the other witches reacted with like, implying that, you know, she was trying to increase.

Sara 1:17:16
That was actually that's not what I was thinking of.

Lilly 1:17:19
But that is a perfect example of these dirty.

1:17:24
That is exactly. Not a bad gift.

Sara 1:17:28

Yes, there's something something to be said for it could do worse. So the quote that I am thinking of is on page 146, where the witches are talking about black Alice, who is kind of this famous, you know, bad witch, and they're talking about something that she did. But the biggest thing she ever did, said nanny ignoring the interruption was to send a whole palace to sleep for 100 years until she hesitated. Can't remember. Was there rose bushes involved? Or was it spinning wheels? And that one? I think some princess had the finger. No, there was a prince. That was it. Finger prints, said Margaret uneasily.

1:18:13
Oh, boy. Yeah.

Sara 1:18:16
It's just I mean, like you can. If you're not expecting the innuendo, you can just kind of gloss over. But if you see it's there that like, bullets there.

1:18:26
There's something about like, yeah, my head image of Terry Pratchett is not this like, person making sexual jokes. It's like, so it does catch or caught me off guard. I'll say, when they would come up. It's yeah, it's yeah, it just not how I think of him. But I don't I don't know him that well. Yeah.

Sara 1:18:52
It's definitely not something that like I first read these books. I read basically all of Discworld or everything that was published at that point I read when I was in seventh or eighth grade. So I was like, 1314 or so. And some things like that just went over my head. Like, that's not that's not something that I recognized as a teenager. Yeah, reading these books.

1:19:16
Right. Yeah. He's not like, it's not like a raunchy book. But there's all kinds of like innuendos and things and then and it kind of, I don't know, it kind of makes it like it was like that kind of character development, like okay, like she's not just like something

Lilly 1:19:32
really important for her character. She is not ignorant of sex. She just chooses to not participate, which is a completely different vibe for her. Especially when you contrast it with nanny who is has had three husbands has 15 children who knows how many grandchildren like an entire dynasty basically, it's a very Are you important contrast, especially when it's hand like, frankly, it's handled really? Well? I think

1:20:06
so that's something that for whatever my perspective on this is worth, I was very impressed considering the context of 40 years ago here to be writing these, like strong and well developed female characters. And it's, it was a long time ago, you know, like, even the idea of having these three women who are each like a unique part of this trio, as the protagonists of this story was probably pretty unusual. I would think in the fantasy genre, like out, I don't know, that's what I would expect. Yeah, we do lean a little more on the modern on FTF. So maybe I'm missing context, but it feels out way.

1:20:52
Now. Because to me, it's like sometimes you read a book that has like innuendos and stuff and it's hard to like, to get be taken seriously at past that, you know, and it's, you kind of invite criticism, sometimes when you bring, like certain parts of sexuality and things into fantasy books, I feel like you take a risk as an author when you start to incorporate those elements in your books. And I just thought this was all done in good fun, you know, and I just appreciate it i It's a very non controversial, funny, inoffensive way to spice up the dialogue and spice up these characters. You know, it to me, they became way more interesting. When, when that's when I started to realize what was happening. So, yeah, I thought it was very well done,

Lilly 1:21:35
but isn't, like noteworthy that however long ago, someone was able to in this case, Pratchett was able to write a story that brought in sexuality in a way that we can still consider in good fun. You know, it's the it hasn't aged poorly, I would say, this particular book, if you consider

Sara 1:22:02
it to something like the Witcher, which we read that has a lot of sexuality to it, but it all kind of strips the woman of any agency. And it's told in a very male perspective. And this is less that. I mean, this isn't this is just women having fun, which I think translates better to a modern reader.

1:22:31
Yeah. And I think it just speaks to, you know, Terry Pratchett's fan base is wide, vast, and all ages and still very passionate fan base to this day, they're making shows of his work and stuff like that even still today. So I love what you're getting I love it's like, how impressive is this that we can still revisit what could easily be considered a Oh, a dated sexual thing, but it's actually just fun and entertaining as it was 40 years ago, I think that's a great accomplishment. I think even authors in like the 90s, and even the 2000s. It's like, oh, this weird sexuality piece to this makes it so dated. But it is not not the same thing at all with with this was able

Lilly 1:23:13
to interact with this narrative in a way that is relatable, I think, to a lot of people, which is, I would say, practice strong suit. We've gotten a little bit into this conversation. But we should probably give our audience a hint of what this book is about. We didn't do this for The Witcher. Everyone knows what the Witcher was about. It's fine.

1:23:46
I don't know the people who wrote the back to the books. Well played,

Lilly 1:23:50
even point.

1:23:55
But just looked at the cover. I was like, I get the idea.

Sara 1:24:03
It's a retelling of Macbeth and hamlet, from the witches perspective.

Lilly 1:24:07
I think it's perfect. No, that's the perfect entry into this book. So we have witches who are used to being what is frankly, probably a culturally accurate view of witches in society, in that they are very important health care providers. And they're used to the respect that comes from that role. And there is a new king, and there's some political intrigue. And I think that is probably the, as much as we should say,

1:24:46
starring some raunchy witches. Oh, yeah,

Lilly 1:24:49
we got the raunchiest witches.

1:24:52
Well, it's all in good fun. Yeah, no, it's

Lilly 1:24:55
it's sex positive raunchy witches.

1:24:58
Yeah, I like that. relationship with the sisters or they seem to have like this. They've known each other for a long time, and they just fall right into it. And they go in and out of arguments, conversations, debates, whatever. And it kind of just parallels Pratchett's whole thing of like, you know, kind of all in the end, kind of nonsensical anyway, we're just kind of just having fun in these moments and just be that personified in these in the relationship between the churches, I thought, once

1:25:31
something sticks out to me about this book, is it, the percentage of it that is dialogue is so high, right, like, I'm like, actually, once we start really going with the weird sis, like with the witches is that we get these pages that are just like dialogue, dialogue, dialogue, dialogue, which I appreciate that because I just like I like banter. I like dialogue. And I like character interactions. And something that I like about Pratchett's writing is that he is not trying too hard to be overly descriptive. Yeah, sometimes there's a little like not setting the scene as much as could be like, I'm like, Wait, where are we? Like, I know, we've been talking for a while. But that being said, it's I was like a dialogue heavy like banter heavy book. I appreciate that.

Lilly 1:26:26
I think we saw a momentous occasion in this book. In that we got the rare triple footnote. I don't think we've seen foot four. Let's see if I can find a footnote. Oh, there's a couple.

1:26:46
I was like, like, what it's like, yeah.

Lilly 1:26:53
The things that I associate with Discworld are the footnotes. The

Sara 1:26:57
footnotes. Yeah. And you guys probably don't see footnotes very often, I would assume. No,

1:27:04
there's no yeah. Yeah, the footnotes are definitely new. The only other thing I can think of that has like a lot of footnotes. I haven't read this yet is Infinite Jest. But other than that, yeah, footnotes. It is very, it's like Pratchett can't help himself. But like, insert, oh, a bit more witticism on top of the witnesses already in there. I think that something that I see from the footnotes and things like that is just like Pratchett's very, I think, Charles, do you use the phrase like wonderfully itself at some point on our on FDF? Or something like that? I don't know if that was, now you're just shrugging. Like, I just say, Yeah, I just was saying, Well, I'm trying to draw from your wonderful phrasing to say that Pratchett is very willing to be wonderfully himself in how he's writing. And I think that when that comes through that authors actually being themselves and having a good time, writing the book, which it very much does with Pratchett. It's something that is easy to appreciate.

Lilly 1:28:19
It's also something that I absolutely associate with Discworld as a whole. And we have seen it in smaller points in earlier Discworld books, which y'all weren't part of that conversation, but I'm bringing it in,

1:28:33
and I've been listening.

Sara 1:28:35
We appreciate that.

Lilly 1:28:38
We're now seeing it sort of evolve to the point that I am familiar with four litre Discworld, which is this footnote inside of a footnote inside of a footnote. It's It's absurd in the way that the Discworld is absurd. The form fits the function in a really beautiful way.

1:29:01
Yeah, Pratchett's just having fun with the format and bringing more absurdity into the story, not even just the narrative. But the whole reading experience in itself is just another format to be absurd and tell jokes and things like that, which I can appreciate. Well, we

Lilly 1:29:17
have a we promise it's not a loaded question.

1:29:21

I feel like you like you would never say that before something that is not a loaded question. Like if it wasn't good, you wouldn't have to. But let's hear it. Lily. Let's get that loaded question. Why don't you God? Let's hear it.

Lilly 1:29:38
You have both read Pratchett before. Sure. And do you feel like this book is a more accessible introduction to the world or not? That's what we want to know.

1:29:55
I think Charles will give a more coherent answer. But if you're still thinking about Charles I I have one.

1:30:01
The Go ahead. Go ahead.

1:30:03
I think that this is probably a better introduction for the general person than the one that I read, which was more saw, I'm with you to your assessment of more as kind of that exception to the rule of start off with the thing that interests you at the beginning of that wine? I think yeah, this is kind of a I think, it seems with my very limited experience like a very good litmus test of like, is Pratchett book going to be for you were more is like, you got to be really into I think, like the Death existentialism and be willing to put up with some of the, you talked about on that one of your episodes like, the strongest female characters in more than an Pratchett's still finding his finding his voice, I guess, in some ways at that time. But yeah, I feel like Weird Sisters is hitting more of a like generalist approach of like, due to like Pratchett and his vibe more than more seem to be doing.

1:31:16
That's well said, Dylan. I feel like I need to preface mine by no one should ever take my business. If

1:31:34
that's the best compliment I could get. But Lily and Sarah are experts, they already recorded an episode on where to start. And I recommend going and listening to that and getting what they say. That's what I did. Once they told me sisters, I read it. So that's what I would recommend first. So that being said, my take on it i I've I've read color of magic. And I've read Weird Sisters. And I've watched the good omens TV show. And I feel like going into Weird Sisters, I had an idea of what reading a Terry Pratchett novel was like, and I think Weird Sisters continued to deliver on that. So for me, it's like, yeah, it's all fun, and silly, and satirical and all that. For me. I'm like, start anywhere. If it's for you, and just read it, like, start with the first book and watch him progressed, or start where someone who like loves to series tells you to start. I'm fine. Either way, I think they're both. Like, they both gave me the Terry Pratchett experience I was expecting. So I'm kinda like, yeah, it was good, good place to start. No preference here. Which is why you should listen to me because you really can't. I told you to start anywhere.

Lilly 1:32:47
I'm all about not wasting people's time.

1:32:55
That's fair, that's fair. No. And I appreciated your guidance too. Because it's like, it's such a widely talked about thing amongst Terry Pratchett fans is like where everyone should start. And

Sara 1:33:10
I feel sorry, Dylan, you can go ahead. If you asked

1:33:13
me your voice on Terry Pratchett is gonna be much more important one.

Sara 1:33:21
I was just gonna say I also feel like if you read Weird Sisters, and you don't enjoy it, I think you have a more well rounded view of what Terry Pratchett and what Discworld is about. And you can say, well, I gave it a good shot, you know, like I tried, and I didn't enjoy it. This just isn't for me. Whereas if you start at the beginning or at more, there's maybe room to say, well, these aren't good starting points, maybe I will give it another shot and read something that is more like inherently Discworld. Then those books are.

1:34:00
Yeah, one thing I appreciate it is like all these silly witticisms. It just felt like you know, Pratchett wasn't holding anything back and whatever silly thought entered his head, because like, if it's good, I'll write it. And you know, and I appreciated that this like, unfiltered kind of, like, well, I'm getting the best raw energy here and I love that and he's willing to kind of break up the conformity he's willing to go against the grain in terms of like, maybe storytelling, or narration or description or describing things in a way that like, you're taking weird perspectives on observations of things like what is the effect going on and then like, oh, wow, this guy's this guy sees the world like it's seeing the world in very interesting ways. Like there's a scene where the the former King was

1:34:55
checked. Okay, great. But there's yeah, there's just descriptions that come along that you You know, may have spoilers in them where they're describing something and it's like, oh, that's kind of a funny way to write how someone would, you know, see that situation, you know, it's like they take he takes purposely takes an unusual perspective on things for comedy sake, and I enjoyed that about him very much

1:35:19
to avoid spoilers for Weird Sisters skip to 150 602

1:35:28
So what I was trying to say, and in the spoiler free version was when the former king is a ghost looking at his own body. And he's describing his body you know, and he's like, it's like, almost existential, but it's fully comical at the same time. Like, I wish I had quotes from it. But yeah, he was like, it looked good for a body or something, even though you're not supposed to see it, you know, some one of those, like,

crazy witticisms about looking at your own corpse, you know, and it's is funny, and it kind of that the book is just nonstop, those kinds of like funny observations. And the way he chooses to write a narrative is always super funny. And yeah, I just I, the creativity in writing a setting and a narration in a genre where people get so specific, like Lord of the Rings, which like, and then Frodo was walking up the grassy hill to see the stones and all that, you know, Terry Pratchett would just find a way to satirize that and explain it in a way that's so bizarre that kind of catches you off guard, but it's also very funny, which is so his style. You did just

Lilly 1:36:35
compare him to JRR Tolkien, which I have a huge problem with on the front of my books.

1:36:43
Yeah, so you're not wrong. I have that on the back of my book. And I heard you talk about this every season episode two where it's like everything. And this, like everything is relative to talk and for some reason with brach it's like an mindless think JRR Tolkien with with a sharper more satiric edge. And it's like, why, like, Are you like, it's not? Oh. Is it just that it's fantasy? Or what? Like,

1:37:14
yeah, you could start any fantasy book with take Tolkien and then do this. Yeah. It's like, okay,

Lilly 1:37:22
I think it's better. It's better compared to Douglas Adams. I think Douglas Adams is the nonsense satirical sci fi. And then Terry Pratchett is the nonsense, satirical? Yeah,

1:37:35
I, those two, I would compare. I feel

Sara 1:37:38
like it's almost like if you were writing that comparison, now, it would be think, George RR Martin, which is equally ridiculous. Maybe? That's

1:37:56
what she might like that review, actually. It's like, think about George RR Martin. And then forget about him. And think about this, because it's not the same at all, which is the only way you could bring them up. Douglas Adams is a great comparison. And that's what I thought of when I read color of magic. I'm like, Oh, this is the fantasy version of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, which I love those books, too. I think those books are awesome. So yeah, so similar vein, this, like, insane, observational, like narration comedy that, you know, just doesn't pull back on being silly and creative, too. It's like weirdly creative the way they're thinking and telling you exactly.

Lilly 1:38:38
I guess that's such a better comparison, in my opinion, Agreed.

1:38:44

Agreed. I only brought up Tolkien to say how I approach the same thing like describing a setting, like Tolkien will give you exactly what the setting looks like in very direct terms, almost like a textbook. And then Pratchett will go out of his way to not explain things simply or directly he'll take you through this meandering thought process. Like take you back, he'll explain it backward, right from the opposite perspective. And he'll he'll cut across the same. That's

Sara 1:39:17
really valid because that's not comparing him to Tolkien that's contrasting him with Tolkien. Which is not Yeah,

1:39:24
it was doing the whole time. Contrasting with Tolkien Absolutely.

Lilly 1:39:33
That's why the cover of the book is wrong.

Sara 1:39:36
It's very it's it's pretty wrong.

1:39:39
Yet another thing that these two books

1:39:43
nailed, nice Charles.

Lilly 1:39:46
Oh, this is this is more of a meta conversation. But we do have a an ongoing question of is the summary of the book accurate? Because so often they are not

1:40:00
Yeah, that's just a tough plot to describe. I

1:40:03
could if you told me describe the plot of this book, I had, I don't know what I'd say, I don't know what this book was about. I just got to read this whole thing. And I was like, Okay, this is stuff that happened. It's pretty wild. It's like the plot isn't the point. And I think that's part of what you're getting out there. Charles is like, yeah, exactly. It doesn't really matter. And that's kind of how we're in the spoiler territory now, right? Like, it doesn't matter how it it kind of ends. With an intentional whimper. I would say it's kind of like an anti climax. And a lot of ways. It's like, the wrong person ends up being there's like an ad, the witches are just kind of like, All right, well, like See you later. It's like, I think it's, I really wonder what Terry Pratchett was, like, as a man I hear, he was like an incredible man, like all these really amazing things about him. But also, just like, I bet he was a very monitoring like, silly person, because he just saw the world through this interesting lens. And he's also but like, he'll sneak up on you with things that just drop a ridiculous amount of wisdom on you, which is very interesting. It's like Hill, Hill drop lines.

And you know, I'm not gonna be quick enough on the draw to pick one. But he'll drop lines that are that just blow your mind out of nowhere, like, right after making you laugh. So it's, it's very interesting how to do that.

1:41:37
That is,

Lilly 1:41:38
I think, why we almost called this segment, a spoonful of sugar makes the fraction go down, or something?

Sara 1:41:48
Is Yeah, I don't remember what you wanted to call it.

Lilly 1:41:52
No, we call it what I wanted to call it. But we eventually came up with the title that was probably better. And it just referenced the fact that he makes such a scathing commentary on reality, but because it is cushioned, in this frame of fantasy, it is so much easier to interact with,

1:42:20
right?

1:42:24
Yeah, escaping is an interesting word for it. And I agree, he seems to like, you know, take on a lot of social norms, and society and work and jobs and what we think is important. There's something kind of liberating about it, too, is like, oh, yeah, you know, you can just do whatever you want, you know, like this, these constructs are all kind of silly, and we can make fun of all of them. It's like having a job is like a silly, crazy thing, if you think about it. And I think that's what Pratchett sets out to do. He's like, how can I make this idea of, you know, a witch with the airs like a baby that's the heir to a dead king? And how can I make that as silly as possible? And he takes on jobs? How can I make jobs as silly as possible? How can I make kings as silly as possible death as silly as possible ghosts haunting magic? And it's like, yeah, he's just finding like the humanity in it. And he brings it all down to a level that we can all just kind of like, yeah, enjoy, which is a very wholesome,

1:43:22
like nine pages in he's got depth on there. And he's dropping lines. Like when this is king dies, it says, He was also one of those rare individuals who are totally focused in time like about being present. And he's goes on to say most people aren't they live their lives as a sort of temporal blur around the point where their body actually is anticipating the future or holding on to the past? They're usually so busy thinking about what happens next, that the only time they ever find out what's happening now is when they come to look back on it. Most people are like this, they learn how to fear because they can actually tell down at the subconscious level was going to happen next. It's already happening to them. It's like, whoa, whoa, wait, where are you just making like a silly sanction? You I don't like what Trump says like, what yeah, that would be the poll from that book. That would be

Lilly 1:44:19
commentary combined with make a joke about fingering. Yeah, that's

1:44:23
like, goes up on you. It's like, Wait, that sounds like it came from Fight Club.

Sara 1:44:29
I want to bring it back to something that you said earlier, Dylan, where it sounded like you were a little unhappy with how the story ended, because, like we have this person on the throne who is not actually part of the royal line. And one of the things that I really enjoyed about the book is how it sets up. This reveal that the fool is related to the king when it turns out that actually it's the person We think is the prince is actually like, his his father is not the king his father is is this commoner. So that was a reveal that I really liked. But it yeah sounded that it didn't hit the same way for you. For me

1:45:14
it's more just like, at a certain point of reading it, there's a level of like me realizing that investment in the actual like what happens at the end of this story is like not not getting it. So I guess I was like, right it's like okay, well, anything can happen and it's like, it can be clever how he pulls it off or whatever. But it's not like about like, who went, you know, to contrast with Game of Thrones. It's not who gets Yeah.

Sara 1:45:47
The point isn't really the act. It's the perception. Yeah. Right. Like, it's how it's how the characters perceive what has happened, not what has actually happened and that

Lilly 1:45:59
they have set up from the very beginning.

1:46:01
Yes, yeah.

Lilly 1:46:03
I will admit that. If Sarah and I had not spoken about this book, before I had finished reading, I would not have actually followed that section of it. There's a lot of talk about, oh, like crawling through windows, blah, blah, blah.

Sara 1:46:22
There's, there's the king exercising his right to go sleep with unmarried women?

Lilly 1:46:27
Sure, yes, all of that. But if you and I had not previously spoken about the specific lineage of the fool, I don't think I would have followed it at all. It was a little. I won't say sloppy, but I don't think it was clear enough.

Sara 1:46:46
I thought I thought it was pretty clear. Um, in the very end, like, I mean, this, the whole setup is like, obviously, he's setting it up so that you think that the fool is is the king son. But I thought that the revelation was clear enough. For me, for me personally, anyway.

1:47:06
Yeah, I kind of mirrored Dylan sentiment where by the time like things were getting flipped and flopped. And you're this and you're there, and I'm missing them. I'm just like, Okay, I have to just acknowledge that I'm just getting silly. And I'm not even going to try and understand. You know, when Dylan said that, I was like, he said, what I was trying to say, which is like, yeah, I, I recognize the book I'm in and it's just like, I I'm not even gonna try and like, see if this is all really connected or not, it's just gonna be silly and chaotic. And that's just kind of the spirit of this book. So I just kind of rolled with it all. And I just took it all in face value. The fact that there is those connections, I'm impressed by I didn't catch them. But yeah, I was just, I was just rolling with it the whole time. I was like, Okay.

Sara 1:47:53
I have read this book. More. I mean, obviously, you you two have only read it the once and Lily, I don't know how often you've read it. But I think I can safely say that I've read it more than you have. So it's easier to find this nuance when you're treading, you know, old ground? Well, I

Lilly 1:48:13
think that is a compliment to the book that someone who has not read it before can read the plot and go, Yeah, it's fun. And I'm down with that. Let's keep and someone who is rereading it can go, I am seeing these breadcrumbs, and I am following them. And I am on board with them. Like, those are two different stories. And he has told it at the same time. Yeah, that's very good. Yeah.

1:48:40
I'm just fortunate that I could benefit from the experience.

Sara 1:48:45
Yeah. We're very happy to go on this journey with you for the first time

1:48:53
and made me feel very confident that that was

1:48:57
no better voices to be guiding our Discworld journey.

Sara 1:49:01
If you never read another Discworld book, I will still be happy. I think, well

1:49:12
you gotta hear that. Yeah. No, I'm blanking on the name. But it's like Reapers something right? Like, Reaper man, the next death? Well,

Sara 1:49:22
I think for man. Yeah.

1:49:25
I know, at some point you're thinking of asking us like, if we're planning on continuing your what? Right, like,

Sara 1:49:30
yeah, that was a question that I had was whether or not you had enjoyed because I know that you had been a little unsure about continuing Pratchett after reading, you know, the color of magic and more. It just didn't, didn't speak to you guys. Yeah. So I had been wondering whether you thought that this had been intriguing enough, you know, vibed with you enough to continue on in the series and it kind of sounds like you Maybe No, but

1:50:01
Dylan, you want to take this one,

1:50:03
I can't speak for both of us, but I can for me, which is like, I appreciate what Terry Pratchett is doing and like, and I appreciate all these, like the irreverence of it, and the investment and that kind of stuff. And I'm still I think I'm just still figuring out where I land. And I think it's like, this was kind of like, Okay, I'm getting a sense for Prach IVs. That's for, like, certain times where I'm like, he blows my mind. And then certain times where I'm like, okay, like, I don't know if this part was for me as much as other parts. And I think that has left me in this kind of, like, gray space of, at some point, I'd like to read the next one in the line of books that interests me most most, which is those death ones and see what, like, what happens. And maybe I'm someone who just ends up really liking those because of course, my favorite scene was where death came in. And like, you know, and that was, like two scenes with him. Or at least, so

Lilly 1:51:05
Well, that's that I think that's a very good point. In our episode about where you should start with Discworld, we were pretty clear that you should start with the topic that interests you. And it sounds like maybe witches was not your jam, which is great. So what is your jam?

1:51:25
I didn't dislike?

Lilly 1:51:29
I didn't know. I said, Not Your let's come.

1:51:35
That's fine. Yeah, that's fine.

Lilly 1:51:37

Yeah. So you know, which is maybe not, but then there's death, which means

Sara 1:51:43
I also think that maybe you would enjoy small gods.

1:51:48
Okay. Small gods. Yeah. I mean, you know, I'm a bad to these things. Like, yeah, like he's used to the brazenly like your jam. It's like, everyone's got their own, like, their own thing. And that's part of what's cool about the idea of Discworld, I'm still like, figuring out because I have only read two books is like, the idea that there's supposed to be kind of a line of books for everyone. And the Tech graduate trying to take his voice and give it to all these different jams, if you will. So, yeah, I think I'm like TBD. And I think Weird Sisters is a great, like, that's what I was thinking is like, Okay, if you really walk away from this, like, I could never read another book by this guy, then you probably follow that. Yes. It's like, Yeah, okay. But if you walk away from it, where I'm at where I'm like, okay, like, when he's talking about the things that interests me a lot. I like the banter and stuff. It's like, but yeah, he's talking about things that are like really intriguing. I'm like, Oh, crap, this guy's got some interesting things to say here about this. So that, yeah, it's like the gray space for me of like, but I guess, in some ways, like the best one can hope for is an openness to try another book by an author afterward. Within, you know, there's also the like, I need to pick up the next one, but I'm not there. But I'm in the light. Yeah, let's, let's see when you're

Sara 1:53:18
sort of liminal state. And that, but I also, I also really want to emphasize that, like, there's nothing wrong with the site with reading a book and deciding that this isn't for you. You know, like, I'm a huge fan of it. But if that if that just doesn't work for you. And that just doesn't work for you. And that's totally, you know,

1:53:38
yes, of course. We feel the same way. At some point, it's not, I've got a Charles and I have this huge schedule that he's got figured out. I have all these books I'm gonna read that I'm very excited about, of course, Charles. stare me down. Yes. And the Yeah, at some point, I'd like to do Reaper man. And if that one doesn't work that would be decided to me of like, no, that's not for me. So that's where I'm at.

Lilly 1:54:13
I think that's a perfect point, though. People discuss Discworld as if it is this one continuous series, but it's really not. You might like one piece of that.

1:54:25
That's true. When you have 14 books that span decades. To think that you can just blanket statement the whole thing.

Lilly 1:54:33
You said 14 already? It's 4041.

1:54:39
We'll have we'll have time. It's 40.

Lilly 1:54:46
bucks. I think it is doing the series a disservice if you say you have to like all of them.

Sara 1:54:52
Yeah, yeah, I agree with that. I think there are people who do like all of them like me, but at the same time you can still be a fan of Discworld even if it's just a limited part of Discworld you know, or even if it's just one book, like you can say I really liked this book and the rest weren't for me. Like, that doesn't make you less of a fan.

Lilly 1:55:13
That's the whole point of the series. Yeah, it is what it's good at.

Sara 1:55:17
I think there's no point in gatekeeping Yeah, no.

1:55:20
Yeah. I agree. Well, so yeah,

1:55:23
let people enjoy it. They enjoy. They can't do much. Yeah. You know, once they've done that, I think Terry Pratchett would have been proud of that phrase. And they're just like, I think that's, that's a sense of value. As long as you have a catalog, I can do your thing. This a reference comes from the site girl place, enjoy what he enjoys. It feels like, which is like, just writing silly, irreverent stop that. That's meaning.

Lilly 1:56:03
I have a whole rant prepared, I will begin this conversation. But I welcome input. And, again, please tell me that I'm wrong. Please disagree with me. Okay. I would like to preface that

1:56:24
I will happily disagree with you. If I feel the need

Lilly 1:56:27
to agree with me. That's also nice.

1:56:30
I'm happy to do that, too. We'll see it depends. We'll take you out.

Lilly 1:56:35

So this is actually a momentous occasion. Because a few days ago, that's not true. A few months ago I called up Sarah with a huge complaint about Witcher fanfiction. And that is actually the true genesis for this podcast was

Sara 1:56:57
it was part of our origin story. Yes, true. Wow,

Lilly 1:57:03
what's your fanfic and I will now drunkenly reenact that rant to you today. Wow. You're welcome.

1:57:14
I'm gonna lean back a little bit and enjoy this.

Lilly 1:57:18
We are all familiar with the episode. Where Geralt is extremely mean to you off year. Yes.

Sara 1:57:27
That's every episode. No.

Lilly 1:57:29
That's a really bad one.

1:57:33
What the goat person Oh.

Sara 1:57:35
Or is that? Like the one with the genie?

1:57:38
There's a one way oh, there's like outburst? It's like the last episode. Yeah. They just like leave on crappy terms.

Lilly 1:57:52
Dylan's got me.

1:57:56
I'm with you now. Okay. It's been a

1:57:58
while because I'm invested in that relationship, too. I mean, maybe not at the level of the fan fiction section. I'm open to reading anything I just did. It's not something that I've gotten as into or anything like that. But yeah, I will start

Lilly 1:58:15

by saying I did not read fanfic fanfiction. I did not seek out fanfiction that paired Geralt with your skier, because that wasn't like how I particularly read the show. There's just a lot of it. Yeah, and if there is a lot of it, that means you can find something good in it. It's the cream of the crop. That's that's how it works. Right? So this episode, we're Geralt is extremely mean to you last year. It may not surprise you that there are a lot of fanfictions revolving around this interaction, and Geralt apologizing. Oh Geralt apologizing to your skier for that moment is a big thing. But why the hell do people try to ruin it by saying Geralt was just trying to protect him the whole time. I was just trying to save you from me know he was being mean. And he deserves to apologize. Don't ruin it.

1:59:32
I I agree. And this, this kind of bridges a knife earlier on the show, which is that there's this piece that nobody else stands about Geralt is which is that he's you know, he's a self loathing guy and he's he's very much is full of doubts and insecurities. And you know, he's a guy who hunts monsters. He doesn't know who he is. You He's taken from his parents, but he's a really good Witcher, but he's kind of upset that he is a witch or because he doesn't have his family. He's been enhanced through genetic mutations, which gives him this weird thing that he like, no, no one can love me because I'm this weird creature thing. I see creatures everywhere. You know, that kind of thing. So when you're that, when you're that convinced that you're, you know, can't have love or feel relationships, because you've gone through these mutations, and you're just supposed to be this thing. And you're not because what's interesting about girl is we're told oh, witches don't have emotions. That's clearly times that we've been. And it's clearly not true. But Geralt says he bought into that yet he's still very emotional. So he tries to play himself off as someone that doesn't have emotion. So when someone's just trying to be his friend, hey, like, I'm very competent, and who I am, I am Jessica, the bar that I love myself, and I express myself. I'm a musician. I'm a you know, flirtatious guy. And I like you. Like, that's everything. Geralt I think, wishes he could be. And so if he acts out because he's insecure about all of that, that's powerful. And that's a side of girls character that I think gets underappreciated and glanced over a lot. This idea of being a protector. Yeah, totally undercuts that whole subtle nuance that is in you know, Andrzej Sapkowski. is what I

Lilly 2:01:25
I love that reading of it, and saying Garrett was going I was pushing you away to protect you. Completely undercuts.

2:01:36
Yeah, well, yeah. Lily before this, you asked us to try to disagree with us, I think. All right, which is like, I guess it's like, it is possible that that is what a girl thought he was doing. Right? That's a story. He was telling himself that he was doing it to protect him. I don't think so. Like, which is part of why I'm like, But grudgingly trying to make this. But I think it's more of the like, Girl insecure. And he lashes out like, you know, you to been saying and but yeah, like, I guess theoretically, if some, like people sometimes do, like, try to push people away to protect them. And they tell themselves, they're doing it. But it happens all the time. And we'll have time. Yeah, so there's not a like, that's like a big thing that the characters do in that. And that's like a real human behavior that people think is it's not, I don't recommend it as a strategy for existing in a in your interpersonal world, but it's a thing that people do. And if Geralt was doing that, I guess it's okay to apologize with that. But don't make it a like now it's okay. Make it a like,

this is where I was coming from this. That's a ridiculous thing to do. And then sorry, I guess like, but I don't think that's actually what was happening. I just,

Lilly 2:03:04
you're secretly agreeing with no, my point is that

2:03:09
he's disagreeing with you in no way. Dylan. You're still like me, and I still agree with you. But

Lilly 2:03:16
Darrell, was not the victim. And these stories that are painting Geralt says, Oh, I'm just so bad at relationships. Everyone needs to pander to me and apologize to me, because I'm just bad at interpersonal relationships is that don't vibe with me.

Sara 2:03:37
Carol says have his agency there.

2:03:39
Yeah. Yeah, there needs to be more moments where we feel sorry for Daryl, you know, I don't think we get that a lot. Because he's such a badass in a lot of ways. It's like we don't ever really end up feeling sorry for him because he's super handsome and jacked and can defend himself in any kind of physical altercation. But there's all these relationship issues that he runs into. And there's all this internal struggle that he goes through. And it's this contrast between his beliefs and the like universe that he lives in that are constantly clashing. It's can't be an easy way to live life. So more of that needs to be seen, right. But I think it's so easy to put him in this role of like, the oh, I'm the heart and protector role. I'm like, the action hero of this movie, you know, it was like, Okay, you're an action hero, but you're he is more, even though it's cool enough already to just be the action hero like that's all you really needed to sell me. But we get more than that, which I think gets a bit

Lilly 2:04:41
ruins his character to well, his character in this show, which is he had a low moment. Give him that low moment so that he can overcome it. Don't undercut it by going oh, he knew He was being hunted by something. And so he had to pick someone away to protect them. Like, gotcha.

2:05:06
That's part of it is.

2:05:10
And I mean, there's all these beautiful things that could happen with Yennefer too, because Yennefer is someone who, oh, do people love me for me? Or do they love me because my body was transformed they love me because I am casting some magical spell over them or they liked me because I can cast magic and that's the thing about Jennifer and girls relationship. They both have very similar experiences and both feel this imposter syndrome self loathing thing and they drive people away as a result of that and they're both like masters in their craft so it's what's makes their relationship super

interesting but I feel like we again have to come back to these things of like oh, we need to make it like Game of Thrones Henry Cavill has to be a badass at all times. Like we need to deliver on these things and I think the shows getting there I think it will continue to evolve as we get more time with these characters. I just think it's like an opportunity missed of like, how are these characters ever like you know, feel love or express love for each other when their their lives are so messed up and their bodies are so messed up and all this magical change that's been effected on them? You know?

Lilly 2:06:18
I agree. My pet peeve was about garbage fanfiction. I have no experience with fanfiction I me there is garbage fanfiction and they are wrong. And I am mad.

2:06:36
I think part of it is it sounds like yes, landing stuff where they're like changing the facts of the situation to make Garrel like, actually doing the right thing. Which is like, Yeah, that does take away from Yeah, it does take away from the vulnerability and the insecurity that neural talking about so I think, yeah, you don't want your child to actually have been right for doing it. You want him to have made a mistake and learn from it. Because that's how people learn. Yes. And that is

Lilly 2:07:09
the emotional payoff in apologizing for a mistake is saying I fucked up. Not but I try to do the right thing. That's so different.

2:07:23
Sometimes, yeah, sometimes you pick up more trying to do the right thing though, right? Like,

Lilly 2:07:28
in real life. That's fine. Yeah, but we all saw Geralt being

2:07:31
very, you know, he messed it. I

Lilly 2:07:33
don't I don't think any of us are going to argue. I would like to think that none of us are gonna argue. He was trying to be nice when he was very,

2:07:44
he messed Yeah.

2:07:46
Gotta own a girl. You gotta own it.

Lilly 2:07:49
Yeah, apologize for realsies and that is my pet peeve is fanfiction. Trying to smooth that shit over instead of dealing with the garbage

Sara 2:08:03
that's a hallmark of fanfiction is that they've tried to it tries to smooth things over that maybe shouldn't be smoothed over so guys, thank you so much for coming on. We have really really enjoyed having you discuss the Witcher and Weird Sisters with us. Can you tell us a little bit about a what we can expect from your next episodes of the podcast and be where you can be found on the internet?

2:08:34
Yes, well guys, it was a pleasure recording with you as always love the collab you can find us on social media at the FDF podcast with the number one on the end on Twitter. That's the best place to reach us and Instagram as well at the FTF podcast and wherever you can listen to podcasts

Sara 2:08:53
and upcoming episodes things we can look forward to.

2:08:56
Yeah, this is kind of your role here. I guess we've got red I don't know when this episodes airing. Red countries coming as red country we put me on the spot. I don't know the schedule. Are we talking to Christian? We're talking to Chris bass about artifacts. Yeah,

Sara 2:09:13
I was gonna say you've you've teased a little bit about

2:09:18
all sorts of other stuff kings. Oh, yes. We just came out with wild kings of the Wild is coming up and I'm really excited

Sara 2:09:26
events that I need to move that to the top of my TBR Yeah. Yeah, thank you.

2:09:36
I know that feeling. I know that feeling. But ya know, Dylan's right up before if not super excited to get the episode

Sara 2:09:43
that that your discussion of that will be coming out mid July or so.

2:09:47
Yeah, as far it goes according to plan we actually had to push back. So it's just a matter of weeks.

Sara 2:09:55
I'm looking forward to it.

Lilly 2:10:01

Thank you so much for listening to this episode of fiction fans.

Sara 2:10:06
I'm disagree with us we're on Twitter and Instagram at fiction fans pod. You can also email us at fiction fans pod@gmail.com

2:10:15
If you enjoyed the episode guys please go to fiction fans on Apple podcasts give a five star rating leave a review if you have the time you're going off book they undersold themselves What can I say? Yeah, I mean they said Please rate and review on Apple podcasts Okay, five stars write a review if you're if you know if you have another device go ahead and follow them wherever you listen to your podcasts check them out on social media as they said at fiction fans pod and

2:10:48
at this point Charles okay, I'm so thanks again for listening and may your villains always be defeated. We all say bye bye yeah,