

THIS TRANSCRIPT IS IN PROGRESS. Cause the formatting is kinda messed up at this point.

This podcast is from the Abington community library. We'll be talking about library programs, book recommendations and explorations and fun facts.

Fun.

This is episode eight about social justice.

Renee: Hello and welcome to Lexivore, a podcast from the Abington Community Library. You might be familiar with lexicon, vocabulary, or lexical - lex has to do with words. And vor, like herbivore or carnivore, means "an eater of". So lexivore means those who are voracious in reading, and those who devour words. I'm Renee

Megha: and I'm Megha

Renee: and we are staff at the Abington Community Library. You may recall us from previous episodes where we've covered topics like, um, popular and specialized fiction, history and how to's, current events - including nation spanning events and decidedly local ones, and library news suitable for kids, adults, families, and near to everyone else as we can imagine. If any of that sounds interesting, please feel free to check them out.

Renee: And with us here today is Elizabeth Davis. Elizabeth, would you like to introduce yourself?

Elizabeth: Sure. My name is Elizabeth Davis. I am head of digital services for the Scranton Public Library. Um, I've been in this position for a couple of years and it is really awesome actually. This allows me to kind of see what all the libraries are doing with technology and I really appreciate being invited.

Renee: We're so thrilled to have you and you're like a jack of all trades. I feel like I email you for like technology help, but then you also do like book recommendations on our website and you like you're just all over the board.

Elizabeth: Yeah, I think technology kind of touches a lot of parts of our lives that we don't really think about. And so, um, it's always fun to see where it intersects. So yeah. Good. I'm glad to help with anything.

Megha: On the same note, one of our oldest technologies is language.

Renee: There you go, it all, it all works out.

All right.

Renee: So for our favorite part, well my favorite part of the podcast, we talk about what we're reading. So Megha, what are you reading right now?

Megha: So first one I'm talking about is, let's see, *Sold on a Monday* by Christina McMorris. This is historical fiction. It's a story about a newspaper journalist, well, a photographer at the beginning of the novel, during the Great Depression era, and he happened to come across a couple of kids playing in front of this house with a sign that said: for sale, two children. The contrast caught him. He saw it, snapped this picture - I mean just on his own initiative - and in the end it came to the editor's attention and he was allowed to write an article. That's when he got to move from photography into actual journalism, which was his goal and, you know, he becomes quite well known and everything. So this story in general looks at his story against the kids whose pictures accompanied the article and the story of the novel is his followup of that story because... Dun, Dun Dun... The kids in the picture accompanying the article were not the same kids he'd snapped in the first picture. That picture had been damaged and he got told like, get us, get another picture or your article's not running.

Renee: Where did you find this book?

Megha: I actually found it being returned library and I was like, what is that name? What is that cover? I must know!

Renee: is it new,

Megha: not new or not very new. But like the cover has a little kid sitting there with his arms around his knees and title is *Sold on a Monday* It was like, what is that?

Renee: Oh, interesting.

Megha: And you know, it has the sign on the back with for sale two children.

Renee: Yeah.

Megha: Okay. I think I need to know what this is.

Renee: I'm sorry, keep going

Megha: Right. So he needed to get a picture or he's, he's gonna lose his option and the editor even says like, it doesn't have to be the same picture. Just anything that looks vaguely similar that we can run with the article. He goes back, those kids are already gone, but the sign is there

so he's throwing his hands up in the air and going like, okay, can I just find some kids to pose with the sign? And he does find some and ends up paying them and their mother

Renee: to just,like, be in it instead.

Megha: Yes. Just being in it instead. And then the followup is, I mean the whole reason that this is somebody saw that picture and took it as an advertisement, and they were not really willing to take no for an answer. And the mother at that time, she was sick, tuberculosis, which was really, really serious. And she, if she dies she leaves the kids alone, she made them promise to keep the kids together and she's like, money for treatment, they're going to have a better life than if I leave them orphaned.

Renee: So these kids were sold.

Megha: They were sold.

Renee: I hate this book already. Sorry.

Megha: Well see there, yeah

Renee:I know times were different, but I hate it already.

Megha: That is. I mean that's part of, that is the book - that this is a terrible thing dammit.

Renee: I will not be reading this.

Megha: And he follows it up. He goes through, he's researching the new family which has ties to the mafia and he's finding out that she's sick and like that she actually had gotten better and he's basically reuniting those kids because that family didn't keep their promises. He made sure that they have a happy ending.

And you know, since you're not liking the basic concept is, well i'll tell you that it's historical fiction because there was an actual photograph in the real great depression that was 4 kids instead of two

Renee: that makes it worse.

Megha: And it was also said to be posed,

Renee: okay.

Megha: And paid for. And also it served as an advertisement. So the kids were actually sold

Renee: do you think Dorothea Lange took it?

Megha: I dunno, but um, this, the story was actually her memory of that photograph and the scandal around it and her attempt to give those kids a happier ending - that there was a reason beyond greed and that they get reunited with their family afterwards. So, yeah, I mean, that's the happy. This is the happy version.

Renee: I'm not happy listeners.

Megha: There's a look on your face, I mean. It's terrible.

Renee: Yeah, I guess it was a different time. It was just. Reminds me of like modern slavery, but it of

Megha: actually something that comes up in the, um, in the author's notes that, you know, they see this picture and they're like, what the heck? Why would someone sell their kids? And then one of their friends was like, because they wanted to eat because they literally couldn't survive, like, oh, well we don't, we don't think like that sometimes.

Renee: True.

Megha: What options did they have?

Renee: Do you read historical fiction?

Elizabeth: Sometimes and sometimes it doesn't reach me and you, you get to a historically accurate component of it and then you're like, oh my goodness, what, what were we thinking as a human, you know, as, as a race, like how could we do this to one another in anything really? So it would be really into historical fiction and then,

Renee: yeah, I think I just got too, too. I was just like, I have a degree in history and so I feel like I'm good for another 10 years and then I'll go back to it

Megha: what I often find the historical fiction is I'm a little bit gentler than regular history because history, sucks some times.

Renee: Yeah, they definitely, I don't wanna say they cleaned it up,

Megha: but they soften the edges because otherwise it's not going to be as, I guess appealing to modern readers.

Renee: Yeah.

Elizabeth: Yeah. And they kind of make a fun, umm, you know, there's always like a side story or a personalized story which makes it a little bit more relatable, so that's always more interesting rather than just on this day, this happened and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. It's like, well, susie did this because she... like, it has more

Renee: it fleshes out.

Elizabeth: It kind of provides more, um, understanding of why things happen, not just what happened,

Megha: it gives us a reason to, to think about it from their perspective because otherwise it's easy to, you know, sit in the grand chair of judgment,

Renee: right as I'm doing right here talking about what a terrible, terrible, terrible situation. Yes, yes.

Elizabeth: The book might be the most well written book, but the...

Megha: yeah, like I said it does dealing with things rather, um, seriously like, it does acknowledge that this is terrible. And then even the characters in the book are going like, what the hell?

Renee: Yeah.

Megha: There's a reason that this became the article is because people were looking at that going like innocent little kids, right? No.

Renee: Yeah. So who's this by again?

Megha: A Christina Mcmorris.

Renee: So sold on a Monday by Christina. And then what else are you reading?

Megha: The other one was cook's illustrated revolutionary recipes.

Renee: Ooh,

Megha: so this is pretty much a cookbook but it deals with like a deep investigation in techniques to try and perfect recipes, make sure they're repeatable, reliable, reproducible level for anyone in any kitchen with any equipment.

Renee: Oh cool. That's even vaguely similar. So one random example is soft and hard boiled eggs. I mean everybody knows how to make them, you drop them in hot water.

Elizabeth: I have to admit I don't know how to make a soft boiled egg.

Megha: Well, you drop them for less time

Elizabeth: well that less time window is too great.

Renee: Elizabeth, read this book.

Megha: This is why this is one of the first recipes in their book and they were looking at, you know, do you start in cold water or hot water? How many eggs do you need, like, per pan or per size before you start getting difficulties? I think they were looking at like, does steaming work? Do old the eggs versus young eggs work better? in the end they're talking about like a hybrid steaming method where you just use a little bit of water. So it's basically like steaming, but you don't need a steaming insert. Because steaming worked, like, so much better than all of the other options.

Yeah.

Megha: So it's like it's cool because it gets into a lot of the hows and the why's and it shows those different details that tweak recipes this way and that that goes like you try, you know, this sounds like a story that everybody says but it doesn't actually work or you know, you just change this a little bit and everything blows up - and sometimes literally like get exploded egg on your wall.

Renee: on your kitchen wall.

Megha: I think she was shaking the yolks to see to see if they cook better when their centered, which is yes, but sometimes they explode.

Renee: and I feel like this is probably a good book for like a beginning cook and then also some that's like pretty advanced because it seems like it would span the range

Megha: because it does that deep investigation. So it really good for anybody because he gives both the very basics. How to boil an egg and the very advanced, like how do these different techniques play different roles and what, you know, how many people think of steaming eggs?

Renee: No, I don't think I've ever heard of anyone steaming to make eggs. Is it like a thing?

Megha: Well, steaming in general is a thing.

Renee: Well yeah, I mean like I've seen broccoli

Megha: They were just thinking that it wouldn't depress the water temperature.

Renee: Oh yeah.

Megha: So that the timing would be very reliable that way.

Instead of going like how many eggs per, how much water, per how much size of saucepan. It is just like if they're in steam, they're always going to be at the boiling point of water. That's it.

Elizabeth: I never thought about that.

Renee: Yeah,

Megha: that's why they're writing a, um, a giant cookbook somebody. Yes.

Elizabeth: I'm still trying to figure that out

Renee: someone was thinking about it. There we go.

Megha: I mean they're the same brand as America's test kitchen because that's, it's their brand because it's like, how do we do this, you know, start from the very basic principles. How do we make the perfect boiled egg? How do we make the perfect, um, macaroni and cheese, you know, all of this stuff. Alright. Cook's illustrated revolutionary recipes. Yeah.

Elizabeth, what are you reading?

Um, I've been reading a lot of comic books lately. I'm catching up on saga, which is sadly on hiatus now, which I just learned and it's really fun. Yes. I pretty much love everything Brian Kayvon has ever done. Um, and then I'm reading Rainbow Raul's runaways. Oh, okay. Because I love rainbow and it's just coming out with new things. Yes. She's always coming out with new things. Yes. Carry on. Sequel is coming out this year, which I was just talking about the other day with someone and we're all very excited. I'm gonna kind of want to reread it. So that might be on the horizon. Um, I'm not a huge fan of rereading things because, uh, I've never, you're never the same person when you first encounter a book and you fall in love with it. So rereading it at a different time with a different mindset always puts the fear of God.

Like, oh my goodness, what have I hated this time? And I don't want to ruin it for myself. So, um, that, that's kind of an iffy situation. I'm reading this new one called man eaters, which is just hilarious. It's about teenage girls who go through their first period and become a large cats that eat people and it's just the funniest son idea. It's like a tongue in cheek, like the ad, there's like fake ads in the comic and like getting like their special water that the boys, only country girls can't drink it and it's just, oh my goodness. It's the funniest thing. Um, how did you come across it? I just thought at the comic bookstore I go to comics on the green in Scranton and uh, it was

there and I was like, oh, that looks fun. And I was flipping through it and I just started laughing uncontrollably in the, in the.

And they're just, I'm sure there were used to it, but I was just like, this is the best thing ever. So. And is it like a newer one? Think so, yeah. I'm only on episode five or issue five, which is also the thing I'm not really good about picking them up on time, so I always get like a whole stack, which is nice because they'll, they'll pull them for you as they come in, which is really nice. The pull list is if you don't use it at your, if you're a comic book fan or want to get into comics, the paulist it's, is awesome. So, um, and then you can just kind of been dragged them all. So anger shopping local. So they're wonderful people down there. So that's a subtle and not so subtle plug for common sense.

Um, and then I've been reading, I read a lot of romance novels, so I'm, they're like my, uh, some people have the, the, the TV show or the guilty pleasure, you know, romance novels are, you know, they're very formulaic. But um, there are lots of fun because you can kind of predict how they're going to go. And it's fun to see if you're right or wrong. I'm just like, those cozy mysteries are so you're like, oh, well this is going to be this. And this is going to happen. And then you get to the point where that's x is supposed to happen and it doesn't. And you're like, oh, little one over on. Yeah, they, they got it on me. So yeah. Um, and I just recently read a. What if it's asked by. I'm going to. Yes. Okay. I cannot not pronounce her last name. Peggy or tall. Just keep going. Yup. That's close enough. Um, she's really good. I like her stuff. I think I'm, I'm really hoping all of her stuff becomes movies because I would just like to meet all these people. They just sound like so, like they're real people. So I really liked them a lot. So she read the proposal and the wedding day by Jasmine Gilroy. Gilroy. Oh.

So I love them. I saw, I read the proposal, I did not read the wedding date yet. Um, she's coming out with a third one too. And I, they're just like so delightful. And their um, Romancey and I don't want to say like a smart romance, but they're like super feminist and like talk a lot about consent, which I think is so important and I just really liked. So yeah, add that to your list, to my list. Right. It's a never ending list, sadly. Always wanted to like find new things that you've thought of on your own. Definitely. Do you have like a running list that you like a physical list or it in your head? Do you hold this?

Um, no, not really. I just kind of find them and then I'm like, I use the ebooks subscription a lot for the library and I just kinda go through, go through and see what's there and usually I'm really, I find an author or I'll get on like inadvertently all started the series and they're like, wow, I need to read all of them now. And they could, I could not like any of them but I need to know what all of the sub characters, thoughts are, need to know what happens to all of them. So, um, I'll read your books. I don't like just because I'm like I have to finish the series. That makes you a great reader though and like a good librarian that actually, well it's a lot of time minus the part where it is. A lot of times it could be reading a book I actually like,

like series I don't like, but I have, I've been in the middle of books where I absolutely hate it and

I'd like to throw it across the room and pretend to resist, but then it'll just hover in the back of my mind. But what happens? You need that closure? Yeah, I think I spent like three months between when I stopped booking, why I gave in and finished it because I just, I did not like it but not deal with the fact that I do so. Awesome. Well, do you have any other books that you want to share?

Sure, we are. Well we'll talk about it later because I think that's the whole topic of conversation.

Do you have any books like personally that you're excited to read or like any books you're looking forward to read?

Sadly, I don't really follow all of the new book stuff. Um, I kinda wish I did, but I liked discovering them and it's like, Ooh, fun. Like, Oh yes. Oh No, wait, let me, that's a lie. I am very excited. Kelly Armstrong writes this series, it's about a woman who is living in, like off the grid in this weird, lawless, lawless. She's the law. Technically. No, it's not paranormal. She, she does, right? A lot of paranormal stuff. So that's why I thought about it. But, um, she lives, she committed a crime and so now to be kind of safe from going to be from basically from being prosecuted for this said crime, she's become a cop in this, like a lawless town where if you're rich enough you can kind of hide away.

And so everyone there has committed a crime of some sort of varying degrees. They're usually white crimes, but some of them are not Kelly Armstrong. And so you're kind of learning what everyone is in there for. And um, it's just really interesting. She has a new one coming out. So, so a serious. Yes. Oh, call a colleague of mine and I are reading them and so when they come out we like, squeal with delight, have to get to me, I really recommend them and yeah, it's lots of fun. Um, it's, I'm not usually a mystery reader because I get so obsessed with having to solve it than just rushing through it. Well, yeah, it does take over my whole life and I just rushed through it and I'm like, whew. And then I'm like, oh, I just, I didn't enjoy any of that. I don't remember all the other minor supplies because I'm like, I needed to know who, like maybe go back and read it a second time. Right. She's not a reader and not every reader. What about or rewatch or will you rewatch a show or a movie? Oh yeah. Okay. Yeah, it's, it's weird. Right? I don't think that's weird. I was just curious.

I'm, yeah, I'm compelled compulsive re-reader, but not quite as bad as my younger brother who doesn't read new stuff, but well he reads the things that he likes to literal pieces, but mom, she just reads it once and she's done. It's like, why? Why do you not want to go back? Like didn't you like it the first time? You can see it's like, it's comforting. I know that it's going to happen till I have the time to slow down and take in those details I missed the first time and see how that can change things. Yeah.

Well every year at Christmas time it's, yeah, usually after Christmas, but sometimes the day or two before Christmas I rewatched citizen Kane and every year I think differently about it and I think I find something new about it. So

that's what I like about going back over. Yeah. But books,

books are different because I don't know why, but they just are to me,

just different things for different people. I don't much like movies or TV because the difference in the presentation just bothers me and I like, like the same story in a book and my family, the rest of my family is like, what was the difference?

There is a difference. There's the visual component to it. So just like with comics, I could love the writer of the comic, but if I don't like the art I, I can't read it. It's a totally different feel to it. Absolutely. Yeah. So I was reading a series and they switched artist and I had to stop reading it because they just didn't like the art. Is that common? Um, with series sometimes. Yeah. Like I don't normally read series. Usually like graphic novels. If you don't want to get technical but,

or the longer something runs the more likely something will happen. Some miscommunication or no, or you know, the artist changes. Only vaguely familiar with comics. But I've, I know enough about them like I've seen the big comics there will be like such difference. That's true. Somebody will on one panel from one number from the other. It's like wow.

Yeah. Well like in a panel it will. But like if they have like a run and like there's like sub stories. Okay, well this some stories drawn by this person and by this person and

the colorist may stay on but the illustrator make change. So I really only read paper paper girls, so that's really the only thing that I'm. Oh, paper paperclips. I didn't even think about that. That's an easy one. I just read the most recent collection because I only, I can't do the individual, I have to wait for like the compendiums to come out because I just have to binge things. Um, and so those was decent at that. Yeah, right around Christmas. I was just like, all right, here we go. Yeah. And that's why Bryan cave on so awesome. Any others you want to share? Nope.

So I had been in a bit of a reading Rhett listeners slash guest slash mega, um, so I don't really have a lot to share, but I did read the Friend by Sigurd Nuñez um, and there is a trigger warning of suicide and if you want to skip this part, feel free to. But I really enjoyed it and it was beautiful writing. Um, it won the national book award and I can totally tell why it was super lovely and quiet. The pacing was really nice. I enjoyed, um, just the way it was set up and the characters felt really real to me, which doesn't always happen, but I loved it. A friend recommended it to me. I read it immediately and have not been telling everyone about it. So that's the friend by sacred Nunez and I liked it.

I looked it up after you said it, like it, it's really interesting that the dog has a character and I mean really gets characterization. Yes. If you have a dog, I would highly recommend reading it. I'm slightly distracting that the cover showed the wrong breed though.

You can't say anything.

No. Okay. Um, and I also just finished the Crying of Lot 49 by Thomas Pynchon. It was the book, I believe that in our first episode or second episode I said that I was starting, um, so it took me a year to read it. So that's exciting and it was really hard. It was a really hard book to read. I think it's only like 120 pages, but it every single page I had to look up the references and do some research and so it was a good reminder to me to not just read easy things, but it was also a reminder to me that it'll be a while before I read it

Chanel, because I have two points. Um, something really funny and you may find it amusing. I have a bumper sticker on my car that says my other vehicle is the pinch and not know that. And like our whole, I don't know, the time of friendship, many people will see my car. That's true. Okay. But, um, yeah, it's a really funny. It's a funny bumper sticker and now everyone knows it's my car so can identify to say, um, for safety sake, for anonymity, please edit that part out. Um, and then also I also, every winter I try, I get into my head, I have to read something of, you know, quote unquote literary worth. And so every year I try to keep trying to read a crime and punishment and I don't know why it's, it's becoming a crime and punishment to, uh, but, uh, but I guess because I really, really loved Anna Karenina when I read it.

And then I really, really liked Warren piece when I read it. And so I feel like every winter I should read something of substance because then I feel like it's hardy and it'll, it'll keep me through the winter, like a good stew.

Yes. Like a good stew.

And uh, so this year I was like, okay, gonna do it. I'm really going to do it. And I looked at it again and I said, oh my goodness, I can't, it just can't put myself through this trial of not actually getting anywhere of significant note through it. So there's another book, which apparently is where people most start when they start reading Dostoyevsky and it's called poor folks and it's only maybe 100 pages. So I'm going to give that a shot and that'll be my literary work for here. Um, and in a year when we have you back on the podcast, you can let us know and update. I rented her, it'll be great. Yeah, we probably won't read it, but I'm going to aspire to say like I've tried to read the brothers Karamazov prevalent like six times and it's the same thing where I get 100 pages in and I'm like, I can't, like I just can't do it. So I don't know, maybe 20 years it'll be tied.

I mean there's a lot of reasons for that. Um, I also periodically go through and try and read some of the ones that are of worth. And sometimes it's, it can be as simple as I'm okay, I'll be alerted mismatch like a lot of the 19th, 19th century novels, even the ones that I really liked, the plotline the writing, they expected different things out of the writing. So I like, you know, clear and simple and they're doing like or language and take 15 pages to say what color hat is. It's like, no.

Yeah, I have that problem with Jane Austen a lot. I think it's like Dracula and Frankenstein.

And I love the storylines and, but I, I really need to know about. Everybody's has a very important, let's talk about all of this gossip that has nothing to do with the story. And it's like really? So they vampire novel plus like hats.

Yeah. Okay. That's true. But yeah, I think it's good to challenge yourself. Like you were saying, um, you know, since I read a lot of the same type of book it does, it's fun to, to, of, to challenge yourself and read something different. It does help if you have like a reading buddy and you kind of like, well, oh well I got to this part. Oh, okay, well I'll hurry up. And it kind of motivates you to get to that. It's like a gym buddy. Yeah. Like a gym buddy or if you're reading something a little bit heftier social people's. Yeah, you can talk about it. So I like that. So if you want to try the brothers, I'll give it a go together. Okay. Guys I have a reading buddy

now. Yeah.

Megha , you want to ask you a question?

Oh, right. So I just kind of put some random questions, just sprinkling them through the podcast.

Wonderful.

So do you pick and choose which books talk about or even which to read when based on the possibility of sharing, like all of the podcasts, audio booklist club when random people asked you questions, whatever.

No, very weird. Um, I just kind of find things and if the mood strikes me, I'll read them. Sometimes I'll be in the mood for like something serious or not so serious or um, but it doesn't really. I guess I don't really talk about what I'm reading to a lot of people, so it doesn't really matter. I do do the Pod, the library's book club, but. So that's really the only book that I read

with the intent for. Yeah, for other people. Um, but otherwise I'm kind of alone. What's the, what's the phrase? I'm like, no, no, no, no. Loneliness is like the loneliness of the runner or whatever. It's like, oh, the long distance runner. I'm going to look it up.

Yeah, please do. But you just kind of.

Reading is such a solitary thing. So you just, I, I read and I don't really talk about it, do a lot of people and then I move onto the next thing and I guess that's cool because you can just breeze through a lot of things in your own thing, but then at the same time it's, you know, it is one of the things that I miss about college where he got it. Yeah. You're talking about it with class and you kind of gained some additional insight to um, to maybe something that you missed maybe something like that I glossed over and didn't really pay a lot of attention to and somebody else that they really that really spoke to them. So you kind of gives you like a little another level of

understanding.

It's also really good at getting you out of your comfort level in terms of things you read.

Yeah, totally. Definitely true.

I don't know. So yeah. What about you guys? No. No.

So

not a bad question. Well maybe not. So Elizabeth sends out an email every few months and it asks like some staff like what they're reading and then that goes on the website and so sometimes as I'm reading a book I'll think like, oh I think that this is a book that a lot of people would enjoy and so whenever the email comes, like I make sure to write that down or like this is a book that I found really interesting and maybe only like four other people that like to read about, like women in space will also enjoy reading. So like that I think about it through that time. I don't read books based on our podcast, which I hope that doesn't break anyone's heart but I just kind of read what I want to read. So if people recommend things to me I will usually try to read it or like at least have it on my radar. But I don't think so. Well yeah, my case,

the sometimes when it comes to pick and choose is usually about what to read when. So it looks like it's on my list. I might read it now or I might read it in two weeks when I'm going to be doing podcast stuff because it sounds like something that I'd like to share - and then maybe I will, maybe I won't share it in the end, but there is a little bit of that. Or it'll be like I read six books, you know, during the right time-frame. Which one do I pick? And occasionally it has been like I read this and you much longer ago, but it still, it's really good. I think. So there's a little bit of a selection, but it's like, selection out of the stuff I read, not, not out of everything.

Yeah, I think that makes a lot of sense.

That makes sense.

All right, well today we have Elizabeth on for a very exciting and special reason because you run the Social Justice Book Club at Albright.

Yes, I do.

And you are a social justice warrior.

Oh, I wouldn't say that, but

we'll edit that out.

You enjoy social justice. We'll edit that out. Why don't you describe your interest in social justice?

You have an interest in I guess.

Yes. I think as human, as a human, as a fellow human, yes.

Ah, and do you have an interest in it? Um, it actually, the pot, the book club was started by anecdote colon. She saw a need for it in our community just to kind of start talking about things that are happening around the world and are in our country, in our own community locally. And you know, she asked me to join, which was very gracious of her. Um, so we've been reading books for, oh my goodness, maybe three years now I have to think about it and I should have brought the list of all the things that we've read. Um, but more recently I kind of started taking the lead on picking the books and you'll notice a huge significant change is that they've gotten shorter and uh, you know, by, you know, by design they have, they happen by design because fun fact kind of adverse reading nonfiction.

So to run a book club about nonfiction topics or nonfiction books that we used is kind of odd or out of character for me. So um, but it, it is again good and challenge, it's a good challenge to read something different and learn a little bit new, something new about your, the world you live in. Um, and so we've been reading shorter books on and more essays, but I think it's good because, you know, you can read a 600 page book on, you know, the prison industrial complex, but it doesn't really lead to a lot of conversation. I think you kind of hit a wall where okay, these are all the facts. Yeah. And these are all the stories, all the individuals that have experienced these things.

But in effect it's too big. Yeah. Yeah. You don't really get really far and like the conversation kind of just need something that's like within people's reach. Yeah. And then also something that you can chop it up into little bits and say, okay, well I liked this portion or I like this part and now that you couldn't do it with a longer book, but it was easier when the divisions are dangling in front of everybody's. Yes. Yeah. This is just feel like it's easier to bring people in with a shorter book, like it's, everyone has 10,000 things going on and so here's six essays for them. It's just. Yeah, yeah, cause I really wanted to do, um, a book later in the year and I was, because Renee and I decided to pick the books together because you also have your bookclub, so I'm kind of toy with the idea of doing a five or 600 page novel and I'm like, oh, we can totally do it. And then everyone said, no, no, we'll come to that. And it kind of broke my heart, but I understand

because as your reading buddy buddy for that one.

Yeah. And our book clubs or every other month. So it's not like we're asking a lot of people. But um, yeah, it, it, everyone reads differently and reads different kinds of books. So you know, you kind of have to be cognizant of that. So

have you found that the same people come to like the same people that you had three years ago is who you have now or have you seen that change?

They flux, uh, some people have more interest in certain topics than others and that's incredibly realistic, you know, I'm not expecting everyone to come to every book club. Um, we do have a couple of consistent people that come every, every, every other month and that's great. It adds kind of continuity and they can, you know, they're making references to other books that we read, which is nice, um, or, you know, recommending things. So it's good to have a consistent thing because then you can reference back. But New People are always a great addition. Um, they always bring new ideas and new experiences to the discussion. So, um, sometimes we get people who have experienced similar things that we're reading, which is always, I think very moving and, you know, very kind of them to, to share and brave of them to be like, okay, well this happened to me. And um, because sometimes you read some pretty, um, pretty sad and you know, moving things. So

it's one of the things that, you know, stories are good for that. It's easier to talk about something that happened to someone else. It's easier to, to think about something when it's couched in eviction instead of like when it's out in the real world and then it's all scary. You look at it, they're abstract verses right there in front of you. Um, so how do we define social justice or like what is social justice to both of you? I'll let you go first. Oh, I get to go first. Yeah. I don't want to hog the conversation. You can

take the mic right in front of you. Okay.

So as far as I, as far as I'm concerned, social justice is about trying to make the world we live in fairer, and that means dealing with any inequalities and biases, shining light on hidden problems, dealing with large picture things, dealing with deeply individual things. Um, I've done a bit of digging into the term when I was trying to figure out how to answer this question. And social justice is really broad and a little bit of a general term. And at the heart of it it seems to be like common justice improve the lives of people in a fair and equal way. There's also, like, a great deal about the distribution of advantages and disadvantages, trying to equal ensure equal access to opportunities and privileges and, like a lot of this stuff is good ideas. It has good results, but I also have some sympathies for these other people who are going like, but what does that mean?

Yeah. It's such an abstract thing to boil down into.

It's like you know who distributes and how, who decides advantage and disadvantage? What is opportunity equality and fairness to those people like it. You need to figure this out. The details as well as the broad strokes central authority or grassroots equality of outcome or opportunity. Local customs vs nationwide standards. They do need poking at. So I can definitely sympathize with people who go social justice and like they, it seems to them like it's just a buzzword.

I was just going to say that it's been such a buzzword like in the last, I don't know, I'll say like two to five years, but I think that it's not just a buzzword but like something that is like holding necessary at this time right now and like has always been a thing. But like right now, I think, there is the need, and then there's the buzzwordy part of it, but that's mostly there to get them. You have to deal with. Yeah, to like separate that out. Yes.

My, my favorite version of the meeting and focuses on the "trying" to make part of the, "trying to make the world better", which is the justice we seek socially rather than formally, um, that is dealing with society and communities working together. So here's a problem, what do we do about it?

Yeah.

And that does mean that, when we're trying to make that more just, then we do need that on a case by case basis. Something that works here won't work somewhere else. Something that we're required to do, it doesn't work like something that we decide we want to do on our own. Um, people might come together for causes or come up with solutions that I don't agree with, I have no idea about, that even maybe I don't agree with them. But then who said I was supposed to be in charge of deciding. Right. And what's wrong? Never said that. So yeah, that's, that's kind of where I'm going with it. It's like when people get together and go, here's how we, here's what we see is wrong, here's how we're going to fix it. And it is wicked, more neutral term that way because it can be anybody for any reason. It can be things. I agree with the things done. It can be things that are huge or things that are tying in Somalia.

Do you have like social justice issues that are close to your heart?

Um, I guess I guess I never really thought about it is that it's not weird. No, I'm, I guess, you know, for work, you know, there's always your, you know, your, your niche interests, you know, like these are the things that I'm most interested in and like, you know, privacy and you know, protecting that and you know, freedom of access and things like that for work. And so I guess I guess it would extend to, you know, my day to day life, you know, you talked about, you know, making things equal and I always struggle with equal and equitability and you know, making sure that just because you know it's all equal, but is it fair? So, um, there's that, there's obviously, I guess I would consider myself a feminist and so making sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally is pretty, pretty key.

I didn't even think about the work side of things and how that would like into. I think there things that's so interesting. Well, I think what's librarianship,

it's, I think it's more than just a job. People have jobs, obviously they go, they do their thing, they come home, but like I think with my Bereans it kind of bleeds into just, it's not just a job, it's a profession, it's almost kind of a way of thinking in a way of, I don't want to say way of life, but it, it definitely bleeds into all aspects of your life, you know, it's not just countries on your passions.

Yeah. It's not just, you know, the thing I knew from nine to five or whatever. It's, you know, all the time. It's all the time. It's all the time. I love that. So yeah. Yeah. So, um, yeah, I guess I never really thought about it. Just really funny. No, I think in the next few minutes pop back in if you need to make it too. You have like a social justice topic that. So they go. Tell me about things that are close to your heart. I guess social justice. Just a light question. Yeah.

So probably the social justice topic that I think the most of, it is labor rights or maybe the intersection between labor rights and foreign policy and because it's all, it's all tangled up. It's a messy, tricky subject. The causes and effects are ridiculous. Um, it sometimes feels less incomprehensible in some of the other social justice topics because some of them are like, why would anybody do this unless you want to be a cackling villain in the story.

But people really are, but they are scary.

They think they're doing the right thing, but I can't, I can't follow that train of thought. When it comes to like labor rights and stuff. It's like, okay, people are greedy. I don't like it, but I can understand it. And it's like the world is a terrible. Okay. We can get, we can understand when it comes to understand and no, it was just funny prejudice and bigotry. It's like I'm getting it, like where is this coming from? What assumptions are you going with? So yeah, it's a little bit like, I dunno, easier, safer to think about that and not get overwhelmed with.

Yeah, that's true. Yeah. I guess that makes sense because there's like that concrete thing that you can point to.

Like this is definitely what's happening. Like with, with worker rights the person doing it usually has some idea that this is greed. you can point it out to other people, like they'll tend to figure out this is greed, but when it comes to the bigotry, when you get people who were like,

I noticed that's a really good point. That's a really good point. Like you can't treat that person like that because they have their woman and how, how do you even start the conversation when they genuinely don't get that?

Yeah. And it's, it's interesting because when you think about, you know, the life that you live and all the things that you know, and the life that you live at are there, they're different, you know, maybe you grew up in the same town but, or

in the same family, which is always mind boggling when family members have widely ranging political backgrounds and uh, you know, and passions and things. It always blows my mind that, you know, child a could have one, like they can be wholly Republican and then child b is holy democratic. And then child c is just like, um, Green party. And she's like, wait, how do you have one family

my family is like that. My Dad is Republican, my mom and my brothers are Democrat. I'm registeredly independent.

Yes. Yeah.

And it's just so interesting that like, you're right, like you can all grow up in literally under the same roof and whether it's the books you read or just like your education or more conflict with or conflict with. Yeah. Or just like whatever shapes that into.

So then you think on it on a bigger scale, you know, it's not just, you know, the entities in your family, but like the people who live next to you and it's just it, you know, you kind of go down this rabbit hole of like, oh my goodness,

that's also why I have such a hard time understanding the vegan trees because it's like the person next to you, like your own family members who are different from you. How can you imagine that any group of people is more similar than that? Well, so is there a time that you, like, how did you happen upon social justice or like how did you. I know this is a big

question. I'm heavy hitting. Yeah, your, your Hoover hitters. Um, I think it's an interesting thing because I've been thinking about it lately and just like thinking back on

who I was, you know, maybe 10 years ago and who I am now and the thoughts and things that go through my head, obviously the world we live in has a huge factor of the things that I've consumed, either TV or music or books. Um, the people I've met, um, and they all play a part in it, I think just when you're young, you think, you know, literally everything. And now obviously I'm a little bit older and I understand that I don't know everything and we were talking in our last book club, this is probably a better story and it maybe an easier way of explaining it. Um, we did a book about immigration and I'm with the woman, with the person who wrote the book was interviewing children who were immigrating from South America and it was in 2015, so there was a big rush to close the borders and everything like that.

So, um, and all these children are being affected and all these things were being changed. All the laws were being changed in how they became citizens or got their green card and things like that. So, and I told this story, the person next to me told this harrowing story of how they are a family of various immigrants and from different countries and there, by the grace of God, they were adopted out there. Very happy family. Now. Um, and I always thinking about my own family of immigrants. I'm second generation American on my mom's side and you know, he just told the story of how I know of my grandma's immigration. I'm like, oh, she married a soldier during World War Two. She moved to Canada and they got married, she had a baby, they came over through Canada and then they moved to west side and it was easy peasy. Oh Wow. And so, you know, like now I think about it and I read these books and I'm like, oh my goodness, I was so naive. And so sheltered that, you know, as you're learning more things about the world around you, you become aware of all the things in the world. Right. So, um, I guess it's just,

I guess it just happened. Yeah, like as life happens you just become more startling when you go back over. Our last name is because of immigration. We're spelling it one way. When they were changing it from one language to another, it's like, okay, we're using English letters now. And so we're, as far as I know, five people in the entire world, who's Baylor last name? This way he's the rest of the family chosen easier spelling because they knew it was going to have the AI. It's like, wow, like how can you think about that? People would just, they would just change people's names, right? You'd be like, oh, that's too hard. Let me just write or changing it from a language with a different alphabet and they can just put down whatever. It's not something that I thought about when I was small. It was just the way it was.

And then it got a little bit older. Started hearing these stories. I'm like, wow. Yeah, there's things like a family where everybody has the last name because they're writing down the wrong last name for him or you know, a different last name for her and that, you know, using the place instead of the name because the forms were sent out. And so the kid gets the right last name and like nobody's met. Yes. And it's not because they don't share the last name is because the paperwork. Well even in families that the last name is similar, so in some families, some cultures,

the last name of people who are female have an a or a towel and then you know, at the end of the male last name it's slightly different. So you know, how does that play when they get to, you know, immigration is interested, they just. Yeah. And then that kind of questions like, well then you're changing their culture. Yes. So like that's not, that's not their name, you know, and like suddenly what does that mean then for their identity or like how do you, how do you come to terms with. Exactly, yeah. My name has been always been this and now all of a sudden it's not for generations. Should it be so have

a lot when you immigrate, like when you leave one life for another. Yeah, whatever sacrifices, whatever you do gain. It's still sacrifice.

Yeah.

Megha. Can you think of like a time where you like happened upon social justice or like why is this close to your heart?

So it goes all the way back to when I was in high school. I guess, okay, we had a history teacher and he really, really, really good history teacher because he wanted us to, um, to understand that history is a thing that people do. This is not about dry facts in a book, it's about people. So one of the things that he did was songs, the popular songs, songs, protest songs of, um, struggle, songs of justice specifically, I think it was cold war tunes. So that caught us because songs, songs are easy. We can think about them, we can understand them.

And it's also, it's really, really clear that these were the things that mattered to these people.

These were the things that the common person on the street might be singing this song because it was on everybody's mind. it was in everybody's heart. And that, that really did make it kind of personal for us. Like that understanding that these are people, these are the things that people were dealing with, not just facts and figures, and "this happened on this day" and historical analysis. It was passionate, like these really personal things. And even now, there's a double handful of songs that I can sing these selections from just because I mean like, it really did catch me really deeply and I kept looking and I kept listening because, um, so many people put their hearts into people who have their lives on the line because they are making visible stance against things, for things.

You, it makes such a big difference when you really start looking at it when you start, you know, when you start reeling from that people's lives are songs. Yeah, that's really interesting. It is.

So it's also a lot of my interest in, I guess the messier side of history because you can have a list of names and dates and places and then you can have "Take to the streets/and lift up your voice/and fight for your life/while you still have a choice". Now one's going to grab your attention versus the other.

Yeah. Um, so you went to Elizabeth's first social justice book club with this year. Is that true? What I did and I went to. Okay. Yeah.

Tell me how it ends is the book that we read, it was really interesting. It was a lot of fun. I mean usually when I see these social justice book clubs and things, I'm like, oh, interesting, and then I forget about it or I don't get the book in time or you know, so this one, it was really nice because the ebook was available so it was like, yeah, I'm minutes after I thought about it, I had the book,

you can like download it right in the moment.

Yes. And I didn't have time to forget and then I was like, oh wait, the meeting hasn't happened yet. Really cool. I Could possibly go. That's awesome. The incomprehension, that was ridiculous. It was just like, oh shoot, I didn't even think of that.

Can you tell us some of the books that you have read or like are, are going to read

also we are going to get back to you. I noticed that you've been asking all the questions and not answering.

Yeah, I'm Terry Gross at this podcast today.

Um, it's hard because I always forget the titles after we read them or the topics.

Well, we read the hate you give, which was really good. I just saw that movie over the weekend. So that was kind of like new and fresh in my mind. Um, we read the underground railroad, which was for the talk that's going to be happening this spring. Um, I like the fiction titles, obviously the ones that are coming to my mind.

What's interesting about yours is that you do fiction and nonfiction, which I really like. Yeah. I think,

you know, um, I have a background in comparative literature and I always loved the way that literature and not specifically fiction can kind of, and you kind of mentioned this about historical fiction. I'm kind of give you that insight into what's happening and making it very obvious that life is a universal thing and that, you know, x, Y and z happened to you and you don't have to experience it to really get an idea of what it means to have experienced something. And um, you know, it's just, you know, you could read a book that's written by a person from France in like the 18 hundreds and still understand the main basic concepts. Everybody has the same struggles. Everyone still has the same hopes and fears and maybe they don't experience them in the same way, but it's all universal, you know, everyone's going to be afraid of, you know, not having a home or not being, you know, having a food or you know, the resources to provide or things like that. So I think fiction allows you to kind of escape into someone else's life and then also be a little bit more compassionate and empathetic towards your fellow human.

Some of those, like the stories, some of them are just off the top. Somebody said that, some of them really well researched, a couple of the fact that inside, on the podcast, sometimes it'll come from Brittany originally will come from a story that the author did their research and it showed and then you can really dig into. It really does.

Um, what are some of the books that you are reading upcoming?

Uh, we're going to be reading freedom is a constant struggle by Angela Davis in March, so that we're very interested in that. You're reading.

Oh yes, sorry, we're reading a boy erased in May, so

awesome movies. So if you want to cheat, you can maybe watch the movie and we'll see how the differences. Um, I been kind of curious. I'm always curious when you watched the movie and you read the book, um, especially with biographies, what, what they decide fast and loose with the biography. Yeah. And you feel bad because you know, the person put their heart and soul into their own story and then you went and changed it for certainly there is that guy from being ted Bundy and like, what do you do? Yeah. You're just like, Oh man, I'm. So. Yeah, I think. I think the topics though are, or we're trying to keep pretty timely. We're doing one on gun control at the end of the year. I think it's called Hashtag never again. Never again. Which is the first book of Abington's Podcast or first book of abstinence, Social Justice book club.

And it's by David and Lauren hogs, so they are, um, parkland high school shooting survivors. So I'm, I'd like a little bit of like butterflies in my stomach, the key by reading that, so we're going to be reading, um, we're, we received a grant at the Albright, um, for it's called the American Creed grant and so we're going to be watching a movie or a documentary on what it, what it means to be an American and the whole idea of the American greed. And then we're having discussions with facilitators from the University of Scranton. And then finally we're having a social justice book club meeting on a book called citizen, which I think won the Booker Award is an award winning book. And it's a collection of poetry and essay and art kind of conveying what it means to be a citizen, an American. It's just very timely and very hot topic at the moment of what does.

Yeah. What does it mean to be a citizen? What does it mean to be an American? Yeah. And I think obviously it means something different to everyone. And it's just interesting to hear what those things mean to people. Do you see that you were social justice book club participants are like driving the conversation for what they want to read or do you give them suggestions? I do ask for suggestions. Um, a lot of the time people are kind of a float in there, just kind of like, oh, there's just so much. So can you just pick one thing for us and then like they'll give topics are and things all we'd be really interested in this. So I'm really want to make sure we're reading widely. And so we kind of trying to touch bases with everything. Obviously there are some topics that get repeated more than others.

Um, but that doesn't mean one is more significant or important than another. So it, it's hard. It's hard to run a book club. It's something I'm learning as I say, what's been. Have you ever read a book club? Like have you ever been a facilitator? Megha?

Not, nothing like that.

Okay. Have you been a participant in a book club?

Sometimes and sometimes lead class discussions on similar. So it's really not easy. If you, if you can't get some momentum going right at the beginning. Yeah, because there's usually a lot of people just standing there staring at you like, okay.

I would say I always, yeah, I try to have questions like I tried to have a lot of questions prepared and then I hope in my heart that people will start talking to people will like dove tail off, but it doesn't really, at least in my experience, it doesn't happen that way.

So I'm like all right to our next question. And so I, I don't know. It sometimes feels stilted. Yeah. And I think it all depends on the book and the group. If you have a good dynamic, it helps. Um, obviously I noticed when we read the fiction books, especially with the underground railroad, a lot of people liked the book and there's a lot to talk about. There really wasn't any awkward pauses or anything in the conversation, but I think it was mostly because there was so much open to interpretation was fiction that you. And especially that book in particular where the underground railroad, is it a physical thing where in reality it was not. So there was kind of a

huge discussion on that and then you know, how, how does fiction, maybe people don't feel like you're going to get the answer wrong.

Yeah, I think there is that definitely as black and white. Yeah. It's not just, okay, this happened. Okay, well your opinion and everything and I think it ties into I'm the mother of all questions, which is kind of what the book we talked about maybe being are talking for this discussion or at least so that we've all read the same book. She talks about that a lot and especially with language where language is so fluid and so ever changing that it's kind of hard to keep up and it's tricky. I, I kinda, I got hung up on that a lot and I'm like yeah, it does. You know, you're just thinking about different groups, taking words back and trying to say, okay, this was current previously, this was a slur. This is a derogatory term, but now it's something that we're taking back and we're embracing reclaiming. We're reclaiming it and we're redefining it. And um, it's just really interesting to see people do that.

I found this book really interesting to talk about, um, at our book club because it's a predominantly male bookclub, so there's um, four men and ep and then a like two to three women. And so it was really interesting to read this book which is talking a lot about like feminist issues. Um, like some misogyny, um, like a lot of gender stuff and just like to hear, I don't want to say like the men's side of things, but like how men viewed it and what they react to you versus like what the two or three of us women were talking about. Like I was talking about how I don't ever go anywhere after dark without like letting someone know where I'm going, what time I should be home, like without having my phone on at that moment in case you know, I need to call someone. And the men were like, oh, like I've never done it. And I was like, I know you have. So that was just interesting, like those dynamics in the moment where I can't think of another book that I read with our book club that was like really that separated out. So yeah, it was.

And she talks about that a lot where people will just, like, men don't realize,

people in general don't realize how things are connected. Um, what assumptions people are making. It's kind of tricky, like when you're talking about being afraid to go out after dark. I and I didn't really get that. Um, there was one situation where I would be walking from school like a mile to the apartment because it was a mix of transportation issues when we're picking the apartment. And it's just like, it really didn't occur to me, you know, even I read the emails that they're sending out saying like, Oh, you know, this person's been harassed as well. They're not going to. I never thought that they'd get to me. And now that that's half the reason why I never looked like prey, I guess.

Yeah. Yeah. Everyone's coming in from a different place. Yeah.

Different assumptions. It's tricky.

And you had read other books of Solnit's?

Yeah, I read, um, "men explain things to me" and "hope in the dark". Um, and then I have another one of hers. It's red.

Yes. Because it's like all in the same. They're all look the same and it's very confusing. So you'd never remember. You just remember what color you read. I'm like, I read the orange with last week and the blue one the week before.

Yeah. Now I'm going to read them. Um, and I think that one's about, um, call them, I think it's called call them their, their real name or true name. That sounds. So it sounds. And the thing that bugged me the most about this, and I hate to talk badly about books, but this one is obviously very dated. Some of the references are really interesting because she talks about Aziz Ansari and then in height and also Louis, c, k, and then in modern time it's like, oh, well, I don't know if I would be talking so politely about though in recent times. So it's just really interesting. Um, knowing now what we know maybe that wasn't

before, like right around me

too, or like a little bit before. Yeah, this is like 2015 because she, she, she chats about that a little bit, but you're right, like within the last four years, one of the things that have come out, so many other things have come out. And so now you're right. Then some of the references, I was like, oh, I cringe a little cringe or just keep moving, keep moving. Yeah. So, um, that was, that was interesting. And you know, that's not her fault that times change things come out yet things happen. But I did, uh, the last, I think it's the last one or close to the last one, the movie giant where she talks about how she watches it. Every time I got the movie I'm going to watch it to see how, if like it holds up to us. She's talks about. So it'll be really interesting because I think I saw it a couple of like in college. So it'll be interesting to see if I notice all the things that she talks about and done everything and you know, just how we were talking earlier about how rereading things and rewatching things, you know, how you, how you know, you're coming to it as a different person. Yeah. And I'm experiencing it in a different way. So I'm kind of excited to read that. But I'm,

I really liked her. I think she has some interesting ideas.

Um, I think she, she brings, she makes it approachable things people can read them and have a lot to talk about. I liked it.

All of her, not all of her, but a lot of her pieces were collected in one place because I just like see them on the Internet and so I like read them as I see them, but then to read them holistically was really nice to get a better sense of a, of her writing and be kind of like where she's coming from. So that was nice for me. This was the first one of hers that I have read. I own men explain things to me and I'm hoping to read that in 2019, so maybe that'll get me out of my book rent. Maybe. Maybe it will. Yeah. So I'm trying to hit you with the time to have you. Okay. So how

about you, we'll go back a little bit. You talked about something that was, um, an influence on your social justice interest or leanings or something.

Yeah. So I feel like in college I sort of learned about social justice and I'm embarrassed to say that it took that long to get there. Um, but I just had a lot of really great professors, professors that, that was something that they were really passionate about bringing is the classroom other, whether it be like in our literature class or in like in history class. Um, so then I kind of took a little lapse from it and had my head buried in the sand and then I'm kind of came back into it and started a saw. I need an art community for a place where people could talk about these issues that were happening. And I had a director that was super gracious and was like, yeah, go for it. And was really supportive. And so now we have a book club and now we're collaborating on different things and having a podcast episode about it. So it's just. That's great. Which topic is kind of closest to your heart? I'm probably lady women's stuff. I just uh, yeah,

I become like more radicalized the older I get and just really want there to be equitability for women and I think that we are slowly getting to that point, but I think it's um, emphasis on slowly maybe. Yeah. I just, I see it as such a big need. I see this such a big need. So I was in the last election, I was really happy to say that I'm a lot more women were, you know, getting into politics and were voted into these places where they can make changes. And so that was really encouraging to me. So, um, anything else we want to talk about book club wise or social justice wise or things that you want to tell our listeners? I think,

I think it's a big topic. And it's kind of ever growing, ever changing and it's always, always going to be a little overwhelming I think. Um, and not that that's a bad thing, but um,

just kind of have to stay.

Yeah, you have to like stay on it. And one of the law, one of the last books I guess that our book club is reading, I don't know when yours is reading it, um, is the one that's called, it's about like, um, revolution and it's kind of like how to be, how to be someone that's interested in social justice and how to like make change. And I'm excited to end the year on that because I think that there's something really great about reading the theory of all of this. We're like reading about these topics, but then like you can just leave it at the door, you have to do something with it. And that's what, a lot, it comes up a lot in the book club where you're like, okay, you just read this whole book about topic x. Now what do we do about it? And

I think we talked about it a little bit and it comes up kind of every book club like, well, what can we do about this and you know, in, you know, I try and provide opportunities and you just get involved in your community and you know, and I think it's all just about being aware and when you're at work or in the community or with your friends and like I joke and say you have to be hypervigilant, but you kind of have to make it. But that's you really choking. No, you kind of have to make it every day where when you hear someone make a slanderous joke, you have to call them out on it. When you see something bad happen to someone, you have to act on it. You

can't just say, okay, well, so and so's going to do that because no, they're not. It's you, you should be doing or that person. That's. Yeah, you're the witness. Yes.

And you're also the one who decides what you wanted to be. If you want to be the kind of person who will step up or if you want to be the kind of person who will turn your face away

because then you're not helping, you're just part of the part of the problem.

Yeah, so we also do need to be to allow a little bit of time is because everybody's flawed and vulnerable. So even I'll say like sometimes I'll screw up. Maybe sometimes I won't do what I should, but I want to be the person who will keep trying. Yes. That that's important I guess to, to not end up robbing everything because you know, you think you've failed being taxed if you just, if you mess up once, you can't keep decided. Yeah. Keep saying like, okay, so I'm the person who's brought up and is nevertheless just trying.

Yes. There's a Cmio, Beckett quote that I really like and it's ever tried, ever failed, no matter. Try again. Fail again, fail better, and so you just have to keep doing it like you can. Yes. If you're wrong, you're at least. And I think that he would caveat is you have to acknowledge when you are wrong, you can't just pretend it never happened or you know, it's okay. Yes, it's okay to make mistakes depending on the kind of mistake, but owning it is also a big thing they do afterwards.

What makes you part of what defines you? I suppose. That's true. Awesome. Well Elizabeth, thank you so much for

taking time out of your very busy schedule keeping that follows the technology of this area in line to chat with us about the. Thank you. We have a good team at the library. Do that. Does technology. So I can't take all the credit. Yes. Um, but I, I appreciate it. You guys invited me. Yeah, thanks. You're welcome.

So now we're just going to chat about our next, our next teaser for next month. Mega, what are we talking about next month? All right, so next month we were talking about looking at something a little bit closer to home, literally

local

themes, local authors, local happenings. So as I was wondering, the library looking for inspiration, I found my way to the local history section. And I was kind of just like poking at interesting books, interesting title. There's a lot of really interesting things over there. Yes. It's, it's really interesting. Like I never realized how much goes into local history that isn't strictly the local history of her is just things about this area, including like there's some fiction about this area, there's all kinds of things we, you know, we don't know until we go there and look. And I bet a lot of our listeners aren't aware of that either. So, um, a couple of things that, oh, you

know, I'll probably mentioned in the podcast but may or may not be featured and get excited poconos ghosts, legends and Lore by David Seibold. Of course I'd had. Right to the.

Yeah, what

we just saying something about, you know, how narrow our viewpoints can centerfi. Yes. So it was pretty interesting like local legends and stories, how they're told. I haven't seen any girls so I can't say I believe it, but I'm open to the idea of a family has some history of ghost tours. So it's like it could happen. That's cool. I think we're the, uh, the skeptics who wants to believe that's why we're skeptical. He, we want to go or how does that work?

Yeah. Are we sure? Do Cabinet.

So I'm excited. I like, there's some yearbooks over in local history, like you said, there's some fiction, so there's really a lot that is covered underneath it. So, um, that's really, that's really cool. So I'm excited for us to kind of dig into that, um, for us to highlight some local authors that are in our area and that are writing books and different articles. So that's going to be. I'm really excited for this episode. Is a chat about that. So just mentioned say to other books. Yeah, see if there's something for everybody. A Pennsylvania deer hunter, which is a little bit of an onshore is because, I don't know, but it sounded nor do I different. And the description was all about like, you know, growing up in this area, a lot of it was the big prize stories.

It was like, you know, it was interesting but it was a little bit more specialized.

We're expanding our horizons definitely.

And the other one is black potatoes by Susan Cain upheld, led by

love, her continue ease.

She's a local author and it's above the Irish potato famine and like there's a lot of stuff in every unit. I knew the basics, but there's stuff in there that I didn't know that it really makes you stop and think when you find out. Like the blight was a natural occurrence, but the famine was man-made because Ireland was exporting food during the time. It's just the food belonged to landlords who. Oh yeah. Believed it was their right to make a profit more than they cared about. Like people getting these people. Yeah. It's like, oh, I didn't know that. Or you know, the flight. I didn't really. I didn't never know that the blight moved visibly, oh, I didn't know that the afternoon a blue fog rolled over and everything was rotten.

And by like two hours later and said that quickly, something like that. I mean, the Blake was moving live 50 miles a day, which is ridiculous when you think is in like, um, especially plant diseases. And it was like, okay, you know, there's definitely room for why wouldn't they think it was a curse? Absolutely physical. Yeah. Physical manifestation that they can see front of their

eyes rather than. Yeah. Okay. So that was Susan. Yeah. Very cool. So we will both bring some local history to the table and see what we come up with. We'll see what we can find.

We have some things coming up at the library. If you were interested in coming to Abington's first social justice book club of the year, it will be on Monday of March 11th. And we're reading *Hashtag it never again* by David and Lauren hogs. You can put that on request and come and join us for that. It's at 6:00. It's a lot of Nice people chatting about social justice things. Do you have anything you want to talk about it at all right? You talked about a few upcoming things that you have going on. So yeah, we have um, a lot of social justice book club stuff coming for our book club is also on the 11th. Oh is it really?

Oh, I'm so sorry. It's okay. Oh, I feel terrible.

You can tweak the time so that you can take one group through it. And if somebody had, man, that's fine. I'm making a terrible face because I feel awful. We use the second Monday of the month. Yeah, I usually we are, um, our board meets and so I sometimes have to like switched around. Oh, that's fine.

Are you going to be talking about the same book? No, we strategically did that. Yes, we would not be. So if you miss it at one library, you can go to the other. And Elizabeth, um, they have a few more. So if you want extra social justice in your life, you can check out Albright's. But if you go on our website, [lcls home.org](http://lcls.home.org), you can see the calendar of events for both of our libraries.

All right, so if you want to chat with us, if you want to contact us, you can get in contact with us through the contact form on the library homepage. So it's [lcls home.org](http://lcls.home.org), or through the Abington Library circulation desk. You can send us a carrier pigeon with a letter that says Abington podcast or Lexapro or you can send us an email or you can tweet us, which I always love. Um, and that's AbingtonComlib. Com Lip and just come in and chat with us and tell us what you are reading or what you want us to talk about. I had a listener say that she really liked the podcast, but that we both are so specific in what we read that she thought it was sometimes inaccessible, which I thought was a great critique that we both really read very niche thing. So I kinda like that.

Do I? Yeah, it was a turn off for her so. Well I couldn't understand why, you know, if you're going to like discover new books, but that's a great way to discover new books when someone is very passionate about the type of things that they like to read. I do try and let's switch up what I read, but it's really easy to develop the blind spots that are just like, they're all the things I like to read within certain categories. Yeah, exactly. Exactly. So that was, I was like, okay, maybe in 2019 I really need to branch out. So we also, um, we had somebody come in when the last episode was airing because she'd read something in the paper and like didn't thought it was a talk instead of a podcast. Oh really? Oh, that's fun. It was fun. You should do a live podcast, a live recording.

That could be interesting. Then we wouldn't have time to edit out all the bloopers.

Ooh, I didn't even think about it.

No pressure. I will not be the guest.

You're our other

cohost, so that's awesome. So yeah, let us know. Let's tell people what you want us, what you want us to talk about, what suggestions, what ideas, what topics, you know, we're, we're listening. We're so we hope that you've enjoyed our podcast. We certainly had a lot of fun making it and we planned to have episodes every other month released on the first Sunday of the month.

So you can find us on our website, [lcls home.org](http://lcls.home.org) or on soundcloud or itunes or Google play. We really tried to get it out there. You can just search Lexivore podcast and you should find something that leads to us. Um, we also have transcript on the website for those who prefer to read rather than listen and we include some notes and links to resources and research we use. And the music for this podcast is from [podcast themes.com](http://podcastthemes.com). We used free theme number five. Many thanks to Mr Blasko for allowing it's use.

Thanks for listening.

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