

Narrator: Welcome to Reading the Rainbow, brought to you by the Dauphin County Library System. For the book-curious looking for their next good LGBTQ+ read, listen in as queer library staff discuss the own voice stories they've been reading.

Em: My name is Em, I use they/them pronouns.

Cas: My name is Cas, I also use they/them pronouns.

Mary: And I'm Mary, without the Lynn, no problem, and I use she/her pronouns.

Em: Thank you very much for being here with us this afternoon, Mary, we're so excited to talk to you. Let's give Mary a little bit of an intro here.

Em: Mary was born in Detroit, but she's living in Kentucky with her husband, kids, and several pets. Mary has always known she wanted to be a writer, and it started with her obsession with words as a young child. She would follow her mother around asking what words she'd seen meant, or how to spell the words that she'd heard. Her first dictionary became her best friend, and her first published piece was a poem called 'Love Is' which was published in the Detroit Children's Museum newsletter in fifth grade. Since then, she has published six books, with more on the way. When she's not writing, she is a miniaturist and owner of Rhee's Minis and More LLC. She loves crafting, walks in the forest, animation, and hot chai lattes. She is also a bisexual witch, and tries to write as much representative work as possible.

Cas: So we'll just go over a brief description of the book that we're talking about today, titled The Princess and The Thief. A cursed, sheltered Elven princess, Velocity, reluctantly teams up with Wind, a drunken, half-elf thief, to find the renowned Empress and rid herself of the dangerous magic that courses through her veins. Along the way, they face monsters, betrayal, kidnappers, crazed cultists, and the evil Queen of Nightmares, but none are as frightening as their own growing feelings for one another.

Em: And content warnings for this book include just some minor fantasy violence. So let's get into it. We like to start off with our first impressions and opinions of this book, and we are lucky enough to have the author here with us, so Cas, what did you, what'd you think about this one?

Cas: Um, I thought it was very interesting, it gave me the very, um, familiar like, DnD party group vibes. Very good fantasy elements. And I thought the characters were all like, very distinct and very interesting, and that played really well into their interactions with each other, and also to, we got to have some cute romance.

Em: Some romance! [laughter]

Cas: And also some like intense, high stakes moments as well.

Em: I, uh, I liked the pacing of this, I felt like it wasn't- we weren't stuck anywhere for too long, which I think is a tendency in fantasy especially some, like DnD inspired fantasy can, you know, have a tendency to drag a little bit and I didn't feel like that was the case at all here. I liked Velocity a lot, I liked Wind a lot too. [laughter] She uh, she's kind of a rabblouser, for lack of a better, a better word.

Cas: She's a little sassy and I appreciate that.

Em: Yeah, absolutely. Mary-

Cas: Adds color to the story, truly.

Em. Yeah, most certainly she- I really appreciated, I don't want to say I appreciated that she was a drunkard, because that's not exactly what it is, but just her, her antics surrounding like, okay is there gonna be ale at breakfast or not, was really funny to me. [laughter] Like girl its nine am what are you doing? Put down the pint, you know? But Mary obviously you wrote this book, so you, I'm sure, like it to some degree.

Mary: I hate it, it's terrible.

Em: You're done with it, you're ready to be done. [laughter]

Mary: No, I love it. I had a lot of fun writing it.

Em: What inspired Velocity and Wind's character dynamic, and, and some of their characteristics?

Mary: Well actually, it's a good thing that you brought up DnD because my sister slash best friend and I started playing DnD during the pandemic [Em: okay] and, with my brother, and, I was the Velocity she was the Wind. And she actually named Wind and gave me one of the iconic lines that Wind utters, that I'm not going to mention you have to read it, it's in the beginning of the book.

Cas: I do believe also too didn't you put that at the end of the book? Because I remember reading about that.

Mary: I think I put it in the acknowledgements [Cas: Yeah] yeah. Yes, I did.

Em: That's so cool [laughter] [Mary: Yeah] I don't know, I think DnD is definitely having a cultural moment right now and I think has been since, probably a little bit before the pandemic, right? You have all these actual play podcasts that are popping up all over the place, and, and gaining a lot of popularity, some of them have been popular for a long time but I feel like there's, there's more and more all the time, and so I really appreciated that aspect of this book, especially having a little bit of a sapphic bent to it, right? Like, we have a lot of DnD inspired

things but not all of them are queer, necessarily, and if they are, they're not queer in a way that seems, like the best representation all the time. But yeah, I really, I, I liked the dynamic of, of these two characters and, I want to say, Jamie sent us a line that you said the story is directly inspired by a combination of your DnD party's adventure and also the song I See the Light from Tangled, which I thought was really interesting? [Mary: Yeah] What uh, what compelled you to take that song and put it into like, how I guess is the song inspiring the novel?

Mary: So once upon a time, as all stories go, it happened to be on, and I was on the computer doing something and the TV was on behind me. And the song started and, of course I always turn around and watch it whenever I hear that its Tangled, because that's my favorite Disney movie. And just seeing the way that Flynn looks at Rapunzel, something sparked in me. I thought well, as someone who's bi, wouldn't it be great to have another girl look at me that way? So that's kind of how it started. And then it got to the part with, um, now she's here, and it just started building and building and I just had to do it.

Em: That actually makes so much sense that you say it like that, because I feel like there are so many moments in this bo- the most compelling moments for me in this book honestly were when they're sneaking peeks at one another, and when they're talking about how the other one looks in the sunlight, or in the campfire, you know. It- it's very much a DnD meet-cute, for lack of a better- for lack of a better way to put it. [laughter]

Cas: Also the gay panic.

Em: Oh for sure. Just, uh, thinking oh, she's really pretty, I don't know what to do with that, let me go pound a pint of ale, you know. [laughter] So what do you think, um, kind of talking a little bit about Wind and Velocity here still, what do you think makes their relationship so compelling to read?

Mary: That's a good question. They're so opposite yet so similar. If you notice, they're both fighting to be accepted, they both have a little bit of anxiety, obviously Velocity has more, they just want somebody who's going to accept them for them and truly care about them for who they are. And sure, they don't start with getting along, I mean it takes a burning building to start bringing them together, but you know, eventually they start to understand each other more and I think that's the biggest thing, the understanding.

Em: Yeah, definitely, I um-

Mary: I hope that makes sense.

Em: No, definitely! It certainly does and I think, I think you bring up a good point too, it's like, both of these characters have sort of things about themselves that they know in the back of their head but they don't necessarily want to bring to the, to the foreground, right, when

they're having interactions with people, and they don't necessarily want to address these things. I mean, Velicity kind of does, right, she goes on this quest to kind of, uh, fix, fix her magic, fix this curse that has been bestowed upon her, and um, Wind is just kind of rough and tumble and living, I don't want to say fast and loose, that's not necessarily the right term, but she's, she's definitely like, a thief, right? Um, she has a lifestyle that I think she probably uses to some degree to push a lot of her trauma down, and you, you learn more about that as the story goes on, but both of these characters are incredibly stubborn, and, and, really sort of unwilling to examine these things in a way that is productive, I guess? They just kind of want to do things about it instead of actually examining. I- its like treating the symptoms, not treating the cause, kind of thing, right?

Mary: Yeah

Em: And I think that plays out in a really interesting way especially as they go through this quest and they encounter different challenges and obstacles and, yeah I really liked the way that they played off of each other, cuz, cuz they really are very different in a lot of ways. Velicity's a little more uptight, proper kind of, she's, she spent her life at court, right? [Mary: Right] So she has these social standards whereas wind is just like belching and throwing knives and just elbowing the big guys, you know, just like very much a different character but internally they're both going through the same struggles and so I think watching those two characters kind of handle their different internal struggles at the same time together and accepting one another for that is, yeah I would agree with you I think that really, at least for me that's, that's the story that we're reading, more so than the story of the quest, it's like about Velicity and Wind.

Cas: Uh, yeah, I do believe that. I think they have the ability to bring out both the best in each other and the worst. I think that's a testament that can be said to pretty much any relationship, because people, they have their quirks whether it be good or bad, and a lot of it is just learning how to, you know, deal with that together, and especially like in the beginning of the story they would butt heads like a lot. But I think also too, like they're, they've both been through pretty intense situations while they've been growing up, and, you know, as they're going through life, but, I think at the core of it they still have very similar problems. Like they both have, I wont spoil anything, but like they both have familial problems, right. And I think the way they go about them is interesting because Wind is a little bit more bold and more brash, and then Velicity tends to deal with things in a little bit more of a subtle way.

Cas: I think, um, Velicity being with Wind helped Velicity to become a little bit more confident in her abilities, right, but I also think, you know, Wind, Velicity was able to teach Wind, you know, that not everybody leaves. There are people that care about you in this world and they will be willing to stay. Because I think a lot of like what, with what to do with like Wind is that she is, like, you- she's not really used to being close to other people. And I think it's a beautiful thing

that, you know, Velocity accepts her as she is, even though, I- I- if I'm remembering correctly Wind is the, Wind is the one who has the most anxiety about like, well, she's a princess I'm a thief we can't be together, and Velocity reassures her that their relationship is important to her. So yeah I think they're really, two really good characters, it definitely creates a lot of like fun and interesting character moments between the both of them and I think they challenged each other in the best way possible to bring about the best story.

Em: Yeah its like, uh, Wind sort of compels Velocity to be a little harder, and Velocity compels Wind to be a little softer. And I always appreciate when that, those character dynamics come about in a way that's not forced and, and makes sense, especially with the quest that they're on, the challenges that they, that they encounter, these things that, that kind of force them to look inside themselves because neither of them have gone on a journey like this before or felt feelings like this for another person before, in that way. And so those two sort of things combined really make for, yeah, just like, like Cas said a really beautiful relationship in which everyone is kind of accepted for who they are, so, yeah. We have another question here, this is your first novel highlighting queer characters, is that, is that right?

Mary: Yes, it is.

Em: Yeah, so, what was your motivation behind writing this novel when you did, and is there anything in particular that you wanted to make sure you include in your first decidedly queer narrative, and if so, why? Sorry those were two questions. [laughter]

Mary: I got it, no problem. This is actually, writing-wise it's my second. The book that's coming out next year is the one that I wrote as my coming out as both bi and a witch.

Em: Okay so it's like first published queer book, second written, second one that you've worked on.

Mary: Yeah, yes. But either way it doesn't matter, I wanted to make sure that there's more normalization of bisexual characters. It isn't, you know, a lot of people say awful things about bisexuals in general like, can't choose, it's a phase, bisexuals don't really exist, they're really actually lesbians or they're really actually straight, and i wanted to write something that actually, like I said, normalized them. Us.

Em: Yeah, definitely.

Mary: That was, that was the biggest motivation for writing both books, um. [Em: Sure] And even in the books themselves bisexuality is normal, and accepted, and that's what I'd like to see in society as well.

Em: Yeah that's actually, that's actually something that we talk a lot about on this podcast is appreciating, especially fantasy books where queerness isn't a challenge so much as it is like a conversation, right, where this idea of sexuality isn't necessarily a conflict in the sense that there's violent opposition to it, it's a conflict in that, like, you have to figure out what your feelings are, but not so much that it's a world problem, right? [Mary: Yeah] And I think especially in fantasy where you're writing a book that you want to reflect the things that you want to see in the world, I think it's so important, especially for, for younger audiences, to read these things as normal. Without opposition, right? Because yes, we know there is opposition in the world to queerness, but we don't necessarily want to be reading about that all the time. There's a time and place for those narratives, but I think we really appreciate on this podcast, especially books that have happy endings [laughter] and have, you know, positive depictions of queerness in that they're not fighting to be accepted in that way, they're just fighting to figure out what they feel

Em: And, and something that I mentioned earlier too with queerness in fantasy, specifically with bisexual characters, you mentioned a lot of the things already Mary, the stereotypes or the talking points that we hear. Another one too that I think is really prevalent in fantasy is this, this idea of the bisexual unicorn, right? That's something that always bothers me is this, this character who is bi for the sake of being, like, a promiscuous figure in the narrative. [Mary: Yeah] And that's not existent in here at all, and I think that that's something that really does exist in fantasy to a degree that is frustrating, and so it is refreshing to see something so, I don't want to say plush necessarily, because they do get into some fights, but it's like they're not, we're not dealing with a lot of the gritty frustrating things that we sometimes see when it comes to bisexual representation in fantasy specifically, so I did really appreciate that about this.

Cas: I definitely agree with pretty much everything you've said so far. I also think that it's nice to see bisexual representation where she's clearly showing attraction to both women and men, and like you said before, there is a time and a place for stories, you know, for more realistic purposes where we read about bisexual, lesbian, what have you, not being accepted by society, but the way I think about it is, is I don't want every story I'm reading to be like that, right? We read because we're looking to entertain ourselves and escape from reality. Especially when it comes to fiction. Well, I'm not saying get rid of all those other stories because those are important as well, but I think that having a variety of options, you know, to read, I think it's really neat when there's a story I read and it, the main plot point isn't the main queer couple getting together. It's just a story with a queer couple in it. So there's another story to follow along with while the queer couple is getting together, right. I also just think too, like, her entire character is not about her bisexuality, like she has so many character points both character flaws and good characteristics outside of the fact that she's bisexual. I think that sometimes in a

lot of queer media they make it that the character's sole, they're bi, like that's their character they don't have much motivations outside of that. So to see Velocity going on a quest to do something about her wild magic is nice because it shows that she has motivations outside of romance, just, romance tends to happen when you least expect it.

Mary: Yes.

Em: Yeah, it's almost like the romance is, I mean, it's not a subplot because it's, what I said earlier I feel like the character dynamics are what compelled the story for me, but it's not the inciting incident, right? Go ahead.

Cas: I think it happens along the way as a part of the journey that it, it, [Em: Right] it's not the journey itself, it's something that's along the journey while they're learning and growing with each other.

Em: And its unexpected to both of them neither of them expect to fall for one another which I think is what makes it so like, it gave me giggles a little bit, like I was reading, I was reading these girls fall for one another and being like, just say something! Just, just, [laughter] just literally open your mouth, explain your feelings, yeah, exactly that, that queer pining.

Mary: Yeah, a couple of people who read it when I was writing it would message me and say, would you just make them kiss already? Please. No, no, it was fun to torture people.

Em: Yeah, it's like the most realistic thing in this book is how much they clearly want to kiss each other but neither of them are saying anything about it. [laughter]

Cas: Yeah, they're like, she definitely doesn't feel the same way so like why would I embarrass myself by saying that?

Em: Exactly, like, I don't want to ruin the vibe.

Cas: They feel the same way, they're both thinking that about each other, like.

Mary: Yeah, everybody else sees it but them.

Em: Yep. And they get really embarrassed any time anybody brings it up even though it's, again, very readily apparent to anyone observing the two of them. [Cas: Mhm] Classic, classic uh, sapphic romance [laughter].

Cas: Well also too I think it's like really scary, like it, this can go for pretty much any relationship, I think it's pretty scary to admit those feelings and be vulnerable, um, to the person that you love because there is the small chance that they don't feel the same way. Presumably usually it ends well and they can still continue to be friends, but that's not always the case. So sometimes

keeping those feelings a secret feels like the safer option because you have so much to risk and so much to gamble if you tell that person how you feel and it turns out it's not mutual.

Cas: I, I mean I can very much relate to that, it's always so frustrating looking from the outside in seeing like, especially two characters just like, beat around the bush with each other, and like you know, hearing their thoughts and realizing you do like each other, just, just get it over with. But I feel like especially like, in having your own perspective and not knowing what the other person is thinking, you know, it's scary, and that's something I've related to you know in my own queer relationships. Because, you know, when it comes to queerness it's always that added worry of what if they're straight, you know?

Em: Speaking kind of more along the lines of, you know, queer characters and, we talked a little bit about inspirations for this already but I'm wondering if you have any influences other than Dungeons and Dragons or I See the Light [laughter]. Other, other than Dungeons and Dragons and I See the Light, were there any other influences that really pushed you while writing this, and in particular were there any influential bisexuals in media that stuck out to you as characters that you really wanted to model your characters after? Or, on the flip side, are there bisexuals in media that really bothered you, that you didn't want your characters to be anything like at all.

Cas: That you had to, had to, you saw it and you just had to, you were like, I could do this better.

Mary: There wasn't really, believe it or not, characters or anything that really influenced the writing. I just decided to fly by the seat of my pants for this one. I love fantasy, I love fairytales, and I just wanted something for people like me, who also like girls. As far as the bisexuals there weren't any really that I did not want to emulate. It's like we talked about earlier with the overly sexual, that's the only reason that they exist, is to get with as many people of whatever gender that they can throughout the story. Um, I wanted it to be, I don't want to say more wholesome, but I wanted it to be more about the character discovering who she was, accepting who she was, and the love that she finds is a bonus.

Em: Yeah, that uh, that bisexual character that is trying to hook up with as many people as possible in the narrative, I think only, well obviously exists in media, but I think exists in fantasy because that person doesn't exist, you know? I'm sure there are, there are some people who are really motivated by romance right, or by physical contact with another person, but I feel like that trope in fantasy is just so, so annoying. Because people, people, I've never met a person who is so compelled in that way that wasn't written by a man in a fantasy story. So yeah, I r- I really do appreciate how, yeah I guess, I guess wholesome is a pretty good word for this, in the sense that it's very heartfelt [Cas: Yeah], it's very warm, it's very- but yeah I, plush again is the

word that I'm thinking of because it feels very, you know, they, they, they deal with hard things but it's very soft. From start to finish I think the relationship between these two characters. And I really appreciated that about the story as a whole, watching the way that they, cause, even when they're, you know, in some of these life-or-death situations, they're concerned about each other, right? They're not so much concerned about themselves [Cas: Yeah], they're worried about one another. It was delightful to read. I enjoyed seeing them fall for one another over the course of their journey.

Cas: I think I just want to add too, I think the fact that, yes Velicity has feelings for both men and women, but I think the important thing is that, its Wind, right. It's Wind's character. You know, Wind's personality, it's not just because of their gender, right, it's also because of her actual character, which is, I feel is really important because a lot of people, especially people who like, you know monogamous relationships, it's not necessarily like, even if, like, you're strictly attracted to women or men, like it's not necessarily just that. Just that alone, you're attracted to them for their personality and who they are. So I think that's an important distinction that the stereotypical out for everyone bisexual may not necessarily like, correctly go over.

Em: Yeah and I think that really, that really comes across in this too, is like, Velicity, as Wind starts to grow on her more and she starts to think about her feelings, it, it really becomes clear that it's like, oh it's this person that I'm attracted to, right, like this, I want to be with, with Wind, and it's so compelling to Wind because she's never had that before right. Like she's never had somebody who wants to stay in her life in that way. And, and I think that that, again just wraps up so closely, they're both, they need each other, you know? [Cas: Yeah] [laughter]

Cas: I think also too, along with that, Wind gets to learn, I think she, especially like towards the beginning she has like very low thoughts of herself because of her like, class, so to get like that kind of like reassurance from Velicity helps to reassure her and grow her confidence and it was really nice to, um, read over that and, you know, kind of watch them both.

Em: Yeah, definitely. Mary, are there any other things that we have not touched on yet that you really want people to know about this book, as far as the worldbuilding or the characters, or just what you want people to get out of this?

Mary: What I haven't talked about, and no one else has talked about yet, is the relationship between Rook and Emlynn, they're secondary characters but I love their relationship, too. Rook is a black archer, no he's a black, he's the black berserker, more like, um, he's the fighter, he's a big burly guy, but he's also got a heart of gold, he's the hidden beau of the group. I love him so much, and Emlynn is his wife, she is the archer, and she's also trans. And I wanted to also normalize that. I think it's important to include as much representation as possible in the story,

especially in fantasy because you see so many negatives all around for that kind of relationship, and I wanted to make sure that they had a chance to shine as well.

Cas: Also, its fantasy like, there's so many possibilities, so much magic involved that like, you're not constrained by real world physics that you can add onto that. And I think that's something that's interesting and also, I did, I did get a little smile on my face when I read over that she was trans because I feel like, I mean like you touched upon, um, I think it's important to have, um, normalized, having characters, even if they're not necessarily the main characters, but having characters like this embedded within media, in books and stories.

Em: Especially a parental figure, right? [Cas: Yeah] Like I'm so glad you brought this up because it's, up until that point, you don't know anything about Emlynn in that way, right, like you know nothing about her gender presentation, her orie- her gender orientation, right, and so that idea that she could be such a strong, supportive, important person to Wind and such a force of, like she's very in touch with other people's feelings, right, she really is, keeps watch over everyone, she gets all the supplies, like she is-

Cas: I would say she's very motherly.

Em: Absolutely. And, and to have that sort of, be kind of an after the fact thing that you learn later after you've already really come to appreciate Emlynn and everything that she's done not just for Wind but for the party, um, I think it's, yeah I really appreciated that inclusion here. Particularly from a parental figure, particularly in a time when we have a lot of real world discourse about the validity of trans people being parents, right, and ha- having just a very, like you said just straightforward, upright representation where it's not a point of conflict it just is, and we have this wonderful character who is incredibly supportive who just happens to be trans and it's not a big deal to anybody, they don't have to talk about it for more than a second or two, right, and I think that that is really important, and I think it really needs its place especially again in fantasy where you have, possibly a trans character but it's this very exoticized version of what that is and what the author wants it to be as opposed to just, again, another person in the narrative, um, because that's really all trans people want at the end of the day, right, not to, you know, cast a, a trans people as a monolithic group, but um, people just want to exist, right, and having people in stories just, just being their authentic selves is I think so important So, thank you for that and for, for bringing up Emlynn and Rook because they really are de- aside from our main characters they are delightful, wonderful characters I really liked them.

Mary: Yeah, I love their dynamic, I knew from the beginning that I wanted them to be the way they are. I wanted Rook to be the fighter, I wanted Emlynn to be the mom figure, I wanted her to be trans and married to a cis man, that's what I wanted from the very beginning, I wanted

the Empress to be pan, I wanted Velocity to be bi, I wanted Wind to be lesbian, I wanted all of this to be completely normal. Everyone is different colors, different ethnicities, from different places. Nobody was thought of as exotic or strange or different, everybody just is, and they're living their lives.

Em: Yeah, and I, I really do think you did such a good job of that because we do bring in people from different places and we do go on this, this journey, and they see things they've never seen before and it's never painted as like a, sort of tokenizing thing, right. It's a fantasy, and you have these aspects of fantasy that are presented in a way that's not pointing out any marginalized group in a way that is a little bit problematic like we see in so much fantasy.

Mary: Yeah, and in some fantasy when, after its published certain authors say oh by the way so and so was this.

Em: Yeah, yeah [Cas: Yeah] just, fifteen years after the fact [laughter] isn't it great that we all knew, all the time, that so and so was gay.

Cas: I do think it's nice that that was just, that's just like a detail to the character it's not their entire identity, you know? It's not that-

Em: Oh, Emlynn's trans.

Cas: But also, here's her characterization, and, you know, her being trans is just an added detail, it doesn't necessarily like, change her character it's just she is a trans person and this is how she behaves because she's a, you know, I don't want to say real person because I know she's not real but [laughter].

Mary: She's real to me!

Em: Well and you, Mary.

Cas: She feels like a real person. I- she feels like someone you could presumably, in everyday life you could meet somebody like her and they just so happen to be trans.

Em: And Mary, you brought up a really good point too about the importance of having that explicitly stated no matter how seemingly inconsequential it is to the narrative, to have that written down is so important to so many people. Especially in a way that, again doesn't create conflict for the character, it's just like Cas said, she's just a regular person, right? [Mary: Yeah] Like she's just a person in the story who just so happens to be trans and we all know that because you took the time and the effort and attention to write that in. And I think that that is, again just really important especially in fantasy, yeah, so thank you again for, for taking that consideration and that, that time, because you didn't have to and you did, and it shows that,

especially after talking to you, you know, cared a lot about that, and makes me even happier to have read about Emlynn. [laughter]

Mary: She's the best, I love her.

Em: Yeah.

Cas: I just want more trans characters in media so thank you.

Em: We just want to give a huge thank you once again to Mary for being here with us this afternoon, thank you so much Mary, is there anything, before we go actually, is there anything that you would like to plug, anything coming up that you would like to advertise to our listeners? Or where can they find you?

Mary: You can find me as Mary L. Gibbs just about everywhere, and coming next, not this coming fall but coming next fall is actually my, the first written coming out as bi and witch and that's Bookwitch. So that's going to be fun

Em: Oooo! Do you know when that's going to be coming out?

Mary: Fall, that's all I know. Fall 2025.

Em: Very exciting, well maybe we can get you on again to talk about it when it's out.

Mary: That would be great!

Em. If you have the time. Alright. Well-

Cas: That wraps up the discussion of *The Princess and the Thief* by Mary Lynn Gibbs. Join us next episode as we discuss another queer book from our library collection.

Narrator: This has been Reading the Rainbow, a Dauphin County Library System podcast for books by and about the LGBTQ+ community. If you enjoyed this podcast, please follow us for new book recommendations and discussion. And if we've piqued your interest in this episode's selection, consider borrowing it from your local library. Thanks for listening!