

## Librarians Telling Tales Podcast Transcript- Episode 20

### Quick Look Booklist:

- **Guest Interview Pt. 1- Introduction**
  - *The Screaming Staircase* (Jonathan Stroud)
  - *The Hardy Boys* series by Franklin W. Dixon
  - *Encyclopedia Brown* series by Donald J. Sobol
  - *James Bond* series by Ian Fleming
  - Mystery Authors:
    - Brad Thor
    - Vince Flynn (*Mitch Rapp* series)
  - *Cinder & The Lunar Chronicles* series by Marissa Meyer
  - *Heartless* by Marissa Meyer
  - *Renegades* series by Marissa Meyer
  - *Fable* and *Namesake* and *Saint* by Adrienne Young
  - *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster
- **Guest Interview Pt. 2- Favorite Family Reads**
  - *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling
  - *The Napping House* by Audrey Wood
  - *The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear* by Don Wood
  - *The Deep Blue Sea* by Audrey Wood
  - *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
  - *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathmann
  - *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss
  - *Pinkalicious* series by Victoria Kann
  - *Click Clack Moo* series by Doreen Cronin
  - *Goatlocks and the Three Bears* by Erica Perl
  - *The Three Little Javelinas* by Susan Lowell
  - *I Don't Want to Go to Bed* by Julie Sykes
  - *Berenstains' B Book* by Stan Berenstain
  - *Thomas' Snowsuit* by Robert Munsch
  - *Stephanie's Ponytail* by Robert Munsch
  - *The Flea's Sneeze* by Lynn Downey
  - *The Boy and the Airplane* by Mark Pett
  - *Unspoken: A Story from the Underground Railroad* by Henry Cole
  - *Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch
- **Guest Interview Pt. 3- Current Reads**
  - *The Magician* by Sol Stein
  - *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
  - *Tunnel in the Sky* by Robert Heinlein
  - *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
  - *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
  - *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman
  - *Wild Robot* by Peter Brown
  - *Wild Robot Escapes* by Peter Brown
  - *Bossypants* by Tina Fey
  - *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt
  - *The Expanse* series by James S.A. Corey

- *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel
- *The Cat Who* series by Lilian Jackson Braun
- Audiobook Narrator Mason Adams
- Audiobook Narrator George Guidall
- Audiobook Narrator Scott Brick
- *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me* by Sherman Alexie
- *Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story* by Bono
- *The Giver* quartet by Lois Lowry
- **Guest Interview Pt. 4- Recommendations**
  - *Germinal* by Émile Zola
  - *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair
  - *The Detective's Assistant* by Kate Hannigan
  - *SmART: Use Your Eyes to Boost Your Brain* by Amy Herman
  - *Prey* by Michael Crichton
  - *The Maid* by Nita Prose
  - *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer
  - Author Sharon Cameron
  - Author Ruta Sepetys
  - *Airman* by Eoin Colfer
  - *Artemis Fowl* series by Eoin Colfer
  - *Recursion* by Blake Crouch
  - *The Liar's Dictionary* by Eley Williams

**Transcript:**

**Musical Intro:** "Uplifting 2463" by Twisterium from pixabay.com

*(Description) Upbeat, piano and percussion. Music fades and plays under.*

**Blair:** Hey, bookworms! Welcome to Librarians Telling Tales, where we introduce you to all the things we love about libraries: books, people, and making connections. I'm Blair.

**Jennifer:** I'm Jennifer.

**Amy:** I'm Amy.

**(0:23) Music fades out.**

**Jennifer:** In today's episode, we're chatting with special guest and devoted podcast listener, Rob Lynch.

**Music Transition:** "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from OrangeFreesounds.com

*(Description) Bright marimba scale.*

**(0:30) Guest Interview Pt. 1- Introduction**

**Jennifer:** Welcome, Rob.

**Rob:** Thank you.

**Jennifer:** And thanks so much for being an amazing part of our podcast audience.

**Rob:** Absolutely.

**Jennifer:** What made you tune in to Librarians Telling Tales?

**Rob:** It was a great way for me to get a little more background information and a great way to find out about different books. Plus, I got to play a little contest where I would listen to what all of you were suggesting for books and I'd be sitting in the background suggesting books out loud to my poor children who are having to listen to me at the same time. And I'd be saying, "And this book, and don't forget this book." I really enjoyed listening to all the book suggestions. That's how I found out about *The Screaming Staircase* (Jonathan Stroud). And I was just explaining that to one of my students the other day who does like horror books.

**Jennifer:** You know, that just warms my heart that books that I've actually recommended, people are enjoying them and then recommending them to others. That feeds me. Thank you. <laugh>

**Rob:** Yes.

**Amy:** You said, too, you were hoping for more background. Background about...?

**Rob:** Well just, you know, we only see the front of the library when we come in.

**Amy:** Ah.

**Rob:** We don't really have an idea of what's going on in the background. You can look through the windows where the sorter is and kind of see the stuff that's sitting on the cart getting ready to come out. So, it was fun to get a peek behind the curtain. Plus, you know, mainly coming with my children for most of the children's stuff, I didn't really have an appreciation for all the other things that are going on at the library. So, the podcast is a great way for me to listen because that's what I do while I do dishes at night or cook dinner, or make up the shopping list, or make everybody's lunches in the morning. It's just a great way for me to take in wonderful information.

**Jennifer:** So, tell us about your book journey. I always find it fascinating to know what books influenced an individual throughout their life.

**Rob:** So, when I was really young, I really enjoyed reading. I grew up in a house where we had an actual library. Not a separate room, I didn't grow up in a mansion, but we had shelves that my dad's dad had helped them to build into the living room. So, we had books, we had the Encyclopedia Britannica, the whole entire green and beige set sitting there. We had all the uh books that he liked to read. And then we had little stacks of our books sitting on the bottom shelves. And when I got into sixth, seventh, and eighth grade and found *The Hardy Boys* (series by Franklin W. Dixon), I read every single one of those. And then I started reading *Encyclopedia Brown* (series by Donald J. Sobol) which were fun because they had what happened at the end and how they figured it out. And I still remember there was a little thing about an egg and how you can't get it to stand up unless it's been hard-boiled. I don't remember the rest of the story, but I remember that little piece. And then my dad had the original *James Bond* - Ian Fleming books...

**Amy:** Wow.

**Rob:** ...in paperback. My brother and I read those into oblivion. They were literally falling apart 'cause they were the little 30 cent books or something from my dad going in and out of airports 'cause he traveled a whole bunch. So we always kind of read the *James Bond* books and watched him fly off on airplanes.

**Amy:** How old were you reading those? Still middle school or high school age by then?

**Rob:** Ian Fleming was probably middle school, high school. Yeah. To see the movies now, it's so evident that they're just taking the name and they didn't even bother to try to do any actual "let's stick with the story." It was absolutely fun back then because of course I didn't have the ability to watch 500 different things on TV. <laugh>. We had a TV where you had to get up and turn the knob to actually watch stuff. So, books were a great way for me to run off and do other stuff.

**Jennifer:** So are you still more of a mystery reader?

**Rob:** I am absolutely still more of a mystery reader, spy. Um, if I ran through my whole list here, it runs the gamut, but it's mainly... I swerve back to that. But then I listen to all the audio books that are of that

genre and then I have to twiddle my thumbs for six months to a year waiting for a new book to come out <laugh>. So I'm caught up on my *Mitch Rapp* (series by Vince Flynn) and my Brad Thor books and Vince Flynn. So now I'm sitting and waiting for them to put out another book.

**Jennifer:** So currently what have you been following? Because the ones you mentioned are classics. Are there any current...?

**Rob:** *Cinder* {Marissa Meyer}, my oldest daughter got me into *Cinder*. She's like, "Oh, you should read this." So I read it slash listened to it in about a day and a half because my daughter was very fired up about the book. And then it turns out that she actually didn't finish reading it. <laugh> So...

**Jennifer:** *Cinder*— the book itself or just... the entire series?

**Rob:** The book itself.

**Jennifer:** Because there's a whole series.

**Rob:** Yes. So she did finally finish *Cinder* because I was giving her grief about the fact that she told me I should read the book and then she didn't even bother to finish it. And then I went through and read *Winter* and *Cress* and *Heartless* and *Renegades* and *Archenemies* and *Supernova*. So...

**Amy:** Marissa Meyer fan.

**Blair:** Mm-hmm.

**Rob:** Yes.

**Jennifer:** I was gonna say, all things Marissa Meyer, you know. <laugh>

**Rob:** Yes. So I enjoyed them. I'm not a super fantasy fan <gasp>, but... I know, I'm sorry.

**Amy:** I can't believe this, Rob! <laugh>

**Rob:** So... there was just enough realness to it in that she was struggling and she wasn't living in a, you know, big huge castle. She's running a little dinky stand where she's having to take care of her own mechanical pieces plus other people's mechanical pieces. So it was fun. *Fable* and *Namesake* (Adrienne Young). I enjoyed the heck out of both of those. I wish there was the third one.

**Blair:** There is...

**Jennifer:** I was just gonna tell you.

**Rob:** There is a third book already?

**Jennifer:** I think it's a prequel.

**Blair:** It's Saint's story (*Saint* by Adrienne Young).

**Rob:** And is it out or it's coming out?

**Blair:** Yes.

**Jennifer:** It's out.

**Blair:** It's out. It's here actually.

**Jennifer:** It's probably up in the Teen Zone.

**Blair:** It probably is up in the Teen Zone unless it went out on hold.

**Rob:** I missed that because normally, as Amy is quite aware, <laugh>, um, I'm on top of...

**Amy:** Yes.

**Rob:** ...the stuff that is coming in. When I'm at school, I wait till 3:08 so that I'm not doing it during school time. But I will sit there on the computer, and I have a list of books and DVDs that I'm checking in to see if they're coming in. So that is good information. I will have to add that to my list.

**Amy:** Toggling back to the *Hardy Boys* a little bit, just 'cause your, your son is around that age that you read those books. Have you tried convincing him to dip his toe in that water or?

**Rob:** I have not yet. I think I would start with *Encyclopedia Brown*.

**Amy:** Mm-hmm.

**Rob:** Would be a little bit easier read for him at this point. Do you have *Encyclopedia Brown*?

**Amy:** Oh, yes.

**Blair:** We do.

**Amy:** Mm-hmm.

**Rob:** Probably start with that one. We just finished *The Phantom Tollbooth* (Norton Juster), actually.

**Amy:** Oh, cool.

**Rob:** And then we watched the Phantom Tollbooth, the DVD and that was a little, it was like, uh, Tim Burton made a cartoon kind of thing. <laugh> I will have to get him going with *Encyclopedia Brown*, I think.

**Music Transition:** "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from  
Orangefreesounds.com

(Description) Bright marimba scale.

### **(7:11) Guest Interview Pt. 2- Favorite Family Reads**

**Jennifer:** So Rob, do you read aloud with your kids still or is that something you did in the past?

**Rob:** In the past, it seems like that's all I did. Pre-kids, Deb and I would read the *Harry Potter* series all the way through and she got the book until 12 o'clock at night and then I would come in and take it out of her hands and I would get it from 12 o'clock at night until six o'clock in the morning. And then I would be that typical guy who's ahead of you in the story and sit there at the table looking across at her and saying, "You want to know what happens? Do you wanna know what happens? <laugh> Do you wanna know what happens?" So she would do her best to try to get caught up to where I was so that she didn't have to listen to that anymore. When we brought Haley into our household, we did five to seven books a night and really ran the gamut of the different stuff that we read to her. We tried to include some stuff about adoption and that sort of thing so that she wasn't looking at it as something that was a stigma, but is something that was important. *The Napping House* (Audrey Wood), I can almost do from memory. *The Big Hungry Bear and the Little Mouse and the Red Ripe Strawberry* [*The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear*] (by Don Wood). In our house, the big hungry bear only has three legs because he goes boom, boom, boom. We go, boom, boom, boom, boom, which is four legs. We did *The Deep Blue Sea* (Audrey Wood). Loved that book because uh you can see the progression as you go from page to page and you're widening out or moving in depending on what you're doing with the story. We did *The Snowy Day* (Ezra Jack Keats), which ironically we never seemed to read *The Snowy Day* on a day where there was actually snow <laugh>. So we would read *The Snowy Day* during the summer. My kids really enjoyed *Officer Buckle and Gloria* (by Peggy Rathmann).

**Jennifer:** Oh, yes.

**Rob:** Especially watching the dog in the background because initially I think when you're reading through the story, they don't really comprehend that Gloria is doing all this stuff in the background because my son, his eyesight and eye line was on what the police officer was attempting to do, not what the dog was doing in the background. So he had fun figuring that out. And then, of course, *The Grinch* [*How The Grinch Stole Christmas*] (Dr. Seuss), because my last name is Lynch. <laugh> Every year in December, the kids get to call me Mr. Grinch at school instead of Mr. Lynch because it's probably gonna happen anyway. <laugh>. So you might as well lean into it.

**Jennifer:** Just own it.

**Rob:** And just kind of let it happen. So I bring my copy of *The Grinch*, stick it up on my whiteboard so the kids can see it. Enjoyed the heck out of *Pinkalicious* (series by Victoria Kann) <laugh> read every single one of those. <laugh>

**Amy:** Please, please elaborate. <laugh>

**Rob:** Um, so that was mainly for the girls, we thought, but Aaron ended up loving *Pinkalicious* just as much as the girls did. And we enjoyed her inability to kind of comprehend that she was putting herself into situations that she wasn't going to be able to think her way or act her way out of. My kids would start to pick up on she shouldn't be doing that or, or whatever. And so they enjoyed those things. The

*Click Clack Moo* series (Doreen Cronin), make different kind of moo sounds and different, you know, long moos and short moos and talking about how in the world are the ducks typing with feathers on their wings? <laugh> And are they using their beaks? So all kinds of speculation because we didn't know.

**Amy:** Do you feel like...

**Rob:** That was fun.

**Amy:** ...sharing those stories helped with your kiddos' negotiation skills? Because I've observed at checkout that there is negotiation that happens sometimes.

**Rob:** Oh, there's definitely negotiations, yes. <laugh>

**Amy:** No more milk unless you give us the blankets.

**Rob:** Yes, we have definite little lawyers in our household <laugh> and that's okay because that's an important skill that they need to have. So yes, definitely reading books and seeing how kids are interacting with adults and interacting with each other. It's a great way for them to figure that out. *Goatlocks* [*Goatlocks and the Three Bears*] (Erica Perl) was a fun one 'cause it takes that whole spin on Goldilocks and it's a goat who likes to eat every single thing that it gets its mouth on. <laugh>

**Jennifer:** Do we have that in our collection?

**Rob:** So that's fun.

**Amy:** We do.

**Jennifer:** Oh, I need to read that <affirmative>. Thank you...

**Rob:** Yes.

**Jennifer:** ...for bringing that up.

**Rob:** It's a, it's a great book. *The Three Little Javelinas* (Susan Lowell).

**Jennifer:** Oh, yes.

**Blair:** Oh, yes.

**Rob:** Also, of course, because we have javelinas that come into our backyard and move through our property. It's fun for my kids. *I Don't Want to Go to Bed* (Julie Sykes) came along at a very fortuitous time for us because that's when Aaron was transitioning from being in a crib to being in a bed and he wasn't super fired up about having to go to bed. And so him getting to watch the tiger run away from his mom and not get his nightly tongue bath out in the jungle all by himself and kind of freaking out because he got what he wanted, but now he's not so sure that what he wanted was what he should have been asking for. So that was a great opportunity for him to kind of see that even if you don't go to sleep immediately and you do sneak down onto the floor and play with your toys and stuff like that, eventually you're gonna be so tired that you're gonna want to crawl back up in your bed and go to sleep.

**Jennifer:** Is that a book that Aaron remembers? Is it, does he make a connection with that?

**Rob:** When we gave it away to another family because they had two small children, that was one of the tougher ones to pull.

**Blair:** I think it's interesting when you hear about all the books that stick around from your childhood. And I just made a trip to my childhood home and visited family, and they're pulling out all of my childhood books for my great niece and nephews. While I was there, I was doing a ton of reading to them. So I'm reading the *Berenstains' B Book* (Stan Berenstain) and I do have it memorized now because I read it like 20 million times while I was there and then I had to promptly come back and use it in story time. It's that sort of thing where these books do make an impression on you and you do remember them throughout your life and there are ones that you wanna hang onto forever and share ahead and share with other people and that become really important. So it's interesting that he really had that kind of connection.

**Rob:** Yes. One book though that my kids really enjoyed that we couldn't really relate to because we don't have to have snowsuits here, is *Thomas' Snowsuit* (Robert Munsch). Hilarious book, especially when he wrestles it away from the teacher and the principal, and the teacher and the principal end up in

each other's clothing and Thomas's still standing there not in his snowsuit. So they really enjoyed that one. And I can't mention books without doing *Stephanie's Ponytail* (Robert Munsch) where it moves around on her head from day to day and everybody at the school starts to copy where she's wearing her ponytail. And she finally gets fed up with 'em and, spoiler alert, she tells everybody she's gonna come to school the next day with no hair. So everybody goes home that night and shaves their head, and she shows up at school the next day with her ponytail and everybody else is bald. <laugh> That and *The Flea's Sneeze* (Lynn Downey). I can't also forget to mention that book. It's a little flea that's sitting on a pig and the flea wakes the pig up and then the pig wakes up somebody else and that wakes up somebody else in the barn, and it's like popcorn waking up and everybody finally settles back down again and somebody gives a Kleenex to the flea. We had a book that, and we couldn't come up with what the title was between my wife and I and all three kids, and it's gonna sound weird that we loved the book but we can't remember what the title was. But it was a board book where there was a story but there weren't any words. So you had to come up with what was happening. We would initially make up a story for them and then they would be responsible for like a page. So they had a great opportunity to get that language and stuff going and listen to what the other person is saying and then carry that forward, which is not a skill that a lot of kids have because they are so used to having the information given to them.

**Jennifer:** I love that your family did that together. It's such a plug for wordless books and how much you can do with them and imagination. So thank you for sharing that.

**Rob:** Yes, absolutely. I wish we could remember the title of the book. <laugh>

**Amy:** There's a couple though, even now, you probably could try. Mark Pett's *A Boy and His Airplane* [*The Boy and the Airplane*] (Mark Pett).

**Jennifer:** Yes.

**Amy:** And he, he has at least two of them. They're—the emotion that's in these stories that have no words. I mean, there might be a shop sign but otherwise it's just beautiful and there's so many different spins on what you can do with those stories.

**Blair:** I love that.

**Jennifer:** I was going to recommend Henry Cole as well. He has *Unspoken...*

**Rob:** Okay.

**Jennifer:** ...which is a little bit more advanced for older children, but it's a picture book. There's so much going on I think your family would really enjoy.

**Rob:** Cool. Also, *Paper Bag Princess* (Robert Munsch) ...

**Blair:** Of course.

**Jennifer:** Yes.

**Rob:** ...did come up...

**Amy:** Yes.

**Rob:** ...in the last podcast. And we love...

**Blair:** Yes, because I'm a Robert Munsch stan...

**Rob:** ...that one.

**Jennifer:** Yes.

**Blair:** ...I love him.

**Rob:** Love that book, especially the empowerment that the princess gets when she's out of her dress and she's out of her element and she's just wandering around and realizing what a complete dufus the supposed soon-to-be husband is. Satisfying that it has a happy ending, but it's not the happy ending where the girl feels the need to hook up with a guy to feel fulfilled.

**Jennifer:** And that's a picture book.

**Rob:** Yes.

**Blair:** Mm-hmm. Yep.

**Amy:** Mm-hmm.

**Jennifer:** There's just so much power and such a great message...

**Rob:** Yep.

**Jennifer:** ...in a picture book.

**Music Transition:** "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from OrangeFreesounds.com

(Description) Bright marimba scale.

### **(16:10) Guest Interview Pt. 3- Current Reads**

**Jennifer:** Should we talk about what's on your nightstand right now?

**Rob:** Um, on my nightstand right now, actually I'm listening to *The Magician* by Sol Stein and that was a book that I read it when I was in high school, I think. Apparently it had a lot more controversy to it than I realized at the time that I was reading it, 'cause I knew books like *Catcher in the Rye* (J.D. Salinger) and those are a little bit more mainstream banned book. I just picked *The Magician* up at the library at my high school one day and started reading it. And it was a fantastic book because it subverts what you expect to have happen at the end. It's a boy who gets attacked by a bully at a school and it seems pretty straightforward. The dad was there, the dad was also attacked, the kid had his hands around the throat when somebody witnessed that it had happened. So it seems very straightforward that the kid's going to get, um, you know, arrested and charged and probably go to jail. But the lawyer ends up getting him off. In the meantime, the boy's kind of anticipating that the attacker is going to, um, get off. So he starts going and taking self-defense classes. So the kid gets off and confronts him on the street in front of his house and the kid, he hits him in the nose, which is supposed to send a bone up into your brain and kill you. So the bully ends up dying and the mom runs back into the house, picks up the phone and calls the lawyer that the bully had used. And that's the end of the book.

**Amy:** Oh, wow.

**Jennifer:** I am not familiar with this book.

**Amy:** Me neither. And that's...

**Rob:** It was amazing. But unfortunately it does have cursing and stuff like that in it, and it has some other things that had it temporarily on banned book lists and it was gonna be made into a movie and then they decided not to make it into a movie because it had so many undertones of other things that were going on. Like real life, what's happening to kids in high school, not the bobby socks and big skirts. My sister reminded me of that book. She's like, "Hey, you remember that book *The Magician* that you told me I should read when we were in high school?" And I'm like, "Oh, yeah." I looked it up and it was available on OverDrive. So now I'm listening to it. And with stories there's that nostalgic story that you remember and then there's what the story really is. And so I'm kind of like, wow, I read this in high school <laugh> when I'm listening. The one book I would love to find on OverDrive is *Tunnel in the Sky* by Robert Heinlein. I read that one in high school also. And the high school students at the end of their school year have to go to another planet and survive on that planet as part of their graduation process. And you have the opportunity to carry weapons with you if you want to, or you can just go with a backpack of food and water and hope for the best. And promptly the machine that transports them to the other planet breaks down. So it's a little bit like *Lord of the Flies* (William Golding) because there's all these high school students who are now vying for supremacy and trying to figure out who's gonna be in charge. I would love to have somebody do that book. I keep looking. I just finished listening to *The Hate U Give* (Angie Thomas). I'm waiting for *Scythe* (Neal Shusterman). My daughter is also waiting for *Scythe* to show up in...



**Jennifer:** Audiobook?

**Rob:** ...on the OverDrive book. It is available on CD, but it's not available on OverDrive. I was just at a professional development training in Flagstaff, and we were talking about makerspaces at our schools and one of the books that came up is *Wild Robot* (Peter Brown).

**Blair:** Oh, yes.

**Rob:** And *Wild Robot Escapes* (Peter Brown). And both...

**Blair:** That audiobook is fantastic.

**Rob:** Oh, it is phenomenal. I also just finished listening to *Bossypants* (Tina Fey), so I do depart from fiction and go with that. So that was Tina Fey. I've listened to that book probably four times now. So it's like once a year, I'll throw it back into my OverDrive and listen to it like it's, uh, old comfy socks.

Ironically, I don't have anything sitting on my nightstand that is a book. It's all sitting here in my pocket <laugh> because it's all the audiobooks that I listen to. But I did grow up with a dad who would have a stack of like eight full-size hardback books and he would just come in and he'd reach into the stack and just pull one out, take out the bookmark, go back two pages, refresh his memory, and then continue on. So that was my role model when I was growing up. I still can't pull off the eight different stories at a time thing. I'm more of a one story at a time, get it done all the way to the end. So my wife listened to, I think, *The Goldfinch* (Donna Tartt).

**Blair:** Mm-hmm.

**Rob:** Which is 32 hours long, which was grueling for her to do.

**Blair:** It's a monster.

**Rob:** It is a big, thick book. And I listened to *The Expanse* (series by James S.A. Corey) by comparison. If you stack them up, *The Expanse*, I think, each one of the books was about 24 hours long...

**Amy:** Oh, wow.

**Rob:** ...of listening. But it was much more realistic science fiction, especially the part where they would be approaching a planet and need to slow down, that it wasn't just coming to a stop, like you see on *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*. So it was fantastic. I know sci-fi is not your thing, but it was... Sorry.

**Jennifer:** Not one word. <laugh> I did read *Station Eleven* (Emily St. John Mandel). Enjoyed that. <laugh> I have a question though. Do you ever stop reading? 'Cause you read a lot and listen to a lot of books. Is there a point where you'll say, not for me, not going to keep reading this or listening to it anymore?

**Rob:** I actually listened to that podcast where you all admitted what your threshold level is for putting up with the book, and mine's an hour. If you don't get me in an hour, I'm not listening to the rest of the book. That happens routinely, not a bunch. And I will sometimes go back, maybe I wasn't in the right place. Maybe I needed a little bit more time with this book. Maybe I needed to not listen to it at 1.25 and slow it down to one and actually give the story a chance to breathe. You had all also shared how many books you had read in the course of a calendar year with your GoodReads lists. And I went back through and counted. Hmm. <laugh> Let's go head to head with these three ladies <laugh> and see. I had 163 audiobooks that I listened to...

**Amy:** Ooh!

**Blair:** That's awesome.

**Jennifer:** Wow.

**Rob:** ...in a year.

**Blair:** That's awesome.

**Rob:** And *The Expanse* was some of those books.

**Blair:** Oh, yeah. That makes a huge difference, when you're doing the incredible volume.

**Rob:** Oh yeah.

**Rob:** Yeah.

**Amy:** When you are DNfing a book though for an hour in of listening, do you find yourself in the first five minutes of like a really bad narrator just saying like, "Bye"? Or are you, are you more on content and not so much...

**Rob:** I'm trying to separate myself away. Like Douglas Adams [Mason Adams] used to do *The Cat Who* series (Lilian Jackson Braun) and then George Guidall took over. And so that was a adjustment. But I still enjoy the stories enough that I could overlook who was narrating it to me. And now George Guidall has gone out to other books. I also enjoy Scott Brick. I don't get books based on him narrating stuff, but I really enjoy listening to him tell a story. And I listened to a book a couple of weeks ago that the author did it. And that's not something that happens all the time in the books that I listen to. So it was very enjoyable to listen to their take on their own story. And I imagine that they're sitting in the sound booth and reading it and going, "Gosh, I wish I had said this just a little bit different than I did."

**Blair:** I love when the author is narrating their own memoir, if they can do it well. For example, Sherman Alexie did his memoir, *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me*. And that memoir was amazing for so many things, but he did exactly what you're talking about. He's reading his book and he's saying, "So, I know I mentioned this earlier, but it bears repeating and it's not in the text, but I'm gonna do it anyway." And so there were those moments that were so very candid and so very personal that made the audiobook definitely worth it.

**Rob:** Yep. Yeah, absolutely.

**Amy:** I've been telling them lately, I'm listening to Bono read his book, *Surrender* [*Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story*].

**Rob:** Wow.

**Amy:** The story of U2 and all of the things, and he'll start singing...

**Blair:** Mm-hmm.

**Amy:** ...and I'm sure it's on page, but hearing him, oh, it's so beautiful. And then I'm like, after lunch singing songs, I'll, you know, bopping around 'cause oh, I love it.

**Rob:** Yeah. I actually, I listened to an interview the other day where one of his most famous songs was actually sitting in the trashcan. It was "Where the Streets Have No Name", and the manager actually pulled it back out of the trash, put it away for a little while, and then brought this song back and gave them a second crack at it. And it was really cool because that's a phenomenal song. And it would've been gone because they were just like, "You know, I'm not feeling this one." And the creative process... When I taught down in Phoenix, we got to read *The Giver* (Lois Lowry) and the spoiler alert, there is no end in *The Giver*. We don't know specifically what happens with them sledding down the hill. Maybe they make it, maybe they don't. So my students would write the last chapter. I had phenomenal stories.

**Amy:** Did you ever read the rest of that series?

**Rob:** I read *Gathering Blue* and I read...

**Amy:** *The Messenger*?

**Rob:** *The Messenger*.

**Amy:** Yeah, I haven't been able to read, I think, the last one is *Boy* [*Son*].

**Jennifer:** No, it's called *Son*.

**Amy:** Oh, *Son*.

**Rob:** Yes, I did read *Son* also.

**Amy:** I'm afraid to know how everything ends. I have my ending. I've been really hesitant for that reason because all these storylines finally come together and I'm not...

**Jennifer:** I was very satisfied.

**Amy:** Oh, that's good to hear.

**Jennifer:** And it does need to be in the Young Adult section. But it's full circle. I could probably read *The Giver* and *Son* back to back...

**Rob:** Wow.

**Jennifer:** ...personally, and be satisfied.

**Music Transition:** "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com

(Description) Bright marimba scale.

#### (25:43) Guest Interview Pt. 4- Recommendations

**Jennifer:** So how would you feel if we gave you a recommendation?

**Rob:** Please!

**Jennifer:** All right. Who'd like to start off?

**Blair:** I have a classic, when you were talking earlier, when you were talking about book you remember reading, when you were talking about *The Magician* and all of those books, it brought home to me that I keep going back to because it feels so contemporary at the same time that it is a classic and it is *Germinal* by Émile Zola.

**Rob:** Hmm.

**Blair:** And I don't know if you have read it.

**Rob:** I have not. I have not even heard of it.

**Blair:** It's amazing. But it takes place in the French countryside right before the Industrial Revolution. So everybody is still mining for coal in pit mines with horses, steam and manual powered elevators and how dangerous it is, and the company towns. And it is so referential to *The Jungle* by [Upton] Sinclair. And so there are so many things in that book that feel so contemporary.

**Amy:** I actually have three...

**Rob:** Three.

**Amy:** ...they're all very different. <laugh> But just... I'll go really fast. *The Detective's Assistant* by Kate Hannigan and it's...

**Rob:** I think I've read that one, but...

**Amy:** Have you? Her aunt is the first female Pinkerton detective. Okay. So, you've read that one. The next one I just, I'm like a third of the way through and it is phenomenal, but it speaks to what you talked about with your family and sharing pictures and having stories. It's called *SmART* [*SmART: Use Your Eyes to Boost Your Brain*] by Amy Herman. And there's a Young Reader's edition, but it's all about visual literacy and how training your eyes to see more than what's right there and to look more broadly and to think about things as you see them. It really strengthens and, um, powers your brain. And then the third one is *Prey* by Michael Crichton.

**Rob:** I have actually read all the Michael Crichton.

**Amy:** Yeah, oh, that nano body thing. The technology piece.

**Rob:** Yes. Yes. Yes. <laugh>

**Amy:** Things coming up, trying to take over.

**Rob:** Yes. Isn't...

**Amy:** Yes.

**Rob:** ...Michael Crichton is so prescient in some of his stuff. There's lots of logic leaps, but there's also the underlying... science.

**Amy:** Science. Yeah.

**Rob:** Behind it. Thank you.

**Amy:** Cool.

**Jennifer:** Before I recommend my book, I wanted to ask you, over the course of listening to our podcast, did you get a sense of what each of our genres or loves?

**Rob:** Well, you are not science fiction. <laugh> You were not sure when I told you about *The Maid* (Nita Prose). You kind of looked at me like, Okay, I'll listen to you, but I'm not too sure. So I'm gonna go diagonally across the table and go Fantasy and YA.

**Jennifer:** For Blair.

**Rob:** For Blair. Yes. So you're more *The Screaming Staircase*, but you're YA also with a lean towards wanting to have the kids to read fulfilling books, not just fluff. So like, I've never heard you suggest *Twilight* (Stephenie Meyer) to anybody. <laugh>

**Jennifer:** But I was a closet *Twilight*-er.

**Rob:** But *The Screaming Staircase*, you know, that's, there's a little more meat on that one.

**Jennifer:** Yeah.

**Rob:** Amy, I think, is all over the place. <laugh>. I know she does sci-fi. Sci-fi and other stuff or...

**Amy:** Yes.

**Rob:** Okay.

**Amy:** Yep.

**Rob:** Was I right or?

**Jennifer:** Yeah. Oh, I'm not...

**Amy:** But you missed a, you missed a component. You missed a really...

**Blair:** Very, very key component.

**Amy:** Very key component.

**Blair:** Let's say it together. Amy, we ready?

**Amy:** Yeah. 1, 2, 3.

**Blair/Amy:** Historical fiction.

**Jennifer:** That's my jam.

**Amy:** And her, her almost, I can't not recommend this author all the time. Ready?

**Amy/Blair:** Ruta Sepetys. <laugh>

**Jennifer:** That would be, I would probably recommend more of an author to you. I'd recommend Sharon Cameron and Ruta Sepetys <laugh>. But what I wanna recommend to you is something I recently reread with the teen book club and it's *Airman* by Eoin Colfer.

**Rob:** Hmm.

**Jennifer:** Have you read that?

**Rob:** Is that the guy who did *Artemis Fowl* (Eoin Colfer)?

**Blair:** Mm-hmm.

**Jennifer:** Indeed, it is.

**Rob:** Really?

**Jennifer:** And he's more known for *Artemis Fowl*. But this is a historical adventure. So I think it might speak to your James Bond heart.

**Rob:** Okay.

**Jennifer:** So it takes place in the age of flight back in the 1870s and the 1890s in a fictional place called the Saltee Islands, just off the coast of Ireland. And this young boy, he was actually born in an air balloon and he overhears a plot to murder the king.

**Rob:** Hmm.

**Jennifer:** But then he's framed for it and he's put away in this prison, down deep a cave. Over time he gets these pieces while he is in prison and creates a flying contraption so he can flee.

**Rob:** Wow.

**Jennifer:** It's historical because of the time setting, but it's also exciting and adventurous because of what he does and how he escapes. And all of the teens really enjoyed it.

**Rob:** Very cool.

**Jennifer:** So if you liked *Artemis Fowl*, if you like that...

**Rob:** Oh, I definitely enjoyed *Artemis Fowl*.

**Jennifer:** And he's a good writer, right?

**Rob:** Yeah.

**Jennifer:** I'd highly recommend *Airman* by Eoin Colfer.

**Rob:** Okay, thank you.

**Blair:** Okay, I have one more.

**Jennifer:** Oh. <laugh>

**Blair:** The Sci-fi reader...I'm assuming you may have read Blake Crouch.

**Rob:** I have read some Blake Crouch.

**Blair:** *Recursion* (Blake Crouch). If you...

**Rob:** I don't think I've read that one though.

**Blair:** It is also an amazing audiobook.

**Rob:** Thank you.

**Blair:** Mm-hmm.

**Rob:** If I could throw one more quick little book in, *The Liar's Dictionary* (Eley Williams) if you have not read that one. It's a very interesting story because the politics that go into what words end up in a dictionary and some of the background stuff that goes on behind the scenes, I'm sure it's fictional, but I'm sure that this stuff does actually happen when people are determining what words we're going to get to see and interact with. So that'd be my parting shot.

**Blair:** Fantastic. Thank you.

**Jennifer:** Thank you.

**Rob:** Thank you.

**Jennifer:** Well, Rob, I just wanna tell you that I so enjoy when you come into the library because I know when you're there, we're going to have some great discussions. We're gonna be swapping books and I've always enjoyed your recommendations, and I really appreciate you...

**Rob:** Well, thank you.

**Jennifer:** ...being such a, a voracious reader and sharing, because I think we all have book hearts and it's just fun to talk books and I can see that in you. We just so enjoyed getting to know you and your family, of course.

**Rob:** Thank you.

**Music Transition:** "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from  
Orangefreesounds.com

(Description) *Bright marimba scale.*

**Blair:** We hope this episode inspires you to read and recommend books with your family and friends.

**Jennifer:** Listeners, we want to thank you so much for joining us today and throughout our podcast journey. We are going on hiatus here at Librarians Telling Tales as we get ready to start Summer Reading 2023 "All Together Now" at Prescott Public Library.

**Amy:** Please remember you can always go back and listen to our past episodes from season one and two as well as access our booklist from today's episode and past episodes through the link on our podcast bio.

**(31:48) Musical Outro:** "Uplifting 2463" by Twisterium from pixabay.com

(Description) *Upbeat, piano and percussion. Music fades in and plays under.*

**Blair:** We'd like to thank our listeners for supporting this podcast. We would also like to thank the City of Prescott, Friends of the Prescott Public Library, and all our fabulous coworkers at Prescott Public Library.

**Jennifer:** Don't forget to stop by Prescott Public Library to get our recommendations in person and participate in all the fun things your library has to offer. We'll see you there.

**Total Runtime (32:14)**