

Not Your Mother's Library Transcript

Episode 12: The Meta Episode

(Brief intro music)

Rachel: Hello, and welcome to Not Your Mother's Library, a readers' advisory podcast from the Oak Creek Public Library. I'm Rachel, and—hold the phone—we have a new co-host. It was getting pretty dark there all by my lonesome. I would like to introduce Leah! Care to tell the listeners a little about yourself? Share your darkest secrets? Dispense your wisdom?

Leah: I will keep my darkest secrets, thank you.

Rachel: Okay, fair enough.

Leah: As far as wisdom and background go, sure. I got my bachelor's degree from UW-Whitewater in multimedia art, a master's degree from UW-Milwaukee in library science. After grad school I ditched Wisconsin to move to Florida and see what life was like without snow, and honestly that was amazing. That's the wisdom part. I worked in various academic libraries in Florida for a few years then I came back to Wisconsin where I split my time between a Milwaukee-area technical college as well as being an adult services librarian at the New Berlin Public Library. I'm very excited about this move to the Oak Creek Public Library. My all-time favorite things about being a librarian are the opportunity to help people and being able to plan programs for the library that people want to come to.

Rachel: Which you've already started doing like crazy, so congrats on that.

Sarah: Excellent.

Leah: Thank you. Outside of work I really like camping and hiking and canoeing—that kind of thing. I love getting inspired from new crafts and DIY projects, and—pretty stereotypically—I like reading.

Rachel: It is a prerequisite, I think.

Sarah: It's a good trait for a librarian to have.

Rachel: Mhm, and it is really good to have some fresh blood on the podcast. I'm positive that I was boring our audience to tears. So, everyone, please be nice to Leah or else she may leave us and you'll be stuck with me again.

Leah: I'll probably stay.

Rachel: Today we are calling this the 'meta' episode. We are going to recommend some other podcasts existing out there on the interwebs! Because...we're a podcast talking about other podcasts.

Leah: I see what you did.

Sarah: Ba-dum tch!

Sound effect: (comic rim shot)

Sarah: A rim shot.

Rachel: (laughs) To help us break the fourth wall, we've got a special guest. Welcome, Sarah!

Sarah: Hi! Yay!

Rachel: Now Sarah, the library's Access Services Supervisor, has been a frequent flyer on the airship that is Not Your Mother's Library.

Sarah: Mhm.

Rachel: I'm going to have to get her a peanuts voucher or something. She's actually the one who suggested this episode's topic, and we're pretty excited to get started, right?

Sarah: Yes, yay!

Leah: Absolutely.

Rachel: That was not fake at all.

Everyone: (laughs)

Rachel: First, though, you might want to go back and listen to some of the other episodes that Sarah has been on, including June 2019's 'LGBTQ' and July's 'Get Happy'. You can go ahead and pause us now to go listen to those.

Sarah: Yes. That's a great idea.

Rachel: Did you...did you pause us? No? Go ahead. We'll be here when you get back. Got nothing better to do...and you're back! Presumably. Okay. Let's get started. Sarah, would you like to go first with your favorites?

Sarah: Sure! I was listening to a podcast on my way to recording this, actually. I tend to listen to a lot of nonfiction podcasts, so I started in with "This American Life." I think that's probably an entry point for a lot of people, because it was pre-podcast. So, it was a radio show. If you're not familiar with it, you can find it on any NPR station, and it's usually on during the weekends. And it was just such a neat format, and while it is nonfiction in that most of the time it's people who are telling stories about various things in their life, they sprinkle in fictionalized stories, so it's a neat radio hour—sort of an old-fashioned idea of radio hour, which is now super in fashion because everybody—including us—has a podcast! (laughs) So, they really kicked it off, I think, for me. And yeah, I just listen to a lot of different storytelling-though-reality podcasts. Which, if you're not—for whatever reason—not familiar with podcasts...which would seem odd if you're listening to us?

Rachel: You never know.

Sarah: You never know! Maybe you stumbled upon this accidentally. I think that there is a big difference between, like, the reality you find in a podcast and, say, reality TV. I think people might hear 'reality-based podcast' and think, like, 'Ew, what are you talking about?', but hopefully that's not the case. This medium has been around long enough...you should know. One I discovered through "This American Life" is called "Heavyweight" with Jonathan Goldstein, and it's very funny and very sincere, which is a...usually a good way to describe sort of the "This American Life" tone, is there's a sense of sincerity, again, and just feeling like you're in it with whoever's telling the story. And he tries to solve people's

problems, which is a very relatable thing for me. I give unsolicited advice all the time, and so I listened to this because it always almost goes very poorly for him.

Leah: (laughs)

Sarah: And so it's a good lesson of, like, oh, maybe...maybe I should just keep my ideas to myself. Every once in a while he gets a good one, but...

Rachel: So, is it people calling into the show and he does it live, or...?

Sarah: No, it's usually a topic he comes up with, or he'll pull the topics out of people he knows. So, like, one episode that comes to mind is he knows a man who knew Moby. The DJ.

Rachel: Oh, yeah.

Leah: Mhm.

Sarah: Again, quite a dated reference, but...there was a set of...I want to say they were either old folk recordings or something that Jonathan Goldstein's friend found, and he shared them with Moby, which Moby then used to, like, really launch his career but never gave credit to this guy who actually found the tapes. Like, he borrowed the tapes from the guy, never gave the tapes back, and never credited him.

Rachel: Moby!

Sarah: And so this friend of Jonathan Goldstein has been hanging onto the resentment—exactly—for years, and so Jonathan is trying to help him move through, 'Let's go talk to Moby and work through your resentment', so you're on this, like, audio journey with them to go talk to Moby, and it's...they talk to Moby.

Rachel: (laughs) Yeah.

Sarah: It's a very interesting episode to start with, actually. So, yeah, and then some of the other nonfiction ones I like are "99% Invisible." That's out of San Francisco, and they take different elements of design—actually I think, Leah, you might be very interested in it because it is all about design, and I know you have a design background, and now Rachel is doing some design things with us, too. And they break down...so, one episode I listened to was about pneumatic tubes. So, like, where they came from and why they were important, and why don't we use them today, and just quirky, weird things.

Leah: That sounds fascinating:

Sarah: It is! It's totally fascinating, because it's the kind of thing where it would come up in conversation, but then you'd be like, yeah, and maybe Google something, but these people take the time to research things and...

Rachel: Sounds like an episode of "How They make It," or...where they take you to the hotdog factory and show you... (laughs) ...how hotdogs are made.

Sarah: Yes.

Rachel: But less gross!

Sarah: My favorite...

Leah: Slightly. (laughs)

Sarah: Yeah. 'How the sausage is made' is the expression. My favorite part of "Mister Rogers" always was the factory tours, you know? And so I think that's sometimes why I like some of these, because it is. It's a behind-the-scenes...like, 'Oh, that's how that works!'. But I have a whole list of them. I don't know if you guys listen to nonfiction podcasts. I don't want to dominate this whole topic.

Rachel: No, please. I don't at all, so...

Sarah: Are we all different? Okay—gotcha'.

Leah: Mhm.

Sarah: Okay, good! Another one...and a lot of these are, again, based out of public radio and then they've sort of parlayed them into podcasts. So, another really good one's "Radiolab." That one's very neat if you haven't listened to it. So, they do the same idea: they come up with stories, sometimes they do series. So, they'll do multiple episodes on one topic, and they use a lot of audio effects, which is interesting. The way they piece together the podcast is very interesting. So, it's not necessarily like a...a straightforward narrative. They kind of bring in different voices, and that's kind of interesting. And out of "Radiolab" came one that just came out that I cannot recommend enough called "Dolly Parton's America." And so the guy who hosts "Radiolab" is from Tennessee—I believe that's where Dolly Parton's from—and so his whole life Dolly Parton has loomed large, and just in the way that we see differences happening in our country he felt like Dolly Parton was a very good example of looking at American history and how can you piece together American history through the lens of Dolly Parton.

Leah: Interesting.

Sarah: Fascinating, and there's a lot of interviews with her. She's just so fun to listen to because she's such...

Rachel: Dolly Parton is a gem.

Sarah: Yes, she really is, but you get to...it's a behind-the-scenes kind of idea of who she is, because she is a very sort of flat character in our minds, and so you really kind of get to see maybe her motivations behind things, but...very different.

Rachel: Interesting.

Sarah: Very interesting. Another public radio one I listen to is "How I Built This" which is an economic podcast. So, the people who do the "TED Radio Hour" which—a lot of people are familiar with TED Talks, the videos. They've taken that format and made it a radio show or a podcast, and the host from that speaks to different entrepreneurs and different...just people in business and talks about how they built their business. A really interesting one is the guy who invented Dippin' Dots.

Rachel: (gasps)

Sarah: Like that you get at the mall.

Leah: Mhm.

Rachel: Those are great! (laughs)

Sarah: There's...and it's...you just eat them and you never...

Leah: It's the ice cream of the future!

Rachel: (laughs)

Sarah: Yes!

Leah: I mean...

Sarah: And if you listen to the episode you'll see all the different ways in which science played into it and how the business for him rose and fell. So, it's not always successful people—that's interesting. So, those are more, like...again, all of those, typically, if you search, like, 'public radio' you'll find a lot of those, and they moved them into podcast form. And then I listen to some fun and funny ones that are nonfiction, because there are a lot of, like, interview-based ones. So, "WTF with Marc Maron"—and I'll let you sort out, audience, what that stands for. I'm sure you know. And if you are familiar with the actor and comedian Marc Maron you know he's incredibly irreverent, but he's very forthright and very earnest when he's talking to his cadre of, you know, celebrity people he's talking to. And it is all celebrities. I mean, the nice thing about the other podcasts I mentioned is it's much more, like, regular people digging into the depths of, like, regular life. The next couple are, you know...it's celebrities. "Conan O'Brien Needs a Friend" is very funny if you like Conan. I mean, a lot of this is very taste-driven, too. So...

Rachel: Well, there are so many podcasts out there; you're bound to find a least one that suits your interests.

Sarah: Yeah! You would think. I mean, for just the people that I have...these people happen to be famous, but there's plenty of famous people who have a podcast who have very specific interests. Or, again, if it's a religious, you know, podcast you're looking for or a philosophical podcast or whatever you're interested in.

Leah: Every topic.

Sarah: Every topic. Anybody! I mean, we're clearly evidence of that, that anybody can start a podcast. Get your hands on a microphone and go.

Rachel: I think that's kind of why podcasts get made fun of these days because, like, everyone and their dog has a podcast. (laughs)

Sarah: Yes, that's true, and I think that a lot of these...because I listen to a lot of, like, really well-established...there's a few that I listen to that probably are sort of less on the radar. But we're not trying to make money off of this. (laughs)

Rachel: Right.

Sarah: Whereas a lot of these other people are. I think that's part of the joke, too. It's like, 'I'm going to...I'm going to be YouTube famous! I'm going to be podcast famous!'. Well, but everybody's doing that now, so, are you? I don't know. Just do it for fun. (laughs)

Rachel: That's...that's the best advice I think you could give.

Sarah: Exactly.

Leah: Absolutely.

Sarah: Another one I listen to that is interview-based is called “Queery with Cameron Esposito.” She also is a comedian.

Leah: So funny.

Sarah: She’s so very funny.

Leah: So funny.

Sarah: And she is a queer person, and so she tries to center the show around queer people, people of color, people of marginalized voices, and it’s just a really interesting way. Some of...some of the time she is talking to other funny people, but you know...because they have that in common—the stand-up thing in common—but a lot of times it’s just different types of people from all kinds of backgrounds, so hers is a little less celebrity-based, I guess. Or mainstream celebrities, but... Another queer one I listen to is “Nancy.” They’re out of WNYC which is in New York City, and it’s two best friends—a guy and a girl who are best friends—and they talk about...it’s very “This American Life”-ish, so they’ll pick topics in life and then build a—theirs are a little shorter, it’s like a 30-minute show—off of that. Another WNYC...they’re kind of like a powerhouse podcast producer, so the “Radiolab” is made out of WNYC, “Nancy,” and “So Many White Guys” I think might be? I could be wrong. Hilarious! It’s a woman named Phoebe Robinson, and she is half of the “2 Dope Queens.” They had a show on HBO and stuff, but her show is so funny. So, the point again is that podcast entertainment has so many white guys, so her show follows, you know...focuses on people who are not white guys, except at the end of the season there’s the token white guy. And so, like, one time she interviewed Tom Hanks.

Rachel: He is a very white guy.

Sarah: It was so funny! It was so...he was the perfect ‘dad’, yeah. White guy. Highly recommended. And then, finally, if you’re doing any...if you’re interested in money, there’s a lot of money podcasts out there, and there’s like...people like Dave Ramsey and Susie Orman and sort of the standard voices who are giving you financial advice, and it is wide-ranging, and it’s really confusing, so I found someone named Gaby Dunn. She’s very young. She has a podcast called “Bad with Money,” and she just came out with a book of the same name, and it is much more relaxed than a lot of these books. It’s a lot less doom and gloom. It’s a lot about her personal journey. She’s in her...I think she’s in her very early thirties now, so...her personal journey of trying to figure out money. She was, admittedly, bad with money. She was raised in a family that didn’t know anything about money, and so she’s kind of learning her way. And then a critique, kind of, of our whole financial system and how maybe it’s not that you’re bad with money; maybe the system we’re integrated in is not quite right which makes you feel bad about yourself. So, yeah, it’s a huge, wide range. I listen in my car, I listen when...the only reason my dishes get done, I think, is because I listen to podcasts. Or laundry? So yeah, I’m a...quite an addict, and I use Podcast Addict. That is the app I use on my phone. There’s a couple of apps out there that you can download. You can, like, channel through.

Rachel: Yeah, I use Player FM which has a lot of premium features, but I've used multiple phones and always use that app and I have never used the premium features because it is more than enough with just the basic. At least to suit my needs, so...

Sarah: Yeah, and you're listening to ads. I mean, that's usually the downside.

Rachell: I wasn't, actually.

Sarah: Really?

Rachel: So, it just gives you a live feed of whatever podcasts you want and there are no ads whatsoever. I mean, if the podcast itself...if the creators decide to have ads, then it's integrated.

Leah: Mhm.

Rachel: I think it's just an audio rip, to be honest.

Sarah: And I think that's probably, then, what Podcast Addict is, because it's six of one. So, you'll get sometimes where they're like, 'We'll be right back!' and you're anticipating an ad, but then it jumps right back into the show.

Rachel: Sure, okay.

Sarah: So, I wonder if, then, that is what it is, too.

Rachel: Could be, yeah.

Sarah: Huh. Interesting. So, yeah! That's my pod-life for the most part.

Rachel: You listen to quite a few, it seems.

Sarah: Yes! I do. I bounce back and forth. And, well, I've taken a lot of road trips over the last year, and that has made them go...I had a 16-hour road trip to get to the east coast, and it really makes the time fly, even more than music. So, what about you guys? What are you listening to?

Rachel: Well, I also have a long list. Or, I guess it's kind of middling. There are seven podcasts that I want to talk about today, so buckle up. (laughs) And I'm actually Sarah's opposite, because I listen exclusively to fiction podcasts. I started out with BBC Radio 4 audio dramas and kind of branched out from there. So, like you, Sarah, where you were listening to radio shows and then went into podcasts. It's a good gateway, I guess. So, the first one I want to talk about is "King Falls AM," which is...of all my top recommended podcasts today, this one is numero uno, okay? It's an audio drama in the form of a late-night FM radio show, and it's got kind of an "X-Files" vibe going on.

Sarah: Ooo.

Leah: Okay.

Rachel: But the fun episodes of "The X-Files." So, like when Scully and Mulder are hunting a vampire, or where they're showing up on "COPS?" Like that!

Sarah: Yeah, goofy.

Rachel: Goofy! “King Falls AM” is made by a small team, but it's a really big production, and later seasons hit you right in the gut. It's super emotional. I may have angry-tweeted the creators a couple of times for forcing me onto a rollercoaster of emotion.

Everyone: (laughs)

Rachel: In a good way, though. It makes me feel things, which is all I want from a podcast. (laughs) Next up is “Dreamboy,” and this one is freshest because I just relistened to it about a week ago. Written, composed, and performed mainly by Dane Terry, this podcast is just high art. He plays a character of the same name who's living in Cleveland and working part time at the local zoo where there is a zebra named Zoe who has recently killed a young boy who went into her enclosure on a dare. So, there are a bunch of townspeople are rallying together to make sure that Zoe isn't euthanized, and Dane gets swept up in that as well as with a young guy named Luke with whom he is sharing the same nightmare of a giant fish monster. And, as you can tell, it's kind of hard to describe. (laughs)

Leah: Uh-huh. A lot going on.

Sarah: Yeah! There's a lot going on, yeah.

Rachel: Yeah, it's one of those podcasts you really just have to try and listen to for yourself. It's not safe for work, though, unless you like your work day to be kind of kinky.

Sarah: (laughs) Sure.

Rachel: So, I just want to tack that warning on there.

Sarah: Well, you're usually listening in earbuds or have earphones on, so...

Leah: Mhm, yeah.

Rachel: Although, the first time I was listening to it I was just at home, still living with my parents, and my dad was awake and...

Leah: Oh, no.

Rachel: Some scene occurs, and I'm like, 'Whoa-op! Gotta pause that one!'

Leah: (laughs)

Sarah: 'That's a little awkward!' Yeah. (laughs)

Rachel: Yeah, but it is very good and highly recommended. Next, there is “Within the Wires.” This is co-written by Janina Matthewson and Jeffrey Cranor of “Welcome to Night Vale” fame. “Within the Wires” is set in an alternate universe where people in normal society aren't allowed to have families. So, they can have children, but they have to give them up to go through this system to be raised away from them. Every season, interestingly, takes place during a different time period, which I don't think any other podcast has done? At least, none that I have listened to.

Sarah: Like it's in the future?

Rachel: It is in the future in some seasons, in some it's in the past, but it's always in an alternate universe.

Sarah: Oh, wow.

Rachel: Yeah.

Sarah: Interesting. Okay.

Rachel: Without giving anything away, I love season two and I hate season four, so take that for what you will.

Sarah: Oh, all right.

Rachel: Then there is "It Makes a Sound." This is a Night Vale Presents production about a woman making a tribute podcast for a musical genius she remembers as the mysterious 'Wim Faros', which is a wonderful name! (laughs)

Sarah: Whoa, okay!

Rachel: It's whimsical and there's music. That's really all you need to know about it. I will say it does tackle some issues around the elderly suffering from mental illness, like Alzheimer's, which I think is handled in a really good way, so listen for yourself and be the judge of that.

Sarah: And both of those you said came out of "Welcome to Night Vale?"

Rachel: Well, "Welcome to Night Vale" is a podcast that is super popular and became so popular that they have their own production company called 'Night Vale Presents'.

Sarah: Oh, I see.

Rachel: So, they take on people of color and people in the LGBTQ community.

Sarah: Sure.

Rachel: There's also...another one by Night Vale Presents is "Adventures in New America" which... (laughs) ...this one's pretty different from the others. It is described as "the first sci-fi, political satire, Afrofuturistic buddy comedy."

Sarah: All right!

Rachel: Yeah. (laughs)

Sarah: That is...

Leah: Great.

Sarah: Yeah. Something that you don't usually see in places, so yes.

Rachel: I...totally new!

Sarah: Yes.

Rachel: If that doesn't hook you nothing will.

Sarah: (laughs)

Rachel: Our heroes, question mark? Go up against a sect of tetchy terrorist vampire zombies from outer space. So...

Leah: I wouldn't want to go up against them.

Rachel: No. They're monstrous!

Sarah: (laughs)

Leah: Yeah. Sounds dangerous.

Rachel: Yeah, for sure. The writing in this podcast is so good. I...from the very first episode I was like, 'Yes, please!'

Sarah: Interesting.

Rachel: Getting towards the end here—this is my second to last recommendation. The end is in sight. There is "The Big Loop" which I think, Sarah, you might like because it sounds a bit like "This American Life," but it's fiction. So, this one is almost a complete 360 in tone from all the others I've talked about. Every episode—and, honestly, there aren't very many—they each focus on different people from around the world as they tell their own stories about something weird or extraordinary that has happened to them. I would say try the episode called "FML" followed by "Smoke" for a real...treat.

Sarah: Hm! Okay.

Rachel: Yeah. And least but not least is "Homecoming." It's a high-production audio drama with a tremendous talent in its voice cast, including Catherine Keener, David Schwimmer, and Oscar freaking Isaac, so... It was so great that they turned it into a TV series on Amazon Prime sometime last year.

Sarah: Yeah, okay—that sounds familiar.

Rachel: And it was pretty good in its own right. I would say listen to the podcast first and then go into the show.

Sarah: Is it the same actors in the podcast?

Rachel: Different actors. So, I believe it's Julia Roberts starring in the television show.

Sarah: Whoa! Okay. Gotcha'. Hm.

Rachel: Yeah, and I'm going to steal the write-up from the blurb for this podcast, because it's hard to describe it otherwise.

Sarah: (laughs)

Rachel: It "centers on a caseworker at an experimental facility, her ambitious supervisor, and a soldier eager to rejoin civilian life—presented in a collage of telephone calls, therapy sessions, and overheard conversations." So, a very interesting setup to the podcast. Some have done a similar thing, but I don't think to the degree that this podcast has. It's pretty flawless, in my opinion.

Sarah: Yeah. And do all of these run, like...like about an hour, half an hour?

Rachel: They're all totally different.

Sarah: All over the place? Yeah. Coming out of radio a lot of them were an hour, because that's typically what these shows were, so it is neat to...like, "Welcome to Night Vale," I have listened to a couple of episodes of that, and some of them are, like, 20 minutes long. And the same—on my list, the "99% Invisible" ...it started in, like, 2013 or 2015 or something. Some of their episodes are 10 minutes! Which is kind of nice, because if you need to just pop in real quick.

Rachel: Mhm.

Leah: Something quick.

Sarah: Yeah.

Rachel: I think the majority of these are around the 20-minute, half-hour mark, but they change season-to-season, too, depending on the writer. So, you know, up for a mix then give it a try.

Leah: And are they still making "Homecoming" if it's an Amazon...?

Rachel: "Homecoming" is completely done, so...I can't remember what year it came out—it can't have been too long ago. But it's over now, so...

Leah: Do you...I mean, do you know if the Amazon series is, like, a continuation of "Homecoming"? Or just based on it?

Rachel: It's a retelling. It's a retelling of it.

Leah: Okay.

Rachel: But it's very similar. I would say the Prime show is worth watching because the direction is gorgeous. Like, it's very stylistic. So, I would recommend it based just on that. But yeah, because of the fact that it is a retelling, try the original source material of the podcast first and then watch the show from there. I don't really think it will spoil much for you, because the show is different enough where they have their own kind of twists going on, so yeah. And again, it has Oscar Isaac, so you gotta listen to it.

Sarah: (laughs) I appreciate those recommendations, because again I just don't tend to find fiction podcasts that I like, so I'm going to try...I'm going to try all of them.

Rachel: And if you don't like it, don't tell me, cuz my heart will break.

Sarah and Leah: (laughs)

Rachel: I'm just kidding!

Sarah: I'll keep it to myself.

Rachel: Please tell me what you think. (laughs) All right, what about you, Leah? I know you have a couple that you've listened to.

Leah: Yeah, my list is even shorter. Short and sweet. So, the...the podcast I've listened to the longest is the "Jenna & Julian Podcast," and I actually watch it on YouTube, which sort of negates it being a podcast for me, but it is available on podcast apps. I started watching Jenna's YouTube channel way back in the day. When she and Julian started their podcast channel where it's a video of them recording the

podcast I started watching that, too. They discuss just about everything: pop culture, their own lives, spooky stories, about other YouTubers, and about the platform of YouTube itself. I think it's pure entertainment, but that's probably mostly because I like their personalities a lot, and I can also relate to Jenna who is a (sings) 33-year-old lady!

Sarah and Rachel: (laughs)

Leah: And I'm also a 33-year-old lady.

Rachel: Beautiful.

Leah: I also listen to a podcast called "Morbid," which is relatively new for me. As in, I knew we'd be talking about podcasts on this episode and I thought it would be good to talk about more than just one.

Sarah: Good job. Research! Yay, librarians! Good job.

Rachel and Leah: (laughs)

Leah: So, I looked through some descriptions of different podcasts on my handy-dandy iPhone Podcast app—because it's just on there—and came across "Morbid" which is categorized as humor and true crime. Which sounded wonderful to me. I started listening to the older episodes and worked my way forward and was hooked pretty immediately. Basically, the hosts are two...two ladies. Their names are Ash and Alaina. One of them is a hairdresser, and one of them is an autopsy technician.

Rachel: Wow.

Leah: And they feature different true crime cases, but they've also covered some folklore kind of things and other mysterious things that have happened to people. They're really well researched—which, as a librarian, I like.

Sarah: Mhm, yes. Gives us the tingles, yes.

Leah: And the hosts are, in my opinion, really funny. So, they play off each other really well, and the humor really helps to lighten up a heavy subject. Although, I am jumping at all of the shadows after bingeing so many episodes.

Rachel: That's why I cannot listen to true crime, because I am such a scaredy-cat.

Leah: But it is so interesting!

Sarah: And I'm surprised...and it's, you know, like you're saying, you haven't listened to many. We don't really have—other than that one—a true crime podcast, sort of, that we've listed yet, but they as a...just a note without a podcast show, they are wildly popular.

Rachel: Oh, yeah.

Leah: Yeah!

Rachel: They're everywhere.

Sarah: They are everywhere. I'm trying to think...there's one called "Dirty John" that follows one murder throughout however long.

Leah: There's "My Favorite Murder."

Sarah: Yes, I think they're the same people who...there's, like, a whole cottage industry now of just true crime.

Rachel: Pretty sure we even talked about that podcast during the scary stories episode of this podcast, so if you want some more recommendations, try that one.

Sarah: Yeah. "Serial"—that's supposed to be very good and there's a couple of...I didn't listen to the first season, which is kind of funny because that's the one that really is supposed to, like, you know...got the guy, I think, maybe out of jail? I can't remember how that worked out?

Rachel: What?

Sarah: But the second season follows just the criminal justice system in Cleveland, which is just fascinating anyway, being, like, in the courtrooms. But, yeah...true crime. If you're into true crime in book form—because that's a very popular section here at the...in our nonfiction at the library, there—you will find limitless true crime podcasts.

Rachel: Yeah.

Sarah: Neat! "Morbid." I'll have to look for that one now. Because you don't always find funny true crime. That's an interesting mix.,

Rachel: You need that, I think.

Sarah: Yes.

Rachel: Well, I do. (laughs)

Sarah: Variety? Yes.

Leah: I like true crime a whole lot, but I like it to be told in such a way that it kind of takes me through the story in an entertaining way rather than in a cut and dry, here are all of the facts: I'm going to give them to you and lay them all out. And I think "Morbid" does a good job of making it kind of a...a story that keeps you on the edge of your seat of what's going to happen, and they're just funny together. I've already started saying some of their sayings that they say to each other, which is great! So, I can think about it all the time.

Sarah: (laughs)

Rachel: I think that's a big thing in podcasts, too, is if there are multiple hosts...and I think for a podcast to be really good you tend to have a couple, if not three. But you need them to play off of each other pretty well in order to be vested, I have to say.

Leah: Mhm.

Sarah: Yeah, and you'll note different production levels. So, again, the ones I mentioned at the beginning, or like something that's probably like a true crime podcast, it's a much more story-driven thing, and that...whereas some of them are much more conversational. Some of them are much more...again, interviews—you're...the person is asking questions, so you don't know what you're going

to get, but...or what they're promoting. So, you kind of have to sort out that, too, but yeah. There's a...it's a world. There's a whole world of things in...in podcast land.

Leah: Yeah.

Rachel: And that is actually the end of our podcast episode, because again: this has been the meta episode.

Everyone: (laughs)

Rachel: Check the show notes for information on everything we just talked about, and oof, it's going to be a long list, but that makes me happy. Subscribe and rate the podcast if you like what you hear. You can reach out us through the library's website or Facebook page. Be sure to use the #notyourmotherslibrary. Thank you for joining us, Sarah.

Sarah: Absolutely. It's so fun.

Rachel: And thank you, Leah, for agreeing to this insanity.

Leah: Happy to be here.

Rachel: We will be back next month for our poetry episode! Absolutely no one has submitted any of their own poems at this time of recording.

Leah: (laughs)

Rachel: So, we're probably just going to read the classics or something. We'll figure it out. (laughs) Until next time, happy reading! Bye!

(Brief outro music)