

Not Your Mother's Library Transcript

Episode 4: LGBTQ

(Brief intro music)

Rachel: Hi, and welcome to Not Your Mother's Library. I'm Rachel.

Melody: And I'm Melody.

Rachel: And we're librarians at Oak Creek Public Library. Today we have a special guest with us, Sarah, who is our Access Services Manager here OCPL. We're going to be discussing LGBTQ fiction today. Welcome to the podcast, Sarah!

Sarah: Hi! Thanks for having me.

Melody: We're so happy to have you. So, before we get started, we just want to talk about what you do here at the library. Give us a little bit of background, what you enjoy reading, anything like that.

Sarah: Sure, so I—as Rachel mentioned—am the Access Services Manager, so I am the person who is in charge of the folks who check books in and out, the people who put books on the shelves. We make sure the library is nice and tidy, and yeah...I've worked in libraries for about 14 years in different capacities.

Melody: And, I was going to say, you've been here at the Oak Creek Library doing other jobs for a while, too. So, you've been in young adult services, reference?

Sarah: Yes, yeah. Yes, and I still do a little reference now. I wear many hats, many caps. Yeah, and so I've done a little bit of everything, and I started as a shelve, so I'm kind of back to my roots now working in circulation.

Rachel: I did similarly, actually, as you know! (laughs)

Sarah: Yes! It all comes full circle eventually.

Melody: So, what is your reading history? What do you like to read?

Sarah: I'm an admitted terrible reader as far as it takes me a really long time to read. I...it's kind of embarrassing as a librarian when someone's like, 'You must read all the time!' and no, I actually don't.

Rachel: That's such a stigma, isn't it?

Sarah: It is a stereotype, that's true.

Melody: You know, I feel like my reading has gotten slower, too, in the past few years, so I...I...I'm there with you.

Sarah. Yeah, Netflix doesn't help. (laughs) I watch a lot of TV, unfortunately. And...but I do read, like, a book a month. I try to make sure I'm...I've got something on my nightstand, usually multiple things, and I try to just plow through and read a book a month. So, I feel like I'm doing all right if I do that. And I

read everything. I read historical fiction, graphic novels, websites, blogs, et cetera. So, yeah, just about anything. Magazines.

Melody: What's your...what's your go-to genre if you want, like, an easy, enjoyable read?

Sarah: It's usually just, like, realistic adult fiction. I think I get into that the most. When I was a young adult librarian I tried to do YA, and I'm just not...I can do it if it's really well written, but otherwise I'm just not a YA devotee. But that's okay. I'm happy for those who are, I'm glad we have the books for them, but just not me.

Melody: Right. And then...oh, yeah. So, we're thinking for today it's LGBTQ. Do you want to just share a little bit about your background?

Sarah: Sure, yeah. That's very personal to me. I identify as queer. I think it's really important as a professional and just being a human in the world to be out. I think it's very important for other people to see that, though I do understand not everybody can be out. It's not safe for everybody to be, so I respect that completely, too. But it was exciting to know, headed into June it's usually Pride month, and so, I do...one of my go-to genres definitely is LGBTQ fiction. I've been consuming a lot of that lately, so I'm excited to get to chat about it.

Melody: Do you feel like there has been more fiction in that genre that's been coming out in recent years that's better quality?

Sarah: Yes, definitely. There's a huge range of it now, so just about any type of thing you read you can find LGBTQ stuff. So, there's a lot more historical—just history—coming out. Historical fiction, YA, there's a lot more out there.

Rachel: I'd say that's true of a lot of genres based on those kind of subcultures, I suppose. Like, women's fiction used to just be about housewives, but it's in every single genre now. There are so many different aspects to draw on. Same for people of color and things like that.

Sarah: Right. I'm not a big scifi reader, and I'm not a big romance reader, so I don't know—as far as even more specific subgenres—how that looks. But there is a very interesting trend—and this is probably a topic for another day—of non-queer women writing gay male romance books.

Melody: Oh, okay.

Sarah: Yes, exactly, and I haven't been able to dig into it too much, but I'm, like...this is a very interesting trend. Fanfiction, published books. Very interesting. So, again, I don't know if we have time today, but it is something to be like, 'Okay, just cross-cultural...'

Rachel: I wonder about the origins of that, yeah.

Sarah: Correct. Interesting. Anywho. (laughs)

Melody: Well, we're very excited to have you, Sarah.

Rachel: Seriously.

Melody: So, I'm going to start off by talking about a young adult book. (laughs) Coincidentally. It's called "Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe" by—oh man, I was going to practice pronouncing his name beforehand and I forgot—Benjamin Alire Sáenz.

Sarah: Yeah, that's pretty close. Sáenz?

Melody: He's...I think he has a Mexican-American heritage.

Sarah: I think so.

Melody: Sarah will fix it for me. (laughs) So, I actually read this book when I was in grad school for a library sciences...I took a young adult genre fiction course, and this was one of them. I would say, if you're interested in diving into LGBTQ in the YA field, this is a really good book to jump into. So, the premise...it's a coming of age story about a teenage boy—his name is Aristotle—I think...I think he's called 'Ari' by his friends.

Rachel: Which seems really YA for the characters to have really bizarre names.

Sarah and Melody: Yes.

Melody: It's very John Green. So, he's a Mexican-American boy. He's—I think—15 or 16, and kind of figuring out his own life, himself, and what he believes. There's some...he's not abused, but there is some tension in his household. His dad is a Vietnam vet and he has as a lot of trauma and personal battles that kind of hinder him from having this...as strong of a relationship as he wants with his son. And then Ari meets another young man—his name is Dante—who also has a Mexican-America heritage, and Dante is a lot more comfortable embracing that he thinks he is gay, and that kind of comes through within the story. This is not a plot-driven book. So, if you like plot, and you don't have the patience, don't read this. This is very much, kind of, a relaxed read. The events are not the big part of the story. There are these, like, bigger, more existential questions that are being asked. So, questions about love and mortality and identity. And this is a very introspective read, and it kind of reads a little bit monotone. So, I listened to the audiobook, and Lin Manuel Miranda happens to read it.

Sarah: (sighs) Yeah, that's awesome.

Melody: Even so, though, the story is very monotone, so there's not a whole lot of ups and downs, it's...because of the way that the character thinks and the way the story's written, it kind of has the same level of intensity, mostly, throughout the whole story.

Rachel: Is it very dialogue heavy, or is it more, like, internal thought?

Melody: It is dialogue heavy, but there's always an internal thought part of it. And I also listened to this at...instead of one speed, 1.25 speed.

Rachel: (laughs) We've all done it.

Sarah: Yes. That's a little trick, I don't know if you've talked about that yet, but OverDrive is great for that, for the...getting through them faster. Yeah. (laughs)

Melody: So, anyone who's done that...so, hearing Lin Manuel Miranda (speeds up) read like this!

Rachel and Sarah: (laugh)

Melody: Oh, so that plays a role. And then also, the funny thing is, if anyone—any of our listeners—know about Lin Manuel Miranda, you probably know him from “Hamilton,” his Broadway show about Alexander Hamilton.

Sarah: Of course, yes.

Melody: And the funny thing is I...so, I reread this for this discussion we’re having, and I didn’t catch this the first time because “Hamilton” wasn’t a thing, but there are references to Alexander Hamilton. Ari is studying him in high school and has to write a report. And Lin Manuel Miranda has to say, like, ‘Ugh, that stupid Hamilton. Ugh. I have to write this stupid report. I hate this man!’

Sarah: (laughs) That is so funny!

Rachel: (laughs) Nice Easter egg.

Melody: So, it’s...it’s very fun. So, my readalikes...so, there’s a sequel to this book that is supposed to be coming out in...this year, but I’m guessing maybe 2020. The title used to be “There Will Be Other Summers,” but he posted on his Twitter that that’s not the title anymore, and it was very vague. (laughs) And then he posted something like, ‘This won’t be coming out this year. You know, life has a way of changing’. Also very vague. So, I think it’s in the works, it’s just not out yet.

Rachel: A little glimmer of hope, maybe, at the end of the tunnel.

Melody: Right! And I think it follows at the end of this story immediately after. So, I think you learn more about them. And then, there’s another book by the same author called “The Inexplicable Logic of My Life,” and this is more about love and friendship. It’s not necessarily a romance. It’s about Sal, or Sol—I’m not sure how to pronounce—is the main character, and he has an adoptive gay father, and he grows up in a...in a Mexican-American family. So, I think that’s kind of a similar theme with this author. But this story focuses more on friendship kind of love rather than romantic love, and it’s very poetic and, again, a coming of age story. Yeah, so that’s my read.

Sarah: And the friendship love, is it between two boys?

Melody: It’s between a boy and a girl.

Sarah: Oh, that’s very interesting, sure. That’s interesting. I think it’s really neat that you brought this book up, too, because it...it’s cross-cultural. So, not only are you learning about teenagers who are Mexican-American—which aren’t always the topic of YA books—but also a Mexican-American gay boy. That’s, like, you know, that’s very interesting. To have those identities kind of blend. So, that’s a great suggestion.

Melody: And he also...I think he has questions that any...any teenager growing up will have. Who am I, how do I—you know—fit in this world? Who are my friends? You know? What’s my relationship with my family? Those are all, I think, universal themes that everyone deals with.

Rachel: And true, too, you don’t tend to just identify by your sexual orientation or gender identity, you also are, you know, a part of this country, and this is your heritage, and these are the people you’re used to in your life. And there are so many factors going into it to make you human. It’s not just one thing or the other. It’s always going to bleed across.

Sarah: Definitely.

Melody: All right, so, what have you been reading, Rachel?

Rachel: Well, I happened across author Sarah Waters and her novel “The Paying Guests” last year and finished it in January. Sarah—our guest today, not the author (laughs)—she and I already emailed each other a bit about this title when I was making the library’s LGBTQ+ booklist earlier in the year, and I think we both kind of went gaga over the writing style and it’s beautiful story. It’s about how, even though throughout history people have been subjugated based on gender, social class, and sexual orientation, there is still some hope to find happiness, be it with themselves or with other people.

Sarah: Yeah, that’s a nice summary of it. And anything Sarah Waters has ever written I’m so excited for her to write something new, like, I’m like, ‘C’mon!’ I don’t know if she’s on Twitter, I don’t know if she’s anywhere else but...

Rachel: (laughs) She’s one of those authors where you just kind of trust that it’s going to be a bomber of a book. ‘Bomber’ as in, like, ‘the bomb’, as the kids say.

Sarah: (laughs)

Rachel: Right?

Melody: I don’t know if kids still say that. (laughs)

Rachel: I’m from the ’90s, okay? It’s very obvious. (laughs)

Melody: I think...I think even ‘lit’ is old now.

Rachel: Really? What about ‘on fleek’? Anyway, we could go on...

Melody: Definitely old.

Rachel: (laughs) So, “The Paying Guest” is historical fiction mixed a little bit with thriller and crime. It’s about a young woman named Francis and her life in England after World War I. Her brothers were killed during the war, and her father died shortly after, so Francis and her mother now live on their own and are struggling to make ends meet. They were once used to having hired help around the house to do all the chores and stuff—at least, the heavier things—but they can’t afford to sustain their old lifestyle anymore. They eventually and almost ashamedly have to take on boarders to bring in some money, and we are then introduced to the characters Leonard and Lilian Barber. So, before their arrival, Francis...her life has been pretty stagnant. Back during the war she was actually a bit of a political radical. She used to...let’s see. She used to attend protests alongside a close female friend with whom she felt a romantic attachment, but we get the sense that things ended badly between them, so she’s become a lot more reclusive since. I think her brothers’ deaths and her father’s attitude toward her played into that, too. Francis and her mother find it difficult to acclimate to the Barbers’ presence in their house, mainly because they are what’s considered ‘working class’ as in, (spooky voice) one of them has an office job! Surprise, surprise!

Melody and Sarah: (laugh)

Rachel: Francis soon develops a crush on Lilian, though, and she’s hesitant to be open about her feelings for obvious reasons. Lilian’s husband also complicates things. He is a bully, and I dislike him a lot. Yeah. I

really want Francis to just end up happy and feeling loved by someone that she trusts, but there's a murder involved, so things take a definite turn for the worse.

Sarah: And that's a Sarah Waters hallmark. The twist, the murder. The time period, actually, is very interesting. It's a lot later than a lot of her other books. I also, as a younger person, never was, like, into Dickens or...that era just seemed really gross. I never read the Brontë's or whatever.

Melody: Sarah!

Rachel: (laughs)

Sarah: I know, I know! But Sarah Waters, like...most of her stuff I want to say is 1890s, 1880s-ish era, and it's just so evocative and it...all of her stories that I've read focus around lesbian women, or what—I don't think they were called 'lesbian' back then, but you know, whatever the...the idea of that is now is what we can kind of place on them then, but yeah, it's good stuff.

Rachel: Oh, for sure.

Sarah: Real good, and real big. So, you've got to be in for the long haul.

Rachel: Yes. (laughs) It is a long book.

Melody: Can I ask, are there any male characters that do have redeeming qualities?

Sarah: Yes, so in some of her other books they typically play supporting roles. You know, the main characters revolve around the female relationships. Yeah, it's complicated, I guess.

Rachel: In "The Paying Guests," yeah...I think the good guys in "The Paying Guests" were Francis's brothers, but we don't really meet them because they've passed on, but she very was close with them.

Sarah: They're very idolized, because they aren't alive.

Rachel: Yes, they're that.

Sarah: And they also were war heroes because they died in the war, but...yeah.

Rachel: And they got up and fought while she had to stay at home, you know? And she wanted to participate.

Sarah: Yeah, but, like, her other books revolve around a women's prison. So, primarily, that's female. Even the jailers were women. Grifters...it's very gritty, it's very dirty-feeling as far as, like, dirt. (laughs) Not, like, naughty. I mean, it can be a little naughty sometimes, but, you know...but yeah. Her writing style is just phenomenal. I'm very excited for a new Sarah Waters book.

Rachel: And in this book I really like the fact that Francis is so accepting of herself. It's refreshing, especially given the time period. I think it shows how important it is to be confident in yourself even if those around you are in denial of who you are. There is a slight hiccup with this, though, because even though Francis is empowered as a female and—to a certain degree—as a lesbian, she does look down her nose at the Barbers when she first meets them, and I don't know if this had to do with her mother's influence, but the class divide there is really obvious. Still, that's also something I like about "The Paying

Guests.” Highlighting the fact that we all have blind spots, that we’re imperfect and judgmental makes the characters realistic, and I recommend this book based on that believability.

Sarah: And I’m not in touch enough with the history of the time, and especially England’s history at the time—being post-World War I—that I don’t know what was happening with the classes. If there was a big shift. I mean, if all of the men were bringing in income, a large portion of them passed away...I don’t know how common of a story this must have been that people had to open up their homes. They were living a genteel life and are now downgrading. So, it is...there’s a lot of tension, not just the female relationships but in life. Yeah, they’re really well written.

Melody: So, from my expertise from “Downton Abbey...”

Sarah: (laughs) Yes.

Melody: I know that is definitely a big factor. There...those class divides are still very strong, and the adjustment to having to...for the higher classes, to, you know, quote-unquote, lower themselves to those other classes was difficult. So, yeah. But I do...I really like your point, Rachel, that we all have room to grow some. No one is all-welcoming to everything. We all have judgments that we make, you know. So yeah, I do like that.

Rachel: Oh, well thank you. (laughs)

Sarah: And she makes you never want to live in these time periods. Like, the work that they have to do in the house is nasty. I never ever, ever want to do it.

Rachel: And she does it all day long!

Sarah: Yeah, it’s never ending, it’s exhausting. There’s like, you know, no creature comforts. They didn’t have air conditioning, they didn’t have, you know...the heating was complicated.

Rachel: Owning a manor sounds nice but it is not.

Melody and Sarah: (laugh)

Rachel: The heating bills alone! For a readalike, I would say go with “Lovers at the Chameleon Club, Paris 1932” by Francine Prose. This is also LGBTQ historical fiction. The Chameleon Club is a fictional French cabaret full of bohemians, so I’m instantly hooked. The story is actually inspired by a famous photograph called “Lesbian Couple at the Monocle.” Print editions of both “The Paying Guests” and “Lovers at the Chameleon Club, Paris 1932” (takes a breath and laughs) are currently part of our physical collection at OCPL. eBook and audiobook versions are available through Libby and Hoopla, as per usual.

Sarah: Nice!

Melody: So, what have you been reading, Sarah?

Sarah: So, I fairly recently read something called “The House of Impossible Beauties” by Joseph Cassara. I believe that’s how you pronounce his last name. And we’re jumping forward—another historical fiction book. This one, though, takes place in the 1980s. It’s in New York City, and... I don’t know if either of you have ever watched the documentary called “Paris is Burning.” Have you ever heard of that?

Rachel and Melody: No.

Sarah: It's a really famous documentary. You can get it on Netflix, and I think you can get it through the library system. I believe I looked that up. And it was recorded in probably the late '80s. Right before—yeah, that sounds about right—like mid- to late-'80s. And it follows these groups of drag queens in New York City, most of which are of color. I believe most of them are either Puerto Rican or black, and it just shows what their lives are like. It's like *cinéma vérité*, so it's just the people in the documentary who are talking. It's not, like, narration or anything. But what's interesting about this book—"The House of Impossible Beauties"—is that, you know, that documentary was only, like, an hour long, an hour and a half long, something. This book took those actual people from the documentary. They're very specific, real people, and he sort of invented lives for them. So, you get to know them as children, you get to know them in different aspects of their lives that the movie doesn't portray. But he's using real names, he's using real scenarios, which is very...it's just very interesting to take that kind of creative license, too, as an author. And so it's...the reason it's called "The House of Impossible Beauties" is because the drag queen scene of the '80s—and I honestly don't know if this is still the case—in New York City...this is where voguing came from. So, Madonna, you know, popularized vogue for the mainstream. It was black drag queens who were doing it way before anybody else, and they had these houses which you can...the way they described it, it was sort of like a gang. So, basically, you're kicked out of your home, you have no more support family, and you have to make your family, so they created these houses where, instead of fighting each other in the streets, they were voguing and dancing and, like, having these sort of dance-offs in these balls. So, that's what it follows, is the ball culture.

Melody: (laughs)

Rachel: That sounds amazing.

Sarah: It's amazing! It's...I've watched the documentary probably three times because it's just so fascinating. It's so heartbreaking that people have to go through the trials and tribulations that they go through just to exist, but that they were able to find each other is really lovely. I mean, it's still, you know, it's not all roses. They definitely...there's a lot of, like, street sex work, unfortunately, to support themselves and, you know, it's a difficult life. There's no sugar-coating that at all. But the beauty of this book is that it really kind of, like, develops these characters in ways that you wish you could have gotten to know them watching the documentary. Again, looking at some of their childhoods and...it's just very interesting. And so, this follows the House of Extravaganza—I believe that's true—and each of them have different names that the house is under. So, Angie Extravaganza has all of her 'children', they're called. So, like, one of the characters is called 'Venus Extravaganza', and it's just this very elaborate, amazing story. It's really good. Some of the criticism I have heard about it is that he—Joseph, the author—dived too much into the actual, like, imagined lives for them and not enough into the ball culture, which is what the whole point of this was about, were these balls that people would go to. So, it's...some people have criticized that he didn't do enough of his homework to make the ball scenes in the book authentic. I mean, they're there if you...I recommend watching the documentary and then reading the book, because then you have an image of these actual people in your head. And so, he was a little slim. I think he could have cut maybe, like, you know, 10% of the story out to include a little more of the ball culture, because that's the whole point of the book, but yeah, it's really good. I definitely recommend it.

Melody: That's definitely an interesting concept, taking fanfiction—you could say—to a whole new level. But it's based on real people, which is even more fascinating.

Rachel: A whole other layer, yeah.

Sarah: Most of which, I also assume, have passed away, and so that's complicated, as well. Because they can't speak to the reality of the story, and I don't know this—I'm just presuming—but it didn't seem like these people probably had much of an estate, so it's not like somebody is carrying on their...their permissions.

Rachel: It is classified as fiction, right?

Sarah: It is shelved...yep, classified as fiction. I would definitely call it historical fiction because he gets a lot of, like...you know, I was just a kid in the '80s, but what I recall from the '80s, you know, the vibe is there, and he's very careful to make sure he's using...it's a lot of Spanglish, I guess you would say. So, it's like, you know, seamlessly Spanish and English, or interwoven. It's a really great book, though. I mean, it just...the feeling when it ended was just like, 'Oh, this is so sad! I want it to keep going!'

Rachel: That's the best problem to have with a book.

Sarah: Yes, that is very true. Yeah, and so I'm currently reading a book that I would say is a readalike called "Sketchtacy," and it is by Matilda Bernstein Sycamore, and it's also historical fiction, but it takes place in—probably about a decade later—in Boston. Also in gay culture, but it's the club culture, and it's also a different era of AIDs crisis. So, that plays a big part in "House of Impossible Beauties." This is sort of at the beginning of when AIDs is starting to be recognized, whereas the other book—"Sketchtacy"—AIDs has been around a little bit longer, and so you're looking at the way the characters are interacting with AIDs and how it's affecting their communities a little differently. So...but there are good...so, I say watch the movie—watch "Paris is Burning," read "The House of Impossible Beauties," and then read "Sketchtacy" sort of in that order to get, like, a flow.

Rachel: That's pretty rare where you get a recommendation to read the book second, right?

Melody: It is!

Sarah: Yes, but I do think it's really important in this case.

Rachel: Oh, yeah.

Sarah: Because you do get to know the people—who they are—before you're reading the author's interpretation of them, so yeah. Good stuff, though.

Melody: So, you also gave us some other recommendations, if you want to just touch on those.

Sarah: Yes, sure! So, I just have a few favorites that I mentioned. Leslie Feinberg was a very important person in the LGBTQ advocacy community. They were an author that wrote a really impactful book called "Stone Butch Blues" that sort of, like—frankly, if you take any kind of gender studies class in college I'm assuming you're going to read that—followed up by "Drag King Dreams," and it just is a really interesting, working-class look at queer life in, like, the '50s through the '90s. Sort of spans a long era. Also, "Fun Home." Both Rachel and I have talked about this before.

Rachel: I love this graphic novel.

Sarah: Yes, it was a graphic novel. It was turned into a Broadway musical that won the Tony award, so big stuff. Alison Bechdel...

Melody: Do you know how recently?

Sarah: Three or four years ago? I want to say it was, like, 2014 or 2015. Something like that. It might be a little bit older than that, but really...fairly recently. And that's just unique in itself: to find a graphic novel that's been turned into a musical. I can't say I've ever...there's no "Garfield: The Musical."

Rachel: Never mind an award-winning one.

Sarah: Right? Exactly, that won the Tony! Right, for best musical.

Melody: There's "Peanuts" and stuff.

Rachel: (laughs) Right.

Sarah: (laughs) Not quite...not exactly the same. That's true. Yeah, highly recommend "Fun Home," though. "Mean" by Myriam Gurba. Very interesting fiction book that doesn't feel like fiction. I think it kind of blurs the line between fiction and nonfiction. "For Today I Am a Boy" by Kim Fu is a fantastic. It's very interesting. I haven't done enough research about Kim Fu. I presume Kim Fu identifies as a female person, but this follows a trans person. So, there's always some, you know...you always just kind of have to be conscious when the person whose writing about something is not of the 'in group'. I'm always just very...just conscious. It doesn't mean it's bad, doesn't mean it's going to be wrong, but I just think it's always nice to have that in the back of your head. "Dryland" by Sara Jaffe, I think we shelve here in the YA section, but it's very, like, could be an adult book. Very interesting, about a swimmer—a competitive swimmer in high school—I mean, it's just interesting the different types of stories that queer people are kind of intermixed in. And then two actual YA books that I love are "Boy Meets Boy" and "Two Boys Kissing" They're very different books. "Boy Meets Boy" is very...kind of fluffy. It's very skinny. It wouldn't take very long to read. And "Two Boys Kissing" is very emotional, it's very modern. I listened to it on audiobook, and it was probably not a very good idea because people were seeing me cry in my car. But it's really good, by David Levithan who's a very well-known YA author.

Melody: All right. Well, thank you, Sarah.

Sarah: For sure.

Melody: We will be listing all of those books and authors in the show notes, so if you feel like you've heard something but you don't remember what it's called, it will all be there. And then, Rachel, did you want to talk about our booklists?

Rachel: Mhm. Yeah, we also have an adult fiction booklist with titles from the LGBTQ+ genre, which I think I mentioned really early on in the podcast. So, you can find that on the website as well as in the library itself. It includes a few of the titles we talked about here today.

Melody: All right. And then, before we go, I just wanted to mention we have a summer reading challenge coming up here at the Oak Creek Library. So, if you're in the area and you like to read, you can get rewarded for reading this summer. So, it takes place June 10th through August 10th. It is open to all ages, from children through adults—there's no age cap in any way. And if you read 10 hours over the summer and keep track of your reading, you can come to the library and receive a prize for reading. A lot of the prizes are for coupons for local communities and businesses in the Oak Creek and Milwaukee area, so you can really get a lot of benefits from just keeping track of your reading. So, you can go to our

website—oakcreeklibrary.org/src—which will also be in the show notes, and there you can register, you can download a reading log, and you can look at our events calendar. So, if you like reading, go ahead and sign up, and you can get rewards for reading for the summer.

Sarah: And I can even do 10 hours. 10 hours is a really attainable goal. Anybody out there can do 10 hours over the summer.

Melody: For...between June 10th and August 10th.

Sarah: Yes, yep, you've got this. Read whatever you want, and we'll count it.

Melody: Right. So, thank you so much, Sarah, for coming and joining us.

Rachel: Yes, thank you.

Sarah: Yes, thank you, it was a lot of fun!

Melody: Yeah, and if you liked the podcast or you want to listen to more, remember to rate, review, and subscribe, and you can look at the show notes to see all of the books we've talked about today—and documentary. I will also include that. And next month we are going to be talking about happiness, which is going to be an interesting discussion.

Rachel: And I believe, Sarah, you'll be joining us again! Yeah!

Sarah: I think so, yes! Yeah.

Melody: And we will also have another special guest. I'm going to leave it a surprise for you.

Sarah: Yes! (laughs)

Melody: And you can always talk to us. Let us know what you think using the #notyourmotherslibrary. Thanks for listening, happy reading.

Rachel and Melody: Bye!

(Brief outro music)