

## Not Your Mother's Library Transcript

### Mini-Episode 3: A Walk in the Woods

(Brief intro music)

Leah: Hello, and welcome to Not Your Mother's Library, a readers' advisory podcast from the Oak Creek Public Library. I'm Leah, your co-host alongside—but not next to—the wonderful Rachel. Welcome to another mini-episode to help keep you entertained during this pandemic. Again, I can't make any promises that we'll keep it up after the pandemic passes, so please relish it while it's happening. We thought we'd highlight different books or TV shows or just things that make us happy. It'll be a little all over the place, but enjoy this peek into our favorite things! The next book that I want to highlight is called "A Walk in the Woods," written by Bill Bryson. Let me start by painting a picture from a particular trip that I took. The scene: Northern Minnesota, 2011. Specifically, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. A vast one million and ninety thousand-acre wilderness area within the Superior National Forest in the northeastern part of Minnesota, and two Provincial Parks in Ontario, Canada. This is some of the most pristine wilderness around. You can see some truly amazing views. Seriously, I wish I could share some of the pictures I've taken there with you. You can pick wild blueberries and raspberries if you're lucky enough to find them around your campsite. Fresh blueberry pancakes? Yes, please! There are deer, beavers, eagles, tons of fish and loons. Hearing a loon call from across the lake where you're camping is really a beautiful moment maybe enjoyed with a cup of coffee and the utter stillness around you except for that call. Oh mean, that's my idea of bliss. In fact, let me insert a quick break here with what that might sound like. Feel free to pause and grab a cup of coffee first so you can really...enjoy the moment.

Sound effect: (loon call)

Leah: I hope you guys enjoyed your coffee and loon call moment as much as I did. But now that you're all caught up on what the Boundary Waters is, let's bring this back around to my trip in 2011. My best friend Kelsey and I were enjoying a trip to the Boundary Waters. As previously mentioned, everything we needed was in the packs on our backs. That included entertainment as well as food, clothing, shelter, et cetera. And because we needed space for all those necessary-to-survive items, I had to cut back on some of my books for entertainment. Listeners, you probably realize that books are also heavy. They can really weigh a pack down. I brought along just two books for our week-long trip. And yes, I worried about it. See, I'm a very fast reader. I can easily read a book in a day given enough interest in the topic and enough time. So, two books was...conservative. Halfway through the trip, I knew that it had, indeed, been a miscalculation. I was out of reading material. Times were dark. But Kelsey had her two books, and she wasn't even through her first, so I nabbed the second one and started reading. And this, listeners, brings us to the book we're discussing today: "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson. How apropos our trip where we were, indeed, walking in the woods! Let me read you the book jacket description: "The Appalachian Trail stretches from Georgia to Maine and covers some of the most breathtaking terrain in America—majestic mountains, silent forests, sparkling lakes. If you're going to take a hike, it's probably the place to go. And Bill Bryson is surely the most entertaining guide you'll find. He introduces us to the history and ecology of the trail and to some of the other hardy (or just foolhardy) folks he meets along the way—and a couple of bears. Already a classic, 'A Walk in the Woods'

will make you long for the great outdoors (or at least a comfortable chair to sit and read in).” As I read this book, thoroughly enjoying reading about nature while I was in nature, I got to the part where he encountered bears, and being a rather anxious person, this did not help my worry about personally meeting a bear. See, in the *Boundary Waters*, bears are a real worry. To start your trip, you check in at a ranger station to pick up your entry permit before you enter the wilderness area. You have to watch some safety videos, and bear precautions are featured pretty heavily. The major thing you do is take absolutely everything in your packs that has a scent—from food all the way to bug spray—and put that in one pack. You then string that pack high up into a tree about 200 feet away from your tent any time you’re sleeping or leaving the camp site. This helps prevent bears from entering your actual campsite. They’ll be attracted to the pack 200 feet away. Sometimes you have to get a little creative with where you string it up, too. Let me tell you, I was hyper aware of bear safety for the rest of that trip. But rest assured, we encountered no bears on that trip. Perhaps because of my overexaggerated caution, but more likely because we were two relatively chatty women, and the wildlife avoided us. This book is available on OverDrive, but I’d like to mention a few readalike books just in case this one is checked out. The major subject of this book is that it is a humor travel essay. There are many options on OverDrive that fall under these categories, and here are just a few of them. “Wild” by Cheryl Strayed. This one was turned into a movie with Reese Witherspoon, too. “Zero Days” written by Barbara Egbert. “Into the Wild” by Jon Krakauer. Also turned into a movie, starring Emile Hirsch. “The Lost City of Z” written by David Grann. Again, it also was turned into a movie, featuring Charlie Hunnam. “Grandma Gatewood’s Walk” by Ben Montgomery. And finally, any other book by Bill Bryson. The topic might be different, but his humor stays the same in whatever book he writes. My apologies again if I butchered any names, although I think I did pretty okay on this one. I’d like to mention our collection of about 400 ‘Always Available’ classics on OverDrive, and they are—as the title suggests—always available. If you go to [wplc.overdrive.com](http://wplc.overdrive.com) which will be linked in the shownotes, you can log in with your library card and browse these ‘always available’ books. On the main navigation bar, click on ‘Available now’ then scroll down to the list that is labeled as ‘Always Available’. And this topic—travel—features titles like “*Roughing It*” by Mark Twain or “*Travels in Alaska*” by John Muir. These books are all true travel literature. Moving on to movies... If this book is ringing any bells, like you might have seen a movie about it, you’re probably right! This book was made into a movie of the same title which starred Robert Redford. It also happens to be the only movie I’ve ever gone to all by my lonesome, because I was so excited about it. This would be an excellent movie to watch after you read the book, but let me mention a few other travel adventure TV shows and movies. “Naked and Afraid,” airing on the Discovery channel. A number of shows featuring Bear Grylls, like “Man vs. Wild,” “Running Wild,” “The Island.” They straddle different networks. “127 Hours,” starring James Franco. “Swiss Army Man,” with Paul Dano and Daniel Radcliffe. In the spirit of adventure, you could watch some “Indiana Jones,” as well! And I’ll mention again, a few of the readalike books were turned into movies. They’re listed in the show notes. This is by no means a comprehensive list. But maybe is a place to get started. Oh, and one more thing: this summer, I have a local author—Jim Landwehr—booked to come and talk at the library about his book entitled “*Dirty Shirt: A Boundary Waters Memoir*.” His book is available on OverDrive, if you’d like to read it. At the time of this recording, the event is still on, and we’d love to see you there! Just keep in mind that things with this pandemic are changing rapidly, and the event could be cancelled. And that’s the end of the episode! I hope this provided a little entertainment for you. All the books and shows I talked about will be in our show notes. Subscribe and rate the podcast if you like what you hear. You can

reach us through the library's website or the Facebook page. Be sure to use the #notyourmotherslibrary. Thanks so much for listening and, until next time, happy reading. Bye!

(Brief outro music)