

## Not Your Mother's Library Transcript

### Episode 20: Looking Forward to It

(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.

Leah: And I'm Leah.

Rachel: Right off the bat, let's just say it: this is our 20th full-length episode!

Leah and Rachel: Woohoo!

Rachel: If you have been listening since the beginning, thank you for sticking around. Conversely, if this is your very first intro to Not Your Mother's Library—welcome! We truly hope that you enjoy hearing about all sorts of media, library collections, and other, slightly more random stuff. Today, though, both Leah and I are going to act like the librarians we studied so hard to become and discuss some new books we're looking forward to reading in the coming months. Some of these titles were taken from the most recent issues of BookPage, a publication OCPL offers for free to all of our patrons, while supplies last. Discover your next great book with BookPage, an extensive catalog of upcoming fiction and non-fiction releases for all age groups covering myriad genres and subjects. Read detailed descriptions, find out more about popular authors, and look at all the pretty covers! If you want a copy but can't make it into the library building itself, you can request BookPage for Curbside Pick Up service. Simply fill out the Non-library Materials Request Form available on our website. That's [www.oakcreeklibrary.org/curbside](http://www.oakcreeklibrary.org/curbside). Now, without further ado, let's sink our teeth into some new reads!

Leah: Okay, so the very first book I want to tell you guys about is a brand-new graphic novel that I'm excited to read! I've always loved unique graphic novels, and sort of specifically non-fiction or fiction based on true events type of graphic novels. I just think it's an interesting way to target a new audience for history. They're really engaging, and I'd sure like to point out that graphic novels do have text to read, with complex plots and twists and turns. I've also always been drawn to art in various formats, and I'll directly credit that to my father who spent his working life as an art teacher. Anyways, listeners might remember that I also have an interest in true crime history. Well, y'all, there's a new graphic novel that just came out on October 13th, simply titled "Maids" by Katie Skelly. I'm familiar with the case that the graphic novel is covering, but I'm very interested to see it laid out in a graphic format and see how the

author/illustrator will tell the story! The case featured is that of Lea and Christine Papin, who “worked as maids for a wealthy French family until they murdered their employer’s wife and daughter in 1933.” I won’t go into any more detail to keep it as family friendly as possible, but I’m keen to see Skelly’s illustration style and how she interprets the crime. I have a hold on the title in our Milwaukee system, and there are a few more copies on order, as well.

Rachel: The first title that caught my eye was “The Harpy” by Megan Hunter, releasing on November 3rd. It is a mix between a “revenge tale” and a “fairytale.” Our main character, Lucy, lives with her husband Jake in a house with their children to whom she is utterly devoted. Their life together follows the same old, comfortable routines until—one day—Lucy receives a phone call from a stranger. He tells her that her husband, Jake, has been having an affair with another woman. Lucy confronts Jake about it, and they decide to stay married with the agreement that she will be allowed to hurt Jake in three different ways as compensation for his transgression. The blurb reads, “As the couple submit to a delicate game of crime and punishment, Lucy herself begins to change, surrendering to a transformation of both mind and body from which there is no return.” That sounds fascinating. I cannot wait to find out how she takes her revenge, and how it shifts her personality.

Leah: That does sound fascinating! The second book that I’m interested in reading is entitled “Cold Wind: A Mystery” by Paige Shelton. It’s the second in a series called “Alaska Wild,” and it will be released on December 1st, 2020. I actually haven’t read the first book, either, which is titled “Thin Ice,” but I came across “Cold Wind” while I was looking at forthcoming titles. It looked interesting, so I decided to see if the first book did, too. And guys, it did. Luckily, we have a copy right here at Oak Creek, so I scurried out to the shelves and checked it out. I definitely have a stack of books to get through, but this one might just jump ahead of the others. Isn’t that always the case with stacks of books? They just get bigger and bigger. Or maybe that’s just my stack of books. The book caught my attention because recently I’ve been binge watching the TV show “Life Below Zero.” If you’re not familiar, it’s a Nat Geo TV show that documents the lives of some folks who live very rurally in Alaska. I find it a super fascinating show, and seeing their daily struggles does help to make our winter struggles in Wisconsin seem...small.

Rachel: Right?

Leah: Make no mistake, I definitely wouldn’t be able to live the way they do, but the scenery gets an A+. A visit to Alaska is absolutely on my bucket list. Anyway, “Thin Ice” is about an author who relocates to a small town in Alaska, and finds herself embroiled in a murder mystery. Clearly, it all works out since the

main character—Beth Rivers—does make a return in the forthcoming “Cold Wind.” I’m interested to see how Alaska will be described and to see what the mystery will be! If you’re interested in the book “Thin Ice,” it’s held at multiple libraries, and you can snag an audiobook copy via Hoopla or Overdrive. I’m sure “Cold Wind” will be available in similar formats.

Rachel: This next title I’m interested in comes out on November 10th. Written by Hideo Yokoyama and translated to English by Jonathan Lloyd-Davies, “Prefecture D” is a compilation of four novellas, all of which are set in the year 1998. More importantly, they take place in the same universe as Yokoyama’s novel “Six Four,” which I haven’t actually read yet, but I do know that it’s about a cold-case kidnapping. The novellas center around crimes that different police officers are struggling to solve; in other words, each novella features a different case and a different main character. I love a good mystery, so this seems right up my alley. “Prefecture D” is also classified as a thriller, so it might be kind of dark. But that’s what this time of year is all about, right? Just listen to these titles: “Season of Shadows,” “Cry of the Earth,” “Black Lines,” and the most ominous, in my opinion: “Briefcase.” Intrigued yet?

Leah: Yes!

Rachel: (laughs) The author explores “themes of obsession, saving face, office politics, and interdepartmental conflicts. Placing everyday characters between a rock and a hard place and then dialing up the pressure.” Count me in!

Leah: So, shifting gears a little bit... (laughs) Another book that I’m looking forward to is actually a cookbook. I really like cooking, and especially cooking for my fiancé. It’s nice cooking for another person other than me. However, in a twist I’m sure surprises no one, meshing two styles of eating together is a bit of a challenge. This book touts itself as featuring “easy to prep dinner recipes your family will want to eat.” I’m hoping that a few recipes from the book will be hits in my house. As it features over 150 recipes, I think that’s a reasonable hope! Plus, if I can just put a cookbook in front of my fiancé and have him mark the recipes he might like, that’ll make menu planning a bit easier. Oh, I guess you’d probably like to hear the title: it’s called “Dinner Done,” by 5 authors. Leah Schapira, Victoria Dwek, Shaindy Menzer, Renee Muller, and Esti Waldman. It will be released November 18th, 2020. The book description made it clear that they run a blog called “Between Carpools,” which I went and checked out. Hadn’t heard of it before, but that’s hardly surprising as I don’t have kiddos yet, so family lifestyle blogs haven’t appealed. But cooking sure does, so I’ll be keeping an eye on that blog now.

Rachel: My next pick is also a non-fiction title, this one coming out on October 27th. So, it will hopefully be published by the time this episode of the podcast goes out. Author Heather Clark has written a biography called “Red Comet: The Short Life and Blazing Art of Sylvia Plath.” Plath is a very famous and popular poet—as well as a novelist—known for her confessional poetry, lifelong depression, and eventual suicide in the early 1960s. Her death has, I think, obscured a lot about who she might have been as a person, but it seems that with this biography Clark hopes to paint a clearer picture. She tracks Plath’s literary career as well as other aspects of her life, shedding new light with never-before-seen primary sources like unpublished letters and manuscripts, psychiatric records, and interviews. More importantly, Clark integrates the culture that Plath grew up in, including the aftermath of the Holocaust and the very real, looming shadow of atomic warfare. She also brings up Plath’s intimate relationships, with her mother, her husband—even her husband’s lover—which I think is entirely engrossing.

Leah: All right, the final book that I’m looking forward to reading is actually already out and sitting on my stack of ‘to be read’ books that I read earlier. My fiancé actually picked it up and gifted it to me, and I’m excited to dive into it. The book is called “The Thursday Murder Club,” by Richard Osman. If anyone is a fan of British quiz shows, I gather he’s the host of some but he’s branched out into novel writing. BookPage actually featured a short Q&A interview with him about his new book in their October 2020 issue, and it was interesting to hear a bit about his writing of it. You can access the book at Milwaukee library or on Overdrive. Anyways, the premise of the book is that four friends in a “peaceful retirement village...meet weekly...to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves The Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, The Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case.” Although, is it really a ‘live case’.

Rachel: Oh, my gosh. (laughs)

Leah: “As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it’s too late?” Doesn’t that sound interesting?

Rachel: It really does, man,

Leah: I’m definitely looking forward to seeing how that all turns out.

Rachel: I would be remiss if I didn’t mention a graphic novel that I’m looking forward to, because in the last few years that’s the type of literature I have been consuming the most. Keep an eye out for “Lumberjanes Vol. 16: Mind over Mettle” by Shannon Watters when it releases on December 22nd. This

series is actually classified as juvenile fiction, and the art style is so much fun! Following a group of girls at a summer scout camp, plots often revolve around supernatural creatures and other strange phenomena. Volume 16 marks the conclusion to the arc, but there are 'bonus' comics and even a series of novels intended for middle-grade readers. As far as I can tell, "Mind over Mettle" is about an alternate dimension full of dinosaurs and wibbly-wobbly time shenanigans. One of the regular characters—Mal—gets stranded there, and she has to try and find her way back to camp while her friends search for a way to help her from their side of the universe. I recommend the whole series for readers young and old. OCPL currently has the complete collection, and we will definitely be ordering this final installment. If you're inclined toward digital formats, both full volumes and single issues of "Lumberjanes" are available on Hoopla. Read the comics using this platform's 'Dynamic View' to make the story all the more enjoyable!

Leah: Well, you've definitely intrigued me with "Lumberjanes." I might have to hop downstairs and check out volume 1! We hope that these suggestions are as tantalizing for you as they are for me! (laughs) Check the show notes for further details on everything we talked about this episode. We also want to mention that the podcast will be going on its regular end-of-the-year hiatus, so we will be back in early 2021. Now is a really good time to go back and listen to any episodes that you might have missed. Don't forget to tune into the mini-episodes we recorded this past spring and summer. Please subscribe and rate the podcast if you like what you hear. You can easily reach us through Oak Creek Public Library's website or Facebook page. Just use the #notyourmotherslibrary Until next time, happy reading.

Rachel and Leah: Bye!

(Brief outro music)