

Podcasts for Book Lovers

By Laura Stoll, Assistant to the Director

When I have some downtime, there are two things that I find completely relaxing: reading a book or listening to a podcast. There's nothing better than putting my feet up and getting caught up in a great story, especially if it takes me to another time and place. When it comes to a good book or podcast, either can whisk me away from reality.

If you're not familiar with podcasts, they are audio files that you download from the internet onto your phone or tablet. Think of them as old-time radio shows but for modern days. There are podcasts by famous hosts (Conan O'Brien, NPR, Glennon Doyle, etc.) on a wide array of subjects (politics, pop culture, and even fiction). Episodes can be as short as five minutes and as long as an hour and a half. Because they're on your mobile device, you can take them in the car, to the backyard, or just over to the couch.

There are plenty of podcasts about books, hosted by authors, and even one made by a local library. Here are a few literary podcasts that I listen to and recommend. If you'd like help learning how to get started with podcasts, stop by and see our Tech Time volunteer on Wednesdays from 10-1 p.m. or give us a call at 315-853-2038 to set up an appointment.

"Wilder" from iHeart Podcasts. It will come as no surprise to my friends and family that I fell in love with a Laura Ingalls Wilder podcast. The eight-part series discusses who Wilder really was, the reality behind her famous books, and how we should think about them now. Host Glynnis MacNicol makes no excuses for the problematic portrayal of indigenous Americans in the books but puts Wilder's experience into the wider lens of American history. Maybe my judgment is clouded by my lifelong fascination with all things "Little House," but I was compelled enough to binge the first five episodes of this podcast in one day.

"Books, Beach, and Beyond" with Elin Hilderbrand and Tim Ehrenberg. It will also come as no surprise that my second favorite podcast is hosted by Hildebrand, Nantucket's premier beach writer. In addition to chatting with Ehrenberg about her own books, the pair interview authors including Taylor Jenkins Reid and Kristin Hannah. Their conversation drifts between the writing process, the publishing industry, and how books are brought to the big (or small) screen. Listening to an episode of this show will make any budding writer think, "If they can do it, I can do it!"

"Celebrity Memoir Book Club" with Claire Parker and Ashley Hamilton. The tagline for this show is "We read the book so you don't have to." The comedic pair have covered a lot of books that piqued my curiosity but not enough to read 500 pages; celebrity authors Tori Spelling, Brooke Shields, Padma Lakshmi, and Lily Collins were recent episodes that had me laughing out loud. While they often poke fun at the books, the episodes are always chock full of funny stories and celebrity connections. This is one show I wish I'd thought of making before Claire and Ashley did.

"Our Director Made Us Do This: The Podcast" from the Oneida Public Library. You read that right: this podcast comes directly from another Mid York library! Hosts Ariel Bero and Colleen Samura explore the world of books and libraries. Their banter is supplemented by special guests from the library world as they talk about what they're reading, what's happening at the Oneida Public Library, and other interesting topics. When I listen to them, I feel like I'm standing at our front desk and chatting with my smart and friendly library colleagues. They're

currently on summer break but maybe in the Fall, they'll invite some special guests from the Kirkland Town Library. We can only dream!