

Ep. 68.5 | Most Anticipated Reads Pt. 2 with Lupita of @Lupita.Reads

Kendra [00:00:09] Hello, I'm Kendra Winchester, here with Autumn Privett. And this is Reading Women, a podcast inviting you to reclaim half the bookshelf by discussing books written by or about women. And this is episode 68.5, where we're talking about our most anticipated books for the second half of 2019.

Autumn [00:00:27] And we are thrilled to have Lupita of @Lupita.Reads with us today to also talk about some of the books she's looking forward to. So welcome, Lupita, to the podcast.

Lupita [00:00:38] Thank you so much for having me. I'm so excited to be on the podcast.

Kendra [00:00:43] Well, we've been internet friends for a very long time. And Autumn I were like, it's time. It's time.

Lupita [00:00:49] I'm so excited. I really . . . when I got your message, I was like Yes!

Autumn [00:00:54] Yeah, I feel like we're always playing tag with our reviews. Like, you'll post something, and then we'll read it or vice versa. I feel like it's kind of fun to read the same books as well.

Lupita [00:01:06] That's very true.

Kendra [00:01:07] And I always remember our unofficial buddy read of my favorite summer read of all time, which is BARKSKINS. And it was huge, and I think you took it to the movie theater, and I was taking it around with me place It was a great buddy.

Lupita [00:01:20] It was a traveling buddy read for sure.

Kendra [00:01:23] How do you . . . well, you have, like what, an 800 page hardback book?

Lupita [00:01:26] It was so heavy, but it was so good.

Kendra [00:01:30] It was so good. So we are here today to talk about our most anticipated reads of the second half of 2019. That's from months July to December. And, Lupita, you have our first pick.

Lupita [00:01:41] I do. So it was really hard for me to narrow it down to just a few because I know we have, you know, we don't have a lot of time on the podcast. Otherwise this would be way too long. But the very first one, and I don't know if it's a surprise to anyone because I've been kind of raving about it, is CANTORAS by Carolina De Robertis. It's being published by Knopf on September 3rd. And I am just extremely excited about this novel because I have already read it. So I'm cheating a little bit, and it was one that caught me by complete surprise. It wasn't on my radar at all. Actually, somebody at the indie bookstore that I work with, they said, "Hey, you need to read this. It seems like it's up your alley." And I didn't pay any attention at all. And then another bookstagrammer, actually called @_perpetualpages_, posted about it and was really excited about reading it. And I said, Oh, okay. I have this ARC. And just to give you a background, Perpetual Pages is a big bookstagrammer about queer books. So I had no idea it was queer. And to cut it short, I'll just tell you that this book is a queer novel about lesbian Latino women and them reclaiming their power, making their own families outside of the families that they have.

And just the fierceness of chosen families and embracing your femininity. And there's just so much greatness in this novel.

Autumn [00:03:17] When I saw your review of this a couple days ago, or you posted about it a couple days ago, I was like, Oh my gosh, I have to read this book. It sounds so good.

Lupita [00:03:27] It's honestly the best book I've read that really talks about and describes how women love each other on different levels. You do have the sexual level and the intimacy. And I feel like a lot of . . . at least in media and sometimes in books . . . we kind of tend to fantasize women and women loving women. And this book just doesn't do that. You know, it's just so real. And that's why I love it so much.

Kendra [00:03:59] You definitely put it on my radar. I remember you posted it a few times on your Instagram, and I was like, Well, if Lupita posts about it this many times, obviously I need to read this book. Because it does sound really fabulous, and you just make it sound so wonderful. I'm just, I'm sold. Like, that's all.

Lupita [00:04:22] I'm happy you're sold. I want to sell everybody. I want to sell everybody on this. I want everybody to read it. So the novel is CANTORAS by Carolina De Robertis.

Autumn [00:04:36] My first pick is THE BOOK OF X by Sarah Rose Etter. This is published by Two Dollar Radio. It is coming out July 16th, and I too have cheated and already read this book. And the more I read from Two Dollar Radio, the more I just absolutely love everything they publish because it's just so weird and wonderful and unlike anything you'll read. So this one is about a girl named Cassie, and it's kind of a . . . it's a surreal world. I wouldn't quite call it dystopian, but she's born with a knot in her stomach. Like imagine a person twisted like a pretzel, and that's what she's born like. So it's external, and she's the third woman in her family to have been born this way. And she has an older brother, and he doesn't have it. Her family has a meat farm because in this world that Sarah has created, you harvest meat out of these canyons. So it's a coming of age story as Sarah kind of wrestles with her femininity and her sexuality. Because she's tall, her classmates and stuff, they think she's weird and a freak. And they don't want to touch her, or they want to exploit her. And then as she becomes a woman and then dealing with doctors and medical professionals who are trying to fix her. And then she's just trying to have a normal life. So this is a book that really, I thought the premise was really interesting before I read it. But it really caught me off guard how much I really liked it even though it's really strange because it's told in a series of present-tense events. Then she has these visions, which are these imagined scenarios that she wishes reality was like. And then there's also just lists of random facts relating to topics that people are talking about. It's really different. But I actually really enjoyed it.

Kendra [00:06:47] It sounds so so weird and wonderful in all of the best ways. And I just keep thinking about THE DEEPER THE WATER THE UGLIER THE FISH and how weird that was. And they seem to publish such on point, weird kind of novels. They take more risks that way. It's just, it's just great.

Autumn [00:07:09] Yeah. And I don't think this book will be for everyone, to be honest. I think some of . . . Because she deals so graphically with what it's like to be a woman in the world and how women are treated and objectified and raped and abused, it's not going to be for everybody. And it's definitely has its triggering moments. But at the same time, having a book that so clearly deals with . . . especially medical things, like what it's like to be a woman going to a doctor's office and not being believed for something that's very

obvious to you that is going on with you. I think it's just really, I don't know, it's just really good. I haven't really seen it novelized this way before.

Lupita [00:07:58] Yeah, I haven't heard of any novel that, or I haven't read any novel, that has that experience. And I think that's really interesting in terms of, you know, women tend to not be believed when they go to the doctor, and they have issues, and you share it. And it's like, Oh, it's psychosomatic. It's, you know, it's anything but what it actually is.

Autumn [00:08:24] Well, the surrealism of this book, I think, highlights how absurd that really is. Because at one point, there's this doctor that's like, Yeah, I'm going to give you a series of 23 shots of sugar water, and you'll be healed. So it's like that over the top. And it kind of underscores what is actually going on. So I definitely think that this is . . . Yeah, I definitely enjoy this book. It's definitely very weird, but also really really good and one I'll be thinking about for a while.

Kendra [00:08:54] You know I saw that Liberty Hardy was saying something about, if you get a tattoo of their logo, they'll give you free books for life.

Autumn [00:09:00] No way. It's tempting. It's very tempting.

Kendra [00:09:03] Autumn. Yeah. I'm not sure if they specify how big it has to be. So you know. . . .

Autumn [00:09:10] It's tempting.

Lupita [00:09:12] I would totally get a tattoo for free books.

Autumn [00:09:17] I need to look into the details of that because, so far, everything I read, I've loved. So that is THE BOOK OF X by Sarah Rose Etter.

Kendra [00:09:29] In my first pick is, I mean, it surprises no one. And it is HEAVEN, MY HOME by Attica Locke and set up from Mulholland Books, which is an imprint of Little Brown. It's out on September 17th. And I loved BLUEBIRD, BLUEBIRD, which was the first book in this mystery series. Attica Locke, she does these great character-focused mystery series, and this is my jam. I'm not really into plot-focused mystery series, which is the most of mysteries out there. But when she looks at the character, and the protagonist of this book is Darren Mathews, and he's a Texas Ranger. And in the first book, he was investigating a double murder of a black man and a white woman. And he goes this small town in Texas and plot ensues. Well, this book is about a missing boy of some kind. There's an investigation going on because he's kind of under review, and there's this weird thing with this mom going on. So there's a lot going on in his life. And then there's a missing boy and just the dynamics of that, and I don't want to say anything else because it's a mystery. BLUEBIRD, BLUEBIRD is being made into a television series with Attica Locke writing because she is a television writer as well. She wrote for Empire. I'm just so excited. Like I just cannot describe the joy that is going through my body. So I absolutely love it. And also since I mainly do audio books, the narrator I have to say of the series is J.D. Jackson. And I hope they use the same narrator for this next book in the series because he did a fabulous job with the first book's narration, and I will definitely be picking up the audio book when it comes out in September.

Autumn [00:11:12] I just love her settings too, like how she creates this world and she's so good.

Kendra [00:11:19] And it's not just fluff. She has a lot of social commentary, especially on race in the South, which I think is so important. And there's actually a scene in BLUEBIRD, BLUEBIRD where someone from the North says, Darren, why do you say in the South when you're an African American man and there's a lot of racism. And he's like, I belong here just as much as anyone else. And I want to stay in my home. And so I do, and I try to make a difference where I am at. Basically that's a paraphrase. I was just cheering him on. Like yes! Like so Attica Locke writes about the South and being a black person in the South and just from multiple perspectives. And I'll just quit gushing. But I just, I just adore her.

Lupita [00:12:04] Now I'm totally sold on it. I am excited to read it. I love when people gush about books, and you can really feel the love of them. And then you're like, oh gosh, okay, I need to read this book.

Autumn [00:12:16] Yeah. And that's how I discovered Attica Locke was Kendra gushing over it, and I was like, fine, I'll read it. Now she's one of my favorites.

Lupita [00:12:27] I like how you reluctantly said, Fine, I'll read it.

Kendra [00:12:29] That's Autumn and I's relationship in a nutshell.

Autumn [00:12:33] I mean, basically.

Kendra [00:12:38] Then we're like, oh, okay, yeah of course, I should . . . I just should have trusted you. And then the process repeats itself.

Lupita [00:12:43] I was just going to ask, Kendra, did you get to say, I told you so?

Kendra [00:12:46] I feel like I just have this silence over the phone, and there's just like this . . . Mm hmm. Mm hmm. But she recommended THE OLD DRIFT recently, so it goes back and forth.

Autumn [00:13:00] It goes both ways.

Kendra [00:13:02] So that was HEAVEN, MY HOME by Attica Locke. And that comes out September 17th.

Autumn [00:13:08] And we'll be back in just a minute with more of our anticipated book releases after a word from our sponsor.

Kendra [00:13:16] Lupita, you have our next pick.

Lupita [00:13:20] So the next book that I'm super excited to read is RED AT THE BONE by Jacqueline Woodson. It's being published by Riverhead Books. It's out September 17th. I feel like, with Jacqueline Woodson, I absolutely came to her and her work very late. I actually started reading ANOTHER BROOKLYN when it was published, I believe it was like two years ago? Or a year ago? So I fell in love with ANOTHER BROOKLYN. And the recommendation for Jacqueline Woodson actually came from my goddaughter, who is ten. Which I think is what makes me love Jacqueline Woodson even more. And to know that she can go from writing children's books and literature for children to writing something like ANOTHER BROOKLYN, the spectrum of a genius in her work, it just . . . immediately I

was like, please Riverhead Books, please, just please send me an ARC. I preordered it already. Please! That's why I'm actually really excited to read the book and before even knowing what it's about. And then fast forward, getting the book. Thank you to Riverhead Books, who actually sent me a copy. I was really surprised to learn that one of the main themes in the book is when young people make long-lasting decisions about their lives even before they begin to figure out who they are. And I feel like that really resonated with me because sometimes you think you make a decision that is not going to be permanent, and you really don't ever know in life where that leads you or what where it takes you or what consequences it has. Thinking about ANOTHER BROOKLYN and just the way she poetically wrote that novel, I can only imagine I'm going to be so in love with this one. And that's why I'm super excited about that one.

Kendra [00:15:13] I just admire her so much because, like you said, she has such a wide range of talents and writing styles. And she's such an advocate for diverse literature in publishing, and she's just so good at what she does on all levels.

Autumn [00:15:30] But I also agree with you about ANOTHER BROOKLYN because I was late to it as well. And then I read it, and I still remember, I was sitting on my back porch, and it was summer, and I was just sobbing through this book because she's so good.

Lupita [00:15:46] And the passages in ANOTHER BROOKLYN, just quick passages hit you in the gut, you know. I'm really excited. I did a really big fangirl thing. I was at ALA. and I walked past her. And I stopped, and I was like "Jacqueline Woodson." And she looked at me, and she was just like . . . she didn't look at me like I was crazy. She was very nice, and she looked at me, and she said hi. She kept going, and I was just like, Did that just happen? It was embarrassing. It was just one of those moments where, you know, your brain is like saying it in your head and somehow it comes out your mouth. And I'm so excited for that book. So the title of the book is RED AT THE BONE by Jacqueline Woodson, and it's out by Riverhead Books September 17th.

Autumn [00:16:37] So my next pick is I'M TELLING THE TRUTH, BUT I'M LYING by Bassey Ikpi, and this book is being published by Harper Perennial on August 20th. And this is a collection of essays. And Bassey is actually a multi-winning jam poet. She was on the show HBO's Def Poetry Jam. And so she was a poet for a really long time. Her bio actually says, though, that she's an ex-poet now. So this is an essay collection / memoir talking about her diagnosis of Bipolar II. I haven't read this one yet, but according to what I've read about it, it's talking about her discovering that she had Bipolar II after not knowing it for several, several years. But then she also explores after that, what do we think about as a society when we think about mental health and how do we talk about it and how do we perceive people who struggle with mental health or have had mental health diagnoses? And so since it's in essay form, she's able to take it from very different aspects. And it says some of the things she'll talk about is how you present yourself to other people and what it means to be normal. So I'm really excited to read this just because I am glad that more people are talking about mental health and talking about mental health more broadly, not just depression things that we're more familiar with now, but other mental health things like Bipolar II and things like that. I haven't read a lot of nonfiction this year. For some reason I don't know why that is. Some years I read a ton of nonfiction first half of the year and some years I don't. And this is a year where I'm not. So I was excited just to pick it up for that reason too. But also since she's a poet, I love reading books by people who are poets. There's just a rhythm to their words that just makes me melt.

Lupita [00:18:44] Yeah, as you were describing the book, Esme Weijun Wang's book THE COLLECTED SCHIZOPHRENIAS came to mind. I don't know if you guys read that. That was really kind of reminds me of what the book is. And now I want to read it. Because I need that.

Autumn [00:19:06] It's actually on my stack right here, and I haven't read it yet. But I have this book, THE COLLECTIVE SCHIZOPHRENIAS, and then I also have THE EDGE OF EVERYDAY by Marin Sardy, which also deals with schizophrenia. So I'm hoping I can read them all in close proximity just to get different takes on it.

Kendra [00:19:27] There's been so many great books about mental health coming out in the last few years, and we're going to be covering mental health in a theme later this year. So that's definitely something that's been on my radar as well, obviously, after Autumn found it. And so I feel like women, especially, and then women of color talking about mental health has just been so important for the literary landscape. And I think this will be a great addition to that discussion.

Autumn [00:19:56] So that is I'M TELLING THE TRUTH, BUT I'M LYING by Bassey Ikpi, and that is out by Harper Perennial.

[00:20:05] And my next pick is FRANKISSSTEIN by Jeanette Winterson. This is out from Grove Press October 1st. And I didn't even realize she had a book coming out until I saw the display and saw the book and immediately went over and was like, Please, can I just have this book? And you guys might remember that we discussed ORANGES ARE NOT THE ONLY FRUIT and WHY BE HAPPY last year. WHY BE HAPPY WHEN YOU CAN BE NORMAL, which is her memoir and ORANGES was her debut novel, and then when she wrote the memoir, it was rehashing the same topics. But she was like, Here are the things about my actual life that I changed for that novel. And then she wrote that in her later memoir, like 20 years later. She is a writer who for very personal reasons is so incredibly important to me. And I just sobbed my way through those two books, and they're just incredibly beautiful. I have yet to read another novel by her. So when I saw this I was like, Yes. Of course. And you also may remember that Mary Shelley's FRANKENSTEIN had a big anniversary recently. And so she wrote about how this book is about Mary Shelley writing Frankenstein, but then it's also about a Brexit Britain when a young transgender doctor called Ry is falling in love with a person called Victor Steine. And then there's also a Ron Lord, who is divorced, and he's living with his mom again. But he starts creating this business creating sex stalls for people. And then there's also a room full of people who are medically dead, but they're ready to come alive again. And you can see all of these different perspectives are playing on the idea of Frankenstein and Frankenstein monster and everything that was going on with Mary Shelley. And Jeanette Winterson has an incredible imagination. You can read her Christmas stories to know she can write about one topic five billion different ways, and I think she does that in this novel from the sounds of it. And I'm just, I'm just so excited, guys. I just, I just love her so much. She's so good.

Lupita [00:22:10] I saw ARCs of this when in ALA, and they were gone. I couldn't even get to the table. And I saw them from the back. I was like, somebody posted about this. And I couldn't remember who, and I meant to beeline to grab it, and they were gone.

Kendra [00:22:24] I feel like in America, she's not as well known. But she is such a brilliant writer, and she's written so many novels. I just don't even know how she writes so much. She's just so good at what she does and so imaginative and

Autumn [00:22:39] I mean, based off of everything you just rattled off, it sounds like she packs a ton into that book.

Kendra [00:22:46] Yes! And there's just something about Jeanette Winterson, her perspective and her background, that I relate to. So I feel like we come at novels with a similar perspective in a lot of ways. And so, I deeply relate to her books personally. And so for me, I just, the fact that one of my favorite authors has a new book coming out is just . . . there's nothing like it in the bookish world. You know, when your favorite or one of your favorite authors has a new book coming out. Also it's coming out in October, which I think is perfect for a Frankenstein-inspired novel. I was like, tell me who's narrating the audiobook now please. And that is Frankissstein by Jeanette Winterson. And that is out from Grove Press on October 1st.

Kendra [00:23:28] And we'll be back with more of our anticipated book releases for the second half of 2019 after word from our sponsor.

Autumn [00:23:38] So then, Lupita, what is your last pick?

Lupita [00:23:42] Well, my last pick is IN THE DREAM HOUSE by Carmen Maria Machado being published by Graywolf Press November 5th. And going back to what Autumn said about when one of your favorite authors is out with a book, this is how I felt when I heard that Carmen Maria Machado was out with a new book, and it was a memoir! At first I didn't even know it was a memoir. I didn't care what it was. I just wanted it immediately. Because it's Carmen Maria Machado, and it's like, please please can I have a copy? I didn't even care what it was about, which I think is so funny. I think that when it's a good author, and you love the author, and you feel connected to them on different levels, which I do with Carmen Maria Machado, you really don't care what they're writing. You just want to read the writing, right?

Kendra [00:24:32] Exactly.

Lupita [00:24:33] But I found out that this book actually touches on a really really important topic. Her memoir talks about domestic violence in a queer relationship, which I think is not often talked about. I think it's extremely important because we kind of think women and women that are in relationships with women, they don't encounter any violence, and it can't be violent. You know it's safe and it's perfect. There's no drama, right? Well, it's not, right? She talks about a relationship that she was in that was very toxic and in which she encountered that domestic violence and how she goes back, looking into her past and how it is that she got where she got and how she ended up in this relationship. So that's one of the reasons that now I'm like super excited to read it, forget that it's Carmen Maria Machado. Now based on the topic and what the book's about, I'm really excited to read about it. And then we have Roxane Gay. I don't know if everybody saw that she tweeted about reading her book, and I'm going to quote it because I need to. She said, "It's so good. I have to put the book down after each chapter to contemplate never writing again because why bother? Why bother?" Roxane Gay said that about it. If you don't want the book after reading that, I just don't know.

Autumn [00:26:04] As soon as I saw that, I was like, I need to go preorder this. Like, twelve of these.

Kendra [00:26:10] I think especially since Roxane Gay added to the collection NOT THAT BAD, where it also talks about sexual assault in queer relationships and women in queer

relationships. There was an essay or two in there, and I had never read anything on the topic before, and so I didn't realize until you were saying that that's what Carmen Maria Machado was going to discuss in her memoir. And so you know it's going to be written so well too.

Lupita [00:26:40] Yeah, and I've heard that it still has those elements that she . . . you know . . . if you read her short stories, she has a little fantasy, a little almost like sci-fi. It's hard to describe it. It's weird, right? And so she apparently, in her memoir, there's also elements of that. So I'm really excited about that.

Kendra [00:27:00] You know, I feel like I'm the weirder book collector of Autumn and me, but Autumn was very specific about "I want this edition of Carmen Maria Machado's short stories." I was so proud.

Autumn [00:27:11] Yeah, the UK cover HER BODY AND OTHER PARTIES is neon green.

Autumn [00:27:23] You really do. It just stands out on your shelf, and it's the perfect color where people go, "What is that?" And you get to talk about.

Lupita [00:27:32] Oh my goodness. So where did you get this? How did you get this? I need it today.

Autumn [00:27:37] Book Depository.

Lupita [00:27:40] Okay, I'm going to take a break to go find it.

Kendra [00:27:46] It's book edition kryptonite. Your wife might protest about what's happening to your wallet.

Lupita [00:27:54] You guys are going to get me in trouble.

Autumn [00:27:55] Don't tell her it was us. Please. Don't tell her it was us.

Lupita [00:27:59] No, she loves you guys, so I think she might let me pass. So the title is IN THE DREAM HOUSE by Carmen Maria Machado. It's out by Graywolf Press November 5th.

Autumn [00:28:11] And my last pick is from another indie publisher. It is THE NOT WIVES by Carley Moore. And this is published by Feminist Press and will be coming out on September 10th. And this is a book that . . . well, I really love the Feminist Press. I think that their mission is really cool, and I think that they're also publishing a wide variety of voices and all kinds of women's perspectives. So I was really excited when they sent me a copy of this book. It is set around the time of Occupy Wall Street. So pretty recent-ish history, but it follows three women who are living in New York, but it's not like a three-women-living-in-New-York story because they're dealing with topics like gentrification, and one of them is going through a divorce, and one of them is having a fight with her girlfriend, and one of them is homeless right now. And so it's kind of tracking these three women and their relationships as they're trying to navigate the changes that are going on in the city, especially as it relates to the Occupy Wall Street movement. So it sounds really interesting. I like books that kind of triangulate women's relationships and kind of shows women's dynamics. And all these women seem to be so radically different and not your

typical characters that you would expect for a women-living-in-New-York kind of story, so I'm excited to dig into it.

Kendra [00:29:59] For whatever reason, I've never heard this book before you put it on our list for today.

Autumn [00:30:06] Yeah. I don't necessarily know that I ever see books by Feminist Press much anywhere. They reached out to us earlier this year and sent us their catalog. And once I started looking through it, I was really impressed by the range of books that they had. And as I mentioned, the range of voices and topics and titles and genres and stuff like that.

Lupita [00:30:28] Yeah, it sounds really interesting. And like Kendra said, I've never heard of this before. But I do know Feminist Press publishes one of my all-time favorite authors.

Autumn [00:30:39] Who is the author?

Lupita [00:30:40] Ana Castillo.

Autumn [00:30:43] Oh, I didn't realize they published her.

Lupita [00:30:46] Yeah. They published her memoir; I believe it was two years ago, BLACK DOVE. And then they've also published one of her recent fiction, which is really strange and nothing like her other fiction. I can't remember the name of it right now, but they're her publisher.

Autumn [00:31:02] Well, that's one of the reasons why I kind of wanted to highlight this book was because indie presses are doing really interesting work. I would like for more people to know about them and find them and read them. So yeah. But I'm also interested in reading . . . you know, as someone who is in school or whatever I was doing with my life when Occupy Wall Street happened. . . . But I'm interested also to read a book set in that time period too to maybe kind of rethink it a little bit for myself. So yeah, I'm very much interested in getting into THE NOT WIVES by Carley Moore, coming out from Feminist Press in September.

Kendra [00:31:38] So my last pick is THE REVISIONERS by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton, and that's out from Counterpoint, November 5th. And we interviewed Margaret Wilkerson Sexton a couple years ago when her book A KIND OF FREEDOM came out. And we love that multigenerational novel that was in a very short amount of space. It was her debut novel, and she was long listed for the National Book Award. And the way that she's able to write about families in such a short page count is just fabulous. And she was telling us about her next project, which I believe is this novel, and it's also about families. So this book is about Josephine in 1925, and she becomes friends with a white woman named Charlotte. And it's about their relationship and dynamic in 1925 and then nearly 100 years later we have Josephine's descendant Ava. And then she moves in with her white grandmother Martha, and so it's dynamics mix between women but also between races over the course of time. It's a family saga. All of these things and all of that is done in 288 pages, which I mean she's just so talented. Like how do you do that?

Autumn [00:32:56] And how do you get a book done two years? I mean, I'm sure she started on it long before then, but . . . She's just amazing.

Lupita [00:33:06] And I love a great family saga or anything generational. And to be done in such a short . . . Yeah, that's not enough pages. I need to read it. I want to see what's going to happen.

Autumn [00:33:22] I mean, that's a good point because usually multigenerational novels are PACHINKO length.

Lupita [00:33:27] Yes.

Kendra [00:33:28] Yeah. Or BARKSKINS length. But Margaret Wilkerson Sexton is able to create this family dynamic in such a short space. But she also tackles a lot of difficult topics. And since she is an African American woman writer, she often tackles topics around race and families and those dynamics and the way that she's able to bring that to the table. Like in A KIND OF FREEDOM, she featured New Orleans. And then over the course of generations, she eventually got to a post-Katrina New Orleans. And she just wove together this beautiful story about family and characters. And yeah, I mean, she just one I want to watch. And also Counterpoint is such a great publisher. I feel like we don't talk about that enough, but they just publish such a great list of books. And they always have amazing covers. I mean Nicole Caputo, I believe, is there their art director or one of their directors, and she just does a great job with overseeing their covers. And it's just a very dreamy, dreamy publisher that I just always pay attention to whatever they publish.

Lupita [00:34:38] I completely agree. I met some of their . . . I'm going to call them their book fairies . . . at ALA when they were at their booth, and they're so nice. They're so nice, and they're so knowledgeable about the books, and they're so passionate about the books that they're publishing. I mean, that's a dream.

Kendra [00:35:00] And they're internationally known as well. I mean, they're one of the main . . . Sumaiyya even has talked about them and some of the books they publish. They published a Middle Eastern novel that she's just raving about right now. It has a sun in the title.

Lupita [00:35:12] Yes, it's . . . I don't remember. I read it, and I was so happy to see her raving about it because it's one of those books that didn't, other than me, I didn't see many reviews on it, or I didn't see it kind of talked about a lot. And now I'm going to have to look it up. It's TO KEEP THE SUN ALIVE.

Kendra [00:35:30] They're doing a great job. And I've heard people in the UK talking about them as well. So I mean, they're all . . . they're everywhere, and they're publishing such a diverse list of books from a wide range of settings and authors and perspectives that I just respect them. They're one of my favorite publishers. And so, I'm just so excited that this book is coming out. And that is THE REVISIONERS by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton coming up from Counterpoint on November 5th.

Autumn [00:35:59] I can't believe this is like a half of the year, but I'm so excited to read all of these books because I will now have to read all of them.

Kendra [00:36:07] You know, fall is my favorite season not just because it's my favorite season but but also because it's the biggest publishing time of the year.

Lupita [00:36:14] Yeah, I don't know if I'm ready.

Kendra [00:36:18] I always love that song, the most wonderful time of the year, whatever Christmas song that is, but about the fall for publishing. So we're so excited about all of these books, and of course all of them will be linked in our show notes along with all the information we've talked about today. So you'll definitely want to go check that out. And, Lupita, thank you so much for coming on the podcast and talking about some of your most anticipated reads.

Lupita [00:36:41] Thank you to both of you so much for having me and inviting me and letting me just kind of like gab and talk too much about these books, and I just appreciate you guys so much. Thank you.

Kendra [00:36:55] That's our show. And of course a special thanks to Lupita for joining us on today's episode. You can find her on Instagram @lupita.reads. And of course all her information will be linked in our show notes. If you haven't yet please leave us a review in your podcast app of choice, and thanks to all of you who have already done that. My thanks to our patrons whose support makes this podcast possible. To subscribe to our newsletter or to learn more about becoming one of our patrons, visit us at readingwomenpodcast.com.

Autumn [00:37:25] So be sure to tune in to the Reading Women next time where we will be kicking off our month's theme, which is the partition of India. We will have Sumaiyya on to be talking about some of her books from that theme as well. But in the meantime, you can find Reading Women on Instagram and Twitter @theReadingWomen. You can find Kendra @kdwinchester and me @autumnprivett. Thank you all so much for listening, and we'll talk to you next time.