

Shuffle Collective Live Show

[00:00:01] **Kendra** And recording one. Here we go. All right.

[00:00:17] **Kendra** Hello, I'm Kendra Winchester, here with Jaclyn Masters. And this is Reading Women, a podcast inviting you to reclaim half the bookshelf by discussing books written by or about women. And today, this is a very special episode recorded live for the Weekend of Words Virtual Book Festival. Today, we're talking about debut novels released around the COVID-19 crisis and that may have been overlooked. So we're very excited to share them with you today.

[00:00:43] **Jaclyn** And you can find a complete transcript and list of all of the books that we're going to be talking about today mentioned in our show notes. And don't forget to subscribe to the Reading Women podcast so you don't miss a single episode.

[00:00:56] **Kendra** Well, Jaclyn, this is our very first live recording. So. I don't think we've ever actually recorded a podcast episode where we can see each other before.

[00:01:06] **Jaclyn** We haven't. So I feel like we're used to very audible cues, but we're not so much used to seeing each other's faces when we're recording. So this is nice. It feels like we're actually in the same room for once.

[00:01:15] **Kendra** Yeah, it's like we're sitting down with coffee and just chatting about books.

[00:01:20] **Jaclyn** Yeah. It's lovely.

[00:01:21] **Kendra** So for you who are listening at home after this was recorded, we also have a live audience. And they are going to be submitting some questions, and so you may hear us answer them. We will, of course, read those questions out loud for you and give our answers that way. But yeah, that's going to be pretty exciting, I think.

[00:01:39] **Jaclyn** Yeah.

[00:01:40] **Kendra** All right. So do we just want to jump in and start talking about debut novels?

[00:01:47] **Jaclyn** Yep. Let's do it. I think I've got the first book. Right?

[00:01:49] **Kendra** Yeah.

[00:01:50] **Jaclyn** So the first book that I want to talk about, I don't have a physical copy of. So, Kendra, for our watching audience. . . . The first book is A BURNING by Megha Majumdar. And this is a book that I first heard about from another one of our co-hosts, Sumaiyya. And she raved about this book and majorly put it on my radar too. So this is out from Knopf next month, so the second of June. So if you want to preorder it, you can.

[00:02:18] **Jaclyn** But it is a narrative set in contemporary India. And we're following three different timelines, and the chapters alternate between these perspectives. So we're following Jivan, who is a young Muslim girl from the slums. And we're also following Lovely, who is an aspiring actress from a marginalized community within India. And then we're following one of Jivan's former teachers, a man called PT Sir. And the way that all of

these characters come together is really complex and layered. But essentially it starts in the very first scene with a terrorist attack on a train. And Jivan is basically accused of a crime that she didn't commit. And from there, we follow the way that the story takes off from that. And I won't say any more to avoid any spoilers. But needless to say, I think if you enjoy looking at stories that look at class and privilege and a lot of the ways that those connect with each other—and particularly in India—I think this is a story that you'll really enjoy. So, again, that is *A BURNING* by Megha Majumdar. And it's out from Knopf next month. So you have the next book, Kendra?

[00:03:34] **Kendra** Yeah. And I was going to say, like, everyone who I know who's read this book has been immediately like, you need to read this now. So.

[00:03:40] **Jaclyn** And I'm glad I took that advice because it's one you'll fly through as well. It's a very, like, fast story.

[00:03:47] **Kendra** I am very excited. I told them to put me like on the audiobook, the ALC list. And as soon as possible. Anytime.

[00:03:56] **Jaclyn** I can't wait to hear your thoughts on it.

[00:03:58] **Kendra** Yeah. So for listeners who may not know or for those joining us for the live recording, I have chronic daily headaches and migraines. So I primarily read through my ears, and I don't read a lot of print just because, you know, it doesn't really work well for me. So I often talk about audiobooks. And the next book that we're going to talk about, I have an audio. And I am waiting. And this is also another Sumaiyya recommendation. That was not planned. But she apparently is here with us in spirit.

[00:04:30] **Kendra** So this is *DJINN PATROL ON THE PURPLE LINE* by Deepa Anappara. And this is out from Random House. And I first heard about this book—like saw the name of it—when I saw it was the long listed for the Women's Prize this year. And that is a prize over in the UK. And I saw the cover, and I was so excited that was actually available also in the United States at the same time, which is great. But I then went and ran and found the audiobook because I am Kendra, and that's really what I do.

[00:05:06] **Kendra** But this is a book also set in India. And so this is about three children. And so they are in—the synopsis, I'm not sure if . . . I don't think it names the city in the synopsis—but it's an unnamed city in India. And these three children get involved in this almost like crime story where children are disappearing. And so this young kid, nine-year-old kid named Jai lives with his family. But then someone he knows disappears. So then he goes and he gets together with his other friends. And he asks his friends Pari and Faiz to be his assistants. And they draw together a list of people to interview and places to visit. And they just start trying to solve this crime. And I am all here for like a kid gang trying to solve crime. And so when I heard that this was coming out, I was very excited. Sumaiyya and I are—I think she's already finished this book—but I'm reading this for an upcoming episode that we have with Sumaiyya. And I won't reveal the theme yet because I don't want to give too many spoilers, but I'm very excited about it. Have you picked up this one yet, Jaclyn?

[00:06:21] **Jaclyn** No, I haven't. I've got a library hold on it. But my library still in the reopening phase. So.

[00:06:28] **Kendra** It's like, uh, you know, the bane of our existence right now. Waiting for a library holds to come in.

[00:06:33] **Jaclyn** They're doing drive-by pickup, so you can get holds through driving.

[00:06:35] **Kendra** That's so cool.

[00:06:36] **Jaclyn** Yeah, it's amazing.

[00:06:38] **Kendra** Huzzah for librarians. They're just killing it right now. But yeah. And was there anything else you want to say on this, Jaclyn?

[00:06:47] **Jaclyn** No, just that it's on my radar too. Obviously if Sumaiyya recommends it, I want to read it.

[00:06:52] **Kendra** I feel like this is the Sumaiyya show. But yeah. So I am very excited to get to this one. It's very high up on my list. Once I finish all the books for June's theme, I will be reading a DJINN PATROL ON THE PURPLE LINE by Deepa Anappara. And. Yeah. So that's my second one. And I apologize to live-show individuals for this thunk noise you're gonna hear every time [THUNK] because my desk is full of books. I have no room. Okay. Sorry.

[00:07:29] **Jaclyn** So the next book we're going to talk about is CONJURE WOMEN by Afia Atakora. And this is one that I have not read yet, but it's one that I'm very excited to read. It sounded a lot like THE REVISIONERS by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton, like thematically and also quite literally in terms of where it's set and some of the characters. So we're following, again, three women. So I feel like there's a bit of a theme with some of the books I've picked, these multiple perspectives stories. But this one is set in the US South in the period both immediately before and then immediately after the Civil War.

[00:08:04] **Jaclyn** So we're following three women. Two of them are a mother and daughter pairing. We're following the mother's perspective in that pre-Civil War period. And she's an enslaved person working on a plantation. And in that post-Civil War period, we're then following her daughter. And they're both conjure women. And they're midwives of sorts. And the other perspective we're following is another woman. We're following the daughter of the plantation owner. So I'm really intrigued to see how all of these different perspectives come together, particularly in that time period. And again, I just think it's one that, given those thematic overlaps with THE REVISIONERS, I think I'll really enjoy reading. So that is CONJURE WOMEN by Afia Atakora. And that one is out already at the moment by Random House.

[00:09:03] **Kendra** Yeah, I picked up this one.

[00:09:05] **Jaclyn** Oh, you've got one too!

[00:09:07] **Kendra** Yeah, I . . . it just magically appeared. And can we just give a shout out for book designers? Like look at that. For listeners who aren't seeing the visual, the cover is beautiful. And it has on the cover these two women. It's almost like one of those photos where you turn it upside down. It's also photoable, but it's really interesting. I'm just fascinated by it. So definitely check out.

[00:09:34] **Jaclyn** Amazing cover art.

[00:09:34] **Kendra** Yeah, yeah, definitely check out the show notes for links to go check that out.

[00:09:41] **Jaclyn** So, Kendra, you've got the next book for us today.

[00:09:44] **Kendra** Yes. And I feel like it'll be no surprise that this was a Sumaiyya recommendation. But I'm very excited about this book because it deals with a lot of really important topics. And so it's about a Palestinian American woman who wrestles with her faith and loss and identity before coming face-to-face with a school shooter in this searing debut. And so it's about a woman who is the principal of a Muslim school for girls in Chicago, in the Chicago suburbs. And so a shooter comes into the school. And she is trying to help the girls and hide them. And then also there are some flashbacks about her childhood and like having her mother there and her relationship with her mother. And there's some descriptions about, you know, her mother's relationship to Palestine and wanting to be able to return to Palestine and a lot of complicated issues there. And I am—as many of our listeners will know—I'm a huge fan of family novels and dynamics and relationships in families. And so I've actually . . . I can't remember if I've ever read a fiction book about a school shooting. But I think this is an incredibly timely book as well in the topic.

[00:11:01] **Kendra** So I'm very excited for this and . . . um. . . . Jaclyn, were we just talking about this book earlier? In like. . . ? Or were we just like preparing for this episode so much and we talked about it then? I don't remember.

[00:11:17] **Jaclyn** I don't remember talking about this one specifically. But there's so many great books about family dynamics. Particularly with Mother's Day this weekend, it's interesting to to look at that particular relationship.

[00:11:30] **Kendra** I feel like, there was a few years ago, I'd never read a book by a Palestinian American author before. And then when Sumaiyya joined the team, it was just like a whole new world. And I am so excited for this one as well. And it's been blurbed by Laila Lalami, Rebecca Makkai, Maurice Carlos Ruffin, Rajia Hassib of A PURE HEART, which is one of our discussion books. So all of my favorite people have blurbed it. So I'm very excited about THE BEAUTY OF YOUR FACE by Sahar Mustafah. And this is out from Norton.

[00:12:06] **Jaclyn** It's always a good sign when people that you love reading too blurb a book, isn't it?

[00:12:10] **Kendra** Yes. It's sort of like, you know, all your friends shoving a book into your hands and saying, you must read it now. All right. So, Jaclyn, you have the next one.

[00:12:22] **Jaclyn** I do. I have another family story. So, again, I feel like there's a lot of connections thematically between so many of these books that we're wanting to share with you. And this is one that I actually read earlier in the year. It's BLACK SUNDAY by Tola Rotimi Abraham. And this one takes us to Nigeria. So we're following a family. This time it's two twin girls and their two younger siblings—brothers, sorry. And we're really following them for two decades of their life.

[00:12:51] **Jaclyn** So the story starts in 1996. And it's a really tumultuous time for the family because the mother has recently lost her job. She works in government. And with

just changes in politics, she has lost her job. So the family's facing a lot of economic pressures. And they turned to this new church, which is led by a pastor that is very into worshiping earthly wealth. So it's a very different take on, I guess, churches and religion than what I've traditionally read anyway. As part of that mix, the mother and father start to fall apart. Their marriage starts to deteriorate. And he gambles their family home and loses. So all of these things kind of add to the children then moving to live with their grandmother, rather reluctantly. And I guess the way that the story unfolds after that is we sort of jump between perspectives and time periods. And we get really the course of these children's lives as they become adults and where that all takes them.

[00:13:53] **Jaclyn** So it's a lot of discussions thematically about things like connection and estrangement and class and poverty, politics and social machinations . . . I think just the time period is set in and where particularly . . . and just also like a coming of age of sorts because these four people are really just finding their own identity amidst everything else that's happening in their life. So there's a lot going on. And it kind of reminded me a little bit of HOMEGOING in the sense that you get those sort of generational jumps in time, and you're hearing from different members of the family. So I think this is a book I've been recommending to people that did enjoy HOMEGOING by Yaa Gyasi. So check it out if you're interested. I really enjoyed it. And Kendra's also got it.

[00:14:41] **Kendra** Oh yeah, I brought all of them today. This is out from Catapult as well, which is one of our favorite indie publishers. We're huge fans of them. And Nicole Caputo, who did the design for this, is one of my favorite designers, book designers of all time. So.

[00:15:00] **Jaclyn** She does some amazing work. Yeah.

[00:15:04] **Kendra** I feel like this is . . . like, the live show part of this is very much like BookTube. You know? And we're just holding up books, and we're talking about them.

[00:15:11] **Jaclyn** I feel like I'm. . . .

[00:15:13] **Kendra** Vanna White.

[00:15:16] **Jaclyn** So that one is BLACK SUNDAY by Tola Rotimi Abraham. And that is actually out already from Catapult, as Kendra said. And Kendra, you've got the next book.

[00:15:26] **Kendra** Yes. So I wanted to pick one that was sort of inspired by Sarah Moss. I interviewed her earlier this year, and she was one of my very first solo interviews. And we deeply connected because I live in the South. I live in South Carolina. And she's from northern England. And there's a lot of stigma and stereotypes that are very similar with northern England and the southern United States. And so I really wanted to pick up more northern English writers this year, particularly women, obviously, since that is our brand. And so I saw this one roaming around BookTube. And it won the Portico Prize in the UK last year. And so it came out this year, earlier this year from FSG. And that is SALTWATER by Jessica Andrews.

[00:16:16] **Kendra** And this is about a woman who is from northern England and then goes to London for university. And she begins to experience that kind of stereotyping and stigma of being from the North and the people thinking that she's less educated, that she's more primitive, that she has no class. And there's all of these issues that come out in this. And then I believe eventually, later in the book, her grandfather dies. And she goes and stays in their traditional home that he has had and kind of reconnects with the land after

leaving the North and going back to it. And as someone who—I grew up in rural Appalachia—whenever I go back, it's always a very emotional experience because I was not aware of the stigma around where I grew up. And even being in the South, it's still very much something that people do not consider as valuable, the story to tell. So that's why I wanted to look at this book because this is a similar thing. We're like kindred spirits, in a sense, as far as English literature. And, Jaclyn, some of your family's from northern England.

[00:17:24] **Jaclyn** Yeah, I actually grew up in the north of England, so I spent the first, like, ten years of my life in the north of England. So until I read Sarah Moss's book, I'd never really read literature that represented where I was from. So I definitely need to read this one. As soon as I heard about it winning, there was this Northern Lit Prize . . . I can't remember of the name of it now . . . but as soon as it won that I immediately was like, I need to read this book.

[00:17:48] **Kendra** Yeah. And beautiful cover from FSG as well. It has like . . . it's inspired by industry. And it has this almost like purple-ish cover going on. And so, yeah, it. . . . And I mean, I don't know. It just looks fabulous. And I'm very excited about the audio. I started listening to audio, and they have a fabulous narrator. So, yeah, definitely high up on my list. And good for her. Like, go out and kill it, girl.

[00:18:18] **Jaclyn** If you're listening to this, you need to Google the covers to listen along with as you're hearing the podcast because you're missing out if you're not able to see them too.

[00:18:27] **Kendra** And I'll be sure to put all of the covers of the books we've talked about in the show notes for the episode. And that's at readingwomenpodcast.com if you're listening to this in the future. Otherwise, you're seeing me hold up this fabulous book. And that is SALTWATER by Jessica Andrews. And that's out from FSG. Pause for the think. [THUNK] Very graceful.

[00:18:56] **Kendra** All right. Um. Do we have an ad break here? Is that right?

[00:19:02] **Jaclyn** Just going through my notes. Sorry, I'm on this tiny little laptop screen. My vision is suffering a little. Sorry.

[00:19:10] **Kendra** Right. So an ad break. And then we go to the American debuts. So Editing Kendra, put that in here. And I'll pitch you something.

[00:19:23] **Kendra** So next up for. . . . We have a couple of books that we wanted to talk about because these are international authors making their American debut. And so for an author, getting into the American . . . North American market is such a big deal because it is the biggest English language book market. And so you want the book to do well. And so we have a book from an indie press and a book from a new press. And these are books that we have both read and loved and want to tell everyone to go read so that more of these authors' books can come over to United States, and we can read them without having to order them from something the Book Depository because they've already taken enough of my money. They don't need any more of it. Yeah. One of your favorite books, Jaclyn, of the year—pretty sure—is your pick.

[00:20:16] **Jaclyn** Yes. So kicking it off. My first book is THE YIELD by Tara June Winch. And this is an arc copy. It has got a much more colorful, beautiful, finished copy. I'll just

show that there. But you can Google it if you need to see it in better quality. But Tara is an indigenous Australian author. And I read this book because it has been cleaning up in the Australian Literary Awards season, so it was recently shortlisted for the Stella Prize. The Stella is kind of like the Women's Prize in Australia. It's for fiction and nonfiction, though, writing by women or non-binary authors. And THE YIELD was shortlisted. It was one of six titles that were shortlisted. And it's also recently won three awards at the New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards. So this book is doing amazing things in Australia. I think it's one that American and Canadian readers, because it's coming out there too, can look forward to.

[00:21:15] **Jaclyn** But just to give you a little bit of an idea about what this one's about. It's a story really focusing on family and land and language and the power of language and linguistics. And it's told again across three different perspectives. And what I like is that each of those three perspectives are so different. So in the sort of contemporary timeline, we're following August Gondiwindi. And she is a young indigenous woman who has been living in the UK. And she's returned back to Australia to attend her grandfather's funeral. And when she gets back to her family property, she's sort of confronted by a mining company that's repossessed the property. So that's kind of. . . . It gives the plot a movement in sense because we're following her disputing that and trying to reclaim the land for her family.

[00:22:03] **Jaclyn** But alongside that, and to give a lot of depth to the story and connection, we're also getting two different timelines. We're getting one from her grandfather, who was probably one of my favorite perspectives because the way his story is told is just so unique. He is writing a dictionary of sorts, a dictionary of the Wiradjuri language. So he was handed a dictionary when he was younger and realized that there were no words in it from his language. And he wanted to go about remedying that. So we're getting his story as he's compiling this dictionary. And it's so cleverly done, and it's beautiful. And there's . . . I feel like those sections, I just, those stood out to me so much. And then the other perspective we're getting is from Reverend Greenleaf, and he is a German Lutheran minister. And he's sent to the land that this property is on in the very early colonial days. And I guess what sort of makes it really interesting is we're getting this history of the land at all these different points of history and all the ways that it's touched these three lives and the sort of broader community in that sense.

[00:23:14] **Jaclyn** So I absolutely loved it. It's definitely, as Kendra said, one of my favorite books of the year so far. I just think Winch is an amazing author, and I'm so excited for North American readers to finally be able to read her. She's also got some other books. I don't think they've been published over here. So it's particularly exciting that this one has made it to the American market. So that, again, is THE YIELD by Tara June Winch, and that is out next month, the second of June from Harpervia.

[00:23:43] **Kendra** I'm very excited about it.

[00:23:44] **Jaclyn** Yeah.

[00:23:45] **Kendra** We have all sorts of fun things planned on Reading Women for that book. So definitely check out our social media and our newsletter if you want more info.

[00:23:53] **Jaclyn** Yes. And you've got our next book.

[00:23:55] **Kendra** Yes. So I have one of my favorite books of this year, which is *WHEN I HIT YOU: OR A PORTRAIT OF THE WRITER AS A YOUNG WIFE* by Meena Kandasami. And this book came out in the UK a couple of years ago, and it was shortlisted for the Women's Prize. And it has been given so many awards and honors in other parts of the world. But it has just now made it to the United States with the wonderful Europa, who I am huge fans of. And you can actually see my Europa collection just over the top of this book.

[00:24:28] **Jaclyn** You can too.

[00:24:28] **Kendra** Because I shovel—I shovel, my stars, Kendra—I shelve my books by publisher because I am a super nerd. And so just yesterday my spouse was trying to find a book. And I was like, look under Pantheon. He's like, what does that mean? So anyway, I eventually found the book when I went upstairs.

[00:24:50] **Kendra** But this book is just an incredible experiment in writing. So this is autofiction. And this is about a Indian woman who finds herself in this marriage with this very controlling and eventually physically abusive husband. And it's how slowly over time, he also tried to erase who she was as a person. He took complete control over her emails and her work. And she actually turned in an entire writing assignment in to her editor by typing it on her phone. Like I. . . .

[00:25:28] **Jaclyn** Wow. It's incredible.

[00:25:28] **Kendra** Like in the flip old kinds of phones, to be clear. Not like an iPhone.

[00:25:33] **Kendra** And so I just found myself picking this up and reading a few pages because it's a very intense book. So it does have trigger warnings for violence against women and manipulative and controlling spouse as well.

[00:25:49] **Kendra** But one of the things that's really important about this book is that it has been opening up the conversation of women and making art and how so many people are more concerned with what is real and what is not instead of looking at this book as a piece of art. It is autofiction because it is art. And she has made it into this what it is. And she really wanted people to just evaluate the book by itself instead of evaluating it and comparing/contrasting her life in the book.

[00:26:19] **Kendra** And so I actually. . . . This was the first interview that I did right after the borders started to close. And Meena Kandasami had just flown in from India back home to the UK. And her children, though, and her husband were in Europe. So she was separated from her children and her husband. All the borders had just closed. She was locked out of her apartment. She's in some random Airbnb. And she was like, I still want to talk about this book because I know it's important.

[00:26:46] **Jaclyn** That's amazing isn't it?

[00:26:47] **Kendra** I was just like I . . . whatever you want to do. Like, whatever you wanted to, honey, I'm so sorry. But she just came out of the gate. And she did the interview so well, and she's so smart. And if this is her rattle like. . . . Wow. And so she really started talking to me before and after recording about how so many authors' tours have been canceled, their speaking engagements to November, a lot of them have been canceled. And how is she supposed to make a living if, you know, everything . . . her entire livelihood is canceled. So I really want to tell everyone to go to buy—in America—to buy

this so that we will have the first book that she wrote. This is her second. And then her third one just came out in the UK. And I really want those books here in the United States, so they are more accessible to more people.

[00:27:41] **Jaclyn** And she plays a lot with form in those books, I think.

[00:27:44] **Kendra** Yes.

[00:27:44] **Jaclyn** I'm just very excited about her writing, like stylistically as well as like the content, obviously. She's a very exciting writer.

[00:27:51] **Kendra** She does a lot with letters. And it's a very. . . . It goes back and forth in time, and it's like she pieces together this beautiful novel. And it's pretty short. If it wasn't as intense of content, I think you could probably read it in one sitting. I know some people have. But. Yeah. I think that this is just a reminder that these novels, these debut novels that we've been talking about, like they just need as much love as we can give them. And support them so that we are not just supporting their novels; we are supporting these authors' careers and their futures because there's so much pressure now on debut novels. And I could rant about that. I'll spare everyone. But yeah, so maybe I should have led with this one and explained why this episode was so important to us. But, yeah.

[00:28:41] **Jaclyn** It's such a good point. It's not just this one book and how that one book is affected by the pandemic. I mean, it's such a run-on effect for their careers. And I think it's so important, particularly on us, to show as much support as you can, whether that's buying from an indie bookstore or putting a hold on it at your library. You know, do whatever you can.

[00:29:03] **Kendra** Telling all of your friends to go read it as well. I mean.

[00:29:07] **Jaclyn** Yep, leave your Goodreads reviews. All things you can do without paying as well if money is an issue at the moment. That's a good way to show some support as well.

[00:29:15] **Kendra** And there really is a snowball effect, you know. And so I think this book, for women especially, is something that, you know, I know a lot of women who have been in relationships like this have read this and seen themselves. And, you know, she wrote her third book kind of in response to the response to this book. So I can't wait to read it. So, again, I hope Europa picks up her other books as well. Is there anything else you want me to say on this?

[00:29:43] **Jaclyn** No, that's good.

[00:29:44] **Kendra** So this is Meena Kandasamy's WHEN I HIT YOU: OR A PORTRAIT OF THE WRITER AS A YOUNG WIFE. And this is out from Europa.

[00:29:52] **Kendra** So we do actually have a little bit of extra time. Jaclyn, is there anything else that you want to cover in this episode?

[00:30:03] **Jaclyn** No. I guess we should have mentioned these are all releases on the American market, so obviously we've not talked about books that are coming out in other markets. I've been reading a lot from Australia as well, trying to support a lot of debut

Australian authors because there is a lot of books that's come out in the last few weeks. It's, like, amazing, but terrible at the same time.

[00:30:26] **Kendra** There's been so many authors affected by this. And this is definitely not an extensive list by any means. This is just the tip of the tip of the iceberg. And so we are featuring more debut authors on the podcast, in our newsletter. I like C Pam Zhang's book HOW MUCH OF THESE HILLS IS GOLD. I have an interview with her and several other interviews with debut authors and different things planned. So hopefully everyone will be able to go out and find those and support them however you can.

[00:30:56] **Jaclyn** And you'll see these books resurfacing again because there's a few that will come up on upcoming episodes. There's a few that we've reviewed in the newsletter. So stay tuned. We've got some more ways we're going to help support these authors.

[00:31:12] **Kendra** And so if you're listening to this in the future, a reminder again, links to bookshop.org to all of these books will be in our show notes. You can go to readingwomenpodcast.com. It is all there. All of the things you could ever wish for. I'm very detailed in my show notes.

[00:31:34] **Jaclyn** You are.

[00:31:34] **Kendra** So. Everything is there.

[00:31:35] **Jaclyn** What are you writing at the moment, Kendra?

[00:31:38] **Kendra** All right. So right now, I'm actually reading THE YIELD because of course.

[00:31:47] **Jaclyn** I'm excited.

[00:31:47] **Kendra** So I'm about about 10 percent in so far. So I'm beginning to meet the different storylines and different things. I will say I normally read with a print copy on hand, and there isn't a signal for the breaks when the perspective changes. So I'm always like, wait, why? Why is now that we're going back in time? So it took me a moment, and I went back and like re-read the synopsis. So it was pretty cool.

[00:32:15] **Jaclyn** It's saying we've had a question come in.

[00:32:17] **Kendra** Yeah.

[00:32:19] **Jaclyn** Do you ever feature books by Caribbean writers and, if not, how would they get on your radar? This is a very good question because Caribbean Heritage Month is coming up in the US, and we do have a lot of plans to feature a lot of Caribbean authors that month. But we do feature a lot of Caribbean writers already as well.

[00:32:36] **Kendra** Yes. So our entire . . . we theme our episodes per month. And so the next month is Caribbean Heritage Month. And so we have a whole selection planned. We have some guests planned. And I know there's a huge campaign on Bookstagram as well, if you're interested. There's so many great recommendations from Caribbean Bookstagrammers.

[00:32:59] **Jaclyn** Yeah. If you're following Cindy from @bookofcinz on Instagram, she is sort of leading the charge, I believe, along with some of her other fellow Bookstagrammer's in the Caribbean. But she has a whole, like, campaign of things planned. And she's going to be. . . . You will see her on the Reading Women grid that month too. So you can look for that as well.

[00:33:21] **Kendra** All right. So what are you reading right now, Jaclyn?

[00:33:24] **Jaclyn** I am in my last few pages of A BURNING. It was a bad time to stop reading, let's put it that way. It was I had to drag myself away from my A book. But, yeah, that's what I'm finishing. And I just finished an Indigenous poetry collection this morning from Australia called FIRE FRONT. It's an anthology that Alison Whittaker edited. And it was brilliant. And it was particularly impactful because there were four different Indigenous scholars and other poets that had commented on the poems, in groups of four throughout the collection. So like at different staggered points in the collection, they'd sort of provided commentary about those specific poems in that group. So it was a really cool collection to read and like very informative. So yeah, I really enjoyed that one.

[00:34:16] **Kendra** Yeah, I really love. . . . I feel like Australia's just. . . . The Indigenous and Aboriginal literary scene is just huge, and I wish more of them would come to United States, for sure.

[00:34:28] **Jaclyn** Yeah, well, that's why. . . . I think that's why I'm so excited to see Tara June Winch's book coming so quickly after its Australian release because it usually can take years and years until we see Australian books come out to the US. So I'm very excited that people are getting to read her so soon.

[00:34:45] **Kendra** All right. Do we want to then read the close-out, and then we can just stay here and answer questions?

[00:34:53] **Jaclyn** Sure, sounds good.

[00:34:53] **Kendra** Okay, awesome. All right. Near the end. All right, then I'm going to do the outro.

[00:35:05] **Kendra** All right. So that's our show. If you haven't yet already, please leave us a review in your podcast app of choice. And thanks to all of you who have already done that. Many thanks to our patrons, whose support make this podcast possible. To subscribe to our newsletter or to learn more about becoming one of our patrons, visit us at readingwomenpodcast.com.

[00:35:27] **Jaclyn** And be sure to join us next time where we'll be discussing more books by or about women. In the meantime, you can find Reading Women on Instagram and Twitter (@thereadingwomen). And thank you very much for listening.