

February 2021 Podcast

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Nicole 00:18

Hi, my name is Nicole and with me is Meghan.

Meghan 00:23

Hello.

Nicole 00:24

We are Popular Materials librarians at the main branch of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library, and today on this podcast we want to talk to you about some great Black writers. Now it is Black History Month and I know that when this month comes around we do tend to focus pretty hard on the really best writers we know right? We have Toni, sorry, Toni Morrison, talk about James Baldwin, Zora Neale Hurston. Alice Walker, Ta-Nehisi Coates, you know, everybody heard.

Meghan 01:05

Yes, Colson Whitehead,

Nicole 01:06

We talked about everybody that has just done these amazing things. And Angie Thomas, there we go talk about a lot of YA.

Meghan 01:16

We got a lot of Britt Bennett going on at the library right now, too, with The Vanishing Half.

Nicole 01:22

But I think we tend to kind of gloss over the fact that there are also a lot of really great African American writers in these genres. So we're talking about mystery, we're talking about romance, talking about sci fi, all of the kind of books that people tend to really devour without really knowing much about the author. So that's what we're going to be talking about today. And, Meghan, would you like to get us started on a mystery author?

Meghan 01:55

I sure would. I've got two that I want to bring up to start with. So in mystery, I sort of feel like there is sort of a grandfather, Chester Himes was a noir black writer of mystery who was born in 1909. So, this is going back a ways because he passed away in the 1980s. But we do have some of the books by Chester Himes, the sort of noir, you know, detective stories. And then also somebody that people might have heard of already is Walter Mosley, who has been writing since the 1990s. He's got the Easy Rawlins series as his biggest I think series, but he

has a few that started with Devil in a Blue Dress. And he is still writing. He's got a book that came out this month, I think, but he, you know, is just somebody who's really well known in the genre, but there are other authors as well.

Nicole 02:51

So, I was definitely also gonna pick Walter Mosley. I, we decided not to talk about what are who are picks, we're going to be beforehand, so we could see what how, how our choices overlapped. And definitely, we're overlapping here. The book we were referring to is Blood Grove. It came out on February 2. So that's the 15th in the Easy Rawlins's series. And it is still set in 1969. So, it is definitely that old-time hard-boiled crime mystery. Yeah. But I was also going to talk about a genre of mystery that I'm not that big on but I know a lot of people love, which is cozy mysteries.

Meghan 03:41

Hmm.

Nicole 03:42

So, I think that not so many people know that we're getting a lot of those, you know, those food type mysteries the...

Meghan 03:50

Oh, yeah.

Nicole 03:51

Cupcake and murder mysteries. There's a really great one that came out by Kira Davis, which is Sex, Murder and a Double Latte, which, honestly, it that's, that's got that's got a cozy element, but it's also got a little, you know, like it's a little bit racy. It's excellent. There is one that I am trying to buy for the library called Deep Fried Trouble by Tiara Moody, and it just looks delicious.

Meghan 04:24

There's a lot of things that are trouble about deep-fried rice, or body parts, who knows we'll have to read it and find out. I have a cozy mystery out there that I wanted to talk about too, and that's V.M. Burns. She has a couple cozy mystery series, but one of them is the mystery bookshop series, which is especially fun because it is set partly in Michigan. I think it's set on the west side of the state. They're sort of double like double... a story within a story. So there's a bookshop owner who solves mysteries, but she's also a writer. So sometimes the plots of her own books are in the books. And that was a series starts with a book called The Plot is Murder. And that author is V.M. Burns.

Nicole 04:33

Who knows? I did not know that those were set in Michigan.

Meghan 05:17

Yeah.

Nicole 05:18

Totally. That's really fun. I love anything that is set in Michigan.

Meghan 05:22

Well, then Nicole, you're also going to want to hear about Stephen Mack Jones who has a new book coming out. His first book was August Snow. I think it came out in 2016. August Snow is the name of the detective from the southwest Detroit who he was a police officer, but he got kicked off the force after investigating a party at the mayor's mansion.

Nicole 05:47

Of course.

Meghan 05:48

Ripped from the headlines there. Steven Mack Jones is the author of the August Snow series and the third in that in that series is coming out this spring.

Nicole 05:59

I will say that I think the first, yeah, the first one was August Snow. I read that one on accident. And I ended up really enjoying it. So I will have to continue the rest of the series. But I read it because one of my favorite authors he is a Native American author and his name is Stephen Graham Jones. I picked it up Stephen Jones. Let me give this a try. like wait a minute. This is not the horror that I'm used to. Yeah, crime novel and yet I'm still loving it.

Meghan 06:35

Steven Mack Jones is the Michigan native African American author of the August snow series.

Nicole 06:48

Would you like to move on to romance?

Meghan 06:50

No, because I have one more author that I have to talk about.

Nicole 06:53

Jeez, you're showing me up over here.

Meghan 06:57

Attica Locke.

Nicole 06:59

Oh, right.

Meghan 07:00

I know Nicole saying oh right, because I feel like I mentioned her every...every chance I get. She's written some standalone mysteries, but the ones that I have read are the Highway 59 series. It starts with Bluebird...Bluebird. And the main character is a Texas Ranger. They're set in East Texas. And even though I love a story set in Michigan, I love any story that has a really strong sense of place. And I do feel like this Highway 59 series aptly named for the...the sort of stretch of highway where they're set up and down. But I also just love the main character. Deron Matthews, I talked about how he's a character that sort of has like an angel and a devil on his shoulder. He's a law man. But he knows that sometimes justice is not served by the laws the way that they're written. And there's a lot of historical elements that are brought into these stories even when he's solving current day crimes. They are often the crimes that took place in the present have roots in the past. And so I love that element of them. Attica Locke is pretty prolific. She also works in Hollywood a lot, and is a showrunner and a writer for TV series. But I just think the stories are great. And the first one in that series is Bluebird, Bluebird, again by Attica Locke.

Nicole 08:19

I was gonna say, I've not actually surprised to hear that she writes in Hollywood, because the...the main character that you were just describing sounds like he would be just perfect for television. Hmm, you know, I'm just imagining him standing there, like at the scene of a crime, and behind him two other versions of him just whispering in his ear. How perfect. So now, can we move on to romance?

Meghan 08:49

Now we can move on to romance.

Nicole 08:51

Good, because I'm so excited to mention this author before you do. Alyssa Cole.

Meghan 08:58

Oh, yeah.

Nicole 09:00

If people are not familiar with her romance writing, you might be familiar with her fiction debut, which was a hot read a couple of months ago, and I believe it was called When No One is Watching.

Meghan 09:12

Yep. And they're doing it for books on tap this coming month, I believe. So the March looks on tap.

Nicole 09:18

Yes. So honestly, I'm thinking of joining books on tap for that I haven't got that book yet. Because it's been so popular. And so just out all the time, that I feel guilty, being like the librarian and just hoarding all of the books and just having 20 at my house, like no one else needs to read these, right?

Meghan 09:42

Well, the good news is, as soon as you pick up *When No One is Watching*, you will not be able to put it down because it's a it's a great, it's a great read. And even though that one is more of a fiction thriller. It does. You can sort of tell if you know that she's a romance writer. You can see that background in her writing in this there's a little bit of a love story like you'd find in an action movie and it also alternates viewpoints between the main character, Sydney, who is a black woman and her new neighbor, Theo who is a white...white man.

Nicole 10:18

Well you know me a little bit of romance is pretty much all I'm there for. Just give me a little just some heads while there while the story is actually happening.

Meghan 10:29

Well, I must say, I first came across Alyssa Cole without realizing what a prolific author she was. I read the first in her *Reluctant Royals* series, because when I read the description, I was like, Oh my God, is this a romance novel set in Lesotho? I was in the Peace Corps in a country called Lesotho and

Nicole 10:53

I did not know this about you, Meghan! I need to know everything! Or is that everything?

Meghan 10:59

Oh, there's more. I was an English teacher. But Lesotho to is a constitutional monarchy. There's a prince in Lesotho. They were occupied by the British, they were a British protectorate. And now they're a constitutional monarchy. But they were a monarchy even, you know, when the country was sort of assembled by King Moshoeshoe I the first anyway, the fictional country in this story, a Princess in Theory is Thesollo. And so, like the languages set up similar to the to the Lesotho language. The main character's name is Melady, which means star. And I was like, Oh my gosh, like most people don't even know where Lesotho is. And this is a romance novel. Now it's pretty...pretty loosely, you know, loosely based

Nicole 11:49

Loosely based on the country?

Meghan 11:51

Yeah, there were enough elements that I was like, Oh, my God, and I bought three copies. And I sent them to my friends. And it was just really delightful. In so many, like modern romances, I feel like you find people are often surprised people who have this negative view of romance are surprised at how interesting and unique Modern Romance characters are. The...the main character in a Princess in Theory is an epidemiologist, how very, you know,

Nicole 12:22

Current?

Meghan 12:23

Yes. And, you know, people have their own motivations for seeking out relationships that often don't have anything to do with, you know, money or needing an air necessarily. And they are really fully realized people that you could meet anywhere.

Nicole 12:42

That was actually the series and the book that I wanted to talk about. So, I'm actually kind of glad that we're like, both on the same page with that, because this book is just so interesting. And I love okay, I do like the, the like forced marriage, sort of, or not forced marriage, but sort of set up marriage scenario. That's an old, established scenario. But what I like best is the way that a modern book like you were saying can set up a reason why she might not want that marriage. Not everybody wants to be a princess. You know, right? Kate turned William down. How many times before...before they ended up getting married? Because she didn't want to be a princess. Yeah, so I really enjoy that. And I enjoy the in this book, the aspect of the her not knowing he's a prince and falling for him in that way.

Meghan 13:48

Oh, right. Because like, so she gets starts getting these emails. It's like, I think you're my betrothed. I'm an African Prince. And she's like, whatever, delete,

Nicole 13:56

Right!

Meghan 13:58

And then he comes to New York to find her but doesn't let on that he is a prince. So there's also that.

Nicole 14:09

She's just living her life. She has a job and she's happy and she's just like, okay, Who's this guy? Yeah. I like that. I like I like a romance where someone's not sitting around waiting for the romance. You know, it just happens.

Meghan 14:24

Yeah. Alyssa Cole has also written some historical romances if that's more your speed, set during the Revolutionary War. And someone else I wanted to mention in this genre, who also has a Michigan connection is Beverly Jenkins. She has been writing for a long time since 1994. She still lives here in Michigan. So she's a Michigan writer. Although most of her books are set in the West. She writes a lot of historical romance, kind of in the Reconstruction Era, but she also has a contemporary series, the Blessing Series, which is set in Kansas. And if you're a fan of Debbie Macomber, you might like the Blessing Series by Beverly Jenkins.

Nicole 15:08

She's one of those authors that I would love to get her to have a talk at our library.

Meghan 15:14

Yeah.

Nicole 15:14

Just just come in, tell us all about romances and westerns and, and how being from Michigan has, you know, changed your has made your views like, how am I? What am I trying to say Meghan? Save me?

Meghan 15:33

Yeah, I mean, she's been writing a long time and how things have changed and how maybe being from Michigan has been the historical research she has to do to set her African American characters in a place like the old west where you don't think about black people being necessarily, although a lot of cowboys were black, in historical facts, so there's certainly it's there. You just have to beat back against the stereotype a little bit to bring out that piece of history.

Nicole 16:05

Right. I am going to be talking about a Western of soon after we're done with romances. And what I really discovered is there are there are a lot of black westerns, there's a lot of people writing about that. I just think there's not a lot of tension on it. Unless it happens to be a Black Western that is a romance because obviously, everyone, every one of us, we see a cowboy book, we're gonna pick it up, right? So, there are plenty of live romances where it's a cowboy. He doesn't have a shirt on I'm here for it.

Meghan 16:48

Yep. And you can see one of those on our hot leads table right now by Rebecca Weatherspoon.

Nicole 16:52

Mm hmm. Yes, thank you. Thank you, Celia for insisting that we that we have that on the Hot Reads table.

Meghan 17:03

Another author I wanted to mention in the romance category is Jasmine Guillory. Again, I feel like she hardly needs to be mentioned because she's been so popular with *The Wedding Date*, *The Proposal* was a hot read a couple of years ago. She's just had a great run with her contemporary romantic comedy series.

Nicole 17:26

I wanted to mention someone that is not as established, but who I am watching as someone I think that could just continue to get more and more fans. And, you know, in 20 years, we'll be talking about her as an established writer, which is Farah Roshan. Oh, yeah. And she has a book called *The Boyfriend Project*, which we put on the Hot Reads table, she has another one coming out called *The Dating Playbook*. And these are just really interesting, modern women with modern dating problems. They're funny, but they're really real. They're people. Like you said, they're well rounded characters, people that you can imagine meeting or being friends with or dating or, you know, it's, it's somebody you know, and I love that trend, and I can see her becoming something really to watch out for. So, everybody, the dating playbook is going to be something that I think you're all gonna want to pick up.

Meghan 18:38

Cool. Should we move on to sci-fi?

Nicole 18:45

We shall move on to sci-fi. Megan. I'm gonna go ahead and start sci-fi with Walter Mosley. Have you heard of him?

Meghan 18:56

Yes, I thought he wrote mysteries.

Nicole 19:00

I didn't realize until we were researching for this. But apparently, he wrote some Star Trek stories and novellas. So apparently he is quite the sci-fi writer as well. It's just most people know him as a mystery writer. So, I thought that was very interesting.

Meghan 19:23

That is pretty cool. Well, mine I have to mention again, Octavia Butler. I feel like it's so hot. Well, she I feel like she should be so big that she doesn't need an introduction. But just in case you have not read Parable of the Sower. I think that you should read it.

Nicole 19:45

I have just bought that as a graphic novel.

Meghan 19:49

Hmm.

Nicole 19:50

And oh, it looks so good, in a bad way. You know, it looks a disturbing but good.

Meghan 19:58

Yes. It is definitely not light reading, but anytime somebody tells me they...they like dystopian fiction, I'm like, okay, here you go, right boy, Parable of the Sower. There's a follow up to it Parable...Parable of the Talents. But she has written lots and lots of other books, Kindred, Blood, Blood child. And she has passed away at this point she was writing, I think in the 70s through the 90s. But she's really a great, great author.

Nicole 20:33

And in that same vein, Ursula Le Guin is just someone that you almost feel like you don't have to mention, but I'm going to mention her anyway. She also passed away in 2018, but was writing up to then she wrote the Earthsea Series, just really solid science fiction, like canon science fiction. If you think of the top 10 most influential science fiction writers, I would put her in that. And honestly, she's got about 11 short story volumes. So, if you're not, you're not ready to pick up a full novel. Those are really, really great as well.

Meghan 21:15

And then thinking about somebody who is on her way to becoming, you know, canon, maybe is there already is N.K Jemisin.

Nicole 21:24

Mm hmm.

Meghan 21:25

Who won the Hugo Award three years in a row for all three books in the Broken Earth trilogy, which we own and also The City We Became came out last year, so that was on the Hot reads table. You might have seen that. But just everything that she has written has been very well reviewed. She's writing currently. So, it's hard to, you know, it's strange to say like, oh, she's someone that you must read. she's a she's a classic if she's writing now, but I just think she is.

Nicole 22:00

I feel with her as though we have caught Colson Whitehead or Zadie Smith, in the beginning of their career. You know, like we're seeing her on there on her way to becoming to getting where they are.

Meghan 22:15

And that's what's so strange about genre fiction, in general, I think, is that she writes sci fi so I feel like she's not. She's not maybe this household name that Colson Whitehead who's written The Nickel Boys or the Underground Railroad is, but within the genre, she's so like, she won the highest award three years in a row, like a pain, but because it's sci-fi, it's just not as

Nicole 22:41

I think she really is starting to, like her most recent book, The City Became, we put that in sci fi because the rest of her books are in sci-fi. But I would have called that more of a magical realism or, or almost, it isn't your typical stare scary horror, it's what we would refer to as anti-lovecraftian. Lovecraft is in fiction, right? So, I can imagine, in maybe 10 years, maybe we're moving her from sci fi to fiction, maybe we start thinking of her as classic stories and not innovative sci-fi. So, I think it just really depends on...on what decade you're in, which determines whether someone is genre or whether they are, you know, a staple read that people might be reading in school?

Meghan 23:40

Yeah. So yeah, The City We Became is about like, the five boroughs of New York become sentient, sort of.

Nicole 23:50

Yeah,

Meghan 23:51

I haven't read it myself. But I can see that horror element.

Nicole 23:57

Yes. I mean, it's, it reminds me very much of Lovecraft Country, which I did love and the series is--

Meghan 24:07

The show?

Nicole 24:08

Yeah, the TV show also is a Black run, but I will say I am not trying to fool anyone Lovecraft Country, the book is not written by Black author. You know, that is, that is not part of our recommendations. But that book had a lot of that same sort of magical realism. And we put that we put that in fiction. You know, we didn't say that sounds like sci fi, because it seems like it has an application that goes wider than sci-fi. And I think that we are at some point going to consider and N.K. Jemisin in the same way. Like there are themes here that apply to everybody. Yeah, not that there's anything wrong with sci-fi. I love me. Some sci-fi, but sometimes we like take a harder look at genre writing later and say, well, that's not you know, that's bigger than we thought it was.

Meghan 25:11

Yeah, I definitely think that that's true. And so I guess what we're saying is, don't get hemmed in by the section of the library that you usually walk over to let yourself see something else within within the stories.

Nicole 25:29

Right. Do you have any more sci-fi?

Meghan 25:32

Yeah, I have was going to also mention Nnedi Okorafor.

Nicole 25:37

Oh, yes.

Meghan 25:38

Who has written I think her biggest series is the Binti trilogy, which I think the library owns in the physical copy as one volume so all the books in one book, but she's written a lot of short stories, I believe she's also written graphic novels. She's also written nonfiction about her life. So Nnedi Okorafor is someone who is worth checking out. And I also have river Solomon, who wrote an unkindness of ghosts and the deep. And the deep is a story about so on. slaving ships, if a...if a woman was pregnant, she may be thrown overboard, because they didn't want to deal with her. So, imagining that the baby, there were babies who were born in the ocean, and they became these mermaid creatures. Oh, that's lovely. Well, it is lovely, although the main character is having kind of a hard time with it. Because she is the holder of the memories. And so this, these people, mermaid people have one person who is the memory keeper. And so it's yet you and she has to carry everything she has to carry their history so that the other mermaid people are not burdened by it. And so The Deep is sort of about you to coming to come to a breaking point under these memories and learning how to share it with the rest of her people and them accepting it.

27:19

That always

Nicole 27:21

Sorry, go ahead,

Meghan 27:23

That also has a weird Michigan connection. Because it's described The Deep the book is described as like the third iteration of a game of telephone. So the idea first generated with Detroit based electronic music, group, I think it's Exia. And then Clipping, which is a current rap group with David Diggs from Hamilton in it. So then they did a spin on it. And then River Solomon did a spin on the deep, the song by Clipping and the audio book is narrated by David Diggs, so

Nicole 28:01

Well, but they all sort of tied together there.

Meghan 28:04

Yeah, for each took a bit of inspiration from the other.

Nicole 28:09

That reminds me a bit of The Giver. Hmm. And I really enjoyed that. Because, you know, The Giver was one of my favorite books as a child and to be able to see how that would apply in a more adult circumstance. And, you know, because what's the worst thing that The Giver had to witness? You know, he's, he saw war. But,

Meghan 28:33

Yeah.

Nicole 28:34

He didn't see mothers being thrown over ships.

Meghan 28:37

Well your own mother's.

Nicole 28:38

Your own mothers. And to know that, that's how you were born.

Meghan 28:43

And she experiences the...the memories as like fragments, like she, it's, it's sort of like the giver where you're living you feel, you know, you're living in the memory and he loses herself she forgets to eat. But she doesn't have context for them. Right, though, that's really hard for her to and she, she leaves for a while and comes to comes to see, you know, land dwelling people again, anyway, is a really interesting concept. And it's not very long. So

Nicole 29:20

I wanted to give a mention to Nisi Shawl and Everclear, or sorry, Ever Fair, she did not write a book about a band from the 90s. Ever Fair is an alternate history novel set in the Belgian Congo. And it's basically a...a what if book, what if the Congolese in Africa had well, not just them? What if Africa had discovered steam engines before the...the rest of the world?

Meghan 30:01

Okay, like a steampunk alternate history?

Nicole 30:04

it kind of is yes. And it's basically it ends up being that England joins Africa, these African countries in fighting King Leopold to. And I, honestly, I don't think it's out of any sort of, you know, goodwill from the English, we're not saying that they probably just wanted to share in that steampunk technology. Right. Yes. It's, you know, what would have happened. And I really think that that is kind of my favorite aspect of sci-fi and fantasy is the alternate history, the what would have happened if one thing had been different? And would it have been better? Yeah.

Commercial 31:00

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Meghan 35:28

In terms of other genres, I also had a couple well, I had one book for Christian fiction readers, if you are a fan of Tracy Peterson, you might like this series by Piper, I think it's Huguley. She's written a historical series against her sort of set in the late 1800s about people in and around a historically Black college. So that's Piper Huguley, if you like historical Christian fiction, so that would have a definite viewpoint.

Nicole 36:15

That's very interesting, because I definitely don't think of historical Christian fiction as being particularly I think of it as being a very singular race situation. Particularly the Amish fiction.

Meghan 36:33

She's one of the only African American Historical Christian fiction authors that I know of. There are other Christian fiction, contemporary African American authors, you know, Reshonda Billingsley has some, you know, Christian elements. Kimberla Lawson. So there are others that are contemporary. But the historical I thought was pretty, pretty unique. Yeah, do we want to mention graphic novels?

Nicole 37:07

I have one graphic novel that I wanted to mention. I mean, of course, there is Black Panther. We're not going to talk about that, because it's famous, too big here. Everybody knows. But one of my favorite reads of last year,

even though it came out in 2018, I was a little late to the game. But it was Bingo Love, which is both an African American graphic novel about African Americans, ut it is also it is a LGBTQ novel. It's about two women that met in a bingo hall at church when they were teenagers. They fell in love. But they didn't really understand what that meant, or how they could possibly be together. And so when it came time for one of them to get married to a man, she just said, Well, of course, I'm getting married to a man. That's what we do. What do you mean, and so it's our slip apart for several years, until they met again, at a church bingo session. As when they were grandmothers, their husbands had one of them had passed, one of them was divorced, and divorced because it turns out they were both gay and it's just it's, it, there's a lot about how the family deals with their situation with you know, them coming out and in their 60s. But really, it's just it's really just sweet. It's just like this adorable, you know, grannies meeting each other at bingo and being like, hey, you're my first love, and I've never forgotten about you. And seriously, they meet two hours later, they're already kissing

Meghan 39:10

What a great pick for February.

Nicole 39:12

It is it is such a Valentine's Day pick. It's such a great graphic novel to just demonstrate that like love waits. You know...

Meghan 39:26

Love never dies.

Nicole 39:27

Love never dies. And it's so just bright and colorful and happy even in the spots where maybe the children are maybe a little bit upset about what's going on. But yeah, I love it. And the author, by the way is T. Franklin. There are several artists. I'm not going to name them all. But I'm T. Franklin, I am really just watching her to see if she can put out a thing else because that's just amazing. She is Black, queer and disabled herself. So she's like, really...you can feel her unique voice coming through from...from that book.

Meghan 40:14

Nice. Well, my graphic novel pic is totally on the other side of things.

Nicole 40:20

Did we switch today? Do you know scary one?

Meghan 40:23

Yeah, I know! I have not actually read House of Whispers yet because I just bought it. Because sand the Sandman series by Neil Gaiman is one of our most popular graphic novel series for adults. And I was looking for you know, what would be a reader like for this and House of Whispers came up and I hadn't I we there are just a few and we hadn't bought them in hardcopy. They're available through one of our digital services. So if you like, sort of horror and weird creatures, the author of House of Whispers is Nalo Hopkinson, who is a, also an established sci-fi/fantasy writer. But House of Whispers is a graphic novel series.

Nicole 41:12

Oh she wrote Skin Folk didn't? That was very good.

Meghan 41:16

Yeah. But, but this series is more...yes, like, conflict and creatures, and not necessarily just love. But that House of Whispers. You're a fan of fantastic...

Nicole 41:35

I am a giant fan of the Sandman series, so definitely gonna give that a look in. Yeah, it sounds amazing.

Meghan 41:46

Cool.

Nicole 41:50

Do you have anything else?

Meghan 41:52

I think I covered what I wanted to cover, we're gonna try to put together a record set with some of these authors so that you can step beyond some of the most well-known Black authors, because there are so many things to discover.

Nicole 42:11

And we're going to keep that up, by the way. So, if you want to read about you want to read one of these Black authors in March and April and May and June and July, you know, we're doing this in February because we are celebrating because this is the particular month that we've all chosen to...to really highlight all of the great African American achievements. But that doesn't mean that we can't highlight these all year round. And we can't read these books all year round. Some of these might become your favorite authors. So, don't take just because we're doing this in February, don't take it as a you know, this is this is just a special month where we only read this, you know, we can be reading these all the time.

Meghan 43:05

It's a jumping off point.

Nicole 43:08

Mmm-hmm. All right. Well, I guess we're done then. Meghan.

Meghan 43:13

Yeah, we'll see you next time. Remember, the library is open for grab and go service in the month of February. But curbside is still available if you'd rather come through. And if you ever need help getting some of these books on digital downloads, give us a call.

Nicole 43:27

And remember, if you do need any, like specific recommendations, if you'd like any of these and you want 10 more books like it, check out our 10 and 10 program, which is online on our website, cmlpl.org. And we will customize some recommendations for you. Do we have a fancy sign off my Meghan we should have one if we're gonna be doing this now?

Meghan 43:52

You know, it's...it's you and me. I think we should say, au revoir.

Nicole 43:57

I'll say salut, because I think we're friends.

Meghan 44:02

<Chuckle>

Nicole 44:02

Salut, Meghan.

Meghan 44:03

Salut!

44:03