

2021 All Things Teen December

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Erin 00:27

Hey, everyone and welcome back to All Things Teen. So, I'm very excited to have our special guest today be Kristen Getzin. Kristen, tell everybody what library you work at and where exactly that's located.

Kristen 00:40

Sure. So, I work for Fraser Public Library, and that is located in North East suburbs of Detroit. So if you're familiar with Detroit, it's between Roseville and Sterling Heights. We're literally four bucks...by floor what four blocks by four blocks. Wow, I can't talk today. Y'all are in for a treat.

Erin 01:04

Yeah, I always like that, like when you explain it, because like, I think people have an idea of where it is and especially our...our patrons in like Clinton Township and Macomb Township, but because I live in Ypsi. Like, wait, where exactly is Fraser? So, you have like, yeah, you do have a really small service area. But what kind of things your teens like to read? Are there certain genres or?

Kristen 01:32

So, my teens are really into new books, so very much into what is new and upcoming. Just coming out. Though, we do get a lot of teens that come back for our fantasy series, we've got quite a few fantasy books. And we're always looking for new fantasy books, because that is my particular little geek heart, love is fantasy and sci fi. So, I'm always on the lookout for really good fantasy books. But I know that we've got quite a few teams that are looking into Firekeepers Daughter right now just know. Yep, Mid- Michigan connections. And it's, you know, it's on the bestsellers. So of course, they're going to be looking for that. But we've got a lot of teens interested in fantasy. Though, I do have a few that are now getting into the mysteries, which is fabulous.

Erin 02:29

I've noticed lately with mysteries, like, it's hard to find like detective fiction for teens, like there's more like thriller suspense type mysteries.

Kristen 02:41

It is, um, I will tell you, that's one of the hardest things to find is the quintessential detective novel. There is no Sherlock Holmesian type of detective for teens. It's mostly things like Truly Devious, which is more of a suspense, mystery type of novel, but it's less detective work and more things are happening to this character, and she needs to react Act, as opposed to, huh, there's some mystery to solve. And I need to work on solving that. So...

Erin 03:16

Yeah, it's more like *Pretty Little Liars*. 2.0 With all these books series, like there's all these secrets happening. And all these twists and turns. The one detective one that I can think of. I mean, there's a couple but it's like, a lot of it involves supernatural, things like that. Like I just read the series called *Jackaby*, where there's this woman who helps Jackaby use kind of like a Sherlock Holmes, and it's set in like, America. She's from England, but it's not in America, and you know, the late 1800s, early 1900s. And now, it's interesting. If people are not like, you know, into historical then I wouldn't really recommend it, but if you do, like historical fiction and mysteries, then I'd recommend that. And then the other one there is like a *Charlotte Holmes* series. But yes, I will provide a warning with this. I have only read the first book, but it is intense. It's not, you know, if you're in middle school, you might not want to read it yet. There are like some very, there's like sexual assault in there. And so, there's like things that you might not care to read. It might be upsetting. Especially for younger teens if you're not okay with reading something like that. But it is very much a mystery series.

Kristen 04:40

And that one is more of like the quintessential detective mystery. I agree. That is a very intense book. I got about halfway through and I was like, okay, I'm shutting you down for a little bit while I go read something completely innocuous. Because it was it was dealing with a lot of times picks that I was not expecting this book to deal with, which is both good and bad. Bad because I was not expecting it so cool. You're dealing with a topic that I was not expecting, but bad because I was kind of hoping for like a fun romp through a mystery and not dealing with sexual assaults and other topics of that sort. So, yeah,

Erin 05:26

I think graphic novels and mysteries have been really interesting. I've been following a lot of that. And a lot of great and in, like high school. So, you guys want recommendations? Come visit us. We'll give you some. Have you have you read *Fire Keeper's Daughter*?

Kristen 05:46

I have not. It's...it's, I just got it.

Erin 05:49

Okay. Yeah. So, I can give you a quick plug for that just because it is fantastic. It's set in Sault Saint Marie, which always cracks me up when like, people outside of Michigan tried to like pronounce cities and Michigan and they just horribly mess it up.

Kristen 06:04

They horribly butcher our Michigan towns and cities in places. I know.

Erin 06:10

A lot of it is French-based because we had a lot of French settlers and my ancestors are from France, but I don't like I don't know, I don't think they originally settled in Michigan. But

Kristen 06:23

I can tell you know. I learned Spanish in high school. And then I went to try and learn French and I learned very quickly that I can speak French with a Spanish accent and sounds very wrong people it is not a good experience. So I don't try and even correctly pronounce French words anymore because like I'm just gonna butcher it.

Erin 06:51

I try but you know, like, I never really learned to I mean, I I can definitely tell a French accent. Like, there are certain accents that are very, like obvious to me, but like, yeah, distinct, like British and I can actually detect a British versus Irish versus Scottish. Welsh just kind of like, what are where are you from?

Kristen 07:17

Welch, it's just kind of like British 2.0 but also mixed with Scottish in there. So, it's like a toned down Scottish. But also, yeah, it's very strange. It's very strange.

Erin 07:31

Yeah, I had a tour guide once when I was touring around like the UK. And she was like, Yeah, I have a British mother and Irish father. And I could hear like hints of her British accent and her Irish accent. Which makes sense, because that's what she was like, you know, raised with both accents. So, it was very cool. I was like, I kind of wish, like we have that. Michigander accent, I guess.

Kristen 07:58

Yes. Yes. Certainly. Michigan has an accent, though, in my opinion it's the absence of an accent.

Erin 08:05

Yeah. I think so too.

Kristen 08:06

Personally. But at the same time, I've heard people say no, you have a distinctly Michigan accent. How, how is that different than any other Midwestern accent? Like how is this different than Indiana? Because...

Erin 08:22

Well, there's, that's the interesting thing is like, I mean, like Minnesota definitely has a distinct accent.

Kristen 08:28

Right.

Erin 08:28

But I think most of the Midwest pretty much all sound like this. And when they try to teach newscasters they try to teach them like a Midwestern like broad accent.

Kristen 08:40

Which I find hilarious. I find it absolutely hilarious. So, we have the accent that is the easiest to understand out of every accent in America.

Erin 08:51

Yeah, which I really, I like that. Because then like when I actually watch the news, I'm like, okay, these people sound just like me, I have no trouble understanding what they're saying. So that's really interesting. I actually kind of want to talk to a newscaster about that, like somebody preferably that was from somewhere where they had an accent and they had to change it.

Kristen 09:11

Especially if they were from the Deep South.

Erin 09:13

Yeah,

Kristen 09:14

Like the rural deep south with a very thick twang. That would be very interesting. Or very distinct New York accent maybe New Jersey, they can turn it off and turn it on.

Erin 09:28

Yeah, yeah, that would be really cool. I've always like kind of, I was always really interested in like, oh, like, maybe I should narrate audio books. Like I would love that. Like, I love listening to them. And I, but I don't know if I can really do a lot of voices. So, I'm like, oh, man, does that mean I just have to read nonfiction.

Kristen 09:48

You'd be surprised at how...how many voices in quotation marks you can actually access. It just depends on how you pitch your voice because for a child usually when I'm doing story times, because I do story times for the little kids too. If it's a kid, I'll do a very high voice because, you know, kids' voices tend to be higher when they're younger. Um, whereas if it's a really gruff, old man, it's grr, you get the idea. So, it's...it's easier when you actually start like putting a personality to it. But yeah, I find it very interesting voice acting, I find very fascinating. And like actors who can like turn on and off accents. I can't do that. That is beyond me. So, it's like the coolest thing ever when they can, like turn on this really thick cockney accent and then turn it off instantly.

Erin 10:44

Yeah, absolutely. Definitely. I think I'm, like, pretty poor with accents. So, I have to pretty much use my Midwestern accent, and read titles. Oh, like I'm listening. Right now, actually, to Baby and Solo.

Kristen 11:02

Oh, okay.

Erin 11:03

It's really, really good. And listening to the audiobook and that audiobook is great. And it's set in the main character is originally from Virginia, but he moves to Michigan. So, like the, you know, the reader sounds like he lives in Royal Oak. Which so that is a really cool because if you know the area like, like, they keep talking about

the Main Art Theater, and I was like, I've been there so many times. Like I went see Rocky Horror Picture Show there. And, like, you know.

Kristen 11:32

That's one of my favorite things to do during Halloween.

Erin 11:35

Yeah, absolutely. So, I thought that was really cool. Like, I like I was probably gonna do a recommendation at the end, but slip that one in there.

Kristen 11:47

Put that bad boy in there right now.

Erin 11:50

That's that set in Sault Saint Marie it that is actually a mystery too.

Kristen 11:55

Wait.

Erin 11:55

There's a lot that happens in that book. Um, it's about a main character who father is a native tribe's person. And he's like, out of the picture now he's, he's died. And her mom is not. So, she's like half. And she doesn't always feel like she fits in with her native relatives. But she always she doesn't feel like she fits in with like, her white relatives either. So, there's always this like othering on both sides. And she has a stepbrother basically. Or like half-brother, from her dad. But he is he has a native mother. So, he already fits in. And so, they generally have like a really close relationship. And so, they're all this...things are, she's...she's gonna go to U of M the next year. And, but then her grandmother's very sick. And she kind of wants to like, okay, maybe I'll stay around and help my mom out and kind of figure out my life after this. So, it's really interesting. There's like, kind of this whole conspiracy and like, there's drugs on the island. And there's a whole mystery with that. And there's a couple deaths that they don't know, like, like who's responsible for. So, it kind of has like, almost everything that you want in a book. There's just like a small side romance. Like, it's not funny. That's the only thing it's not funny, but it's really interesting book and I love like all when everything that they talk about all the islands around there, and the scenery and everything. That's like I love that so much. They talk about like, like the florist boss kind of important. So talking about that, and the kind of plants that we have growing in Michigan, super awesome.

Kristen 14:08

I love anything that has like those little tiny Michigan connections that you can find and you're like, Oh, that's so cool. I know what you're talking about. I just wonder the people who read the book that are not from Michigan. I wonder if they realize exactly how far away Sault Saint Marie is from U of M. Yeah. Because that's like a huge transition. Moving from Sault Saint Marie to Lansing, Ann Arbor area that is insanely large transition. So, I don't know if they...they would get that connection.

Erin 14:44

Yeah. Population like, you know, everybody in Michigan knows like, it's so much more of a remote location. You don't have like the...the depth population density that you do in, especially in southeastern Michigan.

Kristen 14:59

Exactly.

Erin 15:00

It's like a wakeup call.

Kristen 15:03

And I wonder if...if people understand that or if they get curious. And they're like, Huh, I wonder where the University of Michigan is located? Because I'm one of those dorky people I'm like, Huh, I wonder what they're talking about when they're talking about this island, and then I'll go like Google it. And

Erin 15:21

I always do like research on that books I'm like, reading. If I if I learn something about, especially if I don't know anything about it, I'm like, wait, I want to understand how this ties into the book.

Kristen 15:35

Yeah, yeah. Especially if it's a large section of the book, or they devote a lot of time to that particular thing. I always try and do a little bit of research, because it's like, obviously, this is important to the author, because they want to include it. It's important to the storyline, because huge part. So, I always try and do at least a little bit of research. Maybe I don't, you know, fall down the rabbit hole. But I do a little bit of research.

Erin 16:05

Yeah, yeah. I was telling my dad about some research that I did. I wish I could recall exactly what it was regarding I'm sure I'll come up with it. But something Oh, I know, it was actually in a show that I was watching I was watching this Thai drama. And they he was going to the main character was going to actually become ordained as a Buddhist...Buddhist monk. And I was like, Okay, how does this happen? And like, I just needed to know all about like the process and how long like you are a monk for?

Kristen 16:45

Like how long do you study?

Erin 16:47

Yeah, like he told us partner, like don't propose to me until I'm, I've like, after I'm back from the monkhood. And I was like, wait, how long is that. And so I did a lot of research and was very interesting that, honestly, it can be weeks up to like a year. In the show, he did three months. But it was really cool to see that culturally like what they do. And I guess a lot of a lot of men do this. And like, you have to shave your head you...you there's a celebration, and you walk them to the monastery and you present them with the gifts of only the necessities

they're going to need. And then a lot of times family will visit every...every weekend and present them with gifts. But yeah, like that whole thing. I was like, wow.

Kristen 17:42

Like I said, it's not a prevalent part of our culture, at least in Michigan and in the Detroit area. It's not a huge, prevalent part of our culture. That is really interesting, though, I always find it very fascinating when you're talking about religions that are not similar to what you grew up with, and finding the things that are the same and the things that are very, very different. That's super cool. Yeah, but again, I'm a dork.

Erin 18:12

No! I know, I mean, literally, like, my Bachelor's degree is in anthropology. So, my favorite thing is like learning about other cultures, like, I could just travel the world if I could get somebody to bankroll my adventures. And if I could just travel the world and like, write about it and learn about cultures all over the world, though. I would completely do that. So,

Kristen 18:35

Okay, so hashtag life goals. If anybody watching this as a millionaire, please bankroll us, and we will go explore the world and do podcasts about the different cultures that we find. Yeah, absolutely. Yeah, cuz you got to take me with you. Like,

Erin 18:49

I will

Kristen 18:50

You have...have to take me with you.

Erin 18:52

I love it. I love like, want to try the food and learn. Oh, that reminds me. So, this, um, I don't know if you're familiar if you watch these kind of people on YouTube, but one of my favorite videos to watch on YouTube is this guy called Xiaoma. And he's, he's an American. He's a white American guy, but he fell in love with Chinese culture. And he is fluent in like, Mandarin. And you can speak some Cantonese. But he like he's, he lives in New York. And he would go out to restaurants and in like, he would start talking to them in English. And then he was started like, in like flawless Chinese and they would be like, shocked. Like, what this guy speaks really, really excellent Chinese, like, where did he come from? And some, some of the people are like, wow, like, they didn't believe that he was American. They were like, wait, you weren't born in China, things like that. So, I love watching him. Like, if I could have a superpower it'd be like just all of the languages existed

Kristen 20:02

Wouldn't that be amazing?

Erin 20:04

Yeah.

Kristen 20:05

Even the dead ones I want to speak even the dead ones.

Erin 20:07

Yeah.

Kristen 20:07

Because I think that would be flippin' awesome to be able to go to a different country and instantaneously communicate with these people. Yeah, no languages are not my forte at all.

Erin 20:20

Yeah, I'm envious of people that can do that. So, he, he's like fluent I think in English, Mandarin and Spanish. And then he can speak a lot of other languages, bits and pieces of them. So, and I think his Cantonese is pretty good too. But he, he, like learned like a little bit of Korean in a couple days. And he tried that out and he'd learned like these, like, are African languages only spoken by like certain tribes in Africa. Yeah. And so, I was like this, the awesomest ever, so

Kristen 21:02

I thought for sure you're gonna say it was like a cooking show or something because we were talking about food.

Erin 21:08

Like so oh, there was a time where like, he took his Chinese friend with him and then he just ran into this guy who was Chinese too. And they like made him come with them. They're like, we're gonna go to Yelps worst rated Chinese food restaurant and it got like, one star. so, they went and he tried out the food and they only found like one thing that was like edible in like the entire restaurant. But that was really fun. So, they do he does eat a lot of food. And he talks about a lot of food too. So, I'm...I'm sold languages and food...

Kristen 21:45

One of my...my recent YouTube obsessions is there's a gentleman who takes recipes from really old cookbooks like we're talking like 1860s up to like the 1400s cookbooks and tries them out and tries to make them and then does like a taste test with them. I'm like, that is so cool. I want to know what an 1800s cake tastes like.

Erin 22:13

Yeah,

Kristen 22:14

Because they didn't really have a whole bunch of sugar at that point in time. So, what...what does it taste like? Is it sweet? Like we're used to sweet being or is it like a savory cake?

Erin 22:24

I love then you're having all this unprocessed food, like how food used to be.

Kristen 22:30

Right? It's really cool. It's really cool. It's funny because his wife comes in like at always at the end always when it's time to taste and she's like, Oh, you made some food. Good. I'm hungry. That would be kind of amazing to just like Roy randomly wander into your kitchen and someone has just made this cake recipe from scratch from like the 1800s You're just like, okay, cool food. Thanks. I would love that.

Erin 23:01

Me too. Absolutely. That's great. Do you remember the name of the channel or the or the guy?

Kristen 23:08

I'm gonna have to look him up. Looking at well,

Erin 23:11

we've got Sure yeah. Oh, I'm in the captioning. Um, well, it's Xiaomanyc but as the guys in Xiaoma if I'm spell this correctly, hopefully is x i o m a, I believe, although okay.

Kristen 23:31

Yeah, and I'll have to look for him. But I fall down YouTube rabbit holes, like you wouldn't believe.

Erin 23:37

I do too and about like, really random things, too.

Kristen 23:41

Yeah. Oh, yeah. Because there'll be like, here. You just watched this video on cheese making. Here's another video that's sort of similar. I'll be like, Oh, okay. Cheese.

Erin 23:56

I have to tell you. So, it's really funny, because recently I was traveling, and I was kind of, like, noticing how teens were using YouTube and like Instagram, things like that. And I watched two different teens. And both of them did this. And I was amazed. They go through it so fast, at least like don't even really watch anything or like, this girl she would watch like the first half of every video and then she would go to next and it was like, what is happening? I was like, I was wondering, I was like, Is this an attention span thing? Or is this like they need to consume as much media as possible. So, they keep going very quickly, like and I watched the sky scroll through Instagram and so the way he was scrolling through it, he was like not even looking at 90% of the feed and I was like, to me that doesn't make sense because I only follow people who speed I want to look I school a lot slower because I actually want to see what's up. I mean, every once in a while, you'll get like an ad or something like that. But that was there was like mind boggling to me. I was like, oh my gosh, like, they're consuming so much media so quickly. Wow.

Kristen 25:07

So the gentleman's name is Glen and Friends with Glenn and Friends Cooking. But like, I just find it so fascinating because he'll show you the old cookbook, he got it from.

Erin 25:20

Uh huh.

Kristen 25:21

And like, these things are falling apart, man, you can tell they're like super well-loved have been used, like millions of times. And I just, it's so cool.

Erin 25:32

It's just, it's very cool. Well, so I gave a recommendation. Do you have anything that you've read recently that you want to mention?

Kristen 25:42

Anything I've read recently...

Erin 25:44

I mean, recently can be in like the last two years, let's say.

Kristen 25:48

okay, okay.

Erin 25:50

And oh, did you have like a really good, like, fantasy book or fantasy series?

Kristen 25:55

Okay, so one that I'm gonna recommend is called Illuminae. Have you read it? Okay, so

Erin 26:05

I only read the first books I've been meaning to read the other two, I actually listened to audio. And it was really interesting. And I think...

Kristen 26:12

I highly recommend, while the audio I'm sure is really interesting, read the book on this one, like you actually want to get the print book for this one. Because the author did something super cool. So, the story of illuminates a sci fi, you know, typical story. But the story is pieced together based off of left-over documents from the time that they're talking about. And its video clips that they're transcribing what's going on. It's emails, text messages, things like that. And the way the author has the pages laid out, it makes you look like you're looking at a transcription or things like that. It's so cool the way they did it.

Erin 27:02

I had to look at the book after I listened to it because I was like, how does this look? And it was really cool to look at it and like things are formatted like that. So, it's interesting, having it like, read to you too, but

Kristen 27:16

I'm sure.

Erin 27:17

I want to I definitely gonna finish that series. I started so that is by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff. And they have another series that they co-wrote together. Book Three is coming out very shortly. Aurora Rising as I believe the first book and that actually was our hot read when it came out that summer. So...so it's three books series just like Illuminae and she also writes, Amie Kaufman also writes other fantasy series she has a series with Meghan Spooner, which I don't really remember the title off the top of my head, but that looks really good. That's fantasy Jake. Kristoff his stuff is by himself was like darker.

Kristen 28:06

Yeah, I've read some of his other books' series. And it is very dark. Yeah, very dark. So, if you're looking for something super broody, go...go for Jay Kristoff by himself. But if you're looking for more of a sci fi fantasy romp, you want to do the two of them together.

Erin 28:22

Yeah. And it's funny, too.

Kristen 28:24

Oh, yeah. I mean, they did a great job with that book, and then that subsequent series. It's super funny. It's very easy to get addicted and hooked on the story. I tell you that's one of the things that I have a problem with is, I've got so many books that I need to read or want to read. And if you don't catch me within the first 30 to 50 pages. I'm sorry, I'm moving on.

Erin 28:52

Yeah, I definitely agree with that, too. I used to be one of those people that could never abandon a book. I was like, I have to read this. And then as soon as I joined a selection list committee, I was like, you know, I have at least like 200 books for this committee that I'm going to be reading, if there was something that like, if it was amazing audiobooks, if I listened to it for an hour, and I couldn't get into it. No, it was gone. And I was like, that was thankfully graphic novels. I can generally force myself to read the entire thing. But then, like, I'll be angry about it afterwards. If it wasn't any good.

Kristen 29:32

I get really annoyed when the graphic novel doesn't have an art style that I'm I appreciate or if the art style is very off putting from what the story style is, like if your art style is very angular, but you've got this great romance story. It it's really hard for me to...to get into something like that because it's like it's very jarring. It's it's not what you're expecting. Um, so I'm, I'm a little picky with graphic novels less so though because you write a graphic novel you can read in an hour. And that's...that's it, whereas most books, they're 300 plus pages. An

hour could be 30 to 50 pages. But it's again if you don't catch me in those first 30 to 50 pages, man, I hate to say it, I've got other things to do.

Erin 30:29

Absolutely. I have such a long to read list. I miss so many things waiting on the list that, like I you know, any of you are ready to move on.

Kristen 30:41

I just picked up another. It's a new fantasy. And I just picked it up not too terribly long ago. It's called The Gilded Ones by Nina Forna.

Erin 30:53

Yes. I love that book.

Kristen 30:56

Did you love it? Okay, did yeah. We're about a third of the way through right now. Because, you know, I've got other things to read for book clubs and stuff. So, I have the problem that.

Erin 31:07

I liked how it is on the sly, feminist book which I loathe. But it's great fantasy. And it's honestly, I've been really digging all these like, fantasies with a black author and of like, it's like African ancestry. Like, it's so awesome.

Kristen 31:31

I love the multiculturalness that's come out recently when it comes to fantasy series, because that's not something that you've seen a lot. Um, and so the fact that we've got authors of different races and cultures and all sorts of people writing about different races and cultures incorporated seamlessly into a new world is amazing. And I just, I'm eating that up, like you would not believe because it's, it's a different perspective. And I love, love when I get a new perspective, because I've read enough books in my life that there are times when I pick up a book and I start reading, and I'm like, I've read this before.

Erin 32:15

Yeah.

Kristen 32:15

I've read this this exact book before, but I know I haven't, because I know I haven't read this author. I know I haven't read this particular book because it doesn't sound familiar in that regard. But there's so so many plotlines get reused so frequently, that it's really hard to find a new perspective. And we're very lucky in that in the last Oh, man, probably year and a half. It's been really prevalent. I just...I love it.

Erin 32:50

Yeah. It was really funny when I was reading the second book by an author who's I read the first book of her debut. And I was like, this, I was like, this is like, identical to the other book. Like, this author also writes about

like, like lesbian girls that live in of color that live in Ireland. And I was like, what I was like, is this, I was like, Is this a new trend? And then I was like, oh, it's the same author here. And now, and I think, like, I'm pretty sure she's, it's like an own voice and the fact that she is a, a woman of color that was raised in Ireland, and is on, like, is queer. So, I was like, that's really cool that she's incorporating that into, like her writing about teens. And it was really interesting. Honestly, it was kind of driving the second book was driving me crazy, because it was set in like this, like religious school and all of these horrible like, parent type girls, were there. And I just was like, this is the worst ever. I hate this so much like, man, imagine going to like school in Ireland, and especially if you were of color and like, surviving that.

Kristen 34:12

I mean, it's bad enough to be female and to be in school. I can't imagine being of color or different sexual orientation or any of that. That has to be so difficult.

Erin 34:26

Yeah, definitely. There's kind of, I don't know, I'm thinking of Dairy Girls a little bit, but like, I had abandoned that too. I don't know. Like,

Kristen 34:38

I did, too. I did, too. I watched the first couple of episodes for it. And I was like, Okay, this is a cute idea. I don't know if I can watch it anymore.

Erin 34:47

Yep, that's exactly how I felt too and now I no longer feel bad about abandoning things, so...

Kristen 34:54

No, no, you you get to a point in time when you've read 50 of the same plotline. that you're like, Okay, I know exactly how this is going to go. Next!

Erin 35:02

And I think that's why I'm so much pickier to about what...what I watch, like, I read so much, that when I watch something, it's because like, I don't have the faculty to read at that point in time I need something I can just put my eyes on. And even if it's like a storyline, I have to follow like, it has to be engaging. So there's so many things people recommend. And I'm like, like, there's only like, I don't know, three or four series on Netflix that I actually watch that I'm like, looking forward to the next season of. Super picky.

Kristen 35:05

I'm the same way. I'm the same way. It's either that or it's something I've watched a million times because it's innocuous. And my brain doesn't have to think of it.

Erin 35:48

Yeah,

Kristen 35:49

I put it on as more like background noise while I'm like playing a video game on my Switch or something like that. And yeah.

Erin 35:59

So last thing I wanted to mention, Oh, do you have any, like programs that are really popular at your library, and then we can do a plug for our collaborative program that we do.

Kristen 36:10

So oh, so we did. Um, so this is this was kind of like a one off. But the week of Halloween, we did a full week of programs of every night, there was a different program. And that was that was insane, man. It was, it was really good because we have a ton of people. But it was crazy sauce.

Erin 36:33

Was it was a lot of like craft type thing?

Kristen 36:35

It was a lot of craft stuff. And then we did story time and then we did. Then we had the trunk or treat on that Saturday, we had an animal guy come in and he did like creepy crawlies. So, he did like spiders and snakes and cockroaches and all of the animals that you kind of associate with Halloween. So, he came in and did a program about that, which was really cool. And I got to hold a chameleon and I was very happy. Because I love them. They're so cool. And I'm a weirdo. Yes, it's true. That one was really popular. And so, we're going to be doing something again next year because it's going to be just look again in Halloween at Fraser Public Library. We're gonna go absolutely nutso. It's gonna be amazing.

Erin 37:28

That's great. Um, and can non-residents come to your program?

Kristen 37:32

Of course, yeah. Anybody can come to our programs. I don't care if you live in Wisconsin, if you want to make the trip to Fraser Public Library to come to my program, feel free?

Erin 37:43

Yeah. Absolutely. And if, like if you live in Fraser, you can come to Clinton-Macomb Public Library program. Right?

Kristen 37:52

Exactly. It doesn't hurt that we're all part of the Suburban Library operative. But beyond that,

Erin 37:59

That makes it easier. And that makes us also reciprocal borrowing. So, meaning, if you're not familiar with that phrase, you can go to we can go to each other's libraries and check out materials also.

Kristen 38:10

Which is amazing, because even though we have a lot of graphic novels, we don't have the number of graphic novels that Clinton-Macomb has. You guys have an insane number of graphic novels.

Erin 38:22

We do. We just keep buying more. So honestly, the problem now is space. We actually did create more space for graphic novels, well, more so for manga, and South and then we have some more space at the new North Branch. But it's always kind of a space issue because we need to buy new materials and which means unfortunately, we have to get rid of our older materials, things I have checked out in the last couple years to make space. But that's my least favorite part of the job. But you know, you got to do it.

Kristen 38:57

I think it's everybody's least favorite part of the job is going through and getting rid of old material.

Erin 39:03

if it's something actually that's my favorite thing to do is like we're going to be doing blind date with a book again this year and naive, you weary and I always try, unlike okay, what's the lowest circulating book? Okay, so something that I'd recommend to somebody? Yes. Okay. And it's going in blind date with a book and hopefully it'll get checked out.

Kristen 39:21

We do that too. And you'd be surprised at the number of books that go off that shelf. on Blind Date with a Book.

Erin 39:31

So it's really fun. Keywords. We're actually doing one sentence, this sentence descriptions I'm doing long ones.

Kristen 39:36

Yeah, that's what we do. We do one sentence descriptions, and we'll give you genre, like a general genre sort of thing. So, we'll give you...you know, like, Hey, this is a fantasy book, you know, and then we'll do like a one sentence description of it. And that's it and we do it in brown paper and we put the sentence description on the front so that you can see it. It's really fun. It's really fun. If you've never done blind date with book, I highly recommend it because it's a great way to read new authors that you've never heard of before.

Erin 40:11

Absolutely. And you might fall in love with the book that you choose.

Kristen 40:16

Mm hmm.

Erin 40:18

And if you hate it, and you're like, Okay, I'm never reading anything by this author ever.

Kristen 40:21

And that's okay, too. Because if you hate it, at least, you know, never to look for that person again. Exactly. There are a few authors that I just cannot stand their writing style, so I just can't I can't do it.

Erin 40:33

Yeah. Alright, so we, we have this collaborative program that we do with a few other libraries. Kristen, you want to tell us about our game, right that we have?

Kristen 40:44

Sure. So the first and third Thursday of the month, we do a collaborative joint board game night, the Board Game Arena. So that's an online system that you log into, you got to create a free account. But you can play board games with other people in Board Game Arena. So, we set up tables for our players. And we get teens from across Michigan who come and play board games with us, which is really kind of awesome. So first and third Thursday of the month, and it's always at 6:30pm. So that, you know, you can get dinner beforehand or after doesn't matter. But we do a lot of board games. And there's always new ones on board game arena, too. So you know, if there's a new game that you seen, you're like, oh, this would be really cool. Just let us know. We're more than happy to test play a game to see if it would work really well. Coup is the favorite by far.

Erin 41:45

Yeah, I really like just desserts. I was like Sushi Go for so many years. So, like, it's so easy to play. Yeah. And actually, my first game night, I taught the teens how to play Seven Wonders. That's a little bit of a challenge. But like for first time players, but once you understand it, you can actually pay to play really quickly.

Kristen 42:08

Yeah, inking gold is my other favorite. And that's just because it's...it's not competitive. With other players. You're competing against the card deck, essentially. So, it's...it's a push your luck sort of game. So yeah, you're trying to get more points than the other players, but you're not actively like ruining their day by, you know, stealing things from them. So, like, I'll push your looks mostly because I'm awful at them. Yeah,

Erin 42:36

Yeah. I don't...

Kristen 42:37

Oh, I'm horrible.

Erin 42:38

I won, like all of the games have Seven Wonders. And I'm like, not surprised. Because like, I have strategy. And if you're new to the game, you are not going to have a strategy. And what I told everybody, I was like, yeah, no, if we were playing with my sister, and her husband, I always lose. And she always wins and Hans, usually always in second place. And he, he's just very sore loser. But that's her game. She's just a genius at that game. So

Kristen 43:08

Yeah, that's why I like the push your luck kind of games. I mean, I'm awful at them. Because I will always, always try and push my luck, or I make the worst decision possible and go back before everybody else but but because I'm awful at them I think it's fun to see exactly how horrible I can be. Yeah, and you can come away with

Erin 43:32

Be like, I'm gonna see how bad I can do.

Kristen 43:36

Oh, yeah, I do that all the time. I'm like, I am going to try and do the worst I possibly can.

Erin 43:41

Yeah. Well, that's about all the time we have for today's podcast. I want to thank you so much Kristen, for being our guest.

Kristen 43:50

Yeah, of course!

Erin 43:50

And being very lively and cheerful. I appreciate it.

Kristen 43:55

This is my normal bubbly person, you know, personality. If ya'll like it, come visit me.

Erin 44:01

Yeah, in-person. Yeah, you will get the same.

Kristen 44:06

It's no it's true. You will get the same bubbly, happy personality. I am very happy person.

Erin 44:13

Alright, thanks very much.

Kristen 44:15

Yeah. Thanks for having me.