

March 2021 Podcast

Fri, 3/19 12:01PM • 44:58

Amy 00:17

Hi, everyone, welcome to our latest edition of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library podcast. Today we are going to be telling you about one of our favorite digital services hoopla. And my name is Amy. I am in the Adult Services Department. We also have with us Phil, who's one of our adult librarians at the North Branch, say hi, Phil.

Phil 00:37

Hello.

Amy 00:38

And we have our head of youth and teen services. Lisa, say hi, Lisa.

Lisa 00:42

Hey, everybody.

Amy 00:44

So, um, hoopla just in case someone doesn't know what it is, is a streaming platform provided by the library. It has really a little bit of everything. It has audiobooks, and eBooks and comics and TV, and music. And currently, our patrons are entitled to seven checkouts per month. And that number resets on the first of every month. And before we sort of dive into some of our favorite things on hoopla. I just wanted to let everyone know that it's a really great resource in general. But if you're a heavy overdrive user, and you're Wait, you feel like you've been waiting a long time for something, make sure you check and see if it's available on hoopla as well. And one of my examples of this was the highly anticipated sequel, or prequel, actually to the Hunger Games last year, The Ballad of songbirds and snakes, we had huge lists on overdrive. Well, everyone could access it at the same time and hoopla. So, one of the benefits of hoopla is unlike OverDrive, it's not a one copy one user situation. Everyone can access the same content at the same time, which is great.

01:56

Yes,

Lisa 01:56

Amy, I really recommend this, especially for book clubs, and classrooms. So if you have multiple kids who want to read the same book together, hoopla is a great way to do that. Because you're not limited by that one on one ratio.

Amy 02:12

For sure. I agree. Like recently, well, not recently, last year, when we did the Book Woman of Troublesome Creek for Books on Tap, one of our book clubs at the library, it was our easiest one ever because the book was available in hoopla and everyone could access it at the same time, which was quite nice. But I think what we're gonna do right now is we're going to dive in and sort of tell you about some of our things that we love to read or watch or listen to on hoopla. And I think we decided we're gonna start with Lisa.

Lisa 02:41

We did. So before I tell you my absolute favorite thing that I use on hoopla because I work in the Children's and Teen Services Department. One of the things I like to promote about hoopla is right at the top of the page, there is a kid's filter button, so...

Amy 02:58

It's really nice when you've got a kid who wants to browse on their own, but you don't want them to come across adult content.

Lisa 03:04

Right. So it's really easy, you just hit the button, it's right at the top next to the search bar. And you can hand your device over to a child or do it on their device. So that way, they are just searching for content that you will find appropriate for them. And it also narrows it down. There is a lot of content in hoopla. And this way they're finding what they're looking for. The other neat thing that we did on our end is if you click on the Browse button in hoopla. And you'll see all these categories down near the bottom, kind of like you would find in a bookstore or library catalog or on Amazon. right near the top it will say library collections. And we broke out some of our bid programs that we run at the library, our preschool picks, which are the pink starred books, our kindergarten challenge books, which are the orange starred books and our 50 and first books, which are the blue starred books, and there's audiobooks, eBooks and DVDs of many of the titles and that way you have a book list right there that will take you right to that.

Amy 04:08

Super nice.

Phil 04:10

It's very cool.

Lisa 04:10

So my favorite thing actually to use in hoopla. And this is not because I personally love it, but I use it in a lot of programs because as you will see from this I don't do well with quiet and I like to check out the Kidz Bop CDs, and run them during programs when I'm working with kids. What I like about the Kidz Bop CDs is I don't have to worry about any language and they're not awful. A lot of children's music is pretty awful on my ears. There's stuff I'm still humming along to because the basic melodies there. The other nice thing about Kidz Bop is there is something for everybody. They have Halloween, they have Christmas, they have gold, which is their classic

they've got monster ballads for those 80s lovers like me. They've got party hits, they've got the 2021 songs, they've got 2020

Amy 05:05

I have a confession, I have a confession to make. Prior to the pandemic, I went to a Kidz Bop concert. Now...

Phil 05:12

Awesome!

Amy 05:14

But it was not. It was not the worst thing in the world. Like, you know, all the songs, which is nice.

Phil 05:21

Well, my cousin on Facebook just yesterday said she keeps up on what's popular music wise, through Kidz Bop, it's a they do all the hits.

Amy 05:32

Quite frankly, that makes a lot of sense to me.

Lisa 05:34

Actually, the other nice thing because well, the average listener is not going to be running library programs where they want to play catch up as background music. This is really great for being in your car. Because I will download Kidz Bop on my Google account. And it's not uncommon during normal times for me to have seven Kidz Bop CDs checked out each month. And we will just play them and stream them through my car speakers through my hands recalling and thinking. And it works just like the radio but that way, the kids aren't listening to 96.3 which I love. But they don't really like it. They want.

Amy 06:13

Sure, that's fair.

Lisa 06:16

So that's number one on my list for children.

Amy 06:19

Awesome. Phil, would you like to go next with one of your recommendations?

Phil 06:24

Sure. Um, I'm doing all movies. And these are movies for adults. So only watch these after the kids have gone to bed. The first one I'm going to talk about is Ex Machina from 2014. The basic plot is a computer programmer wins a competition to spend a week at the private mountain estate of his companies brilliant and reclusive CEO. Once...

Amy 06:49

I remember this movie

Phil 06:51

I love this movie.

Amy 06:52

Yeah!

Phil 06:53

Once, once there he learns he has been chosen to evaluate the capabilities of a new breathtaking artificial intelligence. So this one stars Alicia Vikander, Domhnall Gleeson and Oscar Isaac. Of course, I'd love Domhnall Gleeson because he's a redhead like me, and there aren't a lot of us in Hollywood. So and both he and Oscar Isaac are both in the new Star Wars franchise, you may recognize that. So I find advanced artificial intelligence to be both fascinating and creepy, and this movie delivers on both. Much of the movie involves Domhnall Gleeson's character of Caleb essentially conducting a Turing test on Ava, a humanoid robot played by Alicia Vikander. The Turing test is designed to see how close to human and artificial intelligence is. As we witness her conversation throughout the movie, it's clear that Ava is indeed self-aware and has free will and even sexuality. The fact that she's a sentient being but essentially is imprisoned behind bulletproof glass raises a major moral questions for Caleb, who is beginning to realize that Ava is programmer and keeper Nathan may not be such a great guy. Over the course of their conversation, Eva shows an attraction to Caleb and vice versa. But the underlying question throughout the film is, is Ava truly developing feelings for Caleb, or is she manipulating him to plot her escape? Which you know, I think is totally understandable.

Amy 08:17

That's legit, if that is what she's doing, and I won't give away if that is what she's doing. But I will say this movie was creepy to me in the best possible way. Like, like, like, we're all like, are we heading in this direction?

Phil 08:31

Yes, Stanley Kubrick movie. This script was nominated for an Oscar very well written. And then the conversations between Caleb and Ava and between Caleb and Nathan are really fascinating to watch. And like Amy said, his...his remote prison-like underground compound is super creepy and claustrophobic which adds to this feeling of foreboding throughout the entire movie. The visual effects are great. They won the Oscar that year. And Alicia Vikander is trading as a ballet dancer is really obvious. Her movements are so precise, and fluid that you believe she is not quite human.

Amy 09:13

That is...I would agree with all of that actually.

Lisa 09:16

That sounds really good.

Amy 09:17

Have you seen it, Lisa? You should watch it.

Lisa 09:21

I don't creepy movies, but with...

Amy 09:23

It's creepy, but more like, yeah, that's how it's creepy. It's like, oh, my goodness, could this happen kind of or will we get there sort of thing?

Lisa 09:32

Honestly, I feel like we're pretty close to that, but we're not there.

Amy 09:37

Let's hope we're not.

Phil 09:39

It's kind of alarming because you feel like this is not too implausible.

Amy 09:43

Exactly. Okay, so my first recommendation is something everyone actually already knows about. I feel like so, recently, Netflix released the Bridgertons.

Lisa 09:59

Yeah.

Amy 10:00

Yes. So they released Season One of the Bridgertons. And wow, the Bridgertons took off like this romance series has been around for years, forever. But...

Lisa 10:12

Probably it was early 2000s because...

Amy 10:15

Yeah.

Phil 10:16

I didn't realize it was old until recently.

Lisa 10:18

Yeah, well, I read this one when I was younger.

Amy 10:20

Yeah, me neither, Phil. Romance is not my bag usually, but because I work in Adult Services and the Bridgerton's happened because of Netflix. I was like, perhaps I should learn something about this. Anyway, um, the...the because of the Netflix series, the Bridgerton books have soared in popularity, we can't keep them on the shelf. There's always a whole list that OverDrive, but they're all available on hoopla is eBooks and many of them are also available as eAudiobooks. So, if you've been hearing about it and wondering about it, the series itself is set between 1813 and 1827. And what it is...is a collection of eight novels, and each one of those novels is based on one of this Count Bridgerton's children. Okay, so the first one I'm not gonna remember the name of the Duke and I or something like that. Right, right. It's Um, so the children are Anthony Benedict, Collin, Daphne, Eloise, Francesca, Gregory, and my favorite name in the whole world Hyacinth. It just...just screams romance book to me. So what Netflix is doing is creating a season of the series based on each one of the books. So, season one is about the first book and is that Anthony, Lisa?

Lisa 11:41

No, the first book is Daphne's book I love that Amy's talking about this, and I'm helping her out.

Amy 11:46

I mean, I just wanted to promote it. I haven't seen or read them yet. But I plan to.

Lisa 11:51

You're missing out. I will tell you if you do have Netflix, this is not something you want to watch when children are around, especially from like episode six on

Amy 12:03

I don't remember if it was episode six or episode eight, but it was all over Twitter.

Lisa 12:10

There's a lot of adult content.

Phil 12:13

Sexy Downton Abbey.

Amy 12:15

Very sexy from what I hear.

Lisa 12:17

Yeah, just keep moving that spectrum. Daphne's was a good start. My favorite book in the series was actually Anthony's. And they've started taping it

Amy 12:28

Is that season two, book two?

Lisa 12:30

Yes, so that one is going to be The Viscount Who Loved Me. And he meets his match in that one. I also really liked Collin's story when you get to Collin, and I'm not going to tell you who we ended up with. And Hyacinth.

Amy 12:46

Fair enough. Fair enough.

Lisa 12:48

They go in order-ish, based on their age with the exception of Daphne.

Amy 12:54

Anyway, I wanted to highlight this series because it is so popular. If you are on hold for one of these books in OverDrive check out hoopla because like we said before, everyone can get access to the same content at the same time. And these are so popular. There's no reason to sit on hold for them right now.

Lisa 13:14

They're also sitting on Amazon's bestseller list right now. I think almost the entire series is in the top 50. And while you can buy a bundle together of all of them. It costs about \$50.

Amy 13:26

And isn't there also like there's these eight main books and then it seems like there's a whole bunch of other books too, like maybe prequels or side stories?

Lisa 13:37

First, the eight books and then they did something that I love, she wrote second epilogues of all the books. So if you're on OverDrive, you can sometimes check them out singly by themselves. But there is a bundle I think it's called Happily Ever After Bridgertons. And everybody second epilogue so you can find out where they are maybe 10 years later, or in Hyacinth's you'll see her child, you know, grow up at little bit. As you go further down, it's different cousins and whatnot. And they're good books, but nothing beats these original eight.

Amy 14:13

Fair enough. Fair enough.

Lisa 14:13

The whole family you feel like you're immersed in their family and their lives. And it's some ...

Amy 14:19

People just can't get enough of them right now.

Lisa 14:22

Yes, it's, I'll be honest, when I read them 20 years ago, they were just as good. Like, I love the series. I went right through from beginning to end. Fair enough. It's a good series, so I'm happy this happened for them. Excellent.

And you know, I have to give Lisa credit when that flicks announced the Bridgerton series. She was like, you're gonna need more of these books and adult I'm like, are we? She's like, I promise you, you are.

Amy 14:51

So alright, what do you got next for us, Lisa?

Lisa 14:54

My next one. It's kind of like around about things. So if you have young children there is a lot of Sesame Street content in hoopla, eBooks, music, couple of movies, the one that I am highlighting, because my eight year old niece decided she...it's one of her favorite kid's books, and she needs to read it over and over and over again. And it's not uncommon for me to go to her house and have to check it out on hoopla while I'm there. So she can read it again. To me, it's the Another Monster at the End of this Book.

Amy 15:27

I was gonna say, it's gotta be Monster at the End of the Book!

Lisa 15:30

Another Monster because she already has a for copy of Monster and then we have read the sequel. And I don't know why this is hitting an eight-year-old so hard that we have to keep rereading this. I highly recommend the Sesame Street content. It's just really easy to put on for all ages.

Amy 15:48

I agree. I also have an almost eight-year-old and we're sort of past Sesame Street at this point. But it's once I filter it to that children's room, it's nice to just be able to say to something. And she finds things that she wishes she could watch but aren't on right now like Loud House and those sorts of things. There's like Wild Kratts can be difficult to find. But she find complete seasons of it on hoopla for one checkout which is nice.

Lisa 16:17

And what I love about your child is didn't she just find audiobooks?

Amy 16:21

Yes. She just discovered the world of audiobooks despite the fact that she has a librarian mother who listens to audiobooks all the time.

Lisa 16:31

So one of Amy and her daughter's new adventures is they are going to listen to audiobooks together, but separately.

Phil 16:38

Aw.

Lisa 16:38

So they have their own headphones on and I'm like, aww.

Amy 16:41

We do. We go for...for walks and we listen to our respective audio books. And when we get home and talk about what we listen to.

Phil 16:51

And have your own private book club, that's awesome.

Amy 16:53

Absolutely.

Lisa 16:54

It is. Phil, what do you have next.?

Phil 16:58

Alright, next I have The Descent from 2005. Again, this is one put the kids to bed before you watch this one. A cave expedition goes horribly wrong as the explorers become trapped, and ultimately pursued by a strange breed of predators. So my wife and I stumbled on this movie at the Saugatuck Film Festival. It was shown in the big boat warehouse, which is a surprisingly great place to watch a horror movie. The energy in the theater was really high. And I'm usually pretty picky when it comes to horror movies. I don't really watch them that often. But this one was really a lot of fun because it was completely different from anything I've seen before or since. The movie follows a group of six young women who go spelunking in a vast cave. And just that aspect of the story is stressful enough. They the deeper they go...

Amy 17:51

It already stresses me out that they're in a cave.

Phil 17:57

They're in a cave. And the deeper they go, the more they get into tight spots and other precarious situations.

Amy 18:02

No, thank you.

Phil 18:03

They ultimately get lost. So the movie could have been just about cave diving, and it would have been terrifying from start to finish. However, the moment they realize that they are not alone in the cave, well, all hell breaks loose at that point and their fight for survival and escape for the remainder the film is quite thrilling. The...

Amy 18:22

What's in there with them?! Is it a monster or a person?

Phil 18:29

Ah, the answer is yes. And it's brilliant. It's brilliant. It's called The Descent. It's really fantastic. It's well-written, well-acted and has artful cinematography. I also liked that it's an all-female cast. And they're portrayed as tough, smart and three-dimensional characters, which you don't always get in a horror movie. The movie won a Saturn Award for Best horror film and a British independent Award for Best Director and Roger Ebert gives it four stars.

Amy 19:02

Impressive. Do we know anybody in it, Phil, or are they not very? Not that it matters.

Phil 19:09

I didn't put down the actress for this one because they're all pretty well unknowns. Yeah.

Amy 19:15

This is intriguing. I don't do horror generally, because it's scary. But this is intriguing to me. Actually. You might make my husband watch this with me. I don't ever do horror alone.

Lisa 19:28

Oh, God. No, no. As soon as you talked about going in the cave. I mean, I did go spelunking in college.

Phil 19:37

Oh boy,.

Lisa 19:37

So, it's more of a newer thing for me. But no, no, it's so tight. And it's creepy and no.

Phil 19:45

And the bigger I get as a person, the more horrific that sounds.

Lisa 19:49

Yes. And I'm a klutz. So you know klutzy things do not go well in caves.

Phil 19:55

No,

Amy 19:55

Yeah. My husband's family lives about nine hours from us, and every time we do the drive, we say we're gonna stop at Mammoth Cave. And I always seem to find a reason not to, even though it's like a cave that everyone goes into, it's still a cave.

Phil 20:12

You know what's funny, after I saw this film, my friends and I went to an Airbnb in Kentucky, and it has a cave on site, its Razor Cave Farm. And we went into the opening of this cave. And etched in the rock was my friend's

name, Spencer, in large letters. Granted, nobody knows him. This is our first time being here. And we're like, it's The Descent. It's, it's the creature from The Descent. It was mind blowing. But anyway,

Lisa 20:44

and that's when you turn around and walk out.

Phil 20:47

Yes, the I decided at that moment not to go any further.

Lisa 20:51

Good choice. And that's why Phil's still here today.

Amy 20:53

That's why you're here to do this podcast with us, Phil.

Phil 20:56

That's right.

Amy 20:57

Common Sense. All right. I think I'm next right?

Lisa 21:02

Yeah. What do you have?

Amy 21:03

Okay, so I, you guys probably know this about me, but I cannot work in silence. Like, I don't do silence very well at all. And so when I'm in my office, I like to play music a lot. But I don't love to play it through my phone because it sucks the battery. And then I'm looking for a charger which I inevitably forgot to bring with me and blah, blah, blah. So I like to get a lot of music during the week during I ran from either freegal or hoopla. And so one of my favorites that I get from hoopla probably every month is the Hamilton soundtrack. Like I love like, like everybody, well, I shouldn't say everyone, but like a lot of people I loved this musical. I loved it when I saw it. I love it. When I listened to it. My eight-year-old knows most of the words to all of the songs I'm I, I enjoyed this and so I love that I can download it from hoopla listen to it from my computer while I'm working. In it, it's, it's great. In addition to Hamilton, if you do like musical, there's lots of other ones on hoopla as well. I just did a quick search today so I could talk about them. But there's Hades town, there's the music from wicked. It's not a musical as much as a movie. But the greatest showmen soundtrack. There's lots of great movies and music soundtracks, available in hoopla that I highly recommend. And there's tons of other music too. This is just what I find myself listening to in the work day. So people make fun of me because they'll call me at work. Like our PR person will call me at work and be like, are you listening to Hamilton again? And I'm like, Yes, I am. Yes, I am.

Lisa 22:51

We might have seen Hamilton together. So...

Amy 22:54

Right. Right. Right.

Lisa 22:55

So important question: Disney Plus Hamilton or live Hamilton? Which one's better?

Amy 23:00

Well, I actually have thoughts on this. Live Hamilton was fabulous. Like to finally see it. We saw it when it was touring in Detroit, a bunch of us from work went and it was it was great. I loved it. I do love also watching it on Disney Plus, though, because you get the angles that you like, when I watch a musical I tend to focus on one person even though I know I should be scanning the stage. But like Da'vid Diggs is such a magnetic personality that when he was on the stage, that's who I watched, you know what I mean? So, it is nice to see more of the show that I probably wasn't focusing on when I watched it, because there's so many details in like, the dance or the movement or who's interacting with who, even though they're not speaking that are really fascinating. So, yeah.

Phil 23:56

Yeah, agreed. It's a great musical. I grew up in all those 80s spectacle musicals with all the staging. And this one really has sparse staging, but it's, it's remarkable with what they can do with just a group of talented actors. And dancers.

Amy 24:12

Yeah, I agree with that.

Lisa 24:14

This one also had so much wit to it. I love the part of King George. It.

Amy 24:21

Yeah, yes. Um, it's funny. I watched a I don't even know how it must have come up on Facebook or something. There was a clip of Lin Manuel Miranda, the first time he sort of talked about doing this in public was at a presidential event. And he did like one rap from it might have been My Shot or something like that, but he introduced his idea for this musical and it was Michelle and Barack Obama and all these other important people and they all laughed out loud when he gave the description and you can see his taken aback. He's like, no, I'm serious. This is going to be a musical and everyone was like, oh, okay, buddy, and then it blew up.

Lisa 25:04

And not to sound bad about this, but who knew anything about Hamilton? Other than he dealt with money?

Amy 25:11

Well, this he got he was inspired by the book by gosh, Phil, what's the guy who writes all the biographies of the...?

Phil 25:19

Oh goodness. It's not Chernow, is it?

Amy 25:21

I don't remember all.

Phil 25:23

I'll think of it afterwards.

Amy 25:26

But it's funny because he told the story about how he read it on summer vacation. And my husband also read that book on summer vacation. And I'm like, well, why didn't you write Hamilton? We would be millionaires. My husband's like, oh, cuz I don't have any talent to match. But yeah, it was fun. All right, who's next?

Lisa 25:48

I don't know. I lost track.

Phil 25:49

I think Lisa's next.

Lisa 25:51

Yeah. Okay. So the other thing that hoopla does really well. So we've talked a little bit about eBooks and movies and music. What they really do good are graphic novels, so books with pictures, you'll get them in OverDrive, and it's okay. But their graphic novel content is excellent in hoopla. And one of the ones that I really like from there is the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan. It's the beginning of the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, which sparked a whole bunch of series afterwards. I love Rick Riordan's writing, it's great fantasy, the illustrations really match up with the pictures. And what I was thinking, and it's, it's such a good story. Um, honestly, I would recommend The Lightning Thief for anybody, whether they're an adult or a child or a family read in a car. But I love that it's a graphic novel here.

Amy 26:47

And I will also say just in general, the the breadth of content of content in hoopla on graphic novels is is way bigger than than any other service that we provide. And they have a lot of the more obscure stuff that you might be looking for; some of the content that is is awesome, but a little bit less popular, is available through hoopla. And so it's a great resource for comic books and graphic novels for sure.

Lisa 27:17

Yes, agreed. Well, and those get pricey anyways, because a lot of them, especially the manga is sequential.

Amy 27:24

Yes, absolutely. Yeah. Absolutely. And so many of them can be released. So yeah. All right. Phil what's next?

Phil 27:33

Okay, so when we talked about doing this podcast, I told Amy, I want to do some hidden gems, and I definitely consider this one to be a hidden gem on hoopla. It's Let the Right One In from 2008. It's a Swedish movie, but you might recognize, Let Me In, which is the US version remake that was with Chloe Grace Moretz. But this is the original Swedish film. And so the basic plot is Oscar, an overlooked and bullied boy, finds love and revenge through Ellie, a beautiful but peculiar girl. So, the basic premise of this movie is that of a coming of age boy crush girl, girl crush friendship between two tweens were both lonely and kind of outsiders. What makes the relationship both interesting and challenging is that the girl Ellie is a vampire. On the positive side, Ellie assists Oscar with his problem with school bullies. On the negative side Ellie requires a steady diet of human blood in order to stay alive, which is always a challenge. Ellie's morally questionable caregivers in the unfortunate position of having to keep the refrigerator stocked, so to speak without getting caught.

Amy 28:45

I have to interrupt you. I never expected the answer to be she's a vampire.

Phil 28:54

Twist, right?

Amy 28:55

Right. What I thought you were gonna say but that was not it.

Lisa 29:01

I also loved how in the first part of this Phil said, well, you know, I'm not really into most horror.

Phil 29:06

I know. And here I got with a whole bunch of horror movies. I guess it turns out I am.

Amy 29:12

Is this horror or is this comedy?

Phil 29:14

It's not comedy. I'm reading it as comedy, but it's...it's actually deadly serious.

Amy 29:19

Okay. Fair enough.

Phil 29:21

Yeah, it's with the same serious as maybe my first two movies. So keeping Ellie's vampire-ness, a secret to the outside world becomes increasingly difficult, which in turn threatens the friendship between Ellie and Oscar. So I like this film because it's largely shot as a character study. And at its core, it's a movie about friendship in the face of adversity. There are brilliant gothic horror elements., but the film takes its time in developing the

relationship between Oscar and Ellie, so that you actually care about them and about their unusual predicament. The directing and the cinema. cinematography is excellent and the film won the Saturn Award for Best International Film and it pretty much gets great reviews across the board. So

Amy 30:04

Is she a vampire with a conscience? Does she like only suck the blood of terrible people like killers or no?

Phil 30:11

I think we can't conclude that.

Amy 30:13

Okay.

Phil 30:15

No, I think she's, she's just hungry. You know? What are you gonna do?

Amy 30:20

I mean, person's got to eat.

Phil 30:22

A person's got to eat, right?

Lisa 30:24

I'm going to assume this is also when you want to watch after the kids go to bed?

Phil 30:28

Yes. Absolutely yes.

Amy 30:31

All right. But I, I'm, I'm again fascinated, Phil.

Phil 30:37

So you've got some homework to do, Amy.

Amy 30:38

I do. I'm gonna start with Dissent though.

Phil 30:41

Yes.

Amy 30:42

All right. So my decidedly different last recommendation. Um, so over the past year during lockdown and everything, I didn't watch a ton of these beforehand. But this last year, I have been obsessed with cooking shows. I don't know why I think because it's just mindless fun. And I might learn a little something, too. Yes, exactly. I discovered that Hoopa has the Great British Baking Show.

Phil 31:13

Ah, I love it!

Amy 31:16

Which is awesome, as far as I'm concerned. So, I don't know if anyone doesn't know what the Great British Baking Show is. If you don't, you absolutely should. But basically, contestants are brought together. And every week they have challenges to compete in to create these things that are just like these baking things that are out of this world.

Lisa 31:44

Masterpieces.

Phil 31:45

Yes.

Amy 31:45

Beautiful.

Phil 31:46

My whole family is hooked on this show.

Amy 31:48

Yes, absolutely. My...as are we and so I'm just I'm obsessed with this show for some reason, and who has seasons one through five. So, I love the challenges. I love how creative the contestants are. And because I'm sometimes a terrible person, I love when things kind of go horribly wrong, and I can't figure out a solution to it.

Phil 32:11

But they're always so diplomatic. even when they're competing.

Amy 32:15

Yes, they help each other, okay, like with ingredients and stuff occasionally and stuff like that. And so it was it's just a great family show that is not at all stressful and, and things. It's just fun to watch.

Lisa 32:29

And what I love about it is it's not a show necessarily for bakers. It makes cooking accessible for everybody, even people who don't cook.

Amy 32:40

Correct. I think that's true.

Lisa 32:42

That's where I'm more of a baker and, and I get some of the stuff they're doing. And it's still fun. But I can also sit next to like my brother or the kids or something else. And they are also going to enjoy the show.

Amy 32:54

And I can learn some things too, because they'll use a term and then they sort of show you what they're doing. Like you can figure out what that term means. If you don't already know what it means, you know what?

Phil 33:06

And over time you're like, oh, they didn't prove that long. I would have learned something like that.

Lisa 33:13

Be careful because otherwise after COVID I'm going to expect baking.

Amy 33:19

Fair enough.

Phil 33:20

I should also say now that this is your segment. Sorry. And I'm talking over it...

Amy 33:24

Please do.

Phil 33:25

When my wife and I first watched that my wife goes oh, Paul's handsome.

Amy 33:30

Paul is handsome.

Phil 33:32

I must admit myself, he's a handsome guy.

Amy 33:36

Yes. So a little something for everyone, I think a Great British Baking Show. All right, that's, um, I think takes us to Lisa, right?

Lisa 33:46

Yeah, let me just throw in one last set it because I work in children's. The other thing I really like about hoopla is that they do have we've talked about the pictures and graphic novels. They also have picture books. And I like

those especially like if you're sitting at the doctor's office in a waiting room and you need to occupy your child and you need something to read or keep them busy because I don't want them touching other people's stuff right now. Two that I would recommend our *We Don't Eat Our Classmates* by Ryan Higgins, which is one of our preschool picks. In it it's the first day of school for Penelope Rex, and she can't wait to meet her classmates. But it's hard to make human friends when they are so delicious. That is until Penelope gets a taste of her own medicine and find she may not be at the top of the food chain after all. The other one I would highly recommend is *Unstoppable* by Adam Rex. If it was normal-ish out this year and we were still going into schools like we do in the past, this would have been a book that we would have taken out to classrooms or March Reading Month. Each of the

Amy 34:58

We did take the first one out. We did take *We Don't Eat Our Classmates* out.

Lisa 35:04

Absolutely. But I feel like they already all know this book. This is a new one that just came out last year. The animals in the forest all want each other's superpowers what they see. So, you know, um, bird wants claws and crab wants the ability to fly and they all team up to help save the forest from the people who are trying to deforest it. But it's really neat, because at one point, you see all the animals stacked up on top of each other. So they are a giant superhero because they have...

Phil 35:38

Nice, like Voltron.

Lisa 35:39

Well, it is and then you start thinking about, oh, what superpower would I want? You know, what if it's something that's accessible to everybody, but it's a good story.

Amy 35:51

All right.

Lisa 35:52

So those are my last two eBooks.

Amy 35:55

So we promised that we would keep this under 30 minutes, and we're at 40 minutes. So...

Lisa 36:02

I didn't promise that. Let's be real when you have the two of us for sure. Phil doesn't talk quite as much, but I was getting into with us.

Amy 36:15

All right, I'm gonna wrap this up and say thank you for listening to our podcast, we hope you will make use of hoopla, which you can find on the digital download section of our website. While you're there, I would also encourage you to check out freegal, which is a music streaming service where you get five free songs a week to keep forever. You can also stream music every day and then there's also overdrive there that you can check out for other eBooks and audio needs. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to visit our website, give us a call or come into one of our buildings. Thanks so much, everyone.

Lisa 36:52

Bye, everybody.

Amy 36:52

Bye