

September 2021 Podcast

Colleen 00:17

Hi, welcome to the Clinton-Macomb Public Library's podcast. For this month we are doing some spooky stuff today. I am Colleen, I am one of the teen services librarians here at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library. And joining me today is

Jessie 00:32

Jesse Abraham. I am a Children's Services Librarian here also at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library.

Colleen 00:39

Jessie, I hear you like some spooky stuff.

Jessie 00:42

I do. And I hear you like some spooky stuff. And I feel like we could talk about this way longer than we're going to today.

Colleen 00:49

We've already been talking about it before we hit record, and we will probably just hit stop and continue talking about so I think we should get right to it. So, we're going to talk about a few of our favorite spooky, kind of seasonal materials. We've got a few different kinds of things. I think I've got a book and an audio book and a movie and I think you've got...

Jessie 01:10

Yeah, I have a couple books coming out. And I can start with that.

Colleen 01:15

Yeah, go for it.

Jessie 01:16

Okay. Um, because typically I for pleasure reading and viewing its typically always YA or adult, mostly adults. But I am a children's librarian. So, I do read a lot of children's books as well. And so, I just want to talk about two new sort of spooky children's books coming out. The first one is called There's a Ghost in this House by Oliver Jeffers, who is one of my favorite children's authors. He is an amazing illustrator author. And the concept of this book is really cool. It comes out at October 5. And it's about a young girl who lives in a haunted house, which I love. I love haunted houses, but has never seen a ghost. Are they white with holes for eyes? Are they hard to see? Step inside and help the girl as she searches under the stairs behind the sofa in in the attic for the ghosts. So basically, this is an interactive, like...

Colleen 02:14

Is it like a picture book?

Jessie 02:15

It's a picture book that has transparent pages that and it's interactive. So basically, through the book, you're looking for ghosts, so...so this is a kid's picture book. It's an easy reader or not easy reader. It's in our easy section of picture books. And it's on order right now. So, you can put it on hold and it comes out October 5. So yeah, that sounds super cool, doesn't it?

Colleen 02:39

I...I love picture books like that where they've got some sort of like interactive format to it. It made me think of Go Away Big Green Monster.

Jessie 02:49

Yeah.

Colleen 02:50

Where every time you turn the page, it changes...

Jessie 02:52

Yeah.

Colleen 02:52

which also classic for Halloween time.

Jessie 02:54

Yeah, I feel like this is one of those books when they come out as a kid, you remember it forever. Kind of like The Jolly Postman. I don't know if you've ever read that.

Colleen 03:03

I have, yeah,

Jessie 03:04

Where it has like all the cards and stuff in it. Any of those books. I feel like I just remember I remember that as a kid. I bought it for my kids and they still read it all the time. The other one I have is a middle grade reader. And so I would say probably grades four to probably close to six. It's called Dustin Grimm by Chuck Wendig and that comes out on October 19. And it's Miss Peregrin meets The Graveyard Book.

Colleen 03:30

Oh, wait. That sounds amazing.

Jessie 03:34

I know. So, it says adventure about or read about an adventure rival several siblings running a monster more mortuary. Say that three times. No, I can't. I probably should have read that out loud first.

Colleen 03:53

I feel like they do that on purpose to make all these really crazy titles that we can't say out loud.

Jessie 03:58

Right?

Colleen 03:58

Oh, that sounds so cute.

Jessie 04:00

Yeah, yeah. And the covers really cool. It's like a brother and a sister and they have like their backs toward each other and it just has like...it's just very kind of sort of Gothic looking. And the cover it looks really good. So, I'm looking forward to that.

Colleen 04:13

Is mortuary one of those words where you're supposed to like pronounce when

Jessie 04:17

You're right. I probably I probably should have been a little bit more emphasis. Yeah.

Colleen 04:24

Cute. I feel like there are just so many really good middle grade books coming out and that sounds great on my own.

Jessie 04:29

It was actually hard for me to narrow it down to one to kind of talk about but this is what I've been sort of looking forward to for a while. Yeah,

Colleen 04:36

I love that. Um, I similarly I read not a lot of kid's books, but I'm a teen librarian. So, I do read a lot of YA I also just read a lot of like adult nonfiction for some reason which I never thought of myself as a nonfiction reader. But here we are. Because three nonfiction books to talk about.

Jessie 04:56

Like nonfiction spooky is like next level.

Colleen 05:01

Yeah, like if I think that this might be true, like, it doesn't even have to be that scary of a story just knowing it's true or potentially true, or allegedly just hearing that makes me like, oh, I don't know. So, I have three nonfiction books. They're all by the same author. And they are we keep them here in the adult nonfiction section. However, one of them was actually written, not necessarily for children, but it was something where she

interviewed children and younger, maybe younger teens to write the book. And that is still in the adult section, but we, I would recommend these for any reading level really. It can get a little content-wise, iffy depending because it does. Like I said, it is nonfiction, it does deal with some real-life death situations. So that would be a recommendation that I would give to people that are interested in reading it but are a little younger or sharing it with somebody that's younger, but the author's name is Caitlin Doughty and I'm actually really surprised. I think you said you've never read her stuff is that...

Jessie 06:04

Tell me, what's the book called where she interviews the kids? Is that do...the cat one? Yes, I did read that.

Colleen 06:11

Okay, so she wrote a book.

Jessie 06:12

It's hilarious.

Colleen 06:13

Oh, it's so cute. It's called Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs? So, will your cat eat your eyeballs? I guess you'll have to read it. I don't know. Um, I don't want to give it away. But basically, what...what ends up happening is she interviews so Caitlin Doughty is a or is or was a mortician...

Jessie 06:29

Yes. It's all coming back.

Colleen 06:31

Yes.

Jessie 06:31

I think you told me about that. And I read it last year.

Colleen 06:34

I just I think it's really fascinating because this is like creepy culture. But like, I think part of creepy culture is that you just don't know a lot about it. And like, why it's kind of cool and scary sometimes. And you still get that with this. But she gives you a lot of like, behind the scenes, real life stuff about it. And so, she interviewed a bunch of kids for this book, where they were able to ask, like, ask me anything kind of a thing. And so somebody was like, when I die will, my cat eat my eyeballs. Well, so the whole book is full of really cute questions. And by cute, I mean, like, they're kind of weird.

Jessie 07:10

Yeah, like kid cute, weird kid question.

Colleen 07:13

Oh, yeah. So, it's, it's a fun book. And then she does have two other more typical nonfiction books called From Here to Eternity, and Smoke Gets in your Eyes. And those are more about her experience. As a mortician and working in the quote unquote, death industry. She, she talks about, like how she got into it, it was kind of like just a summer job where she was helping out like a, maybe at a mortuary I can't remember. And she basically then went to school to be a mortician. And it's like, just all the behind the scenes, nitty gritty details, but also like some of the just cool death culture stuff.

Jessie 07:51

Uh huh.

Colleen 07:52

Where she goes into, like, all different kinds of cultures around the world, and what some of their death rituals are. And I think that is so fascinating, because that's one of the things...

Jessie 08:03

I can't even imagine some of the things that she has seen or learned about,

Colleen 08:08

Right. Because like, as a mortician, she's sometimes even though she's operating in the US comes across different cultures that she gets to experience and be a part of, she's helping them go through their death ritual, but then she has also gone throughout the world. I don't know how much traveling she's done. But she's done quite a bit and talks about, like, all the different cultures, she's researched and such. And I just think that's really fascinating, because we all experienced death. And we all experience it differently. And I think that it's kind of a taboo subject for a lot of people, but it's something that's sorry, inevitable.

Jessie 08:39

Right. Right. Right.

Colleen 08:40

So, you might as well, you know, kind of, like I said a little bit. Yeah. So, and that sometimes makes it a little easier for people. And I think that that was really interesting to read about. Yeah, I think she's also a fun writer. So, I really enjoyed writing.

Jessie 08:55

Yeah, I remember that book being definitely laughing out loud. I mean, it's not a funny subject matter, but there's a lot of science in there, too, about how the body what happens after death and what animals do, and if you, but

Colleen 09:13

It's, but it's true that like, kids ask the best questions because they just don't have like that filter.

Jessie 09:20

There's no filter. They just want to know the answer. And most of the time they want an honest answer, ya know, and I think adults are different. They're, you know, we're, we're kind of programmed to protect them, but at the same time, like they just, you know, they need information. Yeah, for sure.

Colleen 09:39

So, I feel like this is kind of a fun series of books. They're not actually a series, right. She, you know, obviously, she writes, she yeah, so it's, you know, it's kind of fun to read through it all, because it's all slightly different angles of the same sort of thing. So, I really love those. And then one of the fiction books that I wanted to talk about, and I think you'd get I think this is going to segue way really well. We can kind of plan for this.

Jessie 10:04

Right.

Colleen 10:05

So, one of the other books that I would recommend for teen up reading is We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson. And it is a classic horror story, right? So, which I think is right up your alley, since you like hauntings, like a haunted castle, kind of a setting, classic Gothic, you know, background and it has been made into TV shows and movies and like, just all over the place. And it's super quick, easy read. Love it. Classic spooky season. And I think you have a Shirley Jackson title to go right.

Jessie 10:39

Yeah. And I'm also sort of fascinated by her as an author as well, because she has a very interesting, I do believe that there was like mental illness in her that was involved in a lot of her, her big writing years. And so, I've watched a couple documentaries about her. And well, it really it started. I read her a couple of her books years ago. And then when Haunting of Hill House I've never seen the movie. But when Haunting of Hill House, the Netflix series came out. I think we've talked about this where my goal from like September to Thanksgiving is to scare myself to where I can't sleep between books and shows. And I just I love it all. And my husband does too. So, we just it's not a good combination, but when I watched Haunting of Hill House it kind of I went back and read a couple of her books. It's just a very scary show.

Colleen 11:39

Yeah.

Jessie 11:39

And I think it takes a lot to scare me. And then it kind of went into Bly Manor which is this the season that came I think there was two years in-between. Bly Manor was on last year maybe all the years together so within the last five years these two shows but they're both just um haunted house scary. But one really good acting there. You can watch them both on Netflix and we have the...the DVDs and Blu-ray here at Clinton-Macomb Public Library to check out if you don't have Netflix. And the if you're looking to scare yourself silly. I would highly recommend both of these.

Colleen 12:20

And if nobody has heard nobody, somebody has read this. You haven't read any Shirley Jackson or think you haven't read Shirley Jackson, you may have because The Lottery is a classic high school read. And that's not necessarily a spooky season kind of a read. But it is scary even though it's not typically like Halloween. She is another it's a short story, I think.

Jessie 12:44

Yeah, it was I think it was first published in a magazine and then it was turned into a short story.

Colleen 12:49

That's right. Yeah. And it's kind of like a weird, dystopian short story before dystopian was kind of a big thing

Jessie 12:58

Written so long ago. Oh, actually, I pulled it up in this look at 60s maybe or was it really?

Colleen 13:04

Yeah. 1948. Well, yeah, okay, so it is a short story, a dystopian short story, where every year, this little small fictional town although when I read it, I don't think they told us it was fiction or nonfiction. They just said this was published and we read it. We were like, Oh, is this real? Oh my god.

Jessie 13:25

Where is this place? I need to go there.

Colleen 13:27

Oh, which that is? So, I need to go No, don't go. Because every year they pick one person, via lottery to die, basically,

Jessie 13:41

Yes, don't go there. Don't go

Colleen 13:44

Or go there, but don't put your name in the hat. Which I don't know about that...

Jessie 13:47

Watch from the sidelines.

Colleen 13:49

But maybe so yeah, I don't want to go too far into it. Because it is a really short story. But it is a very kind of like, creepy, somber, intense read, which I think I read in high school and it clearly it stuck with me.

Jessie 14:06

Yeah, I read it as an adult and yeah, it definitely. Again, I think it's the librarian and you know, any library when we talk to each other when we watch things read things, we become obsessing over knowing the details about

which is serious. Yes. And so, I in sometimes I think I know that I enjoy reading this. I don't know if I could I'm creative enough to write like these authors necessarily. So, I'm all often like, where is this coming from? Where did they where did these authors and movie creators and producers where did they come up with these ideas? Because I just want to know what's going on in their minds.

Colleen 14:46

Yeah, so yeah, Shirley Jackson. All sorts of good stuff. Yeah, read for sure. But I have one more I don't know if you have, I've lost track of what we've talked about.

Jessie 14:55

You know, I have one more to add. I can piggyback off the haunted house a little Okay. Um, there is an author that I really enjoy that's an adult author definitely an adult author or a you know a maybe an older teen, Riley Sager Sue who wrote Home Before Dark came out last year and I actually think it was like number one on the Goodreads for the...their list of like fan favorites.

Colleen 15:28

Okay,

Jessie 15:29

And it's a story about a haunted house and it has a very interesting twist it's the tagline sort of his every house has a story to tell and a secret to share. But it was very I read this while watching I think Bly Manner years ago and it was I was not sleeping at all it was it's a very good book but he wrote a new book called Survive the Night and I guess going while we're on the topic of spooky, because that's what we're here for is talking about spooky. I think everyone has a different definition of spooky

Colleen 16:04

That is true.

Jessie 16:04

So, I have read a lot of sort of murder mysteries that have been very scary. So, his new book which came out on June 29 is called Survive the Night takes place in 1991 which is like the best decade for spooky.

Colleen 16:20

Oh my god, seriously,

Jessie 16:21

Like 90s horror movies just oh my gosh. Oh, that I should have talked about that Netflix series Fear Street.

Colleen 16:31

Yeah. We'll talk about that.

Jessie 16:33

Yeah. But anyway, this says a girl, a killer, a car, buckle up. So that's on my list to read this month. And what's also on my list to read this month is Mexican Gothic.

Colleen 16:43

Yes, you've heard

Jessie 16:45

By Sylvia Marino Garcia. It's love craft meets the Brontes in Latin America. Yeah, I think just I've been wanting to read this for a while.

Colleen 16:55

Am I picturing the cover? Where is it just like this beautiful floral?

Jessie 17:01

She it's a woman

Colleen 17:02

Yeah,

Jessie 17:02

It has dark hair and like a red dress.

Colleen 17:04

Okay,

Jessie 17:05

And a green background sorta

Colleen 17:07

Okay.

Jessie 17:07

Yeah, it's...it's been. I think it's the it came out last year. It's in the horror genre. But it says after a slow burn start Mexican Gothic gets seriously weird and isolated mansion, a chillingly charismatic aristocrat and a brave socially drawn to expose treacherous secrets a terrifying twist and a classic gothic horror.

Colleen 17:27

I love it.

Jessie 17:28

I know. Oh, so um, those are sort of Survive the Night, Mexican Gothic are my scary books for September and October. So that's all I have on those.

Colleen 17:41

Well, okay, so I have one last thing because this is kind of as you were saying, like, everybody has like a different spooky thing. So one of the things that I love about spooky stuff is like I love like, classic colonial America spooky stuff.

Jessie 17:57

Okay,

Colleen 17:58

Salem Witch Yeah,

Jessie 17:59

Me too. Right.

Colleen 18:01

So which and we're very close to the Metro Detroit area. And we have the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village area. And this is not a plug for them, but...but kind of is in an unintentional plug. But one of my favorite things to do is walk around Greenville Village during like October and fall because they decorate ala colonial times. And it's just like, I never even thought to do it. And I love it.

Jessie 18:31

So cool. I check that out.

Colleen 18:34

So, I was trying to find something that we have a service called hoopla. And hoopla is what I like to call Netflix for libraries, because it's all the good stuff that Netflix has, but free. Uh huh. So as long as you have a library card with us, you get to access all these really cool things. And I wanted to see if we had some good spooky movies or audio books or something along those lines. And I ended up actually, I was going to originally talk about a TV series. And it was I forget the title because I actually got distracted and didn't watch it. Um, they have this really cool series on hoopla that was all about like, classic pop culture horror icons. And so like, you know, how Dracula is portrayed in pop culture. So, I'm definitely gonna want you but it was like a whole series of super interesting, but what what distracted me was an audio book called Colonial Horrors. And I was like, what? Did they write this for me? So, well, I mean, it wasn't around in the 1600s, but or was 1? But, this audio book is all read by different authors. It is a compilation of like, classic colonial, scary stories. So, you know, the there's just stuff about the Salem witch trials. There's the Headless Horseman, like that whole era of spooky story.

Jessie 19:54

Wow.

Colleen 19:55

So, it and some of them are read in the original text, which just FYI, when you get into that, because that can I actually did zoned out a couple times because I was like, wait, well, what did they say? So be prepared that the original text might be a little bit off. Like you're not expecting it. So, do be aware of that. But it was, it's like 16 hours of like spooky stories classics. So that's what I spent my whole day listening. Like, oh, yeah, let's watch that TV show. But so, we've got some really cool stuff on hoopla as well. And so, if you're more of a digital person, definitely check that out. But, but you mentioned Fear Street and I want to get back to that because we're almost out of time. Yes, but Fear Street. Oh, classic. So, like, kids' spooky stuff. When I think kids' scary books, obviously, I think Goosebumps

Jessie 20:48

For sure.

Colleen 20:49

Michigan chillers and American chillers. But I also remember my childhood, also growing up in the like, 80s 90s, that era of spooky stuff.

Jessie 20:59

Yes.

Colleen 20:59

But when you got to the age where you were like, oh, man, I get to graduate from into the Fear Street. You know?

Jessie 21:08

What, when I was younger, Fear Street was the only horror series that was out. Okay. Goosebumps came a little later. And I mean, I remember wanting to read Fear Street but not being able to and kind of yeah, definitely reading Goosebumps. And then when it was time to read Fear Street it was like the doors had opened.

Colleen 21:33

Yes. Oh, they have such classic scares. And I feel like they do both...RL Stein. Just like, you know. But I feel like you get a lot of like, the cool like, classic monster-y kind of thing, but also like the serial killer creepiness too.

Jessie 21:50

Yes.

Colleen 21:51

One of my favorites was The Dead Lifeguard. I think it was

Jessie 21:54

Oh, yeah, I was just coming back.

Colleen 21:57

I remember, like summer camp of being like, Oh, I'm gonna get in trouble. This is this was totally appropriate. But I was just like, Oh, this this feel. I feel like I'm not supposed to be enjoying this that much. Because

Jessie 22:10

I do remember, like reading at night being super scared. And not wanting to tell my parents, because I didn't want them to like not let me read the books anymore.

Colleen 22:21

It was like, Oh, no. Oh, man. But Fear Street's having a little bit of a comeback. Oh, my gosh. Okay, so I have not watched this yet. But you have. So, I let you go off on that.

Jessie 22:30

I mean, again, I love 90s horror movies. And it's probably because I was a teenager in the 90s. And that's sort of like what you do with your friends. Around this time of year, you scare yourself silly. You go into haunted houses and mazes and all that. So, the first one takes place in I think it's 1994. And it has all of the nostalgia of 1994 it takes place in a mall. And there's no cell phones. And you know, they call each other on a house phone. And I don't know, it just has all of the great parts that may made a movie so good in '94. And then it kind of I'm a big part. The main part is about a witch. And so, then you start kind of going back in time of the roots of this story. So, then the next movie is, get this, 70 summer camp. The best. I mean, outside of 90s for like 70s summer camp is my next favorite.

Colleen 22:32

Pretty much

Jessie 22:33

I didn't grow up in the 70s but I do love 1970s for me, and then it keeps going backward into the Salem days. So, it's...it's what really well made it's definitely not for the young. I would say this is 16-17 and up.

Colleen 23:51

Okay.

Jessie 23:51

I enjoyed it as an adult. I kind of feel like it was made for its for our age group that grew up on Fear Street.

Colleen 23:59

Yes. Okay. Yeah, that makes sense. So, it is like a miniseries. Yeah. Three movies. Are they? Are they good independent of one another? Or should you just watch them all together?

Jessie 24:11

They're good independent of each other. At first when I watched the first one, I didn't know that there was a second and third so I was like it left unresolved. But you were like, once I found out there was a second Fear. I was like, oh my gosh, I got to watch all these you know, so you can watch them independent of each other but it

the series together makes the whole story. So, and they kind of you will see if there's more. I mean, it was it was well done. The acting was fantastic. Some really good teen actors in there. But yeah, I really enjoyed it. I told everybody about it.

Colleen 24:46

I feel like you brought this up and I was like, all right on my list. I've not gotten around to it yet.

Jessie 24:49

Yeah, 'tis the season.

Colleen 24:51

I mean, it's always spooky season in my heart so.

Jessie 24:54

I know exactly. I totally and if you don't have Netflix, I mean we have to go items, right?

Colleen 25:00

Yeah.

Jessie 25:01

You can get you can stream from these...these streaming devices that we have on our to go kits and then Netflix always has a free trial. Yeah, I think it's like a week-long free trial. So, if you really want to watch these movies, I don't believe we have these in our collection, right? Yeah. They're fairly new.

Colleen 25:19

Yeah, but you could always just come to the library read the classic Fear Street.

Jessie 25:24

Yeah.

Colleen 25:24

They are on our shelves.

Jessie 25:26

Yeah,

Colleen 25:26

I tried to push them into as many hands as possible, we still have these. You should love them. Yeah. We have so many good things in the teen area, though. Like, Oh, just so many spooky stuff coming out. Like we've got the Five Nights at Freddy's. We've got Stranger Things. Oh, I we can't talk about Stranger Things because I will never shut up. We got Stranger Things graphic novels. We've got, you know, novels, regular rate, not nonfiction, regular fiction. Oh, I hope Stranger Things is not nonfiction.

Jessie 25:54

Right.

Colleen 25:57

But we've got all sorts of cool stuff. And I know the adult section is full of good creepy stuff. And I am super excited for all of the cute little spooky haunted house books that you talked about Yeah. So, I think by the time this podcast comes out, because we're from the future from the past. Um, I think one of them should be out one was the

Jessie 26:16

first one is 10/5. That is There is a Ghost in the House in this house by Oliver Jeffers and the second one is 10/19. But we do have some Halloween spooky stuff coming in now, because a lot of those were released in September.

Colleen 26:32

True.

Jessie 26:32

So, we do have some stuff on the shelves already coming in.

Colleen 26:35

I mean, there's always good classics. Yeah, if you are struggling. You need some spooky fiction. Come see us. Even if Jesse and Colleen are not available, the two spooky queens at CMPL, I'm sure someone else can help you. Oh my gosh. Okay, so I'm going to go and watch that Fear Street like today?

Jessie 26:55

Yeah.

Colleen 26:55

Awesome. Are you gonna do any Halloween fun stuff coming up?

Jessie 27:00

I mean, yeah, once again. Yeah, my birthday is at the end of the month...your birthday is too, isn't it?

Colleen 27:05

It's tomorrow.

Jessie 27:06

Okay, I knew your birthday was coming up, too. So, I always say like, after my birthday is when spooky starts. Like I can't, I can't well, and my kids are really into it too. So, they're just starting to get to the age where they're

not so scared. Um, so we're there. They've been begging me to put stuff out for the season. And so, we're I mean, right now. It's like just jumping into the school year. So, we're getting there, for sure.

Colleen 27:35

Well go get yourself spooked by that. Yeah. I was so excited to talk to you about this stuff forever. So. Alright, we're gonna just end it here. Otherwise, like I said, we're gonna go on forever. So, thank you so much for joining us. And hopefully, you guys have some good spooky recommendations. Send it our way.

Jessie 27:53

Yes.

Colleen 27:54

I would always love more.

Jessie 27:55

Right. For sure.

Colleen 27:57

Alright, so we'll see you next month. Thank you.