

Librarians Telling Tales Podcast Transcript- Episode 7

Quick Look Booklist:

- **Section 1: Strong Girl Picture Books & Middle Grade**
 - *A Quiet Girl* by Peter Carnavas
 - *Fancy Nancy and the Wedding of the Century* by Jane O'Connor
 - *Violet the Pilot* by Steve Breen
 - *Kate Who Tamed the Wind* by Liz Scanlon
 - *The Questioner* picture books series (including *Ada Twist, Scientist*; *Sophie Valdez, Future Prez*; and *Rosie Revere, Engineer*) by Andrea Beatty
 - *Cam Jansen* series by David Adler
 - *Princess in Black* series by Shannon Hale
 - *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelley
 - *Calpurnia Tate, Girl Vet* series by Jacqueline Kelly
 - *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps
 - *The Tillerman Cycle* series by Cynthia Voigt
 - *The Penderwicks* (series) by Jeanne Birdsall
 - *The Serafina* series by Robert Beatty
 - *Chains* (from the *Seeds of America* trilogy) by Laurie Halse Anderson
 - *Clementine* (series) by Sara Pennypacker
 - *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan
 - *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai
 - *Ramona Quimby* by Beverly Cleary
 - *Judy Moody* (series) by Megan McDonald
 - *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
 - *Heidi* by Johanna Spyri
 - *Wolves of Willoughby Chase* by Joan Aiken
 - *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jameson
 - *El Deafo* by Cece Bell
 - *Allergic* by Megan Lloyd
 - *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin
 - *Front Desk* (series) by Kelly Yang
 - *The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani
 - *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis
- **Section 2: Strong Girl YA**
 - *Spellbook of the Lost and Found* by Moira Fowley-Doyle
 - *All the Bad Apples* by Moira Fowley-Doyle
 - *The Accident Season* by Moira Fowley-Doyle
 - *Scarlet* by A.C. Gaughen
 - *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys
 - *Out of the Easy* by Ruta Sepetys
 - *Newsprints* by Ru Xu
 - *Bloody Jack* by L.A. Meyer
 - *Olivia Twist* by Lorie Langdon
 - *Defy* by Sarah Larson
 - *Me(Moth)* by Amber McBride

- *The Light in Hidden Places: A Novel Based on the True Story of Stefania Podgórska* by Sharon Cameron
- *The Black Witch Chronicles* series by Laurie Forest
- **Section 3: Strong Girl Nonfiction**
 - *Sarah and the Big Wave: The True Story of the First Woman to Surf Mavericks* by Bonnie Tsui
 - *Who says women can't be doctors?: the story of Elizabeth Blackwell* by Tanya Lee Stone
 - *What to do about Alice?: how Alice Roosevelt broke the rules, charmed the world, and drove her father Teddy crazy!* by Barbara Kerley
 - *#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women* edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale
 - *Fatty Legs: A True Story* by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret-Olemaun Pokiak-Fenton
 - *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World* by Malala Yousafzai
 - *Who Was Anne Frank?* by Ann Abramson
 - *Who Was Amelia Earhart?* by Kate Boehm Jerome
 - *Who Was Maya Angelou?* by Ellen Labrecque
 - *Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to get Back on the Board* by Bethany Hamilton
 - *This Is Really Happening* by Erin Chack
 - *Black Birds in The Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre* by Brandy Colbert
 -
- **Section 4- Favorite Female Authors Round-Up**
 - **AUTHORS:**
 - [Sharon Cameron](#)
 - [Ruta Sepetys](#)
 - [Andrea Beatty](#)
 - [Elizabeth Acevedo](#)
 - *With the Fire on High*
 - *Poet X*
 - *Clap When You Land*
 - [Kristen Cashore](#)
 - *Graceling Realm Series*
 - [Robin Lafevers](#)
 - *His Fair Assassin Series*
 - [Marie Rutkowski](#)
 - *Winner's Trilogy*
 - [Adrienne Young](#)
 - *Fable*
 - [Kate DiCamillo](#)
 - [Raina Telgemeier](#)
 - [Amy Krouse Rosenthal](#)
 - [Karen Katz](#)
 - [Sandra Boynton](#)
 - [Maggie Stiefvater](#)
 - [Elana K Arnold](#)

- [Suzanne Collins](#)
 - *The Hunger Games Series*
 - [Cassandra Clare](#)
 - *Mortal Instruments Series*
 - [J.K. Rowling](#)
- **Reader's Rave**
 - *Into the Wild, The Warriors Series* by Erin Hunter

Transcript:

Musical Intro: "Uplifting 2463" by Twisterium from pixabay.com
(Description) Upbeat, piano and percussion. Music fades and plays under.

Jennifer:

Hey, bookworms! Welcome to Librarians Telling Tales where we introduce you to all the things we love about libraries: books, people, and making connections. I'm Jennifer!

Amy:

I'm Amy!

Blair:

I'm Blair!

(0:23) Music fades out

Amy:

In today's episode, we'll chat about books that celebrate strong girls. We'll also discuss some of our favorite female authors for kids and teens.

Music Transition: "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com
(Description) Bright marimba scale.

(0:35) Section 1- Strong Girl Picture Books

Blair:

So I have to say that this is such a fun one because I find myself gravitating towards stories with strong girls and, you know, I'm a girl so maybe I'm just partial that way. But I do think that there's so much great stuff out there across all the different age categories. With picture books, I feel like we all know the series that have the super strong girls, but I was trying to think of things that were a little bit different and I came up with *A Quiet Girl* by Peter Carnavas. And what I really love about this is that she is quiet and her family is loud and she's quiet because she's taking time to hear things, so she's listening. And so it's a really great way of showing that sometimes being quiet is how you can really listen to the world around you.

1:47 Jennifer:

I love *A Quiet Girl*.

Amy:

So I hear what you're saying about those picture book characters that are pretty much well-known, the strong girls. But Fancy Nancy was not really a character that I read at all. And as it turned out after I got

married, I had an outdoor wedding and a patron that came with her young daughter came and said, "My daughter said Miss Amy's wedding was just like *Fancy Nancy and the Wedding of the Century*," (Jane O'Connor) and so I decided then that I needed to read that story and I did and it was so sweet and charming and then I have...

Jennifer:

Oh, yay.

Amy:

a new love for Fancy Nancy.

2:30

Blair:

I like Fancy Nancy's words. She uses so many big, outrageous, fabulous words.

Jennifer:

The girls that I'm drawn to are resourceful girls and so the picture books that I looked at were girls who were unique in how they approached their problem and so one of those books is called *Violet the Pilot* by Steve Breen. I just love that Violet builds her own airplane, but then she has the opportunity to rescue a group of Boy Scouts and she becomes this wonderful hero. I just loved how she tinkered and created and was a resourceful girl. And then another one I liked was called *Kate Who Tamed the Wind* by Liz Scanlon. She's a kind girl and she sees that her neighbor up on the hill is having a problem with the wind and so she plants these seeds and they become trees and it's a beautiful story. And I think it's important to read books like that with our younger audience to show them that girls can be resourceful and kind.

Blair:

Yes. I did like the Questioner picture books (Andrea Beatty) which are the ones that have *Ada Twist the Scientist*, *Sophie Valdez Future Prez*, and *Rosie Revere Engineer* because I like introducing the idea that there are so many different things that girls can be and do.

Amy:

And then she has those crossover books.

Blair:

Mhmm. Yeah, they go into early readers.

Jennifer:

I like girls who also solve mysteries. I'm seeing we have a lot more girls who are solving mysteries, or are detectives at a younger age, even in our beginning reader section. When the purpose of a beginning reader is just really to introduce words and to get kids excited about reading, and we still have strong girl characters like *Cam Jansen* (David Adler).

Blair:

Oh, yes.

Amy:

Mhmm.

Jennifer:

And kids are very interested in that. And I love pressing those books into the hands of our beginning readers.

Blair:

And we have a ton of the *Cam Jansen's*.

Jennifer:

You know, I was just thinking about that mix of girl who can be a princess but still really resourceful and smart is our famous girl in black... *Princess in Black* (Shannon Hale).

Blair:

YES!

Amy:

Yes, *Princess in Black!*

Jennifer:

It's so fun to tell kids that she's a princess by day and a superhero by night. It's a big sell.

Blair:

It's true. So that moves us up a little bit in age. What else do we find in the emerging and middle grade range that we love?

Amy:

Jacqueline Kelley has *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*, which is a really strong read on its own, but they recently put out some earlier books of her life, like when she was a younger girl, and they're called *Calpurnia Tate, Girl Vet*. In the first book her brother is harboring two skunks in his bedroom, it's called *Skunked*, of course.

Blair:

Of course!

Amy:

And it's just a really charming family, but she's also this strong girl, and her mom is a strong character as well.

Blair:

A newer book that came out which is a novel in verse, *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps, is really fun in the middle grade range. It is about a young girl and she's having body image issues. And her family, you know, they wanted her to be healthier, but they're not necessarily doing it in ways that are actually super encouraging. And she feels pretty down about herself. And I think that having the strength is a really important thing for kids to see, because everybody hits those ages where we feel terrible about our bodies. I mean...

Amy:

For sure.

Blair:

I don't think anybody is immune to it. And so this felt like a really good read that had the whole journey and had a sense of empowerment.

Jennifer:

That reminds me of *Homecoming*. It's an older series by Cynthia Voigt, it's the *Dacey Tillerman Cycle*. But I remember reading that as a young girl, probably 7th grade, and was just taken in. Because it starts out with a family in a station wagon in a parking lot. And their mother, who has mental illness has abandoned them. And it's their journey to find their aunt, and then ultimately their grandmother to take care of them. But I loved how strong she was at such a young age, and she had to grow up so quickly. It's a very inspiring story. And so I really wanted to endorse that series.

Amy:

That reminds me in a small way of *The Penderwicks* (Jeanne Birdsall). I read it with book club, I think two years ago. And those four sisters and their totally different personas, like how they're represented, I mean everybody was so charmed by them, but especially little Batty with her wings and things.

Blair:

(Giggles)

Amy:

That's a fun one to recommend to kids because it has such different girls in it and they're all strong in their own ways.

Blair:

I fell in love with the *Serafina Series*, by Robert Beatty, so *Serafina and the Black Cloak* is the first one. And I think what's so much fun is because this girl who's up all night and running in the woods and she's

getting into trouble and also solving all of the issues around her all the time, and magic things happen around her. She's super spunky and I love it.

Jennifer:

I also like 13-year-old Isabelle from *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson. Have you both read that one?

Blair:

No, I haven't read that specific one.

Amy:

It's *Chains*, and *Forged*, and something else.

Jennifer:

Yes! Isabelle is a young, African American girl and it's during the time of the American Revolution and she's not sure which side she is cheering for, so to speak, the Patriots or the Loyalists. She just wants the one who will give her her freedom. And right now she is in the home of a Loyalist so she has been approached by some patriots to be a spy. And she's really grappling with who she should help, who's going to help her get rid of these chains. I found her to be such a strong character in spirit and physically to endure the things that she endured. It's a little bit more of a challenging read, but it's beautiful.

Amy:

Challenging like emotionally challenging or...?

Jennifer:

Yes, emotionally challenging because there's a little bit of abuse that she suffers because she is a slave...

Amy:

Mhmm.

Blair:

Mhmm, yeah.

Jennifer:

...in the book.

Blair:

Ok, middle grade, strong girls speed round, go!

Amy:

Clementine (Sara Pennypacker)!

Jennifer:

Esperanza Rising (Pam Munoz Ryan).

Amy:

Oh, yes.

Blair:

Inside Out and Back Again (Thanhha Lai), though, I can't remember the character's name.

Amy:

Ramona Quimby (Beverly Cleary)

Jennifer:

Oh, well *Judy Moody* (Megan McDonald)

Amy:

Yeah!

Amy & Jennifer

(Laughing)

Amy:

Mary Lennox in *The Secret Garden* (Frances Hodgson Burnett), Heidi in *Heidi* (Johanna Spyri). And then, seriously, we were talking about this yesterday, but *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* (Joan Aiken).

Blair:

Oh yeah!

Amy:

And I cannot think of those girls and their names but in those 1800's-early 1900's they are just like go-getters, "We're not gonna take this!" And they expose all the badness of these evil governess' and like headmistress'...

Blair:

Yes, if you like Mary Lennox then you need to upgrade yourself to *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* because those girls are even more spunky. I was going to say *Rollergirl* by Victoria Jameson.

Amy:

Good one.

Blair:

Including a little bit of graphic novel in there.

Amy:

El Deafo, CeCe Bell.

Jennifer:

Oh, yes.

Blair:

Allergic by Megan Lloyd.

Amy:

Minli from *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. And I just love her: "I'm going to help my family, and my whole village, and I'm going to go, and I'm not going to give up."

Jennifer:

Oh help me with the girl from *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang, what is her name?

Blair:

Is it Mia?

Jennifer:

That character is so amazing.

Amy:

She is awesome, mhmm!

Blair:

And Nisha from *The Night Diary*—she's awesome. That one's set during Partition, and I feel like that's a part of world history that a lot of kids don't learn about.

Jennifer:

Oh, Parvana in *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis. Have you not read that book? (Gasps)

Blair:

No!

Amy:

I can't even say I've even heard of it, to be honest.

Jennifer:

The Breadwinner takes place in Afghanistan where the Taliban are ruling and Parvanna is from the home of educated parents but the Taliban is ruling now and her father's been taken away, and she disguises herself as a boy to go out on the streets of Kabul and earn money to feed her family, which is a very dangerous thing.

Blair:

Super dangerous.

Jennifer:

That she's doing. Well it's a wonderful way to learn about another culture, and also about a girl that's very brave.

Blair:

Absolutely.

Music Transition: "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com
(Description) Bright marimba scale.

(8:55) Section 2- Strong Girl YA

Blair:

I'm really excited with YA. I actually had to stop myself a little bit.

Amy:

(Laughs)

Blair:

But, I will say that I am kind of in love with all of the female characters that Moira Fowley-Doyle writes. *Spellbook of the Lost and Found* was the first one that I read of hers. And it is a group of girls who find this, what they think is an abandoned diary, and when they end up looking at this diary they realize that it's got some interesting magic stuff in it. And maybe it's more than meets the eye. Which is basically how all things work in Moira Fowley-Doyle land. It's that magical realism, but is it really magic, or is it really just questions of reality. Another one that we have is *All the Bad Apples*. A girl goes on hunt to find out about her missing sister and the family rumors that all of the women are cursed. And then the last one is *The Accident Season*, which I super loved. These kids grow up being told by their mom that one month of the year is just accident season. They're not supposed to use electricity, they're not supposed to drive in cars, because anything and everything is out to get them, and people die during accident season. But the girls in all of those books are strong, independent, they do all happen to be Irish...

Amy & Jennifer:

(Laughing)

Blair:

But I will say that makes the audio books amazing, they're all very well narrated.

Amy:

That's another author I've never even heard of. So, thank you Blair. One of my YA's actually comes from Jennifer, so I hope I'm not stealing this one from you. But you are a huge recommender of the YA awesomeness. And so one that you recommended to me was *Scarlet* (A.C. Gaughen).

Jennifer:

Yes.

Amy:

And I love, love, loved it. I just cannot remember the author's name right now.

Jennifer:

I have it written down, because you're right, I had her on my list! (Laughter)

Amy:

And then another one, and then hopefully we'll talk about this one in more detail is Ruta Sepetys

Jennifer:

Oh, yes...

Amy:

Between Shades of Gray

Jennifer:

Mhmm, Lena.

Amy:

Lena! And that also was an amazing audiobook. I lost myself in that story. It was so powerful. And thank you for those recommendations because, seriously, those were some strong characters in totally different ways and in totally different moments of life, but just powerful, powerful girls just rising up and rising above their circumstances.

Jennifer:

You're welcome! Two things came to my mind when you were talking. First of all, Ruta Sepetys is just a go-to author for me. And she has another book called *Out of the Easy* and it takes place in New Orleans in the 1950's. And the main character's mother works in a brothel, and she's determined to get out of that environment, she wants to go to college. But there's a little bit of mystery that her mother's embroiled in, and it's an unusual setting. So if you haven't read that one I would highly recommend it.

Blair:

I have to read that now. You had me at New Orleans! (Laughing)

Amy:

I was going to say... (Laughing) Blair perked up when you said that.

All:

(Laughing)

Jennifer:

Oh, I just love that book. And anytime Ruta writes a novel I'm there. She's just a great author with wonderful female characters. What I wanted to say in terms of *Scarlet*, that's a Robin Hood retelling...

Amy:

Mhmm, retelling...

Jennifer:

It's A.C. Gaughn (Gaughen). But it made me think about stories of girls who disguise themselves as boys.

Blair:

There's a lot of those.

Jennifer:

There are a lot. I think those are fun stories.

Amy:

There is that one, that is a graphic novel and she's a newspaper delivery...

Jennifer:

Newsprints?

Blair:

Newsprints, yes!

Amy:

Newsprints! I enjoyed that.

Blair:

And the author's name is X U, Xu

Amy:

Well-done with that mental picture (Laughing).

Blair:

You had me with the cover, I could see it (Laughing).

Jennifer:

Well, there's *Bloody Jack* (L.A. Meyer), *Olivia Twist* (Lorie Langdon), *Defy* by Sarah Larson, all those girls that disguise themselves as boys. I think it's a fun trope and I really like reading it. Because there's usually a little bit of a romance, and I love a little romance in my books...

Blair & Amy:

(Laughing)

Blair:

Well I can tie into a little romance. So, I did just read *Me(Moth)* by Amber McBride, and it is her debut book. And I will be quite honest here, I hope there's a whole lot more of those coming because it is hands down the best novel in verse I have ever read. It's focused on the character of Moth, and she has lost her entire family in a pretty horrific car accident. The language that is used is used to describe that accident is super poignant. I was bawling reading it. She meets a boy who happens to be Native, and have issues dealing with his family while she's having issues with her aunt who is her guardian. And so they have an instant connection and they form a friendship which slow-burn migrates its way into romance as the novel goes on. And the language is just gorgeous and the story is amazing and it talks about Native religion and ceremony, and Hoodoo, and grief and family and loss, but it's beautiful.

Jennifer:

That's on my to be read list, because you've just said so many wonderful things about it. There's another author I have to plug in YA that I just love, and that's Sharon Cameron. I think she's hit her stride with historical fiction. And the book that I really loved is called *The Light in Hidden Places*. It's based on the true story about a girl named Stefania Podgórska. She's a Polish teenager, it's 1943 and she's working in a grocery store with a very prominent Jewish family, and secretly betrothed to the oldest son. But because they're Jewish and now the Germans are coming into town, they have to go into hiding. And she's not Jewish. She's very brave. So, she hides 13 Jews. It's full of intrigue, danger, and it's a true story. And in the back of the book there's actually a picture of the couple. It's so beautifully written, and intense. And again, a sweet romance as well.

Amy:

I have to plug then Elloren Gardner from *The Black Witch Chronicles* by Laurie Forest. Yes, I am a superfan here. A fourth book in the series is being released and I am so excited to read this one. But her character is sheltered by her uncle after her parents pass away. And then she is taken to university where she learns that a lot of things she thought she knew are maybe not so true. And over the course of the story she sort of rises up to this role, and will she be the next Black Witch? Like I can't tell you, because you have to read the books but...

Blair:

(Laughing)

Amy:

There's so much there that makes you think and like—can she access her power, and how will she use it? Will it be for good? Will it be for destruction? What will she do? There's so much happening in that story.

Blair:

I read the first two, and I have to agree that I think the world building is very good.

Amy:

Definitely.

Jennifer:

Are you reading it or are you listening to it?

Amy:

I'm listening to it now.

Jennifer:

Okay. Do you have a preference?

Amy:

I definitely...It's Julia Whelan.

Blair:

Oh, it is Julia Whelan.

Amy:

Audio narrator.

Blair:

The best, best narrator.

Amy:

She is fantastic. So...when I read it by myself I struggle with the names a lot. In fact, when I first heard her reading it, I thought: "That's how you say that!" because in my head I wasn't saying it correctly.

Blair:

They are fantasy names.

Amy:

Hopefully she gives, hopefully Laurie Forest says, "This is how you say that name." And that she is not just making them up on the fly, but I was totally reading them wrong the entire time. (Laughing.) They're like...

Jennifer:

Yeah, I could go on and on about YA, I read so many YA.

Blair:

I know, me too.

Jennifer:

And Blair and I were talking about this earlier that we are drawn to books with strong girls hands down. I tend to put it down if I find the character not up to my expectations in terms of resourcefulness and or if she is strong and she has to be likeable.

Blair:

I can't handle whininess. Whininess drives me batty, I'll just put the book down.

Amy:

Agree.

Jennifer:

Mhmm. I think that's why we have so many books we can talk about.

Music Transition: "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com
(Description) *Bright marimba scale.*

(16:06) Section 3- Strong Girl Nonfiction

Jennifer:

Maybe we should talk about non-fiction?

Blair:

We just put up a display for these, but I love the non-fiction picture books and we've got so many really awesome female non-fiction picture books. My favorite that I keep sharing with everybody is *Sarah and the Big Wave: The True Story of the First Woman to Surf Mavericks* by Bonnie Tsui. I love that not only that the book addresses that she started surfing at a time when not a ton of women were surfing, which makes me think of Gidget.

Amy:

(Laughs)

Blair:

If everybody has ever seen Gidget—if you haven't you should go watch Gidget, it's adorable! But also, she is not afraid to put herself into perhaps mortal danger to try and conquer this natural phenomenon. So that's a really cool book and I think that every school group that I've shared it with has really appreciated it.

Amy:

That speaks to that so many kids don't really pick up those non-fiction autobiographies or biographies unless they are assigned to do so by school teachers and things. And those non-fiction picture book biographies are so powerful in that they are short, and they are accessible, and they are interesting. Two of my favorites, and I know I've mentioned this one before, is *Who says women can't be doctors?: the story of Elizabeth Blackwell* (Tanya Lee Stone), and then *What To Do About Alice?* (Barbara Kerley) Teddy Roosevelt's daughter and how she was kind of bucking tradition for what women were supposed to be doing during that time and he fully supported most of it, you know?

Blair:

(Chuckles)

Amy:

Sometimes he was like: "Yeah, maybe not," but for the most part he was: "Yes, yes! You be you and be that individual." And she was just, I don't know, a little bit ahead of her time. But they're awesome those picture books biographies!

Jennifer:

I just wanted to endorse *What To Do About Alice?* as well, because Teddy Roosevelt famously said, "I can either run the country or take care of Alice..."

Blair and Amy:

(Laughing)

Jennifer:

...which gives you an insight to what a handful she was, but she grew up to be such a supporter of him and I think she made a lot of great contributions in her own right to our country, and I love that book and I share that quite a bit. It's such a wonderful book.

Blair:

I brought another one in with me today and I kind of stumbled across this book when we were going through some parts of the collection and it's *#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women* (edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale), and it is a little bit of everything, so it has some personal essay, it has poetry, it has a ton of beautiful indigenous art in it. And it is a really strong, powerful way of looking at not only a culture, but a modern version of this culture. Because so many times you're learning about Native history in class, and you don't realize that Native people are actual real live people in the real world today and they have a modern culture that deserves to be understood and appreciated for a lot of reasons. Including, another book that I was going to bring up which is *Fatty Legs* by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret-Olemaun Pokiak-Fenton. That particular story is about an indigenous girl who was sent to a Canadian residential school, so one of the schools that the Natives were sent to as part of a mass attempt at assimilation and culture erasure. When you have people whose culture has been actually attempted to be erased, being able to in modern times claim their culture and really push it forward, it is a really fundamental level of: "Yes, you go girl!" So I love both of those books for the way that they're exposing people to those histories and to the cultures.

Jennifer:

I think one that I loved was *I am Malala*, the young reader's edition (Malala Yousafzai). I read it a couple of times because I was so impressed by this young girl, her bravery, and I also learned something about the men in that culture. Malala loved her father, he was the principal of her school, he encouraged her to get her education, he supported her, and it just changed my view, and I just really loved that book. And I think it is important that girls read it because she fought so hard for women's voice and for education for girls.

Amy:

Mhm.

Blair:

Yeah.

Amy:

I am not going to lie, I read a lot of those *Who Was's...*

Blair:

(Giggles)

Amy:

...but a few of them have been awesome and one that we loved in my book club a couple of years back was *Who Was Anne Frank?* (Ann Abramson), and the way that is handle for 3rd and 4th graders is just perfect. It's enough of her life and what was happening in the world and how she lived before, during, and as you find out what happened after, when her letters were discovered and things. That one is really powerful, and another one that we read was *Who Was Amelia Earhart?* (Kate Boehm Jerome), and that one is done very well, it is not my favorite version of her life story, but for the audience, the intended audience, I think they did a really good job with that one.

Blair:

I thought the *Who Was Maya Angelou?* one was really nice too (Ellen Labrecque).

Amy:

So one of the books that I like that is non-fiction, autobiography for teens is Bethany Hamilton's *Soul Surfer* and the story of her, briefly her shark attack, but really her rising above what happened and her turning to her faith for that inspiration to not see herself as different because she no longer has her left arm. Really just embracing her new life.

Blair:

You had to pick something poignant. I have a non-poignant one.

Amy:

Please! (Laughs.)

Blair:

So, *This Is Really Happening* is written by Erin Chack, and nobody will know her, she is a writer at BuzzFeed, but it is a really hilarious memoir about her teenage years. And so she talks a little bit about the ridiculous things she writes about for BuzzFeed, including an actual real life one that she did that was like, "The Weird Places That You Find Spaghetti." So it's got hilarity in it, but it also deals with the fact that she had Hodgkin's Leukemia when she was a teenager and a long-term relationship with a boy who was couple of years older than her. The kind of shenanigans they get into, like she is not a conventional girl, but it's got some really cute lessons in it for growing up. But it's also just really fun and quirky. I did just also pick up *Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre* by Brandy Colbert. And I'm really enjoying that one so far too. It's a heavier topic for sure, but she's very good at handling it and the writing in it is really interesting.

Music Transition: "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com
(Description) Bright marimba scale.

(22:04) Section 4- Favorite Female Authors Round-Up

Music Transition: "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com
(Description) Bright marimba scale.

Amy:

So we've chatted about a number of powerful girls and teens in books and often about the authors that

wrote those books as strong female authors; Sharon Cameron, Ruta Sepetys, a couple of others that come to mind?

Blair:

Andrea Beatty, Oh, we talked about her briefly. But I love Elizabeth Acevedo. She has really fun ones—*With the Fire on High*, *Poet X*, *Clap When You Land*—all very strong and really solid girls all doing good things.

Jennifer:

Well I have some fantasy authors, Kristen Cashore and *The Graceling Series*, I really like that. Robin LaFevers and her assassin series.

Blair:

Yes!

Jennifer:

Marie Rutkowski's *The Winner's Curse* trilogy—I love political intrigue. And then, recently, Adrienne Young with her *Fable*, the pirate series she's got.

Blair:

Love those.

Amy:

Mhmm. Kate DiCamillo, Raina Telgemeier, Amy Krouse Rosenthal... We were joking yesterday, Karen Katz. I mean those boardbooks!

Blair:

Well yeah!

Jennifer:

Let's just throw in Sandra Boynton too!

Blair:

Exactly, we've gotta say Sandra Boynton.

Amy:

Maggie Stiefvater love her—most—of her strong girl characters.

All:

(Laughing)

Blair:

And I love Elana K. Arnold too. Both her realistic fiction and her fantasy fiction.

Amy:

Suzanne Collins, Katniss Everdeen.

Jennifer:

I didn't want to say that because I just... but yes, Katniss is the ultimate, to me, the ultimate strong girl for sure.

Blair:

And then are we forgetting Cassandra Clare too? And the entire Shadowhunters world...

Jennifer:

Well Hermione Granger...

Amy:

Oh, yeah...

Jennifer:

Hermione!

Amy:

We could go on and on and on about this, huh?

Jennifer:

Yes!

Blair:

There's so many!

Amy:

So many favorite female authors.

Jennifer:

We hope this episode inspires you to celebrate strong women in stories and in real life!

Amy:

Now we're going to hear from you, our readers and listeners. This is a fun segment where you tell us some of your favorite books- this is Reader's Rave.

(23:52) Music Transition: "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com
(Description) *Bright marimba scale.*

Addie:

Hi, my name is Addie, I'm 13 years old. I don't have a specific favorite book, but my favorite book series is called *Warriors* (Erin Hunter). And I love the series because it's about cats, and I'm kind of obsessed over cats. And it's kind of like life sometimes, where there's these different groups of cats and there are battles, but there are also friendships and stuff like that. Very thrilling, exciting, and relatable. It also seems to be a mix between most genres, like romance, horror, mystery, even ghost story and stuff like that. But if you are looking for a specific book, though, the very first book in *Warriors* is called *Into the Wild*. And I feel like that one is probably my favorite because that just kind of explains how everything started, and it's just really fun. Thank you so much! Yeah, and I also really love your podcast, you guys, it's really fun!

Blair:

Do you want to be part of Reader's Rave? Call us at **928-777-1490** and leave a message with your first name, your age, a book you love, and what you love about it. We can't wait to hear from you!

Jennifer:

Thank you for joining us today on Librarians Telling Tales. For a full list of the books shared in this episode, check the link in our podcast bio.

Amy:

Don't forget to subscribe to catch our next episode in mid-April where we'll talk about books and their movie tie-ins as we get ready for our *Bad Guys* Book Party on April 28th, 2022.

(25:29) Musical Outro: "Uplifting 2463" by Twisterium from pixabay.com
(Description) *Upbeat, piano and percussion. Music fades in and plays under.*

Blair:

This Podcast is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. We would also like to thank the City of Prescott, Friends of the Prescott Public Library, and all of our fabulous coworkers at Prescott Public Library.

Jennifer:

Be sure to like and subscribe to Librarians Telling Tales- and until next time, we'll see you in the library.

Total Run Time: (26:00)