

## Episode 1.19 Reading Plans and Life Update

### Angourie (host)

Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which this work was developed and is presented. I pay my respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

[theme song]

### Angourie (host)

Hello there, and welcome back to The Community Library. I'm your host, Angourie Rice. This week's minisode is going to be a quick one, I'm going to be telling you what's happening in the next few weeks, both in my life and for this podcast. But, before I do, I want to talk about what I'm currently reading.

So, at the moment I'm reading two books, both of which are aimed at a much younger audience, so ... it's actually good, I'm flying through them. The first book I'm reading is *Jolly Foul Play* by Robin Stevens. This is the fourth book in the *Murder Most Unladylike Series*, and I've talked about this series before, but, if you're new, this series follows thirteen-year-old best friends Daisy and Hazel as they solve murder mysteries. It's set in England in the 1930s, at an all-girls boarding school, and it's basically Agatha Christie but for 13-year-olds. In this particular one, Daisy and Hazel are back at school and someone has murdered the head girl, Elizabeth. I'm still loving this series. I'm about a third of the way through, and we've uncovered some very important clues, but I still have no idea who might have done it. I have not once guessed the murderer correctly, so I'm kind of hoping I'll be able to do it this time, but I doubt I will. I know it's always the person you least suspect, but I suspect everyone at this point so I really don't know.

I'm also reading *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan, which I'm reading for next week's episode. My friend Harry and I will be talking all about this book, and I'm very excited for the discussion. The *Percy Jackson* series follows twelve-year-old Percy, who one day finds out that he is a Demi-God, meaning he is the son of a powerful Greek God. This first book follows Percy on a quest to recover Zeus' stolen lightning bolt. It's full of monsters, magic, and, of course, the wrath of the Gods. Look, I'm actually loving this so far. I'm about two thirds of the way through, and I'd forgotten how much *fun* this series was. I read it ages ago, probably when I was about twelve, um, and I remember enjoying it, but like, not loving it. But now I'm re-reading it, and I'm thinking: Yeah, this is actually such a fun book! I also recently read *Mythos* by Stephen Fry, so that really refreshed my memory on the original myths, which is helpful to know when reading this. Um, and I'm excited to talk about it on the podcast next week, so make sure you tune in!

So, this episode is more of a short housekeeping episode. The first thing that I want to address is that this is the second last episode of season one. Next week I'll be talking about *Percy Jackson*, and I think it will be a very fun finale to the season. Before I talk about plans for season two, I just want to say a big thank you to you, the listener. I came up with the idea for this podcast exactly a year ago and at that point in time, it was just this small and secret idea and I thought I would never actually have the courage or motivation to actually make it happen and put it out into the world. I mean this sounds really cheesy, but like, it's been a real journey for me, you know, and I've learnt a

lot, and I'm really grateful to everyone who has listened and followed along and joined in with the discussions. I would still make the podcast, even if nobody liked it or listened to it, um, but I'm very happy and grateful that you guys enjoy the podcast as much as I do. So, really, thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for all of your support, and nice messages, and for tuning in every Monday.

Ugh, now I've got all of my feelings out there, let's talk about what's going to happen in the next few weeks. So, first of all, the day that this episode is published, Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, is the first day of the Reading Rush, formerly known as the Booktube-athon. So, for those of you don't know, the Reading Rush is the book-internet-community's biggest readathon. It takes place every year over one week, and this is the first year that I'm participating. So, there are challenges that you can participate in, the biggest one being reading seven books in seven days. So because I am ambitious and a high-achiever, I'm going to try and do this. The highest number of books that I've read in a week is three, so this is definitely going to be a huge challenge for me, especially because this week is kind of busy. So, if you're interested to see what books I'll be reading, and to follow along with my progress, and to see if I actually manage to read seven books in seven days, I will link my Reading Rush profile in the show notes – it's just @thecommunitylibrary – and you can add me as a friend and see how I go. I'll also probably be posting about this on Instagram, so you can follow me @the\_community\_library. I think I'm most excited about reading *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han. This fits the challenge "read a book and watch the movie adaptation". So, I've already seen the movie, um, and I really, really liked it, and I'm hoping that I will like the book even more. So, those are my reading plans for this week.

I also recently did a book-swap with three of my friends, and we're going to meet up in a few weeks' time to swap the books back and to also discuss the books we read, so I'm very excited for that. I received four new books from my friends: *The Body in the Library* by Agatha Christie, *The Quiet at the End of the World* by Lauren James, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky, and *Second Chance Summer* by Morgan Matson. I think I'll be reading all of those in the first two weeks of August.

In other news, I'm planning a trip to Europe, which is very exciting. I always like to coordinate my reading plans with my travel, so I'll definitely be picking up books set in Europe. *Pride and Prejudice* is definitely on my list to re-read when I'm in London. And I'm also going to try and find a book set in Paris. So my first thought was *Les Misérables*, but I think it's way too long and too sad to take on holiday. So, please let me know if you have any recommendations for books set in Paris.

So, those are my reading plans for the upcoming months, and now I want to talk about my plans for the podcast. I will definitely be making a season two. I've loved almost every second of creating season one, and I think 20 episodes is a nice, even, round number to finish with. In terms of when season two will be out, I'm going to be really annoying and not give you a specific date. But, I'm guessing it will be sometime in September. Once I have a specific date, or if the date changes, then I will let you know on my Instagram, for sure. Another thing that I want to say is that I won't be completely gone in the hiatus. I'll be posting on Instagram, talking about what I'm currently reading, all of that.

Now, I also want to talk about the content of season two. So, personally, I'm going to do an evaluation of all of my episodes and really consider which ones I'm most proud of, and what content I want to create next season. So, some of my favourites of the season include my Books in the Wizarding World episode and my Re-Reading Childhood favourites episode. Of course, I also love all of the episodes in which a friend and I discuss a certain book; they are all tied at equal first favourite. But, I also want to hear from you guys, I want to know what you want to listen to in

season two. You can always tweet me, my handle is just @angourierice, or you can DM me on Instagram @the\_community\_library. I'm also going to make a google survey for feedback, and I will link it in the show notes. I would really appreciate it if you could fill it out. All of the answers are anonymous, you don't have to answer all of the questions, I just want to know more about you, the listener, and what you want to listen to.

Some episodes I know I'd like to do in season two include an episode talking about Shakespeare, why we study him, why his plays are or are not relevant to today. I also want to do an episode on the English curriculum and how it affects students' attitude towards reading. Something that's been highly requested that I would like to tackle in season two is the topic of book to film adaptations, so maybe I'll do a discussion episode on that. In terms of the books that I want to look at, I would like to discuss a non-fiction book. I would also like to look at poetry, I'm thinking about the poems of Maya Angelou or Emily Dickinson. Also, depending on how next week's episode is received, I would like to continue on with the Percy Jackson series and get Harry back to record an episode on the second book. I would also like to do a special episode where you, the audience, choose what book we discuss.

So, earlier today I asked you guys on Twitter and Instagram for any questions you might have about season two, so I'm going to answer them now.

These two questions come from Twitter:

@supershah10 asks: "Would you be interested in talking about different kinds of books in season 2? Personally I would love to hear you talk about graphic novels and comics!"

Yes, I would love to do an episode on a graphic novel. I usually try and get guests that know a lot about the type of book that I'm going to talk about, so I'll ask around in my friend group, see who reads a lot of graphic novels, and maybe do an episode on a graphic novel that they suggest.

@justinbsucco asks: "Will the readathon be coming back? One of my favourite episodes btw ... And, looking back, what were the most difficult things you encountered in season 1?"

So, yes, if there's a readathon I'm interested in doing I'll make another episode about it. I won't be making one for the Reading Rush because I'll be on holiday, but in the future, probably, yes! I think one of the most difficult things for me has been time management. Um, editing and transcribing take quite a long time and it's been difficult to keep up with that, especially if I'm working or travelling. But I'm happy that I've gotten content out every Monday for twenty weeks, now, which is kind of crazy to think about.

These questions come from Instagram:

@dnailmedia asks: "What guests are you going to have on?"

So, I'll continue asking my friends to participate until they're all sick of me and don't want to anymore. I'm also planning on getting my sister back on, if she wants to, I don't know, she might not. And I might do an episode with my mum.

@josephcda asks: "Will audience participation like this be more common?"

If you want it to be, yes! I've been thinking about this a lot; I would like to incorporate audience questions and suggestions into the book discussion episodes, um, but it can be quite difficult to cut those episodes down to under an hour anyway. It's definitely something I will think about and work

on, because I don't want my episodes to be longer than an hour, but I do want to cram more content in, so I'm gonna have to find a balance.

@benguilf asks: "What book are you looking forward to talking about on the podcast the most?" I think I'm going to tackle one of Jane Austen's novels in season two, and I'm equally very excited and very terrified to do that.

@david.gomez.diaz asks: "What is the process that you follow to choose the books you are going to read?"

I really want to choose lots of different types of books, and I think a lot about who the book appeals to and who the target audience might be. I really want the books I choose to appeal to a wide range of people. So, what I'm hoping is that people will see a particular episode like *Percy Jackson* and think: "Oh, I've read that, I love that book!" And then they might also see another episode in which I talk about Virginia Woolf, and they might be inspired to pick up something like Virginia Woolf that's a bit more outside of their comfort zone.

@xxliltrapdogxx asks: "Are you going to do any more podcast episodes related to Harry Potter?" Ah, yes. Probably. Until people get sick of it.

@kallioperice asks: "R u gonna do mo w ur sis bc she rlly funny"

No. I'm just kidding, yes, please come back on the podcast, Kalliope. Although, I don't know why I'm talking to her, she doesn't listen to the podcast anyway, um ...

So, those are all the questions I have time for today, thank you for sending them in! As I mentioned before, there will be a survey linked down below if you want to write in more suggestions for season two.

Next week, my friend Harry and I will be talking about *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. It's a super fun and quick read, and I hope you read along with us, it's gonna be a fun episode.

[theme song]

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