

YA Café Podcast
Episode 41: The Field Guide to the North American Teenager
17 January 2019

- Danielle: 00:06 Welcome to the YA Café, where we share conversations about books for teachers, readers, and caffeine addicts everywhere. On today's episode, we'll be talking about *The Field Guide to the North American Teenager* by Ben, Philippe. Grab a mug of your favorite beverage, friends, and let's talk books. *Music*
- Ad: 00:21 Have you tried the Radio Public app? It's a great app where you can find all of your favorite podcasts like this one. You'll experience the same great content for free and we'll receive a small kickback every time you listen there. This is a great way to support any podcasts you enjoy. Come find us over on Radio Public. *Music*
- Amanda: 00:43 Welcome, y'all. As always our first segment will be spoiler free so you can stick around even if you haven't checked out the new novel yet. I'm Amanda Thrasher,
- Danielle: 00:55 I'm Danielle Hall, an 8th and 9th grade English teacher, and I blog at teachnouvelle.com. Our guest today is Carissa Peck, a high school teacher who does a little bit of everything. Hi Carissa!
- Carissa: 01:00 Hi everyone!
- Danielle: 01:02 Carissa, you teach tech and yearbook and I know you've also taught ELA , ESL and taught abroad. How do you do it all?
- Carissa: 01:11 God teaching, just so teaching no matter what, right. I mean, no matter what, you're focusing on those connections with the students and no matter what you're focusing on scaffolding and getting them interested in the topic. I will always, always, always have that deep level of literature. I bring it into my speech class, I bring it into my tech classes, my yearbook kids still have to look at how things are set up and real books and magazines. But this kind of helps me sneak it in ways they might not expect.
- Danielle: 01:36 I love it and I love your Instagram at [@meltingteacher](https://www.instagram.com/meltingteacher) and I was wondering if you had any favorite recent activities you wanted to share with our listeners.

- Carissa: 01:52 Recently, um, in every single one of my classes we get a really corny activity, where we wrote our regrets on toilet paper *Laughter* and then we took a field trip to the local coed bathroom and flushed are regrets away so we could start fresh in 2019.
- Danielle: 02:00 I love it.
- Amanda: 02:00 That's great.
- Danielle: 02:01 Anytime you can get toilet paper in the classroom right?! *Laughter*
- Carissa: 02:07 They were skied. *Laughter*
- Danielle: 02:07 When Norris's mother gets a job as a professor in Austin and his father "can't quite fit a teenager" in the same house as his new wife and baby Norris knows he's in for a culture shock. After all he seen tons of TV shows and movies showing what it's like in American high school and he knows that a black French Canadian is bound to have a hard time fitting in. He chronicles his anthropological observations of his new classmates in a journal and is determined to keep his mouth shut. Maybe. We'll Norris ever make friends in this cultural wilderness? Will he ever get to play hockey again? We'll find out in this week's book, *The Field Guide to the North American Teenager* . So, Amanda, what did you think of this book?
- Amanda: 02:48 I really enjoyed it. I thought it was a good light read. I really liked having another um, you know, snarky YA voice there was a lot of them. For awhile, like 10 or 15 years ago. We had a ton of like snarky teen girl protagonist. But I'm not sure I ever read any male protagonists that had this level of like judgey cattiness and I thought it was a nice difference and I enjoyed it. I thought it was a good twist on that well-worn narration. What did you think?
- Danielle: 03:15 I liked this book. I thought it was a fun read. I thought that Norris, his voice was very engaging. I liked the characters. I really liked the development of the three settings that we have. We have the school, the restaurant and the hockey rink but, I still really felt what life was like in that restaurant even though it wasn't the primary setting. And I think that Ben Philippe did a great job of developing all of these settings and characters in a way that was really immersive and made me feel like I was in school with Norris. What did you think Clarissa?

- Carissa: 03:54 I totally agree, um, when I taught in Mexico, one of my teachers was Canadian and she used to always talk about the Canadian voice and cancon and how we really don't get a lot of it. And I love that this usually polite picture of Canada with their please and their thank you's and there excuse me, is it's a teenager, of course it's snarky, of course, vaguely inappropriate. *Laughter* And it's great whenever students can see, I obviously think of students when I'm reading that, you know, Canada's not just how they see on TV, just like Norris has to see what America is really like.
- Danielle: 04:29 Yeah, for sure. I had a couple of questions for you Carissa regarding that. Did you feel like when Norris was saying, "Oh, high school here is so different from Canada.", did you feel like it actually was different from Canada or that he was like projecting for the duration of his, resistance to his situation?
- Carissa: 05:01 Oh, completely the ladder. I mean there's always some element of differences between national schools and there's also the fact that he's dealing with more stereotypes perhaps on his end, but he wanted to not fit in. And so he saw everything is different.
- Danielle: 05:04 Yeah, because I mean essentially teenagers are teenagers everywhere.
- Amanda: 05:09 Basically.
- Danielle: 05:10 Yeah, and he was judgey. And one of the things that really caught me up until I realized that Ben Philippe was doing it intentionally is that Norris is all like "Austin is terrible, it's backwards" and whatever. And I'm like, Austin is cool. I haven't even been there. And I know it's the coolest place in Texas.
- Carissa: 05:29 It is funny that when you mentioned Austin, it is known as kind of like being that little circle within Texas that's not quite Texas. I mean you definitely still have the weather are you definitely still have everything, but it's a little more light Canada probably.
- Danielle: 05:43 Yeah!

Amanda: 05:44 You mentioned the weather and I loved *Laughter* like the omnipresence of this oppressive heat. Like I felt that deeply, like just moving from Florida and it's very similar. Why is it this all the time? *Laughter*

Danielle: 05:59 Who chose to live here? *Laughter*

Amanda: 06:01 Yeah. That particular line. Who decided this would be the place where we would live.

Danielle: 06:06 And he sees the statue of the guy. *Laughter*

Amanda: 06:09 Gets very angry at him and I felt that I felt that inside me. *Laughter*

Carissa: 06:13 Yes. All of the discussions with how many shirts you needed to wear and how we felt like he couldn't breathe. I related.

Danielle: 06:20 Absolutely. You said that he felt like he wasn't going to fit in and therefore didn't fit in, but at the end of the day he still was a black French Canadian, which did make him different.

Carissa: 06:33 Completely. And that's something that I also think is pretty interesting for students to read. I don't know about your students, but my students always really struggled with the difference between black and African American and the fact that not all African Americans, one to identify as black and definitely not all blacks identify as African American. I always show them a picture of my friend who is South African, um, thus not American at all. And also a Bob Marley who is Jamaican and that blows their mind *Laughter* that they're not the same. So I can totally see how going in the middle of Boston, as amazing as it is, he's showing up as this conundrum for people. He's not polite. He's not this big tall white hockey guy. What is he trying to say he's Canadian for?

Danielle: 07:20 Yeah. And he even has the interaction with the guidance counselor who doesn't understand that he's bilingual, so like preps him all the ESL welcome materials.

Amanda: 07:30 She seems so sad that she didn't need them. *Laughter* She was like ready to bust out her high school French.

Carissa: 07:36 You know, it's exciting when you finally get to use that language.

Danielle: 07:39 She tries real hard. *Laughter* We have some secondary characters here that we'll get more into in the spoiler section. Um, we have Liam who really wants to play hockey with Norris after Norris's mom puts out a flyer asking people to play hockey with her son and get this. It's in Comic Sans.

Amanda: 08:01 Very on brand zeroing in on the font to there. *Laughter*

Danielle: 08:05 Yes. So, I liked that, like nod to the nerdery of fonts. You know fonts, say something about you and Comic Sans says the most. *Laughter*

Carissa: 08:17 And she's a professor!

Danielle: 08:19 She should know better!

Carissa: 08:19 I'm just saying. *Laughter*

Danielle: 08:23 We also have Maddie who is a cheerleader and works at the restaurant. Her Dad is actually the owner of the restaurant and so she is very present and she is amazing. And I wanted to share a Maddie moment. So, Norris is super judgey y'all and he shares with her that he has a gay best friend back in Canada, not like a Gay Best Friend TM, but just like a gay best friend. And she says, "well, your friend is obviously going to hell for being a godless heathen." And everything Norris thinks he's going to learn about Austin is confirmed in this moment. And then Maddie's like, "God, you're such a martyr I'm clearly joking." Like Austin is super progressive. *Laughter*

Amanda: 09:09 Yeah, I liked that a lot too. I really. I love Maddie. I thought that like from the beginning she knew what Norris has expectations of her were and was perfectly happy to play with them. She didn't

back down from that she was a cheerleader and was friends with all the football players in jocks. She was very comfortable in who she was.

Danielle: 09:28 And in Austin!

Amanda: 09:29 And in Austin.

Danielle: 09:30 She wanted to stay there.

Amanda: 09:31 Yeah, she was a various secure character and I liked her so much.

Danielle: 09:35 Me too.

Carissa: 09:36 She really did remind me of so many cheerleader friends that I had and I will admit in high school I was the one that was like, oh, cheerleaders? Mmm..

Amanda: 09:46 Oh yeah, absolutely.

Carissa: 09:46 And then I got to be their friends and they were these amazing people and yes, they had bows in their hair and yes, they had really high ponytails. Yes, they could do the splits, but my God, were they nice and kind and always there for me.

Danielle: 09:59 Absolutely. And with that friends, we'll take our first break. When we come back we'll share about things We Like a Latte! Than we'll return to our discussion of The Field Guide to The North American Teenager and dig a little deeper. *Music*

Ad: 10:19 Hey friends, are you sitting there thinking this podcast is awesome! I know me too, right? Well, here's how to support us and our authors order our book choices through our affiliate links. We'll get a small kickback and of course you'll be supporting the author. Everybody wins! Next week we're going to do a throwback episode and discuss Meredith Russo's If I Was Your Girl, this was a Stonewall

Book Award winner in 2016 and Meredith Russo has a new book Birthday coming out on May 21st, so we just wanted to make sure that we were all caught up. If you'd like to help us keep bringing you great content, order this book through the link in our show notes. Happy reading. *Music*

Amanda: 11:07 Welcome back y'all. It's time for Things We Like a Latte! Danielle, what's your choice this week?

Danielle: 11:12 Well, Amanda.

Amanda: 11:13 Well Danielle.

Danielle: 11:15 As you know, because you've literally been on the couch with me. We have watched Marie Kondo's new show on Netflix Tidying Up and I have been so intrigued by this cultural moment, both with the reception of the new Netflix show, like KonMari has been a thing for you know, a few years now, but there's like a revived conversation about the method, there's criticism of the method in the show and then there's criticism of the criticism of the method in the show.

Amanda: 11:48 Love it.

Danielle: 11:50 For example, one example of criticism of the show that I think that is really interesting was the. There was this article in the Guardian about how like you can't just choose books that make you happy, like books also have these other functions like making you think hard about the world or making you sad or like, you know, having an emotional catharsis and then criticism of the criticism of the show says things like, first of all, Carissa, I am sure you can relate to this, like maybe spark joy encompasses something wider in the original Japanese than it does in English.

Carissa: 12:26 Right?

Danielle: 12:26 Because translation is tricky and then also, you know, people have been making fun of Mari Kondo, like hugging books and thanking them for their service and sending them on in the world or hugging spoons or you know, thanking tables, but making fun of her doing that is like making fun of her worldview that incorporates some amount of animism and like Shinto religion and like how she is culturally shaped by those things. And so I just, I am loving this cultural conversation.

Amanda: 13:02 That was great! Thanks Danielle.

Danielle: 13:07 How about you Carissa? What's your choice this week?

Carissa: 13:08 It's got much less cultural, but nonetheless as important. NFL players telling bad jokes *laughter* and I do not mean bad as an inappropriate. I mean like Dad Jokes.

Danielle: 13:20 I love dad jokes.

Carissa: 13:21 And they basically have these contests where they'll both tell them to each other in a series and the first person to laugh loses and I love it because they're so competitive *laughter* and the guy that wins with like, you know, how do you make a tissue dance, you put a little boogie in it will, you know, do a touchdown dance! And in your face! And they're fantastic and it's a great way to show my students, especially my high school boys that are all into image that you can be a goofball and you can tell these stupid jokes and still be ridiculously talented.

Danielle: 13:54 I can't wait to watch all of these.

Amanda: 13:56 That sounds great. I'm excited about it.

Danielle: 13:57 How about you Amanda?

Amanda: 13:59 So, this week I found an orchestra that has been doing their thing for awhile. They are a Berlin orchestra called, I'm going to butcher this and I'm sorry, it's Konzerthausorchester Berlin. I think they have made this series of videos where they use their instruments in this style of music called Foley where it's like it sound art, where you use the instruments to imitate sounds in real life and they have created the sounds of Berlin so they have video of people like walking down the street to somebody plucking a violin bow and all the different possibilities of how to produce sounds and instruments and I really like it. I love like just the creative use of sound and space and like just seeing the world in a different way. So I have really enjoyed that. That's the sounds of Berlin Orchestra.

Danielle: 14:45 We're going to take a quick break and when we come back we'll return to our discussion on the field guide to the North American teenager. The rest of the show will contain spoilers, so if you're leaving us here, keep in touch on Instagram and Twitter @yacafepodcast. We'll be back. *Music*

Amanda: 15:17 Welcome back to the YA Café. We're continuing our discussion on The Field Guide to the North American Teenager by Ben Philippe, if you haven't read this yet, we want to warn you again that this segment will contain spoilers.

Danielle: 15:29 Spoilers!

Amanda: 15:29 Alright, so this field guide that we've got the super judgey notebook.

Danielle: 15:34 Yes.

Amanda: 15:35 ..and obviously it's going to get read by all the people because that's what happens when you have a notebook where you write down all of your mean little asides about your classmates.

Danielle: 15:44 It's like he's never read a book. *Laughter*

Carissa: 15:46 Well, you know, we can't all be so lucky as to grow up on Harriet The Spy.

Danielle: 15:50 Even she got found out.

Amanda: 15:52 ...and she had dumbwaiters to hide in. *Laughter* So Harriet, the spy sparked my love of dumbwaiters and I'm fascinated by them and I just always wanted to hide in a dumbwaiter and now I never will.

Carissa: 16:04 We just have to find you a really big dumbwaiter.

Amanda: 16:06 *laughter* just an enormous dumbwaiter.

Danielle: 16:08 And then later we got to see Michelle Trachtenberg on Buffy all grown up, that was great.

Amanda: 16:12 What is Michelle Trachtenberg?

Danielle: 16:14 She was Harriet The Spy.

Amanda: 16:15 Oh, I never saw it. *Laughter*

Carissa: 16:18 Pure literary, pure literature. *Laughter*

Amanda: 16:21 Oh, was that a movie? I've never heard of it , I'm far too noble for such base interests.
Laughter

Carissa: 16:29 That seems like a very "Norris" comment to ma'am *Laughter*

Amanda: 16:33 That is a very "Norris" comment. *Laughter* Oh, was there a movie? I didn't know.
Laughter

Danielle: 16:37 Alright. Can we talk about the LI

Amanda: 16:41 The lithium? *Laughter* What is the LI?

Danielle: 16:45 The love interest. *Laughter*

Amanda: 16:45 That is not an accepted acronym. *Laughter*

Danielle: 16:49 Your not excepted acronym. *Laughter*

Amanda: 16:51 I mean that's fair, but okay, let's talk about the love interest as normal people would call it.

Carissa: 16:56 Well, which love interest?

Danielle: 17:01 *gasp* Spoilers!

Amanda: 17:01 Well we're in that part. *Laughter* There was a whole thing I said I don't know if you've got it. *Laughter* Yeah, okay. So, first love interest Aarti.

Carissa: 17:10 I loved Aarti to start at the very beginning. I really found her a likable character when she was first introduced and it was Aarti and cheerleaders.

Amanda: 17:18 I liked that moment too. I thought that was really interesting and I liked how one dimensional. Everybody else seemed except Aarti.

Danielle: 17:25 Yeah, and she seemed awesome and interesting and like snarky and then she got bad. Like she just got uninteresting and mean.

Amanda: 17:38 Yeah, I think a aloofness is not a quality I like in people in real life or in fiction. I like when people are genuine and like Norris in his way was genuine in his, like need to be funny and liked and not liked, but his need to be acknowledged as a funny character or a funny person. Yeah, so I feel like there's a genuineness in that, but just like the distance and the silences. I dunno, I wasn't, I don't like it.

Carissa: 18:06 I like how it started with that classic. I don't know her a lot and because I don't know her a lot, I like her. And then as the more you get to know her, the more you realize, wow, this isn't actually a person I should like.

Danielle: 18:20 Yes! And it was like, oh, here is someone who is different than everything I was expecting.

Carissa: 18:26 Until you find out that stuff that you expected to be bad wasn't that bad anyways?

Danielle: 18:31 Yes, and in terms of the second love interest, which whatever, like I didn't see the Maddie thing coming. I was hoping for a strong boy, girl friendship, you know, she spends a lot of time with him at the restaurant because it's her family's restaurant and they have great conversation about a number of things and she sees through him, like I said in the first part and I love her, but like I hoped for friendship and I wasn't even expecting anything else. It's like I've never read a book. *Laughter*

Carissa: 19:06 Well it is disappointing when everything always has to end in romance.

Danielle: 19:10 Yes!

Carissa: 19:10 It is disappointing when it always has to be the pretty girl. It is disappointing when you feel like you're always going there and then the students expect that and then they don't see that in their lives and then they don't know why.

Danielle: 19:21 Yes. I would 100 percent agree with you and I love what you said, Carissa said before we started recording, which was he doesn't actually get the girl at the end. He only like apologizes to the girl for being an idiot and then it's kind of like left to see what happens next.

Amanda: 19:40 I did like that, like how it was kind of unresolved at the end. Um, I'm not sure if I love, like the persistence will win the day because sometimes girls just want to be left alone. What did y'all think about that?

Carissa: 19:56 I agree. I agree that there's a point to persistence, like, okay, fine show that you actually care. Show that you're actually in it for the long run. And his persistence isn't stalkery. He's not waiting outside her house. He's not chilling by the locker room, but I did like that it showed, you know, you can apologize and you can realize you made a mistake, but that doesn't mean you're given and you can move on.

Amanda: 20:16 Yeah.

Danielle: 20:17 Yeah, I thought that was really well done. I thought that maybe they'll be friends again. Maybe they won't be. Maybe they'll never be romantic, but she doesn't owe him anything.

Carissa: 20:30 Right.

Danielle: 20:30 So, I do want to share this thing that she says at the very end that I really love. Norris says, "I guess I guess I do judge people. I'll say Maddie gestured at the notebook as she snapped it firmly shut, but guess what? You may turn your nose up at the cheerleaders and the jocks and the mental patient as you so nicely put it. You may sit in your room, cackling over, are predictable habits, but the rest of us are just trying our hardest to make it through each day being who we are, and I'll tell you right now, you are as profoundly basic as the rest of us Canada. Actually no, you're worse because at least the football team boys aren't pretending to be better than everyone else in a 100 mile radius." And I love that. I love that she calls him out.

Carissa: 21:13 Have you guys done any reading or seeing all the things when they talk about why it's dangerous when you classify negative things as basic?

Danielle: 21:21 Tell me more.

Carissa: 21:22 So they've started talking about how it's really just taking what is popular for teenage females who are this huge demographic anyways and suddenly penalizing them for enjoying what's popular. And I just think that's a really interesting take on, especially what's being said here that yeah, okay, you know, these people are quote unquote basic, but they're doing what they love. And so what if it's popular?

- Amanda: 21:46 Mmm..
- Danielle: 21:47 That's a really cool point and I think that like, if I'm understanding you correctly, Maddie really embodies that because she is the one who is like content to be in Austin and that's awesome to her and just because it's not, you know, as much as Norris thought that he wanted in the world, like it's not, it's not bad that she wants to be near her family and attend all these family gatherings and hang out with the friends that she's made in high school.
- Carissa: 22:14 Right. And it's not bad to want to be a cheerleader, just like it's not bad to want to be a jazz dancer and it's not bad to want to be a color guard, um, that we can't necessarily as part of counterculture perhaps go against what's popular just because it's popular.
- Amanda: 22:44 I want to circle back a little bit back to the beginning where we have Norris viewing everything through his lens of I've seen TV and movies and I know what American high schools are like. I found a lot of that to fall pretty flat. Like I love a snarky protagonist but it felt like his observations were not specific enough to be interesting, if that makes sense. Like, because he does say things like, oh the jocks shoved the nerves into the lockers. Like, well, no they don't. That's not really a thing anybody does anymore.
- Carissa: 22:58 Mmm.
- Danielle: 23:00 He didn't mention cyber-bullying or anything that's more recent.
- Amanda: 23:03 Or just the small little details that I think would have made it seem more realistic, more current and more fleshed out than like these tropes. And like I get that. Like part of it is Norris is like mapping all of these tropes onto what he sees. But I really thought that it did not work super well. Thoughts?
- Carissa: 23:24 Even some of the brief like analysis and is just things that he jotted down did seem very one dimensional, almost overly one dimensional, like you copy and paste them for many teen movie in the 80's and just kind of slide them in.

- Amanda: 23:38 Yeah, that's what I think it is. I think at the core of it is that it felt outdated. His observations felt outdated and not like a high school environment.
- Danielle: 23:46 Yeah, he also chatted on aim or whatever.
- Carissa: 23:51 Yeah,
- Amanda: 23:52 Clearly they have Whatsapp. They all have Whatsapp. Why is he talking to Eric on the computer? *laughter*
- Carissa: 23:57 That is a danger with why books nowadays. I mean if you start writing a book two years ago and you start talking about snapchat, I don't know if that's going to be here in a year.
- Amanda: 24:06 Yeah, I think like a two year or two or three year buffer is like, yeah, you expect that, but this is like. I don't know. I think it's been..
- Danielle: 24:13 Seven or eight years.
- Amanda: 24:14 Seven or eight years or more since we were typing in text speak you know. Because even when we were in high school people weren't really doing that anymore and that was like 15, 16 years ago. So I mentioned the lack of specificity in the high school is like the opposite of the specific way that the restaurant is built and especially key lime pie season like that is like a, that's a really sharp plot point I thought. I mean it wasn't quite a plot point but it was a sharp a moment in a restaurant and I think that like anybody who has worked there and you kind of family business or restaurant or anything like that sees like, oh yeah, Key lime pie season. *Laughter*
- Danielle: 24:53 Absolutely.
- Carissa: 24:53 I'm going to ask either of you ever work in food service because I didn't, so this was really fun.

Danielle: 24:58 I did. I worked in food service in college and then in the coffee shop and so it was like Pumpkin Spice latte, right? *laughter* That was pumpkin spice. Everything.

Amanda: 25:10 Yeah, basic. *Laughter*

Carissa: 25:12 I do think that a bit of modernity of it, of the less, well obviously one dimensional would be Liam.

Danielle: 25:19 Yes.

Carissa: 25:20 I've really enjoyed that character. I felt like he was a little sporadic. I kind of would've liked more of him.

Amanda: 25:26 I agree. He is a very necessary grounding force I think in the book.

Danielle: 25:31 I don't love to postulate on these things a lot that I feel like Liam is the sort of character who in an earlier draft was probably more prevalent and then a publisher could have been more romance.

Amanda: 25:43 Maybe.

Carissa: 25:44 I can see that.

Danielle: 25:45 One of the things I liked at the end was like Norris is going to go back to Canada and it was so close to the end that I was like, oh, is he really going back to Canada? Like what is happening? And then at the very last minute he has that cinematic like stop everything I don't want to go. And then he notes that it's actually very expensive *laughter* to change everything at the last minute and not as easy as it is shown to be in movies. And I loved it.

- Carissa: 26:15 Every single time I watched something in a movie where somebody is running at the last minute or catches a cab and you know, "follow that car!" And you have that suspension of disbelief where you're like, there's no way.
- Amanda: 26:27 This was for you. *laughter*
- Carissa: 26:41 This was the, and then like we talked about a little before, but this also went into the emotional stuff. Isn't that easy? You don't get to just say, never mind, I'm not leaving. Let's have everything go back to normal.
- Amanda: 26:42 Yeah,
- Danielle: 26:43 I mean I think that was part of the Maddie thing, right? Like it's not just going to go back like he has to regain some stuff, but there is a little bit of fantasy here at the end that he could, you know, go back to Austin after having told them that he was going to leave with his tail between his legs. One thing I wanted to cover before we ended the podcast was I really like that it is clear in this book that what is preventing Norris from enjoying Austin and the people that he meets there is Norris and his unhappiness and his depression on having to leave Canada. I so strongly related to that because when I was 13 I moved from North Carolina to Oregon and I left a very large city in North Carolina and I moved to a very small town in Oregon and I had all of these like, judgey notions about the people that I was going to meet there. On my first day on the bus I saw somebody with a horse tied up to their basketball hoop *Laughter* and I was like, where am I? This is not okay. I went from an 8th grade class of like, we had like 150 people on our team and like 300 people in 8th grade, and then I went to a class of 28 and I was like, no! I had all this resistance. And so I really saw myself in that. I think my teenage self would have benefited from this book.
- Amanda: 28:10 I think this is a very strong recommendable book.
- Carissa: 28:13 I definitely laughed out loud. I definitely liked it as much as I felt like some parts were super predictable and a little cliché and possibly trite. Um, there were also some parts where I was like, wow, didn't see that coming. Um, but when I went back and re skimmed, I mean he did a pretty good job of laying foundations. There were hints, there were clues I just hadn't seen him.
- Danielle: 28:36 And overall it was a fun read.

Danielle: 28:38 That's our show for today, friends. Thank you so much for joining us, Carissa!

Carissa: 28:38 Thanks for having me, It was fun.

Danielle: 28:45 You can find Carissa on Instagram and Twitter @meltingteacher. You can find us @yacafepodcast. We'd love to hear from you! And if you're enjoying this show, please consider leaving us a review. Happy reading! *Music*