

YA Café Podcast
Episode 45: *We Set the Dark on Fire*
21 February 2019

Danielle: 00:00 Welcome to the YA Cafe where we share conversations about books for teachers, readers, and caffeine addicts Everywhere. On today's episode we'll be talking about, *We Set the Dark on Fire* by Tehlor Mejía. Grab a Mug Of your favorite beverage friends and let's talk books.

Ad: 00:18 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: 00:40 Welcome, y'all. As always, our first segment will be spoiler for you and so you can stick around even if you haven't checked out the new novel yet. I'm Amanda Thrasher.

Danielle: 00:47 I'm Danielle Hall an 8th and 9th grade English teacher, and I blog at teachnouvelle.com. Our guest today is YA writer Erin Callahan. Hey Erin!

Erin: 00:56 Hello, I am so glad to be back.

Danielle: 00:59 Are you mad I didn't call you incomparable?

Erin: 01:02 No, its cool. We don't want to wear that out. *Laughter*

Danielle: 01:08 Thank you so much for joining us. So....

Erin: 01:09 Thank you for having me.

Danielle: 01:11 Yeah, anytime.

Erin: 01:12 And letting me pick a book my goodness* *Laughter*

Danielle: 01:14 You did pick this book, that's right. *Laughter*

Erin: 01:17 I hope you guys didn't hate it. *Laughter*

Danielle: 01:19 Well, we'll talk about that. *Laughter* Just kidding. No, we liked it. What drew you to this book? How come you picked this one?

Erin: 01:27 I had seen it pop up on Twitter a number of times and I was sort of intrigued by the possibility that it was a fictional world, but not fantasy. Does that make sense?

Danielle: 01:40 Yeah.

Erin: 01:41 I don't really see that that often. Usually when you have a fictional universe, there is something, you know you're either like in space or there's magic

Danielle: 01:50 Right.

Erin: 01:50 And there's none of that here. It's sort of resembles Latin America in maybe like the 1940's

Danielle: 01:57 Right. And it's not like a futuristic dystopian.

Erin: 02:01 Yes. Right.

Danielle: 02:03 Although you know it is Dystopian, but..., wow, that's such an interesting observation.

Erin: 02:09 Thank you. *Laughter*

Danielle: 02:11 It's good to know you're earning your keep.

Erin: 02:12 *Laughter* I try.

Danielle: 02:15 So, we got to talk to you in our December year end roundup

Erin: 02:19 Yes.

Danielle: 02:19 And we got to catch up on your life since the publication of *The Art of Escaping*. And so hopefully our listeners are totally familiar with that book. If they're not, they should go order it right now cause it's the best.

Erin: 02:31 Well, thank you.

Danielle: 02:31 Any new projects on the horizon?

Erin: 02:33 New projects on the horizon. Well, I'll mention two things. So, one these are not out yet, but my dear friend Troy H. Gardner and I are going to be doing recaps of *Are You Afraid of the Dark*.

Danielle: 02:46 Oh, my God! I am so excited!

Amanda: 02:47 I'm so excited.

Erin: 02:50 *Laughter*

Danielle: 02:50 Okay, I have like six questions. First of all, is Troy H. Gardner the one that was like your inspiration for Will in The Art of Escaping.

Erin: 02:59 Yes! Oh my goodness. I love that. You know that. Yes, totally. Like the dynamic with Troy that I had when we were in high school and we're still very good friends. We're best friends. Uh, it's definitely the Maddie and we'll dynamic to some extent, even though we are not Maddie and Will, but that's the way they play off each other. Yes.

Danielle: 03:17 I love it.

Erin: 03:18 Aww, *Laughter*

Danielle: 03:20 Okay, the second question, I'm not actually going to ask six questions.

Erin: 03:24 That's okay. *Laughter*

Danielle: 03:24 I'm just going to ask one more? What's your favorite Are You Afraid of the Dark episode?

Erin: 03:27 Oh my goodness. This is a really good question. Um, I think my all time fave and maybe this will change when I rewatched them, but my all time Fave as of right now is the one that starred, and I'm going to blank on her name. Tatyana Ali? She was on The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. Okay...

Amanda: 03:46 I remember this one.

Erin: 03:47 It was about this girl who was her and then she encountered a ghost to look just like her, but she was like a quick silver or something along those lines.

Danielle: 03:55 So, I didn't watch very much of that show, uh, as a youngster because as you can imagine, I was afraid of the dark.

Erin: 04:05 * Laughter* Oh, that's right. You don't like horror, I keep forgetting that.

Danielle: 04:09 I don't but, I'm going to watch that for you. *Laughter* And then I'm going to read, you know, your thing.

Erin: 04:16 *Laughter* it's still in the works. We're getting there. But we'll probably post the first one on my blog within the next couple of weeks, I would imagine so.

Danielle: 04:26 Awesome! *singing voice*

Erin: 04:26 Yeah, it should be fun.

Danielle: 04:28 Yeah.

Amanda: 04:28 We Set the Dark on Fire provides a dark vision of the island world of Medio where a wall separates the prosperous inner region from the salted, barren earth of the outer island. Every young man of wealth and means negotiates for two wives – a Primera, who is to be his ambitious, intellectual equal, and a Segunda, who will be the lovely and beautiful opposite of everything he is. Daniela has trained as a Primera in Medio, and is set to marry an influential politician's son. When a rebel organization discovers her biggest secret, she must agree to be a spy in her new household or lose everything she's worked for. Can Dani keep her grip on the life she's always wanted, or will the spiderweb of Medio claim another victim?

Danielle: 05:06 Dun, Dun, Dun!

Erin: 05:07 Intense

Amanda: 05:08 So, Danielle, what did you think?

Danielle: 05:10 So, I really liked the vibe of this book. It was sort of like Handmaid's tale and had like a Latin American vibe and you know, like Erin said, it wasn't dystopian future, but it was still dystopian, but it wasn't fantasy. It was awesome. I really liked the world building and I liked the quasi religious justification, not quasi religious, but quasi justification for every wealthy young man getting two wives, you know, being in this origin story of the Sun God and the Salt God and something, something and one wife wasn't enough he had to have two. Yeah, I thought that that was a really interesting set up. How about you Erin? What did you think?

Erin: 05:57 I really enjoyed it. I agree with you. I think the way that the religious origins of the culture are described are really interesting because it's so clear that like, you know, they started off with this mythology and they're not really sticking to it anymore, but you know, the end results serves a purpose. So it's sort of lingering on in this world in which they live in a way that's kind of *laughter* unfortunate of people.

Danielle: 06:24 They're digging the results. So, they just came with it.

Erin: 06:27 Right. Even though they don't really believe in, in any of the origins at this point. I also really liked the character of Dani. She is initially a little bit predictable, but I thought that the author developed her in a way that struck me as really fresh as the book progresses.

Amanda: 06:45 Yeah, I also really liked Dani. I love how... Even though like she was still figuring things out and figuring out what she believed in, what she wanted to do, she still knew exactly what she was capable of and all of her abilities. Uh, at one point when the, uh, voyage, she knew, I can't remember his name, what's his name? Sota! Yes. At one point when Sota is trying to convince her that she should be a spy because she'd be great at it and he's listing all of these reasons. She'd be great at it and she goes, "I know I'd be great at it." *Laughter* That's not the conversation. And I really liked that. I was like, 'oh, Dani, you're a strong character.' *Laughter*

Erin: 07:24 I'm so glad you mentioned that because that I think was the moment at which I was like, 'oh, I like you Dani!'. *Laughter*

Amanda: 07:30 Yeah, that was my buy in for sure.

Erin: 07:35 Yup.

Danielle: 07:36 Yeah, I really liked that moment with Dani too, and I liked that we had this binary of Primera and Segunda. So, there is like another wife in the household too, and it's Carmen who was the worst girl at school and who could have ever imagined she would be placed in Dani's household. And we're all like, well, you know, we met like two people at school, so we all saw it coming. *Laughter*

Amanda: 07:57 And worst, as in most odious, not bad at being a Segunda.

Erin: 08:04 Good word choice.

Danielle: 08:04 Oh, right. Yeah.

Amanda: 08:05 Thanks.

Danielle: 08:06 Yeah, yeah.

Amanda: 08:07 She's clearly like good at her segundaing. *Laughter*

Danielle: 08:11 Yeah, but like, ah!, she's the worst. That kind of worst.

Erin: 08:15 She's pretty classic mean girl at the start of the novel.

Danielle: 08:18 Yes.

Amanda: 08:19 Yeah, exactly that. So, one of the things that really informs the character of Daniela is that she is undocumented in this world where she's trained to be a Primera and it doesn't matter how good she is at everything that she does and how much she surpasses her classmates. The fact that her papers are not authentic is like the most terrifying thing in her world. That could just take everything that she's worked for away from her. And there's a lot of talk about how the privileged people live on one side of the wall and a lot of like the violence surrounding the wall, which is pretty impossible to ignore as an allegory. And not even an allegory. Allegory is not the right word, it's just the thing that's happening. *Laughter*

Erin: 09:02 It is like horrifying me relevant at this particular moment in time.

Amanda: 09:06 Right.

Erin: 09:06 Um, I'm assuming the author had current circumstances or circumstances from a few years ago in mind when she was writing this book, but I don't know if she could have possibly timed it better. *chuckle*

Amanda: 09:17 Yeah, yeah. I think that, uh, I think that it's really useful for a lot of teachers and students who are looking for ways to like humanize the situation of a wall in like a not super politically charged way.

Erin: 09:30 Right.

Erin: 09:30 Like I think that there's a lot of schools that would be frustrated if they had their teacher bring in like, oh, this book's about the wall and like they're against whatever, uh, they're not Americans, blah, blah, blah.

Erin: 09:42 Oh, someone will still complain. *Laughter*

Amanda: 09:45 I mean, maybe, but I don't know. I think this is a good, like, stealth way to bring it in. You know, like, because you've got the refuge of Oh, no, it's just fantasy.

Erin: 09:55 Right, I mean, it's a fictional universe. So you are, you're shielded a little bit by that.

Danielle: 09:59 Right. And I thought that this book brought up a really amazing question that I hadn't considered before in such like an outright way, which is the wall and the society has existed a long time and it's not achieving what the builder's anticipated that it would achieve. And so the primary question is like, what happens after the wall? Like, what's the next step? Like how do things amp up? And I thought that that was where it like truly became scary.

Erin: 10:32 Yes.

Danielle: 10:33 And with that friends, we'll take our first break. When we come back we'll share about Things We Like a Latte, then we'll return to our discussion of We Set the Dark on Fire and dig a little deeper.
Music

Ad: 10:47 Hey friends, are you looking for an easy way to support this podcast? Order our book choices through the affiliate link in our show notes, you'll be supporting our authors and making sure we get a small kickback to keep our show going. Next week we'll discuss The Priory of the Orange Tree by Samantha Shannon. There'll be dragons and pirates and we'll be joined by YA Fantasy writer Somaiya Daud. If you'd like to help us keep bringing you great content, order through the link in our show notes. Happy reading! *Music*

Amanda: 11:24 Welcome back, y'all. It's time for Things We Like a Latte. Danielle, what's your brew of choice this week?

Danielle: 11:29 So, I started watching One Day at a Time, which is a remake of a show from 1975. Um, except that now it is about a Cuban American family. There are three generations living in the same house. It stars just Justina Machado, whom I had known from like Jane the Virgin fame. Right. And she's Darcy and she's kind of this, um, two dimensional like great woman. But I definitely had not seen her full emotional range until watching One Day at a Time. And I am loving the show so far. It also stars Rita Moreno who is just a treasure and all of the characters are amazing. It features a queer character, so that's awesome. And it's just funny and heartfelt and like earnest at times and just like so well balanced and such an amazing show and I strongly recommend everyone watch it. How about you Erin, once your brew of choice this week?

Erin: 12:34 So, I am going to recommend another podcasts because I've decided this is just going to be my...

Amanda: 12:40 How dare you. *Laughter*

Erin: 12:42 Brew of choice every time. *Laughter* It's fine. This is another fiction podcast. It is called Girl in Space and it starts out with a girl alone on a spaceship.

Danielle: 12:54 Oh, that's a thing! *Laughter*

Erin: 13:00 Yes. Actually the beginning reminds me a little bit of Loneliest Girl in the Universe, which I know you guys have read. But from there it spins into something very different and there are amazing Jurassic Park references and, and a very spunky protagonist, um, who will just charm your ears off. It's, it's fantastic.

Amanda: 13:23 Thanks Erin! That sounds great.

Danielle: 13:25 That does sound great. Except for the part where it sounds terrifying and scary. *Laughter*

Amanda: 13:30 I didn't mean for that to sound sarcastic.

Erin: 13:34 *Laughter*

Danielle: 13:34 How about you Amanda? What's your brew of choice? My brew of choice is a tiny little dumb thing that is going to be really dated by the time this episode airs. But I don't care because it made me really happy today. Uh, Epic reads the Twitter feed for Harper Collins YA posted a compilation of the such and such thing as John Mulaney quotes. But they did it with YA books and it is really enjoyable if you like John Mulaney and YA, it's a lot of fun just to go through and they post fun things and people who are applied to them a posting good stuff. So at this point it's a couple of week old Twitter thread, but still lots of fun. Epic Reads YA books as John Mulaney quotes.

Danielle: 14:15 It sounds great. I know who that is, so I will check that out. *Laughter*

Amanda: 14:20 Danielle, knowing who one of the most popular and famous comedians of the moment is.
Laughter

Danielle: 14:24 How does that not sound unlikely to you? Like ...

Amanda: 14:29 I'm just proud of you.

Danielle: 14:31 You should be. You should be.

Erin: 14:32 *Laughter*

Danielle: 14:33 We're going to take a quick break, and when we come back, we'll return to our discussion of We Set the Dark on Fire. 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: 15:16 Welcome back, y'all, to the YA Café. We're continuing our discussion on We Set the Dark on Fire by Tehlor Mejía. If you haven't read this yet, we want to warn you again that this segment will contain spoilers.

Danielle: 15:16 Spoiler! *Singing voice*

Erin: 15:16 Spoiler! *Singing voice*

Amanda: 15:16 Yes. *Laughter* That was so good!

Danielle: 15:16 I'm so happy!

Erin: 15:16 Nailed it. *Laughter*

Danielle: 15:18 But no pirates.

Amanda: 15:19 No pirates,

Amanda: 15:25 But, revolutionaries.

Erin: 15:27 Were you expecting pirates?

Danielle: 15:28 No.

Amanda: 15:28 She's just always expecting pirates, like on a low level. She is just waiting for them to show up.

Danielle: 15:30 You have to be ready for pirates.

Erin: 15:34 At anytime

Amanda: 15:34 Alright! So, we got Carmen who is the worst or is she? What did y'all think?

Danielle: 15:38 So, one of the things that I was very nervous about when Carmen was wife number two, was 'Oh God, this whole book is going to be Dani doing Dani's thing and Carmen being like the looming menace and the like consistent threat and antagonistic force and it's going to be like girl versus girl.'

And I had just not into that. So like this book definitely sold me when it turned out that Carmen was queer and like a good guy,

- Erin: 16:10 I feel like I knew that they would team up at some point. I was totally expecting the love story and it is really beautifully written. I mean it's occasionally small to you but like in a way like this is just too adorable and yeah, I'm, I'm with it. I'm here for it. It's fine.
- Amanda: 16:29 I definitely saw a romance coming possibly because I read a lot of books without a queer romance and so I just like subtext it all over them. Basically from the first moment, there were two of the, two of them were onscreen together, I was just yelling, "Now kiss!" *Laughter* at the book, they're not going to kiss yet. And then they would come on screen again and I'd say "Now Kiss!" And she'd be like, all right. *Laughter*
- Danielle: 16:51 I mean like Tehlor Mejía had a story in Toil & Trouble and it was the Instagram tarot reader and there was a queer romance in that. Like she also contributed to All Out, which is an anthology of queer short stories. So like I guess if I were reading the road signs, I would've known it was coming. But like Amanda, I'm always hoping for it. So I feel like, you know when it does happen, but I'm like, 'ah!, that's what i wanted all along!'
- Amanda: 17:18 I feel like I got it. I got it validated one time really strongly with, and now I'm just like wide open all the time, like it's going to happen.
- Amanda: 17:28 So, the other character to me who trends transcended expectations was Mateo in a great way because, I have expected it to be like, oh, you get to know him. And he's not so bad after all and blah, blah, blah.
- Danielle: 17:43 But it wasn't because Tehlor Mejía is smarter than that. And I really liked that. He was like constant, this constant menacing presence.
- Danielle: 17:51 Yes. And it reminded me of what Somaiya Daud, who will be on the podcast next week, said about her book Mirage. Which in her book, there is an oppressor and even though we have our protagonists come into contact with the oppressor, the oppressor is still an oppressor. It doesn't get better. There's no Stockholm Syndrome like, 'oh, they were nice all along.' No, that person is cruel and they stay cruel.

Amanda: 18:18 Yes.

Erin: 18:19 My favorite thing about Mateo is the scene in which he physically intimidates Dani

Amanda: 18:27 Yes.

Erin: 18:27 ...and she's so nice. She's so conscious of like the way that he is doing it and how much she hates it. It's really beautifully written, um, and speaks very deeply to something that people tend not to put words to very often. So I really appreciated that.

Amanda: 18:44 Yes, I agree so much. God, that was, that was such a good scene. It was so well written.

Erin: 18:48 Yeah, very well written.

Amanda: 18:49 You're right. Yeah.

Danielle: 18:50 I really have so much respect for Tehlor as an author. I feel like, you know, anytime we go into a book, we have the baggage of what all the other stories we've ever read have done to us or like made us expect. And so it's easy for us to be here. Like, ah, she transcends expectations and all that stuff. But like, I mean, think about like the burden of that what she's really doing is tearing down like all these things that previous stories have done wrong to us.

Amanda: 19:22 Yes.

Erin: 19:22 Yeah.

Amanda: 19:23 Absolutely.

Erin: 19:23 One thing I liked is she leads us initially down the path of Dani and Sota sort of falling for each other and then she completely flips that true by having Dani for Carmen instead in a way that I thought was really smart.

Danielle: 19:41 Yeah. You know, I thought that the story would be one way and then it wasn't, and I love that. Uh, I guess we should have said this like probably at the beginning, but this is book one of two which we all realize...

Amanda: 19:55 Yeah it is. *Laughter*

Danielle: 19:58 We all realized at the 80 that this was like book one of two.

Amanda: 20:02 No, no. I don't think that's fair to say. This is book one half of one. Okay. *laughter*

Erin: 20:10 Did you feel like it didn't read like a complete story?

Amanda: 20:11 No, I didn't think it read is a complete story. Like, how can we get rid of the complete story? The only thing that happened is like the protagonist was like, oh my God, the world is different. And then it was like, just kidding. Now the revolutionaries are everyone. Another thing like we start out with, oh there's this one person in La vas, who's approached me and then by the end of it she's La vas and has been for 27 years. She's La vas and has been like since before you were born. And it's just like come on. If everybody's in your secret organization, is it a secret organization anymore? *laughter* I really like 90% of this book and then the last 10% of this book I was just like, what?! I don't know if you all had that experience as well.

Erin: 20:55 Well, I don't, I don't tend to mind this, but I will say it's one of those books where it's a slow burn until the very end and then there is a lot of action all at once that plays out...

Amanda: 21:07 Yeah.

Erin: 21:08 ...very quickly. So, if like that's something that irks you. Well beware. *Laughter* But if you dig that kind of thing, this is definitely the book to check out. *laughter*

Amanda: 21:16 It's a very, very fair statement.

Danielle: 21:18 Yeah, I definitely like saw that. So this reminded me of a book published by Melissa Marr who wrote Wicked Lovely and that whole beautiful series. And then she wrote a book called Carnival of Souls, which has since been re-branded as Carnival of Secrets. And in her author's note, she says, 'thank you so much to my publisher for letting me publish half of book.' *Laughter*

Erin: 21:45 At least she was upfront about it. *Laughter*

Danielle: 21:49 Yeah, I mean the good thing is that you know, there will be a book two someday, but Oh!, update. Melissa Marr also has a book two, well now we get to read the second half of that book. But anyway, like Tehlor Mejía, Taylor Mehia ostensibly already has like a deal for the second book. So okay.

Erin: 22:09 It's probably already written.

Danielle: 22:11 You know.

Amanda: 22:12 I mean yeah, but I feel like the first book in a series still needs to end.

Danielle: 22:16 Yes.

Amanda: 22:16 You can't just like cut it off in the middle of the action. Like I think a really good example of this is like Hunger Games where we end, the games have ended, Katniss has won, but like there's still clearly more story to tell. But the story that the book set out to tell of like this first Hunger Games was finished. That story was completed, and I just don't think there was a story that was completed in here, at least not them. Not that I saw.

Erin: 22:42 I was literally just about to compare it to book one of the Hunger Games *Laughter* on to make the opposite point. Because like when I think of the end of book, one of the hunger games, I think of Katniss and Peeta, I'm like very shaky ground and kind of like not knowing where they stand with each other.

Amanda: 23:01 Yeah, but who cares about Peeta Erin. *Laughter*

Erin: 23:07 I am team Peeta to the core. *Laughter* Anyway that reminded me a little bit of where things stand with Carmen and Dani at the end of this book, but I do see your point. If you're focused more on like the actual story of the revolution, it ends in sort of a an a very unresolved point. Yes.

Amanda: 23:28 I don't understand what like the plot arcs that she was going for was, that was ended at this point. You know what I mean? Like I don't know what through line it would be that like ties the whole story arc to it.

Erin: 23:42 I could speculate about what her goal with that was a, and I mean this is purely speculation, but I think she wanted to get to the point where the revolutionaries turned from generally peaceful tactics to violence and she left it at that turning point so that that could be further explored in book two. That's my guess. That's probably not going to be satisfying for everyone, but I was okay with it.

Danielle: 24:06 What did you think Danielle, since Erin and I are just sitting here fighting *Laughter*

Erin: 24:10 Fighting.

Amanda: 24:13 Barely fighting.

Danielle: 24:14 Okay. So, I liked the way that it ended. We can look at it as being like the arc of Dani and Carmen's relationship or we can look at it as being like the arc of the revolution. We can also look at it as being like the arc of what Dani's going to achieve in her life. You know, the first plot point is like Dani realizing that it's not just being a Primera, you know, the midpoint is like her coming to her realization that she does indeed like want to actively help instead of just do exactly what she's told

her, whatever. And then kind of the end is like her realizing that like her initial hesitation had consequences and also that, you know, she's the person who went back and forth on like, can I trust Carmen and can I trust Carmen and she has to reap what she sewed on that in that Carmen is whisked away. She has to go back in this household and play this role. You know, I think she would have rather had been on the motorcycle, you know, throughout this whole book. Dani was like, I need more action. Like put me in, put me in, you know, I'm good to go. And everybody was like, no, you're doing exactly what you're supposed to be doing. So I think like in that sense it was good and like in Handmaid's tale sometimes unfortunately like you have to go back into the oppressive system to burn it down. So I think that the book worked for me in that sense.

Danielle: 25:39 Both right. I love you both.

Erin: 25:45 So diplomatic. *Laughter*

Amanda: 25:48 It's nauseating. *Laughter

Erin: 25:50 Totally agree though that the, if you're looking at it as Dani's journey, I mean the first three quarters of the book, most of the conflict is internal. So you're not seeing a lot of heavy plot development other than Dani changing her mind and theory.

Amanda: 26:07 I liked that. Like I was digging that. It's like I said, the first 90% of the book I was very on board for it.

Erin: 26:14 *Laughter* Then you were like "What happened?" *Laughter*

Danielle: 26:16 The end of the Handmaids Tale the end of the book in the end of the first season, the last 10% is really challenging too. Like it's a total upheaval and she has this space of like, who can I trust? Who can I trust? Do I just have to do this thing? What is happening? And I, I think that that chaos is really kind of important to a dystopian novel. And Moreover, Amanda, you love 1984 and I feel like it's not the last 10% but it's like the second to last 10% so like the 80 to 90 is very chaotic to.

Amanda: 26:53 What? How? That's a different conversation because I don't know how you could think it's chaotic. Like it's just a guy locked in a room getting tortured.

Erin: 27:01 Is that where he gets like his face eaten off by rats. *Laughter*

Amanda: 27:03 It is, yeah.

Erin: 27:05 Gross.

Amanda: 27:05 Classic. * Laughter*

Erin: 27:07 It's been a long time since I've read that one. *Laughter*

Amanda: 27:10 I mean clearly the rats stuck with you though. Overall, this was a really wonderful book. A lot of really well written parts of it and fantastic emotional descriptions that happened and just a great portrayal of this great world.

Speaker 1: 27:25 That's our show for today. Friends, thank you so much for joining us Erin.

Erin: 27:29 Thank you for having me. This was fun as always.

Danielle: 27:32 As always.

Amanda: 27:32 Yeah.

Danielle: 27:33 You can find out more about Erin and her amazing book *The Art of Escaping* at erinpcallahan.com . You can find us @yacafepodcast. We'd love to hear from you and if you're enjoying the show, please consider leaving us a review. Happy reading!