

YA Café Podcast
Episode 56: *These Witches Don't Burn*
29 May 2019

Danielle Hall: 00:01 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 *These Witches Don't Burn* by Isabel Sterling. Grab a mug of your favorite beverage, friends, and let's talk books.

Amanda Thrasher: 00:21 Welcome, you all. As always, our first segment will be spoiler-free, and so you can stick around even if you haven't checked out the new novel yet. I'm Amanda Thrasher.

Danielle Hall: 00:28 And I'm Danielle Hall, an eighth and ninth grade English teacher, and I blog at teachnouvelle.com. And our guest today is author and editor, Jessica Spotswood. Hi Jess.

Jessica: 00:40 Hi. Thanks so much for having me.

Danielle Hall: 00:42 Thank you so much for joining us. We have been longtime fans, super fans. We call you J-Spots in this household.

Amanda Thrasher: 00:52 **laughter** It's true, you have a nickname.

Jessica: 00:52 Why, thank you.

Danielle Hall: 00:54 And for listeners who don't know, you've written historical fantasy, like *The Cahill Witch Chronicles*, and contemporary novels, like *Wild Swans*, and *The Last Summer of the Garrett Girls*. And you also work for the D.C. Public Library, so you and your coworkers are the target audience for our podcast.

Jessica: 01:14 Yay!

Danielle Hall: 01:15 So, your books often feature rich and complex sister relationships, and I know from the internet that you are an eldest sister yourself. How has that informed your writing? Have you taken

personality traits from your sisters and stuck them in your books, and have they noticed, and what was their reactions?

Amanda Thrasher: 01:35 This is a dicey question, Danielle.

Jessica: 01:42 It's okay. I have definitely stolen not so much aspects of their personalities, but the relationships between us. Most notably for the Cahill Witch Chronicle books, which is a little bit dicey, because, slight spoiler alert, but there's a prophecy that one of the three sisters will die in the trilogy, and so my sisters kept being like, "Which one of us dies?"

Amanda Thrasher: 02:06 Wow. *laughter*

Jessica: 02:07 Yeah. No pressure. But I'm sort of fascinated by the mix of love and sibling rivalry between siblings. That sort of fierce love and protectiveness, but also the competition, and the way that we define ourselves both in relation to and in opposition to our sibling.

Danielle Hall: 02:29 So that's really cool, and then you kind of circled back on that theme for your short story in the Toil & Trouble anthology, which you edited, and we featured on this podcast, here. I still remember that story. It's so creepy.

Jessica: 02:45 Oh, thank you. The project that I'm working right now, which isn't under contract yet, but I'm actually writing something related to that short story. It's set in the same world with the same family curse. I'm into murderous witches, apparently. It's like my thing.

Amanda Thrasher: 03:01 I love it. I just loved Born Wicked. The whole series is great, I just remember specifically reading Born Wicked and just feeling like transported. This is how I want to write. I loved every part of that book. I'm literally grinning from ear to ear that you are on this podcast right now, because I loved it so much.

Jessica: 03:22 Thank you, that means a lot to me. The whole trilogy is very special to me.

Amanda Thrasher: 03:28 Me too.

Danielle Hall: 03:30 So we have featured two of your short story anthologies on the show before, and these are ones that you edited. You didn't write all the short stories in them, but you have short stories in them. The Radical Element and Toil & Trouble. And there are some rockstar writers in those anthologies, including yourself. What is it like to wrangle a ton of talented people?

Jessica: 03:52 It is amazing, and it is also a lot of work. I'll be honest, there's a ton of emails, so it definitely requires some organizational skills. I love making lists, so I really enjoy that part of it, and I'm so inspired by working with these authors whose work I admire. That's a huge way that I determined who to work with, honestly, as like, "Who's short story am I dying to read myself as a reader?" And so it's been amazing to get to work with all of the authors that I really love and admire and respect.

Danielle Hall: 04:27 Well, they were really great to read, and we have discovered authors whose books we have returned to on this podcast from those anthologies.

Amanda Thrasher: 04:36 Who we may not have found otherwise.

Jessica: 04:37 That makes me so happy. That's definitely a goal for me of the anthologies, is to introduce readers to new authors and then hopefully, like you just said, you will go and pick up their solo work.

Danielle Hall: 04:50 Right. And for students, that's so important, right? Because a short story is such a short time investment, particularly for a reluctant reader, and then they can find someone that they really love and go find a full length novel. And Toil & Trouble, of course, features stories about witchy women, some of them murderous, like you said. *laughter* So we invited you here to talk about witchy women with These Witches Don't Burn.

Danielle Hall: 05:17 So before we start, just one more question, as a thematic lead-in. What draws you, Jessica Spotswood, to explore magical women?

Jessica: 05:30 I think, for me, it's magic as metaphor for power, for power that women have but that is feared, that people want to take away. Oh, God, this feels too timely right now, *laughter* with all the conversations that've been going on politically this week. But yeah, I think it's definitely magic and women's power, particularly.

Danielle Hall: 05:53 Awesome. And with that, These Witches Don't Burn.

Amanda Thrasher: 05:57 Hannah Walsh wants to get through her summer breakup, but sharing a coven with her ex-girlfriend Veronica doesn't make life easy. Hannah is an elemental witch. She's able to control the four elements through magic, but she's still underage and not fully trained, meaning no one believes her when a dangerous blood witch comes to town. She thinks it's a blood witch. She's pretty sure.

Amanda Thrasher: 06:16 Working with Veronica is the only way to convince her family of the threat, but it's hard to focus on the dangers facing them when Veronica keeps trying to hook back up. In spite of the temptation, Hannah tries to focus on the most important questions. Who is the new blood witch? Does someone want to hurt her and her family? And does the pretty new girl in town maybe want to make out a little?

Danielle Hall: 06:35 We'll see.

Amanda Thrasher: 06:38 Nerd. *laughter*

Danielle Hall: 06:39 You're a nerd. You clearly were setting up a "We'll see."

Amanda Thrasher: 06:43 I didn't know, but apparently.

Danielle Hall: 06:44 Dot dot dot.

Amanda Thrasher: 06:45 All right, dot dot dot. Here we go. Danielle, what'd you think?

Danielle Hall: 06:48 I thought this was a fun mystery. There were some dark parts, but also funny parts, so this book definitely had it all. It had a little bit of everything, it kept you guessing, and standalone novel for the win.

Amanda Thrasher: 07:05 With series potential. That's the whole dream.

Danielle Hall: 07:08 With series potential.

Jessica: 07:09 It definitely has series potential.

Danielle Hall: 07:12 What did you think, Jess?

Jessica: 07:15 I thoroughly enjoyed it. I thought it had a lot of really great representation. I loved the friendship between Hannah and her best friend, Gemma.

Amanda Thrasher: 07:23 The straight BF.

Jessica: 07:25 Yeah, and I loved it. It's just this really strong, positive female friendship. It doesn't have an element of rivalry, or distrust. It was just really nicely done. And I also really enjoyed the mystery. I'm a great mystery reader, because I never know who did it. *laughter* I'm really, really bad at guessing. But I thought this mystery was handled really well. I suspected everyone in turns.

Amanda Thrasher: 07:54 Yes. That's one of the things I wrote that I really loved. I loved how the suspects were so numerous, and also possible.

Jessica: 08:01 Yeah. And then sometimes, even though I'm not very good at mysteries, you can sort of tell. The things are a little heavily foreshadowed. And I didn't find that in this case. Like you said, there were just so many potential suspects that I was like, "It could be anyone," and that really added to the sense of the high stakes.

Amanda Thrasher: 08:20 Yeah, I agree. And I think that having that sort of equal opportunity suspicion did two great things. One, because we're set in Salem, it's set up for this parallel, inverted witch hunt, where everyone who's not a witch is a suspect for Hannah, which I enjoyed. And it also made the pacing

pretty perfect in this book, I thought. I did not think there were any slow parts. Did you guys agree, or ...?

Danielle Hall: 08:48 Yeah. I thought like, I have never revised a novel, but I have seen you revise a novel, and it's hard work. But I could tell here that the revision was so good, and so fierce, because every scene mattered.

Jessica: 09:03 Yeah, I agree. I thought the pacing was really strong. I think I went into the novel expecting it to be a bit lighter as a mystery, and then it got really dark. I know we're in the no spoilers section, so I won't say much more than that. But I was surprised by just how high the stakes were.

Amanda Thrasher: 09:25 I find it interesting that both of you all have said that, because clearly, objectively, you're right, but I never felt that this book got very dark. I read this, and I thought, "This is really fun, lighthearted."

Danielle Hall: 09:36 You said the words, "Blood witch," right in the summary.

Amanda Thrasher: 09:40 Well, yeah, but just blood magic. I mean, you know.

Danielle Hall: 09:42 Blood witch. Like, blood bending. It's right there.

Amanda Thrasher: 09:46 But it's all in how it's handled. It's all in the touch. It's such a light touch, I think, that it just works really well. I didn't think that it felt like it got dark.

Danielle Hall: 09:55 Well, you're wrong, and we'll talk about that in the spoiler section. *laughter*

Amanda Thrasher: 09:57 Well, fine.

Danielle Hall: 09:59 I also wanted to say, pertaining to the setting of Salem, I loved that she worked in a ...

Amanda Thrasher: 10:07 Kitschy magic shop.

Danielle Hall: 10:08 Kitschy magic shop.

Jessica: 10:10 I love that, too.

Danielle Hall: 10:11 Yeah. It actually reminded me of the bookstore from *The Last Summer of the Garrett Girls*.

Jessica: 10:16 Oh, cool. It reminded me a little bit of the shop in *Buffy*.

Danielle Hall: 10:21 Oh, yeah.

Amanda Thrasher: 10:22 Yeah, that's what I thought.

Danielle Hall: 10:23 I guess I knew we were going to talk to you about this episode, so I was just like ...

Amanda Thrasher: 10:27 You had it in your head already.

Danielle Hall: 10:28 I had it in my head. But yeah, *Buffy*, and the fact that the tourists buy all this kitschy, magical stuff, and Hannah can almost tell from what people are buying whether or not serious magic will ensue. I thought that was cool.

Amanda Thrasher: 10:44 Well, and she basically said, if they're doing serious magic, they're probably not doing it here. This place is overpriced. But I really liked the magic in this book. I liked the overlay of the elemental magic that Hannah used with the more grounded in this reality's Wiccan magic, and how they both layered on each other with different kinds of power. I thought it was really nicely done.

Amanda Thrasher: 11:08 Jess, one thing you mentioned was how you liked the representation in this book, and so of course, we have to mention it. This is such a great queer community, and I loved it, because it wasn't just like you had a queer main character surrounded by all of their straight, accepting friends. It was like you have this queer character, and this queer character, and this old, queer couple that's their sample for long lasting lesbian love, and it was just-

Jessica: 11:34 Oh, yeah. I loved the old, queer couple.

Amanda Thrasher: 11:35 I love a good old queer couple. *laughter* So I really liked how it felt like a natural community that just happened to have a lot of queer people in it, because I feel like that is pretty close to our lives. It's not like we're queers in a vacuum. *laughter* Super funny image.

Danielle Hall: 11:52 I'm just imagining, not like a vacuum like space, I'm imagining like a vacuum cleaner.
laughter

Amanda Thrasher: 11:58 I did, too. But I really liked how they had all of these different people who had different experiences with queerness and family, and it felt very effortlessly queer.

Danielle Hall: 12:10 And a trans character.

Amanda Thrasher: 12:11 And a trans character. Yeah. So just a whole lot of openness, and people living their lives.

Danielle Hall: 12:16 Yes, and being queer was not the plot. Thank goodness.

Amanda Thrasher: 12:20 Another thing that happens very early in the book is where Hannah gets picked up by a detective for something that happens at this party, and the detective starts questioning her, and she kind of answers some questions, kind of doesn't. The detective is strong-arming her or whatever.

Amanda Thrasher: 12:39 It is very important for everyone to know, you never have to talk to the police without a lawyer present. It does not benefit you, most of the time, to talk to the police without a lawyer present. They cannot force you to talk to them without a lawyer present. If you think that there's any chance that you might be getting charged with something, don't talk to the police without a lawyer present. Ever. Especially if your father's the DA.

Danielle Hall: 13:03 End public service announcement. 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 *These Witches Don't Burn* and dig a little deeper.

Danielle Hall: 13:25 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 up, we'll be discussing *Tell Me How You Really Feel* by Aminah Mae Safi, a contemporary sapphic romance with cover art that will give you all the feels. If you'd like to help us keep bringing you great content, order through the link in our show notes. Happy reading.

Amanda Thrasher: 14:03 Welcome back, y'all. It's time for things we like a latte. Danielle, what's your brew of choice this week?

Danielle Hall: 14:08 Well, Amanda.

Amanda Thrasher: 14:09 Well, Danielle.

Danielle Hall: 14:11 So you know this already, but we started playing *Rime*, which is a puzzle adventure game.

Amanda Thrasher: 14:18 You like things *A Latte* so quickly! We haven't played much of this game. I am glad that you like it enough to already label it, but-

Danielle Hall: 14:24 Oh my goodness, I totally know it's for me. It is an open world, on an island, puzzle adventure game. There are ruins, and you don't know why they're ruined, and you just get to run around. And we already have a fox friend. What is not to like?

Amanda Thrasher: 14:42 It's true. It's good to have a fox friend.

Danielle Hall: 14:44 So I know that this game is for me.

Amanda Thrasher: 14:47 All right. Thanks, Danielle. How about you, Jess? What's your brew of choice?

Jessica: 14:52 Last week, I read *We Set the Dark on Fire*, by Tehlor K. Mejia, which I hear that you guys are also big fans of. And I just thought it was a wonderful debut. It has fantastic world building, it's brilliantly political, there is a swoony female-female romance, great pacing, very twisty plot, I just loved it a lot.

Amanda Thrasher: 15:13 Yeah, and she is one of the authors we found from *Toil & Trouble*.

Jessica: 15:18 Ah! That makes me so happy. I love her stories. We knew very early on that we wanted it to be this one to open the anthology, because it is just so beautiful, and bittersweet, and just lovely.

Danielle Hall: 15:33 So, for our listeners who haven't read *Toil & Trouble*, you definitely should, and Tehlor's short story in that anthology is about a contemporary witch who does star chart readings over Instagram. How about you, Amanda? What's your brew of choice?

Amanda Thrasher: 15:50 So, I wasn't quite sure what I was going to do, because I have spent most of this week on the internet with people who are as mad about *Game of Thrones* as I am, so it's been a lot of memes. I want to give a special shout out to the Glen Weldon recaps of *Game of Thrones*, which are just so perfect. He is so funny. So if you're angry about *Game of Thrones*, you should read those.

Amanda Thrasher: 16:09 But that one, I'm going to like a latte this week. Because I was just outside studying and I noticed that there were some cops at the abandoned house across the street, and so I was thinking, "Okay, they're there looking for the previous owner, or whatever," because it's been abandoned for a long time. And I noticed that Crookshanks is in the yard across the street, and there were a bunch of cop cars coming in and out, and I was like, "Well, I should go get our stupid cat, because he's old and blind, and is probably going to run in front of cars."

Danielle Hall: 16:37 He knows how to use the dog door now.

Amanda Thrasher: 16:39 Yeah, so he's a free man. So I go across the street to collect the cat, and this cop comes up to me and he goes, "Is this your cat?" And I was like, "Yes." And he goes, "Do you know what happened?" And I was like, "I do not." He said, "Three kids broke into this house, and when we came into the house to confront them, your cat ran in behind us." I was like, "What?" So our cat is a ...

Danielle Hall: 17:04 SWAT cat.

Amanda Thrasher: 17:05 He is a SWAT cat. He is not afraid to go charging in and then charging right back out.

Danielle Hall: 17:10 He's a Gryffindor.

Amanda Thrasher: 17:11 He's a Gryffindor, apparently. Yeah, so that's going to be what I Like a Latte. My idiot cat running into a police raid. *laughter*

Danielle Hall: 17:22 Oh, Crookshanks.

Amanda Thrasher: 17:22 Oh, Crookshanks.

Danielle Hall: 17:25 We're going to take a quick break, and when we come back, we'll return to our discussion on *These Witches Don't Burn*. 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.

Amanda Thrasher: 17:55 Welcome back y'all to the YA Cafe. We're continuing our discussion on *These Witches Don't Burn* by Isabel Sterling. If you haven't read this yet, we want to warn you again that this segment will contain spoilers.

Danielle Hall: 18:05 Spoilers. And witches. It's right in the title.

Amanda Thrasher: 18:09 It's the whole thing.

Danielle Hall: 18:10 There's no pirates, just witches. So now we can talk about how we thought everybody did it, who actually did it, and why this was a darker book than Amanda thought it was.

Amanda Thrasher: 18:21 Okay. So, who was your first suspect? My first suspect was the detective.

Danielle Hall: 18:27 Detective Archer, yeah.

Jessica: 18:29 He definitely seemed shady at first.

Danielle Hall: 18:31 Yeah, something was going on with him. I thought it was Morgan, the new girl.

Amanda Thrasher: 18:37 *gasp* No, not the new girl.

Danielle Hall: 18:38 I know. But she just arrived in town.

Amanda Thrasher: 18:42 So you did technically wind up correct, when the new girl, Morgan, did wind up being a blood witch.

Danielle Hall: 18:49 But #notallbloodwitches. *laughter*

Amanda Thrasher: 18:52 She was not like a regular blood witch. She was like a cool blood witch. *laughter*

Danielle Hall: 18:56 So, one of the aspects of this book that I really liked was it was clear that Hannah and Veronica had had a bad breakup, but not your everyday, normal, teenage bad breakup, like, something to do with witches. And what it ends up being, so there's this little mini mystery, which is like, "What happened in New York?" Right? And, in New York, they ran into a blood witch, the bad kind, and I loved that layer of suspense.

Amanda Thrasher: 19:28 So, Jess, who was your suspect?

Jessica: 19:30 The detective.

Amanda Thrasher: 19:32 The detective, yeah. Good choice.

Jessica: 19:33 The detective was my early suspect, because he seemed intense when he was questioning her.

Amanda Thrasher: 19:38 Yeah.

Jessica: 19:39 But really, I suspected everyone. I suspected Cal, briefly, because he just moved to town. I suspected Morgan, briefly. I really had no idea who did it.

Amanda Thrasher: 19:52 I thought about Cal for half a second. But then I was like, "No. I trust this author enough that the only trans character in the book is not the villain."

Jessica: 20:01 That was actually how I figured that he was not the villain,

Amanda Thrasher: 20:04 Right *laughter*

Jessica: 20:04 because I figured it would be too problematic for him to be the villain.

Amanda Thrasher: 20:08 Right, if she's doing all these other things right, this is probably not ...

Danielle Hall: 20:12 Right.

Jessica: 20:13 Yeah.

Danielle Hall: 20:13 So, Cal was also new in town, and the detective was new in town, and so I liked that there was a reason to be suspicious of the detective and Cal, even though it wasn't that they were the big bad.

Amanda Thrasher: 20:29 Yeah, so they wind up being part of this big council, witches council, because there's always a council, and they're here to oversee, or ... They're there to catch the witch hunter. That's what it was, right?

Danielle Hall: 20:40 Yes. So they arrived in town to be like, "There's a witch hunter here," and so you think Morgan's the witch hunter, but then no, she's a witch.

Amanda Thrasher: 20:50 I never thought Morgan was the witch hunter. I'm just saying.

Danielle Hall: 20:53 Maybe some of our listeners did.

Amanda Thrasher: 20:55 Well, maybe they did. *laughter*

Danielle Hall: 20:58 So the other thing we wanted to talk about in this section was that Hannah breaks all the rules and she confides in Gemma. Jess, what did you think about that?

Jessica: 21:10 I thought it was that she confided in her and Gemma was completely supportive, even though Hannah's magic had made them the target of this witch hunter, and Gemma gets hurt in an accident. She didn't blame her for it, and it didn't cause a lot of friendship drama. Hannah confides in her, and

it's a huge deal that she confided in her, and then Gemma just supports her, which was really nice to see in a female friendship.

Danielle Hall: 21:39 Yeah, man, I forgot about that accident, but Gemma's a dancer, and then, in that accident, which ends up not being an accident, it was the witch hunter trying to kill them, she breaks her leg. It destroys her dancing ability, and she still wasn't resentful of Hannah.

Amanda Thrasher: 21:58 Yeah, I think that it's set up really nicely for Gemma to become more a part of the world in future books, because towards the end, she's like, "Wait, is Wicca a real thing?" Yes. "Oh, okay."

Jessica: 22:10 Yeah.

Amanda Thrasher: 22:10 I feel like she connected that and was like, "Oh, okay, this is my in," because at first, when she heard, she was super supportive, and she clearly wasn't going to turn her back on Hannah for this, but she was like, "This is garbage. Why am I the muggle? I don't want to be the muggle."
laughter

Jessica: 22:27 I love that. That seemed like such a realistic reaction. Like, "You get to do this cool magic." Oh, I have a question. How did you guys feel about Veronica, the ex?

Amanda Thrasher: 22:39 I liked her. Obviously, I didn't like her, because she was such an eye roll character, but I liked that she's just this really needy, lousy person who's like, "No, but, I love you so much, though. Why would you do this to me?" And then she's banging somebody else on the side.

Danielle Hall: 22:55 So, I did not like Veronica at any point. I don't know. I guess I took Hannah at her word from the very beginning that Veronica broke her heart, and the breakup was terrible, and every time she had to work with Veronica ... Like, when she's on her date with Morgan, and she runs out to help Veronica, I can understand the Gryffindor impulse to do that, but I was like, "But you didn't even explain to Morgan. You didn't even do anything. You didn't even try to make up a story."

Amanda Thrasher: 23:29 But then they had a great grand gesture.

Danielle Hall: 23:30 Yeah.

Amanda Thrasher: 23:32 Obviously, I didn't like Veronica. She's not a good person, but I think she's an interesting character.

Danielle Hall: 23:37 Jess, what did you think about Veronica?

Jessica: 23:39 I thought she was terrible, and I sort of liked that.

Amanda Thrasher: 23:41 Yeah.

Jessica: 23:44 Yeah. I appreciated that she was allowed to be unlikeable. I maybe wish that we'd seen a little bit more of what originally drew Hannah to her, besides just convenience.

Danielle Hall: 23:56 That's a good point.

Jessica: 23:58 But sometimes, when you're young, convenience does play a big part in it. You know, like, who is around that you find attractive and that you have some things in common with? We talked about why we thought it was dark. Some of us thought it was particularly dark. I think one of the things that made me feel the novel was darker than I originally anticipated was the kind of contemporary paranormal rather than fantasy.

Jessica: 24:27 And I feel like, in fantasy, we expect characters to die, for there to be a lot of terrible tragedy going on, because that's the stakes and scope of the world. And in contemporary books, I don't know, I just felt like it hit me extra hard when her father dies. That hit me really hard. I was not expecting him to actually die, and I think that's why it felt quite dark.

Jessica: 24:53 That combined with the fact that her house burned down. She loses everything, which I think sets it up really, really nicely for her to pursue revenge and have a lot of anger and desire for vengeance, if there is a second book. But there's definitely hope with her romance with Morgan, and

she has this solid foundation of friendship with other folks like Gemma, but yeah, I did feel like it was darker than I had been anticipating. Not in a bad way, just different.

Danielle Hall: 25:28 Right. Not in a bad way. The house burning down really got to me, too, because especially, as you said, the dad dying and the house burning down, because it's not like she can even walk through her house and remember her dad anymore. She has nothing. And it shows her grieving, not a ton, but it actually starts to show the grieving process, which is very powerful and definitely not what I would consider part of a beach read.

Amanda Thrasher: 26:00 I agree with you both. That thing happened, obviously. I think I read it with a much smaller impact than you all did. It just felt like such a small part of the story. It happened so close to the end that, I don't know, I don't think it really informed the overall tone or mood of the book, so I think it did it really well.

Amanda Thrasher: 26:19 I don't think it dug into her grief and her experience with this a lot, because if it did, it would have been like the book flipped right at that point, and I don't think that would've worked. I don't think it would've made sense. Maybe like you're saying, Jess, you're right, and it'll flip and be her anger and vengeance in the next book. But I hope not, because I liked the tone and the mood of this book, and I think that, if that is the direction they go with the other books, it would be not as enjoyable for me.

Danielle Hall: 26:47 Okay, so we keep talking about a second book, but we don't know for sure that there's a second book. There is space for it on Goodreads that someone has created.

Amanda Thrasher: 26:57 That means it's real, that means it's real. *laughter*

Danielle Hall: 26:59 But we definitely could see the possibilities for future books.

Amanda Thrasher: 27:04 I am hoping there are future books. I would definitely read more of this book, because I thought it was super fun, and I thought it was great, and I do hope there's more. Because I want to see more of how this whole world fleshes out. I want to find out more about the blood witches in New York City.

Danielle Hall: 27:19 Right. And we barely know anything about Casters, so we've got to get some of those.

Amanda Thrasher: 27:23 We got to learn about Casters. We got to know more about Morgan's blood witchy-ness, and I think there's a lot more to go into, and I hope that we do.

Danielle Hall: 27:31 That's our show for today, friends. Thank you so much for joining us, Jess.

Jessica: 27:36 Thank you again for having me. This was so fun.

Danielle Hall: 27:38 You can come back any time. You can find Jessica on Instagram, Twitter, and at jessicaspotswood.com. You can find us at YA Cafe Podcast. We'd love to hear from you, and it's time, folks. Leave us a review on iTunes. Happy reading.