

**YA Café Podcast**  
**Episode 64: A River of Royal Blood**  
**31 October 2019**

Danielle Hall : 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, A River of Royal Blood by Amanda Joy. Grab a mug of your favorite beverage, friends, and let's talk books.

Amanda Thrasher: 00:21 Hey y'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](http://teachnouvelle.com).

Amanda Thrasher: 00:34 So before we get started, we just want to take a minute to talk to you guys about how we put on this podcast. We put a lot of work into it. We read all these books very carefully, and then our editor goes through and makes sure that you guys don't spend a lot of time listening to rambling or filler words, and things like that, so we can make the most of your time. But unfortunately because we work really hard to do a high quality podcast, it takes a lot of time and a lot of money.

Amanda Thrasher: 00:58 So we are going to have to take a break coming in January, at least for a little while, putting out new episodes. But we love putting the podcast on and we would like to be able to come back to you in 2020. So please, just take this time to review, to suggest this to other people, and consider donating to our Patreon if you are finding us a really valuable resource.

Danielle Hall : 01:19 All right, let's talk books. We're joined today by our friend Courtney from [@coco\\_chasing\\_adventures](https://www.instagram.com/coco_chasing_adventures). Hey Courtney!

Courtney: 01:26 Hi guys. How are you doing?

Danielle Hall : 01:28 Good. How are you?

Courtney: 01:29 Good. Good. Glad to be back.

Danielle Hall : 01:31 We're glad to have you back. And with this awesome book, that I'm pretty sure you suggested, so great pick.

Amanda Thrasher: 01:38 Oh yeah. I think that with the description, I was not the most hyped on it. I was like, "Okay. Well, if Courtney wants to do it." And then it wound up being great. So great job, Courtney.

Amanda Thrasher: 01:47 A River of Royal Blood tells the story of two rival princesses, Eva and Isadore, in a land of magic and mystery. Eva, our point of view character, has always known that when she comes of age, she and her sister will fight to the death for the crown. Even though she wants to rule and be a good queen, Eva has never believed she'd have a chance because she's never been able to use her magic of blood and marrow.

Amanda Thrasher: 02:08 It's a terrifying magic with a sinister past, and Eva's father could never find someone to teach her. When she finds a mentor, Eva's finally given the opportunity to develop her magical skill and perhaps defeat her sister after all. So Danielle, I may already know what you're going to say, but what did you think of this book?

Danielle Hall : 02:26 How do you already know what I'm going to say?

Amanda Thrasher: 02:28 Because maybe you already told me. \*laughter\*

Danielle Hall : 02:30 Oh. I really liked this book. I thought it was a lot of fun. And also, it was really dark. But one of the things that I found really fun was kind of this lush, magical world in which the characters had like different kinds of magic. It was sort of like Red Queen in that regard, but not as violent.

Amanda Thrasher: 02:52 I think it was as violent as Red Queen.

Danielle Hall : 02:54 Okay, well, we can talk about that.

Amanda Thrasher: 02:55 We can, but don't be like, "Oh, this is a kinder, gentler Red Queen," because it is not.

Danielle Hall : 03:00 I didn't say it was... I just... \*laughter\* Okay. Red Queen was extremely violent and cinematic, and this book is not as violent, and lush to the level of Melissa Marr, who wrote, Wicked Lovely.

Amanda Thrasher: 03:17 Good comps.

Danielle Hall : 03:18 How about you, Courtney? What did you think?

Courtney: 03:19 I really enjoyed it. I know that I picked this book out specifically because I really enjoy fantasy, science fiction, and so this was... It's definitely lived up to the hype, so ... Amanda, what'd you think?

Amanda Thrasher: 03:34 I really enjoyed it. Yeah. I thought that the plot was super interesting. I really liked the world building, and there were a lot of things that I really enjoyed about it. I think it's a great first book in a series. Normally I'm annoyed when things are the first book in a series.

Danielle Hall : 03:47 Oh, yeah.

Amanda Thrasher: 03:48 But I'm like, "All right, I could be on board with this one." I feel like it wasn't as resolved as I often like my first books in a series, but I think it did a pretty good job.

Danielle Hall : 03:56 That's right. I did tell you what I thought about this book because I said, "If book two were already out, I would read it right now."

Amanda Thrasher: 04:04 Yeah.

Danielle Hall : 04:05 I'm so excited.

Courtney: 04:06 That's how I typically feel in general about series books. I'm always so cautious about picking up a new series because-

Danielle Hall : 04:13 Right?

Courtney: 04:13 ... I get very anxious.

Amanda Thrasher: 04:14 What if it's bad and then I'm never going to know what happens, or I have to read-

Courtney: 04:17 Right.

Amanda Thrasher: 04:18 ... like a quartet of bad.

Danielle Hall : 04:20 Or she gets a movie deal, and the next book doesn't come out for three years.

Amanda Thrasher: 04:23 It's okay, we're not talking about anybody in particular, Tomi. Don't worry about it.  
\*laughter\*

Danielle Hall : 04:28 Okay, so I will admit she didn't write me back, that's fair. But I did slide into Amanda Joy's DMs, and be like, "Hey, I hope you get a movie deal." \*laughter\* But not like a movie deal that takes three years. Just like...

Amanda Thrasher: 04:41 I think this would be a really cool movie, like with all the different races that are running around, with all the like Fae, and the khmaer.

Danielle Hall : 04:46 And the vampires, "blood kin".

Amanda Thrasher: 04:49 Oh yeah. That's actually, it's a TV trope called, "Our Vampires Are Different."

Danielle Hall : 04:57 So these are the "blood kin". So we kind of jumped ahead to vampires, which the book was not about vampires, to be clear.

Amanda Thrasher: 05:03 That was such a small part of the book and it's what we zero in on.

Danielle Hall : 05:06 Y'all, we're so silly.

Danielle Hall : 05:08 Okay. So first major takeaway for me: This was not a split perspective book and I thought it would be. You know, two rival sisters? I think it's like en vogue to have split POVs.

Amanda Thrasher: 05:24 Yeah, I mean I think that especially we were coming off of reading, *The Never Tilting World*, which we enjoyed we just didn't have time to record a podcast on it. So just throwing that one out there.

Danielle Hall : 05:33 Amanda was sick.

Amanda Thrasher: 05:36 Oh yeah, blame me. I'm sorry that viruses exist, Danielle. \*laughter\* Yeah, so quick shout out to that book. So that one is like kind of rival sisters split POV. So, yeah, I was expecting this to be split as well. What about you Courtney?

Courtney: 05:52 I thought it would be. And honestly, at first I really was looking forward to that and this idea of being able to be in each person's head. Specifically because I'm a big sister, so I just wanted to know the whole time, "What is in the mind of this big sister?" So I definitely thought that would be the case, but I actually really enjoyed the book in this way. Amanda, I think she did a good job of choosing a path and I'm willing to go with it.

Danielle Hall : 06:17 Yeah, it definitely shrouded Isadore in this like air of mystery and it's like, "Okay, what does Isadore want? Does Isadore want to kill her sister? I don't know. Maybe."

Amanda Thrasher: 06:28 So I will say one thing that I think might have been better in a split POV- but there's a lot of things that I loved about it not being in a split POV- but I feel that a lot of the relationships in this book felt more shallow than I was hoping for. I feel like we never really explored the relationship between her and Isadore. And how they had this past where they got along until they found out about this battle to the death that they would have to do.

Amanda Thrasher: 06:56 So I feel like the relationship with her mother was really interesting and fleshed out. I just wish I could have seen more of her complicated feelings towards her sister. Versus her just kind of see me like this antagonistic force the whole time.

Courtney: 07:08 Right.

Danielle Hall : 07:09 Do we know why they had to battle to the death? Like what happens if they don't battle?

Amanda Thrasher: 07:12 Them's the rules Dani.

Courtney: 07:16 Right. It's the magical system, it works that way.

Amanda Thrasher: 07:19 Well, I think it's like an edict or a decree, right? Because that's one of the things that Eva says she wants to change as queen. Like she would get rid of the Rival Heirs Battle.

Amanda Thrasher: 07:27 Yeah, heirs with an H. But like why does it exist in the first place?

Courtney: 07:32 Like what happens if they don't do it? Like what if they just say, "This is the battle and we just won't battle." Like, I don't know. That's interesting.

- Danielle Hall : 07:37 Right? And in *Never Tilting World*, which we just read by Rin Chupeco, the world breaks if they don't fight. So there's that. What happens to this world? Does it break? I don't know. But anyway, we can talk more about that later. Or find out in book two...
- Danielle Hall : 07:56 One of the things that I thought was really cool about this and different from Amari's character in *Children Of Blood And Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi, which is now going to be a movie and the sequel is coming out soon. If you didn't catch that whole thing earlier, that's what's happening.
- Danielle Hall : 08:11 Eva understands that she is a descendant of colonizers. And that her ancestors started a genocide against the khmaer, who are like fairy-ish beings. And Eva is definitely conscious of this fact that she has a role in that history and privilege kind of coming from that history. And I really loved that element throughout the book.
- Courtney: 08:45 Right. I mean, and I hate to compare characters. But in general, I just found that Eva, she understands her responsibility and place in this world in a different way. And she just seems much more matured. There's other characteristics about her aside from this really understanding that she is a part of a history that was very negative and terrible toward the people.
- Courtney: 09:06 But she just genuinely understands, like how her mother and all her descendants really played a role in the things that are continuing to happen. And if she doesn't do something about it, if she's not the person who comes in and steps in, that it will continue forward. So, that's a lot of responsibility on a very young person. But she almost seems ready to take that on at least by the end of the story, she definitely seems like she's ready to take on that type of challenge.
- Amanda Thrasher: 09:30 Yeah, I think that part of the reason that she has this characterization of deep empathy is because of this "battle of the true heirs" that she's been faced with, with her whole life. Because that winds up alienating her from her sister and her mother and finding companionship with all of these people who she is supposed to oppress and dislike.
- Amanda Thrasher: 09:51 Like she has khmaer servants, like she sneaks out and goes into the city and like goes and dances with people. So, she has experienced this kind of fellowship with all of these people that her sister and her mother have not.
- Danielle Hall : 10:06 Can we mention the hottie?

Amanda Thrasher: 10:08 Is it Hottie McHottie time?

Amanda Thrasher: 10:10 Yeah.

Danielle Hall : 10:11 The tall, dark and handsome stranger is the khmaer Prince Aketo, so she's like surrounded by khmaer. And that really increases the stakes of her winning this battle against her sister, because she wants to change the world. That being said, she can't use her magic.

Amanda Thrasher: 10:30 Yeah, so she's pretty like resigned to death at the beginning. She's like, "Well the world's a pooper, but like, 'Oh well. I guess I'm going to get murdered by my sister here next week'."

Danielle Hall : 10:41 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 A River of Royal blood and dig a little deeper.

Danielle Hall : 11:00 Hey friends, remember how we were talking about how you should support the podcast? You totally should in as many ways as possible. One way is to 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 put towards this show. Next up, we'll be discussing Sick Kids in Love by Hannah Moskowitz. If you'd like to help us keep bringing you great content, order through the link in our show notes. Happy reading!

Danielle Hall : 11:38 Welcome back y'all. It's time for Things We Like a Latte. Courtney, what is your brew of choice this week?

Courtney: 11:44 This week it is Michael B. Jordan-

Amanda Thrasher: 11:47 Strong choice.

Courtney: 11:48 First of all because he's very handsome, obviously. But also because he was the executive producer for the show on Netflix Raising Dion, which is an amazing series based off a comic book. It features a young black kid who has super powers and a single mother that's raising him. He also has a line by Coach that's coming out, that's based off Naruto. And then finally he is going to adapt the new book by Rena Barron, Kingdom of Souls to a movie. So all the way around Michael B. Jordan is bae.

Amanda Thrasher: 12:18 Awesome.

Courtney: 12:19 When do you like a latte, Amanda?

Amanda Thrasher: 12:22 So for me it's got to be the Untitled Goose Game and all of the memes therein. \*laughter\* The description of this game is basically, "it is a lovely morning in a lovely English town and you are a horrible goose". \*laughter\* And so you just go in like ruin people's day. Like you steal the gardeners shoe and...

Danielle Hall : 12:43 But you don't quite ruin their day.

Amanda Thrasher: 12:45 Yeah, there's no, like...

Danielle Hall : 12:47 You just make it bad.

Amanda Thrasher: 12:48 I didn't know that like there was a burning need in me to just like to not be violent or like go like shoot people up in some like first person shooter. But just to go and inconvenience as many people as possible. And the goose lets me do that. So, that's important to me. And then after you play the game, the internet is just exploded with joy over this goose. So there's so many memes and I love a good meme. So the goose and the expanded goose universe are the things that like a latte.

Danielle Hall : 13:21 The goose-i-verse.

Amanda Thrasher: 13:23 The goose-i-verse? Stop it. \*laughter\* What about you Danielle? What do you Like a Latte?

Danielle Hall : 13:30 \*singing\* Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?

Amanda Thrasher: 13:33 That's not the tune anymore, they changed it.

Danielle Hall : 13:35 Well that's fine. I-

Courtney: 13:37 They changed it?!

Amanda Thrasher: 13:39 Oh gosh. It's okay, it's so good.

Dani & Amanda: 13:47 \*singing\* Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?

Amanda Thrasher: 13:47 It's so good.

Danielle Hall : 13:48 We're watching Carmen Sandiego and I love this show. It is not for adults. \*laughter\* It is for children. They will tell you like, where Abu Dhabi is and like what the primary export of Brazil is and you know what the Eiffel tower is, but that is okay. The show opens in Poitiers, France where I did my masters, so it was like very exciting to see like my college town on screen. And they were like chasing through the medieval streets and it was awesome. And the animation is really lovely, and the voice work is mostly fun, and the show is just a delight. So Carmen Sandiego.

Amanda Thrasher: 14:41 Great pick.

Courtney: 14:43 Like now I have to go watch it.

Danielle Hall : 14:45 You do, it's a joy.

Courtney: 14:46 You have definitely peaked my interest there.

Danielle Hall : 14:49 We're going to take a quick break and when we come back we'll return to our discussion on A River of Royal Blood. 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: 15:21 Welcome back y'all, to the YA cafe. We're continuing our discussion on A River of Royal Blood by Amanda Joy. If you haven't read this yet, we want to warn you again that this segment will contain spoilers.

Danielle Hall : 15:30 Spoilers!

New Speaker: 15:32 All right, so I want to argue with Danielle because that's my favorite thing to do as soon as we get in the spoiler section.

Danielle Hall : 15:37 \*sigh\* Oh, what are we arguing about?

Amanda Thrasher: 15:39 I think this is very much as violent as Red Queen; there's so many murders.

Courtney: 15:45 Listen. Okay, so I haven't read Red Queen, I've heard about this. But let me just tell you, she went from being like a very innocent girl to like "murder today, tomorrow and then the next day." And blood, blood, blood everywhere, I'm like, "What is happening?"

Danielle Hall : 15:58 Y'all, her magic is blood and marrow. You didn't think she was going to murder anyone?

Amanda Thrasher: 16:03 I mean like, but so the first murder is an assassin who's after her, like that's a bummer. And then I remember there's one that is exactly what Courtney is talking about because it's when she walks in and... We're in the spoiler section now, so like go away if you haven't read this already.

Danielle Hall : 16:19 But like she walks in and her father's had been murdered and there's blood everywhere and she just like throws back the curtain and stabs somebody.

Courtney: 16:25 Right!

Amanda Thrasher: 16:26 Like, she doesn't know if this is like one of her father's servants who's scared and hiding from the assassins. It's a good thing it was an assassin, but she was just taking them out.

Courtney: 16:36 Well, just even the way her magic works, right. Like I'm super fascinated with the magical system that Amanda writes for this book because all I'm thinking to myself is like she is writing a YA fiction book that requires blood to be rubbed on someone else's skin in order to be like really fully enacted. Like, her magic is activated by the other person's blood. That is really, pretty out there man. I don't know. I am really impressed that she went down that path.

Danielle Hall : 17:05 So that is dark, it's true.

Courtney: 17:08 I really enjoyed it though. I just like that she took that risk.

Danielle Hall : 17:11 Yeah, I guess I expected her blood magic to go in the direction of blood bending, which it didn't, but I guess it's still dark. I mean it still could go blood bending in the future but hasn't yet. I stand by Red Queen being more violent. And one of the things that I found very violent about Red Queen that isn't as violent in this book, is in Red Queen, there is violence enacted against children in a way that is not present in this book, yet.

Danielle Hall : 17:44 I mean like we hear this like talk of the khmaer camps. Like, we know there are internment camps for them. And I'm sure that there is violence there and I'm sure that in book two we are going to go to one. But I do think that like violence against children reads very differently than like, the protagonist having power.

Amanda Thrasher: 18:06 There you go Amanda Joy, Daniel Hall wants more violence against children.

Danielle Hall : 18:10 No, I did not say that. UGH! I do not want violence against children. Like, I cannot specifically tell you the moment in Red Queen that I think about every single day because it is so horrific. Because maybe our readers haven't read the Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard, but it's horrific.

Amanda Thrasher: 18:34 I'm pretty sure if they have read it, they know what you're talking about.

Danielle Hall : 18:38 There you go. Moving on, are we ever sympathetic to Isadore?

Amanda Thrasher: 18:43 No. Next question.\*laughter\*

Danielle Hall : 18:45 No seriously...

Amanda Thrasher: 18:45 What'd you think Courtney?

Courtney: 18:49 A part of me was holding out like maybe all along this is a great plot, that she was really just going to get that far and then like give it up. So from other books, sometimes the magic is activated by your need, right? So I was, like my conspiracy theory mind was saying that maybe if Eva really needed her magic, she could call it forward. And maybe her big sister is just trying to make her call it forward.

Courtney: 19:15 I was holding onto that dream the whole entire book long, but it didn't turn out to be the case. I felt bad the whole book, there's got to be something there. There's got to be a little bit of innocence in her, I can't imagine she's purely bad.

Amanda Thrasher: 19:28 I hope so.

Danielle Hall : 19:29 You hope that there's innocence in her?

Amanda Thrasher: 19:31 Well, I hope that there's... Like, I agree with Courtney, like I think that you kept waiting for like some sort of development there in that relationship and I feel like it just didn't. Like, at the end with their final battle, there was that sense of, "There's something wrong with Isadore right now." But-

Danielle Hall : 19:49 Yeah, like Isadore is sad, can we investigate why Isadore is sad?

Amanda Thrasher: 19:54 Yeah. And I feel like hopefully there's more of that in book two. But I don't know, I just feel like that was a super underdeveloped aspect of this book. I wanted more of the sister struggle.

Danielle Hall : 20:06 Right, I agree. I definitely wanted and still want more understanding of Isadore. I thought it would turn out, not necessarily that she would give up the throne, but that she would come to Eva and say something like, "Eva, I have been working for the last 10 years to find out a way that we didn't have to kill each other, and here it is. All we have to do is find the amulet that breaks the stone, that unleashes the dragon that solves the world."

Amanda Thrasher: 20:33 Yeah, that sounds right.

Courtney: 20:35 Right, That's what I really was hoping. Because that's what, to me, sisters would do. And you know I'm holding out for a book two.

Danielle Hall : 20:41 Me too.

Courtney: 20:42 That something like that would happen because I mean I think she gave us like a lot of little signs. There were these peeks of another personality. You did see a little bit of hurt. We don't know what the "shame in her face" was, or even towards the end, and I don't want to skip too far forward in our discussion, but just even towards the end when these moments are happening and in their battle, I did see something there. Innocence is probably the wrong word, I don't want to look for innocence, I just want to look for cause or understanding. I just want to understand them more.

Amanda Thrasher: 21:11 I agree. So I would like to see some of how Isadore's magic has impacted her as a character. We talked some about it with Eva, how her magic being through blood and marrow makes

her like a murder machine, a little bit. And I think that maybe there's something similar happening with Isadore. Like in Bitterblue where it's the... Or maybe it's Fire, I can't remember, but it's in-

Danielle Hall : 21:35 By Kristin Cashore.

Amanda Thrasher: 21:36 It's in one of the Kristin Cashore books, where one of the characters has the ability to control people, with just like willing them to do something and then they do that thing. And how that has like shaped them and made them a pretty warped person because anybody will do anything that they say.

Amanda Thrasher: 21:54 And so you wonder like is part of that what's happening with Isadore? And also she's got this molding from her mother. I mean I think there's a lot of things that are making Isadore act the way that she does. And I think with a richer relationship, like, more of that would have come to the forefront.

Danielle Hall : 22:11 Right, we definitely need to see that. Shall we talk about the big reveal?

Courtney: 22:17 Yeah.

Danielle Hall : 22:18 Okay. So the big reveal, listeners if you don't want to be spoiled, like seriously leave-

Courtney: 22:25 Like right now. \*laughter\* I'm telling you right now, this is the last chance, because I'm wanting to talk about it.

Danielle Hall : 22:31 Yeah!

Danielle Hall : 22:32 Eva finds out from Isadore, who apparently knew for however long, that Eva is half khmaer. So Eva's father is khmaer and Eva's mother, Isadore's mother is not. Like, holy wow, I was shocked. Amanda wasn't shocked, Amanda saw it coming.

Amanda Thrasher: 22:51 I wasn't shocked.

Amanda Thrasher: 22:51 Yeah, I mean like people call her a mutt, like about halfway through the book, like people are referencing like her ancestry and like calling her a mutt and things like that.

Danielle Hall : 23:01 Oh a "mutt", I heard "butt".

Amanda Thrasher: 23:02 Oh, I mean they probably called her a butt behind her back, but mostly just called her a mutt. But I did not realize that her father was khmaer, I thought that someone else was her father.

Courtney: 23:14 So did I. Who did you think was her father?

Amanda Thrasher: 23:17 Baccha.

Danielle Hall : 23:17 Ooooooh!

Courtney: 23:19 That's what I was kind of... Honestly, I was wanting it to be the case. Not to skip subject, because Baccha was giving off some weird energy. He's still gives off some great energy. Like I couldn't tell, and this is going to sound really terrible. I couldn't tell, was he attracted towards her or he just loves her? Like I couldn't, I just was trying to understand the relationship.

Danielle Hall : 23:38 Yeah. He reminds me of homeboy from the one book.

Amanda Thrasher: 23:41 You got to give me more.

Danielle Hall : 23:42 No, what book was it? Where he was old and we were like, "You're too old." Spin the Dawn.

Amanda Thrasher: 23:47 Oh yeah. I mean a little bit. I feel like I didn't think that Baccha was attracted to her, I didn't get that vibe. I think that it was weird how the relationship building between her and Baccha and her and Aketo happened like kind of simultaneously. So I feel like sometimes that crossed the wires a little bit with like the-

Courtney: 24:05 And he uses suggestive language, right. At some point in the story he goes, "Oh, if you don't come out I would go seduce her." Or something like that. So it definitely sounds it was in the realm of the possible. And then I'm not so sure that Baccha wasn't off seducing Falun. So like I don't know who he was seducing on those late nights.

Danielle Hall : 24:21 Oh that's true. Falun is her gay best friend.

Courtney: 24:24 Yeah.

Amanda Thrasher: 24:25 Got to have one, strong props for that.

Courtney: 24:28 So definitely like the book two, I'm terribly excited for this reason. I just want to understand more who Baccha is to this story. I think Amanda laid a lot of good work into understanding, how he will help understand the throne and the queen and things. But I just... So who is Isadore's father? Like I just want to know, understand all that more.

Danielle Hall : 24:48 Ooh, that's a good question, I didn't even think about that?

Amanda Thrasher: 24:48 Good question. I just figured, "Oh, rando." And I just like filed that in "unimportant" in the back of my head, but that doesn't feel likely.

Amanda Thrasher: 24:55 We definitely have some excellent groundwork here. I really like Baccha and I don't trust him because he sort of like our trickster fellow.

Amanda Thrasher: 25:01 Oh, I trust him. I'm an idiot.

Danielle Hall : 25:03 Well, we can see who, who ends up being right.

Amanda Thrasher: 25:06 It's you.

Danielle Hall : 25:07 We have rich groundwork. We have a pretty tight cast. So it was, it was really cool. I really loved the setting. And yeah, strong recommendation for this book.

Amanda Thrasher: 25:18 Yeah, definitely. I did want to mention just the beautiful writing and description of the joint magical landscape between her and Baccha.

Danielle Hall : 25:27 Oh yeah.

Courtney: 25:28 Oh yeah.

Amanda Thrasher: 25:28 I loved all of that. Like I just, I loved the way she described it and their interactions with each other in this place. I thought that was a really cool detail.

Danielle Hall : 25:38 Yeah. Great job, Amanda Joy.

Courtney: 25:41 I think she deserves all the credit for really building a rich world. Because it's one of the things, that even without the plot, I just kind of liked being lost, going to the patch, going to... Even just their journey to her father's house.

Courtney: 25:56 I just wish I was there and I feel like any good, magical book, any good fantasy book, it's got to make you feel that way. Because that's what makes you go read it a second time. Like, I know for a fact I'm going to go buy this book, to listen to it on Audible, so I can replay it over and over again. I know I will do that.

Amanda Thrasher: 26:10 Yay!

Danielle Hall : 26:11 So good.

Amanda Thrasher: 26:12 Good pick Courtney.

Danielle Hall : 26:14 That's our show for today. Friends, thank you so much for joining us, Courtney.

Courtney: 26:18 Thank you guys for having me.

Danielle Hall : 26:20 You can find Courtney on Instagram @coco\_chasing\_adventures. You can find us on Instagram and Twitter @yacafepodcast, and we'd love to hear from you. Remember, review and tell your friends. Happy reading.