

Utterly Unfamiliar and Downright Detestable

Readers' Advisory Beyond Your Own Taste



Who are we?

RJ Edwards (they) - @RJmakes

- Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver, BC
- Traditional, ancestral, & unceded land of the X̱w̱məθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), Seḻílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and Stó:lō people

Anna Ferri (she) - @FerriLibrarian

- Roseman University of Health Sciences, Henderson, NV, USA
- Traditional homelands of the Nuwuvi, Southern Paiute People, including the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe and the Moapa Band of Paiutes

Matthew Murray (he/they) - @MidniteLibrary

- British Columbia Institute of Technology, Burnaby, BC
- Traditional, ancestral, & unceded land of the X̱w̱məθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), Seḻílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and Stó:lō people

Meghan Whyte (she) - @MeghanWhyte

- Library and Archives Canada, Gatineau, QC
- Unceded traditional territory of Algonquin Anishinabeg

Introductions

- Who are we? What is Book Club For Masochists?

Meghan

- Genre, subgenre, appeal factors, & tropes

Matthew

- The Format Factor

RJ

- Resources for diversifying your readers' advisory

Anna

- Grasping genres & identifying appeal with minimal masochism

Q&A!

BOOK CLUB

For Masochists

A Readers' Advisory Podcast

bookclub4m.com

What is the podcast?

- Every month we pick a different genre at random to read and discuss
 - Over 80 genres so far!
- We alternate between fiction & non-fiction each month
- We try to define the genre, talk about our reading experiences, review what we read, & discuss appeal factors
- Sometimes it's a genre we love, and sometimes it's Political Thrillers!

Why do you do that???

- Fill gaps in our RA education
- Expand our RA knowledge and practice our RA research skills
- Familiarize ourselves with a diversity of genres, sub-genres, formats, & popular non-fiction topics
- Read outside of our comfort zones
- Share our experiences with friends and colleagues

Grasping Genres & Identifying Appeal with Minimal Masochism



Anna Ferri

How to make it hurt less

- Know your limits
- Use your tools
- Make it productive
- Make it fun



Quitting is good actually

Meet your goal [understand appeal] & stop

- Don't be a completionist!
 - Skim; skip about, just don't finish [my fav]
 - Use the 10/5 minute reading method [Jessica E. Moyer [link](#) & Nancy Pearl [link](#)]
- Spend less time with more titles

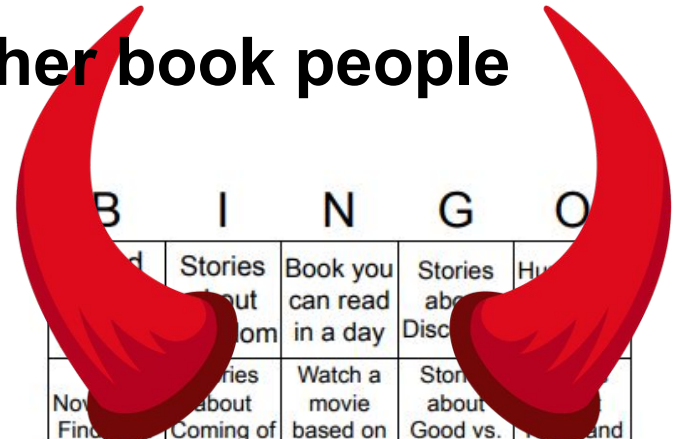


Know your limits

Don't be pressured to read like other book people

Use the method that's best for you!

- You are your own special kinda book [or non-book] person
 - Don't force yourself to do a special/trendy method [unless it works for U]
 - Pick the best format for you
- Be careful of hype & mythologies about being book people



	B	I	N	G	O
Read	Stories about	Book you	Stories	Humor	
Next Read	Stories about	Watch a	Stories	Humor	
Participate in a library book discussion	Stories about Survival, Man vs Nature	A Universe of Stories Free Space	Listen to a Play-away	Stories about Spirituality	
Stories about Courage & Heroism	Stories about Fatherhood	Stories written by a classic author	Stories about Animals	Stories about Love & Friendship	
Stories about Justice	Download an e-book or e-audio	Stories about Nature as Beauty	Attend a Library Program	Stories about Family	

Know your limits

Be strategic

Why are you doing this? Be strategic to that goal

- Prioritize genres/authors popular in your community
- Prioritize diversity
- Prioritize the not-quite top popularity backlist & buzzy new authors

Know your limits

Use & know your tools

Then pick the ones that work best for you

- Novelist, BiblioCommons, Libby
 - How do your patrons use these tools?
- Use your colleagues & patrons
- Media criticism & commentary [read it, watch it, listen to it]



[It's Lit! from PBS Digital Studios](#)



[The Worst Bestsellers podcast](#)

Use your tools

Juice your struggles for all they're worth!

Make it feel valuable

- Make displays
- Make booklists [[Diversifying Genre Book Lists](#) from BC4M]
- Do presentations at staff meetings/trainings
- Do events: Speed Dating a Book / Speed Recommendations event

Make it productive

Make it fun



Sometimes the pain is good

- Challenges & gamification
- Friends & colleagues
- Social media
- Celebrate surprise
 - Did you love something unexpected - SAY IT LOUD!

Make it fun

Genuine Genres, Advantageous Appeal Factors, & Tantalizing Tropes

Meghan Whyte

Genre, Subgenre, Appeal Factors, and Tropes

- What are these things? Why do they matter?
- Big tents and smaller campgrounds
- Novelist and Nancy Pearl
 - Character, storyline, pace, tone, and writing style
 - The four doorways: Story, Character, Setting, and Language
- TV Tropes (<https://tvtropes.org/>) - not just for TV

Novelist and Nancy Pearl

- Appeal Factors
- Character, storyline, pace, tone, and writing style
- The four doorways: Story, Character, Setting, and Language
 - Gripping/ Luscious/
Heartbreaking/ Thrilling/
Heartwarming/ Worldbuilding/
- 50% marketing and 50% conversation tool



TV Tropes - not just for TV



@ [REDACTED] · Apr 30



just saw an actual book with a list of tropes at the back. like...? listing the tropes only works in fanfic bc we know the characters and we're attached to them ALREADY. it won't work for characters we do not know abt so u have to actually write everything and make us care



8



66



711



[Show this thread](#)



cam @ [REDACTED] · May 1



screaming bc i vividly remember people on here begging publishers and authors to include the tropes in their books in the synopsis and now it's a problem and makes books "formulaic and boring" PLS MAKE UP YOUR DAMN MINDS



12



38



591



Sum

- Words for categories
- Big buckets and filters
- Communicate how the reader wants to *feel* or wants to *do* with the reading experience
- Marketing & selling the book
- Non-fiction also has genres, appeal factors, and tropes

Fantastic Formats & Majestic Media

Matthew Murray

Book Descriptions

1. Sex, drugs, and murder in 1980s Los Angeles
2. Futaba opens up to Taichi and admits she has a crush on Toma
3. An empathetic portrait of a young woman wrestling with psychological stress and the trauma following a sexual assault
4. She dreams of becoming an artist, an impossible career for a girl born into a noble family

NO!

**I DON'T WANT
TO READ ANY
OF THOSE
BOOKS!**

RECKLESS

Ed Brubaker
Sean Phillips



Blue Flag



story and art by
KAITO



In the words of Anna Ferri:

“You’ll read literally anything if it’s a comic,
won’t you?”





Ocean Vuong Reads "The Bull"

4,039 views · Mar 29, 2022

186 DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...



Format-Specific Appeal Factors

- Audio Books & Podcasts: Narrators
- Films & TV: Actors
- Comics: Art
- Games: Control of Narrative, Game Mechanics

Remember

- You don't have to recommend things in different formats to patrons
- Use them to help understand why other people like the genre
- And most importantly...

They're Short!

Robust Reading Resources for Diverse Discoveries

RJ Edwards

Diversifying your readers' advisory

- We “diversify” our readers' advisory through exploring new genres – but we also want to diversify in the sense of exploring & promoting works by marginalized authors!
- We try to choose diversely in what we read for the show, but we're limited by availability, time, etc.
- In 2020, we started compiling booklists for each genre we cover of works by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) authors
- Both for readers & library professionals doing readers' advisory

A quick aside about BIPOC booklists...

Much has been written on the limits of booklists as an anti-racism strategy, and about the term “BIPOC”.



VULTURE


CLOSE READS | JUNE 4, 2020


What Is an Anti-Racist Reading List For?

By Lauren Michele Jackson

<https://www.vulture.com/2020/06/anti-racist-reading-lists-what-are-they-for.html>

<https://www.colorlines.com/articles/it-poc-bipoc-or-neither>



SUBSCRIBE 

Is It POC, BIPOC or Neither?

On a recent NPR “Code Switch” episode, listeners shared their thoughts on the terms. And there was no consensus.

N. JAMIYLA CHISHOLM | SEP 30, 2020 4:20PM ET



Cozy Mystery	GN Genre	Search	Clear	?
AND	Own Voices	AP Appeal Factors		
AND		Select a Field (optional)	+	



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Audience

- Adult Teen
 Ages 9-12 Ages 0-8

Additional Limiters ▶

Publication Date

From: To:

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Genre

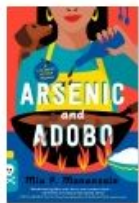
[Books](#) [Series](#) [Authors](#)

Results: 1-30 of 34

Sort by: [Relevance](#) [Detailed](#) [30](#) [Create alert for](#)

Results for: GN Cozy Mystery AND AP Own Voices

1. [Arsenic and adobo](#) (May 2021)



By: [Manansala, Mia P.](#)

The first book in a new culinary cozy series full of sharp humor and delectable dishes—one that might jus

Series: [Tita Rosie's kitchen](#), 1

Popularity: ★★★★★ [Adult](#) [Fiction](#)

[Title Read-alikes](#) [Author Read-alikes](#) [Series Read-alikes](#)

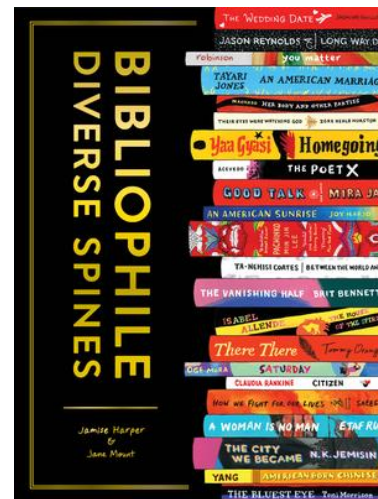
[Check the Library Catalog](#)

★★★★★
6411 reviews



Other RA research tools


- Library catalogue (subject headings, BiblioCommons lists)
 - My own library
 - Public library catalogues outside of my geographic area!
 - Specialized libraries (e.g. Xwi7xwa Library at UBC, libraries of student resource groups)
- Goodreads 👁👁
- [This Book is RAD \(Readers' Advisory Diversity\)](#)
 - Adult materials focus
- [We Need Diverse Books](#)
 - Children's & Young Adults focus
 - Resources, including "[Where to Find Diverse Books](#)"
- [Book Riot](#)
- [Smart B—s Trashy Books](#)
- [BC4M](#) & [Readers' Advisory for Library Staff](#) FB Groups :)



Resources for Indigenous literature

Strong Nations
(strongnations.com)

- Wide selection (though has a Western Canada focus)
- Robust category tagging
- Authenticity labels (with guidelines/criteria available)



The screenshot displays the Strong Nations website interface. At the top, there is a logo featuring a turtle on a branch and the text "Strong Nations Gifts • Books • Publishing". Below this is a navigation menu with links for Home, Indigenous Gifts & More, Classroom & Toys, Books & Bundles Kids/Teens/Adults, Publishing & Services, Wholesale Accounts, Educators Info & More, and Contact Us.

The main content area shows a product page for "The Case of the Burgled Bundle" by Michael Hutchinson. The book cover features an illustration of children and a dog in a natural setting. The price is listed as \$10.95, and there is a quantity selector set to 1 and an "Add to Basket" button. The authors are listed as Michael Hutchinson (Indigenous Canadian; First Nations; Cree (Nehiyawak); Swampy Cree; Misipawistik Cree Nation;). The language is English, and the format is Paperback. The text content territories are Indigenous Canadian; First Nations; Cree (Nehiyawak);. The status is Available, and the grade levels are 4; 5; 6; 7;. Other categories include Kids Book, Kids Books, Fiction, Adventure, Contemporary Fiction, Mystery / Thrillers, Series, The Mighty Muskrats Mystery Series, Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Peoples in Canada, First Nations, Cree (Nehiyawak), Novels and Chapter Books, Adventure, Contemporary Fiction, Mystery / Thrillers, Series, The Mighty Muskrats Mystery Series. The year published is 2021.

Canadian Content

Indigenous Text

Resources for Indigenous literature

Indigenous publishers

- Theytus Books
- Kegedonce Press
- Inhabit Media
- Many, many more!

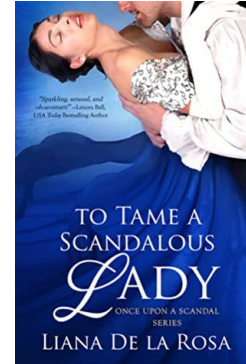


American Indians in Children's Literature (AICL)

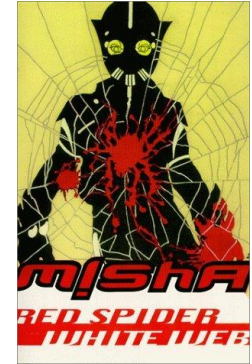
- Children's & YA focus
- Reviews & analysis
- Great collection of further resources

Takeaways on diversifying your readers' advisory:

- *THE BOOKS ARE THERE!*
- Familiarizing yourself with a diversity of voices in a genre should be part of learning about new genres!
- There are tools to make these books easier to discover and assess.



Regency Romance



Cyberpunk



Space Opera/
New Weird



Mystery/Thriller

Where Can I Find This Fantastic-Sounding Podcast???

<http://bookclub4m.com/>
<https://bookclub4m.libsyn.com/>



Get Premium

Download App

Listen



Book Club for Masochists: a Readers' Advisory Podcast

Book Club for Masochists

Arts

★★★★★ 5.0 • 8 Ratings

[Listen on Apple Podcasts](#)

MAY 3, 2022

Episode 149 - Astronomy & Space

This episode we're talking about Astronomy and Space Non-Fiction! We talk about astronauts, planets, moons, rocks, and more! Plus: We despair about all the math in these books! You can download the podcast directly, find it on Libsyn, or get it through...

[PLAY](#) 1 hr 4 min

154 episodes

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Book Club for Masochists: a Readers' Advisory Podcast

Book Club for Masochists

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A Readers' Advisory Podcast about becoming better library staff by reading every genre, whether we like them or not! Every month we read books from a new, randomly picked genre; then on the podcast we discuss our reading choices, experiences, opinions, appeal factors, and other related topics as friends and library workers.

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3 days ago

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81 Minutes | Apr 19, 2022

Episode 148 - Spring 2022 Media Update

This episode we're talking about recent media we enjoyed! We discuss TikTok food, video games about boxes, French language books, Pokemon, and more! You can download the podcast directly, find it on Libsyn, or get it through Apple...



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What episodes should you start with?

What episodes should you start with?

- Episode 143 - Amish Romance - <https://is.gd/episode143>
- Episode 121 - Biology - <https://is.gd/episode121>
- Episode 134 - Piranesi by Susanna Clarke - <https://is.gd/episode134>
- bookclub4m.com

BOOK CLUB

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bookclub4m.com



@MeghanWhyte



@MidniteLibrary



@RJmakes



@FerriLibrarian

Do you ever worry about running out of
genres?

A1	A	B	C	D	E
1	Afrofuturism	Aliens/UFO (Non-Fiction)	Alternative Reality Romance	Art (e.g. literally just pictures of art)	Puzzles
2	Autofiction	Autobiography/Memoir	Arthurian Romance	Epistolary Novel	Hope Punk
3	Books from a specific (20th century) decade (roll a dice)	Biography	Contemporary Romance Romance	Fan Fiction	Cosmic Horror
4	Cancer lit	Conspiracies (non-fiction)	Ethnic/Multicultural Romance	Film Script/Screenplay	LitRPG or GameLit
5	Climate Change (Fiction)	Crafts	Fantasy/Fairy Tale Romance	Gamebooks/Interactive Fiction	Slipstream
6	Dark Fantasy	Criminology	Futuristic/scifi Romance	Graphic Novels/Comics Fiction	Media Mysteries
7	Domestic Thriller	Design	Gentle Romance Romance	Graphic Novels/Comics Non Fiction	Cold Cases
8	Epic/High Fantasy	Economics	Gothic Romance	Lyric Poetry	New Noir
9	Fantasy	Education	Holiday Romance	Manga	Historical Crime
10	Feminist Literature	Engineering	Inspirational Romance	Media Spinoff/Tie-in (including based on a	Teenage girls punching robots
11	Fictional Biographies	Family/Parenting	LGBTQ/Queer Romance	Narrative Poetry	Wuxia
12	Fractured Fairytales	Fashion/Style	Medieval Romance	Non-Traditional Storytelling (e.g. not prose)	Ecofiction
13	Hard Boiled	Fitness	Military Romance	Novella	Locked Door Mystery
14	Historical Mysteries	Games/Gaming/RPGs	Paranormal Romance Romance	Photography	Eco thriller
15	Horror	Gender Theory/Studies	Romance Written by Men Romance	Picture Books	Verse Novels
16	Immigrant Fiction	Health/Medicine	Romantic Suspense Romance	Play Script	Academic Articles
17	Inspirational	History	Shojuo Romance	Poetry	Webcomics
18	Magical Realism	How-to	Sports Romance		Environment (Non-Fiction)
19	Medical Thrillers	Interior Design/Homemaking	Time Travel Romance		Ecology
20	Military Fiction	Investigative Journalism	Urban Romance		Social Justice
21	Military Sci-Fi	Linguistics	Western Romance		Paleontology
22	Mystery	Math/Physics	YA Romance		Archeology
23	Nautical Fiction	Memoir	Yaoi Romance		Stage magic
24	New Adult	Microhistory	Nerdy/Geeky/Fandom romances Romance		Based on a blog/website
25	Paranormal Fiction	Personal Finance			Cats in literature
26	Parody	Pets/Animals			Fiction about library staff
27	Police/Crime Procedural	Popular Culture			Graphic Medicine???
28	Portal Fantasy / Isekai	Popular Science			Mermaids
29	Post Apocalyptic	Sex and Sexuality			Reread something
30	Postmodern Literature	Sports (Non-Fiction)			Books with puns in the title
31	Prehistoric Fiction	Transit/Automotive/Planes/Trains/Boats			Black History Month + Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month + Hispanic Heri
32	Pulp	Urban Planning			YA something?
33	Realistic Fiction				Light Novels
34	Rural Noir/Grit Lit				Self published
35	Satire				