

Ray 0:24

Hey, it's been a while How have you been doing lately?

Ruby 0:28

So good to see you. I've actually really busy. I've gotten a lot of writing done actually.

Ray 0:34

Wait, I didn't know you were a writer. What do you write?

Ruby 0:37

Oh, I write fanfiction.

Ray 0:40

Fanfiction? That's not real writing.

Kat 0:43

Has this ever happened to you? Well, this podcast is here to provide a list of reasons why your friend is completely wrong about what real writing is.

Ray 0:52

Hey, I can still hear you, you know.

Hey there writing cadets and welcome back to the moving right along podcast created by young writers for young writers. We're your hosts,

Ruby 1:05

Ruby,

Kat 1:06

Kat,

Ray 1:07

and Ray. Last episode, we started off with a debate on how to plan your story, whether it be plotting pantsing or plantsing. Tune in next episode, where we'll announce the results. In today's episode, we're bringing you the question of

Ruby 1:19

what is real writing what counts as real writing? You know, there's so much doubt writers that already deal with when confronting their work. We all kind of wonder like, Is this good? Is this not good? But yeah, the extra headache of wondering if other people even see it as genuine writing. And that really just shouldn't add on to the pile of stress that we already have to deal with. But surprisingly, it does.

Ray 1:42

So this debate is especially popular with fanfiction, which has increased in popularity an amazing amount in the last decade. So it initially began with the Star Trek fandom and their minds compel him to make fanzines way back in the 1960s. And around that time. So now there's a multitude of valid specifically made for publishing fanfiction. The largest two that I can think of off the top of my mind are probably wattpad and 803. But there's a whole bunch more. And every fandom has their fair share, whether it's Twilight, Marvel's supernatural, and a whole bunch more that I can think of on my own. There's just there's so many, it's incredible. And still, even with the tremendous amount of these works, that people put so much effort into, they're still not recognized on the same level as novels published and sold.

Ruby 2:26

So just to start us off, I think one thing that we all kind of want to talk about is like our experiences with fanfiction and so for me, when I was like, How old was I probably, like, nine, I was like, I'm gonna write a book. And I didn't know what fanfiction was back then. And so when I did Oh, my gosh, suppose myself, what I did was I basically wrote, like, children of the Avengers, so I took the Avengers. And I was like, What would if they're children, it's like, you know how like, Do you guys know Ever After High? We heard it. Yeah, so it's like about the children of like fairytale characters. So I was like, I'm gonna do that with the Avengers. And I was totally like convinced I was like, this is a novel This is going to be on the shelves I can totally do this. And I actually recently realized that that was fanfiction. So that's like my one and like only really experienced with fanfiction but it was it was interesting. It was fun.

Kat 3:22

That sounds interesting. Like I'd love to read that.

Ruby 3:25

No, you wouldn't

Ray 3:25

Yeah, I would.

Ruby 3:27

Oh, no, guys,

Kat 3:29

You know Have any of you ever watched Digimon I remember of my like creative stories back in primary school was about it was called like Pigimon or something like that. It was basically straight up ripped off from Digimon so I know it's not technically fanfiction, but it definitely

has those kind of fanfiction elements in that I basically like the story like the concept but wanted to put my own characters in it but just didn't think about the idea of fanfiction What about you right? How what like what are your experiences fanfiction? Have you ever written any or like read any or what do you what do you think?

Ray 4:03

So I don't really read a lot of fanfiction but I have written fanfiction. And in fact, one of the reasons I kind of realized I loved writing so much and like wanting to kind of start taking it seriously was because I wrote and oh my god, I'm exposing myself again. I wrote a Percy Jackson fanfiction with, you know, my own character and stuff. And I was just something I kind of did for fun. Like, I never actually published it anywhere. I just kind of felt like writing and I had this cool character. And I was like that, like, why don't I tell this story? And I did you know, and it was one of the reasons I realized like, I love the idea of writing. I love making my own characters, like making these people and telling a story through these people. But yeah, I never actually published it anywhere. But the only person who ever read it was my best friend. And so I you know, I had it in my phone and he read it and he was like, Dude, this is something like I would actually read this is something like he he told me and I remember this to this day. It's like The biggest like writing compliment I've ever received it's one of the reasons I actually pursued writing so he said this sounds like something Rick Riordan wrote himself and I was like, whoa, hold up. Wait, what? No way. Because no, absolutely not. But you know, I think that sense of fanfiction like really shouldn't be overlooked because it's one of the reasons you know, a lot of like published authors really amazing authors like some authors that tie we actually works with Marissa Meyers and Chloe Gong You know, they're they're really great writers and they started through fanfiction and that's something that

happens to a lot of writers. So, you know, in that sense, fanfiction definitely should not be overlooked as a real genuine source of writing.

Ruby 5:40

Yes, that is so wholesome. Oh my gosh, Percy Jackson stans unite. He did so much for all of us looping back around to just what Ray was saying about the quality of fanfiction i think i think it does get discredited just because it's using other writers characters and other writers worlds.

Kat 5:57

I definitely agree that i don't i don't i don't really see why people feel the need to discredit fanfiction because if you think about it, most of our popular stories are just retellings. Most of our popular stories are fanfiction. The Grimm brothers are fanfiction of fairytales essentially, because they basically take fairy tale concepts and like wrote it down in a fairy tale way. So when people say that fanfiction isn't like proper writing and stuff like that, it's like well, you know, then call out every single like retelling you've ever heard otherwise you don't have a point.

Ray 6:29

I think that point you brought up cat about the Grimm Brothers fairytales is really interesting because if you look at like the original Disney movies like The Disney Princess movies like The Snow White movie, the Cinderella movie Sleeping Beauty, those are really all just fanfiction of those fairy tales. So discrediting fan fiction to me has always been kind of weird, because it's like the you you love Disney princesses. So like that's considered like real writing, you know? Because it's Disney. You know?

Ruby 6:58

Um, but honestly, like some fanfiction, it is so incredibly well written. Like, it's kind of crazy. Like some of this. I don't know if y'all have heard of this, but some fanfics have like these incredibly deep quotes that like go viral. And everybody's like, Wow, that sounds like it's from like Shakespeare or like an Ernest Hemingway or just like something fancy like that. And then they're like, Oh no, it's from like, Captain America fanfic. Just like I think it just proves like that all writing has value to in all writing is real writing. Even if like you might be discredited by someone else or somebody else saying Oh, it's fanfic doesn't count it counts.

Ray 7:38

Yeah, I think I think there's definitely some times where I've been reading fanfiction. I'm like, this is so high quality. If it was like, you know, a technically published novel, I wouldn't be able to tell the difference.

Ruby 7:47

Those lines between fanfiction and actual published works blur so easily in regards to quality, which gives, which brings me to a little game we're gonna play. So Ray kick it off.

Ray 8:04

So there's five quotes before us. And we have to guess if they're from fanfiction, or another published work of literature. So we hope that this exercise is exercise is really going to prove that the quality of writing is not dependent on where it is its status of publication, its target audience who wrote it, or whether or not it's fanfiction,

Ruby 8:23

and here to help us Oh, my gosh, you guys is our amazing producer Simone

Ray 8:29

Ah, oh my god Simone

Ruby 8:32

She's here, she's here.

Simone 8:35

Hi guys, and what's the what's the prize for whoever wins? What do they get?

Kat 8:42

Whoever wins will get validation from Simone because that's all we really want in life is for Simone to tell us that we're doing a good job finally.

Simone 8:51

Okay, so y'all ready? Contestants?

Ruby 8:54

Yes.

Simone 8:56

Our first quote is "I think we deserve a soft epilogue my love we are good people and we've suffered enough" Is that fanfiction? Or real writing? You didn't think it was gonna be so hard?

Ray 9:10

No, um, see, I want to say quote real writing but like based on the fact that this is a game to the side of you know, that's real. I I'm gonna say fanfiction.

Kat 9:23

This is messing with my head. Okay, I'm gonna go with fanfiction because because that's what my gut is telling me. Ruby, what do you think?

Ruby 9:32

Yeah, well, I had a bit of an advantage because I suggested this quote for the game.

Ray 9:37

Traitor!

Ruby 9:39

Guys, I'm gonna guess fanfiction

Ray 9:43

Cheater.

Simone 9:44

And it is indeed fan fiction and to credit the author. It is 70 Years of Sleep by Oh gosh. cardiamachina and it's from the Marvel fan fiction or fandom.

Ruby 9:57

Captain America fanfic

Ray 9:58

Is it Captain America fanfic?

Ruby 10:02

Isn't it so beautiful The first time I read that and I literally was like, This is like the kind of writing I aspire towards. Like this is like the goal. Alright, so I think we all got that right.

Simone 10:14

Yes, we're going into quote number two or question number two tied so our second quote is "to love or have loved that is enough ask nothing further there is no other pearl to be found in the dark folds of life".

Ruby 10:29

So I feel like I might have heard this before I totally could be so wrong about this so oh my gosh, but I think it's from a published work just because the line to love or to have loved feels like really familiar, but you know, so I'm gonna say I'm gonna say published work

Ray 10:46

I don't know this is so difficult um, I still think this one is fanfiction. I don't I don't know it's just giving me that fanfic vibe.

Kat 10:55

Okay, I think I'm gonna say, oh who do I trust more, Ruby or Ray?

Ray 11:01

Wow

Kat 11:02

I gotta pick one.

Ruby 11:04

Like it's not gonna be me

Ray 11:07

you know, I gotta say I trust Ruby just for the traditionally published because I believe so much I feel I feel like oh my god. I'm gonna say traditionally published like works instead of fanfiction.

Simone 11:22

Okay, so it is from something you might have heard of. It's from Les Mis by Victor Hugo.

Ray 11:29

Oh,

Ruby 11:30

I got it right! Oh, my gosh, I knew I'd heard that before. Like, I don't know. I haven't even read Les Mis. So I don't know where I heard that. Maybe the movie.

Kat 11:38

Isn't Les Mis just a fanfiction of historical events?

Ray 11:46

If you really think about it, technically

Ruby 11:48

French Revolution fanfic.

Ray 11:50

Does that make the Hamilton Hamilton musical?

Ruby 11:53

Hamilton fanfic? Yeah. So right.

Simone 11:57

Y'all are enraging some theater nerds right now.

Ruby 12:00

Sorry. Oh, my gosh, our screenwriter doll. Our script writer is drying right now. She's Sorry. Sorry. Sorry.

Simone 12:09

Okay, so quote number three, and Ray you are down one point. So make a comeback.

Ruby 12:17

How embarrassing.

Simone 12:18

Our third one is "we move forward. We look to the future we work for a better tomorrow. We live".

Ruby 12:26

I'm going to say fanfic for this one. Just something about like the Okay, this is totally like a shot in the dark but I feel like a lot of like very famous. Traditional works like with lines like this are often written in third person. And something about this being written in first person. I'm just gonna say I'm gonna say fanfic. So that's my guess.

Kat 12:47

That's a big brain.

Ray 12:48

See I this is giving me either contemporary like kind of coming of age vibes or dystopian vibe. So I'm gonna say a novel or another

traditionally published work or whatever we're calling it. Yeah, I'm gonna go with that.

Kat 13:04

I'm gonna trust Ray this time.

Ray 13:07

Oh God, that's pressure.

Kat 13:10

Sorry, I'm sorry. So I'm going to go traditionally published I'm going to go with traditionally publish. And if it's wrong, Simone, please tell Ray off and take an extra point away from them.

Ray 13:23

I only have one

Simone 13:24

Ray I'm gonna give you an extra five second headstart to run

Ray 13:30

No!

Simone 13:31

because it is fanfiction.

Ruby 13:33

Y'all I'm on fire I'm on fire

Simone 13:37

It is to credit the author. It is The Reclamation of Black Magic, a Harry Potter fanfiction from Shayalonn on AO3.

Ruby 13:47

Wow this fanfic writers are insane

Ray 13:50

They they are so talented

Simone 13:52

Kat you were very calm about that.

Kat 13:54

Yeah, no, I'm gathering up my rage.

Ruby 13:58

I'm gonna win you guys. I need it. I need to win. I'm gonna win.

Simone 14:02

The best they can do is tie you now Ruby. Let's see. Number four is "It is true. We shall be monsters cut off from all the world but on that account, we shall be more attached to one another".

Ruby 14:14

I'm gonna go last this time because I don't want you to steal my answer.

Ray 14:17

Kat, why don't you go first? We've been going first.

Kat 14:24

Darn it. I'm gonna say so difficult. I think I'm gonna go with I'm gonna go with traditional.

Ray 14:33

I'm gonna say fanfiction on this one. I think this one is fan fiction.

Ruby 14:37

I'm gonna say traditional and I'm not going to tell you my reasoning on that until the end of the game.

Simone 14:42

Okay, so this one is from and knowing Dell or script writer. She is the highness of horror in our pod squad. So of course she chose something from Frankenstein by Mary Shelley.

Kat 14:55

Wait so I have three

Ruby 14:58

Yup!

Simone 14:58

You have three points.

Ruby 14:59

I had to get this last one, right, I have to get it right. I have to get it.

Simone 15:02

Ruby has four and Ray you are in last with one. But

Ray 15:08

this was very hard.

Simone 15:08

But our last quote, it was a last minute addition and it is worth a total of five points. For reasons.

Ray 15:17

Oh, watch me get this wrong.

Ruby 15:19

No, but I wanna win!

Kat 15:22

Well, we don't want you to win.

Simone 15:24

you could still win Ruby!

Ruby 15:26

Yeah. Well, watch me.

Simone 15:29

I will have you pick between traditional publishing and general internet quote, it might not technically be from fanfiction, it might not technically be from traditional publishing. Just let me know your general thoughts on it. Okay. Our last quote. "The fear within me is beyond anything your soul can make. You cannot kill me in a way that matters."

Ruby 15:45

that's dark and I love it. Yeah.

Simone 15:53

Is it from the internet? Or is it from traditional publishing,

Kat 15:56

Part of me wants to say it's like from speculative fiction, like simple, maybe something like horror, like maybe even like goosebumps vibe. So I'm gonna go with internet quotes. And if any of you say internet quotes, then you're just copying me. I feel like I should get extra credit.

Ruby 16:14

You see, that's the problem is I know this quote,

Ray 16:16

You know it? Ruby!

Ruby 16:19

I didnt suggest it!

Ray 16:26

I think this one is going to be an internet quote.

Ruby 16:30

So as previously stated, I know exactly what this quote is, and I know what it's from. Which is why I can confidently say, internet quote.

Simone 16:41

So, it is from a general tumbler trash post. By personsonable. About mushrooms. Yes. Would you like to hear the full quote? It's quite epic.

Ray 16:55

Yes.

Ruby 16:56

Absolutely.

Simone 16:58

"Can you feel your heart burning? Can you feel the struggle within the fear within me is beyond anything your soul can make? You cannot kill me in a way that matters." And it's death and decay and mushrooms.

Ray 17:12

And mushrooms!

Ruby 17:15

That's wild. Yeah. All right. Hey, Simone. What's the final score?

Kat 17:20

Shut up Ruby

Simone 17:20

Last place. We have Ray with six. Technically two. Kat you have eight. Ruby. You have nine.

Ruby 17:34

Yeah!

Ray 17:37

And what was that prize again, Simone.

Ruby 17:40

Yes. What's the prize again?

Simone 17:42

Good job, Ruby. I'm leaving now.

Kat 17:44

Simone sounds so like

Ray 17:50

Poor Simone, she's so done with us.

Ruby 17:52

Guys, I feel so validated. feels really good.

I bet it does. I bet it does feel good.

this is my peak.

Kat 18:00

I hope you guys enjoyed that game. And I hope you guys agree that Ruby shouldn't have one.

Ruby 18:05

Hey!

Ray 18:07

Cause she cheated!

Kat 18:09

Ruby deserves the validation. After all the bullying we put Ruby through. Now we're going to carry on talking about what we think real writing is. And we've discussed a bit about fan fiction. But like, let's look at the traditional side, because even in traditional publishing, there is a lot of snobbishness. There's a lot of people thinking that some genres aren't really real writing. So, you know, a lot of people think that the only type of real writing are things like literary fiction. So if you don't know what that is, literary fiction is things like *Of Mice and Men*, *The Great Gatsby*, things like that. So it's normally realistic fiction, and it normally has some sort of like deeper, deeper meaning

to it. So a lot of people consider that literary fiction is the only true writing, and things like genre fiction, so scifi, fantasy, horror, mystery, or the like fun stuff isn't considered real writing. So what are your guys thoughts about this? Is there anything that you think you get, like really annoyed when people say that a certain genre isn't real writing? Or have you been writing in a certain genre? And people have said, that's not real writing?

Ruby 19:16

I feel like for me, I think YA in general is just discredited. I know, like in the past, like when I've wanted to, like tell someone what I write, I don't want to tell them I write YA, especially if it's like an older adult. Just because I think there's a lot of stigmas around YA fiction that it doesn't have value to it, that it's not written well, that it isn't as legitimate as other forms of fiction that we have. And so I think like, I know, I can have a hard time with that. Things are more geared towards young people are generally discredited. And I can't give you a solid reason why, but I know that I can have a really hard time with that. So what about you, Ray?

Ray 19:59

well, Ruby, I know you you write romance? You're a huge romance, and probably reader. So if you want to, do you want to tell us a little bit about that, and what you think the stigma is behind it?

Ruby 20:10

iOh my gosh, I would love to. Um, so there is oh my gosh, there's so much stigma around romance. Um, I actually read a really good book. I don't know if any of you guys have heard of it Today, Tonight, Tomorrow by Rachel Lynn Solomon. It's a contemporary, YA romance and in it, the main character, she's a romance writer. And I think I'd never really realized much of the stigmas around romance fiction until

I read that book. And I think, you know, this is a very broad overarching statement. But I think a decent amount of it, honestly, is to do with kind of sexism. And just the idea that women's what women want to read in fiction is less valuable than what men want to read. There's a lot of ideas as if romance isn't as good or isn't as valuable, just because it centers around something that's more female centric and more geared towards females. So I know as a person who writes romance, and I don't write just romance I usually write speculative with romance is one of my major plot points. I know that I can have a really, I can really feel like discredited by just like kind of the world when it comes to writing books that love romance. Um, and, you know, I think we're going to talk about this more in a later episode. But I think misogyny is a part of it. And just like the idea that what women have to say, and what women have to write just isn't as important and isn't as intelligent or educational. And, you know, I'm not saying romance is educational. But I think it's very much like, you know, that doesn't make it any less writing or any less real writing. So those are my thoughts on romance. I have a lot of them.

Ray 21:53

Yeah, I read, I'm not sure about right. But I read a lot of contemporary kind of fiction. I know, it's kind of a broad topic. But there's a lot of stigma that that it faces because it's mainly geared to that younger audience of, you know, young teens and young adults. And I think that's a lot of the reasons why it's sometimes discredited because it is some people and Okay, some contemporary fiction, I've read a lot of them that are very dramatic, and kind of weird. So, yeah, I get it. But like, at the same time, there is a lot of contemporary that's really just beautiful, in a way, and it makes you think, and it's one of my favorite genres to read. And I think a lot of people discredit it for that fact that it's not dramatic, but people think it's dramatic, because it looks at it looks at kind of life and growing up in a way that's not kind of

romanticizing it, but kind of breaking it down and recognizing we have going on in the world and what that what that's like to be a young person growing up with it.

Kat 22:57

Yeah, I definitely. Yeah, I definitely agree about your both of your points about the different, like genres that get discredited. And I think as well, one of the reasons that these genres get discredited is because people think that it's easier to write right. So a lot of children's books, authors talk about how a lot of people think that writing children's fiction is easier to write. I mean, I remember talking to this children's author, and you were saying that like people all the time, like Sam, oh, you're a children's author, it must be so easy. But what they don't take into account that it's a different skill set. Because when you're writing for children, you also have to take into account that you want to make it easy enough for them to understand without making it so easy that you're like dumbing it down for your audience. Or you also have to be much more careful with the kind of messages that you're sending to chosen authors and children's authors, messages you're sending to children. And like for most of us who grew up reading children's books, that's our first thing about writing, like reading and writing. We grow up reading, like children's books and stuff like that. So for most of us that those books that we read in childhood are the things that shape us. So when people try and discredit that and say, well, children's writing isn't real writing. It's not that hard to do. It's sort of saying, Well, you know, when you're a child and you read those books, were they any less magical because they were for children? No, they weren't. They were perfectly calibrated to your age and that like moment in time. What I also want to ask you guys is what you think about people talking bad about like screenwriters or stuff like that, because a lot of people say that screenwriting isn't real, real writing. Because when you finish writing a

screen screenplay, you normally hand it off to a director, who will then go and make the film and like a bunch of actors, and they'll normally have their input on it. And I know that Ray, you, like me are a screenwriter, and you look like you're ready to fight. So what do you think of that?

Ray 24:52

Those words triggered me. I so obviously, I'm a writer. Duh, that's why I'm on this podcast. But I don't really write a lot of novels. I think I've actually Fun fact, I've never written a novel book ever. And I probably won't to be honest. I am a screenwriter at heart. And whenever I tell people like, Oh, I'm a writer, and they're like, Oh, my God, what kind of novelty, right? I'm like, I don't write novels. Like then what do you write? I'm like, I'm a screenwriter. If you I know what you said, cat. I totally agree. Like when you write a screenplay, you hand it off to the directors, and the actors are what make your character come to life. And you know, the set works. It's what makes it real, when that movie or TV show or whatever it is, gets produced and made into a screen, screen, show, whatever we're calling that. But the fact is, you wouldn't have that thing on the screen. If not for the screenwriter. If I didn't sit at my computer and write that screenplay, it wouldn't be on the screen, the director wouldn't have directed it, it would have gotten produced, the actors wouldn't have been acting the characters and the characters would have wouldn't have been created in the first place. I laid down the groundwork, I put the first step down, and those people then came in and polished it off and made it what it is, you know, screenwriters. I'm gonna say this a million times and louder for the people in the back. screenwriters are real writers, screenwriters, real writers, you can draw on that. Okay. Talk to the wall,

Ruby 26:21

like drew up part two. I took her to go and open

Ray 26:23  
this up smile.

I'm angry about that.

Ruby 26:26  
Yeah, you know, I come from a more outside perspective. I'm basically I just write novels. But that is to say any writing you're a writer, like it doesn't matter if you do screenwriting, it doesn't matter if you do, like comic book writing, or you work on graphic novels, or just like any medium, you're a writer, if you Right. And so that was that was awesome, right? I feel like a proud mom, even though I'm only like two years old. Okay. I'm proud, proud older sister. That's me.

Ray 26:58  
I'm okay with that one. We'll go with.

Ruby 27:00  
Yeah, but cat, you're a screenwriter as well. So do you have any other thoughts on that? Yeah, I

Ray 27:06  
mean, I definitely agree with Ray about, you know, I think I think it's ridiculous when people would discredit screenwriters and say that that, you know, it's not real writing because you have, you know, the actors interpretations, because if you look at some famous screenwriters like Aaron Sorkin, he wrote, The Social Network, you can tell when it's an Aaron Sorkin screen like play because he has a very distinct style of writing. And even the writers who don't have that sort of distinct style of writing. You know, if it wasn't for the screenwriters that movie or film wouldn't like that movie TV show

wouldn't exist. One of my favorite screenplays is actually almost linking back to your point about sexism is *The Devil Wears Prada*. It's one of I love that movie. I love it. It's so good, right. And it is a very well written screenplay. If you've ever read the screenplay for it, especially the opening segment. It is a very, very well written screenplay. And people describe it the writing that one because it's a screenplay and to, obviously, because it's a female oriented film. And also because people think that because the a lot of the film is about fashion, right? People don't take things like fashion seriously. And they think to themselves, well, it needs to have like a deeper, deeper meaning. And there is a deeper meaning in there. But one of my favorite parts about that film is because it's just it's just such a fun film, isn't it? It's a fun film. And my question is, why do you think that people think or writing you know, has to have these like 10 layers of like social commentary, and like things like that instead of allowing it just to be on film it can be a fun film with like, you know, there is you can medium *Devil Wears Prada* about you know, what you willing to sacrifice for your work, but he doesn't need to have that kind of the curtains were blue, which means that the characters are sad level of writing. what do you think about whether writing needs to have levels of deeper meaning, or whether you're allowed to just write something that's fun.

Ruby 29:05

I'm, that is such a good question. And I'm so glad you brought this up. So for me, my novels that I've written are not they're not they're not classics, they are not these like crazy, deep social commentary. And that's just because that's not the kind of writer I am. I want to write books that make people happy, and that people read them and they feel like they get a chance to like escape from whatever might be hard, and just like go and enjoy themselves. Like entertainment has always been what I've focused on in my writing. And so, you know, I think that this is such a valuable question. Like, I know for me, I can

feel really insecure about my books because they're not like these. It's not like the next line is not the next Great Gatsby. And I know that it isn't because it isn't like this deep like all these Let's just say they're not going to be studying my books in English classes. So I feel like I think it's so it's so easy to fall into this like pit of feeling like, wow, I don't write these beautiful these books with these beautiful prose or these books with these deep veiled meanings. And I just think it's important that writers just know like, you are not any less valuable if you're not writing the next like classic, like, it doesn't matter. At the end of the day, we we write for ourselves, we write books that we would want to read, or we write screenplays of movies that we want to read, or we write poems that we want to read, we write for ourselves, and everything else doesn't matter just as much as how you feel about your writing, and yourself. So I feel like, you know, just, this is gonna sound a little extreme, but you know what, screw anybody else who tells you your writing is any less valuable. That's what I have to say, because you're a writer, and that's amazing.

Ray 31:02

Mic drop for Ruby, I totally agree with everything you just said Ruby, but actually coming from quite a different standpoint of what you said, I do like to have some sort of a, like a meaning in my stories. I mean, obviously, we all have themes in our stories, but I like to kind of have this message that I want my audience to receive. You know, it's not like the great classics with her deep, like you said, Kat, the curtains are blue. So the characters depressed, I don't do that. In fact, I'm not subtle at all with my meanings, they are very, they're on the surface, you can see them, it's painfully obvious. But I mainly like to focus on my characters and telling themes through them, and mainly messages about people and how we as people kind of act in a way and how we're also different, and how one of my biggest themes actually, in my current work in progress, is how we all cope with things in different

ways. And we all come out different people because of that, and I like to show that through my just because I'm a very, I think I mentioned this a lot in the previous episode, but I'm a very character driven writer. And so showing that message for me is kind of important as writer because I want my writing to have a purpose like Ruby just writing for entertainment. I read books for pure entertainment. I don't read anything with like deeper meanings. And I don't want my book to be studied in English class because it loses its value that way for me at least, but writing is writing and you know, deeper meaning you're not you're still worth

Kat 32:40

Yeah, I mean, talking about studying being studied English class, can we mentioned the king of being studied and English class? Mr. shakey Shakespeare, himself?

Ruby 32:50

Oh, shaky, shaky!

Kat 32:52

Yeah. I think is interesting is how much people don't realize that Shakespeare was a popular, like, created, he would be the kind of Marvel Studios of today, in terms of that, you know, his writing was popular. I mean, he has things like fart jokes in his, you know, scrapes, this man was not highbrow and the fact is that like he did have deeper meanings and some of his stories and he didn't have like less deeper meanings and some of the other ones. So for people to say it kind of say that, you know, if your work is also like popular, you know, if it's the if you're writing a screenplay for like, Marvel, it's not real writing because it's not, you know, this deep, you know, angsty parasite style kind of writing. If you look at people like Shakespeare, he was writing for the people he was writing for the masses, he was writing stories

that can be enjoyed by everyone and that doesn't need like 24 brains to understand. And also talking about Shakespeare because I just like to talk about Shakespeare today is our on the podcast, cat Shakespeare our that's going to be a recurring thing that I think a lot of writers discredit is they talk about, you have to have an original concept. You don't have an original concept, then you're just copying all these other things. Let me tell you, every writer is copying from another writer every writer Yes, Mr. shaky checks bear, the king of being studied shaky, shaky copy but the plot of Romeo and Juliet is almost identical to Pyramis and Thisbe. And if you don't know what Pyramid and Thisbe is, go look it up. It's basically the whole concept is starcross like starcrossed lovers, and it also has a lion in it so you know, dod Romeo and Juliet Have a lion in it. I don't think so. So if you're thinking to yourself, I'm not a real writer, because I'm not coming up with these really highbrow your literary concepts, literary themes. Then just take a note from Shakespeare and just go take a bit, take a concept make up your own and have fun with it. Mic drop, part four.

Ruby 35:07

Yeah, but I mean, guys speaking of shaky, shaky himself, I shared my favorite line from Romeo and Juliet today with everybody. And they were all horrified. So if you think my writing isn't as good as Shakespeare, I think about this line from Shakespeare. You're a saucy boy, Romeo. Google it, Google it, look it up. It's real.

Kat 35:27

There's a quote in Macbeth where this guy says what you egg. Like, that's literally what it says it goes, what you egg then he dies. So you don't need to have Yeah, that is you don't need to have these high, high prose things. It can just be things that you enjoy. And also, if people want to read a deeper meaning into it, people are going to go

to read the deeper meaning it's where you might be telling a really simple story about a cat and its owner. And that might really resonate with somebody who maybe is like, lost their cat or whatever. So you know, you, you just put your work out there. Let people take what they want from it. If people say that you're not a real writer, call us up and we'll go beat them up.

Ruby 36:16

Should be scared. Okay. Yeah. So at the end of the day, Shakespeare was just a writer. We do idolize him in this interesting way. But that's what he was. He was a writer and he wrote comedies. He wrote romance, he wrote so many things. But I think overall, what I'm really I've really gotten out of this episode, and what I hope the listeners have gotten out is that good writing isn't just found in one place. It is everywhere and it's deserving of the same chance that highbrow literature receives you know, all writing is valuable, and all writing is writing so don't discredit yourself.

Kat 36:49

We prompt you to try either writing or reading something new. A recent way bestseller that quick novel you disdained when it first came out a fan fiction based upon your favorite movie, or simply rereading your old childhood favorite. Writing wise, you can try your hand at new genres, perhaps a romantic short story, a book you'd read to a little sibling teaching them a life lesson, even borrowing characters from a show you like and examining them in more detail. exploring new areas of writing is essential to making sure you're well rounded. Who knows? Maybe you'll discover a new favorite quote to hold close.

Ray 37:22

Yeah, I totally agree. exploring new areas of writing is essential to making sure you're well rounded both as a writer, a reader, you know,

who knows maybe a little discover a new favorite quote, to hold close like those crazy fanfiction quotes. I still can't get over that Why? Anyway, until next time writing cadets. It's been a wild adventure and we'll see you on our next one.

Simone 37:45

Thank you for listening to the moving write along podcast made possible by the young writers initiative. Tune in next week where we reveal the results of our plotter versus pantsier versus plantser poll and we talked about misogyny in young adult fiction. You can follow us on Instagram at moving write along podcast or find us on the young writers initiative website tywi.org. And while you're there, why not check out the new chapters program there's still time to sign up and bring the URL to the IRL. Also make sure to enter into the manuscript and chapbook contest sponsored by book pipeline that closes on September 30. And there's always plenty of fun events going on over on our discord, the writers town, and thank you to our amazing team without whom none of this would be possible. Our producer Simone, our co producer, Jasmine, our script writer Delaney and last but certainly not least, our social media manager cossete, all sound effects today were taken from the Free sound project and all music is from film music.io by Kevin MacLeod. Today you heard wholesome beauty flow and sunflower dance party.

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