Hello to all and welcome to the CMPL podcast for July. My name is Meghan, and I am here with my colleague Nicole. And we are here to give you a little primer and a little boost to read some sci-fi.

Yes, summer is this perfect time to read some sci-fi people will say romance no science fiction,

or maybe a combo thereof. We'll get to some of that too.

Oh, goodness.

So what is sci-fi? What would qualify? How does somebody know if they're trying to branch out? What would? What would sci-fi be?

Science fiction is speculative fiction, where we ask, what if this new technology existed? How would the world be different? So, like, what if we invented sentient robots? Or AI? Or what if someone made a time machine? What if it were 3000 years in the future and space travel was a daily occurrence? We do tend to kind of lump together our science fiction and fantasy, especially like they're in the same section at the library. But today, we're just going to be talking about sci-fi.

All right. So, there's some sort of technology typically.

Yes.

No magic.

Correct. I mean, unless, well, I guess, unless the magic was made by technology.
Meghan 01:48
And sometimes there...there are books like that.

Nicole 01:51
It is...it can be difficult sometimes to determine what when something is sci-fi, or when it isn't, like Meghan, I know that you really like time travel books. We don't know in advance. Is this going to be sci-fi or regular fiction? Right? Because is it a machine? Is it a time machine? Or is it just someone's thoughts that they're using to travel right?

Meghan 02:17
Is it just magic because if something like Outlander would not be considered sci-fi, but there is time traveling? Yeah. I love I love time travel books. So, Outlander, Here and Now and Then by Mike Chen. This is something that maybe is sci-fi, but we have it in the fiction section. It's about a man from the future who has traveled to the past with technology, but he gets stuck there and starts a new family. The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger, that's just like magic, I guess, like the man just jumps in and out of time, but mostly it's a love story. The Sea of Tranquility by Emily St. John Mandel has like one instance of time travel in the whole book. But everyone describes it as a time travel book, when really I would say it's more of like, a futuristic literary novel. So, time travel in and of itself maybe does not make it sci-fi. Technology would. But there are lots of different types of sci-fi books. So, what is...

Nicole 03:21
I forgot with that...that time travel book was that we all loved it had dinosaurs riding through town?

Meghan 03:30
Oh, is it the Paradox Hotel?

Nicole 03:31
It was The Paradox Hotel.

Meghan 03:33
I did not read it yet. But I just put it on hold when I was looking at time travel books, because I do love a time travel book.

Nicole 03:39
Absolutely. As someone that always thinks I'm gonna love time travel books, and I never actually read them. I would definitely recommend that one. So

Meghan 03:48
Oh Paradox Hotel by Rob Hart.

Nicole 03:51
Yes. Put that on the list, too.

Meghan 03:53
All right. What else have you read recently?

Nicole 03:55
Well, my favorite book of the year so far, The Last Murder at the End of the World by Stuart Turton is, oh, God, it was so good. It was so good. But we have it marked as a mystery because we didn't know it was going to be sci-fi. So it is a...a group of people, the last people on the planet are on an island. And basically, the rest of the planet has been swallowed by this fog, which has gotten rid of all of humanity. It's pretty gruesome. Sometimes fish swim into the fog and remains of it. Yeah, it's not good. But they can see the fog. It just sort of sits there. At the edge of the island. There are scientists on the island that have worked out how to stop it from continuing until someone is murdered, and they're murdered. It triggers the machine to turn off some sort of morality clause on the island that if something were to get rid of one of the scientists, then the fog would be released.

Meghan 05:17
Get them to.

Nicole 05:18
Yes. And the only way to stop this from happening is for one of the residents of the island to figure out who...who did the murder, and bring them to justice. And so, you think that this is a fantasy? Right? But okay, but you realize, basically, from the description on the book, the fact that the book has, it has a map on the front of the island. It's got green edges, like it's really built up like this beautiful, a fantasy novel. But the science in the book is so advanced, and it is described so well, that it is it definitely becomes a science fiction book. Like you, you feel the ambiance of like, this is simple island living and then you realize underneath that it is a machine that is powering this whole experience. And nothing is what it seems Of course. And we don't know who is human and who is not human. So, um, in the end, we kind of doesn't matter, you know? And it really explores our we like what makes someone human and what makes someone deserving of inheriting the Earth.

Meghan 06:47
Interesting. Interesting. So, I have not read The Last Murder at the End of the World. Although I am curious. It got great reviews. It's on our Hot Reads table. But I did read the Seven and a Half Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle by the same author, and that read very much like, you know, an historical mystery with a fantasy element until the end. And then there's this sort of reveal and you're like, no, this is sci-fi. This is a sci-fi element, not a fantasy element. So, like, the mystery is what powers the plot. But there is a technology that is at work here that is not revealed until the end. And again, sort of the same, like philosophical questions about who is deserving of justice.

Nicole 07:39
See, I had never read that. So, I was not anticipating this, this twist at all.

Meghan 07:46
Well, in that book was really popular too. And I can't believe nobody, like ruined the end for me. You know what I mean? Or like mentioned it at the end. So anyway...

Nicole 07:55
So many people have read it, and no one no one came up to the desk and said, hey, did you know?

Meghan 08:02
So if you like mysteries, maybe Stuart Turton is a good place to start if you want to add a little sci-fi element into your, into your reading.

Nicole 08:11
Yeah, definitely recommend. I'll tell you something. I haven't read that. I'm very excited to read and I want to hear your...your opinion of it. The Ministry of Time.

Meghan 08:21
Okay. Yes. So this book has been really popular. It's The Ministry of Time by Kayleen. Bradley, I think it's only been out a couple of months on our Hot Reads table. Okay, in this book, we start with our, our, our main character, who is unnamed. She's the narrator. And she is like a bureaucrat in Britain, the Ministry of time, you know, sort of like the Department of Time. And she has been working as a translator for this, you know, ministry and she gets recruited for a new ministry, the Ministry of Time, and she is tasked to work as a bridge. So, for someone who has, she discovers, been rescued from the past. So, there is this person, a real person, Commander Graham Gore, who was on an Arctic expedition in 1847. He was pulled out of time by the Ministry of Time, there is a machine and the Ministry of Time in the near future, sort of finds this this machine and they're like, we're gonna try it because we're gonna see what happens. works in a book. Usually, you don't know how this technology works, but we're gonna try it. And so, she lives with this Graham Gore to see if he can adapt to life in the 21st century, and to make sure that he doesn't like give himself away and also like The Ministry wants basically to see like, have they condemned these people to death by pulling them out of time, although they only picked people who were, like sort of scheduled to die anyway. So that they tried, they tried not to create too many ripples in the timeline. Because that's always the question, right?

Nicole 10:17
Or who sort of thing where you can only save people that no one would have known that they said survived anyway?

Meghan 10:23
Right. So, she sort of tries to help him adapt to life in the 21st century technology, the way that class structures have changed the role of women in society, all of that. And throughout the course of the novel, she kind of falls for him. But also, there, the Ministry of Time time travel experiment is not going super smoothly. Let's just say that the people that they brought out are not the only people displaced in time. And there's a bit of an action plot that comes in as well, in trying to preserve the people that our main characters love. In this timeline, I liked it. I liked reading it, it was. It's interesting to think about, like everything that would be different for people and
how they would adapt. And it just certain personalities, and certain personalities might be more apt for it than others. It's not like they had a whole lot of information about who these people were. And it's, it's a good book.

Nicole 11:33
And again, sci-fi like, is what sci-fi really allows us to, to think about these big questions of what...what happened. And the question of morality of if this experiment doesn't go correctly. Can you like, can you feel good about dropping these people back in time to where they are like, I'm certainly going to die?

Meghan 12:01
And they won't because yeah, they've died in the past. As far as the future knows, so yeah, you've ripped them away from everything they knew and sort of forced them into a new life without giving them a choice about it. And some of them really want to go back even though they know they're gonna die there or they died there already. Yeah, it's, it's interesting.

Nicole 12:30
People came out, they found out about Taylor Swift. And they said, No, that's not what football is like. I'm going back. I guess.

Meghan 12:38
Yeah.

Nicole 12:40
Speaking of romance, you read Calamity?

Meghan 12:43
I did. So romatsby to see is like the hot new trend in publishing right, this combo of romance and fantasy. So is romantasy a sci-fi thing? Can you Call it that? I think I made that up

Nicole 12:59
I feel like we're making it.

Meghan 13:00
Okay. So, I don't know a ton of romanticized five books, except for the Ice Planet Barbarian series by Ruby Dixon, which we have on hoopla we have a few in print, maybe we'll get more. So, it's a combination of science fiction and romance. So that series is set on an ice planet in space, but in calamity, we are following temperance Reed, who is the captain of a spaceship. And she was kicked out of her, let's say the equivalent of like a royal family. There's like certain families who control trade and technology in this universe, in space in the future. And she was kicked out of her, her wealthy family. And so now she captains this spaceship. And she's like a mercenary pirate. She doesn't attack other ships, but she just like jobs for hire. And another one of the wealthy families hires her ship to do a run that they don't want anyone to know about. And so they've hired her because she's sort of like off the books, they don't think she's going to talk to anyone because she's in kind of a bad spot where she doesn't have a lot of money. She's not connected to her family. So they've hired her to go and scout this this
planet which is across this like border that is controlled by another family, and they don't want anyone to know what she's looking for there. And they are sending their wealthy Saigon son with the crew, of course, as you know, sort of a safeguard to make sure she doesn't talk to anyone to make sure that she's giving them the right information. And also of course, so that they can follow them up.

Nicole 14:55
Or are we just sending him for lunch?

Meghan 15:00
There are legit reasons to send him. But, you know, the love makes the book a little bit spicier. So, you know, its enemies, to lovers, she doesn't want him there. He thinks she's a joke. They're in danger together, they're exploring new territory, there also turns out to be a weird cult on the planet that they have to deal with. And as they are working to find out what's going on...on the planet, who, how can they be safe there? And how can everybody gets out alive, they learn to rely on each other, he becomes part of their little family crew. And it does, in that sense, read a whole lot like a romance novel, but it's kind of fun that there's so much other stuff going on. Like, it's not just will my family like him. It's did my family send her and her crew into a death trap. So that's kind of cool. And it's part of a series. This is the first one it was on our heart rates table. And it is fairly spicy. So, if that's not your bag, just be warned. But it will be part of a series and we'll follow other people from the crew as they find love as well.

Nicole 16:19
That's nice.

Meghan 16:20
Yeah, I'm really into sci-fi.

Nicole 16:23
There's not enough cults in sci-fi. Because for me, like, I feel like cargo cults are so natural. That anytime there's a new technology, I would expect 10 cults to spring up around it, and just worshiping it.

Meghan 16:41
Yeah.

Nicole 16:42
I'm really surprised there's no one sitting around just being like, oh, my gosh, that they don't know about the time travel yet? If that's a government secret.

Meghan 16:51
Yes, in the Ministry of Time, it's a government secret. Yes. It's not exactly a cult. Sorry. Are we ready? Can I move on? Yes, I'm gonna move on to The Expanse series. So, another Sci-fi series that I have enjoyed is The Expanse series by James S.A. Corey, which is actually two different authors. And to be fair, I started watching the show, which originated on Sci-fi and went to Amazon, but the library is able to get them so you can borrow the show
from the library. I have not completed the book series, but I think I'm on five out of seven or eight. And in this series, there are factions. So, there's Earth, and which, and it's kind of like our Earth, like what you would expect after a couple of centuries of climate change, and overpopulation. And then there's Mars, which was colonized first. And then there's the belt, which is the asteroid belt between Mars and the outer planets. And Mars is people, people who've been on Mars for, again, centuries at this point. So, they consider themselves Martians. And then there are Belters who live on the asteroid belt, their bodies have actually like, over the course of centuries adapted to being born in space, they often have trouble giving birth, they cannot often come to earth, or even like other planets, because they are used to less gravity. And their bodies are elongated. They move very fluidly through space. But like, yeah, like think about like, Earth bodies are adapted for Earth. So, like when gravity when oxygen when light is not available. peoples who whose bodies can adapt to those sorts of conditions do better. It's really interesting. And so, it's not super hard core, but the technology is explained just enough to sound plausible. Anyway, there's no cult that I can remember in The Expanse series. But there are lots of political factions, which almost one storyline functions almost as a cult where this like OPA belt leader who's trying to get freedom as he sees it, you know, they're all working class people who went up there to do a job and have no political power. They're all controlled by the companies that they work for, or Earth and Mars, make all the decisions and so they're trying to gain some political power for themselves. And there are lots of different factions within that some of those function almost like cults. It's really interesting. The stories are super plot driven. But over the course of all the books, you know, you get a few decades worth of political intrigue there, ended up being these. I don't want to give too much away but there end up being these let's say portals that make it easier to travel across the solar system super-fast. There's no you know, there's a lightspeed in this series of books. It's much more tethered to technology that we have, there's one thing that makes it a little bit fast. But overall, people are taking months to get from one place to another. But yeah, between the political factions, who has the right to explore new worlds? You know, what do people want to do with it? How do people live and, you know, have a good life for themselves? In in space, and as you know, humanity goes on, what do we want to bring to the rest of the galaxy? I don't know. It's a really interesting thing. And of course, they come into contact with alien technologies that they don't understand. And just like in the ministry of time, some people are like, let's try it out. Some people are like, that seems dangerous. But what do you do if somebody decides to try it out? Anyway? You know, everybody, all the people have to deal with the consequences of that. So, yeah,

Nicole 20:54
Inevitably somebody will, especially with so many different factions, right.

Meghan 20:59
Right. Yeah, The Expanse has a lot to offer. And those books are really, really long. Just partly why I haven't I haven't gotten through them all yet. Because, you know, I like to take a break, because it takes me a little while to get through them. They're, like 600 pages. So, if you want to give sci-fi a try, but you want something a little smaller, you could try The Murder Bot Diaries by Martha Wells, which are novellas. And these are following a sentient robot murder bot. Murder bot has hacked its own governor module. So, murder bot is a security detail who calls itself murder bot because it is set up to murder anyone who threatens missions where it has tasked us security detail, but it has hacked its own governor module. So, it no longer has to, you know, listen to its own programming. And but mostly it likes to spend its time on missions, watching basically watching TV. Yeah, it's a
security unit. I've only done the first one. But it was delightful. On a short trip, actually, I did the audio, it was like three hours long. You don't have to even be going on a long, long road trip to get through the whole thing. We have the books, but the audio is available on hoopla. So, it's really kind of fun to get this complete story and a really short shot. But there's a whole series of them as murder bot, who absolutely does not describe itself as human. But is reckoning with who it wants to be now that it doesn't have to follow its programming.

Nicole 22:46
You know, seems pretty relatable.

Meghan 22:48
Yeah. Yeah. And again, there's these questions of who deserves security, what is the best thing for humanity. Another book that gets into that a little bit is Psalm for the wild belt. And this is like, years and years past this, where robots have already gained sentience and they left humanity. They were like, bye, we're gonna go do our own thing now. And they are out there in the in the wild. But one day a robot comes back and meets a wandering T monk. And the robot has come back to ask the question, what do people need? And the T monk says, I don't know, man. I don't know robot. So, they travel around together trying to figure out what what people need. There's two books in that series. It's a very philosophical book. So, if that is the part that appeals to you, I would say definitely check out some for the Wild Bill, if you want to get into the to the big questions.

Nicole 23:51
Well, speaking of robots, we were just talking about Adrian Tchaikovsky and no relation apparently a British sci-fi author that somehow neither of us has managed to read any of his like, million. But he has a new book that just came out in June, that is called service model. And it is starts off in a world where there are robot servants. And one of them manages to, as you said, sort of rewrite his code, or just sort of change his programming so that he is able to kill a human. He does. And that makes all of the new robots pause and go, Oh, can we do that? Is that something we're allowed to do? And then so...so they do, and it just turns into a you know, there's the hierarchy between humans and robots. is completely up ended? And I'm really interested to find out how that turns out because I'm not sure. From the description. I'm not sure if we're rooting for him. Ah, you know, yeah, often, you know, we see these and we automatically think, well, we wouldn't want humanity to go away. But for seeing it from the point of view of the robots, maybe they do.

Meghan 25:27
Right. Yeah.

Nicole 25:29
Maybe an enslaved race to another race when I and they're, you know, they are intelligent. So, I don't know.

Meghan 25:40
And yeah, especially now it was, you know, AI is not there yet. I mean, like,
Meghan 25:47
I'll admit, but reading sci-fi can really give you pause as you come to some new technologies and to try to consider some of the implications of things because someone else has thought it out into the future. You know, we don't know what the future holds. But here's one thing that we want to consider before moving forward.

Nicole 26:06
Yeah, yeah. It's another one of those things where a lot of us can say, hey, AI sounds like maybe it could get scary eventually. Sounds like maybe that's not a great plan, but someone's gonna do it. Right. You can't stop the whole world, from trying something that we know is out there. Right. So, something's gonna happen. Maybe not, you know, a robot uprising. But I mean, we might get to a point where we have to ask the questions of how, at what point does sentience become life?

Meghan 26:44
Right. Yeah. So, so, so interesting.

Nicole 26:49
There's another book that I'm that I've been excited to read, but it just came out on May 21. And it's not on or I haven't been able to get it in my hands yet. It's called Lost Ark Dreaming by Suyi Davie Okungbowa I believe, okay. And it's about, there was a series of environmental disasters that led to the Atlantic Ocean rising to incredibly dangerous levels, lots of the land was just covered by water. This is set in West Africa, where everyone is living in these towers, which were built for other reasons. Like they're probably members, right. But the towers are controlled by the wealthy who live at the very top. And the working class and the poor, they live at the bottom in these levels that are partially submerged womb. Right. And it's really a, I guess, a power struggle, as far as I can tell, between the elites and the other people who were like, Hey, why, why are we down here? And you're out there. So, I'm very interested in learning about that. That's another great thing that sci-fi can do is make us think about the hierarchies in society and why they're there.

Meghan 28:25
Yeah, in a new way. Yeah. Getting into DVDs and like shows movies, even if you're not a reader, you know, the library's got stuff for you. So, we talked about the expanse a little bit. I'm actually going to jump based on that to Mickey seven. So, this is a book that came out a couple of years ago by Edward Ashton, and in this the expendable working class are clones. Oh, Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro is another didn't know it was sci-fi. But Mickey seven is the seventh is the seventh iteration of Mickey. Mickey goes out on a on a mission or spacewalk or something. They think he's dead. They bring out Mickey eight. Mickey seven is not dead. Mickey seven gets back inside and has to stay hidden. Otherwise, they'll get rid of him because they've already got his clone. Working.

Nicole 29:33
Well, that was quite they really replaced him right away.

Meghan 29:36
Yeah, that's how they do. And so, there's two in this series by Edward Ashton. But the reason I bring it up is because it's set to come out in 2020, early 2025 on DVD or in theaters, with Robert Pattinson and Toni Collette, so that should be good. So, read it now before...before the movie comes out. And it gets to that whole idea of like, yeah, class and who's expendable. So, yeah, check that out. But also, in terms of like, DVD stuff that we have y'all, I did not realize this. But we have a few series that originated on Apple TV, I always thought that Apple TV never put out anything on DVD. But one of the things, there's maybe a handful of them is for all mankind, which I just finished watching. There are four seasons out. On Apple TV, we have season one, and it was released on DVD last year. So hopefully, they'll continue to put them out slowly. And this is sort of an alternate history where Russia got to the moon first. So, a lot of it follows history that we would know, fairly closely, but there's just some things that are different. So, it's all about space exploration. Who gets to go? Why do we go? What technology do we use? How fast do we develop it? How does that technology come back and improve life on Earth? It's really interesting series, not based on a book, but Apple TV here on DVD at the library.

Nicole 31:22
We also have I mean, we have a bunch of Sci-fi series. We've got one scoring, which we've got season one through four, I believe is all of that, but honestly, I never got around to it. Westworld, obviously is the one where people pay to go visit an old west. A scenario a theme park. Yeah, like a theme park, only to find out. This is this is the big twist. So, you're gonna want to scroll ahead, you're just gonna want to hit that like, plus 15 seconds thing if you don't want to know about it. Turns out they're all robots. That's what makes it sci-fi. Um, we've got Resident Alien, which is something that I have just started watching. Have you seen this?

Meghan 32:17
I have not. No, it was a show or is it a series of movies in

Nicole 32:21
It is a you can see it features...

Meghan 32:26
Did you say it's a comedy?

Nicole 32:28
It's a comedy. Okay, and I don't remember his name, but he was in Firefly, which we also have, by the way, we have Firefly.

Meghan 32:36
Nathan Fillion?

Nicole 32:38
No, it wasn't Nathan Fillion. It was the...the

Meghan 32:45
Alan Tudyk
Nicole  32:46
Alan Tudyk. Yes. And he's hilarious, right. Okay. Resident Alien is about as alien crashes to Earth. I don't remember if he was supposed to be there. Like he was supposed to be like experimenting on earth or something. But he wasn't supposed to land where he did. And he immediately gets on a fight with this human to kill the human like, so right away. We're like, this is not the good guy, right? The bad guy. He kills the human and then takes this think of this human. He's a shrewd. And he's like, Okay, I'm gonna sit here and try to find my ship and this human lives. He lived in a cottage so I'm just gonna live as him. No one's gonna know I'm here. I'm gonna look for my shrimp. And then I'm gonna go, right. Okay. But this guy was a doctor. And turns out the town's doctor gets killed. And they and the police come up to him because they're too alien because they're like, hey, Alan, today we need a doctor. And you're here and we heard that you were like this world-renowned surgeon. And so, would you mind coming and being our coroner and doctor for a while. So, he has to go into this. He knows nothing about humanity. He is weird. And it turns out whatever shape shifting he does, there are some people that can see through it, including this little including this, like 10-year-old boy, who was immediately like, the doctors alien and no one. He's got to go to therapy. No one believes him. Yeah. It's hilarious. And it's so weird, because we keep getting reminded that the alien is a bad guy. Oh, we keep getting like he tries to kill this boy, like 10 times. Like, but I'm laughing because it's hilarious and he does it in such a slapstick way that he fails. And he always does something really endearing at the end of the episode and we go oh, I like this character. I hope all goes well. In the next episode, he's like trying to poison somebody like what do I do? When you realize He's like, he's got bodies in the cellar. Like, this is not a great guy, but it's you want to you want to follow his life. So, I talked about that too much because I got excited.

Meghan  35:12
Sounds like What We Do in the Shadows.

Nicole  35:15
It can't, yeah, it kind of is that yeah, but see, that's a little bit What We Do in the Shadows because it's vampires and we expect vampires to be evil. At no point. Did I have any like crisis of conscious watching this show.

Meghan  35:32
Yeah.

Nicole  35:32
During the show. I know that I go, is it okay that I liked them? Vampires buyers, they vampire they're gonna they're gonna bite people.

Meghan  35:40
Like a lion.

Nicole  35:41
Yeah.
Meghan 35:44
You want better for the alien.

Nicole 35:45
Yeah, I want better for the alien. But then he does. He does. Real bad. And but on these humans around him really enjoy him. And I want good for them. So, if so, yeah. But we have seasons one and two. Season three has also come out. But it came out this year. So, the DVD is just not available yet. Okay. It's been picked up for season four. So, you can safely start this series, knowing that there's more coming.

Meghan 36:17
Very good. A couple of things that we do not have the show of, but we do have the books that they are based on include Altered Carbon, which came out on Netflix few years ago. This is one where people's consciousness is being like constantly uploaded to the cloud. And so, when they die, they can just swap out their consciousness, basically. You just put a little disc in the back of their head, and they're good to go. So, people are swapping bodies, traveling to different planets by just sending like their consciousness across. But there's a lot of mystery elements to it. So that I think is by Richard Morgan. And just recently on, Netflix came out the Three Body Problem. I heard there's making another adaptation of this. And the Three Body Problem is by I don't know if I'm going to pronounce this right. But chick srixon. She's in she's in it ci si n Liu. And he's a Chinese writer. And this is set against the backdrop of China's cultural revolution, a secret military project send signals into space to establish contact with aliens. An alien civilization on the brink of destruction captures the signal and plans to invade Earth. So that I think would be interesting to...to see the way you know, a non western culture interprets sci-fi and who the good guys and bad guys are. So, the show is there. The book has gotten more popular. I think because of that it's checked out right now. But we do have a few copies of it.

Nicole 37:58
Speaking of good guys and bad guys, so we have the new Dune movies, of course. And we put those on DVD and blu ray, have you seen them?

Meghan 38:10
I have not seen the new ones. I read the books years ago.

Nicole 38:14
So, I haven't read the books. So, I didn't know nobody warned me. Main character is the villain. Right? I didn't know that. I went into the first movie, and I'm five minutes in and I turned to my husband and I say, is he the villain? And then they spend the whole movie building him up to be the good guy. Right? And Zendaya loves him. So, we love him. And then the second movie again. Oh, movie Zendaya loves him more. I love anybody's Zendaya loves. I am here for I am supporting my girl. We can see the end of this movie and you find out oh, surprise. It's three hours late. Four hours of your life later and you find out he is the bad guy. Like, I want to be happy I was right but also not cool.
Yeah, there are a lot of books in that series. I don't know that they're considering making any more of the movies but we have I think all of the Dune books that were continued even after Frank Herbert died his son Brian took over Brian Herbert so you can really get into those if you want to.

Nicole  39:28
Yeah. When the movie started coming out, I'm not gonna I would just pick up the movie if I were you there's going on. But if you're one of those people that likes this sort of sort of high fantasy sci-fi, where you know, the

Meghan  39:49
Complicated world building,

Nicole  39:51
Yes, if you love some world building Dune is for you. Like every aspect of this world is explained. up and is built up. And it is. It's really well done. But I hate this dude, I hate some of the things we wanted to talk about,

Meghan  40:17
I think so.

Nicole  40:21
Oh yeah, we wanted to talk about Dollhouse. So, we have seen one of Dollhouse, we're getting season two. This is just a this is on the soldier throwback. Dollhouse had was a Joss Whedon show with Eliza Dushku. And it is about people that mostly women, but people that had committed some crime, or were indebted in some way. And the way that they were going to work that off was by having their memories erased and being used as adults. And these dolls are living people that can be rented. And what happens is like Eliza Dushku character, she goes, she goes to the doctor, and the doctor puts whatever memory or personality in their mind that the other person is paid for. And she goes off and spend the day with them. So sometimes it's a date. Sometimes it's just somebody wants to recreate, like, I believe there was an episode where someone just wanted to recreate their wife's personality, ever, every year on their anniversary. You know, they just sit down and talk to them. And, you know, it's really sad. Some of them are really gross, I'll say like, and just, like, there's real morality question and we feel for these people. But Eliza Dushku, her character starts to realize what is happening, like, part of it is that they have, you know, wiped all their memories, they don't know that they were a person once. Right? So, they really are, they're treated like robots. But these are, these are human people. And it's like really explores how that could happen, and why it's allowed. And whether these people have the right to take their lives back, even though they are indebted. But unfortunately, this was a Fox show. So, it was cancelled in second season, it was canceled a couple of it was cancelled right before like the last couple of episodes. So, what they did was the show runners took their plan for the next, you know, three seasons and just sort of like didn't time like they did to where the season series was supposed to end. So that's really weird. But it's I think it's worth it to launch at least like the first season and a half is totally worth it. If you are interested in these, these questions of how what we owe each other. Yeah, and yeah, no.

Meghan  43:13
I think that's a theme that we can end with for this podcast is that sci-fi allows us to explore what ifs and hows and whys in a really interesting setting. People should check out more of it.

Nicole 43:29
It's a great time for you to check out more of it because we have summer reading her like going on. Hi, this prize is You are so welcome to sign up. We did start in June, but we are running until August. And if you've read at all during the summer, we are willing to we will believe you get you signed up, we can mark it down all you need to have done is read 15 minutes a day for a span of 30 days, not even consecutive.

Meghan 44:06
Right

Nicole 44:07
So, and you get entered into a drawing just for us for signing up.

Meghan 44:16
What could be easier? Nothing.

Nicole 44:18
nothing reading. You're already come into the library. We know that you're already doing all this stuff. So why not get a prize for it?

Meghan 44:26
Exactly. So, come in and check us out. You can check out a lot of these books on Libby and hoopla as well. If you are traveling and you need something on the go thanks for listening