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EMILY BISHOP: Hi, I'm Emily Bishop, a journalism student at Western Washington University. I'm a Taurus, my blood type is O+, and I am a massive horror fan. And I always have been. I was a spooky kid. Before I was reading Stephen King as a kid, I devoured the Goosebumps series by RL Stine. Allegedly, when Stine first met King, he told him, "you know, a magazine once called me a literary training bra for you." Whether this story is apocryphal or not, it does ring true, for me at least. Reading horror as a kid definitely helped form my literary palette. And I had a feeling I wasn't alone in this sentiment. So I decided to talk to the experts, librarians, teachers, authors, and former spooky kids.

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BETHANY HOGLUND: My name is Bethany Hoglund. I am the deputy library director. I have been working here at the library for just about 25 years, I started as a page in high school and worked my way up through the ranks. I got my library degree back in 2005. And just love the library and staying here. As deputy library director, I am in charge of youth services. So that's children's services and teen services. And more- I recently became the deputy library director just two years ago when the pandemic started. So I now have adult services librarians under me as well. But my office is here in children's. This is where my home has been. I was the head of children's services and teen services for 10 years before becoming the deputy director.

BISHOP: So, how much do you find yourself like interacting with kids within the library on a day to day basis?

HOGLUND: Not as much as I used to be now that I am in more of an administrative role, but over the years, like, I really believe to be a good children's librarian, you have to be interacting with the kids. I still do story times weekly, we just started up story times again about a month ago. And I do story times for kiddos ages birth to three. But I have to say I really honestly miss working out on the desk. I used to do that a lot. And that's checking out books, but also readers advisory, which is when kids ask for something to read, and I get to help match them to whatever that is. And that's I think what we're going to talk about a little bit today and that is one of my favorite elements of the job actually.

BISHOP: That's great. So yeah, do kids come in here like specifically asking for scary stories?

HOGLUND: They do.

BISHOP: Yeah.

HOGLUND: That they do.

BISHOP: What is your response when they come in looking for that?

HOGLUND: So, it's a fun challenge. Um, you know, scary. We definitely have scary stories down here. Scary stories is a genre. Kids as- just like adults, love scary movies, love scary everything. I think the first thing I do is ask them what grade they're in, you know, to help gauge the appropriateness. I also like to ask them what kind of scary they're looking for because scary is

totally different to each kid. To one kiddo scary might be supernatural or ghost to another kid scary might just be like, survival stories or adventure stories. To another one, scary is like suspense or, and to some kids scary is even meaning like the discomfort of interpersonal relationships. Like that is... That is a little too intense for a lot of kids right now. And that's actually something that we've been hearing since we reopened during the pandemic is that kids, some kids tolerance for discomfort and for... How do we want to say... They've, they need gentler reads they'd become sense- more sensitive, we'll just say, to elements of peril or of the unknown or suspense.

BISHOP: Do you think there are like any, any benefits from these kids coming in and reading those types of stories, kind of getting to experience some of those fears with the safety net of the book?

HOGLUND: I think that's a great thing about children's literature and books in general, right? I mean, they- we like to say that they can be windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors. Mirrors, you can see yourself in a book, reflected your experiences and that can also be really comforting, right and reaffirming that you are not the only one that goes through whatever the situation or the circumstance might be. Windows is that you can have a look into someone else's life and someone else's existence and their experience. And sliding glass doors is kind of like where your life kind of intersects with this other story, like how you can relate to each other. Now necessarily for like ghost stories, I'm not sure if that has as much relevant. But fiction and literature is a great, and even nonfiction, is a really great way to experience things and learn about things that you know nothing about. Now, for scary stories, I will be honest, I am not a scary story reader, I am what you would call a sensitive reader. So, I am also a sensitive watcher of things. So, I personally don't understand the appeal of terrifying yourself, because I will keep myself up, like at night forever. Like, that's just not a thing. But I know that that's not how everybody reacts to scary stories, and that it like, makes them feel more alive and on the edge and their curiosity and then they can go explore these things. And it's super fun to talk about, like the what ifs? Are ghosts real? And what would you do if you were suddenly found alone on an

island by yourself? I mean, like, so there's a lot of fun. I think some of these books make really good conversation pieces, as well.

BISHOP: So are you ever concerned when recommending books to kids that they might get too freaked out? I know that you said that you talk to them.

HOGLUND: Yeah, yeah, you know, I don't know if concerned is the right word. But I'm very, like with anything we do. Like the goal is to match appropriateness with the child in front of you, right? Whether it's a little tiny kid or an older kid, you still want something to be developmentally appropriate and have the appropriate... Just the appropriate level for we're children's library for a reason. So down here, we have materials for kids ages birth, the roughly just 13-14. And then that goes up to teens. Because, you know, things when you're a teen, you have different topics than, than and different life experiences than you would it's like, maybe a younger one. Um, if there is a kiddo, I mean, we have had kids that come in and say, you know, I really want to read like Stephen King's It. Okay, you're looking at him, you're like, you might be 10. Like, okay, you're in fourth grade. Okay. Well, Stephen, you know, It is not in the kid's collection, It is upstairs in the adults collection, I really want to help you find something down here. What is it, you've heard about It? Or that you know about It that you're really intrigued by? And then having that conversation to see what they think about it. Like, what were they hoping? What were they excited to read and then matching them with something down here. So, you know, I'm not going to say you can't go read It. But I am gonna say let's try down here first. Ultimately, reading decisions are up to a parent and their child, a caregiver and their child. They can negotiate what is appropriate, they can talk about it. And some kids who are 10, their parents say, Yeah, let's read It together. Great, great. That is for you. That is not for me to decide. But without the parent there with the conversation, I will guide to our collection here and say, you know, if- I hear you really want to talk to- read It, how about you talk to your parent about that. And we can go from there.

BISHOP: So what advice do you have for kids who, like are seeking out those kinds of scarier stories? How- what what should they look for? How should they go about it?

HOGLUND: They can always talk to a librarian. You know, each kid is different, right? So like, I would just say, go talk to someone that knows books and tell them what you want, you know, tell them and then if they're a good, you know, person behind the desk, they'll suss out how scary they want to be. Because like, in the course of a conversation, you might find that like, you might be thinking they want some some really supernatural alien or ghost story, but no, no, just the dark is scary to them, they might need a gentler scary story, they may not need like a sheer horror story. When I have a new kid that comes in that says, I really- I've never read scary, I want to try scary, I usually try to choose something that might be a tiny bit gentler as a start, and be like, hey, try this. Whenever we do book recommendations, I like to give multiples for- for, you know, for them to look and see. So give them a couple of different choices, a range of like, maybe more gentle, medium, and then really scary and they can self select and choose. One thing that I always try to tell kids is that... Is to remember that they are in charge of their reading. Okay, so they have the power to open a book, they also have the power to close the book. So if they choose a book, and they find it is not doing good for them, they feel like it's too scary. It's uncomfortable. There's, you know, something going on, all they have to do is shut the book. They can open it later if they want or they don't have to at all. So I like to tell kids to like just not just for scary books that all the way around. If you're ever reading something that doesn't feel comfortable to you or scary or what- put it down. You can always go talk to an older adult about it. You never have to pick it back up. It's okay not to finish books, but it's okay to give them a little break. Talk to someone, sit and think about it for a while. I think us as adults, we've done that often and it's a skill that I think some kids sometimes feel some shame if they don't finish a book. I mean adults are like that too. Like I have to finish this book. You do not. You do not. Your power is in shutting that book. And there's nothing wrong with that. So I like to tell kids that so they know that they don't have to feel bad if they feel scared about something.

BISHOP: So if their parents- if there's a kid wanting to get into horror, but their parents might be a little apprehensive about it, how should they go about like talking to their parents about that?

HOGLUND: Yeah, I feel like I'd be that parent, just because I have my own aversion to scary stories. And, you know, scary also is- means something different to parents. And so there might be a tension between what the kid wants and the parent wants. But what I would say to the parent and the child is, try to choose something to read it together, start together, whether you get something on audio, and you guys listen to it together, and then talk about it and see how scary was, you know, see if the kiddo has the nightmares, because if they do, maybe that's an indication, it might be a little bit too scary. So either read a book aloud together. I'm a big proponent of read alouds. Even in elementary school, I mean, nothing wrong with that even later if you'd like. So have a family read aloud, or listen to it in the car or something like that, I think that's a good way to start. Folktales often have- are often a little creepy. So even just jumping into some traditional folktales that we might all know, rereading it through a different lens. Like with Hansel and Gretel or something, you might be like, Oh, wow, oh, that's a little creepier than I thought. So I think revisiting some classic folktales are kind of a gentle way to start too sometimes. And I would also say that the parent doesn't know their child best. So I will never override, like what a parent says, like, you guys know your child best. Yeah.

BISHOP: I think you've answered all the questions that I had. Is there anything I didn't ask you about that you'd like to speak on?

HOGLUND: Let me think here, um, I mean, I really do always encouraged children and parents to talk about the things that they're reading. Because I think that's important. I think people can connect and bond over books. And that helps if a child has read something that is maybe too scary, they can help work that out. But I think that goes for any book. I mean, there's a lot of kids

that come in here that don't just ask for books that are scary. Like for a while, it felt like we had a lot of like fifth grade girls, sixth grade girls that came in and their request was, I really want a book that will make me cry. You know, like that, that, you know, going back to why do you read scary books or, I think just it's a way to access emotions and to feel things that maybe you don't, hopefully don't have to feel everyday in life and it's a way to access that and experience it be like Okay, so that's what that's what fear is like, or that is what sadness or something is like. So I think again, books are a great way to do that as well. And everybody has their own tolerance for it. For sure.

BISHOP: Bethany gave me a list of children's horror books. Titles included the Small Spaces series by Katherine Arden. Scary Stories for Young Foxes by Christian Heidecker and the Eerie Elementary series by Jack Chabert. Coraline by Neil Gaiman and Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark by Alvin Schwartz were also on the list. Those two were favorites of mine when I was a kid.

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CASS: So I'm Cass. I am an Early Childhood Education major at Western right now. I'm also doing my preschool internship.

CAROLINE BROOKS: Yeah, I'm Caroline Brooks, and I'm a double major news/ed and creative writing.

BISHOP: Cass, can you talk a little bit more about your work with preschool classes?

CASS: Yeah. So right now I'm going through my preschool internship through Woodring. And part of that is doing like a project with a group of preschoolers, I'm actually working with a group of kindergarteners. And the project topic is- can be a lot of things. Some people are doing it on chickens. And I'm doing mine on storytelling. So part of that project is working with a group of six kindergarteners to do some storytelling and learn about why people story tell, and the different ways that we tell stories and express ourselves through, through sculpture, through books, through movies, through plays through music.

BISHOP: And about how long have you been working on that?

CASS: It's been since I believe, late March, early April. And the project will go through the middle of June.

BISHOP: And you brought Caroline in for a writing activity.

CASS: Yeah. So we were the kids and I are working on creating a story of our own that we're going to publish into a book and then make into like a movie. And so I didn't know how to create a story and I was like, I know someone who does because I know that create- that Caroline's a creative writing major. And so I asked her to come in to help us brainstorm, like the plot of our story that we can then turn into a book. She was very helpful in helping us kind of channel the very different ideas that the kids had for what they wanted to include in our story.

BISHOP: Yeah, so what was that process brainstorming? Like, can you walk me through how that went? Both of you.

CASS: Yeah. So like, before we even brought Caroline in, I kind of brought the- brought up the idea to them of just like making a story of ourselves for like, of our own. And they were really excited about that. And I was like, what kind of story would you want to make? And I was like, would you want to make a happy story, a sad story, and action story. And they're immediately, all six of them were like, a scary story, a scary story, which I was surprised about, because I was not the kind of kid that liked scary stories. But they were all about it. And I was not expecting them to agree on what kind of story they wanted. But they are all immediately like, we want a scary story. And so we kind of came into the brainstorming session with Caroline, knowing that we wanted to make a scary story. And so I was asking them, like, what kind of- what kind of things scare you like, what would you want to write about? And one kid was like, monsters underneath my bed, or vampires, or lightning. And so it was really interesting to hear all of their different ideas. And those eventually got incorporated into the book that we made with Caroline.

BISHOP: Yeah, Caroline, how did you work with the kids coming up with the idea?

BROOKS: Well, you know how kids are, they literally throw out like a million things at once. And so we decided that it was going to be a scary story, although one person wanted it to be a happy story. And so I think we decided on like it having a happy ending. But I was like, Okay, guys, let's brainstorm. And then they just started throwing stuff out, like literally so random. They were like, oh, a mouse and lightning and a zombie. And I was like, okay, and then one kid was like, oh, a banana. And so we decided to like, basically transform, like, all of the ideas. And we were like, okay, like, well, what if there's a team of like scary vampire bananas. And like, every

vampire banana has like a different personality or like look to them. Like one's gonna be like a mouse kind of looking vampire banana one's gonna be like, have like lightning powers. And that way we could like incorporate them all into characters, like all the kids got their say of like, what character they wanted.

BISHOP: So what is- is the story completed? Or is it still still a work in progress with the kids?

CASS: It's been... They, the story of making process with them has been really interesting, because instead of trying to change another one's ideas, they just add to it. And so one person's like, I want, I want bananas that eat people and the other person- and another kids like, Yeah, that's great. And how about they also live in a haunted mansion? And the kids like, Yeah, that's great. How about they also, like, go and hunt people and this characters in it, and this character is in it. And so it's turned into this giant, ongoing story, like we were just revising it on Thursday. And they just added a whole team of wiener dogs that are- not weiner, hot dogs that are called the weenies that team up with the bananas at to hunt people. But then, you know, like an elephant comes in and rescues them, and it makes all the bananas explode and turn back into humans. And so it's like, very much a full story, but it's getting bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger, because they keep adding on to it.

BISHOP: So why do you think they chose to go in this scary direction with the story?

CASS: I think that in general, they really like scary stories, like they have a lot of scary books that they like, quote, unquote, scary books that they read, during storytime. And I think like it's the scary books that they're most interested about because they kind of relate to the scariness and then they see

someone overcome the scariness. And that kind of makes them feel empowered that like, oh, this might scare me, but I know a little bit more about how to overcome that. And so I think they really liked the scary books because it helps them kind of learn how to navigate new situations. And so I think the kids were excited to make their own scary book. And even though it was like a really scary book about bananas eating people and drinking their blood and lightning, and all that stuff, it still had a happy ending and it's- and the people all turn all the bananas turn back into people and you know, the bad guys didn't win. It's just interesting that they want to explore these frightening scary concepts within their play, and then they still come to like a happy ending.

BISHOP: Well, those are all the questions I have, is there anything else that I like didn't bring up or ask about that you want to talk about, either of you?

BROOKS: Something that I found that was like, funny is like, I'm like, I'm pretty good with kids. But like, it's been a really long time since I've been around kids that young. I had, like, no idea where the line was for like violence and like gore. And it was the sort of thing where I was like, Okay, we sat down to write like vampire bananas, like, there's no harm in that. But the more that they talked, the more they were, like going into detail about, like chopping off fingers, and like, guts spilling out. And it's like, there's a part of me that was like, so apprehensive, because I was like, Oh, this is like, not appropriate. But I mean, if they're thinking about it, then it's probably like, at least somewhat appropriate, you know? So I don't know, I thought that was kind of weird, because I was just like, wait, where's, like, where's the line with these kids? Like, it's been so long to have been with this age group.

CASS: And that's like, something that kids do. Like, even in like that session of storytelling. There was a kid that was like, looking at the camera and putting up his middle finger to the camera and being like, I'm putting- I'm showing my middle finger to the camera. They love testing those boundaries

and finding out like, how far can I push this? Like, how gory can this book get before someone's gonna stop me, you know, and if you let them continue to explore those boundaries, and continue to explore scary stuff, they're gonna find their own limits. And that's really great, because that's something that they're going to need to practice doing throughout their lives. And so we didn't put any cap to like the goriness they were including in their story. And they didn't take it very far. They took it as far as they were comfortable with. And that was really, really good for their own storytelling.

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CHRIS VON HALLE: Yeah, I'm Chris von Halle. I actually just got a new job as a copywriter and proofreader at uh, Sun Joe. I'm located in Hoboken, New Jersey, and yep, I'm an author. I have a couple of science fiction books published with a, an indie press. And I've self published a children's horror series, three books of that,

BISHOP: How long have you been writing?

VON HALLE: Ooh, I think, as soon as I was able to write pretty much. Before that, I drew a lot of stuff too. So I think before I knew how to write, I was kind of telling stories through drawing. So...

BISHOP: Can you talk about the children's horror stories you've written?

VON HALLE: Yeah, sure. Um, it's called *Between Dark and Light*. It's, I would say it's most closely like *Goosebumps* by RL Stine, very popular

series. It's uh, each book is its own kind of standalone story. And they're short, packed with plot twists, and they can get dark sometimes. But what I kind of like with the series, myself is, I call it *Between Dark and Light* for a reason. So there's sometimes a little bit of like, you know, lighter moments, too, that I like to put throughout the books.

BISHOP: What was the process of you writing those books?

VON HALLE: That's a good question. I don't even really... I guess it... Just when an idea pops in my head, you know, actually, the first book was actually a dream, which is pretty fun. That's actually pretty rare for me. But uh, I just woke up and was like, Oh, that's really cool. I want to write about, you know, write that story, you know, so, then it's just a matter of sitting at the keyboard and, you know, getting writing until you feel like you've gotten it as right as you can, you know.

BISHOP: So, um, were you a fan of horror as a kid?

VON HALLE: Oh, yeah, definitely. *Goosebumps*, like I said, has a huge impact on me. I devoured those when I was like a kid. Actually, occasionally, I'll even pick one up, you know, from the library, some- something like one of the newer ones that he has, you know? But like, those old classic series, I just, like ate those up.

BISHOP: Did you have a favorite *Goosebumps* book?

VON HALLE: Um, you know, not really... Well, I guess if I had to say maybe Stay Out of the Basement? I think that was like the second installment of that series, and I read one of his newer ones, it was like A Clown On...actually, I'm not really sure. A Clown on Clown Street or something like that. I forget what it was called exactly. But it was a clown story and that one was a lot of fun, I would say.

BISHOP: So what inspired you to write books within the children's horror genre?

VON HALLE: I've definitely- I always feel like going back to Goosebumps just because it was such an impact definitely inspired me to go that road. I do think I just have naturally a bit of a dark side. I also just, for some reason, I really liked that- the contrast of like a kid having to deal with, like really dark things, you know? It just, it's an interesting... Trying to put it in the right way. I mean, just because they're so young and vulnerable in a way, and everyone deals with dark things, it's certainly something they can relate to, you know.

BISHOP: So you read horror as a kid? Do you read horror still as an adult?

VON HALLE: Yes, I do. I- definitely around Halloween, I would say. But I would say, lately actually, probably mostly, and I like psychological thrillers, if it's not like straight up horror. Then it's something that kind of has a little bit of a dark side to it, you know, like a psychological thriller.

BISHOP: How does writing horror for children differ from- from writing in other genres?

VON HALLE: It is a very interesting genre. And I would say, I guess it's because it's, it's kind of like you want to, you kind of have to be careful in a way, I guess. Just because, I mean, like, there's some parents and like adults who like don't even want their kids to read horror at all. Which I think is crazy. I think it's a really good genre for kids. I mean, everyone deals with horror, it's a good way for them to kind of indirectly, you know, deal with it in a way. But what makes it tough as a writer is, you don't- don't want to go too far either. And, like, you know, scare them too much or... There's like- but there's a huge, like, gray area, you know, like, you know, one kid with scares that might not scare another some kids, just like grownups love horror, and eat it up and others, you know, are too scared, you know?

BISHOP: So how do you try to find that balance in your writing between, you know, going, going to dark, maybe?

VON HALLE: I actually don't even really know, because I actually, sometimes try to push it a little bit, like on purpose. I think that's part of like, the fun of it for me. You know, I guess it's just a natural gut feeling of like, at least from my perspective, what feels like, might be too much, you know, but I... It's hard to really even describe how I would really know. It's a gut feeling, I guess.

BISHOP: What's your favorite thing about writing in that genre?

VON HALLE: I think just the fact that, um, I really just- all of my books and stories are always about kids. And I just cause it's like, they have so much to overcome in, in a story, you know, because they're not really you know, they're living in an adult world and adults rule the world, right? So it's like, they have like added in a way they have even more to overcome, which kind of makes it fun. And they have to out smart the adults often you know, it's just fun because they're already kind of at a disadvantage naturally, you

know. So they have to solve the- defeat the villain, but also, you know, overcome being the challenges of naturally being a child as well.

BISHOP: There are currently three books out in the Between Dark and Light series, The Old Person Curse, The Horror at Grover Canyon State Park, and Uncle Jed's Secret.

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TORI CORKUM: Hi, I'm Tori Corkum. And I've been a fan of horror ever since I was a child.

NINA: My name is Nina. I use she/her pronouns. I'm a junior in Public Relations at Western

NOAH HARPER: My name's Noah Harper and as a kid, I was a really big fan of the Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark books.

BISHOP: Yeah, was that your favorite of that genre?

HARPER: I don't know about favorite, maybe just most accessible because I don't think I was allowed to have those books. But I would go to my cousin's house a lot. And the three of them are a lot older than me. And so they just like had the books and we were going through the stuff. And I remember that

it had like, the creepiest face on the cover. It was like a skull or something, just like a weird face and I was just like, oh, yeah, I got to read some of these.

BISHOP: What was your favorite horror- horror book as a kid?

CORKUM: Yeah, so the books that I would read obviously there's like Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark, Goosebumps, there was this really silly one that, this one was my favorite. Because I just I love the pictures in it. Did you ever hear about the book Frannie K Stein?

BISHOP: I don't think I did.

CORKUM: They're so cute. So it's basically Frankenstein. But she's a little girl which is dope. You know, girl power women in STEM. We love that. And it's just all of her random adventures creating monsters and you know, science laboratory experiments and freaking out all the kids in her class. She's like eight, but she just like loves like ooze and guck and creating things and so I just, I always thought that was so cool. Like she just was so different. It was awesome.

BISHOP: You like reading horror as a kid?

NINA: Yes, I did. Goosebumps was my favorite. I used to read them in the library. And I used to get made fun of for reading them, like in the middle of the school day. But yeah, I also liked watching horror movies when I was little.

BISHOP: Do you have a favorite Goosebumps book?

NINA: I don't remember the specific name first- I also remember Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark. But my librarian just had a bin of them. And I would just like, scan them and like just pick stories out from different ones. But yeah.

BISHOP: So why did you like that genre of story?

HARPER: That's a really good question. I would say, because it was, I like to, you know, I don't know, the, the short, easy creepiness of it, where it's just like, so addicting. Like, I don't know, though. The one where, it's like, the girl goes through her whole life with like a ribbon on her neck. And then she unties it and her head falls off. Have you read that one?

BISHOP: Yeah.

HARPER: I love that. Because it's just like, as a kid, I'm like, What a shocking twist. Like unbelievable. And I don't know, it felt a little special reading it. I think just because I wasn't allowed to. But I was also really into Goosebumps. So I think it was just like the dark magical realism was just really interesting.

BISHOP: So why did you like the genre?

CORKUM: Yeah, I think it was, it was exciting. I mean, it still is, but as a child, you know, when you're learning about the world, and you don't even know the full extent of everything set before you. It's really cool to be in that space of like, going into the unknown, you know, queue Elsa, right? Into the unknown. But um, I think specifically with horror, and even with film, like, you know, like all the Tim Burton films and all this fun, you know, Goosebumps books. I just, I love being on the edge of my seat, right? And I loved something that could capture my imagination and just let it run wild. Yeah, a lot of books just didn't do that. Because they were slower, and there wasn't anything at stake. But with horror, there's always something at stake.

BISHOP: So why do you think you liked the genre?

NINA: Um, I think... Well, I've always just had a knack for that kind of stuff. I want to work in, like, criminal investigation and like, in that realm, so I think I've just always, obviously, they aren't that similar, like horror and like, criminal, but always just like, I've always had a knack for it. Neither of my parents like horror. So it's... I don't know, it's just been something I've always liked and like, preferred to read. And I think it's also like, I like horror and scary and like true crime stuff, because I get bored really easily reading and watching stuff. And you're never bored. Like you're always on the edge of your seat if you're watching a good or reading a good horror film or books, so yeah.

BISHOP: Do you still read horror books now as an adult?

HARPER: No, I watch horror movies. And even then not that much. Like I had read part of Salem's Lot. And I don't know, I wasn't super into it. I think I- just as I get older, my attention span is a lot shorter, and so I much more enjoy, I think, movies. But if I like had more time and maybe more ability to commit to things, like if I really sat down was like, I'm gonna read a book, I

would probably read like a horror book. I've talked to my dad who is really into, Clive Barker. And so I said to him, like, Yeah, I think I... I think I might read like the pinhead series, what is it called? Hellraiser. just because it was such a like important book that turned into a cool movie, so it's like, ah I might as well read the source material, but I haven't really gotten around on that. Cause it's much quicker for me to watch an hour movie than I guess read a book.

BISHOP: So do you still read horror books?

CORKUM: You know, I wish I did. I do... I watch film, a lot more horror films. I do, I Okay, at Barnes and Noble. They did like a reprint of all these bougie looking editions of old classic books. So I bought like Phantom of the Opera, one of my favorites. I bought this book full of Edgar Allan Poe poems. And they just looked beautiful. And so I've, I you know, I've read through them occasionally, but I wish I could give more time to reading horror.

BISHOP: Do you still read horror books?

NINA: I don't read horror books as much anymore. I watch a lot of horror movies now. I've kind of strayed towards like different genres of reading like young adult, like fiction and whatnot. But yeah no, I've kind of been trying to get not horror, but I've been trying to get more into reading true crime like [indistinct] and stuff. So yeah, yeah.

[Typewriter Typing]

BISHOP: Horror is a broad genre that covers all manner of books for young and old alike. The catharsis we can find in these stories, even as kids is maybe why they have such a lasting impact on us. I'll leave you with a quote from author Neil Gaiman that sums up the sentiment. Fairy tales are more than true, not because they tell us that dragons exist but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten

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