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Welcome everybody to our it seems like it's midnight I I the line to be able to present for this workshop our author, guest of honor

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for this. Are there a son who is a wonderful rider of both adults near Sci-fi.

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Other sorts of addiction, and also probably. Why a Is that what classify sure?

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Our children. I won't go into that because I wanted to have as much time as possible to do the workshop.

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But it's a delight to welcome rearissa so please welcome her.

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So I am hoping you're here because you are interested in writing so true.

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Yeah, Okay, if you're not that's Okay, you can still be here, too.

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So I write a lot every single day and over the course of 10 years.

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That means i've actually published a number of books the any line instruction is probably the most known book.

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It's a spectacular tension book looking at a slightly rationalized United States just around the corner today. Course that wasn't 2,013, and that corner got a lot closer and more reality Yeah, it does pause it a

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nonviolent movement for change out being a hidden port for dictatorship.

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And it really is is the launch of my fascination.

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With how Fantasy and Sci-fi, and especially the fiction, can really go to Bat for social justice.

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This is not unusual to especially side by donre it's been been for years, but I think as writers, we can become more and more skillful at how we go about doing that more recently I also have written a series of stories

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that are often called Ya or middle grade although what i've noticed is that parents we get with their 4 year olds, and my 96 year old.

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Grandmother also loves them. We don't get everybody in between what i'll talk more about this with the speech later on.

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But what I really set out to do with this fantasy series is to say that fantasy, fiction does not have to rely on violence and war to be compelling, fascinating, to have all those elements of magic and have a adventure that

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we so much love in these books? I really tried to show things like migrant laborers rising up for justice and liberation.

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Women standing up for their fully quality in society, young people who build a peace army to stop more than the threat of violence de escalating violence in their communities.

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And this has been such a amazing journey to hear from readers all over the country and being around the world, how much they enjoy these stories, and that they're it's working for them.

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So today, what i'm really hoping we're gonna explore together is a sense of how w what is it that makes social justice fiction work, and conversely, what is it that makes it not So let's go around the

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room. What i'd love to hear from. each of you is your name nicely and clear, so that we can hear from you all, and a social justice issue that you are passionate about.

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Okay, I am going to start there.

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I'm ready mental health and capability right we have preferred in these later.

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So Okay, go ahead. Okay, pull up. My name is Samantha.

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I am passionate about security issues i'm grace Lgbtq.

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Right.

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And the environment Okay, go ahead. Oh, yeah, Richard, do you have a great you care about and gosh all of the above.

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But maybe we should do that in race and that's true the software constructed race

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Oh, you do not have to be original. it's not a requirement you? Yes, yeah. let's go with you.

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What my name is, sarah I Guess we're gonna have to say issues about density.

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Joseph covers a lot of things. Yes, my name is Lya Grover.

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Indigenous rights.

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I'm Holly, and my issue is to increase the use of the sheet problem in all the world.

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Scott and environment i'm I'm trying to i'm passionate about

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Yeah,

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And the

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I'm sorry

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I'm Carly and everything up there and

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It's not just for your customer service rep hi Carolyn.

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We're all over by the way the finally but

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I'm thinking so

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Let's see yeah all the

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And i'm Megan, and i'll be facing we haven't, said gender, yet just gender equality

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Colonialism, and particularly deconstruction of such. we also have from our online participants separation of Church and State

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And when Wendel Wagner claims to have personally started the Short for People Rights movement 50 years ago,

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Wow! well, I wish you had a magic wand, and I could just go when when that would be the world that we need to put in.

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So we all, short of that. I think that stories play a really important role in helping us both expand the mind of what's possible normalize what should be normalized.

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Hey, please, Scropt, what's happened and pause it? not just a Utopia, but a wage So that brings me to the first thing that I love most about writing for social justice.

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It's not just about the change you want it's not just about the thing that's really bad it's about the mechanism of J.

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How good does the story turn? so? popcorn style that means anybody can shout out anything, are some ways that change happens either in real life or conviction.

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For example, aliens come and fix everything right exactly what's that?

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Problem and make this thing music videos. music videos change the world revolution, violent or nonviolent.

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Yup natural good that's come and we'll wipe out everything over everybody, has to rise from the access of them.

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The common person stands up. Yup: Yeah. Yeah. doing that, you know, elaborate like depth of the loved one. depth of a hero.

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Depth of a villain. Yeah, definitely we're joining together.

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Yes, sacrifice the sacrifice.

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Right? Exactly. Magic magical transference, news articles, news articles. Yeah.

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Whistleblowing through this power which sometimes verges on the magical Take just taking to stand that you, your common people, speaking up and then modeling new behavior so that others can see it in

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Yes, long term policy change from the social movement. right? Did you hear that long term policy change from social movements? Education?

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Education, generational education like parents, the kids generational system. time Chipsright, I mean.

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I was just at the top one like when's Anara's interests right in the dispossessed contrasting examples of what is Utopia change of leadership clients right and good a company.

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thing tech a new tech invention find control. I love it.

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What did you say? sharing a perspective, sharing a perspective?

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Alright, so we could go on. But this mechanism of change is also part of your theory of changes can be reflective.

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But what you have experienced in your life what you think is possible, and what you've learned about study right?

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So i've studied no violent change it makes me much more willing to believe that such things are possible.

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And you happen all the time right about it so your mechanism is what's gonna carry your story from once one outset, one beginning scenario to the end.

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So here's what I like to do thinking about all these issues.

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Oh, you're gonna need some paper by the way if you don't have any.

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You just love these scroll Stuff I love you, or something pass it around.

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Raise your hand to your friends, you can meet some

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Oh, I should have asked, Is there any mechanism? Okay, Just sample from our brush on line.

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So here's what I want you to do thinking about these just soon issues and all those amendment changes.

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I like it right now as many one sentence, story thoughts and offices that you can think of in the next 3 min.

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Right? So an alien comes and enlightens everybody about Fees have to be super complex.

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So workers up for their duck for justice, and over through the Dictator the time travel brings the supper gets to the present, and they speak up for bodily at time, right?

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And they might, John. Good night. Right? Okay. 3 min

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Alright give that less spot down on there no of course I wouldn't know if you came up with some trends online.

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If you can type it into the chat box or insert people in the room.

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So you have a chance to write that down silly ridiculous, utterly unbelievable something you might never ever write about ever in your professional right or unfriendly career who's got one

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toy, that enables the toy that enables the to recover their loss.

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Wonder in the world around. Wow, boy, built its coy where they can. adult can recover their lost wonder of it.

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What else do we have? Yes, you just rates one a fragile supply at the swamp of who was here.

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Wow! a frog! Tell the fly about one of about who is here at the swung verse.

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Well, who else got one? Yes, cheating and borrowing from the group but a pandemic field.

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So 1% all right. That was really changed. Yes, indigenous time travelers prevent the colonization of the Americas.

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Yeah, there is a whole video game. Yes, A young idea was religious.

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Man dislikes the theocracy of his society because it has no real spirituality.

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Wow, man, just like the opposite of society, because it has no real spirituality.

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Excellent. I'm just repeating it loud so that we can make sure people here.

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Anybody online, not yet. Okay, shy online. Yes, I like to think about sentences that I would put in a story.

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So on the negative side I put our silence became the loudest sound in the world, and yet we still were not hurt.

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Wow! you all hear that. So Okay. Our silence became the loudest sound in the world, and yet we still were not hurt.

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Anybody else. it's not good

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All right, dinosaurs, sponsoring the heads of oil, Execs

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Yes, something like that. Half of all lights on earth are called voice.

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Would that include all biological life, like fish, trees, plants, or just the whole kind of words

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Alright. So what do we learn from this kind of brain of exploration?

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You've been hearing each other's ideas What what's revealed about the central writers possibilities possibilities.

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Yes, what else it's kind of hard to come up with a way of investing for serious an important issue through picture that isn't the or light or business you know basically right So it's pretty good in the one setting

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synopsis. It seems like it's symmetric right aliens to liberate those people, and everything's great.

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The trick of the writer is to make that believable just a minute.

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What else? Well, there's other options that nonviolent ones, or any of them, have to kill 1%.

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You could have them haunted by dinosaurs instead, which is cooler.

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Yeah. Yeah, there are more pathways through chain transformation than the immediate ones that come to mind because of what we've experienced and learned about or seen, or the how many barbecues.

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: Yeah. Great: point. Yeah. I have one person changing their way.

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Right, when we do it like a flat brainstorm like this, particularly with other people, we get that benefit of getting outside of our And even if we end up going to our original idea, hey?

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Good do so with the awareness of all the other options that are also on the table, and it makes us better writers.

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Either. We're going to address some of those options about Why, we didn't go on that path right?

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Why wasn't there a violent revolution? Why, was there no evolution, or vice versa?

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And it lets us address things along the way and also get into the habit of looking for those very possibilities.

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So we don't overload the obvious right why didn't the rich guy just get that all the money, and then could solve all our problems right?

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There is an answer that, but as right as we want to know what that answer is.

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Any questions. right? So this is the mechanism of change is how especially it's mythropic authors.

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How you transform your story over time it's not just about building that world out, or even the vision of the world where you want to get to It's about how does it start to move And shift this is the most fascinating part

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of the story for me. So a little talk about when think of the book!

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Social justice preferably minneapolis book or movie.

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I'll take all the options that you really love what made it work?

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What was exciting about it, for you. Go ahead, popcorn style.

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Well, yeah, and little baby in trouble, little girl. baby control sexy.

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Brain Guy and the hero is small person like me. .

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Unexpected hero. Yeah, yes, yeah. great. Thank you. galaxy, Quest what you pretend to be.

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K. can change you into what you will pretend to be, and also the need for heroes and stories by taking it.

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So you may get become the heroes story. Yeah, that transformational, almost mental magic in the way beautiful.

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What I don't really know. but Kevin VI.

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Is a video game where the Maintainer clarified phone chronic and actually does like impact.

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Are you good and like it's not about finding something about like learning language.

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So you enjoy the the learning that is not just about fighting, and and that the the hero or the the protagonist, has a a challenge in name.

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That they're right. I think the other side I just even live in great.

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It says spontaneously it just inspires in the way that they find their path to a solution that doesn't eradicate one or the other.

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The other one is to give up their way of flying

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Although the the 4 spirits princess she she's a domesticate, she stays in the while. so much awesome.

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This thing here is always work because of that refusal to make the bad evil and the goodness perfect, and the rooting the solution in some sort of understanding, meeting, and transformation of the problem together.

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Yes, you yeah. the way that like adds things they come forward learning product, hey?

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Really close attention The unexpected thing that makes the heroic was possible is anchored in your humanness or in your capacity as a person i've been

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here, for it's a version of the chosen one trope and and and the idea that transformation transmissional change is not is often messy transferational change often messy that's a good

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one for writing about social justice like if It feels like there's a formula to get it done.

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It's gonna be a terrible book go wrong along the way.

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We don't get step one or you think it's absolutely impossible to succeed.

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Probably not gonna be a great story. to bracken Julia.

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And then you what i'm really there's importance on one of the people burning can do, and the importance of life as one person.

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It's literally it's, just working. off the concept of infancy, in your own local like we're out but they also need form of everybody.

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Right? Yes, so individuals have power. But individualism is not the total solution that is so relevant for all of our .

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Giving either. And then you can't force It right, less about control, more about emergence.

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Huh? yeah. and then over there fine I'll do lining, which in the wardrobe with Edmund's redemption arc in the redemption, are to in Lord the rings with like

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you see proto's relationship with dolam and Sam's relationship with Golem, and so much more willing to hope for of Golem, because he knows what it's like to carry to make self it sounds way

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production, arts, resumption arcs, complex characters struggling with our own availability, rich character development.

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I like the idea of first starf there's not like very naively optimistic idea.

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There was intelligent life beyond. If you reevaluate our world.

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Right. The idea that that unexpected or an alien might actually inspire us to go behind where we are kind of inverting some of the patterns that we see around us But something so dramatically different everything that might rise we

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did right. and then the tension of what happens when you go, or what happens when some of us doing some of this stuff?

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The pandemic was just full of examples. the basic trilogy by mediocre or

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I love her work. because it's specifically focuses on how interactions with the alien actually reinforce our social issues.

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And how that things race gender just everything down to the dot of differences in culture.

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And how encountering them, as a singular person can affect the entire system of each, and every single one was like that.

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Think he is connected to So I think that's really interesting, because on some level every social issue is connected to a different social issue.

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It's all interval to have the street but if you don't fix the entire thing.

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Something else will rise worse. So I think I was in full right wrestling with intersectionality of issues, complexity issues.

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And now, if you want to tug one part of the web or rest of it's gonna move, and not necessarily in a convenient way, I cannot recommend the binding trilogy enough for new book is also really amazing you only

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remember, you know. Okay, okay, I may not know about it. Well, it just came out no company. and it's super super good.

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It just came out like this past year, Okay, so that's That's what makes some social justice writing books and did before yet work really well, which is so handy to know.

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I just wanna remind you that you did not have to go to. I mean nothing.

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Knock higher education, since so many of us are scholars.

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Sorry, but just to remember that in ourselves as readers discerning readers, people who think critically about novels and books, we have the ability to analyze what's working in stories that we love and then apply those lessons to

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the writing that we're doing right this is how you can train yourself as a writer, and something I do all the time right.

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What do I love about this movie that just came out what's rubbing me wrong about it?

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How do I not replicate that from the homework so let's talk about what doesn't work in writing about social justice?

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Fantasy, sci-fi i'm sure we've all run across an example.

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Maybe our friend handed us a manuscript maybe it was something I came out with super mass producer, What about when it doesn't?

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Yes, reaching whatever the cause is, tends to drag a story down.

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If you're not actually demonstrating the in the story action itself, somebody stop and deliver a lecture on whatever it is.

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So is it down. I mean the only the only person that ever succeeded even slightly doing that was high.

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Mind. you can always tell it's the high line moment where behind line.

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Character gives the lecture on whatever it is yup lectures preaching this telling, not showing.

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If you don't get the meeting degree of it if you'll show exactly what's going on, or at least show you there as essence.

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What's going on. nobody's ever gonna follow it because you have to get to it for to actually or something
No, absolutely yes, casting it as complete virtue on one side and we evil, And the only way is to completely destroy

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the evil off the harmon construction for value and slaughter.

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It's unrealistic. Yeah token without dolam and proto would be so.

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Are below the rings would be not as interesting honestly, or some again all struggles.

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Hey? agreed I just keep thinking about the whole like men writing anything and like how you know, sometimes when men appear in boring and they say like we'll try to write it meeting that's

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absolutely so characters. If it's tropic stereotypical, it's just simply unbelievable, shallow, superficial.

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It's a lot of things that characters if we don't develop them.

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Well as writers. we'll just sink and sabotage any of the good work we're trying to do about this.

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Yeah, Okay, 4, when nice character is calling for the

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Whatever is here? Okay, Yeah, great point that same idea is it's a serious issue.

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Appreciate on it every 2 yeah right absolutely and it's playing around with humor.

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Satire. you know or well, what makes oral and all bearable is that he has actually this very articulate sense of humor about the horribleness of the results that he's writing about right when he talks about double speed you know

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you chapel inside, because you're hearing on the news right yeah, anything else?

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Well, I guess this kind of goes back to the but like What if you're writing about like particular demographics?

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It it's not good yeah so having token characters, or you know, diversifying with, you know, one of everything, for some superficial reasons.

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Yeah tends to get little office. I mean you know it's one thing, if it's a kids cartoon series like power rangers or something, it's another thing if you really want meaningful stories about those without this

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so. I wanna talk a little bit more about that preaching us, but also the fancy word is didacticism. right?

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So this is what you were telling telling telling you it's exposition, you know very boring way so some ways to handle didacticism.

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And to avoid it a little bit that I use all the time in my writing, and if you're just 2 of them, and we'll play around with them.

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So the first one to look at is embedding.

05:55:39.000 --> 05:55:56.000

What the character is passionate about in their emotions about it right? because we're never neutral, especially shot around any of this, and when you can tap into the emotion of the character speaking, they can actually pass out a lot of

05:55:56.000 --> 05:56:06.000

information in very entertaining ways, right so it doesn't necessarily mean just the main character.

05:56:06.000 --> 05:56:11.000

Who might be, like, you know, angry over the point in this view, coming out of the smoke staff.

05:56:11.000 --> 05:56:26.000

It may also be the police officer trying to stop them who knows that he's being poisoned in this graph with full guilt, and suppress anger and loyalty to the company, and a mixture of uncertainty

05:56:26.000 --> 05:56:30.000

about what he's doing that's missing character to start to convey.

05:56:30.000 --> 05:56:35.000

What are the toxins that are coming out of that smoke sound? Hi!

05:56:35.000 --> 05:56:44.000

So, Hey, big the message in your emotions of any of the characters, really?

05:56:44.000 --> 05:57:02.000

Because that's how we receive information this would be so here's the example i'd like to take 30 s to think of an angle, an emotional angle on it from a character so people are being poisoned by a greedy

05:57:02.000 --> 05:57:10.000

Money Gap grabbing corporation. that's the frame People are being poisoned by this money grabbing corporation.

05:57:10.000 --> 05:57:40.000

Take it through, and it's Think about a character might be this scene, and there are motion about this a message

05:58:01.000 --> 05:58:24.000

Okay, Yes, you were ready minute ago. The only child, the daughter of the corporate head wants to learn the business from the ground up, so that she can improve that she wants to work at the factory in whatever thing, and her father does not want or to be

05:58:24.000 --> 05:58:30.000

there, but he Won't Tell her? Why, Hmm yes, good great yes.

05:58:30.000 --> 05:58:36.000

How about you?

05:58:36.000 --> 05:58:50.000

Whoa! That is great. Yes, anyone else the manager of the plants right?

05:58:50.000 --> 05:59:04.000

Yep confliction almost like his lab tech when the child is in cancer and suspects it from corporate run on the groundwater on your job.

05:59:04.000 --> 05:59:20.000

The sales answer treatment. they're paying for yeah so that tension in your characters between obligations and justice often makes the story really come alive, because that's that's what we feel on many of these issues?

05:59:20.000 --> 05:59:24.000

How do we get to this conference? How many of us care about Simon?

05:59:24.000 --> 05:59:32.000

I had to fly right now is that it's a long time if I sit there and you're like oh, right?

05:59:32.000 --> 05:59:43.000

Right? Yes, the child interactions with their parents, right? right? Yeah.

05:59:43.000 --> 05:59:48.000

So also that and to me is the hobbies all the time.

05:59:48.000 --> 05:59:59.000

That character who is innocent or doesn't know as much about the world, is often a great mechanism for having another character, wiser, older, more experience.

05:59:59.000 --> 06:00:07.000

Get to tell them a little bit a long way don't do that if it's blocked right, not everything all at once.

06:00:07.000 --> 06:00:18.000

In fact, the more they stumble along and only get that bit of knowledge that you and the reader and they need in that moment the more exciting. that's gonna be in my opinion.

06:00:18.000 --> 06:00:27.000

So here's. the other thing I do about the gap system is that's a creative and unexpected thin on the scenario.

06:00:27.000 --> 06:00:34.000

So we wanna talk about worker rights. Yes, Okay, So this is gonna be quick. We're right.

06:00:34.000 --> 06:00:41.000

What is the most outrageous quiz or scenario that we could talk about worker rights in.

06:00:41.000 --> 06:00:48.000

You can't go to the bathroom I was thinking, Yeah, Amazon and dysphasia.

06:00:48.000 --> 06:00:55.000

That's a great way face moon space labs like Andy bears great spoke about that.

06:00:55.000 --> 06:01:02.000

There is a movie that just came out where the workers, our rainwash as soon as they looking through.

06:01:02.000 --> 06:01:09.000

Oh, yes, so like they don't have any recollection of each thing.

06:01:09.000 --> 06:01:14.000

So as soon as they hit the Jordan work. All they remember is work.

06:01:14.000 --> 06:01:21.000

So when people leave the building it's like they died and then they have an entire life outside, but they can't remember it.

06:01:21.000 --> 06:01:27.000

That is, some got some shady things, and the work is right.

06:01:27.000 --> 06:01:44.000

So so great. I yes Yes, anybody anybody else create a spins can help me get out of that digactive feel in the thing, because when it's aliens, we're fighting for their workers rights, it feels different than whether Then

06:01:44.000 --> 06:01:53.000

we're pantically talking about okay here's my last gym in like you know 5 min or less.

06:01:53.000 --> 06:02:01.000

So the thing I use over it over and over again is writer is returning to this.

06:02:01.000 --> 06:02:06.000

I call the 6 senses, not the sixth sense, but anchoring.

06:02:06.000 --> 06:02:10.000

Any senior working on on the willingness to explore.

06:02:10.000 --> 06:02:14.000

What do you taste? What do you touch? What do you smell?

06:02:14.000 --> 06:02:21.000

What you see. What do you hear, and what do you physically feel in that zoom?

06:02:21.000 --> 06:02:33.000

This is the gem of how You the writer know enough about the scene that's going on to select the details. that will be the most useful from telling your story.

06:02:33.000 --> 06:02:42.000

You're not gonna put all of that information into every single chapter, but what you are gonna do by saying alright here's my team.

06:02:42.000 --> 06:02:54.000

It's a portal magic scene for going through the portal to the other dimensions by knowing what does the air smell like?

06:02:54.000 --> 06:02:59.000

You could say there was a vanilla sentence, or there was a sense of scope.

06:02:59.000 --> 06:03:08.000

Packages, and that is gonna be really different. For how your reader relates to that experience of going through the portal.

06:03:08.000 --> 06:03:23.000

So sit down or take a long walk. I usually take a long walk and imagine all the dimensions right, whether your character feels jury inside or language like this strolling.

06:03:23.000 --> 06:03:33.000

It's gonna change the shape of the scene for the reader the exercise I was gonna have to do that we don't have time for, but i'm gonna invite you to do it.

06:03:33.000 --> 06:03:41.000

Maybe tonight or later on is I wrote a piece for evolutionary client fiction.

06:03:41.000 --> 06:03:48.000

Group and the challenges to envision my childhood home.

06:03:48.000 --> 06:03:54.000

In the year 2,200 in solutionary climate friction.

06:03:54.000 --> 06:04:05.000

So I sat down and thought about everything. I can remember about growing up, and all my main, and thinking about what would they have to do to even be here in 2,200 What What's their unfinished business?

06:04:05.000 --> 06:04:08.000

What does it feel like? smell like? I know what it smells like a child.

06:04:08.000 --> 06:04:22.000

When I grew up there, it smell the water coming over the fall, and that iron iron, mineralness of the rocks, but also the slightly toxic smell of the flooded waters.

06:04:22.000 --> 06:04:25.000

You can still smell that in 2,200.

06:04:25.000 --> 06:04:32.000

So this is again. This is the story passing around. You can all take my phone and

06:04:32.000 --> 06:04:38.000

The challenge to you is is right. Talking about your files and call right.

06:04:38.000 --> 06:04:48.000

What about all of those sensory details, and what are the really key ones that you can use to tell us about what the world is like?

06:04:48.000 --> 06:04:54.000

Hundreds of years reach. So I think that's it as time or the phone.

06:04:54.000 --> 06:05:01.000

We have like 2 min, couple of minutes any remaining couple of minute questions.

06:05:01.000 --> 06:05:14.000

I've explained at all. everybody will have a novel by this time next year great

06:05:14.000 --> 06:05:18.000

These are just some of the things that I think about there's a lot more.

06:05:18.000 --> 06:05:28.000

You probably have things that you work with as Well, but I he's the ones that I sat down and thought what are the most common things I refer to. most useful things ever refer to.

06:05:28.000 --> 06:05:36.000

These are the ones that I thought would be most I guess, with you.

06:05:36.000 --> 06:05:46.000

Thank you. Thank you.