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Annie B Jones: [00:00:00] Welcome to From the Front Porch, a conversational podcast about books, small business and life in the South.

"Is there no privacy in this family?" Everyone at the table answers, 'No.'"

- **Ashley Elston, 10 Blind Dates**

I'm Annie Jones, owner of The Bookshelf, an independent bookstore in beautiful downtown Thomasville, Georgia, and this week, I'm joined by one of my favorite members of my family's kids' table, Ashley Sherlock. Ashley's the former events coordinator at The Bookshelf, a frequent From the Front Porch contributor, and a pop culture enthusiast, so she's the perfect person to talk to about holiday reading and watching.. Hey, Ashley.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:00:56] Hello.

Annie B Jones: [00:00:57] I started this episode with a quote that I understand is not necessarily poignant, nor meaningful, but it felt like our family in a nutshell,

Ashley Sherlock: [00:01:06] it's perfect. It made me laugh out loud as did your little introduction of our kids' table. So

many memories.

Annie B Jones: [00:01:13] Our kids table is now the youngest person at the kids' table is 23. 24

Ashley Sherlock: [00:01:20] 24. Forever the kids table

Annie B Jones: [00:01:23] and none of us have children. I think everybody keeps waiting on Annie and Jordan to have a kid. So there could be no real kid stable, but here we are.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:01:31] That's okay. I'm okay with it.

Annie B Jones: [00:01:33] Oh, so, and we were just talking off air about how the holidays don't look, anything like they're going to look. Even our own family is not really hosting their normal Thanksgiving. I'm having to make decisions about traveling. Nothing's very fun. So we're going to turn our attention to really fun books and fun and cheesy movies and TV shows.

And we're going to talk about those today.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:01:57] Let's do it.

Annie B Jones: [00:01:59] Okay. So here was my idea. When you came on the podcast, a couple, I don't know, a month or so ago. And what we did was we paired TV shows with books, right? Isn't that what we did? Yes.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:02:11] Longer than a month ago, but time,

Annie B Jones: [00:02:15] time. It's fine. Okay. So you're right. That was probably months ago, plural. Um, it's okay.

So what inspired this? We'll get to it, but I watched a delightfully cheesy romcom show that's like better in my opinion than Hallmark. Most of the listeners, I think know where I stand on Hallmark. Um, but it was so utterly enjoyable and I watched it earlier than ever.

I never watched Christmas stuff in November ever. But here we are. I watched it and I thought I've got to tell the world about this and the only way I can tell the world about anything is through this microphone. So I was like, how can I build it?

Annie B Jones: [00:02:56] How can I build an entire podcast episode around this one TV show? And then I realized there were so many, like romcom, lights, delightful Christmasy holiday-esque books that I thought it would be an easy matchup to pair those books with TV shows or movies. So that's what we're going to do today. So I have several, so I'm going to kick us off. Okay. So my first one is the book that I took the quote from at the top of the episode called *10 Blind Dates*.

This is a young adult novel by Ashley Elston. Um, This book is delightful. Have you read this or have I told you about this?

Ashley Sherlock: [00:03:36] I don't think so. Okay. I definitely haven't read it. I don't think you've told me about it either.

Annie B Jones: [00:03:40] You need to read it. I cannot find my copy. So I've loaned it to somebody, but I think I'm going to buy one because I actually think I will reread this book this holiday season. I read it last year, like right around Christmas. I wanted to do this episode early enough where people could actually get the books and read them during the holidays. Um, Because I think this one hit me too late to mention on last year's podcast. But basically this is a young adult book about a high school.

I pretty sure she's a senior in high school. She has this very close knit, large extended family, and they all are trying to set her up with somebody. And so she goes on like 10 dates that her family has each set up for her.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:04:21] Well, that's why,

Annie B Jones: [00:04:22] that's why I think you should

Ashley Sherlock: [00:04:23] From like a nightmare.

Annie B Jones: [00:04:26] Too close to home. I just thought you could really potentially relate to the main character. So I loved this book. It's PG young adult. The stakes feel pretty low. They might not for you. I don't know, but they feel low and you have a guy that you're kind of rooting for. And you're also, you also just fall in love with this family. I adored this family so much. So my book, my movie pairing for this book is *The Family Stone*, which is, I think my favorite Christmas movie of all time.

It is like I say all time. It's just, I also love the original. Um, *Miracle on 34th Street*, but in terms of modern classics, I think *The Family Stone* is my favorite. I watch it every year. I weep like a child, like, like a screaming baby like just weeping, and I don't know how old you were, but this came out enough for me to have seen it in the theater with our family on Christmas.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:05:30] Is it weird that I remember your family going to see this movie? Like I distinctly remember going on a walk with you. And I don't remember who else was there, but in our grandparents' old neighborhood, we were just going on walk during the holidays. And you were talking about *The Family Stone* and I had no idea what you were talking about.

I was far too young.

Annie B Jones: [00:05:50] I think your parents might've gone too, like, I think it was one of those, like, as many people can like come to the movies, but I don't know. Maybe mom and pop took care of you. I don't know. Anyway, you've seen it now, right? Oh no.

This long silence. Have you not seen it for real?

Ashley Sherlock: [00:06:10] I haven't.

Annie B Jones: [00:06:12] Ashley come to my house. Um, we will socially distance on the couch. Just kidding. We're in each other's bubble. We see each other all the time, come to my house and watch this movie. It is a delight. Um, it's about an extended family. It's the only thing that makes me want to have four children, because it's about these four siblings.

They come home for Christmas and chaos and nostalgia ensue. Um, Rachel McAdams is outstanding in it. It might be the only thing I've ever really liked Sarah Jessica Parker in. Luke Wilson is phenomenal. It's so good. I love it. And the extended family dynamic from *10 Blind Dates* reminds me of the same energy in *The Family Stone*.

So if you like *The Family Stone*, try *10 Blind Dates* and vice versa. Ashley, you should do both.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:06:57] Okay. Duly noted.

Annie B Jones: [00:06:59] Okay. Along those lines. And that's why I kind of wanted to mention these back to back. There is a new book out this holiday season called the *12 Dates of Christmas*. Some Googling would lead me to suggest that there is actually a hallmark movie, I think already called this, but that's not what I'm going to tell you to watch.

So. *The 12 Dates of Christmas* has a very similar premise to *10 Blind Dates*. Only. This is an adult novel and it is set in England. And so it's got that going for it, but it's about a young woman who decides to go on 12 dates in the days leading up to Christmas. I am going to read this. It sounds adorable. I am here for the British, English winter setting.

Um, but I'm recommending it alongside a movie that I feel ambivalent about, but I'm going to mention it here. Anyway. There's a new movie called *The Holiday* on Netflix starring

Ashley Sherlock: [00:07:50] You are kidding me? Im Done. You're just taking everything I was gonna say. That's fine.

Annie B Jones: [00:07:57] Okay. Wait, you can talk about it next. I'm just going to say it stars, who does it star? Emma Roberts. So stars, Emma Roberts and some very attractive man whose name I do not know. Maybe the Luke somebody Luke Bracey maybe anyway, it is a movie where a single young woman is kind of relentlessly teased by her mother, like, because she doesn't have a date for the holidays.

And so the movie, what I think is interesting is it doesn't just take place at Christmas. It's like a date for every holiday. So like he winds up being her date for St. Patrick's Day and July 4th, et cetera. Um, so the premise is great, execution I am ambivalent about, I don't know if you've watched it. I'll let you talk about it, but those that's my pairing for *The 12 Dates of Christmas*, the book by Jenny Bayliss, it's a paperback original.

And then *The Holidate* is on Netflix. Tell me your feelings on *The Holidate* and what you paired it with.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:08:52] Okay. So I haven't actually watched it yet. Um, it's definitely on the list though, but this is in my romance category, my reluctant romance category. Um, and I, I paired it with *One Day in December* by Josie Silver.

Annie B Jones: [00:09:07] Yes, that was really, okay that was another book that came out last christmas. I think it was a Reese Witherspoon pick and it was a big hit for the holiday season, but also it was like too late for us to promote it. So I'm glad, I'm glad you're mentioning it. Um, yeah, if they feel like more, I, if I'm not mistaken, I could be wrong, but *One Day in December* feels more rom.

Like, um, Like a Jojo Moyes, almost book, but I think you're right. Like a reluctant romance is a good name for it. I think you might, like, I think the Holidate is worth watching. I will say that, like I finished it. I thought it was fine. It just wasn't as good as I wanted it to be. Jordan weirdly laughed out loud a couple of times, but it just wasn't my favorite and weirdly kind of crass.

Like I just am throwing that out there. Like just in a way I was not anticipating. I don't know. And I'm a little bit of a prudish viewer.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:10:02] It is rated mature on Netflix.

It

Annie B Jones: [00:10:06] is. And I'm going to talk about one that was rated PG and I realized, Oh, do I just like PG rated things when I'm watching it? And maybe I do.

I think there are exceptions that I have a weird, I'm a weird viewer. I think. That's fine. Okay. Why don't you go with another one then? Cause I kind of sort of stole one of yours.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:10:23] Okay. Well you kind of stole both my first ones. So now everybody knows I haven't seen the family stone, but I still wanted to, I know enough about it.

I still wanted to pair it up with, um, *The Seven Days of Us* by Francesca Hornak. I think I can't read my own handwriting, but that book was almost my shelf subscription one year, I believe. Yes. Yeah. So, and they're all I think if I remember correctly and this, this may hit a little too close to home too.

They're all at the review said they're all quarantined at home together. Like all these adult children dealing with all of their family drama and all of the secrets that, you know, it will inevitably come out when you are a bunch of adults hanging out in one house for an extended period of time. Yes.

Annie B Jones: [00:11:14] That book looks so good. It's got a great cover. I think we need, um, we'll definitely need to restock it for the store because I, I think that actually speaks to the spirit of *The Family Stone*, even more than *10 Blind Dates*, because it's all adult children and they're all, they've all got their issues then.

Yeah, by the time you're an adult, you bring your baggage to the table. You're your baggage. That those same people gave you.

It's fine. Okay. My next one is the young adult book I've already talked about on *From the Front Porch*, but I did want to mention it. Um, in this episode because it came out in October and it's time to shine really is now.

So it's called *Recommended For You*. This is by Laura Silverman, who is sisters with Sarah Silverman. This is a delightful book Olivia actually hand sold me. And it is wonderful about a Jewish girl who works at the mall at the bookstore in the mall. She has kind of this love, hate, hate at first sight relationship with the guy she works with.

I love that rom com trope, hate at first sight. Very much here for it. And it's set during Hanukkah. And so I like that it's kind of lending a different side to the maybe more typical, um, I don't know. I feel like I mostly read Christmas stories, so it was nice to read a Hanukkah story. And I also really appreciated, there is some depth to this novel, like the it's very light.

The stakes feel relatively low, but at the same time, our main character is dealing with issues at home. Her moms are kind of having some struggles. And so you can't tell if divorce is on the horizon. And so there is some heft and depth to the book, but it's still light enough. And it's all about saving this bookstore in the mall.

So I am pairing it with of course, and obviously *You've Got Mail* starring Meg Ryan as Kathleen Kelly and Tom Hanks as Joe Fox. They also have this kind of hate relationship and as we all now know, he puts her out of business. Um, we can have feelings about that. I have complicated feelings about that. I don't struggle with it as much as the rest of the internet seems to. It's fine.

Um, but I really love that movie obviously. And I thought the, the entire time I was reading recommended for you, I was like, Oh, this is a perfect pairing with *You've Got Mail* because it's got that bookstore at the center. Um, but it's also got this kind of relationship where these are both pretty ambitious people and their ambition comes out in different ways and in ways that makes them often competitive with one another, which I love.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:13:45] of course you do.

Annie B Jones: [00:13:46] Yeah. I wonder why. Uh, so that's one of mine. Okay. My next one is you've named yours I feel like which I like my, this we'll call this sappy Christmas. So I just finished this week. A book called *All About Us*. This is by Tom Ellen. I featured it, I think, in our fall reading preview or fall literary lunch.

But at the time I had not yet read it. Uh, Tom Ellen is a British author. So this book again, has that British vibe going for it. If you liked *One Day*, um, I think you will like this, but it is different. So let me, let me sell it to you first. Cause I also have a friend who absolutely hates *One Day*. So let me sell it to you first.

This is a time-traveling book very much paying homage to a Christmas Carol. The main character is this guy he's married to this woman named Daphne. They are and part of the reason I liked this book, I have no doubt is because the main characters are 34 and they met in college. And so Daphne and the protagonist meet in college.

At the time we start the book, they are married in their mid thirties and they are not like in sync. They are not on the same page. Something has clearly happened. Maybe they're not the couple they once were. Christmas Eve rolls around and the protagonist, um, an odd little man in a bar and he gives him a wristwatch and next thing you know, shocker, we are back in time.

And so we are back the day these two people have met. Then as the book progresses, you kind of catch on and realize, Oh, we're going to also flash forward. We're going to go to the past, to the present. Like you'd very much get Christmas Carol vibes as the book goes on. Um, I love the time travel element, which I do not always.

So I feel like that's where saying that I actually really liked it. And the entire time I was reading, I felt very nostalgic because these people are my same age. Uh, Jordan and I also met in college and we are 34. And so I very much felt a kinship with them, but I also thought of one of my favorite movies *About Time*, which have you seen that?

Ashley Sherlock: [00:15:57] Yes. I borrowed it from you and I cried. Right. That's the movie I'm thinking about, right?

Annie B Jones: [00:16:04] Yep. Yes. Okay. That is one of my and Jordan's favorite movies. It is. I mean, you will like snot cry, like snot on your face crying. Um, because there is a really special parent relationship that movie as well. As romantic, maybe in a sweet as it is, it is really a father, son story to me and *All About Us* by Tom Ellen is a mother's sense story to me.

Um, it is very much a love story about him and his wife and whether he married the right person like, that's really the question at the root of it. Like, did he marry the right person or did he choose the wrong girl?

Um, but what gives the book I think a little bit of, um, more meaning is his relationship with his mother. So if you like the love *About Time*, you should read *All About Us* by Tom Allen, new book, paperback original, uh, just came out I think a week or two ago. It's excellent.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:17:03] Uh, I think he might've sold me on it.

Annie B Jones: [00:17:05] I think you'd really like it. I have the book so you can borrow it.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:17:08] Yes, please. Okay. All right. Next up. I'm going to do, okay. This is comedy Christmas and there, I have a couple of parts to this, but for the book, *Holidays on Ice* by David Sedaris. I love David's Sedaris. It's pretty ,much like most things that he's written short stories, family dysfunction, his holiday experiences.

If you liked that book, or if you feel like reading that book, then I would recommend also watching the movie *Four Christmases* with Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon. Um, this is like the. I don't know, weird disfunction comedy, I guess. I don't really know, but also, okay, this is, this is going to sound bad, but I kind of put these two together because they both got mediocre reviews, but I feel like maybe this holiday season, we might be wanting to lower our expectations a little bit.

So I feel like lowered expectations paired with *Holidays on Ice* by David Sedaris and *Four Christmases* with Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon might be just what you're looking for. It is for me anyway.

Annie B Jones: [00:18:23] Let me say too well, first of all, two things, I think holidays on ice is legitimately a good book. My book club read that for the holiday season a few years ago, and I love it. I love that essay that he, I think did on NPR first called "Santa Land" is outstanding.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:18:37] I was going to mention

Annie B Jones: [00:18:37] that next too.

Oh, it's so good. Okay. So. I want to just say that's a good book, but also the other thing I want to say is I am naming some of my favorite movies here. However, if the holiday season is not the time to watch semi crappy movies, then when is, is my question, because I don't love *Four Christmases* like that does not make my must-watch holiday Christmas movie list or Christmas movie list.

But Jordan and I have watched it, I think two or three times while decorating the tree or something like it's on in the background. And for me Christmas and the holiday season is all about like having stuff that you can just kind of watch curled up. Maybe you're half paying attention. Maybe you're putting up your Christmas lights at the same time.

I just, I think we, and all the people watching hallmark movies, I think are proof of this. I'm not throwing shade at hallmark. I'm just saying. Obviously now is the time when we are okay with a lower bar, right?

Ashley Sherlock: [00:19:39] Yeah. That makes sense. Well, and it's all about like the, the atmosphere too, you know, you said you like having them on, like in the background and it's just nice to like, be like completely encapsulated by all things. Holiday, you know, you're decorating your tree or you're in the kitchen baking. It's just nice to look over and see snow whether or not it's on the TV, it's part of the experience.

Annie B Jones: [00:19:59] It is part of the experience. And if you're like us and it's still 88 degrees outside in November, you need to have something on your TV that looks like what you want the world to look like.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:20:11] Yeah, exactly.

Part B of that was just, if you only wanted to read "Santa Land Dreams", that's about, I think that's about him, uh, being an elf, like in a Macy's or something that could also be paired with the movie Elf.

Annie B Jones: [00:20:25] Oh, perfect. Yes. Look, that is, you're totally right. By the way, like you do not have to read holidays on ice. I mean, I really liked that book, but just, it almost should be like a tradition to just read that story or that essay. It is so good. And, um, tip you can, if I'm not mistaken, listen to that just on the, This American Life app.

Like, I'm pretty sure right.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:20:50] yes, you're right.

Annie B Jones: [00:20:53] I'm going to go a different direction. Okay. I'm going to go. I'm going to, I'm going to name a book that I haven't read, but I, it was very popular last year. Okay. We're going to go with *Royal Holiday*. This is by Jasmine Guillory. If you were a Jasmine Guillory fan, then I think of course you will love this book.

Um, what I like about Jasmine Guillory is she like Tana French, like builds on side characters from previous works, but you do not have to read these books. In order, at least I have found that to be true. I have not read them in order and I have still enjoyed them. They are a more open door romance than maybe I am accustomed to so I do read them kind of with one eye. Like I literally, nobody can see me. I literally just closed one eye. It's fine.

I generally, I kind of read some scenes like skim a few pages or whatever, but other readers love that kind of stuff and so good for you. *Royal Holiday*. I think readers who have not read Jasmine Guillory before might want to pick this one up anyway, because of its, uh, adjacent to the Royal family.

So the romance at the heart of the book is a guy who is a secretary for a Royal family member. And he falls in love with this woman who is visiting from California. She is the mother of a character from a previous Jasmine Guillory book. Um, what I like about this too, is that the couple who's in love is older.

And so you have some older protagonists here instead of a lot of the books I've been recommending are young adults. And I love young adult books, but if you want something besides teen angst, I feel you. And so *Royal Holiday* by Jasmine Guillory should scratch that itch. I am pairing it with a movie that I feel ambivalent about.

I, I didn't particularly love *The Holiday*. I do not particularly love *The Holiday*, uh, which I am very much alone in. My mother loves this movie. I know that I should. I understand that it should be an Annie film. It's not for me, but I know other people who love it. So *The Holiday* stars, Kate Winslet, Cameron Diaz.

Have you seen this one? No, I haven't, but I've heard your mom talk about it. So this is a Susie favorite and they switch houses, but the reason I'm recommending it for Royal holiday is because in Royal holiday, one of the characters has come over to England from California and in the holiday they have swapped houses.

And so Kate Winslet, who is from England goes and stays in the home of uh, Cameron Diaz in Los Angeles, and then Cameron Diaz comes and lives in a little cottage. The cottage, I will say, beautifully done Nancy Meyers designed the sets im sure and it's beautiful, a little cottage in England. And so you do get Jude Law in glasses.

So there is that going for it, but otherwise it's just, it's a, it's a fine movie, but it probably falls in that same category as Four Christmases or maybe the holiday where you just want it in the background. Okay. So Royal Holiday by Jasmine Guillory. If you like it, uh, watch the Holiday and vice versa. I cannot let a holiday themed episode of from the front porch go by without talking about *Little Women*.

So allow me, allow me to wax philosophical about that time a year ago, when I got to sit in a movie theater three different times watch Greta Gerwigs *Little Women*. We saw it together. Didn't I see it with you first?

Ashley Sherlock: [00:24:25] I'm pretty sure we saw it together for the first time.

Annie B Jones: [00:24:31] Listen, Ashley and I have seen many, many movies together in our years being related.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:24:38] And let me tell ya, we, I have already been established as the movie crier

Annie B Jones: [00:24:43] yes, Ashley. She cries at everything and cries in movies, particularly like definitely. Of the two of us, you can tell which one is an INFJ which one is an INTJ, like, that's our, that's our difference. Okay. However, I sobbed during this movie.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:25:07] I didn't know what to do

Annie B Jones: [00:25:09] Ashley was like are you okay?

Ashley Sherlock: [00:25:13] Jack Donaghy, trying to comfort Liz lemon with a broom.

Annie B Jones: [00:25:18] Oh, okay. I saw the movie in the theater. I wept, I own it on DVD now. I have wept. I also own it digitally just

I love

that adaptation.

Annie B Jones: [00:25:32] And I understand how people feel about the *Little Women* starring Claire Danes and Wynonna Ryder, but I don't care. I really love this Greta Gerwig version so much, and I am pairing it with *Jo and Laurie*. This is a young adult book by Margaret Stohl and Melissa de la Cruz. I read it earlier this year.

I think pre COVID, like I think I read it in early February and loved it. If you like fan fiction, I think you will love *Jo and Laurie*, if you are a Little Women purist, then you can skip this. This is not for you, but if your eight year old heart still beats wildly at the thought of Jo and Laurie finally getting together. Well then here you go. You've waited long enough,

Margaret and Melissa have your back. And I thought this could have been so terrible. Like Louisa May Alcott could have been rolling over in her grave, ne she is not she's fine because this book does the actual work of Little Women such justice and it's so.

Oh, I think the, how they were able to allow those of us who really want Jo and Lauri together, they were able to make that happen without sacrificing the purity of the book, in my opinion. So love it, adore it. Perfect time to read it. I read it earlier this year. I think I'm going to break it out for the reread, which I never do.

Um, Joe and Laurie, by Margaret Stohl and Melissa de la Cruz. Pair it with your the choice of little women adaptations. My personal choice is the Greta Gerwig version, but I've seen them all. And you could watch whichever one you want.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:27:07] My last one is my cozy Christmas. And for this, I have paired the book, *The City Baker's Guide to Country Living* by Louise Miller with the *Great British Bake-off* holiday version.

Annie B Jones: [00:27:20] Oh, so smart that's perfect.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:27:23] So we do, you know, the great British bake-off had a holiday had some holiday episodes? I had no idea.

Annie B Jones: [00:27:27] We watched, I think either. Is it like a little collection on Netflix?

Ashley Sherlock: [00:27:32] Yes. I think seasons, but two episodes per season.

Annie B Jones: [00:27:37] Yes. I watched them last year, but I think we might break those out again.

They're delightful. Why not? Why not? And that's perfect with country or I always get that title confused city Baker's guide to country living, which definitely has Gilmore girls vibes even on the cover for sure. For sure. Oh, that's good. Yeah, it does have a good cover. And I liked that you thought outside.

I think we both did like thought outside the hallmark box, no shade to hallmark. It's just, that's not my pur that's not my personal holiday vibe. Um, Ashley's sister though loves it.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:28:12] She is the hallmark Christmas movie queen. And I might have made the mistake of asking her. Like I was putting her a description of one of these books and I was like, is there a hallmark movie that's anything like that?

And she was like, Oh, let me tell you, like how much time do you have, I haven't seen her like that knowledgeable about anything I don't understand. I was sitting there for at least like 15 minutes while she was giving me a whole spiel about this hallmark movie.

Annie B Jones: [00:28:39] You know what that makes me very happy because I'm sure that is what I have sounded like on this episode. And so it gives me comfort that Caroline has that like she has, yes, my sister's is hallmark Christmas movies. Oh man. Okay. So my last one, I am pairing another young adult book, the young adult, good job to the YA writers because they really know how to write for the holidays.

There is a young adult collection of stories called *Let It Snow*. This is by John Green, Lauren Miracle and Maureen Johnson. This is another my book club back in the day, used to read holiday specific books. And so this was another book we read for Christmas one year. Now I know there is a Netflix, was it a show or a movie? Maybe it was a movie.

Netflix did this exact book, like they did an adaptation and I think it was fine as I recall. Do you remember, did you watch it? What was the name of it again? *Let It Snow*. No, I don't remember it. Yeah. I feel like it came out a couple of years ago. I should have done my research anyway. So there is a film adaptation of this book, however, Please allow me to take this time to sell you the whole reason why I'm doing this podcast episode

is because there is a new show on Netflix called *Dash and Lilly*. Have you seen the trailer for this?

Ashley Sherlock: [00:30:03] No, I've only seen the little icon.

Annie B Jones: [00:30:05] Okay. This is me. You and Caroline. This is our next Netflix party. Caroline will love it. Um, it's perfect to fill that never have I ever. Okay. All right. It's the perfect bench. Cause I think it's eight episodes, 30 minutes. I watched it in one evening.

It's fine. The whole thing. I'm totally healthy. A great way to spend your time.

Yep. Okay. So *Let It Snow* is a holiday book. John Green, Lauren Miracle and Maureen Johnson. There is a Netflix film adaptation of that book. *Dash and Lilly* is a book, young adult novel by David. Oh, I never know. Leviathan. I want to say is I just think of the Bible.

I'm sorry. That may not be, that may not actually be.

Listening to this podcast. Leviathan is in the old Testament and I think it is his name,

but he co-wrote a young adult novel called *Dash and Lily*. So *Dash and Lily* is a film adaptation of that. I've not read that so I won't speak to whether or not this is a good adaptation of that book.

I will just say. *Dash and Lily* to me is what I wanted the holiday to be like something cozy. If it is exactly in that *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* realm. It is so good. Let me tell you why you're going to like it. Uh, because the protagonist who my friend informed me is in another John Green movie called *Paper Towns*, the protagonist, the guy.

Dash is Timothy Chalamet. I it's not, that's not really who he is, but that is who he is.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:31:45] Oh man. The rollercoaster of emotions.

Annie B Jones: [00:31:49] like on the inside. This actor is definitely channeling his Timothy Chalamet. Okay. So that's the first thing. Second thing that's going to sell you on this is that the best friend is adorable, but he came on screen and I gasped and Jordan was watching with me and he was like, what, what is it?

And I said, it's Leslie Odom, jr. Jr. Like, he looks just like Leslie Odom, jr. I do not know if he can sing. Singing does not play a strong role in this particular holiday fair, but he looks just like Leslie Odom jr. I think this is adorable. And last thing perfect sell, especially for our listeners. So much of this movie takes place at The Strand in New York city.

And so, and also if you have been watching, like *The Strand* has been going through some things, um, and so it's just nice to kind of see it as this special New York landmark. And to pretend that COVID didn't happen for a minute, like it's superintend that it's not real and that this bookstore is fine and everything's going well.

I don't think sadly that that's the case for the strand right now. However, if you just want to see the Strand, like at its best, I think that this is a lovely. The scenes shot there are gorgeous. And I really wanted to know like what that looked like to film there. I'm assuming it was there because it really did look so much like the actual Strand.

So anyway, *Let it Snow*. The, the YA book, paired with *Dash and Lily*, adorable Netflix romcom. Um, basically there's a little red notebook that they hide back and forth and send each other on scavenger hunts throughout the city to make them better people. Oh, my it's adorable. It's adorable. So there you go.

I think we help people with their holiday reading and watching don't you?

Ashley Sherlock: [00:33:38] I hope so.

Annie B Jones: [00:33:40] I feel like we did it. Good job everybody. Thanks, Ashley.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:33:43] Of course. Thanks for having me.

Annie B Jones: [00:33:45] *From the Front Porch* is a weekly podcast production of The Bookshelf, an independent bookstore in South Georgia. You can follow the Bookshelves daily

happenings on Instagram at [bookshelftville](#) and all the books from today's episode can be purchased online through our store website, [www.Bookshelf Thomasville.com](#).

A full transcript of today's episode can be found at [FromTheFrontPorchPodcast.com](#).

Special thanks to Dylan and his team at Studio D Production for sound and editing, for our transcript and for our theme music, which sets the perfect, warm, and friendly tone for our Thursday conversations.

This week, I'm reading *Better Luck Next Time* by Julia Claiborne Johnson. It comes out in January. Ashley, what are you reading?

Ashley Sherlock: [00:34:39] I'm currently reading the *Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennet. Oh

Annie B Jones: [00:34:43] my gosh. I didn't know. You didn't prepare me. I'm so happy for you. It's so good.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:34:49] I'm a little less than halfway halfway through and I'm loving it.

Annie B Jones: [00:34:53] Um, it has already, the television rights have already sold, I believe.

Ashley Sherlock: [00:34:57] Oh really?

Annie B Jones: [00:34:58] Yeah. I'm excited. Okay.

If you liked what you heard on today's episode, tell us by leaving a review on iTunes. Or, if you're so inclined, support us on Patreon, where you can hear our staff's weekly New Release Tuesday conversations, read full book reviews in our monthly Shelf Life newsletter, follow along as Hunter and I conquer a classic, and receive free media mail shipping on all your online book orders. Just go to [patreon.com/fromthefrontporch](#).

We're so grateful for you, and we look forward to meeting back here next week.