

LitTea Episode 14: JC Peterson & Carrie S. Allen

- Sabrina Hi everyone! Welcome back to LitTea! I'm your host, Sabrina Lotfi, and I have two very special guests with me today! JC Peterson is the author of *Lola at Last*, which comes out next week and is the companion novel to her YA debut, *Being Mary Bennet*. Joining us is Carrie S. Allen, author of the YA novel *Michigan vs. The Boys* and a hockey story in the forthcoming sports anthology, *Out of Our League*. Carrie is my co-mentor from *Pitch Wars*, and Jenny was our 2019 mentee, and it is so incredible having them both here before the *Lola at Last* release!
- Sabrina Everyone. This is gonna be the best episode ever because I have Jenny, who was my...was it 2019?
- Jenny It was.
- Sabrina It was 2019 Pitch Wars Mentee, who I worked with, Carrie S. Allen. And she is also here. Say hi, Carrie.
- Carrie Hi, Carrie.
- Sabrina Okay, do y'all want to quickly introduce yourselves, tell everybody who you are?
- Jenny Yeah. Do you want me to go first?
- Sabrina Yes!
- Jenny So I'm Jenny. I write under JC Peterson, and I write YA romcoms, or just romcoms in general, things that are funny and have a little love story in them, and usually have kind of messy characters. But my first book *Being Mary Bennett* came out last year, and my second book, *Lola at Last*, is coming out at the end of February, which felt like so far away for so long, and now suddenly it's real close! [Laughs.]
- Sabrina It really felt so far away. It felt so far away. And now it's like, what is that from now?
- Jenny It's less than six weeks.
- Sabrina Yeah, we're real close.
- Jenny Oh, yeah. I'm feeling it.
- Sabrina Okay, Carrie, you want to say hi?
- Carrie Hello. I am Carrie. I write under Carrie S. Allen. I write mostly sporty books. YA, all YA, and I am Sabrina's co-mentor from *Pitch Wars*. And so, one of Jenny's mentors from *Pitch Wars*.
- Sabrina That's my wife, y'all.
- Jenny Yeah. [Laughs.]

Sabrina I talk about her in all the episodes, pretty much. And now you finally get to meet her. Yay!

Carrie Uh-hum...

Sabrina Sabrina

Jenny Yeah, just that final push. Publishing. It's weird. We can say that publishing is weird?

Sabrina Oh, yeah!

Jenny The lead times are so long, right? You sell a book, and then it's two years before it comes out, and it feels forever away, and then suddenly, it's like things get closer and closer. I'm describing this like it's a dinosaur that's coming to kill me, but that's kind of how it feels.

Jenny There's a velociraptor in my backyard right now. And so, you suddenly realize once you hit that six week mark, or that eight week mark, that it's like it's gonna go so fast. And there's promo to do. There's book launch stuff, there's general angst and anxiety about the whole thing, and then trying to find the time to celebrate that you're doing this amazing thing that a lot of us have dreamed of. So it's a weird - oh, my God, what's the name for the winter rivers come together? Confluence of events, lots of emotions happening. But yeah, I'm now within six weeks of *Lola* coming out and just trying to put it all together, and keep going.

Sabrina What kind of a promo and stuff have you been doing leading up to this one?

Jenny So I've been trying to do, a lot like I did with *Being Mary Bennett* of, just a mix of doing stuff on my own social media, right? Because that has, for better or worse, become a really big part of being an author. So trying to be online, and posting about not just like, my book all the time, but also the behind the scenes stuff. Kind of hopefully talking realistically about the burnout, right? About it, but then working with other blogs, doing podcasts, and then the launch stuff. Like, I've been really lucky that here in Colorado, we have a really great group of YA authors in the Denver area. And so we've started supporting each other at events and doing events together, which has been so amazing. So putting together some launch stuff with some of the other Denver authors that I've been lucky enough to get to know.

Sabrina That sounds so fun. Where is your launch for *Lola*?

Jenny TBD? Yeah, it's a work in progress right now.

Sabrina Okay.

Jenny But it should be really fun. I'm trying to put together - it's gonna be five new YA releases. So, instead of it just being about *Lola*, I'm trying to do okay. These are five new YA releases from authors where we just talk about our books and have fun, and do some, like, we've come up with a 'Never Have I Ever' game, like, Author Edition. It should be pretty great. So, just still trying to nail down where it's happening. Hopefully, it'll be the week that *Lola* comes out, so the week of February 28th.

Sabrina Okay. That's so exciting. That's so fun, too. I love the big group idea. That's great. And I want to play 'Never Have I Ever Author Edition.' Okay.

Jenny Oh my gosh. I think it should be great. And just like, it takes some of the pressure off when it's not just you sitting up on a chair with a microphone staring at people.

Sabrina I'm sure!

Jenny I have found, you know, over the course of becoming a published author, that's where I do best, is when I can be like, with a group of people kind of like riffing off of each other and just chatting, instead of feeling like I'm talking at people.

Sabrina Yeah, and having a whole audience just on you?

Jenny Uh-huh.

Sabrina I like to get to know everybody first a little bit before we actually dive into a lot of the writing stuff. So we all have pets. Do you want to talk about your pets real quick? Carrie, do you want to go?

Carrie Sure. [Laughs.] Yes. We have two dogs. Tori, who's a cattle dog mix. She's almost four years old now, and Dylan, who is two. And she is a dog. That's all we know. She is a dog. She's just this cute, goofy little thing. She was supposed to be this little. They said she was gonna be like a little terrier thing, and then she grew into a much larger dog. So we don't know what's in her. We also have four chickens, and...

Sabrina Yay!

C Yes, our goofy chickens.

Sabrina Are they egg laying chickens?

Carrie They are egg laying chickens, yeah. They're on a little bit of a winter break right now, so there's not as many eggs coming through, because it's just too dark and gross and cold, and they don't like it very much. But yeah, when they first started, because this is our first year with chickens, we're almost at one year now. And when they started laying eggs, oh, my gosh, in August, all of a sudden we were like, eggs everywhere. Just tons of eggs! So I'm hoping we get back to that once the days get a little bit longer here, because that was pretty cool.

Jenny We have, in our neighborhood, there's somebody who has backyard chickens, and they made a little chicken window, and they have a thing of grubs outside of it. When we're walking home from preschool, our four year old, he likes to go visit the chicken window and give the chickens grubs. And it's like I think they hear him coming now, because he's not a quiet child. And these chickens come, like, running up to the window, and they are right there waiting for their grubs. And it's the cutest thing!

Sabrina I love it.

Jenny I love that. They are so food motivated. They would probably know exactly who your kid is. If they're bringing food, they are all about the food.

Sabrina I have a neighbor, probably four or five houses down, who has chickens, too, but they're very much in their backyard. Like, there's no I can't see them.

Jenny We love the chicken window. You see a lot of kids in the neighborhood. They go to the chicken window. It's pretty great.

Sabrina That's cute. Okay. I love that.

Jenny So I just have one very senior tabby. His name is Ron. He's actually curled up on the bed right there. He was always a really big cat. At his biggest, he was, like, 22, 23 pounds. He's a giant cat, but he's now 18, and so he's getting a little bony, but he's very sweet, and scared of everything. Like the paper bags, plastic bags, sudden movements, everything. But he's like the sweetest. I've never heard him hiss. I love him so much. And the boys love him, too. I think he's in his Twilight, so we'll miss him when he's gone, but right now he just hangs out and sleeps all day.

Sabrina Okay. What book made you a reader?

Jenny Probably *The Secret Garden*. I think that was probably it for me. Or, I had an abridged version of *Little Women*. I didn't realize when I was young that it was abridged, but then when I went to reread *Little Women* later in life, I was like, 'This book is much bigger than I remember', and I found it at my mom's house, and it was the abridged version. So those were probably the two books that I fell in love with, and I would read over and over and over again. And then when I got a little older, *Anne of Green Gables* was really huge for me. Big theme there, like girls.

Sabrina I see some trends happening with your work, actually.

Jenny Victorian girls with big imaginations, uh, going on adventures?

Sabrina I mean, we knew from the beginning that you had to be an Anne fan...

Jenny A big *Anne of Green Gables* fan. Yeah, I think that when I discovered *Anne of Green Gables*, I think it was one of those, you know how kids, they get their obsessions? It becomes, like, their identity? That's what *Anne* became for me in elementary school. I probably used phrases like 'depths of despair' more than an eight year old should. It really became, like, my personality. And I've never been to Prince Edward Island. I've always wanted to go to Prince Edward Island. One of my oldest friends went in 8th grade, and I remember being incredibly jealous that she got to go, and I didn't.

Sabrina Oh, man. Okay. Yeah, I totally see the trends. And I'm really sorry. Have you been yet? No?

No! I really want to go - get to go at some point.

Sabrina Ian, if you're listening to this, get on it! Oh, my gosh. What about you, Carrie?

Carrie Well, it's funny because I kind of have a two part answer for that. And one of the reasons that *Being Mary Bennett* just grabbed me when I first read it, and I would take screenshots of the lines and circle them and send them to Sabrina and be like, 'Oh, my God!' Things about that Gilbert...

Sabrina I probably still have them. I don't delete anything.

Carrie Gilbert Blythe was my first crush. So I definitely related to that because I grew up with that same shelf of books, really, that Jenny did, and I was really an Anne girl myself. But it's funny because when I listen to your episodes, which I listened to all of them, obviously, because they're amazing, everybody has a really similar story. And mine is, too, because when I was younger, that was my shelves of books. And as I got into adulthood, I was really having a hard time finding books that connected, that I could connect to, and relate to. And it was not until I was in the airport, I was working in sports medicine. I was working with a collegiate volleyball team. We were in the airport, and one of my athletes handed me this book and was like, 'You have to read this book!' And it was this black cover with a cell phone holding a red apple. And she was like, 'Open it right now and read this book.' And I did. I'm not even, like a huge Twihard, really, but it was like, 'Oh, my gosh! There is this whole shelf of books that I just didn't realize was even there now. And that was kind of my second coming back into really loving reading and finally finding myself again in these books like I used to when I was a kid. So it's funny listening to all of these other authors say the same thing. Like, however you feel about those books, or vampires, or whatever, it opened all of these doors for us, really.

Sabrina It's amazing how many authors out there were influenced by *Twilight*. It's ridiculous!

Carrie Yeah.

Jenny And it's so funny, because I did the same thing where, like, my sister is younger than me and I was taking her on a high school graduation trip up the West Coast. We started in San Francisco, we road tripped all the way up to, actually Vancouver Island.

Sabrina Oh, wow!

Jenny It was fantastic! But when we were in - it was like Oregon all the way up to Vancouver Island. I had picked up the first *Twilight* book and I was like, Jackie, 'What? This is amazing!' And we read it together and it was like something about being in the environment and we became just like, holy crap, 'This is amazing and we love it!' And then I actually never finished the series because I got to the part in *Breaking Dawn* where Jacob imprints on a baby and I was like, 'And I'm done.' And I shut the book, and I never finished it. And I am somebody who like, I will finish a book no matter what. And that was the one where I was like, 'Can't do it, I'm done.'

Sabrina Yeah, that was definitely an interesting turn.

Jenny But I feel like whenever - I don't know if this is as much the thing anymore, but in like the height of those sorts of YA books where there was usually a love triangle and I always picked the wrong person, I was always like, 'I'm gonna go for this guy.' And the main character always chose somebody else.

Sabrina I don't know why the bad boys and whatnot are so appealing and like the wrong guy.

Jenny And I was going for the friend. I was like, 'Oh, the friend is so kind.'

Sabrina I love the friends, too. Those are great.

Jenny Also, I really liked Jacob up until, again, he saw a baby and was like, that's who I'm in love with. And then I was done.

Sabrina Oh my gosh, this just took a weird turn on this one. Okay, to be fair, no, that was definitely a weird spot. I feel like she worked it out where it wasn't like the creepiest thing ever in the planet. Otherwise people would talk about it more. Yeah, I went back and see in the movies, right? And I'm like, okay, but there was something about it.

Jenny I was just like, no, that was definitely the one that got me back into reading YA as an adult. It was a little bit before *Twilight*. I read Libba Bray's *A Great and Terrible Beauty* and that came out in probably 2001, 2002. It's been a while.

Sabrina That came out when I was actually still in high school.

Jenny Yeah, because I think it was either my last year of high school or had just graduated. I'd have to think about it. Anyway, I really, really loved it. I loved everything about it and that was the inspiration that I took going into writing, attempting to write my first book. It was essentially *Great and Terrible Beauty* fanfiction. That was - I can't stress to you how poorly written it was. I just sat down and wrote something, but it came out of reading that series.

Sabrina My first book was *Hunger Games* fanfiction that read like *Divergent* fanfiction, even though I had never read *Divergent*. So that happened. [Laughs.] Carrie, I think you had a *Hunger Games* first book, too.

Carrie I did.

Sabrina We should trade.

Carrie No, no, no, no. Nobody should read it. You talk about the books that brought you to reading. The book that brought me back to writing because again, as a kid, I wrote all the time. I wrote on everything. I'd cut my little binder papers and make little books and write them, and then I stopped because you don't have time for that in college and grad school and whatever. And when I came back to it, it was because of *Hunger Games*. And I was a little bit late to this series because I was like, I don't know. I'm not really completely sold on the premise, whatever. But when I did sit down and read it, I binged the entire series. And then as I'm sitting there in my chair finishing the epilogue of *Mockingjay*, I went back and started the first *Hunger Games* again and binged the whole series again. And that was my like 'Now you're writing book.'

Jenny I did that recently with a book that I read - would have been a couple of years ago. Now. *The Wisteria Society of Lady Scoundrels*. It's an adult. I love anachronistic histories. I love historical books like twist that are a twist on real history. Looking back at the books that I loved growing up. *Anne of Green Gables*, *Secret Garden*. I love things set in a different time period than I'm in. And I finished that on a plane coming back from I went to YALL Fest in Charleston in 2021, and then finished it on the plane, and restarted it immediately. Where I was like, that just made me there was something about I just loved every second of it. And it just made me feel so joyful that I just wanted to do it again.

Sabrina That's awesome. I don't think I've ever read a book immediately or a series immediately after. I've definitely done rereads. Probably my most reread anything is Tamora Pierce. Like *Alanna* or I really love *The Immortals* also. Just like the girl who can talk to animals and turn into animals. That's amazing. Anything with animals in it. I also really got into horse books when I was a kid. I really liked animals when I was a kid.

Jenny Yeah. Mine was girls dressing in fancy frocks and having a tea party and then being dramatic.

Sabrina I see this. So perfect! Okay, do you all want to talk about our experiences together with Pitch Wars?

Jenny Yes.

Sabrina Okay. This is gonna be so fun because this is how we met each other and like, okay, before we let Jenny talk, Carrie and I need to tell everybody about like I remember when we got this book in our inbox, we decided to read it together. First of all, this is the first year we read a book together from submissions. We used to split them up and then give each other the favorites, and then read. And this is our first year we read together, so we were like, sending each other notes as we went. And then I'm pretty sure we were like, you can't actually do this. But we were like, dibs. Everybody back off. We - huge fans from the very beginning of Jenny and *Being Mary Bennett*, and it's so amazing that it got to be on shelves. And now everybody else, everybody else has read it, right, everybody?

Jenny It's coming out in paperback really soon at the end of the month...

Sabrina Yay!

Jenny ...so if you haven't yet, you'll be able to get a more portable copy.

Sabrina Oh, my gosh. Okay. Was that the end of January?

Jenny Yes.

Sabrina That's awesome.

Jenny Okay, so my journey to Pitch Wars, which I know I've talked about before, but I think it shows how nonlinear the writing path can be. I had been agented before for a contemporary romcom, and that book died on submission, and then my agent left the business. And so I found myself in this spot where it was like it felt like everything was going up, up, up. I was following all the steps I was supposed to do, and then it all went away, and it happened to coincide with me having a second child. And, so I have this distinct memory of being so pregnant, like 38 weeks pregnant, and turning in my book and turning in *Being Mary Bennett*. What became *Being Mary Bennett* to my agent at the time, and being like, 'Okay, I'm gonna go have this baby. I want to give this to you to read while I'm recovering.' And she was like, 'Hey, can we hop on a call?' And she told me that she had made the decision recently to leave the business. And I just felt like I just couldn't handle it. There's so much going on. You're home. Hormonal. I had another small child, so I stepped away. I was like, 'I'm just gonna take some time. I'm gonna step away.' And so I queried here and there with her help. She gave me some introductions, but they didn't go anywhere. And so I tend to be the personality type that is very pragmatic. I like to be very realistic and even keeled. And so I took a step back, and I was like, 'You know what? I have two small kids. I can't take the time, or the energy, or the money, to try and keep writing when I feel like it's reached the natural end.' I didn't want to be putting myself out there if I didn't think it was gonna go anywhere. And when you have a newborn, and a three year old, it just something had to go, and it was writing. And so I kind of in my very pragmatic way was like, 'Okay, I've decided I'm no longer a writer. I'm done with that.' And I like, told everybody. It's like, 'Nope, I'm done.' And spent the next year just being like, 'I don't do this anymore.' But I still, like, kept a notebook with ideas because that part doesn't go away. I think once you decide you're a writer, you can never turn that off. You're always gonna have character ideas. Or for me, a lot of one liners because I tend to write comedy. And then on a whim, I didn't tell anybody, but I saw something about Pitch Wars come up on Twitter and was like, 'Hey, I'll try it.' And I applied right at the deadline. Like, I found out about it, and the deadline was maybe a week away, sort of thing.

Sabrina Oh, wow!

Jenny There was not a lot of time. And so I just did it as kind of like, 'Hey, I've got this book sitting here. I haven't read it since I turned it in, to my former agent. Let's just see what happens.' And so, honestly, without getting into Pitch Wars, I wouldn't have gone back to it. I think I would have pivoted to something else, something writing based, because that's what my degree is in. That's all I've ever done is, like, journalism or marketing, stuff like that. But yeah, it would have been a very different last few years if you guys hadn't selected me for this. So, it set me on a very different path. It was great.

Sabrina I am so glad that you threw that out there. I mean, I don't even know. Pitch Wars has been so big for me and Carrie these last few years. Like, meeting all of y'all, getting to work with all of y'all. I mean, even our own writing has improved so much. Like, working on edits with people. I'm so glad that you threw that out there. And I was laughing a minute ago, and none of that was funny, because it was sad, but I was laughing because you were like, 'Oh, I hadn't read it in a year.' And me and Carrie got it. We were just like, 'Oh my gosh, how good it is.'

- Jenny I hadn't touched it. And when I think about that, it felt like the beginnings of *Being Mary Bennett*. But honestly, the edits that I went through with both of you, it felt like this very time crunched MFA almost, because I learned how to look at my writing in a different way, like, with this, with more of, like, an editorial approach. Because the thing that I always remember is that I had this character that I liked that I thought was really fun, and you guys were like, 'Look, she's great. She does not belong in the book.' And so you helped me take this character out, and give her role to somebody who needed to have more of an importance. And that changed the whole fabric of the story. It made it weave together so much better and give the sister relationships, I think, so much more meaning than they'd had before. So, it's just like it taught me how to look at editing in a different way that was just really helpful, so.
- Sabrina Yeah, I remember that. I remember when we were telling you, we were like, 'Oh, she's gonna hate us.' [Laughs.]
- Jenny Yeah. I think coming from journalism, I tend to not be precious about any of my writing. If someone's like, 'Look, it's got to go.' I'm like, 'Cool, let's do it.' I have this very strong sense of like, it's all in service of the story. If you have to get rid of something, you can't hang on to it just because you love it. If it doesn't make the story better, then it doesn't belong there. And if you keep it, maybe it can show up somewhere else in another story.
- Sabrina I keep everything because I'm very precious, but I know when things need to go, so I just have a stack of things that I'm like, 'One day you'll get put into a book. You really awesome line, you.'
- Jenny Absolutely. I've had one line that I've tried to shove into so many ideas that has never worked. It has not worked yet, but someday.
- Sabrina I just sent a draft of a book to Carrie and I'm laughing so hard because I'm like, If you see any repeat lines, I actually pulled those from the last book you read. They're not in both. I'm sorry.' [Laughs.]
- Carrie Well, I'm laughing over here because I have killed off characters in both of your books now. [Laughs.]
- Sabrina Yeah, she has.
- Carrie I am merciless.
- Jenny There are sometimes lines where I'm like, 'Okay, I know this is silly, but like, oh, man, I really want it in there.' So there have been some, but usually it's just like lines or maybe word choice sometimes. And I'm like, I'm gonna find a way to keep it.
- Carrie But you are also the master of the one liner. I will tell you. That was one of those things that just stood out to me when we were first reading was 'Jenny can pull a line.' Yeah, it makes it so much fun to read, right?
- Jenny It's one thing that I am really proud of about my writing, and I like being able to do the one line character descriptions that are just quirky and a little weird, but on point.

Sabrina Yeah, you're so funny. I'm really mad at myself that I didn't do a *Being Mary Bennett* reread right before this because I sometimes do that before we record, so I'm real fresh on stuff. But I was like, 'Oh, I read that thing 50 times.' Like, 'I'll be fine.'

Jenny And I'm like, 'Honestly, I haven't read it since I got through my proofread before it came out. Someone brought up a line and I was like, 'Is that in my book?' Like, I couldn't remember because I think it's one of those it's the nature of the business. Again, you are working so far in advance that I was already deep into *Lola*, into writing and revising *Lola* when *Being Mary Bennett* came out. So there would be times that I'm like 'What shows up in what book?' They are the same in my head.

Sabrina Sometimes, too, depending on how much I do. I usually work chronologically, so if I do a whole lot of revisions on something and then I go back and read it the next time, I'm just like, 'Oh, yeah, you changed that. Oh, and that happened. Okay.' I totally forget what I've done. Jenny, you sent us...

Jenny Yeah, I sent you my old query that I would have sent with *Being Mary Bennett*. And then the query that we pulled together. And then I think, like the Pitch Wars Showcase. The hardest thing for me about Pitch Wars was getting that was it two or three sentence pitch? That was the hardest part of the whole thing.

Sabrina We did that a lot. We were just like, 'Nope, do it again.'

Jenny It was so, so tough. But I will say it was like something it was the query that we worked on together for Pitch Wars that ends up being like my back of the book, my copy for the actual book. There's like lines from...

Sabrina Do you hear that everybody? Yeah, if you work that query, it can make it to the flap.

Jenny Yeah, it's in my cover copy.

Sabrina It's amazing. That's really actually pretty rare.

Jenny Yeah, I was surprised. I thought it was gonna be totally rewritten, honestly. I thought the title was gonna be changed, too, and it just like kept plugging along. Everyone seemed to be OK with it.

Sabrina Literally, the title. I don't know. The title is so good.

Jenny Yeah, I was surprised. That was like, my working title. I thought somebody was gonna come up with something more sparkling.

Sabrina I don't know what else you would call it, though.

Jenny I don't either. It just fits. It just works. And it's so much easier on me if nobody changes all of your titles so that I can continue using the same.

Sabrina Do you want to share the old query and then the new? I feel like every year we've done query at the pitch. We just do it like 50 times.

Jenny It's so hard to get it. It's just like distilling an entire book into one sentence.

Sabrina Right. That's so hard.

Jenny It is. Sometimes the versions would go back and forth and it would be literally just nitpicking words, but one word that makes that much difference in the end.

Sabrina It does. It actually makes a difference.

Jenny Yeah. So my original log line was *Being Mary Bennett* is a modern day sequel of *Pride and Prejudice*, told from the perspective of forgotten middle sister Mary. And then the one sentence that we came up with through Pitch Wars is much more active and I would say centers Marnie in it instead of just talking about what it comes from. So it says Marnie Barnes can't accomplish her many goals if she remains a total Mary Bennett. So she devises an anti-married contract. Stop lecturing, start living. Don't die alone with 15 cats. Which I think is just, like, much more active. Right? It has so much more voice.

Sabrina It does. I remember reading that line in your book the first time and just dying.

Carrie But that's exactly the kind of a line that grabs you and you're like, 'Yes, I want to read that.'

Jenny Right. And you get a sense of who she is versus just exactly what I had originally.

Sabrina But you have her goals in there, and you can see, like, you have a general idea without it necessarily being spelled out of what her growth is gonna be in the novel. You packed a lot into that. Yeah, for sure.

Jenny I think, again, I feel like this ends up in the copy somewhere. I'd have to look at it, though, like, in the cover copy. Anyway, the choice is amazing. It did a lot. They taught me so much. Right? It just taught me so much. Because everything I've done has always been very self-taught. I went to school for journalism, which is a totally different beast than writing a plot that is interesting.

Sabrina Journalism is super different. The writing.

Jenny I was lucky that I got to do, when I worked as a journalist, I was a columnist, so I was able to kind of hone those one liners, essentially, like that voicey writing. That was my practice time.

Sabrina Versus just straight facts.

Jenny Yeah. That should have told me that I was never cut out to be a journalist, that I wanted to write first person columns. I wanted to write humor, and that's hard to do in journalism unless you are in the position that I was in.

Sabrina Okay, that's so interesting. What was your column?

Jenny It was called 'Shop Girl.' After I graduated college, I moved to Oklahoma City and I worked for the local, like, the independent alt weekly. And it was a great paper. So I got to write this first person column that was about local shopping, but I made it - really into - I inserted my own personality into it. So it wasn't just like, 'Go here for candles.' I tried to make the 'Shop Girl' persona really be a thing in every column.

Sabrina Okay, that's super interesting because actually, I get your newsletter. Do you get her newsletter, Carrie?

Carrie No. I didn't even know you had one. [Laughs.]

Sabrina There's a newsletter. Well, at Christmas, Jenny sent out one with all these gorgeous, great gift ideas in it, and that's what made me think of your 'Shop Girl.'

Carrie I'm putting this on my to do list. I'm putting this on my to do list.

Sabrina You really missed out when you missed out the Holiday Gift Guide one because they're like gorgeous candles, really awesome blankets. I think there were some fun book nooks in there.

Carrie I actually got a book nook for Christmas. It was amazing.

Sabrina I saw that on your Instagram.

Carrie Okay, so...

Sabrina Ian got it inscribed, right?

Jenny Yes.

Sabrina Awesome.

Carrie Okay, so for people like me who did not even realize - I can't believe I didn't even realize you had a newsletter. Can we just find it from your website, or where?

Jenny Yes. So this is me being like, do I know my website name? There's so many things to remember. Somebody like handles - it's jcpetersonwrites.com or let me look that up. But yeah, there's like a bunch of links right, from my website, to find it. And there's Buy links there, too, for both books.

Sabrina Okay, I'm gonna say it's jcpetersonwrites.com.

It is. It's jcpetersonwrites.com...

Sabrina You are not from Salt Lake City. This is a writer, though. jcpeterson.com is another writer. [Laughs.] I'm sorry...

Jenny That's part of the reason I think I write under - it's not so much a pen name - it's just like using my initials is because Jenny Peterson is like, such a common name, right? I remember when I went to yoga, prenatal yoga, I was going to a prenatal yoga studio, in my neighborhood, and there were four Jenny Peterson's, also going to prenatal yoga in my neighborhood. It was like, 'Come on, man.'

Sabrina That's ridiculous. That's amazing. Did y'all start a club? Y'all should have taken over the world.

Jenny I know we should have. We never overlapped. I never met another pregnant prenatal yoga Jenny Peterson. But I know we were out there. We were all out there.

Sabrina That is so funny.

Jenny When I was first writing - so when I was in college, and was doing - focusing on journalism, I Googled my name. Was Google a thing? I graduated in 2005 from college. Google was around. And, the other...

Sabrina I have no idea when Google showed up, I cannot remember.

Jenny I'm gonna say it was around. Whatever it is...

Sabrina I'm gonna look it up. [Laughs.]

Jenny Anyway, I googled my name. My maiden name is Coon. I googled Jenny Coon. And the person who came up lived somewhere else, but she wrote erotic elf poetry. And I was like, 'Oh, no, I'm trying to be a journalist, and if someone looks me up... Yeah. And I just remember thinking like, 'Man, come on. Erotic elf poetry?' I mean, honestly, if she's still doing it, she's probably doing great. I feel like there's a big market for that. But it was not me. It was not me doing it.

Sabrina That is so funny. Okay, everybody. Hold onto your history because Google was created 1998.

Carrie What?! Did we even have, like, internet? Were computers even invented back then? [Laughs.]

Sabrina Netflix says 1997. They had the mail in DVDs.

Carrie That's right, yeah. I was like, what are they, like horse and carriage?

Sabrina If ya'll remember. They - by mail - posted them.

Carrie Why would you do that when you could just walk to Blockbuster? Why would you wait for the mail? [Laughs.]

Sabrina Blockbuster is gonna get so popular from my podcast. [Laughs.]

Jenny We, seriously, my oldest friend and I, we loved going and renting a movie and just like, perusing the shelves to find what to watch. And it was fun. I liked it.

Sabrina Did you get in trouble for not rewinding those? I can't remember.

Carrie Oh, my God.

Sabrina Do ya'll know how to rewind a VHS?

Carrie Yep, yep.

Jenny I had VHS videos. So, I danced growing up, and my mom would have all of the VHS of my dance performances. And when I was in high school and discovered this deep love of the X Files, I recorded over all of my dance video.

Carrie Oh, oh your poor mom.

Sabrina Oh man!

Jenny That's why I like to write about teens, right? Because they're disasters.

Sabrina They are disasters.

Jenny They do things like that where they're like, 'Oh, I'm not gonna want this heirloom that I want to show my kids someday. I want to rewatch an episode where Mulder and Scully look at each other with meaning and almost kiss.' Like, that was the only thing that mattered.

Sabrina What did I record when I was - I think I used to record? I think I recorded Sailor Moon every morning because it was, like, on at this weird junction between like, I had to go to school. Like, I had to walk to school before it would finish. So I would record them every morning. And then I come home and I rewind my tape and I'd watch my Sailor Moon. I actually really enjoyed Sailor Moon.

Jenny That's not one I ever - I never watched that one. I remember we went again, this friend and I. I should give her a shout out. My friend Liz, who's just been - we met each other in preschool. We don't live in the same state anymore or anything, but we've known each other forever. We went through - so she was my X Files friend. And that's actually, I would say the first fiction I wrote probably was fan fiction with her, that we didn't even know what it was, right? You had no name for it. But we were in middle school and we would write back and forth. Sorry, Liz, I'm telling people this. We would write scenes back and forth of, like, how Mulder and Scully would finally declare their undying love for each other.

Sabrina Oh, my gosh.

Jenny Because you're twelve, you're 13, and you're like, all you want in the world -

Sabrina Kiss already!

Jenny ...already those two people kiss. Yes. We were never satisfied. It never happened, really. I mean, it happened, but not really. It was after we had stopped watching.

Sabrina I don't even know - my mom used to watch those. I actually never really got into X Files, but I hear a lot of people talk about it. Did they actually hook up at the end?

Jenny They do end up hooking up at the end. But the way that the show ran, I think I had started college and I didn't have... I couldn't get it. I couldn't get the TV station.

Sabrina TV was hard when we were young, ya'll.

Jenny You had to work for it.

Sabrina [Laughs.] You did. You had to work real hard.

Jenny Yeah, but they do end up kissing. I tried to get Ian to rewatch it with me at the beginning of the pandemic, and he was first of all, like, 'I am too cool for this. Why would I do this? Why would I rewatch this show?' And I was like, 'You don't understand. It's a masterpiece.' And then we started watching it, and every episode I was both so excited, and also apologizing the whole time, and being like, 'Well, it's gonna be a little weird here. It's gonna be cheesy, blah, blah, blah.' And we made it about two and a half seasons in. And he was just like, 'I'm out. I'm not. I'm not doing this anymore.' So he never finished it.

Sabrina I was little when my mom watched that. And I remember seeing like, two episodes, and like, one was this, like, weird monster dude who, like, lived in the grates, or whatever.

Jenny Eugene Tombs. It's Eugene Tombs. I was a huge X-Files fangirl. Those episodes were terrifying!

Sabrina That one was so scary. Like, literally, to this day, I'm just like, 'Is there someone in my vent?'

Carrie Oh, no!

Jenny He would eat your liver. He was able to stretch, and he would come out and he would come out of hibernation every 100 yards, or 100 years, kill a bunch of people, eat their livers, and then go back to hibernation, I think under an escalator in a mall, if I remember.

Carrie Oh my God!

Jenny I cannot tell you - I was obsessed with that.

Sabrina I literally saw like, five minutes of that episode, and it's haunted me for the entire time.

Carrie Yeah, I just heard about it, and now I'm gonna be haunted.

Jenny Listen, we would call each other at the commercial break to do, like, a recap of what we just watched. I don't know, guys. That was very popular. I need to really stress that. I mean, obviously I had a very busy social life where I was watching X-Files every Friday, and then doing phone call recaps at the commercial breaks. And then we would get together the next night and have a sleepover and do, like, a craft or oh, man...

Sabrina That's so cute.

Jenny I was a big nerd. I was a big nerd.

Carrie I was a big nerd, too.

Jenny I was born a 35 year old, right? I was like, you know what sounds good tonight? A cup of tea, and let's watch a prestige costume drama. That was me at 17. It's me at 40. It has not changed.

Sabrina I love it. I know. I'm just like, Grandma, over here. I'm like, 'Give me something to knit and a show, and I'm set.'

Jenny Like, did either of you have the pandemic hobbies that you picked up like that? Like, teaching yourself to knit?

Carrie I tried to teach myself to knit. I went with a friend who's very, very crafty, and her mom is a good knitter. And we went to a class, and the person leading it told me that I was a problem knitter. And I never went again. She was like, 'You're not gonna do this.'

Jenny Oh, my God!

Sabrina Have you tried crocheting before? Yes. Okay. Are you a problem crocheter too?

Carrie Probably.

Sabrina I will teach you one of these days. I'll bring some yarn and will teach you.

Jenny I would love that.

Sabrina I'll teach you how to crochet and knit.

Carrie I took more the route of, like, a ton of baking because that's good for stress. And also like, 'Hey, let's get more animals.'

Sabrina You did.

Carrie Yeah. We had gotten a puppy only a couple of months before the pandemic started. And then we got another one part way through, and then we finished the pandemic with four chickens. So that was our thing. But also I learned how to home school. That was my big - that was my big thing. I learned to be a teacher for several years.

Sabrina Oh, man. Looking at your lesson plans and stuff and just being like, 'I don't know how she's doing this. Carrie is just magic.'

Carrie I don't know how I did it either.

Sabrina It's so hard. Yeah.

Jenny Oh, my God. We started watching this British pottery show called The Great Pottery Throwdown. If anyone has seen it, it's like Bake Off. So it's very soothing, and it's a competition, but they cheer each other on, which I love. I don't watch a lot of reality TV because American reality TV is so, like, they're just pitting everybody against each other. And I love it. It's wonderful to watch. So we watch this pottery show, and then Ian and I were like, 'Well, it looks like we need to become master potter's now.' Like, we know everything about it, obviously. Nothing more to learn. We just need to actually do it. So I have not yet taken a pottery class, but it's become, like, my goal in life. I'm gonna learn how to throw pottery, like, on a wheel. I really want to. That's what I want to do. But now I'm like, I'm really into pottery. I'll go to pottery shops and get some real pieces that were made by the potter, and really nice.

Sabrina That's cool. I didn't get into it. Like, I had already been into them, but I got, I guess, back into them because I hadn't done one in years. Puzzles. Just like puzzles. And then I think once I started, I've probably done like 1000 in 3 months, I was just like, 'Puzzle's done. Where's my next one? Okay, let's go.'

Jenny Yeah, I do the same. I do that when I'm like - I find when I'm really busy with book promo stuff that, like, I just did another puzzle last week. Like, we were on, you know whenever we have a break, and things are getting busy with book stuff, I'm like, 'I need to do that in the evening.' Instead of being on my phone or watching TV, I need to do something to where I'm physically doing something with my hands that feels like ...

Sabrina That's not too strenuous.

Jenny ... it's still productive.

Sabrina And you get your mind on something.

Jenny It's satisfying to get a result at the end.

Sabrina Unless you lose a piece. Or your dog eats one.

Jenny But it is true that so much of publishing feels like you don't get that instant result, right? So when you're stressed about book stuff, you can do a puzzle, and it feels like, 'Okay, I have completed this, and here it is.' And you weren't just, like, scrolling Instagram or TikTok on your phone.

Sabrina Yeah, it's funny, because when you were talking at the beginning about the velociraptor in the backyard and the uphill climb to the book publishing, and it made me think about our actual writing and the actual books that we're writing. And, you escalate to the climax, and publishing is kind of like, there's a climax. It's out there - somewhere.

Jenny But you'll never hit it.

Sabrina You'll never get it until yeah...

Jenny It does feel like that.

Sabrina We're not used to that. We want the nice, like, the pattern that we expect, and that's not how publishing works. It doesn't work like our actual books work.

Jenny Yeah, like I was saying, it's just not linear. It's so windy. There's ups and downs. And I mean, I think if anything that I've learned to embrace, that I definitely didn't before, is that it just takes perseverance. That when I was in - when I was in that year and a half year, where I was like, 'I'm not a writer anymore.' I kept in the back of my head, I was always like you always hear the inspirational tales of 'This person made it because they didn't give up.' And I was like, that's such bull. You gotta give up at some point, right? You've got to move on, or you start deluding yourself. But the fact is, that was right. The only reason I started being able to make progress is because I persevered, because I didn't give up. I didn't listen to my more pessimistic instincts and had a little, like, little, I don't know, confidence in myself, which, like I said, I'm usually not that person. I'm usually a half glass empty person, which means that I feel like I'm prepared for when things are bad, or when things, when you don't get the news that you want. I'm like, 'Yeah, that's what I expected anyway.' Those things don't devastate me, so I'm able to have that fixed in where I just deal with it, and it doesn't absolutely destroy me.

Sabrina It can be so hard to keep going.

Jenny It can. It can, to keep going when you don't have that confidence or don't have that optimism. I'm super pessimistic. But the thing that helped was I just kept going. So that person with the inspirational quote that I was like, poopooing, they were right. Yeah. [Laughs.]

Sabrina That's why I think I love that you have to keep going. And then the other thing that I love when things are getting tough like that, is just always making sure you're working on what you want to be working on, because there's no guarantees anywhere, so at least be happy with the project you're working on. And if you want to quit in the middle and work on something else by all means, do it. It's your writing. It's okay. [Laughs.]

Jenny Yeah. And I've found this. I need a deadline. I think I'm very deadline oriented. That helps push me. I like the stress of a deadline. I tend to produce my best work when I'm stressed, which is probably great for my longevity. [Laughs.] But, I've also tried to give myself the freedom to take breaks and really just say, like, 'I'm taking two weeks off and I'm not doing anything.' I did this over the last holidays where I was like, 'I'm not gonna bring my laptop. I'm not going to - I'm not gonna work.' I'm going to just, like, hang out and read books and do a puzzle and not think about it. And I came back so much more refreshed to start the new year. So that's one thing that's been really helpful for me, is, like, actually giving myself time off and not feeling guilty about it, right? Because when you're a writer, you can, especially in today's writing world, where so much of it is also being accessible online, and documenting every part of your process. Giving myself the grace to step back from that and be like, 'I'm not doing it right now,' and it's gonna kill the algorithm. It's not gonna show my posts to anybody for a few weeks. But I can't be online every day. I can't be that person every day.

Sabrina My algorithm died years ago. I don't think it shows anybody anything ever. [Laughs.]

Jenny And it can be frustrating, but it's hard to be okay with that, right? Because we're told by so many people that if you just keep going, maybe something will go viral, and then that will sell books.

Sabrina That's right. That pressure to like, you should be doing something. It should look like something, even if it's in the big picture, not actually what gets your book out there for the readers.

Jenny Right, yeah.

Sabrina Part of that, I think, too, is just seeing everybody, like, announcing about all their stuff. I don't know. There's a lot of watching it that makes you want to be a part of it. And also, I mean, for me, I'm like, 'I want to join y'all', and then I never post anything, so I just lurk a lot. I just lurk all the time. I'm a lurker.

Jenny But also, that it's hard not to compare. So much of this business is dealing with imposter syndrome, right? And feeling that you're not sure where you belong, or that everybody has been invited to a better party than you. And as I've established, I was invited to no parties, so I've never been in that group. It's hard that the comparison game can get really insidious. So that's why I like to take breaks from social media to where it helps me get perspective. It's not really what matters. I'd rather go on adventures with my family, and then be inspired when I'm outside. The thing that inspires me most is getting out in the world, because I'm not a homebody. I need to be out experiencing everything this wild, amazing world has. And I find so much inspiration in that. Like, for me, being on a trail and hiking, some of my best ideas come from just like that rhythm of putting one foot in front of the other is when my mind is able to start working through things, and working through plot problems or coming up with ideas, lines, things like that.

Sabrina Carrie is really similar to you. Carrie will walk her dog and just talking into your thing, right? Into your phone?

Carrie Yeah. I've always been able to figure out those little plot issues, or whatever that you come up with. All of those I can always solve just by walking the dogs.

Sabrina When you're doing feedback, too, you're like, 'I'm not sure what to tell you yet, but I'm gonna go take a walk and I'll be back.'

Carrie Yes, exactly. That's what I do. Yeah. And other people, I've heard people say, like, get in the shower or something. Like all their good ideas will come to them then. There's always something where your brain just kind of settles down, and then you can figure out all the stuff. I've been reading sleep books with my kids about getting good sleep and stuff. And when your right brain is working. And that's why we're getting all these ideas when we're sleeping. And we need to have the pen and paper by our bedside because when your brain has that downtime. And I don't know, something about the endorphins for exercise, too, though. I don't know, walking dogs, I don't know. Somebody do the research and get back to me on that.

Jenny But yeah, I would find, and I've talked about this before, but just experiencing something new for me is such a big thing, because I tend to not write about the place that I'm living. So, like, I've never set a book in Michigan, Oklahoma, or Colorado. And like Colorado you would think would be like, ripe for writing, because I like to write about the outdoors, about things like that. But it's always places that I want to discover more about, or I want to visit, or that I want to be there. I like to explore that through my writing, which is fun. And then you can go on research trips.

Sabrina Yes! Those are always the best. Kristy did it right. Kristy did it real right.

Carrie Absolutely. Yes!

Sabrina I'm gonna set everything overseas and then, 'Hey, we have to take a trip now because...

Carrie She's got go to Amsterdam.

Sabrina ...it's research.'

Jenny England a few times. Oh, my gosh. It's amazing. That's the way to go.

Carrie Yeah.

Sabrina Didn't she just go to France? Or, she's about to? OK.

Carrie She's about to. Yes.

Sabrina I'm like 'Just put me in your pocket.'

Carrie I want to go.

Sabrina I know, like you need to bring your mentors so we can help you to do book research.
[Laughing.]

Carrie Obviously.

Sabrina We really do need to get a Team Girl Power retreat happening.

Jenny I love writing retreats. I'm in a critique group, and part of it is that we do retreats a couple of times a year, because we're all over the country. Now, we have somebody in England, too. We pick a place and we all meet and we just, like, write for a long weekend. And just like, just being around other writers, the energy is amazing. We're all writing, but we're all also complaining, and struggling. And it's like, they get it, right? They get the publishing world. They get what it means to be a writer. Because, before Pitch Wars, I had done critique groups, but writing was a very solitary thing for me, especially because I had pulled back after I had my younger son that I had essentially quit. I was starting from scratch when I joined with you guys. Rebuilding those relationships and building that community has been the biggest - I think the biggest surprise - and the biggest positive, out of all of publishing. It's, like, building these connections. It's been super fantastic.

Sabrina Yeah. I don't know what I would do without my people.

Jenny Yeah, because it's nice to have somebody to complain about, right, or to complain about things with. To be like, 'Oh, they get this when you have something...'

Sabrina Even just like just the cheering you get from people too, and everything. The last project I worked on, and even the one before that, I've just had my friends just daily, 'You got this! You got this!' And it's helpful. It's so helpful to know that somebody out there cares. [Laughs.]

Jenny It's true. There's so much rejection in publishing. There's so much rejection that you really need to emphasize the positive stuff. You need to know that somebody - because you know, there's plenty of people out there who don't want your book. That was made very obvious. [All laughing.] You need to know that there are people out there that want, and love, and need more of your book. So yeah, that's huge.

Sabrina Oh, the rejection, right?

Jenny Yeah. I'm on sub right now, so I get it. And everything that I've heard is like everything is moving glacial. So slow.

Carrie Yeah, I hope it moves. It's a really fun book. I would like to get that going of do a YA. Do an adult, do a YA. Like, kind of hopscotch them.

Sabrina You're so fast!

Jenny Oh, God, I feel so not fast again. When you compare yourself to everybody else who's like, 'I wrote four books this year.' I'm like, cool. I had four ideas. [All laughing.]

Sabrina I know. I just finished one that has been five years in the making, and I'm just like, I'm just gonna go stick my head in the toilet now. Bye ya'll. [Laughs.] Five years later. Really good. And it's not even gonna be five years, because I'm not even done. It's just to readers now.

Jenny Yeah, well, it takes a while. I tip my hat to the people who can write so fast. I can push out a first draft pretty fast, but then it's very imperfect. My first draft. A second draft is where a ton changes. Yeah. So there are people who are putting out, like, two and three, two and three books a year. I don't think that will ever be me.

Sabrina Yeah, that'll never be me either. And I'm not the same. I'm not a fast drafter. I would like to be. I can outline really fast, and maybe people call it zero drafting, or whatever, where I can know I want this scene somewhere, and here's some lines that will be in this scene and that kind of thing. I don't know if that's fully zero drafting, it's like negative two drafting probably is what I do. And then I'm really slow getting it put together because I need to know what is happening and, like, all the things in my character's heads, like, to move them forward, and I'll go off on some weird tangents. I don't know. I really need to be there and know what came before, in order for it to make sense to me.

Carrie Absolutely.

- Jenny Yeah. I hear people calling it the discovery draft, which I really, really like. Like that first draft of just figuring out, like, who your characters are, what they actually want. And then that changes the story so much, right, because you can't force the characters into a story that's not theirs. And so I find that's where all the changes happen, is that my discovery draft, a second draft, is just a lot.
- Sabrina And it's amazing when you think about the creation of a book, too, because when it starts with just, like, the seed of an idea, and usually that's like a sentence or two. So you have two sentences that launch an entire manuscript. I mean, it grows characters, plot, growth, everything. I mean, it's hard to even think about creating one character off of two sentences like that, much less an entire world of them. I don't know. Writing is ridiculous. What are we doing? And also, we're incredible! [All laughing.]
- Jenny But it is fun. I love when I'm in that idea generating phase, and it usually happens a couple of times a year where I finished a draft or an edit of something else, and I'm ready to think about what comes next and just, like, letting my mind go wild. And it's like, what's up there? What do I feel like pursuing? And how do these very disparate ideas, how can they maybe go together into one thing or two things? It's a lot of fun. It's a really fun part. And I feel like I kind of look... I mean, you can tell that I'm in brainstorming phase because around the house, I'm just wandering and probably muttering to myself, and I'm always writing down. I tend to do this thing where I start the sentence in my head, and then I go find Ian, and I finish the sentence to him, and he's like, "You gotta catch me up here, buddy. What are we talking about?" And I'm like, 'Okay, yeah, let me tell you this idea,' because I tend to brainstorm out loud a lot with him. He'll help me just listen to my ramblings as I make them make sense.
- Sabrina Oh, my gosh, that's so cute. That's really cute.
- Jenny He has great ideas. He's a good writer in his own right. He's also very good at it, so he tends to have really good ideas to help me iron things out.
- Sabrina My bestie is not a writer, but I will go to my bestie and just spitball the plot stuff and like, 'Does this make sense? Does this make sense? No. What are your ideas? Like, help me think about things.' And that's how I get a lot of my brainstorming, from just, like, word vomiting with my bestie. And Carrie, I always call Carrie magic because she'll be like, 'I haven't written in two years.' And then she's like, 'I'm gonna write a book.' And then she's like, three weeks later. 'Here you go, Sabrina.' [Laughs.]
- Carrie And then it takes me, like, seven years to edit or to revise that book, so...
- Sabrina And then I get it, and she's like, 'It's awful.' And I'm like, 'Dude, this is, like, perfect. I have some notes for you, but they're not that huge, like...' Carrie. I know, I'm always so impressed by you.
- Carrie That's the fun part, where you get to just be someone else in someone else's story and write this thing and see where it goes. And that's the fun to me. That's like, why you do this whole thing is so that you can just step into this place that you've created, and the story you've created, and walk through it and yeah, I don't like having to revise it afterwards, because it's no longer fun.

Sabrina I love revising because it's where I, like, fine tune all the things and finally bring out the things that I was trying to say.

Jenny I feel like I have, like, a love-hate relationship with revising because when you're in that beginning, you're just like, you've gotten your edit letter, you've gotten your feedback, and you're like, now what? Because obviously, if you wrote it in the draft, in your head, that's how it works, right? You're like, 'Oh, this is great. This is what should happen. I can't imagine anything different.' And, like, that process of being like, 'Okay, this is crap. Where do I go from here?' And at first, it's so daunting, but I feel like once something clicks, once it falls into place, you're suddenly just, like, on fire. It's this great feeling. Those are the times where I'll stay up until two in the morning writing, and I am usually like, 'It's 9:30, let's get some jim jams on. Let's go to bed.' But it's the revising stage where I find myself get more, like, almost obsessive.

Sabrina Yeah, that's where I get really obsessive, too. When I'm drafting. I fumble around a lot when I'm drafting, especially if I don't have a good outline going, because I'm just like, 'The sky's the limit. I can do anything!' And I'm like, 'No, no, no, you can't do anything, like, calm down.' [Laughs.] I like seeing the different options. Yeah. I have a really hard time with decisions, and sometimes I'll have to just try stuff and be like, 'That's wrong. I'll try this. No, that's wrong, too. I don't know what's right, but I know all of that's not right.' Which I have a hard time moving forward from, too, because if I know it's wrong, then how do I keep going when I don't know what it's supposed to be, so?

Jenny Right.

Sabrina That's why I'm so slow.

Jenny Well, I definitely get into the trap of, like, I tend to write pretty clean, and I think that, again, comes from being a journalist. Like, you have to kind of self edit as you're going, but then I can fall into the trap of, like, 'I'll just reread what I wrote last time,' and then that's all you do during your writing session. I'm rereading and revising again, and it's just like it happens all the time, and I have limited time to write. I try and fit it in when my kids are at school, and so there's just fewer hours in the day.

Sabrina I try not to revise as I'm going. Well, so I write by hand. When I see the words on there, I want to edit them, and I can't actually make them pretty if I'm using a pen. Like, I can't erase it. I should try the white letters. Have you done that?

Jenny I could not do that.

C But I know I probably talked about red squiggles. I would just feel lost the whole time and, like, nervous that it's not there. No, that's stressful. I'm stressing out just thinking about it. I could not do that, no.

Jenny But also the red squiggles would drive me nuts because I have a hard time.

Sabrina Can you turn those off? You might be able to turn those off, but...

Jenny Maybe?...

Sabrina I don't know.

Jenny Yeah. If I were to write, whenever I write on paper, if I make - spell something wrong or, like, format something differently, even a grocery list, I'll be like, 'Oh, I got to start over!'

Sabrina Oh, my gosh.

Jenny I put a check mark here, and I put a squiggle here. Like, 'You can't. This doesn't look right.'

Sabrina I just scratch things out.

Jenny Oh man! So, actually, I went back to doing a paper planner just this last year, because I realized just having it electronic, it was too hard to keep track of. And I'm making myself be like, 'I can cross things off, and that is okay.' I can cross things out and make notes and not have it look pretty.

Sabrina Carrie, you are, like, the biggest planner person ever, too. How do you keep all your stuff straight? Do you have a big calendar, or?

Carrie Like, in life or with writing?

Sabrina Both.

Carrie Both? Yeah. And I'm really old fashioned with it. I need to be able to see everything all at once. So in life, I cannot find something that works on my phone. I just can't. I need to see the month, and everybody has their own colors, and there's white out because, like with Jenny, if there's too much scratching out stuff, that really starts bothering me.

Jenny It makes me feel, like itchy. I'm like, I've got to fix this.

Carrie It's messy. I don't need my life messy. I need my life organized. So there's white out, if I need it. And I kind of do the same thing when I'm writing, too. I tend to write in smaller time chunks. I don't generally write books that take place over years, or whatever, so it'll be like a season, or a chunk of a year, or something. And I will print out a blank calendar. Like, I just go to calendar labs and get a blank calendar, and I will print that out and put it on a board or on my wall, and I will write in the big things that are happening in that year. And that makes me be able to keep track of - because I'm writing sports most of the time - so I can keep track of... Her sports schedule can be one color, and what's going on in her life can be another color, and things like that. It is kind of a thing for both my real life and my not real life. Yeah, I just need to be able to see all of it at once. And that really helps me for pacing purposes, too. But also, I have to stay within a pretty strict schedule if I'm writing a sports book that takes place in one season. And I can't forget things that are happening. Like, oh, wait, Halloween is in the middle of that season. That's probably something a teen would have paid attention to.

Sabrina Honestly, holidays are really great for just, like, marking time passing, too.

Jenny They are. They help the reader. They're nice milestones for the readers.

Carrie So yeah, I'm kind of similar for both of those things. I like to see everything all neatly laid out, which does not mean that I'm plotting it ahead of time. That's after I've already drafted the whole thing and go back. That's one of the things that I'll do when I'm first starting. I'll make lists of each scene, and I'll put up my calendar, and that kind of helps me organize for my revisions.

Sabrina Okay, I'm the same way. You do a scene list, you said?

Carrie Yeah, I do a scene list. Yeah. And obviously that will change. Things get added in, or taken out, or merged, or whatever. But that also helps me keep track of pacing and just making sure that action and sequel scenes that I'm not slowing down too much or that I don't have too much going on all at once.

Jenny I like the idea of printing out a calendar because I often find it's the same thing with me. Like, I will write the draft because I remember getting the same feedback from you two. I get it consistently. Like the sense of time, the marking time, I'm a little too squishy with that. And so printing off a calendar and being like, 'Oh, this is a weekend,' or this is instead of me going to my own Google Calendar and counting back days and trying to figure it out that way, I might have to take that, and start doing that. How long is it gonna be?

Sabrina Calendars are great. I do one, but my books are usually longer, and right now I have, like, one that's a year. I think my last one had, like, two years. That was ridiculous. And actually, I start them. I don't really fill them in ahead of time. It's not like, a plotting thing for me, but I do them as I go.

Carrie I've wanted to write a story that takes place over just 24 hours. I think that would be so much fun. Like, one 24 hours that you would need to do, like, every single hour accounted for, and you can't get squichy there.

Sabrina Yeah.

Carrie And that is one of my pet peeves in books, is when I'm like, 'How much time has passed?'

Jenny Are you sure that the editor, and all of the people down the editing chain, copy editors, and everybody else, have taken care of this, Carrie, so you can sit back and just enjoy the story?

Carrie But I can't. It bothers me.

Sabrina What day is it? I don't know yet.

Jenny My copy editor, when they were looking at - I don't remember which book it was for now, but they were like, 'Okay, these events happened on a Tuesday, so if we can say, like, it seems that there have been three days passing, and yet you're saying it's a Sunday' I was just like, 'Oh, my God, I agree. I need to have it right.' But I was like, 'Wow, you really counted this out, where I was just like, 'About a week.'

Carrie I have a scarey - my brain will naturally do that, which is probably something I should look into. So...

Sabrina That's so funny. That's so funny. I'll make stuff up in my books, and then I'll go back and look at the calendar, and I'll be like, that is not time. That's not logical to anybody but you, and not even to you. Okay, I want to talk about *Lola*. You want to talk about *Lola*?

Jenny Yeah. And I actually have - if you want me to read an excerpt - I marked something.

Sabrina I love it! I'm so excited! Okay, so for anyone who doesn't know and hasn't read the blurb yet, which is shame on you, do you want to tell us what *Lola* is about and how it kind of ties and connects to *Being Mary Bennett*?

Jenny Yes.

Sabrina Oh, also, I have a question that I've been wondering, and I should look this up on Goodreads, probably. But is it considered, like, a series? Like, are they putting it like a one and two?

Jenny No, it's a totally stand alone.

Sabrina It's a companion.

Jenny

It's a companion novel. Only these are the only two from my Barnes family that I'm writing about. I feel like I told everybody's story. I get that question a lot. Like, are you gonna write stories about the other sisters? And maybe someday I'll go back and go back to my Lizzie and Will's story.... Er, Lizzie and Darcy, Lindy and Will. In my book, I named them all with the same first letter. At the time, I was like, 'Oh, so clever.' And now it's just a thorn in my side. So *Being Mary Bennett* is following my middle sister Mary, my modern version of Mary Bennett, the pedantic, prickly middle sister. She learns how she fits in her family and how she fits in the world. And then *Lola At Last* is about her younger sister Lola, who is my Lydia Bennett. And so for anyone not familiar with *Pride and Prejudice*, Lydia Bennett is the younger sister who is very brash, and outspoken, and boy crazy. And in *Pride and Prejudice*, she is the downfall of her family. She runs away with a guy who has taken advantage of her, Wickham, and she is going to ruin her family because she has essentially eloped. Back then, they would say, like, 'Oh, they went to Gretna Green', which was just across the border in Scotland. It was where couples would go to elope. Very, very scandalous. So my modernized version of this is taking place after she had her terrible episode with her Wickham. Everything went to crap, and now she's trying to recover from it. And part of what went into the story, was that I never thought that I wanted to write about Lydia. The person that I identified with in *Pride and Prejudice* was always, you want to be the Lizzie, but then you also see things in Mary where you're like, 'Oh, look at her, like, playing her piano and nobody cares', but she's just gonna do it. I really felt for Mary. So that story when I was writing *Being Mary Bennett* about it made a lot of sense to me. But with Lydia, I was like, no, she's the annoying younger sister. She makes terrible mistakes and doesn't consider anyone else around her. But the first second that Lola showed up in Marnie's story, I was like, in love with her. She's amazing. I get her voice right away. And I wanted to write a story about her. So I went into this thinking, like, in *Pride and Prejudice*, Lydia makes a mistake as a teen. She's young, she's the youngest of the sisters. She's 15. She's preyed upon by an older dude, and she has to bear the brunt of that mistake for the rest of her life. Like, one mistake as a teen is gonna ruin her life, because that's pretty clear in the book. She's made a mistake. She is going to live to regret it, because you know that Wickham is not a good person. He's not gonna be reliable. He's not gonna love her. He's not gonna give her a happy life. And so I wanted to give her the chance to make mistakes, and still grow, and have a happy ending. That one mistake isn't gonna ruin the rest of her life, because I think that is so true, right? As teens, as young adults, we make so many mistakes, but the wonderful thing is that we can learn from them, and then make another mistake, right? You don't make one mistake, and then suddenly you're magically perfect. But you can be imperfect, and you can be always striving to be better. And that's okay. It shouldn't cost you the rest of your life. So that's where Lola came out of. And also, she's, like, very sassy and fun. I really like writing her.

Sabrina

She's so sassy and fun. I loved reading her so much in *Being Mary Bennett*, and I'm so glad she's getting her own book.

Jenny Yeah. So the story of Lola is that it is almost a year after things have gone down with the guy, the older guy that she was dating. Her parents have shipped her off to France to try and get a fresh start. She failed at it. She was a spectacular disaster at trying to remake herself in France. So she's come back home in just, like, absolute shambles. She's lost all of her friends, but she's trying to regain her place in the hierarchy of her school. And so it takes place over the summer where she's like, 'Okay, I'm gonna take the summer. I'm gonna get all my friends back. I'm gonna be popular again no matter what.' And then it starts with her trying to be popular again, and making another very big mistake because she tends to be impetuous. She tends to not think through her decisions. And so she's made a giant mistake, and now she's having to pay for it. So it's following her, and I have an excerpt of it. It's her first day having to go to this - basically like an Outward Bound style program. It's called 'Hike Like a Girl' when she has to spend the whole summer in this program to make up for the fact that she's made some really bad decisions. Is that okay? Should I read for you?

Sabrina Yes. Oh, my gosh, please. What chapter is this from?

Jenny It's Chapter Six. So this is when she's finally facing this punishment. She does not want to be here. She hates everything about it, and it's run by her brother-in-law's sister. So this is my Georgiana. She's named Georgia in this. But this is Georgiana Darcy running this 'Hike Like a Girl' program. Okay. I'll just see how many pages I read. We'll see. Just tell me to stop.

Sabrina I'm never gonna tell you to stop. No. [Laughs.]

- Jenny “After much thought and consideration, I go with the gold lame high tops. I might be forced to go hiking, but I still have some dignity. According to the horrifically cheery welcome email from Georgia Drake, I'm immediately suspicious of anyone who is this excited about forests. ‘Hike Like a Girl’ meets at a picnic spot west of San Jose. I've been told to look for an orange VW bus, which, ‘No, thank you!’ A surfer once tried to hit on me. I have to obey, and I was nearly tempted until I saw him walk back to a gross camper, and realized he was living in it. Like, where do you go to the bathroom, sir? So when I pull up to Georgia's orange VW bus and see her handing out T-shirts from the side of it, I mean, all signs point to yuck. There are five girls hovering around her, sort of introducing themselves and tugging the branded tees over tank tops. No one else is wearing gold lame high tops, or a floral romper, and wide brimmed black felt hat. I can confidently say, I am going to hate this. “Lola!” Georgia jumps out of the open sliding door of her bus/home, and strides over to me. She walks like her brother. Strike one against Georgia. I met her at Will and Lindy's wedding, obviously, but she pulls me into the type of hug you reserve for old friends. Her shock of wavy brown hair gets all up in my face, and a few strands of it stick to my lip gloss when she pulls away. She drags me over to the group. “Everyone, this is the last member of our crew, Lola.” I rub Georgia's hair germs off my mouth and say ‘Hey.’ The five girls just smile and wave, even though I'm giving them every clue that I'm here under duress. It's still and quiet under the blue green shadows of the eucalyptus trees, and it makes me want to crawl out of my skin. Everyone is staring. Is it over yet? We've all already introduced ourselves, as a white girl wearing hideous brown hiking boots. She's got the sort of posture that reminds me of the overachievers at Crenshaw. Like the clipboard isn't there, but it's there. I thought it was just the five of us, but we must have been super tight with the application rankings, I guess. Let's go around again, and hold on. “Beth,” Georgia says, jumping back out of her orange bus with a wadded up T-shirt in her hands. We'll do proper intros in a sec.” Ha. Guess you're not the boss around here, Beth. I immediately decide to launch a personal vendetta against Beth. My heart warms the tiniest bit for Georgia, but then she attempts to toss me the T-shirt and it freezes right back over. I watch the tee bump my elbow and fall to the ground. Got to be a bit quicker on your feet around here. She eyes my shoes. “What size do you wear?” “Uh, eight.” “Same size as me. Want to borrow a more appropriate shoe?” I look down at her appropriate footwear and cringe. “I'm good.” She blinks at me, and barrels on. “Okay, then here's your ‘Hike Like a Girl’ tee, Lola. And I've got a bunch of other goodies. We'll use that on the trail.” “These are voluntary, right?” I grab the tee and hold it out for inspection. It's the color of a mandatory PE uniform and emblazoned with an orange VW bus, with the mountains behind the name, in a circle around the illustration, with a pair of hiking boots hanging off the bottom of the G. Georgia ignores me and claps her hands together twice to get our attention. Strike two. ‘Okay, girls, welcome to a life changing summer.’ A shiver works its way around the group, but I stopped that shit dead.”
- C I love it. You had me at hair germs.
- Sabrina It's so good. Hair germs. Carrie and I. We made eye contact. I tried to very quietly laugh so I didn't interrupt. [Laughs.]
- Jenny I love letting Lola just be like she's like, all in, right? She's like there's nothing holding her back at first, so she was a lot of fun to write. She's very, very messy.
- Sabrina This is the power of a really awesome character, because I just remember the day that - because we've already read *Being Mary Bennett*, of course. So we already know Lola as a character. And then I just remember asking Jenny what she's working on next? And she's like, Lola goes camping. And I'm like, literally three words.

Jenny Yes.

Sabrina I love that it's *Lola At Last* and *Being Mary Bennett*. What is that? I know there's a term for that.

Jenny Alliteration.

Sabrina There you go.

Jenny I feel like they go well together, that they feel like a set, that even though it's not like a sequel, they feel like they're sisters. My little book sisters.

Sabrina Do we get to see any of the other sisters in *Lola*?

Jenny Yes, they are all in it. So, Marnie...

Sabrina What about the mom?

Jenny The mom is there. Don't you worry. The mom is there. Marnie's in it a little bit, but I didn't want to take away from *Lola's* story, so she just has a couple of scenes a lot like with Marnie, *Lola* is working toward fixing relationships with her sisters. So it's Lindy again. It's my Lizzy character, and then it's Cat. It's *Lola's* twin sisters, the big relationship that she's trying to repair and then just figuring out the mom. I feel like the mom character, Julia Barnes, is the agent of chaos that is always around. But nobody's gonna change her. She's not gonna change. So it's more about learning how to live with her and still trying to navigate a positive relationship, right.

Sabrina Is Whit in it?

Jenny No, he's only mentioned.

Sabrina Okay, tell me how hard it is having written *Being Mary Bennett* all from Mary's point of view, and then switching to *Lola* and then, like, writing scenes with Mary. Is that difficult, or is it fun, or does she want to steal the show?

Jenny No, it's really fun. It was really, really fun. I don't know. It felt like the little Easter eggs that I was able to give Marnie. It almost felt like the greatest hits. Like she's gonna talk about *Anne of Green Gables*. She's going to. But it was also fun because you're seeing her, who she has become. So Marnie is much more confident. She's much more able to riff back and forth with her sisters, where at the beginning of *Being Mary Bennett*, she was so always second guessing herself and pretty awkward.

Sabrina And her thoughts were definitely in her head, for sure.

Jenny And so now you're seeing them out loud. You're seeing her be okay. Like, if *Lola* says something kind of like snarky to her, she says something snarky right back. And so that was really fun. It was really fun to do. But it's a weird thing. It felt so much like *Lola's* story that I wasn't like itching to have Marnie in it more because I was like, I wanted to be spending time with *Lola*.

Sabrina I mean, you finished *Being Mary Bennett*. It's not like it was a series that was unfinished for you. I feel like once you close that door, usually with my books, I throw so much stuff in. Like, I literally have no words left for this. What else do you want with it? Like, no, I don't need to focus on that character.

Jenny Right.

Sabrina They're done. [Laughs.]

Jenny It feels very much, and when I was working on Marnie and then right after I sold it, the idea that I would have to write something else felt very like, 'Oh, but I'm always going to want to be in Marnie's world.' But it's this weird thing where it's like, I started Lola, and I was just like, 'No, this is who I want to be with right now.' You focus on it so much that I mean, it really does become like children, right? When you have one kid and you're pregnant with the second, you're like, how could I ever love my second as much as I love my first? But then they're born, and you're like, 'Oh, no, I obviously have room to love both of them equally in different ways.'

Sabrina Hearts just get a little bigger each time. It's fine.

Carrie Yeah, that's right.

Jenny Yeah, that's really what it feels like.

Sabrina I love that. Okay. That's so cool. Who was your favorite character to write this time around in *Lola*? Other than Losa? No cheating.

Jenny The love interest, Ezra, is really, really fun. He's a Boy Scout. He's somebody who loves camping and hiking, and I really, really liked him. There was something where he's like he's very even keeled. Lola can be all over the place, but Ezra is like he's kind of laid back, and he's sure of who he is, which I really liked. And he's just a really good complement to Lola. But he was also - he was funny. I think I'm always gonna have to write - I'm always gonna write characters that have banter. So, like, the banter between them really I felt like developed.

Sabrina Banter is important in writing. This is an important part of. It should actually have its own little section, like plot, dialogue, banter, right?

Carrie It's like chemistry.

Jenny Yeah, I love writing banter, as you all know. I prefer that over plot.

Sabrina I love humor. I mean, obviously it's important when you're writing a funny book, but some of my favorite moments in novels are when it's really dark, and emotional, and deep, and you still have that little kernel of funny in there just to kind of lighten things and make things not as heavy. I love that.

Jenny Absolutely. Yeah. That's always my favorite. I think that's why reading fantasy books that still have humor, and have real humor, it can be hard to do, right? It can be hard to find that line of what feels right. But that's why when I said *The Mysterious Society of Lady Scoundrels* or, I've always loved *The Lady Janies*. It's the three authors who write the *My Lady Jane* and *My Plain Jane*. All of those. They can get into some very fantasy stuff, but it's always really legitimately funny.

Sabrina Yeah, that's the one who did the Holly Chase Dickens retelling. Right Carrie, one of them?

Carrie Oh, is it?

Sabrina I'm pretty sure. Cynthia Hand, I think.

Jenny I've got it. I did have it back here. Yes.

Sabrina I don't know how I did that.

Jenny I don't know how you did either.

Sabrina I was so quick with that.

Jenny Yeah. Whenever anyone asks me what I'm reading right now, I'm like books? What books? I always have to have, like, a couple sitting next to me in case someone asks. I could literally look at it.

Sabrina And I'm about to ask. Are you ready?

Jenny I am ready.

Sabrina What are you reading right now?

Jenny I just finished *Belittled Women* by Amanda Sellet. It's a modern day *Little Women* again, keeping on theme. And then I just went to - it's one of my Denver authors - Ellen O' Clover, her debut novel, *Seven Percent of Ro Devereux* just came out this past Tuesday.

Sabrina It's on my TBR. I just added it.

Jenny That's the one that I'm starting.

Sabrina Yeah. Okay, cool. I'm currently on *Well, That Was Unexpected*, by Jesse Q. Sutanto. So good. Have you all done it yet?

Carrie No, I haven't read that yet, but I loved *Dial A for Auntie's*.

Sabrina *Dial A for Auntie's* is so good. I also just did I think *It's The New Girl*. It's her other YA thriller. Yeah. But it's still hilarious. Like, it's still got her humor and like, her amazing way of, like, writing, like the glam and stuff in life.

Carrie Yeah, she's amazing. I love Jesse.

Jenny Yes. I love her writing. I tend to be drawn to really voicey writers. Whenever you find that really voicey, that voicey piece. I think that's why I found, like, Libba Bray was very voicey. Oh, man, I'm like in! That's the thing that will make me be an auto buy for their next book. I love the voice.

Sabrina Interesting. It's dual point-of-view, too.

Jenny Ooh, really?

Sabrina Yeah. You've got the two love interests, the male/female, so that's interesting. I don't think I've seen that with her before.

Jenny That'd be fun to do. I've never really done dual point-of-view.

Sabrina I just did one and I never want to do one again!

Jenny Really?

Sabrina Oh my God. The hardest thing I've ever done in my life.

Jenny I think it'd be fun.

Sabrina They are, they're really fun. Once I got into it and everything, and I still love it and I still enjoy revising it and everything, but oh man. Switching between and they're very different in my head. So switching between the two was always just like, I ended up getting into like a flow of working on it, where I'd work on one chapter this day because it was alternating by chapter. So I'd work on this chapter this day. I could not pick up the next one that day. Like I had to finish out my day, do other things and then start fresh on it the next day because they were just too different, and I really needed to put some space between them. So that was a big challenge, I think, with those. I don't know.

Carrie She's doing a great job and I love it and I'll probably do it again at some point, but maybe not soon. [Laughs,]

Sabrina What about you, Carrie? What are you reading right now?

Carrie So I wrote the name down because I'm terrible with titles, right? And so I knew that I was gonna forget the whole name. It is called *Drizzle Dreams and Love Struck Things*. It is YA. And it's not necessarily *Little Women*, but it's like four sisters, and their own little stories, but they take place each in one season. So you get like the oldest sister's story, and then there's a set of twins in the middle and you get one of her stories, and right now I'm on the youngest sister's story, so I'm on the third story. And it takes place up in the San Juan Islands in Washington, which is like I love, love that area, the most, prettiest. And the stories are so sweet and swoonie and I'm totally adoring it. It's really cute.

Jenny She was in my debut group. I've been lucky enough to read the sequel. I don't know if it's a sequel, or companion, but I've read the next one coming up. It's gonna be really great.

Sabrina Awesome! I haven't read this one yet. It sounds really good. So I'm adding it. It's probably already on my TBR, to be perfectly honest. That sounds really interesting. So is it like alternating point of views or is it like, here's the first story chunk and then you move characters for this part of the book?

Carrie So, it starts in the fall and it's the oldest sister. It's all third person point of view, but it's limited, so you're only in her point of view for her story. And then, as it moves into the winter, and the next sister's story takes over, you've still got like little bits of the older sister and you can kind of watch her life progress a little bit, but it's really just centered around the next sister's story for each season.

Jenny That's cool.

Sabrina It's a really interesting structure too.

Carrie That's why I like it. Yeah, it's fun. The only thing I would say is that I wish I could get an entire book out of each of these. Like, I wish it could be longer because they're really enjoyable.

Sabrina Yeah, that makes sense.

Carrie Yeah. But now that I know that there's a second book, now I have that to be excited about.

Sabrina Do you want to tell everyone where we can find each of you?

Carrie I am kind of hiatusing from Twitter. It's been a while now and I've really enjoyed my hiatus, so that is probably going to continue. So I only get on there really to check sports stuff and to DM cool people like you guys. And I'm not on Instagram, so people like, don't message me there. People are always trying to message me there. I'm like, I'm not here. I am at carrieallenauthor.com. And I do update it. I don't have a lot of news frequently, so there's not a lot of frequent updates, but because when an author updates her website, a special little Dahlia Adler star arrives in the sky. So I do update my website when I do have news, so I promise it will be updated because we love Dahlia Adler and we like her power to grow. So that is where you can find me and you can also contact me there if you want to, as well.

Sabrina Did you say your Twitter link you're at?

Carrie I don't know. What is it? Carrie S Allen. I think it's Carrie S Allen.

Sabrina Yeah, we talk to each other too much, actually.

Carrie I know I don't have a clue, but you can link to it from my website, as well, so you can always find me through that. carrieallenauthor.com.

Jenny I'm like Carrie. I'm also pulling back from Twitter. It feels like a kind of a weird place lately, so I've been on it less and less, but I am on Instagram. And dragging and kicking my feet I joined TikTok, so I'm on both of those @JCPwrites. And then my website is jcpetersonwrites.com and all of my information is there. I do not update it enough. I am very bad at that. But there's a Contact Me link that goes to my email account and everything. So yeah, that's where you can find me.

Sabrina Yay. Oh my gosh. This was so fun.

Carrie It was! It was so great.

Jenny So nice.

Sabrina So good talking to ya'll. These are like some of my favorite people in the whole world. I love this.

Jenny Thank you so much for just hanging out and chatting. It was so nice.

Sabrina Okay friends! That's it for episode 14! You can find all the Jenny and Carrie links in the show notes below! I've got a surprise giveaway coming soon too, so be sure to check out @LoftilyLotfi or @LitTeaPodcast if you like to win things! As always, thank you so much for joining us! Okay Ginny, say goodbye!

Ginny Barks