

Hi, and first of all, welcome. We are extremely excited to have you join us and can't wait to hear your thoughts on this or a future episode's book.

Once you have agreed to be on an episode, here is what will likely happen next: there will be an email thread among those participating to set up a time to meet for scripting and a separate time to meet for recording. A scripting meeting is usually held for about an hour and we meet virtually via Zoom with a shared Google doc to slot people into roles e.g. who will introduce, lead the discussion, give a plot summary etc. We'll identify any further research needs and see who'd like to take on which segment on the episode. It's totally fine if you haven't finished your read or reread of whatever text we are discussing at this point. Then we'll prepare for the recording.

All episodes are recorded in the computer lab/recording studio at the South Bowie branch. We have four mics set up there for all episode participants. We usually block out 2 to 4 hours for recording episodes just to give up time to get set up and comfortable, do mic checks, and talk about any remaining details about the episode we need to iron out. Then we'll record. We will ask you to introduce yourself. You can share as little or as much about yourself (e.g. your name, branch, a brief connection to the book, etc) as your personal privacy preferences allow. Some people like to share their full name and where they work and others prefer to just share a first name. If you want to come up for a pseudonym for the pod, that's fine too.

Don't:

Be shy about sharing your opinions, thoughts, hot takes, [Fridge Theories](#), [Eureka Moments](#), and fan theories. We want to hear them!

Feel like you need to be an experienced public speaker to guest on TBMM. We are just making it up as we go along. Honestly we are just happy when we remember to speak into the mic and hold the face the correct distance away from it.

Worry too much (if you can -- acknowledging that worry is sometimes out of our control) about not "fitting in" to the dynamic of the regular participants. Although we have regular hosts on the podcast, we shuffle around often and each episode is kinda its own microcosm.

Do:

[Listen to an episode or two](#) of the podcast before the scripting meeting, if you have time. This can help you get a sense of the typical tone of the show and how each segment works.

Bring water or a preferred beverage to the recording. It definitely helps cut down on a dry mouth when you are talking a lot (or are maybe nervous) and it helps to help your voice sound its best too.

Remove any jewelry, library badges, scratchy outerwear etc. that may make noise into the mic before starting. Try to wear a paper mask or other thin mask that will help avoid muffling your voice.

Refrain from applying scented products such as perfume or fragranced lotion before entering the recording studio . Your colleagues with fragrance allergies and sensitivities will thank you!

Feel free to do as much research as you are interested in. Any wild theories, historical facts, or external opinion pieces are welcome but not required.

We also more than welcome your suggestions for readalikes or other topics for our [blog](#) and community experts to be interviewed for that segment of the podcast. If you would like to interview the community expert, you are more than welcome to do so!

Remember that if you “mess up” or say something you are uncomfortable with remaining on the recording, we can re-record or edit it out in post. Especially for the first couple episodes, we had a hilarious (or embarrassing) amount of errors and “oops, let’s try that again” moments. It’s fine, we promise.

Feel free to make jokes. We are a pro-humor pod and although some of the books we discuss deal with heavy and serious subject matter and the overall tone of those episodes may be more somber, we usually have some moments of levity and it’s totally fine to bring your sense of humor with you. Some of these books we read as kids are bananacrackers and it’s fine to acknowledge that! These aren’t sacred texts.

Feel free to ask to pause the recording if you need a bathroom break or stretch your legs break mid episode.

Let us know if there are ways that we can make this more comfortable for you. We want to make you feel welcome.