Season One, Episode Twelve:

Intro: Welcome to Red Hen Radio, a podcast brought to you by Red Hen Press. We're a nonprofit publisher fostering diverse stories every year. On this podcast, you'll get to hear from the people who are inside the literary world — the authors and publishing professionals who are working hard to keep independent literature thriving. Stay with us as we introduce you to today's segment.

—

Piper: (00:04.248)
Hey listeners, this is Piper from Red Hen Press. I'm usually behind the scenes on Red Hen Radio, where I edit the audio for each episode, but I'm here to help host a very special feature to wrap up our first season. For presses of all sizes, one of the most important relationships we have is with our local and independent bookstores. These booksellers foster vibrant relationships amongst publishers, authors, and readers, and they work every day to ensure that literacy and a genuine love of the written word are accessible realities that can be passed on to the next generation. In today's episode, we're going to take you into the streets of Los Angeles to visit two incredible bookstores that have become literary, artistic, and community pillars for all who step through their doors.

Let's head over to our first location!

Jingle

Piper:
On the quiet yet lively corner of North Hill Avenue in Pasadena, just a few short minutes from our press offices, you'll find a number of locally owned businesses, including cafes, a barbershop, and Octavia's Bookshelf. Inside, owner Nikki High has built a book lover's haven. This cozy shop is the first independent bookstore in Pasadena dedicated to highlighting the work of BIPOC authors. And despite being only three years established, they are a mighty force in the Los Angeles literary community.

Walking up to Octavia's, you'll smell the nearby coffee, hear the chatter of the community out and about, and hopefully you'll get the same sensation I did: that there is something special afoot. Octavia's window reads, *This is the place I've been telling you about*. And boy, am I glad to help spread the word.

Right away, I wanted to know: what sparked the creation of Octavia's?

Nikki:
I was inspired to open Octavia's Bookshelf because I have a love of reading and I have a love of community. I was largely raised in the Pasadena, Altadena area. So about 50 years I've been here. So since I was a little girl, I always wanted a store to exist where the stories written by

people who looked like me were celebrated and prioritized. And I've been waiting for a long time and then it didn't happen. I sometimes live in a completely delusional world. And I was like, well, I can just quit my job and do it. So here we are.

The vibe here is sort of an extra-large extension of my book nook at home. And so I was really intentional when I created the store. I wanted it to be small on purpose to really just keep that sort of intimacy. But the way that it's decorated, the plants and the art and the books and the coziness of it is really just, like I said, an extension of my little tiny book area at home. And I wanted to share that with everybody because it's a space where I journal, I meditate, I read, I knit, I hang out with my dogs in this little corner. And so when people come in, they automatically say, *wow, this feels really comfortable, this feels really cozy. I feel really safe here.* And so that's sort of the larger detail of it, is I wanted a space where the most marginalized of us feel safe.

So everybody that walks in here is represented. They know that they belong here. They know that they'll be safe here. I think with indie bookstores, we all do things really well and really differently. And so I feel like what sets me apart is really just that nurturing spirit. I am a natural servant. It's how I pay my rent to be on Earth every day, is serving others. And so I wanted this space to represent that.

Piper:
Don't worry, we'll be right back to Octavia's, but let's go say hi to our next location.

Jingle

Piper:
A quick hop down the 210 into the San Gabriel Valley town of Monrovia brings you to a glimmering community space known as Underdog Bookstore. Sitting in the heart of Old Town Monrovia, directly across from the gorgeous Monrovia Public Library and a massive lush park full of cheerful readers, Underdog is in a prime location to ensure that their mission, to provide an oasis for diverse books and marginalized authors, reaches as many folks as possible. This nonprofit bookstore is run by Kealie Mardell-Carrera. And while she'll greet you warmly when you head inside, there's another special four-legged employee who might beat her to it.

Kealie:
So the original Underdog owners had two very cute pugs. Those were the original underdogs that would sit up in the window. So when I took over, I was always getting asked right away, “the pugs here, where are the pugs?” I was like, I don't have pugs, but I need to bring some kind of dog in for you. So I have two dogs. I brought my two dogs in. One of them, fired on day one, was barking at anyone that came near the door. And then the other dog that you will now see in the store is Ninkasi, who is a Manchester Terrier. So she sits up in the window, gets to watch everybody passing by, and then jump down and greet everybody and hang out with people. And she loves coming in here. It's like her favorite thing to do is to get to go to work.

Underdog started back in 2023, with a wonderful couple, Thomas and Nathan, who started the store. They were originally a pop-up at the Monrovia street fair, and then they opened their brick and mortar store here in Monrovia. They created this space with the goal of uplifting marginalized voices and creating a queer safe space in the San Gabriel Valley. They unfortunately last year announced, we're going to have to close.

We are struggling with the amount of racist and homophobic hate that we are getting. So on top of some personal issues, trying to continue with that is just too much for us. We can't do this anymore. I was devastated. Didn't want to see this close. Loved what they had created. So I went and met with one of the original owners, Thomas. I went for coffee just to say, I don't know what help looks like yet, but I know I want to help in some way. Let's talk. Let's just kind of see where this goes.

A couple of hours later, I get home from that coffee, turn to my partner and say, “I think I'm going to form a nonprofit and take over the bookstore.” And they're like, “you went out for coffee, you're doing what now?” And it all happened very quickly in the space of literally a couple of months between their announcement and they had set their end date. So if I wanted to take over, it all had to happen very quickly. So I formed the nonprofit corporation, got together my board of directors, learned a lot very quickly about how to do all of that. But was able to successfully open our first day as a nonprofit on July 1st last year. So I've been doing it for almost a year and a half now. There was a lot of people that said, we want to help and we want to support and we don't want to see this space close. And they were like, but nobody's really coming forward to take charge and steer the ship. And I was like, okay, I'll do that then.

Our focus is on raising marginalized voices. So instead of your typical bookstore where they will stock their like romance section or their thriller section, instead we have our LGBTQIA plus authors and stories, black, indigenous people of color and disabled and neurodiverse. So I only stock books that are by and about those historically underrepresented groups. So it is a lot of finding those stories. They're not always the biggest bestsellers that everyone is talking about and everybody knows about, but the goal is to help you diversify your shelf and find something different and unexpected that speaks to a part of your identity. So I'm always looking for those self-published or indie published small press stories that are being told that not everyone is finding about everywhere else. So that's why I work with a lot of local authors that I get to connect with and hear their stories and then share that with other people.

Before being here at Underdog, I was teaching reading to mostly students with disabilities for about eight years. Way back when my first ever job, age 16, was actually in a bookstore. So I feel like I've come full circle. I spiraled off and did a lot of other things for many years, but it kind of feels like I've come back to where I started.

Piper:
On a note of auspicious beginnings, I had another pressing question at the front of my mind for both shop owners. Do you remember the first book that really blew your mind and made you realize, I want to be in books all the time?

Nikki:
Kindred by Octavia Butler. So let me give you the backstory. I was an early reader, started reading when I was a toddler, like full on. I'm also Gen X. So, you know, if you know anything about that generation, and it's kind of joke about it now collectively, but we were like the forgotten generation. We were latchkey kids. Our parents did not do a whole bunch of oversight. So that being said, I would read books that I was not supposed to read because, you know, if my aunt had a book on her nightstand, I would just take it and read it. And so my adults would see me reading and they're like, oh my God, the baby can read, that's so cool. But I would be reading things that were hugely inappropriate. And so, did that for a long time. But when I was about 16, 16, 17, I don't even know how I came across it, but I read *Kindred* and I had never read anything like that before. It obviously was the ignite point of my obsession with Octavia Butler, but it really did make me so much more curious. And then someone told me about a bookstore in LA called Esselman Books, which, you know, went for what, 35 years. But when I remember going there for the first time and I started seeing all of these books by all these authors that I had never heard of, and I'm talking like Bell Hooks, James Baldwin, it just sort of cemented for me this, it just became my personality. You know, reading books, I love hearing stories. I love how reading a book can teach me something. It can sometimes just make me laugh. It can make me cry. How attached you get to characters. It's just been a part of my life ever since I can remember.

Kealie:
My book that has stayed with me from a very young age is *Frankenstein*. That is my kind of go-to classic of just one that I will never forget the first time I read that and then hearing like about Mary Shelley and how the story came to be was really incredible. So that has always stayed with me. The other one would be *Alice in Wonderland*. That is my childhood favorite. And then I now collect different editions with all the different artwork and features in them.

Piper:
Those are some pretty great answers. And with my own curiosities aside, I wanted to ask about their local involvement and what it means for them to be connected so directly with their communities. It quickly became clear that to both Octavia's and Underdog, community is not a buzzword. It's a heartbeat, driving everything they create, host, and foster in their curated literary spaces.

Nikki:
It's the heart of what we do here. Sometimes when I look at our events calendar, I notice that there are sometimes very few like book launch events, but a ton of community-focused events. So whether that be a weekly knitting circle or a writers group that gets together here every Thursday evening, even next month in November, City of Hope will be coming here with their mobile mammogram unit to give mammograms to people who need it. So much of this bookstore, just the heart of it, is bringing people together. And so we all generally have a sort of common hobby, which is reading, but there are so many other aspects of our life that I feel like those needs can be addressed or met here. So yeah, that it's everything for us. One of the most

powerful moments is something that happens to me on a weekly basis, and that's watching little black and brown kids come in and they're like pointing at the book covers like, “Mom, look, look, that's me, that's me.” I mean, that is so… powerful and the fact that I get to experience that over and over again. But post-Eaton Fire, post-January 7th of this year (2025), it was so traumatic for so many of us. And in the, in the wake of that tragedy, to be able to be a resource for people who have supported me so strongly, it felt like this full-circle moment. And I remember we had, we helped hundreds of Altadena residents, but I remember talking to one woman in particular and she said, I remember when you launched a GoFundMe to open the store. She said, and I was so excited and I donated. And she said, I never thought two and a half years later that I would be back at that same store getting baby formula and, you know, toiletries after losing my home. And so, I mean, that has been so magical just to be able to serve the community in that way. And that this community trusted me to be a resource. I will just never forget that.

Kealie:
The biggest joys of doing this are, the community that we build, both with people that come to the store for our events and programs and readers that are coming here for books, but also the really unexpected side has been the community with authors. Like I have gotten to know so many local authors. We do local author meetups. We do tons of author events and panels. And that has just been a really wonderful side of the community to stumble into as well that I'm really glad we get to be a part of.

So that was a huge part for me when I decided to create this next chapter as a nonprofit. It was this idea of this needs to be more than a bookstore. It needs to be a community space as well. So we do tons of free events and programming. In October, I had over 20 events just here in the store. So not including all the things we go out and do at schools and pop-ups and different things. Just in the store, we had over 20 events. That was our busiest month yet, but not too atypical. I am very much a yes person, and it is about this is the community space. So people come to me and say, can I host this workshop or do this Skillshare? Can my group or organization have like a meetup or an event here? Nine times out of 10, I'm going to say yes, this space is here for the community for whatever they want to use it for. I encourage people to come in when we don't have events and use this as like a coworking space or a homework space or writer space, crafting, whatever you need to use it for, like the store is here for you.

Recently, we have had an incident where we were receiving some homophobic notes left outside the store, both started on paper and then were written on rocks. We responded by inviting the community to come out and paint back and paint some affirming rocks instead, which we now decorated our store window with. So those are the moments when we kind of take the negative that's happening and invite the community to do something positive in response. And we see a really wonderful connection with people from that. I had families coming in, kind of sharing this experience with their kids and talking about what was happening.

We do a bit of a combination of we do some like pop-up market events, like we've done books and brews events at breweries, different pop-up markets. That helps us kind of share books with other communities and tell people that we're here, hopefully come back and visit us. And then

the other side that we do is a lot of work with local schools. Sometimes that might look like book sales. Other times we might be doing free book gifting, connecting with young people. I went to a local high school recently for their college careers day and gave a whole talk about running a nonprofit bookstore and why them as creative writing students telling their stories is so important and then I hope I get to sell their books in my store one day. So that's a big part of what we do and I love being able to get out there and connect with other people who aren't walking around Monrovia and just stumbling upon us and then they get to hear about what we're doing and hopefully get connected with us.

One of our new volunteers was here during a mutual aid event that we were doing. So they were here providing free dog grooming services for the community, but it was their first time visiting the store. And they very tearfully shared with me how they grew up right here in Monrovia and did not have any of kind of queer safe spaces available then and how meaningful and impactful it was for them to see this space exist now and on the spot they said that they want to volunteer and they want to be involved. So it's those moments where someone really connects with what we're doing so much that they don't just want to experience it, they want to become a part of it. And I love that we get to do that and now have those people involved and share their ideas and visions for the store with everybody.

Our volunteer program is very new. Even though we formed as a nonprofit corporation, it took a very long time to get that 501c3 approval. So we only very recently started launching our volunteer program. It's still a very small crew at the moment, but I hope that we can expand it and get more people involved. We have a mix of both adult volunteers and then teen volunteers and all kinds of different things that they can be involved in and ways that they can join us. So I'm excited to see it grow.

So my favorite moments are helping somebody find a book that speaks to a part of their identity and seeing that moment where they realize that I've never read a book about somebody like me before. And discovering that for the first time, whether that is your gender or sexuality or your race or your disability, whatever that might be, you finding that book for the first time is such a momentous moment and then it's really special when I get to be a part of that and like share that excitement and joy with them. Being one of the only openly queer safe spaces in the San Gabriel Valley, I also get those interactions with people who perhaps grew up here and there was nothing like this when they were growing up and they're back in town or like talking about how I wish this was here when I lived here or when I was growing up here and that really lets us know the importance of what we're doing here. And then it's just the everyday small moments like a family comes in and is it okay if I sit with my kid and we do homework, is that okay? Or, is it all right if I come in and do some painting? It was too loud at home and somebody sits and works on like some artwork masterpiece. Or, there for all I know, they're sitting there in a laptop and they could be writing their next novel and just seeing all those little moments of people's lives and that they find this is a space that they can come to just exist and be and create and do things. That's really wonderful.

Piper:

Are there any writers who you've really enjoyed getting to work with on literary events or anyone you've loved collaborating with from LA or beyond?

Nikki:
Yes! Rachel Howzell Hall. She typically, well, she used to write, or maybe she still does. She does like some mystery thrillers, but recently she released two romantasy books and they are phenomenal. She's amazing. Tananarive Due, who I have been a fan of for decades, has been a huge supporter of the store. Being able to host her and collaborate with her on projects has been so inspiring. Lynell George, wrote, she's a journalist, she wrote a beautiful biography on the life of Octavia Butler. She has been probably been my loudest fan. We have collaborated on multiple projects together. I mean, there's just so many. Rasheed Newson, who lives here in Pasadena, he had a book that came out a couple of years ago called *My Government Means to Kill Me*. He is coming out with a new book early next year. So we're excited about that, talking about the launch. Founders Day event at the Huntington Library and LeVar Burton showed up. Like, come on. I still, I still wake up sometimes like, did that happen? Podcast here with Mychal Threets, who is the library, like he's the new Reading Rainbow host, but you know, he's that really cool librarian. That kind of stuff happening just in my mind, it doesn't make sense. I'm like, yeah, no bigs. Just doing a podcast with Mychal Threets. Like, what life is this?

I'm sure I'm forgetting some people, but these have been just incredible authors. And for me, authors are celebrities to me. And so coming into this book space, this book selling space, being able to meet the people that I have enjoyed reading for years and years and years, has been some of the best experiences of my life.

Kealie:
I would say my first ever author event that I scheduled here at the store and did was with an author, Melissa Whitney, who is a blind author. And we held an event together talking about disability representation in fiction. The first author I had met and invited into the store and was really excited to share their own voice book launch with them. And for me, as somebody who lives with different disabilities and chronic illnesses, that was very affirming, like, this is what I want to do. These are the stories that I want to uplift and I want to be talking about. And that really kind of started that for me. So we had this wonderful event. And then since then, I've done like bigger Disability Pride Month author panels with multiple authors and continued to really expand in that field. But that was definitely the first one and I will always remember that and just read absolutely anything that Melissa Whitney publishes.

Piper:
It's clear that running these bookstores is rewarding beyond measure, but of course, there are plenty of challenges that arise while maintaining an independent bookstore, and both Nikki and Kealie are still learning how to ride the wave. With the rise of online book retailers and fewer people shopping locally, small bookstores, presses, nonprofits, and businesses in general face the constant struggle of trying to keep their doors open. Kealie offered some great insights about why it matters to buy your books locally.

What do you think is important for customers to know about the impact of buying here in the brick-and-mortar stores?

Kealie:
There is so much great research that is being shared about how when you spend your money locally with small businesses, that money stays in your local community in a way that the big online billionaires can't replicate in any way. I'm sure it's the same for every small business and nonprofit, but finances are always going to be the biggest challenge. Everybody takes the convenient option of ordering your books online at probably half the price than we could ever afford to sell them. People knowing that we're here and that there are benefits to shopping small and why you should support small businesses and local authors and just getting the word out that we're here and what we represent and the values that we hold. And over time, hopefully more and more people learn about that and we have less financial struggles, but it is you know, it's always going to be an uphill battle.

So I was trying to share with people that like, okay, yes, this book might be half the price on Amazon. They are deliberately selling it at a loss and making no money off of that. That is part of their business model. They can afford to do that. There's a reason our books are priced the way that they are. It's so that the authors get their fair share of that proceed and we can also keep the store open. And without people coming and buying those books, we can't keep doing all of the free community programs and resources that we do. So I think that's true of any bookstore, but especially for us as a nonprofit, everything goes back into supporting and furthering our mission. And that is a value that you just can't get with those big online retailers.

We have some big plans on some of our big kind of programs and events that we would like to do. One that I am hoping to initiate for next year is to host a pride event here in Monrovia. The city has never had an official Pride event, so I would love to be the first to do that and to do a Read with Pride so we can get a bunch of queer authors and performers and vendors and have a big, wonderful pride event. It's something I would really love to see happen. We're also talking about a few different initiatives that we would like to do to support young writers and young readers, mentorship with authors, maybe even a writing competition that gets turned into a published anthology. So we want to continue expanding into those areas as much as possible.

Jingle

Piper:
What's one lesson that you've learned from running a bookstore that you wish you knew right at the start?

Nikki:
Whew! So many lessons. Like there's some practical ones, like have a really good bookkeeper. When it's time to pay your quarterly sales tax, things get, I almost cry every time because before I got somebody to help me with that, I was trying to understand these really complicated things that I just didn't have a reference point for. So the practical things, it's like, have twice as much

money as you think you'll need. Have a good bookkeeper. Reach out to other folks in your industry because it gets super lonely to make decisions that are sometimes not popular or very difficult. And to be able to bounce that off, you know, those ideas off with somebody who's in your exact same position is helpful. The support that I get from local organizations that are dedicated to empowering or helping independent or small businesses has been tremendous. Having a relationship with the city in which you operate in, that's so helpful. The councilman for my district here is Rick Cole. We have a wonderful relationship with him and his team and that always helps.

But I think outside of the sort of practical thing, the other lesson that I learned when you're doing something big or you're going through something and people say, oh, you know, let me know if you need anything. And I always sort of felt like that's just like what people say. But what I have learned and I hope people know, especially if you have community, is that 99.9 % of the people who say that actually mean it. So don't wait until you're drowning. Don't wait until, you know, you feel despondent. Like reach out because people want to help. And I think that's what's so powerful about community.

There's another black woman owned bookstore and it is amazing. It's in Los Angeles. It's called Reparations Club and it's founded and owned by a magnificent friend and sister, Jazzi McGilbert. And what I love about the literary community in Los Angeles is Jazzi immediately reached out to me upon hearing of the bookstore opening and she's even, you know, sent people from her store here to help me out. She has come to help me out, actually knows how to run my register and I know how to run hers. And so I love that we have this community locally here. There are a ton of really amazing independent bookstores.

We have dym in Altadena and we have the newly opened Fables & Fancies in Sierra Madre. Of course we have the legendary Vroman's. Everybody has just been so nice. The folks over at Book Alley, we're all really interconnected. I think people who enjoy going to indie bookstores realizes that there is no competition amongst us because you get something so different and so special and wonderful.

So think that in terms of indie bookstores, we have it locked down here in Los Angeles. The literary community, though, is really the heartbeat of this store. Whether that is telling folks if you have a booktok account, you know, go to Octavia's Bookshelf or book clubs. I've seen recently a trend of book club book crawls. And so they rent party buses and they just go to all of the bookstores in Los Angeles. They're fun, they're lively, they're recording it, putting it on social media for other folks to see. So, I mean, all of that has happened so organically. I don't think you can replicate it in a sort of like intentional way, which is kind of good. So yeah, no, I think we have that pretty locked down. One time, last month, I think it was around 50 people that showed up. They were on a huge tour bus. And it was so cute. It means so much to us to be able to host people who love books and the fact that they made a choice to support us is so meaningful.

It is a huge fallacy that we're not a literary town. I mean, that was evidenced by opening day at this bookstore. My dream was that I would get 50 customers to show up that weekend. And the

day of opening, we had over 400 people. People stood in line up the block. I mean, it was intense. And so the fact that I'm still here, the fact that, you know, Jazzi over at Rep Club is still here and Malik Books has two locations and I mean, you know, all of these beautiful stores that have opened and continue to stay open are largely supported by this really, really intense community of readers. And Pasadena, Altadena, like, come on, that's the home of Octavia E. Butler. Like we have power houses that come from Los Angeles. so, yeah, I think that you would, you would wrongly assume that we're not a literary city, because we are.

Piper:
You heard it here folks, LA is not just a movie city, but one full of passionate readers and writers. But if you're a writer who is feeling stuck about how to get your book onto your local shelves, Nikki had some great advice about connecting with your nearby booksellers.

What advice would you give to small presses or authors hoping to connect with indie booksellers like you?

Nikki:
I am figuring it out too. I'm new at this. We will be three in February. Some days it feels like it's been a hundred years and other days I'm like, what's my password? I don't know what I'm doing. But I would say to just engage with indie bookstores for me. I really want to support people local. You know, if you have a relationship with the store, it sort of makes sense to collaborate in that way. So I think just developing relationships.

I also would encourage folks to email a One Sheet. Oftentimes, we're so fortunate to get so many book submissions, but the ones that have a One Sheet allows me to view everything in one space. And then I think you know, to just continue to check in. We have a super, super small footprint here, very petite in size, and so shelf space is always at a premium, but what I try to do is just turn titles over, right? I want to give everybody a chance, and so if it's a no, I don't have the space right now. It may not mean that it's a no forever. So just continue to check in.

Piper:
I was so honored to get to spend time with these two incredible local leaders. Throughout our interviews, many lovely customers stop by to shop and say hello, and I was heartened to watch them fall in love with these shops as much as I had. After months of watching arts organizations struggle due to low funding and widespread book bans, it can at times feel like the bookish world is standing on the edge. But Nikki and Kealie offered a brighter picture, one where community, where passion, is enough to take the next step forward, together. Getting to spend time in both Octavia's Bookshelf and Underdog Bookstore filled me with a renewed sense of hope in the future of literature. For change-makers like these at the forefront, our future must be bright. I'm so grateful that we at Red Hen Press get to be in community with them. So hey, this holiday season, don't forget to pop into your local bookshop and join in on the magic.

—

Outro: Thank you for listening to Red Hen Radio, the podcast where independent literature takes flight. We hope you enjoyed today's episode. Join us once a month for an in-depth look into publishing as we share interviews, resources, and advice for readers and writers. Keep up to date by subscribing to the Red Hen Radio podcast on your favorite listening platform.

Join us on Substack for a detailed feature of our episodes plus additional resources. Follow us on social media at Red Hen Press to stay updated on our newest episodes, latest books, industry news, and literary events. This program is brought to you by Red Hen Press Inc, a nonprofit publisher of diverse stories. Interviews are unscripted and are edited for clarity. The views of guests do not necessarily reflect the views of Red Hen Press or its staff.

Special thank you to our supporters who have generously contributed to the making of this podcast. We couldn't do this without you. Thank you as well to our Red Hen podcasting team, Samantha Diaz on media and marketing, Piper Gourley on sound editing, and Kate Gale and Toby Harper Petrie on the mic. Tremendous thank yous to our special guests for their generosity of time and wisdom. For more information, find us at redhenpress.com.

In the meantime, keep reading, keep writing, and keep dreaming. Talk to you soon.
and advice for readers and writers. Keep up to date by subscribing to the Red Hen Radio podcast on your favorite listening platform. Join us on Substack for a detailed feature of our episodes plus additional resources. Follow us on social media at Red Hen Press to stay updated on our newest episodes, latest books, industry news, and literary events.

This program is brought to you by Red Hen Press Inc., a nonprofit publisher of diverse stories. Interviews are unscripted and are edited for clarity. The views of guests do not necessarily reflect the views of Red Hen Press or its staff.

Special thank you to our supporters who have generously contributed to the making of this podcast, we couldn’t do this without you! Thank you as well to our Red Hen podcasting team, Samantha Diaz on media and marketing, Piper Gourley on sound editing, and Kate Gale and Tobi Harper Petrie on the mic. Tremendous thank yous to our special guests for their generosity of time and wisdom. For more information, find us at redhen.org. In the meantime, keep reading, keep writing, and keep dreaming. Talk to you soon!