John Plotz:
So Aarthi, hey, I think literally the first time you and I were ever in a room together, which was during the 2012 meeting of the Society for Novel Studies, we heard a novelist say that he felt like a cow at a butchers' convention. Did that strike you as a compliment?

Aarthi Vadde:
No, not quite a compliment John, but it got laughs. And it gets at the nervousness I think, and some of the distrust that artists could justifiably feel walking into a room full of critics. But John, you and I, we suspected that, given the right set-up, some novelists would love talking with scholars about the underpinning, ground-rules and history of the novel.

JP:
Yeah, so mid-2020, mid pandemic, we dreamed up this new podcast, Novel Dialogue.

AV:
And the premise is pretty simple. We just invite a novelist and a literary critic to talk about novels from every angle, how we read them, write them, publish them, and remember them.

JP:
Yeah, so in the eight episodes that make up our season One, Spring '21 which starts with March 4th where you talking with Teju Cole and Kelly Rich, you will hear novelists go some very unexpected places. I remember Catherine Lacey embracing the idea that she writes feral novels for one. Oh yeah, Helen Garner announcing, "I don't care. I'm hacking those adverbs." That's that's a line that sticks.

AV:
It does absolutely. And you'll even be hearing George Saunders comparing novel-writing to building a pile of yurts. And yes, you heard correctly *yurts*.

JP:
Yeah, that was an amazing conversation. Every episode also has one of us standing by as a facilitator or an enabler, and it hasn't come to that yet, but we could also serve as referees. You will definitely hear me trying to sneak Hannah Arendt into every episode....
AV:

And I'll be sneaking in Ayn Rand..... Well, actually no, that will never happen, I promise you. So please visit noveldialogue.org to learn more about our show or subscribe to novel dialogue on iTunes, Stitcher, Spotify or wherever you get your podcasts.