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THE POD REPORT

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By Dana Block



"I fell in love with podcasts when I had an incredibly boring office job. It was like a secret escape."
— Jordan Blair

Looking for a new podcast to add to your listening library? These five shows are new and noteworthy and could be the next "Serial," the next "SmartLess," or simply your personal favorite:

Self-Improvement: **"The WDNC: We Do Not Care Club Podcast"** — Melani Sanders is living Gen Z's dream, only she's a Xennial — born right on the border of Millenial and Gen X with both generations strongly relating to her. In 2025, she posted a video of herself unfazed (or fed up?) in her car, simply conveying the fact that women of a certain age are no longer bothered; they simply don't care anymore. The post went viral, earned her millions of followers, and led to her New-York-Times-best-Selling book. Now you can join her latest endeavor by tuning in each week to her new, inspiring podcast. (WeDoNotCareClub.com)

True Crime: **"The Gilded Rage"** — This is a true-crime story about a woman named Penny who finds herself in close proximity to her rapist four decades after she was assaulted. "Jay," the perpetrator, buys a home within walking distance of Penny long after he's moved on with his life (never having been held accountable), while the memories of what he did to her continue to haunt her. The story takes a detour twice, one involving Penny's own imperfect past and one where Jay's suspected in another horrifying crime. (RedCircle.com)

Books: **"The Book and the Vibe: A Mostly Historical Fiction Podcast"** — If you've sheepishly traded your love of novels for an addiction to Tik-Tok, this podcast is a great way to catch up on what you've been missing. Host Helen Gabay's new podcast is a weekly escape for "mood readers who want to build their TBR list and feed their history habit," with everything from World War II spy thrillers to historical fantasies, medieval stories and warlord sagas. Most importantly, her reviews are free of spoilers! (TheBookandtheVibe.com)

Drama: **"Midnight Radio"** — In this fictional horror-thriller series, five-time Oscar nominee Ethan Hawke plays the host of a late-night AM radio call-in show for conspiracy theory enthusiasts. One night, he takes a call from a man who claims to be part of a secret United States space mission, but this is just the beginning of a "sprawling web of government cover-ups, interdimensional branches, and psychological warfare." Some callers experience hallucinations while experimenting with psychedelics and have terrifying visions of the mysterious Hat Man. Tune in each week as more of the mystery gets uncovered! (iHeart.com)

Sexuality: **"Pleasure People"** — In this six-part audio series, veteran sex educator Danielle Bezalel asks the question, "What does daily pleasure actually do for you?" In an innovative study, participants ranging in age from 22-71 are monitored to see how they cope with enormous stress, including grief, after they allow a little ... er ... satisfaction into their lives as a coping mechanism. (PleasurePeopleSeries.com)

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