

**You're listening to Imaginary Worlds, a show about how we create them and why we suspend our disbelief. I'm Eric Molinsky.**

**Every year, I like to play a full-length version of an interview I did for a previous episode where there was so much good material that ended up on the proverbial cutting room floor.**

**In 2019, I did an episode about the character Harley Quinn. For that episode, I interviewed a team of comic book creators, Amanda Conner and Jimmy Palmiotti. They redefined Harley Quinn in her own comic book series. Before that, she was mostly known for being Joker's long-suffering girlfriend, or a member of the Suicide Squad, a secret strike team the government created to do their dirty work. Jimmy and Amanda worked on their Harley Quinn series from 2013 to 2016 before they handed it off to the next set of writers.**

**If you need a quick refresher, the character of Harley Quinn was first created for Batman the Animated Series in 1992.**

*HARLEY: That's a real gasser! Huh, Mr. J?*

*JOKER: I give the punchlines around here! Got it!*

*HARLEY: Got it!*

**The character was so popular on the animated series, she was incorporated into the comics, video games and eventually movies. And Margot Robbie is back for the third time playing Harley Quinn in the new Suicide Squad movie.**

*RICK FLAG: We were here to save you*

*HARLEY: You were here to save me?*

*RICK FLAG: It was a really good plan too.*

*HARLEY: I can go inside, and you can still do it*

**The movies have been borrowing heavily from Jimmy and Amanda's comics. In fact, Jimmy has been proudly tweeting screenshots of the new Suicide Squad trailer and comparing them to panels they drew for the comics.**

**Also, there is a hilarious animated show on HBO Max called Harley Quinn which came out in 2020. Jimmy and Amanda weren't involved with that show either, but they were also proud of how much that show borrowed from their storyline in the comics, where Harley breaks free of The Joker and realizes she's more of an anti-hero than a villain.**

HARLEY: *You treated me bad.*

JOKER: *What?!*

HARLEY: *You lied to me, you never loved me, I know that now.*

JOKER: *That's nonsense, puddin'! My motives are never clear, I'm an agent of chaos. That's what you love about me.*

HARLEY: *Not anymore, we're through.*

**That TV show, and the Harley Quinn movie Birds of Prey came out after I interviewed Jimmy and Amanda. So when I talked to them, two years, I didn't realize how influential their work was going to be in redefining Harley as a character.**

**Another reason why I wanted to play the interview is that Jimmy and Amanda are a married couple. I haven't interviewed a lot of married couples before, and I really appreciate the way their sense of humor and their rapport defines the worlds they create together.**

AMANDA: Hello there I am Amanda Conner

JIMMY: And I am Jimmy Palmiotti. And we are here with you today!

AMANDA: I thought you were going to say we are Jimamanda!

JIMMY: Oh yeah, we won't have superhero names yet. Uh, one day when we get powers, we can go there.

***Do you remember the first time you came across Harley and what kind of form of media did Harley take when you first saw her?***

AMANDA: I actually don't remember the first. I just remember Harley kind of not being there and then always being there. I don't actually remember the first time I ever saw Harley.

JIMMY: I remember the Batman animated series.

AMANDA: Yeah

JIMMY: She was just a character that was in there once in a while.

AMANDA: That must be when I saw her.

JIMMY: And, um, and then not til, yeah. And then not til years later, um, we actually did a short story. Remember we did a Harley story.

AMANDA: We did. Yeah.

JIMMY: And then the next time I saw her, when I was, I was one of the writers on the Injustice game and I wrote a Harley into the game. We wrote her into the game.

***I love those Injustice games.***

AMANDA: Yeah.

JIMMY: Thanks.

***Especially Harley.... I mean, I don't know, did you work in the first one or the second one?***

JIMMY: Uh, I just did the first one. The first one was such a big hit that they didn't ask me back to the second one.

***(Laughs) Uh, I do love them. Um, okay, so, so did you pitch Harley to them or do, were you assigned?***

JIMMY: Okay,

AMANDA: that's a good story.

JIMMY: So Dan DiDio was doing a retailer summit in Orlando  
***Dan DiDio , being one of the people that runs DC Comics.***

JIMMY: And because we're in Clearwater, he said, hey, you know, I'm going to be in Orlando for a day or two. You want to come talk to the retailers and pretty much hang out with him. And, uh, so I drove to Orlando, and he did the summit and I talked up whatever book I was writing at the time. And afterwards, a retailer went to Dan and said, you know, you guys should do a Harley Quinn book, a new Harley Quinn book, the character hasn't been seen for a while. And Dan just turned to me and said, hey, would you and Amanda want to do Harley Quinn? And I said, yeah, let me talk to Amanda tonight. We'll see if she's interested. And I got home and to Amanda,

AMANDA: I was like, yeah it sounds like fun.

JIMMY: Yeah. And we came back, and we got the heads up that it might not sell, or it might not be around for a while, but we can do whatever we want.

AMANDA: Yeah. We were planning on it lasting for only like four to six issues. You know, we, we thought it would just be, you know, a fun, very short mini-series.

JIMMY: Yeah. It would probably be bomb like most of the things that we're doing at the time. Um, and because of that, Dan said, just do whatever you want. So, we decided to, okay, we're going to take her out of Gotham because if she's going to be here in her own book, she shouldn't be stuck in the place where she's an eternal

AMANDA: Secondary character in her own book.

JIMMY: Right, a B character. And we, because being a New Yorker, I said to a why not Coney Island? Cause that's kind of a fun place.

AMANDA: Well, she's, she's originally from Canarsie. If I remember my Harley history correctly.

JIMMY: That is correct.

AMANDA: She's from Canarsie and were like, you know, I think it was you that you would say, I mean, let's put her in Coney Island. I was like, well, that just seems natural for her.

JIMMY: Yeah. And it was, and I think it was, Amanda was drawing the first cover and right away changing Harley's costume,

AMANDA: Yeah.

JIMMY: Like she always does. And then she put on some gear. Right? You put on some, gear?

AMANDA: Well, I was fooling around with her costume and uh, I just like would add things and try out things. And um, I put shoulder pads on her costume and knee pads, you know, just cause, you know, she's not actually, you know, uh, you know, she doesn't have Superman's strength or anything like that. So, I wanted to put a little bit of protection on her here and there. And she ended up looking like a, uh, roller derby girl and I'm like, oh my God, that's exactly what she would want to do. You know, I can totally imagine her, you know, roller skating and elbowing people in the teeth.

JIMMY: Yeah. And that's, and so we took that. And then, um, I remember we were in San Diego, and I had a dream about doing, uh, issue zero using 18 and 19 artists. And I woke up and told Amanda and we had breakfast that they would Dan DiDio. And I said, hey, how about we do a zero book right before issue one? And I get a different, we get a different artist for every page? And he looked at me and Amanda, like, we were crazy and said, if you can corral the artists, then I think about doing it. So, we went around San Diego, to artist alley.

AMANDA: That was our job at San Diego corralling artists.

JIMMY: Yep. And we got, we got, we got 18 artists to sign on, to do a page each for the book. And that's how the zero book came about. So, it's been, and it's been crazy ever since. I mean, we just, it was one of those books where DC, let us do whatever we wanted. And sometimes stuff they didn't love, but uh...

AMANDA: A lot of times stuff they didn't love.

JIMMY: Amanda started changing her costume, every issue, every issue cover. And um, at that point they were like, well, let them do what they want.

AMANDA: Yeah, we we're lucky. Cause nobody thought, you know, everybody was like, oh, you know, it's Harley, you know, I, they just didn't think that it was going to be a hit. So, they just pretty much let us do whatever we wanted, which worked out perfectly for us.

***Yeah. I have so many questions. I want to stop you guys. Um, first of all, so I, I didn't know that she was technically or, I mean, I know it's funny people forget there is in New York City in, in DC world. Um, did you, that's interesting that you probably thought about her accent. The accent probably means that she's from Canarsie and then therefore she's set in Brooklyn, was that personal to you guys to being in Brooklyn?***

AMAND: Oh yeah. I mean, you know, people always say write what, you know, so, and Jimmy really knows Brooklyn.

JIMMY: Yeah, I mean, Coney Island was like, you know, my, my park.

AMANDA: That was your childhood.

JIMMY: Yeah. Um, so, uh, knowing and when Paul Dini and Bruce Timm created, uh, they said, you know, she's from Canarsie. And I said, great, this is going to be easy to

write. I could put her in Brooklyn. And we kind of went crazy in the series too, because everything's correct. The pots, when she's in Prospect Park, it's actually where the things are in Prospect Park. Like everything in that book is on the nose. It's not like a movie, a New York movie they shot in Toronto, you know, this comic has actual streets and names and places in Brooklyn.

AMANDA: Yeah.

***And then Amanda, in terms of redesigning her costume, what had, what did you think of her costume beforehand that you felt like this needs work?***

AMANDA: I'll tell you exactly what it was. Um, it was the neck ruffles. I, I don't like neck ruffles, she had neck ruffles on, um, in the Suicide Squad comic and I feel bad. I don't know who designed that costume, but I, I just feel like neck ruffles are the mullet of the 16th century.

***Laughs***

AMANDA: So I just, all, I don't even like them on, um, on Queen Elizabeth, I'm like get those off. Um, but, uh, yeah, I didn't want to do neck ruffles and you know, they wanted, they didn't want the classic Harley. They wanted her to, you know, ha they wanted her face to be exposed and they wanted her, you know, to have, you know, an updated costume and everything. So actually, they wanted me to do the Suicide Squad costume, but I didn't want to do it, you know, neck ruffles. So, I just was trying to keep her costume close to what it was, but then put my own twist on it.

***And then what about the idea of separating her from the Joker?***

AMANDA: That was really important to us because, um, we were feeling like if it becomes, you know, if we put The Joker in it too much, it'll be the Harley and The Joker book and we wanted it to just be the Harley book. And we wanted her to be the main character in her own book.

JIMMY: Yeah. We didn't introduce The Joker into the book to the second year we were on it. Because again, we thought if we're going to develop Harley, we need to give her own book and her own supporting cast. But we just, at one point we wanted to have the opportunity where she got to address her abusive relationship at some point. And that's what we did with issue 24 and 25.

***Had you, I mean, some people had been bothered by that relationship or, I mean, there, there, that relationship had sort of mixed reviews over the years. What were your thoughts on it?***

AMANDA: I mean, it's, it's one of those, you know, relationships in general aren't perfect. So, I think people can identify with it. It's like, it's easier to identify with Harley and The Joker than it is with Lois and Superman. Cause it seems like Lois and Superman have such a perfect flawless relationship, but with Harley and Joker it's flawed. And um, you know, he, by then he was her ex-boyfriend, you know, in the Suicide Squad, he was long gone. He, I guess he was supposed to be dead or something. And I can't remember, there was like so many different things going on. We,

we made it so that she thought about him a lot because sometimes you do, you know, think about your ex a lot.

JIMMY: What are you saying, Amanda?

AMANDA: (Laughs)

JIMMY: What are you saying, Amanda?

AMANDA: Not everybody, but she was the kind of person that would sort of obsess over lost, loves and stuff like that. So, it sort of worked for us and then it was her climbing out of that. I miss you hole.

JIMMY: Like we, we wrote it and then Chris Conroy, our editor and Chris went over it and said, well, this is a big moment. And he had some ideas and we kind of talked out the scene cause we wanted to make sure everything was right. Because again, it's, it's somebody dealing with an ending, an abusive relationship and we wanted to get the language. Right. But we didn't think it was going to be, it was just part of the story. And we didn't think it was going to be singled out or something that was like a big change. Or, and then when the book came out, it, it went through the roof and we were like, Oh, okay. I guess we hit on something here, you know?

AMANDA: Yeah.

JIMMY: Um, and we had a lot of people who, uh, related to the story saying they were in relationships and, you know, a lot of that, uh, feedback was terrific. And, uh, you hope for those kinds of things when you're writing to, to get people emotionally invested in the work and, uh, this was something different for us.

AMANDA: Yeah. We, we had never had anybody really like, have a storyline hit home for them quite the way this one did do that.

***I mean, do you think that people romanticize that relationship, you see cosplayers a lot doing the Harley Joker kind of photos and everything like that?***

AMANDA: I do. I mean, I think that, uh, maybe people like look at it as like a really kind of cool, I mean, visually it's a cool looking couple, you know, her with the red and black and him with the green and the purple and, um, they're just like really cool to look at together. And I think, I think it's romanticized in a way that it's like, oh, this is a cool comic book couple, but I don't think people give it the, the really deep thought that other people give it, you know? Um, or if they do, they think, yeah, there, there are relationships that are like really bad. And this is an example of a really bad relationship. And for other people, they don't like it. You know, they they're like let's get out of this relationship. It's bad.

JIMMY: Yeah. I think when a lot of people love the animated series, so they want everything to stay in that zone. You know, how comic people are, right? This is like, this is the thing I grew up with. Therefore, I always want the character in this place, but it didn't make sense for the times. And for her being to step out that we kept her in that relationship on any level, you know, for our character to mature and step out on her own and create a life away from him. She had to address her past issues, the things that

was still bothering her. So, there were people that hated it. They didn't like the idea of it, um, because they loved the cartoon version. They loved the, you know, a certain version.

AMANDA: I think you also love things that, you know, you grew up with you, it's like you, you become close to things that, um, in a certain time of your life, it hit you a certain way and it's, it's hard to see it change.

***Although I did read that it was when, you know, they moved Harley to the comics. It was difficult because The Joker and the animated series is kind of much more goofy. I mean, they, they, they indicated and it's dark as they can get an animated kid show that he's killed people. But the comics Joker is an absolute mass murderer, serial killer***

AMANDA: Yeah, he's a monster

***And to be in love with that Joker was very different.***

AMANDA: I mean, the way we approached it was, um, she didn't see him that way. She just sees him as her wonderful boyfriend. And Batman is this bully that keeps beating him up. You know, she thinks she's a good guy,

JIMMY: Yeah, the Harley in the Suicide Squad books. And some of the other books, the way people wrote Harley was like this dark mass murdering blood, thirsty animal kind of thing. And, uh, we were writing her like it was somebody we knew.

AMANDA: We were also taking her back to her roots, your animated roots, you know, she's goofy and fun and muddy and, you know, sure. She's, you know, a psychotic killer, but she's a fun, lovable, psychotic killer. And that's, I think that was the original intent for Harley when, um, you know, when Paul and Bruce created.

***Yeah. Tell me a bit more about other versions and again, not, not to sort of dis any specific creators or anything, but are there other versions of Harley you've seen over the years in all sorts of different media that you've thought, ah, that, that doesn't feel right to me, that's not Harley,***

JIMMY: There's a story where she like did mass murder. I can't remember where it was, but it was like kids playing video games, whatever. And I just remember reading that and going, yeah, that's not at the Harley.

AMANDA: It didn't seem true to the character.

JIMMY: And especially kids, you know, cause that's like nothing that we don't see that in the character at all.

AMANDA: Well, we call her a psycho killer with a heart of gold.

JIMMY: Yeah, um, you know that in suicide squad, a lot of the suicide squad books, she was like the one-liner person, you know, she'd like kill somebody and go, well, you know, take that to the bank. You know, when the guy's arms are cut off or something, you know, it, it was like a sort of like a really one-dimensional version at times. Not because the book had different writers, different writers added their voice. And I understood a lot of these books had the grab that representation since our book was

actually grabbing her when she wasn't being a super bad guy and she wasn't dealing with other super characters, it was, our book was like, you know, she was dealing with I AMANDA: This was like Harley on her downtime.

***Yeah. I mean, what was it like channeling Harley's voice? I mean, uh, what, when you heard it, what, tell me more about when you felt like, yep, this is it. I can, I can hear this. How would you describe that?***

AMANDA: It's funny because in the winter voices, in my head, which it was a lot, it was not quite as high and squeaky as the animated cartoon, but it was still kind of very Brooklyn and very, you know, that's when, when, uh, we would work on the dialogue and I would write everything phonetically, when she talks, I had a mom come up to me with her little girl, and she's saying, we read this together and we love it. I show this to her to teach her spelling. And I was like, no, no, don't that.

***Laughs***

AMANDA: This is not the book to do that with. So, but yeah, it's like, um, a little bit deeper than the animated series, but it's still pretty high and loud and obnoxious. Yeah. I have it. I wish I could do it.

JIMMY: Mmm, don't.

***What do you think was the hardest part of, of writing Harley?***

JIMMY: I got to say she's one of the easiest characters I've ever written.

AMANDA: Yeah.

JIMMY: It's just so easy to write her because she's a wish fulfillment character. She, she is like, you know, somebody steps on a foot. She gives them a kick in the ass, you know, it's like, she's such an easy character there. Right. Cause she wears her emotions like right on asleep. She reacts instantly without thinking, and then she pauses and slows it down and then has integrity, you know?

AMANDA: Barely.

JIMMY. Barely. And it's interesting. And it's interesting to write a character that no matter of a page she's going to change, she's going to change her point of view, like three or four times.

AMANDA: You, you know, you have to remember that, you know, she is, you know, crazy psychotic out of control Harley, but she's also a psychiatrist and a doctor and somebody who can like, yeah, like you said, slow it down at the drop of a hat and analyze the situation.

JIMMY: Yeah. I mean, w we, it was funny because in the first issue we have some guy dragging a dog and she gets really upset,

AMANDA: Emotional yeah

JIMMY: And throws the guy off a bridge, I think. And, uh, but we've always had a thing with animals.

AMANDA: She drags him with her motorcycle!



JIMMY: She drags him and throws him off the bridge, but we've always had her connection with animals and, and little things is a scene with the New York aquarium where she's like hugging the window where the beluga whale is. And, um, people always come up to us and say, I love that scene because she's in the middle of everything. She just stops there because how many times has she seen a whale?

AMANDA: She she's a very stream of consciousness, character. We, we wrote the book sort of as a stream of consciousness. It's not, you know, it wasn't way planned out in advance. It was just like writing it like Harley thinks.

JIMMY: Yeah so much so the solicits never matched the actual book. Because Conroy used that. We used to say, he used to give me The solicits for the next four issues and we'd make up something and then we'd write the book. And it was completely different

AMANDA: Very Harley of us.

JIMMY: Yeah, very Harley.

***Is solicits a sort of like a, um, summary of what you're going to do or is that a..***

AMANDA: Yeah, kind of, it's a synopsis.

JIMMY: It's for the retailers, the retail is say what's going to be an issue 44. And it says, you know, Harley takes a boat trip to The Bahamas and meanwhile, you get issue 44 and she's in Coney Island. And she got too much of a tan and she's yelling at Big Tony and it has nothing to do with this elicits.

***Well, I was gonna say, it's interesting because so Harley has this. I don't know if you, you feel this way about her too. Um, but I feel like Harley has like a drive and motivation. Like this character absolutely has a life of her own. And I can't think of many characters like that where, you know, the fact that she just wouldn't, she just won't stay in the animated series. She won't stay on the comic. She won't stay in Gotham. She won't stay with the Joker. Like, do you feel that way? When you, when you take up the character that this is just a wild horse, you're just riding?***

AMANDA: Yeah! Harley is absolutely a wild horse.

JIMMY: It's really funny. I just pointed out to someone yesterday. I think we did an issue where Harley shaves ahead and gives herself a Mohawk and she joins, uh, she's formed a punk rock band.

AMANDA: Yeah.

JIMMY: It was the Skull Bags, I think.

AMANDA: Yeah, Harley Quinn and the Skull Bags.

JIMMY: And we were noticing yesterday that Hot Topic has like 15 items for makeup kids, backpacks, t-shirts bags, all these things, Harley Quinn and the Skull Bags on them. We realized like, oh my God, like every time we did something in the book, licensing was jumping on it to figure out a hundred ways how to make this into something. And, uh, that's when I kind of knew that like, okay, this is, this character is

just bigger than us. She's just going to do whatever she wants. Anywhere she wants, why do you

***Think Harley relates so much to cosplayers?***

JIMMY: It's Amanda's fault because every cover, she would make put a different outfit on her. And there's nothing cos layers love more than different variations of one character's cosplay.

AMANDA: It's a challenge, I guess.

JIMMY: Yeah.

AMANDA: Well also, you know, the cause players and she has such an amazing costume to address cosplay with because, um, as long as you keep those colors and you do the diamond motif, then it's very Harley. Like, no matter what kind of, um, you know, if you're doing steam, punk, Harley, or superhero Harley, or, you know, as long as she has that, um, theme going on her costume, she's instantly recognizable as Harley, you know?

JIMMY: Yeah. And that's create, as we embrace the cause players, we encourage them

AMANDA: Yeah, they, and they inspire us to the cons players are like, Oh, you know what? Ballerina Harley. Of course.

JIMMY: Yeah. Let's do it. Let's steal that idea.

***Yeah, I feel like also any body type works whenever I see anyone doing cosplay Harley. I'm like, yeah, that works.***

AMANDA: Yeah. It absolutely does.

JIMMY: Oh yeah. I mean, yeah. We have male Harleys.

AMANDA: Everybody embraces it and it's wonderful. You know, it's so much fun.

**But it wasn't all fun and games. Their Harley Quinn comics had a lot of heart because after Harley leaves The Joker, she realizes she's in love with another villain turned anti-hero, Poison Ivy. A lot of fans thought there was something more to their friendship in previous versions of the characters, but Jimmy and Amanda made it canon. And since then, Harley and Ivy have become the most visible queer couple in the DC universe. I'll talk to Jimmy and Amanda about that story development after the break.**

**BREAK.**

**Let's get back to my conversation with Jimmy and Amanda.**

***When you were working on the book that she ended up really hooking up with Poison Ivy?***

JIMMY: Yep!

AMANDA: I think so. I, yeah. I mean, I, I always thought that they were sort of, you know, like they were like best friends that just adored each other, and you know, I, and me basically Poison Ivy, you know, madly loves Harley, but she can't be tied down because she's got so much important work to do as far as earth. And the environment goes.

JIMMY: Yeah, we we've had, uh, issues where they like, okay, you've gone too far. Um, we've had that a lot in our series, or we're reminded that, hey, the book is, you know, kids 10 years old and up or reading it. So be careful, uh, there, but we always, we pushed the envelope, every issue, they would sit there and they'd say, you can't do this. You can't do that. That's okay. And then we started like throwing crazy things in to distract them from the things we wanted to get away with. So, over the years, um, I feel for them because every issue we had, something like the biggest blanket thing was put a word balloon over that don't, don't let that be seen.

***But what about with Poison Ivy? Were they, what were they nervous about in terms of it too much or too sexual or too intimate or too committed?***

JIMMY: You know, there was a couple of issues because it was, uh, uh, younger people buying the book. Uh, so visually certain things were a little too much.

AMANDA: But I mean, young people are much more open-minded than, you know, people, you know,

JIMMY: It's not my company, sweetheart, you know.

AMANDA: I know.

JIMMY: I mean, it's, it's, you know, and, um, and then we'd push things, you know, we would try to push the envelope. We got away with things. I mean, look, we had a comic book where the whole plot of the comic was Harley and Ivy go down to The Bahamas and hang out in a senior citizen nudist colony for one issue.

AMANDA: That's one of my favorite issues!

JIMMY: Okay. That was the whole comic. There was no bad guy. There was nothing, they just went through a nudist colony, and they just talked about their relationship and talked about life and

AMANDA: And played naked pool volleyball. Yeah.

JIMMY: Yes. And there was a lot of, we definitely Austin Powers, everything, you know, everything's covering something. Parrots are flying by

AMANDA: In front of body parts and yeah.

JIMMY: But, uh, we did a lot, you know, there, again, it hit a certain amount of people reading the book, like all of a sudden that relationship things, there were things we were hitting on that the fans were loving or if not loving them talking a lot about, again, we never did anything to like boost sales. We always did things that naturally flow.

AMANDA: Yeah, we wanted to talk about, you know, or through Harley and Ivy.

***So, you guys worked on the Harley Quinn series for about three years and now other people have taken over and they've moved her very far away from Coney***

***Island, I think now she's like on the planet Apokolips and she gets these sort of god-like powers.***

JIMMY: Uh, yeah. I mean, uh, Sam, I think Sam is Frank Terry wrote it and then Sam is writing it. We don't get them. We don't, I don't buy them because it's hard to read other people's versions after reading it, writing it for five years, you know? Uh, so it's hard for us to even look at it. Sometimes I know it's a weird thing.

AMANDA: For it to come out in, in, uh, you know, it's also hard for me to read monthly books. Like, I, I definitely like trades better. You know, I like to be able to sit there and read a lot.

JIMMY: And I'm also at that place that if you're going to put Harley with all the other DC characters all the time, it's going to, it pushes me away from the book. Like, it's why we work so hard with her supporting characters because I didn't want to make it the Harley team up.

***That's interesting. So, you feel like when she, when you see her pop up in other books, you feel like they're using her again as a psychic to some extent.***

JIMMY: Yep. I feel like, uh, they were, oversaturating the character, which let's be honest, it's publishing, they're trying to make money there. It's popular. So put the character in every book and she was appearing in a lot of books and, uh, it's hard for us to read because we feel like, well, that's off character and that's not what we're doing. And she wouldn't do that. And so, it's better to not read it, you know, from our point of view, not a company that could it's, it's their character at the end of the day, they're going to do whatever they want with the character. We, we, that's part of what we do for a living is we come in, we mess with something and people either like it or don't like it. And then the next team comes on and either like it or don't like it, and there's people love the book now and that I'm, I'm happy for anybody that loves the character.

AMANDA: And that's I think that's one of the reasons that, um, people fall in love with her so much is because she's so like, I love Wonder Woman. I grew up with Wonder Woman, but Wonder Woman is flawless, and you know, she's so iconic and can do no wrong. Whereas Harley does a lot of stuff wrong and makes a lot of mistakes and has, you know, a lot of different emotions and is very, um, she's so much more relatable because she reflects a lot of our own feelings. Um, and that's, and I think that's one of the reasons for her popularity is just because she's so much more flawed and that makes her easy to identify with.

JIMMY: Yeah. I think there's a lot of great writers, like I said, Sam is doing a great job on the book and all these people that are doing different versions of Harleys,

AMANDA: Yeah.

JIMMY: They're bringing themselves into it.

AMANDA: Yeah.

JIMMY: And that's the, that's the kind of, you know, that's what makes a character so good. You could actually project yourself into the character and make it your own. And uh, so I think she'll be around for a long time.

***Yeah, that is so interesting. Um, because that you can put so much of yourself as a, as a creator in Harley in a way that it's harder to do with other characters because she could be kind of ditzy or she could be really smart. She could be crazy, or she could be more, more calculated. She can be gay; she could be straight. She, she can be a lot of things***

AMANDA: Yeah, yeah. You know, she, she wants to experience everything in life, you know, and I think that, that makes her, you know, really interesting is like, she's she embraces everything that comes her way.

***That gets to what I've been trying to get to because there's going to be listeners who aren't into DC comics or comics at all, why should they care about Harley Quinn?***

JIMMY: I think for at least we could only speak for what we wrote. Um, I think that people do need a little more humor in their lives and in the comics and in their literature. And for us writing Harley was always about making something that's fun to read. But I think it's all about humor for us is if a, if a comic successful for us, that means that there's some serious stuff. And then there's some stuff laugh out loud silliness because that's the life Amanda and I have

AMANDA: Yeah, we're pretty silly.

JIMMY: Yeah, we're pretty silly. Things can be tough. We have to go through things. But at the end of the day, we're giggling together. And, uh, I think it comes through in a writing.

**That is it for this week, thanks again to Jimmy Palmiotti and Amanda Conner.**

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