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SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Jewel Gray, Michelle Meyers



00:01

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised.



Jimmy Carper 00:35

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their friends. Hear it after hours. We may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closet. That means standing up for yourself taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after our. Hello, Houston and welcome to the November 21 edition of after hours right here on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. We bring you three hours of queer life every week. I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me tonight, let's see who do we have there and is



Jewel Gray 02:25

testing testing. We're in another room, so I had to make sure my mic work. You know, it's that egomania of me. Yes,



Jimmy Carper 02:33

yes. We have Jewel Gray. And Jimmy Vaughn.



J Jewel Gray 02:37

Sitting in another room we've been we've been grounded. We've been

J Jimmy Carper 02:43

no, because we've got we've got people to interview tonight. Whoa, yeah.

J Jewel Gray 02:48

That's unusual. My Show.

∅ 02:51

Actually, it's not. A lot of people were really yeah,

J Jimmy Carper 02:54

yes. But I do have to tell you that. Nancy Ford is ill tonight. Oh, you're looking for Nancy. Nancy. We'd

J Jewel Gray 03:03

love you girl.

J Jimmy Carper 03:03

She said she. Well, listen to this. Okay. Tried to do this without laughing Okay. She said she got a hold of maybe a bad shrimp. Oh, no. We're not going there. Okay, Nancy, we hope you're better and at least 24 hours, at least at least. Yes. We miss you. Yes, we do. Justice out of town. Jessica. Oh,

J Jewel Gray 03:31

just because I have town so I can call her Jennifer. Hmm. I've got it now. Jessica, and she's never hear you laugh the last couple times. I've had it. Jessica. Jessica. She's not here. She's not here.

J Jimmy Carper 03:43

Tonight on the show. We have Roger T Ward, who has just written a book. It's coming out. It hasn't even come out yet. Nope. I mean, we've got a scoop here.

J

Jewel Gray 03:54

We got the manuscripts in the lobby. It's that new? Whoa.

J

Jimmy Carper 03:58

All right. All right. And we're going to be talking to him about his book. And

J

Jewel Gray 04:04

which is called angers what I do best the Journal of black gay man in America.

J

Jimmy Carper 04:08

Boy, no kidding. And I'd like to talk to him about that just made the you know, we've talked about about the well, we'll get into it when it gets in here.

J

Jewel Gray 04:17

We also have Oh Lord, I forgot. Oh, gosh, I forgot. We also have a poet. And I forgot her last name. I forgot her last name.

J

Jimmy Carper 04:28

Well, what's her first her first name is Donna. And I have heard her performed before Garrett. She is

J

Jewel Gray 04:35

represented here. Did I have that flower with me? No, I don't I think it's Garrett, you know,

J

Jimmy Carper 04:38

brings to mind. You know

Q

04:45

that St. John's wort is just not kicking into

J

Jewel Gray 04:49

me inviting me.

J

Jimmy Carper 04:51

It is not it's not it's a

J

Jewel Gray 04:53

little it's a little erotic. And it was what she read to me a while ago was kind of a read ironic. I liked it. And after she, well, she had initially had only like thought about reading one thing on and after she read that I said, You got something else, something else some more. So I gave her the list of dirty words that we can't say. And ask her to flip through and find something close to two. So we can fit that in. Because we had that one guy here one night, remember, he said, he got he was out in the lobby reading some poems that he'd written. And I thought, God, we can't put him on us that one word, he sure did a couple of dozen times in one little poem. And I said, Ooh, the FCC would just oh, they would start a fire under us. If, if they we did that. I mean, occasionally, we can get away with a, you know, an accidental slip on the radio, people don't call the FCC and tell them old jewels in their cousin. But that night would have been very glaring. That night, but she's got some poetry, this kind of a kind of erotic I kind of liked. And I like her voice when she was reading it. So it's really going to be a nice, nice change for us. We don't get many poets. We used to get them. We used to get them but and I was trying to tell her about that young woman that we had down here that was doing something that was she was doing something that diverse works. And I have tried to get a hold of her she was going to do something with two bees, or that young black woman who was here that night. He stopped

J

Jimmy Carper 06:20

him. Yeah, she just stopped in and we were going to get together. She was going to come back and we never did really hear from her. Right. And

J

Jewel Gray 06:28

she was and I was disappointed that we haven't been able to connect with her again. So if anybody knows who she is, I don't know her name. But if you

J

Jimmy Carper 06:36

recall here, okay.

J

Jewel Gray 06:39

But so we have some interesting stuff, and you got some music. And well, I always have music

you know, Jimmy now, Jim, and I'll sit here and critique the latest movies.



06:50

Vampires.



Jewel Gray 06:50

I haven't seen that yet. But it has. It's John Carpenter. I already have, you know, five out of 10 right there for John Carpenter. But I heard that it's, I heard that it's more about the hunters than the vampires. And how the hunters become very much like the vampires. Well, it's thirst to kill vampires. It's



07:12

more or less. Well, it's about half and half. And it's a very interesting twist on the the vampire legend. Yeah,



Jewel Gray 07:24

I do want to see in.



07:25

James Woods is definitely the most scary character. In the movie, even though he's not a vampire. He's the most scary.



Jimmy Carper 07:32

It's sort of like Clint Eastwood meets Arnold Schwarzenegger.



Jewel Gray 07:40

And James Woods body. Yeah. It really it hasn't wimpy little body, but



07:46

he just has that sarcasm that really is interesting.



07:51

It's really funny.

J Jewel Gray 07:53

My favorite role was when he played a lawyer who smoked pot in his office. And he was defending a young Hispanic man who killed a man in prison. And the way he defended this young Hispanic man who did kill the man who had many witnesses to it was that he should never have been convicted of the crime he was initially convicted of to get to prison. Not that he, they didn't defend the murder, just that he shouldn't have been there in the first place. And he wants action. Oh, it was a great movie. It was a great movie. I think Judd Nelson played his assistant in an old movie, but I liked it. I love James Woods. Oh, yeah. And what else? What else?

J Jimmy Carper 08:32

Well, we got the news we have big Ryan, Michelle.

J Jewel Gray 08:36

Michelle, are you going to talk to us a little bit about the transgender person who just recently like robbed 30 banks in Canada? Wow. I haven't heard that you didn't hear that was mom and dad. I was all over the net tonight. Recently, in the last six months or so robbed 30 banks. And because was transgender. They couldn't tell. She couldn't give an accurate description of and they've they caught her doing 120 miles an hour. They had to blow the tires out to make them stop and arrested them after and they're absolutely positive that she had robbed 30 banks, Canada, and they just caught her this afternoon. Sometimes it was on the dead. Sea. We're everywhere.

M Michelle Meyers 09:20

I went last weekend and I saw vampires. Oh, yeah. Would you say but it was on a Sunday. So I and I had to get up about 10 o'clock in the morning. And of course everyone knows that I don't get to bed till four right. And then there's this sort of stuff going on at the community center and this and that and finally went out and had dinner and then went to the movies. And it was it wasn't as exciting as I thought because I fell asleep halfway home.

J Jewel Gray 09:54

That's that's modern. It was pretty good. That's a

J Jimmy Carper 09:56

dating movie. She was just tired. She was texting Hi.

M

Michelle Meyers 10:01

But usually, sometimes, you know if, if the movie is gripping enough, it'll keep me away. But this one just didn't. Well, okay,

J

Jimmy Carper 10:09

it was about as gripping as the fifth element. I like to fit okay. It was it was kind of along those lines. Thanks, Jim.

J

Jewel Gray 10:16

Bruce Willis. Yeah, yeah, I

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10:18

like that. Yeah. Well, it was nowhere near as loud. I mean, without. What's his name? Chris. Chris Rock. Yeah. No, no. It was Chris Rock. Yes. That he's just really loud. Chris Rock. Yeah, vampires. No, no, no, no, he

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10:36

was in the fifth element screaming all the time. That was great. That's right. Incredible, incredible.

J

Jewel Gray 10:42

Job. Yes, it

J

Jimmy Carper 10:43

was coming up at 120 will be big Ryan, Michelle, and they're gonna have a guest too. All right. I made it. Right. And then the second half of the show. Hatch will be here. And we're going to be talking about a lot of different things. There's a it's the latest article of x y is is I don't know, I have my opinions of it. But they're going to be talking about ageism, pretty much in the in the queer community. And it's there. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

J

Jewel Gray 11:17

I don't know how many times when I was, you know, a young little sprout, he run around, you know, 1012 years ago that people say, we'd be telling everybody. We'd be telling everybody oh, we're gonna go with the briar patch up. You can go there. That's just for old people say they

play show tunes. And it's just for all people. And we would go over there and have the best time singing show tunes. Yeah.

∅ 11:41

Wow. When they put those big cardboard cutouts of, you know, Archie Bunker in Egypt, and they sing the opening to that song.

J Jimmy Carper 11:52

Please. Okay, well, a couple of more things before we go to a piece of music. Okay, and bring on our first guest. Oh, what's Rainbow? Rainbow was here. Yes. So

∅ 12:01

you had fun it Monday night, weren't you?

J Jimmy Carper 12:05

I had I had lots of fun Monday night. Oh, yes, yes, I did. Because you know, those spend a lot of money those silly ass sob laws are going into effect like today. And so I went to EJBs so I could see little boys take their clothes off. And so the last one is sexual oriented business so and so the little dancing boys who get to wear G strings now have to wear like Speedo type the bathing suits. You cannot touch them and you have to hand the tip either to them or into a tip jar. So well actually stands for stay off body. And it's working. Now

∅ 12:51

AJs is known as sob. Well, still it is not an ember with liquor business. It was a city council person's name judo and bony. Yeah, it would never affect the sob laws would never affect the gay bar.

J Jimmy Carper 13:05

We'll see. We'll see. But okay,

∅ 13:09

you had a good time.

J Jimmy Carper 13:09

I had a lovely time. And I wanted to be there for you know, the last hurrah. I never I never do this. So you know. Oh, no.

J Jewel Gray 13:19

Yeah, that wasn't you. I used to see the drummer at the at the drum pulling them off the stage. By their ankles. They

J Jimmy Carper 13:27

did now. Okay. Yes, I do.

J Jewel Gray 13:32

Hey, you know what, I have another piece of news. You watch Buffy? No, you don't watch Buffy. Oh, no, it doesn't matter. anybody watched Buffy? Yeah, I watch her. Get to this. Oh, well, you know, Angel is gonna get his own show. No, she can't. She's gonna get his own. Well, I

∅ 13:46

mean, I have seen it a couple of times. And I know that angel is the the vampire vampire that Buffy loves. He's in love with only she's smart to kill all these vampires. And so they realize the paradox. He's

J Jewel Gray 13:58

moving to LA and he's gonna vanquish all the bad Nelly, okay, a vampire.

J Jimmy Carper 14:02

We have some great news to announce, okay. In the Royal Sovereign and imperial court, if the single star he just

∅ 14:09

loves saying that? I can't so I hope he I'm glad he was no,

J Jimmy Carper 14:13

it's, there's a line of secession. The Mahmod Jose, the widow Norton, who started it and ran it. There are 23 people in the world who are in the line of secession. And you know, there's like eight or nine groups alone in Texas. Can see me there you see

J Jewel Gray 14:35

a Russian the Russians and they're gay bars and doing the court stuff. Okay. Wow.

J Jimmy Carper 14:41

And this week, our own crystal Ray Lee love has been named in the secession line for the court system. So that makes 24 that met now that makes a total of 23 and there's only three In Texas, so we want to really thank you. No,

J Jewel Gray 15:04

I'm sorry. She's really really try those Queens take themselves too serious.

J Jimmy Carper 15:07

Well, yeah, no.

J Jewel Gray 15:09

No, they do good stuff. Don't get me wrong. I appreciate them love them and I check them when I can is running for I've never understood

J Jimmy Carper 15:16

Oh, that's Ambrus Jackie thrones running for Empress now to say two more things before we get to the to the music for two of the guys that are incarcerated that you know. Yeah first of all the team man. I think I can use his name now Trey. He should because he should be out by now. He said he was going to stop by Tom. Yeah, give us no stop. I still have your picture drool over it. And Roger, big Roger. Who has been writing? He got the mistaken impression since you live where you live? That may be you work for the prisons. I've

J Jewel Gray 15:55

considered it. But you just about everybody out there. Yes. But you either work for the state school or the prison system out there

J Jimmy Carper 16:01

and you work for the state. Right. Okay, he wanted to clear that. Because Okay, okay. We'll be

talking about more about him later, but let's get to the music so we can get Roger and I'm excited about Roger. Me too. We don't get to get like real live authors,

J Jewel Gray 16:16

intelligent authors.

J Jimmy Carper 16:20

Yeah, I believe that. Yeah. So we're starting off with some new music for after hours. A compliments of Glama the gay and lesbian American Music Association. This is by a group called Slow Jack

J Jewel Gray 16:38

don't go there name before slow Jack. Oh, no. That's low Jack. Jack

J Jimmy Carper 16:42

Okay. Slow. Slow Jack and dedicated to all the boys that was LuJack no LuJack and jack all the boys on Westheimer. It is it is it's called Hey Mr. atheist and you're listening to it. Your hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. Rose slow Jack with hay and Mr. That's new music for you on after hours on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. And I want to tell you, they listen up every Saturday night in December. Because after hours is giving you the Christmas presents. We've got CDs to give away to our faithful listeners. And we'll be doing that every Saturday night in December. So stay tuned. Now.

J Jewel Gray 17:42

I'm testing you.

J Jimmy Carper 17:46

I am very proud to have a an author. We have had authors on the telephone. We've had authors on tape, but we've never had authors. Like really live here. Serious authors. Yeah, to

J Jewel Gray 17:59

talk about something important. I

J Jimmy Carper 18:02

think this is a very important subject something that we've we've broached here on the show many times but I don't

J Jewel Gray 18:10

think we've done it as well as we could not you're here. No, I'm just gonna we're gonna get from Roger here,

J Jimmy Carper 18:15

Roger T ward. With his new book, Roger.

J Jewel Gray 18:20

Roger, sent us some information in the mail. And then we followed up by giving him a call and saying, come on down. And please talk with us about this. Rogers book is anger is what I do best the Journal of a black man in America. And just the title really grabbed me. I liked the anger is what I do best. Because I know I've thought that myself anger is what I do best. But what do you do with it after you've got it? When you do it? What where does it go? What? Where does it go? Anyway, when I saw this, I thought this is going to be great. But I want to preface this by the reason you started. The journal which eventually became your book in my corrected recovering a journal was because you saw an article in the Harvard Business Review called Is this the right time to come out. And the article was about a bit because if you know anything about the Harvard Business Review, it discusses ethical legal issues in very generic terms to try just so that people can have a discussion about these things. So they use hypotheticals. And the hypothetical in this situation is that John is employed in a major financial industry was a major player in the financial industry, and has just brought in a part of has just been part of a process that brought in a major contract at a company. And the way they were going to celebrate this or something was that everybody was going to get together and have a big celebration big formal celebration and And the sky tells his boss who has no problem with it, that he wants to bring his partner to this official function. And and the question in the debate that comes up is that the boss really has no problem with it. But what about the bigger setting? And him taking his out lover to this situation? What about that article? Was it that stimulated you to to start the process of this?

20:32

Well, let me start by saying that I think that that article in the Harvard Business Review came along, in my life, at just the right, just the right time. Because when I read that article, I remember I was going through a tremendous amount of personal and professional upheaval, I guess you could say, and when I read that article, and it talked about the fact that this up and coming young executive was bringing his his life mate, to the company banquet, and the fact that organizations, companies throughout the nation should celebrate diversity. It made me think now, if that young man had been African American, would the would the outcome have been the same? If that hadn't if that young man had been African American, and that organization had been black owned, what that reception had been the same, and it made me I

started to think about all the limiting aspects that surround being black and gay, in the United States, and began to think of my life in particular, and started to write, because it made me very, very angry, in terms of the marginalization that I have felt, in my own community, in my own family, the isolation that that accompanies that, and I started to write, and so the book, and in many aspects, talks about the kinds of things that young Well, he was young at the time that I wrote the book, the central character, but it talks about the certain dynamics that are not always altogether pleasant, that black gay men go through

J

Jewel Gray 22:27

and work in your professional life is just one of those areas. Yes, yeah. We were just talking a moment ago, before we started, about, you know, your, your personal, you know, social life and, and meeting and being with other, being in your different socio economic background, than a lot of the people that you, you know, socialize with, and how that affects you. You know, I don't want to get too far out of your I do want to talk about that, you know, with Michael Crawford down here a lot we get to, we get a vision of young and black and activist, and which is a wonderful, exciting, invigorating thing. But I sometimes forget that there are the quiet and black, and an activist people who are doing it very quietly. And I get the sense that that's what this is kind of a way to be to, to be the activist to say, No, it's not right, this is happening, wake up look at it. And I kind of got that sense that, from what you've from what I've got here, that that's what this book is about, is is to share with other people, that the things that are often not spoken about, because people are uncomfortable talking about race and cultural differences. And one of the cultural differences that I know, that I'm familiar with is that I think in in, I don't want to use the word white in Anglo society, being gay is a lot more acceptable than a black culture, isn't it? And that, that the machismo issue, and I find that a lot with Hispanic culture, too, is very big. And that immediately upon establishing that you're, you're homosexual, everybody assumes that that that means you're going to be this effeminate drag queen, blah, blah, blah. And it's not necessarily true. Of course, we have Michael here all the time, who exemplifies that in a big way. But I find that I don't often enough, think about the quieter, even more quiet, professional people who were, you know, living their lives very quietly without the activism without going out and screaming and yelling, but still having the same kind of pains that Michael does. And you know, I'm aware of his pains and his anger, but I don't get to see the kind of pain that you're talking about and hear the kind of anger that you're talking about. add in here. And I find that from what I could see in here that this is going to be a well needed to be read book I need to be read book rather than a want to be read book. Because if you go into because I haven't read your book I, I saw you had a manuscript outside, I'd like to talking about low self esteem a lot of this is multicultural anybody. But then there are very specific things. And I think that thing about the black community not being as accepting of being gay is someone else. Can you talk a little bit about that about how was growing up knowing? When did you realize?

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25:38

Well, now you've asked me a lot of a lot of questions. Right. Let me let me begin by saying that, I don't know, let me let me correct something. Okay. It's not that I think that the black community is against homosexuality. Because more and more I find that individuals are taken on those same lines as individuals, I think there is a tone in the black community that confuses homeless homosexuality, with something that I can to perverse, or something that's akin to

what is evil or something that seems relatively bohemian word for it, or something like that. And it may be seen, it has been seen as a threat to the heterosexual community. And that's not that's not so. You know, we are brothers, and we are uncles, and cousins, and advisors, and all kinds of things contributing to a community daily, and we do this daily. This book focuses on the difficulty, that white collar, black gay males have been finding suitable mates. If that person is primarily interested in African American men, let me say that I have I know many people, many black gay couples, who are very happy and very successful. The character in my book has not been what he has gone through a situations where the socio economic differences between himself and his partner at the time, and there are two partners discussed in the book, what relationships amount to is something akin to a US job. And why this happens is also documented in the book, it goes into the issues of self esteem, it's very difficult, growing up, being told that because the fact that you are gay, that you are worth loving, and you are incapable of being loved, when you grow up with that, because you have to create yourself, when you grew up with that. It can create a certain kind of insecurity, whereby, like the character in the book goes all out for two partners, who, I think, eventually come to resent the fact that the novelty of having somebody in their life that's giving, giving to them, like they've never been given to before. They're not used to that. And instead of them appreciating it, they resent it. My analyst once told me, you know, he said to me, Roger, there's a certain kind of brother out there, you can show him how to use a knife and a fork, and they will resent you for that. The central character in this book goes through that. So you have a sense of isolation. If you grow up and you are, you know, you have an academic sort of bent as this character does. And you have a taste for things that well, they result your tastes are a reflection of your environment. My father was an attorney here in Houston, my mom was a registered nurse. And this characters, the central characters, the family that has the same kind of credentials. So the character whose name is Zachary booth, goes to school. He has a bachelor's degree, he has a master's degree. He's working on his doctorate degree. And a lot of ways I'm talking about myself. But he's isolated. He's isolated many regards. And though he's been able to find success, academically and somewhat professionally, the love interest just doesn't work out and a lot of that comes from you Know the feelings he's had about his value and his worth. But as he grows, he realizes that being black and gay is something that is worth celebrating. There is nothing wrong with him. There is of course, beauty in life, it is indeed worthwhile, and that someone's going to come along. But if he doesn't come along, life is still on those on those positive things.

J

Jewel Gray 30:32

I don't mind all the flittering goes on here, we often have people in and out. Well,

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30:36

was his family, did they tell him that he was not worthy of love? Or just

J

Jewel Gray 30:43

something they assume?



30:44

Well, no, not necessarily. And the book, of course, it's documented where you get you get messages, verbally nonverbal, of course, messages that say that homosexuality is not something we want our son to do, especially if he's the only son, and that they don't want that. And your extended family tells you this. And there are all kinds of jokes about homosexuality. In the book, I talk about repressed childhood memories. And I can remember growing up my family, saying things to me, that were very, very hurting. And of course, you know, you can pick your parents, but the things they linger, you know, they live here, you know, no one wants a fag forced on? Or is he queer? Or is he a punk or these kinds of things, none of that contributes to dwell, none of that I think can contribute to an image that's altogether positive. And because the fact from working in the public school system, and in teaching community college, I'm an adjunct professor at two community colleges here in Houston. I find for a lot of young men, particularly in the African American community, there is this, this preponderance of buying into that colonial image of black men as a Mandingo man is. In other words, I find a lot of these males, their whole identities in their crotch, right? What what a cheap commodity? I mean, if that's the that's the value and the worth of a person, then I don't know how far that will take people. But yet, many people think that that's their whole identity, and they buy into this image from the colonial American times, and that it seems to dominate a lot of who and what they are.



Jewel Gray 32:58

I've noticed that the same thing. I also see you talking about your your character who started to grow? That's because he stumbled into a repressed coffee program somewhere. Yes. And started his his moral and what is it moral and something inventory? I can't remember what it is. But the one that is the toughest part, as far as I was concerned, when I went through it is is that the inventory? You know, what is inside me? What am I now? And what is it I really want to be? What does this character want to be? Well,



33:35

I think he asked the question, initially, when the book opens, he asked the question, Is this better. And I had a barber once, who was also who is also in recovery, and I go to the barber shop anymore, but did that barber anyway. And he would talk to me about life. And he would say, It's not better. But it's better. And what he meant by that was this, you are steel, while you're in recovery, going to have the everyday problems, the everyday problems. They're still there. But by being sober. By being in recovery, you are better able to deal with those blows that come left and right and below the belt. I found that to be true. When I was in recovery. The central character does too. And it's it's a lifetime task. Recovery is it's a very, it can be a very selfish kind of thing. But it's also a tremendous avenue for growth because the central character as I did, the central character went through a point where in a conversation with his priest, he discovered that he had made sobriety his god. And that was a very interesting revelation, you know, sobriety was what he lived for. And the minister told him, I'm gonna ask him rather, what do you think would happen to you if you fell off the wagon? And the central character's name is Zachary booth replies, I think, I think God would know, he thought that he would appear to be a loser. Because he'd made, He'd promised God, if, if he would help him take the booze and the dope out of his life, in exchange for being the best that he could be. He would do it. And so far up to that point, everything's working out just fine. And this priest told

him, Well, what do you think? Well, you know, ask, What do you think would happen? And he said, I think I'd be losing the priest said, No, you wouldn't. Because God would take you pick you right back up, dust you right back off, and take you right back. Now, people may not do that. But God would do that. So that growth is there. Recovery does that to you. And this person is the character Zachary is in recovery throughout the entire period. In fact, he was he was actually sober, going on six years, until some relationship went, you know, haywire. But recovery is a very important part of that.

J

Jewel Gray 36:42

And, yeah, and

M

Michelle Meyers 36:46

I wanted

J

Jewel Gray 36:47

to talk just a little bit more about the socio economics, even in recovery. I know when I was going to meetings, I, you know, a lot of the people around the room, and I'm not talking about a so much, you know, you know, how much money you got in the bank? And I'm not talking about that. But when I looked around the room, everybody was pouring the pocket like me, how does it? How does it relate when, when you are, you know, a professor somewhere or you are, you know, somewhere up the ladder professionally, and you look around the room, and everybody else seems to be a little ragtag and little, I don't want to say, I'm really stretching here. I don't want to say beneath you. No, no, no, no. But are you? Do you know what I'm talking about

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37:36

what you're talking about? Let me say that. When you're talking about sobriety, when you are living a life of recovery, there is nothing else to do. And to think about. Other than that, other than recovery and sobriety. And it's not just enough just to be sober. You take that sobriety, and you push that, and you practice that, and every aspect of your life, that's what you're supposed to do. Now, the thing about it is this socio economic issues should not matter. It should not matter.

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38:15

Yeah, but that's an ideal world yesterday,

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38:16

as for example, you know, I went to, when I went into recovery, I went to a private psychiatric facility. And 1000 downloads a day. When I came out, I saw an analyst about every day for

about four months, my insurance paid for that, and my health insurance paid for that. And I played with some of that, I went to meetings at an inner city club here in Houston, that was predominantly African American, a lot of the people were off the street. It was a new environment for me. But I took that, because I wasn't there for them. They they're there for me to learn. And I had to see and feel that no matter what I'd gone through, somebody else had gone through something a lot worse. So it's very, very helpful. Now, of course, you know, there's nothing like creature comforts, and, and I certainly enjoy those. And it would be, you know, I said, well, would have been a difference would mean anything to you, Roger, if you were at a meeting, and they had, you know, smoked salmon, a variety of other things, you know, but that's not what that's not what I'm there for. So, I go to the meetings and get what I get, and go and that's what that's all about. And this character in the book does the same thing. Well, that's what I

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Jewel Gray 39:47

was gonna ask, how does your character after he's been in recovery for some period of time? I didn't get the the continuity of the relationships that he had, where they fell in his room. covery and, and I was thinking of that after his, you know, after he was into recovery to a point where he started to become comfortable with your recovery and you know that it now it's becoming a routine that you you just get into a routine of how does that apply with this this characters you know, intimate life, his romantic life, I mean, his recovery, and then he has these relationships that don't appear like the

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40:29

the recovery didn't necessarily interfere or appear to be a major issue in the relationships. It was the simple fact he just did not drink. Many of the people that he knows, don't drink for a variety of reasons, but he just didn't drink. What that meant for him. Not drinking was a clear head. A better amount, well, an increased amount of, of insight. But as far as it interfering with relationships, it didn't neither one neither one of the mates insisted that he drank or anything like that. So that wasn't an issue. The issue is with him and his ability to deal with day to day situations. Now that he is sober and my his mind isn't clouded by by booze or by dope. So the issue of recovering the book is one of self growth is one of renewal, because he's a new person, and with his new life. The areas that are working are academic areas, they are professional areas. But they're not in the area of romance. I mean, he just can't seem to to get it. And the book ends with his. The second guy he's with whose name is Bethel coming back to him after a breakup and wanting to spend the rest of his life with him. But Bethel is Zachary