

The Attic Monologues Midseason 2 Q&A

Morgan

Hello listeners, and welcome to the midseason 2 Q&A. Because we're so special we need to have two a season. Got so many burning questions for us to answer. So my name is Morgan. I am the creator, writer, coproducer of The Attic Monologues and with me today...

LM

Is me, LM Clohessy. I am the director, producer, script editor, general "what if we make this worse," person.

Morgan

Writer wrangler, we've always got to include that one.

LM

That as well.

Morgan

(Laughs)

LM

And we are here to answer some of your questions.

Morgan

Exciting!

LM

So I will be reading the questions as the majority are for Morgan.

Morgan

I will be attempting to give coherent answers. But it is before my usual wakeup time on a Friday. So we'll see how that goes. I say as if it's not 12:30pm in the afternoon, but here we are.

LM

Okay, so our first question is from anonymous on tumblr. This question is for Morgan: which episode from the first half of season two was the easiest to write and which was the hardest?

Morgan

Listeners must ignore me as I go over to Spotify to remember what episodes are in season 2A because season 2B has been consuming my soul... Only in a mostly positive way, as L can attest to when she gets 3am distressing texts from me.

LM

There is one episode in Season 2B...

Morgan
(Laughs)

LM

Which I know is the hardest episode that you have ever written for The Attic Monologues.

Morgan

Oh my god, and listeners will listen to the episode and be like, "What, like it's hard?" and I'll be like, "No, you don't understand. This episode destroyed me. This episode put us on a hiatus. This episode is the bane of my life." And it's not even that big an episode. It's like a fluff episode. It wasn't a fluff episode when I conceived of it. And then it had to become a fluff episode. Because... Oh my god. (Sighs) Yeah, a little insight into the creative process there. I mean, what do you think L? From your- from your outside perspective...

LM
(Laughs)

Morgan

Of watching everything go down? What do you think was the easiest and the hardest to... What was the easiest and the hardest do you think for me to write? And what was the easiest and the hardest for you to deal with as producer and director?

LM

I feel like the first couple were very easy because you had a very solid plan of like how season two was going to start.

Morgan

Mm.

LM

And like the beats that we were going to hit.

Morgan

Yeah, like those episode- the first episode especially I'd basically finished writing before I finished writing season one because procrastination is great.

LM

Yeah, so I feel like If This Be Magic, and Birds of a Feather were probably the easiest because they were basically written before we'd even like, cast season two.

Morgan

Mm.

LM

And there was a very strong sense of: "This is where the characters are, neither of them are doing well!" We're setting up the way that the season like, the first half of the season is gonna go.

Morgan

Mm. Characters who are just monologuing to themselves are actually really easy for me to write because it's just me just rambling in their brains, so actually, I love it when that happens. And then they start having conversations and I'm like "God dammit. Now they have to interact."

LM

I feel like maybe um... episodes four and five so Shelves of Stone and Welcome to Trinovantum might've been the hardest because it was more like, lore dropy episodes where like...

Morgan

Mm.

LM

You have to balance the, "This needs to be an episode and things need to occur," with "We are giving the audience important information about key places for the rest of the season."

Morgan

I think especially Shelves of Stone, because it's that we haven't really heard that much about the library. We've just had one episode about it. And I feel like balancing- balancing how I thought it was gonna be sound designed with how I was writing it considering that etiquette has been broken in this episode. These two characters are just fully having a very loud conversation in a library. How does that work? I think that- I think also episode 30 was quite difficult for me because it's very different, if that makes sense. Like it's very sort of the other episodes are all like, "Here's a monologue. And here's some depressing conversations. And here's like, metanarrative." And then episode 30 is like "Here is action. And here is real magic happening onscreen. And it's kind of the first time we've actively seen magic." So because you've got Noah just hanging about and I feel like it's quite a shift in how the magic is perceived in the show, because a lot of the rest of it is sort of very passive. And then this one is like, "And now this guy is

made of water and he's just hanging out over the Thames. Have fun."

And I feel like it's also the episode that most berates Nyx for doing nothing wrong. So it was kind of a hard balance to walk because I'm like, "Don't worry listener, I know that Nyx isn't in the wrong. You know, that Nyx isn't in the wrong, but the Author is writing this narrative and he's a horrible person. So he's gonna blame them for everything. Have fun."

LM

I do like that in the first half of this season we do get a little bit more of "There are some people who didn't think that being monologued was that bad?"

Morgan
(Laughs)

LM

"How have they been affected by Nyx removing them from their one place of solace and safety?"

Morgan
Honestly.

LM
Enjoy!

Morgan
(Laughing) Yeah. Because Yasmin's such an interesting character to me because she's like, "I just want to nap. I just want to be taken out of the like, capitalist hellscape put me on ice. And I'll come back when everything's better." And everyone's like, "But it was horrible in there." And she's like, "Nah. I was just chillin. I was just vibin'."

LM

Okay, so Anonymous on Tumblr also asks, "Can you hint at the tone of season 2B by describing it as a sound?" And I have one prepped.

Morgan

I mean, trees rustling feels like... (Laughs)

LM

I was gonna say: ominous tree rustle.

Morgan

Yeah. I mean, is that the tone? Or is that just like the vi- the like, the plot?

LM

I feel like it's the tone.

Morgan

Yeah. Ominous is a good way to describe the tone.

LM

Yeah.

Morgan

Ominous tree rustling. I think that's unanimously the season two vibe. I was originally going to answer that question with... Have you seen the screaming cat meme?

LM

Yes.

Morgan

Yeah, I was- I was gonna answer with that. So...

LM

That might be the most succinct question that we have.

Morgan
Yeah, yeah.

LM
(Laughing) In this whole Q&A.

Morgan
(Laughing) Appreciate it now listener because we're not gonna be on track for much longer.

LM
Okay, "Dear Morgan, what houses- Locked Tomb houses- would each of the characters be from." And this is also from an Anonymous on Tumblr.

Morgan
Anonymous is really getting it in today. Ooh, this is... This is a great question. There's too many characters now. Oh, no. Um...

LM
Okay, let's- let's start with the core four and go from there.

Morgan
I feel like you need to get my copy of Gideon the Ninth out. For listeners who don't know what the Locked Tomb is. The Locked Tomb is the name of the series given to Gideon the Ninth by Tasyn Muir. It is a book series that we've covered a lot on our sister podcast, The Hidden Bookcase, and it, unfortunately has consumed my entire soul since I first read it. And then I made it consume everybody else's soul. I gave it to L for her birthday, and it consumed her soul. I made Sorren listen to it. It's consumed his soul. I'm now forcing every single one of my uni friends to read it one by one. So every podcast society, like meetup is actually just a "Where are you now in this series?" meetup, which is great.

LM

I feel like Nyx might be the fourth house.

Morgan

Because they throw themselves into everything and are impulsive.

LM

Yeah, young impulsive. It's the young impulsive, but also kind of planned...?

Morgan

Mm.

LM

With what you find out about the fourth house in terms of they want to protect people. They are trying to make targeted decisions...

Morgan

Trying.

LM

Even if they do not seem targeted to literally everybody else.

Morgan

Yep. No, I- I- I agree with that. Seth is obviously the sixth house because...

LM

Yeah.

Morgan

Research vibes, and scholarly vibes. And then I think probably Athrie would be as well, which makes sense.

LM

I think Lola is seventh.

Morgan

Oooh! Oh, I like that because I was gonna say third because they're all very like, showy. But seventh is more like the beautiful death kind of vibes, which...

LM

Yeah.

Morgan

I feel like Lola is is very much in that- in that vibe.

LM

Where it's kind of- It's theatrical, and it kind of knows its theatrical.

Morgan

Mm-hm.

LM

It likes the showmanship, without being as politically charged...

Morgan

Yeah.

LM

...As the third is.

Morgan

Mm.

LM

I feel like Bella might be third in an Ianthe sort of way in the um... She has a lot of political power. Does she know what to do with it? Not really.

Morgan
(Laughs) That's true.

LM
But she has it and it does affect every single one of her relationships both within like obviously like Nyx and the rest of the core four but also within Trinovantum. Like we find out in um... Welcome to Trinovantum, episode five. She can't move through the city normally, because everything she does has a political impact.

Morgan
Mm. (Whispering) That's episode eight. I think.

LM
Episode eight.

Morgan
(Laughs)

LM
Do you agree or...?

Morgan
I... Yeah, I-I can see that. I can see the case for that. I feel like the ninth would be funny for Bella though. Because it's like

LM
I feel like Bella's vibe's a ninth but she is stuck in the third house.

Morgan

Mm. She's like born to be a black vessel forced to be a showy powerhouse.

LM

She is a third born princess who desperately wants to become a ninth house nun.

Morgan

Oh my god. Yes.

LM

(Laughs)

Morgan

She is the... I-I was about to say the Harianthe of our hearts. But no, that's a very unhealthy relationship. We do not ship...

LM

(Laughs)

Morgan

She is the Coronabeth/Gideon ship of our hearts. I think jumping off that Regina is second house.

LM

I was gonna say second.

Morgan

I was wavering between second and eighth.

LM

I feel like second because it's less of a devotion to a God. And more a devotion to a cause.

Morgan

Yeah.

LM

And the whole "I am inflexible because I am correct."

Morgan

Yeah. Oh my god. Yeah, actually. She's so Judith Deuterios coded. I love that for her.

LM

(Laughing) Yeah.

Morgan

She's like, "I am correct. And I will make it everyone else's problem."

LM

Exactly. I feel like Ambrose is fifth.

LM

Yeah. He's very protectective.

Morgan

He's very sort of like, fatherly. He's a bit of a nerd.

LM

But there's also like...

Morgan

He's out here psychopomping the main character. Exactly what we need. Raven is Blood of Eden. (Laughing) Raven's not even in the houses!

LM

(Laughing) Yeah!

Morgan

(Laughing) Raven is a terrorist. But we love that for him, you know? And Blood of Eden isn't entirely wrong. It's actually mostly correct, to be honest, at this point. So you know, he's a little confused, but he's got spirit.

LM

Do you think we've covered enough characters? Or are there any others we missed.

Morgan

Who- Which fan favorites have we missed? Agatha! I feel like Agatha could be third. I feel like she's just like... I don't know. I feel like she's very sort of like, "And now I'm doing what I want. Here we go." So maybe Agatha is third in like a very different way to Bella.

LM

I feel like she's between third and fourth.

Morgan

Mm.

LM

Because I think that is an element of... She's a fourth who survived the war TM and is now recovering on the third and has to get on with it.

Morgan

(Laughs) Yeah. And of course, the author is God.

LM

Yeah. (Laughing) Yeah!

Morgan

Yeah. Jon Gaius my behated.

LM

Alternatively, Agatha is Mercymorn.

Morgan

(Laughing) She is though!

LM

(Laughing) I'm not wrong. It's a really upsetting thing.

Morgan

No, you're correct. You are corect.

LM

And we won't elaborate because that will get too much into spoilers for Harrow.

Morgan

So for all fans who have never read The Locked Tomb, I hope you enjoyed this segment, we have a lot of fun. I might put timestamps where you can ignore it. But we had a lot of fun. This is the overlapping of two very special interests. We're gonna get DMs being like, "I can't believe you missed this character. I can't believe you'd do this to me." Come @ me on Twitter, or something that's not a heinous hellscape, and I will reply, I will tell you about your favorite characters.

Or on the Discord which we have a discord everybody go join the Discord. It's a lot of fun.

LM

Hey!

Morgan

So for you L, the question is, "Do you have any tips for someone looking to get into directing audio? And how does it differ to other forms of directing, if you have experience in those?"

LM

So the first answer, which is the easy one is I do not have any experience directing anything other than audio slash radio drama. Um... If you're looking to get into directing audio, I got into it through radio society. So the, um...

Morgan
(Hissing)

LM

At the University of Exeter... (Laughing) Morgan has just hissed. Um... The radio society had a fiction division. So I joined them in my first year, did some like sort of writing pieces for them, and then started directing. And so that was kind of my first taste of it. And then through that I met people like Jo, not our Jo, a different Jo.

Morgan
(Laughing) The Jo who bullied me into starting this podcast.

LM
That Jo!

Morgan
Brackets, affectionate.

LM

Um... And then podcast society kind of sprang up from that. And so I did a bit more directing through that. If you're looking to start from complete scratch, I would say yeah, look into things like um... Any societies at your uni that are similar. Or keep an eye on socials, especially like anthology podcasts, like Tranthologies, we'll be looking for directors, and you can always just reach out to people if you see something that you like, and are like, "Hey, I would really like to get into this."

Morgan
Mm.

LM
And just see what happens.

Morgan
Yeah, especially in the indie world. And like the- the unpaid in the world is very easy to be like, "I have no experience, but I have a lot of passion." And they'll be like, "Yes, please. That's what we need here." Yeah, if I can add my two cents, I got into directing through watching you. So the best way to learn how to direct is to voice act or write and then watch a director do it and like, take little tips. So I took tips down about how you direct and I took tips down about how Jo Leyland who plays um... Ambrose directed a play we did it unit together. And I kind of just amalgamated my styles from the two of you. Oh, and also, my beloved director, Sarika Harris who did a bunch of cool stage stuff when I was in uni. And the three of you I've just melted together and gone: "This is my directing style." So genuinely watching to learn, watching good directors, and being like, "Aha! I'm stealing that one."

LM
I think as well. It's really good. If you are a writer, or actor, um... to watch a director so that you can become a better actor or writer...

Morgan
(Laughs)

LM
In terms of- (Laughs) In terms of, for instance, from Morgan and I working together... Morgan now puts more scenes in, so that I don't have to create nine different subsections of a scene. Uh, and as an actor, if you watch how somebody directs, you can kind of tell,

especially if you've worked with them quite a lot, what tone they're going for, or what they mean when they give you feedback.

Morgan
Mm. Yeah.

LM
That might be the most technical question we're gonna answer today.

Morgan
(Laughs) Look at us being experts in our fields.

LM
The next is from @Issy_KH on Instagram: "What's your favorite line in season 2A? And if you can reveal it, what's your favorite line in season 2B?"

Morgan
Okay, I've got my first from season two. I think. This is definitely one that like stuck out to me when I was writing it. And it's in What's In a Name? Season 2, episode 8, and it's from Valentine to Bella. And it's, "I think you have a lot of power you've never tried to use. I think you could do anything if you wanted to."

LM
I mean, that is a good one.

Morgan
Yeah. Like, it's very... That speech really sort of changed how I looked at Bella. And I think, I hope, changed how the audience looked at Bella, because you meet her from a very non-Trinovanti perspective, and especially the whole of season one, you get her from Nyx's point of view, essentially. So you get a very sort of like soft, quiet, Bella. And then season two, obviously you get her in her own perspective, and she's fucking feral as shit. We love that for her. But then again, to

see her from a native Trinovanti perspective. And she is like... She is a princess essentially. (Laughs) And even if she doesn't abuse that power, she has that power and could use it. And I think it's just an interesting shift in the perspective of Bella that I didn't- hadn't sort of registered when I was creating her. And then writing through that perspective, I was like, "Oh, oh, interesting. Soup, good soup."

LM

As well with that line there's kind of this implication with like, Bella has all of this power. It's like... Okay, she's not abusing it. But she's not using it for good.

Morgan
Yeah.

LM

She's not... She's kind of doing the: "I can be princess in absentia. And therefore I don't need to take on any of the responsibilities." And it's like, yeah, as an individual, that's a completely valid choice. But then you look at what's happening to Trinovantum and you kind of go, "Oh, you have the power to make changes."

Morgan
Mm.

LM

"But you don't have the confidence yet."

Morgan

You could fight your mother, if you had like, a little bit more self confidence. This is the issue. And this is why Bella is dangerous is because she has all this power, but she has no self confidence. And like, no faith in herself. And she also... She's very, I think when I was creating her I originally... If anybody knows what the Enneagram is, she's very much a nine wing one or a one wing nine which means

basically that she is very absent from her own life, and inherently thinks that she's a bad person.

LM

She's very- especially in season one and the beginning of season two, she's very passive.

Morgan

Mm.

LM

Things happen. And she goes, "Oh damn, that happened, didn't it?"

Morgan

Mm-hm.

LM

"Maybe we could just ignore it."

Morgan

Yeah, "If I just ignore everything, eventually everything will go back to how it was. Right? ...Right? ...Right?!" And I love her for that. But also... Bestie.

LM

Um, one of my favorites in a slightly different tangent is "You're giving up. Giving in." // "I am not conceding this is not a war. Love should not be. This is simply the last step in the dark. I must trust in Noah and follow his footsteps."

Morgan

(Whispers) Yes.

LM

Because uh... We've talked about the sea gays for so long.

Morgan
(Laughs)

LM

Seeing them in canon was great. And I think it's also a really interesting perspective that Nyx hasn't had before where this first half of the season is Nyx getting confronted with the different ways people go to magic. And to see Noah and Lionel who have had such a terrible experience with the one who waits below. And Lionel then go, "Oh, no, like, I'll pledge myself to him. Like it's no big deal. I'll get over it." And

Nyx is kind of like, "Excuse me. You mean you can just kind of you know, run through the five stages of grief and end up at acceptance and move on?"

Morgan
What?

LM

When Nyx themselves is very much caught up in the like, anger and bargaining stage where they're like, "Maybe if I tell the universe I don't want this power enough they'll leave me alone."

Morgan
(Laughs)

LM

And yeah, I think it's also just a beautiful line because we don't get many healthy relationships in The Attic Monologues.

Morgan
(Laughs) What?!

LM

This might be the healthiest in terms of not actively lying to each other.

Morgan
(Laughs) You know.

LM
You know.

Morgan
You know, I love that for them though. They're just sad sea gays.

LM
Do you have one from the season 2B?

Morgan
Yes, I did find it. I am... I'm gonna give you two lines because I love this interaction so much. And I love them. I had to debate because there's, this is so far- for context for the listeners, um... there is a bit in Episode 31. But I am going to save it for the listeners so that they can experience it in real time like I did, because I've been waiting to write it for such a long time. Episode 33 so this is just after some distressing things have happened. And Athrie goes, "You are not fine. You look like you're going to faint, sit down, eat a muffin." And Ambrose goes, "Would you consider that cannibalism from a scholarly perspective, since it has a bit of my soul in it?" Because I love them, Your Honor. They're so soft. But they're also so like, frustrated with each other in like a very cute way. And yeah, the blueberry muffins are very important to me.

LM
From that same episode is my favorite current line, which is towards the end of this scene. So: "I will make one of the biggest sacrifices I have ever made for you. I will serve food, do the dishes. Maisie can

handle coffee and till on their own. But I'll only do it if you promise me a minimum of three hours sleep."

Morgan
(Laughs)

LM
Because as as somebody who has worked so many years in customer service, that is truly the greatest act of love that can ever be done, I believe.

LM
Mm-hm.

Morgan
And also three hours is such a low bar, but they have to set it there.

LM
Well, I also feel like the three hours is because Athrie knows that after that, they will start biting customers.

Morgan
(Laughs)

LM
And so it's like, it's for both of us.

Morgan
They need to hire more people.

LM
Well, they tried and...

Morgan
They tried. Whoops!

LM

So from @sharpsnooter, also known as Kit, also known as Sam, "If you could put The Attic Monologues characters into the world/plot of any other audiodrama, which do you think would be the best and worst case scenario?" Does anything good happen in audio dramas?

Morgan

No. Not really.

LM

You know what? Best case scenario Victoriocity.

Morgan

Okay, make your case.

LM

My case is the world is a little bit terrible in that but it's more kooky, fun, whimsical, things work out in the end.

Morgan

Mm.

LM

Like it's what Trinovantum wishes it could be.

Morgan

Yeah, it's very sort of like comedyesque.

LM

Yeah.

Morgan

More focused on the comedy than the horrors.

LM

Yeah, it doesn't fully make sense. But you can kind of roll with the punches. And if you are self aware enough to know that you are in a whimsical comedy, things will work out for you.

Morgan

Mm.

LM

So I feel like if the- If our core four, let's say, leaned into the metanarrative, I feel like they would be okay.

Morgan

Yeah, if they could just accept what genre they were in, they will be thriving. Imagine a AU, where Nyx is like a proper protagonist, and it's like, knight in shining armor, everything. They could have so much fun.

LM

What do you think the best case scenario would be?

Morgan

Best case scenario? Do you know the podcasts I listen to? It's not good in any of them. Although I'm gonna be honest, I actually think that they would do really well in The Magnus Archives. I think each of them would be very powerful in their own field, and just kind of thrive.

LM

See, I feel like [for the] season one characters Magnus Archives is the worst.

Morgan

Mm.

LM

Because they are all not doing well enough. And I feel like season one core four- they're all getting taken by different powers. Like none of them are stable enough to take the power in their own right. They're all just getting getting...

Morgan
Mm.

LM
Getting gone.

Morgan
Yeah.

LM
Possibly season two onwards, I could see... Maybe season three onwards.

Morgan
(Laughs)

LM
'Cause season two, they're... Season two, they're learning. They're growing

Morgan
Mm-hm.

LM
But I feel like season one. No, they're all getting eaten by different things.

Morgan

Yeah... Fair. I think they would thrive personally, I have faith in them. That they'd get eaten but like, in a way that they got spat back out again.

LM

I don't have that much faith in them unfortunately.

Morgan

(Laughs) I feel like they could thrive in Hello from the Hallowoods as well. I feel like post-apocalypse when they can go a little bit feral and be a little bit eldritch they could vibe.

LM

Yeah, I feel like after the world has ended, they'd do fine.

Morgan

Mm.

LM

Because they'd be like, "Oh, it's chill. We don't have to worry about being mentally stable. Everything has already gone to pot."

Morgan

I agree. I think worst case scenario is something like Mabel. Because Nyx and Bella are already so codependently messy. And Mabel is like, "Hey, what if we did that but put it in the fey realm and made it worse?" So I feel like- I don't know. I feel like they'd probably like do well though in the end. I think they'd go through the horrors. The Silt Verses though. I feel like they would be sanctified so fast. (Laughs)

LM

(Laughing) They're not having a good time in The Silt Verses.

Morgan

(Laughing) No one's having a good time in The Silt Verses.

LM

No, well, that's true, but some- No, the- the Cairn Maiden is having a good time.

Morgan

We love that.

LM

So from Sorren Briarwood, also known as Sorren, our coproducer and social media wizard.

Morgan

Yes.

LM

Um... Which Attic Monologues character would you each most and least like to be stuck on a desert island with. I have two people for most that are diametrically opposed, but I would want to be stuck on the island with them for different reasons.

Morgan

Mmkay?

LM

So I'll go with the more obvious one first.

Morgan

Mm.

LM

Which is Ambrose because I think he's very good at keeping a cool head. He's very good at kind of making the most of the situation that he's in.

Morgan
Okay.

LM
My wildcard is Regina.

Morgan
(Laughs)

LM
Because she would get us off the island.

Morgan
(Laughing) Yeah. That is fair.

LM
We are getting off that goddamn Island. I'm not having a good time with her!

Morgan
(Laughs)

LM
But we're- we're living. We're gonna live.

Morgan
I would argue that Ambrose falls apart very quickly on a desert island. That man is scared of the dark and has agoraphobia.(Laughing) He;s not doing well! I think he'd be great... For like the first five minutes, he'd be like, "I'm going to keep it together. I'm going to keep it together." And then they'd be like, switch and you'd be like, "Oh, no."

LM
Least likely... I feel like I would want to drown Raven.

Morgan
(Laughs)

LM

Because I feel he would be both useless and making snarky quips whenever you try and do anything useful. And maybe that is just the part of me that plays Agatha coming out, but I think I'd have to drown the bird.

Morgan

No, that's so fair. I agree. I think I would like to be stuck on a desert island with Valentine. They're very put together, very sort of... Know what's happening. Very, like, they know their boundaries. They're figuring things out, logical.

LM

They are the most put together adult that we've seen so far.

Morgan

Yes, least amount of trauma.

LM

At the moment.

LM

Currently. Least like: the Author. I feel like he would whinge in the same way that Raven would whinge, but it would be less funny. I feel like he'd be stomping around being like: "You put me on a desert island, I'm a god. What do you mean?! You- When I get off this island, I'm going to kill you." And then he just sit and write angry letters to the editor. Um, which he can't send anywhere.

Morgan

That's my hot take, yeah.

LM

I can see that. I can see that.

Morgan

He's a terrible little man. And I love him.

LM

And we love him. Okay, from @KJPSheedy, "Question for the writer and the director, who was the most difficult character? I'm expecting a different for each."

Morgan

Difficult in what way?!

LM

This is easier for you because difficult for the director makes it sound like I'm @ing cast members.

Morgan

Yeah. Difficult- Like, difficult to write difficult to... to conceptualize?

LM

I'd say difficult...

Morgan

Difficult...

LM

...To write for you.

Morgan

Most annoying, just most like, problematic character? This is the debate, um...

LM

Let's go with most difficult to write for you.

Morgan

This is gonna be a wild... I mean, we both know that there's one character who I wrote into an episode and then had to write out of it episode, because I didn't know how to write her because I didn't understand what her character was doing there. Um, so that unnamed character...

LM

That was a- that was a fun few months.

Morgan

I will reveal this to the listeners after season two is over, I think. Um. But I'm going to wildcard it, I'm going to say Seth is really hard for me to write, because he's very... He's very internal, in a way, that means you don't really have a grasp on him. Like he seems like he's the most put together one. And he seems like he's like, got it all sorted. And he's very mentally stable. And so I haven't really dug into him yet, because I haven't needed to. And so when I come to actually writing him, it's hard for me to get a grasp on him, because he's quite sanctimonious, but like, not very, at the same time. And it's like a weird balance that I really need to dig into more and sort of write in his perspective for a bit. Um... Yeah.

LM

Because I remember when you were writing season one, we got like, halfway through the season, and you were like, "Oh, I need a scene where it shows that Nyx and Seth are friends. Because at the moment, it's just been Seth calling Nyx out."

Morgan

Mm. Because I do think that Seth and Nyx have the least close relationship out of the core four. I think they're sort of like... Like, they are very good friends. And they know each other very well. But in the

sort of way where they wouldn't be friends on their own. Like, they are definitely friends, but they are friends in the group. And so I think, because Ny doesn't understand him very well. I don't understand him very well. And I need to! (Laughs) So... I mean, I've been thinking into him a little bit in season two, um... Because I'm very... it's very easy to write him in the core four perspective, and very easy to write his dynamic with them because they are, you know, these friends who have been friends for like a solid amount of time, they have a very set dynamic. And then as soon as I take him out of that dynamic, and I try to have him flirt with another character, for example, I'm like, "Who are you now?"

LM

I think as well within the core four Seth plays the part of the straight man...

Morgan
Mm.

LM

A lot of the times where the rest of them are such big personalities. He's the one being like, "Okay, guys, the bit is over."

Morgan
Yeah.

LM

And so then taking him out of the Chaos Group and being like, "What is your brand of chaos that goes undetected because you are friends with actual chaos gremlins."

Morgan

That- That's so true- I can't wait for him to break. I'm so excited, because I think he's so fucked up on the inside. I am so excited for it. I think that he could commit war crimes. And I love him.

LM

You can- You can cut this out, 'cause this might be spoilers or whatever.
But we both are- we're thinking about season three.

Morgan

(Laughs) Season three, season four, just get him out of there. Let him be unstable.

LM

Release him from the cage.

Morgan

Exactly. So yeah, that is my most difficult character. What about yours?

LM

I'm gonna say Ambrose.

Morgan

Oooh!

LM

Because from a directing standpoint, he is trying to be seven things at once. When Nyx first meets him, there's very much this expectation that he is the put together adult, he is the mentor to them. He is the one who has seen it all and has, like come out the other side, and is going to shepherd the characters into whatever. And then we see him with Bella, where he's kind of more like a father figure because she doesn't really have any useful parental figures. But we can also see he's the kind of dad who lets you get away with actual murder because he's like, "Oh, but... But she'd feel bad if I yelled at her."

Morgan

(Laughs)

LM

"So sometimes I let her go unchecked and problems occur." And at the same time, he is a deeply traumatized man who has been put into a situation that is going to retraumatize him. And it is a trauma that he has not shared with Nyx and Bella, for understandable reasons that for the majority of his relationship with Bella, she was a child. And with Nyx he's just met this person. And so from a directing standpoint, it's kind of difficult to tread the line between, "Here he is giving lovely mentor feedback," and "But he is still haunted by the horrors."

Morgan

He contains multitudes.

LM

He does.

Morgan

I love him.

LM

Uh, again from KDPSheedy, "Now that you are so far into the production, what are one or two things you would have done differently at the start knowing what you know now?"

Morgan

Is it weird for me to say nothing because we had to make those mistakes to get here?

LM

I was kind of thinking the same thing where I feel like, if we changed it, we wouldn't get the same product...

Morgan

Mm.

LM

If that makes sense.

Morgan

I think I answered this question in season one. And I said, "Oh, we should have written more of the show before we started releasing."

But actually with the way my brain works, I need to work to a deadline. So having to write the episodes, so that as soon as we finished recording an episode, my next episode is due, definitely worked as a model. We learned from season two that me trying to write a backlog of episodes before we start recording does not work.

Um... So yeah, that was my main one where I was like maybe I'd change that. And like, for other people, it's definitely stressful. And if it's not how your brain works, don't do it. But it worked for me. You know what the one change, I would have made... The fact that we started out with Facebook Messenger groups, instead of on Discord, because that was stressful, because we were still structuring it like we were in theater at uni. And that was the only way we'd sort of learned how to do things. And so we were like, "Cool, we've got our Facebook Messenger chat for the prod group, we've got one for the cast, we'll organize everything through this." Nope.

LM

I think in a similar vein, the one thing I do differently is chase up the schedule. In terms of, obviously, this is a passion project. For a lot of us, people have a lot of things going on. Sometimes you do just- you do just need to give people reminders that, "Hey, we're recording next week or tomorrow or whatever," so that you avoid some of the last minute stresses that can occur.

Morgan

The number of things that fall out of my brain. Honestly, I need to be reminded regularly that things are happening. If it's not in my bullet journal, I don't remember it exists.

LM

Uh, from @Octo_Tune on Twitter. "I just caught up on all your stuff. And holy shit, it is so good. My question is did Nyx's offhanded comment about the death of the author mean anything? Do the monologues change by interpretation? I was reistening. And. mmm?"

Morgan

I have to say when I saw this comment, I literally had to sit down. 'Cause I was like, "What do you mean, you marathoned the show, and you're reistening to it. This is- I'm gonna- I'm gonna have a little breakdown in a corner." Um... So that was really cool. Hi, welcome to the show. We're all very um... crazy here. Um. Yeah, so, haha. Yeah, we see your comments, and they make us flap our hands. And yeah. Thank you very much for your nice words. Um, but with the- with the question...

LM

I feel like Nyx's interpretation colours certain things, which we've explored in the first half of season two, in the... Nyx kind of assumes that everyone is having a terrible time and needs to be freed...

Morgan

Mm.

LM

Because Nyx doesn't have the context of the rest of their lives.

Morgan

Yeah.

LM

So I think it's less reinterpretation and more recontextualization.

Morgan

Yeah.

LM

Is where it falls apart for next in that, "Yes, these monologues are true in what they say, but they might not say everything."

Morgan

I feel like I can sort of slightly word of god this because I don't know if we're ever actually going to explicitly say in the show, but the way the monologues work is that they're basically preserving a person in their most dominant emotion when they are taken. So for example, we have Raven, who was full of rage. And so he is locked in this cage of rage, and essentially experiences nothing but rage in this like, bubble of time for 15 years. And so when he gets out it's the only thing he can remember how to feel. Whereas Agatha, for example, goes in and all she's feeling is fear. And this- her whole monologue is just about like, the fear of everything that's happening, and not understanding what's happening. And so when she gets out, she reacts in the opposite way, by refusing to feel fear, and only feeling rage, which we love for her. But yeah, so the death of the author thing is more sort of like this sort of question of whether Nyx is in charge or the author is in charge, and how much free will exists? And the fact that, honestly, we're never going to answer that question, because it's this sort of tug of war battle between the two, where you're never really sure. How much is your own influence? And how much is the omnipotent god who's watching your life? How much is he recording it? And how much is he shaping it? We will never really answer this question. So Nyx manifesting death of the author may influence events... May not.

LM

But thank you so much for the question.

Morgan

Yes!

LM

It's a very juicy one.

Morgan

Yeah, I love it when people are like theorizing because I'm like, "Hohohoho." Yeah, like, we had somebody in the Discord who was theorizing about the trailer episode, the um... The one that we did back in beginning of Season 1, and I was like, "Ah, somebody's actually listened to that! And honestly, you're kind of correct!" The vibes. Who is in the trailer episode? This is a great question. So we have a question from I believe, I got that- I got sent this by our social media manager. Very late last night, when we were on a phone call. He was like, "Oh, there's another question. Ah!" Believe this is from Drew who plays Raven. And it says what D&D class and D&D subclass if you want to go that extra would each of the TAM characters be? We did answer this question for the core four I believe in Season 1, but there's a lot more characters in the show now so we can keep going!

LM

I have not yet played D&D, I have the vaguest ideas of what the classes are.

Morgan

Mm...

LM

So why don't I throw the character at you Morgan and then...?

Morgan

Okay. Okayokayokayokay. The thing is, though, that we did these in the rewards for- some of them- we did them in the rewards for the Indiegogo campaign. And it is very possible that I will answer differently here. But it's all based on vibes. So if you have access to the character profiles from the Indiegogo, take it with a pinch of salt and bridge somewhere in the middle.

LM
Raven.

Morgan
Okay, I do remember this guy. He is a paladin. I believe I said he was an Oathbreaker Paladin, so he's very sort of, like righteous and on a path, but also has maybe fucked up little and lost sight of his journey.

LM
Okay, I think I'm going to try and go for characters that I don't think you've sent character sheets out for. Regina.

Morgan
Regina. Oh, I feel like she would also be a paladin. But for like, a more like played straight kind of vibe. Like she's like a lawful neutral Paladin who's very sort of like, "This is my quest. This is my journey. I am correct. And no one else is correct." Yeah. Fun fact, I've just realized Regina is lawful neutral. Bella is also lawful neutral...

LM
(Laughs)

Morgan
But in a very different way.

LM
We love the family resemblance.

Morgan
Yeah, they both have very strict internal codes that no one else understands.

LM
Lionel.

Morgan

The thing about this show is it lends itself very easily to Paladins, Warlocks and Clerics because everybody's believing in things way too hard. And that's kind of the whole magic system. So I think Lionel is a cleric but like, a Light Cleric, somebody who's very sort of just like, "I am into doing what other people want, because I'm here for everybody." In the same way that Ambrose is, but slightly more unmoored and unhinged because he has less people to care about overall, because everybody else he loves is dead!

LM

Okay, I'll throw you two more characters because you have said the belief system means we've got a lot of the same types of guys running around.

Morgan
Mm-hm!

LM
Sam.

Morgan

Sam's whole thing is being the NPC in the background that does not want to be there. He's got a 10 hit points and the heroes have just walked in town and he's like, "Oh, fuck, we're all dead. Cool. I will be accidentally backhanded and immediately killed in the middle of a fight scene." I think I'm gonna stick with that.

LM
(Laughs) Uh... And finally, Yasmin.

Morgan

She also does not want to be here. I feel like she's a warlock. She's like, "I'm here against my will. I don't know how I got my magic, but

I'm keeping it now because it's mine. Will it come back to bite me? Probably. I should really find out where this is from and what deal I made? Because I don't remember making a deal. But here I am. And I have magical powers. And that's cool. I guess." I think she's a warlock. I think she's a warlock of Great Old One, or the Fae, or the Raven Queen actually, because she's just like chill vibes. I yeah, I think Warlock of the Raven Queen.

LM

I believe then that is all of our questions. Thank you to everybody who contributed to our Indiegogo, it is quite literally allowing us to make the show and compensate our VAs and our behind the scenes team. Please consider joining our Patreon...

Morgan
Yeah.

LM

...If you want to um...continue supporting us, help us to pay people more, help us to pay, particularly the prod team because Morgan and Sorren um... are not yet making any money from this. And we would love to try and compensate them for all of the hours that they pour into the show.

Morgan

The Patreon has some very sexy things on it. It has author's notes that I write for every single episode just about a page of me just rambling about how I came to the episode, random little funny bits from behind the scenes, um... I get really intertextual, and I'm like, "This is a reference to this. And here's the research I was doing during my degree that inspired this." Um, because a lot of this is inspired by my degree in- in parts, um... yeah. And we also- I do episode playlists for every single episode, there's the unedited scripts, which have some spicy spoilers and things like that in there that I did have to edit out of season one because there is a bit in season 1, episode 13, just before

the fire alarm goes, where the script genuinely said, "Bella is about to tell Nyx about magic." And then the fire alarm goes off. She's like, "This is my final chance. This is it. I'm gonna say it." And I did have to edit that out of the original script. But it's back now, after the reveal, I put it back in so... Many things. And then! There will be, soon, bonus episodes, such as the actors of the monologues characters reading out their own monologues with some spicy sound design in there, so. All to play for on the Patreon. It's great. And thank you to our current patrons, because I love you dearly. And it's kind of crazy to me that you're here. But you have a space in my heart, a very big space.

LM

And also please, you know, tweet about us, tag us on Instagram. Talk to us on Tumblr. We love hearing from you guys. And spread the word so that more people can find out about this.

Morgan

Specifically @ us because we love to see things all the time. Like I am never going to not look at messages, except when I miss them, which is fairly often as many people on there but also because if you just say the word The Attic Monologues, when I try and search it, I get so many results about that bloody monologue from Little Women where Jo's in the attic, or I get stuff about Flowers in the Attic by Virginia Andrews neither of which I've actually read or watched, which I'm just going to out myself now. So I'm scrolling through very confused and then I'm like "Ooh! The Aittc Monologues." Please @ us or tag us or use our hashtags because I'm very confused.

LM

Thank you all again for listening and enjoy season 2B.

Morgan

Yeah, season 2B will be coming this summer. It's a doozy. I'll say that much. We've had a lot of angst already. And a lot of good character moments and some amazing acting every time I don't make it to a

recording, L messages me like "You're not ready for this. Oh my god." And I'm like, "!!! Oh no!" I'm like "I'll be fine." And she's like, "No, no, you won't be. You won't be." I'm like, "What do you mean?" So if I'm gonna get whelmed I feel like the listeners will get whelmed. So yeah. Join us soon. And there will be some more bonus content on the feed in between now and the release and we will hopefully have a release date for you very soon. Thank you for listening. Goodbye.

LM
Bye!