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**Transcript for Episode 36: They’re both into plants**

Episode 36.0: They’re both into plants

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Welcome to bitches on Comex. I'm Sarah Center. I'm am looking at a hellraiser doll right now I'm se. Flynn and I'm looking deep into Carol's is Denver's Today. We have a question from Johnny longtime listener. First-time hi Johnny first off. I absolutely love the podcast. Oh Gosh keep up the great work. Oh we will. I was listening to the latest episode about Poison Ivy. And it me of something. I've been wondering for awhile have. Id and swamping interacted. Have they have a they have have the end? That's the episode by no further explanation needed. But Yeah I don't know I have seen them interact. I think that they have an interesting interaction with each other. They both knew each other before. So Pamela New Alec Alec New Pamela before they were associated with the green where they both students of Woodrow's yeah they were both in Lake. I mean you know this changes but lake you know they both knew. Woodrow some asshole. He's a huge astle. Equally asshole to both of them. I would say he does really terrible things to both of them in slightly different ways. Obviously he kind of manipulated ivy in a lot of very creeper terrible professor dude kind of ways which is slightly different than the impact that he had on. Alec but he comes back and kills a bunch of people right in front of him just to prove a point later. So who's to say? What's worse but eight? The flu around McMahon hate. He's truly a monster anytime. Somebody makes an attempt to Layton him in people's is I find it to be highly upsetting because if nothing else he is essentially somebody who went to a lot of huge problems in her life so I think that one of the most important things is that whenever swamping erse comes to e the swamp thing you see him have kind of immediate need to do he does good things almost automatically kind of just because of whatever reason he's still being guided by Allied Great. So he still thinks of himself as a man who becomes a monster which of course we find out is not the case but he has these kind of ethics that he's holding onto for dear life whereas whenever as an ivy is bonded with the green it is through a traumatic process of experimentation and she is reeling from that in the first appearances that we see. She has a lot of kind of ECO Fascist ideology so she wants the humans to suffer and things like that. You know things that are fairly relatable but not necessarily good so she eventually comes around. We have a long process of her healing and kind of being destroyed again and healing. We see that a lot with her so I think that just the sheer difference in how they approach the green and that situation their new powers and things like that is some of the most important things to observe whenever. We're looking at any kind of a friendship between them which they do have friendship but they are extremely extremely different in how they came to their powers for sure and I think that the way they're portrayed is so different right like in the beginning something is treated as a villain and then there's the we talked about it in our very first episode the whole Allen more comic run where he ret cons history and sort of makes swamping not a man trapped in vegetation but actually vegetation come to life. That is in fact not a man. We talked about the gender identity swamp. They I've used them pronounced swamp thing. I'm also very aware that lots of people who are gender fluid or gender non binary gender non conforming us by Neri Pronouns. Not here to judge I've been sliding back into using he for swamping because he often calls himself he. Yeah we've been kind of on the fence with that and I think that was even what we I said was. It feels weird to call him he because I know that he's just always been written by these people who aren't necessarily always looking at how non binary you know. Something is as a premise. So it kind of borders between Or is it. You know thing accepting his own identity. Yes it it's kind of the easiest one to Parse but at any rate definitely non binary. My new outlook is that something uses. He's slash say you know and really? The truth is swamping. Mostly communicates without words. We translated into words because hello where people who have to speak externally but a lot of swamping his communication. Their communication is with the green crew connectivity with plants through being literally connected to them. But I think it's really important to think about you. Know yes something was a villain fitting got some ret conned into being more.

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I'm connected to the Green. I'm just the voice for nature that's been treated with some nuance at different points. Today knowing really looks at swamping and thinks Oh what a villain but they do frequently look at Poison Ivy and call her a villain and I think the important piece of it is like because it will tend to gender swamp thing as a man and is a woman identified woman and is very feminine to Jerry Very Feminine presenting in her attitudes her connection with the green is extremely feminine like Oliver Stories. Based in femininity. It eco-feminists too right. So it's the idea that humanity's relationship with the planet is a recapitulation of men's dominance of women again a little bit binary here but know that we have lots of nuance and how we're thinking about these things and also that this is how other people are presenting so we kind of have to find our own way of looking at it. I guess exactly and so. I think that it's that feminist peace. In how outspoken. And how limit? Kerr politics are like ides's comfortable with going to war with humanity at different points so has swamp thing been but he's always been sort of like called back quote unquote. I'm using scare quotes to reason a different point. And it's the revenge plot line and things like that whereas we're very willing to accept the poison ivy or radically violent right exactly exactly so. You talked a little bit about the green. I think that's show important. Never we talk about either of these characters because they don't interact a ton in comics. Unless I'm mistaken time and again usually sometimes an alternate histories or alternate futures. Or what have you? But they are always connected in theory because it's not like something connects with the green and then steps out of it. He's always connected to the green and you understand. Ivy's relationship with the green better than I do. Sarah do you talk about that a little bit actually? I don't think I do because they are terrible. It establishing what it even as little as one understands I think what I what I would say is what I understand is that I understand nothing. Basically because they exist in the same world. There's definitely crossover. There's been times whenever ivy like you know there's people who ship those two. There's been that very casual romance thing that we see every now and again between those two which I always think is just the most bullshit thing in the world they are not the fucking same okay lake. They have almost nothing in common. How they view the world nope how they view the green absolutely not what they do with their day to day lives how they're treated by the heroes how to treat their human partners. These are things that they've fucking. They could not be more different and I think that whenever somebody tries to put them in a relationship together also they knew each other informs that neither of them Identify with or comfortable with anymore like neither of them really want to go back to their past selves. So that idea to that you would come out of something that cataclysmic and be like. Oh now I'm just GONNA to like hook up with somebody that I associate with that time period in my life. That doesn't usually happen. I mean it does sometimes but it's not usually great. And why would you want to you know? These are all things that make me be like. I just don't really like it because it just doesn't make sense. It's one of those ones where you're just like no. They both have really long standing relationships with human partners. That can't hope to understand themselves. And I like those because they give you a lot of interesting dynamic. I learn more about something through Abby Arcane than I do through swamping absolutely. I learned a lot about Poison Ivy. Through how she interacts with Harley. So I think that those are important dichotomies so whenever you take that away and your wealth. They're both into plant so I guess they're married now kind of reductive. I can see why there might be an attraction. I guess but Totally I think that they would have a lot to talk about but I don't think that they would choose long-term companionship with one. Another and with here I think like. Why would you want to be with someone? Who's so similar to yourself like. That's not a great way to grow. You know it's not a lawyer. But complete opposites. Exactly exactly. They're basically the same in like if you work together but later on the same thing that you both really like or yes exactly. You're all set completely not compatible whatsoever like it just doesn't that story line doesn't make sense. And I think it is something that is extra grading because it just kind of pushes hetero normative ideas onto these characters that we've really explicitly stated how important it is to their personalities that they are not that you know absolutely and I think that Alec Slash something has a desire to still be connected to humanity and I think that ivy finds herself connected to humanity. I don't think she usually wants to be. She has to struggle with it to a pretty intense degree. Yeah that was my sense. Why well some people so I don't want to overstate but I think that those things are really important in like the differences between them are great. I read somewhere. Someone was like ideas and just female swamping and that blew my mind.

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I was a coup thinks of them like that. I've realized people do people think of her as like the seductress version of obscene. We're just like no. They're so different. There's so much of a different nuance to both of those characters that I think they would see eye to eye on some things but it would be very difficult for them to have a long term conversation even with each other. That was swamp. Thing's entire focus is a his role in the green and how he treats the green and you know what his interactions are. A lot of Ivy's focus is telling humanity a step the book you know. I think that that's just such different approaches. And they don't combine. Those are not similar. They both really light green things. That's like what they haven't come in Italy and they were both abused by the same terrible human. You know. There's not really a great foundation relationship or even a friendship honestly but I can see why they meet up and talk. Yeah yeah and I see them. As part of a lineage is how I was thinking about it and I think that one of the great examples of that is actually Neil gamons black orchid number two black orchid the second black orchid goes on a journey to find herself and she's with her like little sisters slashed daughter. Weird and then she meets Ivy. It's not a great representation of IB. And then she meets swimming really struggled with Ivy just to make a note of that like the Secret Origins Ivy. There's a lot of really cool stuff in that. But they definitely by the end of it or just like yes. She's hysterical. Yeah they do they do fall on some deeply misogynistic tropes around her. Moore's law unfortunately but I mean if you're GonNa look at somebody that actually was trying to extend some sympathy towards the character game in was one of the first to do that so agreed in a and I think the art shows that even better than the plot like I think the around ivy engagements works as really powerful in that is partially game in right like it's a conversation between writer and artist and I think it's just a bummer. That so much of the plot ends up being like really damning of her. When it's like what you were so close so close the also like in the alternate history of injustice gods among us that was based on a video game. I did not realize that and is about where superman like real jackass so a lot of villains. It'll be like the good guys in this story line in the year. Three search issue. Twenty two I in swamp thing team up to save the burning forest around them and actually start fighting with each other ideas like trying to kill swamp thing and he's like what the fuck don't kill me and she's like your asshole and he's like no. I'm trying to protect the and she's like. Oh wait I like that idea onboard. Let's do it. Let's just agree. It's really cute. Actually they touch foreheads. To me it did not feel romantic at all. It felt very like when you're talking to somebody before you have to go do something hard like grocery shop and you're like put your heads together. You're like are you ready? I'm ready ready to do it in movies. All the time has nobody makes that. It was way from Super Gay or whatever even though like sure but Super Gay. Yes these two different standards agreed also in swamping from two thousand thirteen when rot world happens. It's a lot of the overlapping story between swamping animal. Man Twisting comes back out of even remember where he is the green I think and he comes out to like the real world and search around issue thirteen and the world is like pretty much gone you standing in the by you in desert but ivy is there and she's been preserving the green in sort of like a jack and the beanstalk kind of thing up stock at the top. She's been helping keep the green alive and they don't interact very long and they end up disagreeing about what the right way to handle things is but. I think it's a pretty good. I like that and she's like. What are you doing like don't do that? Don't do that. Alec Goddamn it and it's pretty totally. I mean the thing is that in the end. I've always going to be paired up. I think with women almost always because she gets really annoyed without dumb. Hold dudes are like enough fair enough because they always are around ivy but constant thing is being like hello mail presenting character. Could you please not fucking step on the goddamn flour and everybody was just like? Wow was that person all mad about. She's hysterical. Yeah instead of like. Actually she has a Goddamn you know. She has a really cool swamp thing too because he put wings on and create horns for himself. That's cool and cool version of ID. She has like really beautiful lip color. If anybody knows how to make that color happen on human lips please email me. I would like to do that to my lips because it looks so cool and then the last one I was going to mention we were just talking about this. Sarah is Justice League action which is an animated series for DC kids.

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There's a really funny episode where I think it's called bag green thumb or something like that where Ivy controls swamp thing where he's like you know. I became manipulate plants. I'm a play it so funny. And everybody's getting their asses kicked by like this Combo and it is weird because I like my future husband. But then she's like hanging thing. Yeah Yeah Yeah. Yeah that sucks but it was a really funny cartoon and also kind of I mean you know. Swamp thing was out of character to very weird swamp thing. It's like not not any the I've ever Before or anything but I it yeah. There's like eighties movie swamp thing or something. This is like Bunny Edgy. Swamp thing that does not exist coming swirled. He's pretty much straight man in every scenario. Swamping you so sincere all the time you know like he doesn't have that edge. The obviously ivy has lots of other characters. Have he's no? I must protect the green. So yes it was very off character representation but hysterical if you want to see them. Interact in a way that you're just not gonna see in the comics. That is so funny. I love that. She's like pulling his strings. Like kicking the Justice League's ask because she's like. I'm Ivy Ella. Yes that's always the most important thing that we see a lot of power for my absolutely I mean she's always holding back pretty much anything else on poison. I don't ship it. We do not ship. Let you take nothing else away from this episode. We do not ship it and it's me I ship everything but I do not ship it but I do love both of those characters and I do love when they interact with each other me to like a kind of. They're almost like cousins or like you know college exactly comrades-in-arms they've been through some book in. Dark Shit similar things in some ways. It's not quite as extreme but I was just reading the New Kelly Thompson. Captain Marvel between nineteen and it kind of reminds me of the wave Rogan. Carol are able to be like we're not friends with like we're cool. We're never going to be But like we're cool as we've been through similar trauma oddly enough because we're of them was traumatizing the other one but you know it. It's a complicated scenario but in this back and forth after a while. Yeah that's fair boundaries. Are Fair this feels like. Oh we have a common trauma a Haman gift and literally nothing else in common so of course we would like like you were saying it's like they're co workers they're gonNA talk around the water cooler and in this case. The water cooler is a beautiful plant that they're gonNA stand next talk the best best case scenario and seeing them together. I think you're right. That people do shoehorn and a romance. And it's always like wom Wong. I know and literally Harley is standing right there she's always. She always literally less than three feet away from Poison Ivy. Like get away. I need to spider need some space. You've been within three feet of me for the last seven years. Hardly wait this is a this is an attachment thing being weird. I can't tell listeners if you didn't know we have a new fiction project called decoded. It's a pride anthology. What we're doing is we're publishing a story a day for every month of Pride. It's kind of a way to bring pride home and we have subscriptions on sale. Don't we Sara Yes we do? They are twelve dollars tell may seventeenth and whenever they go to the regular price of fifteen dollars if you ask me kind of a steel either way but and that's twelve dollars for thirty stories right. Sarah I hope so. That's what we've planned. And every single person who publishes with US comics short stories flash fiction longer form short stories. They're all LGBTQ plus writers so you are actually helping keep writers writing. Yeah we're paying everybody in which we like to do. We give the money to the people's so if you're ready to buy a subscription right now for only twelve dollars make sure to go to DAKOTA PRIDE DOT COM. Comic of the week is red. Sonja and Van. Perella meet that in Veronica written by. Amy Chu ARP by Maria. Scenario colored by Vinicius Andrade letters by Taylor Esposito so fun. I love those comic. I didn't know that I needed this comic in my life. Yeah we talked about how Amethyst Really Fun Comic.

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This is so fun it is just like every panel. Every page is just delightful. I love everything about it. I love everything about it. I love the title. Red Sonja and Van Perla meet Betty and Veronica. What else could you need out of life? That is incredible. The fact that this comic even came into being is just majestic they. I believe also intended to end this series after the first run because they didn't think it was going to do that while or they didn't know how well it was going to do and they've expanded this series. I think there are on issue ten now. This series is so so fun. Amy Chu is an incredible writer. She did a ton of work on Red Sonja already. Her Red Sonja definitely to me is one of the ones that just kind of we talk about. How good Gail Simone's Red Sonja was? It's kind of that to amy you for me like in a Lotta ways and Amy Chu had writing partnerships and worked with a lot of other really good writer. So I'm not going to say that it's just those two holding up the franchise but it is definitely those that always right. The Red Sonja. That in my head clicks the best right. And that's the one that we see here and I love her so so so much. I love this Red Sonja and all of her actions through this entire comic. I think she's kind of the standout character. I was GONNA say the same thing and when she's a at Riverdale high. I don't know if I've ever been a more attracted to anyone like she's clearly an adult she's not a teenage. That's like nothing with Riverdale too though right where you're like Asian people who are like playing teenagers and they're all like in their late twenty years. It's like I feel weird about this because I'm like that person is attractive and I'm like Oh my God. I'm talking about high school student and I'm like I'm not but I am because fiction is weird and this is weird. That's how it is with Red Sonja not teenager definitely not. It's like she's caused playing for me. Yes analii that has like a football player and it turns out something that I find unattractive find very attractive on Red Sonja. I mean that's not going to be the first time we say that about Red Sonja who can do literally anything and still be complete babe so yeah no. She is clearly an adult. It's really funny to watch them kind of walk around with the teenagers and be like Yep. We're all teenagers here so he's like always ordering a beer look at a coffee shop every diner and everyone's like do do you have ID and she's like I'm Red Sonja. Give me the Ale like I have a sword. Take her sort of way. She's so she's so mad and she just gets more violent until she gets her sore back again. It's actually less violent for us just to let her keep the sword when she takes her sword to football practice. Oh my God it's so fucking funny like what the title is is one hundred percent what the title is these characters interacting with each other. I mean now they're on Dracula and now they've gone into Van. Perlas world but for the longest time it was them. Interacting in Riverdale. High is basically what the first argus. So it's you know. School newspaper stuff is happening. Empires et Cetera et CETERA. Someone's like Sonia you're feeling all your classes and she's like I literally don't care I'm fucking Red Sonja. I don't know what to tell you. I'm firm her Katya than what does that mean. She doesn't wanNA wear the clothes like people trying to make wear clothes and she's just like Hilton's like where my pants and she's just like I never bother with fucking don't you're right. I just thought about how definitely Red Sonja is the one who will go into a fight completely naked and not give a shit. She does not care and she wants adventure. That's the funniest part she's all you promised me adventure to vamp relevant printers like why do. I have this grumpy date with me. Like how did this happen? Where grumpy girlfriend that. I'm constantly trying to appease I guess I'll do it but and that's like Van Perla a hundred percent just to be like I guess I'm in this weird position right now. So just do the thing. It's like you take two pairs of characters who have great chemistry love. Love Red Sonja and Van Parrella. They both have a bit of an odd couple thing but also like really supportive of one. Another God I love women who've got each other's backs you know and you get that you compound them together. Oh the hijinks the preciousness the Hilarity I just I love it so much. I love it so much. Yeah I'm obsessed with this comic. I think is one of the best that I've read. That just is so fun is like one of those ones where every time I see it in my pool list. I'm like I'm going to have a great time. I'm going to be able to read something goofy. That's great and has a lot of sword fighting and Van. Perla like biting people and of course Betty and Veronica doing jinx as they do best and it is kind of their story.

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I want the newspaper print article but a vampire cult. I know that was so funny. And then like yeah. We can't talk about parts of that without giving away the whole thing. The responses the interactions. There's a detective whose name is Irene. Who I think was really fun in this. She's usually very anti anti-cop but her colourlessness was endearing and yet just the whole thing honestly. It's one of those coming where it's just like the title. Obviously people kind of I remember people being like. I'm really not sure about this being like it'll probably be good because I saw the creative team. I love all of these characters. I've always loved all of these characters. We've talked so so much. About how much love him. And she's grading. She's not really the focal point. She gets to kind of step back and let Red Sonja. Meanwhile Betty and Veronica also are pretty prominent. Their characterization isn't really that much their interactions with each other and with Vampire Lynn. Red Sonja are and they have just so many. Good one liners in this comic. There's just so many of funny little jokes of like yeah it's not like we like three. You imprison or something. Why would you wanNA leave Riverdale till like vampire after she literally got thrown in prison for like eating all the blood and the blood bank? There's Goofy Shit like that. That's Super Fun to read. It's so funny to see this juxtaposition. You know what I feel like it does I feel like adding Red Sonja and Van Parrella just shows how absurd betty in Veronica's lives are already there not like you don't blink an eye basically. Yeah look I'm upset that I didn't get my article in the paper. I'm said that I'm not doing well in school. And also I'm going to solve this murder. The stakes in those two things are so different but not to a high schooler right to high school or it's all the same so funny and I love the Red Zone Ian Bumper like wrapped up in it. You know the fact that red zone he joins. The football team is hysterical. That is hysterical. She's tried to solve a murder and she ends up in this role. Because why that's kind of what the comic is like is basically aiming to obviously just having a great time without ridiculous those premises and making it just as fun as it needs to be to succeed because like we didn't come here to read like watchmen like we didn't come here to read something that's deep in serious. We wanted to read something. That's really fun. These four completely ludicrous characters interacting with each other in a way that is actually kind of tender because they all have each other's backs to such a degree so yeah I mean everything about this is great like I can't. I can't recommend it enough because it was just fun. You know well. The writing is fantastic. The pacing is so good in the writing. The colors are beautiful. The arts fantastic. I think it's always hard when you have a actor who portrayed by actors like well right to then try and capture that likeness but not too much right. Take them out of the experience. I thought that they are really balanced. It well yeah. I always think of the artists who do that. You're just like this is like a creepy thing to read. Because it's like you just staring at these people's pictures and drawing them specifically who they are. When does it just become tracing kind of yeah totally? So this doesn't really fall into that pit fall at all. I think that the Veronica for instance very unique looking Veronica but you can tell her apart from being Perla who has essentially like a lot of the same features so yeah. I don't know I think that. She the arts scrape. Yeah I mean it's totally one of those topics where you just run out of ways to say. Oh this is really great. Great read it. That's like the final answer to this whole thing is that you will not regret it. If you look at that title and you go in your head I might like that. Then yes you'll probably like it. You are correct mirror podcast. That is all about making comic books more accessible to Lgbtq folks and women so if you have a question about anything related to comics comic adaptations pop culture in general conventions cost. Play new name it. That's what we're here for. You can send us your questions at bitches on comics at gmail.com. Unfortunately g does not like the word bitch. They're pretty judgy about it so we can't have it spelled out it is be dot. T. C. H. E. S. O. N. C. O. M. ICS at gmail.com and yet remember. There's no I'm bitch. If you'd like to support the podcast you can do so by rating and reviewing us on Itunes spotify stitcher or wherever you listen to podcasts. I'm Sarah Century and you can find me at. Www DOT Sarah century dot com and twitter and instagram. Still Sarah Century on those I'm se floor you can learn more about me at SAF DOT com.

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