



YA Café Podcast

Episode 13: *All of This is True*

17 May 2018

- Danielle: [00:01](#) Welcome to the YA Cafe where we share conversations about books for teachers, readers, and caffeine addicts everywhere. On today's episode we'll be talking about "All of This Is True" by Lygia Day Penaflor with YA author Amanda K Morgan. Grab a mug of your favorite beverage friends, and let's talk books.
- Ad: [00:17](#) This podcast is made possible by Nouvelle ELA teaching resources. Find Secondary ELA resources to engage and inspire, like Creative Reading Task Cards. Nouvelle ELA, something new.
- Amanda: [00:33](#) Welcome y'all! As always our first segment will be spoiler free, and so you can stick around even if you haven't checked out the new novel yet. I'm Amanda Thrasher
- Danielle: [00:38](#) and I'm Danielle Hall, an 8th and 9th grade English teacher and I blog at teachnouvelle.com. Our guest today is Amanda K. Morgan, author of "Such A Good Girl" and "Secrets, Lies, and Scandals". Hi Mandy!
- Mandy: [00:38](#) Hi guys!
- Danielle: [00:51](#) So, we're so excited to have you today.
- Mandy: [00:53](#) I am so excited to be here. Thank you so much for inviting me.
- Amanda: [00:58](#) This is great! You are our very first author, so we want to make sure to give you time to brag about your books. We've talked about "Secrets, Lies, and Scandals" before on our 'scandalous' episode and we really loved it. Um, so do you wanna talk a little bit about that book and also "Such A Good Girl"?
- Mandy: [01:12](#) Sure. And like I said, so excited to be here and talk about another really suspenseful novel. And again, um, I listen to a lot of your podcasts and really enjoyed them.
- Amanda: [01:12](#) Yay!
- Mandy: [01:25](#) So thank you again, like I said, for inviting me. And um, "Such A Good Girl" and "Secrets, Lies, and Scandals" are both thrillers and um, they're both also, like, psychological suspense novels and I think that is absolutely for me the most enjoyable thing to write, and also kind of the most enjoyable thing to dissect. So "Secrets, Lies, and Scandals", um, (and when I talk about my books, I kinda like to take people on a pop culture tour), so "Secrets, Lies, and Scandals" is kind of like "The Breakfast Club" meets like, "How to Get Away With Murder" meets like, um, "Killing Mr. Griffin" if like you liked Lois Duncan, if you ever read that when you were growing up. I knew in middle school I was obsessed with her.

She was, **is** fantastic. You know, they're repackaging some of her books.

- Amanda: [01:25](#) Oh cool.
- Mandy: [02:15](#) I wish, like, they would repackage all of them. Um, but I recently bought, uh, "I Know What You Did Last Summer" again, just because I was like, "Oh, I love her" and then um, "Such A Good Girl" is kind of like "Pretty Little Liars" meets "Luckiest Girl Alive" meets "Gone Girl". So, um, there's a lot of psychological manipulation in all of them, um, there are a little bit edgy, they're a little bit out there. Um, they've been recommended a lot for reluctant readers, which I'm really proud of because I just love, um, I love teens reading, I love students reading, I love, you know, people picking up the book across the board, which I've really seen, so that's great. "Secrets, Lies, and Scandals" is when five students accidentally killed their teacher and try to cover it up. And teachers, I still love you.
- Danielle: [02:15](#) **laughter**
- Amanda: [02:15](#) I love teachers, I have nothing against teachers I promise, and um ...
- Amanda: [02:15](#) Cuz our target audiences like, "Wait a minute, maybe I don't want this book"
- Mandy: [02:15](#) They're like "Wait a minute, who is this author" **inaudible**
- Danielle: [03:08](#) Well, he's not a great, he's not a great teacher, like, that's one of the things we talked about it. He's a terrible person.
- Mandy: [03:14](#) Exactly. Thank you. Thank you. "Such A Good Girl" is actually about a student who, um, starts to develop feelings for her teacher and then realizes that maybe he has feelings for her too, and the story really develops from there. And I struggle to talk a lot about this book because it's really twisty and turny and I don't want to give a lot of way.
- Amanda: [03:14](#) Yeah.
- Mandy: [03:39](#) Yeah, but ultimately, um, there's a lot of blame, there's a lot of manipulation, and um, I hope it's a lot of fun.
- Danielle: [03:47](#) I definitely thought it was, and I think that you do such a good job of writing what teenagers want to read. Like, that's how I felt as a teacher putting your books in the hands of my students and they're just great.
- Amanda: [04:00](#) It's funny you say it's hard to talk about "Such A Good Girl" because I also think it's hard to talk about "Such A Good Girl" and I'm like, "I want to recommend this to you, but I can't tell you why I love it", like ...
- All: [04:00](#) **laughter**
- Amanda: [04:00](#) But it is a great book

- Mandy: [04:00](#) Thank you so much.
- Amanda: [04:15](#) and I definitely recommend it. If anybody likes psychological thrillers and these kinds of twisty turny stories, "Such A Good Girl" is a great read.
- Mandy: [04:20](#) Thank you. I appreciate that so much.
- Danielle: [04:23](#) So can you tell us more about your process building stories, and particularly how you make them so interesting?
- Mandy: [04:32](#) Um, I one saw Bruce Coville talk and he talked about like the worst case scenario. And I think that's such a brilliant idea. Like, you take somebody in a completely normal scenario and you make it really bad and then you make it worse and then you make it worse and then you make it worse, and that's like, how I like to build my stories. Like, you have a kid walking home from school, how can that be really bad, right? Maybe he falls and trips into a mud puddle? Okay, well that's not good. Well, what if he's carrying something he's not supposed to have? What if it's something that he took from his mother that she forbade him to take to school? What if it's something priceless that she can't replace? What if it's something that her mother gave that kid, or her mother gave her when she was a little girl? What if it's something that, um, is suddenly covered in mud and he can never replace for her? And then suddenly he has to explain to his mother why he stole that. So all of a sudden you go from a kid walking home from school, to a priceless artifact that can never be replaced. So I think the worst case scenario is on hundred percent a good way to build suspense and to build problems, and that's what I do. Like, okay, we have a kid sitting at home in his bedroom. How can we make that a bad situation?
- Danielle: [05:51](#) In the new novel "All of This Is True" we unravel the story of a group of friends and an author they're obsessed with. When Miri, Soleil, Penny, and Jonah get a chance meet the author Fatima Ro, they have to make sure it's perfect. They have to make sure she notices them. Told in alternating sequences of interviews, text messages and excerpts from Fatima's new book, "All of This Is True" gives us a vision of obsession, betrayal, and the blurred line between fiction and reality. This is another one that's hard to talk about, right? Like, it's hard to do too much without giving away spoilers, but one of the things that we know early on is that Fatima wrote her second book, (so, after the one that the teens were obsessed with) she wrote the second book about them. Mandy, what did you think of this book?
- Mandy: [06:34](#) It got me. It definitely hooked me, but I will say it wasn't right away because I found the format really different. First of all it's really different and I have to say I really admire the author for taking on such a challenge because it's mixed media, right? What is there? It's, like, journal entries? What else was there?
- Danielle: [06:53](#) Emails between Soleil and Fatima.
- Mandy: [06:56](#) That's right. And the characters actually change names because the characters are doing interviews and there's this mixed media format, but then the characters are also being talked about in this other novel. So it's a little bit hard

to keep track of who's who at first, so it's not a book you can go into and kind of just immediately go, "Okay, this is what's going on". You really have to pay attention to who the who's who. And so that at first kind of threw me off a little bit I would say, what did you think about that?

- Amanda: [07:24](#) So I agree with you. The mixed media was a little difficult for me to get into to start with. Um, a lot of times when I read something or watch something, my first question is "Why did this creator choose this medium to tell the story" So like, "Why is this a video game instead of a book?", or "Why is this a movie instead of a TV show?" or something like that. So when I started reading this book, my first thought was "Why is this a book instead of, like, a mockumentary type thing" you know? Uh, and I think that as I went along in the book, it got better. Particularly as the, the fictionalized version of their lives in Fatima Ro's new novel takes more of a prominent role. So I would say that, like you it took me a little while to get into it. But then once I did I thought it was a really fast paced, good read. What about you Danielle?
- Danielle: [08:15](#) So I would definitely agree with you. I guess I'm used to like, convergent mixed media, like, so, something like "Big Little Lies" where we have the narrative largely happening from the beginning and then we have some interviews that are clearly happening after whatever the incident is. Um, so I was like prepared for that except that in this book there is no narrative that happens from the beginning until you really accept the fact that she wrote this book about these teens and that the novel excerpts are from the quote unquote 'beginning'. So it's like a little bit hard to get into and, you know, it takes us a while to realize why the teens in the interviews at the very beginning are so angry that she wrote this book about them, because the novel hasn't like, caught up to the anger yet.
- Mandy: [09:08](#) I would definitely agree. Um, and what did you think of their friendships at the beginning? Um, I had a hard time putting the friendships together. That being said, you can definitely tell that the friends have splintered at this point.
- Amanda: [09:22](#) So like you, I thought it was a little difficult to believe that they were friends,
- Mandy: [09:22](#) mhhm
- Amanda: [09:27](#) particularly the character of Miri who like, very much was the, the key devotee of Fatima Ro
- Danielle: [09:35](#) And like a queen bee sort
- Mandy: [09:35](#) Yep
- Danielle: [09:35](#) in her friend group.
- Amanda: [09:40](#) Yes. She seemed like, very quick to throw her friends to the side and act very, you know, imperious and better than the rest of them, moving forward. I believed that Penny cared about her friends.

Danielle: [09:50](#) Yes,

Mandy: [09:52](#) Absolutely. And Penny was the one throughout the story that maybe had the least 'action', if you will, but I connected with the most

Danielle: [09:52](#) Rights

Mandy: [10:00](#) because of that, she had the most, feeling, I would say throughout the story, She had the most emotion, and um, Penny/Paloma I believe was always the one who was attempting to connect to the other characters and attempting to reach out. And I really felt for her as the story progressed and if there was a real core to the story, I think it was penny for me.

Danielle: [10:24](#) Right. And even though we're introduced to Miri first, I think that Penny becomes the one that we can trust the most.

Mandy: [10:24](#) mhhmm

Danielle: [10:34](#) you know, she's not obsessed with Fatima, um, to the point that the others are and she's grounded and she cares about her friends and she is in agony from the very beginning about whatever happened, which we discover kind of as the novel goes on.

Amanda: [10:51](#) Yeah. I think that Penny from the beginning is our most reliable narrator - not that she's incredibly reliable because she still has a biased perspective of everything - but she seems the least swept up either in her hatred Fatima Ro or the cult of personality around Fatima Ro. Right.

Danielle: And there is this like, cult of personality around Fatima and once the girls find the first novel "Undertow" they kind of create this like, culty sort of fan club and they get to meet Fatima and she becomes like a role model for them and she tells them all about her theory of human connections and like, "How to tell your real truth" What did you think about that, Mandy?

Mandy: [11:35](#) I think that is a little bit relatable because I think, um, ultimately I think people are looking for that in a variety of ways. Whether that's through religion, whether that's through, I mean something as simple as yoga classes or um, dating. People are looking for that sort of inner truth in one way or another. What did you guys think about it?

Amanda: [11:56](#) I thought it made a lot of sense because I remember when I was a teenager, when I was younger, I would get incredibly obsessed with things. Like I like things now, but like I *really* liked things when I was a teenager, you know? So I think that it makes a lot of sense because like, if you had this author of this work that you admired who like, showed up in your life, like, you're going to lose your cool. You're gonna, you know, follow along wherever they want to go. Like, if JK Rowling showed up in my life when I was a junior in high school

Danielle: [12:26](#) Or like, 30 doing a podcast,

Ambilla: [12:27](#) Hey, I don't need your negativity and I don't need your sass. *laughter*

Mand : [12:31](#) Right now? I would, I would follow her. *laughter*

Amanda: [12:35](#) So I, I think that it makes a lot of sense with how, how much, like, teenagers can really love something.

Mandy: [12:40](#) Absolutely. I would agree.

Danielle: [12:45](#) Me too. And with that, friends, we'll take our first break. When we come back we'll share about Things We Like A Latte, then we'll return to our discussion of ""All of This Is True"" and dig a little deeper.

New Speaker: [12:45](#) *musical interlude*

Amanda: [13:12](#) Welcome back, y'all, it's time for Things We Like A Latte. Danielle, what is your brew of choice this week?

Danielle: [13:22](#) So, I just started watching "Riverdale". I found Riverdale because I read "Ship It" by Britta Lundin and she said she was a writer on Riverdale and so I'm like, "Well I want more of what your doing so I'm going to watch that". It is like, loosely based on the characters in the Archie comics, you know, like we have an Archie and Betty and a Veronica. Um, but it's a mystery, there's like potential murder involved, and I'm really only a couple of episodes in but I love how, like, hyper-stylized all of the cinematography is. And then after that it's really just got the CW vision of teenage life, which is enjoyable. How about you Mandy? What's your brew of choice?

Mandy: [14:02](#) My brew of choice is actually kind of old school. I'm going back to "We Were Liars" by E. Lockhart because

Danielle: [14:02](#) love it

Mandy: [14:02](#) it is brilliant, oh my gosh.

Amanda: [14:02](#) So good!

Mandy: [14:11](#) So good. And, and seeing as how we're talking about like suspense and psychological and just twist and turns, I mean, does it get any better than that? I really don't know. Like, read it. *inaudible* Just read it, that's all I'm gonna say read it. Amanda?

Amanda: [14:24](#) Excellent choice. Um, so for my Thing I Like A Latte to this week, it's also a little bit of an older book, but I just read it because I'm, uh, behind the curve. It's called Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and it is fantastic. It's one of my favorite books I've read so far this year. Um, she just has this really keen observational wit, um, it's so detailed in its perceptions of the world, and the writing is just so tight and wonderful. I really loved this book, I loved it the whole time I was reading it, and that is Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

- Danielle: [15:02](#) We're going to take a quick break and when we come back we'll return to our discussion of "All of This Is True". The rest of the show may contain spoilers. So if you're leaving us here, keep in touch on Instagram and Twitter @yacafepodcast. We'll be right back.
- Danielle: [15:34](#) Support for this podcast comes from Audible. Audible is offering listeners of the YA Cafe, a free 30 day trial and a free audio book to get you started. Y'all, I love audio books. I listen to them all the time, whether I'm grocery shopping, or in the car, or on a walk with Padfoot. It's just one more way to get more books in my day. Check us out@audibletrial.com/yacafe. Happy reading!
- Amanda: [16:03](#) Welcome back, y'all, to the YA Cafe. We're continuing our discussion on. "All of This Is True" if you haven't read this yet, we want to warn you again that this segment will contain spoilers.
- Danielle: [16:03](#) Spoilers!
- Danielle: [16:14](#) So, I am super excited to talk about this book with you, Mandy, because there are unreliable narrators. And when I think of unreliable narrators, like, in addition to "We Were Liars" which you just talked about in your Thing You Like A Latte, I think of your books.
- Mandy: [16:29](#) I love liars. What can I say?
- All: [16:29](#) *laughter*
- Mandy: [16:34](#) And I mean, I also just love people that believe that they're telling the truth with their whole heart.
- Amanda: [16:34](#) Yeah.
- Mandy: [16:34](#) Maybe that's their truth?
- Danielle: [16:34](#) Right.
- Danielle: [16:43](#) I mean, I love people who are telling their own truth, and maybe it's not the real truth, maybe it's not the right truth, but maybe they're experiencing life through their own lens. Yeah, I think that those posts are important.
- Danielle: [16:58](#) And so like Miri whom we're introduced to first, originally seemed sympathetic, but then as the tensions with Fatima grow, I liked Miri less because I felt that she was, you know, way too into Fatima, but like you said, like she believed all of those things,
- Amanda: [17:16](#) Oh, I felt that from the beginning. I felt that Miri from the beginning was like this sanctimonious person who was, you know, lording over all these other people this deeper knowledge that she had and how she understood that Fatima and loved them and blah blah blah. I didn't like Miri from the beginning, I'm surprised you found her sympathetic to start. What did you think Mandy? Did you like her at the beginning?

- Mandy: [17:37](#) I, I did and I think Miri was one of the most interesting characters because I felt like she was searching so hard for this deeper meaning, but granted, I love slightly villainous characters. *laughter* So I might be biased. Um, and it's because, (and we're skipping right to the end here guys. I'm warning you), but at the end she says to her friends, "Didn't you finish the book?" And I'm not gonna say anymore because we'll get to that, but that to me was really powerful because she was like, "Didn't this mean something to you?". Because to her this whole book was like, a gift, and, and she put so much weight on this thing and um, and I sympathize with that a little bit. So I felt a little bit more from Miri I think, I connected with her in that. I'm not saying I would have rushed out to be her friend, but, yeah,
- Danielle: [18:32](#) That makes a lot of sense. And I think that this novel played a lot with the weight of a book and a thing that you love. And secrets. Just weight in general just kept coming back, like, Fatima Ro talks about how when she finished her first manuscript, which was her way of processing her own grief, she printed it out and stood on a bathroom scale and like, saw the weight of her grief in kind of a tangible way. And, you know, so I think that it makes total sense that Miri gives us this vision on how much a thing that you love can, can weigh.
- Mandy: [19:12](#) Okay. I have a question for you two. One of the things I found really interesting about his book is the two people with the largest secrets, if you will, or the largest I would say weights, so to speak, didn't have their perspectives in this novel, weren't, weren't spoken about. And that of course is Jonah and Fatima. Right? So how did that work for you when you were reading it?
- Amanda: [19:36](#) So I think that we did get Fatima's perspective, I think, in the novel that she wrote.
- Mandy: [19:36](#) Ok.
- Amanda: [19:44](#) But I think that even if she had been, like, interviewed, she still would have, have expressed herself in the interviews the same way that she wrote it. So she did with her relationship with Jonah, the same thing she did with her relationship with her mother where she screwed it up in real life, slammed the door, didn't want to have a relationship with her mother, cut off her relationship with Jonah and then wrote a different ending, like, wrote where she was, like, empathetic and had this real connection with people. So I think that with her, like, we saw her reality in that she believes in human connection, but is simultaneously unable to actually do it, and so writes these fictions in which she is the empathetic hero.
- Danielle: [20:27](#) And I think in terms of the not having the Jonah perspective, um, first of all we did get a little bit of that from Fatima's viewpoint because the novel experts are from Brady's perspective and Brady is Jonah's avatar and blah blah blah. But one thing that Amanda and I talk about a lot, and I think this is somewhere where you can really weigh in Mandy, is like, how could you have Jonah's perspective and keep Jonah's secrets, secret?
- Amanda: [20:57](#) "No one must know my secret!", that's how.

- Danielle: [21:03](#) *laughter* So we, we've talked about this trope before of the 'no one must know my secret'
- Amanda: [21:03](#) I hate it, I hate it.
- Danielle: [21:08](#) But like, *you* do a great job of having your narrators have secrets. So like, I guess we could have had a Jonah perspective?
- Mandy: [21:16](#) Well for mine, you know, I did "Secrets, Lies, and Scandals" in third person. And of course, (and this is a little spoiler obviously), but "Such A Good Girl" was an unreliable narrator.
- Amanda: [21:16](#) Yeah
- Mandy: [21:28](#) Um, so I think there's definitely different techniques .And you know, with Jonah, he actually, (the way I understood it, and correct me if I'm wrong), Jonah asked Fatima if she would give him this absolution, did he not? So in a way he was saying, "Rewrite my story". So in a way maybe she was listening to him
- Amanda: [21:50](#) Maybe. But I thought that that happened like, before Fatima realized that Jonah was not, in fact the victim of this hazing incident, he was the, the perpetrator of it.
- Mandy: [22:01](#) Here's my issue with this story. I know the whole thing where he was a sexual abuser was supposed to be a twist and I'm giving a lot of way right here if, you know, you haven't read this book, but Jonah is a sexual abuser. This is, you know, he, he committed this heinous act. Um, but I thought that was very obvious from the beginning.
- Danielle: [22:01](#) Me too!
- Amanda: [22:01](#) Yeah, me too. *inaudible* so when it was a twist I was like, "What? Like, everyone knew this."
- Mandy: [22:28](#) Exactly. And so I assumed that when you was in this room with that Fatima that that's what he was telling her. It's like, "I need to be absolved, I need to be forgiven". And when she was saying, "I'll rewrite your story". That's what she was talking about.
- Danielle: [22:28](#) I also
- Mandy: [22:42](#) So that was my assumption.
- Danielle: [22:44](#) I also felt and still feel, um, (and we don't have Fatima's perspective so no one can say I'm wrong), but I felt that Fatima knew from the very beginning, as soon as I knew, I felt that Fatima knew that Jonah was the abuser and I felt that she manipulated everyone for a bigger drama for her book.
- Amanda: [23:10](#) I disagree. I don't think she knew because she like freaked out when she found out and like kick them all out at her house and slammed the door and they

never spoke to any of them again. So I don't think she knew, I think she was blindsided, I think she felt dumb. Yeah. That was my impression of it.

- Mandy: [23:26](#) Do you think that was a facade though like, "Oh, now I have to pretend that, you know, now I have to pretend that, you know, I don't approve of this"
- Danielle: [23:26](#) Thank you Mandy! I agree.
- Amanda: [23:35](#) No, because here's what I think. I think that she reacted in a gut way and that's when she, she likes slammed them out. But then in the book, the way that she wrote it was like she reached out to Brady and she was like
- Danielle: [23:46](#) In the novel in the book, in the novel excerpt.
- Amanda: [23:46](#) Yep. Yeah, the book-ception situation.
- Danielle: [23:46](#) It's complex. *laughter*
- Amanda: [23:53](#) So she wrote the like she was welcoming to Brady and like, they had this whole reckoning and all these kinds of things because I think that's what she wanted herself to do and I think that she had had that lead in, like, if she could have planned it, she would have planned herself doing that. But then in reality when it was like quick split second, she couldn't do it.
- Danielle: [24:11](#) I don't know. I think that Lygia Day Penaflor has to expect more from her readers than that they would be caught, like, unaware that Jonah wasn't what he seemed because it's not like he was particularly, like, I dunno, I didn't find him particularly sympathetic or anything like he, he mentioned he had been away from home, like he was being kind of shady.
- Mandy: [24:37](#) I completely agree because he has, he has this obsession with being a good person and that he's so concerned that he's not a good person
- Danielle: [24:37](#) Right.
- Mandy: [24:46](#) And he's so worried about these things that he's done wrong, right? And I understand that victims can often blame themselves, so there is that route that you could go down, right? But to me it was pretty obvious that he wasn't a victim, that he was the perpetrator of sexual assault. And so, I don't know, to me I just feel like Fatima was absolutely, (and tell me if you disagree), I feel like she was manipulating the situation.
- Danielle: [25:13](#) Well, I, I agree with you.
- Amanda: [25:13](#) I don't and I'll fight you both.
- All: [25:13](#) *laughter*
- Amanda: [25:21](#) So we talked about how Penny was the most reliable narrator and then when we get to the end we find out that she's never even read the book! *laughter* I

really loved that.

- Danielle: [25:31](#) She hasn't read either book, she hasn't read "Undertow" and she hasn't read "The Absolution of Brady Stevenson" and yeah, that's the twist. That's the real twist.
- Amanda: [25:31](#) That is the real twist.
- Mandy: [25:41](#) I loved that. I loved that about her and she's just so desperate to be accepted. We all know somebody like that, sometimes we are that person
- Amanda: [25:41](#) Yes
- Manda: [25:52](#) you know, we're person who's like, "Yeah, that TV show was amazing". And then you're like, "My gosh, I have to watch that TV show".
- Amanda: [25:56](#) *laughter* "How do I watch seven episodes tonight?" like
- Mandy: [26:00](#) Let's go, let's go binge Vanderpump Rules. *laughter* That's, that's me by the way, I love that show. Um, but you know, we've, I feel like we've all been her, like, we've all been striving for acceptance and I just, I found her so relatable in that way that she just, she wanted that so bad and she was, I mean, she was the good friend in this story.
- Danielle: [26:22](#) Yeah. And she was really broken up about how, you know, she's the one that discovers that Jonah was the perpetrator, the abuser, and she brings that to the group and then, you know, feels responsible when Fatima writes about it. And so she has all of this angst and like, all she is for all of her friends to be friends again, but like, that ship has sailed.
- Amanda: [26:47](#) We don't really hear from Soleil afterwards until like, the very last chapter where Soleil is saying "Fatima manipulated us". She like submitted all of her journal entries and emails to The New York Times and everything, but we don't actually hear her voice. Did y'all think that worked with Soleil's character?
- Mandy: [27:07](#) Um, I thought it was really interesting how it was handled because I think this book is an examination of, you know like I said, it's really tough subject matter. What happens, the people who interact with someone who's committed such a serious crime? Um, after the fact, like, she has a lot of unpacking to do and maybe she just wasn't ready to do that with, um, a reporter or she hadn't put anything down in her journal or something like that. So, so I don't know. I think that's a really tough question to answer. I would have liked to see more from her. What do you guys think?
- Danielle : [27:40](#) So I think that one thing that really interested me about Soleil is that, you know, about like a quarter of the way through the novel Fatima wants Soleil's notes (like, Soleil is portrayed as constantly having her computer and constantly taking notes about all of her interactions) and Fatima calls that "Soleil's truth" and she basically like insists that Soleil send her the raw edits of her notes and interactions and so that, you know, that creates like the observer effect and

then what happens after that? Like how, how real is solely being with those notes in those journals? And like you said, Mandy, does she have the space to kind of process what she's going through or is she feeling like she's under surveillance?

Mandy: [28:29](#)

Absolutely.

Danielle: [28:31](#)

That's our show for today, friends. Thank you so much to a Amanda K. Morgan for joining us.

Mandy: [28:36](#)

Thank you so much for having me guys. This was so much fun.

Danielle: [28:39](#)

If you haven't checked out episode three yet, we talk about "Secrets, Lies, and Scandals" and why you should totally read Mandy's books. You can find Mandy on Instagram and twitter @amandakmorgan. You can find us on Instagram and Twitter @yacafepodcast, we'd love to hear from you. And if you're enjoying the show, please consider leaving us a review on iTunes. Happy reading!