

BUT HER LYRICS... EPISODE 14

SHOW NOTES:

Shawna has a casual look back at season one and shares what changes we can expect in season two.

The official sponsors of this episode are [First Defense Krav Maga](#) out of Herndon, VA & [womensprideNFT](#).

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Thanks to Brooks Harlan for chopping up War On Women's "Her?" to create the podcast theme song.

EPISODE TRANSCRIPT

{intro music}

Shawna Potter: Welcome to But Her Lyrics...the show where we delve into the meaning and the politics behind each song from the new War On Women album, Wonderful Hell. Or do we? Dun dun dun... I'm Shawna Potter, singer and lyricist for War On Women - and your host. And I've got a big update about season two of BHL, so stick around for that, but first? Why are we here? To do a season one recap! I just wanted to reminisce, go through the episodes, and give a little synopsis so if you missed a topic you're interested in, you can go back and listen to that episode directly. And if you're a first time listener and you're starting with this episode, it's an interesting choice! Brave choice. I welcome you! Quickly, this episode is sponsored by First Defense Krav Maga & womensprideNFT, which is a thing I absolutely do not understand and refuse to learn more about, but my badass **patron** Stephan, who, after reworking my Patreon benefit tiers, unknowingly became a sponsor, he is involved in it somehow, so check it out.

Let's get into it!

{ Music }

My first favorite memory from this show is interviewing my mom for episode 0! It was so cool to hear what she remembers about me performing when I was little, and what's it's like for her to stick up for her wild feminist daughter to our conservative family members. I only mentioned this at a couple shows on our most recent tour, but my mom was diagnosed with cancer and was going through chemo and radiation over the last year or so and it was very tough for me to not be able to be there for her, to go to Texas - she couldn't get vaccinated against covid, it wasn't safe to be around her. She made it through and is now getting vaccinated, but if the worst had

happened I just kept thinking at least I could always go back and listen to her voice in this interview which brought me some comfort...now I promise not to put every single one of my family members on the podcast, y'all, but maybe today is a good day to tell someone you love them if you haven't told them in a while.

Woo, Sorry to get heavy, let's lighten it up, let's talk husband murder! {Music} So for ep 1, "Aqua Tofana", I loved speaking with historian Mike Dash, partly for his knowledge, partly for his accent, and I remember he was a very last minute guest. Which is odd for the first episode. I had already spent HOURS interviewing each band member, as well as future episode guests, and had everything lined up but finding someone to speak about 17th century Italy took awhile and he was so kind to understand my urgency that he agreed to do the interview on new years eve. I should not forget his auld acquaintance.

{Music} Hello, Carol Adams? Ep 2 for "Milk and Blood," the legendary author herself, this was a big get. I felt very legit getting to speak with her and I couldn't help but talk to her like a fan, like I doubt it's my best interview, I'm sure it's not my best work, but luckily she likes to talk, too, so we had a blast. If you didn't catch it, the episode is about the intersections of veganism and feminism and I think omnivores especially should listen to it, even if just to understand what those intersections are. Right? To be the best feminists we can be, we have to at least understand how sexism intersects with everything else. And sometimes to understand we have to feel uncomfortable. Speaking of uncomfortable, there is a bonus episode on Patreon where you can hear me tell Carol my idea for a music video for this song and She very politely explains why it is terrible.

{Music} In a season of firsts for me, I did my first double episode - there was so much to dig into for our song "This Stolen Land" that I needed two experts and two episodes to cover it all. And it's not that long of a song. And the last verse is a repeat of the first verse. Fun fact, between recording, editing, and publishing lawyer Emily Heger's interview, enough things changed regarding refugee rights and asylum policies, I had to delete parts of her interview that were no longer accurate, and she wrote an update for me to read on the show, which...I don't think I have any other episode that timely. So yeah, a lot of work. But let's not skip over Dr. Meranda Roberts, she was fantastic and my kinda take no shit feminist that I want to be friends with in real life.

For the "White Lies" episode, {Music} I remember working a long time to find a guest that could speak to the issue of equity in the cannabis industry, not from a legal perspective but as someone affected or who worked with the affected communities in some way - and was willing to respond to a cold call from a tiny punk podcast like mine. Thank goodness Kassia Graham answered the call. This song in particular is one, not the only one, but one where the issue makes me so mad but I don't necessarily know the full history of it, or all the intricacies before writing and finishing the lyrics. So to get more context and learn more specifics about why my anger is justified, well it all was helpful and validating.

{Music} Oh, the “Her?” Episode! Jen Pozner talked all things sexism in media. I knew she was an expert before talking with her, that’s why I asked her on the show, but DAAAMN she knows everything, she has an example for everything, like I am jealous of her long term memory. Frankly, my bad memory is one of the reasons I turned my safer space training into a book, so that I could leave it on my desk as a reference because I can’t keep all of it in my head at all times. Anyway, she and I also have a bonus conversation you can find on Patreon, too.

Looking at the stats, my most popular episode was for “The Ash is Not the End” {Music}...ep 12, which unsurprisingly can be attributed to my guest, not the song or my band. No, it was Ian Danskin, a popular youtuber who has a very thorough and informative series on white nationalism and angry white dudes, in addition to more fun stuff, who spoke to me....y’all...the kindness of my guests this season. The time they gave up to speak with me, it’s just so humbling and incredible. Did you know? Ian was recovering from a spinal injury at the time and did the interview laying on the floor on his stomach...when he could have just been like “Nah, pass”. It’s mind blowing. I am so grateful to all my guests, for their time, expertise, their patience with me. and my band! I love them dearly and I’m so glad that a year later we finally got to play songs from this album live.

What else? I spoke with Emily May at Hollaback! About finding strength through tough personal situations and the benefits of having mentors in the Big Words episode, I spoke with activist Ryan Harvey about how even angry punks need to write depressing songs sometimes in the Wonderful Hell episode, I got real with my friend Brittany Oliver about white nationalism and fake allyship on the Seeds episode, Margaret Killjoy gave us a lesson in safer protesting for In Your Path, and of course, we ended the season with Professor Jill about how we can internalize and uphold our own oppression if we’re not careful. What a closer!

(music interlude)

And now, the update! Last season BHL went through every song on the most recent WOW, album Wonderful Hell as a fun project for me to do when it wasn't safe to play shows and frankly, the options to promote a new album were limited, especially for a band that doesn't have a deep bench of resources. When I finished, I went on tour, and gave myself some time to decide what I want to do next. And, well, I've decided!

On season 2 of but her lyrics... we'll be taking deep dives on the lyrics of older WOW songs as well as political songs from artists I love, interviewing them about their inspirations and writing process. And I'll still interview experts to help add context to the issues and tell us how we can help. So we have WOW songs, songs by other writers who use she/her or they, AND there'll even be a few episodes about topics that I absolutely should write a song about and just haven't yet. Or I tried and um, it was just bad.

(outro music)

That's it for now! Tell me your requests for which political songs you'd like to learn more about. Like this podcast? Learn more about how you can support it at shawnapotter.com. Everything WOW can be found at linktr.ee/waronwomen. For bonus episodes, exclusive content, and pics of my dog, join my Patreon. All these details can be found in the episode description, and in the episode transcript.

Thanks for listening, see you in season two.