

AACONS Interviews Adrienne Ross

Narrator: [00:00:00] Welcome to African American Conservatives, the soul of the conservative movement. Your source for news and commentary from a cultural and right-of-center perspective. African American Conservatives.

Marie Stroughter: Welcome to African American Conservatives, the soul of the conservative movement. I'm your host, Marie Stroughter, reminding you to go to A A C O N S dot substack dot com. There you will find links to this podcast as well as our commentary and all of our social media platforms.

So please bookmark. aacons.substack.com. And if you would like to support our podcast, you can become a paid subscriber right there at aacons.substack.com. Without further ado, [00:01:00] I'm really excited to, introduce our guest for this week. Recently, you saw DK and I on her show, the Adrienne Ross Show, but we have Adrienne Ross with us today.

Adrienne Ross hails from New York, where she was a 7th grade public school teacher, an English teacher, for nearly 20 years. She now resides in Southeast Missouri. Adrienne is an author. Editor, freelance writer, speaker, and host of the Adrienne Ross Show and podcast. She's a John Maxwell certified speaker, trainer, and coach.

And as a former newspaper columnist, she now publishes her writing on Substack and is also a writing coach. Additionally, Adrienne is a direct descendant of Araminta Ross, known world round as Harriet Tubman. I'm pleased to welcome back to the show. Adrienne Ross. [00:02:00] Hey, Adrienne.

Adrienne Ross: Hello Marie. So good to see you again.

And it's good to see you.

Marie Stroughter: Yes. It's been so long. I know forever.

Adrienne Ross: I'm glad to be here.

Marie Stroughter: I wanted to talk to you about that because I've known you for. I don't know, 12, 15 years now and just found out about your connection to Harriet Tubman, Araminta Ross. Has your family always known about that

connection? I mean, is that something in your family or is that something you discovered later on?

Adrienne Ross: That's something that I heard throughout my life and never really thought a whole lot about it. And then several years ago my family went to the family reunion and they brought me back the, the document that has all the family information and lineage and all that in there.

And in the beginning of it, it did talk about the fact that we are descendants of the family of Harriet Tubman and also mentioned people like [00:03:00] Diana Ross. And that's something else that I had always heard about, but that's about all. That's about all that I know. Actually, there's some other actors or actresses as well.

So yeah, I guess I come from some good stock.

Marie Stroughter: Wow. That's pretty cool. I mean, Diana Ross. Wow. Now Are there any traditions that your family holds or, uh, you know, stories or anything like that because of this connection?

Adrienne Ross: No. Wow. Oh, not, not anything about, uh, about Harriet Ross Tubman or as Araminta, as you say, um, or Diana Ross, other than the fact that it's something that we, that we know. And, um, you know, I'm learning later in life, the importance of, um, of talking and learning from, from one another, because when that moment passes, it passes.

Marie Stroughter: Yeah. I mean, you know, our community is really strong in the oral tradition. So that would have been really cool to have some stories to pass down. Now, I too [00:04:00] have an interesting family connection and I want to talk to you about that because you and I bonded initially over our mutual love of literature and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Um, you are a former English teacher. Yeah. Uh, I found out recently, I want to say it's been within the last six, eight months that I am a cousin, eighth. eight times removed from Jane Austen.

Adrienne Ross: Oh, wow.

Marie Stroughter: Yeah. Now, apparently everybody's related to her from that distance. So, but, I mean, I think in my family genealogy, it's something like 21% from the British Isles, that kind of thing.

So I wanted to talk to you a little bit about literature. DK and I have talked a lot about, um, this whole re-imagining, uh, wokeism, if you will, and there is a push now, um, to wokeitize. [00:05:00] Um, there was a, there was an adaptation of my favorite Jane Austen novel, Persuasion, last year, and you may have seen it or seen the kerfuffle about it.

Adrienne Ross: I have not, so this is new.

Marie Stroughter: Oh, well, this is good because they had a rather diverse cast. Uh, and, uh, they had, uh, people with our skin color, gallivanting around in ball gowns. They had, uh, people who were of Asian descent. Um, and so there was a big online debate about it because some people were like, Oh, well, it's about time.

We just need to ignore color. And I don't know if you remember, but. You know, 30, 25 years ago, uh, Denzel Washington was in Hamlet with Kenneth Branagh and they were brothers. And it was kind of like, huh, you know, it [00:06:00] was just, there was something about that. Um, and so I wanted to talk to you a little bit because, you know, there's been this flap, Rick Riordan, uh, got pretty upset with, uh, the Half Blood Camp because people are kind of rejecting his character, Annabeth Chase, who he wrote as a Caucasian girl, and in the casting of the movie, she's now Black, and he's upset that people won't accept her.

And it's not because she's Black that they won't accept her. It's because for 15 or however many years Percy Jackson's been out, she's been a white girl, you know, so, you know, in, in Persuasion and Elliot is described a certain way. Captain Wentworth is described a certain way. And now we've got this cast with, you know, all these people walking around who looked nothing like the description that, you know, Jane Austen wrote that over [00:07:00] 200 years ago, you know, so.

Now they've done this whole thing with Persuasion. They did an adaptation of Pride and Prejudice, Blide and Blejudice, if you will, um, where they made a whole Black cast. Now they're doing Sense and Sensibility, or Blense and Blensibility, if you will. And so we've got some slides of that that we're going to show you now.

It's kind of crazy to think about this whole reimagined thing, if you will, because my issue with it is, you know, I'm all I mean, that's beautiful. If you see that that is absolutely breathtaking. The costumes, you know how they the

cinematography everything. But the fact of the matter, Adrienne, is you and I both know full well

if we were there at all, we did not roll up in a barouche [00:08:00] and four, we did not enter in the front door in a lovely ball gown that costs, you know, thousands of pounds during the season, you know. It just, the British slave trade, I mean that's part of Mansfield Park, one of her other books. Um, and so it just drives me a little crazy and I wanted to get your opinion as a literature teacher and as someone, you know, that we discuss these kinds of issues.

What's your take on that?

Adrienne Ross: Ridiculousness? In one word, I think it's ridiculousness. I don't understand what people are trying to do. In their attempts to change what, what was, I mean, we can appreciate the times and we can appreciate literature for what it was. And I feel like there's a whole lot of throw them a bone going on [00:09:00] and pandering going on.

And to me, as you said, I love To Kill a Mockingbird, like what I want to open, uh, what I want to turn on the television or turn, you know, watch a movie where Atticus Finch is is a black man or Mayella is a Black woman? It just doesn't work. And you're not doing any favors. And I don't understand what is the point to make people feel good about themselves for a moment where we're trying to, I guess.

Diverse, you know, be diverse and, and all this, all this stuff, you know, we know we, you and I talk about this stuff, but we're going about it the wrong way. Yeah. And it's not honest. It's not, it's just not true. It's just, it's ridiculous. I mean, that's, that's really how I feel. I don't know what else to say other than I feel like it's, it's ridiculous.

Marie Stroughter: Well, to your point, it is pandering, and here's the thing, and you and I talked about [00:10:00] this with DK last week when we were on your show, bringing, you know, all this whole, um, ideology around removing statues, oh, they were slave owners, so they don't deserve a statue, and, you know, almost this revisionist history.

Or whitewashing, literally whitewashing the things that we do not like. And here's the thing, I think it is cruel, and that's just my opinion, to pretend that we were anything but what we were during that period of time. I think every girl is raised with the idea of dress up and imaginative play and being in a ball gown

and, you know, um, I'm reading a book right now about a girl who was abandoned on her wedding day.

She found out that her fiance was cheating and she ran away from her wedding and she sued a company that's like the Disney [00:11:00] company. They gave it another name, but she sued them. Because they built up her hopes of happily ever after. And you can be anything you want to be. And you're a princess and this kind of thing.

And that's kind of how I feel. It's like, we weren't in ball gowns. We, we were not, uh, invited to these soirees. And so it's kind of cruel, if you will, this reimagining to think that we were anything but what we were. To the point that we discussed last week, that as you pointed out, there is a time that we are looking through the lens.

You know, at this regency period, when they were involved with war with France and all of that kind of stuff, and to look through the lens of time and know what was going on with the slave trade and all these other things, it's, it's disingenuous. And I feel like at some point when we do these kinds of things, [00:12:00] we forget the atrocities and the cruelty.

And it. I'm not saying that it could happen again, but then again, look at the Holocaust and what's happening in the Middle East now. So I feel like when we do these things, we're not doing ourselves any favor. No. What do you think?

Adrienne Ross: Of course we're not. And on one hand, they're saying that we want to constantly remind you of the atrocities.

And then on the other hand, they do the revisionist thing. And you and I have talked, even in the, on my show, we talked about the importance of people being able to look. And see someone who looks like them and and to have role models and to be able to identify and all that. So we get that. But that doesn't mean that we go back in history and switch what was.

That means that here we are now. We can, we can be creative and do things now where people can look and see themselves represented without lying and being [00:13:00] or To be kind, being disingenuous, to use your word. So there are ways to have that representation, um, the positive role models that you want, et cetera, without changing history.

Marie Stroughter: That's absolutely right. You know, we did talk about the representation. I was telling the story about a client that I had, and, you know,

she had a character set in the 50s, and what hair routines would be like, and those kinds of things. Because I felt it was important that my daughter be able to go into a bookstore, Or a library and see people on the cover that looked like her.

And that's important, but this whole thing, you know, like with, as I mentioned, you know, the whole thing with Percy Jackson and making The Little Mermaid Black and the whole kerfuffle around that. It just is off putting. And I'm not saying that you can't do those things. DK and I have talked about this a lot with a lot of the comic guys that we've had on the show, [00:14:00] this whole thing about, you know, making Superman gay or, you know, um, making Thor Black or whatever it is, you know, it's this, it's wokatzizing it for the sake of wokatzizing and not any sort of, you know, um, the things that you and I would talk about, like plot development or, you know, those sorts of things where there's a necessity in the plot to further it for a character to be able to do that.

And so it is pandering in a way, and it is this sort of, you know, like we were talking about on your show, we're all colorblind now.

Adrienne Ross: Right. It's almost like, Their form of reparations. Yeah, yeah. I use the term throw them a bone, you know. It's like we, we've got to, we've got to make up for the sins of the past.

And so this is the way that we, we get to do that. And it does, it is off putting. People, and people are tired of it. It's like, they want to watch a movie and just watch the movie. They don't [00:15:00] want to see the agenda. They don't want to be like You're pandering to me, just let's just enjoy certain things. And it's just, Oh, it's over the top Marie.

And it's why that people are so super sensitive about everything, because all this stuff is in your face. All the time. It's ridiculous.

Marie Stroughter: One of the things we talked about with the comic guys is you go to a movie to escape, right? It's it's this world that is in your imagination. If you've read the book, you can picture the streets of the town.

You can picture the characters. You can do all of these things. But then, like you said, you've got, you know, somebody's sexuality right in your face or you've got somebody's whatever, you know, agenda and you lose that ability to escape. Now, I want to touch on something that you said, because you said it's like reparations and I bring up this friend.

He's a dear, dear, dear [00:16:00] friend. I've known him 50. of my almost 60 years. Um, and he is the head of this reparations thing in California. And I read yesterday that the San Francisco, uh, Board of Supervisors is going to meet to now, you know, California has been doing this whole thing. It's going to be 1.2 million that everybody that is Black gets. Then it was 5 million. California has been broke for the last, I don't know, 20 years. So I don't know where they're going to get this money, but you know, let's never mind that. We're going to re imagine that they've got full coffers, right? So, but now the Board of Supervisors in San Francisco is going to issue some sort of proclamation formally apologizing to the community.

That's different than five million dollars. Not that I believe in reparations or any of that kind of stuff, but what's your take on [00:17:00] that?

Adrienne Ross: That's kind of crazy. Listen, if you want to give me reparations, bring the money, right? You know, I'm not going to say no, not that I agree with that either. So they're apologizing to current Californians.

Is that what you're saying?

Marie Stroughter: They are apologizing to the Black community, I guess, in San Francisco, they're issuing a formal apology. So the San Francisco is on record, which is interesting to me because are they now going to apologize to the Asian community? Because. Transcontinental Railroad and all of the things that happened with the Chinese community.

I mean, you know, why single us out? Our special red phone rang? I don't know.

Adrienne Ross: Maybe the Asians are next. I don't know. Maybe they're going down the line. It's, it's ridiculous. I, I feel like I've said that word like five times already. Why are, you know what, Marie, this reminds me [00:18:00] of when police officers, not to get on a whole different tangent, but police officers were going to Black people or they were kneeling down in front of them and they were apologizing for things that they did not do.

Um, it's, it's not. It's pandering and I don't think anyone, well, I guess there are people who feel satisfied in that, but I certainly wouldn't feel satisfied in you apologizing to me for something you didn't do and you didn't do it to me anyway.

Marie Stroughter: You're right. They showed clips of white people kneeling before Black people and it was uncomfortable.

I mean, it was cringy.

Adrienne Ross: It is. Um, and, and some people though, say, Oh, you know, it's a, it's a good thing. And you're, you're making up for the sins of the past. And I said, how, how is it a good thing? You have not, you haven't done anything wrong. You know, [00:19:00] if there, if there is, um, and I, I respect law enforcement for example, but if there is a bad cop out there and there are bad cops out there and they act wrong, you know, in the wrong manner.

The apology coming from you who didn't do anything isn't, isn't helpful and it is cringy. It's extremely uncomfortable and I'm so ready to move on from some of that stuff.

Marie Stroughter: Yeah, it's, it's really kind of bizarre and it's like you and I discussed, I would much rather have an honest, open conversation about race where we talk about these things about you weren't there.

I wasn't there. We can recognize that some things happened. Where can we move on from here and really heal? Um, and, and have conversations so that nobody is pandering to anybody else. I'm Marie, you're Adrienne. It's not like I'm Marie, the Black woman, you're Adrienne, the [00:20:00] Black woman. You know, I feel, yeah.

Adrienne Ross: Do we really want to heal?

And I, and I say that because if we heal, then we do have to, we have to move on. And there's something to be said. I know there's a spiritual principle of repentance for the nation, repentance for, uh, the unborn babies who have, that who've been, um, been killed in the womb. There's something to be said for that.

But it's not, it's not. So acknowledge what happened now. How do we heal? How do we move forward? Instead, we are reliving and reliving in the next year. You're apologizing again and next year. You're apologizing again. And we don't take responsibility for where we are now. Let's see how we can take the history.

And learn from it and then move forward. But you can't do that. Like you said, without an honest conversation. And as I've told you many times, I'm not sure people are ready, not ready for that conversation.

Marie Stroughter: No, no. [00:21:00] And it's interesting because like you said, they keep bringing up these wounds and it's kind of like, I want, I want us to move ahead, but then they rip it back, you know what I mean? And so you never do really get to heal. And to your point last week on your show, when you had DK and I, this whole conversation about Martin Luther King and denigrating him and dragging him through the mud and saying unkind things about him and bringing up, you know, personal flaws that he may have had. And I don't know, I wasn't there. You weren't there. I don't think anybody that's Charlie Kirk wasn't there. So, you know, I mean, this is anecdotal stuff, but the way to make inroads with a community isn't to denigrate. Um, you know, and, and, and you and I talked about, you know, it's not right to have a human being on a pedestal, but that said, uh, you don't want to denigrate either.

And. That is just a [00:22:00] bad optic for some of these folks with, as you call them, white people with white conservatives with a platform.

Adrienne Ross: Yeah. Now, of course, speaking of Charlie Kirk, his response was that when you question how The Black community, for example, would respond to him denigrating Dr. King. He says that that's a racist bigoted thing for us to question.

Marie Stroughter: Why? Why? Because a white guy says so. I mean, why?

Adrienne Ross: I suppose what he's saying is that we're, we're thinking that black people cannot. Appreciate the truth and that we are automatically going to be turned off by the truth. And therefore that's a racist bigoted thing. I think that's what he's I think that's what he where he's coming from.

I don't know that there's anybody who's never heard The rumors about Dr. King. Um, I think we know. So I mean, I think, I mean, there are some [00:23:00] maybe who thought he was a Satan that he never absolutely did anything wrong, but I doubt anybody thinks there's anybody who didn't do anything wrong. And I'm not condoning anything Dr. King may have done, but I am questioning the motives of those who find it necessary now to bring it out. But something I bring it up, something I've thought about since our conversation, Marie, Marie. Is that especially because Charlie Kirk, you know, presents himself as a Christian and others as well. Um, and I'm not saying people shouldn't be called out when they do wrong.

What I am saying though, is I don't know where Dr. King, if he did those things wrong, I don't know what his relationship was with God. I don't know if he did wrong and then repented. I don't, I don't know that. And so to decide that I'm

going to bring that out and I'm going to pull out everything after this man has been, has passed all this time.

And then alienate a community of people who do have great respect for him. And beyond that, don't get why you're doing, why you're doing what you're doing. [00:24:00] I purposely think it's purposeful. I think that Matt Walsh and Charlie Kirk, I don't know them. I don't know for sure, but I get the feeling at least Matt Walsh, he flat out said it.

It's a tit for tat. It's a, you know, you want to get rid of statues and stuff. And you and I are not advocating any of that, but there are some who are changing school names and all this stuff. You want to do that? So guess what we're going to do. We're going to pinpoint one person who is highly regarded as in Dr. King. And I believe purposely declaring war on the people you respect. And I think it's dangerous and I think it's sloppy and And I think that it is. It could backfire.

Marie Stroughter: I absolutely agree with you. And I don't understand as, as we talked about on your show, what the motive or animus behind that is, like you said, other than just this kind of tit for tat sort of thing.

And you're right. You know, one of the things that I said on your show was that, you know, I'm not in the market for a personal savior. I already have one. So, [00:25:00] you know, I don't need this kind of pristine person, because as you said, there is no one that is perfect.

Adrienne Ross: So, you know, they don't need one either because they, you know, uh, Charlie Kirk supports, uh, former president Trump and he's not perfect either.

No, I'm not. And you're not right. So, and it's funny to me, I was thinking, not really funny, but for lack of a better word, some of this stuff that Kirk is doing. As a conservative leader of sorts and supporter of Trump, I don't think Trump would be on board with this stuff that they're the attack on Black History Month.

Marie Stroughter: And the fact that he absolutely adores Alveda King, his face lights up like a Christmas tree when they are in the room together. Cause I've seen it in person.

Adrienne Ross: So yeah, that's. It's sort of like, I don't think that, I mean, not to say that he owes it to him, but I mean, I don't think Trump [00:26:00] would get behind that, those kinds of tactics.

And of course, all that he, all that he did for, uh, the Black, the black community as well, meaning Trump, of course.

Marie Stroughter: I want to turn a little bit to that point. A great segue. Thank you. Um, because you know, the polls are out now and they're saying that, uh, African Americans, Black people in general are starting to turn away from the Democrat Party.

Their eyes are, you know, the scales are falling off of the eyes. What do you make of that? And what do you think it portends for this election year?

Well, if you just look at the current president, I think all people should be concerned and though Black people tend to be married to the Democrat Party, um, we can all look at President Biden and see that, um, I mean, it's hard to find the [00:27:00] words.

The special counsel, Robert, her report talked about his memory issues and all that. And so I think it's a dangerous thing to, to support him, to, to pretend that he's able to run the country for four more years. But beyond that, you know, money talks and people know right now that they don't have the money in their bank accounts that they had under the last presidency and Black folks are watching that and experiencing that. And also the problem with immigration with this president and the Democrat Party and their support of this no borders situation. People in the black community are finding that even like youth centers that are designed to keep black people engaged and keep them off the streets.

They're using those now. For immigrants, illegal immigrants. And you're hearing some of them talk about that as well. That's, that's not cool. Giving money to, um, what 60 billion now to Ukraine in some bill that's supposed to be a national [00:28:00] security bill. And, and even Stephen a Smith, the commentator, he's come out and said, you know what?

This is why Trump is probably going to be reelected because there are people here who are struggling. Where's their, where's their card with their credit card with money on it? Where's their, I mean, We've been born here and people in the black community are dealing with certain things and financial issues.

I mean, we all are, but we know that there are needs that are unique to the Black community.

Yes.

Adrienne Ross: And this administration is tone deaf, apparently.

Marie Stroughter: Absolutely. You know, I was going to talk about the protest in Chicago. You saw, uh, people from the Black community, just reading off this litany of things of as you talked about.

And that's kind of unheard of, you know, because we talked about on your show, you know, back in the time of Martin Luther King Jr, you know, people had his picture in the Black community, his picture on the wall and and JFK. And I [00:29:00] mean, you know, the Democrat Party was, you know, really a strong focal point for our community.

And so it's kind of crazy to me to see now, and I'm happy to see it, that people are waking up, but as you said, you know, all the money that president Trump granted to HBCUs, the enterprise zones, all of the things that he did for the Black community, the First Steps Act, criminal justice reform, and as you said, this whole open borders policy where our community is being hit really, really hard. I've talked often about the fact that I adopted my two youngest children. We did that all with private funding. Uh, they are title nine. ineligible because it was a private adoption and not through the public foster care system. So we never, I mean all of the [00:30:00] therapy, all of the everything, all of the medication, everything was out of pocket.

But they were born here and they went through some very difficult things as we talk about, like with our veteran community that has served this nation and how they have been treated, uh, you know, until president Trump did some things for the VA and it's still not where it should be, but it's better than it was, but just the appalling record that we have with our veterans.

We've got people, as you mentioned, that have been born in this country who struggle with poverty and homelessness. Um, or the unhoused as they're calling them now. Um, and you know, all of these other issues that were born right here in this country that go to sleep on the streets at night with bellies growling because they're hungry and we've got all this [00:31:00] money that we're just sending, sending, sending everywhere else but here.

You know, but we've got all these people coming through and we want to give them IDs so that they can vote because this is the new voting bloc, you know, we're out of favor because we're woke now. And, you know, not woke, but we're waking up now and all of this. It's just insane to me. Um. you know, and seeing the issues that are in the Black community with, um, you know, under President Obama, how it was like, what? 30 40 50 percent unemployment in the

Black community for black teenagers. I know it was 40%. I remember that statistic. It was just crazy. And so it's great to see that people are waking up. What do you think will happen this year? Do you think that that will translate into Donald Trump winning?

Adrienne Ross: Well, if you're in the Black community, if some of these conservators don't spoil it, right, that's, you know what you are hearing.

I've seen videos, I've heard [00:32:00] audio of Black people saying, you know what, I'm, I'm all in for, I'm all in for Trump this time around. I voted for Biden before. And listen, Black people, we tend to be extremely loyal people. And that has shown itself in the loyalty to the Democrat Party. But life is, It's hard right now.

And when you're staring at an administration who seems not to care about what you're going through, I think you might have to turn and look somewhere else where there was someone who was in your camp, where there was someone who was fighting for you and someone who made it easier. To have money in your pocket and to pay your bills and have your children have somewhere to stay where, where they're not second to someone from another country.

I think, I think we are waking up, like you said, not going, not going woke, but I believe we are waking up because if nothing else, money talks. And, and we are, I'm struggling as [00:33:00] well. You know, that's, it's, it's real. It's alive to me, healthcare. Okay. We're struggling with healthcare, but other people from other countries are coming in and, and they're having free healthcare.

It's, I think people are waking up, but I do say not to keep going back to what we talked about before. I think it's important to, to not alienate those people whom. Uh, I mean, you might be able to win and draw to your side because presentation and messaging matter because people do not care how much, you know, until they know how much you care.

And if you continue to turn them off, they're not going to hear, okay, how is the alternative better than what we have now? Listen, not everybody is. Steeped into politics like you and I. They don't have all the details and all that stuff. So they need you to be able to pre present that message to them and say, this is what, what we had, uh, this is what conservatives are standing for and bringing, and this is what this administration has.

A [00:34:00] lot of people don't wake up knowing all those things. Right. But if you start off with this stuff that we're seeing with some of these conservatives or the platform, we're gonna, we're gonna shoot ourselves in the foot.

Marie Stroughter: We talked about that on the show. I'm telling everybody now, you know, you really need to go and listen to this show that we're talking about because DK and I were on and we talked about this, but you know, you're right that we're in an election year. Um, and here's the thing they always talk about, you know, all we need is 12 to 15 percent of the vote and we can pull this off and we, we saw that under president Trump, uh, we saw the last election, there were some irregularities that we will not discuss, but you know, that, that may have, uh, changed that outcome a little bit, but for all intents and purposes, we did peel off about 12- ish 15 percent of the vote, but to your point, [00:35:00] we need more people who are from the Democrat Party to cross over. And so it's not that you're talking to people like you and I, who can weed through all of this garbage that we're seeing from these conservatives with this platform, you know, you and I are steeped. We're in the news cycle 24/7. We know all of this stuff, but for your average voter. Yes. Who, you know, lives on soundbites and those kinds of things and what they might see in the liberal media. Yes. You cannot have these people denigrate people that are held in high esteem. And so it really is, like you said, shooting ourselves in the foot.

Adrienne Ross: It is. And it's not just, we're not having this conversation and saying that just for the sake of keeping Republicans or putting Republicans in office, you and I believe that the principles of conservatism [00:36:00] serve the Black community and all communities. Well, but again, it serves the Black community well also so that it's not just about, we want to keep these Republican.

Listen, I say both parties can be a hot mess. Okay. Yes. But I want, I want principles that are going that, that align with my principles. I don't want to be voting against my principles. And many, unfortunately, black people, Black people, identifies Christians, even. Have looked the other way in terms of that, because they have this mindset that Democrats, you know, they're supposed to be Democrats and they have this mindset that Republicans are racist.

That's their mindset. And, and so when you come out again with, oh, Martin Luther King is, is a horrible person and you come out with, you know. Like Michael Knowles, did start right off saying month means nothing to anyone. When you do that, you just, it doesn't alienating people. But [00:37:00] it also doesn't help individuals who are going to shut you off right away.

And there will be people who will say, well, then that's their problem. If they shut, you know, that's their fault. No, we're all like that. How you step to someone matters. It really does. It's like communication 101.

Marie Stroughter: That's absolutely right. And you know, because we see these politicians every four years. They come to our Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast. They kiss our babies, take pictures. And then you don't see them for four years, right? And then you've got their mouthpieces. Now saying that, you know, Black, nobody cares about Black History Month. And Martin Luther King was a terrible person and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

So what are we supposed to do with that information? Like you said, I mean, if you and I are having this discussion and we are engaged as, you know, conservative voters, what do you think that does for the average African American voter? Yeah, you know, when you see all that and you hear all that and you see all this money, like you said, going to people who are here [00:38:00] illegally or going to another country, uh, and we've got kids that are hungry.

We can't make our, uh, we can't pay our bills, those sorts of things. So, yeah, you're absolutely right.

Adrienne Ross: It's in the presentation. You know, I often think about, uh, Heathcliff Huxtable. And I remember him having a conversation with Dabnis, who ended up being Vanessa's fiance that showed up out of nowhere. Yeah.

And Heathcliff said, you know, Dabnis, what do you like to eat? You know, he said, you like, uh, you like a sandwich. Oh yeah. I like a steak. Oh yeah. You like potatoes? Oh yeah. I like some potatoes. He says, okay. So I got the steak made and how do you like it made? Okay. I have it on the plate and I've got it decorated.

I got the potatoes on the plate and all that stuff. And he says, oh yeah. He said, and then I put it in the garbage can lid and I hand it to you and he said, and then Heathcliff says, it's in the presentation, isn't it? That's right. And that, he said, and that's how Vanessa brought you here on the garbage can [00:39:00] lid.

But that's how some of the conservatives are presenting the conservative message. They've, we've got a good message. If we would abide by the principles, they're really, they're really good.

Marie Stroughter: And as you said, they align with our community values. I mean, we value traditional marriage. I mean, I lived in California, as you know, for most of my life.

It's only been the last three plus years that I've lived here in Texas, but I lived in California and we voted down same sex marriage, not once, but twice in California. So, you know, I, I believe it's people who look like us that are in the privacy of the voting booth, Hispanic Americans and, and Black uh, people who, uh, vote their traditional values.

So we believe in traditional marriage. You know, we don't believe in abortion, those sorts of things. And you know, all of this, uh, transgender stuff and, and putting boys in the bathroom with girls. And can you imagine a Black father?

Adrienne Ross: [00:40:00] And a lot of that stuff that's going on in schools with the pornography, I mean, and, and obviously conservatives have been a voice for school choice also. And we understand that our children, all children, our children too need a quality education. And, uh, it seems like the Democrats are more interested in, in these youth school, unions and teachers unions and all that. And so, but, but you see what we just had.

If I had, if we had started this conversation, if I was trying to convince you to, to step over to the other side, that's going to help you better. But I started with, yeah, you know, that, that Martin Luther King, oh, that black, stupid. Everybody I know thinks it's stupid. We never would have gotten to the other side of the conversation that we're having.

And that's where messaging comes in. And We don't seem to get it. And when we seem to be making progress, like we are now, you get somebody who comes out [00:41:00] and says something stupid.

Marie Stroughter: Exactly. And you know, it's so funny because 12, 13 years ago, um, I met with one of our senators who's actually still serving and I kind of whispered in his ear, you know, you really need to get behind school choice because that is the issue I think that can bring the party together because living in the Bay Area I we have had failing schools the whole time that I've been alive the almost 60 years of my life I can't remember a time that we've had a Republican Mayor of San Francisco or a Republican Mayor of Oakland or Uh, you know, some of these other inner cities and I said, there's nothing like a Black mother who wants educational opportunities for her child.

That's why I homeschooled. That is exactly why I homeschooled. I wasn't going to relegate my children to a failing school. And I had a child who had a cognitive delay. My youngest child from his first, uh, [00:42:00] family, there were some issues and he has a delay. And, uh, so. He would, as a Black boy with ADHD, he'd have been slapped in a special ed classroom.

And that would have been it. This boy can put together sermons that would make you cry. His vocabulary, he came in last Sunday, said, mom found a new word. I love, this is my new favorite word. Hubris, you know, I mean, he's always reading his dictionary. He sits in his room and just reads the dictionary and comes up with, you know, all these things.

And he puts together these sermons with advanced vocabulary and all of this stuff, you know? Yes. And I see that potential in him. I saw it in him and I nurtured that and pulled that out. And you know, so to your point, School choice is a winning issue, but you know, we we are so myopic I want to talk to you because you before we we leave and this is gonna be the last question Sure before I bring DK in and then we'll [00:43:00] wrap up But I want to ask you about the books because you know, we are seeing these pornographic books.

I mean just straight out pornographic books You are a lover of literature. I am a lover of literature. Um, but you know, there's this whole movement about these banned books here in Texas. One of our legislators, um, you know, was reading books, uh, in the state rotunda. Uh, and they were horrible books with explicit scenes.

You know, there's that whole freedom of speech thingy and you know, all of that kind of stuff in the First Amendment, but there's this gratuitous movement and it is some call it demonic. I mean, it's just this embracing of indoctrination of our children. We are taking our little ones. And feeding [00:44:00] them this garbage.

And, you know, all of these drag shows that little babies are going to, because we want to normalize this behavior so that in 20, 30 years, these kids who are then going to be voters, you know, then you can marry your pygmy goat and you can have 12 wives and a husband and a donkey, you know, it's just, it's to me, it's insanity.

What do you think?

Adrienne Ross: Well, Marie, I'm on the front lines of this fight with the, uh, the library here, the Cape Girardeau. Public library has been going on for several

months, and it's we're continuing to meet and to. We've shown up at library board meetings, and we've got letters out to Jefferson City, the capital and legislators and the secretary of state involved because there's funding involved as well.

People don't. Their money should not be going toward this stuff. Um, the First Amendment. Well, the First Amendment does not Does not protect against child pornography. [00:45:00] And a lot of these books are just that they are child pornography. There's even a book that I've been fighting against here that literally gives children the steps to get on sex apps and encouraging them to meet up with strangers.

And Missouri, last I checked, was ninth in trafficking, and yet we have this book in the teen section, which begins at 12, encouraging these kids to get on these sex apps, to upload pictures of themselves, and meet up with strangers. In the section for 12 year olds and we have parents who have no clue and then we have other people who just say First Amendment and they want to just throw their children to the wolves.

Yes, it is demonic and it's a larger, it's, I mean, it's a larger thing. The whole thing with grooming, the whole thing with these, um, [00:46:00] surgeries, chopping off genitals and all that, we do know that there are some very powerful people. Who are into population control and this all works toward that as well. The whole transgender stuff, it all works toward it.

We know the UN is involved as well in the World Health Organization. They desire to begin to teach children to normalize sex. From birth. And when I say that, I'm not exaggerating. There is a written curriculum. I've podcasted on it. I've written about it.

And they want you to get, that's the goal. And the only push, I guess the year, the target year is actually 2030. And there's, they're pushing, they pushed back a little bit because they've had some push back, but there is a huge agenda and it's not innocent. It's, it's, it is, it's sick and parents need to wake up and people need to get involved.

We refuse to stop fighting. It's been a fight. It's been a battle. The library has just recently changed their rules so that we won't be able to [00:47:00] comment at their meetings. Um, then we have the opposition coming out at meetings as well to push back. This is not about being anti anything. It's about being for children and parents.

Please know parents what is in your school's libraries and what is in the public library. These people do not have your children's best interest at heart, though they presented as such, and then they presented as this First Amendment thing. But again, there are separate rules where children are involved.

Marie Stroughter: That's absolutely right. You know, we just went through that in Texas. We're the second for sex trafficking and human trafficking in Dallas and Houston. Um, and we went through this. We had the Reader Act, uh, HB, I think it's HB 900 in Texas here and, uh, got that passed. And we also got it so that, uh, library, uh, textbook vendors, uh, had to have approved curricula.

Because it was that bad that there were things that were being put in to our books, but you're [00:48:00] right. It really started with the pandemic. If you can say that there was a blessing in that it's that kids were at school, at home, online with Zoom and parents are like, what is that, you know, and began to, to, to hear that there were some things that were quite concerning.

So, um, yeah, that, that is a really huge issue. Now, before we bring DK in. I want to talk to you about where our listeners can find you online and follow your work. If you're just following us now, tuning in now, our guest has been Adrienne Ross. So Adrienne, where can our listeners find you?

Adrienne Ross: Well, first of all, they can find me on the podcast that you were on, you and DK.

And that is the Adrienne Ross show. And we are on YouTube as the Adrienne Ross Show . So you can go there on all the podcast platforms, but also if you go to my Substack, that is Adrienne Ross dot Substack. com. The podcast is [00:49:00] housed there, but also my writing is there. So you can read my writing. You can subscribe again to Adrienne Ross dot Substack. com and check me out there. So, um, I'm on social media, Adrienne Ross on Facebook and Adrienne 2012 on Twitter. I don't do a lot on Twitter, but now the social media platforms as well. But as far as my reading of my podcast, you can find everything right on that Substack.

Marie Stroughter: Excellent. Thank you so much for being our guest.

And now we're going to bring in the man of the hour. DK. DK, what's up?

DK: Hey, how are you? How's everyone? Been a little while. Yeah, long time. I just wanted to double back to what you two were talking about earlier, because today I learned something that just blew my mind, um, because I was on the

wrong end of this debate for such a long time about, um, major literary characters being race swapped.

You know, Jane Austen [00:50:00] characters suddenly are Black and Shakespearean. Uh, characters are suddenly Black and so on and so forth. And I always assumed that that meant that there were no Black writers creating Black characters. And then I looked to see, much to my surprise, I was completely wrong, that there are a great, there is a great literary tradition in the Black community.

Now here are some of the, um, recent greats. You see August Wilson, playwright, winner of two Pulitzers. Colson Whitehead, novelist, winner of two Pulitzers. Toni Morrison, one of my favorite writers, who was a novelist. who won a Nobel and a Pulitzer. Lynn Nottage, who is a playwright, recently won a Pulitzer.

And Tracy K. Smith, who's a poet. who is a winner of a Pulitzer and a poet laureate. So, I just [00:51:00] wanted to interject that in the discussion of, uh, these race swap characters because we do have a rich literary tradition. We do have great writers, great poets, great playwrights, great novelists, and so forth, who are more than capable of creating strong Black characters, interesting Black characters.

So, it turns out we don't have to be piggybacked on to white characters, and which, if you think about it, is probably extremely condescending. I mean, I have no disrespect against Jane Austen, or Shakespeare, or William Faulkner, or all these other great white writers, but we have our own writers. And we have our own writers who create Black characters.

So do Asians. Asians have great writers, and they create great Asian characters. Hispanics go on down the line. So, I think that's a way of looking at all this race swapping controversy and how condescending it really [00:52:00] is. Um, they, they, they create a Sense and Sensibility with two Black actresses as if we need that.

We don't. We have Black writers who create their own novels and their own characters and more than worthy of the kind of attention that we're giving to this, uh, Sense and Sensibility remake. So I just wanted to throw that in the pot.

Adrienne Ross: Can you imagine Toni Morrison? I know there are people who have issues with Toni Morrison or what her politics were or whatever.

Amazing writer. I mean, I, I literally would read Toni Morrison and would have to pause and take a breath because she could construct the sentence like nobody's business. But can you imagine if they took one of her characters, strong black character and swap that character with someone white, all Hades would break loose.

Marie Stroughter: Can you imagine the color purple with [00:53:00] a white protagonist? Celie. Can you imagine Celie as white? That's crazy.

Adrienne Ross: It wouldn't work. It wouldn't work.

DK: And one of the reasons why they would never do that because they would never be so condescending toward a white audience as they are to, um, audience of people of colors, specifically Black people.

So, yeah, I find it. When I see something like that, I do find it offensive. And like I said, we don't need it. We shouldn't have it. I understand that sometimes the intention is supposedly good, but it's good in a way that's almost like a pat on the head as if we're not accomplishing anything worthwhile on our own. So

Adrienne Ross: They, they think they're doing the right thing. Um, they think that they're helping. Who was it? Who was it? Who said, please stop helping us.

Marie Stroughter: Oh, Jason Riley.

Adrienne Ross: Yeah. Yeah. Please, [00:54:00] please stop us. Cause you're helping. It's not helping.

Marie Stroughter: Like DK says, we have a rich tradition. We have Lorraine Hansberry and you know, so many people, uh, with just a rich, rich tradition.

Adrienne Ross: Well, speaking of Lorraine Hansberry, I remember being in 10th or 11th grade in high school and reading A Raisin in the Sun, and I had to do a monologue, and it was a powerful monologue.

But again, I had, I had A Raisin in the Sun, I had Lorraine's, Lorraine Hansberry to draw from, and that was a powerful monologue, by the way. I love that play. Yes. Yes. Seen that several times myself. Yeah, yeah. My students loved it too. Loved to be able to turn the classroom into their apartment and just do the, I miss that about teaching.

Doing that, doing the poetry as well as doing the plays.

Marie Stroughter: Thank you so much for being our guest, Adrienne. We really appreciate always having a chat with you. It's always great [00:55:00] to have you on the show.

Adrienne Ross: Well, it's my pleasure to be with you too. Thank you so much for the rich conversation. Appreciate it. Keep up the good work.

Thank you. Take care.

You too. God bless you.

Marie Stroughter: God bless. All right, sir. What do you want to talk about today? That was amazing. I always love talking to Adrienne, especially about literature stuff. And we really connect on that level. We connect on every level, but I really like talking to her about literature.

DK: We should do more shows on, uh, specifically black literature now that she's talking about Raising in the Sun and all these other things.

I would love to do a show just on Raising in the Sun. I've seen the play several times, the movie several times. I read the play more than a few times. So, yeah,

Marie Stroughter: Sebastian and I were talking about watching Porgy and Bess over the holidays and we were talking about, you know, there were so many different, uh, movies that uh, starred black people or had [00:56:00] a, a component to it. So, yeah, there's, there's a lot that, that we could go back and talk about.

DK: It's interesting that we, you can never release Porgy and Bess today, uh, for several reasons. Um, The main reason being that it was written by a white guy, so, so.

Marie Stroughter: Well, it's funny because, the other day, I was looking at our Fire TV, and it had these, like, this oldies channel. And it had, um, All in the Family, and I was like, what? They could, they can't show All in the Family today, can they? Because that would drive people nuts.

DK: I can't imagine. Can you imagine? Imagine the beeping going on in that channel. If you watch it today.

Marie Stroughter: Oh man.

DK: Every other line will be beeped.

Marie Stroughter: Oh man. So yeah, that's. Pretty crazy.

DK: Well, it was a great talk. It was a great discussion. And like I said, let's do a show on Black literature.

Marie Stroughter: That sounds good. That's it for another great episode of African American [00:57:00] Conservatives. Please go to aacons.substack.com, get links to this podcast, all of our commentary, all of our social media platforms, and If you enjoy what we do and would like to help us with our content creation efforts, you can become a paid subscriber and get bonus episodes and bonus scenes.

So please do go to aacons.substack.com. This is Marie signing off from Studio C. Take care until next time. Bye bye.

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