

GDL JD Slachert

Welcome Good day Live in the blush It's Friday We're super excited I'm Michelle Murat If you're just tuning in for the very first time So welcome Welcome to our show That's right I'm hope you're having a good day If not we'll help you out and we have with us today Happy to be here Thank you for having me and uh yeah Yeah it's gonna be fun Yeah And happy birthday man Yesterday was your birthday Yes 28 years old Closer to 30 but closer to 30 30 is not bad It's great Great great great That's what we're gonna say Yeah great Listen the more time you spend alive the greater it gets Yeah absolutely I mean I had a got a good little family dinner last night and and rolling it into this celebration today with you guys So the birthday is just rolling on We love that Ok So I have to read a little bit about you but like what I do what I love to do is just keep it super conversational Get to know you so our audience can get to know you and um we just our interviews Are you know quirky and fun and all the We're Good day live So yeah let's do it Ok Ok So you are a former US SB basketball star You're also a philanthropist This is also your second book You're How Old Again as of yesterday Um Again you're a speaker a philanthropist Um This is your second book Um This is a young adult novel Um Darling you're not alone It explores a philosophical content that if I love this if extraordinary darkness exists then so too must extraordinary extra extraordinary light Can I talk today It's Friday I love this Um You say we know all too well about the mindless tragedies that take place regularly in our world today But this book is about the search and eventual discovery that if you keep battling I love this and I might get choked up even saying this on the other side of tragedy is life changing opportunity That's pretty profound Well thank you I mean that was beautifully said and I appreciate you taking the time to go through my whole origin story which has a lot of crazy turns in it Um But I think all writers tend to have that typical uh yearning to like be creative in a way that makes sense of like their past that sometimes is odd and sort of different But uh yeah this new book is one that I wrote you know kind of after feeling like I think the world needed a little bit of hope and inspiration and positivity because uh we all know there's plenty of bad things that happen out there And um unfortunately I think sometimes we get accustomed to that bad stuff being broadcasted to us like on a regular basis um that we forget about like the small little good things that happen every day and those aren't really as shared And so I mean that's why I love your guys' show too is because you do a good job of sharing

that And I think that this book is uh you know in a similar vein trying to do the same thing So that's incredible It is incredible OK I know you have a ton of questions Do you wanna go first No you can go first I talk a lot You want to go first you go first It seems like you're getting a lot of your inspiration from the world Uh Is this personal or is it something you feel like just as uh helpful My first book was uh based on a relationship I had with a good friend of mine who passed away from sickle cell disease A little boy named Luke Bowden Uh So that book was a very personal story and one that I took a lot from the real world Um But for darling you're not alone it's actually kind of my first experience with like true proper fiction Uh You know I didn't experience any of the things I wrote about in this book um which was a new thing for me And um although I feel like these characters are like my best friends and I I talk and think about them as like people I know But uh yeah the book was one that you know I just had a kind of an idea that I followed and listened to quite a bit of music and just kind of kind of music everywhere I mean uh Bonnie Ver was like a a big artist I listened to a lot while writing this book Uh Michael Kuna I love him He's amazing Um Yeah all types of different stuff Really I'm like just a wide variety So fun I love that Where did you find the freedom to really progress into just pure fiction Um my second book is gonna be even better like yeah so I think that was more difficult than uh I might make it sound right now Uh I think I kind of fell in love with my first project and was busy on like the press tour for that for a long time and and loved every bit of that but it was actually my dad who hopefully is tuning in right now You did a great job You know we got mom in the building Yeah mom is in the building Dad's hopefully watching like OK we have the replay if he's not watching Right And everybody who is tuning in that I was speaking to I hope you guys are enjoying the show Yes Yes Yes I hope so too Um But yeah it was my dad who actually I was giving a talk uh a couple of years ago and I was answering some questions and he was there in the audience and he raised his hand and I'm like all right here we go Here we go Dad Yeah What questions does he have And in front of an audience of like 800 people he stands up and goes So when are you going to write the next one And I'm just like I love it Yeah thanks dad Um But yeah I made me really think like OK like it is time to take on a new project Think about what I really want to write And uh yeah that's what led to darling You're not alone So that's awesome Um You know you you were going for another one Should we tap each other Should we tap each other and be like pass the baton Maybe that's what we were in a OK OK That's fair That's fair Um So

my theory is as Children we know what we want to do when we grow up Uh when you were little were you wanting to be a basketball star or you were you wanting to be a writer Completely a basketball star Um I was sort of like the class clown like very loud and boisterous redhead in every school I went to uh academics was not really my strongest suit Um but I always loved reading and I was like an avid reader and you know as an athlete you travel so much for sports and that was kind of like my meditation Um yeah so I'd read books all the time and bring them on the road with me Um gosh Well I'm a classics fan like hardcore So George Orwell um D Salinger even though our names are very similar that's pretty cool But John Green is like my idol Um I'm a huge Sean Green fan so I was reading paper towns looking for Alaska Um And yeah I just I think when you read a lot eventually I sort of had this idea Well I think I could write one of these books and as a you know that kind of athlete mentality kicked in of like well if I think I can do something and I don't do it then that's on me So then I just started writing it and you know here we are So um so well you already got the basketball star thing out of the way I feel like so now you can be like a writer like oh you can be you are which is incredible Um I love that your dad asked when's your next book Do you think that really put a fire under you to write the next 100% 100% Yeah I mean I think uh I think as any artist can attest to it's like you put your heart and soul into a piece of work and uh it really is a part of you It's not just like a product and my first book was so personal and was getting such a warm response that I wanted to give every bit of my energy to getting as many people to read it as possible Um But ultimately it did become time to take on the next story And um I think there is some of that daunting like that empty page feeling is pretty terrifying I get that I totally get it So it was something that I had to overcome to write this book And I'm I'm glad I did because I I do think this book will equally help a lot of people out there that are making be having a tough time with like anxiety or depression or feeling like they are sort of alone in this world Uh Because this book hopefully is a message to those people that really you're not because none of us are That's awesome And you're speak up OK Tap you go go on tap OK Well I feel like that's a good new thing for us to be like tap You're it No no good It really you think OK All right we'll stop Um So you were speaking before this book how did that work for you Like how did that how did how did that even start How did that begin Yeah So when I was actually an athlete at UC Santa Barbara they used to have me come and speak at like the basketball events for the team to represent them at like dinners and

charity events and stuff And so I was actually just speaking doing public speaking before I became an author Um And then I actually had some um really cool opportunities while I was a player as well to go and visit like children's hospitals And uh yeah I mean it I think I like I think I reflect on my time as a player and think about how that was the best thing I ever did you know is like give back to people that are maybe going through a a are not maybe are going through a much tougher time than any of us realize Um And so I I started getting these opportunities to like bring kids onto the hat on into the the gym like half time and give them a you know awards and give them signed jerseys And yeah I started doing like all this philanthropy through this university And then yeah once I wrote a book um then those events started to like kind of build and build and build to the point where it was like an everyday thing And um I love it I mean I uh I really enjoy getting to meet different crowds of people and talking to them about writing and about sports and you know finding inspiration and uh I feel very fortunate to have that opportunity and I've had some great people that have boosted me up and taught me a lot and you know I know about speaking and um yeah it's been an incredible ride for sure Cool That's I mean for me I like I totally piggyback on that It brings me so much joy sitting across from people like you and getting to know their story And like my my one of my biggest dreams is always to have this show be broadcast in um in a in a hospital because there are so many people that are alone Um And this show brings in my opinion brings so much joy and then for I agree I felt joyful just watching I definitely got that vibe for sure We're not paying you to say this We're just putting that out there We're not paying you to say this I appreciate that you guys have that similar warmth and I think that's what makes this so easy you know Thank you so much You just you just turned 28 I've only been out of college for like six years max Uh let's see and putting him on the sky So it's been four years four years four years Yeah You wrote two books in four years Yes Yes OK so let's start there So the and the second one is purely fiction which means it's all from the imagination You executed the entire thing You had the blank page scare where we talked we talked about the inspiration coming from the world But like where was the freedom Where did the where did the content really pour out of you from It's a great question Um I would I mean it is hard for me to like clearly answer that I think I do struggle with the the idea of where this book came from because with my first it was so easy for me to point back at like this is a real person This is a real disease and this is something that I'm very passionate about telling with

this one Um I just sort of got a lot of ideas from like other books I'd read uh like five people you meet in Heaven by Mitch Alba was one of them I heard that was amazing And then I actually was listening to uh a ton of rolling stones at the time too and just kind of like I don't know I just sort of find these moments in uh mostly when I'm driving Uh that just sort of strike me Yeah And I think that's kind of where I do the most of my thinking That's really cool You know there is this uh there's a theory like when we do things that we've done We do so many times throughout the day That's when um uh inspiration can come to us freely So like when you're driving I get so many ideas when I'm driving Yeah like habitual things and yeah like even taking a shower or like going for like a run That's so so so cool Um So I read a little bit about the book Um you know can you tell us uh a little bit about it without giving too much away Yeah absolutely Happy to happy to So the story is about a 15 year old boy named Phoenix Iver who is sort of Britney Yeah he's he's he's a champ I love that kid from the ashes Exactly Exactly And then both meta you know physically and metaphorically that's a part of his uh maturation of the protagonist But the story is about how Phoenix is this sort of really gifted mind but uh is almost like trapped by his own insecurities about life Um And he suffers from a kind of social anxiety and depression and he's growing up in uh the small town of Darling Colorado and it's the year in 1999 and Phoenix is getting ready for his first year of high school at Darling High school But he kind of struggles like making friends and uh you know assimilating into like the the standard high school happenings that we've all we all kind of know about Um But he has this really incredible bond with his father Herman Um And Herman is just an amazing guy and like an amazing dad Um and he sort of has this like always forever positive attitude about him Uh that Phoenix really like kind of gravitates to and um the kind of mystery of the book is Phoenix's father used to be a police officer but something happened and Phoenix is trying to discover like what exactly that is because he doesn't know But Phoenix's father Herman is now the uh security guard at darling high school Phoenix is high school And so they interact on a daily basis and they're kind of walking to school together every day when this tragedy unfolds in Darling Colorado and the rest of the book I'll leave up to you guys to go ahead and read from there But it's about how Phoenix kind of has to figure out how to survive in this tragic event but also move forward with um some sort of positivity despite what he's seen And that's where that quote you opened with comes from is this idea that like you know how do you believe in the light when all

you've seen known and fell is the dark And I think that's something we all can relate to Um And that's something that a lot of people can think about but hopefully can help them too And that's sort of Phoenix's journey that takes place in darling you're not alone Listen I so I'm also a writer and I created co created and produced this show Um and have another show when you were talking I literally saw the movie I'm not kidding you I saw the movie I feel the movie Uh I love the title I yeah totally saw a feature film Is that something that you you thought of at all or like thinking about Yeah absolutely I mean I had some uh interest in my first book being turned into uh feature film and that's still something that's like in the works as we move forward Um So this one I definitely have aspirations similarly Yeah then the title alone is awesome The way you set it up was awesome and just like I the way you even spoke about it I saw everything unfold and I feel like we're literally about to uh you know like this is gonna be a next this is the beginning the beginning of a huge huge book This is awesome This comes out November 3rd right Yeah November 3rd So pretty soon here That's so exciting I mean you just had a birthday you got the book that's releasing I mean this is just awesome and I love the the is darling a real town No it's a fictional town Um But I uh I don't know just the name of it really like Rang True to me as sort of this like this place that I could I could easily put myself in like you described I mean I feel like I know darling I know darling Colorado Have you been to Colorado before Plenty of times I love Colorado Is there a place in Colorado And I saw you did too I love that I was like dang we can definitely talk about that Is there a place in Colorado that this is loosely based off of Um I would say some kind of near the Denver area is how I placed the town Um But no not not really like one specific place I mean basically the idea behind it was it's in every town Uh It it could be Montreal it could be Los Angeles it could be New York it could be anywhere Um And it's it's somewhere that um I think it is important to keep in mind when we think about like the world at large because there are so many towns that um aren't as focused on as you know the the the towns that we all think about when we think of places But uh yeah darling is a very wholesome and kind of beautiful place I love it so much This is so exciting I love uh I I mean I love the title I love the way the book looks I love what you're telling me about it It sounds almost like uh like it's like a a motivational book but but not you know what I mean Like it has the aspects of like a self-help book for a teenager without it being a self-help book which I like I'm obsessed with like an element of mystery there Yeah So it's funny you say that So I I mean

I have like a mantra with fiction that I I hope kind of kind of uh captures what you're trying to say is like really good fiction is like sneaking the vitamin into your cake when you eat it So wait wait wait wait say that one more time So really good fiction is like sneaking the vitamin into the cake while you eat it So while you finish the book you don't realize you've been taught all these like powerful nonfiction lessons that are that are captured into a fictional novel That's so what do you got WW when when in your life did you think to become such an inspirational writer such a progressive and helpful Well yeah I I think uh a lot of that stems from my relationship with my friend of mine that passed away from sickle cell disease was he was someone that I watched Battle for years and never complained Uh And he sort of had this belief in me and um I just sort of felt like I owed it to him to like try and help others maybe don't you know aren't as lucky to have met someone so powerful and so inspirational Um But I also just feel like more simply writing books takes so long and it's such a like a long arduous process that if you're gonna spend years of your life writing something it should be something you're like really passionate about You know and like I think I mean maybe that's just me and other authors don't feel the same but I know like I don't think I'll ever write a book that I don't feel like has some real world application to All right this I could give this book to someone and that it help them you know going through you know whatever situation So that's good I mean you read a fictional book and I'm sure you can attest to this and it's almost like when you're halfway done if you don't feel like your life has been moved in some way you're kind of like I don't even care if the story is good I just I'm not connected to it in a certain like a human way This I feel like is kind of grabbed me in the 1st 5 to 10 pages Um November 3rd November 3rd It's coming soon Gotta get your books uh available where books are sold Uh it's also available on my website JD Wrights books dot com Um where you can find a little bit more information about me if you're interested and Yeah for sure Yeah Yeah Yeah we yeah we're not gonna let you go yet Um so the book sounds amazing Um You are amazing You guys are amazing and you guys look amazing too You you had to talk about the pants Can you lift the leg Give you a leg leg lift wait higher I don't think everyone saw a leg lift Well guys you your pants are pretty great today too Yeah those are pretty awesome pants Those are my favorite pants They're they're very nice very nice pants They match the jacket too You didn't wear the jacket The jacket matches Oh man Are we doing a red carpet photo after after our show Ok Ok Ok Good good Yeah it's awesome So we also talk

about fashion clearly on the show All things good It's all things good Um but we also play games and you said you'd be down to play a game Um uh there's a flag by dear foot Uh so this is red flags I thought I came up with it Apparently I did not Um but I told uh my uh producer I said we need red flags to play this game because uh you know dating can be uh challenging or if you are in a relationship it doesn't matter You can still play this game Where did our red flags No Are we missing red flags So basically how this game works is we'll pull we'll pull a card we'll read it and then you will say if it's a red flag for you or for ourselves Um I'm interested to see what you guys think of red flags and see if we align opinions are the are the um and so that way we get to know each other better and um in a funny a funny quirky way All right let's do it All right So um and then we're we're G rated shows So if you see a card that uh seems like it's not G rated uh skip it There you go It's a tough grip here Oh yeah sorry I'll give you this one Yeah Grab some of these Ok I'm excited You don't have to read them all so I just pick one if it but if it seems you know not cool then Ok All right So the this is the red flag here is always holds the door the door holds the door green green flag green flag green but like continues to it sounds like oh you mean for the for the rest of everyone else you know I love a gentleman so I'm gonna say I'm cool with it but always is that like when you're a writer So always in your mind means every time right I'm gonna I'm gonna go with a girl is holding the door for me I'm a huge fan I think that's all Yeah that's sweet I love it right Ok wait you you didn't answer it Oh ok Ok Ok I wasn't sure like we're getting brown points out here Ok Ok But wouldn't you I can I just say something you get Oh yeah Yeah Yeah because I have the Disney Ears He has the chat Um wouldn't you say like come on we gotta go So would it be ok with you She held the door every day for everyone Jersey Even if you're complaining things can be ok Everything can be fine We're complaining it doesn't make any sense does it make sense And it doesn't make sense to me Ok Ok Ok Ok He's sitting back Ok All right I have a red flag for it has three pet dragons That's kind of cool So we like making a game of Thrones reference here That kind of cool How did she get the dragons I don't know Yeah Where did they come from That's a red flag that she has dragons because it's something I I saw game of Thrones I know the Targaryen went through what happened here Whoever has the dragon did something again And there's there's a lot there that I don't even know if I I don't know if I want to know you know Yeah that's a lot of unanswered questions What happens when she gets mad at you Oh I didn't even think about that You're really thinking this one

through man Listen well because there's you know there's a chance she gets mad at you at some point So shit Right No chance she doesn't ever get mad Just kidding I don't know You know we're all the mercy of here you know we're all the mercy here and all right Um for me I think it's a green flag Kind of cool man The guy But for like for the rest of my life I don't think it'd be cool if a guy you're dating has three dragons That's ok I mean it depends if like they're friendly dragons I'd rather that than like three cats Actually I agree with that I agree with that I agree with that That'd be cool to do with someone who has three dragons with three cats Is that that's right You could you could fly on them You don't have to deal with traffic anymore No no more traffic 100% You got a buddy buddy one of them to make sure you never get your your friends can come too So it's like yo you take one dragon I'll take one and then I'm like that friend that like the dragon the table food you know Yeah you could fly the dragon and 100% You don't have to drive in L A I'm cool All right All right Ok Moving on Moving on moving on Ok All right Ok 000 wait my turn my turn my turn Oh wait you didn't even Ok No no no What these what are these red flags makes it Uh yeah sometimes red flag has No I can't say that it's too it's too obvious Oh that yeah is a person a person like a mermaid It's a person a person I've never seen a mermaid man before It's absolutely a red flag Way too much Let's go back to the dragon person Well they yeah they can't walk Um I don't I'm not like great with water I mean I can swim but the sun and I get very sunburnt easily That'd be a reason Red flag Um yeah Yeah that would be that'd be a lot for me I couldn't go couldn't go on walks Uh couldn't so they can't switch the legs I don't know I guess we get to make that up It's like one of those things where we can make I don't think m persons can swim Ok What what do you mean You don't remember She kissed the guy and oh no no she didn't kiss the guy She like fell in love with him when she saw him and then she like gave up her voice to like get rid of her like tail Ok Ok Ok Ok Yeah No no no that's too much All right I'm fine Fine I'm gonna pull another one I think it would be kind of fun for a day maybe one day Oh yeah we definitely can't say this Can I help you swim under under water Oh I gotta just say that this one's hilarious kind of a deal Uh loves cats Like I already know the answer to that one already I was on a dating app once and the guy legit had like his main profile pic of like him and a cat And I was like oh left left left left for me too Even with a woman I mean if I see a cat I'm like what is it with cats Well it's the person that owns the cat where you're like I feel like you're good by yourself already What do you mean Really That's what a cat says I agree

100% red flag I actually have like met one cat that was like a dog and I was like this is amazing and it actually followed me down the street to my apartment and I almost let it in But then I was like it could have something so I should probably not No no no no no no no I actually like saw it like yeah I'd be judging myself right now I took that in when I saw the cat Yeah But I then called the owner like with the tag and I was like you know your cats walking around and they were like they were like they're like he's an outdoor cat I was like this is L A How is that a thing Like an outdoor cat Anyway Anyway I have a dog So we're all good Um we had so much fun talking to you getting to know you and about your book This is your camera I don't know where that accent came from but pluck away um and let everyone know how they can get in touch with you Uh Yes Uh My so my new book will be available on November 3rd Darling You're not alone at JD writes books dot com Uh There's also a website for the book called Darling You're not alone dot com where there's a bunch of behind the scenes stuff that will be publishing there And there's also a letter writing campaign where people are challenged to write letters uh and post them on online and communicate with me and anyone they want in that way too And you can also find me on Twitter and Instagram at JD underscore Slacker and uh thank you guys for tuning in Amazing JD It was so nice meeting you Make sure make sure make sure you get darling You are not alone You will uh you know I don't even know what to say It's like the book speaks for itself You're gonna love it It's a great and you know the rest is yours the rest is yours and another happy birthday to Jay D Thank you for being on our show Listen wherever you are today whatever you doing I hope you find the good in your day and spread it to whomever you may and we will see you all on Monday Have a great weekend everybody Bye