

**EPISODE 401**

by

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## EPISODE 401

SETTING — A garage studio.

CHARACTERS — HOST and GUEST.

AT RISE — HOST and GUEST are sitting across from each other, wearing oversize headphones and speaking into mics.

HOST

Hello ladies and germs, buoys and gulls, friends and future lovers. I'm your host, Martin Meeks, and this, is the Flawed Past Podcast.

Theme music!

HOST (cont.)

I am honored to have with me today the lovely actress, Rhodes Scholar, and recent recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for her audacious work on curing world hunger—Anita Fernanda!

GUEST

Wow, thank you. That's quite an introduction. I hope I can live up to it!

HOST

Oh—please! I'm the one who's nervous. You're by far the Flawed Past Podcast's most distinguished guest.

GUEST

I'm sure that's not true, but thank you. I wanted to start by talking about—

HOST

Actually, sorry—that's not true. I did have Scarlett Johansson on one episode.

GUEST

(recalibrating)  
Well she is a wonderful—

HOST

Actually, maybe she's more famous than you, but you're more distinguished. What do you think? Does that sound right?

GUEST

She's a lovely person—I really wouldn't want to compete. But I did want to tell your listeners a bit about—

HOST

You know what? It was a live episode with a bunch of other people—wasn't even in this studio. So you might be the most famous and most distinguished guest we've had.

GUEST

That's great.

HOST

I thought she was kind of cold to me, though.

GUEST

(really doesn't want to be talking about this)  
Oh yeah...?

HOST

Yeah. Well, it was a lot of other people there—maybe I'm projecting my own insecurities.

GUEST

I'm certain that's true, Martin. So—

HOST

What are my insecurities, if you were to guess? Because a lot of people have said that I don't have enough insecurities! Ha. Like I'm too narcissistic. But I definitely do have insecurities. Do you think so?

GUEST

We all do, I guess...?

HOST

So what are mine? I asked Scarlett this same question. But I wanna see what you say. And then we can compare answers.

GUEST

Martin, I really don't—

HOST

That I'm overcompensating for low self-esteem, right? That I don't think anyone cares about me, so I make myself the center of attention all the time so that they have to care about me?

GUEST

No, I wouldn't say that?

HOST

Neither did Scarlett. DING DING DING! Both of you didn't answer. Actually, sorry—that's a lie. I never asked her that. Ha ha ha! It was a trick question. Got you, Rhodes Scholar! Ha ha ha! Not so bright now, huh? I'm just kidding.

GUEST

What the hell kind of podcast—?

HOST

Let's take a break!

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**END OF PLAY.**