'The Interview': Charlamagne Tha God Won’t Take Sides

0:01

hi everyone Sabrina here just popping in to remind you every weekend on Saturday

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we're going to be sending you episodes of a new show our colleagues are making the show is called the

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interview this week Lulu Garcia Navaro talks with radio host Charlamagne the

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God okay here's the

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show from the New York Times this is the interview I'm l Garcia

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Navaro I interview a lot of politicians and I'll be honest I'm jealous of how

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many of them want to talk to Charlemagne the God as the co-host of the wildly popular radio show The Breakfast Club

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Charlamagne who was born lonard mckelvie has become a go-to interviewer for

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politicians who want to reach the show's largely black audience and who aren't afraid of a good tough conversation and

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this year with poll showing Donald Trump's growing popularity with black male voters reaching that audience for

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candidates in both parties is more critical than ever The Breakfast Club has nearly 6

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million listeners every month on the radio plus the YouTube channel the podcast and the clips from its

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interviews that regularly go viral even if you've never listened to the show you probably know about some of the more

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memorable episodes like in 2020 when then candidate Joe Biden went on and dropped this line if you have a problem

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figuring out whether you're from me or Trump then you ain't black even though Biden got huge blowback for that comment

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Charlamagne endorsed the Democratic ticket but this time around he said he won't endorse anyone that decision has

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led to some speculation about his personal politics it also made me curious about how he wants to wield his

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considerable influence and what he thinks of the potential shift happening among black voters when we spoke

2:00

Charlamagne was getting ready to publish a new book get honest or die lying why Small Talk sucks and he had just come

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off a stint guest hosting the Daily Show where some of his comments got a lot of attention here's my conversation with

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Charlemagne the God your new book is about small talk

Diversity Equity Inclusion

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and how you think it's bad yep so I want to start with some big issues yeah let's

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uh let's get right to it let's get right to it we know what we here for we know what we here for exactly you just went

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on The Daily Show and you went after Dei initiatives that's diversity equity and

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inclusion and you said it's mostly garbage it's a PR stunt and you said it makes things worse for black people

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because of the backlash effect can you just tell me a little bit about why you wanted to take that on in particular I

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don't have a problem with Dei I was talking about corporate Dei initiatives that were created after George Floyd

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those issues that were more symbolism over substance those corporations that

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pledged all of this money to different black initiatives and you know that that nobody ever saw any of that money like

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you know I'm talking about the corporations who do things like putting a Simone biles poster in the break room

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and saying something like we're head over here is for diversity here you know that's the kind of Dei initiatives I

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were talking about I'm not talking about Dei overall and it's it's so interesting to me

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because I love what the rightwing media does and when when I I was about to say

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you got widely celebrated for this I actually first saw this on Fox news but they but they do that on purpose because

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they won't listen to 95% 99% of anything I'll say but they'll take that one line

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and say Charlamagne the God says Dei is mostly garbage and then what happens

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people on the left instead of actually going to listen to what I actually said

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they just respond to the narrative that was created by right-wing media so now you got people on the left attacking me

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and attacking a narrative that really is nothing so then why wait into these

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waters you know the DI is at the center of like a huge cultural battle you know that this is like one of the right's

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main talking points they think that di is indoctrination absolutely so then why go on The Daily Show and choose to like

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because it Spark's good conversation and it's a conversation that we need to have maybe I just want Dei and and the

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corporate work environments to be better like you know I can be sitting in a a corporate boardroom and be hearing all

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of this stuff in the sensitivity training meeting and I'm like this this isn't even for me so this is based on

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your personal experience of sitting in these meetings absolutely we take these tests at you know ihart radio and you got to answer certain questions and you

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know you you know what that's about but the biggest my biggest issue with corra Dei is literally just the performatives

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of it all you know especially when we talking about the money that was pledged by all of these different corporations

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that nobody ever saw so there was a lot of backlash to this uh and a lot of

Politics

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people who agreed and a lot of people who agreed and not just people on the right but what I found interesting about

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all the comments is this thing that happens with you a lot which is people wondering as they have for a while what

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is Charlamagne the God all about where does he stand politically that's so funny you say that I promise you as I

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was walking in here this white guy stops me in this he had on glasses some khakis

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of sweater and he goes you're you're Charlamagne right and I go yeah and he goes man I like you know I like when you talk politics he goes man I think that

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it's going to be a Civil War in this country he said that's what you need to talk about he said I don't care who wins he I don't care if it's Trump I don't

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care if it's Biden I feel like it's going to be a Civil War in this country and he goes who what what side are you on and I'm like I'm not on any side and

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I think that's the problem with American politics and just America period people think if me as a black man if I

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criticize Democrats then I'm supporting Maga but if I criticize Donald Trump and

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Republicans then I'm a democratic shill why can't I just be a person who deals

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in Nuance like what happened to just being objective and seeing things on both sides because nothing is all right

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and nothing is all wrong either well I think what people would probably answer is that the rise of trump is really

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polarized people absolutely and so to say oh I don't take a side some people

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especially on the left would say well that's not right either why like why this I think we do ourselves a grave

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disservice by thinking I can't criticize Democrats and I can't criticize

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Republicans and still know who I want to vote for in November in order to

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preserve democracy I've been on every there's not a show I've been on when they ask me about Donald Trump I say the

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same thing he's a threat to democracy he literally said let's suspend the Constitution overthrow the results of an

7:00

election you saw his lawyers in the court saying well he never he never agreed to support the Constitution he led an Insurrection of this country on

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January 6th and people just act like you know it was a bunch of you know kids whing out at spring break in Miami I say

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these things over and over and over but if somebody like you know John Carl says

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to me well this happens it's in the interview you can watch it well President Biden says these things too about Donald Trump why you why don't why

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don't you think it resonates and I say because he's an uninspiring candidate who doesn't have any main character

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energy the Wright will take that one clip and say Charlamagne says Joe Biden

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is an uninspiring candidate who has no main character energy and once again everybody on the left attacks that

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narrative instead of going to watch the interview and taking the narrative they should be using which is Charlamagne

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says Donald Trump is a threat to democracy we are insane right now I

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blame the media so much for what's happening you are the media yes but listen look at what I'm doing I'm being

8:04

objective I tell people all the time if you lie to them about Democrats they won't believe you when you tell them the

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truth about Republicans so why would I sit there and lie to people about the flaws I see in the Democratic

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party well you've asked why you should take a side publicly I think some people would say because you Charlamagne have a

Political Evolution

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different responsibility because you have this particular platform you know people your

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audience of millions do look to you because they respect you they listen to

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you you're not just some guy in a voting booth you're a guy who really does have

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an impact and they want to know what you think I'm telling them what I think H

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let's go back I I actually want to ask you about your political Evolution and

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how you came up let's do it did you think of politics at all when you were growing up did you think about the way

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things were 100% but you know my mind State at the time was a little bit different cuz I grew up Jehovah Witness

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so when you grow up Jehovah Witness you know you don't vote that's not what they do they they stay away from it but I also you know read a lot of books my

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mother was an English teacher she told me BR btim read things that don't pertain to you you know I I read so many

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things when I was younger everything from Judy Bloom to are you there godess

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me Margaret to my dad giving me the autobiography of Malcolm X but then you listen to You Know Jay-Z saying things

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like you know back then he was saying things like government F government we politic ourselves you know where I'm from in South Carolina we were all

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always aware of government but we had uh a different view of government back then

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and that it's like government will never work for us it will never work for us cuz we're we're black so the only thing we could do is try to do for self which

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you know as I've grown older I realized like oh this politics thing can really

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influence influence people in the real way you left South Carolina when you got your big break on The Wendy Williams

The Breakfast Club

10:04

experience you end up in New York mhm you start The Breakfast Club in 2010 what were you trying to do with the

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show then same exact thing I'm trying to do now I've always said that you know

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the yin and the Yang of life to me is ratchetness and righteousness and so it's just like you know for every rapper

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that comes on the show who you might look at and think you know this person is ratchet I try to bring the spiritual

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leaders on the show I try to bring the authors on the show not not try I do um first time I got on the air I think was

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like 99 2000 I always done that you can go back to my track record when I was on the radio in Charleston South Carolina

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Columbia South Carolina you know Philadelphia I I was getting in trouble for bringing the mayor of Philly on my

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show I'll never forget it Mayor Nutter was the mayor of Philly at the time and uh there was something going on in Philly where they were about to close

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all the libraries and all the rec centers and this was like 2010 when you know Philly was like really really on

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fire you know with crime and violence right and um I remember it was on the front page of the paper that oh they

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were going to cut a lot of lot of the police so they were going to cut a large part of the police close direct centers and like the libraries and people were

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freaking out cuz they knew what that was going to do to the city and I remember Mayor Nutter came on the show to let

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everybody know no everything is fine we got the money none of that is happening cool I remember a radio consultant at

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the time literally said to me when the show was over and I was in his office a radio consultant he goes you

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know yeah nobody really cares about about the mayor like it's like you know people want to hear from like Beyonce

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and I said to him I said yeah it's easy for you to say that because you don't live in Philadelphia it's white guy that didn't live in Philadelphia you don't

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live here so you're you flew in to listen to the radio to consult me on

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what I should be talking about to the city of Philadelphia and you're going to fly back to wherever you're from and not

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even care about what's going on in the city that was the mayor of Philadelphia

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talking about something that was a real concern to the people of Philadelphia so

12:04

that shows how out of touch a lot of these programmers and people that run these you know media corporations are

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and I've I've always pushed against that grain I mean tell me where that comes from when you bring the mayor of

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Philadelphia on to what is a popular culture show essentially what did you

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understand that you were up to I understood people I understood that you know my people black people people in

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hip-hop We Care More than just things about hip-hop there's never been a time where hip-hop has not

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talked about things of socially redeeming value like there's always been a Chuck D there's always been a killer

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mic I don't know why people think that you know black people are so one-dimensional that you can't bring an

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elected official on a hip-hop radio station where so many people that are directly affected by the things these

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elected officials are doing are listening like why wouldn't my audience be receptive to that you know we talk

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about the diversity right like when we talking about the tii thing I feel like you know black people with our platforms

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and just in society we have to be way more diverse than white people do because we have to know what's going on

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with a little bit of everybody because we deal with a little bit of everybody and we encounter a little bit of

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everybody it's easy to stay insulated in your you know bubble and just be around

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whiteness for the majority of your life that's never been my experience so I don't understand why we can't do both

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and do it well the only way you can't do both and do it well is if you're not

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equipped and if you're being realistic there are a lot of people who aren't equipped to talk to a Kodak Black and a

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President Biden you know I mean that's a very unique skill set that probably comes from uh somebody who's black does

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one help you prepare for the other I mean what what hell yeah that's a great

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question I've never approached any conversation with

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fear and if you can stare down a so-called gangster rapper Who's

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got their whole crew in the studio if I can ask those questions to him I can

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damn sure ask these questions to an elected official okay I'm really curious

Eric Adams interview

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how you prepare for interviews like this because you know you just had mayor Eric Adams on

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that's right and and it was a pretty wild interview um I'm just curious about your

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choice to have him mostly interviewed by a former public defender Ole YY oen Ole

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y oen yeah we just say ole ole okay so o came on to to interview him first of all

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did Eric Adams know he was walking into an interview like that meaning combative and with an activist uh combative I I

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don't think he thought he was walking into a combative interview but I think people know The Breakfast Club I think

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that you know for the most part if you come on The Breakfast Club you're going to get asked some like you know really tough questions um he did not know that

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Olay was going to be there but we've been rotating even though we have our new third co-host who is just hilarious

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but you know all last year we rotated you know guest host so I've been watching Olay you know for a long time

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and I like a lot of the things that she talks about and I think that she you know challenges mayor Eric Adams in a real way I think she asked some some

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some real questions and you know we see the state of New York right now New Yorkers have real questions about New

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York City you know is New York City safe the migrant issue is a real issue I felt

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like there was a lot of real uh high level conversations that needed to be had and I thought Olay would be perfect

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for him and I thought she did a fantastic job and I thought the mayor did a fantastic job that made me like

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mayor Adams even more because what I realized is is something I always knew about politicians he's just doing his

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best like you got to think about what he inherited it like what what we just came out of in regards to co and the hole

16:03

that he's digging himself out of so he's just really really attempting to do his best and I thought it was you know very

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interesting to watch him not run from the tough questions not duck show real

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emotion like I thought that that was a great conversation between a mayor of a major city and one of his constituent is

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that what you're hoping these moments will provide like a just authenticity I guess yes authenticity that leads to

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authentic information and great conversation that people can actually learn from and you know even just from

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the feedback I've gotten from people like some people feel like Olay might have been too tough on the mayor some

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people feel like the mayor did a great job I don't think you can ever be too tough on an elected official I just

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don't like they're an elected official they're there for a reason like they wake up in the morning ready to be in

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the hot seat you know said who do you decide that you want to go really hard on because I've listened to some of your

17:03

recent interviews with conservatives Like Larry Elder the grma Swami Candace

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Owens and they weren't nearly as combative that's not what the internet says everybody else says other than

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Candace Owens they felt like we was too hard on Larry Elden they felt like we was too hard on B ramaswami the second

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conversation we had with B ramaswami was more smooth that's the one I'm referencing but the reason that was more

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smooth is cuz he's not running for office anymore it's an inconsequential conversation

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you're not running for anything Candace Owens is not an elected official I think it this right here shows me what's wrong with our country wait wait I'm

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interested in in why you think that shows you what's wrong with this country but I have to be honest like watching

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some of those interviews I was wondering why there wasn't more push back on

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questionable assertions including well yeah real misinformation you know Larry Elder saying that the nuclear family was

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ruined by welfare or V's great replace bement Theory you know which he's been pushing which is a racist theory that

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Democrats are bringing in black and brown people to replace the white race we definitely push back on the uh the

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Larry Elder when he what he said the nuclear family yeah was ruined by by the welfare system being brought in by the

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we had in that conversation teslin figuro was on and teslin was definitely pushing back on like like people really

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don't and that was that's another thing right like but I guess it's like where where are you in this like what is your role do you see yourself as a mediator

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this is your show um I mean yeah I mean it depends like I'm listening a lot of times like I I don't approach any

18:34

conversation like I want to have a confrontation but you go hard on on hip-hop people I've seen you do that M

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and they're not elected officials they're people power isn't it less about being an elected official and more about

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who has power it depends what you're doing with your power when you talk about hip-hop telling somebody that their music is whack that's that's

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really an inconsequential conversation that's not real power mayor Adams has actual power elected officials that are

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in those positions they have real power what is me telling a rapper that their music is whack I don't think you're a

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good rapper like how is that consequential to what's going on in our society and if somebody already has an

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opinion that I don't agree with that like let's just say it's an issue right like everybody was talking about you

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know things that Candace Owens has said in the past if I already know her

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opinion on that and I know we not going to agree on on that what would I be bringing it up for other than to be

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performative H you have noted yourself that people come on to Pander to your audience uh

Do you feel protective of your audience

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politically I mean you had that conversation very virally with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton um

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and presidential candidate in 2016 do you feel protective of your

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audience yes but I don't think let me word this correctly because

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I might see something later and be like eh I was wrong but I I don't think

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Democrats Pander as much as they used to at least when they come to Breakfast

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Club cuz they know when they come to breakfast club or even when they sit down with me we going to have a real

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conversation I think that's why they continue to come like somebody like secretary Pete secretary Pete has not

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stopped coming to judge Secretary of Transportation I I I I I I tell Pete

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that every time he comes and the reason I tell Pete that every time he comes is because a lot of these people only like

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to come around when it's election season and that's when it really looks like pandering that's when it really looks

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like dream selling and by the way it should be you should be trying to sell

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us something you should be trying to encourage us to go out there and vote for you yeah cut more student loan debt

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you know do those things like yeah pardon more people people you know who are in in in prison on a federal level

21:01

for marijuana you know nonviolent drug offenses yeah continue to do that especially in an election year and let's

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push for more of that but guys like secretary Pete they've been coming for the last four years that says something

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to me and I definitely know it says something um to our audience and so I I respect him for

Black support for Democrats

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that you brought it up mhm it's election season um a lot has been made of these

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po showing black support for the Democrats cratering you've been asked about this a

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lot I'm just wondering what you're thinking as more and more of these polls keep showing the same thing um I think

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you know you might see a slight uptick in black people voting for Trump this

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year but I think it's overstated I think they said the numberers like 22% I don't think they 22% of black people are going

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to vote for Donald Trump I think the biggest thing that people are going to have to fight against this year is the

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couch and that's what I've been saying I keep saying it over and over like this election is three options Republicans

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who are the crooks Democrats who are the cowards because they don't fight enough for nothing and the couch the couch is

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voter apathy and I think that you know a lot of people are just discouraged with politics period there's all this talk

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about people being tired of Democrats no people are just tired of politics period

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come November Man people are just going to be like yeah because this is probably

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the most and what I'm about to say is going to sound so cliche this is probably the most consequential election of of of my

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lifetime 45 I'm not going to say all time but it's hard to get people to believe that because we say that about

22:46

every presidential election because every Republican candidate has been demonized in in in in in that way so now

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that you really do have the wolf out there you look like the party who cried

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because you made you put everything on the same scale this this Donald Trump guy is

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different like the things he wants to do is different you've seen what he's

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capable of doing and willing to do now that he knows the things that he can get

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away with and the people around him know the things that they can get away with you think they not going to go all the

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way for it but it's hard to explain that to people because you know people have

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been hearing that it's in into democracy every time there's a Republican

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presidential candidate so charl man I I'm hearing you and the thing that I'm hearing you say is that you believe that

Democracy under threat

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Trump is the wolf at the door that democracy is under threat and I've also

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heard you say I will not endorse President Biden and kamla Harris what

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did that have to do with voting though I've never said I'm not voting if I if I'm laying it out right there on the

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table and I'm telling you that I'm voting to preserve democracy who do you think out of those two options is

24:05

willing to preserve democracy just because I don't want to jump out there and say I'm endorsing this person or I'm

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endorsing that person I missed the days when nobody talked about you know who they were voting for I don't know when we had to start laying all that on the

24:17

table I'm not endorsing because I just feel like I've been burned with that before you know because you put your

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name on the line you endorse somebody you tell your audience this is who you should go out there and vote for and

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your audience goes and does it and then when they don't see these things that they thought were going to get pushed

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through they don't understand Civics they're not thinking about that they're like all they know is Charlamagne told me to vote for this person because this

24:41

was going to happen and this didn't happen one of the things you have been talking about is how they haven't been

24:49

able to make the things that they've done real to people the messaging sucks

24:56

it's terrible I say it all the time the language of politics is dead if you've ever had a

25:02

conversation with 90% of these elected officials man I love to use 90% I don't know why but if you talk to like and

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I'll use examples if you talk to vice president K La Harris behind the scenes

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you like where is this person if the America saw this person if this person like and you saw

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glimpses of it and you know when she used to be like holding it to those people in those C hearings right holding

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it to those other officials but if you saw this person and this person decided

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to say you know what I'm not going to let Fox News manipulate my narratives anymore I'mma go on Fox News and have

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these conversations with this audience you'll be surprised how many people that's probably watching Fox News you

25:47

know those hypothetical swing bers they love so much they be like I like her but

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it's the craziest psychological mind [ \_\_ ] when you talk to

26:00

these people and then you see them in front of the camera and you're like who

26:07

is this person and I'm not just putting it on the vice president because I think

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that um there's a whole Democratic party of surrogates that President Biden

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should be using I think he should be using Governor you know Shapiro I think he should be using Governor Newsome

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because I think Governor Newsome did a great job of you know elevating himself in the conversation by going on Fox news

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by going on Sean Hannity Show by debating you know Ronda Sanchez I think he should be using Governor West Moore

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of Maryland I think he should be using those individuals to really tell the story of what's going on but you know I

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do put a lot on the vice president because I think she's a I think she's so

Barack Obama

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talented you just mentioned a whole bunch of surrogates that the Biden Administration should deploy you didn't

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mention former President Obama and I'm just curious why not and if you think he

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is a good surrogate for Biden I don't know that's that's a great question I it just don't it don't feel

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like he's on the front lines it don't feel like he's in active duty like all those other people their gun is warm

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right now it feel like his gun is on safety locked up in a vault somewhere

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you know not saying that he can't come out and get it cracking but I just don't I I don't know he just don't don't

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he don't doesn't what feel relevant I gu can't say relevant right he's President Barack Obama he's say he

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can't say relevant he just don't he don't feel like he's of this

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moment and may maybe that's his own doing I don't know what he could say that's going to

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really move people in 2024 I mean he's don't get me wrong he's one of the best

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speakers of all time like but I just don't know what he could say in this moment that's going to move people cuz a

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lot of people I remember when uh I remember when he came out and he put out a TW about roie Wade after roie Wade was

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you know overturned and a lot of people got on him and they was like yo this is your fault you had an opportunity to

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cify roie Wade you know when you when you were in the white house so don't come out shaking your finger at us now

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you know like I remember I saw the backlash to that and by the way he could do whatever he want he's the former

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president Barack Obama instead of talking to the American people I think that what he's doing from what I've heard behind the scenes pushing the

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Biden Administration lighting the fire up under their ass telling them they need to have a sense of urgency hey

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y'all may lose this election in 2024 if y'all don't pivot here and pivot there I think that's where he's probably most

Is Charlamagne optimistic

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suited this is uh my last question for now mhm are you optimistic about where

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this country is

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going depends right because you say when you say country that's different there's a lot of different parts to that I'm

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optimistic because I have to be cuz I grew up poor and disenfranchised on a dirt road in Monks Corner South Carolina

29:02

I grew up in a single wide trailer so it's like I have no choice but to be

29:07

optimistic as a black man in America because I've seen the worst of the worst

29:13

I wouldn't be sitting here with you having a conversation with you if I didn't have a a case for optimism but

29:20

man what scares me the most is that you have all of the so-called smart people

29:28

being dumb and I really think it's because of social media I think social media is ruining us and I think that

29:35

it's only going to get worse because people don't know what's real and they don't know what's not real now I feel

29:40

like you know that's that's what they do with me like I they can literally take a clip of something I said and say look

29:47

he's he's supporting you know Donald Trump or they can take this clip and say look he's supporting Biden it's like no

29:53

I'm just having objective Nuance conversation and what scares me is that like somebody's gonna watch this whole

29:59

New York listen to this whole New York Times interview and people are going to take what they want from it to push

30:06

their narrative how does that help people it makes us not even want to try to see things from a different way

30:12

because we don't want the words that are coming out of our mouth to be misconstrued so when you ask me am I

30:18

optimistic I have no choice but to be because I believe in a high power I believe in God but man the way things

30:24

are going right now I think that we're doing a a great job of uh letting a

30:32

wouldbe dictator back into the White House Charlemagne we're going to talk later this week M and I'm really looking

30:39

forward to it absolutely thank you for having me after the break I follow up with

30:44

Charlemagne about how he feels let down by the Democrats and why those polls about black voters really drive him

30:51

crazy they're not going to blame this on black men I I see I see where this narrative is going and I don't like it

Democrats bad messaging

31:12

Charlamagne peace is Lulu it is it's Lulu what's up Lulu shlan I've been

31:19

thinking about something you said earlier you know we talked a lot about Democrats bad messaging but not a lot

31:25

about the substance of the Biden administration's polic policies what was it that you didn't get from them that

31:31

you wanted to get oh man personally just for me I just think there's a lot of

31:37

things that they could have been you know way stronger on because they told us vote for President Biden get him in

31:43

the white house then they said you know they they pushed in Georgia to get these

31:48

Senate seats you know because if they can get the the number of seats they need and they can really make things

31:54

happen and vice president Kam laaz will have the tiebreaker but man it's like they volunteer those lies right because

32:01

they know the politics of their Senators like the Joe Manson and Christen cinas they know the politics of them better

32:06

than we as the people do so they knew that there was a lot of these things that they wouldn't be able to make

32:12

happen like the George Floyd policing act like like the John Lewis voting rights act like they knew these things

32:19

weren't going to happen like we can keep saying things like well it's it's congress's fault yes it it it is you're

32:26

right but guess who's the president of the United States of America that person gets the credit what you saw recently

32:32

you know with this so-called uptick that's supposed to happen with black votes and Trump I like I said I think

32:38

that's overstated but I do think there are three tangible things people point to in regards to president Trump and one

32:46

is those stimulus checks another is those PPP loans and another is the first

32:51

step Act and the reason those three things resonate with people is because folks actually got money in their pocket

32:58

but they're not looking as to why it's sadly because we had to go through something like Co so you don't want millions of people to have to die for

33:05

you to get a stimulus check off for you to get a PPP loan and then the first step back there's people who actually

33:10

saw family members and you know people who they love actually get out of prison and he takes the credit for

33:17

it but isn't there something bigger going on because I recently heard you interview Ray J and he said in his world

33:26

at least you can't get canceled for in Trump anymore I'm going to quote it he said I guarantee you this you can't get

33:31

canceled if you say you're going to vote Donald Trump like you used to if you say that you risking something now it's like

33:36

I'm voting for him too I mean we'll see I don't I can't say

33:41

just because Ray J wants to vote for Trump that it's a [ \_\_ ] and all black men maybe I'm

33:46

delusional and I just don't think that any No One Celebrity or any influencer

33:52

or YouTuber has that kind of power maybe maybe it's me maybe I'm bugging maybe I need to take a step back and really look

33:59

at all of this power and influence that y'all say these individuals have I don't see Ray J saying that making me believe

34:07

that 30% of all black men are going to come out and vote for Donald Trump do I think it's gonna be a uptick yes I just

34:13

don't think the numbers gonna be like that and I and also to be clear Ray J didn't say he was gonna vote for Donald

34:19

Trump let's also be clear that's not what he said yeah he just said that you know it's cool not to say for Trump but I don't want this is the other thing I

34:25

don't want too they not gonna blame this on black men like they're not going to do that like I I already see where this

34:32

is going like I hate it I I hate it in 2016 when Hillary Clinton ran for

34:38

president black women showed up like they always do her second highest base was us black men when it comes to Donald

34:47

Trump those white Suburban women elected him in 2016 and 2020 a lot of them were were

34:55

right there too they not about to blame this on um black men no I I see where

35:00

this narrative is going and I don't like it I mean I guess people find the shift

Racism

35:06

if shift it is surprising because I guess they're wondering why

35:12

isn't the racism a deal breaker or is that an unfair assumption to make about

35:17

black voters well I can't speak for all black voters but I will say they said Lyndon B

35:22

Johnson was a racist but I mean look at the things that you know Martin Luther King Jr in the civil the different civil

35:28

rights movements at that time were able to push lynon B Johnson to do I mean you know when you bring up President Biden

35:34

you cannot bring up President Biden without talking about the 86 mandatory minimum citiz the 88 crack laws and the

35:39

94 crime bill and I remember if people go back and watch my conversation with Joe Biden on Breakfast Club I said to

35:45

him you know the 94 crime Bill led the mass incarceration he goes no it was mandatory minimum Citizen and I go yeah

35:51

and you we're behind that one too so it's like so it's like we know all of

35:56

these things but we still you know vote because we have to vote for our best

36:01

interests like you know we have to vote for the people that we feel like we can

Power

36:07

move Charline I want to bring it back to you

36:13

because you know you have found yourself in this position where you have a lot of

36:21

influence I would say a lot of power and I'm wondering how you feel about that how

36:28

far does it reach where do you want it to go I can promise you I am not sitting

36:34

around thinking about how much power I got no I know that but you know what I mean but I just wonder like like that

36:41

kind it kind of makes my skin crawl a little bit like like I'm not I'm not even thinking about that I say it all

36:46

the time I'm just a a person on who has a a ticket to a show who gets to go talk

36:52

to the artist after the show so I'm watching the same things that everybody else is watching I'm in tune with the

36:58

same thing that everybody else is in tune with I just get to sit down and have a conversation with these people

37:03

when the show is over and that's that's literally how I always approach it I just always approach it from a place of

37:08

curiosity that's it nothing more nothing less I just want people to get

37:15

information and you do whatever it is you choose to do with that information I

37:20

don't have any other I don't have any other aspiration other than that

37:29

[Music] that's Charlemagne the God his new book

37:34

is get honest or die lying why Small Talk sucks this conversation was

37:39

produced by Wyatt orm it was edited by Annabelle bacon mixing by aim Shapiro

37:45

original music by Dan Powell Diane Wong and Marian Lozano photography by Devon

37:52

Yin priia Matthew is our senior Booker and Seth Kelly is our senior producer

37:57

our executive producer is Allison Benedict special thanks to Rory Walsh

38:02

renan burelli Nick Pitman Isaac Jones Maddie masello Jake Silverstein Paula

38:08

Schuman and Sam dolnick if you like what you're hearing follow or subscribe to the interview wherever you get your

38:14

podcasts and to read or listen to any of our conversations you can always go to NY times.com thee interiew next week on

38:22

the interview my co-host David maresi speaks with climate scientist ay Elizabeth Johnson we went from like is

38:31

this really happening to like how serious is this to oh God it's so bad let's just give

38:38

up and sort of skipped this middle step of all hands on deck I'm Lulu Garcia

38:45

Navaro and this is the interview from The New York Times