**Garden Club Episode 1**

[00:00:00] **Anna:** Hello, and welcome to The Garden Club, where we explore the world and characters of Bloom and Blight a few questions at a time. My name is Anna, and I'll be your host today, though you may know me better as your always exhausted Oracle, Larkspur. Today, I have the lovely Logan here with me to discuss all things Wolfsbane.

How are you today, Logan?

[00:00:18] **Logan:** I'm doing fantastic. A little tired, but that's life, you know?

[00:00:22] **Anna:** That seems to be how it always is these days. So, I am very excited to talk about Wolfsbane, our resident emo, uh, wolf boy? Um,

[00:00:32] **Logan:** Yeah, yeah, yeah! Emo my wolf boy, living, living my 2000s, like my teenage fantasies out in the form of an anime boy.

[00:00:40] **Anna:** Amazing. Uh, so tell us a little bit about your inspiration for Wolfsbane.

[00:00:45] **Logan:** Oh, my teenage years as an anime boy. No. Um, I guess there's a lot. Um, so I'm a big Magical Girl aficionado of sorts. So like his main inspiration. Well, actually, okay the real inspiration we've kind of talked about this in other times, but like it's legitimately if Vegeta from Dragon Ball Z was a twink. Just a very angry man who always wants to get stronger and always wants people to like recognize him. But is a little bit too pretty. Like I I've I I think I want him to be the, the teenage heartthrob character, like, I'm too good for everyone in the school character and I'll never, I'll never date you because I'm too angry and too focused on important things, unlike your school prom, or whatever, and then also, by the way, I have magical powers, and shit.

But that was like the start of it, but it kind of moved on to, um, like Mamoru from Sailor Moon, the, and for American audiences, that's Darian, um, like the male character in the magical girl setting has always kind of been mysterious, but like oddly powerful. They're, they don't have the same powers. They don't have the same origins.

They, they are always a little bit slightly off. Maybe Li Syaoran from Cardcaptor kind of is a good, good reference as well. Cause he's like martial while, you know, Sakura is obviously using magic, even though they have the exact same goals. And then, like, he has fire powers. I have this thing, a thing we're calling the Purple Flame, which by the way has, was totally me just making something up.

I don't even know what it means. It's just a thing I'm saying. But like, I had just watched Promare. Have you seen Promare before?

[00:02:28] **Anna:** I have not. No, it's definitely on my list.

[00:02:30] **Logan:** Yeah. Um, it's very gay. Um, they don't mean it to be gay, but it absolutely is. All the best things are. Yeah. But, um, uh, one of the characters, Leo, I think, yeah, he is.

Just this pretty boy who has fire powers and has this black leather biker aesthetic and I took that and I ran with it. I'm not like, it's not like a complete like taking the whole thing because if it was taking the whole thing I'd also be a lot more friendly to people, but it's just this idea of like why, I want a protagonist that is grouchy but pretty and that's what I, I'd say is the main inspo for Wolfsbane.

[00:03:10] **Anna:** That is amazing, uh, the, the Vegeta line has stuck with me and is honestly one of my favorite lines of the year. And now I have this image in my head of Vegeta at a high school prom and just being angry about it.

[00:03:22] **Logan:** You know, if I, did you ever watch the Dragon Ball live action movie? I hope not, but did you?

[00:03:27] **Anna:** I did, but it's been so long. So most of my experience with Dragon Ball, I have to be honest. Is with DBZ Abridged, I have not actually seen the actual series.

[00:03:36] **Logan:** That's super common now, but the only thing I'll say is like, it, it takes place like Goku's in like high school and shit and whatever. And like, obviously the movie was bad, it was absolutely terrible, but I imagine in an alternate world we would be able to see Vegeta in high school being whatever Vegeta's do in high school, which is probably posture a lot.

He's probably the president of some stupid club.

[00:03:59] **Anna:** I feel like that would have made a better movie.

[00:04:00] **Logan:** 100%. 100%. Listen, anyone who's listening and somehow has the ear of Hollywood, you want people to love your shit? Put, we can go back to high school if everyone has like superpowers and is stupid. Like, let's do it.

Let's do like stupid power. Everything's gay. I would watch it a hundred times over instead of just like melodrama about like someone like, Oh no, someone slept with someone. I don't care. I want to care about who's punching a hole in the moon.

[00:04:27] **Anna:** Amazing. Punching a hole in the moon. The, uh, the great issue that all high schools face.

Absolutely. Uh, yeah. So, in the story, we just saw the big reveal of Lily's video that had us all crying at the table. Um, explaining what she did, what her death was for, what she was trying to prevent. Um, how's Wolfbane handling that? Like, what is, what's going on? We see a little bit of it in episode 5. Um, some tense words are exchanged between him and Larkspur.

Um, yeah, where, where's he at right now?

[00:04:59] **Logan:** So I, I mentioned early on, I think even in the first episode that like, Lily is the equivalent of his Messiah character. Like he has a complex and it's kind of like, I guess if we go with like. You know, some Christian iconography, it's kind of like if he was one of the disciples and didn't know what was going to go on, but Jesus knew the whole time, like, I'm pretty sure someone were like, what the f what, what's going on here?

Uh, he's kind of just like, he's not really sure how to react outside of his automatic response, which is anger. You know, I think he's gonna be okay in so much as he has no choice, but to be okay, but he's definitely not going to be handling it well. I would, I would say. For people listening in, he's probably going to commit a violence or two, and we'll see how that goes.

[00:05:47] **Anna:** I don't know that we would expect anything else from Wolfsbane. Uh, so we're five episodes in at this point. What did you expect from a show like Bloom&Blight, and have we been seeing that?

[00:05:58] **Logan:** Oh, um, so it's all magical, girl. The game system, Girl by Moonlight, is heavily inspired by it. So I expected a lot of, um, to be honest, I expected a lot more monster of the week.

I expected us to be fighting a lot more monsters. It has not yet happened. I'm saying yet we have fought, I think, well, there was Zeke, which wasn't really a fight and there was the robots on the road, but like, I, I expected more, you know, just random monsters kidnapping people and we got to go save them, but it hasn't happened.

But I actually, I'm excited because we're exploring a very different story. We're exploring the post tragedy of like a magical girl setting in a way that's like genre defying, because we don't see that a lot in, in the magical girl genre, like the main characters usually don't die and Lily is effectively our main character.

The main character usually is the one that tries everything to, to stop uh, death. Although I guess if you see, if you've seen, uh. Madoka Magica. You might know, like, there's some subversion here or there, one way or another. But, like, we don't, but the main character is still hanging around, even if, if, like, there's another character who's actively trying to prevent it.

So, like, I, yeah, I expected more monster of the week. It didn't happen. I'm not talking about the TTRPG Monster of the Week, I'm talking about the concept where, like, I don't know, we'll have a shrimp man running around, we gotta go stop shrimp man or something. Almost Power Ranger-esque in that way.

[00:07:20] **Anna:** Yeah, I feel like that would have been very much, you know, season one.

Girl by Moonlight has this idea that it starts in season two of the story. And I like that we're diving into the emotions here, um, and really diving into what it means to lose someone and how you come back from that. Because if a main character does die in a show, That's usually the end of the show, right?

[00:07:43] **Logan:** Yeah, yeah. I mean, it's either the end of the show or like, I guess if you think of it from like a Western perspective, I could go on and on about like the differences between in media of Western and Eastern expectations of heroes. But like, in a Western perspective, Lily's gonna come back. Through some magical time vault or like some vat of clone whatever stuff cuz like it's an X Men character and none of them can die.

[00:08:07] **Anna:** Right, we're gonna pop over to Gotham and use the Lazarus pit.

[00:08:10] **Logan:** Yeah, exactly. That's like that's what a Western thing would do is like, oh shoot this popular character died and people liked them I guess our writers were wrong. But, like, from, like, Eastern and, like, obviously what we're inspired by, like, that can be, like, either the end of the series, or it could be, like, renamed series with new, um, subtitle to signify it's a whole new, like, generation or something.

Which we don't have a subtitle, so it's, it's a whole new meaning, you know?

[00:08:37] **Anna:** Yeah, absolutely. It's, it's a unique premise, I think, for the show, coming in when the team's a mess because magical girls are all about teamwork and coming together and hope, and saving the world through that hope and through dreams and we're seeing these characters just as a mess.

And it's been a lot of fun I think diving into that and what that means. And how we've pulled ourselves apart. And now that everything has blown up, hopefully, after, uh, this last episode, episode five, seeing everything come back together.

So we like to wrap these up with some lighter questions. Uh, just to kind of dive into, uh, kind of the broader genre, both of the game and of, uh, Magical Girls.

Um, and I have to ask, because I know you are very knowledgeable about Magical Girls, you and I came into this huge fans of the genre. Who are your favorite Magical Girls?

[00:09:30] **Logan:** Usagi is big. As much as, like, Sailor Moon is big. Big, big, big, big. I I think she's so stupid and I love her. She is the, like, true friend.

She cares about everyone having a good time. Her goals are, yes, save Crystal Tokyo, but also to save, like, all her friends to make sure that they have good times when they go out to festivals, when they go out and have like just friend dates, it's all good. I love it so much. Uh, she's not necessarily my favorite sailor scout, but like if we go in the genre and what she represents to me, she's my favorite.

She like is a big favorite. Outside of that, like I've said it enough times to some people, like I will argue up and down, even though some people don't believe me that Kill la Kill’s Ryuko is a magical girl because she has a weapon that is unique. She has a magical transformation sequence. She has a talking magical companion.

It just happens to be her school uniform. And, like, it fits so much of the genre. There's really no reason why she shouldn't be considered a magical girl. Outside of, like, I guess she doesn't have a magical girl team or squad or whatever. Which isn't that far off. And I'm saying it like there's not, like, another equivalent to her on her side until...

Spoilers later on when a mysterious family member shows up, I guess I'll say. Kill la Kill's old enough that people should have watched it by now, but I don't want to ruin it. And I'll probably cap it off because I could go on. I could really could, but I'll cap it off with Utena, Utena. It's a classic.

It's gay as hell. It's real rough to get through the beginning. Um, it is, I'll tell that to people like the, the formula is very. It can be tiring, but the story and the, the difficult themes that are willing to, uh, to attack in that show. I'm saying attack because it's not something that you're allowed to evade in that show.

There's, they don't bring up a difficult subject and then walk up, walk away from it, they keep on coming back, that I really enjoy. I really liked that Utena herself is, um, she, her goal is to become a prince. She wants to become something that theoretically we would say, well, don't you mean like a princess?

Don't you mean like a knight? Cause she has like a, a view of chivalry, but no, she wants to be this one prince that saved her when she was very young. And that is super cool that like, she's defying both gender and like societal expect, like just general societal expectations, because it's. She doesn't want to be with that guy.

She wants to be that guy. Like, that's cool as hell.

[00:12:07] **Anna:** Well ahead of its time for, uh, that type of media. Which is sad to say, but true nonetheless.

[00:12:13] **Logan:** Someone's gotta, someone's gotta break that barrier, you know?

[00:12:16] **Anna:** Absolutely. The other lighter question I had, if you had to choose a different playbook for Wolfsbane, uh, Girl by Moonlight uses playbooks for those who haven't seen the system yet.

Wolfsbane is the Outsider, correct?

[00:12:29] **Logan:** Correct. He's the green Power Ranger of the group.

[00:12:30] **Anna:** Yeah, so if you had to choose a different one, if we saw an AU Wolfsbane, what playbook would you pick?

[00:12:36] **Logan:** Um, honestly, the Guardian. The Guardian is like, what is it? They say, uh, it's like the protector one.

Wolfsbane is all about being aggressive, but he's also all about making sure that everyone else is kind of doing what they need to get things done. And I could see him being, instead of like trying to push people to motivate them, he's legitimately putting himself into harm's way. I could see that as an easy thing to do for him.

I could also see changing in that AU situation where instead of where he was someone who was outside brought into the group. He was someone who was like, I would say the equivalent of the guardian character of a lot of magical girls. Um, like, like, uh, Kero from Cardcaptor Sakura. Like, he is technically a guardian character.

Uh, he, I mean, he's cute most of the time, but people forget he's got like a flying cat form. And that, that, that would be, you know. That's terrifying.

[00:13:30] **Anna:** So that'd be pretty cool. Yeah. And it's interesting too, because the guardian was Lily's playbook. Uh, so it's really interesting to see Wolfsbane and possibly some of the other characters gravitate towards that playbook.

Um, it's just really fun all around. So unfortunately we are running out of time. Oh no. Yeah, I know. We can only go so long with these, even though I want to just sit here and keep talking with you. Is there anything else you would like people to know to expect for Wolfsbane or anything like that going forward?

Without giving any spoilers. We are not going to give any spoilers beyond the most recent episode.

[00:14:04] **Logan:** Yeah, without giving spoilers, Wolfsbane has a big heart. Uh, he's actually probably a big softie on the inside. He just doesn't know how to emote really well. You can expect him to try and be as badass as possible, not necessarily succeeding every time.

But he will always try I, I, as a role player, I'm very much of like, I'm, I'm the “yes and” in the situation, so I'm always going to be like, I want to do this cool thing. It didn't work out. Okay. What's next? What are we going to do when, when these things fail? So Wolfsbane will, unfortunately, no matter what we, what gets thrown at us, we'll probably take the risky, but cool scenario.

And probably get hurt in the process.

[00:14:45] **Anna:** Amazing. I think there's a lot of harm in the future. Well, we've, we've had a habit of not rolling well. And, uh, our characters especially take a lot of risks. Yes. And I don't think Taylor's going to let that go unnoticed. Nope. Nope. But amazing. This has been so much fun.

Thank you, Logan, for sitting down and chatting with me.

**Logan:** Thank you for having me!

**Anna:** Absolutely.

Thank you so much for listening to Bloom&Blight. Our cast includes Taylor as the director, Candace as Belladonna, Logan as Wolfsbane, Kit as Daffodil, and Anna as Larkspur. Cast details can be found in the show description.

All production is handled by Anna and Kit. All sounds and music courtesy Epidemic Sounds. Girl by Moonlight is a Forged in the Dark system from Evil Hat Productions. To stay up to date with all things Bloom&Blight, be sure to give us a follow on social media @BloomandBlight. Bloom&Blight is a Dareful Archives production.

See you next time!