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Cover image for "I'm Glad My Mom Died."

Memoir tells a child actress' experiences

KELLY FENG
Managing Editor

"I'm Glad My Mom Died" by Jennette McCurdy, the child actress who starred in "iCarly" in the early 2000s, is a frank, full-scale memoir that answers many questions about why many child stars end up emotionally and financially broke, addicted to drugs, disillusioned or dead.

Most of us will never understand the harrowing experience of a childhood in the spotlight and the road to developing peace as an adult. Still, McCurdy conveys it brilliantly with an uplifting story of overcoming abuse with resilience and recovery.

Filled with witty references and dark humor, this is an excellent book on how childhood trauma can set the stage for how you function as an adult. McCurdy paints her youth by writing a series of vignettes that capture childhood abuse, addiction and therapy.

After McCurdy's mother introduces her daughter to the idea of being an actress, 6-year-old Jennette, wanting to please her mother (who always

wanted to be an actress, but didn't get the chance), agrees to her mom's request (or demand, depending how you look at it).

A years-long process of acting and dancing lessons ensue, moving between agents and managers and endless auditions.

However, the roles eventually come in for McCurdy, with stints on "CSI" and "Malcolm in the Middle."

Codependence and a lopsided need to please her mom, along with living in cramped conditions and developing eating disorders also occur.

McCurdy first develops anorexia as an 11-year-old, noticing she is beginning to grow breasts. Embarking on puberty, the wise child actress understands that it is a liability in her work.

Because she is undersized for her age, she is more marketable and can play younger roles, which means she can stand in for children younger than herself. (Some children cannot take direction and are also legally permitted to have more break time.)

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JON KOPALOFF / GETTY IMAGES / LIONSGATE / TSN

Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes attend the premiere of "Clerks III."

'Clerks III' released

GRANT NELSON
Staff Writer

This film has been over a decade in the making and has been part of a cinematic universe that every stoner and "Star Wars" fan boy has come to love – "Clerks III" created by Kevin Smith. The "Clerks" cinematic universe began as an indie film about two slackers, Dante and Randal, and their degenerate companions, Jay and Silent Bob, and now has a cult following.

The collection of films known for its stoner humor and nerd banter has spawned spinoffs such as "Chasing Amy" and "Dogma." But "Clerks" has always been the core of this world. This film follows Dante and Randal, now in their late 40s and trying to make a film about their lives to leave something behind after years of wasted chances.

The film is a homage to Kevin Smith and all his work, and sort of a way for him and his fans to come to terms with their careers and lives. It is filled with both '90s moments and modern-day "Star Wars" humor.

"Clerks III" is very different than Kevin Smith's early work in the sense of growing old and other themes that the film brings itself to ponder in its ending.

'The Owl House' gets a third season

MEGAN ANDERSON
Staff Writer

On Oct. 15, season three of "The Owl House" will premiere on Disney Channel. This is a show that has touched the hearts of many people, young and old alike, including myself.

The "Owl House" is a cartoon about a 14-year-old girl who does not fit in her world, aka the human realm, in a fictional town called Gravesville, Connecticut. Her name is Luz and she is different for many reasons, some of them regarding her race/origin, bisexual identity and possible neurodivergence. She is fixated on fictional worlds and ironically ends up in a different realm called the "Demon Realm." Here, she meets Eda the Owl Lady, who promises to teach her magic, as it is a realm made of both demons and witches. The series goes on for a full two well written, well animated seasons.

Within the show Luz meets plenty of other young people that accept her in the demon realm. Although this world is not her home world, she has come to love it and the individuals that live in it. I do not want to give too many spoilers; however, like every cartoon series, there is a bad guy. Emperor Belos is nearly the complete opposite of Luz in many ways. Rather than the freedom Luz, Eda and others have in this realm, Emperor Belos, the praised leader of the land in the demon realm, promotes rigid rules under the word of "order."

However, "order" can only be so useful, and oftentimes when people try to control others, it's not for the best. Emperor Belos' way of doing this is to enforce a "Coven System," and seal off certain types of magic for cer-



DISNEY CHANNEL / TNS

Luz (right, voiced by Sarah-Nicole Robles) and King (Alex Hirsch) in Disney's "The Owl House."

tain people. A Bard can only use Bard magic, an illusionist can only use illusion magic, etc. Some beings in this world are not fans of this system, and Emperor Belos proves to be a dark villain for a cartoon.

Nevertheless, "The Owl House" had very high ratings through two seasons so far. However, Disney Channel shortened the third season because "it didn't fit the brand." Honestly, quite a bad decision for how much money they could make. Many fans had theories that the reasons for shortening the third season, then canceling it right after, was because of its representation of LGBT people. Not only are two of the main characters in a

same gender relationship, but they also have a nonbinary character.

The show sadly gained the attention of a right-wing group called "One Million Moms." They call themselves that, but in my honest opinion there is no way there are a million of them. The "One Million Moms" protested this show not only because of its wonderful representation of LGBT people and many other minorities, but also because of the use of the term "demon" and the imagery of the series.

The series showrunner, Dana Terrance, did her best to save the show and the kids and young adults it gave hope to.