

Anne Hathaway's Speech

[10:34-11:37]

I'm loving you the way you deserve. And yes, I am giving major side eye to anyone that thinks differently. That said, I acknowledge the need for allies because of the visibility we lend.

That was just reinforced for me tonight, Sarah McBride gave me a note from a ten-year-old transgender girl named Ella. She named herself that after my movie, *Ella Enchanted*. And in this note, Ella thanked me for my courage as an ally.

Ella sweetie, I want to make something absolutely clear to you, it takes zero courage to love you. It does, however, take a lot of courage to get up and talk in front of a lot of people. So, I put your note right next to my heart to give me extra strength. It's right here.

[14:18-16:50]

It is important to acknowledge that with the exception of being a cisgender male, everything about how I was born has put me at the current center of a damaging and widely accepted myth. That myth is that gayness orbits around straightness, transgender orbits around cis-gender, and that all races orbit around whiteness.

This myth is wrong, but this myth is too real for too many. It is ancient, so it is trusted. It is a habit, so it's assumed to be the way things are. It's inherited, so it's thought immutable.

Its consequences are dangerous because it prioritizes a certain type of love, a certain kind of body, a certain kind of skin color and does not value in the same way anything it deems to be other to itself. It is a myth that is with us from birth, and it is a myth that keeps money and power in the hands of the few instead of being invested in the lives of the free.

I appreciate this community so much because it's where I learned to reject this myth. I appreciate this community because together we are not just going to question this myth, we are going to destroy it.

Authentic equality, authentic equality doesn't prioritize sexual orientation. It doesn't put anyone's gender or race at the center. It doesn't erase our identities either. What it does do is centralize love. And when love is fully centralized, every door opens for everybody.

[19:12-20:02]

Love is love, and equality just is. You gotta roll up your sleeves and get to work every day until everyone gets it. You taught me that, you teach us all. So, let me say for everyone whose lives that you have made better, which is to say, for everyone, thank you.

To this beloved community, to Ella, it's an honor to be your ally. This award means so much to me because it comes from you. Now let's tear this world apart and build a better one. Thank you.

Hathaway, Ann. Speech on National Alley for Equality Award, 16 Sep. 2018, Washington, D.C. YouTube, English Speeches Channel.com.

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