

00:00:00	Biz Ellis	Host	Hi. I'm Biz.
00:00:02	Theresa Thorn	Host	And I'm Theresa.
00:00:04	Biz	Host	Due to the pandemic, we bring you <i>One Bad Mother</i> straight from our homes—including such interruptions as: children! Animal noises! And more! So let's all get a little closer while we have to be so far apart. And remember—we are doing a <u>good job</u> .
00:00:21	Music	Music	"Summoning the Rawk" by Kevin MacLeod. Driving electric guitar and heavy drums.
00:00:25	Biz	Host	<i>[Continues through dialogue.]</i> This week on <i>One Bad Mother</i> —how are you doing? Plus, Biz doesn't want to be competitive; Theresa starts a day; and we talk to Iris Gottlieb about her new book, <i>Seeing Gender</i> .
00:00:37	Biz	Host	<b>Biz and Theresa:</b> Wooooo!
00:00:44	Biz	Host	<i>[Biz extends hers into a wobbly, ghost-y "ooo" and then a groan. Biz and Theresa frequently affirm each other as they discuss their respective weeks.]</i> As part of our new format, before we check on each other we wanna check on you guys and say—uh, that we think you're remarkable? You're doing a good job. Special, <u>special</u> shoutout to <u>all</u> the people out there who are having to work! Right now. In terms of our healthcare workers. In terms of those working in services like grocery stores. Delivery. Y'know. People who are <i>[though laughter]</i> just going and picking up your groceries for you. All of it! You're all amazing? And we all see you? And... I promise to continue to see you when this is all over? Thank you. This is... really... weird and hard. And I hope you're all well.
00:01:43	Theresa	Host	<i>[Without the usual enthusiasm]</i> Theresa? How are you? <i>[Unconvincingly]</i> Uh, okay.  <i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
00:01:47	Biz	Host	Uh... <i>[Through laughter]</i> God!  <i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
00:01:50	Theresa	Host	<i>[Sighs.]</i> Well, our whole topic today is gonna be how are we doing. Right? So... I'm not gonna try to fit everything in? Right here and right now? I'm gonna like save little tidbits to leave like little kernels along the way?
00:02:05	Biz	Host	Mmm. Let's pretend I ran into you at a store. And so at— <i>[Laughs.]</i> That's not a scenario! And I yell to you—from six feet away—"How are you?" and you answer me in that sort of scenario. Like, those are the parameters.
00:02:22	Theresa	Host	Those are the parameters.
00:02:24	Biz	Host	Okay.
00:02:24	Theresa	Host	So... Oscar had Spring Break last week and Gracie also had Spring Break last week? And so that was actually kind of nice because... I'm having a really hard time with the homeschooling part of this. Uh, I don't know about you guys. I'm sure I'm the only one.

00:02:41 Biz Host *[Biz laughs.]*  
00:02:43 Theresa Host We're all doing great! *[Laughs.]*  
Yeah. *[Laughs.]* Um, so this week Oscar's back in school. Technically. You know. School from home. But Grace is still on Spring Break. So she has a two-week Spring Break. So... today—*[Laughs.]* Is Monday. And yesterday, I finally brought myself to read the email from Oscar's teacher with like the schedule for this week? And I literally sobbed through the whole thing. Like, I just cried my eyes out. Not because it was like unreasonable; like, she's great and it was—it's a reasonable amount of things to do and... y'know. She has elementary-aged kids at home and she's doing a good job and... this is not at anyone. It's just that I could already... feel... the anxiety of having to try to do this stuff with Oscar on a basically one-to-one... level. Because that's what's required. While trying to parent Grace and Curtis! And I just... I—I just don't—I honestly don't... get it. So that's where the tears were coming from. And *[though laughter]* this morning—

*[Biz laughs.]*

What has happened so far is that—

*[Biz laughs.]*

—it's been pouring rain and the internet crashed in the middle of Oscar's, like, morning Zoom meeting *[though laughter]* with his teacher and classmates? Not even in the middle. Like, at the beginning. Like, a few minutes in. And in order to try to... calm my anxiety, I had set Grace up with—just a movie. Just a straight-up movie. You pick a movie. You get to watch it. Starting at 9 AM. You know. In the other room.

00:04:35 Biz Host  
00:04:37 Theresa Host

Yeah.  
And I had set Curtis up with a computer looking at a show appropriate for his age. So that I could focus on Oscar for a little bit and get some of that done before *One Bad Mother*. But hilariously, the internet is out.

*[Biz laughs.]*

So everyone's yelling at me. They're all yelling at me. And Jesse try—Jesse went out in the rain and like flipped the breakers or whatever. But then he had a doctor's appointment. So he's on the phone with the doctor. And... he's fine. Guys. It's a regular like migraine appointment. He's fine. Every—we're all healthy.

*[Biz laughs.]*

But Grace is yelling at me 'cause her movie has crashed. Oscar is delighted that he can't be a part of his Zoom meeting. And that's annoying. And he's saying—

*[Biz laughs.]*

—he's bored and what does he get to do now? And Curtis is flipping out 'cause his thing—so—and I just... I just... immediately started yelling. Not, like, at anyone? But just yelling. Like—"The internet is

out. It's broken! I don't know! I can't—I don't know! I can't do it!" Just like—and I'm just sitting there thinking, like—of all the things I was stressing about, when I was thinking about today and this week, that wasn't even on my radar as being a thing that I would have to deal with! And I thought to myself, could I be happy about this and make the most of it? Like, maybe we just don't do internet right now? Maybe we just like sit around on the couch together and read a book. And I'm like, none of them want to do that with me right now. They're expecting to do other things!

*[Biz laughs.]*

So I went back out in the rain and messed with breakers and did weird things and got everything back up and running. And we had—I'll just leave you with this tidbit. We had missed... about... 28 minutes of the Zoom meeting with the kindergarten class? And I was sure we had missed the whole thing. But no! We signed back in. And there was another good probably 15 more minutes of that Zoom meeting. *[Laughs.]* And so I actually didn't really feel that bad about missing all of that? Because I don't think Oscar would have been able to sit through all of that anyway.

00:07:01 Biz Host

It's... and we can say more on internet learning— *[Laughs.]* For "How are you doing." For a deeper question. But... that... sounds... like... everything!

00:07:17 Theresa Host

Yep!

00:07:18 Biz Host

Yeah. That was a lot!

00:07:20 Theresa Host

It was a lot.

00:07:22 Biz Host

It was a lot.

00:07:22 Theresa Host

**Biz and Theresa:** Yeah.

00:07:24 Theresa Host

How—how are you, Biz?

00:07:26 Biz Host

That actually kinda ties in to what I just wanted to—that I've been feeling. We all know I am a... like a good competition. I like a little competition. But what I, uh, I've—has been like really rattling around in my brain as I just talk to people, y'know, check in on people, see how people are doing or people are checking in. Y'know. Whatever. It is that... I—I do not want to see us turn our emotional responses into a competition. Right? Like, you don't have to apologize for your feelings? Like, I feel like... and we've delved so much into this when we had like newborns and... toddlers in the house and then when you have older kids—I mean, it's just like the—one of the, like, curses of parenting is this notion that (A), before I can say that I'm unhappy about something or that something's really hard, we have to say something in effect like, "I love my kids!" or "Thank goodness I have... x, y, or z. It's not as hard as others." Right? Y'know, like... "My kids are healthy! They are—I've got a job." Or "I'm allowed to stay at home." Or *[makes dismissive blabbering noise.]* We are not allowing ourselves to have our feelings? And I feel like right now—yeah! I absolutely am not tone-deaf to how differently this virus is affecting—and staying at home—is affecting everybody.

00:09:05 Theresa Host

Mm-hm.

00:09:06 Biz Host

That said? I get to have my own feelings about it. And you do. And things that I struggle with, I—I'm not—it goes back to that whole, "No one's doing it at you" and I'm not doing it at somebody. Right? Like, we are all struggling on some level. And what might be really easy for one person? Is not for another?

00:09:30 Theresa Host Mm-hm.  
00:09:31 Biz Host Right? And... what's easy for you is not for somebody else. And I just feel like... I don't want... to... waste unnecessary energy when my energy [*though slight, non-humorous laughter*] is being pulled in so many directions right now? On second-guessing... my feelings or other people's feelings. If that makes sense.

00:09:57 Theresa Host Right on.  
00:09:58 Biz Host **Theresa:** Completely. Yep.

00:10:00 Biz Host **Biz:** Yeah. Yeah.  
Because I feel like... we are all having emotional responses? And we are not listening to them. [*Laughs.*]

00:10:07 Theresa Host Mmm.  
00:10:09 Biz Host You know what I mean? Like, a little, like...  
00:10:11 Theresa Host Well—can I add to that?  
00:10:12 Biz Host Yeah!  
00:10:12 Theresa Host I think—I think you're right. I think part of it is... maybe we're not listening to them because... we're being told that, like, our emotions right now are not as important as like human life! Which like, kind of is true. Right? Like, there's levels of priority. Like, yeah! We're suffering mentally. And emotionally right now. But that's not as important as lives! And so... it's kind of a weird place to be in.

00:10:43 Biz Host I saw somebody—somebody had said, basically, we're in this weird place where... like, because you're at home— [*Laughs.*] Right? There's some sense of normalcy. Right? Like... I—I—this is normal. So you have this one feeling of everything is normal while simultaneously having a feeling of fear.

00:11:08 Theresa Host Yeah.  
00:11:09 Biz Host And those two do not go well together! They're like—  
00:11:12 Theresa Host That is so true!  
00:11:13 Biz Host The opposite feeling. And it's almost like trying to put two magnets together when they're not facing the magnet-y way? [*Laughs.*]

00:11:22 Theresa Host Yes!  
00:11:23 Biz Host **Theresa:** Oh my god! That is so true! Yes! Yes!

00:11:28 Biz Host **Biz:** And you've got that weird... jelly ball in-between?  
That is what we're not paying—that's—I think that's the thing that I'm like... we don't know how to put words on that. We don't know how to address that. It's... that plays into the whole guilt of like, "But it's so normal!" [*Laughs.*] Right? Like—why should I be upset? Everything's fine. And then... at the same time, everything's not fine at all. So. With that said—

[*Theresa laughs.*]

00:12:01 Music Music —let's get into our— [*Laughs.*] Our topic today. How are you doing?  
00:12:02 Theresa Host Banjo strums; cheerful banjo music continues through dialogue.  
Please—take a moment to remember: If you're friends of the hosts of *One Bad Mother*, you should assume that when we talk about other moms, we're talking about you.

00:12:09 Biz Host If you are married to the host of *One Bad Mother*, we definitely are talking about you.

00:12:13 Theresa Host Nothing we say constitutes professional parenting advice.  
00:12:16 Biz Host Biz and Theresa's children are brilliant, lovely, and exceedingly extraordinary.  
00:12:19 Theresa Host Nothing said on this podcast about them implies otherwise.

*[Banjo music fades out.]*

*[Biz and Theresa repeatedly affirm each other as they discuss the weekly topic.]*

00:12:25 Biz Host  
00:12:30 Theresa Host

Theresa. How... are you doing?  
I... am... kind of all over the place, I would say. It's definitely a rollercoaster. For real. I mentioned that my kids were on Spring Break last week. That really was a nice break? Because... it was a chance to... just kind of do whatever works for our family? And focus on... doing things that were fun. Rather than trying to keep up with the distance learning. The distance learning is killing me.  
Like—

*[Biz laughs.]*

—even just the knowledge of it is killing me. Like I hope that I get better at coping with the distance learning? And everything that that entails? *[Laughs.]* I really do.

00:13:20 Biz Host  
00:13:21 Theresa Host  
00:13:27 Biz Host  
00:13:28 Theresa Host

Yeah.  
Like you were saying, Biz, we shouldn't have to apologize for our feelings. But I do also feel guilty about it. 'Cause I'm like—  
Of course!  
What's so hard about this? I'm not even really homeschooling the way homeschooling parents do because I'm not even like—I'm not responsible for like the lesson plans or anything and like what's so hard about this? I don't have to drive my kids anywhere! Like, y'know. I mean—ugh. I—so—yes. I have guilt about it. And I—I'm really struggling with it. And I'm struggling with—I think part of why I'm struggling with it is because... the schools are... being really—so far, they're being really awesome and like—they have, like, a lot together. A lot is organized. And they're also saying, like, look. We know this is kind of hard-slash-impossible. And like, everyone's mental health is really important. So do whatever you can do and make this work for your family. And like, I'm glad that they're saying all those things? But it's actually... right now, in this moment for me? It's actually... kind of... causing me more mental anguish. Because I don't even know what that means. So if—if it's not working for, you know, if my kid is like throwing a fit about even doing five minutes of reading aloud with me—do I just not do it? Like—in normal life I would say no! You have to do it!

*[Biz laughs.]*

00:14:54 Biz Host  
00:14:57 Theresa Host

Do you know what I mean?  
**Theresa:** But it's like—is this the thing that's gonna break us?

**Biz:** Yeah! That—you just said it. Yeah.  
Like, I don't really know. And so I don't—with all of that flexibility and with like the—what we were talking about last week about like nobody really knows what's important right now 'cause we've never done this before? Like, not knowing... what is gonna end up being most important as, like, a way to use this time and not knowing, like, what our routine is really gonna look like once we're like really—'cause again, we sort of started having a routine. Then we went on Spring Break. Everything went out the window. Now we're getting

back into a new routine but Grace is still on Spring Break so it's not really the routine so we probably have like two or three more weeks before we really have a routine. And... you know I like my routines, Biz!

00:15:41 Biz Host

I know! It's—

00:15:41 Theresa Host

I—I really like my routines. This is very uncomfortable for me.

[Laughs.]

00:15:46 Biz Host

Well, no. I know and I—I'm—we're on... Spring Break.

00:15:51 Theresa Host

Okay.

00:15:51 Biz Host

Spring Break!

00:15:52 Theresa Host

This week is your Spring Break?

00:15:53 Biz Host

Yeah. This week is our Spring Break. But they added two additional days last week for additional teacher training. Very fair. But like—I keep thinking... I'm with you on that anxiety. We've done, like, alright? But that is because Katy Belle is 100% self-sufficient. Because like you said, I have to sit next to Ellis—by choice or not—'cause it's Ellis—through all the different things. The scheduling. The laying the plan—aghhh! And now I worry we have this week... if I let it go... just... free-for-all... it's really hard to get back into... the—the learning from home. Especially when you are learning from your actual home! Right? Like, Spring Break you usually get to be like, do whatever the fuck you want! And then they go to school. [Laughs.] And that's—they—there is a set system there. Or routine that like they see and they trigger. But like... it's like... and I'm sure this is true for adults having to work from home for the first time? Where like—I'm sitting here. This is great. I now see everything that I normally get to do when I'm home. And I—I think that that... that anxiety... about routine... is... definitely... a feeling. I—because we've been doing it now for two weeks. I think what surprises me is they'll be these really fairly reasonable days where like I'm on it? Like, I wake up. Like, I don't mean I'm on it in terms of what we're doing? I just mentally am like—I'm okay. I haven't... like, lost my shit yet.

00:17:44 Theresa Host

Yeah!

00:17:45 Biz Host

Right? By the way—the losing your shit hour is about 4:00 for me. [Laughs.] That is when I—I cannot tolerate another noise. And then the next day, I'm not? And then that surprises me? And then... you just do that cycle again? I'm on it! I'm not. I'm on it. I'm not. And that's... exhausting? Like, I feel like...

00:18:13 Theresa Host

It is.

00:18:15 Biz Host

It—there's—so many different things that are like layering up here. In terms of the—how are you doing? And exhaustion... is a big one. And like problem-solving. Like, I—and again, if you don't know what the important problem is? You can just spin in that.

00:18:37 Theresa Host

Yes.

00:18:39 Biz Host

You and I have exchanged some texts since, uh, we've been away. And there's one that we exchanged the other day that I wanna check in... on.

00:18:49 Theresa Host

Okay.

00:18:50 Biz Host

'Cause you and I had some pretty strong feelings about it. And that is... the noise and the questions? The talking? And... anybody who has listened to our show knows that we are not of the ilk of... y'know, [high-pitched, angry voice] "I wish my kid—" [Laughs.] "—would just never ask a question!" [Regular voice] Right? Like—y'know. Yeah. Kids are gonna ask questions! They talk. 'K? I feel... like... in terms of noise... it's like a noise exhaustion weighted

blanket being draped over my body. Right? And then... I could go on a while about the questions and how I'm no longer able to even answer the question—can I have a popsicle? I don't have—I don't know why that is so hard to answer right now?

00:19:48 Theresa Host

Yeah.

00:19:49 Biz Host

But that answer... is really hard! *[Laughs.]* I'm like—I don't—know!!! I mean—maybe?!!

00:19:55 Biz Host

**Theresa:** I'm that, too!

00:19:57 Theresa Host

**Biz:** I don't— *[Laughs.]*

*[Through laughter]* I've literally done that! About, like—can I have a something and it seems like it should be so straightforward! And I'll just be like—I don't know. I don't know!

00:20:05 Biz Host

I don't—

00:20:06 Theresa Host

I don't know.

00:20:06 Biz Host

I don't know.

00:20:07 Theresa Host

And then they kind of look at me, like—

*[Biz laughs.]*

00:20:10 Biz Host

—So...

So—so can I? I don't know! Can you? *[Laughs.]*

00:20:16 Theresa Host

*[Theresa laughs.]*

And then you're almost like relieved with whatever they decide for themselves? Like whether they just decide to go get one or they decide to do something else and walk away from you? You're just like, okay. Good. They're gone.

00:20:28 Biz Host

I—I feel like that could be the freedom *[though laughter]* that comes from this. *[Laughs.]* From all of this! Is that—yeah! And just like, I'm not gonna get that for you! Like, whatever—like, somebody's like, can I have a—if you can get it, you can have it! Right? Like—this maybe—maybe what I'm doing is seeing the real mirror of like, how much I just do shit to make life easier? And now it's not making life easier? And so I'm just like—go get it. Yeah. I like the, like—I don't know. Whatever you choose to do.

00:21:01 Theresa Host

I don't know. Yeah.

00:21:02 Biz Host

I don't know! I don't know.

00:21:04 Theresa Host

Yeah. Because I'm so burnt out, I like—over Spring Break—was not doing the schedule as much? And so that had a variety of different effects. But like—

*[Biz laughs.]*

—one effect was—and it was mostly okay? But like, one thing that happened was—sometimes in the morning, they would... ask a bunch of questions about things they wanted to do that day? Or right then? And the level of exhaustion first thing in the morning when they were talking to me? Like, I don't even feel—it wasn't that I had that, like... irritated moody like first-thing-in-the-morning, like, anger? Anything like that? It was more just like... I would wake up so depleted.

*[Biz laughs.]*

That they would be asking me a question and I couldn't even really... grasp it. Like, I would just—and I—I found myself saying to my kids almost every morning, I'll say—my brain is not awake enough for that question right now. Like, I—we're gonna have to talk about that later. I'm just not awake enough. Like, they're just ready to go and they have—and even if it's not something they want to do? It's like—it's like—conversation starters! Like, literal, like, “Why do you think blah, blah, blah?” or like, “What would happen if—”

*[Biz laughs.]*

00:22:26	Theresa	Host	And I'm just looking at them like—this can't be real! Like, this is just gonna happen like this <u>all day</u> . One thing you're saying there about the lists of things that they wanna do? And that... again, here we go with the “I should be so happy that my children have ideas”—but I know how much facilitating it will take? And even just the act now of saying—let's write it all down so we don't forget it! Because there will be an emotional backlash if something is forgotten. And it—y'know, I—yeah! That in itself is also just like... feels like... ugh. Like another blanket being put on you.
00:23:07	Biz	Host	<b>Biz:</b> And you're like—
00:23:08	Theresa	Host	<b>Theresa:</b> Because it's not— It doesn't feel like a genius moment. It doesn't feel like it's helping anything. It's just another thing that's being asked of you. Yeah. I mean—I think what I was texting you about was... I was feeling that that—now, it turns out, I was PMS-ing big time.
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
00:24:12	Biz	Host	But. That day I was just thinking to myself, like—I am <u>so</u> tired... of <u>talking</u> and being talked <u>to</u> . Like, I'm <u>so</u> tired of having things said to me? That are expecting some kind of response? And then responding to them. Like <i>[though laughter]</i> I'm just so—and so I find myself in those moments—not all the time—but in those moments, I find myself... where if there <u>is</u> quiet for a little bit and then somebody comes and speaks to me? I will <u>physically</u> cringe. Like, I have a <u>physical</u> , like, tweak reaction to just the sound of someone's innocent voice. Just saying something <i>[though laughter]</i> to me. Yeah. I love you! <i>[Screaming]</i> Ahhh! <i>[Laughs.]</i> <i>[Regular voice]</i> Yeah! No!
00:24:16	Theresa	Host	<b>Theresa:</b> Just—okay. You love me. Great. I heard you. Please go away. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:24:22	Biz	Host	<b>Biz:</b> Great. That's good. Yeah. Go. Now. Yeah. No. Yeah.
00:24:24	Theresa	Host	Related to this is something you alluded to earlier, which is like the <u>constant</u> ... like... how am I doing? Like, I'm doing okay! I'm crashing. Now I'm doing okay again! Now I'm crashing again. New day! Doing okay. Now I'm crashing. Like—is this gonna happen every day? Can I make it through a day without crashing? No, I'm crashing. And like that constant self-feedback of how am I doing? Like... I feel like we've had—especially over Spring Break—my family had a <u>lot</u> of nice times together! Like, we did fun stuff



together. Like, we enjoyed each other's company. We—I feel like I've gotten closer with some of my family members during this time 'cause we have had more time together. Especially I think, like, with Curtis! Who's three and like he's normally at school Monday through Friday! And I've just had like a lot more time with him? In ways that have also been really positive. But... for some reason, I can't just... enjoy those moments and then let them—let time also happen and let other things happen. It's sort of this constant... checking on myself. Like, okay. I've got it. This is actually pretty good. And then no, this is actually really terrible. Nobody [*though laughter*] should ever go through this. And then—feeling guilty about that. And wishing I could—

00:25:48 Biz Host

Well, it's the constant—it's part of... I mean, it even goes back to the lists? But in a different form? It's this pressure of how am I using this time a little bit? Like... and what's expected of me from myself? Like—I have not left this house in four weeks. [*Laughs.*] We're entering week four. And... y'know, last week I was really trying to do the, like, "I can make this time whatever I want to make it! I'm going to just really connect and be present with my children." And it was... impossible. Like, maybe I could muster five minutes? Before... I was doing the checking in on myself. Checking in on something else. Just kind of needing to know what's coming next. And like—it almost felt harder? To be... present? Despite the fact that we are all in the same room?

00:26:50 Theresa Host

Yeah! By definition, you're present. [*Laughs.*]

00:26:52 Biz Host

By definition, I am definitely present. Also, I hear your voice constantly from a show a couple of weeks or maybe a month or so ago, of like, y'know, what is this like cultural, uh... way of thinking that we have that we have to just keep going and doing and doing and doing and like—wow! Does this situation amp that up. So my circle here is... the anxiety—we all know—I like to fix a problem. I'm a problem fixer! I can fix anything with fucking tape! Even my soul. And like— [*Laughs.*] And like... you're right. You—you can't. There's not a lot of space for action. Because... there's not a lot of space. Both physically and emotionally right now. Because everyone's home and needing something. The... whole... discussion we've had multiple times of the consistent interruptions. I mean, you can't even set—I can't even, like, how am I using what I have in the house to make a meal tonight? That's gonna—that could take me up, to, like, two hours now. Right? Like, and it's—because aughuhg the interruption. The tired. The noise. The uncertainty. The normalcy. The weird magnet sensation. Yeah! It is, uh... it's a really weird place to be right now. And... I guess to go back to the name of our topic today—how are you doing?

[*Theresa laughs.*]

00:28:36 Theresa Host

I—I think maybe the answer is... I'm here? [*Laughs.*]

00:28:38 Biz Host

Yeahhh!

**Theresa:** Yeah, you're here. Yeah. I'm here too. Yeah.

00:28:42 Biz Host

**Biz:** Yeah? I am—I am here. Yeah.

00:28:44 Theresa Host

I'm glad you're here, Theresa.

00:28:45 Biz Host

I'm glad you're here, too, Biz.

Mm-kay.

00:28:47	Music	Music	“Ones and Zeroes” by “Awesome.” Steady, driving electric guitar with drum and woodwinds.
			<i>[Music fades out.]</i>
00:29:03	Music	Music	Laid-back acoustic guitar plays in the background.
00:29:03	Theresa	Promo	<i>One Bad Mother</i> is supported in part by Grove.
00:29:06	Biz	Promo	I <u>love</u> Grove.co and have been able to successfully switch a large portion of my cleaning products that I use at home? Over to... all-natural, plant-based, eco-friendly—just—the animal-friendly products as a result of using Grove. Because they’ve done all the research for you!
00:29:29	Theresa	Promo	Grove Collaborative delivers all-natural home, beauty, and personal care products directly to you. You can join over two million households who have trusted Grove Collaborative to make their homes happier and healthier. Plus, shipping is fast and free on your first order.
00:29:46	Biz	Promo	For a limited time, when listeners go to <a href="https://Grove.co/mother">Grove.co/mother</a> , you will get a free five-piece cleaning set from Mrs. Meyers and Grove. In crisp scents like mint or rose. A \$30 value! <a href="https://Grove.co/mother">Grove.co/mother</a> .
			<i>[Music fades out.]</i>
00:30:09	Theresa	Promo	Hey, you know what it’s time for! This week’s genius and fails! This is the part of the show where we share our genius moment of the week, as well as our failures, and feel better about ourselves by hearing yours. You can share some of your own by calling 206-350-9485. That’s 206-350-9485.
00:30:29	Biz	Host	Genius fail time, Theresa. Genius me.
00:30:33	Clip	Clip	<i>[Dramatic, swelling music in background.]</i>
			<b>Biz:</b> Wow! Oh my God! Oh my <u>God!</u> I <u>saw</u> what you did! Oh my God! I’m paying <u>attention!</u> <u>Wow!</u> You, mom, are a <u>genius</u> . Oh my <u>God</u> , that’s <u>fucking genius!</u>
			<i>[Biz and Theresa repeatedly affirm each other as they discuss their respective genius moments of the week.]</i>
00:30:48	Theresa	Host	At one point last week over Spring Break, uh, we were doing a lot of like family game time? Type stuff? And Gracie had the idea to create her <u>own</u> game. And I was like, great. And it took her a really long time to like get it all set up and make all the pieces for it and she had this like whole thing set up and by the time she wanted me to play it with her, I was... <u>really</u> done.
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			Like, <u>really</u> done with my day. Like I’d played games with people. I’d done like a <u>lot</u> of shit and I was really tired and I was just like—like the idea—like, I could see all the <u>components</u> of her game like around the room? There were like <u>stations</u> to the game? And I was like—and she was <u>so</u> intent on playing right then. And I... said... can you describe to me what’s involved in this game? And she walked me through all the parts and she showed me the board and she showed me <i>[though laughter]</i> all the different stuff you got to do. <i>[Laughs.]</i> And it was <u>very</u> complicated.
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>

And I said to her—very honestly—and I had to say it several times, “I really want to play this with you? I am not going to play it with you right now. Because I want to have fun when I play this with you and I’m not able to have fun right now. I’m too tired. I will play it with you—tomorrow!” And she didn’t like that answer. It was very frustrating to her. She was really excited to play with me. But I just was very sure of myself? Like, I didn’t... I didn’t, like... hem and haw around it? I just knew, like—I just knew it was right. And so I stuck with it. The next day? Guess what? I had energy ‘cause it was a new day and I had slept. And I was ready to go and we did it and we—and it was totally crazy, but I had a great attitude the whole time—

*[Biz laughs.]*

—because I was ready for it. I was ready. And it went great. And I was really, really proud of myself for just sticking to that as hard as it was. And... making it fun.

00:32:56 Biz Host  
00:32:58 Biz Host

Good. Job!

**Theresa:** Thank you.

00:33:00 Biz Host

**Biz:** That is remarkable!

Weeks and weeks ago, I... bought a couple of things in case we were gonna get stuck at home. Right? This is before it was officially... started. But I was like—you know? I’m that person who assumes the worst. And so I—y’know, a couple of games. A couple of like art supplies for diff—y’know. A Lego set. Things like that. And a new game for the Switch. And I have sat on that game for three-and-a-half weeks now.

00:33:32 Theresa Host  
00:33:33 Biz Host  
00:33:38 Theresa Host  
00:33:40 Biz Host

Amazing.

And today—Spring Break!—I pulled that game out.

Oh, yeah, you did.

And they—since 9:00 this morning!—have been playing this game straight.

00:33:45 Theresa Host  
00:33:47 Biz Host  
00:33:50 Theresa Host  
00:33:51 Biz Host  
00:33:56 Caller Caller

Amazing.

I’m... okay.

You’re great.

I am. Thanks very much. *[Laughs.]*

*[Answering machine beeps.]*

Hi, Biz and Theresa! I am calling with a genius. I have been basically trapped inside with my children for about a week now. But! I had a moment of genius. And— *[Laughs.]* We all know kids love beads. And we all know that beads get freaking everywhere. They get everywhere. And I just got this new shag carpet and I love and it’s so brightly colored and it makes me happy. But beads. Beads are getting in the carpet and driving me mad. So! The only place that they can have the beads is in the bathtub. I put down a couple of towels. I plug the stopper on the drain. And they just play with beads in there! And at the end I can just scoop them up and put them back in the container and it’s fine! *[Sighs.]* Dry bathtub! Great place to contain a mess. Magic! I am doing a great job. This will all be over eventually. We will survive. *[Sighs.]* We’ll get through this. *[Laughs.]* I love you both. Have a good one.

00:34:59 Biz Host  
00:35:01 Theresa Host

I... love this.

Yeah, I do too!

00:35:01 Biz Host I do too. The bathtub... is a sometimes-forgotten zone of play. It's really—I would say—a majority of ages. I mean, I would stick a teen in a bathtub.

*[Theresa laughs.]*

I would just... stick a teen like—air-drop some like... y'know, tech devices in. Just like throwing 'em over my shoulder like *[hollering]* Whoaaaaw! *[Regular voice]* Just throw 'em and drop 'em in. But the beads—'cause you're right. Beads just roll everywhere.

00:35:34 Theresa Host Yeah, they do.

00:35:34 Biz Host Everywhere! I think... you're a genius. And I look forward to us putting more things in our bathtub.

00:35:45 Clip Clip Failures.  
*[Dramatic orchestral music plays in the background.]*

**Theresa:** *[In a voice akin to the Wicked Witch of the West]* Fail. Fail. Fail. FAIL!

*[Timpani with foot pedal engaged for humorous effect.]*

**Biz:** *[Calmly]* You suck!

*[Biz and Theresa repeatedly affirm each other as they discuss their respective failures of the week.]*

00:35:50 Biz Host Fail me, Theresa.

00:35:52 Theresa Host Okay. So—I... tried to think of the thing... that would be...

*[Biz laughs.]*

Like, something I could buy that wouldn't be that expensive but would like occupy everyone and would be like exciting and fun. 'Cause just like you were saying—Spring Break, we want, like, something to give us something fun to do! And I'd kinda been waiting on getting Beyblades for my kids? Because... you guys are probably familiar with Beyblades, but they're—there's like a little stadium, like a little—

*[Biz laughs.]*

—basically plastic container? And you have these little, like, metal spinners and you pull a string and your spinner comes off and you're like battling to see whose spinner can be the last to continue spinning. And I've seen—like, it says eight and up on the package. Which was what my hesitation was. But I've seen younger kids using them successfully. And a number of Oscar's friends from kindergarten talk about them all the time. So like—Oscar has been talking about them a lot. And I just thought—this is gonna be that thing where when I get it, my kids are just gonna play with it forever. 'Cause I've seen kids just like play it and play it and play it and play it and play it. So I just decided— *[Laughs.]* Decided to do it. And I felt really good about myself. I was like—I am awesome. Like, this is gonna be so great. And like of course the package was delayed but I did it way in advance so it like wasn't a problem. And... when it came, I was like, acting all cocky like it was gonna go so great.

*[Biz laughs.]*

And like it was really just one of those things that like—everything... that you would not want to have happen? Happened. So... like... for one thing, you have to put the Beyblades together when they come? And they're in like four pieces? And if you don't know how to do that, you're reading the instructions and three kids are crowding around you? Like, fighting over them and saying which one is theirs? And it comes with two Beyblades and you have three kids in your situation? So—

*[Biz laughs.]*

You're trying to learn how to do it and then like it's not working the way they want it to and so everybody's upset. And they're bad at it! 'Cause they don't do it a lot. And they're not used to it. And I'm also bad at it because I don't know how to do it. And so it took a really long time and the people who I really wanted to use it—Grace and Oscar—kind of got alienated from it pretty quickly? And the main person who ended up really using it was Curtis. But he needs somebody to set it up for him every time. So every spin—like, he can do the pull the string and let go and let it spin? But he needs somebody to like, re-attach the string. Re-attach the Beyblade. Like, every single time.

*[Biz "oofs."]*

00:38:41 Theresa Host

So I can't walk away. So it was just like—and I didn't have a good attitude about it 'cause I was immediately annoyed that it wasn't going well? So yeah! It was just a fail—I mean, like, we have it. They use it sometimes. But like, not really? You know? Like it just wasn't... it was just not. Not even remotely the thing that I wanted it to be.

00:39:01 Biz Host

Ooh. Wow. You suck at trying to bring joy and happiness to your children.

00:39:07 Theresa Host

Yes.

00:39:09 Biz Host

So... last weekend—so by the time this comes out, technically two weekends ago. We record on Monday, so not last weekend—about halfway through where I was in terms of... self-isolating. I was invited by some friends—some ladies—to have a ladies' sort of cocktail... Zoom meet-up. They are in New York. And... they set it for... 5:00. And I knew that would be early for me to have a cocktail or whatever? But I was—I was really looking forward—it was on a Sunday so like I was gonna have the time to do it? Like, there wasn't like—like Stefan was gonna be able to be out with the kids. And I was really looking forward to it. And at 3:00 I go and sit down to start the call and that's when I realize—that's not the right time. 2:00 would have been at the right time. And... I—like, I just... I just started crying. I was really... really... sad. That—and I mean, I knew it was okay. I knew—y'know? And the—it just was like... it was so—like, I really needed it? It would've been really fun? And... I didn't get it? And... I—yeah! There's a million reasons that made me cry. But I cried.

00:40:41 Theresa Host

Yeah.

00:40:42 Biz Host

**Biz:** Yeah. Uh—Yeah I did!

			<b>Theresa:</b> Yeah. You did. Yeah.
00:40:44	Biz	Host	I cried a lot.
00:40:44	Theresa	Host	I'm really sorry. That sucks so bad.
00:40:47	Biz	Host	It was a really sucky fail.
00:40:48	Caller	Caller	<i>[Answering machine beeps.]</i>
			Hey, guys! I'm calling with a fail. My kids and I decided the last minute that we were gonna make banana bread. Um, we just happened to come into some bananas that were bad. The neighbor didn't want them. So I had not been planning this, and we always use room temperature eggs but ours were all in the fridge? Um, and I'm wearing, like, yoga leggings 'cause it's pandemic and I don't wear real pants? Um, so I decided to put them in like the side pockets? Um, the eggs? To warm them up with my body heat? And I was standing at the counter, um... not... paying attention to my surroundings. When my almost-three-year-old came springing into the room to give me a big hug. And he's—his head is about pocket level? Um—
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			—ask me how I know that? It's because he ended up with egg on his face. But mostly in my pants! So...
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			Luckily we had more eggs. Um, maybe not my brightest idea. But eh. I've had worse fails. Anyways. You guys are doing a great job. Thanks. Bye.
00:41:54	Biz	Host	I... like that I get to name this "Egg Yoga Pants" in my—when I'm labeling it. Yoga—Eggs in the Yoga Pants!
			<i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
			This—yeah! I just, like—I—it is... <u>such</u> a perfect fail. In that... if a friend was telling you this story <u>two</u> years ago, and said—I'm gonna put eggs in my pockets to warm them up. Nothing can go wrong. You—you might laugh! You might have said—well, I don't know if, like, yoga pant pockets are the right place for eggs.
00:42:34	Theresa	Host	Yeah!
00:42:34	Biz	Host	Right? But— <u>then</u> ... there comes a day where it makes <u>total</u> sense.
			<i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Through laughter]</i> And I—I really appreciate that that day has come for you. And it will come for <u>all</u> of us. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
00:42:56	Music	Music	You're doing a horrible job. "Mom Song" by Adira Amram. Mellow piano music with lyrics.  <i>You are the greatest mom I've ever known. I love you, I love you. When I have a problem, I call you on the phone. I love you, I love you.</i>

			<i>[Music fades out.]</i>
00:43:20	Music	Music	Jazzy piano music plays in background.
00:43:21	Biz	Promo	<i>One Bad Mother</i> is supported in part by KiwiCo It can be tricky to get a kid to put down the cell phone or video game or whatever their screen is in their hand or in front of them <i>[though laughter]</i> and do something that's unplugged. But KiwiCo is dedicated to making it easier.
00:43:38	Theresa	Promo	We have been using some KiwiCo crates in our house and it has been <u>so</u> much fun. Gracie made a... secret agent fun pack? Where—
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			—she basically got to go around pretending to be a spy? Um, which she was super obsessed with. And Oscar had like a little campout? Project? Where he got to build his own, like, pretend campfire that was actually very pretty? And make his own adorable little teddy bear backpack? And it—all of these activities were actually pretty manageable for the kids on their own? They needed minimal support from Jesse and me. And they had <u>so</u> much fun with them.
00:44:23	Biz	Promo	KiwiCo is redefining play with hands-on projects that build confidence, creativity, and critical thinking skills. There's something for every kid—or kid-at-heart!—at KiwiCo. Get your first month free on select crates at <a href="http://KiwiCo.com/badmother">KiwiCo.com/badmother</a> . That's K-I-W-I-C-O.com/badmother.
00:44:48	Biz	Host	Hey, Theresa! Let's call someone today!
00:44:50	Music	Music	Upbeat guitar with choral voices.
00:44:57	Biz	Host	Theresa. This week, we are talking to Iris Gottlieb, who is an illustrator and author of <i>Seeing Science: An Illustrated Guide to the Wonders of the Universe</i> and <i>Natural Attraction: A Field Guide to Friends, Frenemies, and Other Symbiotic Animal Relationships</i> . She works to make complicated or overwhelming information accessible and inviting to all. When not working, she is making miniatures and learning to bake. I love this. We're gonna derail into that. Anyway. <i>[Laughs.]</i> We have her here today to talk to her about her new book, <i>Seeing Gender: An Illustrated Guide to Identity and Expression</i> . Welcome, Iris!
00:45:38	Iris Gottlieb	Guest	Thank you.
00:45:38	Biz	Host	Thank <u>you</u> . <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
			Before we get going, uh, I wanna ask you what we ask all our guests, which is: who lives in <u>your</u> house?
00:45:49	Iris	Guest	Just me and my old dog named Bunny.
00:45:52	Biz	Host	Awww. Bunny!
00:45:55	Iris	Guest	Ohhh!
00:45:56	Biz	Host	<b>Biz:</b> What kind—
			<b>Theresa:</b> How old is Bunny?
00:45:57	Iris	Guest	She is just over 11.
00:46:00	Biz	Host	Oh, baby! What kind of dog is Bunny? <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:46:04	Iris	Guest	Um—she's a golden something? She's—she's like, once got asked to be in a commercial because she looks like the All-American dog. So—

00:46:14 Biz Host Nice.

00:46:15 Iris Guest She just looks like a stuffed animal and acts like one as well.

00:46:19 Biz Host I am like—now I’m just completely interested in what the quote-unquote “All-American dog” *[though laughter]* looks like. Uh—

00:46:27 Iris Guest Well, I’ll show you afterwards.

00:46:29 Biz Host Alright. Show us after! Show us after. We’ll expect a picture. This is a incredibly different time than even a month ago, when we were trying to originally get you on and we have not been able to talk to you because we have been adjusting and adapting to life from sheltering-in-place and quarantine. So—*[exhales.]* I really—you are our first guest! Since we’ve started this whole thing at home. And I wanna ask you—y’know, how are you doing? *[Laughs.]* If you would like to share. How—how are you?

00:47:04 Iris Guest Um... I have had ups and downs. But on the whole, y’know, I work from home. So I haven’t really had a transition of my work life, which I feel thankful for. On sunny days I feel pretty good. On cold days I feel... not as good. I live alone, so like, I have much less contact than people that have, y’know, their quote-unquote “pods.” Um—

*[Biz laughs.]*

But, y’know, I’m—I’m gardening. I’m going for walks. I’m... looking at my garden. And watching TV! And sometimes working.

*[Biz laughs.]*

00:47:42 Biz Host Does it feel different, working from home at all? Like, y’know, I know for a lot of people they’re suddenly... working at home for the first time and it’s weird. Or they’re working at home and suddenly everybody—if they have other people living in their house—they’re all there and that’s different. Is it different?

00:48:01 Iris Guest Um... yes and no. I mean, I never have a routine, so I still don’t? But I think that now I have even more—well, there’s always tomorrow, because I don’t have plans aside from working? So my procrastinating has, um...

*[Biz laughs.]*

00:48:26 Biz Host Gone up. Despite having more time.

00:48:30 Theresa Host Yeah. Oh, yeah. No. More time means absolutely nothing right now.

00:48:32 Biz Host Yeah. Yeah.

*[Biz laughs.]*

00:48:32 Biz Host Like, the fuck is that supposed to mean? *[Laughs.]*

00:48:34 Theresa Host Yeah. All we have is more of this.

00:48:37 Iris Guest Expectations are—

*[Biz laughs.]*

00:48:39 Biz Host —much lower.

00:48:39 Biz Host That’s right—oh. Yeah. I think we have more times to enjoy looking at the bar that we’ve set a lot lower. That’s—that’s how I’m filling my time.

00:48:47 Iris Guest I think there are, um—I know that this is not how we should feel, but I think that there are a lot of, um, upsides in terms of like, reframing of what work means. You know.



00:48:59 Biz Host I agree that when... we all get out of this... it's gonna be... different. And what that different is will be... interesting. And for me, I really hope the notion of... go, go, go, go, go! *[Laughs.]* Is--is altered. Some. You know?

00:49:22 Iris Guest Yeah.

00:49:22 Biz Host Uh, let's get into your new book, *Seeing Gender: An Illustrated Guide to Identity and Expression*. Which I—we are gonna definitely be—obviously—linking people up to this. But what I definitely will do is post a picture of the cover of this book. Because it is beautiful? And the entire inside of this book is beautiful? It's one of those books that when you get you're like *[excitedly and delightedly]* Oooh! Ho ho hooo! I wanna open this book! This book feels happy! What's in it?! *[Laughs.]* In fact, I ordered three copies of the book and just started passing 'em out to the school administration. To the library. I mean... I love—

00:49:59 Iris Guest Thank you!

00:50:01 Biz Host —your book! Uh, and... I want to... I guess I wanna start... with... one of the things you talk about in the book—'cause I—to me it feels like kind of a good place to—to go from. And it—it's about... gender being a social construct. And... again, to me that felt like the root— *[Laughs.]* Of—of all the different paths the book goes. But you say in it that we get to break the rules of gender. Because there aren't—they aren't real. *[Laughs.]* And they are often harmful and it's like—BOOM! That... is so simple! Yet completely mind-blowing. I— *[Laughs.]* What do you mean, I can change my opinion on something or how I look at things? What?! So can you talk to us a little bit about... that. About it being a social construct, uh, and—to which I'm hoping it'll lead us into the whole motivation for the book!

00:51:09 Iris Guest Mm-hm. Well, I think for people that are very in, like, the gender and sexuality world? That's like a very obvious and talked-about concept? But when you zoom out a little bit you... realize—y'know. Humans have made everything that makes us what we think of as humans. And so like our whole society is based on things that we made up. Money. Race. Gender. Sexuality. Like—we have put meaning onto these things that don't have inherent... like... men, women, everybody in-between don't have inherent value that is more or less than one another? But we have made a hierarchy in which that exists. And so... like... y'know. We—we like to make hierarchies and none of them are based in... truth of value. And so I think that the notion that it's, uh, a human construct is basically like—we had the choice to make these structures? And so we have the choice to change them.

00:52:19 Biz Host Uh—how do we...

*[Theresa laughs.]*

00:52:26 Iris Guest —look be—how?! *[Laughs wildly.]*

00:52:28 Biz Host How do we change them?

00:52:28 Biz Host Could you fix that? Could you just fix everything? No. I mean, like—it—it feels... like you said. Some are—are—in that world. And—and it's all very... that is an easy construct to see. And then—like you said—as you go out these are still very new constructs because—I mean—you can look at American alone—just America—and look around and see... how these different categories that we've created for ourselves and these different hierarchies are just so embedded. And so... while it's—in theory it sounds easy, we know it's hard. Uh,

'cause we can look at our own history. Through writing this book, how do you see these categories now? And—and how we can start to move past them?

00:53:27 Iris Guest In terms of which categories?  
00:53:29 Iris Guest **Iris:** There are so many! *[Laughs.]*

00:53:32 Biz Host **Biz:** God! All of 'em!  
But let's today—let's pick. I don't know. Let me get my wheel out and I'll spin the wheel and— *[Laughs.] [Inaudible—'money' something?]*

00:53:38 Iris Guest I mean, I think, you know, this—this book—like, I—I could write it as one page being, like—this thing that matters so much should not matter at all. And that should be just the book.

00:53:51 Biz Host That's the book.  
00:53:51 Biz Host **Theresa:** Yeah.

**Iris:** Yeah! And so it—

00:53:54 Iris Guest **Biz:** Yeah. It's a good book.  
I guess my viewpoint has... not entirely changed from writing it? But I think it has been eliminated of like what I needed to include it—include is, basically, breaking down things that are not obvious to a huge amount of people. That are like, so talked about within my community.

00:54:21 Biz Host Yeah. It's fascinating. It's— *[Laughs.]* It is just that sort of, like, yeah! This could all be summed up on one—one page.

00:54:29 Iris Guest Yeah.  
00:54:30 Biz Host I'm glad it's not, though! Because the book is absolutely gorgeous.  
Uh—

00:54:33 Biz Host **Biz:** Which—

**Iris:** And that would not be useful. Yeah.

00:54:36 Biz Host **Biz:** No!  
It wouldn't be useful. It wouldn't be as—wouldn't be quite that happy feeling that this book brings to me because of its beautiful illustrations. I would like to talk about your illustrations. You wrote and illustrated the book. And the illustrations are—as I have said, multiple times now!—stunning. Uh, can you talk about the illustrations and how they developed for you?

00:54:57 Iris Guest I... in all of my books and work try to make the illustrations be... useful? And I... y'know. I have lots of complicated feelings about art. And... I think I can sometimes take the utilitarian approach? And with my books, I want it to look nice but also having the—the looking nice make people more engaged in wanting to understand the information? And... for people that, y'know, are not... don't absorb the written information in the same way that other people might, the illustrations serve as, like, an additional form of learning or understanding a concept. That is being explained in words.

00:55:43 Biz Host So... for you, is it... the illustration that comes—does it come hand-in-hand with the—with the writing and the words? Or... uh... does it vary? Change up?

00:55:57 Iris Guest A little bit. I mean, I think that in this book, the words... often came first? And in *Seeing Science*, which was the book before, often I would have, like... the subject of like, "clouds." And then I would draw the image and then write the text after. Or like, a bit more, um,

simultaneous? But in this book it felt more important to understand the content and the outline before making drawings and finding words to go with them.

00:56:32 Biz Host

Mm. Uh, I wanna talk a little bit about your research process. You cover a lot of topics in the book, from the history of gendered clothing and medical biases to the definition of patriarchy, gender expression—I mean, that's a lot! You've—you—there's clearly a lot of research that's gone into this. What—what was the process like for you and did you know what you were looking for as you started that research process? Or—were there some rabbit holes you went down that led to something you didn't know you were gonna put in the book?

00:57:02 Iris Guest

Um, definitely the latter.

*[Biz laughs.]*

Uh—y'know. To be honest, sometimes I would be... I would look at a Wikipedia page for something super basic? And then end up clicking a bunch of... just sub-links within and then finding that those things seemed to be important concepts and researching those beyond? So I knew that I wanted to include some like spotlights of... famous figures who were important and... I had compiled some and then... wanted to achieve a certain, um, diversity within them and so kind of figured out who, like, rounded out the—the group. Um. And so it was a little bit of like—I'm positive that this needs to be included? And I know this category needs to be? So let me find things to fill this in.

00:57:57 Biz Host

Is there— *[Laughs.]* Is there like a favorite story that you came upon when you were doing this research?

00:58:05 Iris Guest

I really loved the Zapatistas?

*[Biz laughs.]*

Uh, they're very cool. Um—I liked finding out about the Spotlight people? You know. Some of the history is... a bit more well-known but I—I enjoyed most of the Spotlights, really. Like, the Serena Williams and then the stuff about the history of residential schools and kind of the formation of gender changing of like... colonization. So those were interesting things to learn about that were a bit veering from the things that I already—they weren't just me expanding on things that I already knew about? They were pretty new topics to me. To understand in depth.

00:58:53 Biz Host

*[Biz laughs.]*

To be—I'm giggling 'cause I'm like, that's the kind of thing where I would like come upon something new and then I'd be like, I now need to call everybody and tell everybody. *[Laughs.]*

*[Theresa laughs.]*

*[Through laughter]* Like I just—I—"Oooh! Check this out!" My, like, Facebook page or Instagram or, y'know, would just have been going down like, here's some rabbit holes for you to enjoy!

00:59:12 Biz Host

**Biz:** Check out this new thing I learned!

**Iris:** You would—you would've real—revealed the entire book before it was written.

**Biz:** I would have!

*[Theresa laughs.]*

00:59:18 Biz Host I would have! I am a horrible writer. That is why I don't— *[Laughs.]* I don't do that.

00:59:23 Theresa Host I have to say, I just—I just find the book so helpful in the way the concepts are presented in such a straightforward way? Um, and I think the illustrations definitely help make things clear? Um, but I have found myself—we've had the book lying around the house and in my family we talk about gender a lot with my kids. Like, practically daily. But the colonization part of your book... actually helped me talk about colonization with my kids!

*[Biz laughs.]*

00:59:58 Biz Host And how that—  
**Theresa:** —relates to gender! Which was—

**Iris:** Sure. A rabbit hole.

01:00:00 Theresa Host **Biz:** yeah.  
—already a topic that—that made sense to them. But fitting those pieces together was actually incredibly helpful and I think... um... you know, I'm somebody who... like... went to, y'know, a semi-fancy college! And I have a law degree! And I think about—I think about a lot of things and I've been educated about a lot of things but a lot of things I don't know how to really talk about with my kids in a way... that is very clear? Or makes a lot of sense? Because I've—I tend to just think about questions that were raised in class or something like that?

*[Biz laughs.]*

01:00:59 Iris Guest And so I think one way your book has been really helpful to me—not just as a person, but as a parent—is that way of sort of solidifying and—and clarifying some very like basically but very important concepts? In such a way that like help me understand... what I wanted to say to my kids about these things.

01:00:59 Iris Guest That's... great! And, uh... y'know, I... don't really know what people are getting—y'know. The book is just like in the wild and so I don't know what people are getting from it on, like, a personal level. So when I hear things that people get that are, like, somewhat unexpected to me, it's—it's very nice. And I know that a lot of people have used it as, like... child or teen resources. That have been, um, surprisingly engaging.

01:01:37 Biz Host Yeah! No. It's—it is—it is yet another resource, I think, for parents. As... we navigate how we talk about this. With all of the new language. All of the... y'know... new ways that we are breaking the... y'know. Self-created rules. Of—a book like this is very helpful for... how we use our language. And the illustrations are helpful because it gives you something to look at! And kind of point at and be like, see? Like that! *[Laughs.]*

01:02:11 Iris Guest Mm-hm. *[Laughs.]*

01:02:13 Biz Host Alright. Last—I like pictures. Last question.

*[Theresa laughs.]*

Um—in the last part of the book, you talk about your personal story in a very honest and vulnerable way. And you include a journal that you kept during the process of the top removal surgery. I think this is—this is incredibly powerful. You talk about... feeling sad leading up to the surgery. And you say, quote, “Sadness is okay. And sadness doesn’t indicate it’s a wrong choice.” Oh my god I love that quote! A lot. *[Laughs.]* That is... that is incredibly powerful. Can you talk a little bit, uh, about it? And why it was important to include in your story.

01:02:59 Iris Guest I mean, I feel like that is like... breaking up with a partner that you have been with for a long time and have a relationship with and you’re sad but know it should end. Um—

*[Biz laughs.]*

01:03:12 Biz Host I—

*[Through laughter]* That’s great! That’s great. Sorry. That’s... that’s good. Go— *[Laughs.]*

01:03:16 Iris Guest I—I think that the ending... y’know. Part of the purpose of the book is... for people... to... so, I think that it’s important on the one hand for people that have never met somebody like me or somebody who is gender-variant to... kind of like, meet somebody in some way that has a personal... that’s not just... a story or... a definition, but... somebody who feels a bit more real? Um... and part of it was also for... people... or people that are... thinking about top surgery or thinking about gender transition. To kind of have a narrative that they might relate to? Um... and being able to... privately or with a friend be like, these are things I’ve been thinking about and this person is explaining them and I am not strange for thinking them. For myself.

01:04:21 Biz Host Yeah.

01:04:22 Iris Guest Um, so I think it’s generally just humanizing to... have... the story of somebody who is neither famous nor just... a clinical definition? But kind of just like, here’s a person! Who did this thing. *[Laughs.]* You know.

01:04:43 Biz Host Yeah! Yeah. There—turns out there’re lots of people. *[Laughs.]* Out there. Doing their thing. And I... just wanna say, again, how much I appreciated you sharing not only your own story, but, y’know, helping... by doing what you do so well, which is explaining things that are incredibly difficult to explain in a way that’s understandable. Thank you for joining us, Iris! We are gonna make sure that we link everybody up to *Seeing Gender: An Illustrated Guide to Identity and Expression*, as well as where they can find out more information about all the illustrations and work you do. Thank you so much for joining us.

01:05:27 Iris Guest Yeah! Thank you for having me. This was nice.

01:05:29 Biz Host Oh, this was nice. I hope that you stay healthy and well. Have a good one!

01:05:35 Iris Guest Thank you!

01:05:37 Biz Host Bye!

01:05:37 Iris Guest **Theresa and Iris: Bye!**

01:05:39 Promo

Clip

*[Radio interference followed by laidback music with a snare drum beat. A phone rings as the DJ speaks.]*

**Radio DJ:** Welcome back to *Fireside Chat* on KMAX. With me in-studio to take your calls is the dopest duo on the West Coast, Oliver Wang and Morgan Rhodes.

*[Click.]*

Go ahead, caller.

**Caller:** Hey. Uh, I'm looking for a music podcast that's insightful and thoughtful, but like, also helps me discover artists and albums that I've never heard of.

**Morgan Rhodes:** Yeah, man. Sounds like you need to listen to *Heat Rocks*. Every week, myself—and I'm Morgan Rhodes—and my co-host here, Oliver Wang, talk to influential guests about a canonical album that has changed their lives.

**Oliver Wang:** Guests like Moby, Open Mike Eagle, talk about albums by Prince, Joni Mitchell, and so much more.

**Caller:** Yooo! What's that show called again?

**Morgan:** *Heat Rocks*. Deep dives into hot records.

**Oliver:** Every Thursday on Maximum Fun.

01:06:25 Promo

Clip

*[Music suddenly gives way to static and a dial tone.]*

**Music:** Dramatic organ/piano music.

*[Background noise throughout: a howling wolf and cawing crow. April speaks in a sinister voice.]*

**April Wolfe:** Hello there, ghouls and gals. It is I, April Wolfe. I'm here to take you through the twisty, sca-a-a-ry, heart-pounding world of genre cinema on the exhilarating program known as [Switchblade Sisters](#).

*[Sinister echo on the title.]*

The concept is simple: I invite a female filmmaker on each week, and we discuss their favorite genre film. Listen in closely to hear past guests, like *The Babadook* director Jennifer Kent, *Winter's Bone* director Debra Granik, and so many others every Thursday on [MaximumFun.org](#). Tune in! If you dare...

*[Thunder booms, something growls over April as she cackles evilly, and then all sound abruptly cuts.]*

**April:** *[Rapidly]* It's actually a very thought-provoking show that deeply explores the craft and philosophy behind the filmmaking process while also examining film through the lens of the female gaze.

So, like, you should listen.

01:07:12 Biz Host *[Same sinister echo effect] Switchblade Sisters!*  
Oh my gosh! I enjoyed talking with Iris so very much! Again, the book is *Seeing Gender: An Illustrated Guide to Identity and Expression*. And the book itself is expressive! It's gorgeous. And it—I mean—I—it—everybody should go out and get it. I just will forever hold on to the dumb, like—I call it “dumb.” Forever hold on to the line about, uh, “We made those rules up. We can actually—”

01:07:38 Theresa Host Yeah! Yeah.

01:07:40 Biz Host —just—

01:07:41 Theresa Host And they can be harmful sometimes! So it's okay for us to... say... fuck it.

01:07:49 Biz Host *[Biz laughs.]*  
Speaking of saying “fuck it.” Let's listen to a mom have a breakdown.

01:07:57 Caller Caller *[Answering machine beeps.]*

01:08:45 Biz Host Hi, I'm definitely having a breakdown? *[Teary voice which gets more teary as the caller continues.]* The coronavirus has entered my community and all I can really think about is how much I'm going to miss my mom. I love her so much. And I didn't really understand how much she loved me until I had a daughter of my own. And now I know what it feels like and I don't want to let her go yet! And I hope she says safe. The math isn't looking so great. And I'm really scared. I'm gonna hang up and continue to have a breakdown for probably another couple days. So. I'm sure I'm not alone. I hope you're safe and I hope you're washing your hands. You're not alone. At all. Um... I think... y'know. What we were talking about earlier in this show about all the layers that we are experiencing and that sometimes there are some... y'know, lines of thinking and things we're anxious about and concerned about that we almost don't even wanna say out loud. Right? Because... I mean—I'm—I'm actually not sure... uh, anybody is not worried about a loved one right now? And it's very hard to not let that... fear and concern completely overwhelm you. And there will be days when it will. And... it's just... a real... place, I think. All of us... are experiencing—there's no question that... many people have already lost people that they love? And there's no question that... that this pandemic and this situation that we're in... is raising all sorts of questions and concerns and, like, oh my god! Have I ever told this person *[though laughter]* that I love them? Or have I ever—right? Like, I mean, it's—it's... why the hell am I not talking to my friends the way I'm talking to them now? Like— *[Laughs.]* Like why am I not calling family like, all—as much as I am right now? And... I—I don't know the answer to that. But it's a real place. That we're in. And that you're in. And... you're doing a remarkable job... acknowledging it. When we say it out loud, it's a step to moving... through it. 'Cause we're—we gotta move through it. We can't ignore it. We can't avoid it. And... you're not alone? And... uh... we are all here for each other in this.

01:10:53 Theresa Host I just also appreciate the reminder—I think I said this either last week or the week before—that... we're doing this for a reason?

01:11:02 Biz Host Mm-hm.

01:11:03 Theresa Host And like... when everything feels too much? I... like to just remind myself? That... I'm... doing my part? By staying home when I can.

Which is most of the time. As it happens. *[Laughs.]* Um, I'm also doing my part by washing my hands. Keeping my kids at home. Washing their hands. And taking all the other precautions that are recommended? Um, and I think when all of the other stuff that we are expected to... manage and handle right now? Feels like way too much? Or all the stuff that we put on ourselves? Like if we can focus on like I'm doing everything I can for... my community. I'm doing everything I can for my friends and family. And everything I can for humanity. Right now. That I can. I'm doing—by doing these simple basic things. So. Thank you for reminding us... why we're doing this.

01:12:06 Biz Host

Yeah. *[Deep breath.]* You're doing a remarkable job.

Theresa? What did we learn today? We— *[Laughs.]* We learned that when we start asking people how you doing, we should start answering—it's even more important now, I think—to answer honestly if we're up for it. Right? Like... this is... this is an isolating... time. And it is... so important for us to remember that we are not alone. I think I learned that... it's okay to realize there are things I haven't been thinking about? Right? That there're probably... lots of things going on in my environment and in my own mind that... I'm not aware is having such an impact on me? As some of the things that are really loud and in my face? And... that I really need to be more forgiving of—that those things are gonna raise their heads. They're gonna have an impact on me? And they're probably gonna take me by surprise. Yeah! It's—y'know. It's probably not okay right now. We're all... it's probably okay to not feel okay a little bit.

01:13:29 Theresa Host  
01:13:34 Biz Host

I'm so with you. I—yeah. We're not okay. It's okay. We're not okay. Yeah. This is not... I love all the things around that are like, you are not working from home—you are working from home in a crisis! You are not homeschooling. You are trying to help your kids in a crisis. This is... again, the creepy sensation of normalcy... because we're in an environment that feels safe and normal... is really... like... conflicting with what's really going on. And that's gonna cause some feelings. Everybody? Again—you're doing a great job. Thank you to everybody who is staying home that is able to stay home. And for washing your hands and wearing a mask when you go out and listening to the CDC. *[Laughs.]* Right? Uh, listening to our scientists. They are definitely the ones to listen to. Uh— *[Laughs wildly.]* Also, thank you to everyone who is in a job that is deemed “essential”? Let's go out and really see them? And support them? And... let's support each other. And if you are doing great at homeschooling right now? At, like—balancing this at home? Good fucking job! To you!

01:15:02 Biz Host

**Theresa:** Yes. Yes. Seriously.

01:15:06 Biz Host

**Biz:** Really! You are entitled—  
—to be really pleased. Again, this goes back to the—I'm not gonna be competitive about my feelings. If you're nailing this? I know you're not nailing it at me. You're doing a great job!

01:15:18 Theresa Host

That's great!

01:15:19 Biz Host

If you are struggling? That is okay! Not everybody's succeeding around—like, it's really easy to feel like I'm the only one who's failing at this. Or... it's like the old, like—how is she baking cookies? Why is that picture of them—everybody's baking cookies and so



			happy! They're not! That's just the picture they put up. 'K? If you're nailing it—good job. If you are <u>not</u> —you're <u>also</u> doing a good job.
01:15:42	Theresa	Host	Yeah!
01:15:44	Biz	Host	<i>[Deep breath.]</i> Theresa?
01:15:46	Theresa	Host	Yes.
01:15:48	Biz	Host	<i>[Exhales.]</i> You're doing a <u>great job</u> . This is... <u>really</u> hard. And... uh... overwhelming. And... I see you and you're doing a good job.
01:16:01	Theresa	Host	Thanks, Biz. You are also doing a <u>really</u> good job.
01:16:05	Biz	Host	Thank you. Everybody? Stay safe. Stay home if you can. Wash your hands. And tell everybody that you love them. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
			We will talk to you guys... next week!
01:16:19	Biz	Host	<b>Biz and Theresa:</b> Byeeeee!
01:16:22	Music	Music	"Mama Blues" by Cornbread Ted and the Butterbeans. Strumming acoustic guitar with harmonica and lyrics.
			I got the lowdown momma blues Got the the lowdown momma blues Gots the lowdown momma blues The lowdown momma blues. Gots the lowdown momma blues Got the lowdown momma blues You know that's right.
			<i>[Music fades somewhat, plays in background of dialogue.]</i>
01:16:43	Biz	Host	We'd like to thank MaxFun; our producer, Hannah Smith; our husbands, Stefan Lawrence and Jesse Thorn; our perfect children, who provide us with inspiration to say all these horrible things; and of course, you, our listeners. To find out more about the songs you heard on today's podcast and more about the show, please go to <a href="http://MaximumFun.org/onebadmother">MaximumFun.org/onebadmother</a> . For information about live shows, our book and press, please check out <a href="http://OneBadMotherPodcast.com">OneBadMotherPodcast.com</a> . <i>One Bad Mother</i> is a member of the Maximum Fun family of podcasts. To support the show go to <a href="http://MaximumFun.org/donate">MaximumFun.org/donate</a> .
01:17:11	Theresa	Host	
			<i>[Music continues for a while before fading out.]</i>
01:17:35	Speaker 1	Guest	<a href="http://MaximumFun.org">MaximumFun.org</a> .
01:17:37	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:17:38	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:17:39	Speaker 4	Guest	—Audience supported.