

00:00:00	Biz	Host	Hi. I'm Biz.
00:00:02	Theresa	Host	And I'm Theresa.
00:00:03	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> , something is on fire! Check your pants! Plus, Biz is all alone and we talk to Deborah Goldstein of the podcast <i>The Big Fib</i> and the live storytelling show <i>Listen to Your Mother</i> .
00:00:39	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Biz and caller: Woooo!
00:00:42	Caller	Caller	I'm going to pick up pizza and there's no kids in the car! That's it!
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			Hopefully they'll eat. Love the show! I'm listening to it right now! Buh-bye!
00:00:54	Biz	Host	<i>[Biz laughs.]</i> I... this is the greatest check-in <i>One bad Mother</i> has ever had. I— not only was that a really great woo. I—the giddiness of your, like in your voice of "I'm going to get a pizza!" I mean, because you've just said "Screw you, food that I don't wanna have to make or even shake 'n' make. I just wanna go get a pizza." You're going to get it and you're alone in your car. I'm sorry. They messed up your order. You're gonna have to sit in that car a little while longer, aren't you? I think you're amazing. In fact, now I wanna have pizza. You are doing a great job. Thank you so much for checking in.
			Y'know who's also doing a great job? <i>[Singing]</i> All the essential workers out there! <i>[Regular voice]</i> You're all amazing. COVID fatigue set in probably a month after. Let's not even—two days after <i>[through laughter]</i> after shutdowns began in March. Okay? We are now really far into it? And it is... <u>really</u> hard to keep all the lines from blurring due to exhaustion? And so... y'know. We've got incredibly increased numbers out there. That in itself is very scary. And at the same time, meh. Maybe we're getting numb to it! I don't know! Everything's fucked up!
			But what's not fucked up are all of our medical professionals who are working double, triple, quadruple time to help us to make sure that those who are not only dealing with COVID but any number of normal day-to-day illnesses that we have—broken arms! Broken legs! Uh... lots of—ahh! I mean, stye in your eye! I don't know! There's a lot of things that can happen and I don't wanna get too depressed by mentioning them all. Let's just say—we all gotta go to the doctor a lot. And everybody from the people who intake and file paperwork, data entry, to the people who keep those doctors' offices and hospitals and clinics clean and safe for us to go into? And doctors and nurses and—EMTs! All of you! You're amazing? And I am gonna wear my mask for you. I have been wearing my mask for you. I will continue to wear my mask for you. I will put on

my fucking mask for you. It will muffle the sounds of me yelling “thank you” on the street, but I am gonna do my part to support you. You are amazing.

Heyyy, United States Postal Service! I still love you, too! *[Singing]* Teachers, you’re great! Teachers, you’re great! Teachers you’re great! *[Regular voice]* Shoutout to Octonauts theme song there. Anyway. You’re all amazing! And... it’s a weird time ‘cause it’s holidays. And—*[sighs]*. We’re not gonna be able to do all the normal stuff and I’m really sorry. That sucks. So I am gonna just say I am incredibly thankful. Thankful. Thankful. For all of you who are making life work for us right now.

00:04:21 Biz Host Let me tell you what’s working for me right now, guys. My partner, Stefan, just took both kids to a local garden. It’s very large. Very open. Very social distance-y. And— *[Laughs.]* And I’ve just—like, it just kind of sunk in that I am alone in the house. *[Laughs.]* There’s no one in the house. It’s so quiet. Like it’s an—it’s an uneasy... quiet. And yet—it’s like when you walk into a forest, right? And you haven’t been out in nature for a while? And that’s’ not a quiet place but it’s like it’s a different sound that you’re like—should I be scared of this? Or is this really lovely and tranquil? That’s how the no sound in this house feels right now. Am I really terrified of it or is it really tranquil? Do I wanna play a bunch of—well clearly I’m gonna record a podcast right now, so god! I’m wasting—I’m wasting it, guys! But I’m not really wasting it because today, I’m gonna get to talk to Deborah Goldstein of the podcast *The Big Fib* about critical thinking and how important that is for kids to get really good at. Let’s think on that, shall we?

00:05:48 Music Music Banjo strums; cheerful banjo music continues through dialogue.
00:05:49 Theresa Host 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.

00:05:56 Biz Host If you are married to the host of *One Bad Mother*, we definitely are talking about you.

00:06:00 Theresa Host Nothing we say constitutes professional parenting advice.

00:06:03 Biz Host Biz and Theresa’s children are brilliant, lovely, and exceedingly extraordinary.

00:06:07 Theresa Host Nothing said on this podcast about them implies otherwise.

[Banjo music fades out.]

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

00:06:13 Biz Host This week, we are talking to Deborah Goldstein, who is a writer, host, and executive producer of the game show podcast for all ages, *The Big Fib*. She is also a supervising producer on the Disney+ version of *The Big Fib* podcast starring Yvette Nicole Brown and Rhys Darby. When we all aren’t avoiding human aerosols, she coproduces and hosts the annual local storytelling event Listen To Your Mother, a live event show featuring original stories celebrating motherhood. Well then I guess I can’t be on it.

[Deborah laughs.]

00:06:50 Deborah Guest *[Singing]* Welcome, Deborah!
[Singing] Thank you for having me!

[Biz laughs.]

00:06:54 Biz Host Hello!
That's—hello!

[Deborah laughs.]

Before we get started—and I have a feeling—buckle up, everybody!

[Deborah laughs.]

00:07:08 Deborah Guest I got a feeling this one's gonna go a little of everywhere today,
which is delightful. Tell us who lives in your house?
The people who live in my house are as follows: I have two man-
children aged 14 and 17 as of tomorrow.

[Biz laughs.]

00:07:23 Biz Host I know. I look like I was probably a child bride. It's true.
It's true!

[Deborah laughs.]

00:07:26 Deborah Guest And also one lady-spouse.
00:07:29 Biz Host Oh, a lady-spouse! I like that. I like "lady-spouse." And I also—I was
a little nervous when you said man-child 'cause I was like, "Oh no!
We never do the man-child on this show! We purposely avoid
calling grown-ass men children!" They're just jerks! And so—
[Laughs.]

00:07:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Biz:** If there are like—

00:07:51 Deborah Guest **Deborah:** *[Laughs.]* But they're a funny age.
They're teenagers and they're not like children but they're not men
but they've got lots of facial hair so—

00:07:56 Biz Host I was gonna say!

00:07:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Biz:** Do they have facial hair? Oh. It's weird.

00:08:02 Deborah Guest **Deborah:** It's very confusing. Oh, too much. Too much. Yeah.
It's weird. It's prickly. It's not even full. They can't grow anything to
the full extent so it's awkward. It's bizarre. Yeah.

00:08:11 Biz Host God. Everything must be awkward in that house right now.

[Deborah laughs.]

00:08:14 Deborah Guest That is absolutely true! It's like you're here. Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:08:18 Biz Host Yeah! I am! I'm right behind you! Surprise! Yeah. Any pets in there?
No?

00:08:26 Deborah Guest No! Two teenage children is enough. Yeah.

00:08:30 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Deborah:** That's enough.

00:08:31 Deborah Guest **Biz:** It's enough.

I think. I think so. We do—sometimes we will dog-sit for people. We
love dogs. We love animals. But I love them so much I know that
we would not be the appropriate caregivers full-time of said animals
so we will occasionally dog-sit or care for other animals. Guinea
pigs. We've done that, too. And then we can give them back! Unlike
our children. *[Laughs.]*

00:08:54 Biz Host *[Biz laughs.]*
They're there forever! Also shedding throughout your house.

00:08:58 Biz Host *[Deborah laughs.]*
Yeah. Mine are younger. I've got Cat, who is 11. Already tweening out. And Ellis, who is... gonna be 7 imminently. Imminently!

[Deborah laughs.]
Going to be—look at all these Sagittariuses flying around around here!

00:09:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Deborah:** That's a lot of fire. A lot of fire. Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:09:20 Biz Host **Biz:** A lot— *[Laughs.]*
So much fire. A lot of heat. And so they shed, but it's different.

[Deborah laughs.]

00:09:31 Deborah Guest
00:09:32 Biz Host It's a different shed, causing me to emotionally shed left and right. Yes. You must.
Let's talk about—first—the podcast. Which has recently had a name change because of very good things. It is currently called *The Big Fib*. I would love for you to tell us about it. Tell us a little bit about the name change in case people are like, *[plaintively]* "But I was listening!" And then when you're done I'm gonna praise the theme song. Your current theme song. Because... mwah. Anyway.

00:10:03 Deborah Guest Oh. I'd love to take responsibility for everything, But I won't. because I also love giving praise to all the people who've made everything happen? Because I work with an incredible team of people. But. So once upon a time, the show was actually called *Pants on Fire*, as in "liar, liar, pants on fire," which is a name everyone loved. And everyone's very sad that it changed. And skipping ahead a little bit—so we don't go through every stage of the evolution. We can do as much of that as you like.

[Biz laughs.]

But eventually it caught the eyes of Disney, and Disney thought, "Ooh, we could make a show out of that." And they also loved the name *Pants on Fire*, by the way. However. There is a game show in Norway called *Pants on Fire*. No lie. And Disney said if we cannot be *Pants on Fire* everywhere, we can be *Pants on Fire* nowhere.

[Biz laughs.]

00:11:04 Biz Host And so we had to change the name!
I really like that philosophy.

[Deborah laughs.]

00:11:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk
00:11:21 Deborah Guest Like, that smells like the... Disney+ holiday Christmas card a little bit. That's remarkable. So now it is known as—
Biz and Deborah: *The Big Fib*.
Correct. And by the way, we got a lot of—I don't wanna use the word "hate," 'cause hate is a strong emotion. But people felt very

connected to *Pants on Fire*—the name *Pants on Fire*—and I understand that. And look, change is hard. I know that. And I—and it was very difficult for me not to say, “You’re right! We hate it, too!” That we have to change our name.

[Biz laughs.]

So we took it, and we understand that its’ difficult for people to change, but we’re still the same. We’re the same crew. It’s the same concept. We just are called something different. And we just have a new name! Sometimes we need to redefine ourselves, don’t we?

00:11:58 Biz Host

Yes! Yeah. I’ve got a tween in this house redefining every five minutes. I get it. And I just bought a bunch of sale stuff—again—trying to change whatever my look is that no one sees.

[Deborah laughs.]

What goes better with eight months of greying? I don’t know! Is it jeans? Is it casual sweatshirts? Okay> I wanna say—I wanna get back to the hate. The hate. Simply because I feel like, y’know, a comedy podcast about parenting? You probably never receive negative—

[Deborah laughs.]

—negative emails. But I—it’s true. I feel like there’s a separation we all have to do where sometimes, we are not real. Right? I mean, we’re real, but we’re also not real. And it is—we can be a wonderful target for displaced anger. Right? Like it’s not about... it’s not about, like, y’know. Something we may have said on the show. It’s about how that feels—how the person’s taking that feeling. It’s not about necessarily the name change. It’s about like, 8,000 other things? And I just wanted this one thing to stay the same. And like... I just... I’m like, “Bring it. Just bring it.” I can hold this for you. It’s—

00:13:21 Deborah Guest

If it makes you feel better...

00:13:23 Biz Host

If you need this, man?

00:13:24 Deborah Guest

I’m here for you, yeah. Fucking go for it. It’s fine. It really is. So with that said, you’re a monster—

[Deborah laughs.]

—for changing the name.

00:13:33 Deborah Guest

Thank you.

00:13:34 Biz Host

Now, the show—which—by the way, I gotta go shoutout the new theme song is all about—a la sort of Garry Shandling-themed—no one knows. Garry Shandling, guys, is a—you know!

00:13:48 Deborah Guest

I know. Yeah.

00:13:50 Biz Host

And that most of you know. *[Singing]* This is the theme—*The Garry Show!*

[Deborah laughs.]

The opening theme—*The Garry Show!* *[Regular voice]* Anyway. It’s such a delight. But it’s a very meta theme song about the fact that you guys have changed your name but you’re still the same show.

It's very rock'n'roll and hardcore. And I love it. So the show—you have a kid. And you present two experts, but one of those experts is a... big fibber.

00:14:18 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Biz:** Did you see me transition like that? Do you like that? I'm being very good!

00:14:24 Biz Host **Deborah:** Correct! I—very good! You're good! *[Laughs.]* Is a big fibber. And the kid has to answer—has to ask questions—come up with questions to ask. And the whole thing sort of surrounds this notion of critical thinking. How do we help our kids learn to think critically, to smell bs when it happens. And that is wonderful. But my first thought listening to the show is—

[Deborah laughs.]

—“God, these kids are good!” like, how are they coming up with these questions? I can't even get my—if my children come to me currently and say “I am hungry,” and I say “What would you like,” they say “I don't know.” And I'm now of the mindset of—“Well, when ya do... get it.” Right? But like...

00:15:17 Deborah Guest I have those kids, too. Yeah.

00:15:19 Biz Host Now the thought of like... “Now come up with a list of critically—questions that really rely on logic and understanding.” And then they have to listen!

00:15:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Deborah:** Yes they do! Yes!

00:15:33 Biz Host **Biz:** They have to listen to the experts! So... how does that—how do you guys make that happen?

[Deborah laughs.]

00:15:41 Deborah Guest And can I get a bottle of it? Sure. Well, they're not—they're actually puppet children. They're not real.

[Biz laughs.]

No. Well first of all, they're very excited to be on the show and they want to win, even though we're not offering them anything. They don't win... anything. Except the excitement of being on the show and working with us and with LISA, my cohost, LISA, which is—

00:16:06 Biz Host Who is a robot.

00:16:07 Deborah Guest A robot whose name—

00:16:08 Biz Host With a male-sounding voice.

00:16:09 Deborah Guest Correct!

00:16:11 Biz Host Which I really adore.

00:16:14 Deborah Guest Yes. He identifies as a he. He uses he/him pronouns and his name—

00:16:18 Biz Host I fucking love it! *[Laughs.]*

00:16:20 Deborah Guest Is “LISA,” which stands for “Live In-Studio Audience,” the conceit being that he is responsible for all the sound effects on the show.

00:16:28 Biz Host Yeah. I'm sorry. I like the idea of asking robots what pronouns they prefer.

[Deborah laughs.]

00:16:33	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	That's genius. Biz: Just genius. Alright!
00:16:36	Deborah	Guest	Deborah: That's what he said. Yeah. So the kids are super excited and they wanna win. And they've heard the show enough—most of them, at this point—that they kinda get what they should ask. Now I also do a lot of prep work with the kids. I tell them in the first segment—which we call the “Hotseat” segment where we put the experts on the hotseat so kids can ask questions—we'd love for them to ask open questions. So I kind of explain to them what the difference between an open question and a closed question is, so that they can give the experts the opportunity to riff. To talk about stories and anecdotes and use words that relate to their fields and all that kind of stuff. And so I will give them examples. I give everybody a packet—these are some examples of questions but you don't have to use these questions. Come up with your own! And they do! They come up with great questions. And sometimes they use closed questions, which we then put in the quick-fire round later.
00:17:35	Biz	Host	Ah.
00:17:36	Deborah	Guest	But most of the time they use their open-ended questions. “What do you do in your job? If I wanted to do your job, what would I have to study? What's the funniest thing that ever happened to your job, or is it true that—” Y'know, stuff like that. Things that they look up and find. And then it's up to the experts to not just say, “Yes” or “seven.”
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
00:18:00	Biz	Host	They need to talk, right?
00:18:02	Deborah	Guest	Yeah. “Seven.” Right. And that's it. “Okay. Alright. That's our show. Thank you very much.”
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
00:18:15	Biz	Host	So I have to prep them, too! And let them know this is sort of your opportunity to show off what you know, even if you <u>don't</u> know. Do you—like, with—a couple of the ones that I was listening to... the expert—you have the expert, who's like <u>really</u> an expert. Who's like the truth-teller.
00:18:24	Deborah	Guest	Certified. Yeah. Legitimate, yeah.
00:18:27	Biz	Host	Certified. The liar—how do you keep it—it feels like they're like only one step away, though, from maybe <u>actually</u> being involved. Do you look for experts that are sort of close? Like...
00:18:39	Deborah	Guest	No!
00:18:41	Biz	Host	For example—no, they're just somebody you know who's good at lying.
00:18:44	Deborah	Guest	Well they are actors.
00:18:46	Biz	Host	Oh, okay.
00:18:47	Deborah	Guest	And therefore, yes—they are good at lying!

[Biz laughs.]

And they're very good at lying! And as a matter of fact, when we were first doing the show, I would say to the experts—you don't have anything to worry about. You know your stuff. I'll see ya on the

00:19:05 Biz Host day that we're recording and then I would try to prep the liars. And the kids kept choosing the liars as the experts.

00:19:08 Deborah Guest Yeah! Yeah! That's true! Yeah!

00:20:00 Biz Host And it's because I—y'know, sort of faceplant. Of course. Because I have to tell the experts who are not improv actors or, y'know, liars by trade that they needed to tell stories and they needed to... use language. They needed to expand and use anecdotes and say fun things. And it was kind of an exercise in improv a bit. Right? And not just say "I don't know the answer to that question," but talk about what they did know, etcetera. So the actors—I don't want actors who have any experience with the topic. They do some research. And I tell them, look. The kids are gonna go online and they're gonna look for fun facts about skateboarding. Or, y'know, "myths about" or "history of" or "famous people." Go to those sites! Look up what they're looking up because that's where their questions are gonna come from.

00:20:44 Deborah Guest Do you notice—I was listening—I've listened to several of them.

00:20:45 Biz Host The most recent is the pie episode—who makes pies? And—

00:20:48 Deborah Guest *[Deborah laughs.]*

00:20:50 Biz Host I—like, I kinda felt like I knew...

00:21:13 Deborah Guest *[Deborah laughs.]*

00:21:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk —who was the expert and who was the liar. And I was right and the child was wrong. So haha, child! But I thought it was a male and female—or identifying male and female—bakers or people who were bakers and I really thought that the kid was gonna pick... I felt like my choice might've been biased? By how they—like—how they sound!

00:21:25 Deborah Guest Sure. Absolutely.

00:21:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk I trust the women.

00:21:32 Deborah Guest Interesting!

00:21:35 Biz Host And so I was wondering, though, if—and I know that depends on like how they're playing it. What their personalities are. Etcetera. But I do wonder—have you—this is just a side—

00:21:38 Deborah Guest *[Deborah laughs.]*

00:21:41 Deborah Guest —quest. Like, do you wanna write a book about human nature and biases? Have you ever noticed if kids tend to lean one way or the other? Is that even a question I can ask you?

00:21:44 Deborah Guest Yes! And it was a question we were worried about in the beginning. Because we didn't want kids to assume—now—I would say that adults of our—

00:21:47 Deborah Guest **Biz and Deborah:** —age.

00:21:50 Deborah Guest Thank you.

00:21:53 Deborah Guest *[Both laugh.]*

00:21:56 Deborah Guest **Biz:** Old, everybody! The people who remember *The Garry Shandling Show*.

00:22:00 Deborah Guest **Deborah:** Right? We're old. *[Laughs.]* Right.

00:22:03 Biz Host When "Free to Be Me" was radical. Right. Okay.

00:22:06 Deborah Guest Yes! It was radical!

00:21:36 Deborah Guest Right! So we worried that kids are going to assume that women are lying and that men—

00:21:43 Biz Host Oh!

00:21:44 Deborah Guest And that men are the experts. Right?

[Biz laughs.]

00:21:47 Biz Host You can also tell—based on some of my personal experiences—

[Deborah laughs.]

—which way I lean on that, guys. [Laughs.]

00:21:51 Deborah Guest Sure, sure. Yeah! And that was a worry. We didn't want that. And so I certainly go out of my way to cast experts who are perhaps maybe women who are in male-dominated careers and vice-versa. Right? Just to make sure we're—and honestly, I truly believe—I don't think I'm being naïve—I truly believe it doesn't make a difference to the kids as much as it makes a difference to us as adults in our generation.

00:22:19 Biz Host Yeah. As people who've just walked through the world. Because I mean—admittedly not everywhere, but a lot of where, it's very different for—I mean, the sort of the biases that were sort of locked in place. Like my kids—like I just was having a conversation with the seven-year-old—almost seven—last night. And they were like, “What were your choices when it came to how you identified?” I was like, y'know—

[Deborah laughs.]

—and I was like, “Boy and girl. Boy/girl!”

00:22:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Biz:** And they were like, “I don't understand.”

Deborah: Right. That's—those were my options!

00:22:55 Biz Host I'm like, look. Look, nonbinary children of mine.

[Deborah laughs.]

Y'know, that's wonderful. But yeah! Like, that—there were—

00:23:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Deborah:** We don't—that wasn't our world. Absolutely! Absolutely! Totally different!

Biz: And if you were [inaudible] that could mean a lot of stuff! Right? Like— [Laughs.]

00:23:10 Deborah Guest It makes you feel old in a good way because it's so different for them!

00:23:13 Biz Host Oh, in a very good way. And so like I agree that like... I feel like when you become a parent, you start to see things that are from your childhood that you remember delightful, and then you watch them and you're like, “Whoa! Whoaaa! Whoa! Whoa!”

00:23:27 Deborah Guest So many movies I can't show my kids. Yeah. Terrible.

00:23:31 Biz Host So many movies! Like, my favorite movies—I have—sadly, I am a *Lampoon*-style—like, give me *Caddyshack* and *Meatballs*—all those. I am just like a twelve-year-old at my core. And I'm like, “Oh no. Sorry. Can't—can't—” [Laughs.]

00:23:48 Deborah Guest I'm with you. I'm Beavis and Butthead all the time, and it doesn't play well. Yeah. [Laughs.]

00:23:55	Biz	Host	No! To the point where when you show it to them, their responses are like, "Why on earth are you showing me this, mother?"
00:24:02	Deborah	Guest	I know! So sad! So sad.
00:24:04	Biz	Host	And so... y'know, you have to learn very quickly that it's—that's our baggage. That's like our stuff that we came up with, probably because we were watching that stuff. But I'm like, panty raids are fine.
<i>[Both laugh.]</i>			
00:24:26	Deborah	Guest	What?! What is happening? So they just don't have it!
00:24:27	Biz	Host	No, they don't.
00:24:30	Deborah	Guest	And I hope they never fucking do. But they will.
00:24:33	Biz	Host	They'll have their own thing. Yeah.
00:24:36	Deborah	Guest	So that's actually quite refreshing.
			Yeah. It is! It is! Because then I feel a lot less stress about it. However, I do get the occasional email about—y'know, we don't run an episode where the—by the way, we do use male-identified voice, female-identified voice, always. Because there's so many of us on the—in the game? That we want them to be distinguishable in the podcast. So I will use—for the sake of this particular example, I will use male and female, but—so I will get emails that say, "I've listened to this show for the past month and the male is always the expert. And I'm raising my boys here to learn that women can be experts." Etcetera. Fair. I get it. But we can't always—we can't do male expert one week; female; male; female. Because then the kids get it. They study this stuff.
00:25:29	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Biz: Oh, they know. Yeah. They'll know! Yeah!
00:25:32	Deborah	Guest	Deborah: They know! They—they really do. And so we'll do three male experts in a row and then a female and etcetera. And I keep a running tab of all the female, all the male experts.
<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>			
			And I'll say to them—in the nicest way. I'm not rude about it at all. I say, "Absolutely. I get it. I'm in the same boat. And just so you know, here's our tally and just keep listening. Because—yeah. Keep listening."
00:25:57	Biz	Host	The women will be on top again! <i>[Laughs.]</i> Right, yeah.
00:25:58	Deborah	Guest	Correct. Yeah! Yeah. And it—currently we have more female experts than male, I think. Just by a couple though. Y'know. We keep it balanced.
00:26:06	Biz	Host	Well it would—that is an interesting thing you have to stay on top of and consider. That I am—I certainly did not think of that right away. But now I'm like, "Oh yeah. My kids." Who I did basically infer were idiots at the beginning. Would've figured that out in like—in two seconds, right? Like they would—yeah. Interesting. Alright.
00:26:30	Deborah	Guest	Yeah. They're smart.
00:26:31	Biz	Host	They are! God.
00:26:32	Deborah	Guest	I know.
00:26:33	Biz	Host	Kids are—kids are—
00:26:34	Deborah	Guest	It's frightening.
00:26:35	Biz	Host	— <u>so</u> freakishly smart. <i>[Laughs.]</i>

[Deborah laughs.]

Alright. I'm gonna shift. Enough about children. This show's never been about children. Let's talk about *Listen to Your Mother*, the storytelling show which is so wonderful—I mean, this show—we've been doing this like eight years now. And it came out of that sense of—moms are dumb and lame, and they—parenting in general. Whomp, whomp! Y'know. Like you—so sorry. There were some very specific roles we were all supposed to fall into. And no one wanted to hear 'em on top! 'Cause boring! God! She's just gonna tell us how much she loves her children and how natural it is! And so things like this storytelling makes me so happy. Because it's—in this society in particular, the American society, parents... like, once you have kids, we're never supposed to know about kids. Right? And we're not supposed to wanna know about anything related to your parenting, especially in the work world or just in the world. At a cocktail party. Like, whatever. And so... I—tell us a little bit about... getting that live show going.

00:28:03 Deborah Guest

Sure. So again, I will not take credit for this show. It is the brainchild—

00:28:07 Biz Host

You are doing it wrong, Deborah! Credit, credit, credit!

00:28:10 Deborah Guest

I know. I would—I will take credit for the work that I do with my team to put it on in our local area. However.

00:28:18 Biz Host

However.

00:28:19 Deborah Guest

However. It was not my idea. It was a show that was conceived in the—remember blogging? *[Laughs.]*

00:28:25 Biz Host

Yes, I do! My parents still call this blogging! It's like, yes.

00:28:29 Deborah Guest

It's the next blogging, kind of. I mean, obviously there are differences but—

[Biz laughs.]

—and once upon a time there was blogging. And there would be these conferences where you would meet up with people who were bloggers and talk about blogging and it was so exciting. And there were people who were writers. Right? And there was one particular blogger, writer, and performer who went to one of these conferences. Was very much inspired by the particular keynote event at one of these conferences where people could bring their stories to the stage and these normally introverted—y'know, behind-the-screen—writers would be able to speak their words and people could give them the praise that they deserved. And she was so inspired by that. Her name is Anne Emmick. That she created her first similarly-designed show in her town in Madison, Wisconsin, with the theme of motherhood. Where she would audition people to come read their original stories. Five-minute stories about motherhood and all of its complexities. It could be funny; sad; complicated; all the facets, right? And she would put together that show and she did it this one year and I met her... after she had just done the first show. Or maybe right before she was about to do it. Regardless, we met and she said "I wanna do this in many cities." And because the world of blogging at that time was a very connected community—

00:29:58 Biz Host

It was! Yeah! Yeah!

00:30:00 Deborah Guest

There were people who said, "Yes, me too, I wanna do that also." And so she grew it. And people started doing it in various cities.

And I think seven years later... I believe... it was in 41 cities across the nation and mostly from the blogging world. But then other people started to jump onboard, too. And I had been in the show in New York City and so had another colleague of mine who was in a different year in New York City, but we both knew that we came from this area—this community—that was super creative and there were tons of writers and storytellers and we said we really need to bring this to our own town. And so we did! And we put on the show and Anne was behind it and she really helped people produce it in their own towns and gave people the format and the support to do it. Now—and then we've been doing it ever since. And the—you cast different people every year. You hold auditions. You have people bring their stories. And not just mothers or women, right? Anybody who has something to say about motherhood! Right? Right?

00:31:13	Biz	Host	Yeah! <i>[Laughs.]</i> Oh, yeah! Yeah!
00:31:15	Deborah	Guest	So I'm thinking—lots of people.
00:31:17	Biz	Host	Lot of people have opinions on motherhood. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:31:19	Deborah	Guest	Yeah! And it's your experience—you have one, you don't have one, you used to have one, you wanna be one, you are one, whatever. And every year you're also supposed to—and we are happy to—give a certain portion of our profits to a local charity that supports mothers in your area, as well. So there's that element of it also. And it brings the community together in such a wonderful way. It really is—you have a visceral emotion to riding this ride where people are sharing their stories that are not—these are not scripted—I mean, you're writing them for yourself, but you're not putting it on. It's really coming from the heart, and you can <u>feel</u> it. And people love it. And people connect to each other in a way they don't anticipate, but love. And every year it's great.
00:32:09	Biz	Host	Yeah, but it's because... y'know... everything can be... for as connected as we all are—very isolating. And y'know... we talk here a lot about isolation after a kid winds up in your house.
00:32:22	Deborah	Guest	Yeah. Somehow.
00:32:23	Biz	Host	Somehow. They do! Sometimes—
			<i>[Deborah laughs.]</i>
			—sometimes you just get a call and the next day there's a teen in your house, man! Like, and you're like, "Aaah!" There are lots of ways to get kids. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:32:36	Deborah	Guest	There are! Yes! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:32:37	Biz	Host	So no matter how they show up—the stork or whatever—it can—you can suddenly find yourself totally cut off. Or it feels like you're cut off. And that doesn't just apply to people with kids in their house. Y'know. It is—we do not move through the world like we once did in which we are constantly out in a community. And so I can understand how impactful it would be to be... in a room with this sort of event happening. Like, how heard and how seen I would feel no matter really what the story was. And it—I would imagine it provides an amazing opportunity for people to see more than just their one story as they come in. And yeah! I—are you guys—how's that working out with COVID this year?
00:33:39	Deborah	Guest	Great question! Yeah. It's not.
00:33:40	Biz	Host	Yeah! Good question! You're welcome! Thanks!
00:33:42	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Biz: It's not! The answer!

00:33:44	Deborah	Guest	<p>Deborah: It's not. We—yeah.</p> <p>We talked about—early days—so the show always happens on or around Mother's Day. So this past Mother's Day we were well into the pandemic, so we talked about doing it virtually and we actually had a cast. We had auditioned a bunch of people. We had a cast ready to go. And we did a run-through virtually. And while it was very meaningful for all of us on the Zoom call, we just didn't think that it would translate the same way. So we put everybody on hold and said, okay, let's just do this again next year. And who knows! I don't think we'll be—I know we won't be able to do this this year, either. And that is <u>super</u> sad. But... y'know, better everyone's safe and at home so that we can all come together when it is safe and appropriate to do so next year. So.</p>
00:34:36	Biz	Host	There will be <u>so</u> much hugging.
00:34:39	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Biz: I am not a hugger.
00:34:42	Biz	Host	Deborah: <u>So</u> much hugging.
00:34:44	Deborah	Guest	I'm not a hugger and I'm like... "I need to hug somebody!"
00:34:47	Biz	Host	Yes! Absolutely! Yeah! Yeah!
00:34:49	Deborah	Guest	Yeah! Stranger hugs! "Come here! Bring it in!"
00:34:53	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Everybody looks so huggable these days. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			Biz: Huggable! Yeah! "Come here, stranger!" Y'know.
00:34:57	Biz	Host	<p>Deborah: It's true! It's difficult. Yes!</p> <p>Alright. Deborah. This has been a delight!</p> <p><i>[Deborah laughs.]</i></p>
00:35:02	Deborah	Guest	You are now my new best friend.
00:35:03	Biz	Host	Oh, I hope so! That's wonderful.
00:35:06	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	I just wanna like keep chatting—
			Deborah: I'd love that.
00:35:07	Biz	Host	<p>Biz: —and talking.</p> <p>Everybody... absolutely go check out the podcast and obviously the TV show. But as—for all of us who are also trying to find <u>other</u> ways for our kids to, y'know, do stuff? You ain't going on a long car ride this year. But pop on a little 20-minute podcast that's enjoyable and I do wanna say—Gabe, our lovely producer, and I were both speaking at the beginning of the show about just the quality of the production. It is engaging throughout.</p>
00:35:40	Deborah	Guest	Thank you.
00:35:42	Biz	Host	So you did a wonderful job.
00:35:43	Deborah	Guest	Yes. Thank you so much.
00:35:46	Biz	Host	We'll link everybody up to where they can get it. Which is where you get podcasts. And—but just in case.
			<i>[Deborah laughs.]</i>
00:36:04	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<p>Just in case you think it's a blog. We'll link you up to it and how to access it. And as well as to, y'know, sort of the history and information of <i>Listen to Your Mother</i>.</p> <p>Biz: Thank you so much, Deborah!</p> <p>Deborah: Thank <u>you</u> so much!</p>

00:36:08	Deborah	Guest	Thank you for all you do and for all Theresa does and for all you do, Gabe. You are all doing a phenomenal job.
00:36:16	Biz	Host	So are you. <i>[Singing]</i> Goodbye! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:36:19	Deborah	Guest	Byeeee! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:36:21	Biz	Host	Now get outta my Zoom!
			<i>[Both laugh.]</i>
00:36:23	Deborah	Guest	Ciao!
00:36:24	Biz	Host	"Ones and Zeroes" by "Awesome." Steady, driving electric guitar with drum and woodwinds.
			<i>[Music fades out.]</i>
00:36:40	Biz	Host	Cheerful ukulele music plays in background.
00:36:41	Theresa	Host	<i>One Bad Mother</i> is supported in part by Care.com.
00:36:44	Biz	Host	'Tis the season to wear multiple hats! Who doesn't need to wear another hat right now? We all need an extra hand and we need to be able to find trusted and reliable sitters, nannies, housekeepers, dog-walkers, and more. And we can do that on Care.com. What's nice about being a premium member—of which Theresa and I both are—is that it makes is <u>so</u> easy to find the right people to help us. I was <u>so</u> surprised by how many caregivers live <u>right</u> near me when I put my zip code in, and they provide me with all the tools that I needed to access backgrounds, to read reviews, to see qualifications and certifications. Guys? We all need a little help right now!
00:37:36	Theresa	Host	To save 30% off a Care.com premium membership, visit Care.com/badmother or use the promo code "badmother."
			<i>[Music fades out.]</i>
00:37:46	Theresa	Host	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 <u>better</u> about ourselves by hearing yours. You can share some of your own by calling 206-350-9485. That's 206-350-9485.
00:38:06	Biz	Host	<i>[Singing]</i> Genius fail time! Hello, Theresa! It's time... to say hello and genius me.
00:38:16	Clip	Clip	<i>[Dramatic, swelling music in background.]</i>
			Biz: 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>
00:38:31	Theresa	Host	Sure. I can do that. I... figured out what to do with just stacks of coloring books and activity books. That are just like in a bin? I know. Just like throw 'em in the trash. Right?
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			What if that was it? What if that was my genius?
00:38:48	Biz	Host	What about the—
00:38:49	Theresa	Host	Just throw 'em away!
00:38:50	Biz	Host	I would say that's <u>fucking genius</u> . <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:38:51	Theresa	Host	Throw 'em away. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:38:56	Biz	Host	I wish! Oh.

00:38:57 Theresa Host I used—we have in our like little play area—as if the whole house isn't a fucking play area—

[Biz laughs.]

We have one of those preschooler/toddler bookshelves? Where it faces out? The books' covers face out so you don't have to read the spine, you can see. And that's been there for a while and pretty much it was for Curtis and he doesn't—I try switching out the books but he's just not really using it for that? So I realized I would put the books somewhere else. Like in the stacks of books that we just have piled around the house. Do you like how my genius moment is going so far? I do.

00:39:41 Biz Host It's going great. It's really good. *[Laughs.]*

00:39:44 Theresa Host But anyways, I put the activity books and the coloring books in there, and I put an art set in there. So that when they're playing in the play area, it's part of the play area that there's activity books and coloring books and crayons and stuff. And people have actually used them—

00:40:07 Biz Host Ooooh!

00:40:10 Theresa Host —without me having to say, like, *[goofy voice]* “Hey, should we dig out the activity books?”

[Biz laughs.]

[Regular voice] Y'know, trying to make a thing about it. They're just there and they're getting picked up and used sometimes now!

00:40:22 Biz Host I—wow!

00:40:23 Theresa Host Yeah!

00:40:24 Biz Host That—it's very... it's very 2020 to have our geniuses masked in such sadness and sorrow. *[Laughs.]*

[Theresa laughs.]

00:40:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk But I waded through it.
Biz: I thought that was great! Really good job!

00:40:39 Theresa Host **Theresa:** Thank you. Thank you.

00:40:41 Biz Host Thanks, Biz.

So—speaking of things stacked up and just laying around collecting dust—my car. *[Laughs.]* My car, which we think is like 18 years old? It's like trying to know what age your cat is. “Eh, I think we got it... and maybe it was already this old.” It's old. I rolled down the windows with my hands. Like in a motion. Right? Nothing—

00:41:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Biz:** —just opened on its own. Nothing just magically—

00:41:12 Biz Host **Theresa:** Nothing is electronic. Yeah. No. Yeah.

In fact, it did the opposite. The door for the back seat in which Ellis would sit in didn't actually stay open very well. So not only would I be trying to get Ellis out of the car seat when they were a baby, I would get slammed in a car door. Like as well. Anyhoo. I took it in for servicing. It's gotta be a week before the shutdown back in March. And they were like, “It's great.” I'm like, “I doubt it, but okay.” And within three months, we hadn't taken the car anywhere and we had not followed the advice of “drive it around the block” and so we could not get the battery to start. Then we tried jumping the battery.

That also didn't work. And it—even when we did drive it a little bit? I lied. We actually did take it out once or twice at the very start of COVID. It smelled so bad. Like it made us—like, you just knew it was—it was the smell of death. And so for the last bazillion months, we—it has sat up in the driveway. It's more spiderweb now than it is car. And we donated it to KPCC, our local NPR station!

[Theresa laughs.]

00:42:34 Theresa Host
00:42:36 Biz Host

You did?
Because every day on NPR, I hear them say, "Do you have an old car sitting in your driveway, taking up space?" Yes I do! I do! NPR? KPCC? And so I was like, "Let's do it!" We did that and that feels like something good. *[Laughs.]*

00:42:52 Theresa Host
00:42:58 Biz Host

That's great. Should I ask—will you be replacing this vehicle?
I don't know. *[Laughs.]*

[Theresa laughs.]

Where do we have to go, Theresa? Now nobody panic because, "We live in Southern California. Oh my god. How will I get around?" Well, two ways. One, we still have Stefan's old car. *[Laughs.]* And so we're gonna try and be a one-car family since there's nowhere to go, plus you may remember me from *Let's Make a Deal*, where I won two electric bikes. *[Laughs.]* So beep-beep! Zoom! Watch out! Watch out! Here comes Biz, terrified on a bike. So there ya go.

00:43:38 Theresa Host
00:43:40 Biz Host
00:43:41 Caller Caller

Good job.
Thank you.
[Answering machine beeps.]

Hey, *One Bad Mother!* This is a genius. I bought my kid some window-writer markers? Y'know, the kind that you're supposed to be able to write on glass with and just watch off? I'm great. They like 'em. But I love them. Now when I'm hanging out, just me and the nearly-two-year-old kid? We're just sitting on the couch and I'm coloring the window. I'm drawing these elaborate designs. I'm enjoying designing things onto my window and I really like the way the sun comes through and turns the walls different colors! It's like a rainbow in our living room now! And I think this is a genius. I don't even have to be good at art.

[Biz laughs.]

00:44:28 Biz Host
00:44:29 Theresa Host
00:44:30 Biz Host

I can wipe it right off after! Window writers. Genius. Thanks for the show, guys.

Wow. You are a genius!

You are!

You know what I discovered listening to this? That was the discovery that we can actually feel delight. Do you remember delight? *[Laughs.]*

00:44:41 Theresa Host
00:44:43 Biz Host

Yup. Yeah.

And when you stumble upon delight? Right? No strings attached. Just—that was delightful! I'm getting delight from this! That is so incredible!

00:44:58 Theresa Host

It's great. I think we too often fall into the trap of—when we're home with our kids, we have to either be productive or doing something that's for them. That's helping them or connecting with them in

some way. I love that this is neither of those things and yet it's great. It's... really good! For you and who says it's not good for your kid?

00:45:24 Biz Host Oh, it's great for your kid! This is the version of me imagining I would play guitar and my children would sing, or I would garden and my kids would be out either playing or like digging really thoughtfully with me? Right? Like, where I'm doing an activity that they also like. Right? And that never happened. Ever. And this is that! This is—you're getting to draw. Your kid likes to draw. You get to write on the windows. Who doesn't wanna do that? Rebel, rebel! I think you're amazing.

00:45:55 Theresa Host So good.

00:45:57 Biz Host Failures.

00:45:58 Clip Clip *[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.]

00:46:04 Biz Host Fail me, Theresa.

00:46:05 Theresa Host Okay. Well the real fail is I keep just being really tense and not having time to exercise so I keep messing up different parts of my body? Like, tweaking my body in weird, terrible ways? So my neck is sore this morning. But also I have this rice-filled soft wrap that you can either keep in the freezer and it's a cold pack or you can microwave it and heat it up and kind of tie it around your waist and it's really good for your back. And I've been using it—I mean—probably for like a year or something? Maybe longer? It's actually really awesome. It's heavy. Like I said, it's filled with rice. It's very soft fabric on the outside and then what I do is when I first wake up in the morning I just microwave it for a couple minutes, wrap it around my waist, and then it kind of warms up my back so that if I do something sudden I don't mess it up. It's already warmed up. So this is *[through laughter]* a very important item in my life and also I use it a lot. And the other day I was like, "Oh, this is getting kind of—kinda needs to be washed!" It's like fabric that's been up against my skin a lot but it's also been in the microwave a lot, and the microwave is not always clean and—

00:47:19 Biz Host No. It's not clean.

00:47:21 Theresa Host Yeah! So I was like, "Alright. Just throw it in the wash, I guess."

[Biz laughs.]

00:47:25 Biz Host Wait. I just—can we all stop for one second?

00:47:27 Theresa Host Let's stop.

00:47:30 Biz Host What is it filled with?

00:47:31 Theresa Host That is the question, Biz.

00:47:34 Biz Host Huh. Yeah.

00:47:36 Theresa Host I said it earlier and I'll say it again—it's filled with rice!

00:47:39 Biz Host Rice! Yeah.

00:47:40 Theresa Host It's filled with rice. So... any guesses as to what would happen if you put it through the washing machine?

00:47:46 Biz Host You basically cooked the rice in a bag?
00:47:48 Theresa Host I cooked the rice. I cooked the rice in a bag.

[Biz laughs.]

00:47:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk Cooked the rice in a bag. And—
Theresa: So the—obviously—

00:47:58 Theresa Host **Biz:** That has a faint taste of Theresa on it! *[Laughs.]*
[Laughs.] It became so full because of course the rice expands, and it became hard as a rock and crunchy. And I'm sure is gonna soon—I mean, I'm sure would rot. I mean, it just truly destroyed it. And there was a moment where I was like, "Wait. Did I...? Maybe this will be okay. Will it dry?" I was like, "Will it dry back out? Will the rice just dry back out, maybe?"

00:48:26 Biz Host Like raisins? Like raisins? They just go back?
00:48:29 Theresa Host It's really dry here right now! Should I leave it outside! I was—I couldn't—even though I knew like, wow, that was so stupid. If I had thought for two seconds. Y'know? But I just really didn't want it to be gone because I use it so much. *[Laughs.]*

00:48:47 Biz Host I'm so sorry.
00:48:49 Theresa Host Now it is. Yep.
00:48:50 Biz Host I am so sorry.
00:48:52 Theresa Host No idea. No idea.
00:48:53 Biz Host You're a horrible cook.

[Theresa laughs.]

You're doing a horrible job at cooking. Okay! Ellis continues to enjoy the Switch game *Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*. And by enjoy it, I play it a lot for him to do stuff. But now they're into it just for the dragons. Ellis and Cat both do these incredible roleplaying sort of things while they're—like, they pretend to be people in it. So Ellis is a dragon farmer going to find these pieces. Collecting dragons. And actually it's fairly self-contained and, "Hey! I wanna make some dragon parts out of this clay I found!" "Okay. that's great. Go for it." And it's that clay that you can then pop in the oven and cook it for, like, 20 minutes? Now listen. Every time anybody's made anything with that clay in this house, it takes way more than 20 minutes.

00:49:51 Theresa Host It does. It takes a long time.
00:49:52 Biz Host Always!
00:49:54 Theresa Host Yeah. Us, too.
00:49:54 Biz Host Always! So I put it in. Ellis has made a dragon. A shard of dragon claw. A dragon scale. A shard of dragon fang. Like, all this stuff. And I just... I just burned it to a crisp! I mean, I burned it—

00:50:14 Theresa Host Oh, 'cause it was like small pieces, probably.
00:50:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Theresa:** Like individual pieces. Yeah.

00:50:19 Biz Host **Biz:** Yeah. And they're—y'know, it's colored clay. So they were supposed to be this bright blue and bright red and I just burned it black. I mean, it was just—and so I'm trying to spin it like, "It's so oold!" *[Laughs.]*

00:50:31 Theresa Host Yeah. Yeah.
00:50:34 Biz Host "Woo! It's aged with time and... long-ago lore!"
00:50:38 Theresa Host "It's encountered fire and flame!"

00:50:41 Biz Host Yeah! "Flame and fire!" That's right! Oldie. That was not satisfactory. And Ellis is definitely in a place right now where everything bad that happens to Ellis is someone's fault. You made me sad. You did this to me. You burned my clay pieces. Your fault I'm crying right now. So... great.

00:51:12 Theresa Host Yeah.

00:51:13 Biz Host Yeah.

00:51:14 Theresa Host You really suck.

00:51:15 Biz Host I do! I am a monster.

00:51:17 Theresa Host You shouldn't have burnt his art.

00:51:20 Biz Host I'm really trying to just stop fucking helping altogether. *[Laughs.]*

00:51:23 Theresa Host Yeah. I know.

00:51:25 Caller Caller *[Answering machine beeps.]*

Hi! This is a fail. So my husband and I decided to buy some string lights for the kids' rooms because they like sleeping with a little bit of light on and we didn't want to leave the light on all night. So we ordered them off of Amazon and the package came in and it was very small and it was—it didn't look like it was lights? But regardless, we opened it. And it was not lights. It was a dildo. That was not what was ordered. *[Laughs.]* So I don't know that this is necessarily our fault? But it is definitely a fail.

[Biz laughs.]

The only upside is that we did not let the kids open the package and we intercepted it before they got it. So yeah. I guess—be careful what you order! Anyway, you guys are doing a great job. Thanks for the show.

00:52:28 Biz Host Oh. *[Conspiratorially]* Sounds like this could turn into a genius to me! *[Laughs.]*

00:52:33 Theresa Host Yeah! *[Laughs.]* Oh, my god. Yeah.

00:52:36 Biz Host Wow. That... that is... remarkable. That is a remarkable surprise.

00:52:45 Theresa Host It is unexpected.

00:52:46 Biz Host It is not string lights.

00:52:49 Theresa Host No.

[Biz laughs.]

00:52:52 Biz Host It's not string lights. Definitely not.
It will not solve your children's need for a little extra light in their room at night.

00:52:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Theresa:** No. It's not gonna work for that.

00:53:00 Biz Host **Biz:** It's not gonna do it. Not—
In fact, it may work better in the dark! I don't know! I don't know! It's really up to what ya like. Well... that's remarkable. I hope you didn't double fail and send it back. Hey, heyyy! You're doing a horrible job ordering things from the internet. God. *[Laughs.]*

00:53:21 Music Music "Mom Song" by Adira Amram. Mellow piano music with lyrics.

*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>[Music fades out.]</i>
00:53:44	Music	Music	Inspirational keyboard music plays in background.
00:53:45	Biz	Host	<i>One Bad Mother</i> is promoted in part by KiwiCo.
00:53:49	Theresa	Host	Gracie and I recently got the kit for making geometric candles? And when it came, I kind of took one look at it and was a little bit like, "...Okay..." because you guys know I don't like doing projects with my kids—
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			—and making candles just seemed like something that would need a <u>lot</u> of my involvement and would get very messy and would potentially involved fire. But then I realized they <u>really</u> set it up for Gracie—who's nine—to be able to just actually basically do the whole thing on her own. And she loved it!
00:54:23	Biz	Host	KiwiCo is redefining learning 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 50% off your first month, plus free shipping, on <u>any</u> crate with code "Badmother" at KiwiCo.com . That's 50% off your first month at K-I-W-I-C-O.com , promo code "badmother."
			<i>[Music ends.]</i>
00:54:55	Promo	Clip	Brea Grant: Readers have a lot of problems.
			Mallory O'Meara: How do you juggle your holds at the library?
			Brea: How do you decide what to read next?
			Mallory: What do you do when you find out an author you love is a huge trash baby?
			Brea: I'm Brea Grant.
			Mallory: And I'm Mallory O'Meara.
			Brea: And we're the hosts of <i>Reading Glasses</i> .
			Mallory: We're here to solve all your reader problems. And along the way, help you figure out—
			Brea: Your reader wheelhouse?
			Mallory: Which are the things that will absolutely make you pick up a book. Our listener favorites tend to be "magic" and "a woman on a journey."
			Brea: And also birds, for some reason?
			Mallory: Your reader doghouse.
			Brea: Yeah. That's the things that'll make you avoid a book.
			Mallory: Ugh. Love triangles stress me out so much. <i>Reading Glasses!</i>

00:55:37	Promo	Clip	<p>Brea: Every Thursday on MaximumFun.org. Music: Chill, rhythmic synth music plays in background.</p>
			<p>Jesse Thorn: Hey, friends! Jesse here, the founder of Maximum Fun, and I have some really great news to share with you. This year has brought a lot of changes for all of us, and one tradition that we were grateful to be able to hold onto is our annual pin sale to benefit charity. This year, through your generosity and love of pins, you helped raise \$95,400 for GiveDirectly. If you're a member and you bought pins, they'll ship in January. In the meantime, your support will provide direct cash relief to families impacted by COVID-19 across the United States. Even in this incredibly tough year, the MaxFun community remains extraordinarily kind. And whether or not you bought pins, you can continue to help by heading to GiveDirectly.org. And as always, thank you.</p>
			<p><i>[Music fades out.]</i></p>
00:56:30	Biz	Host	<p>Well, everyone? Here we are! Time... for our favorite part of the show. Today I'm going to remotely hold Theresa's hand and brush her hair while we settle in and listen to a mom have a breakdown.</p>
00:56:45	Caller	Caller	<p><i>[Answering machine beeps.]</i></p>
			<p>Hi, guys. I'm calling with a rant. I guess the best part of calling you guys with a rant is I can just put it out there and not get some friendly advice on how to really fix it. So here it goes. Yesterday, I picked my six-year-old up from first grade and he tells me that he's making a new friend named Emma. He says, "Emma loves pickles!" Just like my son loves pickles. And he brings a pickle in his lunch every day. So we talk about packing two pickles. And sharing a pickle with his new friend. And then my son says, "No mom. Because of COVID, I can't share a pickle with Emma."</p>
			<p>And I got <u>so</u> mad. I have dealt with everything that COVID has thrown our way. I took on all the parenting. All my work stuff has been terrible. And I took on that. And now—on top of everything else—COVID has to make the regular stuff worse, too. Because my son has a terrible time making friends. He wants me to go over to the other little kids on the playground and ask if he can swing with them. And he's finally making progress asking Emma if she wants a pickle. But no. So there it is. Just another way that COVID's making this worse for all of us. I appreciate you guys being there. I appreciate your podcast. Keep up the good work.</p>
00:58:13	Biz	Host	<p>You are doing such a good job.</p>
00:58:16	Theresa	Host	<p>Yeah. You are.</p>
00:58:18	Biz	Host	<p>I'm so glad that—I'm not glad you're having this pickle experience. But I am glad that you called in, because we <u>do</u> sometimes focus mainly on the... sort of big ways that COVID and the pandemic and all the things that go with it are affecting us. Work. Living. Paying for things. Food insecurities. Y'know? I mean, like—not being able to see family for the holidays! There are really big, obvious ones. And I don't think we're always tuned in to the really small ones? I think about—you're living somewhere where your child gets to do some combination of in-school learning. And I think when—I think the big view of that—right? Stereotypically is "Lucky! How great! You get to—" Y'know? Like, mm, whatever. Which we know isn't true. But you think worst-case you're dealing with making sure you</p>

remember a mask or, y'know, really worst case is somebody getting sick. But not the little things like making friends and... sharing. Pickles. Right? Like...

00:59:41 Theresa Host Yeah. It is. It's one of those small things that's actually such a huge thing. It's so formative. Y'know? It's one of those things that... it's so hard to feel helpless in these moments? 'Cause I know I had that same reaction, too, Biz, where first I'm hearing like, "Oh, your child is able to go in person and see other kids! Like, how awesome is that?" Because everybody's talking about the lagging social skills of kids being on Zoom all day. But there's also the social impact of just the social distancing that all our kids have to do everywhere they go in the world. And the masks and not being able to read other people as well. I know I also have trouble understanding people a lot of times when they're wearing masks? And being heard? It's very—y'know, our kids are going through this as well. And for your little guy who's just starting to make friends—I'm really happy for him! And I hope and assume that the pickle thing is a way bigger deal to you than it is to him and Emma, because clearly they made a connection regardless. Of what's going on. But yes! These are these things that we can't control and they are so unfair.

01:01:01 Biz Host You are doing an amazing job? And... so is your child? And so is Emma? You are amazing.

01:01:13 Theresa Host Yes. You are.

01:01:14 Biz Host Theresa? *[Singing]* You are amazing! *[Regular voice]* And guess what? I think the tow truck is here right now. *[Laughs.]*

01:01:21 Theresa Host Yayyyy! *[Laughs.]*

01:01:25 Biz Host *[Singing]* Nothing like trying to do many things! *[Regular voice]* Anyway. I think you're remarkable and amazing and I am so glad to see you, and I hope you have a really wonderful Thanksgiving.

01:01:37 Theresa Host Thanks, Biz.

01:01:39 Biz Host Whatever that looks like.

01:01:41 Theresa Host Whatever it is—I have no idea what it will be. But it will be what it is.

[Biz laughs.]

It was really good to see you. Happy Thanksgiving to everybody. Talk to you guys next week.

01:01:52 Biz Host Bye.

01:01:53 Theresa Host Bye.

01:01:55 Biz Host Are we still talking about what we're thankful for? I am thankful for Theresa, who has had to depart. Waa! That makes me so sad, but I am always thankful when she is able to be here. And what did we learn today, everyone? We learned it's always hard to say goodbye to Theresa after we get to speak with her. We learned that if you're going to be a liar, you better be good at it. Apparently people think that women are liars! What crazy world are we living in?!

We also learned, guys, that it's Thanksgiving. They're here. The holidays—they came. They're here. COVID or not. Thanksgiving is happening probably right now. You're probably hiding in the bathroom, which we always recommend during the holidays. This is a particularly difficult holiday for as much as we love the old trope of how much we don't like getting together with relatives, this year we really can't? In many situations. And that is really hard. We cannot see the people we wanna see. We may have lost a lot of people.

And... just... try to remember we don't know what's going on with anybody that we see, and... let's just assume they're where we are. Trying to get through it every day. And I just want to say I see you. And... we're all having a hard time with this together? And if you have found a way to see relatives, I—that's also wonderful and congratulations and I hope no one fucking talks about politics. I mean, that's sort of my positive spin on the holidays right now? Is if you truly hate getting together with your family and you've always dreamed of just fucking staying in pajamas all day and movie marathoning it? This is it! You get it! You get your holiday wish!
[Laughs.]

No hiding in the bathroom 'cause we're all... alone in our house celebrating together. That is what we are gonna do. We are gonna movie marathon it all day on Thanksgiving! And maybe eat hotdogs. But probably not, because Stefan likes to cook Thanksgiving stuff. So alright. We're gonna have Thanksgiving stuff. We also learned... that... I am incredibly thankful for the show. For Gabe, our new producer. I am incredibly thankful for Theresa, and I am incredibly thankful to all of you for continuing to be part of the *One Bad Mother* community. You're all doing an amazing job. You are doing a remarkable job. Guess what? This year, you can't fuck up Thanksgiving. Ta-da! You can't! No one's gonna see you! Ta-da! You're amazing. And I will talk to you next week. Bye!

01:05:03 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 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*

01:05:28 Biz Host

[Music fades somewhat, plays in background of dialogue.]

We'd like to thank MaxFun; our producer, Gabe Mara; 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 MaximumFun.org/onebadmother. For information about live shows, our book and press, please check out OneBadMotherPodcast.com.

01:05:57 Theresa Host

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01:06:20 Music Transition

[Music continues for a while before fading out.]

01:06:21 Speaker 1 Guest

A cheerful ukulele chord.

01:06:23 Speaker 2 Guest

MaximumFun.org.

01:06:24 Speaker 3 Guest

Comedy and culture.

01:06:25 Speaker 4 Guest

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