

00:00:00	Biz Ellis	Host	Hi. I'm Biz.
00:00:01	Theresa Thorn	Host	And I'm Theresa.
00:00:02	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 good job.
00:00:21	Music	Music	"Summoning the Rawk" by Kevin MacLeod. Driving electric guitar and heavy drums.
00:00:24	Biz	Host	<i>[Continues through dialogue.]</i> This week on <i>One Bad Mother</i> —Papa, Papa, and baby make three! We talk with Tyler Greene, host of the podcast <i>This Is My Family</i> . Plus, Biz is wistful.
00:00:37	Crosstalk Caller	Crosstalk Caller	Biz and caller: Wooooo! And here's a check-in! It is after midnight and I am at work because I make food and I have dough that has to rise before I can put it in the fridge. And because my husband works out of the home in our business all day, the only time I get to do my work is after the kids are in bed. So here I am. And also we have a leak in our laundry room and so we're gonna have people in our home all week fixing it. And no laundry machine. So. That's how I'm doing. And I'm doing okay. And I'm <u>not</u> having a breakdown.
			<i>[Biz laughs quietly.]</i>
00:01:46	Biz	Host	At this moment. You are doing a great job. And... everybody out there is also doing a great job getting through one day. And then the next day will come and you will also get through that day. Bye. Oh. I love it when you guys say, "Yeah, I'm okay." 'Cause we all—right? We're all aware that "okay" is code for "total shitshow." <i>[Laughs.]</i> You're doing such a good job! And also I see you. I see you with the having to work after the kids go to bed. This is—that's when I edit. That is—for years, of this show in particular, doing <i>One Bad Mother</i> —I did all the work at night when my brain wasn't there. And so I get it. Or, y'know, any of the stuff that we wanna do, we wind up doing after the kids go to bed. And I get it. Y'know. It's one of those things where it's like, I understand why—but I also don't like it. <i>[Laughs.]</i> So, eh. Also—ooh. Leak in the laundry room. I'm sorry. That's enough right there to not be okay. That's enough right there for a full-fledged breakdown if it was me. So I think you're doing remarkable. You really, really are. I hope you're listening to good, fun stuff at midnight. Favorite song? Podcast? Whatever. Whatever you wanna do. Whatever you need. But I see you. You're amazing.
			Also amazing are all the people that I wanna thank because this pandemic is still going. And probably a ton of people that I will forget to thank, but here we go! I just—as always—need to take some time to say thank you. And this week, once again, I am gonna lead with vaccine givers. Thank you, vaccine givers! And it's not just the people poking you with the vaccine. It's the people who are checking you in; helping you navigate. Sometimes these things are set up in parking lots or they're set up in schools and so you've got people sort of all along the way helping you get to where you're going. They speak multiple languages to help with people who don't

speaking English, which is just remarkable. And I... I just wanna say thank you! And I look forward to the day when you poke me! I really am.

I wanna thank all the people who are out there swabbing noses! That's not fun. I mean, you guys—when I'm getting swabbed, I'm like, "Is this the weirdest job ever?" And like, you're always like, "Oh, no, it's great!" And I'm like, "I dunno. I dunno. You're swabbing my nose and I just laughed right in your face 'cause it tickles when I get swabbed." But thank you. Thank you for doing those tests and all the people who work in the labs verifying those tests. Excellent, excellent job. *[Singing]* Healthcare workers? I'll always love youuuu! *[Regular voice]* You'll never be able to do anything that'll make me stop loving you. You are wonderful. Teachers, I love you. Retail. I love you. Grocery stores, all the people who are working in places that we have to go to to get stuff to get through a week or a month? Thank you. And thank you—like—people in the service industry. Restaurants are starting to open back up, as well as hotels. As well as all these things in which—"oh, a fun summer job!" Or, "hey, I'm making a real career out of this." But none of those were ever supposed to be potentially life-threatening. And yet—thank you for bringing me a Coke. What am I saying? I don't go out to eat. I'll never leave my house again. But! *[Laughs.]* For those of you who do? You gotta really make sure you are seeing those people who are working to serve you.

And I'm actually gonna give an extra little shoutout to all of you in the *One Bad Mother* private Facebook group as well as all the sub-groups? Both the members and the moderators. You guys are doing such an amazing job of just being an example of making an effort to just be better at the really hard stuff. And I see you trying to do so with grace and kindness. Even when we step in it. You're just doing a great job. Thank you.

00:06:09 Biz

Host

How am I? Let me check in. I'm in one of those windows of not feeling seen. *[Laughs.]* Ehhhh, *[in tragic voice]* "No one knows what I did! I make this house so nice!" Right? Like *[Laughs humorlessly.]* *[Regular voice]* And with that comes the sadness, or maybe the sadness triggered the unseen-ness. But y'know, it's just that cycle. It's that pandemic cycle. But here's something new and fun! That ripped open a new feeling I hadn't had. Or maybe I've had it. Just it hadn't surfaced. And that was that feeling of... what I gave up. When I had a family. And I don't mean the performing or the *[cool voice]* staying out late at night being really cool! *[Regular voice]* I mean wandering. I was talking about this with my therapist. I really love change. And I used to wander a lot. I lived in lots of different places. I never signed a lease more than six months. I liked changing jobs. I mean, I liked it. That was not something that caused me anxiety; it actually sort of replenished me. *[Laughs.]* So it's like that old saying, "All who wander are not lost." Not lost. Not running. Just wandering! And I haven't done that in so long. And I'm sad because I'm not sure I'm even brave enough to do it anymore? And... of course with the pandemic I can't do it anymore. And y'know. I understand why I am no longer wandering. And I—it's just one of those things like we say on the show—I get to be two things at once. I am really happy that I did make the choices I made to have a family. I love my family. I would not have gotten through this

pandemic without this family. But I also miss wandering. And I get to have feelings about both. And that's just—I guess—part of what it's like being part of a family? Which I think ties in nicely today to what we are gonna be talking about with Tyler Greene of the podcast *This Is My Family*.

00:08:36 Music Music
00:08:37 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.

00:08:45 Biz Host

If you are married to the host of *One Bad Mother*, we definitely are talking about you.

00:08:48 Theresa Host
00:08:51 Biz Host

Nothing we say constitutes professional parenting advice.

Biz and Theresa's children are brilliant, lovely, and exceedingly extraordinary.

00:08:54 Theresa Host

Nothing said on this podcast about them implies otherwise.

[Banjo music fades out.]

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

00:09:01 Biz Host

This week, we are welcoming Tyler Greene, who is a storyteller, producer, and connector who currently serves as the Head of Community for Pod People, a podcast production company and staffing agency for audio professionals. No wonder you and Gabe know each other! Anyway. *[Laughs.]* He used to work in live events for NPR, WBEZ Chicago, and *The Moth*, and served as the House Manager for *Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me*. We're gonna have to later talk about personal life goals. Okay? On the side, Tyler works as a producer, storytelling coach, and story editor, as well as hosts his own podcast called *This Is My Family*, which is really what we wanna get into with Tyler today. Welcome, Tyler!

00:09:47 Tyler Greene Guest

Thank you! It's so nice to meet you! I love your energy. And like... I hit that two o'clock slump and now I'm back. It's good.

00:09:56 Biz Host

Oh, good. I'm gonna just raise you up!

00:09:58 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Tyler: *[Singing]* You raised me up!

00:10:01 Biz Host

Biz: And when this is all—

00:10:05 Tyler Guest

When this is all over? I just cry for like an hour. So don't worry.

00:10:07 Biz Host

Oh. Okay.

00:10:14 Tyler Guest

I just—*[pretends to sob.]* Before we get started, I wanna ask you what we ask all our guests, which is—who lives in your house?

So we just moved to a new house. But we didn't gain any people or lose any people.

[Biz laughs.]

00:10:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk

I just feel like that's significant to identify. For me, maybe, only. My first single-family home since I was a kid! So—

Biz: *[Cheers]* That's exciting!

00:10:29 Tyler Guest

Tyler: That is very exciting.

00:10:34 Biz Host

Yeah. It's huge. It's really huge. Yeah. I mean, we're in the suburbs, so that's, y'know. What are ya gonna do.

That's its own thing.

00:10:35 Tyler Guest San Jose. There's all suburbs. But the question is who's in my house. It is myself, obviously. Then my husband, Ziwu, and our child, Sam.

00:10:45 Biz Host Let's talk about the show to start off with. 'Cause I think that's going to obviously lead us in to all of the different things. Like, how did a kid wind up in your house?

[Tyler laughs.]

00:10:57 Tyler Guest How did you get your kid?
A stork!

00:10:58 Biz Host That's right! The podcast is *This Is My Family*. Talk to me about starting—like, why'd ya wanna do it? What led to it? Tell me, tell me.

00:11:10 Tyler Guest Well first of all, thank you for having me on this show. I like to talk to people in my closet and it's one of my favorite things. [Laughs.]

[Biz laughs.]

So I'm so happy to be here with you. But the podcast is called *This Is My Family*, as you said. And somewhere in the pandemic—so a theme of this conversation will be that Tyler cannot remember dates or numbers very well. So I will say something that may not be true on that front. But near the beginning of the pandemic, I realized that—and I hadn't gotten this job at Pod People yet and I was sort of running my own business and kind of had a couple clients. But I said to myself that I was kinda bored and I wanted to make something. And I had been having conversations with a friend of mine who's like a theme park designer and obviously she wasn't working. She was talking to me and not doing much work out in the world at the beginning of the pandemic.

[Biz laughs.]

And long story short we were gonna make a murder mystery party or something and then I was like, Zoom party or something, and I said, "Y'know, I've been thinking about making a show so that I could host again." I'd hosted a few things half a decade ago. And I said, "Do y'all just wanna help me make that?" And Jackie is her name. She said yes. And then my friend Trisha, who's also a producer, said yes. And basically we started developing this show. Which—I didn't know what it was gonna be. I wanted to have a show called *Performance Anxiety* where I interview artists about their anxiety. Cute title, right?

00:12:41 Biz Host Yeah! It's adorable.

00:12:43 Tyler Guest And my friend Trisha, who's amazing—she is one of those people that you sit in a room with her for fifteen minutes and she will just change your life. Change your creative idea. Make it sing.

[Biz laughs.]

Make it marketable. The whole thing. And she said, "Well, the thing that's true for you that is unique to you is your family." And I said, "I don't know if I wanna do a podcast about my family every day." I mean, you put so many hours into this stuff. And eventually I gave into her because I realized that our story is incredible. And also a

jumping-off point for discussing what family means to people. Because family means so many things. Chosen family. Your—we just—we’re working on an episode right now about recovery family. Al-Anon and AA and just the bonds that make you. And it just became this really interesting and fertile ground to play in because I can talk about my story and then just sit here and have these 90-minute conversations that are super vulnerable. We cry every episode.

[Biz laughs.]

It’s great! And gives something to people! And I’m still nervous and shaky around the idea of doing a podcast about my family. Sometimes I just wanna do a movie podcast? Where I talk about shitty movies or something?

00:14:03 Biz Host

Yeah! I do a parenting podcast and I hate parenting?

[Tyler laughs.]

Like, I hate all things parenting? So I totally understand. Sometimes I’m like, “Can we just talk about *Supernatural*? Like, do a minute-by-minute of a *Supernatural* episode?” I am 100%—

00:14:20 Tyler Guest

Anything else. *[Laughs.]*

00:14:22 Biz Host

Yeah. Anything else! Yeah! “Anything else than this nightmare!” No, I’m just kidding. No! But I get it. It would be fun sometimes to just... do something else. Because I think when you are doing a podcast about family or parenting or anybody that you have relationships with? It is a... a tightrope that you really have to be mindful of as you’re walking it. You were saying the notion of family. And exploring that. And I think—you said there’s such a broad—so many variations on what family can mean. But I don’t think we all come to that right away. I think... that... family is tied up in a lot of outdated sort of notions about a man and a woman and children. And that is family. And strangely? They’re always white. *[Laughs.]* Just like—and anything that differs from that is strange or weird or couldn’t be something “I could relate to.” When it comes to family. So can we start there? Can we talk a little bit about... what family means when you’re thinking about it?

00:15:41 Tyler Guest

Yeah. I mean, I think that another one of the reasons that I started this show was because—y’know, I have to, with any creative project, I have to have some sort of fire behind it or else I get very bored very quickly. And by the way, funded this myself. And so—it’s not a small amount of money that I used. Because this show is high quality. We have a composer. We have multiple producers. We wanted to make a really good show. And so for me, I think of some small moments. Where I’ve been in doctors’ offices and a nurse has said, “Where’s mom today?” And—

[Biz laughs.]

—y’know, and then you have to make the phone call to the line—whatever they call “Customer Success Representative” or whatever the hell it means. Patient Success Representative. And have this sometimes patient conversation and sometimes very impatient and not very kind conversation with people about assumptions that they make. And at the same time, I also grew up in Southwest Michigan.

And so I—which is in a very small town. And Michigan now is super conservative and at the time I think it probably was as well. And so I guess—and I came out late, and so I can also understand and relate to people who are sort of having this experience of what, y’know, a “traditional” family might be. Because that’s what I saw! I didn’t—nothing else was sort of taught to me. But then when you start thinking about what family is—what is family, right? Because not everybody has a mom and dad. Some people have a grandpa or a grandma. Some people have none of those things. Some people have a single parent. Some people don’t have kids at all. And some people have left their family because it is not safe for them anymore and they have a chosen family. We talk to a lot of drag queens on my podcast and, thankfully, Latrice Royale was our first and I mean, you don’t really need many more than that because she’s one of the greatest in the world. And she opened her soul to me and—

00:17:49 Biz Host
00:17:51 Tyler Guest

Oh, babies! *[Laughs.]*

It was just amazing and she grew up in Compton in a very dangerous part of Compton. And told the story of how she eventually was sort of forced out of the closet and had to leave and found this new artistic family and then finds a way back to her original family and now is one of the biggest drag queens in the world. Married to a gentleman who was born in the Smoky Mountains. Who I just interviewed for season two. And so now I’ve got both of their stories. Their stories are important and their stories matter, too. And... family, to me, if I’m gonna define it? Is... it’s love. It’s the relationships in our lives that give us something more than just the everyday. And I think that’s the first time I’ve used that definition—

[Biz laughs.]

—and I’m not really sure I know what it means now that it came out of my mouth?

00:18:42 Caller Caller

Tyler: But does any of that make sense? *[Laughs.]*

00:18:44 Biz Host

Biz: Or even if it’s—no!

I guess it does. I really like the idea of... leading with the notion of family as being... groups of people that you love and that love you. Regardless of what that makeup is. Regardless of their being, y’know, familial ties or any of that. So I—tell us about your family!

00:19:10 Tyler Guest

Yeah. I just thought of something really quick. Which is that—

00:19:13 Biz Host

Oh! Then tell me.

00:19:15 Tyler Guest

Which is that the beautiful—we talk about the beautiful, messy connections that shape our lives. That’s—it’s kind of the formal marketing speak? But I love that—

00:19:25 Biz Host

That’s a good one! *[Laughs.]*

00:19:26 Tyler Guest

“Beautiful, messy” is so great. And that’s another Trisha creation. Trisha Bobeda. Hat tip to her. And now I’ve forgotten your question. *[Laughs.]*

00:19:35 Caller Caller

Biz: It’s okay. I dunno.

00:19:36 Biz Host

Tyler: What was the question again?

Tell me about your family. Tell me your beautiful, messy connection.

00:19:40 Tyler Guest

Back in 1984, I was born.

[Biz laughs.]

			To a woman named Penny Sue and a man named Jimbo. That's not a lie, actually. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:19:48	Biz	Host	I don't care that much. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:19:50	Tyler	Guest	That is the truth.
00:19:51	Biz	Host	Oh, I love it!
00:19:53	Tyler	Guest	No, I mean my <u>family</u> story is crazy. And I don't know that that's the one—my <u>full</u> story for this show. But my husband and I were married in 2015. And we've been together since January 8 th , 2012. So we've been together for almost nine years. Ten years this upcoming year.
00:20:14	Biz	Host	Oh, congratulations!
00:20:15	Tyler	Guest	Thank you! And we had our baby Sam two years ago. Almost two years ago. He'll be two in a couple weeks. And we had him via surrogacy. My sister is our egg donor. My husband is our seed donor. Sperm donor? Seed donor? I don't know. Sperm donor? I can never be mature about the word "sperm!"
00:20:33	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Tyler: It's ridiculous. I am a 36—
00:20:37	Tyler	Guest	Biz: I can't either. It's—sperm is—I'm with you. How old am I? <i>[Laughs.]</i> I don't even know how old I am. 36? 7? I dunno. 36.
00:20:41	Biz	Host	Ten more than that, and I still have the sense of humor of a 12-year-old adolescent from the '80s. Right? Like, I'm like, <i>[shrieks]</i> "Semen!" Anyway.
00:20:49	Tyler	Guest	Best decade. Yes. '80s or '90s, best decade. I dunno. But anyway. So we—that's sort of the basic arrangement of the Sam. And we needed somebody to carry Sam. My sister offered to, but I just sort of—I dunno. I just didn't really want that and she's a busy ER nurse. She's got five kids of her own. I just sort of wanted somebody else to do that. So—
00:21:13	Biz	Host	Wow. She's good. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:21:15	Tyler	Guest	Yeah. She's fertile and—yeah. She's—she's amazing. And so we— <i>[sighs]</i> . I'm trying to get my timeline here. We went to—
00:21:25	Biz	Host	You don't have to worry about timelines on this show. We will imagine whatever you want us to imagine.
00:21:31	Tyler	Guest	Okay, good. We went to a conference called Men Having Babies at some point. And it is called Men Having Babies, yes. We can <i>[inaudible]</i> and talk about that, yes.
00:21:38	Biz	Host	That is the best name for a conference. I would just wanna go. And see what was at the booths. I would be <u>so</u> —what's the bag that you get when you get there?
00:21:49	Tyler	Guest	And you get bags. You get lots of bags.
00:21:51	Biz	Host	I bet you do! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:21:52	Tyler	Guest	There's all kinds of wares that they're selling. You basically go there to figure out—figure it out, first of all. So the first year we did it was just like, "Whoa." And we—y'know, you find the IVF clinic where you do the actual transfer of the embryo. Well, the making of the embryo and the transfer of the embryo. And then talk to surrogacy agencies for people who will carry your child. You talk to doctors. You talk to lawyers. You talk to anybody who will take your money. And so that's what we did the first year, and I remember we met—we didn't meet, but we watched one of these panels. And there were these two kids who were twins that were created using

the same egg donor, but two different sperm. And they were living, breathing children. They were four or five.

[Biz laughs.]

And I'd gone into that first conference being like, "I don't wanna do this. I'd rather adopt." I actually didn't even really want babies. My husband is from China and family is really crucial to his way of seeing the world and so he was like—we got into some—y'know, not—some arguments, but some hefty discussions about it. Because it's a big deal! And I saw those kids and I was like, "Wow. If we have the opportunity and the privilege to create a biological child that—" My sister basically looks like me except she has long hair and boobs? Sometimes I say—well, they're big. *[Laughs.]* I was gonna say "gigantic boobs."

[Biz laughs.]

00:23:15	Biz	Host	And if you— <i>[Singing]</i> Here we are! We're 12 years old again! Go ahead. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:23:20	Tyler	Guest	<i>[Laughs.]</i> She is gonna kill me. But yeah. I said, y'know, I look in the mirror and I'm like, "Wow. I look like my sister. And if we can make that, that would be pretty awesome!" And we—so we did it. We said, "Okay, we're gonna do this." And then years later we went back to Men Having Babies and we found a surrogacy agency that we really liked in downtown Chicago where we once were. Now we're in California.
00:23:47	Biz	Host	So we found the surrogate.
00:23:49	Tyler	Guest	Yes. Mm-hm.
00:23:50	Biz	Host	Now... how was that? Is that super normal and casual? Or like—
00:23:52	Tyler	Guest	She was hiding in the alley and we just said— <i>[Laughs.]</i> No, I'm kidding.
00:23:55	Biz	Host	No, but I'm like—that—
00:23:57	Tyler	Guest	"Do you like <i>Drag Race</i> ? Good. We're in."
00:23:59	Biz	Host	Yeah. Okay. We're good. That's right. So—
00:24:01	Tyler	Guest	It's funny, actually. We—so the head of the agency—y'know, they send you these profiles and you look at them and you read them and I said, "Our only requirement—" And this was at the height of the Trump era. "Our only requirement—two requirements. One is that they not be a Trump supporter, number one. And number two, they should be near a major airport." And so I think they sent us—the first one they sent us, the person was like five hours away from an airport. And I was like, "Ya didn't listen." <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:24:27	Biz	Host	That's not even—yeah.
00:24:29	Tyler	Guest	No. It was not even close. It was like, "Would you like to drive five hours from the Boulder Airport to pick up your child?" No. I would not like to mountaineer before greeting my son. And so... the... they sent us another one. I think it was the second one and it was this person named Emily. And so we get on a—it wasn't even Zoom. It was a Skype, I think. And it was just the most amazing conversation. I describe Emily and her husband Dylan as a couple straight out of <i>Friday Night Lights</i> .

[Biz gasps.]

They are—she is extremely sweet. Young. She’s had five babies of her own. Two through surrogacy. Again, with number I think that might actually be four. But she’s had a lot of babies. Very successful at that. Dylan is like a linebacker of a human with a voice of an angel.

[Biz laughs.]

And he’s—the tenderness of an angel. It’s crazy. I was like, “I will take you anywhere ‘cause you will kick somebody’s ass for me and then figure out how to make it not illegal. ‘Cause you’re just that kind of a person.” Yeah.

00:25:27 Biz Host
00:25:29 Tyler Guest

That’s what you want! That’s what you want!

You need that. So we met them and they were beautiful and amazing and I remember asking, like, “Why do you wanna do this?” And she very quickly said, “Because I couldn’t imagine having this—I couldn’t imagine not being able to have my own children. And I want to help you do that.” And it was such a simple answer? And like... maybe a little schmaltzy of an answer now that I know how hard it is? But she—[Laughs.]

00:25:54 Biz Host

Yeah! Well I’m like—my jaded soul is like, “What?!”

00:25:59 Tyler Guest

[Tyler laughs.]

But she’s—I’m telling you! *Friday Night Lights*. And it’s totally genuine. It’s like... she’s sort of like—her essence is a little *Chicken Soup for the Soul* kind of essence. And I read all the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* when I was a kid. I’m not ashamed.

[Biz laughs.]

And anyway. So we loved her, and we said, “You’re hired!” And then there’s a bunch of contracts and exchange of money and escrow where you put your money in and then they, y’know, lawyers and all that jazz.

00:26:26 Biz Host
00:26:27 Tyler Guest

Thank goodness for that conference. [Laughs.]

Yes! Thank goodness for the internet and for the conference. I mean, I wouldn’t have known how to do it. And for us, honestly, it was... relatively easy. Again, I used the word “privilege” before because it’s a very expensive process? We’ve been very fortunate to be able to fund it? But there are people who aren’t who can’t or—and I know there’s programs and things for people if they’re listening to this and they’re thinking they’re interested in that, there are ways to make it happen. So I don’t think you have to make cost a barrier if you want to do it this way. But we were really lucky. And I forgot—I was about to say we were really lucky for another reason. Oh yeah! We didn’t have any complications!

[Biz laughs.]

At all! During the process! It was very... it was very painless. And one of the episodes of our podcast, I interview Shereen Marisol Meraji from *Code Switch*, and she’s been having some challenges with IVF. And digging into that conversation. Y’know, we go into the waiting rooms and there are people there who are just really, truly desperate to have a child and can’t. And we’re walking in there, running around with our ragtag crew and not having any issues.

00:27:44 Biz Host And so I'm always aware of that. It's always in the back of my mind as I talk about this.
Yeah. Well I think that that ties into sort of that—we talk a lot on the show about women, in particular, when it comes to babies and bodies, get a lot of it. Y'know. And... "When are you having a baby? Well you're not a family until you have a baby! And then once you have that baby I'm gonna ask you all sorts of invasive questions about, 'Do you like that it's a boy? Do you like that it's a girl? Do you want a boy and a girl? Now you've got the set!'" Right? Like, all this really weird stuff. And it's—I've never heard anybody say, "Y'know what? I love getting asked that question. Because it doesn't churn up a lot of horrible feelings in me." Right? Like—
[Laughs.]

[Tyler laughs.]

00:28:41 Tyler Guest And so I guess I wanna know—now that you've been doing this show for a while, has there been any conversation that surprised you, or are you super great about knowing how every family works?
[Laughs.]

Well, I'm not super great at that. No. But I am super intentional in our programming, or attempts at programming, our seasons. We do eight to ten episodes. This is our second season; we're doing ten. First one we did eight. And so we're very conscious about race, gender, type of family. And y'know I'm sure we could even do better as the chips fall in season two. We'll see—y'know. But that's a part of my process, always, in everything that I do. Just making sure that as many people as possible are brought into the room and have the opportunity. Y'know. Again—I think I am a white man and I have, y'know, I came from a small town and yes. I am gay. But I also present as just very sort of normal white guy. So I get a lot of things because of that. And I'm very aware of that. So I like to use this show as an opportunity to kind of just expand the definition. And so I'm not sure. I'm struggling a little bit to think of if I was—I don't know that I've been confused or caught off-guard by somebody's approach, but I recently had a conversation with my pal Emilie Modaff and they are a mystic, Reiki, actor, amazing person who—they also practice polyamory. And so I was very curious about polyamory. In theory, sounds great! And so I was sort of like, "I would like to know more about how that goes!"

00:30:04 Biz Host This is not how that sounds for me! I'm like, "Oh my god!"

00:30:07 Tyler Guest I mean, maybe not "great," but intriguing. And—

00:30:09 Biz Host Right. Sure, sure. *[Laughs.]*

00:30:10 Tyler Guest And so like—*[Laughs.]* Thankfully, I know Emily well! And so I was able to say to them, like, "I need you to just break this down for me. How does it go?" And then they told me everything! And so—

[Biz laughs.]

—that was one where I was like, "Okay." And I think our listeners will enjoy it? But it—y'know. I think one of the challenges with the show—and I think this is actually kind of the question—I think about this question a lot in terms of the challenge of the show. Which is that I've had marketers tell me—or marketing people or even big-concept people at big companies. Y'know. "If you wanna make your show a thing that pays for itself, you should focus on queer

families.” For example. For example. Right? Or “You should make it all about your family and make it a narrative show all about your family. Or you should just focus on queer families.” And these are queer people who are smart. Who I like. Who are good people. And they’re probably not wrong, in a marketing sense?

[Biz laughs.]

‘Cause it’s a little hard to talk about your show when you’re trying to include everyone? But I am insistent on that. Because, I think, for me—I mean, I love my queer family. And I think that if I could do a whole season of this show about drag queens—and in fact, I’ve actually thought about changing the show to *This Is My Drag Family*. Because every conversation I have with a drag queen is just unbelievably and moving and powerful and humane and there’s still that question—that fire in me that I talked about before—that’s like, “Okay, but somebody’s not hearing themselves in this. Probably.” And so that just motivates me to try to find as many stories as possible so that the end of three, four, five seasons—however long we go with this thing—we have a beautiful poster of people that look differently and come from different places and have told us—y’know, we’ve cried every time! But the story has been different each time. But then that’s the thing! Is that the human emotion—that crying—is the same! So that’s the beauty. That’s kind of what we’re searching for. Yeah. Yeah.

00:32:08 Biz Host

Well that’s the—the myth! The myth is that... everybody’s experiences are totally foreign. There’s only sort of one way, and this is how that’s supposed to be. And... what you discover, if you’re willing to ask questions or just listen, is that... there’re so many emotional moments that we share. Despite how our community looks. Right? Or how we engage with the world. Right? I always think in relation to parenting in particular, it amazes me that there is so much, like, parenting, like maliciousness. Y’know. Out there. When no one’s getting sleep. Everybody has been peed or pooped on. Like, y’know? Everybody’s had the kid—no matter how you got that kid in your house—

00:33:07 Tyler Guest

My son peed in my eye yesterday.

00:33:09 Biz Host

Oh! Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! Oh.

00:33:10 Tyler Guest

And he’s almost two. So it was intentional.

00:33:12 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Biz: Yeah. That’s—there was intent.

00:33:14 Biz Host

Tyler: Little shit. *[Laughs.]*

There was intent! Y’know? We’ve gotten the calls where there’s the puke in the ear and you can’t move or like you accidentally sneeze into your child’s mouth? I mean like—

[Tyler laughs.]

00:33:30 Tyler Guest

What I have learned in the almost-nine years of doing this show?

00:33:31 Biz Host

Oh, gross. *[Laughs.]*

Is that no one is unique in whatever—whether you think it’s the worst thing you could ever have done. Right? Somebody else has done it. Everybody’s walked out—

00:33:42 Tyler Guest

Life advice. Oh my god. For everything! *[Laughs.]*

00:33:45	Biz	Host	So many people have walked out of the grocery store with a thing of milk in the bottom of the stroller they didn't pay for 'cause they forgot to take it out— <i>[Tyler laughs.]</i>
00:33:53	Tyler	Guest	—and ring it up! Right? Like so— I've done that.
00:33:55	Biz	Host	I've—yeah! Who hasn't done this? So I feel like— <i>[Laughs.]</i> I feel like there is—what's so nice about <u>expanding</u> that notion to families and to experiences and why we <u>should</u> have every voice we can find sharing it, is that it expands people who don't have the opportunity for exposure to more than what their community is? To see that there's normalcy and that there's something relatable to that. And make it less... y'know... scary. Or whatever. Because that just leads to garbage. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:34:33	Tyler	Guest	Yeah. Yeah. I just love, too, that like... people—for example, some people listened to this conversation with Shereen that I talked about earlier, and it's about IVF and the challenges with having a baby that way for some folks. And I have people who come and write these emails to me and they're just so moved and thankful that I created this space—that Shereen created this space—and then those same people are giving me comments on, y'know, Latrice Royale, drag queen. Like... or, y'know, Sharon Salzberg, meditation teacher. Talking about spiritual families. And like... it's amazing to me. And it's the thing that I said to those, y'know, people who know what they're talking about. I said, "I know you know what you're talking about, but I'm gonna do this other thing." And every mentor that I've ever had would be—if they're listening to this right now they'd be laughing hysterically. Because that's sort of <i>[through laughter]</i> what, historically, I've done?
00:35:30	Biz	Host	You've done, yeah! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:35:31	Tyler	Guest	Although now I'm kind of tired, so now I'm just sort of like, "Okay, fine, I'll do that." <i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
00:35:36	Biz	Host	"Sure. That's good." Thank you <u>so</u> much for coming on and sharing not only <u>your</u> story, but some of the experiences that have been shared with you through this podcast, <i>This Is My Family</i> . Again, I—everybody's heard me say it a million times. The more we can normalize things by talking about it more and more and more and more and more, the less, "Woooo!" It is! I'm tired of, "Ooooh! What?!" I want more, "Yeah? So?" I want more of that.
00:36:08	Tyler	Guest	"What did you have for lunch today?" Yeah.
00:36:10	Biz	Host	Yeah! "What did you have for lunch?" "Salad." We are gonna make sure... that we link everyone up to where they can listen to your podcast. Not that we have to link it up. Everybody knows how to find a podcast now. But we will make sure that we include the link so it's very easy for people to get to it. As well as anything else you think would be great for our listeners to know more about. Thank you so much, and I really am sending my best to you and your family.
00:36:38	Tyler	Guest	Mm-hm. Thank you. I really appreciate this chance to chat with you on a Friday afternoon in my closet!

00:36:45	Biz	Host	Yeah! Any time! Any time. That—what would Fridays be?
00:36:48	Tyler	Guest	Really.
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
00:36:51	Biz	Host	Alright. Talk to you soon. Bye.
00:36:53	Tyler	Guest	Thank you!
00:36:54	Music	Music	“Ones and Zeroes” by “Awesome.” Steady, driving electric guitar with drum and woodwinds.
			<i>[Music fades out.]</i>
00:37:11	Music	Music	Cheerful ukulele and whistling play in background.
00:37:12	Theresa	Promo	<i>One Bad Mother</i> is supported in part by Dipsea. Dipsea is an audio app full of short, sexy stories designed to turn you on.
00:37:20	Biz	Promo	Sign me up! I'd like to be turned on to eleven, everybody! Woo! Guys?
			<i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
			I love this app. <i>[Laughs.]</i> So much. Each Dipsea story features characters that feel like real people and immersive scenarios so you feel like you are right there. What's nice is you've got options to set your preferences. So not every story is you adrift at sea with a large group of sailors. <i>[Laughs.]</i> There is no better self-care than... self-care. Wink, wink.
			<i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
00:37:55	Theresa	Promo	So for listeners of <i>One Bad Mother</i> , Dipsea is offering a 30-day free trial when you go to DipseaStories.com/badmother .
00:38:04	Biz	Promo	That's a 30-day free trial when you go to D-I-P-S-E-AStories.com/badmother .
00:38:12	Theresa	Promo	DipseaStories.com/badmother .
			<i>[Music fades out.]</i>
00:38:21	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.
00:38:41	Biz	Host	Genius fail time, Theresa. Hello!
00:38:45	Theresa	Host	Hello!
00:38:46	Biz	Host	It's so nice to see you.
00:38:48	Theresa	Host	You as well.
00:38:50	Biz	Host	I would like to request that you... genius me.
00:38:55	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>
00:39:10	Theresa	Host	I can do that. I... had my second pandemic birthday.
00:39:17	Biz	Host	Wooo!
00:39:18	Theresa	Host	This past week.
00:39:19	Biz	Host	<i>[Singing]</i> Yes, you didddd! Happy birthday to you! Duh-nuh-nuh-nuh-na-nuh!

[Theresa laughs.]

00:39:30 Theresa Host You say it's your birthday! Dun-nuh-nuh-nuh-na-nuh! *[Regular voice]* It's not my birthday. It is your birthday! *[Laughs.]*
Yeah! And there's something—there's something that felt good about it being—

[Biz laughs.]

—the second pandemic birthday. Like, the first pandemic birthday we were just a few days into the pandemic. Like, days. Like... three days into the shutdown. And I remember very well how I felt that day.

[Biz laughs.]

00:39:57 Biz Host How was that? Did you—it was good?
00:39:59 Theresa Host It was pretty—honestly, it was pretty numb. Like, I just remember being like, "I know it's my birthday and people are being nice to me, but I don't feel anything right now." Y'know? Except for, like, anxiety. Obviously.
00:40:15 Biz Host Yeah! Well I mean that was ramped up. Happy birthday!
00:40:17 Theresa Host Yeah!
00:40:18 Biz Host Here's a—
00:40:19 Theresa Host Exactly.
00:40:20 Biz Host —cake of anxiety.
00:40:22 Theresa Host Right. And I mean, I'm glad that I didn't even know what lay ahead for me.

[Biz laughs.]

00:40:32 Biz Host At that point.
That would've been a different cake gift.
00:40:34 Theresa Host That would've been a different type of... thing.
00:40:40 Biz Host Yeah. Like a brownie. Not really a cake.
00:40:41 Theresa Host But—yeah. *[Laughs.]*

[Biz laughs.]

00:40:48 Biz Host But—so this week I also—it was a big birthday. I turned 40.
Wooooo!
00:40:50 Theresa Host Yeah! And... I was happy on my birthday. I don't... I don't wanna try to explain it? I don't need to have a reason. But it was definitely different from last birthday. And I definitely had a good day. And felt... felt like myself having a birthday and it was—it was great.
00:41:19 Biz Host I am so glad. You deserved this birthday.
00:41:24 Theresa Host Thank you.
00:41:25 Biz Host You have worked very hard and this is a very good birthday and I am so glad that this is more than just two birthdays. I've gotten to celebrate with you. Since knowing you.
00:41:41 Theresa Host Yeah.
00:41:44 Biz Host And 40? 40! Lordy, lordy! Lordy, lordy! Theresa's 40! That's what I say.

[Theresa laughs.]

That... is great. I have been thoroughly enjoying my 40s. So welcome to—this was the birthday that I think I've shared that my sister and I went to Spencer's Gifts. And got a bunch of like Over the Hill presents. Y'know. Like, "It's the black jelly! Over the Hill!" Right? For my poor mother. 'Cause... we didn't understand humor or anything.

00:42:17 Theresa Host
00:42:18 Biz Host
00:42:22 Theresa Host
00:42:23 Biz Host

Right.
So happy birthday. You are doing a good job.
Thank you.
So I've stopped watching *Glee* with Kat. *[Laughs.]*

[Theresa laughs.]

00:42:34 Theresa Host
00:42:35 Biz Host

Because, like, three episodes in it was just...
It was too much?
A lot of sexy, sexy sex! And like I said, we're all cool with sex. But I think there is a—the humor on the show—there's a little cruelty to it. There's a little darkness to it. There is—which of course I find hilarious. And so when I am laughing at the humor coming from pain or whatever, it's like... a weird situation to then look over at my tween and be like, "You don't really understand why I'm laughing, and also—god. You just—you need some more foundation before you get into this."

00:43:17 Theresa Host
00:43:25 Biz Host
00:43:32 Theresa Host

Well at least maybe they could enjoy it? But not with a parent? Like, watch it with a peer maybe and sort that out together? *[Laughs.]*
Yeah! *[Through laughter]* That's right! Work that out together, guys!
Don't work it out next to me.
Yeah. Or just experience it differently. Like, instead of—

[Biz laughs.]

00:43:42 Biz Host

—hearing their mom laugh and think, "Why—what's funny?" Yeah. It's funny that that girl has a red drink thrown in her face every episode. Because—*[Laughs.]* X, y, and z! Yeah. And then it's no fun 'cause it's lots of speeches. By me. So... last night—

[Theresa laughs.]

—we sat down. Pulled up the TV again to find something to watch together. And Kat says, "What is that?" Pointing to *America's Funniest Home Videos*. And that's a perfect show. We watched—it's like YouTube before there was YouTube. Y'know? I... thoroughly enjoy—just the utmost delight—people getting, like, nailed in the groin area. Right? Trying to be funny.

[Theresa laughs.]

00:44:52 Caller Caller

Trying to be cool. Whatever. I enjoy cats being scared of cucumbers. I enjoy dogs attacking boxes. And of course, Kat loved it! Loved it! Ta. Da.
[Answering machine beeps.]

Hi! I'm calling in a genius. My name's Rochelle. And I'm sitting at a quiet dinner table by myself eating dinner. A nice and hot dinner. My toddler has locked himself in his room screaming that he doesn't want dinner and that's fine. My husband is taking care of

that, so I'm just gonna enjoy a nice, quiet meal! Op! There we are!
Well, it was a genius.

[Biz laughs.]

00:45:21	Biz	Host	Thank you! Bye!
00:45:25	Theresa	Host	Ugh. Look how fast! Look how fast it happened!
00:45:28	Biz	Host	Well, we don't necessarily know.
			We don't know what happened on the other end of the "Oh." But I will say, what happened fast. I should actually say that what happened so fast was you making the decision. Trying something different. Let's remember last year's theme was "Let's try something different." Instead of just trying to wait or make it better or absorb that energy, you just sat down and had your meal.
00:45:53	Theresa	Host	Yeah!
00:45:55	Biz	Host	No one's going to therapy over that in the future. God! That is a great job!
00:46:00	Theresa	Host	And when you have babies and toddlers in your house... sometimes just somebody needs to eat.
00:46:10	Biz	Host	Yeah. Somebody needs to eat.
00:46:11	Theresa	Host	So y'know, sometimes it's just acceptance. "I'll just eat." And then if by the time you're done with your hot meal your toddler still isn't feeling better, you can trade with your partner! And they can eat!
00:46:22	Biz	Host	They can eat! They can nuke that—you don't have to be the one waiting for the second round. You get to be the first.
00:46:30	Theresa	Host	Yeah! You're hungry!
00:46:31	Biz	Host	You're hungry! You're gonna need that strength. You gotta feed it.

[Theresa laughs.]

00:46:45	Clip	Clip	I think— <i>[Laughs.]</i> You're doing a great job. And I hope it was fucking delicious. Failures! <i>[Dramatic orchestral music plays in the background.]</i>
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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.]

00:46:51	Biz	Host	Fail me, Theresa.
00:46:53	Theresa	Host	Okay. So—

[Biz laughs.]

00:47:07	Biz	Host	We are now on week two of me not acknowledging the existence of this most recent learning kit.
00:47:08	Theresa	Host	Good job.
00:47:09	Biz	Host	For Oscar's remote schooling.
00:47:10	Theresa	Host	So proud of you. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			If you didn't listen to last week's show, I just did not pick it up. I knew it was happening but I just wanted to believe I didn't need to

deal with it *[through laughter]* and that it would sort itself out somehow. *[Laughs.]*

[Biz laughs.]

00:47:29 Biz Host So—*[Laughs.]* Yes? Do you have a question? Did you—since last week, have you been to the school for other reasons?
00:47:34 Theresa Host Yes.
00:47:35 Biz Host Okay. I just wanted to make sure. I just wanted to make sure. It didn't hop in the car?
00:47:40 Theresa Host No! I mean, I don't know why our personal concierge at the charter school—

[Biz laughs.]

—hasn't chased us down with—y'know, whatever. Point being—

[Biz laughs.]

—yes. So Oscar is going back to in-person school two mornings a week. And I wanted to believe that somehow the school would manage to give him the learning kit while he was there. I didn't ask anyone about that. I didn't even request help with that. I just... hoped. Hoped it would happen. And of course it didn't. And... then I've just continued to do nothing to the point where I got an email from his teacher today. *[Through laughter]* Which is like—I feel like it's like the final sign of the depth of this fail is that now I've made the teacher have to do extra work? Because of... me not doing the work that I'm supposed to be doing? Saying, "I noticed you haven't picked up the most recent learning kit."

00:48:47 Biz Host Just one packet. *[Laughs.]*
00:48:49 Theresa Host "Oscar's gonna need these worksheets. I am attaching them so you can print them."
00:48:53 Biz Host Hey! Look!
00:48:54 Theresa Host Eh.
00:48:56 Biz Host It's—did work itself out! You did not have to pick them up.
00:49:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Biz:** By the way, you should not be rewarded for that. *[Laughs.]*

00:49:04 Theresa Host **Theresa:** Y'know... I have no— I won't be rewarded. It won't be rewarded. I have—I also—there's no indication in that email that what she was attaching was everything in the learning kit and that I no longer need the learning kit. I'm sure I need the learning kit. There's whole workbooks in there. And stuff. Other stuff. Little—

00:49:24 Biz Host Probably money. Probably money.

[Theresa laughs.]

00:49:27 Theresa Host Probably—
00:49:28 Biz Host Drugs.
00:49:31 Theresa Host —a free pass to college. *[Laughs.]* I mean, like a coupon? Marijuana gummies?
00:49:33 Biz Host Marijuana gummies. Those are probably in there. A lotta things you might want that you, y'know, they expire. Milk. There's probably *[through laughter]* milk in there that you should've gotten?

00:49:43 Theresa Host Cigarettes.
00:49:45 Biz Host Cigarettes. Why are all the things on your list—
00:49:46 Theresa Host Beer.

[Biz laughs.]

[Laughs.] I don't know. I'm just trying to think of funny stuff to be in a learning kit for a first-grader.
00:49:53 Biz Host That's right. A one-way ticket to Hawaii for one adult. Mother.
[Laughs.]
00:50:05 Theresa Host *[Laughs.]* A new puppy?
00:50:06 Biz Host Oh! I bet it's a puppy!
00:50:08 Theresa Host It might be a puppy.
00:50:09 Biz Host That should've been picked up right away, Theresa.
00:50:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Biz:** That's unfortunate. Can't just leave a puppy.

Theresa: Yeah. You're not supposed to just leave puppies waiting.
00:50:16 Biz Host Yeah. So—wow.
00:50:19 Theresa Host Yeah. And I—still, I'm having the same reaction to that email from her. I don't even want to print the attachments. And believe me, I know I'm being an asshole right now. Like, I really like his teacher. She's doing a good job. I appreciate everything teachers are doing. I'm just at that level of burnout where I'm like—looking at it I'm like—y'know, I'm looking at it on my phone and I'm thinking, "Okay, gotta remember to go to my computer, log in on my computer, print out the things, make sure the computer's connected to the printer and the—whatever." Just all that—and then figuring out what he needs for what—I just... it's burnout. I don't want to do it! I just wanna skip to next year!

00:51:03 Biz Host Wah, wah, wah! Yeah! Skippies! Skippies! No, I—
00:51:05 Theresa Host And I also—by the way—

[Biz laughs.]

—don't ever wanna support my kid's education going forward. Like—even post-pandemic! *[Laughs.]* Like I'm done! I don't wanna do homework with them. *[Laughs.]* I'm so cooked, you guys.
[Laughs.]
00:51:22 Biz Host Oh, god. I—look. Here's—two things. One, I appreciate you seeing this experiment through.

[Theresa laughs.]

Because that is probably helpful to many of us. And two, I really get it. Like, there are so many dumb things like that? 'Cause that's dumb. I mean, y'know? Yes. Go fucking print it out, Theresa! Wah, wah, wah! Right? But like—I—there's like—*[Laughs.]* So many of those things where I'm like—

00:51:53 Theresa Host Yeah. It's too many! That's just one of like twenty today!
00:51:57 Biz Host I really don't even wanna unlock the garage again. I don't know why it angers me. I don't know why I find that to be too much? I don't... know. But I don't ever wanna do it again. Right? Like there's just—y'know? I get it!

[Theresa laughs.]

00:52:19	Theresa	Host	So despite understanding, you <u>are</u> doing a horrible job.
00:52:21	Biz	Host	Yes. Thank you.
			Yeah. So. Oh, you're welcome. You're—you're very welcome, Theresa. Okay. It's a classic and I wish I'd had my phone near me to take a picture, but I'm going to make my coffee. My espresso. My cappuccino. And I take out my beans and I'm gonna pour them in my grinder and I don't. I pour the—I pour them in the frother? My little milk frother, like, pitcher? I just... fill it up. And I don't even recognize it? Like—and by the way, yes, I am absolutely talking to kids at this moment. And— <i>[Laughs.]</i> I just looked at it and I was like, "Huh. Hey." Stefan walked in and I was like, "Looky looky! Looky what I did!" And he was like, "Oh! You did that." And I was like, "I did." It's not—I didn't pour a liquid into the grinder. This is a big deal.
00:53:17	Theresa	Host	That's better.
00:53:18	Biz	Host	I did not pour milk directly, like, into the espresso machine. This time it was a solid into a place that holds liquid. But I just was like, "Look at that! Look at this thing that I will forever be bad at because I'm a little broken."
			<i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
			Just a little broken. Now and forever. So that—it's simple. It's small. It's no <i>Glee</i> . But it's... yeah.
00:53:46	Theresa	Host	It's a reminder.
00:53:47	Biz	Host	It's a reminder that I'm not ever gonna be okay. That's it. You're right. Thank you.
00:53:53	Theresa	Host	Mm-hm. You're welcome.
00:53:54	Biz	Host	Thanks for putting that into words.
00:53:55	Theresa	Host	Any time.
00:53:56	Biz	Host	Oh. It's so good.
00:53:57	Caller	Caller	<i>[Answering machine beeps.]</i>
			<i>[Laughs.]</i> This is a fail. <i>[Laughs.]</i> I... needed to pick up a packet from my second-grader's school. Because he's remote and so they do these every couple of weeks. So I'm not wearing real shoes. I'm wearing very clearly <u>not</u> — <i>[Laughs.]</i> Not outside shoes. And they definitely noticed. <i>[Laughs.]</i> I'm having trouble being a human. Y'all are doing a great job. Bye. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
00:54:40	Biz	Host	I gotta tell ya—my fear of showing up to school or someplace without shoes at <u>all</u> . This is a dream that I have all the—that I am just... barefoot. It is like—that—after this pandemic, is very real. And I <u>totally</u> see the showing up. Just in the shoes. Like, the not-shoes. Though I have to ask—what were the shoes?
00:55:12	Theresa	Host	I know!
00:55:14	Biz	Host	What were the—'cause I'm like—is it a flip-flop? It can't be a flip-flop. Unless it's snowing and then you're like, "That's weird." Is it like a little sexy kitten heel?
			<i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
			Y'know, like a little furry—like on the top. You're just like, "Well I was just in my boudoir in my kitten heels, and then I needed to go

			pick them up.” Is it like... I don’t know! I don’t know what other shoes it could be! But I’m thrilled.
00:55:37	Theresa	Host	House slippers. House slippers.
00:55:39	Biz	Host	What? House slippers. It’s very relaxed in California. Y’know? People can kinda get away with house slippers. But maybe—
00:55:46	Theresa	Host	That’s true. That’s true.
00:55:48	Biz	Host	But maybe they were like big, furry, like, claws. Or it had a monster slippers or a puffy kitty face.
00:55:54	Theresa	Host	Yeah. There’s all kinds of embarrassing slippers that you could have.
00:55:58	Biz	Host	Oh my god. What if they’re like those novelty slippers that have a bosom on the end?
			<i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
00:56:04	Theresa	Host	Oh no!
00:56:06	Biz	Host	So it’s just like... two bosom slippers? I mean, I don’t know if they actually make those. I gotta imagine they do. But bosom slippers! That—that would be an excellent thing to go pick up your kid’s packet with. Right? Yeah. Yeah. So well—you’re doing a horrible job just remembering how to leave the house! And be in front of people. That’s—yeah. Well—and by the way, they were all talking about you forever.
			<i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
00:56:36	Music	Music	So I hope you can’t sleep. “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>
00:57:00	Music	Music	Inspirational keyboard music plays in background.
00:57:01	Biz	Promo	<i>One Bad Mother</i> is supported in part by Billie. Self-care and routine are more important than ever. Whatever you’re using to get ready for the day should make you feel amazing!
00:57:11	Theresa	Promo	Okay. Meet Billie, you guys. For the days when you want an extra-smooth shave. I personally have really sensitive skin. It’s been really hard to find a razor that doesn’t irritate my skin. But Billie is a really, <u>really</u> nice razor, you guys. It’s no surprise that this razor has won awards. So you can go to MyBillie.com to get their starter kit for just \$9. It includes their award-winning razor, two refill blades, and a cult-favorite magnetic holder.
00:57:41	Biz	Promo	Go to MyBillie.com/mother to show them where you heard about it while getting the best razor you will ever own!
00:57:50	Theresa	Promo	It’s just \$9 to get your starter kit, plus free shipping always. So go to MyBillie.com/mother.
00:57:58	Biz	Promo	That’s spelled MyB-I-L-L-I-E.com/mother.
			<i>[Music fades out.]</i>
00:58:10	Promo	Clip	<i>[Cheering crowd.]</i>

Danielle Radford: Mmmacho man, to the top rope!

[Thump!]

Danielle: The flying elbow! The cover!

[Crowd cheering swells.]

Speaker 2: *[Distant; impact on each word]* One! Two! Three!

[Ding ding ding!]

Danielle: We've got a new champion!

Music: Excited, sweeping music.

Lindsey Kelk: We're here with Macho Man Randy Savage after his big win to become the new world champion! What are you gonna do now, Mach?!

Hal Lublin: *[Randy Savage impression]* I'm gonna go listen to the newest episode of the [Tights and Fights](#) podcast, oh yeah!

Lindsey: Tell us more about this podcast!

Hal: *[Continuing impression]* It's the podcast of power, too sweet to be sour! Funky like a monkey! Woke discussions, man! And jokes about wrestlers' fashion choices, myself excluded! Yeahh!

Lindsey: I can't wait to listen!

Hal: *[Continuing impression]* Neither can I! You can find it Saturdays on Maximum Fun! Oh yeahhh! Dig it!

[Music fades out.]

00:58:58 Promo Clip

Kirk Hamilton: Videogames.

Jason Schreier: Videogames!

Maddy Myers: Video...games. You like 'em?

Jason: Maybe you wish you had more time for them?

Kirk: Maybe you wanna know the best ones to play?

Jason: Maybe you wanna know what happens to Mario when he dies?

[Someone laughs.]

Maddy: In that case you should check out *Triple Click*. It's a podcast about videogames.

Jason: A podcast about videogames?! But I don't have time for that!

Kirk: Sure ya do. Once a week, kick back as three videogame experts give you everything from critical takes on the hottest new releases—

Jason: —to scoops, interviews, and explanations about how videogames work—

Maddy: —to fascinating and sometimes weird stories about the games we love.

Kirk: *Triple Click* is hosted by me, Kirk Hamilton.

Jason: Me, Jason Schreier.

Maddy: And me, Maddy Myers.

Kirk: You can find *Triple Click* wherever you get your podcasts and listen at MaximumFun.org.

Maddy: Bye!

00:59:42	Biz	Host	<p><i>[Music ceases.]</i> <i>[Sultrily]</i> Well. It's that time again. I'm gonna put on my sexy radio voice so that we can snuggle close in our minds with Theresa. And listen to a mom have a breakdown.</p>
00:59:56	Caller	Caller	<p><i>[Answering machine beeps.]</i> <i>[Tearfully]</i> Hi! This is a mom having a breakdown. So... I graduated last May with my mechanical engineering degree. I had an internship that I lost because of COVID and I didn't get to have a graduation because of COVID. And I spent, like, weeks of my life pumping for my children in the parking lot and I was pregnant and gave birth to two kids while going to school and it's all culminated into nothing because I wasn't able to graduate properly. And now I'm just casually looking for a job since then because, y'know, I don't wanna send my kids to daycare right now and I don't have to and I'm fortunate enough that my husband makes enough money that I don't <u>have</u> to right now.</p> <p>And—<i>[sniffs]</i>. Just now my husband came out and he's talking about all this stuff and how much he's doing and my daughter, who's four—she's just four. She goes, "Yeah, Daddy's an engineer!" And he goes, "Well, Mommy's an engineer, too!" And she goes, "No." <i>[Sobs.]</i> "Mommy's just mommy. She's not a real engineer. She's just a pretend one." And that's what I feel like and I hate it and she's just four. <i>[Sobs.]</i> I just... y'know. I just really wanted to be a real engineer and I want to be as a real job and not have to deal with the kids all the time. And it just sucks really bad right now. And I'm really sorry. Y'all are all doing a great job. Thank you so much for your show. <i>[Inaudible]</i> because it's just really hard sometimes.</p>
01:01:45	Biz	Host	<p>It is really hard. Sometimes. And you are doing a <u>truly</u> remarkable job. I—<i>[sighs.]</i> I just... I—ugh! I think... having really young kids in your house... I remember—and still—have these feelings of... like... not being a whole person. Right? Like, I'm not the person I was. I'm—now I'm just "Mom." Right? Now I'm just "Mama." And...</p>

y'know. I mean, half of the point of this show was to try and sort through those feelings. Of not feeling like a Self. And... *[sighs.]* What you've done... just the fact that you went to and finished school while having—giving birth to two kids! While being pregnant. Giving birth to two children. 'K? Breastfeeding. Pumping. That's more than most of the students in that school. Not only did you deserve a graduation? You deserved, like, a special honors. You deserved to walk across that stage by your fucking self and get a standing goddamn ovation. Alright?

01:03:15 Theresa Host
01:03:16 Biz Host

Seriously. Yeah.

I mean... that's—that's taking the whole notion of the old saying, "Not only did I do it as a woman, I did it in heels backwards." Right? This is—this is what you did! You did that!

01:03:31 Theresa Host
01:03:32 Biz Host

Yes.

I am stunned and in awe and... I—I just think you are so remarkable.

01:03:44 Theresa Host

You so are.

[Biz laughs.]

01:03:46 Biz Host
01:03:48 Theresa Host

Goddammit! *[Laughs.]*

Yeah. It's so—it's so false that you don't get to experience that sense of accomplishment? Which is a valid feeling that you're having. Because... this pandemic means you don't get to have these tangible experiences that allow you to have that sense of accomplishment. But it's so false! Like, you—*[Laughs.]* You did all the things and more.

01:04:15 Biz Host

Talk about not, like... I think there's this feeling experience of not feeling seen? Like, I just spent all day in therapy talking about this sensation. And like... it's not—it can be as small as the, like, "Goddammit, I am cooking food every fucking night for this family." *[Laughs.]* "When did I sign up to do that?" To the great unseeing of what you have accomplished. And then to be seen by your daughter as... quote, "Just a mommy." Which, I mean, come on, guys. That's... that's so, like, that is an onion that is just full of peels. Mm-kay? That is so many layers. Not only does it of course make you feel like that thing you worked so hard for is completely invalid, it makes you feel like all that work—all that fucking pumping in the car and doing this while pregnant and doing this while—I guarantee you had no sleep during any of this, either. All of it! All of it!

It feels like—and of course your four-year-old's not being dismissive of you *[through laughter]* but does it mean that you're feeling?

Probably not. Just, I mean, my kids have said stuff to me where I'm like, "Ouch." And they had no idea the effects it was having and then I would've been like, my feminist background/women's studies minor would've like come raring up and I'd be like, "Honey, not only am I a mom—which is an important, hard, fucking time-consuming, emotionally-consuming, mental-consuming job that no one recognizes—I also am this person who had this passion and want to be out in the world walking through it with this job! With this title!" Right? This is important to me! And, y'know, when that feels like it's being unseen? It's just so unfair! It really is unfair!

01:06:34 Theresa Host
01:06:36 Biz Host

It really is.

And I just think... you are doing such a good job. I just—I wish we could give you a graduation? I honest-to-god wish—I'm gonna

stand, right now. I am applauding you. Everybody? Everybody listening—

[Sound of clapping.]

—needs to join me in applauding the ridiculously difficult accomplishments of you. Do you understand? We are all celebrating you right now. You are doing a remarkable job. Theresa? Should I sing “Happy Birthday” in Swedish?

[Singing in Swedish] That’s about all I can fake it ‘til I make it after that.

[Theresa laughs.]

01:07:21 Theresa Host

That was plenty!

01:07:22 Biz Host

It was plenty. And there’s like a whole thing at the end where it’s like, “Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!” Right? And you have to do the “hurrah” with the accent, too. I’m sorry. Marika, my sister-in-law, is probably listening, like, “What?” *[Laughs.]*

[Theresa laughs.]

But I tried my best! Happy birthday. You’re doing a great job. As always, it is a pleasure to see you and makes me feel grounded for at least an hour.

[Theresa laughs.]

01:07:53 Theresa Host

[Laughs.] Just to be honest. Just being honest. Thank you, Biz.

[Biz laughs.]

Alright. Thank you so much. And it was great to see you today and I will see you next week.

01:08:01 Biz Host

Yeah! Let’s do this again next week!

01:08:03 Theresa Host

Let’s do it.

01:08:04 Biz Host

I think that’d be really fun.

01:08:05 Theresa Host

Okay. Sounds good.

01:08:07 Biz Host

Bye!

01:08:08 Theresa Host

Bye!

01:08:09 Biz Host

What did we learn today, everyone? Well—*[Laughs.]* We learned that family comes in many shapes and sizes. Which is already limiting by just saying shapes and sizes, isn’t it? Family... means a lot of different things to different people, but at its core? It is about... loving and being loved. And I hope that when we start taking the pressure off of what family looks like or how it’s supposed to be defined? That we will begin to really feel... y’know... that we can celebrate who we claim to be our family. And not feel bad if it doesn’t, y’know, if it isn’t with the people we were born with. Or if it isn’t, y’know, I dunno. I just—let’s take that pressure off of us, too. Guys, we have enough pressures on us about being good parents or walking through the world a certain—whatever. Okay? We all know kids wind up in our houses in lots of different ways. We all know that families are made up in a lot of different ways. Sometimes they include kids. Sometimes they don’t.

Sometimes there is one parent. Sometimes there are two. Sometimes they are of different sex. And I know we have trans families as well as just another example of what a family can be made up of. And I really loved the selective family—I have many selected families. Families that are from the sketch community. My old camp. Theatre. I just—and *One Bad Mother*? Come on, guys. *[Singing]* We are family! Boop, boop, boop, boop, boop, boop! I got all my sisters and me! *[Regular voice]* And brothers. Guys? *[Laughs.]* I love you and you're doing a good job. And I have got a request! If you will humor me, the MaxFun Drive is coming. Not tomorrow. Down the road. *[Laughs.]* But it's going to come again. And this year, MaxFun and *One Bad Mother* are hoping to get a few voicemails or emails from members sharing what the show has meant to you. So if that's something you can do as a way to support the show; as a way to support us during the Drive; please email, text, or send an audio message to MemberStories@MaximumFun.org, or call and leave a message at 323-601-8719. And we may be able to use your thoughts in an upcoming episode or during the Drive. And we would really appreciate it. We'll link everybody up to where they can do that in the show notes as well. And now, everybody? Let me leave you a little message. You guys... are doing an amazing job. The end. I—I don't—we don't have to expound on that this week. There is... so much... going on. Hovering about. On top of the pandemic. On top of our normal "God, this is all hard and nobody gives a shit" status. And I think what we need to do is step back and remember that we are doing a good job? You are? And I see you? And... I think that's the real key. We all just wanna be seen. Whether it's for small efforts in our house or whether it's feeling heard when it comes to the experiences we're having walking through the world. So... let's go out and see each other. And listen to each other. And I will talk to you guys next week. Bye!

01:12:28 Music Music

"Mama Blues" by Cornbread Ted and the Butterbeans. Strumming acoustic guitar with harmonica and lyrics.

*I got the lowdown mamma blues
 Got the the lowdown mamma blues
 Gots the lowdown mamma blues
 The lowdown mamma blues.
 Gots the lowdown mamma blues
 Got the lowdown mamma blues
 You know that's right.*

01:12:52 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. *One Bad Mother* is a member of the Maximum Fun family of podcasts. To support the show go to MaximumFun.org/donate.

01:13:21 Theresa Host

01:13:44 Music Transition

[Music continues for a while before fading out.]
 A cheerful ukulele chord.

01:13:45	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org .
01:13:46	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:13:47	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:13:48	Speaker 4	Guest	—Audience supported.