

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 One Bad Mother 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.
00:00:20	Music	Music	"Summon 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> —moms can be whatever the fuck they want! We talk to Australian comedian and author Nelly Thomas about being yourself. Plus, Biz can feel it.
00:00:36	Crosstalk Caller	Crosstalk Caller	<b>Biz and caller:</b> Woooo! Yeah! Work is asking me for some more in-person interactions. Today—but today is the kids' first day back at daycare in... I have no ideal how long.
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			I've got all the feels and all the anxieties but I was smart and daddy is taking care of drop-off so I don't have to witness any of the drama. So that's good. And... yeah! I am now on my way to work to see colleagues that I like. Do a job that I like. And if anybody asks me if I'm okay—no! No, I'm not.
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
00:01:25	Biz	Host	But this does not suck. Alright. Y'all take care. "This does not suck." That is a mantra for our times. You are doing an amazing—you really are doing an amazing job! I love this check-in. Because everything still sounds insane, what you're saying. But at the same time... you are recognizing all the little joys that are hidden in there? Like, hey! Good job passing off that first-day drop-off to your partner. That is something I think is really hard to do? And when you've got a day where you're really looking forward to doing something that at the same time requires probably a mental focus that you haven't had to put to use in a while? Like, being in person? Giving yourself the space to not add to that—the drop-off—is—it's just really genius. And such a good job taking care of yourself. And I'm really glad that you like where you work and that this all is—I'm just so glad about this check-in! You are doing such an amazing job! Thank you for sharing it!
			Speaking of thank-you— <i>[singing]</i> thank you, thank youuu! There's a pandemic! It's still happening. <i>[Regular voice]</i> So here come the thank-you's. Thank you, everybody in the medical field. I just... you all know who you are. It's all of you. Every single one of you. You're all amazing and I see you and the fact that you probably had no time to rest. Thank you to all the people who are <u>joining</u> the medical field right now? I mean, a lot of people—it's been a year and a half, almost, and it's amazing to me that people didn't just run away. That people actually finished getting certified or their degrees in medicine and going back into a field in which your services are so needed. I just—thank you for doing that. As well as thank you to all

the people who have started working in all of the support roles that make medical facilities, hospitals, doctors' offices happen. Thank you. Thank you to all of our people who are working in retail and groceries and food and delivery services. Ahhhh! You make it feel like everything's almost normal. *[Laughs.]* And at a cost to yourself. And I really, really appreciate you doing that. Thank you. *[Singing]* Postal workers and Amazon/FedEx/DHL—all of you—thank you for bringing us our stuff! *[Laughs.] [Regular voice]* That's very nice of you.

Teachers? Teachers? Teachers, listen up! I love you. You're doing impossible things right now. Nothing that you were probably trained for. Just Zooming and in-person and... back-and-forth! Back-and-forth! Back-and-forth! Back-and-forth! *[Laughs.]* And yet you show up! And you're so nice! And I really appreciate you. And... finally, for this week, *[singing]* vacciiiines! Vacciiiines! People making vaccines. *[Regular voice]* Oh, I should do that to "Jolene"! *[Singing to tune of Dolly Parton's "Jolene"]* Vaccine! Vaccine! Vaccine! Vacciiiine! *[Regular voice]* That was awful. You're all welcome. So people who made those vaccines, thank you. Science. Scientists. Epidemiologists. You guys are great. People manufacturing those vaccines and shipping them safely to where they need to go? Thank you! And thank you to all of the people who are poking us all the time. Maybe you are actually in the medical profession or maybe you are a volunteer helping people get to their pokes. Thank you. Thank you. Let's keep getting *[singing]* pooooked! *[Regular voice]* You're all doing an amazing job.

00:05:36 Biz Host

This is my check-in, guys. My check-in is—I wanted to let you guys know this—tween energy is palpable. There are times when I walk into a room that my tween is in. Or my tween enters my room. And there is—it's almost like a smell, but it's not. It's their energy. And sometimes that energy is so overwhelming and I feel like I'm not contributing to it or taking from it. But I'm—I'm being absorbed in it. And it's a weird alien energy. And... there are some times I'm standing there and that energy is all around me and I *[through laughter]* don't like it! I don't like it! It doesn't feel good! I feel like I just need to carry sage around with me and constantly sage my tween. The disruption and the back-and-forth and the insanity of this poor child's emotions and hormones and like... everything else just converging on them at once? Needs a good sage-ing. That's all I can say. Everything is weird. And summer's coming. So that's great. And I know that so much of it is just about my poor tween trying to figure out who they are. And there's something about these years in which you have to try and be everything but yourself sometimes, it feels like. *[Laughs.]* Before you find yourself. And all I wanna do is get out of the way of that weirdo energy and yet still make sure my child knows that they can be whatever the fuck they want! Which I think ties in nicely to what we're gonna talk about today with our guest, Nelly Thomas.

00:07:34 Music Music  
00:07:35 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.

00:07:43 Biz Host

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

00:07:47 Theresa Host

Nothing we say constitutes professional parenting advice.

00:07:49	Biz	Host	Biz and Theresa's children are brilliant, lovely, and exceedingly extraordinary.
00:07:53	Theresa	Host	Nothing said on this podcast about them implies otherwise.
			<i>[Banjo music fades out.]</i>
			<i>[Biz and Nelly repeatedly affirm each other as they discuss the weekly topic.]</i>
00:08:02	Biz	Host	This week, we are welcoming Nelly Thomas. Who is a multitalented Australian comedian <u>and</u> author! I like the idea that Australian is like—it's a comma. You are multitalented, Australian, comedian, <u>and</u> author!
			<i>[Nellie laughs.]</i>
			Anyway. She is a regular guest on ABC Melbourne Radio, Radio National, News Breakfast, and various other programs. Nelly was listed as one of Australia's Most Innovative Thinkers in the <i>Age</i> newspaper and was featured on the ABC's "Big Ideas: the Smartest Stuff on TV, Radio, and Online." Nelly is the author of <u>four</u> books, including three highly-successful children's books: <i>Some Girls</i> , <i>Some Boys</i> , and <i>Some Brains</i> —a book celebrating neurodiversity. Those <u>did</u> have commas, by the way.
			<i>[Nellie laughs.]</i>
			She's also the author of two books for adults, <i>What Women Want</i> , and her most <u>recent</u> book, which I have not stopped laughing at, <i>Some Moms Are Fat Molls</i> .
			<i>[Nellie laughs.]</i>
			Her passions include women's health and well-being. Those are good things to be passionate about. Social justice and binge-watching television. And here's the highlight—her greatest claim to fame <i>[through laughter]</i> is that she was once an under-thirteen's State Girls BMX champion. That's all we're gonna talk about today. Welcome, Nelly! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:09:20	Nelly	Guest	Correct. Correct! BMX champion. You are looking at an elite athlete. Right? Elite! It's been a while.
00:09:29	Biz	Host	What you guys can't see is that her entire house is filled with bikes. Just BMX bikes.
			<i>[Nellie laughs.]</i>
			They're everywhere and it's filthy! There's dirt from off-roading. It's not true.
00:09:41	Nelly	Guest	Grease.
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			Well actually my career was cut short as they so tragically and often are, by an accident. So.
00:09:50	Biz	Host	Did you get your period?
			<i>[Both laugh.]</i>

00:09:55	Nelly	Guest	Sorry! Well if you count an handlebar through the stomach.
			<i>[Biz shrieks.]</i>
00:10:01	Biz	Host	It was bloody!
00:10:02	Nelly	Guest	That's worse. <i>[Laughs.]</i> So... yeah. Yeah. It was a little—it was intense. I never rode again. I never rode again.,
00:10:08	Biz	Host	Did you—were you really just like, “That’s fucking <u>it</u> .”
00:10:10	Nelly	Guest	Overnight! I was thirteen so I was already going, y’know, “Do I really wanna be riding?” There were really very few girls riding at that time because I’m 125. So—
00:10:22	Biz	Host	Yeah. I’m also 125. So yeah. I know.
00:10:24	Nelly	Guest	Y’know? So I had to ride the boys and that sounded— <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			—different. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:10:31	Biz	Host	A different thirteen-year-old experience. There ya go! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:10:34	Nelly	Guest	It’s a different sport altogether. But it was a man’s world. And...
00:10:40	Biz	Host	I know. Thank god that’s changed, Nelly! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:10:42	Nelly	Guest	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Yeah. Thank goodness. So yeah. No. Enough of that already. But I like—y’know, I have to have some sporting claim to fame. I’m a chubby lady and—
00:10:52	Biz	Host	This is good! This is—
00:10:54	Nelly	Guest	I like to claim it from some point in my life.
00:10:56	Biz	Host	Nelly, who lives in your house? Besides the BMX bikes. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Nellie laughs.]</i>
00:11:01	Nelly	Guest	I can tell this is gonna be a wild ride and I’m up for it. Who lives in my house? I have two daughters. One is fourteen. One is eight. And I have two dogs. An absolutely <u>stupid</u> labradoodle who—he’s one of those dogs that’s like... we often have this discussion in my house with my daughters of like, “Would you rather be dumb and pretty—”
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			“—or smart and anxious?” Right? So he’s dumb and pretty. And Ralph, our little rescue poodle, is smart and anxious. So that’s the four of us. I’m actually recently single mum. So... my relationship—
00:11:41	Biz	Host	Congratulations? <i>[Laughs.]</i> I know!
00:11:44	Nelly	Guest	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Yeah! Ohhh! Party! Um, yeah. It’s been—like for many people, been a bit of a wild ride the last year. Yeah.
00:11:51	Biz	Host	Oh, wow!
00:11:53	Nelly	Guest	Mm.
00:11:54	Biz	Host	That’s—we do not have to derail into that. All I will say, though, is—
			<i>[Nellie laughs.]</i>
			Good job recognizing the things—whatever you needed to recognize, good job. And—
00:12:05	Nelly	Guest	Yup. Yup. Y’know, life goes on. Life goes on.

00:12:07 Biz Host Yeah, it goes. What I'm discovering is it just goes and goes and goes and goes. Well between your fourteen-year-old and your eight-year-old, which one is *[through laughter]* pretty and dumb and which one is smart and anxious?

*[Both laugh.]*

00:12:24 Nelly Guest You don't have to answer that.  
00:12:27 Biz Host We're all smart, pretty, and anxious in my house.  
00:12:29 Nelly Guest Oh, yeah.  
00:12:30 Biz Host Yeah. That's how we roll.  
00:12:33 Nelly Guest That's a good combo. I like the triple—triple-headed.  
But—oh, by the way, the answer is “be pretty and dumb.” None of us—y'know. None of us managed it.

*[Biz laughs.]*

00:12:50 Biz Host But I look at Chewy—the labradoodle—and just think, “What a life.” Doesn't care. Not thinking about anything. He wasn't thinking about Trump!  
No! He never thought about it. He's not worried about the pandemic. Don't freak me out and make me think that Trump is *[through laughter]* still president, 'cause he's not.

*[Nellie laughs.]*

00:13:04 Nelly Guest I stopped thinking about him like... so fast. I know.  
Well lucky you, because my—so my eight-year-old daughter—and I might be jumping ahead, forgive me. But my eight-year-old daughter is autistic. And she has—like a lot of autistic kids, they have special interests. And she has—

00:13:15 Biz Host Oh. Oh, no.  
00:13:16 Nelly Guest —a special interest in American presidents. Right? So—

*[Biz laughs.]*

00:13:22 Biz Host —how this happened, I have no idea.  
00:13:24 Nelly Guest You're welcome. *[Laughs.]*  
No idea. So she was so—and still is—so obsessed with Trump. And makes posters about him coughing COVID onto people.

*[Biz gasps.]*

00:13:34 Biz Host I love her! I love her!  
00:13:35 Nelly Guest Yeah. Like she's not proud. She's not proud to—no. No.  
00:13:38 Biz Host But I want one of these political posters! This is gonna be like... yeah! Alright! So we are gonna get into autism, 'cause that's a fun place to go. But I'm gonna get there—I'm getting there third, as it were.

00:13:53 Nelly Guest Sure. Get there in your way.  
00:13:54 Biz Host Because I just—you may know this, but there seems to be a pattern in the titles of your books. *[Laughs.]*

00:14:00 Nelly Guest Yes! There is!  
00:14:02 Biz Host There's a bit of a pattern!

*[Nellie laughs.]*

And the first one was *Some Girls*, followed by *Some Boys*. And then it got, *Some Brains*. And then we have *Some Moms*. And I love the idea that you're just gonna stop there and *Some Dads*—fuck it. *Some Dads Are Alright*. That's it!

[Nellie laughs.]

That's all they get! Sometimes they're—no, I dunno. Okay.

[Laughs.]

00:14:25 Nelly Guest Well someone did message me the other day on Facebook saying, "The next one will be *Some Dads [Do Whatever the Fuck They Want]*."

[Biz laughs.]

And I was like, "That's a short book!" [Laughs.] I don't know how many people will buy it for Father's Day, but I will give it a go.

[Biz laughs.]

00:14:43 Biz Host Oh, sometimes we need something not that hard. Okay.

[Nellie laughs.]

*Some Girls* and *Some Boys*. Let's start with those. And—[Laughs.] I don't know. Maybe—

00:14:56 Nelly Guest Where they come from?

00:14:58 Biz Host I'm not sure about this. I'm still doing some research. But I think there may have been a lifelong void—[Laughs.]

[Nellie laughs.]

In children's literature and/or all literature that encourages celebrating diversity and being different. Maybe. I don't know. Do you notice that—

00:15:18 Nelly Guest Yeah, no, I hadn't. I hadn't. No.

00:15:20 Biz Host So you were just ready to put a book out there just to become one of a million books. [Laughs.]

[Nellie laughs.]

00:15:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Nelly:** That's right. 'Cause it's so lucrative.

**Biz:** So talk to me about—yeah!

00:15:29 Biz Host Why did you make this—why did you make these? I mean—

00:15:33 Nelly Guest Well, there's a personal answer and then there's a sort of I guess a more political answer. So I have—before—I became a comedian when I was 27. Which is old. Y'know. In comedy land. Right? So before—

00:15:45 Biz Host You and I are living mirrored lives. That's when I moved to New York to do stand-up myself! Look at you! But you're doing it much better. People actually call you that. Okay, go ahead!

[Both laugh.]

00:15:58 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Biz:** I'm just gonna live vicariously through my children. Go ahead. [Laughs.]

**Nelly:** I'm very [inaudible] that. [Laughs.]

00:16:03	Nelly	Guest	So prior to that—which is a bit of a downer—but I used to work in welfare. So I worked in sort of domestic violence refuges and homelessness services and all of those kinds of things. So I’ve always been really passionate, particularly about violence against women. And the long story short is that these books are part of my passion to do with that. Because the research shows very clearly that the way to prevent gendered violence is to challenge gendered stereotypes. And I’d done so much work over the years with teenagers and adults and gigs in that space and conferences and all the sorts of things, and then it just—y’know. It’s so obvious. You have to start young, basically. You have to teach little boys to be able to actually access their emotions and name them and deal with them. And little girls to, y’know, assert themselves. And wherever there is rigid gender roles, there’s more violence! So that’s the kind of political answer. The short—I mean, it’s more complex. But you know that’s the short story.
00:17:08	Biz	Host	I hate to tell you—I’m not sure it’s <u>that</u> complex.
00:17:12	Nelly	Guest	Well, that’s true.
00:17:13	Biz	Host	I mean, y’know. Eh. I guess my largest frustration is that there is still a lack of vision about how early this stuff needs to be addressed. And how—
00:17:26	Nelly	Guest	Oh, immediately!
00:17:27	Biz	Host	How much these things correlated with violence against women. Yeah. Anyway. Okay. So—but personally—
00:17:34	Nelly	Guest	Well, and on that point, can I say—my response now is to say, “Just look at the research!” The research is very clear. This is not me having a guess. This is not you having a guess.

*[Biz laughs.]*

The research is very clear that if you have really rigid gender roles—especially that tell little boys, y’know, “Don’t cry. You’re in control. You’re in charge. You’re the man of the house”—all of that kind of bullshit—then you will have more violence! You will have more violence for boys and men to each other, against women and girls, and—lately—the research has come out—to themselves! In terms of mental health and self-harm and so on. Anyway. That’s fucking depressing. Anyway—*[Laughs.]*

*[Biz laughs.]*

00:18:18	Biz	Host	So is parenting! So y’know. It’s all fine. It’s fine. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:18:21	Nelly	Guest	Well, just—sidenote—and this will not surprise you—what is the most of <u>all</u> the books I’ve written the most controversial thing and the thing that I get asked about <u>all</u> the time—is that there is <u>one</u> boy. <u>One</u> boy out of that forty in the <i>Boys</i> book who wears a skirt. One boy.
00:18:38	Biz	Host	Okay. I—just so you know— <u>my</u> youngest—he <u>loved</u> a skirt. Still loves a skirt. And I remember—everybody who listens to the show knows this fucking story. And it’s that like he was—I dunno—two, or something? Old enough to express opinions. And I’d taken him to the clothing shop to get some clothes. I was like, “Eh, getting some shorts. You need a t-shirt. What do you want?” And he’s like, “I wear the skirts! I want the skirt! Can I have a skirt?” And I—I mean, I’m as feminist and progressive as you wanna be. And I—but I was taken by this moment and my thought was, “I have <u>no</u> good fucking reason—I can’t think of words that I could put together that would

explain why you couldn't wear a skirt." And we would go pick up his older sister from school and in would come Ellis with the skirt and the dress 'cause who doesn't like to twirl? And it was just—y'know—like—we—all the first- and second- and third-graders in my oldest's class would be like, "Is he wearing a skirt?" Y'know? *[Laughs.]* I'd be like—yeah! I'd say like, "Yes." And they would be like, "Oh, okay." Y'know, like—*[Laughs.]*

00:19:53 Nelly Guest  
00:19:54 Biz Host

Yes! That's exactly right!  
So I can't believe you got—'cause you've got—everybody, you're gonna need to get the books—but the skirt is like the least in terms of all the diversity. I mean, there are kids with the—like—what are they called?

00:20:07 Nelly Guest  
00:20:09 Biz Host

The blades. Yeah. Yeah.  
The blades. I mean, there are like—every single possible conception of a child. *[Laughs.]*

00:20:15 Nelly Guest  
00:20:18 Biz Host  
00:20:19 Nelly Guest

Yeah. No, I tried! I tried!  
You did a good job!  
Yeah! I mean, it's just—I find it really interesting and I think those things reveal a lot to us? Y'know, that emotional reaction. Reveals a lot to us about where we are. Because we think we're so progressive in, y'know, Western countries—whatever that means these days—in terms of gender roles and so on. And then the idea of a boy in a skirt freaks out not just conservatives, but progressives as well! And even—I notice, like, even in interviews—maybe your interview's a really progressive journalist kind of laughing, "Oh! Oh! How did you—" *[Laughs.]* Y'know? That kind of manic laughter. And you're like—

*[Biz laughs.]*

00:21:05 Biz Host  
00:21:08 Nelly Guest

"Hey. Like, some dudes wear skirts!"  
It's a fucking piece of clothing, man!  
It's a piece of clothing. And if we didn't all react like this, imagine how many boys would wear skirts. Like why are we so—once you start unpacking and kinda go, "What are you uncomfortable about? Is it homophobia? Is it that he's emasculated? Like, what is it that he's hitting your nerve center?"

00:21:27 Biz Host  
00:21:29 Nelly Guest  
00:21:31 Biz Host

Well I have an answer! *[Laughs.]*  
Okay! Tell me!  
I think—honestly—honest-to-God—I think it's about—it's sort of the same thing I've had to unpack with the color pink and with the whole princess phase and all this stuff? Y'know, it first happens and you're like, "Ahhh! I'll never put my child in pink!" And then you're like, "Wait, why? Oh. Because it's 'bad.' Things that are associated traditionally with girls and women—"

00:21:55 Nelly Guest  
00:21:56 Biz Host

And femininity.  
"—are negative." And so it's fine for girls to wear skirts because we fucking hate 'em.

*[Nellie laughs.]*

00:22:18 Nelly Guest  
00:22:20 Biz Host

But a boy wears a skirt, then that's associated with weak, bad, second, y'know, all the—it's the same thing with the pink. "Oh my god, is he wearing the color pink?" Y'know. Who—what?  
Or nail polish or whatever. No. And I agree.  
Nail polish, yeah.



00:22:21	Nelly	Guest	I think the idea is—why would he give up power?
00:22:25	Biz	Host	Oh! Yeah! Two-year-old! Why would you give up power?
00:22:31	Nelly	Guest	Yeah. Yeah. But you remember when David Beckham wore—it was a sarong, actually. It wasn't even a fucking skirt. But y'know, that was—what—twenty years ago or something. And I remember the reaction to that! And that's an elite athlete. Very masculine figure. Y'know, like lauded, adored... and I think the reaction to that was—why would he give up his masculine power? Y'know? And the more interesting part of that is—"masculine power." Why do men have power?
00:23:03	Biz	Host	I know. Well, but then you look at—was it Mia Hamm? Who was it who ripped her shirt off after the World—the American World Cup thing? And she rips her shirt off. And there the backlash is... like, almost "How <u>dare</u> she show power!" Right? Y'know.
00:23:20	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Nelly:</b> Yeah. No, that's right. That's right! And we're sort of still there in some ways.
00:23:27	Nelly	Guest	<b>Biz:</b> I mean, we are just healthy. So that—and look, that was a bloody long answer. But the personal—
00:23:29	Biz	Host	Yeah! "Why'd you write the book?"
00:23:32	Nelly	Guest	<i>[Both laugh.]</i> The personal story is—for all of the kids' books, actually—my younger daughter does not fit any kind of convention. So she will get invited, y'know, when she was like two, to a fairy party and she went as Darth Vader. Y'know. She just—with a <i>[makes harsh breathing noise]</i> like the whole thing.
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			Like she just—she's a loose unit. She just runs her own race. And I could not find any books for her. And y'know like many mums I just went, "Alright. I'll do that then." And so I did the girls one and obviously it went really well and when I was touring it of course the little boys were like, "Where's our book?"
00:24:13	Biz	Host	"Where's our book? We want a book!" <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:24:15	Nelly	Guest	Right. "Where's our book?" So did that. And then when she was diagnosed with autism, same experience! Y'know, I went looking for books that were positive about her identity and positive about the diagnosis and her brain and all that sort of stuff. And I don't know! There are a couple that were okay, but they still— <i>[Laughs.]</i> The way I think of it was like they kind of go, "You'll be alright."
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			Y'know? They're like—that's the best you could hope for. That's the best.
00:24:45	Biz	Host	Yeah. Is that you'll be okay. Yeah. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:24:47	Nelly	Guest	The worst would be, y'know, "You're gonna be bullied. You'll have a terrible life. Everyone will hate you. Then you'll die." And— <i>[Laughs.]</i> Like, "Good luck." Yeah! Probably not gonna give that to a five-year-old.
00:24:57	Biz	Host	Oh. I know. Well it's—okay. So let's—everybody, if you haven't caught on yet, Nelly wrote a <u>third</u> book. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:25:06	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Nelly:</b> Yes! Yes, yes! <i>Some Brains.</i> Yes.

00:25:09 Biz Host **Biz:** It's called *Some Brains*.  
 And again, this one is about celebrating neurodiversity and we've stolen—on this show—the phrase—and I will happily use it all the time to show how woke I am—“differently-wired?” Right? Like, which we have found to be a great way to talk to our own kids and other kids just in general about like, well what does that mean? What is autism or what is this? Well “differently-wired.” All of our brains work in different ways. But so... we know why you wrote that one. And... what was that experience—I gotta think that some of that experience allowed you to unpack some stuff maybe you were carrying around. Yeah? I mean, any time you do that. But like—

00:25:57 Nelly Guest Yeah. For sure. For sure. I mean, that was—it's a really interesting experience, that one. Because you know with some projects that they just fall out of you. Y'know? Like, they just—that one... I mean—*[Laughs.]* I kind of—I'm scared to say this because it sounds like there was no effort—*[Laughs.]*

*[Biz laughs.]*

But I—it's like I wrote that—the bulk of it, it took me a day. Y'know? Like, it just—it's like it was percolating there and it just... came out of me. And obviously it was refined and all of that sort of stuff and there's the process with the illustrator and blah, blah, blah. But it just was there. I don't know. It's almost like... I'm not a spiritual person, particularly? But it's like someone was, y'know, sending it via my brain to the page.

00:26:44 Biz Host Sometimes when you put it out there? I am a big believer in—sometimes when you just say words out loud and you put it out there, things just kinda open? Y'know what I mean? And so... also... I would imagine there would have to be something about things you really wanted to say to your child!

00:27:03 Nelly Guest Yeah! To my child. And that she wanted to say. Y'know. I did—the process involved—she contributed a lot to it. Like we talked about what things—for example—what things were hard. Y'know. And the biggest thing for her was going to school and being tired and the air conditioner smells and the... the—someone opens their lunchbox and then I can't concentrate and then someone's tapping their pencil on the other side of the room and I start to feel stressed and—y'know. Those kinds of things. So that input came from her. Prior to that, as well, one of my best friends is a really staunch disability activist. So I'd already come to writing the book through that kind of... disability/empowerment lens? Y'know, and the social model of disability and all that kind of stuff. So I wasn't—luckily for me, 'cause it's not the experience of my parents—I didn't come to my daughter's diagnosis with any sort of feelings of tragedy? I was worried. I was worried 'cause I know the world's hard. And the world's very hard. Y'know. One of the first things my daughter said—one of the first sentences she said—was, “The world takes it hard on me, Mum.” Y'know?

00:28:17 Biz Host Oh, baby! Baby! *[Laughs.]*

00:28:19 Nelly Guest I know. I know. Bless her. Y'know? And it does!

00:28:22 Biz Host What is she, eighty?

*[Both laugh.]*

00:28:24	Nelly	Guest	I know! I know. Darling girl. Darling girl. So it's—y'know, I'm under no illusions that this is a hard world for an autistic person, but I also don't start from the premise that that means there's something wrong with <u>them</u> . Y'know. In the same way that—
00:28:43	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Biz:</b> Oh. Problems for women aren't their fault either, right? Like, y'know...
00:28:47	Biz	Host	<b>Nelly:</b> —I don't know. It's hard to get around—yeah, that's right! Exactly right. Wanting to wear a skirt is not your fault. You're right. It is—it is—you're rarely the person who suffers the fools that is... the problem. Right? The... their problem is that they have to be in that world. <i>[Laughs.]</i> Y'know?
00:29:02	Nelly	Guest	That's right. And deal with these fucking dickheads.
00:29:05	Biz	Host	I know! Well but if—
00:29:07	Nelly	Guest	Y'know? Constantly!
00:29:08	Biz	Host	If they read—I mean, that's why I am such a... like... lover of... books. For kids and adults. I just think like... when my kids, y'know, started <i>[through laughter]</i> being alive, and it just was like—at the library. Y'know. Okay, "Preschool's coming so we're gonna read books about preschool!" Y'know, like this is—how can we—"We're going on a trip. Let's prepare for a trip!" Like, books can offer... parents a really easy way to get information to their kids or to put the stuff that they don't know how to say into words? And... it also is so powerful, I think, for kids to see themselves in books? And—
00:29:53	Nelly	Guest	So powerful.
00:29:55	Biz	Host	We just do not know how much that impact can have? And so y'know, I think books like these—A—like, the girl— <i>Some Girls</i> and <i>Some Boys</i> , I think, allows parents to feel normal if their kids are—'cause guess what? Your kids are not normal. You're not normal, and yeah.
			<i>[Nellie laughs.]</i>
00:30:21	Nelly	Guest	But we're all supposed to be normal, so.
00:30:23	Biz	Host	Yeah. That's right. We're all pretending. Yep. We are <u>all</u> pretending. And then, two, with the neurodiversity one—again, it's another one to help normalize... feeling experiences, I think, y'know that kids are having and adults are having. You—look. You're a really wonderful person.
			<i>[Nellie laughs.]</i>
00:30:46	Nelly	Guest	But now fuck that. We're moving to the thing that I love so much. And that's the new—
00:30:47	Biz	Host	Can I tell you one thing, though?
00:30:52	Nelly	Guest	Oh! Okay. You may continue to be—yes. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:30:54	Biz	Host	This one—this'll get you. This one will get you in the feels.
00:30:58	Nelly	Guest	I'm tired of feeling! Okay. You will love this one. Alright. So one of my—it's a great joy to get the messages from the kids and parents of course and I feel seen and all that stuff. One of my favorite ones was an occupational therapist messaged me. And a dad had come in to take his child to speech therapy. And he's standing there—the child was autistic. He's standing there at the counter, y'know, at reception, and he starts flipping through my book. I have it on the counter. And he's

			reading through it and she said, “He’s looking at it; he’s looking at it;” and then he looked up at her and he said, “Oh my god! I’m not stupid! I’m autistic!”
00:31:36	Biz	Host	Oh, baby.
00:31:38	Nelly	Guest	Like he had had—this grown man—who’d never been diagnosed, never understood why he had trouble in some areas and y’know could’ve used help and blah, blah blah—had recognized. Because, I think, of the simplicity of it. Had recognized himself in it. And I—god, I love that story.
00:31:56	Biz	Host	I love that. Well it’s—but it’s true! There are so many of us who... just... y’know. That kind of focus, that kind of study, that kind of diagnosing and resources just—they just weren’t there! Y’know, like, I always—
00:32:12	Nelly	Guest	Especially for women. Yeah.
00:32:14	Biz	Host	Yeah. I always joke that, y’know, “Well I was in Gifted, but that was long before they discovered ADHD.”
			<i>[Nellie laughs.]</i>
			“Oh, she can’t sit still in the classroom? She must be bored and so smart!” Right? You’re like— <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:32:25	Nelly	Guest	Yes. Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. Yes, it’s true!
00:32:27	Biz	Host	Y’know? I guess, maybe.
00:32:29	Nelly	Guest	Or “she’s naughty.”
00:32:30	Biz	Host	Yeah. Or “she’s naughty. Naughty, naughty, naughty.” <i>[Laughs without amusement.]</i> Okay. Now—
00:32:38	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Nelly:</b> Alright, your favorite. Go. Go. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<b>Biz:</b> Thank you for the feels.
00:32:42	Biz	Host	On this show, we—y’know, our phrase is “stop feeling like shit for being a mom.” And then out comes this beautiful new book, <i>[through laughter] Some Mums (Are Fat Molls)</i> . Is it “moles”? It’s “moles,” right?
00:32:56	Nelly	Guest	It’s “molls.” Do you know what “molls” means? Because this is a translation issue.
00:33:01	Biz	Host	It’s a translation. I know. Please tell me.
00:33:03	Nelly	Guest	It is—it’s one of the—so the title comes from the first heckle I ever got on stage. Right? Which was—I walked out on stage. The audience was about—I dunno—500 people or something. A comedy club during the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. And some little boy, I’ll say, yelled out, “Ay, ya fat moll!”
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
			Right? <i>[Laughs.]</i> Which is—I mean, it’s universal, but it’s very particularly Australian. So the word “moll,” it’s kinda—it’s definitely an insult.
00:33:37	Biz	Host	Yes. Not nice.
00:33:38	Nelly	Guest	It’s not nice. Especially coupled with “fat,” right?
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
00:33:44	Biz	Host	But it can also— <i>[Laughs.]</i> It can also be—I’m not sure which word is worse!

00:33:46 Nelly Guest Yeah. Which is worse. Exactly. It can be a term of endearment as well. Like I could say to you, "Oh, you gorgeous moll." Y'know.  
Like—

00:33:54 Biz Host Is it sort of like "bitches"?

00:33:55 Nelly Guest Kind of like "bitches," in the sense if you were watching *Queer Eye*. Y'know. Not like if you were driving along and someone yelled out, "Bitches!"

[Biz laughs.]

00:34:06 Biz Host Y'know, not that.  
Okay. Alright.

00:34:07 Nelly Guest It'd be more like Jonathan Van Ness kinda going, "You bitches."  
That kind of—y'know? Depends on the tone. Yes.

00:34:14 Biz Host Depends on the tone and who's delivering it!

00:34:16 Nelly Guest Who's delivering it. When a young guy's yelling at you in the dark and calling you a fat moll, it's not JVN.

00:34:24 Biz Host No. Okay. Somebody write that down. [Laughs.]

00:34:26 Nelly Guest Yeah. [Laughs.]

00:34:28 Biz Host Make a note of that. That could be your next book: *Things to Not Say in a Dark Room if You Are a Male*.

[Nellie laughs.]

00:34:46 Nelly Guest Alright. So guys, I'm just—I'm going to just read some of this to you.  
Because I have the author here so I can get away with this!  
Please.

00:34:47 Biz Host Alright! Okay. I'm just gonna start at the beginning. "Some mums dress like this." Now I will let everyone know—these are—this is a mother and daughter wearing matching outfits and they look very lovely.

00:34:59 Nelly Guest Pretty. Yeah.

00:35:00 Biz Host Very pretty. And then—[Laughs.] And then it's "Some mums dress like that." And it is a woman with multicolored hair and her boogie board—body board—surfboard—whatever you call these—in a wetsuit not as made up. I'm gonna say that.

00:35:18 Nelly Guest No.

00:35:19 Biz Host No. And then—

00:35:20 Nelly Guest Au naturale. She actually looks like your lovely producer.

00:35:22 Biz Host I know! She does look a little like Gabe!

[Nellie laughs.]

"Some mums dress to the nines." I don't need to describe how nice this other woman looks. And then "Others dress like crap."  
[Laughs.] It's so good! It's so good. "Crap." And here's the thing—everybody should be able to imagine this instantly. The one that dresses quote-unquote like "crap" is taking her kids to school in her pajamas. Because we all said, "I'm never gonna be that mom" and then we are all that mom.

[Nellie laughs.]

00:36:03 Nelly Guest And then this is followed with, "All mums can wear whatever the fuck they want." Now you had me there. But then you—  
Yeah. I thought I might've.

00:36:04 Biz Host You could've stopped the book.  
00:36:05 Nelly Guest Right. That could've been done. That would've saved me a lot of money in printing.  
00:36:08 Biz Host Oh! Sooo much! But we go into how we look. We go into *[through laughter]* "whoever they want to fuck."  
  
*[Nellie laughs.]*  
We go into like just—don't even—"No mum is perfect. Don't even try to win. No mums will always win." And it just goes on. "All mums can root however the fuck they want."  
  
*[Nellie laughs.]*

00:36:36 Nelly Guest Like it is so... good. It's so—  
00:36:37 Biz Host Do you know what "root" means?  
What? Yes. Hold on. Wait.  
  
*[Nellie laughs.]*

00:36:42 Nelly Guest Oh yes! Masturbate. Isn't that it?  
00:36:44 Biz Host No. No! *[Laughs.]*  
I'm looking at the picture wrong. *[Laughs wildly.]* Well it says they can pat their own chinchillas.  
00:36:52 Nelly Guest Well that means masturbate.  
00:36:54 Biz Host Yeah! Sex. Have sex.  
00:36:56 Nelly Guest Yeah. It does. "Root" in Australia—which I know—from American friends I've said "root" before and "route" is like directions, right?  
00:37:04 Biz Host Oh, okay. There are two types of roots. Yes. You can "route" or "route," or "I am a little piggie and I am rooting for truffles with my snout. Root, root, root, root, root, root, root, root!" Which is—  
00:37:12 Nelly Guest Yes! And whenever we—when I watch American movies with my kids and someone says "I'm rooting for you" we all like crack up. It's the funniest thing ever. "Root" means "fuck." So if you go, "I wanna root you. How about a root?" Right?  
00:37:26 Biz Host "How about a root?" *[Laughs.]*  
00:37:27 Nelly Guest Yeah. That means like a, *[makes hooting noise]*.  
  
*[Biz laughs.]*  
00:37:32 Biz Host Alright. So I can't imagine why you wrote this book.  
  
*[Nellie laughs.]*

00:37:49 Nelly Guest It's not like this entire eight years of podcasting hasn't been about the fact that once you have kids in your house, you're completely fucked as a Self. And you have to be everything to—  
00:37:50 Biz Host Who am I?  
—everyone. Yeah. "Who am I?" Well I am not the 20,000 other people I'm told I'm supposed to be.  
00:37:56 Nelly Guest *[Singing]* What about me? It isn't fair! Yeah.  
00:38:00 Biz Host Oh yeah! So I also wanna emphasize to people—*[Laughs.]* Sorry. I just love this book. I also wanna emphasize to people that—again—the diversity and reflection of how different we all are. Stands out. For example, I'm gonna go back to "Some mums dress like this" and sometimes it takes a second glance to notice that the

mother-daughter in the matching outfits—and the very lovely, put-together mom—also has a birthmark that goes over her face.

00:38:32 Nelly Guest Correct.

00:38:33 Biz Host Which is... awesome.

00:38:34 Nelly Guest I'm so glad you noticed that. No one has noticed that yet.

00:38:38 Biz Host Really?

00:38:39 Nelly Guest No one.

00:38:40 Biz Host I win! I win!

00:38:41 Nelly Guest You do win. Well done.

00:38:42 Biz Host Well yes. *[Laughs.]* There's also, "Some mums have a hairy snatch."

00:38:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Biz:** "Others prefer to wax."

00:38:50 Biz Host **Nelly:** They do! You know what a "snatch" is. My god. I do know what a snatch is. I'm international, Nelly.

*[Nellie laughs.]*

I understand "snatch." Look, if it's a word about a woman and can be used in a derogative way? It's international.

00:39:01 Nelly Guest You know. You know.

00:39:03 Biz Host But you also had a picture. So that was helpful. *[Laughs.]*

*[Nellie laughs.]*

00:39:09 Nelly Guest Yeah. This one's not a kid's book. No.

00:39:11 Biz Host Not a—not a—no. Alright. So talk to me about... *[goofy voice]* "Why'd you write this book?" is a dumb question. "Why would you do this? Aren't you satisfied?"

*[Nellie laughs.]*

00:39:22 Nelly Guest Yeah. no. I'm not. You know it's interesting on the diversity thing—'cause obviously I get asked that a lot. About the diversity in all of the books. And this sounds really trite, but I really honestly meant it sincerely—this is my community! Like this is not—y'know, and you know this. But it bears repeating. At least half the mums in that book are my friends.

*[Biz laughs.]*

Like literally are my friends! 'Cause I thought, "You know what? If I'm gonna pay an illustrator, I'll get my friends some portraits done!"

*[Biz laughs.]*

Like literally. So I mean I am, of course, conscious about diversity and I do think to myself, "Who's not here?" Y'know, "Who's not being represented? How are they being represented? Is the kid in the wheelchair sittin gin the corner being read to looking sad? Fuck that! She's gonna be playing tug-o-war." You know what I mean? So of course it's conscious. But at the same time I go, "This is not radical. This is where I live!" You know? These are my people!

00:40:24 Biz Host But I was also just thinking—as like you sort of rephrased what I was saying but I clearly still said it—this notion of when people ask about the diversity. It's—it makes you go back to that, like... when people ask about the kid in the skirt. Right? It's—because there has been, I think, there has definitely been—not "I think"—the notion

that there is only one way to parent and there is only one way to look as a parent. And y'know, you do not see that in parenting books. You do not find it in children's books. It's very—y'know. And... the women in this book... are—they look like people.  
 00:41:09 Nelly Guest They look like us!  
 00:41:10 Biz Host They look like us!  
 00:41:11 Nelly Guest They look like us, y'know. And again, that is the—even though I say it's not radical, what has been radical—I keep getting messages from women going, "I opened it and I cried." Y'know. "I just cried. Like, tears of relief. Either because I was seen or because some mum was saying to me, 'I'm okay.'" Y'know, like the amount of anxiety that is put on women, as though we can create these perfect humans—and we don't get to define what's "perfect," by the way. But as though we have control over these beings. And that if we happen to order takeaway instead of, y'know, cook fucking farm-to-plate every night—

*[Biz laughs.]*

—that they will somehow end up being—I don't know what.  
 00:41:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Nelly:** Some version of a human that they're not meant to be.

**Biz:** Well it's always your fault.  
 00:41:58 Biz Host It's always your fault!  
 00:41:59 Nelly Guest Always your—it doesn't matter if you're doing everything right. Everything wrong. Whatever action your child takes in the world as an infant to a grown person—it is—  
 00:42:13 Biz Host You did it.  
 00:42:14 Nelly Guest —your fault. And if you don't already just feel that way on your own—like, without any help from the world—go and tell your problem to somebody so that they can let you know how much it's your fault. Right? Like, y'know, like, "Hey, I need help with this and I'm really struggling with—" "Well, have you tried—" *[Laughs.]*  
 00:42:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Biz:** "Well I have tried—"

**Nelly:** "Have you had a turmeric latte?"  
 00:42:38 Nelly Guest "Are you doing pilates? Because you're really let yourself go!" What the fuck? So I'm supposed to be creating these perfect humans, plus I'm supposed to go to a waxing appointment, plus I'm supposed to be on the treadmill, and I'm working too much. I'm not working enough.  
 00:42:55 Biz Host Don't forget working. Yeah.  
 00:42:56 Nelly Guest Oh my—but you can't win with that. You're either working too much or you've given up your career and you're a doormat.

*[Biz laughs.]*

There is no win. So it's me just trying to say to women—y'know, and as much to women as to myself—you know what? You love these children. You love them. You care for them. They have won the lottery.  
 00:43:18 Biz Host Yeah! Yeah!  
 00:43:20 Nelly Guest They have won the goddamn lottery. They are loved and they're cared for. The rest is bullshit. Stop taking advice.  
 00:43:30 Biz Host That's right. Stop taking advice. Ugh. If we could all just—we do on the show—we have a thing where we just have a rant. People can



call in and just rant. And we're not gonna tell 'em what the fuck to do. We're just gonna say, "You're okay." And on the—like, one of our Facebook groups—you can start a post by saying "This is a rant." Right? "I don't want advice!"

00:43:53 Nelly Guest  
00:43:54 Biz Host  
"Don't give me advice!" Oh Jesus.  
"Don't give me anything! I just honest-to-god need to know I'm doing an okay job." Right? 'Cause like—even the most helpful, y'know, intention can make you—like, Theresa, my cohost, she and I used to sit there and say, "Obviously I have tried x, y, z, p, d, and q. I guarantee you I've been up for a week on Google trying to figure—so when I come to you and say, 'My kid is not doing such-and-such' or 'is doing such-and-such,' Yeah! I've probably tried!"  
*[Laughs.]*

00:44:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
**Biz:** "All I'm looking for is a pat on the fucking back!" Upside-down and inside-out!

00:44:33 Nelly Guest  
**Nelly:** Probably I have turned myself—that's right. Inside-out. So my older daughter has—which I won't go into, y'know, in too much detail, but she has a chronic illness that she's had for a number of years. And I made the fatal mistake of talking about that on radio.  
*[Biz gasps.]*

Because it was a Chronic Illness Awareness Week. Some fucking thing. I specifically said, "I do not want advice." Like, we are at the Royal Children's Hospital. We have these specialists. Please do not—I don't want advice. It's wearing me out. What did I get home to?

00:45:06 Biz Host  
00:45:09 Nelly Guest  
Like an inbox full of fucking advice?  
"Have you tried turmeric? Have you had an *[inaudible]* in your house? Have you—" She literally put "She must be getting bullied." Honest to god, who've never met this child. Who've never met me. You could listen to me for five minutes and know I'm a Type A, fucking try everything freakazoid.  
*[Biz laughs.]*

00:45:35 Biz Host  
00:45:36 Nelly Guest  
If you think I haven't Googled it, mate. You know?  
I have tried turmeric!  
I have given it a go. We have tried garlic. We've tried—we have tried—how about you just sit with the discomfort that it's really sad and hard to have a child who's sick? How about you just go, "Well done, mum. Well done."

00:45:51 Biz Host  
Yeah! I was gonna say—that's what we need to be doing. Is the, "Oh my god, that sounds really hard! You're doing a really good job! Oh my god, that sounds fucking exhausting!" Y'know?

00:46:03 Nelly Guest  
Yeah. And you know the next thing people say—this will not surprise you—"Oh, I hope you're making time for yourself." "Oh, how would I do that exactly?" God, I can't stand when people say that to women. Ugh.

00:46:15 Biz Host  
Like, to women. 'Cause it's whether you have kids or not, they always are like, y'know, "Are you gonna have a little time—" and we've wrestled with that for years on this show. Like, is it self-care to be sitting in the grocery store parking lot crying? Maybe! You know what? Fucking maybe. There was a time I said, "No, it wasn't.

That shouldn't be." But now I think maybe it should be. Right?  
Like—

00:46:38 Nelly Guest I'll tell you what—during lockdown—and keep in mind that I am a Women's Health Ambassador, right? During lockdown there was one point I was hiding from my own children—

*[Biz laughs.]*

—sitting in the shed with a gin and tonic and a cigarette that I'd bummed off a neighbor—

00:46:53 Biz Host Oh! Forever ago! I know what you're talking about, though!

*[Nellie laughs.]*

00:47:00 Nelly Guest Like a teenager!

00:47:01 Biz Host Like a teenager. I love it.

00:47:03 Nelly Guest Hiding from my own children.

00:47:04 Nelly Host Yeah. Yep. You gotta like—y'know—go into the bathroom and turn all the fans on.

*[Biz laughs.]*

*[Laughs.]* That'll do it!  
And then have a shower!

00:47:12 Nelly Guest

00:47:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Biz** :And then have a shower! Yeah. And then burn your clothes. Oh, shame on—

**Nelly**: And wear gloves. And oh my god. The shame. The shame. But yeah.

00:47:19 Nelly Guest I just wanted women to kinda go just cut out the noise. Enough already. Enough already. You're okay.

00:47:27 Biz Host Yeah. No. It's—you managed to do that—it like... with a real... impactful... like... it's—this is not a complicated book. *[Laughs.]*

00:47:39 Nelly Guest No! Not at all!

00:47:42 Biz Host It is direct. And the illus—you have such a wonderful illustrator because you capture—again—the feeling of real people. And y'know?

00:47:55 Nelly Guest Yeah. That's right. That's right.

00:47:57 Biz Host And that just marries so well with what you're saying, which is—y'know, comedians, it's easy to say, "Those are funny." But what they are is really...

00:48:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Biz**: True.

**Nelly**: Is real.

00:48:09 Nelly Guest Can you imagine our text messages? Me and the illustrator? I'm like, "Bud, there's not enough pubes."

*[Biz laughs.]*

"There's not enough pubes. No, she's not fat enough. No, no." This is literally our text chain. She texts me going, "How do we do up the bum? I can't do it." And I'm like, "Just bums on a bench. Bums on a bench." "How many?" Y'know? *[Laughs.]*

00:48:29 Biz Host I gotta tell you, this owman—again, going back to the rooting and masturbation—this woman sitting on the chair with the giant cat—

00:48:40 Nelly Guest Bev.

00:48:41 Biz Host Is that Bev?

00:48:42	Nelly	Guest	Bev Killick is an Australian comedian.
00:48:45	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Biz:</b> I wanna party with Bev.
00:48:47	Nelly	Guest	<b>Nelly:</b> Filthy as fuck. Absolutely filthy. She was the only friend of mine that would agree to be the masturbation mum. Right?
			<i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
00:48:56	Biz	Host	I asked her and she went, “No worries.”
00:48:57	Nelly	Guest	Yeah. Done. “What do you want me to do? Done.”
			<i>[Both laugh.]</i>
00:49:00	Biz	Host	That is a friend. That is a good friend.
00:49:02	Nelly	Guest	That’s one of my favorite pages, that one.
00:49:04	Biz	Host	It is <u>such</u> a good—like, if I could hang that on a wall—like, instead of pin-up tattoos, everybody, we need to get all of these women tattooed on our bodies.
00:49:14	Nelly	Guest	Yes. Bev with the chinchilla.
00:49:16	Biz	Host	Oh my god, I fucking love it. Alright, Nelly. Thank you so much.
00:49:21	Nelly	Guest	Thank you so much. What a joy it’s been.
00:49:24	Biz	Host	This has been a total delight. I love you. And now—
00:49:27	Nelly	Guest	I’m coming back, whether you like me or not.
00:49:29	Biz	Host	No! We should come back and just talk about something else horrible. My older one is entering the tween—I had mine a little later than yours so I’m fucking broken.
00:49:39	Nelly	Guest	Let’s do it! The tweens! Yeah, yeah!
00:49:40	Biz	Host	Seven and eleven. And the tweening—the tweening around here—
00:49:44	Nelly	Guest	Oh, no. It’s intense. The hormone years. It’s intense.
00:49:47	Biz	Host	I was saying at the beginning of the show, I can feel a energy about me. That like when they come in the room. Whatever this fog of tween-ness is, I don’t... it doesn’t make me feel settled. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:50:02	Nelly	Guest	Look, mum, you’re doing everything wrong. If you’d just accept that—
00:50:06	Biz	Host	Oh, I know. Yeah. I know.
00:50:07	Nelly	Guest	You’re not cool. You’re doing everything wrong. You’ve fucked up their whole lives. Just go with that. Wait it out until they’re 25 and you’ll be golden!
00:50:14	Biz	Host	I know. That’s—I’m—this is—this is the parenting zone I was made for.
			<i>[Nellie laughs.]</i>
			For tweens. Not babies. But making life awkward and uncomfortable for children. This is—I was made for this. Alright. Everybody, we are gonna link you up to where you can find <u>all</u> of the <i>Some</i> books— <i>Some Girls, Some Boys, Some Brains, Some</i> —there is literally something for everybody! Which is amazing.
00:50:39	Nelly	Guest	Oh, yeah. And there’ll be more coming. Yeah.
00:50:41	Biz	Host	I fucking love it. Until then, thank you so much for joining us and I agree! Let’s do this again sometime!
00:50:48	Nelly	Guest	Yeah. Love to. Thanks for having me.
00:50:50	Biz	Host	Thank you so much for joining us and for writing these books.

*[Nelly makes kissing noises.]*

00:50:55	Nelly	Guest	And you know what? You really are doing a very good job.
00:51:00	Music	Music	Awww, bless. Right back at ya. Right back at ya. Under his eye. "Ones and Zeroes" by "Awesome." Steady, driving electric guitar with drum and woodwinds.
			<i>[Music fades out.]</i>
00:51:17	Theresa	Promo	Hey, everybody! We have a Jumbotron this week! This message is for Shanna from Stu!
00:51:24	Biz	Promo	<i>[Cheerful ukulele music with whistling plays in background.]</i>
			<i>[Singing]</i> "Happy birthday to you! Woo! <i>[Regular voice]</i> Happy birthday. You are an amazing self, wife, and mother. We have many fails and geniuses ahead but I am glad I get to share them with <u>you</u> ." To be clear, that's Stu saying that. In Biz's voice. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
			"Happy birthday, Shanna! You are doing a really good job." And Stu, so are you.
			<i>[Music fades.]</i>
00:52:03	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.
00:52:24	Biz	Host	Genius <i>[singing]</i> faillll tiiiime! <i>[Regular voice]</i> Genius fail time! It's time for geniuses and failures! <i>[Laughs.]</i> That we share publicly! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
00:52:38	Theresa	Host	Hi, Theresa.
00:52:39	Biz	Host	Hi. I feel like I have to announce the segment, but maybe I should start—this segment should not be called "genius fail time" anymore and it should just be called <i>[singing]</i> "liiiiit's Theresa!"
			<i>[Both laugh.]</i>
00:52:55	Theresa	Host	"liiiiit's Theresa!" For a second I thought you were gonna say instead of calling it genius fail time, we should call it Theresa time. And I—
00:53:01	Biz	Host	Oh, it's Theresa time.
00:53:02	Theresa	Host	I feel like that's kind of cute and just makes me think of kindergarten and the library.
00:53:07	Biz	Host	It could also be misconstrued as insulting. "It's Theresa time. Time for failures." <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:53:14	Theresa	Host	Right. That's very true. But I feel like at this point with the show—like—
00:53:20	Biz	Host	We should probably keep it genius fail time, is that what you're suggesting? <i>[Laughs.]</i>

00:53:25	Theresa	Host	Oh, definitely. I definitely <u>do</u> think we should probably not change the name of possibly our most memorable segment on this show for the past eight years.
00:53:35	Biz	Host	Alright. I'm gonna get a pen. Hold on. I gotta write this down. <i>[Laughs.]</i>  <i>[Theresa laughs.]</i>
00:53:51	Theresa	Host	The bottom line is that it's just a chance for me to say hello to my good friend, Theresa, who I get to talk to once a week. Yep. I'm here.  <i>[Both laugh.]</i>
00:53:59	Biz	Host	I'm so sorry. It's—
00:54:02	Theresa	Host	No, don't apologize for being here. No.
00:54:05	Biz	Host	Just—just—yeah. I made it.
00:54:07	Theresa	Host	You made it.
00:54:08	Biz	Host	Yeah.
00:54:08	Biz	Host	Honk, honk.
00:54:10	Theresa	Host	Yeah!
00:54:11	Biz	Host	With that said—genius me, Theresa!
00:54:15	Clip	Clip	<i>[Dramatic, swelling music in background.]</i>  <b>Biz:</b> Wow! Oh my God! Oh my <u>God!</u> I <u>saw</u> what you did! Oh my God! I'm paying <u>attention!</u> <u>Wow!</u> You, mom, are a <u>genius</u> . Oh my <u>God</u> , that's <u>fucking genius!</u>  <i>[Biz and Theresa repeatedly affirm each other as they discuss their respective genius moments of the week.]</i>
00:54:30	Theresa	Host	Okay. I'm excited to share this because it's another one of kind of like a whole area of genius moments that I feel I've been exploring lately on this show? Which is the "I didn't do anything; I stood back and let things resolve themselves out of laziness and being too tired." So I talked recently about how I picked a terrible dishwasher and it broke right away and has been this nightmare for us to try to get repaired. And at one point about... four or six weeks ago, we were told, y'know, that this part was ordered that was on backorder with <u>no</u> estimated ship date. And that we should really just go talk to our warranty company because they just had <u>no</u> —in other words, there was no expected date at which point we would get a part and get the dishwasher fixed. Which was really tough for me to take.  <i>[Biz laughs.]</i>
00:55:51	Biz	Host	Because I really... <u>really</u> didn't want to return the dishwasher and get another one? And I didn't want to get my money back and have to choose another—I just didn't wanna deal with all of it? And I also didn't wanna do so many dishes. And so— <i>[Laughs.]</i> It was tough.
00:55:53	Theresa	Host	Yeah. It's a flip of the coin there! <i>[Laughs.]</i> Yeah! And things have been so crazy with going back to school. I've had less time than ever to make phone calls and of course none of this stuff is stuff you can just do through a website. Because people don't want you to return an appliance, period. And they don't want you to return an appliance that you've had for months. They just don't want to make that easy for you. So I

reached out to the retailer. They said it's not us that you need to talk to. I went to the manufacturer. They said you didn't pay for this thing so you have to talk to these—it was just like a whole thing. And then this one day I made the time to call and the person hung up on me. It was amazing. It was one of those things where I made it all the way through all the steps to get to the person and then I just heard a muffled click and it just was a hang up. Before they even said hello.

00:56:41 Biz Host They're like high-fiving the moment that happened, by the way. You know. They're like, "Haha!" They've got a scoreboard going and they're marking it like, "I just got one! Check!"

00:56:49 Theresa Host So I gave up. I gave up for a while.

00:56:52 Biz Host Oh, you gave up? Good. Okay.

00:56:54 Theresa Host I gave up for a while. It was like a month of me giving up and thinking to myself, "I need to do this but I haven't. And I will but it's gonna involve multiple steps and having a quiet place to make a phone call. And having the ability to talk through these problems without crying because of everything else." Do you know what I'm saying? Being at a place where I can be a person who's like, "No, you guys just really need to take this appliance back." I had to be— You need like a week off in a cabin.

00:57:25 Biz Host

00:57:27 Theresa Host Exactly! To do this. So I didn't! I didn't. But then—but then the part just arrived in the mail. *[Laughs.]*

*[Biz laughs.]*

It just showed up! It just showed up at our door! It came! And so I texted the servicepeople and they made an appointment to come out two days later and they came and they fixed it *[through laughter]* and now my dishwasher's working.

*[Biz laughs.]*

00:57:56 Biz Host Oh! I... that is a real salute to just walking away from something. It is—one can only hope that that will always be the result. Of walk—and it won't be! But one can hope that it is. I gotta tell ya—I just want you to know that I really see you with the—this is definitely before-kids, after-kids; before-pandemic, after-pandemic; before-Self, after-goodbye Self. For whatever. Trying to make a phone call—it sounds absurd. It sounds like you're a real asshole if you can't pick up the phone and make a phone call. I understand. But it's really actually very hard, given the amount of interruptions that you will have! And the quiet space! And the—you almost want a comical phone, like something like oversized, because your kids are still gonna walk by and ask you, "Are you on the phone? Are you done yet?" I really see you. I'm gonna keep holding this phone—no one can see me doing this—but I'm still holding a giant phone next to my head. Y'know, we've said it. This is for the fucking dishwasher. And you think about like fucking medical insurance and bills and navigating school stuff for your kid—

00:59:35 Theresa Host Well and that's the stuff that I can't walk away from. That's the thing. There's things that I cannot walk away from. Despite the fact that I want to so badly! So badly wanna walk away!

00:59:49 Biz Host Run! Run away! You wanna run away from it!

00:59:54 Theresa Host Yes! And so this—I guess—it's like it's finding those things that I can just let slide until someone else catches 'em. Y'know?

01:00:08 Biz Host *[Biz laughs.]*  
Ding-dong! Here's your part! Well I think you're doing a remarkable job.

01:00:14 Theresa Host Thank you, Biz.

01:00:15 Biz Host You're welcome. Almost as annoying as phone calls would be paperwork for various school or camp things. Now I—summer is not gonna be summer again. But the school that the kids have been going back to a couple of days a week will be doing a summer camp kind of art thing. And that is great. So I have to fill out forms for that. And we also have to do some end-of-year school "will you be coming back next year" school paperwork. As well as the weekly COVID testing that we have to do with the school. These are forms. They all require the medical information for your child. They all require the doctor's name, the doctor's office, and your insurance number. And let's see. My chil—

01:01:14 Theresa Host It's always the thing I don't have, by the way.

01:01:16 Biz Host Yes! My children—to the point where I usually try and just get Stefan to do forms. Okay? Or I do all the forms and then say, "Can you fill out the rest of this?" And it's just that one chunk. Right? So let's see. I have an eleven-year-old and a seven-year-old. I've been filling these forms out for a really long time. And this information, for the most part, hasn't changed. So the genius is, I said to Stefan—when I was filling out the last bit of paperwork—"Hey, next time we're filling out this paperwork, let's make a contact card. Write it down on an index card and keep it in our address book or something or put it in the computer so you just pull it up as a contact." And he was like, "That is a really good idea." And I was like, "Thank you very much." I wanna be clear—we didn't do it at that time.

*[Theresa laughs.]*

And that form is still not filled out 'cause I was kind of like—well maybe—*[Laughs.]* "Maybe Stefan will fill out this—maybe he'll do it and we'll do it at the same time!" But neither of us have. Also, I've left the forms on the kitchen counter so they've got garbage all over them so I have to fill them out again. But the genius is I had this idea and it's a really good one! *[Laughs.]*

01:02:43 Theresa Host Wow. I... have never loved you more than I do right now.

01:02:48 Biz Host Thanks. Yeah.

01:02:49 Theresa Host Good job having an idea. It's a good idea.

01:02:53 Biz Host It's like pie. *[Laughs.]*

*[Theresa laughs.]*

Can I have a slice of pie? Thinking about pie and I'm thinking about a way to solve this problem.

01:03:02 Theresa Host And that is a great idea.

01:03:04 Biz Host It is a great idea. Thank you very much. *[Laughs.]*

01:03:05 Caller Caller *[Answering machine beeps.]*

Hey, guys! This is a genius. So I'm meeting a mom in the park tomorrow who I have not previously met who made the very brave choice to—when she saw my OBM bumper sticker at the Culvert's drive-thru—to go up to my husband's window and talk to him. And now I might actually have a friend. Which is a thing I have not had

since I started being a stay-at-home parent in January 2020 and all the options for making friends went away really fast. So thank you for existing. Because your show means that I might get to make a friend! You're doing a really great job! So is Rebecca, who I get to meet tomorrow! Bye, guys!

01:03:53 Biz Host

*[Singing]* Making friends-hends-hends! For all the world to see!  
*[Regular voice]* Isn't that an Elton John song? I dunno. Listen, I—this is so great! There are so many geniuses happening here. Okay? One, you clearly might have a “Honk, honk if you're doing it” sticker or you might just have the regular OBM sticker. Either way! Either way, that's very exciting. But A, to the *One Bad Mother* listener who saw that tag and went up to the car—you are a real lifesaver. I mean, you did—you saw and you said, “I don't know if this is gonna work out but we at least have this one starting place and I'm gonna go there.” Good job to the husband for not just screaming—

*[Theresa laughs.]*

01:04:49 Theresa Host

—when somebody knocked on his window door. And he might have! I dunno. I dunno. Like *[screams]*. But like—  
Or maybe it was like a good screaming, like *[enthusiastic screaming!]* A new friend! *One Bad Mother!*

01:04:54 Biz Host

And then good job to you for following up and making the plans to go meet at the park! I just—yeah! Mom friends are hard. Real hard. And I just... I think this is so great. You're doing—everybody's doing such a good job.

01:05:15 Theresa Host

Yes. Good job.

01:05:17 Biz Host

Failures.

01:05:18 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.]*

01:05:24 Biz Host

Fail me, Theresa.

01:05:26 Theresa Host

Okay. I allowed my child to spend her money on a very crappy sound effects machine that turns out to not only have a very distressing quote-unquote “fax machine” sound? It's really more like the old modem sound? Like—I'm not gonna make it. And it also has a gunshot sound!

01:05:59 Biz Host

Oh. That's relaxing.

01:06:00 Theresa Host

We actually went out of our way to try not to get the gun—one with a gunshot, which a lot of them have. This one had something called “Bang!” Which I said, “That could be anything.” But it turns out to just totally sound like a gunshot.

01:06:16 Biz Host

Maybe it sounds like a baby! *[Laughs.]*

*[Theresa laughs.]*

01:06:22 Theresa Host

This thing is... just truly the last thing that we need in our house. I'll just leave it at that. We do not need this in our lives. But here it is.



01:06:31 Biz Host It's there.  
 01:06:33 Theresa Host It's here. Yeah.  
 01:06:34 Biz Host I'm sorry. You're doing a horrible job.  
 01:06:36 Theresa Host Yeah. I know.  
 01:06:37 Biz Host My fail ties in to this in the sense of "allowing." 'K? Again—allowing. Kids are older! Kids are older. Gotta do a lot of allowing. And I understand—  
 01:06:54 Theresa Host Yeah! Choose your battles!  
 01:06:55 Biz Host Yeah! It's "choose your battles" plus "older/gotta start letting 'em do some shit that they don't really need." Y'know? Like this is—ugh! I gotta step away or they're gonna be 30 asking me if they can buy something. Right? Like I—y'know. But we're in that window, age-wise, of the fine line. Fine line of like—how much should I input; how much should I not input? But for us in terms of allowing, it's been a lot of like... sweets. Soda-y type drinks. And computer time. And I'll just focus on computer time at this point? There's been a lot of working on a novella. And there has been some work. On a novella. But... there is a remarkable amount of time that I am beginning to be suspicious is not being focused on novella. It might be on other websites. Other everything.  
 01:08:04 Theresa Host "Might be"?  
 01:08:05 Biz Host Is. Is. It is. I don't need to prove it. But I probably will. Later today.  
*[Laughs.]*

*[Theresa laughs.]*

To myself. But there's just—the fail is really just that sense of... it's all—it's—*[sighs.]* Feeling like I know that I'm partly to blame for it because of the "Fine. It's fine. Fine. Fine. Just do it. Fine. I just—go be whatever! Fine!" Right? Like—so I get it! Like I get that there is a chunk of this that I have contributed to because I did not have the energy to set boundaries. But I feel like the failure is more how much I just want to give up on trying to rein this back in. Y'know? Just like... maybe somebody'll send me the part in the mail if I just... step back.

01:09:08 Theresa Host Yeah. I think it could happen.  
 01:09:10 Biz Host I think it could—*[Laughs.]* That or something much worse might show up in the mail.

*[Theresa laughs.]*

01:09:19 Theresa Host I dunno. Anyway! Parenting! Ha, ha, ha, ha!  
*[Answering machine beeps.]*

*[Tearfully]* Hi, ladies! I guess I'm calling with a little bit of a fail. I'm a new mom to a second baby. And I thought it would be really great to take my older daughter back to swim lessons. And she was awful. She was a terrible listener. They basically ended the lesson early because—

*[Biz laughs.]*

—she was such a terrible listener. And I get it. I know that she's only been a big sister for like two-and-a-half weeks and that there are lots of changes. And that it probably didn't help that my newborn was crying bloody murder in the background during the

lesson, but it was humiliating. A sixteen-year-old swim instructor made me feel like an absolutely terrible mom today. So... I don't know what I was thinking, scheduling a four-year-old for private lessons at 6:30 at night when she's a big sister for the first time.

*[Biz laughs.]*

What a terrible idea. *[Laughs.]* I don't know what we're ever going to do. But I'm not sure I'm ever going to feel competent enough to show my face at swim lessons again. So that's my fail. Thanks for everything you do. It makes me feel better. *[Laughs.]* When I do it. Thanks.

01:10:37	Biz	Host	Okay. First of all—I'm just gonna start with—I know that I'm supposed to start with "you're doing a really good job." But I'm not.
01:10:45	Theresa	Host	No, no, no! I thought you're supposed to start with "you suck."
01:10:47	Biz	Host	Okay. Also, you suck. But what I really wanna start with it—you can go to any fucking swim lesson you fucking want! That fucking sixteen-year-old's not thinking shit about you and if she is? Ugh. She's being a really bad sixteen-year-old. She should be worried about a million other things. Okay?
01:11:06	Theresa	Host	Yeah. She didn't—she wasn't able to help your kid! Like, that's also on her! Like, that's—
01:11:11	Biz	Host	Yeah! Also on her! I agree. Second, you have a brand-new baby. I just—that's just—
01:11:20	Theresa	Host	That's it.
01:11:22	Biz	Host	That's it! There is super-brain is happening. This is not a time in which we should self-judge any decisions we make. This is a time where we should just accept and understand we're gonna make all kind of weirdo decisions. Possibly—as I have learned—for the next eleven years. Okay? <u>And</u> you have a four-year-old!
01:11:49	Theresa	Host	Right! Yeah.
01:11:51	Biz	Host	Yeah! I appreciate that you <u>tried</u> doing something.
01:11:54	Theresa	Host	Totally.
01:11:55	Biz	Host	It's like—that's kind of remarkable!
01:11:59	Theresa	Host	And this is also—

*[Biz laughs.]*

This is just like—I'm just thinking about the newborn situation. At two weeks—I mean, two weeks, really a newborn. But this would be true at two months or even at two years. You tried something. It didn't work out.

01:12:18	Biz	Host	Yep.
01:12:19	Theresa	Host	It didn't work out. It definitely didn't work out. You're awesome. You're amazing.
01:12:24	Biz	Host	You're actually above and beyond that you tried something in this particular moment.
01:12:28	Theresa	Host	Yeah! And it didn't work out! It's fine. Totally fine.
01:12:33	Biz	Host	You need a reward. You should reward yourself for having tried something. Also, one last thing—I really like the way you said, "I am a new mom to a second child" because that is really what it is. Isn't it? Like, you <u>are</u> a new mom again! Because they ain't the same! You're being a new mom all over again. I kind of really like that line of thinking. And now with that said—sit back and get ready for it. The real fail. Scheduling it at 6:30 at night.

*[Both laugh wildly.]*

That's the only thing I will laugh about. You're doing a horrible job. Wrapped up in a really, really good job.

01:13:23 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.*

*[Music fades out.]*

01:13:47 Music Promo

Inspirational keyboard music plays in background.

01:13:48 Theresa Promo

*One Bad Mother* is supported in part by Dipsea. Everyone needs an escape, but those can be hard to come by right now. Enter Dipsea. Let yourself get lost in a world where good things happen and where your pleasure is the only priority.

01:14:02 Biz Promo

What?! Somebody wants my pleasure to be *[through laughter]* the only priority? Guys, Dipsea is an audio app full of short, sexy stories designed to turn you on. And what's really nice is you can actually go in and sort of select what you like; what you definitely don't want; so that you're not gonna run the risk of getting a story in which you're very uncomfortable or it takes you someplace you did not want to go. And I find—for me personally, that's incredibly important.

01:14:33 Theresa Promo

So for listeners of *One Bad Mother*, Dipsea's offering an extended 30-day free trial when you go to [DipseaStories.com/badmother](https://DipseaStories.com/badmother).

01:14:42 Biz Promo

That's 30 days of full access for free when you go to [D-I-P-S-E-AStories.com/badmother](https://D-I-P-S-E-AStories.com/badmother).

01:14:52 Theresa Promo

[DipseaStories.com/badmother](https://DipseaStories.com/badmother).

01:14:57 Promo Clip

*[Music ends.]*

Music: Throbbing, dramatic, low-toned music plays in background.

**Ross:** *[In deep, dramatic voice]* Somewhere between science and superstition, there is a podcast.

*[Sinister knocking interspersed with screams.]*

**Ross:** Look, your daughter doesn't say she's a demon. She says she's the devil himself.

**Carrie:** *[With uncharacteristic drawl]* That thing is not my daughter! And I want you to tell me there's a show where the hosts don't just report on fringe science and spirituality, but take part themselves!

**Music:** Swinging, reassuring, low-key music plays in background.

**Ross:** Well, there is! And it's *Oh No! Ross and Carrie* on Maximum Fun.

**Carrie:** This year we actually became certified exorcists.

**Ross:** So yes, Carrie and I can help your daughter!

*[Terrifying noises, including chainsaw]*

**Carrie:** Or we can just talk about it on the show.

*[Sinister background noises begin again.]*

**Ross:** *[Deep voice again]* Oh No! Ross and Carrie on [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org).

01:15:44 Promo Clip

**Music:** Sophisticated electronic/string music.

**Teresa McElroy:** *Shmanners*. Noun. Definition: rules of etiquette designed not to judge others, but rather to guide ourselves through everyday social situations.

*[Music stops.]*

**Travis McElroy:** Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

**Teresa:** And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

**Travis:** Every week on *Shmanners*, we take a look at a topic that has to do with society or manners. We talk about the history of it. We take a look at how it applies to everyday life. And we take some of your questions. And sometimes, we do a biography about a really cool person that had an impact on how we view etiquette.

*[Music fades back in.]*

**Travis:** So, join us every Friday and listen to *Shmanners* on [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org), or wherever podcasts are found.

**Teresa:** Manners shmanners. Get it?

*[Music ends on a bright chord.]*

01:16:27 Biz Host

It's time to settle in and hold Theresa's hand virtually. And listen to a mom have a breakdown.

01:16:37 Caller Caller

*[Answering machine beeps.]*

Hi, this is a rant. So I'm a teacher. And I'm teaching hybrid-concurrent—simultaneous, whatever you wanna call it—where I have kids on Zoom and kids in the room and it's garbage and it's terrible. And it's bad! And it's not good for anyone and I hate it and—*[yelling]* hang on just a second!—*[quietly]* if that isn't freaking indicative of everything. *[Regular volume]* Anyway, I rushed out of school today with my son at the end of the day so he could go to his nutritionist appointment virtually. And I sat for thirty minutes and... she got caught up in another meeting and so we have to reschedule. So I rushed us around and got us all situated and now we have to reschedule the fucking appointment. And now we are hitting on the door and screaming and freaking out because he needs me right away. And so I just needed a place to say that this is all garbage and I hate it.

*[Biz laughs.]*

And... it's bad. That's all.

01:17:45 Theresa Host You're doing such a good job. And I relate to this so much. I'm not a teacher, but I am on the other end witnessing how hard it is to do—to have Zoom—Oscar's teacher is doing this for first graders. And she amazes me. Like I watch her doing it and I don't—I honestly don't understand how she's doing it. And I have so much sympathy, empathy, appreciation for what you're doing. I honestly do not understand how a person does that even for one day, let alone—

*[Biz laughs.]*

01:18:22 Biz Host Yeah!

01:18:24 Theresa Host —two-to-four days a week or however many days a week you're doing that. That's such a hard headspace to be in for an extended period of time. You're amazing. And then I just have to say on the scheduling thing, we have a lot of providers in our family? And—

*[Biz laughs.]*

01:18:41 Biz Host Sorry, I just had to say—when you said “I'm not a teacher but—” I thought you were gonna say “I'm not a teacher, but I am a appointment go-to-er.” *[Laughs.]* Y'know. *[Laughs.]*

01:18:56 Theresa Host The situation with providers right now with three kids having different people they have appointments with every week—and with the school schedules changing so much—I truly have to breathe through fits of emotional rage when I hear from a provider that they're missing an appointment. And it's for providers that I love! That I know well? That I have a good relationship with. That I don't have any problem with. And that I totally understand that appointments—you can't always keep appointments! Life happens. But our lives are so—with all—and I just relate to your call so much because with all of the carefully organized “this happens now and then this goes here and then you do this and this only works if all of these things work together and these people show up for this and this technology works for this time and—” Stuff continues to fall through the cracks as it always has. But for some reason right now? It feels like... just everything falls apart when those things don't work out. And then it's like, “Oh, I'm supposed to reschedule? Now I have to—*[Laughs.]*” This is like the phone call thing!

01:20:19 Biz Host Find a new place!

01:20:20 Theresa Host “—look at a calendar? And try to figure that out?”

01:20:23 Biz Host And a lot of times you wanna just be like, “I'll see you at our next scheduled appointment.” But that's not always something you can do. Like if they're regular appointments. Because your kid may really need to—it's like therapy! I can't just wait an extra week. Y'know. My kid's gotta get in and do it now!

01:20:45 Theresa Host Yes. In other words, this is one of those infuriating things where it's nobody's fault? It's just what is going on right now and it's so hard. It's so hard.

01:20:54 Biz Host Well Theresa, you just said “for some reason, it seems harder right now.”

*[Theresa laughs.]*

There's a lot of reasons? There're multiple reasons? We've been living like cats in a jack-in-the-box factory for a year and a half. Just like *[screams]*, like, y'know, in a perpetual state. I was *[through laughter]* just at my dentist's and I was like, “Eh, I've been having



			This is hopefully one of those things where I keep going and then it gets even funnier. “Day after day after day after day—” anyway. Theresa? All of that is to say—you’re doing a very good job.
01:24:31	Theresa	Host	Thank you, Biz. So are you!
01:24:34	Biz	Host	Thank you.
			What did we learn today, everybody? IT’s very straightforward. You get to do whatever the fuck you want to. Be whoever you wanna be and wear whatever you wanna be and love whoever you wanna be and, y’know, like, I—that no one person is the norm, especially when it comes to parenting. And that even though we are <u>all</u> doing it differently, we’re all doing it right. And so I just... I am <u>so</u> ... thankful that these books by Nelly are out there. Go get them. I mean, these are <u>really</u> good. These are—again—these are another one of those “get a couple of copies. Some for you. Some for the library. Some for the schools. Some for the showers.” The—whatever. Like, this is good stuff.
			So we have learned that and we’ve, y’know, learned what we’ve <u>always</u> learned. You guys are really doing a remarkable job. It is <u>impossible</u> . I— <i>[Laughs.]</i> I was thinking about our caller at the beginning said, “This does not suck.” Which I always think is a great way to express when things are going good. ‘Cause it shows you where our bars are, everybody. “This does not suck.” And then at our rant, we have, y’know, “This is all shit! This is hard! And I can’t fucking do this!” Right? “This is just a shitstorm.” Which is very much in the same home as “This doesn’t suck.” ‘Cause sometimes it doesn’t suck and sometimes it sucks really badly. And both are okay. Both are right there for us to sit in. And both of those feelings do not even begin to suggest that you are not doing a good job. Because you are. This is a lot and it feels impossible and it can feel lonely and it can feel like you are completely unsure how you are going to do one more thing. And you are doing a remarkably good job. And I see you. And I will talk to you next week. Byeeeee!
01:27:07	Music	Music	“Mama Blues” by Cornbread Ted and the Butterbeans. Strumming acoustic guitar with harmonica and lyrics.  <i>I got the lowdown momma blues Got the the lowdown momma blues Gots the lowdown momma blues The lowdown momma blues. Gots the lowdown momma blues Got the lowdown momma blues You know that’s right.</i>
01:27:31	Biz	Host	<i>[Music fades somewhat, plays in background of dialogue.]</i> 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 <a href="http://MaximumFun.org/onebadmother">MaximumFun.org/onebadmother</a> . For information about live shows, our book and press, please check out <a href="http://OneBadMotherPodcast.com">OneBadMotherPodcast.com</a> .
01:28:00	Theresa	Host	<i>One Bad Mother</i> is a member of the Maximum Fun family of podcasts. To support the show go to <a href="http://MaximumFun.org/donate">MaximumFun.org/donate</a> .

01:28:22	Music	Transition	<i>[Music continues for a while before fading out.]</i> A cheerful ukulele chord.
01:28:23	Speaker 1	Guest	<a href="http://MaximumFun.org">MaximumFun.org</a> .
01:28:25	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:28:26	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:28:27	Speaker 4	Guest	—Audience supported.