



Library podcast

Scaachi Koul and Lindy West

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[00:00:36] Hello everyone. Welcome to the Seattle Public Library. My name is Linda Johns I'm a librarian in Reader Services where it's our job to match you with the right book at the right time. And lately we've been having a lot of fun with the two authors we have tonight. We've been recommending Scaachi Koul and Lindy West like crazy and it's very convenient because their books fit on the summer book bingo card which is our adult summer reading program. Our friends at Elliott Bay Book Company arranged arranged this evening a huge thank you to The Seattle Public Library Foundation and the Gary Kunis author series grant for making tonight's event possible. We're honored tonight to have a consulate from the office of the Consulate General of Canada. We are so impressed with how Canada supports and values writers and artists and it is a privilege to introduce you all to consulate Harker on Lindsey.

[00:01:39] Thank you Linda and thank you all for coming out this evening. It's wonderful to see such a great crowd. I won't keep you from the main event but I just wanted to highlight a few things. My name is Hart Karen as Linda said I represent Canada here in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. We cover a lot of important issues between our two countries. One of my favorites are the arts and cultural industries in supporting our Canadian artists and writers who come down to the United States to promote their work. It's a real pleasure to be able to introduce Scaachi Koul tonight. I'd like to also. Provide a modified quote from from her site where she says that. Such a call is proving to be one of the finest writers of her generation. This fact should not be question. After reading a lot of her work in the last couple of weeks including her wonderful new book of essays I would tend to agree. So I will leave it at that and just one last point. This year is Canada's 150 year anniversary. Happy sesquicentennial Canada. Thank you

[00:02:46] Low. I'm Karen Maeda Allman from Elliott Bay Book Company. Thanks so much for coming tonight to see two women who've been setting the Internet on fire.

[00:02:57] Tonight we have Scaachi Koul and Lindy West.

[00:03:01] Such a call is based in Toronto and as a culture writer for BuzzFeed. You've seen her work on Jezebel and The New Yorker in a newspaper such as The New York Times The Globe and Mail and of course you've seen her on Twitter. She's here to promote her new book. One day we'll all be dead and none of this will matter. A hilarious and thoughtful collection of essays written from the point of view of a first generation Canadian woman with roots and parents from Kashmir. She takes on topics such as family and those ideas and customs that don't really translate so well after you've located yourself thousands of miles away from your parents culture is also about losing your language colorism or rape culture. Twitter trolls and so much more I think it's essential reading.

[00:03:47] And I'd say it's about time for a voice like hers so also after she does a little talk at the podium there will be a onstage conversation with Seattle's own Lindy West. In her work course figures on pop culture social justice humor and body image. She is a culture writer for GQ Magazine and GQ dot com and also her articles appear frequently in the Guardian and her book is shrill. So after the conversation with Lindy then there'll be an opportunity for audience questions. So with that thanks for coming and please join me in welcoming slushy cool you guys. The. Fucking consulate is here. And I told my dad if you've read the book or if you have the book and you've looked at it or if you follow me you might be very familiar with my father who's extremely invested in my life and fortunately about the consulate coming and he like didn't care and I was like it's a brown lady and then he cared like big time

[00:05:05] So that something that happened today so I'm going to read a little something from a chapter called size me up. There are obviously many serious themes in this book but I'm going to read about my garbage body around the age of 10.

[00:05:22] I gained a significant amount of weight the kind that family members stop referring to as cute or baby weight and start referring with a heavy sigh.

[00:05:32] There was in reality nothing wrong with my weight but I was too young and too insecure. A lethal combination. To know that so I did what I thought I should. I hid my rapidly developing body. I started wearing bomb equipment sweat pants and long sleeved heat locking tops.

[00:05:52] Both items were perhaps utilitarian in the winter but tended to turn my person into a walking sweating radiator.

[00:05:59] By June shopping was my mother's game. She would return from stores that sold clothes exclusively for hikers with a wagon full of wool socks and dungarees for her puberty stricken daughter. Nothing I owned fit anymore and I didn't trust that buying the right clothes would make me feel better about the way my hips had widened or my arms had softened or my neck now had ridges running across it as if I were an old tree and these were my rings. At the time I claimed my style was some kind of feminist protest.

[00:06:34] I don't look like every other girl. Why should I have to dress up when guys can wear whatever they want.

[00:06:41] That's my feminist voice.

[00:06:42] By the way I listen to Avril Levine and recited the lyrics as if they were my own thoughts. I watch CNN because I did want to be a frivolous teen. I had crushes on adult men like Jon Stewart and Rahm Emanuel and hot dads at the mall with salt and pepper hair and palm pilots. I didn't know what a Palm Pilot was. But in truth I just didn't know if I was allowed to look like a cute girl. If my body was bigger than the other girls I knew if my skin was darker.

[00:07:15] If I was more sullen than sugar I hid in muted drapery hoping no one would notice or better yet they would assume I was just a very tough genderless sphere this crumbled by the time I was eleven. A well-meaning woman at my mother's Jenny Craig meeting told her what a precious son she had

[00:07:36] I was wearing a baseball cap with the Coca-Cola logo emblazoned on the front a red puffy vest and gray sweatpants.

[00:07:44] It was July. It was embarrassing to be mistaken for a boy not a girl with masculine tendencies not a girl rejecting traditional gender roles just a boy I was being defined by my clothing instead of transformed by it.

[00:08:02] Coincidentally this was the year I discovered Lord of the Rings we near Orlando Bloom a crush that would last 24 months and spawned more than one fan club. My brother being the only member and by force

[00:08:17] Boys don't like girls and promotional hats and I wanted boys to like me. So I started growing my hair out and asked my mom to take me shopping. I wanted to dress like a girl and not just a pretty girl but a hot girl. That poor definition of whatever makes a woman worth looking at worth touching at least from a teenage boys perspective. Clothes the right clothes could make me even me very hot unfortunately. My tastes differ drastically from my mother's my interests were swaying towards t shirts with hilarious and racy sayings paired with elastic waistband and jeans.

[00:08:58] I wanted to try on belly tops and white belts with big silver bowls. My mom suggested matching stretchy pants and long sleeve tops with watercolor wool standing near the reflection of the moon in a calm river. T shirts with little frogs posed on 3-D lily pads. Flowing Indian tunics that I could tell were clearly not English clothes as we called them ones in jewel tones and gold stitching that screamed my mother is an immigrant and we only eat off metal plates. She'd hold them up and say they look so nice and I'd say they're itchy and she'd say how and I'd furiously rub the sequins against my skin until I flashed red bumps and then I see a particular fight between my mother and me broke out in the women's aisle at Wal-Mart the summer before I started middle school.

[00:09:46] When I found a royal blue shirt with running across. If it weren't for boys I wouldn't even go to school.

[00:09:57] This was a completely false statement for me to support. I wrote extra credit English essays joined the school paper and wept for weeks when my Grade 6 yearbook failed to put my future goals next to my school photo. Worried everyone would think I was a purposeless hack. At twelve. I was afraid of the boys who went to my school all of whom did not like me and were prone to calling me a faggot. But I felt that if I got this shirt I could transform myself at my new school.

[00:10:29] It would be cool and elusive and one of those types people refer to as chill. What does that mean. I still don't know but I want it even now. I forever aspire to be chill had the whole scene planned out.

[00:10:46] I would walk into school wearing that shirt along with a set of earrings from Claire's The one shaped like lightning bolts to really bring out the yellow in the lettering I pair it with my floor length Patchwork Denim Skirt With a little Union Jack in the pocket. I did not know the flag's origin but it's not like there was a class that would teach me like about flags and stuff. Then I would encircle my eyes with thick black liner all the way around elevating myself from mousy girl to sex raccoon Graham the boy I had the hots for would really see me for the first time not as a girl he once tackled and flag football but as the woman he once tackled and flag football

[00:11:32] I would pull my glasses off and the transformation would be complete. Who is this girl. Everyone would ask. It's me I'd say the crowd would gasp in amazement and I would have a million friends and be very thin and rich and filled with an embarrassment of sexual energy for a 13 year old

[00:11:51] While I was concocting this elaborate fantasy in Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart. My mom was explaining to me why she wouldn't be buying the shirt.

[00:12:02] She whispered as if the words themselves were sinful. My mother had a tendency to slip into outrage and shock as a first reaction to anything and the lower her voice dropped the more she was disappointed in me. I could barely hear her. It's not even long enough to cover your tummy. She said pulling me towards a row of long sleeved t shirts. That's a glam and different colors. I still have that shirt. By the way. It has not aged well

[00:12:32] We settled on a short sleeved number with glittery Navy Vinyl Lettering that proclaimed I'm not perfect but I'm so close it scares me.

[00:12:43] God this is so embarrassing.

[00:12:46] Even though I love the shirt so clever so quietly smart so dare I say it elegantly subversive.

[00:12:53] I raged at my mom for weeks. She claimed that shirts like the royal blue one were intended for women like my 20 year old cousin and not for pudgy middle schoolers. But what 20 year old is shopping at the girls section at Wal-Mart. Mother it got worse. A few days after classes started when my arch nemesis Stephanie wore the shirt I'd wanted getting an obscene amount of negative male

attention. I stomped all the way home that afternoon that was supposed to be my negative male attention. This thinking finding an outfit that I believe will revolutionize my existence is a repeated one of failure throughout my life.

[00:13:35] There was the pair of faux leather red peep toe pumps in 2006 the high waisted oatmeal colored wide leg trousers of 2008 the black sequined Bolero of 2009 the skintight series knockoff air village J bandage dress this new year's eve is gonna be amazing of 2011 that I still own and pull out of my closet now and then to remind myself of what I am not. I still remember my favorite outfit from the 10th grade a mint green V-neck lace top dark washed boot cut jeans and black and teal butterfly Mary Jane kitten heels. The butterflies were 3D

[00:14:15] I wore that outfit for every major occasion when I wanted you to ask me out. He did not when I wanted to. He's a math test. I did not when I wanted to be noticed by an attractive guest speaker. I was not despite this piss poor batting average I felt a renewed sense of potential. Every time I put it on today something good has to happen. So nearly a decade after that outfit stop being a staple in my wardrobe yet again fell into the trap of believing cloth could be revolutionary walking through Toronto's financial district. I passed a clothing chain known for simple skirts blouses blazers and a terrible role on perfume that burned it was also the second and last retail job I ever had when I was 19 and living in my cousin Angie's basement beside her table saw which she used to make her hand carved wizard ones

[00:15:07] Yeah. Why should I. Yeah. That was a weird one.

[00:15:09] Should probably examine that I was at least 20 years younger than the clientele that came into the store. I hardly made enough money to buy the 90 dollar cocktail casual dresses on the rack and I managed to be 20 minutes late for every shift. I wasn't fired exactly but when I left my section of the store to reapply my four dollars and fifty cent lipstick and a drunk man managed to swipe eight hundred dollars of merchandise from the store without being detected.

[00:15:35] I nobly offered not to return but that was years ago and I felt a twinge of self-satisfaction in going back as a customer. So much of my life had changed since I worked there. I wasn't a teenager anymore. I had my own apartment. I had paid all my taxes at least once I bought shoes in real stores instead of waiting for my older cousins to tire of theirs. The store was little more than a reminder of how far I had progressed in a few short years.

[00:16:05] Help me with these button shop girl I imagine saying I am an important woman I own a microwave.

[00:16:16] That said the real reason I entered the store was far more practical than ego. It was the dead of summer some 35 degrees Celsius. I don't know how to convert that and I'm not going to help you. You're gonna have to figure that out yourself. And I am a soggy woman. Even in the most forgiving conditions standing outside the store I was already sweating in new and interesting parts of my body and I knew that if I didn't get into a building colder than the surface of the sun of the moon

my makeup would start bleeding and I'd look like a wax figurine left in a clay oven walked in relishing the blast of cool air and immediately saw Leah.

[00:16:49] She had trained me when I worked there but was now the store manager and still is tall and stately and glamorous as I remembered her being when I was 19 best of all she did not seem to recognize me. I rummage through sales rack after sales rack talking tossing aside shirts that I knew would cling in the wrong places colors that would bring up the sallow tint of my complexion and the one piece jumpers because inexplicably adult women are still wearing jumpers. I don't know how they p

[00:17:21] I was older more mature. I had learned some important lessons mostly about peeing but like most of my shopping trips I grew frustrated quickly.

[00:17:32] There was a little in my size and the few things that were listed as an eight or a ten were really cut for someone who is a four or six.

[00:17:39] Just the thought of forcing my wide hips through trousers or my bolder shoulders to a tee shirt felt like more pain than it was worth and yet on my way out I found it a black and white ball skirt that I knew would look perfect on me.

[00:17:57] It was in soft wool but in a slimming cut and hit just below the knee. It would be perfect for work or or maybe going out after work or maybe I would wear it with a big floppy hat and a trench coat and a Parisian cafe waiting for a parcel from a mysterious stranger

[00:18:16] I am Carmen San Diego. In this fantasy like I am in most of my non-sexual non-food related fantasies. I held my breath turning it over to see the price and the size it was on sale and it was an eight it's happening.

[00:18:32] I thought the item the big item that changes the way I dressed and thereby changes the way I am as a person. It's not just a skirt. It's the entry fee for a better existence.

[00:18:45] I would exude a new confidence. It would smooth out the wrinkles in my body. I would hide all the ways I have disappointed and failed people in the past while wearing it. Women would approach me and beg me to tell them where I got it. I would act coy and wink to the camera. In this version of the fantasy I am in like a commercial and I'd say something like I'll never tell or just something I picked up

[00:19:09] People would see me on the street shoving fistfuls of Teddy Grahams and my mouth on the way to the podiatrist and they think that lady really has got her life together. That is a lot of pressure for something on sale for twenty four ninety nine Canadian. Which is like eight dollars here. So poor

[00:19:30] Aliyah led me into a changing room complimenting me on my choice. I lock the door and looked at myself in the mirror taking a deep breath. This could be it appealed the shorts off my sweating skin and stepped into the skirt. It slid out my body resting on my waist and I pulled the zipper up towards the Lord.

[00:19:51] It didn't just fit. No it did more than that. It melded to my body.

[00:19:59] It was beautiful as if it had been cut specifically for me to mass and smooth and elevate. I would be better in this skirt. The dream was alive. I had the all knowing smile. My hair was suddenly more luxurious. I felt thinner more acceptable. I was a better woman.

[00:20:18] Girls who had been mean to me in high school would see me in the skirt and think that Saatchi and I'd be like. You bet it is you dumb bitch and then I punch all their boyfriends. I haven't

[00:20:29] I haven't thought that one out as much as the others. So you're going to have to

[00:20:33] Bear with me conflated imaginings aside. I did look pretty good.

[00:20:38] I walked out of the changing room to vamp in front of people paid to tell me I look great the skirt was a little warm for the summer but who cares. I'd wear it when fall came. I did one more spin in front of Alia and her co-workers before feeling a thick droplet of sweat fall from my brow onto my eyelash. I was overheating in my perfect skirt so I headed back to the changing room my hands were sweating too much to grasp the zipper in the back. So I wrapped a T-shirt around my fingers to get a grip but it would not budge. I sucked in gathering the fabric and tried to tug the zipper down no luck I struggled like this for a good 15 minutes the changing room lights feeling more like an interrogation lamp sweat pooling in the dimples above my ass my hair matted on my face I had fallen into this trap before so many times. Years before this I went through a phase of buying clothes only from vintage stores beautiful dresses and skirts that required real care and attention that I wasn't willing to give to another person. Never mind a chiffon gown they had no elastic leg color wherever you sat with zippers that rested and fell apart like rotting teeth. My favorite purchase though was a cocktail dress. It was a simple blood red shift that came with a layer that slipped on top along pablum type that made my waist look really small.

[00:21:59] I work too often too many places paired with a rational browned heels. I wore it to school with my hair done and red lipstick as if at any moment someone would rush in to my j or and one twenty one class and seek help. I'm a very wealthy lawyer and I need an extremely well-dressed young woman to join me on my yacht for a party that might have some influence on making me partner. Also I'm looking for a wife to politely ignore but whom may spend my money freely and maintain multiple quiet affairs with my handsome co-workers. You look Islander are you interested.

[00:22:29] But I did not care for the dress. It had been made in the 50s for a woman an inch or two thinner than me so I was already testing the tensile strength of the seams. A hand washed in cold

water. It's not what you do with delicate fabric. The dress bleeding out its red color fading it slightly also shrank somehow. Now only reaching halfway down my thigh was too much for school.

[00:22:54] Oh now it's too much. But fine for any other occasion. Yes it was so tight that my on my ass on my hips that I couldn't sit down in it. But that just meant I'd wear it to run errands. When my cell phone broke and I needed to get it repaired. I wore my favorite dress and brown heels to the mall.

[00:23:11] Unfortunately we can't repair any phones that might have been dropped in liquids or foods and I can see some marinara on the headphone jack is what I ended up hearing that day but I felt the dress tear right between my butt cheeks. There was no seam there. Just a lot of tension

[00:23:29] But back in the changing room I was reaching peak anxiety. I tried pulling the skirt over my head. My waist is smaller than my shoulders a problem I did not calculate until I almost got my arm stuck in the skirt as well.

[00:23:41] Then I consider tearing the zipper and telling Leah that it broke while I was trying to disrobe but I didn't want to ruin such a good item maybe it was salvageable.

[00:23:50] Maybe I could still be the woman I felt I could be my only options were to ask a lawyer to help me out of the skirt or to wear it out of the store making me the only idiot sweating in a wool skirt in 30 degree heat. Who isn't also handing out pamphlets that read.

[00:24:05] Have you made peace with your God sometimes zippers move if you rub a candle on them. I could run outside and say does anybody have a candle. It is an emergency. That would be fine I considered a secret third option in that changing room one where I would type out a quick suicide note on my phone and then use a fabric belt to fashion a trendy news but whatever the decision I needed to make it fast and soon my whole body would be covered in my salty sticky shames.

[00:24:35] I left the changing room and tapped Lee on the shoulder hoping she wouldn't notice my entire face was glistening. That does really look great on you she said giving me that wide smile I'd seen her give so many customers before I'm stuck.

[00:24:48] I said I turned around my rear towards her as she tried the zipper herself. She tried bunching the fabric to get a better grip suck in she said pulling more and more of the skirt towards her. She called over her co-worker to help.

[00:25:04] She too could not manage. It's so weird she said. It's like the skirt is caught on nothing.

[00:25:11] No nothing except my own ego and humiliation.

[00:25:16] I flew too close to the sun with this one third employee came over and tried to use a PIN to pull the zippers teeth apart. She spent a full minutes just shaking my hips as if she was trying to will

need to a smaller size and the skirt would just slide off. And admittedly a minute may not sound like a lot of time but I ask a loved one to shake your lower half vigorously for an entire minute. And then tell me how long those 60 seconds feel like. The employees turn to each other and discuss what to do next. We could rip out the zipper and then sew it back on. Do you think she can pull it over her head.

[00:25:52] Oh no. Her shoulders are too wide. What if we just cut her out that last one is the ultimate nightmare if you are a woman in the audience.

[00:26:04] You know this to be true the possibility of getting stuck in a garment at a store where the employees have to cut you out is the beginning of the end of your life. It is like the saddest version of a C-section where the baby is a half naked lady with no dignity

[00:26:23] Yeah. Leah said to her cohorts grab the scissors we have to cut her out. It was like listening to three surgeons decide you needed to be sliced in half. Thinking you're unconscious and can't hear them two women held the skirt to my hips pressing me into the wall of the changing room hallway I could see my reflection in the mirror my face down drenched with sweat from the outside I looked like I was being hazed by a group of women far too old to be welcoming a new pledges

[00:26:52] But all I was focused on was not exposing my entire lower half to whoever had walked into the store during this ordeal said a silent goodbye to my beloved skirt the garment that was supposed to make me better. It just reminded me that no you are what you are. Even if you remember the iron OK hold still Leah said this was an intimate moment for us. Her face was closer to my butt than anyone had been in like hours your sisters.

[00:27:21] Now while the other two women flanked me and held the skirt up Leah pulled the fabric away from my body and started making small cuts.

[00:27:30] I want to cut you she said. But at that point I welcomed any distraction from the sweat gathering on my back like tiny resplendent pools of my greatest fear come to life the sound that's made when one cuts a perfectly useful item of clothing is almost painful especially when it's one you've fallen in love with. All those hems and seams and stitches destroyed so easily. It's the same feeling I imagine that would come if you baked an ice cake only to drop it on the way to a birthday but the sound that's made when someone say. Cuts an item of clothing they weren't supposed to cut is criminal. It's the quiet slap in the face you will ever feel so when she made her final cut.

[00:28:18] I turned to a Leah to thank her. Maybe I would make a joke about how we had worked together how I had let all that merchandise just walk right out of the store and here I was doing it again.

[00:28:28] But all the color had drained from her face. She had sliced right through my underwear

[00:28:35] Leaving me exposed like either a confused surgery patient or a very physically confident crazy person. I mean I'm guessing it was an honest mistake on her part.

[00:28:46] I was wearing one of those nineteen ninety nine ask whale tales that were popular amongst high school girls trying to attract boys with the forbidden fruit of tiny underpants it wasn't so much clothing as it was thickly woven black floss hanging out inside the crevices of my garbage body. Leah wordlessly ushered me back into the changing room and gave me the scissors thing I could cut myself out further if I needed to. I tore the skirt right in half looking at what was hanging off of me in the mirror one hit wrapped in an elastic band like a still raw relied the other naked except for a thick thread swinging purposely by my side I started to get dressed trying to see if I could tie my underwear back together or maybe synch it with the hair elastic I had around my wrist. Instead I opted to just stuff myself back into my denim shorts I handed a leave the remains of the skirt and the scissors apologizing for destroying a perfectly good item of clothing.

[00:29:49] Well it's OK. She said it happened though she did not clarify to whom else it had happened

[00:29:55] I bought that trendy new spell to compensate. And then of course as I shuffled out of the store I heard a leader proclaimed with great zeal Oh my God I just remembered where I know her from the nightmare was over but I still had to sell Coleman a heat wave. My clothes soaked from sweat my underwear hanging by a single thread. And if you have never experienced and sense the sensation of your naked labia rubbing up against freshly washed denim as you maneuver through a subway car with broken air conditioning you have had more than your fair share of luck in this life. Thanks guys.

[00:30:39] That was amazing. Thank you so much. Hello. OK yes. Hi. Hi.

[00:30:46] Hi. That's it.

[00:30:50] Have a good night everyone. No. I'm so glad that you're here in Seattle. I hear that you've never been here before.

[00:30:59] I've never been here at all. I haven't really seen much of the West Coast of the states generally.

[00:31:05] But yeah you had a special experience today which you all probably already know. You had clam chowder for the first time. First of Well I think it's pronounced chowder

[00:31:19] But yes I did. I had either

[00:31:24] Chowder with bacon in it or was it was excellent it's excellent chowder. How did you find the texture of the clam. Because I have an issue with it. Also sometimes I'm glad that I didn't tell you this before. Yeah. Huh.

[00:31:41] Sand in the clam.

[00:31:42] Did you find it Sandy. I enjoyed the texture of the clam. Oh good. There was no sand and I mean I feel like the texture is also taken over by the texture of the potato. Yeah which is its own kind of sandy ness. That's true. This is what the talk is going to be. I'm just gonna talk about food. I have lots of food opinions I wouldn't I would be happy to talk for example avocado Gross who bad. Now you know what else pie disgusting I can get with that

[00:32:09] Pie is bad. I mean apple pie is fine. No hate it worst pie but a

[00:32:14] Worthy America. I don't like it.

[00:32:18] No. A horrible tangy Berry high stewed fruit. Bad. Bad.

[00:32:25] I don't get it. That's ridiculous. But that's fine. Someone once told me a rumor that Apple Pie was invented by a Canadian and it really upset me like Don't put that on me. That would be a good punishment for you. I know we already have rebel opinions. I can't take anymore. I think lemon meringue is the worst pie. Sorry. Well listen.

[00:32:46] All pies that are not savory are bad okay. I'm not going to even

[00:32:54] Get you can do with that what you will. It's obviously rational but. Listen. I don't like

[00:33:01] I don't think a lot of brown people eat pie. You know we have condensed milk. We just go and get cans of condensed milk and drink them. See there is like a knowing yes. Who said that. Someone said that they know.

[00:33:14] Okay. I derailed us. I've ruined it.

[00:33:16] But you do know a lot about Seattle. I know one they two things now. I learned today that you are a Frazier super fan.

[00:33:25] I have seen every episode of Frazier so I was a why. First of all how to your you. That is an excellent show that is prestige television like you know.

[00:33:39] Go fuck yourself with the Sopranos and all that garbage. I would watch Frazier for the rest of my life. Excellent plots really bad acting. Everyone's white. It's exactly what I want but I was raised by TV and so the block on Thursdays was I think it was Seinfeld Friends Frasier and my dad were just sort of set with me and that's what we'd watch. So I've seen every episode and I'm I showed up and I was like okay where where's this apartment.

[00:34:10] Like there's no sign. I am so sorry to tell you this huh. I am pretty sure that they made that show in Los Angeles. I will leave. I will leave the city.

[00:34:23] Okay how about this. How about How about How about I can't say I've ruined it.

[00:34:30] No it's fine. How about fuck Marry Kill. Oh my God. FRAZIER Yeah.

[00:34:35] Niles and the dad Oh Mike.

[00:34:39] Oh I thought you were gonna say the dog and I got really stressed out. Did you hear I paused for like I was like. That's tough. I mean I do a lot to the dog so I don't really know. That joke did not land with you guys you're very sensitive about that dog.

[00:34:55] What was it Frasier Niles and that was dad's name. John what was it

[00:35:01] Martin's valet.

[00:35:02] He knows I would I would marry Niles because he seems very pliant. Clearly. I would kill Frasier because he sucks. And then I would go to town on the day and. Given the best five minutes of his life. That's me being generous anyway.

[00:35:26] All right. So. Oh.

[00:35:28] So I wanted to talk to you about. I first became aware of you when you posted a very rude thing on Twitter. Suggesting that someone other than a white man should have a job.

[00:35:43] And so that was out of line.

[00:35:45] You know what. It went really well. And I never faced any consequences whatsoever for that. And everyone was like You know what. I agree. And then I won the Peace Prize. I think actually.

[00:35:56] Yeah I really we should instead of as much as I would love to just talk about your problems and tell them what you want to give people some back on your show. This was two years ago but we're still talking about it because it's like a family. No it's not your fault. No it's like it's like honestly I love it when white men are horrible I really want to see it. So my this is what I have instead of pie I just eat white men

[00:36:23] But I was working as an editor at the time and I was looking for writers for the publication I was working for and I tweeted that I was looking for primarily people who were non-white and non male.

[00:36:34] And so then everyone was like white genocide. I don't like that. And then it kind of went from there and I had no control over it. And I'm still talking.

[00:36:44] I mean I was just I was reread. I was refreshing my memory on the kerfuffle. Yeah. You didn't even say white men not allowed to e-mail me.

[00:36:53] You know what my favorite one was was when I sent that tweet somebody replied with a photo that of like like an old I don't know an old photo of I guess an employment posting that said No Irish guy.

[00:37:06] Yes. I'm so glad you told me. Great.

[00:37:11] We agree. Seriously though so. OK. So white men what are we going to do. Like what do we do with them. I don't know what Hannah thought it sounds like a joke question. But seriously though like what. Like everything's broken white male mediocrity is seized the throat of Earth and is just ripping it out. So what are we going to do.

[00:37:34] I feel like it's evolving into this new kind of monstrosity now where like first they're just bad like they're just bad and then they go to like this sort of fake weakness where they think that they've got all the answers and then they start condescending to you. That's where I live now. I got a lot of white dudes who want to be like you know what.

[00:37:54] I just think people would appreciate your message if you were kinder. And it's like you know what. I also agree. Please climb up my asshole.

[00:38:04] It's very warm there.

[00:38:06] You'll love it. You'll love it. See how is that my kind. I don't know. I said I see you please climb up my asshole. I mean I didn't like. You don't have to do it. But I thought it was like a polite offering.

[00:38:20] I just don't know. Like what we're supposed to do because clearly this clearly you know disparities in race and gender are killing us all but you're not allowed to even say Hey maybe my little website could publish like some some funny stories about the life of women

[00:38:48] Or literally anything literally anything anything by. I mean you.

[00:38:52] So you can't address it sort of broadly. You can't be like whiteness seems to be a problem because people lose their minds and you can't address it proactively like OK well I'm going to use my position to try to elevate the voices of maybe some people who don't usually get heard and then or if you try you like if you get if you get exasperated and you are a little bit honest then people are like

[00:39:20] Oh not my cup of tea. Yeah

[00:39:22] Well I would say I I would be against racism but say you're so me abrasive.

[00:39:30] Yeah. Where are we where do we end up. What do we do. I don't know man. I like the discourse here is so fucking weird.

[00:39:36] Like I was watching all day today. People were upset that I think it was like Hillary Clinton wouldn't take enough credit for losing the election like everyone was talking about that today online. And it's like OK. Yeah she lost. But is this really what you want to fucking talk about. Like it's been a while. I just I don't I don't know how to make people examine their own garbage. I feel like it is going to be my life's work. Yeah but I'm really not sure. I'm really not sure. I feel like I convert one dump dumb every five months which is not average.

[00:40:10] Yeah I know I feel the same way.

[00:40:12] It's like because you can get through to people if you just say the same thing over and over and over and over again and they email you and you answer it and then they go back. Yeah see I've gotten a trap where I was answering emails that I was getting because someone did change their minds just because they're so terrified that you're real and that you've answered the email and they're like oh God it has breasts. And then they panic and then like it's a whole thing actually true.

[00:40:38] Yeah. So. As a person who has like me and like any other woman or person of color or you know any marginalized person who works in the media or exists or has a Twitter account you have experienced a lot.

[00:40:57] I feel like that's such a long list of like all the ways you're gonna die.

[00:41:01] And you know what it's just another lot swear or we're not like I already do. I don't know. Can we not in a way that we have to dance around shitty strip like Don't don't say shitty straight Wait dude not not all of us sorry I'm sorry for. I mean like I'm not sorry because it's awesome. Some of us remain to the tree this weekend. Some of us what is the dumb joke. I don't say it again.

[00:41:27] Failed. All I did that was I'm really taken away. Moderator to talk over your jokes. But anyway so you've you've experienced a high volume of Twitter harassment and then by extension this the same for me. Like I end up. I've spent the last five years writing about Twitter like that's my job now. Have you experienced that same thing. Like I feel really resentful that the internet Twitter and the Internet in general have become my beat because like that's not one of my interests. Like I barely like the Internet and I have to do interviews about it. I have to like people are like little Linda. How how can we reengineer Twitter using code of computer code. Like I learned I don't know. Like what do we do to fix Twitter. So I guess my question is have you had that same experience and also like what would you rather be talking about. Like what actually interests you okay. Well I don't know if you knew this but I'm the Canadian you

[00:42:32] Really. Yeah. That's so flattering. No it's not. Oh you don't want that. You don't want that life. But it's because like so Canada is not very first of all we also Canada like it's like one big town.

[00:42:47] But Toronto which is a city if you don't know that I know you guys don't learn a lot about us right up there is it I mean there's not a lot of people it's 35 million people and you guys have like 3 350. Jesus Christ it's too much. But anyway look I mean it's so small. So then what ends up

happening is something happens to anybody and it becomes sort of the only thing that we can talk about and we also don't think like we need to find any other people for it. So this also happens in terms of like diversity hiring and candidates especially in media medias they're like we got one brown lady. End of list

[00:43:25] Oh yeah.

[00:43:26] End of list do you want to talk about that thing that happened recently with the.

[00:43:31] I sure can. There is a thing that happened.

[00:43:35] I think it's about two weeks ago now we're a bunch of very prominent high level media editors and executives were tweeting about how they were going to put together a collection plate of sorts. They were gonna gather money for an appropriation prize so it would be who could best culturally appropriate in their writing they did this at eleven forty five on a Thursday night when I guess they thought we were all sleeping like I don't know.

[00:44:06] I don't think they care. I don't think they know they just didn't give a shit. And it was the worst and then it was like a sarcastic backlash to your intimate criticisms. Yeah of cultural. Somebody hit somebody had written for this other magazine about how he won. He believed in an appropriation prize it was very dumb and it was so dumb that he he quit because he knew it was stupid. So then all these Ding Dongs were like I can't believe this guy got ran out and it's like do you understand how quitting works like nobody did this to him. And then it kind of just snowballed from there and turned into like this very emblematic of what's wrong with the country.

[00:44:45] I was no I mean yes it is. And it's and this is you know less so because I'm a I'm a white lady. But I do always feel congratulations on that but it. Sounds great. You're welcome. What do you say to congratulations. Thank you. You think. I agree. Congratulations to me. But you know I always feel this it's usually with men I guess because you know my my identity is you know as a woman and as a feminist you write on the Internet. This is where this comes up. But I always feel. I just like you don't know who to trust because you don't like to talk a big game about being progressive and being you know one of the good white people and being Wolk or whatever or one of the good men you know I support women I am I have

[00:45:42] A mom like Hill. Yeah it's like I've never had my mom.

[00:45:46] You're like cool.

[00:45:51] And I when things like that happen it just it makes it makes me feel so paranoid where it's like oh so all of you have been thinking this oh yeah this whole time yeah you've been holding these really important powerful jobs I'm sure claiming over and over again that there are no there is no money no money there's no time there's no money we have no positions you've already filled them there's no audience for that kind of content and how dare you suggest that we're prejudice that there's

any kind of systemic discrimination going on. And then you find out because they're you know they actually have such a low level comprehension of the issue that they all feel just fine like doing that in public on Twitter where it can be screen grabbed forever which is what I did. I you

[00:46:46] But I mean it's like that that was like a moment of it was like four or five people who had within about 50 minutes gathered three hundred and fifty thousand five hundred dollars of their personal wealth for this dumb thing. So if you can do that why don't you give it to an Indigenous person to write a thing like if you if you were willing to throw your money around for this bullshit. I don't see why you can't actually use it for something positive because they don't care.

[00:47:15] Yeah I mean it's literally not money to give to a white person for being racist. The best.

[00:47:22] Yeah. I mean I guess they need more.

[00:47:24] So I guess. So how do you deal with that. How do you you you don't know who to trust. Like how do you I trust no one.

[00:47:34] That's what I do. Paranoid and I'm mad all the time.

[00:47:38] It's really doing wonders for my wrinkles on the forehead. I feel really good and no dice you fall to me about wrinkles on the forehead.

[00:47:45] Is that six years old. I am getting it's fine. I don't I'm embracing it. It's. I shouldn't be such a bad road to go down.

[00:47:55] I got real fast.

[00:47:57] No I just noticed the other day that I have like you were talking with skin care routine recently they changed. I tried to have it looks great. You look glowing.

[00:48:08] What. Thank you. I haven't done it in like a month but look great. I'm sure it was those two weeks of serums. I look young because I'm mad. You are young. Yeah but I'm not forever. That's I just want to ask you. So when I was 26 you're 26. Yeah. So I now know. Yeah. Don't get used to it sweetie. Twenty sevens Grubman

[00:48:37] I like it but that is actually how condescending people are when they're older I mean I know you probably don't understand about the progression of time.

[00:48:45] I don't mind it because I feel like then I can do it later.

[00:48:48] I'll take it. I bank it for later but.

[00:48:52] Oh so what.

[00:48:53] So I started writing professionally when I was twenty five and then I was so I was when I was 26 I was like writing little like little like movie reviews and like little theater reviews in the local paper. It was a great job but it's like looking back on it it is mortifying because I wrote things that were very bad and it was like I could go I can look back and I can see myself growing up on the page in public in print forever on the Internet like double forever. And I'm so jealous of you like you're you're you're so poised and your writing is so mature and beautiful and smart. And I was just wondering how you did that

[00:49:37] I'm like are you.

[00:49:38] Do you have the same terror because like I'm terrified that people I mean I had like a really upsetting childhood and it made me an adult. Quickly that you think you. Know I don't know I mean like I think there's lots of stuff that I wrote that is embarrassing and bad like I did like I even even I'm not just a small level like I did a search on my own Facebook for like different words I might have used when I was younger because I got this is the other problem I got Facebook when I was like 15. That's bad. That's a bad thing. And so I went searching and I just looked up my name and the word retarded.

[00:50:13] What the fuck was I doing.

[00:50:15] Because you're you're 15 and you don't know and you say these dumb things and it was just riddled with that and I had that anxiety of like why did I write like what did I write. And I started writing for money at. There was a book in the province I grew up in provinces or like states there is like a governmental body that handles them. There's a there's I don't know how many provinces or it's not good. Don't tell the consulate. But there was like a magazine that published the work of basically mostly teenagers teenage girls and so I started working for them when I was 14. I am terrified of the will if they ever like have an archive I'm doomed.

[00:50:57] But yeah I don't know I mean I think it's it's sort of part of it but I guess maybe the measurement is to make sure that you're still trying and that if it does sort of resurface that you're like OK why don't do that anymore and I recognize why and this is why that was wrong. Yeah yeah I think people live in fear of being called out as though it's some sort of death sentence like if someone is like

[00:51:19] You know Oh. What is wrong with you you know. I don't like I don't want to talk about here's the list right. I mean. Yeah some people might hate you forever but it's not that hard to say whoa Ms I'm dumb I am very real.

[00:51:38] Wow. People had a hard time saying they're dumb.

[00:51:41] Yeah I don't know why. I don't know why either it's great. Yeah it's very freeing.

[00:51:45] It's like I imagine what it feels like to be like Catholic or something where you could just get to like say I did it and then it's gone like score right. That's how they were. I just I don't know. I don't know. I was raised in a godless home I've an idea. Hindus don't do that. But I don't know.

[00:52:03] We just don't eat on Tuesdays and then assume it's fine. Is there.

[00:52:07] What if I don't eat meat on Tuesdays. Great. Everything's OK. You're forgiven I'm forgiven

[00:52:14] Let's say. Well so do I want to talk to you about. Do you do you like writing

[00:52:23] Because I hate it. No. No one likes it. It's disgusting. I don't trust people who like liars. You're a liar.

[00:52:30] Laughs No their craft. No. First of all this entire book was written while I watched real housewives of Orange County. And House. Why. Because they're dumb and nothing happens like I played in the background and then write like seven thousand words about my vagina. So no I don't like it. Nothing's good about it. It's just you pulling scabs off and letting them gently heel and peeling them off again and then letting it happen like it's just a disgusting filthy thing to do. You and I should be in jail. I totally agree. Do you have that. Do you do that thing that like

[00:53:10] I was. I always laugh when like someone will publish you know a writer will be like. Tell us about your process and they're like well I arrive. I arrived at 7 and I smell the dollar next to my bed and I these people who are like I drink nothing but coffee all day and that's what fuels me. And you're like

[00:53:37] No you don't.

[00:53:39] Or people are like Yeah it's like I get up and I shower and I run five miles and I go back and I sit at my desk and I try typing into her or whatever and I just I write for four hours no matter what. Like that's why I like that they're almost as bad as people who are like I just did ecstasy for seven months. And this is the book I read from and you're like Oh no. I get out of this conversation. I just. Don't trust people who are disciplined and they're liars. They're liars they're disgusting writers

[00:54:17] Who say they have a process marathon runners bakers like anybody who's like getting up before 6:00. I'm like Okay you know these people are like I'm a baker. But then they're like. Like very small

[00:54:33] Team you just bake every day you've a baking body you bake cookies and then what do you. What happens to them. I don't

[00:54:41] I just think I tell it literally once a year because if I bake then it just goes and which is fine. I'm like happy to own it and whatever but like I

[00:54:51] Creole I don't get that either. I assume they're just very sad. That's what I want. I just want them to be upset.

[00:55:00] We this is our show. We can build our own universe all miserable. But yeah. So my my process is like. So there has to be a deadline where someone where like my light someone will ruin my life if I don't meet it. And then I wait until. So like it is a short form like a column I wait until 45 minutes right before. Mm hmm. And then I lie on my side like this sort of like a like a weird thing and things like that. Yeah. Yes. Or like on the couch usually. Yeah yeah yeah yeah. And then I'm like this. Have you tried wouldn't you lie in bed like this and you put it you put on your tits. And. I wear glasses and tried to tan exactly I have to put it really close close

[00:55:48] Like that. Yeah I totally do that with my legs start to fall asleep. Yeah. So you have to stop. So then I'll do that one should I stay in this position.

[00:55:56] Oh like half my book was written in the. And then it'll be like 4:00 a.m.. Mm hmm.

[00:56:02] And then I'll I'll be sort of a wake up for for like seven minutes I'm like. And like write a hundred words and then and then and then I'll have like some gummy bears which I don't even like but any sort of just a food a food a chewable thing. Yeah yeah. And then and then I start to cry eventually like I go all into a really don't despair. Yeah yeah

[00:56:29] Look how well adjusted we are now that you came to this I mean young people will be like how do I become a writer. Well I love that question. You're like don't. Yeah. No. I mean all of that I'm always very encouraging.

[00:56:42] But I tell them to do like like get into welding or something reliable orderly like murder like we will always need plumbers.

[00:56:50] Yeah well maybe not if the what are you gonna do. I'm just saying that the apocalypse is nigh right. I forgot where I don't what everything's terrible here. Yeah. I mean learn to ride a horse you know. Learn to ride a horse. OK. I mean bow and arrow I thought at least that's like yeah fun horseback. No I went to the rodeo when I was in Texas on book tour and I was just looking at the people and I was like Oh man I am fucked like I can't do that I can't do anything like these people were like on a horse then they jump off the horse onto a cow

[00:57:32] That's a very practical concern. I feel that way about like when I see someone do yoga real good but that's not like a transferable skill at least jumping from one horse to a cow is good for the war

[00:57:48] That you guys are definitely going to start by saying in the nuclear apocalypse if I need like some grains or yams from the next village tough you know white yams it's another thing I don't like to eat. Don't like it don't like a sweet starch I just want you to know

[00:58:11] How healthy regulations. So let's see. All right. I think we've covered like three you're really all the most important stuff. You have horrible taste. Wow. I'm OK. I'm joking.

[00:58:29] Me glad I know this about you and maybe the rest of the world is wrong. No you're right. They are all other people are

[00:58:36] Wrong. What goes on

[00:58:41] About was a pie. Yeah. I mean I'm not even like a big pie fan. I prefer cake.

[00:58:47] What's good about pie when it's hot and there's ice cream on the way and somebody yell something. What did you yell about you can get that and anything else.

[00:58:59] Like it's not good enough to substantiate your hot soup fruit on top.

[00:59:03] I mean I'm like almost with you is the thing is really good. It's

[00:59:07] Just garbage. First of all that but I mean part of it is like apples are the worst fruit. So like it's hard to

[00:59:16] Oh boy. Wow. Yeah. Okay wait. Rank the fruits and then we're gonna go to audience questions like almost all fruits are bad. And then I like cherries and watermelon. What about

[00:59:29] Fruit.

[00:59:30] I mean fruit. You know that Todd Berry joke rage was like fruit sucks.

[00:59:34] Yeah. Good old joke it's really not. It's just not that good. It sucks it's your kid your mouth and your hungry your mom's like have some fruit and you're like you go fuck yourself Mona like I am not in this business. Try being fat like people. You. Have

[00:59:50] An apple. Yeah. And you're like What.

[00:59:54] Here. I. Am hungry. I need you to hold chicken like a live chicken I'm just gonna dip into my body and pull it out. Only. A

[01:00:10] No. I will. I will put peanut butter on it. Apple is the vehicle for the peanut butter.

[01:00:16] Sure. But then like just eat the peanut butter.

[01:00:20] I don't think sugar is bad. What. Like I just know. I mean like in terms of like I will have it for candy or dessert. But in terms of like this fruit nonsense. Oh. Mm hmm. Doesn't that it's just. What's

the point. Yeah I mean I I Eades you know and like the core is disruptive. Oh I agree. I don't like Skins.

[01:00:43] Yeah. I'm with you on that.

[01:00:46] What about okay. We should stop. I'll literally literally has clothes. OK. So. So what about like a mango.

[01:00:55] Oh Betsy. Yeah. See I fuck with mangoes because that's because my mother is a brown lady and if I say that I don't she will show up. So you'll hear it. No I like them but honestly. You were on top of it do it. I can't. Yeah that's not happening. Mangoes are fine. I mean really affect their children in terms of their food tastes like this. Like I don't eat like the skin of meat because she was like that is not what you do with it. The skin of meat. Like you don't eat chicken skin like you put you take it off. You could say I'm sorry. Yeah. I mean like I you know I had my first big mac and I was like 17 and I was like What is this they've been hiding it from me. For such a long time is great. And then I started crying because I thought I was gonna go to hell but I didn't. So it's fine.

[01:01:38] Congratulations. Thank you.

[01:01:41] All right let's throw it out to the crowd.

[01:01:44] You have questions.

[01:01:47] How do you follow that up sir. Correct. Anyone have free opinions or you can just answer your question

[01:01:56] Yes it's a great literature it's your.

[01:01:58] When men do it they literally going to call it my struggle. Yeah.

[01:02:06] Well good for you.

[01:02:10] For you.

[01:02:12] I mean I had to fight personally. So I gave up the fight for the paperback but for the hardcover I was like I want. I demand that this be a gender neutral cover like I want it to be like I don't want it to be I don't want to have my face on it being like you know or you know have like a martini on it or you know all of the things that we do or like a shoe.

[01:02:44] Yeah. And I had to I had to see this over and over and over. And literally shame and do. So then. I. Get

[01:02:55] Like I said I gave it up for the paperback and then I'm like oh my paperback so cute. Because like I really don't actually feel this in my heart. It was a political political move. Political decision. But yeah. So you know we ended up with this. But before we got this one literally like they sent me like 20 cops that were like look like the Sex and the city logo. And that's real. I don't know.

[01:03:21] I just feel like to have a woman's the minutia of a woman's life and you know especially her her inner life and you know her if it has like a woman's emotions in it then suddenly it's this frivolous ridiculous thing and to have it released to something serious that is a piece of literature is difficult. Whereas men can be like oh my bone like whatever and it's very. It's very weighty and significant. I don't know. What do you think. I get asked a lot about like how I made my book relatable as if I am a literal alien

[01:04:04] And I just learned how to speak English. And I'm telling you about my world. So that's annoying but I mean part of it. Like it it just some of it felt like things I couldn't control like the cover is paying.

[01:04:17] But I like it. But I would get emails from dudes who would be like I bought your book even though it was pink and it's like.

[01:04:23] Congratulations to you.

[01:04:25] How do you like drawing like do you think your dick's gonna crawl into your body if you buy a pink buck like that was the level of discourse but also like I'm also coming from a different region where in terms of essay collections that come out in Canada generally do you know of one yeah.

[01:04:45] So there you go. So it's a little different right. Because there's just there's not like a market saturation that sort of happens here. Generally speaking but I also like don't think it's that bad to have a product that like women first like. Like I when I wrote it I was in my head I was like This is for brown girls I'm sure everybody can read it and like it but it was sort of important to write something for an audience that I don't think gets that much at least in that space.

[01:05:11] I certainly didn't when I was younger and then the rest is icing pink icing very upset about that every time I don't get a question like we solved racism and sexism. I did it yes the lady yes

[01:05:32] The great ego my little everybody.

[01:05:38] Oh yeah.

[01:05:39] Oh yeah. I mean yeah I mean I would I would preface this by saying that like Canadians are also terrible with this.

[01:05:47] It is I have never had an audience as hostile as like as Canadians generally speaking they are so anxious about being polite that if you say anything they will like burn your house down. They

just don't they don't want to be perceived as anything other than wonderful beautiful people which I know is not a popular opinion but tough. But in terms of like stuff here I mean I think you're referring to because I did an interview with a local publication and it's in the piece she wrote the whole thing that she had she suggested that you know things in terms of race relations were better in the city which I can't speak to your city specifically but I got a guest there not I really just got a guest there not. And she also sort of prefaced the interview by telling me she felt bad for me. So I mean that stuff comes up a lot I get asked a lot like why I'm funny. Like as if it's like a sickness or a leg. It's an it's a mistake. Like something happened in the programming of my body and I was supposed to come out very sweet and meek and and coming out being like dicks dicks dicks like as it like I don't know that comes up a lot the relate ability question comes up very frequently I often get asked about my tone which drives me fucking crazy I get it that that is maybe the most insulting question and I think that's something I'm sure you get it to some degree I feel you. I think women generally get it but certainly women of color get it on a level that is just unprecedented of that you don't get to say things like other people get to see them because you have to be nice.

[01:07:30] I get people who scold me men especially on one I quit Twitter but when I was on Twitter I would get men scolding me for swearing Oh I love that.

[01:07:40] I love that. Does that happen to you. Mm hmm. Yeah. But I mean a lady talks. I don't really care. I mean it is. I mean it's one thing if you're doing it for broadcast then yeah I try to not say like anus over and over again. But other than that it's like it's just free reign.

[01:07:57] But the to the tunnel stuff I think is a lot about just sort of coming off as angry they don't. People don't like that men and white women I think largely do not like that they respond to it in a way as if you are taking something from them. Feels like a real ownership that you don't get to have angry they own it. That makes me crazy.

[01:08:17] It does hurt their feelings. You know what tough tough titties as they say

[01:08:27] Well he's out of a job now. So I guess I won. I don't know. Do you want to. You want to repeat the quote. Yeah.

[01:08:32] So after Trudeau won the election this was I guess two years ago now. Yes. Give or take. He made this announcement that he was going to have a gender neutral Cabinet.

[01:08:42] A cabinet is like a set of drawers.

[01:08:46] I don't really want to get ahead on whatever. I don't know enough about our political system to pretend like I can explain it to you. But he was going to have a gender neutral gender equal sorry cabinet. So a 50/50 split and I went on the CBC to talk about it and it was bad and it was it was me into other people who were arguing that I I guess their argument was that it was bad that he wanted to have women in his cabinet

[01:09:10] Because they didn't like. Yeah. They don't it's like the same argument against like affirmative action. No quota. They can't find six competent women. Yeah like I don't I don't I don't know what to tell you if you can't figure that shit out and then like. Yeah I just read that one was weird it wasn't so much the actual taping that was stressful the taping was very bizarre but those segments are like six minutes there live to tape.

[01:09:36] You're kind of confused the whole time. It's very hot. There's like a tiny lady in a sleeveless dress asking you very quick questions like how to here.

[01:09:46] But it's always the response after. So this is what I mean about like Canadian audiences being hostile. No one gets madder at me than the CBC audience like they unironically are ready to send me e-mails suggesting I believe in white genocide.

[01:10:00] That is the level of discourse they are having as the public broadcaster. So glad I pay my taxes like that's that's where I'm at where we're out with them. And by the way one of the people who works at the CBC was one of the people involved in that appropriation prize. So that is like our liberal hippy dippy PBS blah blah blah ya ya sisterhood pub publisher. But it's like those things are like they exist in a weird vacuum and. You're never going to win an argument in those like TV panels and I've lost I've lost the will to try to win but it's really after that then the people watch them on YouTube and I still get emails from that segment which was I think the first one I ever did for the CBC. And I had just sort of gotten this new job. I was 24 23 24 and I did this thing and then it was just weeks of shit after. So it's not so much the thing that in terms of keeping my eye else I don't really care about keeping my tone generally but like it was after not thinking I was insane everything's great.

[01:11:06] Do you feel like you have a grasp of the cultural appropriation conversation because I know a lot of times people don't quite seem to be nodding does anybody not get it.

[01:11:17] Do you want to give a. She doesn't get it.

[01:11:20] Ok so about a month ago this guy who who works for the writers can the Writers Guild Union of Canada they have a magnet. They have a magazine they publish this particular issue was supposed to be dedicated to Indigenous writers.

[01:11:36] That was the point of indigenous here. Yeah OK I mean you

[01:11:43] Yeah. I don't fuck with that because I'm not sure about that one but fine that's where we tend to agree with. In the north.

[01:11:51] But anyway so in terms of Indigenous writers in Canada there are very few that are sort of given space. We just don't do it which is all fucked up because we take there. We'd love to throw their history around and you know we're gonna we're gonna drag it through with Canada 150 for sure we're already doing it.

[01:12:08] But this magazine was supposed to be dedicated to that specific that specific group their work and their topics. The editor who is a white person wrote this piece it was a letter from the editor in effect saying that he didn't believe cultural appropriation was a thing and he wanted you. He said we should have appropriation prize for person who can best appropriate another culture. So the argument is inherently flawed because appropriation doesn't mean you're just writing fiction about people who aren't white I would be fine with that if you could write nuance people of color in your books. That's great. But it's it's steep it's taking from a culture and sort of I think it's profiting off of him in a way that they will never profit. This is why I get mad when I see like white girls wearing beanies because I didn't get to wear that when I was a kid and be cute. I didn't get that. I still don't get it now. I'd get stopped at the airport.

[01:12:58] So that was the issue he conflated it and pretended it was about fiction writers writing you know black and brown and indigenous characters into their books there's a bunch of other stuff connected to this one of them being that a very prominent Canadian author Joseph Boyden was found to have maybe stolen some of his work and might not be Indigenous despite the fact that he was saying he was I'm not really sure honestly where that landed because it just sort of went away because Canada kept Canadian media is like five people.

[01:13:26] And one of us is here so I don't really know. But so then after that he got a lot of backlash. And part of the insult for that issue was that the issue was that the magazine was dedicated to Indigenous writers and he distracted from them by writing this thing. No one knows what was in that magazine because we were all very busy right writing about the stupid thing that he had written. So in the very issue dedicated to those people and their work no one heard anything from them because we had to deal with this dingdong who'd written this thing you realize he was wrong he quit. Then all of these other editors for very large publications in the country were upset about it.

[01:14:05] I guess you know they throw the word witch hunt around which is not what a witch hunt was or is but fine and then they started basically saying well let's you know let's let's do an appropriation prize.

[01:14:16] And that's when our solidarity with that guy with the guy who quit. Yeah. Yeah. Not with the centuries of people.

[01:14:24] Yeah not getting economic opportunity a whole lot being represented not who we've shot who we've shoved into land that is you know very far north or in remote regions where they can't get groceries and we don't we don't they don't have clean water like in terms of what's going on here in Flint like that shit's been happening in parts of Canada for a very long time to Indigenous people because we don't care like Everybody Loves Trudeau and I understand he's very hot and he owns at least five puka shell necklaces. But like he's also ok in the Keystone which will disrupt water resources like there's there's a lot there's just there's so much shit there. There's so much frustration for Indigenous people in the country and I'm not the person really to be talking about it because I'm not and I'm a saddler like a lot of us who live in that country but it seems petty. What was going on with the appropriation present seems silly why people were so upset but it was very emblematic of

the way that we always thought these people talked about us and then we finally had proof of it that this is how they fuckin talk about us.

[01:15:22] And it was so mean and just so nakedly cruel and so unnecessary and it was one of those things where it was like I'm giving my labor to you people so you can pay me two hundred and fifty dollars for a piece or you can give me 300 bucks to do a video or whatever else and you are mocking my existence and that's worse. I would guess if you're an Indigenous person in the country and you're trying to work in media because they just don't give you any room and then even when this broke nobody had anybody to write about it because nobody has an indigenous person on staff. I mean like even if there were

[01:15:55] People who were who were ready and excited to hire Indigenous people there's so many roadblocks to even getting to the point where you can pitch to it like where you know the person to pitch or where you have I don't know I mean there's even that thing of like and I have I've had this too and I'm sure it'll come up again where if you're not white you end up sort of being the spokesperson for your people.

[01:16:19] They don't let you do anything else.

[01:16:21] And I imagine if you're an Indigenous person anywhere right working in media maybe at some point you don't want to only write about that thing but that's the only space we've given you and I spent a long time only writing about brown people because it's the only thing I could get and that I don't know that honestly that could shift I don't know if I could go back to that it might but I mean the other thing about this is there was so much fear about talking out against those editors because all of us and us meaning people of colour who were working in media or just consuming it or trying to get into it are afraid of having her livelihoods taken away from us because my staff can get take I know that I'm not like I'm obsessed with myself but my ego is not so big that I think that like it can't be taken it can.

[01:17:00] And that was the other part of it is that we were just so fed up and that's part of the mechanism that's part of the design that's how people that's how the system keeps you from disrupting it. All right well on that optimistic note I think it's fine you're here you're on a book tour you wrote an amazing book and thank you so much for coming to see you. Carl Monday as. This podcast was presented by the Seattle Public Library and Foundation and made possible by your contributions to the Seattle Public Library Foundation

[01:17:39] Thanks for listening.