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Kieryn:

I'm Kieryn.

Eve:

And I'm Eve. This is Kitchen Table Cult.

Kieryn:

Where two Quiverfull escapees talk about our experiences in the cultish underbelly of the religious right.

Eve:

Hi Kieryn.

Kieryn:

Hi Eve.

Eve:

Apparently the last time I had tequila, I must have been wearing some really dark lipstick because I apparently drank straight from the bottle and I left a red mark. Let's get going with this Year in Review episode, and because 2018 was really bad.

Kieryn:

I blacked out so much of it, and then I went through the news stories and was like, "All right, that was all this year."

Eve:

Yeah, no, as we've been compiling this list of news articles, we were just like, "Oh, that happened this year?" Parkland happened this year. Of course Parkland happened this year, but also it feels like it happened five years ago.

Kieryn:

Right. Yeah, I legit forgot that I went to Sacramento for, because of the Turpins that happened in January of this year. That feels like it was three years ago, but no, that was also this year.

Eve:

No, it's like several lifetimes ago. So, in order to cope with this Year in Review episode and covering the news stories, we're going to induct you into a tradition that has been in existence. God, I've been doing this. I started this with my friend Carmen and our friend Leon back in 2013. So this is a five-year-old tradition where we take a shot of tequila to cope with talking about how horrible either our families or the news is. And we yell, "Fuck the patriarchy," after.

Kieryn:

And I'm here for it.

Eve:

All right, here we go. And fuck the patriarchy.

Kieryn:

Fuck the patriarchy.

Eve:

Okay. I have girded my loins and I'm ready to go [crosstalk 00:02:24]

Kieryn:

Yes, now that there is tequila, what's first?

Eve:

First of all, we're just starting, there's so much. It's all so bad.

Kieryn:

So, yesterday in Ohio.

Eve:

Yesterday, only yesterday,

Kieryn:

Yeah, only yesterday.

Eve:

Can they just take a Christmas break and go home and eat [crosstalk 00:02:45]

Kieryn:

This unrelated. This is my theory about why the government keeps shutting down over Christmas. Is they're just like, "What if we just like shut down for the holidays? It's fine. We'll just do that, because fuck doing this."

Eve:

Yeah, and everybody will lose their loans and their salary and their access to services, and that's cool.

Kieryn:

But that doesn't matter because the people making these decisions they just need a break. They just want to celebrate the holiday and the entire government should shut down because of it, it's fine. But Ohio.

Eve:

But Ohio, okay. So what ... I'm going to swear a lot [crosstalk 00:03:26]

Kieryn:

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Yeah, this is going to be a swearing episode. We started with fuck the patriarchy.

Eve:

Yeah, what the fuck just happened in Ohio?

Kieryn:

Yeah, apparently Kasich signed into law this thing that prohibits the dilation and evacuation procedure of abortions.

Eve:

Basically a whole bunch of women in Ohio are gonna die of-

Kieryn:

Sepsis.

Eve:

... yeah, uterine sepsis?

Kieryn:

Right.

Eve:

And sorry, that was very cis of me. Uterus-havers are going to die of sepsis, because they won't be able to get dead babies out.

Kieryn:

In theory, there is an exception for the life of the mother, but we know better.

Eve:

Yeah, since when-

Kieryn:

Since when is that?

Eve:

... do they actually care?

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

No, that doesn't matter. They don't [crosstalk 00:04:20]

Kieryn:

No, and there are no exceptions for rape or incest, so you're fucked.

Eve:

See, they clearly don't care.

Kieryn:

Right. It's like, no. They don't ... They really, really don't care. And this was signed into law and not the six-week abortion ban.

Eve:

Oh my God. Remember when Kasich looked, I'm probably pronouncing his name wrong, he deserves it, but remember when he looked more-

Kieryn:

Less evil?

Eve:

... moderate? Less evil than ... What the fuck?

Kieryn:

And now it's like, "No, I'm going out, so here, everyone who can possibly get pregnant, you're fucked. Merry Christmas."

Eve:

Me go out was a bang. Let me give everyone a uterine time bomb-

Kieryn:

This year honestly-

Eve:

... of death.

Kieryn:

... has made me so happy that I've decided to not have uterus anymore, and I just feel so validated about that every time this happens and I'm like, "Yeah, see, this is why I knew it was a good idea as a preventative measure to get that shit gone, because fuck that."

Eve:

2018 was a really bad year for me to have had enough therapy to accept that maybe I do want kids at some point and that's like, terrible.

Kieryn:

Yeah, that's fair.

Eve:

It's cool.

Kieryn:

It's 2019's problem at this point.

Eve:

No, it's like 36-year-old Eve's problem. That's not, I'm not going to deal with it until after we know how bad-

Kieryn:

Oh, my God.

Eve:

... climate change is actually going to be.

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

It's already bad, but let's just see how much of a crisis happens.

Kieryn:

Right.

Eve:

In the meantime. I'm very grateful [crosstalk 00:05:55]

Kieryn:

Yes.

Eve:

Thank you. Next.

Kieryn:

Oh my God. Yeah, so anyway, you're fucked in Ohio.

Eve:

All right. What else happened? But you're not fucked in Ireland-

Kieryn:

No.

Eve:

... anymore. You used to be.

Kieryn:

Yeah, so if you live in Ohio, you should go to Ireland. Actually you should go to just, not Ohio, it's closer, but.

Eve:

All right. Before, it was like, if you're in Ireland, you're fucked, so go to Ohio and now it's the other way round. They're just all taking turns.

Kieryn:

They should set up an exchange program.

Eve:

Do you think Ohio is going to have cloisters where nuns are throwing dead fetuses into wells and burying 500 of them at a time, that way?

Kieryn:

Not immediately.

Eve:

But that was what was happening in Ireland.

Kieryn:

Yeah, eventually I can-

Eve:

So many children to hide.

Kieryn:

... especially with, whoever the new person is who replaced Kasich who's way more conservative.

Eve:

But yeah, Ireland lifted their abortion ban finally. Sinead O'Connor is vindicated. Look, I was homeschooled. I didn't [crosstalk 00:07:07]

Kieryn:

How do you pronounce words?

Eve:

... names. It's Sinead, I think.

Kieryn:

I still pronounce grotesque, grow tes kyoo, so it's fine.

Eve:

I had a friend in speech and debate who pronounced Syria, sai ree uh, in the middle of a debate round and like, "Oh my God."

Kieryn:

This is what happens when you learn words by reading.

Eve:

Phonetics don't actually work. Teach your children at school, not at home. Okay. And then there was that whole ... Yeah, right. It's like, which direction do we want to go? Do we want to go into antisemitism? Do we want to go into institutionalized racism? Do we want to go into-

Kieryn:

There are so many choices.

Eve:

... more attacks on women?

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

Hey, remember Roy Moore?

Kieryn:

Oh, my God.

Eve:

That happened this year.

Kieryn:

Yeah, that did happen this year.

Eve:

They had the runoff. They had the runoff in Alabama?

Kieryn:

Yep, Alabama.

Eve:

I was about to say Georgia because I was so obsessed with Stacey Abrams' situation there.

Kieryn:

They're nextdoor neighbors.

Eve:

But yeah, and it was Roy Moore, Alabama, and reaping small girls.

Kieryn:

Right. And the thing with that is, I remember working for Roy Moore in 2006, and I remember meeting him, and I remember him giving me creepy vibes, and I remember all the girls being told not to be near him, because it was known. It was just really hushed.

Eve:

It was known. No wonder Gothard is a fan.

Kieryn:

Right. They're the same.

Eve:

They are the same. Speaking of creeper evangelical people, I learned about this the other day, I apparently missed this news story when it happened, what did Jerry Falwell Jr do?

Kieryn:

Well, apparently he had a pool boyfriend.

Eve:

Is that a boyfriend or a pool boy who was a friend?

Kieryn:

Who knows? That's what's up for interpretation at this point.

Eve:

Also the wife was into it. The wife was in on this whole thing. They gave him \$1.8 million to keep their secrets.

Kieryn:

Right, yeah. And there's no alleged sexual conduct or misconduct apparently in the lawsuit, [crosstalk 00:09:24] but the implication and the amount of money is there, especially with his affiliation with Cohen and the implication there, being that, Trump's people have been holding that over Falwell's head to keep him in line, but there's not a lot of details.

Eve:

Yeah, right. And so, okay, cool. Whatever, get your kinky stuff on, but stop judging everybody else about it. And also, I think it's still funny that this kid, look at the ... We'll put up a link to the article in the Miami New Times, but he looks like one of the Harris twins?

Kieryn:

He does, which in our world he was just held up as the standard for cute boys.

Eve:

Yeah, he's like a more built version of one of Harris twins, so perhaps her hotness, but like also, "Ooh, okay. Falwell."

Kieryn:

Right.

Eve:

What are you doing? You're doing ... There's a lot of money.

Kieryn:

Yeah, they're like, "No, we just wanted to help him start his business and fly around in our private jet and things." It's like, "Ah, sure." Sure, that's what's happening

Eve:

Now, he's at Georgetown. I wonder if they're paying for that too.

Kieryn:

Maybe. Well, I guess he might not actually be allowed to go to Falwell School if he's queer since you can't be queer and go to Liberty.

Eve:

Falwell can't go to his own school if he's queer?

Kieryn:

Right.

Eve:

Maybe, he's got a cook holding fetish, so maybe that's what it is. Maybe he just like wanted to, okay. I'm going to stop speculating. We're going to move on.

Kieryn:

Do your thing, but stop judging people.

Eve:

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Yeah, do you ever think about subjecting people. Speaking of fetishes, Stormy Daniels happened this year too.

Kieryn:

Oh, my God, yeah. I did not follow that as closely.

Eve:

What a true American hero. I just love that she's just so frank about everything and she just, she's not ashamed, she just happens to have information that's useful.

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

And so she's doing a public service and her lawyer is a total shit and is not good enough for her.

Kieryn:

Obviously.

Eve:

But I just really admire just how she's handled all of this.

Kieryn:

No-

Eve:

No slut shaming here.

Kieryn:

... God, there's so much ... That's the other interesting thing.

Eve:

Oh, my God. Oh, my god we got an image of the toad. I forgot about this, toadstool. She gave us the image of toadstool from Nintendo.

Kieryn:

Oh my God. Yes, yes, yes.

Eve:

I forgot about that. All right, so what else happened? Oh, I know you're illegal now.

Kieryn:

Oh yeah. They've been trying to make me illegal for years now. It's a great Christmas present. Every couple of months Reid O'Connor who's this asshole judge from Texas thinks it would be really fun around the time I need to renew my hormone script to be like, "Nah, trans people aren't allowed to exist. They shouldn't have healthcare. Let's stop all of the healthcare protections that trans people have right now."

Eve:

So how does this actually ... Does this affect you getting your [crosstalk 00:12:30]

Kieryn:

Not in California, because we have protections. California has basically taken all of the section 1557 protections from the ACA and adopted them in our own state healthcare system. So through Medi-Cal, trans-hormones, surgeries, health care, all of that is covered along with all reproductive needs. But I'm lucky in that I live in California. If I lived in elsewhere, it would be a different story, and it would be more of a nightmare

Eve:

Got you. Are trans-Texans affected by those [crosstalk 00:13:10]

Kieryn:

I would imagine it depends on their health insurance. But what's basically happened with the ACA and the injunction that started earlier this year or whatever a year it was, is it's basically up to the individual care provider to give you your hormones or give you your surgeries. So, I had an experience last year actually, where over finals week, my script was due to be filled, and I went in to fill it, and the pharmacist looked at my script and just outright denied it. And it was just like, "No, you're one day early and I'm not going to fill it." And he was willing to work with me until he saw what the script was. So I'm like, "Obviously you're just trans-misic." And that's what people face now. And there is no backstop against that. It's like, "Oh no, it's just, we wouldn't want to have someone who's providing a life-saving medication have to compromise their moral values for someone else." So that's the state of the world right now, is basically it's up to your provider, not being a trans-misic ass hole.

Eve:

That's not particularly any different than it was a couple of years ago, but the fact that these protections have been put in place and then rescinded is just really [crosstalk 00:14:39]

Kieryn:

Yeah, and the thing was, so I wrote a paper on this for English, and the day I turned it in, it was the day that some of the changes were made also, and I was really upset about it. It moved forward into the rules committee. The way that they had been interpreting it under Obama's administration, was that sex, the section 1557 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and pregnancy, pregnancy status, whether you're pregnant or having an abortion or whatever.

Eve:

Which is basically based off of all of the [crosstalk 00:15:13] work.

Kieryn:

Right, and the way that it had-

Eve:

... before the court system put it in the last [crosstalk 00:15:17]

Kieryn:

... been interpreted under the Obama administration and through 2016 was sex included gender identity. So it was whether you're cis or trans or whatever. But what the Trump administration has been trying to do since then is redefine sex. And there was this rule that was going through the process through 2016, that was about to be in place. And that's why Reed O'Connor stalled it, that was going to specifically include trans identity. So it was going to specifically say gender identity and sex instead of just sex, and now it just says sex. And the Trump administration has asked the justice department to interpret sex as your assigned gender at birth. So it basically just-

Eve:

So cute.

Kieryn:

... erased trans people from the definition of sex.

Eve:

Right. And then speaking of these kinds of protections, but see DeVos continues in her little private crusade against Title IX. My [inaudible 00:16:22] Grove City would be very proud of her. Let me just remind everybody how evil Betsy DeVos is. I really want my friend, Robert of Behind the Bastards to do an episode on her because she's connected to Eric Prince, he's her relative.

Kieryn:

Yeah, I forgot about that.

Eve:

Mr. Right? This is so dark on so many levels. Her family is deeply involved in, what is the Christian college in grand Rapids? Where the festival of faith and writing is held every year. And so her family's involved in funding that school, and I think that some of their money has gone to-

Kieryn:

Totally.

Eve:

... so I need to check on that again. But the Grove City is based on this concept of, "We don't take federal aid, therefore we get to be exempt from Title IX." So there's all these Christian colleges or religious-based institutions that as long as they don't take Pell grants or federal aid of any kind, they are not exempt from applying Title IX to their students. So you can attend those colleges and lose your job because you're queer or get raped, and-

Kieryn:

It's your fault.

Eve:

... not have your rape ... Yeah, it's your fault. And your rapist has [crosstalk 00:17:47]

Kieryn:

Right, and you're the one who has to leave because you're the one who sinned.

Eve:

Some of them are okay with how they handle that. Grove City has had multiple professors fuck with their students, and they've gotten kicked out immediately, and there were some reparations made to the victims, but not much, and not enough, and not through the judicial system.

Kieryn:

And that's not standard, that's [crosstalk 00:18:14]

Eve:

That's not standard. They're just trying to cover up shit. Yeah, so it's like settling out of court kind of stuff. But, so Betsy DeVos is of that same mindset is, Title IX is too much, because Title IX is again discrimination on the basis of sex-

Kieryn:

Yep.

Eve:

... and sexual orientation and-

Kieryn:

And we all know that women are evil seductresses who need to be punished for having any kind of sex.

Eve:

The reason Title IX existed in the first place was so that you couldn't give a million dollars to your school and have them put it all toward the football team. And they had to fund women sports equally. That's where it started. And it's evolved to be this really wonderful protection usually in cases of rape or sexual assault, and also gender discrimination. But DeVos is proposing an overhaul of Title IX that would say that those protections only apply to specifically school-sanctioned events.

Kieryn:

Yeah, not just being on campus or at school or with people at school, but only campus events.

Eve:

It has to be a school event, a school-sponsored [crosstalk 00:19:36]

Kieryn:

That is such bullshit. That is such bullshit.

Eve:

I'm not a lawyer TBD, but I would say that probably means that what happens in your dorm room-

Kieryn:

It's not an event.

Eve:

... it's not a school-sponsored event, means that you're not under Title IX protections.

Kieryn:

Right. Or in the classroom, because that's not an event, that's just a thing that happens.

Eve:

Or a school event that happens off campus. This is ... It's like, we talked about, Trump laws for abortion, where it's like, "We're going to dismantle the ability of this protection to afford rights in such a way that it basically emasculates it." [crosstalk 00:20:24]

Kieryn:

Right.

Eve:

... the strength of the law.

Kieryn:

That's exactly what they're doing with healthcare too.

Eve:

Right. Okay. So fun times. What else are they doing?

Kieryn:

Basically so far we've established that if you're not a cishet white man, you're fucked this year. I feel like that. That is what we've established now clearly with some of just laws and trials that are happening. But if you're, Roy Moore or whoever, that's fine.

Eve:

There's also been a lot of shootings this year.

Kieryn:

Oh, my God. Yeah, and some of them happened this year and I forgot they were this year. And then there was also, I just remembered, that entire stint of bomb mailings that happened all through October.

Eve:

Right.

Kieryn:

There was a shooting-

Eve:

Was that a home schooler too?

Kieryn:

... and there was four different bombs.

Eve:

Wait, hang on. Kieryn, that wasn't a homeschooler this time? Was it?

Kieryn:

I don't think a homeschooler did the bombs, I think that was a deranged dude in a van.

Eve:

Okay I didn't have any reporters calling me about that, so I'm assuming-

Kieryn:

No, but Austin.

Eve:

Okay. Yeah, let's talk about ... Before we get into shootings at large, let's talk about homeschoolers acting badly this year. And let's talk about why we think that they were acting badly this year.

Kieryn:

Yeah. I am having more tequila because this is a lot.

Eve:

I'm going to have a shot of tequila and then we can talk about Austin. All right, so homeschoolers acting badly and homeschool parents acting worse.

Kieryn:

Oh, my god.

Eve:

So we had the Austin bomber which, yes, hello, that happened this year.

Kieryn:

Oh, my god.

Eve:

Do you remember?

Kieryn:

Only vaguely.

Eve:

That was a thing. Only vaguely. I don't remember all the details anymore.

Kieryn:

I don't either.

Eve:

And I don't really care too, but basically-

Kieryn:

I just remember reading the story, being like, "Oh, that dude was a homeschooler." And then as it turns out homeschooler."

Eve:

Yeah. He looked like, the description of him was every dude from Dinwiddie or Powhatan, who I grew up going to church with. And those are two counties in Central Virginia, that if you are a Bubba who doesn't want to live in the suburbs of Richmond, that's where you go to live outside of the suburbs of Richmond. So a lot of big homeschool families would move out there. And so it was like, this is your middle of the pack, lots of brothers, they go shooting for fun, they probably participate in 4-H-

Kieryn:

They probably have an arsenal in their closet.

Eve:

Yeah, they dress in camo all the time, and they all have pro-Trump bumper stickers on their laptops, and Drudge Report is their homepage. It's a very particular type of boy. And so when we saw the news about this, it was like, "Oh, yes, this is a kid who wears like pleated khakis to church stuff."

Kieryn:

Yeah, I'm looking at his picture now and I'm like, "Oh yeah, homeschool boy."

Eve:

He just is exactly what you would expect. And why are these boys so angry? Let's have ... I could talk about this for a very long time but-

Kieryn:

Yeah, and we've actually over the course of a couple of years, Homeschoolers Anonymous and Homeschoolers Invisible Children have been writing about this phenomenon with homeschool boys, largely, I don't know, going crazy and killing people.

Eve:

If you want to check out the databases, Homeschooling's Invisible Children, and it's a project that the Coalition for Responsible Home Education runs where we collect data on dead homeschoolers and homeschoolers that come badly.

Kieryn:

Yeah, or even just serious cases of neglect and abuse.

Eve:

In this particular situation, this kind of boy, it's the same stuff as the shooter in Charleston a few years ago. It's like it's all of these same types of people, but this one happened to be homeschooled, where you see the world around you changing and you get handed this worldview that gives you a set of ideals that assumes that you are at the top of the heat.

Kieryn:

Yep.

Eve:

And when you see the world around you changing, this new equality that's happening and these movements forward for rights for other people, and marginalized voices having larger space in media and representation, and stuff like that, it can feel like-

Kieryn:

All your stuff is being taken away.

Eve:

... oppression. Yeah, it's like, "Oh no, you have to share your toys because none of the other children have any toys."

Kieryn:

Yeah, but you don't care that you have no toys, you just want all of the toys?

Eve:

No, you have five toys instead of 36. And so, "Oh God."

Kieryn:

So oppressed.

Eve:

... you are suffering. Yeah, it's a sense of, there is no place for the old-fashioned patriarch to exist in modern society. And so they just get really mad because this is their inheritance that they're handed as the way the world should be.

Kieryn:

And the obvious solution is to kill for it.

Eve:

Take the gun. That's why I don't understand it. But I get being butt hurt, but-

Kieryn:

Right. I understand being sad about it, but the, "I'm going to go kill people for it," thing. And maybe that's because I wasn't socialized male.

Eve:

I am someone who has grown up with anger as a fairly natural response to some things, and I have grown to embrace anger. But I don't want to hurt people. I can be really angry and I want people to understand reason, and I want people to explain to me their motives and their perspectives, and I want answers now, but I don't want to shoot anyone. I've never wanted to shoot anyone.

Kieryn:

I sometimes want people to hurt. I don't want to be the one inflicting that hurt. I just want them to realize that what they're doing is wrong and hurts people.

Eve:

I just want them to have intellectual and emotional empathy that makes them hurt because they're feeling the same.

Kieryn:

Exactly. I want them to understand that feeling of hurt.

Eve:

I don't want them to actually physically hurt.

Kieryn:

I want them to know where that comes from and know what that feels like, but I don't want to be the one orchestrating it.

Eve:

Yeah, and I think this gets into being socialized male in this world, because you have so much privilege. You're socialized to not think about empathy for other people too. Your feelings are the only ones that are valid.

Kieryn:

And everyone should just understand your feelings, but they don't have their own feelings, or their own feelings aren't valid compared to your feelings. Because you're a man, and what you say goes and whatever it is that they tell people.

Eve:

Rob, hatred, fight, win.

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

Okay. So back to everything.

Kieryn:

I got distracted reading an article about how in North Cal people who voted for Trump are really grumpy that the State is so blue and they feel there is a tyranny of the urban majority in California. And it-

Eve:

Yeah, you're talking about the State of Jefferson because this is not a new thing. This is so old.

Kieryn:

I'm not sure if it's in Jefferson.

Eve:

Are you familiar about the State of Jefferson?

Kieryn:

No, the student is from Redding, but no, I'm not familiar with that.

Eve:

Okay. So yeah, the student is from Redding, he's a Jeffersonian. So the State of Jefferson-

Kieryn:

Wait, yeah. They are people behind the split of the State of California into six states, right?

Eve:

Yeah.

Kieryn:

Oh my God. Okay. That's amazing.

Eve:

No, not six states, but it's like they wanted to take Southern and Western Oregon and Northern California and split off to make the State of Jefferson where racism is cool, white people only, and carry your guns, and let's be the most libertarian student union.

Kieryn:

Oh, my God.

Eve:

And it's not a new idea. It's been an idea for a really long time. I feel like it's almost as old as the State of California.

Kieryn:

Probably.

Eve:

It's been ... But yeah, so if you get into Redding and thereabouts, I lived there for a little bit, so I know, you'll see flags for Jeffersonians or the State of Jefferson.

Kieryn:

Yeah. When I was driving up to Lake Shasta, I saw a bunch of that, and I was like, "What is this even?"

Eve:

That's what that is.

Kieryn:

Okay.

Eve:

It's the California Separatist Movement. It's really nuts. They're so fun, and also so racist.

Kieryn:

There was almost a ballot prop this year to split the state into six different States that basically relegated the coast to its own state and then everything else was other.

Eve:

Yeah. Okay. So, speaking of California-

Kieryn:

The Turpin's.

Eve:

... The Turpin's drove off of a cliff, and the The Hart's-

Kieryn:

No, that was the Hart's.

Eve:

... put their children in Vegas.

Kieryn:

The Hart's drove off the cliff. The Turpin's starved their 13 children to death, well, not to death, but to the point of being unrecognizable as their age. So they had a 27-year-old-

Eve:

They didn't look like kids. They were so malnourished.

Kieryn:

... who's like a 13-year-old.

Eve:

This could be one of our ... This could be a peer. This could be someone who could have gotten out and worked with us on projects. This-

Kieryn:

That's the thing that was so hard mentioning about The Turpin's is reading their story, and I was about three steps removed from that.

Eve:

Yeah. I got a lot of interviews about The Turpin's because Rachel was finishing her thesis, and so [crosstalk 00:30:08]

Kieryn:

It was all hands on deck last year. I think every one of us talked to people.

Eve:

All hands on deck. But yeah, and every person was like, "Did your parents restrain you?" And I was like, "No." "But that journaling thing where you have to copy out Bible verses when you're bad, that's a thing?" And like, "Oh yeah, if you don't behave, you miss a meal, that's a thing?" The stuff that The Turpin's did was very extreme but-

Kieryn:

But not far removed.

Eve:

... not that far removed. It's just the one more level of isolation away from what we experienced.

Kieryn:

Yeah, people kept asking me if stuff like that happen, if we were restrained or weren't allowed baths or whatever. And my parents were very concerned about appearances, so we never weer denied baths, but a bunch of the theology and the methodology and the logic behind The Turpin's and how they raise their kids was very much the same.

Eve:

Well, and I was thinking about this and I was like, my mother is an incredibly empathetic person. This is why she's gotten out of all this stuff. And someday I hope I can convince her to come on the podcast because she's wonderful, still very Christian, but she's not fundamentalist, and she's really open-minded in a lot of stuff and very supportive. And the only reason we didn't go that route really probably is one, because my father was so concerned about reputation and how things looked from the outside. And then two, my mom, she would say things like, "I struggle with spanking. I know I'm supposed to do it, but it's hard for me to do it." Which, on one hand is like [crosstalk 00:31:52]

Kieryn:

Then why do it do it? Yeah.

Eve:

... do it? Well, don't do it if you think that, if your heart is bothering you and telling you this is wrong, you're probably right.

Kieryn:

Yeah, exactly.

Eve:

Maybe don't. And to her credit, she eventually did stop spanking. Most of my younger siblings experienced that shift. But if she had been a megalomaniac narcissist, someone who is unable to have empathy, we would have been right there.

Kieryn:

Yeah, the thing that horrifies me about cases like The Turpin's and The Hart's and the infinite number of cases that we've seen is-

Eve:

All of them on, homeschooling [crosstalk 00:32:34]

Kieryn:

... yeah, my parents multiple times sat us down and told us that if God told them to kill us like he told Abraham to kill Isaac, they would do it without hesitation.

Eve:

Well, oh, my God. My parents said the same thing.

Kieryn:

My life was only there by God, by them not hearing a voice to murder us. It's terrifying. The only reason is because my parents didn't hear from God to tell them to starve us to death. My parents are not that far removed. I was lucky that they didn't hear that voice in their head because we would be fucked if they did. And I know that-

Eve:

Yeah, I remember hearing similar comments.

Kieryn:

... at my core, they are those kinds of people.

Eve:

I remember hearing similar comments about, "Yeah, if God told us to do this, we would have to just trust his will."

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

Which is not saying we would do it, but just implying that we would do it.

Kieryn:

Right, exactly.

Eve:

So then there's the Hart family, which is different but similar.

Kieryn:

Right, they drove off the cliff.

Eve:

They'd also starve their children. So there's this whole conspiracy ... Okay. Let me back up and give you the story just in case you haven't heard it yet. Lesbian Christian couple adopts, is it five-

Kieryn:

I think it was six.

Eve:

... kids. Six kids? Okay.

Kieryn:

It's five or six.

Eve:

Six kids, a lot of black babies. There's two sibling sets. These two white women have adopted these black kids and they were held up as this model couple and these model parents. And they took these kids out of the foster system. These children's parents were not consulted about the adoption, the foster system-

Kieryn:

Oh, my G?od.

Eve:

... removed that possibility, but the story of how these kids came to be adopted is really heart wrenching. The mother was not that far from having her shit together, and the system just had no empathy and no willingness to be flexible with her, and so she lost her children, and she didn't know that they were dead until she saw the news story.

Kieryn:

Oh, my God.

Eve:

And she's still, she's fine. She could have taken them back. She could have cared for them, but nope, this couple got to kill her children and said, "If some neighbors were commenting that their children were hungry all the time and talked about getting hit at home. And so they called CPS and CPS did an investigation and the kids were prompted to say all the right things." So then the couple moves to Oregon so that they can start over and not have anybody checking them.

Kieryn:

As we've seen, it's not an uncommon thing.

Eve:

So many citizens.

Kieryn:

So many times.

Eve:

Same thing happens again, and then they take a road trip at the last minute and just drive off a cliff in California. And two of the kids, their bodies still haven't been found. And there's people on the internet on Reddit who are obsessed with finding these two kids. I think they're still alive. But-

Kieryn:

I doubt it.

Eve:

... if they were still alive, they would have come out by now. I think they're buried in the backyard.

Kieryn:

Yeah, has that been checked? That's the thing too. Last year or it was either last year or the year before, this has happened. There was, was it Adrian Jones? I don't remember his name, but this child, they found his remains in the pig pen, and he was fed to people.

Eve:

Well yeah, because pigs will eat-

Kieryn:

Anything.

Eve:

... anything that is at their level. And so if you fall in a pen, you will get eaten by a pig.

Kieryn:

Or are murdered and put into a pen.

Eve:

And yeah, if you're you're murdered and your body's thrown in there. That's like, isn't that straight out of some classic horror movie?

Kieryn:

Probably.

Eve:

That's easiest way to dispose off a body?

Kieryn:

Yeah. The parents who do this are, there's so much, so much, so much wrong.

Eve:

Just about the patriarchy.

Kieryn:

Seriously.

Eve:

So The Harts, The Turpin's, there were a couple of others, it's just, there's the family in, was it in, is it Southern California or was it in Arizona? The family that had their children in a cardboard box and they were exonerated recently?

Kieryn:

Oh, I don't remember.

Eve:

Well, they basically had children living-

Kieryn:

But I do remember seeing that.

Eve:

... under plywood shelters and in cardboard boxes on their property somewhere in the desert. And they were exonerated because the court decided that they weren't going to punish the parents for being poor.

Kieryn:

That's not.

Eve:

Which is not what was happening.

Kieryn:

No, you cannot punish people for being poor, but still punish people for torturing their God damn fucking children. What part of, "No, it's totally fine to lock your kids in a plywood box if you're poor?" No, that's not. Okay. Being poor has nothing to do with torture for fuck sake.

Eve:

It really cool to live in the trailer and make your kids live outside like puppies in the dirt.

Kieryn:

No, that reminds me of, a couple of years ago, there was that family in Tennessee or somewhere, who didn't even have, they had a three-walled shelter.

Eve:

Are you talking about the above rubies people?

Kieryn:

I think maybe, yeah.

Eve:

Actually, that's a joke. They have a four-walls shelter, but it's also like a tiny house with 10 kids or something.

Kieryn:

Yeah. No, it was like this. Yeah, it was like this ... There was 10 children, this tiny shack, dirt floor.

Eve:

Okay. Can I tell this story real fast before we get too far off field and then move back to news?

Kieryn:

Yes.

Eve:

When I was 13, I had a pen pal from Upstate, New York who was part of a big Catholic family. We met on the King's Daughter magazine PenPal request personals ads, basically, and wrote each other letters for a long time. She eventually got out. She's working as a nurse. She's living her best life, and it's great.

Kieryn:

That's awesome.

Eve:

But she was one of 17 kids, and she and her sisters had to sleep in a barn that had exposed walls to the outside air. So they were sleeping under hay bales in the winter, in the hay to stay warm, and they'd wake up to six inches of snow over them.

Kieryn:

Oh, my God.

Eve:

And they were all named after Catholic saints and had to, no vaccinations, only herbs for healing remedies. And I remember thinking like, "Oh, that's so romantic," at that point in my life.

Kieryn:

Yeah. Right, that's what we were told.

Eve:

I didn't recognize that as abuse because she had, because there were 17 kids, she had less scrutiny on her as an individual than I did. So she was more neglected and more abused by the book, but she also had probably a tiny little bit more freedom than I did in some ways, which is so fucked up.

Kieryn:

It really is.

Eve:

Okay. So what else have we missed? What do we have Parkland and Pittsburgh? Fuck.

Kieryn:

Yeah, the shootings. That's where we started, and then we were like homeschoolers.

Eve:

And looking at this list, Parkland and Pittsburgh, more shootings.

Kieryn:

Yeah, and there was also, wasn't there were a couple news officers who were shot or did they just get set bombs? I don't remember.

Eve:

There was a shooting and there was threats. There were a lot of threats. Trump has me the media out to be this target, and if you have a bunch of gun toting, are angry, disenfranchised white men who think that they're entitled to the entire world, they're going to take those guns and they're going to use them.

Kieryn:

And the thing is, the entire religious rate has been stockpiling weapons for so long. I know so many people who have arsenals in their closets. It's like, they're just waiting for an excuse.

Eve:

I'm going to just tell the story. One of my gay buddies went home for Christmas recently, and I'm not going to name names or locales, because I don't want to give too much information. But basically this person had a really rough year, and we bonded because we were both trying to sidestep a lot of suicidal ideation. So we were keeping each other on track and encouraging each other, and now we're both doing good, and that's great. But this person went home and bound guns in just bursting at the seams-

Kieryn:

Oh, God.

Eve:

... at their family's home.

Kieryn:

No.

Eve:

So in the closet, under the car, the seat in the front car-

Kieryn:

Oh, my God.

Eve:

... just in a random bag and the mother's bedroom-

Kieryn:

Are there children?

Eve:

I don't think there are any children staying at home. I think there's niece and nephews who visit. So still super sketchy, little less sketchy, but also just, this is your, "Moderate evangelical family."

Kieryn:

Yep.

Eve:

This family is like, "Okay, our son is gay and we're not going to really talk about it. We're uncomfortable but we don't really know what to do. So we'll just love him anyway." But fuck. And I was at another friend's house, and another mutual friend of ours, around the same time when I was struggling with all the suicidal ideation, and I was in the kitchen, and I was just looking for a spoon to stir cream into my coffee, and eat yogurt within a minute, and I was like, I just opened a drawer and a gun just-

Kieryn:

Oh, my God. No.

Eve:

It was a handgun, the drawer ... And I was just like, Okay, I know there's a marine in this house. I understand what is happening, but also that's a little terrifying-

Kieryn:

Yeah, no proper gun safety is-

Eve:

... right now in this moment and time.

Kieryn:

... you keep your guns locked somewhere away, separate from the ammo and not somewhere someone could just randomly find it.

Eve:

It was loaded-

Kieryn:

Oh, my God.

Eve:

... and just in a drawer, and I was looking for spoons and I found a gun. Fuck, these are, again, these are like-

Kieryn:

A marine should know better. Honestly I'm, "Oh, my God."

Eve:

I whined. That's a whole thing.

Kieryn:

I took a gun safety course when I was 15 years old and I know better.

Eve:

I have not taking a gun safety course, I have been lectured by many male relatives and friends, and I know better.

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

Yeah, it's a simple, it's common sense stuff that isn't followed. And so you have these guns that are just around and available, and people can just take them-

Kieryn:

And use them.

Eve:

... and kill each other and themselves and shoot up schools, and toddlers can bump the trigger and die.

Kieryn:

Yeah, every week when I lived in Georgia, there would be a news story about a toddler who shot themselves or someone in their family because their fucking police cop father left the gun loaded on the table and was a fucking idiot. And I'm like, "I don't understand why gun control is such a thing." And it's like, you leave your guns out like assholes and idiots and then your children murder themselves or other people because you can't bother to be safe, you shouldn't be allowed to have a gun.

Eve:

Can I interrupt this with a totally unrelated joke that I just remembered because you said the word cop?

Kieryn:

Yes.

Eve:

So you know those lines about Santa, watching him and you're sleeping and when you're awake and he knows if you've been bad or good?

Kieryn:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Eve:

So be good for goodness sake?

Kieryn:

Right.

Eve:

Santa is a cop.

Kieryn:

I feel like we knew this. Santa is like the ultimate cop.

Eve:

If I don't have children ... I'm sorry, if I do have children, we're going to believe in other things rather than Santa, because Santa is a cop.

Kieryn:

Right, obviously, and that's a narrative that you should just push. It's like Santa is fascist, Santa is a cop. Santa is the fash, fuck Santa.

Eve:

He's wearing red as a disguise so he can look like he's coming but he's not.

Kieryn:

Right, but he's not. It's just he's really colorful.

Eve:

If you've watched Rudolph and any of those stories where the elves are being mistreated and they can't [crosstalk 00:44:45]

Kieryn:

Right.

Eve:

- and Rudolph is being shamed for having-

Kieryn:

Santa is a God damn fascist. Fuck that dude.

Eve:

Santa is a fascist. Okay. This has been a sidebar with Eve because-

Kieryn:

It's needed right now.

Eve:

... I needed a moment of comic or leave, because guns are stressful.

Kieryn:

I think the title for this should be Santa is fascist.

Eve:

Okay. We'll be like, just wait for it again.

Kieryn:

Just wait.

Eve:

Just wait for it.

Kieryn:

Eventually, we'll get to it.

Eve:

Eventually, the title will become clear. Okay.

Kieryn:

But fascism, yeah.

Eve:

Speaking of fascist, what terrible scenarios elected in Brazil, first president-

Kieryn:

Right, yeah. Not fascist.

Eve:

... who makes Trump look like a cakewalk.

Kieryn:

Oh, my God. I didn't know that was possible, but apparently.

Eve:

He's like more Trump than Trump.

Kieryn:

I feel like Trump should feel like ... I feel like his masculinity is so fragile, they should make him feel threatened.

Eve:

Yeah, so Jair Bolsonaro, there's a really good episode covering how fascist he is, again, on the same podcast I mentioned earlier Behind the Bastards with that my friend Robert does where it's like, yeah you have no idea how bad it could be under Trump because Trump is, actually he doesn't particularly believe in anything, so he's very, besides his wall-

Kieryn:

Right, that we're shutting the government down over.

Eve:

Again, sidebar here. Do you think that his mother, when she taught him about condoms used euphemisms like wall for protection?

Kieryn:

I feel like I'm-

Eve:

That would his explain fascination with it.

Kieryn:

It would but that also assumes that his mom taught him about condoms.

Eve:

Right. His mom was like a shut-in who didn't talk to him after she was hospitalized for a miscarriage or a bad, a hysterectomy gone wrong. And after he was three, basically, abandoned him. Anyway, lots of child neglect happening in this episode. Very fun. Yeah, so Jair Bolsonaro is pretty fucking bad, and my condolences to all of our LGBTQ friends down there, because I feel like their likelihood of surviving that is a lot lower than ours is here.

Kieryn:

Yeah, it gets scary enough living in California and I'm like, "No."

Eve:

California is like Obama land.

Kieryn:

California is safe. California is working hard to sustain itself and become a safe space for basically all of the queers who need to move out here.

Eve:

Speaking of queers who need to move out there, there were a couple of books that got published this year that we're excited about that we want to talk about.

Kieryn:

Yeah, books. Fun things now?

Eve:

So, what books are we excited about?

Kieryn:

I was told about this book that I haven't read yet called Quiver, which is a young adult fiction novel but about a Quiverfull daughter that reminds me the little blip that I read on it, I read about it on Goodreads. It reminds me a lot of Devoted, but slightly different, so it looks interesting.

Eve:

By our dear friend, Jennifer Mathieu, who is a white author and has written some really fabulous books, but one of her early ones is a book called Devoted, which she used as a [inaudible 00:48:22]

Kieryn:

So Quiver looks to be another book that's in a similar vein and it won a Lambda and I should ask my library about it over break to read it.

Eve:

Cool.

Kieryn:

We'll see.

Eve:

Speaking of Lambdas and books that should win Lambdas, it's not a young adult novel, so it's not going to, but Boy Erased is a memoir that came out, I guess, a year ago.

Kieryn:

That's the one I was trying to remember the name yesterday too.

Eve:

Yeah, Boy Erased, and since it came out, I've been introduced to him and become friends with the author, Garrard Conley. And he is just marvelous, really, really, kind and empathetic human. We connected more about the fact that we both had to go back into the closet to go into the pre-school, then about our experiences in evangelical funny culture. But he wrote this memoir about that world and about how he went to a Christian college and started dating a guy, got raped by this guy, and the guy outed him to his parents.

Kieryn:

Ooh, fucking dick.

Eve:

Right before his father was about to be ordained as a minister. So he had to go to conversion therapy so that he would be not gay by the time his dad got confirmed in the ministry.

Kieryn:

Oh, my God.

Eve:

It's intense. It's one of the best. This book, for all of the other things about it, one of the things that I appreciated the most about this memoir is how well Garrard describes the experience of guilt. The incurring constant, drip, drip, drip of super saturated guilt in Christian culture.

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

And just how that permeates all of your thoughts, and just the emotion of guilt for being who you are and for being simple is just really well-described and depicted in that. The conversion therapy stuff is very intense. And spoiler alert, they made a movie out of this book because it has such a compelling conclusion where the mom basically confronts him and is like, "Hey, this treatment is clearly doing some intense things to you, are you okay?" And he's like-

Kieryn:

No.

Eve:

... "No, I'm not. I'm going to kill myself." And she's like, "Well, you can't kill yourself so I'm taking you out." And she pulls him from conversion therapy and is like, "This is just how it is, my son is gay." And so she accepts him. And the movie that they made it's a feature film, Russell Crowe plays as preacher dad, Lucas hedges plays him-

Kieryn:

Holy shit, I didn't realize Russell Crowe was like ...

Eve:

... Troye's-

Kieryn:

... oh, wow.

Eve:

Yeah, Troye Sivan shows up as a minor character and also wrote an original song for it, and Nicole Kidman plays his mom. And Nicole Kidman does a great job of impersonating this super femme, high femme Southern belle of a woman who is more ducked out than your average drag queen. And is like, "Fuck, no, I am here for my son." And it's beautiful. It's a really good story.

Kieryn:

Oh, it's great.

Eve:

So watch the movie or read the book. And then the other one that we're super excited about, and president Obama is super excited about too, he recommended it, it was one of the books that he read this year and loved a lot is called Educated by Tara Westover. Have you read that?

Kieryn:

I have not read it, but my math teacher read it and told me about it and was really happy about it because she was like, "Oh, my God, I understand where you're coming from now."

Eve:

I had a professor who would do the same thing where she was, we were doing introductions in the class and she was like, "Wait, wait, wait, so you grew up educated?" And I was like ...

Kieryn:

Yes.

Eve:

... "Let's don't get to violence, but yes."

Kieryn:

Yeah. I was like, "I haven't read it, that's later, but I'm glad that you understand me now."

Eve:

Seriously, that book made me cry so hard. I have to go back and reread it. It's beautifully written. The prose is not just like...

Kieryn:

Yeah, now that I don't have to read a Taste of Power or be in school, I can read other things now.

Eve:

Educated has lucid lyrical prose. The descriptions and the voices are good. Besides the plot, besides all of that, the writing is just gorgeous. It's not too precious. It's just lush, which is why it's done so well, I think is just the writing is so fucking great. So this woman grew up Mormon in Idaho. If you've heard the story of a standoff where a homeschool, homesteading dad was, and family were killed by, I think the FBI or national guard, something like that. There was like a standoff. It was like the same kind of family. They knew that family. So the news is that story is threaded throughout. But she was more unschooled rather

than homeschooled. Her father ran a junkyard and she helped work on it. Her older brother was super abusive and the entire family was conspiring to ignore his abuse.

Eve:

Her mom worked as a midwife and was very into herbal healing. And Tara just taught herself everything she needed to get out of that town and get to Bob Jones, not Bob Jones, Brigham Young University, BYU. And she gets to BYU and she gets to do a study abroad. And she meets someone at Oxford who basically advocates for her and gets her accepted to Oxford for graduate school. And then she goes to Harvard for her PhD or masters. Either way, she studies at Oxford for a bit, she goes to Harvard, and while she's at Harvard, she owns up to, "My older brother was super abusive. I'm trying to confront her parents about it." And her parents are like, "Yeah, we're fucking disowning you or this because we believe him not you."

Kieryn:

Oh, my God.

Eve:

And it's this whole thing. She lives in England now and she's very happily disconnected from everything we grew up with. But it's a really compelling story and some really, really gorgeous, very well-placed imagery in rural Northern Idaho. And if you're familiar with the Vision Forum affiliated groups, Douglas Wilson in Moscow, Idaho, and all of that, it's the same kind of community, but Mormon.

Kieryn:

That makes sense.

Eve:

And the relationship with the mother is just heartbreaking and God, my mom read it and I read it and we both cried a lot, and it was the thing, and it's fine. She called me up after she read it and she was like, "I understand things a lot better now." I was like, "Thanks mum."

Kieryn:

Yeah, it's been really nice to ... I'm glad that came out because my teachers at school are now like, "Oh, I get it when you say you were homeschooled." And like, "Oh, I understand so much more about where you're coming from now." And I'm like, "Yeah, it's okay."

Eve:

Right.

Kieryn:

"Thank you."

Eve:

It doesn't just mean that I grew up thinking that evolution was fake and my math was neglected, it means a whole lot more than that.

Kieryn:

I explain school to people as being in a foreign country without knowing the customs. And they understand that when I explain it that way.

Eve:

Do you know the concept of a third culture kid?

Kieryn:

Yes, vaguely.

Eve:

I think that psychologically speaking, homeschoolers and ex-fundies, people like us, Quiverfull escapees, whatever, they relate more sociologically and psychologically speaking to third culture kids than they do to standard American culture. So the third culture kid is like your parents graded, so you grew up speaking their native language at home and English at school. And so you're torn between these two cultures and you can't switch a lot. And you are neither here nor there with both of these cultures. And I think that's a really common experience in emotional resonance with how people like us grew up where we had this other world that really didn't connect to anything in the real world, and we both can operate in both spheres really well, but we don't really belong to either. And we're the black sheep in that world, and we can translate it, and we're the awkward outsider in the regular world.

Kieryn:

Right, exactly.

Eve:

And we can translate it back, but it might want to-

Kieryn:

It's we're in this weird place of neither/or.

Eve:

It's weird. We're in a liminal existence.

Kieryn:

Yeah, it's my existence completely all the way through TBH.

Eve:

That's fine. But yeah, that's the definition of a third culture kid. And I think that Quiverfull and homeschooling, fundamentalist homeschooling creates a homegrown version of that.

Kieryn:

It does, yeah. I explain to people like, "I grew up in Florida in the US but I don't know, I was not exposed to US culture." I don't have any of the touchstones that my peers have, except for Bill Nye, the Science Guy in PBS, that's it.

Eve:

Right, and I think this is why Educated is so good because it focuses on her education as her key to getting out, and merging these cultures or navigating them. And there's this great scene, oh, my God. I think it's her first semester at Brigham Young University. She is in a class and someone's talking about the Holocaust, and she reacts to it in a way that is like a joke, because she's so shocked. Because she'd never heard of the Holocaust before. So she sounds like a Holocaust denier in class and the entire room just turns on her, and is like, "What?"

Kieryn:

Right.

Eve:

And she's like, "Oh, fuck I missed something."

Kieryn:

I'm taking-

Eve:

And so she like-

Kieryn:

I'm taking history for the first-time next semester and I feel like that's going to be me.

Eve:

It's intense. I love history. I would not have been in that position, but I've also been in that position in other respects where it's like, growing up in high school in Virginia and hearing Confederate apologists talking about their version of history being about like, "Oh, well, the competitor," like the civil war was really about States' rights and trade.

Kieryn:

I still find myself when people talk about the civil war being, having to remind myself that it was not actually about States' rights, actively finding myself that.

Eve:

It was about both.

Kieryn:

Well right, but-

Eve:

But it was-

Kieryn:

... lesser than I thought it was.

Eve:

Right. It's one of those, yes, in situations where the messaging was one way to pretend like they weren't racist.

Kieryn:

Exactly.

Eve:

And yes, it was really about slavery, but all of the performative political moves were about States' rights. So it looks on paper like it might have been, but it wasn't.

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

It's very complicated and I just remember coming from California as a kid-

Kieryn:

Yeah, I'm taking African American history through film and I'm like, my mind is going to be blown because so much of my history was whitewashed and I'm just going to be going into the class with like, "All right, so I know zero. And I'm just going to sit here and listen and absorb because all my history was written by white evangelicals in Texas."

Eve:

Yeah, and so there's this other piece of it too for me. I grew up in California and Virginia. So California was really not involved in the Civil War. They were just like, "Yeah, we're dealing with their own shit here. We're playing our own country. We don't really care. We'll send you some men, but it was not our fight." So I grew up not really aware of the Civil War until I got immersed in Confederate apologist, conservative Christian homeschool world enrichment.

Kieryn:

Right.

Eve:

The capital of the Confederacy.

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

But before that, every student in fourth grade in California is supposed to take a California history course. Public school, private school, and then homeschoolers, if they want to look like they're-

Kieryn:

Like they're a school.

Eve:

... actually, private schools like they're claiming to be, they do it too. So in fourth grade I did it, this unit on California State history. And it was this pro-Spanish Empire, pro-mission propaganda. But the missions were plantations. They kept natives as slaves and made them work and then just infected them with smallpox and killed them all off in thousands. It was genocide. It was race-based slavery plus immunization genocide. It was really, really bad. And we didn't get any of that.

Eve:

And I had to piece that back together, later as an adult, when I'm like, revisiting, I don't know, *Island of the Blue Dolphins* or something by Scott O'Dell, which is recommended, where did all those people go? They probably all died of smallpox. Of course, she was the only one person left in her driveway. Oh, my God, it's so bad. And it's just overlooked. And every child in California reads *Island of the Blue Dolphins* in fourth grade and they don't get the context of it. I think public schools have changed a lot and they're really incorporating the native narratives and acknowledging the genocide that happened, but we got fucking screwed over on history.

Kieryn:

Yeah, and I loved history. And so I'm like, so much of it is wrong. Oh, my God, it's frustrating.

Eve:

So speaking of history, is there anything else about 2018 that we want to cover and talk about?

Kieryn:

The thing on the list that I see is shithole countries and-

Eve:

Which we've covered in our colonialism mission's episode basically.

Kieryn:

Right, and the embassy moved Jerusalem, I think.

Eve:

Yeah, so we really need to talk about the anti-Semitism within fundamentals Christianity, because that connects to the Pittsburgh shooting. And we talked about this a little bit with my name change.

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

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But moving the embassy to Jerusalem is a strategic move to fulfill new Testament prophecy in revelation when you translate, not translate, interpret revelation in a very literal way. And it was just a really aggressive political move that's completely unnecessary.

Kieryn:

Yeah. I really want to talk to someone about this who has more context about what all this means.

Eve:

We need to find a rabbi who can get on to come on here and talk about this because we were raised with a lot of anti-Semitic, racist, ideology and I feel-

Kieryn:

And at the same time my parents also glorified being Jewish.

Eve:

Being Lebanese. There's like the what, and mind you, my family is German, what the fuck?

Kieryn:

And my parents wanted to be Jewish and they wanted to be messianic Jewish, but also didn't want to convert. There's a lot of weird relationships there.

Eve:

There's a lot of victim complex stuff aligned with racism and historical ignorance. And we got to talk about this in another episode at some point.

Kieryn:

So that, we'll talk about that-

Eve:

It's a big deal.

Kieryn:

... with somebody who actually knows what that means.

Eve:

Has authority to talk about this.

Kieryn:

Yeah, and can actually provide good information, instead of just my weird family history of appropriating Jewish culture for no reason.

Eve:

That's so bad. It's so bad. So 2018 was so, so, so bad.

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Kieryn:

Yeah. What was some of the not shit things that happened this year and on a-

Eve:

I got a puppy.

Kieryn:

Oh, and your puppy is so good.

Eve:

I've got a puppy. She's so good. She's napping now. She's my new [crosstalk 01:04:51].

Kieryn:

Yeah, finally.

Eve:

Finally, it took her a long time. I recall I lost a lot of really dear people to me, but I bounced back and started EMDR, which, God, has been such a life changer. Oh, my goodness, EMDR works for PTSD. If you haven't tried it for your PTSD, please talk to your therapist about it because it is the shit. And I wrote a whole lot of my memoir and knock on wood, my first draft is due on February 11th, so I'm going to be-

Kieryn:

Close.

Eve:

... under water from here now. Yeah, but it was good. And I talked to a lot of really helpful people and I took a couple of really great classes, and learned a whole bunch, and I feel really hopeful about where it's going to go and what 2019 holds.

Kieryn:

This is good. Yeah.

Eve:

How about you?

Kieryn:

I got rid of five organs that I've been wanting to get rid of since I was 12.

Eve:

Useless bastards.

Kieryn:

That was great. There was this huge amount of healing that went into waking up from surgery and realizing that the promise I made to myself when I was 17, I followed through one, and that was just huge for me.

Eve:

I'm so proud of you.

Kieryn:

I'm so happy about that. Everything comes back to that for me now. And I just wake up every morning and I look at, I have the picture of my uterus that they took with the lights or whatever that they used to get my uterus out. So there's four pictures of my uterus inside my body. And I was like, "Hung up on my wall." And then I sleep with my uterus below that I stabbed.

Eve:

You sleep with it. Oh, my God that's so cute.

Kieryn:

It's good. There was a lot of memories about that.

Eve:

Hey, guys, and by the way, if you want to get your own copy on that [inaudible 01:06:51]

Kieryn:

Yes, you too can stab my uterus. It's very good.

Eve:

You too can stab Kieryn's uterus.

Kieryn:

It's fine with it. It's been donated to science to be stabbed more, so it's chill.

Eve:

All of the video on the uterus.

Kieryn:

Right.

Eve:

Okay.

Kieryn:

That was really the highlight. But also, I made a lot of progress in organizing in locally and on campus, that was huge.

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Eve:

Yeah, let's talk about how you have a Nazi based fan page now.

Kieryn:

Oh, my God. Yeah.

Eve:

You got a page-

Kieryn:

And they did such a good job pulling all of my work together. I really just want them to add my college work-

Eve:

It's so beautifully done.

Kieryn:

... and I could just use it as a resume. It's great. It's so good.

Eve:

It's this marvelous annotated biography of Kieryn from a hate-fueled mindset-

Kieryn:

It's beautiful.

Eve:

... written by a Nazi. And it's so thorough-

Kieryn:

It's so thorough.

Eve:

... and I'm so pleased.

Kieryn:

It has all of my housing activism rolled in with all of my homeschool reform and activism. And it happened at the time that I was struggling to put all that together in a resume. So I'm like, 'This is just convenient. Thank you, dude, for being so angry with me, you decided to do an expose on all of my work and just put my resume together for me.'

Eve:

Hey, Kieryn, how can people support you as you continue to piss Nazis off in 2019?

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Kieryn:

Yeah, I have my own personal Patreon. It's patreon.com/kieryn. Please go back that so I can buy groceries while pissing off Nazis and getting through school because I need that. That would be helpful.

Eve:

Hey, good job.

Kieryn:

So that was, I pissed off a lot of Nazis this year, so I'm calling it a success.

Eve:

If you want to buy blanche dog food, or meat, wine or coffee or tequila, as apparently I occasionally need, you can send me over Venmo [@haettinger](#). I haven't changed the handle yet, it's fine.

Kieryn:

We'll get there.

Eve:

Yeah, you can. Yes, we'll get there later.

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

It's cool. But yeah, if you want to buy blanche dog food or meat booze, you can do that.

Kieryn:

Yes, please support us as we go into the next year full of school and organizing and none of those pay well for groceries.

Eve:

No.

Kieryn:

So if you want to keep hearing the podcast and keep feeding us, please subscribe to our Patreons and Venmo and all that. We appreciate it. It helps us keep going.

Eve:

We love you guys. You guys have made everything so much more fun this year, as we've been able to debrief on all of these shady new stories by venting to you about it., and you listen and support our work.

Kieryn:

Thank you for making this happen.

Eve:

That means a lot.

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

We have like 22,000, almost 23,000 lessons-

Kieryn:

That's huge.

Eve:

... I want to talk about this year.

Kieryn:

I didn't realize-

Eve:

Fucking how, we get an average of a 1,000 listeners an episode and we have, this is what, 21?

Kieryn:

Yeah, this is 21.

Eve:

Holy fuck. Thank you, guys.

Kieryn:

Thank you so much for making this possible and joining us on this grand experimented venture thing that we're doing.

Eve:

Yeah. And thank you, Aaron, for volunteering your time and showing up and producing and editing every episode for us. You really make our lives a lot easier. I'm a very shitty sound editor. Thank you so much for fixing it. And your contributions go to Aaron too. So on our Patreon you pay for the quality of the sound on these episodes.

Kieryn:

Yes, we pay Aaron to make our voices sound good. So your support also goes to making the podcast sound great.

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Eve:

Help us help you so your ears don't hurt.

Kieryn:

Yes, otherwise it's just terrible, like the first episode, no-

Eve:

It's so bad.

Kieryn:

... it's bad.

Eve:

Which, thankfully Aaron has gone back-

Kieryn:

And fixed.

Eve:

... and retracted and fixed. Bless him.

Kieryn:

It's beautiful.

Eve:

Yeah. And we put up, if you have dollars you want to spend on charitable contributions, we put up a list to our mailing list, but I think we'll put it up on the blog too.

Kieryn:

Yeah, we'll put it up on the website.

Eve:

If you want other places to donate money, artists who want to support, activists who want to support-

Kieryn:

Yeah, or if you have a job that does donation matching and you want to do some donation matching to some really good organizations-

Eve:

Please send it to CRHE because we really still need a little bit more to get us through 2019 by the end of 2018. We still haven't met our fundraising goal for the Coalition for Responsible Home Education. And it is my job as a board member to ask you to help us so we can keep pissing off fundamentalist, abusive homeschool parents, and HSLDA, and Mike Farris.

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Kieryn:

And those Nazis that write such good exposes on all of my work.

Eve:

I'm jealous.

Kieryn:

Please donate to CRHE so I can get more of that happening because I'm starting the-

Eve:

So we can make more Nazis angry.

Kieryn:

... labor's organizing track at school so they have some work to do to add on.

Eve:

So dear Santa, I'm sorry, you're a fascist, I hope we made you angry this year. Because the news this year was really shitty and we have a lot more work to do to keep working against all of this nonsense and hope 2019 is better.

Kieryn:

Yes, here's to a better 2019.

Eve:

All right. Cheers.

Kieryn:

Cheers. See you eventually next year.

Eve:

See you eventually.

Kieryn:

It's not next year.

Eve:

I'll see you in march.

Kieryn:

There's a week before next year.

Eve:

Actually, before next year. I'll see you later.

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Kieryn:

Bye.

Eve:

Bye.