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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.

Kieryn:

Hey, Eve.

Eve:

Hey, Kieryn. How's it going?

Kieryn:

It's going. We're at the end of the year, we've made it.

Eve:

How many years were in this year?

Kieryn:

I know.

Eve:

This is 2018 version five.

Kieryn:

Yeah, it feels like it's been at least a decade, if not two. I have infinitely more gray hair already than I did when I started out this year.

Eve:

If my hair was the kind of hair that turned gray, I would definitely have a lot.

Kieryn:

My mom started graying early, but this is ridiculous.

Eve:

My grandmother started going gray when she was 75. What are your New Year's resolutions for this year? Do you do resolutions?

Kieryn:

I kind of have loose ambitions or goals that I want to do. I haven't really had a really good set of specific things that I want to accomplish in a while, but I do this year kind of. They're still vague, but my kind of big overarching goals are I want to be able to make enough money that I can pay rent because right now I can't.

Eve:

Oh detail.

Kieryn:

And it's terrible. I want to not stop being a human when school starts because that's a thing that I've noticed is happening is I just become absorbed into school and it's terrible for my brain.

Eve:

Is that an ADHD hyper-focusing you think?

Kieryn:

I think it's yeah, it's somewhat hyper-focused on what being unable to focus, but always being stressed out. It's just it's the really fun anxiety aspect of it that's just I can't calm down and I want to, part of that is going to be figuring out how to sleep better. I'm asking you about a sleep study because something is not working with how my sleeping is working.

Eve:

Yeah, that's important.

Kieryn:

The other thing that I really kind of want to experiment more with is I want to have more sex with more people and have more meaningful relationships, but fitting that in with school is going to be the trick.

Eve:

Yeah. And you need to schedule your awake appointment with health.

Kieryn:

Right. Yeah, exactly.

Eve:

Got to fit that in too.

Kieryn:

I have a lot to fit in this year, but mostly my bigger, I guess if I were going to sum it up in a sentence, my resolution would be learning how to take good care of myself.

Eve:

That's really important.

Kieryn:

That. What are yours?

Eve:

I feel like this last year was me doing that. I was last year, I restarted therapy. I quit a toxic job slash was fired from a toxic job. Depends on who you ask. But honestly, that guy was abusive and it's certainly good that I'm not there. And all of my dating that I did was kind of or based on does this detract from my writing and my ability to care for myself? And anytime I started feeling like I was losing my balance in regard to that, I just backed off. And that was hard, but also really good.

Eve:

And I started doing EMDR and I got Blanche and that was good. And I rearranged my house twice to just reset energetically the way things were, which meant that I was doing a lot of deep cleaning in between stuff. And I went gluten free. I did like that kind of stuff this last year. I changed my meds. I went gluten free. I started hiking more.

Kieryn:

Nice.

Eve:

I was focusing more on catching up on how to care for myself. I got a Fitbit so I could study how I was sleeping, which taught me a lot. I was sleeping five hours a night. And I think I'd been doing that for a decade. And now that I've started doing EMDR and adjusted my meds, I'm sleeping eight or nine hours a night.

Kieryn:

That sounds awesome.

Eve:

Yeah. It's really good. The other thing that I, so in terms of like looking forward this year, I think I want to continue building on those tools. And now that I've got those kinds of rituals in place, I want to build off of them. I want to start figuring out what I want to do career wise after graduation. I want to try to sell my memoir, get an agent, get a book deal. And I need to decide where I'm going to live. That's a big one. I need to decide if I'm going to stay in southwestern Virginia in this tiny mountain town or if I'm going to move back to Richmond or try to start somewhere else in a bigger city where it's more expensive to be, which would require some downsizing. But there's a lot of different conflicting priorities so I need to sort out what they are.

Kieryn:

Yeah. That makes sense.

Eve:

But I think probably answering the job question is the biggest thing. I want to write. The other thing I want to do this year is I want to explore more genres of writing. I've been limiting myself pretty strictly

to memoir in this program because that's where I've been directed by my mentors, but I also write poetry and fiction and I took a comedy writing class recently so I want to retouch on those things. I'm going to mostly go dark for the next month finishing my thesis and then after that, I want to use the rest of the year to just play with other genres.

Kieryn:

That sounds awesome. I'm looking forward to doing 30 in 30 again this year.

Eve:

Oh my gosh. Yes, so if you are a longtime friend of ours, you know we do this 30 poems in 30 days thing every summer. We'll do it somewhere between April and August.

Kieryn:

Yeah, it's a big window.

Eve:

Yeah, we do it somewhere in the summer based on life rhythms and stuff, but we'll make a private Facebook group and then people can post their poems, their drafts every day as a form of both accountability, but also just a way of encouraging each other. Everybody's always commenting on your work and being like, oh wow, that's really cool. Or that gives me an idea for my poem or I tried this thing because you tried this thing and it's a really cool, informal, low stakes writing group that we do. If you want in on 30 in 30, message, one of us on Facebook and we'll add you to the next group.

Kieryn:

It's so good. It's the only time that I really actually remember to write poetry, but I've been doing it. We're going on six years at this point.

Eve:

Yeah. And I think that the thing is some of us are more quote unquote, serious poets. And some of us in that group are just trying to exercise a different muscle in your brain that you're not usually using. It becomes this, it's a no judgment zone. Some people will be very, very loose with it. We have a lot of kind of Instagram style poems. And then we have some super serious poets who are playing with form and there's a space for all of it. And everybody's really affirming and encouraging. And there's really, there's no sense of you're not good enough or this is bad poetry because we're all just drafting and we're all just basically trying to shit out a poem every day.

Kieryn:

Yeah, yeah. It doesn't have to be good. It just has to exist, which is what's so perfect about it.

Eve:

And it's always been really good for me because I will have one or two fragments of poems from that time that will turn into more developed poems later in the year as I revise them. It's always, it's a really good fertile ground.

Kieryn:

One of the first poems I wrote was about my period or whatever and that was a poem that I actually came back to this year to do my ritual with my uterus. And I added a stanza to it at the end just handwriting and it was great. And it was just need that. That was the thing that I had written several years ago and was able to go back to, because this was something that we've been doing for so long.

Eve:

Yeah. That's something that posts we'll talk about a lot where they will be, don't ever throw anything away, just save it all and go back to it later. And I've heard poets like Billy Collins talking about, "Oh yeah, this poem I wrote it eight years ago, but I couldn't finish the last stanza and then it came to me last week and here it is." Yeah. It's never a waste. It's always just investing in your creative self for the future. One of the things that is interesting for me about New Year's resolutions is I don't really take them very seriously because I'm trying to counter this whole idea that we had growing up, which was holiness theology. And when I first started leaving the cult, I started calling it legalism, which I think is the Christianese version of that. But I think it's a little bit more than just that.

Eve:

But it's this obsession with perfection. And so trying to set these goals for myself and be, I want to achieve X thing by May or this or that. It puts too much weird pressure and it feels trigger-y. And I'm like, you know what? I have to take a totally different perspective on this. I have to do things that are principles based not to do list based and I have to allow for life to happen and be flexible and not be hard on myself because I spent 20 years of my life being insanely hard on myself. I'm still really hard on myself. My therapist is always like, "Hey, you're doing a lot of really good work. You're working really hard." And I'm like, "No, I can do more."

Kieryn:

This isn't my problem as well.

Eve:

I'm still struggling with this, but it's gotten a lot better. Do you have this problem? Is this is the thing that you think about a lot?

Kieryn:

Yeah, no, this is also why whenever I make goals of any kind, they are always very loose. They're not time based or time constrained at all. And they're always more ideas than actual steps. I can't have a goal of ongoing to gain or lose a certain amount of weight or eat a certain amount of thing or not eat a certain thing because it will stress me out because that's a rule. But if I have something vague, like I want to take care of myself better, then anything under that umbrella counts and it's fine. And if I don't, I don't ever approach it as I fail if I haven't met this. And my parents made us do goal planning or whatever at the end of the year and they were always like, and then you hold onto this and if you meet your goals at the end of the year, then I don't remember what happened, but it was always a big deal and something that we felt bad about or I felt bad about.

Eve:

Or there's some kind of reward for it or something?

Kieryn:

Yeah, and if I didn't make it or whatever, it just felt bad.

Eve:

Well and I remember thinking about getting shown, in the Children's Book of Virtues, which we've been talking about a little bit lately, it had George Washington and his rules for conduct. And I think Ben Franklin had some something similar. It was these two lists of how to be a good person. And it was kind of held up as these are things to aspire to. They weren't particularly biblical, but in terms of how to make those sorts of lists, they were kind of templates. We used to also go through the various lists in the Bible, like love is patient, love is kind, those kinds of passages and do a, are you doing these things? Are you this way? If you're not, then how do you change to be that quality? That Godly quality. Oh God, I'm just remembering this. Did you do the ATI character books?

Kieryn:

We experimented with them very briefly.

Eve:

There was the deer and the beaver. What was the deer? Was vigilance, the beaver was diligence or something.

Kieryn:

Yeah. Yeah. We experimented with that for a very short amount of time. And my parents were like, I don't remember what it was but my parents were like, "No, this is some other person wants too much control over us, so no."

Eve:

That's how my parents were in general about Gothard but those workbooks definitely made the rounds in our house as character studies for her. How you should be thinking about yourself. The other one that we had, do you remember the Little Britches books?

Kieryn:

Yes.

Eve:

You know where I'm going.

Kieryn:

Wait, why do I remember this?

Eve:

They were basically the male character version of Little House on the Prairie.

Kieryn:

Yeah, oh man.

Eve:

Yeah, homesteader family in Colorado. And his father dies when he's really young and he becomes a rancher and all this stuff, but his father had whooped him at one point because he, I don't know, lied or something like that. And it's your character house, every action you do is building onto his house or tearing it down. Your house is going to be built by the time you're 20, then your character is set, so you have to make sure.

Kieryn:

Right. Because you don't change as you grow up. I'm here to tell you most of my growing and changing happened after I was 20.

Eve:

Let's just talk about how your brain is not done growing and developing until you're 25 at least.

Kieryn:

What? Yeah.

Eve:

Yeah. That was held up as this ticking clock of your character is going to be set by the time you're 18 or 20 so get it all in now.

Kieryn:

Yeah. What is it with that, to sidebar here, what is it with that mentality? Because my parents also kind of had that and it was just sort of this assumption that after you reached a certain age, you just stayed and didn't learn or grow or change or evolve. And you just become hard set in your ways. And I have always found that to be bullshit and I don't know where it comes from.

Eve:

And it also runs counter to the whole you become a new man in Christ when you give your life over. It really is not theologically sound. I think where it comes from is the neo-Victorian, a historical idolization of that particular morality literature, the parables stories and these fairy tale kinds of things that were designed to scare you into being good. And I think the thing that drove most of that is just life expectancy. We're not going to die at 40.

Kieryn:

That's a good point actually.

Eve:

Most of us, so ain't the fuck. Anyway, the point is we're not going to die at 40 or 45 so also that is not theologically real, which is pretty typical of stuff we got raised with. And psychologically speaking, it's not real. I listened to this really interesting podcast about a year ago where it was, I guess it must have been one of the box explainer ones, but it was looking at personalities and if they're fixed and can a person really change? And so they were looking as a case study at lifers in prison who okay, so this guy raped and killed someone when he was 21 but now he's 50 or 40. And is he the same person at all? He's

a community leader and leading professional development and workshops and running an AA meeting and so is he the same guy? Should he get out? What gives?

Eve:

And the conclusion that they came to, which I think is very salient and sound is that your infrastructure is what dictates that consistency. If you put yourself in a situation where you're surrounded by a certain kind of people and you keep those same kinds of people and they expect you to behave a certain way so you keep reinforcing those patterns, then you're going to be pretty consistent. But if you remove that and you have a different set, a different framework around you with different expectations, it is very possible to change and to truly change. But it's always a reaction to your environment and your infrastructure.

Kieryn:

Which is hilarious because I remember my parents telling me specifically that your environment doesn't matter. And that your, your social construct and expectations around you aren't factors.

Eve:

Well isn't that basic bootstraps mentality manifest destiny crap?

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

Yeah, where you came from doesn't matter if you work really hard, you cannot be poor. Doesn't matter about redlining, doesn't matter about predatory lending, doesn't matter about racism. Doesn't matter about lack of access to medical care.

Kieryn:

Any factor and anything. It's all external.

Eve:

It's all about your character.

Kieryn:

It is only you and your integrity. Yeah.

Eve:

God damn it.

Kieryn:

Which no, it's not how that works out here actually.

Eve:



No, that's fake. Okay. How do you evaluate yourself? I feel like the idea of being a good person is kind of fake on some levels, but if you were to evaluate quality of moral character now without these neo-Victorian moralistic stuff and these bad biblical templates, what would you use to evaluate that kind of stuff now?

Kieryn:

Yeah, would I?

Eve:

For yourself, let's keep it on ourselves rather than other people.

Kieryn:

Yeah, that was something that I kind of really had to grapple with after deconverting and stuff was now I have no moral compass, which is untrue. I do have a moral compass because you don't need the Bible to have morals, but yeah. The way, it's sort of...

Eve:

Oh my God, but you have to have a higher authority for that. Kieryn.

Kieryn:

No, I know. I know. I know I'm so blasphemous and everything, I'm already going to hell.

Eve:

But have more sex. Might as well.

Kieryn:

Right. I know. I have really great New Year's Eve plans involving that and so I'm excited.

Eve:

Good job.

Kieryn:

But yeah, so no, what I kind of had to evaluate what my values are as for myself as a person, what are the things that I find important? And the way my mental framework of what makes sense of liberal world, what is an important quality to have? What are things that feel hopeful and good?

Eve:

Are you afraid of being wrong in your evaluations of those things though? Because I remember being mortified and terrified of what if I'm wrong? What if I've chosen the wrong side in all this? And then I deconvert and turns out whoops, I did.

Kieryn:

Yeah. I was nervous about that at first and then I became more queer and more trans and was just like, well, I'm screwed either way. Because if I had suddenly realized, oh Christianity is a thing. If it's the same

kind of Christianity I grew up with then by default, I'm fucked. We can scratch that. Yeah, so I kind of realized that I learned a lot from my parents about what isn't good or isn't something that I consider good and so my kind of moral framework is entirely based on empathy and compassion and raising up people who are oppressed and marginalized and basically the teachings of Jesus but without the Jesus.

Eve:

Yeah. I think that's where I'm at too, is I'm no longer afraid of either reconverting to Christianity or my deconversion being wrong. If I go back to the church, I will always have a really good reason. I trust myself now and I will do it in a way that's healthy for me and not toxic for my community. I think what it comes down to is learning how to trust my intuition because I've had a lot of people get all up in my face about like, oh wow, you've changed so much since college or since high school or whatever. And one, everybody changes a lot since college or high school. It's just accept that.

Kieryn:

That's the rule.

Eve:

No matter what university you live in, everybody changes. But the real thing that gets me is that I don't feel like I have changed that much. I've grown more comfortable in my own skin, but I pretty much I'm still the same person who asks hard questions and interrogates things and wants to understand how things work and really pays attention to power differentials and is invested in how do we help people who are marginalized and downtrodden? And I still love the same things I always loved. I'm still interested in all of the like housewifey shit. I still like having people over and bringing them together and feeding them. I still feel responsible to look out for people. I have blood ties too. I still love reading and knitting and creating things and being out in nature. What I love and what I value hasn't changed that much. It's just the framework for expressing those things.

Kieryn:

Exactly. Yeah. I'm the same way. I feel all of the core of me is still there and has been here this whole time and is now just free to exist instead of being oppressed. I'm still just as passionate about politics as I was when I was teenager.

Eve:

I don't know. I think you're maybe the tiniest little bit less passionate, but that's only because you're more tired because now that you're an adult.

Kieryn:

Right. Yeah. Yeah. It's really just the actual bandwidth at this point. But and I still write and I still care about justice and all of the things that I always cared about except that now I'm actually able to be all of myself. The only thing that has changed and what's changed so drastically is that I am actually all of myself now and that's what people see as change.

Eve:

I think that's what it comes down to. Is I'm not scared of me anymore.

Kieryn:

Which is huge actually.

Eve:

You cannot frighten me into a submission by being, but what have you become this? Well whoops, I'm already divorced and queer and sort of estranged from my father and definitely estranged from church. And okay, all the things that I'm super scared of, the worst has already happened.

Kieryn:

Already happened.

Eve:

It can only get better from here.

Kieryn:

Yeah. No, exactly. And I remember even last year, even earlier this year, there was still some of me that was afraid of myself and what would happen if I just let all of myself out and nothing bad as it turns out. Nothing bad will happen if you do that. But that fear of not being able to trust yourself and you are somehow inherently bad inside somewhere so you have to repress whatever it is that you feel needs to be repressed isn't true.

Eve:

Okay. Do you still deal with that in inner critic?

Kieryn:

Oh yeah.

Eve:

That voice that tells you that you're bad all the time?

Kieryn:

Yes.

Eve:

How do you work against that in ways that are not your cliché Pinterest, white girl, self care?

Kieryn:

I tweet about it a lot. That's a large part of my process is because what will happen for me is it will just circulate inside of my head and then it just buries itself and it buries itself into my core eventually, unless I can get it out. I talk about it openly and that's why I'm so open is I need it out of my brain.

Eve:

Yeah. Is that like journaling or is that like confessional? Where does that fall for you in terms of expression?

Kieryn:

It's sometimes it's more journaling. It's I will just have a long, my brain is shit thread on Twitter or I will just write in my journal or both sometimes.

Eve:

It doesn't really matter if you have an audience, you just have to get it out.

Kieryn:

Right. Yeah, exactly. It just needs to be. And that's the thing that I love about my therapist is I can just go in and just dump my entire brain on someone who knows how to hold it and it's perfect. And that's what I do because that's what my brain needs is. It just needs to not be constantly circulating. It needs to be out and said and as soon as I write it, as soon as I write, "I feel terrible because of this." And I see it as a sentence and I'm like, that's bullshit. I don't have to feel bad about that.

Eve:

I think that's basically a variation on cognitive behavioral therapy. I think that's what that process is, where it's I'm stuck because I believe this thing and have to write it out and be is this thing real? Is this rational? Oh no, it's not. Okay so chill the fuck out.

Kieryn:

Right. Yeah. And that's all I need sometimes is sometimes my depression, I just need to realize, oh, this is just depression lying to me. And then I can move on with my life, but I have to get there.

Eve:

I do this thing that I've always done. Oh God, I did this back when I was in high school and a tiny John Piper obsessed legalist. But it was, the phrase I use is remind yourself of the things that are true. And it's like, okay so let's take stock here. And I feel really shitty about this because of all these reasons. But what's true here? What is actually real? And hey, you've had like X amount of crap going on in your personal life. You've had this going on with family stuff. You've had this financial anxiety. You've had that. You've had deadlines. You've had inability to sleep or whatever. You've been triggered. Okay, so I can just take a step back and be like, nope, I don't need to obsess over this because I really have put in the work that I needed to put in.

Eve:

I did that this week where I was like, so my thesis for grad school is due on February 11th and the first draft of it, not the final version.

Kieryn:

Not final.

Eve:

No, but the first draft of it and I was like, oh my God, it's a 150 pages. I'm freaking out. I don't have this material. I have so much more to write. And I decided to count up everything I'd written in 2018 and I had written a 160 pages worth of material.

Kieryn:

Oh well then. You're fine.

Eve:

If I had just turned that in, I'd be fine. But it doesn't all connect and I have to tidy it up and do revisions.

Kieryn:

But you have the pages.

Eve:

I have the pages and I'm like, oh okay. I can not be hard on myself for taking three days to go visit a friend and calm down and rest a little bit. I don't have to be beating myself up for not working on this as hard as I think I should be.

Kieryn:

Yeah. Something that my therapist has been trying to help me with is extending compassion to myself because I will expend it, I'll give it to other people, whatever. I'm like, no, obviously you're going through all of this stuff and it's really hard. Of course you're having a hard day. Of course your brain is being a dick. Of course you're feeling bad about yourself. But when I do it, when I'm having a hard time, when this week I lost seven vials of blood because I had labs and that took me out for two days because that's what happens when I lose blood. And I know this every time and every time I still get really upset about how much it takes out of me and I feel like that's some kind of moral failing and it's like if anyone else was having a hard time with losing blood, I would just be giving them Gatorade and shit. I should extend that to myself because that's just how my body handles it and it's fine.

Eve:

I got floored by a friend asking me a question last year when I was going through a breakup and I was just really spiraling out. And she was like, "Okay, but what would you do right now if you were trying to be a good friend to yourself? What would you do if this person who was going through this was a really good friend of yours?" And I was like, "Oh."

Kieryn:

I'm like, I know exactly what I would do if it were literally anyone but me.

Eve:

I know exactly what I would do and it would be totally the opposite of what I'm doing to myself right now.

Kieryn:

Yep, yep, yep.

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Eve:

All right. Cool. Got it. Suck my life. I'm a shitty friend to me and so it's been really good working on that.

Kieryn:

Same. I'm a great friend to everybody except myself.

Eve:

Right. Well, I think that's part of why we work really well together is we're able to be like, Hey, stop. We're taking this week off so we can do fine holes. What are you doing? We're able to be each other's breaks on this kind of thing.

Kieryn:

Yeah. Which is really good.

Eve:

It's really nice. Oh my goodness. All right. Well, should we take a quick break and go to some listener questions?

Kieryn:

Yes.

Eve:

Or do you have anything else you want to add?

Kieryn:

No, I feel like we covered a lot of it. I think compassion is my theme this year.

Eve:

Yeah. Compassion towards yourself. Mine is ambition based on a platform of compassion. Ooh, it's going to be hard.

Kieryn:

I know.

Eve:

Okay. We'll come back in a minute and we'll do some questions from our listeners.

Eve:

Welcome back. We have some questions from our listeners.

Kieryn:

They're not that different, questioners.

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Eve:

At least I didn't say readers this time like I usually do.

Kieryn:

Writing problems really. It's reading the words that you're hearing out of my voice.

Eve:

Yeah, read my lips.

Kieryn:

Yes. That you can't see.

Eve:

Yeah. One person asked about our perspective on divorce and how it's changed.

Kieryn:

Yeah, since getting divorced.

Eve:

Yeah. I feel like we've talked about this a little bit before.

Kieryn:

Yeah, we've hinted at it and talked about it briefly I think in one of the earlier episodes.

Eve:

Yeah. I feel like my perspective on divorce has changed a whole lot since getting divorced but more so, not just because of myself getting divorced, but more because when I got divorced, I had to really reset and recalibrate all of my assumptions about relationships and what they were. And how they should work. And that's why I went into the non-monogamy route and the answer that I came up with is, go read Jessica Valenti's Purity Myth. I keep talking about this book. It really fucked me up five years ago. The way marriage worked is directly tied to the history of capitalism.

Kieryn:

Yeah, exactly.

Eve:

It's the reason virginity exists in the region, marriage exists in a certain way is to ensure blood heirs for property transfer down the line. Marriage, use it for what is useful to you. If you need stability, there's nothing wrong with that. And if you need companionship, there's nothing wrong with that. But it's not the be all end all and divorce is difficult and complicated and messy. And no two stories are the same and you never know everything that went on but it's also not the end of the world. And it should never be treated like that.

Kieryn:

My parents had this, their idea about divorce was that divorce was basically the unforgivable sin so I got divorced.

Eve:

Divorce is not an option was my dad's line. It's just ironic because when I think any time you tell life this is not going to happen to me or I'm never going to do this, life kind of goes, yeah. Yeah, fuck you.

Kieryn:

Yeah, sure. Okay.

Eve:

And it happens. That's why I don't make these absolute claims of I'm never going to do that.

Kieryn:

Same.

Eve:

Or I would never this, because I've been wrong so many times that I would rather just take things on a case by case basis and not assume that that's how it's going to be.

Kieryn:

Yeah, no, I'm the same way. And yeah, I went into marriage, obviously with all of the this is supposed to last forever and you're going to have this one person for life. And my parents never had married friends and having friends was seen as threatening within marriage. It was just basically you and this one other person and that is toxic and terrible and not healthy.

Eve:

Well, it's not enough. It's not enough of a social life to be a well rounded and balanced person. That's creating an echo chamber where you fight a lot.

Kieryn:

Right. Exactly. It's just, it sets you up for the way I learned how to be married, sets you up for a lot of just not fun stuff.

Eve:

Wait, are you saying that purity culture, marriage, sets you up for divorce rather than dating?

Kieryn:

It really does. And at least with dating, you learn what works and what doesn't work for you and what your needs are.

Eve:



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Sometimes it's stuff you didn't expect. I've had so many situations where I'm dating someone who looks perfect for me on paper and something about it is just my gut's going, nope stop. Stop, stop, stop, stop, stop.

Kieryn:

Yeah. And you learn to listen to yourself and you learn that you know yourself better than other people. Because the way I learned marriage was extremely codependent and your spouse would know you better than you know you, which is not how things should work.

Eve:

But first Jesus needs to be the first one and then your spouse, come on.

Kieryn:

Right.

Eve:

Okay. This kind of relates to our second question, which is about polygamy. And the question was kind of if Quiverfull is all about having as many kids as possible, then why are Quiverfull families not basically doing the old school Mormon thing and having multiple wives?

Kieryn:

Because God says marriage is between one man and one woman so you have to be monogamous. You can't just have multiples of them.

Eve:

Where does that say that?

Kieryn:

I don't know where, I don't know. I don't remember.

Eve:

Does the Bible actually say that?

Kieryn:

All right, there is some verse somewhere that alludes to it, but it's not that specific.

Eve:

There's a Pauline epistle that hits on that but I don't think it's that specific.

Kieryn:

Yeah. No, it's not that specific. It's just, that's how it's taken.

Eve:

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I think it was like kind of this addressing, don't neglect your wife. If you're going to be doing other things.

Kieryn:

No, it's also completely out of context.

Eve:

It was like a don't don't financially abandon your first wife if you're going to go play around. I think that's kind of how it was, I could be wrong. Somebody can correct me.

Kieryn:

People also use it to say that gay marriage is wrong and being queer is a sin. It's that same place, which is also out of context.

Eve:

Hey guys, just so you know, the reason Sodom and Gomorrah got burned was not because they were having a lot of gay sex. Sodom and Gomorrah was burned because they were bad hosts and they were not okay with feeding travelers.

Kieryn:

But no, no, it's the butt stuff.

Eve:

Yeah. It's the best stuff. Okay. Speaking of butt stuff.

Kieryn:

I like how our transitions are just so perfect today.

Eve:

There's this school that I kind of consider the of asshole of Virginia and it's called Liberty University and it's really near where I live and you want to talk about this question?

Kieryn:

Yeah. Well, it wasn't really a question so much as by the way.

Eve:

Did you see this news?

Kieryn:

Yeah. Did you see this news?

Eve:

Catch us up.

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Kieryn:

Yeah. Apparently, and I'm looking for whoever the new person is, Kerri Kupec is now the director of the Office of Public Affairs at the Justice Department, went to Liberty, which is Falwell's school and also was a huge part of the Alliance Defending Freedom organization.

Eve:

What is the Alliance Defending Freedom? And have we ever talked about them ever before?

Kieryn:

Yeah. We have talked about them.

Eve:

Quite extensively.

Kieryn:

When we were talking about HSLDA. They're terrible.

Eve:

ADF is considered a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. And we talked about them in our episode, I think it's three or four where it's the conspiracy is real. And the founder of HSLDA, slash founder of Patrick Henry College is the president over at ADF and they are the ones that are basically flooding the court system with all these low level religious liberty cases in order to work them up into the Supreme Court to try to dismantle various religious freedom protections in order to allow Christians to be bigots, basically legally.

Kieryn:

Yeah, yeah, yeah. And only Christians, not anyone else.

Eve:

No one else.

Kieryn:

Because the second a gay baker refuses to make a wedding cake for a cishet couple.

Eve:

A straight couple.

Kieryn:

Yeah. They will be up in arms about discrimination of whatever kind. Religious discrimination, it's like my dude, no.

Eve:

Honestly, this is not super surprising. This is par for the course.

Kieryn:

This is what they've been planning for this whole time.

Eve:

Yeah. And she's Office of Public Affairs so she's probably just doing press releases and statements. Yeah, keep an eye on it. You're watching for the right stuff. This is important and part of the larger picture.

Kieryn:

Yeah. Yeah. And they are extremely here for coming after the queers. That is their focus right now. Queers and reproductive rights are just their target. Yeah. It's not good. Yeah, so that's going to be an exciting thing to watch in 2019 is everything that goes down with the DOJ right now, because this is also the Trump administration is asking the DOJ to interpret their rules as not including trans people under sex and all of that.

Eve:

Which we covered in the last episode. If you have a crazy, outlandish informed prediction for 2019, what would you predict?

Kieryn:

Well, I feel like a lot of things are mostly going to end up stalled because we have the House, we don't have the Senate, so we can't do a lot of reversing things, but we can do a lot of stopping things from happening. I think the ACA stuff that is trying to happen, some of that will probably get through and make things terrible. But I think a lot of the really terrible stuff will be stopped at the House level or at least filibustered and blocked and paused. I feel like we can kind of mitigate damage, but we can't undo much.

Eve:

I kind of wonder if we're going to see more shutdowns happening on the initiated by the Democrats because of how this one has been handled.

Kieryn:

Maybe. Yeah.

Eve:

Just abusive statement, political gestures like that. Where it's all of these low level workers are getting hurt by this, but it proves a larger point.

Kieryn:

Yeah. I feel like a lot of it, honestly, I think the House is going to be the place to watch. I think a lot of it is going to because we got a bunch of really cool new, radical lefty people in the House who want to do things and make stands like that. It'll be interesting to see if they can do that or not or if they wind up doing it.

Eve:

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Yeah. I think that will be interesting. All right. Well, we'll talk to you guys again in the New Year. Be safe, drink responsibly.

Kieryn:

Drink water.

Eve:

Use protection, drink water.

Kieryn:

Drink water, use protection, use lube.

Eve:

Take your vitamins. And yeah, use lots of lube.

Kieryn:

Those are important things to remember.

Eve:

Yep, they are important things to remember. All right. We'll talk to you guys later.

Kieryn:

Happy New Year.

Eve:

Happy New Year. Bye.

Kieryn:

Bye.