

Episode 33 (exported)

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kids, parenting, mom, siblings, baby, feel, child, woman, good, happened, birth, pregnant, stories, fine, realized, mother, god, bleeding, poem, pregnancy

SPEAKERS

Eve Ettinger, Kieryn Darkwater



Kieryn Darkwater 00:00

Hi I'm Kieryn



Eve Ettinger 00:18

and I'm Eve This is kitchen table Colt, where to Quiverfull escapees talk about our experiences in the cultish underbelly of the Religious Right. Reading live from



Kieryn Darkwater 00:36

Oakland from Oakland, California. Oh my god. Yes. You haven't even had tequila yet?



Eve Ettinger 00:44

No. Yeah, this is gonna be a great time. You'll



Kieryn Darkwater 00:47

be excited. Okay. Cheers. Cheers.



Eve Ettinger 00:53

Yep. So, we are going to have some fun.



Kieryn Darkwater 00:58

Yeah, you brought some cool things. I did. My mom.



Eve Ettinger 01:01

I brought this this my mother's gave me right before I got on the plane. I stayed the night at my folks house in Richmond because that was the cheapest way to get to Oakland. And she's like, Hey, I got some things that just came in the mail. You should take this and use it for your podcast. And I was like, Oh, yes. In case you can't see this as the above rubies



Kieryn Darkwater 01:23

on for the people listening magazine. Yeah. To the microphone. This is the above rubies magazine. Welcome, Aaron. Sorry,



Eve Ettinger 01:33

guys. Is this issue 96. And they only publish if you're not familiar with them every week. This is published by Nancy Campbell, who is the self titled editor press. She is a homesteading? Quiverfull mom of many she's originally from New Zealand and she's got like a million kids. Yeah. Do we know how many I don't think I know how many I think it's like 13 or 14 ish. There's a lot. There's a lot of them. But each of her kids has many, many, many kids. And these magazine issues come out when they have funding from their donations to print one when they have enough stories and they have enough money and they sent them out full color. They usually like they're very well done. 30 pages. Yeah, they're 31 pages. And I've been I like every single time I was constipated as a kid. This is what I was reading. So these are



Kieryn Darkwater 02:43

Yeah, there Yeah. So what is what is what is above rubies? What do they continue now



Eve Ettinger 02:48

that proverbs 31 woman Her price is above Ruby above me. So they're like try it's about like how to inspire women to be like that. So this issue the title stories are they all yours? When your world falls apart? A young mother's musings generational turnaround is the unborn part of the mother's body? Yes. laughter in the home. Your life is planned by God too good to throw away our amazing Down Syndrome baby.



Kieryn Darkwater 03:18

Oh my god. That one, birth stories and



Eve Ettinger 03:22

the like. It's like a minimum requirement for this, these these magazines to have one reversal porn story where it's like, God saved our family because my husband had a reversal. And then we our marriage got better.



Kieryn Darkwater 03:34

And what do we mean by reversal? We don't necessarily mean like a vasectomy. It means



Eve Ettinger 03:38

the inverse of A resect vasectomy. So you have to have surgery in your balls twice. Or



Kieryn Darkwater 03:43

a lot of times it's just people who's like, Oh, my husband, like didn't want me to have more kids. But I felt like God needed me to have more kids and then I had had more kids and now he's okay with it. No, but literally like



Eve Ettinger 03:54

a reversal. Yeah, medical procedure. No, that is also Yeah, but yeah, so



Kieryn Darkwater 04:00

one of the stories was about this woman who like had three kids and then had a miscarriage and then her husband was like, well, we can try for another one. And she was like, I don't want us to have a pity baby. And then they read Nancy Campbell's book and he was like, Okay, we should have kids and then they had like five more kids. Yeah, it is. It's multiple pity babies really? Yeah.




Eve Ettinger 04:18

There's from a young mothers viewpoint is a stay at home mom and her bio says Meadow is the Social Media Manager for this thing that her that Nancy Campbell's grandmother runs and she has a beautiful young mother who loves fashion but with modesty. You know, I think all these families are white. I think that's pretty guaranteed. Yeah, occasionally they will adopt brown babies from some war torn country that in probably like these were trafficked kids, and we'll never find out like what actually happened? Yeah, this is massive disability porn for a disability inspiration porn. Yeah. Have a baby with Down syndrome.



Kieryn Darkwater 04:59

 The title is He is amazing.



Eve Ettinger 05:02

There's always happy faces. Because there's always happy faces.



Kieryn Darkwater 05:07

There's like 1012 children. Oh, look,



Eve Ettinger 05:10

can your children be saved?



Kieryn Darkwater 05:12

This is a hard question for people. No, they're



Eve Ettinger 05:14

not Calvinist. Yes.



Kieryn Darkwater 05:16

This is the tell.



Eve Ettinger 05:18

The answer is yes. Apparently. And when Kieryn was like, hey, guess what, what do you think they say earlier when we're looking through this? I was like, definitely you can't know. And they were like, actually, actually,



Kieryn Darkwater 05:28

yes, yes, they can.



Eve Ettinger 05:30

It was like a disappointed in them.



Kieryn Darkwater 05:32

I know. I know. I've heard I feel like at one point, they probably said no, but I think maybe they had a different reading of the same verses. So



Eve Ettinger 05:42

this has birth stories. We all have birth stories. It has a natural birth that lasts stories.



Kieryn Darkwater 05:48

Don't love birth stories. Not everyone loves birth stories. Okay. story. I can tell some though, I can tell you



Eve Ettinger 05:59

this. So this natural birth at last basically, this woman had a bunch of miscarriages and C sections. And apparently those are fake berths, which is a great



Kieryn Darkwater 06:11

it came out of you. That's all it is required. Pain



Eve Ettinger 06:15

happens out of how your body was traumatized



Kieryn Darkwater 06:19


It doesnt matter how the baby is outside of you. It's been born, you went through your labor. And





Eve Ettinger 06:23

there's another one that's called my faith strengthening birth, which I'm choosing to believe that she had a an orgasm during delivery, which is possible. And that's all that I'm going to believe about that one. That I'm not going to even read the story. Oh, actually never mind to just read the story. He had a cleft palate every day and apparently bless it. And apparently it's more disability for every baby brings more blessings.





 Kieryn Darkwater 06:51
No, no, not blessings. Blessing.


 Eve Ettinger 06:53
Oh, sorry. You right. We commented on this before. Blessing. Yeah. This one a life changing decision and seven more children for eternity. But what happens when your children are profligate


 Kieryn Darkwater 07:05
like us? Right, like, how do you is that worth?


 Eve Ettinger 07:09
Is it worth your energy?

 Kieryn Darkwater 07:13
I feel like that's something I should ask my parents.

 Eve Ettinger 07:17
We're gonna have a special article in Nancy Campbell's next magazine about what it's like when your children aren't worth it. Oh, my God. Yeah. Because they're not there for eternity. Yeah. Okay. And then Nancy Campbell does a bunch of retreats like family camps. And so she's got some five, six coming up. Next year, on the states. What do you call a pregnant mommy?

 Kieryn Darkwater 07:44
Yeah, that was that was an adventure to read.

 Eve Ettinger 07:48
This is like a bad Hebrew declension parsing of verbs and shit. And it's basically saying, you say that she's with child.

 Kieryn Darkwater 07:59
Yes. With child. Because that's my team's.



Eve Ettinger 08:04

I have a podcast now. Yes, they



Kieryn Darkwater 08:07

Every Tuesday with Nancy



Eve Ettinger 08:09

Should we do a crossover episode with them? Okay.



Kieryn Darkwater 08:12

I don't I don't I don't



Eve Ettinger 08:13

Can we ask me to teach a debate? Live?



Kieryn Darkwater 08:18

Oh, my God, we would need so many drugs



Eve Ettinger 08:20

think Netflix would stream it.




Kieryn Darkwater 08:24


Do I know anyone at Netflix? Do I know anyone at Netflix, Netflix? Is this something that you would be interested in? And can you provide booze and weed for a set adventure?



Eve Ettinger 08:36


Just for boost for me. Um, subscription rates for all of your countries. I mean, you know, they're not all of your countries, but a lot of countries. This is actually kind of interesting. I feel like this is where we're gonna find homeschoolers. So we have America, which is totally a country. We have Africa, which is also totally a country. Right? I'm sure. Australia and Papua New Guinea, Canada, continental Europe, which is subsection sorry, Belgium in the Netherlands. I just hit Kieryn


 Kieryn Darkwater 09:09
This is what happens.


 Eve Ettinger 09:10
I talk with my hands, they get big. Belgium in the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine. And then back to like, regular indentation. Malaysia, New Zealand and Pacific islands, Singapore and Asia except Malaysia. But which is like totally a country.


 Kieryn Darkwater 09:32
But Singapore and Asia have Malaysia. Yeah.


 Eve Ettinger 09:36
Right. Because there's other than Malaysia, South Africa because it's not part of Africa, apparently, and South America, Israel and the Middle East. And then the United Kingdom, which also includes Ireland, Iceland and Greenland.

 Kieryn Darkwater 09:56
I feel like they have feelings about that. You know,

 Eve Ettinger 09:59
I finally feel like I do. Like, I didn't even realize we're gonna get into this, but like, I feel like we could just do it like

 Kieryn Darkwater 10:05
a geography lesson lesson when

 Eve Ettinger 10:08
the ends are Campbell right now. So anyway, um,

 Kieryn Darkwater 10:12

that's that's homeschool geography, also, homeschool geography.



Eve Ettinger 10:16

And if you have want to see photos from this will probably throw some up on here.



Kieryn Darkwater 10:21

We can do this scan or something, Gary this horrible little poem. Yeah. Okay,



Eve Ettinger 10:27

I'm so sorry guys trigger warning. This is very bad.



Kieryn Darkwater 10:31

It's called very bad. Your home is your kingdom. And it's written by James Russell Miller.



Eve Ettinger 10:41

Because clearly a woman couldn't write up on that for those. I don't know. I mean, actually, some of their daughters do write music and stuff.



Kieryn Darkwater 10:47

Yeah. But it's important for a man to be telling this to a woman. Right? Home is the true wife's kingdom. Very largely does the wife hold in her hands as a sacred trust the happiness and the highest good of the hearts that Nestle there is? Pause



Eve Ettinger 11:05

requests. I think it's really important for our listeners to know that this is written in Comic Sans.



Kieryn Darkwater 11:10

Yes. And also it is bordered by a tree.



Eve Ettinger 11:14

Next Best Thing? Yeah.

 Kieryn Darkwater 11:15

Yeah. Okay. The next line I've just, I've never seen this in a poem before and like I'm losing it. In the last analysis. Home happiness depends on the wife. Like who puts in the last analysis in a poem? Anyway, That is now a challenge that I will accept, but I will make it a good poem when we do 30 in 30 one of the things is we have to use in the last analysis as the first line. Yeah, okay. Okay, cool. Anyway, her spirit gives the home its atmosphere, her hands fashion, its beauty. Her heart makes its love. And in the end is so worthy, so noble, so divine, that no woman who has been called to be a wife and has listened to the call, should consider any price too great to pay to be the light, the joy, the blessing the inspiration of a home

 Eve Ettinger 12:15

all of my lit majors know that this is like repurposing Victorian propaganda about the like Angel in

 Kieryn Darkwater 12:23

the house. It's not even repurposing like it's just it's just what it is.

 Eve Ettinger 12:26

Its inspired language, by that I mean the Vocabulary is smaller.

 Kieryn Darkwater 12:32

it's it's less eloquent and fun to read, but like it's the same exact exactly the same thing. Anyway, there's two more bits to get through. Oh, God. The woman who makes a sweet beautiful home, filling it with love and prayer and purity is doing something better than anything else her hands could find to do beneath the skies. I I have questions. The Tequila was a good idea. This is why we have the bottle. A true mother. We've gone from wife to mother now. There was no transition we got

 Eve Ettinger 13:13

woman, sorry, wife to woman to mother. Yeah, because they are the same,

 Kieryn Darkwater 13:17

right? Yes, they are all the same. A true mother is one of the holiest secrets of home happiness. God sends many beautiful things to this world many noble gifts. But no blessing is richer than that which He bestows in a mother who has learned loves lessons well, and has realized

something of the meaning of her sacred calling.



Eve Ettinger 13:39

Is love in this case, spanking because usually, things are like interchangeable, Yeah,



Kieryn Darkwater 13:46

I feel like yeah, there's a lot going on in this poll. There's so much going on so much happening in this poem. I don't want to really parse it I just know I'm we're just gonna let that sit there. Yeah, we'll just put a picture up. Yes, it's yeah, we will take it hold on I can. I'll take a picture and just like post it now. Yeah, this is exciting. Yeah, this is this because then you can see the lovely aesthetic that is also part of this poem here. Or our audience. Yeah, here actually it's flirting with every ticket please excuse this momentary pause and bringing things to Twitter



Eve Ettinger 14:30

so cute. Also, I want to Google James Miller and be like What is your Facebook look like?



Kieryn Darkwater 14:36

Oh my god.



Eve Ettinger 14:37

Your life is meaningful and your baby's life is meaningful now this is where they're getting like fucking communists like I don't understand, they need to pick See a precious gift too good to throw away I'm so I'm assuming this is all about oh, she went to work and she missed her baby and so she she had to quit her job and go back. because she missed her baby so much. she quit her dream job on the second day for her baby, because she missed him.



Kieryn Darkwater 15:17

So that's actually a really fun segue.



Eve Ettinger 15:21

Yeah. All right. Let's do it. So we got to we got to we saw a tweet on Twitter the other day that I think was, you know, the the jumping off point for an episode that we really hadn't thought about covering a topic that we hadn't thought about covering that's really kind of important. Yeah. So thanks, Emily, for giving this idea. And let's jump into it. Yeah. one, Sarah, sorry. Yeah. We have to go to Twitter.



Kieryn Darkwater 16:09

So the one that we're taking on first segues into the like, dream job for baby thing, which is how, how did our lives as like Sister moms translate into our decision whether or not to have children? Or does it or



Eve Ettinger 16:26

does it at all? And yes, obviously it does. How could it not? I mean, I've said, I'm just like, here, I'm getting stressed. I put my hair up. What do you do every single time I'm like, serious conversation have to think without distractions, but my hair.



Kieryn Darkwater 16:40

I miss having a ponytail for that reason. Because like I would channel Joe March.



Eve Ettinger 16:46

It was a really, it was really exciting day when my therapist discovered that was my tell, for like, I'm getting serious. And she was like, ohhh



Kieryn Darkwater 16:57

Yeah, my therapist has figured out when I like enter my body and when I leave my body now and I'm like, rude. Rude. I can't hide



Eve Ettinger 17:07

you're not allowed to know this.



Kieryn Darkwater 17:08

But I twitch. So it's like, like, god dammit. Anyway, okay, sister, mom, sister



Eve Ettinger 17:14

mom's. So um, in case you haven't, like, caught up on everything before. I'm the oldest of nine kids. and Kieryn.



Kieryn Darkwater 17:21

I'm the oldest of well, eight living but my mom had 10 full time pregnancies. So



Eve Ettinger 17:28

we have been present for our siblings births. Yep. And some cases our siblings deaths. Yep. And we have in present for every other possible stage of child development, pregnancy, like raising like, I knew my mom was in labor with a couple of my siblings before she did. Like, yep, we knew she was pregnant before she did. Like we were just like, so much more in tune with that. And I've like raised I usually say approximately five kids. Yeah,



Kieryn Darkwater 17:58

I tell people I raised like seven kids. I raised my siblings like it's I did. It's fine. Yeah.



Eve Ettinger 18:05

So that's our claim to sister mom's status. Yep. It's legitimate. I still have siblings who call me on Mother's Day. Don't tell mom that. Don't tell mom that. She doesn't know. But they do. So how does that play into our decision to have kids or not? You have had a hysterectomy



Kieryn Darkwater 18:27

Yeah, yeah.



Eve Ettinger 18:28

That is not just about gender



Kieryn Darkwater 18:32

No, like, honestly, like, so much of my anxiety was tied in like having children and the like. Well, okay. birth story gonna happen. Trigger warning. Take a break. If you need to



Eve Ettinger 18:50

take a walk around the block. We'll be here when you get back.



Kieryn Darkwater 18:52

I've had tequila. I haven't like talked about this a whole lot.



Eve Ettinger 18:56

So do you need more tequila before we talk about this?



Kieryn Darkwater 18:59

Maybe like halfway through. Okay. Yeah,



Eve Ettinger 19:02

let me grab the bottle and have it Yes. Like, getting comfortable. Socks. So



19:09

for like, we're gonna have to backtrack a little bit. So I helped deliver. Yeah, why baby sister? When I was 11 in 2002. The year before that. My mom had the first stillborn. 10 days after 9/11



Eve Ettinger 19:35

let's cross. Let's cross check those dates. 10 days after 9/11 I had just finished my first period ever. And May 2002 was when I was present for the delivery of my twin brothers.



Kieryn Darkwater 19:49

Oh God. Okay, so yeah, we're time like timewise these things are lining up. Yeah. Yeah. So



19:56

um, when well Start with the stillborn because that was the precursor. And so we were like sick with the flu during, like the time that mom was having labor. So we went to my grandparents house. And then we came back. And there were like, I went to see my mom. And she was sad and crying and was holding this like, purple, blue baby that was cold and not breathing.



Eve Ettinger 20:27

How long had she been holding it? Was it like days at that point?



Kieryn Darkwater 20:30

No, no, it was like, within like a couple hours. Like it was it was recent she wasn't like frozen. Yeah, no, no, they had like pretty close to immediately from what I understood called the

coroner and whoever it is because like, which this isn't a situation where you bury it.



Eve Ettinger 20:51

They're calling a coroner for a child that they wouldn't have filed a birth certificate for



Kieryn Darkwater 20:55

correct.



Eve Ettinger 20:56

Just make sure you know this.



Kieryn Darkwater 20:59

my thing. My dead siblings have more identification than some of my other siblings do. Like it's it's ridiculous. But that's another sidebar. That's a whole other issue thing. Anyway, anyway,



Eve Ettinger 21:14

if you're a homeschool student who doesn't have a birth certificate, and you need help getting one we can't necessarily help you but get in touch with CRHE because we know how it has gone in the past and we can talk you through the process.



21:26

Yeah, you can at least give you some ideas until you because we know you're out there is pretty common. Yeah, this is this is stuff that keeps me up at night. And so I research it. Anyway. Okay. Yeah. So happens coroner comes. But before like the coroner gets there, we get there and my mom like, yeah, like, we're looking at this picture of like this woman holding a child and like, you can just like, okay, yes, I'll continue. And so my mom really wants me to hold the dead baby. And like I had just learned about the Black Plague. So I was not having any of that shit at all. And my mom was really hurt by it. But I was also sick and also, like, still taking care of the other kids. So I just like noped out of that entirely. And I think my mom is still bothered by it. But, um, I like went and I took a nap. And when I woke up there was like cops all over the house. And they asked me questions. And I was like, I don't know, I just got here I have the flu. Like, I don't I don't know what you want from me. And they're like, it's fine. And so then we had the funeral a couple days later, they give you discounts on dead babies, apparently. PSA,



Eve Ettinger 22:44

I guess. Wait, what's the deadline?



22:47

Like if you have like a dead child, the funeral home or at least the one that we had was newish. So they like gave you a discount on like the cost of burial? Because it was a baby. Yeah. So that's, that's a thing. Yeah. So, you know, a little known fact, but it's a thing. Okay. Um, and my parents used the funeral as a salvation message tool to



Eve Ettinger 23:13

know my friend and my friend did that too. And like, I don't want to disrespect people who are grieving the loss of a miscarriage or want a child like, that's really traumatic and difficult and hard. And, but it's always it's very macabre when it's used as a like, an this child will go to heaven, because they've never had a chance to sin what about you? Yeah. Listen, do you know? Do you know the truth? the message of Jesus Christ?



23:42

Yeah, yeah. So like, that's what my parents did. Like, you know, 12 days after 911. And, like, yeah, it was it was like, and I watched that happen live. Because like, 911 happened live, not the baby. But like, my grandma called him was like, the tower went down and turn on the news. And so like, we watch the news to like, that was all fresh. And then like, it was just so many things stacked. And there's like, I don't know that I like I think there's still some trauma there that I haven't processed yet. That is just like, I don't need to process you right now. It's fine. Yes, correct. So anyway, my mom has a miscarriage and because she's not on birth control, and because she's not in nursing. She gets pregnant three months later, right in like December,



Eve Ettinger 24:30

right. Which can happen even if you're you are pregnant nursing. Yeah. Yeah. As it turns out, and also sometimes happened when you're already pregnant, but that's like, the uncommon. Yeah. That's



24:40


you should see your doctor about that. For sure. Yeah. Anyway. Right. So we had like gone to Boston that year, because that's where my dad's from, or not Boston, but New Bedford. And so we went to Massachusetts and I saw snow for the first time and it was on that trip that my mom realized that she was pregnant. And so when she got back, she was like, Yo, I'm pregnant. And I was like, Shocked. Shocked, I tell you. Because pregnant for so long,



Eve Ettinger 25:09

your mom being pregnant, let's like, make sure everybody understands your mom would


always get really sick. Yep. And you would have to run the household. Yes. So this was like, and

 Kieryn Darkwater 25:18

this was like the third. This was no, this was like the second child into this. So it was still pretty new. But I was like, Oh, we all kind of knew. Yeah, I already knew that. Like, it meant three months with no school. It meant I was doing all the cooking and whatever. So I was just like, okay, but like, because I was 11. Not even

 Eve Ettinger 25:39

just like, cool new sibling, maybe best friend. Not

 Kieryn Darkwater 25:43

even I was more tired. I wasn't I was just like, tired.

 Eve Ettinger 25:47

How long? Have you been tired?

 Kieryn Darkwater 25:50

I don't know. It's an excellent question. If you feel like yes, you should get your thyroid checked. Yeah, that's what I should have my therapy, my doctor check on my other things. Okay. So whatever. Yeah, so she gets pregnant almost immediately. And so then, July 2002. happens. And my mom goes into labor, as we expected. And it's because like, they've done so well. The first two times didn't need any help. The second one died. But that wasn't their fault. That was God's plan. So nothing to worry about here. It's fine.

 Eve Ettinger 26:26

Which we should like really talk

 Kieryn Darkwater 26:28

about that. Yeah, like, yeah, we'll get into that, if you will, we will note God's plan, get there. And so they were like, it's cool. We got this, we'll do it on our own. And so my mom goes into labor. And like my Grammy, my dad's mom lives literally next door to our house, I could have. I would have called her if my parents had led me to come over and help out. And I wanted to, but they didn't want that to happen. So my mom goes into labor and hours and hours pass, and I'm doing my job keeping the kids fed and occupied or like having a Disney movie marathon. And my dad calls me in. And he's like, Hey, I need you to get the scissors and the dental floss

and bring it to me. And I was like, Okay, why isn't that in there already? Yeah. So I go and I grab it, and I bring it in. I'm like, like, Hey, I'm like, I walk in the first time. And I back out immediately. Because what I see trigger warning, if you don't like gory stuff, or Yeah. 10 seconds. All right. 987654321. Okay, so I walk in my mom's bathroom. It my mom, first of all, has like Martha Stewart standards of cleanliness. So her bathroom is white and roses, and it is pristine. But when I walk in there, what I see is white and like bright fucking red blood on the floor. And also like, poop? And like, yeah, of course, you know,



Eve Ettinger 28:14

you shit yourself when you have a baby! Well, yeah, maybe if you don't know this already, you will shoot yourself when you have a baby.



Kieryn Darkwater 28:19

Yeah. And she's like, laying down on the ground by the tub. And there's just like this pool of like, body stuff that like, I was 11 I had no idea what birth was. I had no idea. No one had told me about it. I didn't know what sex was. I didn't know what birth was. I didn't know what any of this shit was. And I walk into what looks like a massacre. You got like the farm kid. Yeah. Yeah. And it was and so like, when I walked in, initially, I ran back out like just instinctively because I'm just like, that is not. I don't know who just died, but somebody died. And that is not what I need right now. And my dad's like, no, I need you to come back here. So I like come in and like my eyes are closed and like trying to hand him the scissors and the floss. He's like, No, I need you to do it. And I just like stared at him for half a second. He was like, I need you to do it. And I looked down and there's this like my dad holding this like, baby that is very soapy looking and reddish and purple. But squirming. So not dead. So that was nice. You know, signs of life. Yeah. It's good. Good score last time was not the thing. Yeah. So I was worried when I saw the purple but there was a scrunchie face and fists. And I was like, alright, it's breathing. It's normal. Yeah, it's just yeah, you just wipe it out? Yeah, yeah. And so you know, but I wasn't. I wasn't super prepared for like gunk that lived there. Like, I had no idea what this was. I had no idea what I was walking into. I had no preparation at all. Like I assumed that birth was like the movies were like There was this blanket and then suddenly a baby and it was fine.



Eve Ettinger 30:05

No if you're just joining us. I know we've got some people on YouTube who are joining us. And if you're just joining us, we're talking about a live birth. So like, it's gonna be



Kieryn Darkwater 30:13

gory. So just Yeah. Yeah, and so I see the like, umbilical cord and it's it's green and gray and goopy and weird looking. And I I'm like, okay, so I do that thing that I do, where I just like, shut down and get the fuck through the moment or like, okay, my body's here. Yeah. My brain just like left, somewhere. I'm



Eve Ettinger 30:38

gonna hang out. I'll see you later.



Kieryn Darkwater 30:40

I was like, Alright, I just have to tie this knot and cut this weird, slimy thing that's half out of my mom's body and happened to this baby's body. It's fine. Whatever. So I tie the knot to anatomy one. Oh, yeah, I cut the thing. blood splatter is on my skirt. That was my favorite skirt. And I was so upset about it. That's not fair. It was so



Eve Ettinger 31:00

easy to get an apron.



Kieryn Darkwater 31:03

They should have done a lot of things honestly. Like, yeah. The apron is the last of the things. But I was so upset.



Eve Ettinger 31:13

this is like the taurus in me like your clothes! who cares about the trauma, your clothes! you know, fast forward to you get your period for the first time. And you're like, oh, no, here we go again. Yeah,



Kieryn Darkwater 32:00

So I was really grumpy about that and looked at my dad like can I go and he said yeah youre done its fine and I ran out and I was horrified and the kids were like what happened and I dont remember anything that happened after that I was so checked out. I remember my mom wanted me to hold the baby and I was like is it clean? is it slimy? I dont. and that traumatized me so much I was scared to go back in when they called me after... so yeah, when I got my period, well, after that event happened. The one thing that I do remember very clearly, was telling myself, I need to not have my period until I'm 13 I can't I need to not at needs to wait, wait, wait, because like, I just couldn't deal with the idea of blood happening to me for like so. Because I was 11. And I needed like, I felt like I needed like, time to get over that. But what happened was no, when I was 12 Instead, I was just doing homework. School, really not homework. It was school. Homework doesn't exist in homeschool. Yeah. And um, so yeah. So I was I was sitting in like a tree. And it was we had this other family living with us at the time, because like, one day between, when I got my period, my mom was pregnant with yet another child. Or almost pregnant. I think she was pregnant.



Eve Ettinger 33:04



We never really knew when these things stopped or started or stopped. My



Kieryn Darkwater 33:07

mom was pregnant for a decade straight. So like, the three months of gap is hard to keep track



Eve Ettinger 33:13

of. For me, it was like eight months. So gaps is a little easier to keep track of but not much.



Kieryn Darkwater 33:18

Yeah. So it was either like between pregnancies or like right, during like the beginning of one. And so I'm we had this woman follow us, like wind up on our doorstep. She was a homeless woman who had like, lost her kids to foster care because she was dealing with drug addiction and alcoholism. And my parents got it in their minds that they were great. At ministering to homeless people. Were you were in a tree when this? Yes, yeah. So they were living with us and she had her kids there. And so her oldest daughter, who was closest to my age was in the tree under me. And I was sitting there and she was like, You're bleeding and I was like, what? And she like points to my pants. And I looked down, and I was just like, but I don't feel anything. Because I was like, I didn't know what happened. I didn't know what was going on. I didn't do any yeah, like I didn't sit on anything. I didn't I didn't like scrape myself I like I was just wearing and I was wearing like light pink pants are my favorite pants. I'm just so I have like this terrible. I cannot wear light things anymore. I am too traumatized.



Eve Ettinger 34:28

Like light color khaki pants and I bled through them at like youth group. Yeah, like the youth group I was allowed to go to is different from the youth group. I kept talking about not being allowed to go to there was one that was like a parents and children meeting was like once a month at church. Yes. Like at one of those meetings and I'd like bled through these like white corduroy pants. Yeah, great time. Yeah, I



Kieryn Darkwater 34:47

can't I can't like I don't even have that anymore. And I still can't get myself to just like, they will just happen



Eve Ettinger 34:54

I don't wear light clothes because of that. And also because of my dad's like weird white shirt thing where he was like, Don't wear white shirts, please. immodest when I was like, why? And he's like, what if it gets wet? And I was just like, I don't get this. This is kind of fetish. Yeah.



Kieryn Darkwater 35:06

Why? Anyway, anyway, so yeah, I looked down here,



Eve Ettinger 35:12

you you got you were very traumatized about



Kieryn Darkwater 35:16

I was, yeah, I was already traumatized about the birth, which I knew had something to do with periods. And I didn't know entirely the relationship, but I knew that periods equaled blood, and also that equal blood, and also babies came after you started getting your period. And periods meant you could have babies. And in fact, as soon as I went into the house, I was like, Oh, my God, Mom, I didn't say, Oh, my God. I said, Mom, what's happening? Am I dying. I don't know, I just started bleeding. And I don't know what's happening. And she was like, Oh, my God, you're getting your period. Oh, my god. That's so cool. So I like, but you already knew what periods were? Well, I knew I knew, like the concept of period, like people had told me of periods I'd heard but I just didn't know. I didn't know that it meant bleeding out of your vagina, being in pain. I didn't know that was part of it.



Eve Ettinger 36:09

My mom never like really had like bad periods. So when I started getting cramps, like, she was like, Oh, you're faking it? Like I don't understand what's going on. Like she's later, like, come around. And yeah, I'm so sorry. I was a horrible person. But like, yeah, yeah. Now having things explained to you is really confusing.



Kieryn Darkwater 36:28

Yeah. Yeah. So I like I didn't like I'd heard people talk about periods. And I knew they were really I knew after you had your period, you could get pregnant. And I'd already seen what birth looks like, and I was having none of that shit. I was like, No, I don't want that to happen. And so the first thing that my mom tells me when I'm telling her terrified, worried that I'm dying, because like, I'm bleeding from my crotch, and I have no idea why. She's like, Oh, my God, you have your period, you can have babies now. Isn't that so exciting. And I like, I don't know, I don't know what happened. All I remember, is being facedown on her bed sobbing while she was on the phone calling every fucking relative we had like to tell them I was on my fucking period. My daughter's a woman. That was exactly what she was saying. And I was just curled up into a ball like mortified and horrified and sobbing, because I knew that meant that like, that thing that I saw a year ago could happen to me. And there was no way I could stop it. And I felt so betrayed. And I hated myself from that day forward. And I like I hated my uterus so much from that day forward. And it was like at that moment in time that I was like, No, I don't want this.



Eve Ettinger 37:42

so I don't want to circle on the hysterectomy story. This is why this



Kieryn Darkwater 37:46

is why big deal. This is why it was a big deal. This is why I'm getting brackets tattooed on my abdomen this summer



Eve Ettinger 37:52

Nice. Nice. Blank Space. Very.



Kieryn Darkwater 37:54

Yeah. So that that so yes, it did impact me in the fact that I got the entire shit removed.



Eve Ettinger 38:00

Would you like if you had a partner who had kids? Or if like your partner wanted to like have to adopt kids? Would you be into



Kieryn Darkwater 38:08

that? Yeah. See, that's the thing. I'm actually like, I've come a long way. And then I'm okay with that now, like I would be, I realized a couple years ago, because this is like the difference



Eve Ettinger 38:18

between being willing to be pregnant. Yeah. And being willing to be a parent are totally different. Yeah.



38:24

And I realized that around the time I started taking testosterone a little bit before that I had gotten to the point where like, it wasn't raising kids that I was afraid of, because I'm fine at that. I've done it for seven kids, like, you know, I can handle it. It was that I couldn't deal with being pregnant. And like, I just like, that couldn't be a thing. And like, as soon as I had my hysto I realized that like, I would be okay co parenting with somebody, as long as I was not the person who was primarily responsible. Like, as long as it was doing it with someone in partnership. It was not just me like it wasn't my sibling. Right?



Eve Ettinger 39:06

See, that's it. That's the thing that gets me. I'm now okay with that concept of doing it alone. But for a long time, it was like, I can't do it with someone who's going to flake. I would rather do it alone or with a full on partner, rather than having someone who's like right half assing Yeah,



Kieryn Darkwater 39:23

yeah. Yeah, that's what's important for me is like I would I would be open to children and sort of like, I still see my siblings as my kids honestly. And I am so much of my energy and like long term goals involve being able to, like have a savings account for them for if they want to start school and like be able to like help them get through the hurdles of adulthood that they're gonna have to face. Basically, continue being a parent, like I have been my entire life for my siblings because I love them. This



Eve Ettinger 39:58

is part of why I'm so paralyzed about like Not knowing what I want to do after graduation is because I feel obligated to go back to Richmond and like be available for my siblings. Yeah. But that wouldn't necessarily be a great choice for me. No. And so that's like, there's this deep, deep tension of like, I feel survivor guilt like fundamentally comes down to them survivor guilt. It's not just it's not necessarily parenting. Yeah, wanting to parent, although it comes out that way. It's a it's a sense of survivor guilt of like, I need to be available to like, make sure you get out. Yeah, so for me, the idea of kids for a long time was really, truly terrifying. I used to have recurring nightmares.



Kieryn Darkwater 40:42

Yes.



Eve Ettinger 40:44

I was never afraid of the pregnancy and birth stuff so much. i My mom always had really easy births. My mom's a nurse. And so she would have them in the hospital where she'd be like, kind of strong arming the hospital, the doctors and everyone into like letting her have a home birth in the hospital. And she would set it up really well. And it was always really impressive to me how she did that. And I was like, I can do that. There's like, and like these bursts went well for her. And she was like, recovered. Okay, she always had bad postpartum depression, but there are meds for that. So I was like, okay, I can do this. But the parenting stuff, watching my mom, flounder with it, like having my dad be checked out, having my dad be like, completely self absorbed in his own stuff, like, made me really scared. And so when I got married, I was like, I'm open to the idea of having kids. I'm open to the idea of homeschooling on a case by case basis. But I don't want to do it, either of those things just for the sake of doing right. And so I was asked for a break for like a while. He was like, I just need to like, few years off i



Kieryn Darkwater 41:51

told people 10. And then I got my histo on the ninth year. it was so good yeah,



Eve Ettinger 41:58

Yeah, you don't do that? No I told people five. So I wanted five years to like, do my own stuff and think and like figure it out. I think it was like three to five or something like that. But it was just like, you know, exhusband was like, yes, you really want kids but like, give me a little bit of a break. I want to just like work a little bit. I want to like, cool my jets. I want to figure out who I am and what I'm doing what I want to do. And I always thought like, I wanted to have a career. And so he was all like, sure I'll be a stay at home dad, this is great. And I was like, okay, cool. But like if you're a stay at home dad, I don't necessarily want to have you being the one homeschooling them. For a lot of reasons, which I won't get into, but good reasons. And he was like, adamant that he wanted to homeschool. And I was thinking No, we have to do something because I don't want you responsible for their everything. I don't think I didn't think you could do it. I basically didn't. Yeah, that one, he had the patience to do it. And to that he would be able to do it thoroughly without like dropping the ball on something completely. Right. And so that's not fair. That's not fair. And I didn't want him to be overwhelmed. So I just like, like, I don't want kids to be in a situation where this person is getting irritated, and then irate and then yelling at you or whatever. And he didn't really yell. But he was vicious in other ways. So I just didn't really want to get into it. So we had a couple of pregnancy scares, and he's aggressively pro life. To the point where I mentioned this before, like our anniversary was on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Oh, yeah, I didn't realize really until our first anniversary when he wanted to celebrate on a different day. And it was like, because he wanted to participate in the walk for life. And I was like, so um, who Yeah, so I believe I was like, pro life and but also like, I believe in access to abortion, like, I think that's a way to be more pro life. Yeah. And he didn't believe that. So he was very much like March for Life. Like all that stuff, he would purchase the abortion clinic in our state. And anyway. So when we had pregnancy scares, it would be like, I missed a pill. And, or to when we had sex, and he would be like, Well, I don't want you to go back on the pill until you have your period so that we know that you're not pregnant, because he still believed that the pill could be an abortifacient. Oh my God. And so I would have to go off the pill, which is massive hormone changes. for six weeks, because that's how long it would take for my body to clean out. Yeah. And I would have a period and then we'd be fine. But for those six weeks, I'd be like, having nightmares



Kieryn Darkwater 44:43

take a pregnancy test.



Eve Ettinger 44:44

Well, I would but then like would sometimes be false positives because they're like, hormones and yeah, so like, I just like never really knew and he was so picky about it. And I was I was just trying to compromise I'm always willing to comp reminds me, he had good reasons. And I respect them. And I disagreed with them. But I was willing to work with it. But like it was just very stressful because I would end up having nightmares the entire time. Yeah, about like,

watching him take care of a kid and mistreat it. Yeah. And I And, or, or like, leaving me and taking the kid or something. And so I just like was just like, a ball of stress for the six weeks. Which now I'm thinking about I'm like, wondering, like, how that coincides was like, Where have all of our big fights ended up like it? Yeah, like, because he was doing that, to me. Anyway, um, you know, that's, that's a kind of abuse, in and of itself, medical abuse of a kind. Um, and so I was very relieved when we were getting divorced and not having kids where we didn't have to, like, fight over custody or parenting styles or anything. But one of the things that was really upsetting to me was he, like, started pushing, like when things got bad. And he kept pushing on me saying that, like, I had deceived him and said that I didn't want kids. Or they told him I wanted kids when I didn't. And I said, No, I just, I want kids or I am okay with the idea of having kids. But I really don't want to have kids in a situation where I don't feel comfortable with the other person co parenting and how they're co parenting. And I don't know how it feels like you where you're at right now. Maybe let's wait, maybe you'll grow it like maybe I'll feel better. But I really, I just didn't feel good about it. And part of that had to do with how he treated our cat, who I still have. There'll be times when she would be like very playful, and she'd be like, clawing at him because it gets to because he'd be like, he'd rile her up. She'd be like, really, like, responsive and like playful and aggressive. And like, she'd scratch him and he backhand her into the wall. So I'm like, well, like five or six feet up and like, slide down. And I'd be like, What the fuck did you just do? And he'd be like stargazing me out or something, you know. And I'd be like, you know, she hurt me. So I have to make sure she knew fast. And I'm like, no, no, so I was like, I can't have this. I can't have kids with this person. Yeah, when I saw that happen, I was like, I can't have kids with this person. So I this is a lot more transparent than I've ever been. So I I didn't have kids with him. And our last big fight was we'd been separated for like three or four months. He'd like slept with someone else was discontent. I wasn't sure if being divorced was what he really wanted. But he thought he was what he wanted. When he then there was this like really inspirational Mother's Day sermon at our church. And so I drove him. I've seen him at my in laws house. Yeah, we're still like, figuring shit out. I was in their guest room. And so I drive him to from church where we both heard this, this really like, inspiring sermon. According to him, I didn't find it particularly moving. We drive back to his folks why so he can celebrate Mother's Day with his his mom, who was wonderful, and I love her. And, and I'm dropping him off, and I'm not going to participate in the celebration. I'm gonna let them have their family time. And he's like, so, you know, like that sermon was really inspiring. I've been thinking about this. And I realized that I think I could love you if you're a mom.



Kieryn Darkwater 48:36

Oh, my God.



Eve Ettinger 48:38

And I'm like, immediately my first thought was, and they didn't say this, but it was like, Yeah, because all you want is me to be your mom. Like,



Kieryn Darkwater 48:46

yeah.



Eve Ettinger 48:47

And I was like, I was like, Oh, hell no. And he was like, Don't be like that. And I was like, Excuse me, like, what? This is a trope. I'm not doing this. Yeah. And he was like, what do you do be like that, and he get up, gets out and slams the door and like, walks inside. And that was like, that was like our last night. And I was just like, I dodged a bullet. Yeah, that was my next I was like, Oh, my God editable. And I went home and I got some like whiskey at the liquor store and went, and



Kieryn Darkwater 49:14

yeah, that was like, I feel like I vaguely remember that.



Eve Ettinger 49:18

It was a day it was a day. And so I'm really relieved that like, kids with him. Now I kept telling myself after that, like, because of climate change because of trauma. Because of all this stuff. I didn't feel like I could be a good parent. I don't feel like this is a good world to bring kids into. And then I dated someone who had two little kids who I still really enjoy and lived with a host family that had a little kid in Peace Corps and taught and I was able to start prying apart though, like the threads of how much I love kids and how much that responsibility for my siblings traumatize me and like realizing I can teach and not take on too much responsibility, and that feels good. And this is nice. And I can interact with other people's kids and really have good connection with them. And I feel like I'm trying to parent them. And then realizing like, Oh, I could, like, be a stepparent that could work because I was this guy, and I were pretty serious. And so I had that like whole like, like, realization of like, Oh, I think I could do step parenting. And then I was like, I think I could do the whole thing. Yeah. And then there's a whole other story here. But like, there's some reason for me to think have thought this fall about possibly taking on someone else's kid adopting it. And I like had like a couple weeks of like thinking through the whole thing and realizing like, I could single parent, I could only have a kid on my own. And I feel good about that. And the reason I feel good about that is because of getting Blanche this summer. This is my puppy. She's so she's so good. And



Kieryn Darkwater 51:01

you can sometimes hear her on the podcast. Yeah, she



Eve Ettinger 51:03

she like wanders around. And like when I'm in recording, she's always like, Mom, you're not paying enough attention. She goes into the bathroom trashcan and pulls out like tissues are face wipes



Kieryn Darkwater 51:13

Aaron has to edit out so much. It's so beautiful



Eve Ettinger 51:16

she shreds them under the desk while I record, of course, in like, I have like confetti everywhere. But Blanche like watching her and like training her and working with her and realizing I don't have to react with anger. I don't have to hit her. She and I can just learn to work together to pay attention to her signals. And it's all about better communication. And I haven't abused the stock. And I was like, I was like such a like, basic thing. But I was legitimately like kind of surprised that I was able to like, not do it, because I guess I pathologized myself and assumed that because they come from this abusive place, right? But I would just recycle it and reuse it. And it would just all come out when I had a kid. And so I wasn't going to do that. And now I feel like okay, I didn't do that to the dog. Yeah, so I can do it with a kid. Exactly. And I can you know, I don't think I'm ready yet my career's not in a place where you can do that I really couldn't financially stably, you know, be stable for that. But hey, you know what? I've done enough. I've done enough therapy now. I think I could have kids. Yeah. And I'm okay with that. And I also feel like if I don't have kids, I'll be alright. Yeah. So I feel very ambivalent, but we're hopeful about



Kieryn Darkwater 52:29

it. Yeah. Yeah. Like having kids is not really a goal that like, I feel like I need like, I don't feel like I need to have kids because I feel like I have them. But right exactly the same time, like, parenting doesn't terrify me anymore, like it used to. And it took me about like, six years of like, working on myself and deconstructing everything and all of my feelings and eventually, like, honestly, it, it really went away with the hysto because I was able to have one of those nightmares about being pregnant and realize in the dream, I do not have the organs for it. And then everything was fine. I was like, Oh, now it's fine. Okay, I can just, it's fine. Like, I'm good with kids, because I treat them like human beings because they are. Like, so it's fine. I would be I would be fine co parenting, and I would be fine doing that. I just can't carry it and I can't



Eve Ettinger 53:27

you cantb leed out in the bathroom.



Kieryn Darkwater 53:30

I can't bleed out. It's so nice. I mean, I can bleed out but it's not that way. Right actually dying and not like this is normal.



Eve Ettinger 53:39

Hey, you know what? People actually die in childbirth take it seriously?



Kieryn Darkwater 53:43

Oh, my God, no, my mom worshipped a woman who that happened to almost twice and like she's still alive as far as I know. But like she hemorrhaged. And my mom was like, Oh my God, she's so amazing in such a godly women. And I was like, if you do that I will murder you. Like, you cannot. Please do not idolize someone who was like, No, it's fine. I'll just have more kids after the doctor telling the next one could kill me. And I'm like, no, stop.



Eve Ettinger 54:10

If you're doing that bad. Faith.



Kieryn Darkwater 54:13

Stop. It's a Deathwish that



Eve Ettinger 54:15

God has already told you not to do it. Why didn't you listen? Oh my god. It's like the story of like, the man who's like in a flood and he's like, climbs up on the roof. And he's like, God saved me. And he's like, praying. I'm like, a man and boat comes by and he's like, Hey, you want to get in? He's like, No, God's gonna save me. And like, another way to do that kind of another man in a boat comes by and he's like, No, it's okay. You keep going. God will save me and a guy in a helicopter comes by and he's like, No, it's okay. God will save we and then he dies and gets to heaven and gods like, What the fuck is that? I sent three things.



Kieryn Darkwater 54:52

All of those all of those opportunities. If you're



Eve Ettinger 54:56

you know, if your doctor is like, Hey, show you shouldn't have any more kids. Okay? God will me.



Kieryn Darkwater 55:02

Yeah. So my mom looks at her as like an example. And like, she's a nice kind woman, but like, Oh my God, no, please, that's not a moral pattern. No, no. And like, this is one of those things that I keep coming back to in therapy when I'm like, my mom is suicidal. Or was like, my mom did not want to live. My mom has untreated depression.



Eve Ettinger 55:22



Eve Ettinger 55:25

your mom wanted to die in childbirth, so she could be a saint. Yeah, yeah.



Kieryn Darkwater 55:27

Yeah, you can't see me. But I'm nodding. Yes, this is this is how this is the conclusion that I've kind of come to especially because my parents are the very kind of end times are the best. We're just living to die kind of people. There's so much great because it's just like, glorifying death



Eve Ettinger 55:43

You like tomorrow?



Kieryn Darkwater 55:44

Yeah. Yeah, my parents are like, no, like, we shouldn't try to be happy, we should be miserable. Because like, that makes us more holy. And we should be living for the kingdom of God and not this earth. And I'm like,



Eve Ettinger 55:54

so let's like segue from that. Yeah, being happy being part of the kingdom of heaven. Yeah. We're gonna record this episode in two parts, because this is pretty long. This is long. So if you're watching this live, you're gonna get to see all the



Kieryn Darkwater 56:06

episodes. All right. Thanks for listening.



Eve Ettinger 56:09

Thanks for listening. Talk to you next time. Bye bye.