

Elizabeth Banks

What is Up Daddy Gang It is your founding father Alex Cooper with Elizabeth Banks Welcome to Call Daddy Thank you You are an actress writer producer director You've starred in movies such as the Hunger Games 40 Year Old Virgin One of my personal favorites Pitch Perfect Another one of my personal favorites and many more And you're in the wine business OK Your team reached out and was like are you down to drink And I was like am I down to drink Give me an excuse to drink during the day on a Wednesday I'm game I'm ready So we have your wine here It's called Archer What are you starting with I started with so and then I think we have this is the Malbec Yeah Yeah So I like the Malbec chilled It's amazing Would you consider yourself a smaller Uh No in fact one of the reasons I liked that this Archer Rose was canned wine was that I kind of feel a little wine shamed You know what I mean I'm a grown ass woman but like I don't know I don't I can't learn everything about wine It's just not my thing But I also know what I like and this is I mean I love salmon who's like very cool and chill and telling me what's good and like I love that vibe But I really when I go to shop for wine I'm like I don't know See this is what I didn't know First of all Cheers Cheers Let's have a taste Oh it's good It's yummy I there's something about drinking wine in a can that's like bringing me back to life You're on the beach in your mind I'm already on the beach I'm like in Italy Yes Yes I'm in Marbella Spain My feet are in the sand growing up before you were of age at 21 What what was your parents' relationship to allowing or not allowing you to drink my high school graduation My dad like bought a you know a couple of cases of beer He was like you can't you're 18 Like you can't This is weird But he was like in the Navy at 18 You know what I mean Ok So they were pretty chill They were pretty chill Yeah I was a little bit of a goody two shoes in high school So I was somewhat weirdly responsible Well I feel like because we're going to get that because I know you went to an Ivy League school So I was wondering like did you spend all of your high school time Like preparing to try to get to college or did it come naturally for you I loved school II I love learning And um so school is not like overly stressful for me To me it was about getting out of my small town and I super grateful for where I grew up I love Pittsville Mass shout out western Massachusetts But I had city blood from birth and I just knew I was meant to go live in a city somewhere Somehow I was not meant to like party with kegs in the woods while it was raining on me Uh you know off of Georgia's farm road or whatever So to me

the whole situation in high school was about getting like what's the best school I can get into How can I get out of here How can I make real money in my life How can I you know that was I grew up working class and my parents wanted more for me and I wanted more for me I was ambitious I can relate to that because I'm from Pennsylvania What was the most challenging aspect of adjusting to going to a school like U Penn It was passing frankly as somebody who like belonged there Um They have programs now for this in college which they didn't have when I was there which is basically like socioeconomically to be on scholarship and grants and all that which is how I went to Penn I worked the entire time I never went on spring break I never went anywhere I stayed at school and worked I did not go I worked all summer So that was the part of it that for me you know I was there living and and hanging out with and going to class with people who just never have to worry about that stuff You know they were not worried about a winter coat with a hole in it and I was like fuck my winter coat has a hole in it This is my coat and let me sew this myself You know like oh I had to miss shifts because I had to you know study I I literally was choosing between like a shift at work or studying for a test And it's like all right well I got to maintain this grade point average so I can stay at this school And so ok now I've missed a shift So now we're not gonna we're going to have bagels this week at every meal you know but when you look back like do you feel like that also propelled you to a different level for yourself I I don't look it's just it was my experience I really only try to speak for myself at this point You know I that was my experience I had to work a lot I'd missed out on a lot of things but of course it makes you a person who is respectful of the dignity of work Like like true you know I see I was a chambermaid in a bed and breakfast and like don't flush condoms down toilets assholes Stop it Such a good like PS A we don't need the condoms in the toilet That's not where they go they don't go down there That's not what you do And it's people like me that have to clean that up So you know I I just have like that mentality now of of really appreciating work you know the the dignity of work and people just doing their job so they can go home to their families Like you know when did you realize you wanted to be an actress It was pretty late I it's just not something anybody where I'm from dreams about and I loved doing it It provided me a real sense of pride and self worth and I felt good at it I really liked entertaining people and I made people laugh early in my career and it just was very um addicting um that all being said I did not go to school to be an actor at all The path was like I couldn't move at 22 to New York and become

an actor because I had no idea how to do that of course And so instead I just kept going to school because I knew how to do that Like I know this I can figure out and honestly it worked out really well for me I did my showcase and I got an agent and I got offers and I was like in a commercial like a month later And then that was that and I started paying off my student loans and here I am I love that story just because I feel like something I've been talking about recently is like a lot of people will write in being like I feel like I'm on campus and everyone knows what they want to major in and what do they want to do for a living And I'm like I have no fucking idea Like I am like just as lost as the person to So I think it's nice to sometimes hear people be like yeah I didn't like grow up and from like five was like I'm going to be an actress and I'm totally it fine if that's what you are like envisioning for yourself But it is nice to hear sometimes people who are so successful like you are to be like yeah no I didn't have it all figured out until like after college almost I started to lean into like what do I want to do Which I appreciate you I mean you're a podcast one of the best How did you come to this I had literally no idea I wanted to podcast I wanted to do like you you like this is going to be my job you know what I mean Are you kidding me I didn't even know podcasting was a thing I would consider it like radio and I never wanted to be like a radio personality if anything I wanted to produce and direct TV or film and then it just like came about I think sometimes it comes off like we've all got our shit together It's not the case It's really not And I think it's helpful I loved doing it I've always loved doing it but I did not consider it a realistic dream to have you know it just was my mindset at the time was not big enough And now looking back and I tell people this all the time like dream bigger dream bigger dream bigger like like it might not happen tomorrow but like put put put something on the map of your life like farther out and like if you work towards it you probably do it I completely agree Or you're going to get some version of it that you're going to get a version of it That's exactly right You're at least going you don't have to know exactly what you want to do I tell it's interesting I have a my young sons and when if you ask them right now um what do you want to be when you grow up They're like I'm 11 Like you know I don't they don't have a dream job They have a dream life and we talk about this a lot Like what does that look like You know and my son will say because he's very wise I hope I'm doing a job that I enjoy and I go yeah that would be nice And I hope I have enough time to spend with my family Yeah that would be good And um and I hope I stay connected to the friends I'm making right now And I'm like yeah I think

that I think that's a really good recipe for a happy life is most of us I know that actually is so no that's so cute because I feel like when you're that young sometimes we need to listen to the youth because they're like so unscathed by the world Like this is what we and we're like shit that is what we should be doing But also I'm trying to teach him not to dream about work And I think about that for me like in high school when you asked about that it was the vision of my life was like I'm living in a city Do you know what I mean Like I make enough money that I don't worry about paying the bills That was the dream That was what I was thinking about You know that's what I was putting on the map I think that's such a good bit of advice It's like you don't have to have the exact thing in mind but have at least one thing that you know you want for yourself and be employable ok You can't make money if you don't create employability for yourself And the more specific you can be the more money you can make in life Ok I mean I truly think there's actually a simple formula to this Um So the more specialized you get right that's how you end up like actually like earning but in the beginning just think about what makes me attractive to employers what brings the money to people And it's like broad mindset Like I can do anything be confident you know think work work hard any job you're doing Like when I was cleaning those toilets in the bed and breakfast you better believe they were spotless you know take pride in what you're doing no matter what it is Learn that skill set early Don't be like oh I got to say guess what you're there you took the job you're cashing the check show up It's such good advice And I think it's like standing out something I think like I always was like mom stop making me like put this on my resume or write this and she's like I promise you like and now that I would be hiring people I now see it I'm like people just write in these generic things and I'm like do something wild to stand out That's my piece of advice is like just send something that maybe you think is like even if it's a little ballsy you're gonna catch people's attention Let's talk about a little bit of romance Ok You met your husband the first night of college What do you remember about that night Can you explain to us what happened The main thing I remember is that he was not that interested in me He wouldn't say otherwise but he was he was pursuing me a little bit I was pursuing him for sure And um and he was also pursuing this really cute girl named Kate I can say a girl because we were 18 at the time who was like a nursing student and had a twin sister and they were super cute and she had like a sexy deep voice I remember Kate Hi Kate If you're out there listening Um anyway I met so I went to school I knew one person from school I hope she's listening to and

her brother her name is Penny Feldstein I met her in Massachusetts before I went to Penn which is in Philadelphia So I show up in Philadelphia on campus and she had said my brother goes to the school So when you get there call me because he'll take us around whatever So I get there I call Penny Uh and she's like my brother's fraternity is having a party tonight So I went to her room and we walked up to the frat house together I met her brother Mark Feldstein and um the second person I met was he happened to be standing with my now husband Yeah And the vibes were like chill but he wasn't like a the were neither one of us we were you know it was like September 6th I know exactly what it was But um September 6 it was like 100 degrees still in Philly So everyone was like I was in like cut off jean shorts I mean we were all half naked and he was really cut He had a really great body and he was tan because it was the end of summer looking great It was shiny happy people everywhere and it was like college I was like hell yeah I'm here but it's such a good story and I'm sure it's like you're asked about it probably in every interview because it is such like a a cute way to now be like 30 years later I'm still married to the same man but it's a very cute story How quickly did things like progress between the two of you You're married We got lucky you know I'm not like I believe in fate person particularly but I do think you know it's almost like when you if you see something you're made aware of something and suddenly you see it everywhere I was made aware of him and then I kind of felt like I saw him everywhere for the next few days So I met him we hung out for you know not that long That night I tried to give him my number He was like I don't have a phone which was true He just hadn't hooked up his phone yet But I was like if you don't want my number dude like you can just say so don't pretend you have no ability to ever figure out how to call me Like like like there are phones in the world you might not have you can find a phone if you care So that was a fun laugh And he didn't call me because he didn't he didn't have a phone He was like oh so he can Um And then the next night I saw him again with like a totally different group of people and then he started rushing a guy who lived on my floor because he was older than me And um so I happened to literally walked in my hallway and he was standing there And so you know it was just like little things where I was like wait why do we keep seeing each other And we were had a great energy between us from jump We were very attracted to each other And then he asked me out on a date and we went on like the greatest date of my life Um You know we were under age and we went to a jazz club in Philadelphia I'm from I'm from like

a little town We have like three bars and they're all they're all like roadhouses basically Um So going to a fancy jazz club this woman sang I remember she sang all the classics and sang you know what a wonderful world And like walked the room with the microphone and sang at our table and we drank beautiful old fashions out of beautiful crystal glasses And then he he said to the taxi driver he's like I just need two back And I was like oh my God he knows how to like tip He's so fancy I was blown away You're like ok I guess we can date now you know how to work it It's gonna be great And then the rest is history and we're still here Yeah So long later having a relationship in college how what was like the best part of that and the worst part of that because there can be pros and cons to having it like immediately starting freshman year and through I mean the big pro is you don't need to muck around figure out who the fuck what you're doing Who cares about you What Oh my God I can't even imagine now with the texting and the ghosting and oh my God it's not great It's not great Oh it's not good The worst I had a great relationship in high school too So that really prepared me I had a great boyfriend and you know I went to college being like I'm here I wanted to get laid and sew my oats and have fun That was really it And I happened to meet turns out I'm a serial monogamist I didn't know I didn't realize I school to college I just honed in on one and that was stay together for 30 years But but where was he from Portland Oregon Ok So you guys graduate I think there's so many people that write into me and are like I'm graduating college I have a partner What the hell do we do We have to move to different States or should we stay together Like what happened with that dynamic And how did you guys make it work I mean he made it work honestly he made really uh he made decisions that were about us staying together I mean we both did eventually do that but I you know he was not he left school not really knowing what he wanted to do with his life Um Again very common you know took some great jobs and had a lot of great opportunities but I was not living his passion So like we both did things that were for us You know we didn't try to like merge our lives when we were 23 Like that's crazy crazy You don't need to do that but you do need to be honest I think about like are we doing this together or not And of course back then too I was crazy and emotional and like what is this and is this forever and not and whatever I questioned all that too I didn't really know I really liked being with him and we were we never broke up It's not like I was like I can't wait to date other people I was not really interested in that It was more about I want to do things for myself And am I bringing him along Is he going to come or what's

happening And the answer to that was like he came he said yes I'm going to come See that's what I wanted to hear because I'm like ok there had to be a moment where one of you is like what are we doing Because if you never broke up I was going to say like was there ever a moment that you had a freak out of like is this the one am I going to look back and look at it Like ok I we didn't have major freakouts but I think it was more about is our life going to keep going together or is it going to die Is it going to you know are we going are we on the same path or are we going to diverge And that that's a question that everyone has to figure out you know you can't you can't force those things to happen I wanted to I wanted to follow my dreams and be my own person and make sure I always had my own sense of security I didn't need him to do things And I know he felt the same way he wanted to feel like he was his own man his own person all of those things Like we even though we have this we have this identity now more than ever that we totally together we needed to feel as young people that we had our individuality and that we were our own people before we could like join join up with each other Right And that that was what we were That's the balance we were trying to do So we spend a lot of time apart from each other We still do I'm a makes the heart grow fonder person Like I don't mind being A II I mean I mind being away It's not the greatest but it always makes me appreciate what I have at home And that has been true for our entire lives Like I've always had to travel for work and he's always had to come visit our we've always come back together and the coming back together has always been awesome I think that's something that's very underrated is like using moments apart that actually make you way closer and stronger because you miss them and you want to be with them and we end up being like on the phone for like three hours a night where it's in high school again You know like it's cute It's cute That's what I was going to ask you I'm like ok 30 years of marriage How do you keep the passion alive How do you keep it interesting Give us the secret You know It's funny because most people ask how do you stay together for that long People are not actually interested in those questions That's so funny because most people are like how do you how do you like commit to someone and then not fuck it up They're like Elizabeth How are you still the same person They're like switching and meanwhile I'm like if you choose well and you stay and you keep recommitting to it It's actually not that hard Um The hardest like keep I'm always like don't cheat Yeah that's the the big like what do most people break up over cheating That's what most people break up over Let's be clear That's it Is there a

conversation you guys had That was like a very specific conversation about that Like when you got married or something I mean I remember we went to we were in San Francisco we went to a restaurant we were probably like 26 Then you know we had some drinks and we got a little drunk and it was more of just like look if anything's happened if you've flirted if this has gone on I really don't care Let's not care about anything that happened in the past Let's just talk about what the future looks like for us Like are we are we doing this Are we saying like it's me and you and we're going forward and we said yes And I remember kind of coming to the conclusion I was like oh ok So eventually I'm going to marry him and we're going to have kids we're going to make a family together and that kind of came out of out of a conversation that was like whatever's ever happened let's not care because we were babies and you it's fine We weren't meant you know we didn't know that we were going to be committed But now tonight we're kind of in a place where we know we're going to let it So let's kind of acknowledge it and kind of say like all right well then let's let's be real about this Let's be let's commit I appreciate that because I think there's a lot of people that can get scared to bring it up if they don't know where their partners at And it's a very scary feeling when I've had women write in being like I know like I'm ready for the next step and he has never brought it up And I'm like you have to have the conversation because what are you going to do Sit around for a couple more years and then you finally ask him and he's like oh no I'm out Well also I think it's ok Look people are afraid of the answer It's fear based So because you're putting yourself out there and you don't want to hear that they don't want to do it But I think often what happens is by the way we didn't get married at 26 There was multiple years went by after that before we actually married each other It was more just like let's start making decisions that will lead us to the same place which is we want to get married and start a family And that was it by the way I have I mean I have friends family that are don't want to get married but are like I want to move to L A Do you want to come with me Are we going to commit to this life together It's the same idea you know like we were living together So it's like totally that's why I was interested Like you didn't get married right away How much open communication did you guys have about like we want to get married When are we getting engaged Because I think sometimes like when I hear you wouldn't talk at all Well meaning once we were like once I knew we were going to get married eventually I kind of had that in the back of my but I was like there was no rush I wasn't in a hurry but my only hurry was literally I'm

a little traditional I didn't want to accidentally get pregnant before I was married Was it That was it I was like oh I'm going to feel really bad if you wanted to do it I wanted to be traditional about it I just thought we've been together since we were 18 and I by the way this is no judgment Anyone who has a kid and then gets married I don't really care what anyone does I'm just telling you that for me I'm a little traditional I wanted to be married before I had kids Were you surprised when he proposed Yes he surprised me because he was like fuck you You're a know it all I didn't want you to know and he knows me really well And he wanted to create a scenario where he he did it though It was him it was not he's a little traditional too That's why we work together Do you know what I mean I think he called my dad and the whole thing And so it was like he went with my good friend to buy a ring and got her advice and like you know he did all the work and I think and he deserves all the credit for it because I was kind of like to do like I was working I knew you know we'll figure it out eventually blah blah blah And then he was like no we're doing it now and I was like oh shit All right we're doing it Can you share how he did it Oh it's not that crazy I was working on this movie Sea Biscuit Um I traveled all around for it and I was in Kentucky We were shooting a sequence at Kenland and he came to visit in Kentucky He was in business school at UCL A at the time getting his MB A And um so I honestly thought he wasn't going to do anything until he had graduated You know what I mean I didn't think he was really ready to get married And um he showed up we went we went tailgating So there's a big Kentucky Louisiana football game We love sports So um and I was with these world class jockeys in Kentucky where jockeys are literally the celebrities of Kentucky right So we were these big time jockeys Hall of Famers and they were like we're going to go you know they have a suite at the thing What are all these rich horse people And um so we went we started drinking bourbon because it's Kentucky at 11 a.m. We were off our asses by the end of the game the game was blow out amazing They shot off fireworks like the game was over and Kentucky won and then Louisiana ran a touchdown into the end zone and actually won the game So it was like this crazy ending and it was like it's one of these top 10 all time like ESPN moments blah blah blah So we go back to the hotel after this We're done Like I'm done and we're taking a nap and I wake up and I'm like let's just get a stick to the room and like you know hang out like we're already kind of he's like no we are going to dinner you get this big plan And he had asked like what's the best steakhouse in Kentucky or whatever it's called Malone's I don't know if it's

still there It was in a shout out to Malone's That's where I got engaged So we go to Malone's we have a driver He has it all arranged through the concierge We go to Malone's and it is a party because Louisiana has won and all these people are there for the game and they're all wearing their Mardi Gras beads and it's purple everywhere and there's a magician walking around doing stuff And my husband is kind of horrified He's like oh shit he was wanting like Muso and Franks He wanted a classic like you know like a red velvet banquet right Kind of a situation where we were going to eat a medium Rae and have martinis and he was going to ask me to marry him and it was going to be great Instead we are in a party I mean it is a massive party there and we're hungover because we've already been drinking all day So I I think I ordered a ginger ale because I was like I'm going to die and you know so we were there for like 2.5 hours He just wouldn't let the dinner end He kept ordering things He wasn't asking me And honestly he just wanted he didn't want to do it in front of a table full of strangers and he did not want to do it in front of a fucking magician I think we could do it Now I feel like that's not as romantic as it doesn't even sound romantic No it it wasn't so truly the restaurant was like closing Like the staff was kind of like giving us the dirty like you need to get out of here I and um I was like why do we get the check babe Like let's go What are we doing Why are we still here And then he just pulled out this ring and like yeah and we were basically alone at that point in the restaurant It was really lovely and I was in shock in shock And then we went home and we called our entire family and it was like one o'clock in the morning I woke my parents up and and then his family is all west coast So they were it was early enough for them It was like 10 and we called everyone and it was great That's a great story That's an absolute great story because I think sometimes there's pressure to do like on the hot air balloon like diving like no like it can be That's not us That's just not us That's you Great Totally Go for it That was not us He did it exactly how he and I were supposed to Totally Totally So you have two beautiful Children two boys Um Did you always know you wanted Children Yes Um I mean when I was I mean I did not want Children when I was young Of course I wanted to plan my family Alex That's what I was most interested in Like I have a whole plan I had a plan I did always want to have kids Yes You especially when I once I knew I was marrying my husband I wanted us to make a family together Then it made sense for you 100% You've been open about your journey to becoming a mom Can you talk about that Well I I've never been pregnant and when I was young I thought it was because I was really good at taking the pill um

which I definitely was but I have no idea I have Um so I have there's a small percentage of women who basically have unexplained infertility and that is me I'm in that that category and really what it came down to for me And I know there are other women that have other stories and there are rumors out there about my story So I just want to say this I've never been pregnant I've never had a miscarriage I think people mistook my story for like maybe I had a lot of I've never had a miscarriage So for me I had always had plenty of eggs I never had trouble making embryos Um they did not implant for whatever reason My uterus is hostile to I don't know what's going on but they just will not stay in there So at a broken belly is what I told my kids Um mommy had a broken belly So we my husband and I it's funny because I remember when I went to the fertility doctor for the first time he was like you're going to use a surrogate and this is a long time ago before surrogacy was like a Kardashian thing right Nobody was doing it back then and I thought he was crazy Like what are you talking about No I'm not I'm like first of all I don't know what that is and that sounds nuts and expensive and we're not doing that And um but he was right because he'd seen my case like he's basically like I can solve like eggs Like we have a lot of ways to like get women like create embryos You know we can solve bad sperm or whatever causes infertility They have a lot of solutions They do not they do not know to this day Why an embryo implants or doesn't they don't know And um so he was like this is you have an unsolvable problem which is not the language he used with me So at the time I thought like we're just going to do IVF or a RT which is assisted reproductive technologies and we're going to figure it out because like other women I knew were doing that and they were getting pregnant It was not a problem Like they take their Clomid and they do their this or that everybody's going to you know it's going to work for us And then dude it did not work for us We did I think I did like seven procedures that were all resulted in zip and we were really despondent Um And then there was a totally crazy scenario that I'm actually not going to talk about here but it involves like family members and a cancer scare and like many things going on Um where we kind of thought like this is the challenge for us Like we are really lucky people because we found each other and we're in love and um we're just going to be a really good auntie and uncle and we just we weren't meant to do it you know and then I had some incredible conversations with people and I had a doctor that was you know like you know you can use a surrogate like it's really OK And um long story short because it's a very long story Um Met somebody had an incredible

conversation with her Uh still to this day it's actually my son's 10th birthday today and I'm going to send her a picture of him Um Yeah because she you know she helped make our family with us Her mom had been a surrogate That's how she got into it She had three beautiful kids of her own with her awesome husband Um because it takes like the whole village to do this And um I was given advice that you know nobody comes to surrogacy like willing excitedly At least I didn't you know it was like a last resort for me Um But the advice I got was you will be so grateful And the other advice I got was because back then it's like and by the way it's illegal in most states and you know it's very the whole abortion conversation is very right now mixed up with IVF and you know all of this stuff is so fraught So there was a lot of judgment around this back then especially and people were like guess what at the end you know I had a great friend who was like at the end of the day there's going to be a baby and you're going to be a parent and like nobody's going to care how it happened And like it was really good The other great advice I got was like is your goal to be pregnant or to be a mom And I was like oh shit it's just to be a mom right I don't need to be pregnant Fuck I just want the baby Right So I was like what's the best way to get to the baby Like what are you doing Like who cares about the pregnancy get the baby whatever the situation is Like there's a lot of shame I think for women so much right If you're not able to do it the exact way that like everyone envisions is it going And obviously we're so fortunate that we've progressed in the medical field that we're able to actually have so many different ways to go about bringing life into this world But can you talk a little bit about that shame Because I think sometimes women go through it and it's hard to articulate especially when you feel so alone and going through I I also look at it's um your fertility is such a part of your life and men and women right I mean but for women especially in a society that's like this is why we value you right We don't we don't value you because you could be a CEO we value you because you can procreate and keep the race going right Um So if you can't do that like you are less of a woman that's the messaging And um your my fertility was something that had to mourn I had agreed for it It was a loss and um I had to really work through that before I could invite someone else to help me make my family That's really for me how the journey to surrogacy um was really about that and it was confusing too because it's like we my husband and I could make these beautiful baby cakes and I just didn't have an oven to bake them in And so it really was my fault Do you know what I mean It was on me and I felt that deeply like I'm

the problem Um And you know you just blame your lifestyle and you blame your oh my God And I did everything and I was like I stopped drinking I stopped eating Then I started eating because someone was like you're too thin you're too this you know you use that cream and it's got a chemical in it It's like ok everything has a chemical in it I don't know You know it's like don't eat this don't do that So it's like everything you're doing is wrong And like truly I went through all of those things I really did And at the end of the day I remember a really good friend of mine her name is Anna I hope she hears this She was like listen I was pregnant and I love being pregnant and I felt cool and it was great and I gave birth and then they handed me a baby and they were like go home and parent this baby and being pregnant was like a distant memory as if it never happened Because suddenly now actually motherhood is happening because now you're responsible for this other person When you're pregnant you're still just responsible for you And you know there's still with that Then I'm not denying the connection and all of those things I mean I don't know it intimately because it didn't happen to me But of course I'm not denying anyone else's experience I'm just saying my friend was like they gave me a baby and then I took home from the hospital and like truly being present was like what That was like nothing compared to the rest of my life is taken care of for other human being Right That's nine months now It's for the rest of your life It's the rest of your life That's what I had to focus on Just refocusing on parenting and my actual child that was in my arms and man oh man it made everything else so stupid so silly Everyone's judgment was like fuck off because now they get to judge me for how I parent it starts all over again It's a whole other side of the cycle But like no like you got to mourn it absolutely Like it was really it's a journey I i it it's not it's hard it's not easy at all to feel like you can't do something that you really want to do that you feel made and built to do and you don't understand it and you're with a great person and like everything was right and it still didn't work for me I really appreciate you sharing that because one recently for me women having autonomy over their bodies is the cause I care most about And I think hearing women talk about their individual journeys is so powerful because as much as we all are never going to have the same exact story it's helpful to hear like we're all going to go through shit but we can support each other in how different our stories are Um Your new movie call Jane is truly the movie I think everyone in America should see right now especially with what's going on Um Can you explain what your character goes through in this movie and her character development So the movie is

called Jane Um It's it's based on the true collective of women in Chicago in the late sixties early seventies before Roe V Wade was the law of the land um that provided abortion health care to around 11,000 women uh that sought them out right Um So basically illegal abortion care was what they were providing And in the film I play this woman joy who is a kind of conservative housewife who never in a million years thinks she's going to seek out abortion health care and finds out that she's pregnant You know she's 40 years old so she's having a pregnancy that is um that's life or death for her Basically it's putting a strain on her heart Um and she's told like you'll probably die if you don't get rid of this pregnancy And she's got a life that she's living and she's got a child that she's already raising a daughter and she makes a decision that she prefers her life and she has to seek out an illegal abortion through the Janes And then once she meets a and really for me it was when she makes this very life affirming choice for herself to save her life Um that that everything begins for her right I read the script a long time ago and I remember thinking this is like a coming of age story for a 40 year old You know like you read coming of age for a 17 year old But you know or like Jane Austen or something But like this is a woman who's like well into what she thinks is a very comfortable life and then realizes oh my God I'm living in a bubble I had no idea all these other things were out there and I had no idea that I could find purpose in my life And you know she she just becomes a totally invigorated new person But I do think that's also the beauty of growing up because I've talked about it on my show a lot Like we are raised a specific way and you know God bless your parents But there's it's really an extremely exciting time when you get away from where you were raised and away from your parents If you have the ability to do so changing your mind is ok Change your mind is great It's great Well it's a it's a measure of your life experiences because it tells you that like oh I was able to be open to something new a new idea new person It's mostly people that change us though isn't it It's meeting other human beings and building empathy for them and going like oh they're just a regular Joe that wants to do blah blah blah with their life and live their dreams Oh and they happen to be trans right They happen to be you know oh they happen to be an ex felon But like they they you know they I just think that the idea of people's whole humanity is just more interesting than like you know archetypes tropes Like it's just like there's so much more going on I agree I feel like even recently I felt like oh my God I never want to judge anyone again because we just have no idea And it's actually I judge myself I know I know But then it's like oh

my God we have no clue So I think a really interesting scene that struck me in the movie was when you're in the boardroom surrounded by all men telling you no you can't get an abortion and your character is like wait But like even if it means the death of her mother like what And they're like yeah no that scene was so powerful because I think how many times I've been in a room with all men and it's it's just so profound to look back when I was younger I wish I could have stood up for myself in certain situations But have you experienced being in a room with men in an industry dominated by men Like how have you evolved with your relationship to stick up for yourself and trying to have a voice in a room where Well that's what that scene really is about right It's about the spaces where women's voices are not valued Of course I've had many experiences in my life I mean you know I'm an actor in Hollywood I I go to I've gone to many sets where I'm like the only female actor in the cast or you know one of a very few I mean I've mentioned Sea biscuit like you know I was I had an amazing time making that movie but there weren't like gal pals on that film I mean it was me and a bunch of dudes So and that's true of a lot of movies I've done Um So that was my experience for a long time and now you know I see it for what it is It's really it's so interesting as you get a little more distance from that time in your career But also when you look everything was anecdotal for a really long time So I think pre me too pre like we want to have more women on boards of Fortune 500 companies Like there's this whole movement right now that is about equality in a way And then there's a backlash which is about abortion rights which is all about inequality So there is a sense of like women deserve more you know um more representation Um And that comes you know I like to remind people that we are women as having political and economic power is brand fucking new in the scope of human history Our grandmothers did not work outside the home Women did not work outside the home make their own goddamn money until the seventies You could not have a no fault divorce until the seventies You could not leave a husband just because you wanted to until the seventies you had to have his permission to leave So women have not had a sense of autonomy really or any political clout or economic power until my lifetime My you know 40 something years That's it So it's fresh as a daisy when it comes to the patriarchy the patriarch is like wait a minute we had a system and we loved it We were very happy with the system What do you mean you're going to work and have opinions you're going to want things you know Hashtag me too fuck you and you're like no no stop abusing us like maybe stop doing that And like you know I

think it's what people are like why did it take so long for for instance you know I don't want to say his name for a Hollywood mogul to get taken down You know why why was he allowed to do that for so long And you're like because there were young women who had no careers and no money and no safety and no security And then they grew up and they had husbands and families and money and lives and security and careers And they were like hey that guy that happened to me and they were finally safe enough to say it and it takes feeling safe to actually stand up for yourself That's what it took me It took me feeling safe in spaces and that comes with my own sense of security Like if I say this out loud I will still work in my industry I will not be punished for saying this It's my safety that has allowed me to speak out It's a privilege to feel safe I currently feel safe and I experienced something where I didn't feel safe um back in college and it was a power dynamic that was abused And I now look back and I'm like the reason I didn't speak up or didn't say anything was because like I needed a job like I needed to get my foot in the door I need And so I I wonder if you have advice for young women maybe that I mean are in the workforce right now trying to figure out like I don't have that safety or security right now Like I don't know if you have any advice of how to navigate I know it's very difficult It is I would say there's safety also in numbers right Like we do feel that so like hashtag me too was about numbers It was about like there were these anecdotes that were whisper campaigns and this there's also now there's so much data like we just know we're like no 70% of women experience XYZ like stop saying you don't do this to us do you know what I mean Um So I think partly it's that we actually have data that supports our feelings you know things that we could be dismissed Now It's like no no there's studies now like we're actually looking at it which by the way also fresh as a Daisy super new to actually give a shit what's happening to women in the world Um Haven't been studying us for very long So uh that's wild too My advice is like you're almost probably never alone So you know and you don't need to compete with other women There is it's not a pie with only so many slices There really is opportunity out there for everybody Um So I find that when people feel like they're competing again they don't feel safe they don't feel secure where they are So they feel like they can't reach out to somebody say you know the other woman on the team or the other woman in the boom or the look for those mentors talk to older ladies Look you know reach out across your network talk to your friends about it The shame and stigma around all of these issues is still so deeply felt by people and it's really hard to break out

of and it's why people stay silent and that is the best tool the patriarchy has They are creating a sense of fear stigma and shame that allows women to sit silently at home and go like I guess I'm the only one and you you aren't you are not alone you're not alone And I I love that advice Find the other people even though it's scary it's better to you will feel better not being alone That's the yes it's the first step Right Is feeling is you're being isolated on purpose It's a tool Don't let yourself be isolated How do you respond to someone in conversation If they say that they think abortion access should be banned I think that if abortion is not for them they should not get an abortion and but I don't think that they have the right to tell other people what to do with their lives and bodies We don't live in a theocracy we live in a democracy and I am trying to live the values of the constitution of our country life liberty the pursuit of happiness the sense of equality and fairness Um and that is not possible if an irresponsible ejaculation changes a woman's entire life And for pregnancy with our maternal mortality rate especially in the South especially for black women like forced pregnancy is could be a death sentence like it's just unacceptable It is inhumane And I I did a um a short documentary episode on I went to North Carolina and I sat down with a bunch of women that were on that It it changed my life because it's so there's so many people that are so ignorant to what's going on it's so convoluted and it it's it's really disheartening But I do feel positive in the sense that I feel like the generations coming up Like if they use their voice things are going to continue to change and hopefully get better Well the midterm elections I think were a big you know win for abortion rights across the country I think women it turns out women like having human rights and they vote So who knew But I do look I really it's not the law of the land right now I mean Dobbs overturned Roe V Wade And there were you know there are states where abortion health care cannot be accessed And I think that the you know I think about the real harm that's happening to women in those places And um you know that's like that's my first thought And then I'm thinking about well how do we how do we get it back But you know this is the patriarchy They steal our time They're making us do it all over again My fucking grandmother fought for this by the way nobody gave us the right to vote Nobody gave us Roe V Wade Nobody gives us shit It has to be fought for and won They don't want to give us anything So we have to keep fighting And um that's where my sense of unal oneness comes from I know so many women in this fight And I also know that I'm on the side of the you know that it's morally correct an unwanted child is a fucking tragedy It's it's a

tragedy and I am not taking anything away from the holiness of a wanted baby by saying that right Yeah It's like but it should be the woman whose body it's her body Let her decide how does that affect you It truly just to me it's not fair like dudes ejaculate inside ladies and like what every time out if that sperm meets the egg You're supposed to stop making it into something It's not it's fucking science It's a sperm meeting an egg and acts nobody Here's the thing abortion exists because we as a society and this is our lived reality This is not some fairy tale We have sex for fun We don't always have sex to make Children We just have sex for fun And so abortion is the insurance policy against unwanted pregnancy when we're just trying to have sex for fun That's it That's our live reality Stop pretending that we're all sluts and like people to have sex outside of marriage are going to hell not true Also by the way I'm good with my God You don't need to get involved You're not my God You don't get to tell me what's going to happen to me at the Pearly gates I'm good I'll get there I'll have my own conversation Thank you so much Don't worry about my soul I'm good I'm good I'm good Thank you Worry about your own soul that you worry about your God and what you think your God's going to do to you I'm good My God's cool with me Yeah I feel good I personally feel I feel straight with my God Exactly No that's why I do love the movie because no one wants to be preached at No one wants to be told with you No one's homework I get it If you watch this movie you feel how imbalanced the power dynamic is and you feel how isolated your character is in this moment And it's it's incredible Um I think people in the world 2022 have gotten a little bit better with understanding that feminism is just us wanting to be equal to all people and equal Thank you But do you think being a feminist at all hurt you and your career No no I do not make decisions out of fear I really try not to you know I don't stay with my husband because I'm afraid of being alone I say my husband because it's awesome to be married to my husband Positive positive positive So I don't make decisions about the roles I take or the movies I make the stories I tell the things I do how I spend my time because I'm afraid of a reaction from somebody who doesn't like what I'm doing What I do things from a place of positivity and wanting the world to be more equitable for people because I truly believe like my life is enriched when I invite that kind of energy into it That's it period Full stop Like I just don't worry about haters people who don't know me You know I try to I try to act correct I am going to make mistakes I do make mistakes and then I just try to learn from them I don't know you know I really don't have a lot of regrets I think about it all as

learning and my life hopefully will be long and I will continue to learn and be you know a better bigger person I know I have become that I'm definitely wiser I feel really great being the age I am raising my kids the way I am in the life that I have right now I do feel like ok I have figured a few things out and that you figured a lot you are so accomplished and I think that I mean I felt it being in this industry and starting to kind of use my voice like there's people that are like oh don't get political Like why are you now just being like feminist And I'm like because it's it's such a um privileged mentality to avoid like sure I like you You can't just sit in your bubble and enjoy Sure I guess you could enjoy your life and just enjoy it I hate to tell your friends that want to say that to you But like you are when you say you're a feminist you are simply honoring the fact that you would not be sitting here talking to me If women before you if you were not standing on the shoulders of the women who came before you that's it So if you have any gratitude in your life you as a woman you have to kind of be a feminist because we only have these opportunities because of those women who left the house and took jobs and proved that women could work could earn money that women could make their own decisions That women can be in office that women can have jobs that women can have a podcast that's fucking super successful that other people want to listen to You're not the only one who did you know what I mean There's people that came before us that did this for us to have these opportunities to keep it going That's you got to guess what if you want to pay it forward You're a feminist I really appreciate you coming today because you are so wise and have that experience that I just respect you in your career so much and you have such a great outlook on how to navigate a man's world and I I can't thank you for coming No you you're really incredible It I'm a huge fan of too Like you've done Look what you made you did it So did you look it up Two women sitting here thriving Here we go