

#168 Women Are The Fiercest Creatures with Andrea Dunlop

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SPEAKERS

Andrea Dunlop, Michelle Glogovac

M Michelle Glogovac 00:01

You're listening to the mind simplified life podcast and this is episode number 168. Welcome to the my simplified life podcast, a place where you will learn that your past and even your present. Don't define your future. Regardless of what stage of life you're in, I want you to feel inspired and encouraged to pursue your dreams, simplify your life and start taking action today. I'm your host, Michelle Glogovac, and I'm excited to share my stories and life lessons with you will take you on my own journey. This is my simplified life. Hey, friends, welcome back to another episode. I'm your host, Michelle Glogovac, and today I have such a great guest. We went down so many rabbit holes, it was so much fun from talking about her new book that comes out today. Women are the fiercest creatures, to talking about real housewives and women and empowerment and all kinds of things. It was so much fun. I'm talking about Andrea Dunlop. And Andrea is a publicist from the publishing world, turned author of multiple novels. And she's also a podcast host. She does all the things. She is a mom of two, one of which, who is under a year old. And actually today. So I'm recording this earlier than today. But today, I am meeting her in New York for her book launch. And I am so excited to get to hug her in person and meet her and to share this conversation with you because we had just an absolute blast talking about her book and life in general and how it all intertwines. So women are the fiercest creatures out today by zubi books. It's the second book from zubi books. And it's about three women whose lives are independent and yet intertwined because of one man. And they all have different paths. They're very different individual women. And they come together because they all have something in common. And they do so for their children. I loved the story, because I kept wanting to go what's next, what's next. And so every night, I would more than happily go to bed and pick the book up so I could find out what was going on next. There's a tech aspect to it, which of course, I enjoyed being in Silicon Valley, Andrea's in Seattle, where tech is also something that's big up there. And so I also asked Andrea about how she was able to get some of the answers that she did to inform herself of the tech world and venture capitals and all of that good stuff. So I can't wait for you to hear our conversation together. And I definitely think you need to go pick up the book today. Hi, Andrea, how are you?

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Andrea Dunlop 03:09

Hi, Michelle. I'm doing great. How are you?

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Michelle Glogovac 03:12

I am ecstatic to talk to you. I get to fan girl on you. Know, can you take a moment to introduce yourself to everyone please before I just dive into why I adore you and love you now.

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Andrea Dunlop 03:27

Oh, you're so sweet. I am Andrea Dunlop. I am the author of four novels, the most recent of which is *women are the fiercest creatures*, which comes out on March 7 of this year. I am also the host of the true crime investigative podcast, *nobody should believe me*. And I do some other things as well. But I won't keep us here all day. And I'm a mom of two, which I feel like is relevant to all of my other work. So I like to mention that too,

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Michelle Glogovac 03:55

is it's definitely relevant because we have to get all this stuff done around to people. And writing a book is that's a challenge when you have little people. How old are you? It is

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Andrea Dunlop 04:08

my my kids are four and eight months. So we have a new ish baby. So that has been Yes, all of this has been happening around him. And it's very funny because people sometimes ask me, Well, how do you so do you just write while he's napping? And I I sort of look at them. And I say no, I have childcare like this is my this is my job. So I have to do my I have to work. It's funny I you know, I think sometimes being a novelist, sounds like a fanciful career, which to be fair, it is a fanciful career compared to like most other jobs, you could have, but, you know, it still does require like time and focus and all of those things. So, so yes, childcare is the answer. And I remember a friend of mine, who's an author, Courtney mom, told me that when I was was pregnant with my first child and asking all my writer friends who I knew had kids. I was asking them for advice. And she was like childcare, good, reliable childcare. And I was like, Yeah, that's right, because this is our job. And that's how we're going to do

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Michelle Glogovac 05:12

it. The problem is finding that rely on childcare.

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Andrea Dunlop 05:15

Yes, we have. Go ahead, and I'll go ahead and shout out my nanny Kim, who's upstairs with the baby right now. She is so wonderful. It is very hard. Yeah. Obviously, we are in a massive childcare crisis in this country. So yeah. that's like it's that's that's easier said than done times.

100. But yeah, we are fortunate, and we have family that lives close by, which is also like, you know, the only I read this somewhere the other day, it's like the only true parenting hack is having grandparents that live close by. I think that's true. You are

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Michelle Glogovac 05:45

lucky. Yeah. I am not in that village. So luckily, there's no school.

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Andrea Dunlop 05:52

Yeah. Yeah.

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Michelle Glogovac 05:54

So let's talk first about your background, because you started in publishing. And I find it fascinating when an author is writing books, and you're in the publishing world at the same time.

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Andrea Dunlop 06:09

Just because it's got to be, I find it like it would have to be somewhat difficult, that you're reading other people's works. You're working on your own. You got to promote theirs, promote yours. What was that like? And how did you come into it? Yeah, so I mean, I started my career in publishing. As you said, I used to be a publicist at Doubleday, which is part of Random House then, which is now Penguin Random House, because we've been, we're hopefully exiting the era of mass conglomeration. If anyone's been following publishing news, but But yes, so that was, you know, obviously, like, Random House even then, it was like the biggest publishing house in the world. It was a total dream to work there when I was 22. You know, and, and, yeah, it was a totally fascinating job. It was really fun. I, you know, it was hard work. It was high expectations. But it was, it was a blast, I had an amazing boss called Ellison Rich, who still is at Random House. And, you know, got to meet all of these authors, I got to meet some, you know, some of these authors whose work I did byard for years and had read all their books. And so it was really fun, it was a great way to learn about the business. As you know, at that point, I was an aspiring author. So you know, my one thing about sort of my publishing work, it didn't end up crossing over that heavily with being an author myself, because I didn't get I had a book that I had an agent, while I was still working for Random House, but we did not sell it. And so then, you know, I went through like most authors, I went through all the many rounds of like, you know, you have a book, you almost get to publish, it doesn't get published, you can't you know, and then I had a different agent and sort of went through all these rounds. And just like lots and lots and lots of rejection, I think that's the thing you can expect as a writer, I think that it's a, it's a good exercise, in a lot of ways, it makes you resilient, it makes you resilient enough to actually like survive your publishing career once you're in it. So there's a lot to be said for that, like going through that, that period of just, you know, having a lot of doors sort of closed, and then finally finding the open one, but I, you know, I got my first book deal. While I was still working for Girl Friday productions in Seattle, which was my job, you know, after I moved back to my hometown, so I was still working, you know, in I wasn't working for like a traditional

publishing house, but I was still working with authors and still working on publicity and marketing stuff. And so, you know, I, a, but then like, when I left that job, right around the time, the book came out, and just went freelance and was doing freelance consulting. So I did quite a bit of consulting the first few years, that I was working as a sort of published author as well. Um, but you know, the most of my sort of publishing career sort of happened before I was sort of in the author's seat, but it definitely was really helpful. I mean, I think it's been a huge benefit. It definitely didn't, I think, I think I had this idea that I would like, go to New York and work in book publishing, and then I would get all these connections, and then it would be really easy to get a book published. And that is not how that played out. Um, I mean, certainly like it, you know, I didn't none of my publishing connections actually, were what led me to my eventual agent and then eventual deal that just happened, you know, it was someone recommended her and she, you know, it's like, who's someone who followed my agent, Carly waters has been my agent for a long time now. Someone, a friend of mine followed her on social media and recommended her that way. So it was essentially a cold, you know, sort of cold reach out. So yeah, I think it's kind of funny. I had this assumption where I was like, Well, I'm gonna meet all these fancy publishing people, and then they'll just publish my books and

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Michelle Glogovac 09:48

we have Hillary, it probably helped prepare you for the rejection, because as you know, we get rejected all the time.

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Andrea Dunlop 09:55

Yes. 100%. I mean, I think that that is that is true and it Just having that interior view of the business, publishing is a very, you know, I have a very love hate with relationship with publishing, like most authors, I think they're, you know, they're, it's full of a lot of really wonderful smart people. And it's also, you know, a very archaic industry that is very sort of tied to, this is the way we've always done things. And and it's not a very inclusive industry. I mean, I think that's, that's the biggest broadest critique is that it, there has been a lot of talk about making book publishing more inclusive since 2020. When everyone, you know, collectively, remember that, you know, racism was still a problem, when we all had the, you know, that little moment. So there was a lot of talk around that time and sort of around, you know, the American dirt scandal and all of that stuff. But nothing really has changed if you look at the numbers. And so I think that's, you know, there's a lot of critique about publishing, and I think those critiques should continue to be made. And also, I've had amazing experiences with the people that I've worked with, in publishing, both as colleagues back and double day. And, you know, my editors that I've worked with my, you know, in house teams, back with atria, you know, we're really fabulous. And, you know, now I'm working with heavy books, which is she's really doing some very new, exciting things. And that has been a really different experience than working in traditional publishing. So I think, you know, I think that there's, I'm hoping that these stirrings of innovation are really going to lead to a better industry. But I think that there's a lot of critique of the industry, and you can love it and critique it at the same time. And I think in fact, if you do love it, if you do love the industry, if you do love books, if you love authors, then you should country, critique the industry, because we should all be pushing for it to be be its best self.

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Michelle Glogovac 11:55

Absolutely, yeah. Have you heard of row House Publishing? They have, yeah, they launched the states a couple of years ago, based on inclusivity. And, you know, promoting authors that aren't otherwise being promoted. So they're on that path as well. And zippy, I'm a fan of Divi, and she's been on the show, and you're the second author, the second book to come out of zubi books. So that's exciting. And just to see all of the press that's coming along with that, too. It's absolutely incredible. It's really mind blowing, because you don't see these days books that are coming out and launching the way that Alicia has just said this last week. I mean, it was incredible,

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Andrea Dunlop 12:37

incredible, incredible. And I mean, I you know, I Alicia as a friend, and you know, through this, this is how we met. And she, you know, her book is so fun. It's so wonderful. I think it's gonna like I think it's going to be like a great sort of fun, fantasy read friend. She's like, she's just the loveliest most bubbly person, as you know, you've talked to her. And so I think her her voice really comes through in the book. And I think, you know, yeah, I mean, I think Zebby is really like, she's putting a lot of energy into the books they're putting out. And they have this sort of different setup, where they're publishing just one book every month. And so I think you, you know, the thing that you really, that's really, really challenging about being in a, in a big publishing house, and being on what's called the midlist, if you're, if you're familiar with that term, which just means basically, like, you're not the lead title. So the lead title is the one that like, they got a, you know, they got a seven figure advance, and their Prince Harry, or whomever, and like, that's the one that's getting like all of this sort of attention, and then everything else is sort of, you know, it is sort of on down from there. And so I think it can be very easy to get lost in the shuffle, right? Because there's just so many books that that come out. And again, none of this is sort of a critique of any of the individual people I've worked with, because all of the people I've worked with have been really wonderful. And I've been really lucky. But I think it's just, you know, we we live in a we live in a tough attention economy, right? Like books are fighting with all kinds of other forms of media and things that are taking people's attention. And it's just not easy to get people to pay attention to them. And so I think, you know, that sort of being being the only author that's coming out from that month, I think that's going to be I think that's going to be really, really good for authors. And I think you're seeing that with Alicia spoken zubi certainly has done a lot of amazing things for my launch. And I'm super excited to get it out there. And it's just been fun. It's been fun to like, you know, not to do just something different. I think I'm, I'm a person that believes in innovation and believes that this industry could do things better. And I'm just excited to be working with a team that's like really willing to try new things, which is something that is tough. And I think part of that is just structural in publishing, right? Like, I mean, there's been so much consolidation of publishing houses over the last 20 years. And all of these like imprints that used to be their own publishing houses are now under these massive, you know, corporate auspices, and then, you know, even with that, it's like Penguin Random House, try had to merge with Simon and Schuster that got shut down. But it's like that consolidation. I mean, of course, that's going to lead to sort of like a more corporate take on things and more bureaucracy. And of course, that's just structurally that's, that's how it's gonna happen. And so I will say like, I mean, I'm still working in traditional publishing, I have a nonfiction book coming out with St. Martin's, which is, you know, a big traditional house. And again, I'm working with my old editor, Sarah Kenton there, she's wonderful. You know, and so it's like, I again, I'm not

sort of like, I'm not sort of like no to this industry. But I think you know, it is exciting, especially with my fiction to try something new. I think fiction is very difficult. I was I was at when I was a publicist, I worked on mostly fiction, and it's very difficult, right? This

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Michelle Glogovac 15:40

conversation Hey, yeah, I had one earlier with a nonfiction author. We were chatting about her upcoming launch. And she goes, I don't know how fiction authors do it. And I don't know how you pitching them. Do it. Nice. Yeah, it's completely different. And I mentioned that I was having you on I go, it was a great book. But at same time, I don't want to give it away. But I want to read it. And yet, you know, how do you do interviews with a fiction author? It's really talking to you getting to know you liking you. And then when you read the book, you can hear you in it.

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Andrea Dunlop 16:12

Yeah, yeah, I think I mean, I think there's other you know, there's and there's some exciting things coming along, like I think like the, the effect of that Tik Tok is having and that's all been, you know, the big successes of tick tock books that Colleen Hoover's and the Taylor Jenkins read and Song of Achilles and all those, I mean, those were all fiction. So I think that that's really interesting to see sort of where the influencer machine is working for fiction. And that's totally separate from like, traditional media. So I think like, exciting things are happening. But I'm, I'm always here for like, the shifts. And I think sometimes people get very nervous, made very nervous by the shifts, but I think I hope that things can. Yeah, I mean, I think it's just, it's gonna be really interesting to see where the industry is, in five years or 10 years, it won't be where it is. Now. That's what we know. Things are changing.

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Michelle Glogovac 16:54

Yeah, yeah. And on the podcast side of it, definitely. This is something that, you know, books aren't normally pitched on podcasts, that wasn't a norm type of thing. And I can tell by the pitches I received, that it's still not a normal thing. Yeah,

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Andrea Dunlop 17:11

and I think, you know, and I'm a podcaster, as well. And I think, you know, and I do a different sort of show. It's not an interview show, but I yeah, I mean, I think podcasting is like such an interesting space. It's so much newer, that's been really interesting over the past year, to get into that industry and, and sort of having some of these assumptions that things are going to function the way that publishing does, which is just because that's the industry I know. And that's, you know, where I've been a sort of creative person making content is in publishing. And I'm like, oh, podcasting is very different. Very, very different culture. Very different sort of, you know, industry setup, different norms, different everything. So, it's sort of compare the two it is the wild, West, the Wild West, for sure. Yeah. And like, be Be sure to be armed, so to speak, not literally.

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Michelle Glogovac 18:04

I guess we should talk about your book to

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Andrea Dunlop 18:10

talk about so hard to talk about novels. So let's talk about your novel.

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Michelle Glogovac 18:14

I love it. I love it. Women are the fiercest creatures. I loved it. It's a story. Let's see if I can summarize it. You can tell me how off I am. But it's a strange story about really three women who have these separate lives. And yet, they're all brought together by really this one man. But it's much bigger than the man, they have this connection, that they're all striving for more and finding their own place. And then realize that as they come together, they're stronger together, they can feed off of each other and create something that's much bigger, beautiful. And I love that they come together at a certain point, I don't want to give it away. Because I think that in reality when we watch like Bravo, because I'm a big fan of the housewives. Your book is completely opposite of what we see on reality TV, there's no way these women in real life would be like, Kumbaya. Let's all get together.

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Andrea Dunlop 19:18

I mean, listen, I think first of all, I think that's that isn't good description. I mean, I think yeah, it's it's sort of the it's the it's kind of a woman behind the man story, except that the women are, you know, doing more. And the man as it turns out, which I think is pretty consistent with a lot of things that have happened throughout history. And that happened still today. Um, and yeah, it's the it's the ex wife, ex girlfriend and current new wife of tech CEOs preparing to take his company public and sort of his past comes back to haunt him and all these three women converge. And so I think, you know, yeah, it's funny that you said Bravo. I mean, yes, I love Bravo. I too. I'm a housewives fan. Although I have to say, there's not a franchise that I'm super into right now like Salt Lake City. I feel like I never got into it. Oh, good. I watched a couple of other gay. But like, Yeah, I'm having a little trouble, like Beverly Hills is like going off the rails. I don't know, I, they, they're, they're, they're I think they're having a little crisis. But you know, I realized this is not a housewives podcast, we could probably spend there, we

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Michelle Glogovac 20:22

could start one, if you want to talk about your next venture, when we're done, then we could start a housewives podcast together, totally down.

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Andrea Dunlop 20:30

But I think, you know, the husbands are so funny, because they are like, it's become this interesting archetype of like, middle aged women, whereas like, before, you just didn't have

only two women on television. So like, on that it's like a plus, right? It's like, well, it's nice to see women in their, like 40s and 50s. And sort of like, nominally dealing with some of the same like, parenting marriage, like issues that, you know, obviously, like all too, like, to the nth degree, right. It's like, it's like, it's like a sort of, had, like, sort of kabuki theater like version of it. But I think too, it's really funny with, obviously, like those women, and that's the thing that sometimes just stresses me out about watching those shows, just like watching women have conflict with each other sort of stresses me out. But I think, you know, that doesn't, it's like, I think in some ways, it's kind of the male fantasy of what women are, like, with each other more than what women are really like with each other. Because I think the women that I know, and certainly, especially in this stage of life, like, you know, being in my 40s, and having, you know, little kids, and I mean, we're very reliant on each other. And if women were not able to rely on each other, like, and this is like writ large, then the world would crumble, right? Because, like, there's a lot of like, I have friends who are single moms, I have friends who are, you know, it's like not to say that, like, oh, man, men are just across the board, unreliable, but you know, I mean, it's, like, I do find that most women, their number one way of coping with the stresses of motherhood is to rely on either the women in their family or women, their women friends, and certainly, like, you know, you're lucky if you have a really good partner. I do. I mean, my husband is wonderful, but like, yeah, I would never be able to do this cake without, without, like, the support of my female friends. And so I think, actually, that like, women are, I think women have been forced to be competitive with each other, because of a sort of, like, the scarcity of opportunities that were offered to women. And so I think, like, certainly, especially when you talk to women of like, different generations that, you know, that didn't have as many opportunities to, especially like, I mean, this is a little bit of a tangent, but somewhat related, because Anna, you know, one of my main characters is an athlete. Like, I think that, you know, I was born in 1982. So I'm really like, part of the first generation that was post title nine. And so we got, you know, really the same opportunity to like, compete in sports and do these kinds of things that were you learn all these things about how to, like, work together, and, you know, like, compete in a healthy way. And I sort of think there's like a huge difference between women that got to have that experience and women who did it, because it's a really like, formative experience. And so I think there's all these things that like for previous generations of women, yeah, it's like, if you're only like, this idea that women are sort of so competitive about men and male attention, right, like, if your only way of having a stable life for yourself was to get married. Yeah, you'd probably be pretty competitive about it. Like if that was, it was like, Alright, get a good husband, or that's it for you poverty, or the nunnery. You know, I mean, like, for history, that was the deal, right? And even, even as far back as, like, you know, even just my mother's generation and my grandmother's generation, like, there wasn't like that many opportunities to be independent, right? You could even have your own credit card and rolling 1976 or something. I can't remember what they say, six or seven, eight. And so I mean, it's like, well, yeah, obviously, women were competing for men, because that was like about survival. And I think the less that that's become true, I think, like women are less competitive with each other across the board is there's been more opportunities, but that makes sense. If you feel like, or if you feel like, oh, this company is only going to hire one woman, then yeah, you're going to feel competitive against the other woman. So I think it's like, the culture has pitted women against each other women are just naturally bitchy and horrible. I think like Bravo is great and it's like fun television but it's like you have to consume it with like a sort of knowing lens you know, and I think that's true about a lot of media having to do with women, but I think like, I think like most women don't want to be pitted against each other and most women like you know, and of course like women Contain Multitudes right like plenty of women are assholes to like I don't know if I can swear on your podcast but like I don't want to say like I think it's also like I'm always like, wary of saying and of course my other work speaks to this but like, women women are capable of as, you know, abhorrent evil behavior as men are, oh, sure. Look

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Michelle Glogovac 25:05

at our government entity.

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Andrea Dunlop 25:07

Yeah, exactly. I mean, like, yeah, Marjorie Taylor Greene is out there showing us how it's done. Don't even say your name. Like, not allowed to say you can. But you can't say her name. That particular asshole. We're not gonna mention her. She gave them we say her name three times, she might show up and yell at us. But um, yeah, I mean, no, it's like, yeah, women can be just as bad, right? Of course, of course they can. Because women are human beings and women have the full, you know, range of human behaviors. But I think like this idea that sort of women are competitive with each other in a in a crappy catty way. And men are just like, Yeah, we're gonna play some sports and then leave it on the field. It's like, well, that's, that's a cultural thing. So that was a very long answer. And I'm not sure what, no, I

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Michelle Glogovac 25:49

love it. And well, you bring me to another point in the book, because we talked about this competitiveness and women and, you know, there was cheating going on. And so this mother, Anna is, you know, being so kind to the new wife. And yet at the same time, she's like, Bitch, you know, you, my husband. And so I can see how that would create this, you know, angst and like why you've you kind of ruined that, you know, it takes two to tango, I get that. But at the same time, we're like, really? Did you really had to do that?

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Andrea Dunlop 26:29

Well, and I think, you know, when you get into like, it's really interesting to be again, there's just like, a lot of this was like, the things I think are interesting about being in midlife, and like how things get so complicated, because I'm at the age now where, like, you know, you go through all these waves of weddings when you're in your 30s. And then like, you know, and then you start as the I think, even in my 30s, you know, like, start getting all the divorces. And when those divorces involve kids, it's just like, oh, this is a night like, this is so complicated. And like, then you have Yeah, it's like, there's other partners, and you have to put the kids first. And it's like, you have to have a relationship with your ex still. And it's like, you have to try and deal with their new partner, and you want to do it in a healthy way, because it's gonna affect your kids. And so I think, like, being a good parent gets way more complicated when you are doing it under those circumstances. And so I think I thought a lot about like, yeah, and it's sort of this like, thing about like, the, the sort of idea of the other woman like, Listen, I don't think it's a good thing to go and take someone's husband or but I don't think also husbands can be taken, I think, or wives, I think, you know, or anybody like partners, like, honestly, as like that that person is more responsible for maintaining the relationship than someone who's outside of it. But yeah, I mean, I think just all of those, all of those sort of like how complicated those

dynamics are, and you know, those things are playing out, all around us, right, just in our every day, like a lot of drama, right? Like watching people try and negotiate sort of custody, and all that stuff is like, it's just so gnarly.

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Michelle Glogovac 28:01

Yeah, it's very real. And, and the way that children are, you know, have siblings of this and the steps of learning of this and how it continues. I mean, that's my real life. Because my husband was married before, I've got two stepchildren, so I've been there. I wasn't the other woman. But you know, you do you have to take on that role of, we do this for the children. And that's first and foremost, what we have to do. And now I have to, you know, of my own and you still do it for the children that you you don't say negative things, because you don't want to play it that in their head. You know, someday I always say they'll get older though. There'll be adults someday.

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Andrea Dunlop 28:40

Yeah, yeah. And then they can make their own mind up about me, right? Yeah. And it's, um, it's just like, it's complicated enough being a parent, when you're just married to your original spouse, and there aren't any of those complications. And they made you just throw all that stuff in there. And it's, it's, yeah, it's it's a lot.

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Michelle Glogovac 28:56

Yeah, yeah. Let's also talk about because it's a whole tech thing, vibe with the book. And how did you research that this is the fascinating part to me about fiction books, is you had to have done some research on what goes into, you know, tech media company and how he's going to go public. And how did you come to all of that? Did you do research what was behind it? I'm fascinated because it's Silicon Valley. So yeah, I

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Andrea Dunlop 29:25

mean, I did I did some research. Um, yeah, this is not just like, stuff I knew about on the top of my head. I mean, my my dad is my dad is a business guy. He owns a software as a service companies. So some of it was talking to him. I had another friend who had a had had a bigger tech company who went public and so I talked to him about it and just kind of like yeah, just sort of get the obviously you want to make these things based in the real world. And yeah, and so I think it was just like, get talking to a couple of people. I mean, you know, Seattle is lousy with tech people. So it was not hard to get find a handful of people to talk to about about the So I just, you know, I talked I talked to some people I did some Googling, like that kind of thing. And you know, and then I think it just like the sort of, there's a lot of real life inspiration for guys like Jake right? I mean, I think it's been really interesting to see. Like some of these guys that were sort of like the tech wunderkind guys kind of coming of age, right? Like seeing how like, a Mark Zuckerberg looks now versus 15 years ago, or, you know, or Jack Dorsey or like some of these guys. And also like some of the older guys like Elon Musk and Steve Jobs, I thought about them a lot, just in terms of like, tech guys who are dropping the ball is dad's. Sure. I feel like we

don't talk enough about how bad a father's Steve Jobs and Elon Musk appear to be. And, you know, like, I always think about them, because I'm like, Oh, if a woman, you know, if a woman is a bad mother, that's it. It doesn't matter what else she does in her life. That's what she's going to be judged on. There's nothing you could ever create or invent or do as a woman that would that would excuse you being a bad mother. Steve Jobs, had a daughter that wrote an entire memoir about how he was a terrible father and basically let her grow up in poverty, despite the fact that he was being rich. But that's not the exclusive besides the fact that he was like amassing this massive fortune. Right. And like, that is a I mean, if that's not an indictment on someone's character, I don't know what it is. Is that the thing that people remember about Steve Jobs? No, no.

M

Michelle Glogovac 31:36

Yeah. And same for Elon, how many more kids does he have?

A

Andrea Dunlop 31:40

I'm like it. Yeah. And he's, I mean, you know, it's always hard to know what goes on in a family. But I think that we can sort of assume that Elon Musk is like, not the most stand up dad, you know, he's had he doesn't have a house. So he's just like, has all these children and I heard this theory and like, I mean, for this is for entertainment purposes, so nobody sue me. But like, this theory that there's some like, sort of deep like libertarian thing that, you know, there's a that people should be like repopulate the smartest people should be like, repopulating the earth. And so it's a real vibe to go and father as many children as you possibly can, which that sounds creepy and like eugenics. And again, that is, you know, well, Elon, some public figures, but too many caveats around that. Again, that's just hearsay. And but it sounded right to me. Yeah. And, and I think, yeah, I just I think like the, the, the only thing we talked about Elon Musk and the concept of like, or in the context of him being a dad is just that like, he seems to be having all these babies with different people. You know, and he had a he had a bit he had a child that that died. He had a child with his first wife that died from SIDS. Yeah, and so I mean, like, it's just like for someone to have that complicated of a life as a father and it not be the focus like that would never be the case. I mean, can you imagine if there was a woman in the public eye who'd had a child die and had children with like, four different What about I mean, we would talk about nothing else.

M

Michelle Glogovac 33:15

Serrano's woman Serrano's. Oh, Elizabeth home. Yes. Thank you. Yeah, like when you got pregnant, no one that you're going to jail, huh?

A

Andrea Dunlop 33:27

Yeah, too. She had two babies. Yeah. And I mean, I really like, you know, I don't pretend to know what's in Elizabeth Holmes is heart. She certainly seems to be. She has done some very, very bad things. Speaking of like women proving that they can be just as bad as men. Yes. Elizabeth Holmes. Thank you for that. Um, but yeah, I mean, I It sure seems like that might

have been a sympathy ploy. I mean, I was thinking about, you know, in Chicago, when Roxy pretends she's pregnant. I'm like, that's the vibe. It's like she wants Chicago and was like, that's a move. I'll just get pregnant. Yeah. And I mean, the idea that like a jury would be less inclined to send a mother to jail. Like she's not wrong about that. You know, it's not I'm not saying that's the reason she had the baby. I sure hope not. But yeah, it's that that was a real, that was some choice timing. But I think she's such an interesting, she's such an interesting character. Because I think like, what's interesting about Elizabeth Holmes, is that I think we all had this feeling of like, oh, no, she turned out to be a fraud. No one will ever invest in a woman ever again. And like, we would never think that with one of the like, many, many, many men who've turned out to be frauds, right. Really? Yeah. Right. It's like you hear those stories daily. And yet, it's just like, yes, but we're still gonna, like, you know, give 98% of funding to male led startups, you know, and and so, but it's like if you feel like and that is That's the feeling of like a woman can only mess up once or like it was that I think there was so sort of a same vibe about Hillary Clinton right of like, well, we can't elect the wrong woman to be the first president or they'll never let a woman be president and ever again, despite the fact that every man has been a president before this. And some of them have been so look what we got sort of a chance of like speaking of whole rabbit trails, we could go down. Yes, it's like, let's just keep let's just keep electing elderly white men. Yeah, but so yeah, I mean, those were those were kind of so I spent a lot of time going down rabbit holes about like Steve Jobs and Elon Musk, which was less for sort of like the tech stuff and more for just like the, the sort of like way that we venerate male entrepreneurs, and forgive them anything. I mean, I feel like Steve Jobs like continues to have a pretty good reputation. And like he was just so known for being absolutely horrible to his employees. He was horrible to his family. So it's like if you're horrible to your employees and your family that says everything of if you if you are a person in power, who treats the people underneath you badly. That says everything about you. I don't really care how cool of a phone you have. I have an iPhone. That's fine. I love my iPhone, but like I you know, someone else could have invented that and not been terrible that right? That's That's my argument.

M

Michelle Glogovac 36:27

You don't have to be a jackass to invent cool stuff.

A

Andrea Dunlop 36:32

No, you don't. You don't that's You heard it here first.

M

Michelle Glogovac 36:37

And on next week's episode. I feel like we can have our own show. We will have to pitch that to zippy.

A

Andrea Dunlop 36:47

There you go. Yes.

M

Michelle Glogovac 36:50

Okay, so women are the fiercest creatures comes out March 7. And then your podcast. I didn't even know about the podcast, and I thought I stalked you well.

A

Andrea Dunlop 37:00

Oh, that means I need to like, Look, I need to look at my, my online presence if you can find the podcast and well, it's stalking me. But yes, so my podcast is called nobody should believe me. It is an investigative True Crime podcast about Munchausen by proxy. It is we had our first season come out it is a it's a seasonal show. So it's sort of a it's a limited series, but we're doing multiple seasons. So we're working on season two right now. And that should come out in May. And so if you are interested in that topic at all, if you are riveted by the Gypsy Rose Blanchard saga, or you know sharp objects, or the act or kind of these other, these other shows that have come out, I highly recommend diving into that. It's, that's that's sort of the work I'm doing on the other side of my life. I'm part of the Munchausen by proxy committee on the American professional society on the abuse of children. So I'm on there with a whole bunch of amazing experts that have been working on this topic for like 30 plus years. So I interviewed a bunch of them. In Season One, we interviewed a bunch in season two. And we cover you know, we covered a really fascinating case, the case of hope you Barra. I spoke to everyone in her family, I spoke to hope for the season finale. That was really fascinating. And I also talked a bit about my own personal connection with the topic. So if that is interesting to you, then go check that out. And I always do want to say like, yes, big trigger warning, because the whole thing is about child abuse. But we do not cover any stories in the first season where the children do not survive. So I like to say that as a mom, because like, I'm not really wanting to like go and listen to something where so it's there are there are parts that are difficult to listen to. But we also took extreme pains to not make it sensationalized or gory and really focus on like the humanity of everyone involved.

M

Michelle Glogovac 38:55

I want to say I love that and not so weird kind of way. Like, I think that's amazing. That's incredible. I didn't see that you were part of the board for Munchausen by proxy. And it reminds me of I want to say I first heard of it, like when I was younger watching 20/20 on Friday nights, and you know, they would have those types of stories on it. And it's just fascinating, because it's one of those topics that you're like, how does that How can that happen? Like? And then as a mom, you're really like really? Who? Yeah, and it's,

A

Andrea Dunlop 39:27

it is fascinating. And it's funny, because people are always like, Oh, I'm really excited to listen to it. Is it weird that I said that? And I'm like, no, no, it's I wanted to create something that was compelling. And I think it is compelling. It is a fascinating phenomenon. And you know, we talked about we talked a lot about the psychopathology behind it, like what whatever make someone do this. And, and I think that like, yeah, it's those things are naturally interesting. I mean, I've thought a lot I actually not a big True Crime listener. I am a sensitive person and I sort of I have my area where, like, I'm able to engage with this very dark topic, because that's something that like, you know, has affected me and I, I, I'm able to dive into that, but I like I

can't listen to other stuff that's about children in parallel. It's interesting. It's like, I only have the space for this one. But um, yeah, I mean, I think true crime is a really interesting genre. And when we talk about, you know, about podcasting being the Wild West, I mean, true crime is the biggest, biggest segment of the podcasting world. And I think there's been a lot of much needed conversation about doing it responsibly as of late that there was not five days ago. And I think, yeah, it's a really like, you know, I'm also co writing a book with the detective who was on my podcast, we're writing about several cases, that's the book I have coming out from St. Martin's next year. And it's been a really different exercise, right, like doing nonfiction, this, for some reason, nonfiction, getting into true crime. I mean, you have to like, I feel like you have to be extremely respectful that you are talking about people's real lives, and you are talking to people about the worst thing that ever happened to them. And that takes a lot of trust. And like, that's something that I really tried hard to honor. And, you know, and I think like, it's very isolating when you're going through a case or an investigation. And so I really wanted people to hear that show and feel less alone if they'd been through that. And, you know, that was the end. That's, that's sort of like, that's where it kind of like dovetails with with my fiction, I think one of the best things that you can do as a whether you're writing, you know, fiction of any genre, or you know, doing podcasts or whatever it is just make people feel less alone. I think that's like one of the best things storytelling can do.

M Michelle Glogovac 41:42

Absolutely. I love it. I could talk to you all day. You're just you're fascinating. You've got so many different facets, like we just talked about anything.

A Andrea Dunlop 41:50

You know, I know this has been so fun to chat with you.

M Michelle Glogovac 41:54

I really appreciate your book was fantastic is fantastic. It's coming out next month, everybody. So grab it, get zubi books, anywhere that books are sold your favorite indie books, bookstore, and how else where else can they find you?

A Andrea Dunlop 42:10

Yes, and I also want to give a little plug for bookshop.org If you are not lucky enough as I am to live in a place where there are indie bookstores everywhere. You can go on bookshop.org and that will those proceeds will go to any bookstore so that it's a great online option. Um, and yeah, I mean, I'm most active slash only active on social media, on Instagram. So I'm at Andrea Dunlop, very easy to find. They're my and my website is Andrew Dunlop. dotnet. And that's all the stuff about my books and podcasts are all there. So yes, I'm very findable. I love hearing from readers. I love hearing from podcast listeners. So I'm approachable. Come find me. Jamya

M Michelle Glogovac 42:46

Michelle Glogovac 42:48
Thank you.

A Andrea Dunlop 42:50
Thank you, Michelle.

M Michelle Glogovac 42:53
Okay, friends, I don't know if you're going to go head to the couch to go watch some real housewives that we've inspired you or you're going to go run out and buy the book. Just go download it, do it now. It was such a fun read. As I said before, and Andrea is such a pleasure and a wealth of knowledge. I love that she has something to say on all the topics that I was bringing up. And it was just so much fun to get to know the author that is behind this book that I so thoroughly enjoyed. I find that this is such an absolute treat for me to be able to read these books that I enjoy so much. And then to talk to the author, the person who took the time to write this book and create these characters. It's such a gift. Anybody who's an author has this special gift and to be able to chat with them on how they came to create such a thing is just absolutely mind blowing to me. I am so lucky that this is what I get to do. So I hope you go out and grab your copy of women are the fiercest creatures go listen to Andrea's podcast. Go follow her send her a message she will definitely say hello right back. And until next week, my friends. Remember ladies you are the fiercest creatures.