

Transcript

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You're listening to the My Simplified Life podcast and this is episode number 244. 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. I'm your host, Michelle Globeck, author of How to Get on Podcasts, the podcast matchmaker

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and CEO and founder of the MLG Collective. I'm excited to share my stories and life lessons with you while taking you on my own journey. This is my simplified life. Hey friends, welcome back to another episode. I'm your host, Michelle Glogevac. Today, we are talking to my good friend that I met online and now we're like in real life best friends because we're peas in a pod.

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Liz Alterman, who is a former journalist, author, and I loved her memoir, Sad Sacked. It is the tale of how her and her husband were laid off within six weeks of each other. And this is how I became to feel that we are peas in a pod. There are so many similarities and I absolutely fell in love with Liz and her story and could not wait to meet her quote unquote in real life via.

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our computers and to get to share our conversation with all of you on what it's like to be laid off to then become an author and to share your story with the entire world. Hi, Liz. Hi, Michelle. Thank you for having me. Oh, thank you for taking the time to come on. I'm so excited. I feel like we are we're peas in a pod. We already know each other. We're BFFs. And yet this is the first time that we are talking.

01:55

Exactly. But not the first time I've heard your voice because I am an avid listener of your podcast. And I love listening to all the authors that you chat with. You sound as if you've known everyone for a decade or so. So I love that, like chatting with old friends. You were too kind. I loved your audio book. So that was good to hear. I like to stalk everyone that comes on the show first. So I feel like I do know them.

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Yes, and it shows and you talk about that in your book. And I thought that was really fun too, because you can pull out those details that other people who are just kind of glossing over a bio don't notice or they don't take that deep dive. So thank you. Before we go further, can you introduce yourself to everyone, please?

02:41

Oh, sure. Absolutely. So I'm Liz Alterman. I am a longtime journalist and author. I've written a memoir, *Sad Sacked*, and a young adult thriller, *He'll Be Waiting*, and two domestic suspense novels, *The Perfect Neighborhood* and the recently released *The House on Cold Creek Lane*. And I read *Sad Sacked* because it was like a parallel to my own life. But I want to read the thrillers too.

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Because I recently got into thrillers with Sagit Schwartz's thriller since she's been gone earlier in the year. And I was like, Oh, maybe I do like thrillers. Just not right before bedtime. Exactly. I know. Then I end up staying up much, much later than I'm supposed to. And I end up kind of looking around, you know, even though it's dark and I just have the Kindle or my audio book, next thing I'm sitting up in bed, am I alone here? Is this, you know, anyone hiding in the corner? Right.

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Did I lock the door? Exactly. Yeah. So take me back to, I know your career story, but take everyone back to, I want to talk a bit about *Sad Sacked* and...

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what life looked like for you before this transition into writing and being at home with your husband. Oh, yes. Right. I always say. So the premise is that my husband and I, both longtime media professionals, were laid off within about six weeks of one another. So I like to say, you know, people will say you marry for better or worse, but not for lunch. And so suddenly we had...

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all this time together staring at each other. And I should note that I guess he was laid off right before Thanksgiving. And I was laid off in January and we live in New Jersey and it happened to be this awful cold winter where we were just stuck inside together all the time. And initially I thought that we have three children and I was thinking, okay, this is gonna be.

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a great opportunity for us to really reconnect and finish those sentences that the kids are always interrupting, maybe we'll cook together or try some new recipes and job hunt together. And while I was up for that, my husband Rich definitely had other plans. He was going full tilt toward the working out and making all of these new juices and smoothies. And so...

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I'd say rather quickly, tensions began to escalate and definitely it was not an easy time for us as we tried to reinvent ourselves in our mid-40s. That would be tough for anyone. My parallel was that, yes, I've been laid off, my husband's been laid off, we ended up working from home, I was laid off a second time, but we got pregnant both times. Oh no.

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That's really funny. I guess we did bond during our time. Wait, okay, you did. You got to do something, right? So that's really- Yeah, yeah. We just ended up with two kids. So that's so funny. Well, so I was in my 40s and I have a good friend who knew I was working on this memoir. And I do find that a lot of people maybe don't necessarily realize that memoir is nonfiction and you have to stay true to that. So-

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As I was writing it, she says to me, you know what would be a wonderful cliffhanger ending is if you turned out to be pregnant at the end of it. And I was saying, first of all, I think that might be biologically, I'm kind of beyond that now. And then also it's not true. And I think people would say like, these two people with three kids already and no jobs, I don't know if that's the best decision.

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That's hilarious. Right. So I had to tell her, I'll save that maybe for another, maybe a work of fiction. I like that you're writing a memoir and she's like, why don't you throw this in? You know, I don't know if you found that, but people are not shy about giving you ideas or saying, I've been meaning to write this. Why don't you take it? You do it. Yeah. It feels like that's life in general. I've been meaning to volunteer for this position. Why don't you do it? Exactly. No, I'm good.

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Right? That's funny. So what made you decide to write a memoir? Because I know that then this is what launched, okay, now I'm going to write, this is what I'm going to do. And then your husband decided that he wasn't going to go back to corporate either. Because we've had this conversation where I'm like, give me your secrets on how you did that because my husband's still in corporate. And it's really, don't tell his job, but it's really because of the health benefits.

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I do feel like if we weren't tied to those, it would open up the whole world for you. And even now that we can work from home, traveling or even putting together a few consulting roles, but it is that healthcare that keeps you so tied to corporate. So I guess for me, what happened was I had been freelancing here and there for different places and one assignment that I was given was to interview the founder of a writing school.

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I just kind of at the end of our conversation, I said, what's your most popular class? And she said memoir, everyone feels they have a story to tell. And originally when I was

interviewing her, I thought she was doing a lot and she does do a lot of courses for children and summer camps to kind of like spark creativity. And I loved that. But then when I realized there was this adult component and maybe I could do it too and get out of my house and try to reinvent myself this way, I thought, all right, I'm going to.

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take this class and I'm going to write about this weird period that we never saw coming. My husband had been in his job for 18 years and he wasn't happy with it, but he really, again, like you're saying, the healthcare, the 401k, he maybe had accrued up to four weeks vacation. So it's kind of like, where are you going to go in today's world where you're going to get those benefits? Like nowhere, you know?

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That was kind of why he stayed. But so I thought, OK, I'm going to take this class. And also at the time we were out of work, I was on the internet scrolling around looking like, has this happened to anyone else? And how did they cope? How did they get through it without every night eating a half gallon of ice cream and drinking a bottle of whiskey? What's your secret? So I kept finding, here's how to write a cover letter. Here's how to beat the robots with your keywords and your resume.

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But I wasn't really seeing anyone talk about just those feelings of like the loss of dignity that comes from losing a job or, you know, well, what do I do next? Like, how do you not second guess yourself? Like, how did I end up here? Should I have gone to law school? You know, what should I? Is it time to pursue a trade? You know, you think, what do I do next? And that that was where I thought like, OK, this might be something that I could address this unemployment topic from a different corner, kind of.

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or a different slant, and that's what I decided to do. I love it. And it's so true because people who haven't been through this don't understand that it's like a death. There's a grieving process and you're mad and you're sad and then you're kind of like, maybe this is a good thing. But you go through all of these different emotions and to do it together,

we didn't do it together. We did it. It was separately. It was like one and then the other and then me again.

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But you're still like, okay, the first time is a total shock. And then when I remember when it happened to my husband, he was working from home and he took a call and he was on the couch and I was at my desk and I hear him go, okay. And he mutes himself and he goes, I'm getting laid off. And I went, not a problem. And I was on email with my HR going, I'm going to need a change of benefits initiated right away. I was like, we got this. We know what's going on.

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And when it happened to me the second time and HR came on the phone, I go, oh, you can just stop talking right now. I need to know how many months severance I'm getting and when does co-breaking? And I was like, we're business about it. I've been through this before. Just give me the facts. We're moving on. Send me the FedEx package to send my laptop back. Exactly. I know it does. The second time, it definitely stings a lot less. Yeah. And I'm like, whatever. I'm over you too then.

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Exactly. I know I was laid off. I talk about the book that I'm sorry, in the memoir, I talk about the job that I eventually take on, which is like a real bait and switch. And fast forward a few years, it's not in the memoir, but that comes to an end. But I was putting together a slideshow, and I'm on a call and my boss is saying, Okay, we've got HR on the line.

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and I'm thinking they're switching up because there had been a lot of restructuring. So I'm thinking they're giving me a different role. I'm still putting a slideshow together as they're letting me go. I'm adding photo captions, like courtesy, getty images. And I'm like, wait a minute, Liz, you don't have to do this anymore. You can just exit out of anything and be done. And that, the second time it was very freeing, like, okay, we're done here. Yeah, it's crazy. And the funny...

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Like, let's harp on these corporate things for a minute because the way that they come at it with you're in the middle of a project and you're writing this and they phone call and we have HR on the line, okay. I was supposed to be doing a team meeting with my director and her boss to discuss where we are throughout the country. It was a, okay, we're going to report on this. And I had done my presentation and I'm like, wait, what? Oh, and he didn't even show up.

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He didn't have the balls to show up for the meeting to let me go. So like, come on, like, why would you give us projects if you're going to let us go? Because obviously you knew this, it was in the pipeline. It doesn't just you don't wake up this morning and go, oh, let me get put this package together for you. Exactly right. You know, it's coming. It's crazy. It really is. It is. But it is. It's not easy when you're when you're caught off guard by it. You're kind of wait a second. What what happened?

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So how many years ago was this? I guess for me that first layoff was in 2014. So I took a few years and wrote the book and then, and I took some classes and the workshops really helped to kind of keep me accountable as I was writing and to get that live feedback. And I think it's hard when you write memoir, because it's your own life, everything seems important to you, or you think like, oh, this is a cute story and people will say, okay.

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That's a fine anecdote, but you're veering off course. This has nothing to do with blah, blah, blah, and you gotta get rid of that. So I think that kind of kept me on track. So that was good. And then I guess around maybe 2017, 2018, I found an agent and she was lovely. And she built, I think you have to, as you're saying, you have to find someone.

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who has experienced unemployment or had the threat of unemployment hanging over their head because they're your people who get it. And so a lot of other people I had queried would say like, oh, this is funny or this is interesting, but yeah, unemployment, it's not a thing. And I'm like, oh, wait till you get your means. You're gonna feel differently. But so she really got it. Cause I think too you tell people you're out of work and they're like, oh, you're gonna be fine. Like it's a bad haircut. Like

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Just give it time, it's gonna correct itself. And so she and I, we did some revisions and we went out with it and we got, as I like to say, my favorite oxymoron, very kind rejections and people saying, you know, I like this, but you're not a celebrity. You don't have a platform. And that, you know, it kind of stung because platform was in the back of my mind and I had been writing for a career site. And my pieces,

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While I wasn't getting paid, I was building a portfolio and they were getting picked up by places like Forbes, Mashable, Inc. And so I thought like, hey, I'm trying. I'm not gonna be a real housewife anytime soon. No. You don't wanna be, you're too good. No, I don't wanna be. And I mean, people would be bored senseless. They'd be like, there's that lady just eating cheese and watching Emily in Paris. But so that...

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You know, we kept bumping up against the platform thing, or though we don't know how to break this out, or this was of course pre-pandemic, so layoffs were not as prevalent. And so we did keep hearing, unemployment's not really a concern. Anybody who wants a job could have a job. And so that was, it was discouraging. And so my agent and I parted ways, and I went on to write a young adult thriller.

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And, uh, but meanwhile, I had a friend who was shopping around a thriller and she had an agent who was kind of leaving no stone unturned. And that's when she came back to me and said, are you familiar with Audible's pitch portal? I think you could send your memoir through that on your own. And I thought, no, I hadn't, but I've got this thing just

sitting in my iCloud. Why not? So I uploaded all the information I needed to. And within about a month, I heard from Audible saying an editor...

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has read your book and would like to speak with you. And at first I was kind of like, is this for real? Is this like one of my kids trying to, you know, boost my self-esteem after all of these rejections? But no, it was legit. And so that I got an editor there and she was fantastic. And I guess it took a couple of years before it came out. So it was kind of like, I started in 2014.

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And then it came out in 2021. And then because I'd been working on these other books, they kind of came out back to back. So people were like, oh man, you've been so busy. Look at you turning them out. I'm like, no, no, it's been in the pipeline for about eight years. I didn't even know about this audible pitch thing. Right. That sounds great. And does it work like then once you get an editor who's interested, so you take away the middle person with an agent, right?

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Right. I think your agent could submit on your behalf back at this time. But for me, you could do it without an agent. And I think they just put out a call again, where you could pitch them something they were looking, I want to say something that was like serialized. And it was kind of across the board, they were taking pitches fiction, nonfiction, just any just kind of gathering ideas and seeing what they liked. So it was really interesting. That's very I'm totally gonna look it up.

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because why not everybody? Exactly, why not, indeed. What did Rich, your husband, think about you sharing all of these details? I know a lot of people ask that and right before it came out, Audible, my editor there and I were on a call with a lawyer just to kind of go over, my editor wanted to just make sure everything was good.

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Her fear was kind of at one point, my family and I go to Universal Studios on vacation. And when I booked the trip, I really was sure that my husband would have a job and we'd be in a much better place.

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And when we get there, it's this gray, cold, gloomy day, and Rich does not have a job. And I feel like every ride spits you out in a gift shop, and you can't exit unless your kid is like, can I get this \$18 lollipop? And you're like, please no, we can't even afford to be here in the first place. And then we were in one world, and then my son was like, well, you bought the tickets for the other world, right? Like we can take the Hogwarts Express. I'm like, not unless we rob that gift shop that we just came through,

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that's going to be another \$500. So my editor was kind of like, you know, she says some negative things about universal, but it's not really universal. She was just in a dark place. But the lawyer, a man was like, Oh no, that's completely fine. I just want to know how her husband feels about her talking like this. And it's totally the truth. I mean, we just went to Disneyland in June and yeah, you end up, Oh, the ride ends up in Star Wars.

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shop where you buy something. That's totally the truth. So you did not lie. No, I have a good friend. He's very funny. And he will say, like, you know, before you leave, you're pretty much buying like a Buzz Lightyear dipped in gold for \$2,000. Like anything they can sell, they're going to sell you. So yeah, but so this lawyer was saying, how does your husband feel about, you know, you sharing this? And I said, well, because he was in media, like, he's my first editor of pretty much anything I write, I run it by him.

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and I really appreciate that. So anything that, and I gave him kind of the power of veto if he didn't like anything that was in there, he could certainly tell me. And I think he knew that we had different approaches during that period and that he was not necessarily easy to live with. And a lot of times I would get reviews where people would be like, I feel so bad for this guy. And I always want to contact them and be like, really? Would you like him to show up on your door? Let me know.

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How do you feel about that? I could have him there in 24 hours. So I think he knew that, you know, we had kind of gone through a lot and I think he was willing. Kind of, maybe he didn't necessarily know or think that it would be published. Maybe he felt like it was a good creative outlet for me. And then when I got the offer from Audible, he was probably like, I can't stand in her way. She's been working on this.

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six years. And it's going to pay. Exactly. I'm getting some money here finally. But so I think he knew we were in a better place at that point. So I think he was more okay that it was in the rear view and it wasn't as fresh. So he was a good sport. And then since I've been trying to publish other things with different varying degrees of success, as we spoke about, different agents getting close with a publisher, it not...

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coming through, just different things. I've said to him, if you would like to write a tell-all about me, you know, kind of running around screaming and throwing a fit in a bathroom with a cup of coffee, like, why is this not working out? Like, he is my blessing. I have said, go for it. I'll sign off on it, so. Why do I see you with a knife in your bathroom going, ah? Right, right, like, what just happened here?

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You also talk about in the book, like the neighborhood friends. Let's talk about the neighborhood friends. Do you still live in the same neighborhood? We do. Okay. So have they all read the book? I don't know. You never know. They've read it. They're very kind and supportive in that they had read my first domestic suspense novel, *The Perfect Neighborhood*, and they very generously invited me into like a town book club. And they so it's funny, different people were saying well,

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We live in the perfect neighborhood and it really made me laugh because it's not our neighborhood really. I guess in the fiction, it's not as close. There are certain aspects, but

it's fictionalized. But in the memoir, of course it is. You have those people who, as you're saying, we're both out of work, they're saying, do you believe I have to wait four months to get into this farm to table restaurant? Or I'm so annoyed my renovation is taking longer. Or people who will say like...

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my flight, I can't believe you know to Turks and Caicos, we were delayed two hours on the runway and the stewardess would not bring the bar cart. And I'm just kind of like, oh my gosh, I, you know, I don't know where what we're gonna do to keep paying this mortgage. So there's definitely that there can be that insensitivity that and it was really eye opening for me. And I just think, okay, I have to really watch what I say. I don't want to be that person who does that.

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I think these experiences teach us that and it gives us a different perspective that if you haven't been through it, then you just don't know about it or you don't, unless you're listening to stories like this, you don't have that empathy in order to show the compassion. Exactly. And there was a woman at school who, it's going in my book.

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She was laid off and I was like, oh, I've been there twice and my husband's been there. I get this. I understand what you're going through. I thought that I was being as supportive as possible and she goes, but I just ordered an electric Humvee. I don't know now if it's going to come. Oh no. I was like, you got over six figures in your severance package and this is what you're worried about and your husband's still working.

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Right, right. Different scenario. Yeah, we are not on the same wavelength and my pity for you just... Evaporated. Yeah, yeah. I'm like, you're not pregnant. Your husband has a job, so I guess you're cool. Wow. I know. Yeah, you just don't know what people are going to come back with. It's like the Turks and Caicos and you're like, yeah, my electric Humvee. Oh, which Tesla will that be replacing?

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Exactly. Right. I'm not sure where we live in what world. Oh, it's yeah, it's different. It really is. It is. And even I think I mentioned in the book when we get to Universal Studios and I can't sleep and even though we're in this lovely hotel and I just kept thinking, oh, my gosh, I'm what's wrong with America. Like I have bought something that I can't afford because I wanted to make my family happy. I wanted to kind of change our mood and.

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almost feel like things were normal again. But it goes back to that old, you take yourself with you wherever you go. So, but yeah, it's definitely. I want to say you stayed in the Portofino. We did. Yes. Because I've even stayed there too. When I had to go to Miami and stuff. So yes, Orlando. I was like, oh yes, we are so, the alignments were kind of crazy. That is really funny. I love that. Yeah. I remember that part too. Oh yes. I've been there as well.

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Yes. I remember just when I went to get coffee and a couple of muffins for my kids or bagels, the next thing it's like \$38. And I'm like, oh my God, and they're still going to be hungry. They're going to be hungry an hour later. Yeah, it's just a muffin. Yeah. Right. And yet when you have kids, you want them to feel that normal. Because I remember in the book, you have one kid who was more like empathetic, who understood, am I right?

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Am I pulling this out of my butt? Because I want to say that there was one who really got it and was concerned. Right, yes. At different points, I think they were kind of each went through their own kind of thing. But my oldest was kind of like, what are we going to do? Almost like we were trying to hide it, but I think we weren't doing that great a job. And then my middle son was sort of thinking, is dad not good at what he does? He goes on these interviews and he just can't land it. And that was.

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That was hard to hear because you can think you're shielding them and then they, of course, they're picking up on all of it. And it's funny how they perceive it too. Like mine

right now, my daughter says, she's like, you're a boss. You are a boss. So like nobody can fire you. I'm like, yeah, it's not quite how that works. Like I could have no clients and then I'd be the boss of nobody. And yeah, but dad could lose his job because he has a boss. Oh.

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Okay. Okay. And I don't know why this guy is suddenly falling and we're talking about this. But that's how they perceive now what we both do. It's so true. I know. I would say that I have the least amount of safety and security working for myself. And they're like, oh no, you're safe because you're the boss. Well, I guess they see you hustling and they're probably, she's not going to let herself fail, right? Yeah, I guess that would be true. Yeah, we're not going to stop. Right.

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I know it's hard because I think right out of in my first chapter or maybe the second we talk about breaking the news to our kids and I think when Rich said to them, my department has restructured or I've been let go and right away Ben was like, well, if it's your department, how can they let you go? You know, it's hard to explain to kids what it all means and what it looks like. And he was funny too. He would have these Groundhog Day moments where Rich would come down to breakfast. He'd be like, wait.

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Why is dad still here? And we're like, if dad got a job, you'd have heard about it, dude. It wasn't a big kept secret. Right. Exactly. Yup. He's still here. That's hilarious. It teaches you again so much and it teaches them too. Right. You know, to be 18 years. I was in 18 years with my job. My husband was two decades. So

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Now we're telling our kids, there might not be a job today that exists that you're going to be doing. So don't limit yourself. If you can figure out how to work for yourself, go do that too. You just never know what it's going to be. Yeah. You have to be nimble and don't just manage expectations. That's what I'll tell them too. You never know when you may have to reinvent yourself or try something different.

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especially now with technology. My son the other night was working on a cover letter and he had put in a bunch of things in AI and I like I of course am anti AI and then he read me back what it wrote and I thought, oh wow, now I'm really going to be out of, I've got to go find a new career because this thing it did a fine job and I was very disappointed. Oh really? It did. I was surprised. A little repetitive but I mean we rewrote it.

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course, but I was very surprised at how, I guess, eloquent this thing turned out to be. So I did not. I keep being disappointed. So it's okay. I had been disappointed for a long time. And this was kind of the first one where I thought and I kind of feel like humor may be the final frontier that it can't touch. Because I had when I first started reading about.

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all it could do. I was kind of saying, okay, write me this in the voice of David Sedaris. And boy, did it botch that. So I thought, all right, if it can't touch humor, we go down the humor road. Yeah. Oh, good. Yeah. I don't fully trust it. I use it to rewrite. I did something the other day where I said, take this bio and rewrite it into the third person. And it did. And it was good. But it was pre-written for it. And I was like, I'm just too lazy right now to put it in third person. So please just do that.

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that it could handle. But to create, I've had it write a pitch just for me to me, just to see what I did. And apparently I've done all kinds of things and written books that I've never even heard of. I've also been on podcasts that I don't remember recording. So that's when it failed. And I was pleasantly surprised that it's not putting me out of a job. Yes. Well, I had heard about an author using it to try to write a query letter and the

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I guess the robot kind of spit back a few comp titles, but this person was like, oh my gosh, these sound amazing. And then Google them and they don't exist. They I guess AI just invented these what would have been great comp titles, but they just weren't, they

weren't even real. So you definitely have to watch it. Yeah. Yes. Oh, no. Authors do not write your query letter in AI. No, no, no. My goodness.

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So what's next for you, Liz? Oh, thank you for asking, Michelle. Well, I recently started a podcast with a local bookshop called The Book House. They have locations in Millburn and Long Branch, New Jersey. So I've been having fun chatting with other authors, and I guess they contracted me for a 10-episode season, and I'm halfway through. So I'm gonna be sad when it ends, because I've read some good books, I've chatted with some great authors. And so I've been doing that on the side,

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So my novel, *The House on Coal Creek Lane*, came out of just a couple of... I've lost all track of time. I made it two weeks ago. But so I'm kind of... I have one project that I should revise and talk about going from first to third person. This manuscript, 90 something thousand words, is in third person. And the feedback that I've been getting is that...

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People are looking for more interiority, more connection with the characters. So I'm thinking, do I take it into first person? But I started, I guess I did chapter one and that felt like a massive undertaking. And so, you know, the whole shiny new object syndrome, I have another idea and I'm kind of like, ooh, maybe that's what I spend the winter doing.

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I don't know. So bottom line, I don't, other than my fun podcast and some freelance assignments, I'm debating what to do next writing wise, but thank you for asking. I'm excited for your writing. Oh, thank you. I love that a bookstore hired you to do a podcast. Hello, bookstores, please pay attention. And we are for hire because that sounds amazing.

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I know, I'm so excited. When they mentioned it, I was sort of like, oh man, I hope they really follow through because that would be a dream because I've been a guest on podcasts and I love it. And I always thought, ooh, being a journalist, I'd love to be on the other side where I get to ask the questions and do the research. And so when it came my way, I was so excited. And so I have a few people in mind for future episodes, but I have to.

32:36

to find more and I hope we get a second season. That's a blast. I love that idea. I'm gonna go listen. And we'll make sure we link to it too so everyone else can listen. And where can everyone find you and connect with you? Oh, thanks for asking. I'm pretty basic. I'm at LizAlterman.com and at LizAlterman on Instagram and X and.

32:58

Anywhere I always I'm happy to zoom into a book club or chat with readers about anything writing related or or personal or unemployment related. So you are not basic. You are anything but basic, my friend. Thank you so much for coming on. I'm so glad we got to connect and talk face to face finally.

33:20

Me too. Thank you so much for having me. And I've learned so much from your book. Oh, thank you. I've been recommending it to anyone who wants to go on a podcast or is thinking about starting a podcast. I loved it. Thank you. Liz is such a complete delight and I am so excited to read her next thrillers, the ones that have come out.

33:42

And I encourage you all to go read *Sad Sacked* because you will get that firsthand glimpse as to what it is like to be laid off from a job, to be looking for a new one, and what it's like to weather the storm with your spouse or your partner. I appreciate so much that she was willing to share this side of her life and her family with all of us because it's tough.

34:06

and to be so open and raw and candid about it is an absolute gift for us to get an insight look to. So go check out Liz and pick up all of her books while you're at it because she is just an incredible person, an amazing author, and I know you are going to love everything that she writes.