

00:00:07:26 - 00:00:19:20

Unknown

But not to be modest.

00:00:19:22 - 00:00:24:29

Speaker 2

Good evening.

00:00:25:01 - 00:01:13:06

Speaker 2

My point is not just it's a great one that I welcome you to San Jose City College. As a community college, we are proud to be one of three locations chosen for the community to come together to meet face to face with the MacArthur Fellow and have a chance to hear them speak. Now, this annual Latino Latina, because the fellow reunion has a very special meaning for us living in a Silicon Valley where every day we see new young heroes being celebrated in a newspaper, usually for the work they've done in the high tech industry, which leads to bigger and more profitable stock portfolio for the rich and the super rich.

00:01:13:09 - 00:02:00:02

Speaker 2

It is therefore really refreshing for us to come together here to be inspired and to pay our respects to the other heroes and heroines. Now, these heroes and heroines have not been recognized. No pocketbooks for our stock portfolio. They have done something far more important. So they have brought richness and wealth to our hearts and our souls. And I applaud the dedication of the 12 MacArthur fellow who have given up so much of their time to care for and to nurture the hearts and minds of the next generation of young Latinos and Latinas.

00:02:00:05 - 00:02:36:19

Speaker 2

And tonight, I feel especially honored that the internationally famous writer and poet Sandra Cisneros is here to share with us right now on behalf of San Jose City College. I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to Sandra, his medal, whose original concept of the annual reunion is a powerful moment with so many in the different communities can be touched and inspired by you and your fellow Latino and Latina MacArthur Fellow.

00:02:36:22 - 00:03:04:28

Speaker 2

And for so many of us in the audience who are mere generation or two away from our immigrant past. Your writings of the Latino community brings to life the remembrances of sadness and joy of our diverse, yet common path. You have beautifully memorialized for us, all of us, whichever corner of the earth. We came from a rich chapter of our history.

00:03:05:01 - 00:03:49:14

Speaker 2

As our communities move on to create a better tomorrow in this place where we all call home. Before I conclude, I would like to introduce several college members who are here. I would like to introduce a member of our Board of Trustees, Maria Francis. Maria, would you please stand up? And I would also like to introduce the Chancellor of the San Jose Evergreen Community College District, Chancellor Geraldine.

00:03:49:17 - 00:04:31:23

Speaker 2

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the individuals from San Jose City College who have worked extraordinarily hard over the past several months to help bring this event to the city of San Jose's and the college in particular. I would like to thank Carmen Castellano. Carmen, a year out from work and her special assistant Al, got the audio.

00:04:31:25 - 00:05:15:21

Speaker 2

Maria Garcia Cordova And I don't see Maria as special assistant. And your husband Rudy Cordova, a retired faculty from this college, for bringing this event to my attention several months ago and for the countless hours of work, they have volunteered to make this event a great success. Again, welcome to San Jose's City College. This time, I'd like to have Maria introduce our speaker for tonight.

00:05:15:23 - 00:05:59:06

Speaker 3

Welcome, everybody. You're in for quite a treat. Before I introduce Sandra, I would like to introduce one other MacArthur fellow who is here, Joaquin Avila. And would you please stand up again? For those of

you? Well, as Dr. Seng said, we are very fortunate to have the MacArthur Fellowship, the Latino, Latino, MacArthur fellows here in San Jose. This is really history in the making.

00:05:59:08 - 00:06:34:12

Speaker 3

I've had reporters ask me, why is this such an important event? You know, and one of the things that I was saying to them was it's such an important event because we have people, Latino people, who are here to give back to the community. When you hear each one of these fellows, you just can't help but be in all of each one of them, their creativity, their how much they're willing to give to the community.

00:06:34:14 - 00:07:04:01

Speaker 3

But so much for the MacArthur Fellows. I'd like to talk about one specific MacArthur Fellow, Fantastic Metals, Sandra is not the most widely read Latina author in the United States. I'm sure many of you have read her books. She's written The House on Mango Street, Woman, Hollering Creek and Other stories. She has a three.

00:07:04:01 - 00:07:05:28

Speaker 2

Volumes of poetry.

00:07:06:00 - 00:07:40:09

Speaker 3

That voice My Wicked Ways Loose Woman. And she also has a book for children, a bilingual book for children called Here are the Details. excuse me. She is a recipient of numerous awards. Her books have been translated and give me her books have been translated in ten different languages, which is quite an achievement for any author, wouldn't you say?

00:07:40:11 - 00:08:12:09

Speaker 3

And today I spent the day with Santa going around as he spoke to high school students and junior high school students, and just listening to what she had to say just touched me so profoundly that I guess the

best way to describe Sandra and the way that she writes is she touches your soul and makes your heart sing.

00:08:12:12 - 00:08:59:27

Speaker 3

And without further ado, I'd like to introduce Santa Cisneros son who has been so warm to us since the moment we got off the plane, and our musicians traveling with us to baggage. And people at the airport looked around and thought movie stars had gotten here. And it's just us. And so kind of you treat us and such a warm welcome, so much applause even before I opened my mouth.

00:08:59:29 - 00:09:19:04

Speaker 3

And especially now when I'm working on my novel in progress and I think I guess you must think that writing is easy for me, but it's the hardest thing to do. And it's a very frightening process because you'll be writing something for years and and you don't know if it's any good and you feel like throwing it in the river behind your house.

00:09:19:04 - 00:09:40:22

Speaker 3

And some days you cry and then somebody, you feel really good. And then a month later you're sick of it. And then you just it's like, I guess some of this must be like being in a marriage where you don't know if you should get a divorce or what can. And I have to say, though, that you know, that the process is normal.

00:09:40:24 - 00:09:59:08

Speaker 3

And if there are writers that tell you that they don't feel that way, they're liars. As all the writers I know, we go through all of the emotions from absolute joy to terror, depression and fear, and then we come back and we're done with that. And you go, Wow, I wasn't so bad. I guess I'll write another one.

00:09:59:11 - 00:10:18:23

Speaker 3

Or maybe if like having a baby. I heard that that's pretty torturous too, but I would not know it anyway. I'm in the throes of wrestling with the devil, this novel, and it's been a long process. It's not any longer than most of my books. Also, Manga Street was begun when I was 22 and I finished it when I was 28.

00:10:18:25 - 00:10:50:26

Speaker 3

Except the only difference now is that everybody's asking me when they're going to be final before me because left me alone. I would like to share that novel in progress with you if I could today. But first I would like to open, as we are in nearing the Day of the Dead, we are nearing November and the anniversary of the first MacArthur reunion, which we convened in my home city, my transparent transplanted hometown of San Antonio.

00:10:50:28 - 00:11:18:21

Speaker 3

And because the first one occurred in November, we decided to call it an OFRENDA and the whole concept was for it to be an ofrenda and offering it and living. And I'd like to keep in that theme since we are nearing Day of the Dead, and this is an essay that I wrote two years ago on the very first Day of the Dead after my father had died.

00:11:18:23 - 00:11:34:23

Speaker 3

And the way that I wrote it is the way that I write many things, and I don't think so much. Who's going to read it? I just write whatever I feel the strongest about and the fiercest. And I know if something happens in my life.

00:11:34:25 - 00:11:36:04

Speaker 2

That.

00:11:36:07 - 00:12:03:21

Speaker 3

Makes me unsettled, it stirs up my emotion, it puts a little Athena and corazon. You know, sometimes someone talks to a certain way or an event happens and you have this total unrest. I know I have to sit

down and write about it. And I'll tell you, you'll see from this essay what it was that began. Yes, it and a friend that saw my father on Day of the Dead,

00:12:03:24 - 00:12:37:08

Speaker 3

It's me. Call me when you wake up. It was a message left on my phone machine from a friend. But when I heard that word Mi, her poem squeezed my heart. My father was the only one who ever called me this. Because his death is so recent. The word overwhelmed fills me with grief. With my father's death, The thread that brings me to my other self, to my other language was severed.

00:12:37:11 - 00:13:12:25

Speaker 3

Spanish brings me to my ancestors, but especially to my father. A mexican national. By birth, he became a U.S. citizen by serving in World War Two. My mother, who is Mexican-American, learned her Spanish through this man, as I do forever after every word spoken in that language is linked indelibly to him. As a writer, I continue to analyze and reflect on the power of a word.

00:13:12:27 - 00:13:39:07

Speaker 3

The power a word has to produce such an effect. As always, I am fascinated with how those of us caught between worlds are held under the spell of words spoken in the language of our childhood. After a loved one dies, your senses become over sensitized. Maybe that's why I sometimes smell my father's cologne in a room when no one else does.

00:13:39:09 - 00:14:21:25

Speaker 3

And why words once taken for granted, suddenly take on new meanings meter from me. My daughter. The words translate as my daughter, daughter, my daughter daughter of mine. But they're all stiff and clumsy and have nothing of the intimacy and warmth of the word. Me, her daughter, my heart, who perhaps a more accurate translation of me her is I love you when I wish to address a child lover or one of my many small pets.

00:14:21:28 - 00:14:52:02

Speaker 3

I use Spanish, a language filled with affection and familiarity. I can only liken it to the fried tortilla smell of my mother's house or the way my brother's hair smells like Alberto VO5. When I hug them, just about makes me want to break down and cry. The language of our amplifier saddles. Those who came before us connects us to our center, to who we are and directs us to our lifework.

00:14:52:04 - 00:15:16:20

Speaker 3

Some of us have been lost, cut off from this essential wisdom and power. Sometimes as our parents or grandparents were so harmed by a society that treated them. You were speaking their native language. They thought they could save us from that hate by teaching us to speak only English. Those of us then live like captives lost from our culture.

00:15:16:22 - 00:15:46:16

Speaker 3

I'm grounded forever, wandering by ghost with a thorn in my heart. When my father was sick, I watched him dissolve before my eyes Each day. The cancer that was eating him changed his face as if he was crumbling from within and turning into a sugar skull, the kind placed on altars for Day of the Dead. Because I'm a light sleeper, my job was to sleep on the couch and be the night watch.

00:15:46:19 - 00:16:13:13

Speaker 3

Father always woke several times in the night, choking on his own bile. I would rush to hold a kidney shaped bowl under his lips, wait for him to finish throwing up the body exhausted beyond belief. When he was through, I rinsed a towel with cold water and watched his face. Yes, the constable. Indeed. My father would gasp. See you say.

00:16:13:16 - 00:16:44:10

Speaker 3

I know, but the body takes its time dying. I have reason since then that the purpose of illness is to let go for the living, to let the dying go, and for the dying to let go of this life and to travel to where they must. Whenever anyone discusses death, they talk about the inevitable loss. But no one ever mentions the inevitable gain.

00:16:44:13 - 00:17:14:07

Speaker 3

How, when you lose a loved one, you suddenly have a spirit alive and energy on the other side that is with you always that is with you. Just by calling their name. I know my father watches over me in a much more thorough way than he ever could when he was still alive. When he was living, I had to telephone long distance to check up on how he was doing and if he wasn't watching one of his endless telenovelas.

00:17:14:09 - 00:17:46:13

Speaker 3

He talked to me. Now I simply summon him in my thoughts instantly. I feel his presence throughout and and calm. I know this sounds like a lot of hokey new age stuff, but really, it's old age, so ancient and wonderful and filled with such wisdom that we have had to relearn it because our Miss education has taught us to name it Superstition.

00:17:46:15 - 00:18:17:03

Speaker 3

I have had to rediscover the spirituality of my ancestors because my own mother was a cynic. And so it came back to me a generation later learned, but not forgotten in some memory in my cells and my DNA in the palm of my arm that is made up of the same blood of my ancestors. And the transcripts I read from the Great Massacre visionary Maria Sabino Garcia of the Hakka.

00:18:17:06 - 00:18:45:29

Speaker 3

Sometimes a word can be translated into more than a meal, and it is a translation of a world view, a way of looking at things, and yes, even a way of accepting what others might not perceive as beautiful or radical. For example, instead of GraphQL two ways of looking at a blackbird, one sings, the other chuckles or the warm book.

00:18:46:01 - 00:19:19:00

Speaker 3

I hear your name twin and therefore your friend or the beautiful astray nad which means to wear something for the first time. There is no word in English for the thrill and pride of wearing something new. Spanish gives me a way of looking at myself and the world in a new way. For those of us living between morals, our job in the universe is to help others to see with more than their eyes.

00:19:19:06 - 00:19:57:22

Speaker 3

During this period of chaotic transition, our work as bicultural citizens is to help others, to become visionary, to help us all, to examine our dilemmas in multi ways and arrive at creative solutions. Otherwise, we all will perish. What does a skeleton mean to you? Satan Worship heavy metal music Halloween. Or maybe it means that you are a part of my life and I recognize you include you in mine.

00:19:57:25 - 00:20:27:29

Speaker 3

I even found my nose at you today and day of the dead. I honor and remember my aunt Goodbye Saddles. Those who have died and gone on before me. I think of those two brave women in Amarillo who lost their jobs for speaking Spanish. And I wonder at the fear of their employer, What do you think? We were talking about him.

00:20:28:01 - 00:21:01:17

Speaker 3

What an egocentric. Doesn't he understand that speaking another language is another way of seeing a way of being at home with one another. I'm saying to your listener, I know you, I honor you. You are my sister, my brother, my mother, my father, my family. If he learned Spanish or any other language, he would be admitting I love and respect you.

00:21:01:23 - 00:21:39:15

Speaker 3

And I love to draw for you in the language of those you love. This Day of the Dead, I make an offering when out open thin air to honor my father's life and to honor all immigrants everywhere who come to a new country filled with great hope and fear, dragging their beloved homeland with them in their language. My father appears to me now in the things that are most alive that speak to me or attempt to speak to me through their beauty, tenderness and love.

00:21:39:17 - 00:22:43:14

Speaker 3

A bowl of oranges on my kitchen table, the sharp scent of a palm with simplicity of marigolds, flowers for Day of the dead, the opening notes of an everlasting La Bolero. The night sky filled with my stars. Me home they call out to and my heart floods with joy. I've been reading that essay a couple of times this

week because we came from L.A., where everything was published by the L.A. Times, and each time I read it, I have I am like those little battery operated toys.

00:22:43:14 - 00:23:14:15

Speaker 3

It's my a little tired, though. I try to summon up all the energy I have because I really want to perform these next stories for you. And they've never been published. Their new I got to that a few of them in San Jose, a couple of months ago when I was here in the spring. But I'd like to for those of you who are repeats, I'd like to read them in a new way because I'm learning how to read them and to maybe add some things that I didn't read back in.

00:23:14:17 - 00:24:00:12

Speaker 3

I think it was April when I was here, and this novel is called Caramello by Caramel with an O at the end. Caramello. This is chapter one and very warm quote. He called Apple the red, white and green answer that faces brand new use white Cadillac on the baby green Impala Father's red Chevrolet station wagon bought that summer and credit are racing to the little grandfather's and awful grandmother's house in Mexico City Chicago Route 66.

00:24:00:12 - 00:24:21:17

Speaker 3

I then have an impact the giant turtle wax turtle all the way to Saint Louis, Missouri, which father called my Spanish name Sam Louise. Sam moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Tulsa, Oklahoma. To Dallas, Dallas to San Antonio to Latin, on to 81. So we are on the other side of the race. I'll be your mother one at San Luis Potosi.

00:24:21:17 - 00:24:50:05

Speaker 3

Get it? So Mexico City, every time Uncle Fat Face is white, Cadillac passes our red station wagon. The cousin Eric and Aristotle and Byron stick out their tongues and wave. Holy. We don't bother going faster when we pass the Green Impala more and fast that Uncle baby shoulder down, please. My brothers and I send them raspberries. We wear their tongues and make faces.

00:24:50:05 - 00:25:28:06

Speaker 3

We sit point and laugh. The three car green impala, white Cadillac red station wagon racing, passing each other sometimes on the shoulder of the road, wife yelling la Bastille Well, cry when one of us gets car sick and we help us stop the car The green impala, the white patties rushing to my hand happy as a thousand, my uncle fat face to tooting that horn like crazy.

00:25:28:08 - 00:26:00:04

Speaker 3

If we make it to Toluca, I'm walking to church on my knees. Auntie Lisa has Elvis, Aristotle and Byron hauling things out to the curb blenders, transistor radios, Barbie dolls with Army nine plastic crystal chandelier model airplanes, button down men's dress shirts, lace, push up bra socks, cut glass necklaces with matching earrings, hair clippers, mirror sunglasses, panty girdles, ballpoint hands, eyeshadow, kids, scissors, trophies, acrylic pullover, satin corset, Bedford corsets.

00:26:00:07 - 00:26:27:18

Speaker 3

All this besides the boxes of youth clothing under her breath. Auntie Lisa is move if we ever make it to Laredo, Even though I say three rosaries diaper for her, You make me nervous. Uncle Fatface is fiddling with the luggage rack on top of the hood. This has taken him two days to get to get everything to fit inside the car.

00:26:27:20 - 00:26:50:12

Speaker 3

The white Cadillac first is filled to capacity. The tire said the back half of the car gets down low. There is a room for anything else except the passengers. And even so, the cousins have to sit on top of suitcases. Daddy, my legs were already. You shut your snout. Are you right in the trunk? But there isn't any room in the trunk.

00:26:50:14 - 00:27:15:04

Speaker 3

I said shut this now to pay for the vacation, Uncle Fatface and Auntie Lisa always bring along items to sell after visiting the little grandfather and awful grandmother in the city, they take a side trip to Antilles, our home town of Toluca. All here. Their apartment looks like a store. A year's worth of weekend spent at Maxwell Street collecting merchandise for the trip.

00:27:15:04 - 00:27:49:17

Speaker 3

So Uncle says what sales is. No one. Literally the screaming, the God here, the better, says the awful grandmother. No use taking anything of value to that town. And Indians each summer. It's something unbelievable that sells like hotcakes. 70 jockey rings, eyelash curlers, wind down perfumes. That's practically bonnets. This year, Uncle is betting on glow in the dark yellow boxes on top of the kitchen cabinets, in the refrigerator, along.

00:27:49:17 - 00:27:50:27

Speaker 2

The hallway wall behind.

00:27:50:27 - 00:28:20:27

Speaker 3

The sleepy sectional couch and floor to ceiling on top or under. Thank. Even the bathroom has a special storage shelf high above so no one can touch taps along the walls with the boy from the toy sale in their original cardboard boxes. With the cellophane window sunk, a trust model airplane director said they're not to play with to look at your phone I got last Christmas and that one was a present for my seventh birthday, like displays at a museum.

00:28:21:00 - 00:28:45:10

Speaker 3

We've been waiting all morning for Uncle Sam. Things to telephone about your brother permanent so that father can call Uncle Baby and say the same thing. Every year. The three Reyes sons and their family drive south to the awful grandmother's house on Destiny Street, Mexico City. Each family visiting at a different time. But why is something happens? Your grandmother asks her husband.

00:28:45:13 - 00:29:08:29

Speaker 3

Why ask me? I'm already dead, the little grandfather says, shutting the door to his room. You do what you want to do. Same as always. What if someone falls asleep at the wheel? Like the time gone to check on became a widow and the half her family near Waco. And to hear that sad story about Blanca's cousins, eight people killed just as they were returning from this war.

00:29:09:00 - 00:29:35:26

Speaker 3

Then, right outside the Chicago city limits a patch of ice and a life hole in our world. All those people. Or what about that station wagon full of green cannons that fell off the mountainside near Southfield? But what was the old highway through the Sierra madre before they built the new interstate? All the same, we are too familiar with the roadside crosses and the stories they stand for.

00:29:35:28 - 00:30:10:01

Speaker 3

The awful grandmother complained so much her sons finally give in. That's why Uncle Sam says, Uncle Baby. And our father and Samson finally agree to drive down together. Although they never agree on anything. If you ask me, the whole idea stinks, Mother says. You'll see. Yeah, it'll be fun. And stop calling Media house. I hate that word. I'm not all your mother's old, but we're going to spend the entire summer in Mexico like we always do.

00:30:10:03 - 00:30:36:02

Speaker 3

We won't leave until school, and so we won't come back until after it started. Bother Uncle Fat safe and Uncle Baby don't have to report to the wealthiest furniture company on South Ashland because we're such good workers. Our boss gave us the whole summer off. Imagine it. But that's nothing but story. The three redheads have quit their jobs.

00:30:36:09 - 00:31:10:21

Speaker 3

When they don't like the job they quit. They pick up their hammers and say, Hey, you got for less food. They are craftsmen. They don't use a staple gun and cardboard like the upholsterers in the US. And it's also been carried by hand quality work. And when they don't like their boss and pick up their hammers and their time cards and work out cursing in two languages with tax on the soles of their shoes and lint in their beards, stubble and hair and bits of string dangling from the hem of their sweaters.

00:31:10:23 - 00:31:44:11

Speaker 3

But they didn't quit this term. Look. No, no. The real story is this The bosses that the El Al Fish Furniture Company on South Island have begun to dock the three because they arrived. 16 minutes after the hour. 43 minutes, 52 instead of on time, according to Uncle Fat Day, We are on time. It depends on which time you are on Restaurant time or the calendar of the sun.

00:31:44:14 - 00:32:37:18

Speaker 3

The ousted furniture company on South Ashland Avenue has decided they don't have time for the Brothers Vegas anymore. So what's the matter saying to your mother? It's the uncle Grandmother's idea that her me, her drive down to Mexico together. But years afterwards, everyone will forget. And blame each other. This chapter is called. You know what I'm saying? Pulling out from the windows for an hour more from the house, from the version by Lola than from that queen of Mexican country with tears in the throat and a group of mariachis, a group of mariachis cooing.

00:32:37:24 - 00:33:02:23

Speaker 3

But don't cry, Lisa. And not every time. I'm not crying. It's just that I remember. my. my. There's. They're not. You are, but you are not going.

00:33:02:25 - 00:33:04:02

Speaker 2

To.

00:33:04:04 - 00:33:07:26

Speaker 3

Get me be that ozone hole fires. Yeah.

00:33:08:00 - 00:33:13:10

Speaker 2

My mom was going, I.

00:33:13:12 - 00:33:19:16

Speaker 3

Was over the moon and starving them. Yes.

00:33:19:18 - 00:33:26:04

Unknown

That are there No espera me.

00:33:26:06 - 00:33:36:12

Speaker 3

me I thought I told me not to cry. Well, I'm so, so.

00:33:36:15 - 00:33:40:23

Speaker 2

So. So. Yeah. Let's get some.

00:33:40:26 - 00:34:03:19

Unknown

More from Santa. I didn't know I could do that. I didn't know I could do that till I wrote this book.

00:34:03:22 - 00:34:37:17

Speaker 3

I'm getting more and more shameless. Anyway, I in house that look like an elephant sat on the roof, an apartment so close to the ground. People knock on the window instead of the door. Just Taylor see not far from Saint Francis Church of the Mexicans, a stone's throw from their free flea market, the old Italian section and the shadow of the downtown loop.

00:34:37:20 - 00:35:10:22

Speaker 3

This is where Uncle Fat Faith, Auntie Lita, Elvis, Aristotle and Byron live on a block where everyone knows Uncle Fatface by his Italian nickname Pretty Girl instead of Fat Joe Federico, even though Prego

means rich in Spanish and uncle was always complaining, his father and father, it is no disgrace to the poor, uncle says, citing the Mexican saying, But it's very inconvenient.

00:35:10:24 - 00:35:45:21

Speaker 3

When they got to show for my life. Uncle so beautiful women at home, lots of beautiful cars. Every year Uncle trades his old Cadillac for a brand new used one On the 16th of September of September, Uncle comes along at the tail of the Mexican parade and his big party thrilled to be driving down safe streets street. The top rolled down the hill, sitting in the back, dressed in Santa outfits and waving.

00:35:45:23 - 00:36:22:13

Speaker 3

And that's four beautiful women. And he leads. I must be afraid. He was thinking of trading her, too, and sending her back to Mexico, even though he is as beautiful as a mexican. Elizabeth Taylor auntie who tells every woman, they're young. Who comes your uncle fat. Hey, even though uncle is almost all that small and brown as a peanut, Mather says, if a woman's crazy, jealous, like me child, you can bet it's because someone given her reason to be.

00:36:22:13 - 00:36:51:06

Speaker 3

You know what I mean? Is that she's from over there. Mother came to me from the Mexican side and not this side looks and women. I just like them Mexican songs. Look out for my one. Auntie tried to kill herself because of Uncle Fat Face. my husband. What about fatty disease from my own husband? Imagine that I.

00:36:51:11 - 00:37:26:03

Speaker 3

Yeah, my hair. I don't ever want to see you again. My back. You disgust me. That's it. So you got to. You know, you're not fit to be the father of my children. I'm going to kill myself and kill myself. It sounds much more dramatic in Spanish than I thought. the big kitchen knife, The one. And he dips in a glass of water to cut the boy's birthday cake, pointed towards her own sad heart to terrible all to work as a hair salon.

00:37:26:04 - 00:37:48:21

Speaker 3

Byron had to run by the neighbors, but by the time the neighbors arrived, what went to make Uncle Fatty sobbing collapsed in a heap on the floor like a broken lawn chair. Auntie Lisa cradling him like the Virgin Mary, cradling Jesus after he was brought down from the cross, hugging that hook, being head to recess. Mom, are you going to dear?

00:37:48:21 - 00:38:19:10

Speaker 3

Over and over? Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Five. So it's all over the thank that when auntie's not angry she calls uncle by. Yeah I'm so proud Sophia by Yasir He's called gently laughing at uncle silly stories, combing the few strands of hair left on his home with her fingers. But this only encourages uncle to move even more about my apple.

00:38:19:12 - 00:38:32:20

Speaker 3

So I said to the boss, I quit. This job is my son is doing about that. You heard me. You heard me. Are prostitutes underwear all day long. It's nothing but up and down and down.

00:38:32:20 - 00:38:37:05

Unknown

Up in world Don't tell stories.

00:38:37:05 - 00:39:15:09

Speaker 3

Like that in front of the children and these girls, though, she says that's what she is laughing, dabbing her Cleopatra eyes with the tip of a twisted paper napkin. But it's our uncle, baby. I'm Aunt who live like movie stars. Their apartment smells of cigarets and air conditioning, hours of fried tortillas. For a long time, I think of air conditioning and cigarets and the smell of arrogance from her hi fi and his favorite records are playing Exodus Never on a Sunday.

00:39:15:13 - 00:39:45:10

Speaker 3

Andy Williams singing Moon River. Everything Smells Like Cigaretts and House Curtains, rugs, furniture, The poodle with the pink painted toenails, her teased beehive, even her kids, except for the girl bedroom with the princess fans would smell like pee because I'm old and still wet the bed. Shut up, stupid. I'm sorry, Mom. I made me shut up, Stupid Jesus.

00:39:45:10 - 00:40:06:06

Speaker 3

When you could shut up and let me hear my music. Or do I had to make you shut up so their apartment far is little. The furniture is big iron kitchen chairs with high back like rooms, bedrooms that that poke out beyond the doorframe and jam the door from shutting completely a cigaret your clothes on hangers behind every door.

00:40:06:08 - 00:40:40:05

Speaker 3

It's hard to walk whenever someone wants to pass. Someone else has to sit down. When someone wants to open a door, someone else has to stand up in the kitchen. A life size portrait of an Italian street beggar bending over to take a drink from a fountain. We bought it because she looks just like our middle class wall to wall shag carpeting covered with plastic floor runners and area rugs, a marble coffee table like a coffin lid speckled, Venetian blown glass knickknacks, a rooster, a tropical fish, a swan onyx ashtray.

00:40:40:07 - 00:41:09:29

Speaker 3

My favorite is a gold flag lamp of the three graces laced with streams of real water like a fountain. Even our Carmen Miranda lamp with the nightlights Moroccan hints and rotating fan can't compete in our own flat. Things of beauty are not forever. The little birds perched around the birdbath candy dish fly away and disappear are the porcelain twin boxer puppies attached by a gold chain to the mama.

00:41:09:29 - 00:41:33:18

Speaker 3

Boxer somehow is safe and can't be found. The Japanese faces in the shadow box are missing their paper parasols. Even though the shadow box is high and hard to reach, who knows where they've gone? Once the marble coffee table at Uncle Baby and Auntie Nymphet was ours, so too many of us crack their heads on it. That's how it is with noodles.

00:41:33:20 - 00:41:56:19

Speaker 3

It's because Auntie Menthol is from Italy. That's why she used to fancy things. Uncle Baby met her in a laundromat. I'm at a laundromat on Taylor Street and fell in love with her voice. Sexy and sad as a trombone in a smoking parfait. My family didn't want me to marry baby because he wasn't Italian. But I married him anyway.

00:41:56:21 - 00:42:20:16

Speaker 3

Maybe because I said don't. And she ever homesick for Italy? I don't know, honey. I've never been there. Everything. An antique home is white or gold and looks like a wedding cake. Like Marie Antoinette, a house with lots of buttons broken. But chairs a swivel with tufted backs and fringe bottoms, footstool shaped like cupcakes. I'm sure baby made them.

00:42:20:23 - 00:42:43:08

Speaker 3

Who know the plastic covers, too? And the draperies and the cornices are ankle babies work above the dining room table, a porcelain chandelier with porcelain roses and porcelain vines brought back one summer from La Hora. Their dining room table isn't Formica, but a thick sheet of glass held in an iron frame with curly white iron rosettes climbing up the legs and chairs everywhere.

00:42:43:09 - 00:43:05:00

Speaker 3

One has several ashtrays. Even the kitchen and the bathroom appear white. Women's hands, cups, palms up a crystal basket, a naughty lady lying on her back her legs up in the air, swaying back and forth, and a fan in her hand fluttering. There are huge mirrors and lovely gold frames. There are lamps with giant silk shades still wrapped in cellophane, shaped like a lady's corset.

00:43:05:02 - 00:43:31:06

Speaker 3

The living room carpet is champagne covered with plastic floor runners, mirrors and glass and figurines, things that are a lot of work to keep clean. That's why you have to make sure you wear your good socks when you visit and have washed your feet because you must take your shoes off and leave them in the hall. Everyone wants a bath in their socks except the yellow poodle with the rest.

00:43:31:07 - 00:43:59:12

Speaker 3

Nice. And then such a part is so clean. You don't like to visit. Don't touch anything white, you don't run. You might break something. Be careful not to touch the mirrors when you switch the bathroom light on. Honey, that's yours. Not to sit on. Never sit on his bed, sweetie, or she'll start for one of her headaches. Put all the pressure the back exactly like you found them when you leave.

00:43:59:12 - 00:44:32:00

Speaker 3

Okay, baby, would you like some candy? No, thank you. While at home, we would have sat there eating and eating, even picking up the crumbs. Our own home is made up of furniture and low mismatch. Duncan five and clean and Victorian horsehair settees, leather wink with shoulders like Al Capone. Neither hide lazy boy anything left over, abandoned or sitting in storage at the shop winds up at our house until we upholstered and we clean.

00:44:32:02 - 00:44:54:27

Speaker 3

Could Father's customers ever imagine us sitting on their fancy furniture while drinking strawberry macaroons? Quick and watching the Three Stooges? We went our hands into the craft, picking the cushions, searching for buried treasure better than Father's blue pearl, but only come up with a leather button, two pennies and a Canadian dime, a handful of dog hair, the yellow moon of a fingernail.

00:44:54:29 - 00:45:17:26

Speaker 3

Sometimes, if we are lucky, an interior decorator will forget a piece of furniture. And then we get to keep it. Which is how we thought. Be warned not to hide Navy boy, Father's favorite. It belonged to a dentist who never came back for it when he pull someone's tooth and suddenly remember too terrible to think about. Father loves his lazy boy.

00:45:17:28 - 00:45:44:05

Speaker 3

We served him dinner on a metal TV tray while he sits on his chair watching the Mexican telenovela. He sent us one set up for give and wholesale. We pulled up the footrests and father falls asleep like a W for

a while, his mouth open before rolling to the side and curling into a question mark and calling out that me.

00:45:44:07 - 00:46:05:04

Speaker 3

We bring a blanket and cover him, even his head, because that's the way he likes to sleep. All the rooms in our house fill up with too many things. Things Father buys at Maxwell Street, things mother buys at the secondhand stores, and father isn't looking for him to take to the other side. And things were on the other side to bring here.

00:46:05:10 - 00:46:30:20

Speaker 3

So that always feels as if our house is a storage room goes up Lamp with Teardrop Crystal finances and Aunt Jemima medals on top of a stack of photo albums. Souvenir Mexican dolls and oversize table lamp bought when a hotel went bankrupt and liquidated all its furnishings, a pink plastic potted tree and a plastic pot. A beautiful downhill chaise lounge covered with a mexican poncho, a tightly skinned love seat covered in a flower.

00:46:30:20 - 00:47:14:20

Speaker 3

She Bugs Bunny, five mismatched dining room chairs, a huge 50 stereo broken drapery rod and everywhere. POW wow. She can love slow floral at war with each other. We come in all sizes from little to be like a xylophone. But I think he spoke to his daughter Lola, Mama and Lana. The high end report here from Samuel Barfly in Vermont and Salaam Rafiki photo.

00:47:14:20 - 00:48:03:03

Speaker 3

He's got a lot of memories. Lana. The younger ones couldn't say the older ones names, and that's how he became Ito or who Subito became. Kiki, Alberto, Lorenzo's, Lola Yerma, Mama and me, Salina la la. But I thought you said this stuff up. Mama, Mama, Mama. When the grandmother calls, I. She says no. Or sometimes. Or sometimes when we're so Arbus, Aristotle and Byron are Uncle Fat faces and MTV to the grandmother says how back that naming down for babies after anyone she finds in her horoscope.

00:48:03:06 - 00:48:34:00

Speaker 3

Thank God Shakespeare was born stillborn. Then you imagine answering to Shakespeare. Why is what a V life, what a given him? Too sad to think your father lost three of his ribs in the war so that his grandchild could be named Elvis. What a barbarity. Don't pretend you didn't know Elvis Presley is a national enemy. Who is? Why would I make it up?

00:48:34:03 - 00:48:57:25

Speaker 3

When he was making that last film in Acapulco, he said, The last thing I want to do, my life is Kiss a mexican. That's what he said. I swear he's a mexican. It was in all the papers. The whole republic is boycotting that pig. What got me to thinking more and bars are Uncle Babies and Auntie Memphis named Love and Peace.

00:48:57:25 - 00:49:20:26

Speaker 3

Because we were happy that Santa said, Pretty little girl, they're so evil, they stick their tongues out. Or their father is saying this like always. When we first arrived, my brothers and I are shy and speak only to one another in English, which is rude. But by the second day we upset Antoinette Antonietta Araceli, who is not used to the company of other children.

00:49:20:28 - 00:49:55:19

Speaker 3

We break our favorite greasy record. We lose the pieces to her begging. We use too much toilet paper or other girls too little. We stick our dirty fingers in the bowl of beans soaking for the midday meal. We run up and down the stairs and through the courtyard, chasing each other with the awful grandmother strictly forbidden. We like being seen on the roof like common house servants, with all so much as considering what passers by might mistake us for all this we do and more.

00:49:55:22 - 00:50:31:15

Speaker 3

Antonietta sadly faithfully reports as much to the awful grandmother and the awful grandmother herself that how these children raised on the other side don't know enough to answer my respect to their elders. What we say in the horrible language with the awful grandmother here, that's what what we teach each other. And to her the awful grandmother shakes her head and mutter, My daughter in laws have given birth to the generation of monkeys.

00:50:31:17 - 00:51:03:05

Speaker 3

The also grandmother calls my father me, call me home, my son me home, me home. She doesn't call Uncle Fatty or Uncle baby sweetheart, even though they are her sons too. She calls them by their real name. They didn't call or am I know when he is angry or their nicknames when he is not that they baby. It's that when I was a baby I had of my faith, explains Uncle Fathi.

00:51:03:07 - 00:51:32:15

Speaker 3

It's said I'm the youngest, says Uncle Baby, as if the awful grandmother doesn't notice Uncle Fat faces and fat anymore And Uncle Baby isn't a baby. Doesn't matter, says the awful grandmother. All my sons are my son. They're just as they were when they were little. I love them all just the same. She uses the Spanish word Niehaus, which means sons and children all at once on your daughter.

00:51:32:18 - 00:52:10:09

Speaker 3

And what about her awful grandmother gives me that look as if I'm a pebble in the shoe anti life. His real name is Norma, but still would think to call her while she's always been known. And in our wedding, even when she was a teeny tiny baby because when just look at her, the awful grandmother is the one whose name ought to be the parent because she talks too much and too loudly who squats in the courtyard up to the second story, bedrooms and bedrooms down to the kitchen from the rooftop all through the neighborhood of Lady at the Hills of Cafe York, the bell tower.

00:52:10:09 - 00:52:37:14

Speaker 3

I've never seen that in a building in the weather loop. The twin volcanoes, the warrior prince for capacity. The sleeping princess is what the father's name is. And Tarzan still stands on to my cousin's Uncle Tarzan, even though he doesn't look like Tarzan at all in his bathing suit. He looks like an airplane washed up on the beach, pale and skinny as a fish.

00:52:37:16 - 00:53:02:03

Speaker 3

But when father was a little boy, he saw a Johnny Weissmuller movie at the Flea, the neighborhood movie theater. From that moment on, his life was changed. Jump from a tree holding a branch. Only the branch didn't hold and his two broken arms were set and his mother cured from the fright he was Remedios. What I'm saying to you, Were you trying to kill yourself or kill me?

00:53:02:05 - 00:53:31:17

Speaker 3

Answer me. How could Father answer? Of heart was filled with so many wonders there were no words. For he wished to fly. He wanted to shout with the voice of the wind. He wanted to live in the sea of trees with the monkeys satisfied taking each others life, glad to be sitting on people below. But how can one say this to one's mother forever?

00:53:31:17 - 00:53:53:21

Speaker 3

After Father was nicknamed in Samson by his father? In a sense, you took his nickname in stride in Tarzan was not so bad in a sense. Your best friend since the first grade was and I know the clock because he was born with his left arm shorter than his right.

00:53:53:23 - 00:54:02:01

Unknown

That was true. That is true.

00:54:02:03 - 00:54:45:22

Speaker 3

At least, you know, Cynthia was not as unlucky as the neighbor who lost him here in knife fight as and was from that day to his death. Call my father from the cup. And what about the problem? Baby son survive polio with a gimp, but only to be named Marco from Bobrisky. So in Morocco, that's not impossible. Now far and more from the third Life was cruel and hilarious all at once.

00:54:45:24 - 00:55:07:08

Speaker 3

One can go back to allow wah wah because he could not for a while when he was little. Many King Kong Salman as our Rabbi de la Mancha. Him Bambi or Let's watch and die. You ElBaradei, were in front of you and that boy. More critical names or not than I. In fact, I will also not be aware of anything.

00:55:07:08 - 00:55:23:22

Speaker 3

We know that he can run for a lot of home menagerie of friends when they saw each other at a soccer match, they shout, there goes guy over there. And instead of shouting, Hey, Haywire, they let loose the rooster crow.

00:55:23:24 - 00:55:26:19

Speaker 2

When you.

00:55:26:21 - 00:55:59:24

Speaker 3

we could be asked by a Tarzan how or a leaf or a bark or a crack or hoot or a sheep or a bus or a car.

00:55:59:26 - 00:56:00:12

Unknown

I can say.

00:56:00:12 - 00:56:27:08

Speaker 3

Something about that chapter. Lot of the research that I do is not found in the library, and I get my research from talking to people and the best nicknames came from the coolest citizens on Earth, Laredo. And so a lot of my friends in Laredo gave me the real nicknames from people they knew. And this is the way I do my research is by calling everyone I know they can remember from the time.

00:56:27:10 - 00:57:00:14

Speaker 3

But for some reason, I think because of the biculturalism, Laredo is the coolest city of all. But I'd like to close with a chapter that I'm jumping a little bit more and I just closed the chapter on, and you can ask questions. And if this chapter is called The Girl can they not warm the first time I see anyone with the color of a caramello I am walking behind the grandmother and step on the grandmother's foot.

00:57:00:17 - 00:57:27:06

Speaker 3

Clumsy. Look. Where are you going? Where I am looking is the rooftop laundry room. Where the girl from The lady are feeding clothes for a window washer. Her mother, the washer woman and bottle come every week. On Tuesday, a woman like a lot of twisted laundry, hard on dry and squeezed of all water. At first, I think our bottle is her grandmother, not her mama.

00:57:27:09 - 00:58:06:16

Speaker 3

But how could a girl skin like a caramello have such a dusty old mother or sea corner? The awful grandmother says, calling me a big mouth. Hi there. And when I am within reach, bless me on the head. The girl Candelaria has skin bright as a copper since I will after you've sucked it not transparent as an ear like anti light skins, not sharp, very pale like father and the grandmother, not the coffee with too much milk color like me, nor the fried tortilla color of the washer woman and bottle her mother.

00:58:06:18 - 00:58:36:00

Speaker 3

Not like anybody. Smooth as peanut butter, deep as burnt milk, palm blue. How did you get my farm like that? But I don't know what I need, so I don't say anything until I meet Candelaria. I feel beautiful. Is anti life skin or the dog with lavender hair I get at Christmas or the women on the patterns we watch on television.

00:58:36:02 - 00:59:05:26

Speaker 3

Not this girl with too many teeth like white corn and black hair. Black, black like rooster feathers that gleam green and the sun. The girl from the Latina with long bird legs and skinny arm is still a girl, even though she is older than any of us. She likes to carry me and pretend she is my mama. Or I can say, have you a drop a little piece of cake with gum in my mouth as if I was her little bird, I say.

00:59:05:28 - 00:59:32:05

Speaker 3

And then Nadia swing me in a circle again and she will swing me or be my horse. And she turns me on her back and gallops across the courtyard when I want. She let me sit on her lap or takes me with her down the street when she is sent to run an errand on the way there and back me say Let's play the blame game and take turns walking down the street with our eyes shut, one leading the other female.

00:59:32:10 - 01:00:02:22

Speaker 3

Don't open your eyes until I say. And when I do, I am standing in front of the gate of a strange house. The girl Candelaria, laughing and laughing. Calcaterra says, My daddy here really is on your shadow now, Nina, my dad really, really loved old school. How much? I really, really drug alcohol. Candelaria Mortality DVD is on When we say mortality, you're really wrong.

01:00:02:24 - 01:00:30:16

Speaker 3

I want to hold hands with you, Candelaria. If your mother will let you just for a little. Because before you go back to the job of the mom, please. Because you don't. Are you a girl? Candelaria is a girl who likes to play even though she wakes up with the rooster and rides to work asleep on the hard shoulder of her mother, the old washerwoman, The long ride into the city, three busses to the grandmother's house.

01:00:30:17 - 01:01:04:22

Speaker 3

I'm dead to you three. He's Tuesday to wash our dirty clothes. Why do you let that Indian play with us? My cousin Antonietta, Araceli complains if she comes near me, I'm leaving. Why? Because she's dirty. She doesn't even wear underwear. Laughs. How do you know it's true? Once I saw a crack down behind the laundry room and pee just like a dog, I told the grandmother and the grandmother made her scrub all of the roof with a bucket of self and the broom.

01:01:04:24 - 01:01:31:00

Speaker 3

Who can say the cousin Antonietta Roselli is telling the truth or telling a story? Most of us think she's lying just in case. My brother rather makes up a game to see if it's true that Candelaria doesn't wear

underwear. We're going to play it. Except you can't Catholic if you squat down like this. Understand?
Now I'm hit run.

01:01:31:03 - 01:02:03:17

Speaker 3

Everyone, brothers and cousins scatter across courtyard. When Rafa tries to hide from that idea, she hunkers like a frog. And the rest of us squat down too and looks. Candelaria is now smiling, her big corn smile, skinny leg from beneath her, not under calm, not exactly. Not little flowers and elastic, not lace and smooth stretch cotton. But of course, please.

01:02:03:17 - 01:02:35:23

Speaker 3

A cloth between her legs, homemade shorts, wrinkles and then and dish towels. I don't want to play this game anymore and surprises me neither. The game ends as suddenly as it began. Everyone disappears. Everyone is gone. Candelaria squatting in the courtyard, grinning her big teeth like kernels of like corn. When she gets up finally and comes towards me, I don't know why I run.

01:02:35:26 - 01:03:02:08

Speaker 3

Stop it. Stop it. Mother Scold. What's wrong with you? It's that my hair is laughing. Mother makes me sit on her lap because in part my hair in every direction. I'm left to the outdoor thing, my scalp scrubbed with black soap till my crying makes mother stop. Then I'm not allowed to play with Candelaria ever or to even talk to her.

01:03:02:12 - 01:03:28:29

Speaker 3

And I'm not to let her have me or to the little cloud of gum she passes from her mouth to her fingers to my mouth, still warm with her saliva, and never will she carry me on her lap again as if I was her baby. Never understand Why call? Because what? Because they won't let me. I shout from the courtyard balcony.

01:03:29:02 - 01:03:58:05

Speaker 3

But before I can add anything else, they bring me inside Candelaria in the courtyard, leaning against the wall, biting a thumbnail or standing on one stalk like, or slipping off her dusty shoes with the bat squashed like house slippers, making a circle with her big toe on the courtyard tiles or folding sheets, or hauling a ten basin of wet laundry to the rooftop clothesline or hunkered in a game.

01:03:58:05 - 01:04:53:09

Speaker 3

We made up the dingy cloth of her underpants like the wrinkled diaper Jesus wears on the cloth, her skin outside our mellow colors so sweet it hurts to even look at her. Thank you, Sandra. Thank you so much for your beautiful words. And now some questions about what is the most a moment in your life when you.

01:04:53:09 - 01:04:53:24

Speaker 2

Felt the.

01:04:53:24 - 01:04:56:26

Speaker 3

Greatest amount of exhilaration.

01:04:56:29 - 01:04:58:23

Speaker 2

For what you.

01:04:58:25 - 01:05:16:12

Speaker 3

Accomplished at the time? I was asked that question by the children today, too, and I had to think about that because that's a good question. Since that time, this the years and there's always something that I've done that I think of is the greatest achievement. And then the next year comes and you do something else. At least that's been the case for me.

01:05:16:14 - 01:05:41:20

Speaker 3

At first I thought the greatest achievement was buying my, my, my first new vehicle in 1992 and paying for cash with the advance to my book. I thought, wow. And it was \$50,000. And so my world. And then the next big thing was like buying my house. And I felt like an adult and paying for it, which I'm still paying for with just my writing.

01:05:41:23 - 01:05:56:11

Speaker 3

And then I won the MacArthur and I thought, Wow, that's the greatest thing in the world. But to tell you the truth, the greatest thing has been organizing these reunions because I didn't know I had skills as an organizer. You know, I just thought, I'm.

01:05:56:13 - 01:06:09:22

Unknown

Writing this kind of like an amazing party. But you just it's a bigger and more people involved in it. And once we did, the first one is very funny because I started out very naive. I mean, you think it.

01:06:09:22 - 01:06:10:28

Speaker 3

Was a genius to.

01:06:11:00 - 01:06:21:03

Unknown

Figure out the idea of putting this all together in one stage and asking your colleagues to come and donate. And I didn't see necessarily.

01:06:21:05 - 01:06:21:26

Speaker 4

That there was so.

01:06:21:26 - 01:06:45:27

Unknown

Much work, just like I'm sure this weekend is for the organizers. And after it was over, when I saw the impact that it had a community and without hope, I had been press. I mean, when I saw the impact, I didn't exactly map to the families classes how it would change students lives. It would make references to my father and.

01:06:46:04 - 01:06:47:14

Speaker 4

I had become accustomed.

01:06:47:14 - 01:07:02:08

Unknown

To things to change their lives. When I saw that, I felt how in doing so you something isn't poverty now is which you also say, Well, I didn't know. Like I said, I could do that.

01:07:02:08 - 01:07:06:27

Speaker 4

The only way I could do that is by fooling around, you know? And I think it's very symbolic.

01:07:07:00 - 01:07:25:15

Unknown

And here's the next question. If you could describe your writing in one word, what that would be, I don't know. I mean, it could just be one word, maybe spiritual.

01:07:25:17 - 01:07:27:17

Speaker 4

I think my work is very spiritual.

01:07:27:17 - 01:07:46:27

Unknown

In the sense that for me, I think the way some people see passports and provide God, I mean, God got light shining in them. And to me I feel as if everything I do in my life is just kind of a rough draft. But when I write, I think long and hard.

01:07:46:27 - 01:07:49:14

Speaker 4

Once I get my spiritual life.

01:07:49:17 - 01:08:03:21

Unknown

I continue to do that and I like to see something. I can really use the speech. When did.

01:08:03:21 - 01:08:04:28

Speaker 4

You first start writing.

01:08:04:28 - 01:08:14:23

Unknown

And what inspired you to do it? I started writing when I was ten years old and possibly near my worst.

01:08:14:25 - 01:08:20:17

Speaker 4

Grades when I was in a very crowded classroom, very crowded school.

01:08:20:19 - 01:08:30:06

Unknown

40 students in the class and all my report cards. None of them survived for my elementary school exams. One and I now it was divine Providence.

01:08:30:10 - 01:08:43:05

Speaker 4

Community Encourage your children. The thing that struck me was the number of days and absentees and my grades and that there were no grades.

01:08:43:07 - 01:09:03:25

Unknown

To things I was best at. That was art. And I'll take mean that's a great you know give me that question again because I'm strength okay when I start down hard high watermark That's right Well at that time now that folks in school inspire these schools, no need to fear.

01:09:03:27 - 01:09:04:18

Speaker 4

But the books in.

01:09:04:18 - 01:09:12:10

Unknown

The library very special to me. And my mother always made sure my credit cards and more importantly choosing to herself.

01:09:12:10 - 01:09:20:20

Speaker 4

And I was blessed. And actually, when you saw her reading to me would be too. And she just showed it by example.

01:09:20:23 - 01:09:25:05

Speaker 3

I started writing in secret and not showing.

01:09:25:06 - 01:09:28:16

Speaker 4

Anyone that work because I wasn't. That school atmosphere.

01:09:28:16 - 01:09:42:23

Unknown

Was very frightening and supporting things in art and those to me, I did not share it at home because my mother was very busy and she probably didn't. And my brothers were.

01:09:42:25 - 01:09:43:17

Speaker 4

Always.

01:09:43:19 - 01:09:51:11

Unknown

Very accommodating me and my father.

01:09:51:13 - 01:09:55:17

Speaker 4

Was the only kind of person that would have understood works how many.

01:09:55:17 - 01:10:15:29

Unknown

Hours and I am responsible for this is something I gave my secret to many years. But the thing that really made me want to be an author was the card catalog and elaborate and easy time access. You have Dewey Decimal System, the index card, The Spirit of Art. And I remember seeing.

01:10:15:29 - 01:10:21:24

Speaker 4

A card with my friends. This book I was looking up. I was dirty smudge.

01:10:21:24 - 01:10:40:24

Unknown

Dodgers ragged, just been collecting. I knew millions of people looked at this book and now they visualized cards and money and titles. And I wanted to during and the dreams come true. Why did you.

01:10:40:24 - 01:10:43:08

Speaker 4

Paint your house purple?

01:10:43:10 - 01:10:55:28

Unknown

Because it's pretty common. I mean it. And it's not purple like that. And the doors back there, that's my house is really how can that color? Very meaningful.

01:10:56:01 - 01:11:06:20

Speaker 3

But when you see it and this is what the mean to the newspapers, I don't know because I can tell you reproduced columns not expensive very difficult to get reproduction in newspapers.

01:11:06:23 - 01:11:18:20

Unknown

That's exactly the real thing. So I guess to make masks, I think it darker in the photos. It's not really because everything has been you to kind of identity. It's modern and.

01:11:18:22 - 01:11:19:20

Speaker 3

When people see it.

01:11:19:22 - 01:11:28:00

Unknown

At this point and they said that's something else, that's a big deal. By the way, after two years of.

01:11:28:03 - 01:11:28:15

Speaker 3

Working.

01:11:28:15 - 01:11:34:09

Unknown

With the commission, the Senate attacked me and asked me to resubmit the colors in the House by 82.

01:11:34:09 - 01:11:35:04

Speaker 3

And they deemed those.

01:11:35:04 - 01:11:45:06

Speaker 4

Historic.

01:11:45:08 - 01:12:12:14

Unknown

What influenced you and what you are saying? You know, I don't know. I think sometimes people want to know if there was an important role model like I think he didn't have one person. I think a lot of people helped me to become I am. But it wasn't any one person. I think maybe my mother, because she was she wasn't poetic.

01:12:12:14 - 01:12:21:19

Speaker 4

So she had great esthetic. She loved museums. She loved Archant library. And she was is.

01:12:21:21 - 01:12:27:10

Unknown

A feisty person, you know, And she had a lot of courage.

01:12:27:12 - 01:12:28:24

Speaker 3

To raise me in a way.

01:12:28:29 - 01:12:35:20

Unknown

Online for sisters, for our community in the neighborhood. She fought for my life.

01:12:35:22 - 01:12:36:11

Speaker 3

For myself.

01:12:36:11 - 01:12:44:25

Unknown

That was in demand. And my classmates that I be in the kitchen my whole life. I know she used to complain about it, but.

01:12:44:25 - 01:12:45:25

Speaker 3

She'd say, Stand here.

01:12:45:25 - 01:13:11:11

Unknown

Watch this fight. And I was watching her and I. I was. And you can imagine it's dark. I just. I was out to lunch. I was dangerous. And I was never to be trusted with my penis. I, I can only do that. Supervise it since it came to this day and I can supervise cooking, but I don't. Why?

01:13:11:14 - 01:13:13:04

Unknown

I think one of the most important.

01:13:13:04 - 01:13:21:29

Speaker 3

Things she taught me was to make sure you can support yourself is knowing that what's going to happen to your husband. And I think she was.

01:13:22:01 - 01:13:29:27

Unknown

Like saying, in other words, why don't you get a marriage lifeline or you're unhappy? And, you know, she had some.

01:13:30:00 - 01:13:35:02

Speaker 3

Mismatched marriage, my father. And she the only thing that they was great as a team.

01:13:35:02 - 01:13:45:04

Speaker 4

Was was raising children. They were very mismatched souls. And I think that she would have liked the parish. And I think that she wanted to make sure.

01:13:45:06 - 01:13:57:27

Unknown

You have a life that was not like hers and that we support myself. That was very, very nice to thank you.

01:13:58:01 - 01:14:01:25

Speaker 4

Sandra, On my response here.

01:14:01:25 - 01:14:48:24

Unknown

I'll ask you to make a special presentation and then, yeah, I have the numbers of people on this next step. I would like to give you this strong presence in a visitation for many years and experience and welcome at any time. I see. You seem to remember that you have \$6,550 million next year. We do have to pay General.

01:14:48:27 - 01:15:32:07

Unknown

I really you don't what to it that was people like 16 years is Samsung Galaxy place now I'm wearing this one has been with you that has happened as we call it and I do that I was just dedications that you say to finance activities like sidewalks and you know occasions, if you will have these tired you can you write.

01:15:32:10 - 01:15:32:29

Speaker 4

When you want to.

01:15:32:29 - 01:16:55:17

Unknown

Get a piece of paper this point it's hard to spend money on it. Thank you. I'd like to make an announcement this evening at 18 blocks from here, from us at the youth ground. And these performers are able to rock. You will perform tomorrow night. I 9:00 and I hear you getting older now. Yeah. Amy, do me a favor.

01:16:55:19 - 01:17:58:24

Unknown

What was it like the first time that inspired your books? Are anything they can write, anything, any story you might spell out for me the way they want it. So that could get pointed out to. It'll make it easier for them to find it and write, you know, we don't have artists that are coming to, you know, they for sale on the air point.

01:17:58:27 - 01:24:13:28

Unknown

You know I think like like the best that I had on how I found out how much money my husband and I it's not you know, 25 this isn't a real crazy. Yeah, you're right. We had some money, but I you know, I do have something else that I would I mean, I think that, you know, know, you know, it's just been that I Yeah, I, I chatting, you know.