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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** Rolling. Is that going to be great? All right. So how are you feeling? Are you.

[00:00:04] **Speaker 2** Good? Yes.

[00:00:05] **Speaker 1** Yes. So let's just start with a little background. So you did you grew up in Wisconsin. Are you from here originally?

[00:00:12] **Speaker 2** I did. Yes. I grew up in northern Wisconsin, Sawyer and Ross County. And then I went to school in Eau Claire County at UW, Eau Claire. And then for a bit, we moved to the Milwaukee area, now here.

[00:00:24] **Speaker 1** So when you look back to your childhood growing up, I mean, abortion has been legal and accessible for your entire life. Up until the last year. Did you think or talk about abortion? Was that a topic that came up outside of like maybe a civics class or something?

[00:00:41] **Speaker 2** No, never. Not growing up for sure when I got to college. Absolutely. At one point in high school, I think women that talk about abortion and talk about how they support women's choice, people are more likely to open up to you. So throughout my life, I have had a lot of conversations with women who have had abortions.

[00:01:02] **Speaker 1** And what were those conversations like? Do they come about naturally or just kind of get a feeling that something was there or someone wanted to talk?

[00:01:10] **Speaker 2** Absolutely. The latter getting a feeling about some things going on, What's going on? I really enjoy people and I do enjoy hearing their stories. So I am the kind of person that will pry if I think that you're like, feeling a little off or seeming a little off. So I've definitely worked my way into situations where I have been told about stories.

[00:01:35] **Speaker 1** So I'm sure you can appreciate the both ends of that, that perspective of what it's like to feel like you need to talk, but not quite sure if the audience is ready to hear. I mean, what's that like from from the other end when you're getting a sense of like, what are they what are they waiting to tell me? Or how do I let them know I'm ready to support them?

[00:01:53] **Speaker 2** Right. I think when when we're trying to tell our stories, the scariest thing is other people's reaction. How are they going to react to this? What are they going to think about me? And so frequently we get wrapped up in that, that we become quiet. We don't talk about it because of this shame that other people are putting on us that shouldn't be there. Abortion is incredibly normal. So many of us do it, but it becomes this topic that you don't have employer conversation.

[00:02:22] **Speaker 1** How do you how do you make it part of polite conversation?

[00:02:26] **Speaker 2** This this is this is why I'm doing this. Absolutely. This is my why my why is one in four of us, you know, by the time we reach 45, we'll have an abortion in America. And it's normal. It's a normal thing. And when people like me talk about it and show that there's no shame that so many people do this, it'll it'll strengthen other women's voices. So that's that's our most powerful tool is is our voice. And unfortunately, we have some outside groups have put shame on us and made us think that we should stay quiet about it. And that's not the situation at all. We need we need to talk about it. And I'm hoping that this will empower people who are on the fence and thinking, you know, I would like to share my story. I don't know if I should, though. It's normal. It's normal. There's so many of us and we want your stories. I want to hear other stories. I want other people to stand up and say, this is a normal thing. It's not shameful.

[00:03:24] **Speaker 1** So if you would, walk us through through your story.

[00:03:27] **Speaker 2** Yeah. Yeah. I was 26. I was a full time student at UW Eau Claire, going for political science, really loving school. I was a single mom. I had a beautiful, amazing little son working two jobs. Obviously didn't have a lot of income. I was one of those 75% of women who do this who has a low income, and I got pregnant immediately. I knew that I was going to get an abortion. I at any means possible. Well, honestly, to be honest, I knew that I needed to get an abortion. I had a child to take care of. Things were already really difficult. School was really hard. I was like, is that I was working two jobs. I had this amazing, perfect little human to take care of, and I knew that it would I needed to do this for us, for my family. So I immediately knew it was. A lot of people say it was a hard decision and I absolutely respect that and I'm sure that it is for some. But this was the single easiest decision I have ever made as a parent. So I actually I don't even remember how I found the clinic. I, I guess Google searching or something. The first place that I called was not an abortion clinic. It was some family planning place that was trying to delay my abortion. You know, like, we'll make an appointment with you in a couple of weeks. And eventually I don't remember at what point, but I realized, wait a. These aren't the people that I'm trying to talk to. And then I kept looking for places and I was a little clear. So there wasn't anything that close. But Minneapolis is where I ended up going and getting an abortion. And I can't even tell you who ran the clinic. I have no idea. I don't think it was a Planned Parenthood. I found somebody that would give me an abortion and I went for it and I got it, you know, And that's and that's the situation that many women are in. I, I didn't know what place I was going to, you know, if I had to, I would have gone anywhere. I would have gone anywhere to get that abortion. And so I got a couple of friends together. Two of my friends are fantastic people. You have to take an entire day to to go get the abortion they tell you to to take the whole day. So I got child care for my child. I don't even remember how I scraped up the money. To be honest. It was so long ago. It was $600, though. I remember that because I remember it was a significant amount of money for me to come up with $600. And my friends and I had jumped in a car and headed over to Minneapolis. There were really some nasty people outside of the clinic as we worked our way in, but they were there for me and stood by me and it was amazing. We had to go like up this stairwell to get to the top floor and they call you in. They just gave me ibuprofen at the time, so I was beyond ten weeks. So I ended up doing a surgical abortion. Needing a surgical abortion. But they just give you ibuprofen and make you go sit out in the waiting room. And it was all was scary. I was doing the right thing. I was happy with my decision. But it was scary because you just you don't really understand what's going to happen. You don't know how bad it's going to hurt. You have ibuprofen, you know, that's what you take for a headache. So it was just like, is this really the situation we're in? But I went through it. I am so grateful, so grateful for abortion providers and the nurses, the entire staff. I remember this lady. She's like, Just hold my hand when it hurts. Just squeeze my hand. And I remember thinking, Oh, boy, I'm going to break her finger. I'm probably going to break her fingers. But everyone was just so great and kind and the whole situation was scary. But I made the right decision. And I'm so grateful. I'm so grateful that it was there and it was a safe facility and a clean facility. And I didn't have to worry about getting some sort of infection afterward. You know, I was I was well cared for. And that's what's so hard about this now.

[00:07:50] **Speaker 1** And so do you remember the the waiting room? Did you look around to see who else was there? I mean, the range of people, the different faces.

[00:08:00] **Speaker 2** Um, yeah, there. I remember it not being that fall and they had a buzzer up when you went in and then I had to be like, And here are my people that are coming with me to support me. I it was quiet. You know, I think everyone was just really respectful and there just we were all there for the same purpose, either to get our abortion, which we wanted or other folks were there to support their loved ones.

[00:08:30] **Speaker 1** So how did you choose who to tell how to tell that that process? Because I'm sure you were aware that that might not be the most positive reactions from some people, even if you thought they were your friends, right?

[00:08:42] **Speaker 2** Absolutely. I had a couple really, really close guy friends. And it was just it was natural to tell them, you know, immediately when I found out, I don't even remember how I told them. I probably just called them up and said, Hey, we got a problem. And I think it probably took a while to tell other people, not because of shame or anything. It's just it's not a conversation that really comes up. I do remember I was working as a server at a bar and grill at the time when I did it, and I remember I went in and I was having some cramping and stuff afterwards and I remember going into the office and telling my manager I need to go home. I just had an abortion and I for some reason started crying at that point and it was the hormones and stuff, but it was also the first time that I had said it out loud to somebody. And it just it came out because I wasn't ashamed. And I'm like, you know, I'm feeling ill. I need to go home. I had an abortion and then I go home and lay down for a while. But I always think about him and think, does he think that I regretted it or what? What were his thoughts about my emotions that came out when really it was just I said it out loud and I just had an abortion. So my hormones were kind of off. But after that, I think it became easier and actually really empowering to to talk about it, because almost every time when I would talk about it and say, Hey, I have an abortion, you know, if you were in a conversation, you could walk away and somebody would come up to you afterwards and say, Thank you so much for talking about that. I also had an abortion. I could never do it. You just or this, you know. So that's definitely why I'm doing this, is because I have heard so many abortion stories from sharing my abortion from people who can't for one reason or another, you know, their spouse, their children, their parents, their job for one reason or another, they can't stand up and speak out. And one in four of us, you know, there's a lot of us. So we need that. Those of us that can use our voice need to use our voice.

[00:10:54] **Speaker 1** What would you say to the people that are watching this that would say, I don't know anyone who's had an abortion?

[00:10:58] **Speaker 2** You do. You would absolutely do. If you 100% do. It's not something that comes up, you know, in most conversations. And if you have ever said something negative about abortion, you will probably never, ever think that you know somebody that's had an abortion because you're not a safe person for them to have this conversation with. But you absolutely do know somebody who's had an abortion. It's one in four and one in four. Don't get there alone. You know, there are many men who are living their current lives today because of the right to choose. There's so many of us and we have just unfortunately been shamed into not using our voice and telling our stories. And it's unfortunate because our stories are our most powerful tool. You know, it's it's what we have. The more of us that speak out, the less they can try to push us into the corners and make us be quiet.

[00:11:59] **Speaker 1** How would you describe the difference between the shame that segments of society want to apply to you or to others that have had an abortion versus the stigma that can come with this? Like someone can. I mean, is it fair to say that someone can not feel shame but still feel the stigma?

[00:12:18] **Speaker 2** Yes. Yes. I think there are many feelings that women are going to have around this. And I think it's because we're not talking about it enough. You know, there's a lot of women who have abortions, don't think that they know anybody that's had an abortion. You know, there there is other people putting it shame on you, which is it's not shameful. Again, I'll say it's so normal. It's so normal. It's normal health care. Abortion is normal. Abortion is normal health care. One in four women, you know, that's you don't think that you know anybody, but they just haven't been able to tell you yet. And that's thank you for doing this story, because hopefully this will help more women say, you know what? I am also a normal woman who has had an abortion.

[00:13:04] **Speaker 1** When when we see especially in the last year, we've seen a lot of stories of women who needed emergency medical care. And that seems to have been the focus surrounding, well, who who deserves or who has access or who deserves are the moral the moral questions surrounding abortion. And a lot of stories like yours are lost or they are the ones that rise up to that. How do you describe the range when it comes to the types of women, the scenarios, back stories which are obviously all perfectly acceptable, but only a small portion of them become socially acceptable from a broader perspective that these are the ones we can talk about.

[00:13:44] **Speaker 2** Absolutely. Thank you for. Thank you for mentioning that. My story is the majority of the story. You know, 75% of the women that do this are from low income. I was low income when I do it when I did it. 60% are in their twenties. I was in my twenties. Almost 60%, 59 to 60% are already parents. You know, this is a parental decision that they're making. I was already a parent and that's the majority of the stories. My story is the majority of the stories. And you write the conversation gets lost on either end and and what's okay and what's bad. This is between a woman and her doctor. You know, you don't row is row is the floor. Row was the absolute floor. That is the bare minimum that women should have. You know, this this conversation gets so off the rails with these extreme cases one side or the other. But the truth is, women are living this every single day. Mothers are living this. People with children are going through this every single day. And it doesn't have to be, you know, the life of the mother or a developmental situation with the fetus. I don't want to have another child. I wasn't ready for another child. I had one child already that I was struggling to care for. I wanted to better my life. I was going to school, working two jobs, trying to better my life. Throwing another child into the situation would have been catastrophic for me. And I made the right decision and it was a very easy decision for me and I have never regretted it. It's actually probably the single decent decision that I can point to as a parent that I can say I got that 100% right. There are no other decisions I have made as a people that I can say I got that 100% right. But my abortion, I got 100% right. I did the absolute right thing for me and my family.

[00:15:43] **Speaker 1** And the rest of your life as it's played out has proven that.

[00:15:47] **Speaker 2** Right? Absolutely. Absolutely. I love my life. We have you know, my abortion allowed me to to find the love of my life, to get married, to have more children when we were already you know, we have three children now. We have great jobs. We're so happy. We're happy in our city. We have a beautiful home. We're able to care for ourselves financially. So as I was going through school, you know, I took advantage of different, different safety nets for myself. You know, I was on work, I was on HUD. I was getting assistance for child care. You know, those amazing safety nets that are there to help people. I needed those. And I'm grateful. I'm so grateful for them. I'm grateful to the taxpayers. I'm grateful to Wisconsin, and I'm grateful that I have the opportunity to use those. And also, I'm grateful that I was able to get myself to a point where I no longer needed them and they can be there for somebody else. And I think it's all because of my abortion, because just the wrench that would have thrown and everything I was struggling for, you know, I was a single mom going to school. I was, you know, not living very healthy, a very healthy life, staying up all night, trying to study while caring for my kid. All Claire had really amazing programs to help me with my son while I was there. This amazing program called Jumpstart, where they give you a jumpstart buddy that hangs out with your kid while you go to school. Amazing. But it was a difficult time, you know, It was a very difficult time. And throwing another child into the mix of just everything would crumble.

[00:17:26] **Speaker 1** So from that point to to hear I mean, this was 17 years ago.

[00:17:32] **Speaker 2** Yeah, I think so.

[00:17:33] **Speaker 1** So in that time span, did it become easier to tell your story as time went on? Did I mean, what was that process like to realize or I can safely say this and just keep on moving the next day?

[00:17:46] **Speaker 2** Right. So it's hard at first because like I said, you don't know the reaction and it's just not something that comes up naturally. You know, it's almost like somebody has to already be talking about abortion or family planning or something for it to even come up in conversation. So the first few times it was like kind of tiptoeing into the conversation, you know, like you raised in your hand kind of quietly. And then as I did it more and more, like I said, just the amount of people who would come up to me afterwards and say, thank you, thank you for saying that, or not even a thank you. But like, I've done it. But don't tell anybody. You know, it just started I just started to realize that I have the privilege of being in the position where I feel fairly secure in sharing my story. And there are so many women who can't do that. And so I need to do it. You know, if we're able if we're able to use our voice, we should try. So difficult. It's hard. It's uncomfortable. It's uncomfortable now, but we got to do it.

[00:18:48] **Speaker 1** What was the process like for for talking about it with your immediate family? I mean, talking about it with your kids when they got old enough, Right?

[00:18:57] **Speaker 2** So because I've been so open about it and have conversations and have, you know, spoke about it in a lot of different situations, there was never a point where I had to sit my children down and say, just so you know, Mommy's had an abortion. This is what abortion is. They've kind of grown up with it and knowing it. And so it's normal. It's normal in our house. So it's not a sit down and have a conversation type of thing because it's it's normal. My parents are also really great about it, but I do remember kind of dabbling in that just because I wasn't sure how they would feel. You know, they are really outspoken about it. I don't even know if they really knew how they felt about it until I started sharing it. They're obviously really supportive now. My father didn't really say anything about me sharing my story so broadly and constantly on social media, you know, just bombarding it. And then I remember one day he he sent me a tick tock, a video of. I think it was George Carlin or something, something just crazy. And they were talking about abortion. And at that moment, it dawned on me like that was my dad's way of saying, I got your back on this, You know, like, I'm proud of you. Thank you for doing this. He's never said that, but he sent me this weird ticktock, like, Hey, Sarah, I think you'd like this. What is this? I'm like, Oh, thanks, Dad. That's really sweet. And then, you know, the rest of the family, the aunts and uncles, they, like, think what they want. But I'm not going to be quiet, that I'm not the only one they know. So it's easier. It gets easier with time, you know, practice with people you're comfortable with. Tell your friends, first of all, you know, tell younger people because they're far more open to it. But just practice and in comfortable places and then just test it, you know, go tell a stranger and just start to slowly realize that the power that sharing your story holds.

[00:20:59] **Speaker 1** It occurs to me that so often I think women are silenced from telling their stories because someone else is controlling the narrative in a conversation, and they're not sure if they feel like they can share that. If it's like you talk about safe person to say their experience. I wonder if that flips on its head when you boldly and confidently tell your story, if it almost silences them.

[00:21:25] **Speaker 2** Lutely Absolutely it does. Every time. Every time somebody else say, I'm not, I'm against abortion. I don't believe in abortion. And you say, Well, I had an abortion. And then their story immediately, Well, well, I don't believe in abortion. If X, Y, and Z, like, okay, if it's early or and then you can, you know, I have an abortion after ten weeks. I didn't even know I was pregnant. You know, like, well, after six weeks for sure. And then it takes a while to schedule it and it does change their tune because you know what? People are genuinely, I think, good people and they don't want to hurt people and they don't want to exclude people. And just sharing your story can help them realize that people are around them that have had this experience and we can quiet them, you know, because the more of us that talk about our abortions, the less likely people are going to be talking against abortion in public spaces for fear that me or my friends are going to say, Hey, I've had an abortion. Do you want to talk about it? Do you want to talk about my story? Do you want to talk about that decision that I made? I'm happy to talk about it. People quiet down pretty quickly.

[00:22:47] **Speaker 1** And it's almost like that every time that occurs. That's the process of normalization.

[00:22:51] **Speaker 2** Yes.

[00:22:52] **Speaker 1** I mean, that's it in the micro version, one at a time. That's how it happens.

[00:22:57] **Speaker 2** Absolutely. Absolutely. I don't know if you saw my note card down there, but I wrote on my note card. Remember your why? You know, like, why am I doing this? You know, I understand you're doing a story. PBS does amazing stories. It's about the news. But why am I doing this? I'm not doing this for you. I'm not doing this for PBS. I'm not doing it for your audience. I'm doing this for the women who have had abortions, the people who have had abortions who are thinking about sharing their story, saying, we can do it. It's uncomfortable. This is not comfortable. You know, this is not a comfortable situation. So sometimes we just have to get out of our comfort zone and do it because this is where our power is. And that's my why I'm doing it, so that other people who are thinking about doing it can be like that crazy leading me. Like maybe I can do it in a small bar with my friends that the people who have already done it and then the the people who are thinking about it are will have to make that decision. You know, the more of us that speak up and normalize it, if you get in the situation where you decide that you want to have an abortion, it doesn't feel so secretive, you know, because that's that's where the shame comes in. When we make something feel as though it has to be a secret or it should be a secret. And it becomes shameful. And it's not a secret. It doesn't have to be a secret. One in four you know, one in four people will do this. One in four women in America will do this. And it's so normal.

[00:24:21] **Speaker 1** Take me back, if you would, to a little more than a year ago, as Dobbs is. Yeah, there was the lead and then there was the actual decision.

[00:24:29] **Speaker 2** Right.

[00:24:29] **Speaker 1** And that to to some degree, definitely opened up a lot more women into feeling like they were obligated to share their story. And obviously an outpouring of anger and all the other emotions. Well, what were you going through in that process?

[00:24:43] **Speaker 2** Yeah, like you said, we we knew it was coming. So I can actually take you back a little farther to an election where a certain person won. And those of us that pay attention to elections and knew the situation. And knew Ruth's age. That was a catastrophic day. You know, it makes me emotional. We knew that. And unfortunately, and people who are not involved in politics and don't see beyond that, I get to go to the ballot box and vote for somebody that's totally different and wild. They weren't thinking through what that meant for people. So that's actually the day where it kind of fell apart. You know, those of us who knew, we knew, and that's why we marched on Washington. You know, that's why we put on our pink pussy hats and marched on Washington, because we do. That's what was going to happen because the Supreme Court, it all came down to the Supreme Court. And the moment that my candidate lost that election. I felt like a lot of us knew it was over. And that's why we were so angry, you know? Because the women before us fought so hard to get us there and we lost it. So. Oh.

[00:26:27] **Speaker 1** That was almost a slow motion train wreck. Yeah. I mean, it took five years, but there was an inevitability. Right. Like each domino.

[00:26:37] **Speaker 2** Right the way.

[00:26:38] **Speaker 1** Made it more and more apparent that this was coming.

[00:26:40] **Speaker 2** They've been chipping away at it for years and years and decades, you know? So we knew at that moment, I'm not saying that Dobbs didn't hurt and that day wasn't devastating. But I think the most devastating day for abortion rights was Election Day all those years ago. You know, And it was it was such a crazy day because I remember driving to work and my pantsuit so confident and happy and excited for where America was going. I remember seeing other women on the streets, you know, in their pantsuits, all so proud. And honestly, I guess I was in a bubble because I had no idea that it was coming. So that day was really, really hard. And it was just it was way more than just that election. It was. It was our rights. It was many people's rights. As many people's rights.

[00:27:41] **Speaker 1** So when you look at young women today who are approaching the age or the circumstances in which you were able to take advantage of the opportunities, the legal rights that you had, and they're now living in Wisconsin where it's illegal or at best, uncertain.

[00:27:58] **Speaker 2** Right.

[00:27:59] **Speaker 1** And, you know, it's border options. I mean, in some ways there's a similarity. There is you ended up using Minnesota as an option as well. Right. But what what do you give advice for them? Do you have empathy for them or what is that? What are the feelings of empathy?

[00:28:15] **Speaker 2** Fear, anger, anger. You know, there's some anger that that we did this to them. You know, that they are going to grow up with fewer rights than I had. And it's because we took it for granted. You know, we took it for granted. And we need to we need to start fighting again. We need to start speaking out. It's it's not you know, it's it's everybody. It's not just young women. It's it's everybody. It's the entire next generations that are coming up with with fewer rights. And it's devastating. I have nieces and luckily they live in Minnesota. But if if I were at an age or in the situation where I wasn't able to travel across state lines, which many people aren't, it's very expensive. The procedure itself is expensive. Finding daycare, because, as I told you, 59 to 60% are already parents. So there's a daycare situation. It's expensive to travel to other states and it's not acceptable. And I don't know that I would want to live in a state or raise my children in a state, but I knew that they were second class citizens and didn't have the right to make their own decisions about their future.

[00:29:35] **Speaker 1** When you I mean, I guess there's been a recent election in Wisconsin that shows promise for a lot of people that was built on this very question. Does that give you any more optimism for the state might be when it comes down to how the courts might impact your rights?

[00:29:53] **Speaker 2** Right. I guess I can be hopeful, but I'm a little pessimistic. I, I just I don't see our current legislators backing anything that I, I would be behind. Try not to get too deep into specific people, but definitely I don't have a lot of confidence in the people making the decisions right now. And unfortunately, decisions are being made that don't reflect the public, the constituents. Abortion is overwhelmingly accepted by Wisconsinites and somehow people are in power right now that are in the vast minority of their view on abortion and somehow they keep getting elected. I'm not sure how that works, but the majority of people believe in a woman's right to choose.

[00:31:06] **Speaker 1** So I don't want you to think that I'm casting blame on anyone, but I want to bring up a concept here of. So there was largely an effort to make women silent about their experiences, and it happened over the course of decades by bringing shame and doubt and clouding the issue of the rights that they had. And this was done with complicity on both both parties. I you go back to Bill Clinton's safe, legal and rare.

[00:31:31] **Speaker 2** Right?

[00:31:33] **Speaker 1** How much of the fact that women did not or could not share those stories and normalize the process allowed us to get to a place where people thought that that that there was shame, that people who thought that it didn't occur, that they could believe only the most extreme examples of, you know, those women using it as, you know, birth control kind of things. And then that allowed the process to occur where the rights could be taken away because people didn't realize how normal it was in the first place.

[00:32:05] **Speaker 2** Absolutely. And and that's where my guilt comes in, too, you know, because I am in a privileged position where I do feel fairly secure in everything, sharing my story. But I've never done anything like that before because it's it's scary and I'm not going to put place the blame on the people who have had abortions because we've been shoved into corners, we've been made silent. You know, it's it's hard for people to share this just because you don't know how people are going to react to it, you know? And so it can be it can be hard. And I think the only way to fix that is for more of us to talk about it, to say it, to say it's normal, to say, I had an abortion. You love somebody who had an abortion. You probably love a lot of people who had an abortion. There are many people in your life who has had an abortion and it's fine. It's normal. And they don't owe you their story at all. It's their story and it's none of your business. But hopefully people who have had an abortion, who are able to speak out and comfortable with it because, I mean, it can definitely be a little bit uncomfortable and push your boundaries a little bit, but secure enough to do it. You know, just please, please do it. I'll continue to share mine. But more of us, the better. Right? We we have an army. Let's start using our voices together and and they can't shut us up anymore. Yeah.

[00:33:39] **Speaker 1** So anything else that you want to add along these lines that I may not have asked about that comes to mind?

[00:33:48] **Speaker 2** I, you know, I don't. I don't think so. I think it's just important that we share stories and that everybody knows that our voice is our most powerful tool. You know, they our story. They can't take it away from us. It's ours. We don't have to practice it. You know, we don't. It's our story. We can just hear it for real and be real about it. And if you need to get emotional and get emotional, but there are stories. It doesn't have to be crisp. You don't have to do it perfectly, but share it if you can, because it's our power. Our voice is our power, and not the only power that the Anti-choicers have is shame. Shame is their tool and if we don't let them use it on us anymore, we win.

[00:34:39] **Speaker 1** How much do you think that the future can hold promise in that you are raising boys that are going to grow up with it completely normalized? And right there it's almost hard to imagine a scenario where they're going to be anti-choice and that they understand the value of it.

[00:34:57] **Speaker 2** Right. And that and that's another thing that we can offer. You know, the people who have had abortions, there's a three you know, I've got three boys who are going to go out into the world and and hopefully they will be a safe space for somebody or, you know, they'll be able to talk about it openly. They can be really strong, amazing allies because they understand it. They understand the decision. They understand that people's lives, so many people's lives are what they are because they were able to have an abortion. And and hopefully they'll be fighters for it. You know.

[00:35:32] **Speaker 1** Could you imagine if you hadn't felt comfortable sharing with them and if they didn't know but had at some point come back and voiced things that they'd heard elsewhere? Right. I mean, how that would make you feel if they heard something at school or read something online and.

[00:35:49] **Speaker 2** Right. And because I you know, I have been in those positions where I needed to speak out because the narrative was incorrect or negative. Two people who decide to have an abortion. I would definitely I'm lucky enough that I would feel comfortable to be like, okay, let's sit down. This is now we need to have a conversation. Let me tell you about my life and how you came to be. But we're I'm in the situation where that's not a sit down conversation because it's already had it's already normalized. They're hiding out in the house right now, you know, trying not to be on the camera, but they know what's happening. You saw my signs outside. You know, I'm outspoken and it's normal. And the more we talk about it, the more normal it becomes. And so even even if people don't want to do something as crazy as this, talk about it with your families. You know, tell your family. Tell your family, because then you get to tell your story. It's better for you to tell your story than somebody else to tell your story, because if you don't share your story with them, they're going to hear other stories. And wouldn't you rather them have your story from you?

[00:37:02] **Speaker 1** Would you recommend waiting for Thanksgiving or would you say stay away from them?

[00:37:08] **Speaker 2** I think Thanksgiving is perfect. There's a bunch of people there. A lot of back and forth could happen. I have no, I definitely did it one at a time, probably. But I really don't think there was ever like a planned like, okay, today's the day. I'm going to tell my mom I had an abortion. It just came about that, you know, somehow, I guess I don't even remember it's been so long. But the people that you sometimes think are on the fence or you don't know if they would be okay with it or not, sometimes they're your biggest supporters. I honestly I still don't know my parents full opinion on abortion. You know, I am safe. Abortion for free is like whenever you want to have an abortion. I think that abortion should be a decision between the person who's pregnant and their doctor and period. That's like I don't. Roe is the floor. No restrictions. Let them figure it out. But I don't I don't know that my parents have that same you know, but it doesn't matter because they love me and they know my story and they're okay with my story. And people love you. You are loved, and the people that love you will continue loving you even when you share your story. So it will only do good. Well.

[00:38:32] **Speaker 1** All right. That's all we have for you for this part. And it wasn't too bad, right? No, that's about it. Just want to double, triple check the spelling of your first name is.

[00:38:41] **Speaker 2** No, wait.

[00:38:42] **Speaker 1** No, it.

[00:38:43] **Speaker 2** Yes. No, it.

[00:38:45] **Speaker 1** Is. Is that mildly irritating? Super irritating.

[00:38:51] **Speaker 2** You know, it never used to bother me at all. And then I met other Sarah's that were really bothered by it. And then all of a sudden I'm like, Oh, maybe I am, too. I don't know. Maybe I'm bothered by it too. I it happens all the time.

[00:39:01] **Speaker 1** Is it more irritating from colleagues that should know better?

[00:39:05] **Speaker 2** It is a little irritating when you send an email and then it comes back and it's like, Hi Sarah with an H.

[00:39:10] **Speaker 1** It's literally.

[00:39:11] **Speaker 2** Like.

[00:39:11] **Speaker 1** This, you know, as as someone who does see and sees a lot of features added to my name.

[00:39:18] **Speaker 2** Oh, I might have done that to you.

[00:39:20] **Speaker 1** I am so used.

[00:39:21] **Speaker 2** To going out with you.

[00:39:22] **Speaker 1** Well, you're new. Okay, that's different. I'm talking to people I've worked with for ten years. Literally see my name on television? It's on me. It's like he can't watch TV or than that. Put it on the screen.

[00:39:36] **Speaker 2** Yeah.

[00:39:37] **Speaker 1** So I feel for you.

[00:39:39] **Speaker 2** Thanks. Thanks.

[00:39:40] **Speaker 1** Yeah. All right, So what we'd like to do now is, well, we'll tear down some of this gear. We'd like to get a little extra video of you. Yeah. So I don't know if you want to give us a tour through some of your artwork or if you want to. If there are some of the photos that you can share with us. Yeah. Some of those we can walk through that would look great.

[00:40:00] **Speaker 2** I can look.

[00:40:02] **Speaker 1** And so this is the part where I want you to feel free to say, No, I'd rather not. Oh, yeah, Yeah, I will.

[00:40:06] **Speaker 2** I absolutely will. I will tell you to back off when you need it.

[00:40:10] **Speaker 1** Well, that's that's good. I don't want is for us to leave. And you're like, I wish I.

[00:40:15] **Speaker 2** Hadn't done that yet. I'll send you an email.

[00:40:16] **Speaker 1** And that's that. That's fine too. Without. Now.

[00:40:21] **Speaker 3** Before we start, I need two things.

[00:40:23] **Speaker 1** Oh, yes.

[00:40:25] **Speaker 3** So first thing. Could you just give me one big clap for your face? Perfect. So that helps us sync up our two cameras. Okay, so then it's a good clap work from, like, movies.

[00:40:38] **Speaker 2** Okay.

[00:40:39] **Speaker 1** Great. You've seen the Hollywood clapboard? Yeah. Yeah, that's the same thing.

[00:40:42] **Speaker 2** Why don't you have one of those weeks? That's a great question.

[00:40:46] **Speaker 1** These are. Claire does the same thing.

[00:40:47] **Speaker 2** Yeah, that's some more people out of the doors. I always feel so bad. It's so hot. People knock on doors asking for donations.

[00:40:52] **Speaker 1** Oh, yeah. It's weird when they come to your house, like I work there. Well.

[00:40:58] **Speaker 2** All right, I do Enough. Thank you.

[00:41:01] **Speaker 3** The next thing is, I need what we call room tone. So it's just kind of the sounds of the room around us. Okay, We're just going to be quiet for about 20 seconds, okay?