

Ep. #11.2 of UnBoxing “God” transcript

ARRANGED MARRIAGE (*India, Gender Roles and Rules*)

[00:00:00] **McCall:** Hello, I'm McCall.

[00:00:08] **Cassidy:** I'm Cassidy.

[00:00:09] **McCall:** We're both in 12 step programs-

[00:00:11] **Cassidy:** -that ask us to give our lives and wills-

[00:00:14] **McCall:** -over to the care of God as we understand Him.

[00:00:18] **Cassidy:** God as we *understand* him"?

[00:00:20] **McCall:** But we don't - understand, I mean.

[00:00:23] Our understanding has served to shove all higher powers into a constructed box,

[00:00:29] **Cassidy:** or maybe it actually boxed us in.

[00:00:32] **McCall:** But, either way

[00:00:33] **Cassidy:** we are ready

[00:00:34] **McCall:** To unwrap our preconceived prejudice

[00:00:37] **Cassidy:** Toward God

[00:00:38] **McCall:** and religion

[00:00:39] **Cassidy:** to take off the boxing gloves

[00:00:40] **McCall:** Pun intended

[00:00:42] **Cassidy:** and step outside the ring.

[00:00:44] **McCall:** of Comfort

[00:00:45] **Cassidy:** The past

[00:00:46] **McCall:** old traumas

[00:00:47] **Cassidy:** fake news

[00:00:48] **McCall:** church hurt

[00:00:49] **Cassidy:** alter calls gone awry.

[00:00:51] **McCall:** And attempt

[00:00:52] **Cassidy:** To maybe begin

[00:00:53] **McCall:** a lifelong journey

[00:00:55] **BOTH (McCall + Cass):** of UnBoxing "God".

[00:00:57] HAHAAAAHA

McCall explaining that "This is: Cass' Episode - part 1!"

[00:00:59] **McCall:** I sure hope you've listened to an unboxing God episode over the last few weeks and have gotten to know my friend Cassidy. She's been an incredible help. Moving the show forward, starting with being in charge of writing the show notes, often at the last minute, to long and late-night conversations... to unbox things in my *own* head.

[00:01:30] Well, in our program... we emphasize giving other people the dignity of their own experience. And I was thinking about that one day, when it dawned on me, "Cassidy really has no *idea* what making a podcast is all about. So, she doesn't have a *clue* as to what a significant difference in my *personal* life she has made. And what she's given to the *show*."

[00:01:58] Therefore, I decided to give her *ownership* of a bonus episode based on India and the conversations and interviews we've had with a number of different people - and that I would do anything she asked me to, "whatever she needed".

[00:02:17] So, welcome to the first of Cassidy's episodes...

Reminder of "Who's Celia Daniels?"

[00:02:23] Last week, you heard the story of Celia Daniels.

[00:02:28] **Cassidy:** Celia Daniels being an immigrant Indian Christian, who also happens to be transgender, in a cis gendered, arranged marriage, nonetheless.

[00:02:39] **McCall:** Non-operational trans woman - fully husband to her wife, and fully father to her daughter. And then for most of her other life, she's a trans advocate woman.

[00:02:51] But yeah, she's Indian, and in an arranged marriage and transgender. So those are kind of the things we're going to unbox in this bonus episode. Yeah?

[00:03:01] **Cassidy:** Yes.

Celia on (Indian, Christian, Arranged) Marriage

[00:03:02] **McCall:** I have a couple of questions specific to you: arranged marriage... talk to me, about arranged marriage

[00:03:17] **Celia:** So, arranged marriage is more like calm... in India. The way it started was there was no dating in India because families are little conservative. So, they try to arrange an occasion where you meet the girl. And then, they give you a picture of the girl- it's more like an eHarmony in today's context.

[00:03:35] So they give a picture, and a resume, of this person... and then, if you *like* the picture... suppose you *hate* the picture, you're *gone!* So, you *like* the picture... and then you meet the person and then you tell ' that. Hey, - I think I like it. And then. As soon as you like the person you give a go ahead from both sides. Both the girl and the boy. Then they, - you can meet them, but not in public, you don't go around dating. And, so they try to, in my case, I was able to get my wife out. And we went and sat at the beach, and we had fun. We kissed each other, and it was great. And I don't think I could have ever done that if I was sitting next to my in-laws.

[00:04:13] Because it's not going to work. But in arranged marriage in India, it's more of a, family's getting together and arranging, saying that: Hey, this is probably a good match for this person. And they also go based on caste. They go based on religion, they go based on a sub caste - within caste, there's a sub caste. And then once they ~~like it~~, like each other, what happens is then they fix a time of engagement and then you its engagement is not kneeling down on your feet at all. It's nothing like that. So, it's almost like a mini-marriage... where you put garland and they give you - you don't exchange rings, but you just put a garland and say, okay, now let's just seal the deal here and go for it. And then we fix a date and then get married an invite almost the entire village for your wedding. So, a thousand two hundred people showed up for my wedding, actually. In India.

[00:05:01] **McCall:** Wait 1,200 people?

[00:05:04] You don't have to cook for all of them?

[00:05:06] **Celia:** I don't even know anybody. And then there'll be there saying, "Oh, congratulations." I'll be like, "Oh yeah, thank you for coming." Then I lost my wife.

[00:05:14] **McCall:** Did they all bring gifts?

[00:05:18] **Celia:** Yeah, I know. Some of them give, some of them don't - but it's actually funny, but that's the way it is. And now, it's almost like e-harmony.

[00:05:25] So, I met my wife that way and my pictures were given to her. And she saw a picture of me in a shiny suit and she hated it. She was like, "what the heck is this guy wearing a shiny suit? I'm not going to marry this person." And I don't know why I wore a shining suit. It's the last thing I would do. Maybe some lighting.

[00:05:41] Then, what happened was she saw a picture with me holding a guitar and singing on stage. So that's something that I've never shared. I think she saw that and knew it was like a ray of hope and she thought, huh, finally, he loves music, so I like this guy. And then, when we first met each other, I was really attracted to her because she's a pretty lady. She was like, she's really pretty. And she's tall, almost very close to my height. And she's, she was a model in his college. And she's very thin, and ya know, she was really attractive. And I was looking at her, like, "Yeah, I really love you. I want to - I want my life with you." And, even today, we've been married for 23 years - twenty-three years. And every day we cuddle each other! My wife was telling me: "I'm not going to get those mattresses that go up and down between couples because we can't hug each other." She's telling me that, honestly - even after knowing all this about me.

[00:06:34] And I said, "you know what, it's not me, but I think I'm really blessed having a wife like you. It's not me!" Sometimes God puts the right people in your lives. And I remember us going to the beach and praying "God, I'm going to get married, and I just want you to... please give me the right woman."

[00:06:51] And, I was praying for three hours, on the beach - three hours. And it was almost like 10:30 in the night. And I saw the moon coming out and there was nobody on the beach. And I was literally saying, "God, I cannot make a mistake in my marriage, please. please help me."

[00:07:04] And I honestly prayed, and I met her the next day, and we were like both hit off, right away. 23 years now. And every morning, we wake up, reading the daily bread, I go walking with her, and... I have to say, I'm blessed. And it's because I'm willing to give certain things that *she* wants. And she's told me very clearly, "I'm really uncomfortable seeing you as a girl because it looks like a lesbian, and I'm not a lesbian." And I told her "it's okay, I'm going to be a husband at home. So, don't worry about it. ~~You know~~, I know it's hard for me, but I'm going to be a man, for you, at home. And, ~~um~~, so just want you to know that." And she said, "thank you so much, can you at least, please, do that for me?"

[00:07:45] And that's true. So yeah, part of my life - for my wife *only*- I live as a girl. At my work, and everywhere, I'm literally Celia. And my wife is okay with it. And she has learned to accept the fact that she is married to a trans woman - who still is a husband, and who's still a father to our child.

[00:08:07] **McCall:** Your willingness... your open mind and willingness... not to live inside the lines that someone else has created - God didn't create those lines and those borders. Your open mind... it's contagious. That's how to best say it.

McCassCall talk Arranged Marriage, Divorce, and Marriage in general

[00:08:35] **Cassidy:** So, from our interview with Celia, I took away that arranged marriages are not bad. That they're not negative. That maybe there's a common misconception, ~~uh~~, with all of us in the West, about arranged marriage being a sign of the oppressor... or *forced* in some way.

[00:08:54] **McCall:** Right. Like children, having to marry some rich powerful...

[00:08:58] **Cassidy:** Somebody 30 years older than them and carry on the family name. But it's not like that at all! And that's with *several* of the people that we've come into contact with. You know, there's different types of arranged marriage, by the way?

[00:09:11] **McCall:** Tons. Who *participates* in arranged marriages? What's your gut?

[00:09:15] **Cassidy:** I feel like there's a common knowledge that arranged marriages are very commonplace in India. In Asia.

[00:09:23] **McCall:** My understanding is that it comes from the Vedas, which I've talked about on here a lot... the Upanishads are the newest version of the Vedas. And those are the ones that deal with like meditation and prayer.

[00:09:35] **Cassidy:** Wait. So, explain that.

[00:09:37] **McCall:** What, the Upanishads?

[00:09:38] **Cassidy:** That they come from the Vedas - arranged marriage.

[00:09:41] **McCall:** Oh, well, The Vedic religions are based on four Vedas that are subdivided into other things. And there's texts on mantras, and benedictions. And there's texts on rituals, and celebrations, and sacrifices. The most recent one, from my understanding, is the Upanishads. And that's the one I've mentioned on the show several times... because there's some passages in that and meditations in that book that are *primo pristino*. But it's very *philosophical*, is how I would explain - and like *spiritual*, not religious. It's how to connect with the divine... like meditation, and prayer, and worship. And "what is the higher power" kind of thing. And it's thought that arranged marriages came from a lot of the things in that text.

[00:10:34] Just a real quick note... the norms of domestic, social, and religious life, in India, actually come from the supplementary arm of the Vedas... called the Laws of Manu, or Manava Dharma Shastra.

[00:10:49] **Cassidy:** Did they suggest them? Or revere them?

[00:10:51] **McCall:** There are traditions, that have come up, through the history of India. Think about things like henna on the hands... that's not something that they got from Bollywood. You see it in Bollywood because it's historical. The arrangement of marriages in most cultures is usually a power play.

[00:11:10] **Cassidy:** Sure. we also see this in the monarchies of old.

[00:11:15] **McCall:** Exactly.

[00:11:16] **Cassidy:** In European monarchies, the joining of two families and therefore the joining of two countries in diplomacy.

[00:11:22] **McCall:** Exactly.

[00:11:23] **Cassidy:** But in India, you don't have that as much to my knowledge, because within the subcontinent of India, they're not marrying their child, to another country for diplomatic reasons. But I think to an extent they are marrying... or arranging the meeting of their kids... across caste systems. Across financial, or educational, backgrounds - so that there is some...

[00:11:54] **McCall:** Leverage?

[00:11:55] **Cassidy:** Yeah.

[00:11:57] **McCall:** Like, it seems like a chess move almost - right?

[00:12:00] **Cassidy:** Sure, yeah.

[00:12:01] **McCall:** So, I did a little research on arranged marriages and there are a bunch of different kinds of arranged marriages. Things like **exchange marriages**, which was nations or groups or tribes like the Australian Aborigines are a perfect example where the marriage contract is between two men of different groups that they should marry each other's older sister. and that kind of exchange thereby substantiating the connection between those groups. It's like a *symmetrical* arrangement that it strengthens each other. And it also protects their sisters, because if the guy they made the arrangement with *beats* their sister... they had- that guy's sister is their wife. So, there's symmetry there. There's an evenness a balance. Then you've got **diplomatic marriages**, like you were talking about for political reasons, often between Royal families, I think. A very common one that we've heard is **the introduction marriage** where the parents really just introduce the potential spouses. They're like a recommendation, like, Oh, like a website, like a Tinder.

[00:13:11] **Cassidy:** Yeah, Indian Tinder.

[00:13:13] **McCall:** There's also love-come arranged marriage.

[00:13:17] **Cassidy:** Okay. What is that one?

[00:13:18] **McCall:** That's matrimony between mutually consenting adults, but it's been facilitated for all intents and purposes by their parents.

[00:13:28] **Cassidy:** So, matchmaker.

[00:13:29] **McCall:** yeah, but you've met each other, you already like each other. And then the parents are like, Hey, our kids are dating. Maybe we should set this up, and help push this along?

[00:13:39] **Cassidy:** So maybe friends of the family?

[00:13:41] **McCall:** Yeah. Like that you, your circles are conjoining circles, naturally.

[00:13:45] **Cassidy:** Sure. and that's kind of what we were talking about before, too, with that horizontal... word...

[00:13:50] **McCall:** ...symmetry.

[00:13:52] Yeah.

[00:13:52] **Cassidy:** So, and so went to university over here and they're doing such and such. How about them? You like them?

[00:13:58] **McCall:** Totally. When I think of that, I go back to Fiddler on the roof - I think of Jewish *Yentas* matchmaking. You know that it's not like you *have* to marry this person. It's more like, here's an option. Oh, you don't like him...? Here's *another* option. Oh, you want one who knows this? Okay. Let me look a little more.

[00:14:19] **Cassidy**: But it's also logical... it's pragmatic, but there is that, that element that there is love and attraction there too.

[00:14:27] **McCall**: So, **mail order brides** are a type of arranged marriage.

[00:14:31] **Cassidy**: We know about those.

[00:14:33] **McCall**: And, usually, the family isn't as involved in those, then there's **the modern arranged marriage**. Where the child really is the one who chooses, who they want to marry, if anyone at all, but the parents exert varying degrees of pressure to make a certain choice, a *strategic* choice.

[00:14:50] However, there's also **modern arranged marriages with courtship**. That's basically the same thing as the modern arranged marriage, except the kids get to know each other over a longer period of time. They use email and phone calls and zoom meetings, et cetera... before they make a decision if this is who they want to be with.

[00:15:07] So, historically most arranged marriages have been used as **an instrument of peace**. They are employed to unite enemy nations -or cultures- to a place of peace.

I'm sure you've heard the term Moonie before. That's a real derogatory name for a legitimate group of people called the Unification Movement. They're referred to as "Moonies" after their founder Reverend Sun Myung Moon, who they call the Supreme father. Well, this guy, Reverend Sun Moon, organized -starting in the sixties- well over 6,500 **'mass ceremony' arranged marriages**. Here's the clincher... They were between a very diverse group of people. Because he and his followers highly valued unification through these interracial, inter-religious, and international mass marriage ceremonies. They're a way of symbolizing the family as a hope for peace.

[00:16:23] I watched an ABC News segment that interviewed this guy, Glenn from Canada, whose parents raised him in unification. And he was with his bride to be... who Glen's parents chose for him to marry, from the church's singles database.

[00:16:42] Another new bride to be who had never yet met her husband, said "In our movement, we were really think, and feel, deeply, that marriage - it's not just for my sake and for my personal attraction. But it's something bigger. Something that can bring the world together.... if we really commit ourselves." Okay.

[00:17:08] Now, back to your regularly scheduled programming...

[00:17:12] Reverend Sun Moon wrote, "imagine two enemy families who have cursed each other throughout their lives. People who would never dream of living together, what would happen if these families joined together through a cross cultural, Holy marriage blessing a son from one family and a daughter from the other family become husband and wife, love each other, and build a happy home? Would the parents in each family curse their own children? When their son loves this beautiful daughter of a hated enemy and she, as their daughter in law gives birth, the grandparents would smile with pleasure. In time, the two lineages that were once soaked with enmity will be transformed,"

[00:17:54] **Cassidy:** That's incredible.

[00:17:55] It's just a numbers game at that point. If you marry enough couples, plenty of them will be in love and have grandkids. That's just really smart. That's the way to change two nations' feelings of animosity for each other... in a generation. This is exactly what teaches empathy - is having this in your family. It's the same with what we've been discovering with the trans people that we've been interviewing - they go through this gender transition several of them later on in life and their kids automatically accept them and love them for who they are. This is the quickest way to teach empathy is now it's in your family. Now it's happening to you. How do we *navigate* this? So that everybody's happy and healthy? Because at the end of the day, that's what matters our happiness and our health. And all the other bullshit can just fall away. None of it matters. The animosity doesn't matter. The I don't understand you... the fear of that. Cause so much of this is rooted in fear of the unknown - fear of what they over there are going to do to me.

[00:19:01] **McCall:** When "the other" lives with you and you see how similar the "other" is.

[00:19:05] **Cassidy:** Yeah. Yeah. at the end of the day, we're all just trying to get by and have a happy, healthy family and life to live out. I think that's part of the reason that I married somebody who is from a completely different culture, who's an immigrant, who has lived those experiences of it taking 10 years to petition to come to the "greatest country on earth".

[00:19:27] **McCall:** Let's talk a little more about arranged marriage. I'll tell you a couple of things I found, first of all, fantastic quote, there's an Arabic saying- "The mirror of love is blind. It makes zucchini into okra."

[00:19:41] Literally we say love is blind, right? So then why would we marry a person we're blinded to? Because we in love with them.

[00:19:51] **Cassidy:** Yeah, but people don't see it that way.

[00:19:53] **McCall:** I know we think it's an *automatic precondition* for getting married.

[00:19:57] **Cassidy:** I think in westernized countries, I can only speak for this country and what I know and what is my experience, but my experience with a lot of this is that when we fall in love with a partner, we expect that feeling to last forever - that 'butterflies in the stomach'. And I think that here, we also have an expectation that this spouse will be my financial provider. There'll be my best friend forever. There'll be my confidant. There'll be my hot, sexy lover forever. I'll *always* have these feelings for them. And I think when you set up all of those expectations, that this person will be your, everything. It all goes to shit... so fast. And I think. arranged marriages are more pragmatic. There is that element of love - of attraction- in a lot of them... but there's also a realistic expectation that we're joining these two families. We're doing this for life. You don't have to be my everything. And we're going to run this, a little bit more like a business.

[00:21:05] **McCall:** Yup. Let's just talk about the United States and divorce. We get married here... we have "love marriages". There are very few arranged marriages in the States.

[00:21:15] **Cassidy:** Sure

[00:21:16] **McCall:** And I dunno if you remember, but in the 1980s, it was always said that the divorce statistic was like 50%. That's not quite true. The true stats are like, I think it's 42 to 45% of first marriages terminate with divorce. 60% of second marriages and 73% of third marriages.

[00:21:40] **Cassidy:** Wow. End in divorce?

[00:21:41] **McCall:** Yeah. 22% of women have been divorced at least once. 21% of men have been divorced, at least once. 11% of women are divorced *at this moment...* in 2020. 9% of men are divorced right now.

[00:21:54] **Cassidy:** Wow.

[00:21:56] **McCall:** And the greatest chunk of those people are ages 20 to 24. It's 36-38% of those divorces are people who are married at that age.

[00:22:07] **Cassidy:** I will say, I got married at 27, right before I turned 28. And Ryan is the same age as me. And it was our first marriage - both of us. And I had a previous relationship, that lasted several years, and I thought that we were going to get married- and we didn't. I always thought of it as a first marriage ... without vows, without the actual ceremony. But when Ryan and I joined, at 27, to get married - I looked around and a lot of my peers, colleagues that were similar age were working on their *second* marriage and they already had a couple of kids, and they had to do *blended* families, and figure out all of these different issues to work through. I think, for a lot of people, the first marriage is that practice round.

[00:22:51] **McCall:** So, I also read an article about the caste system in India. In traditional Indian Hindu society, that because of the caste system, men and women can't mix freely... so that young people really used to rely on arranged marriages. They wouldn't have the chance to meet the opposite sex. And that mostly it was financial -like economic- considerations, and educational status.

[00:23:17] **Cassidy:** Don't you think that's what we have here?

[00:23:20] **McCall:** A little bit - Yeah.

[00:23:21] **Cassidy:** If I go to an ivy league school, I'm probably going to want to marry somebody who also went to an Ivy league school. That's the caste system. And if, I raise my kids in that system with private schooling and the best tutors and this type of lifestyle, I'm gonna want them to marry that too.

[00:23:40] **McCall:** You want equal values.

[00:23:42] **Cassidy:** Okay. When I think of arranged marriage. And I think of the, perhaps the misconception that we have in the States of arranged marriage, I'm thinking like, do you know that TV show Married at First Sight?

[00:23:53] **McCall:** Yeah. I've watched it many times.

[00:23:55] **Cassidy:** That's what you think of... I'm seeing this person at the altar for the first time.... and I'm *forced* into this marriage now.

[00:24:02] **McCall:** Yeah, but see, I don't think "arranged" *indicates* forced.

[00:24:06] **Cassidy:** Sure. That's not the case, as we've found.

[00:24:09] **McCall:** Yeah, that's exactly right. I think that kids in an arranged marriage, they have a lot more say than we see looking at it from the outside. That is really not a forced partnership. It's just that the parents are picking your pool of... 'potentials'. The school I go to picks the Pool of potentials for me, the city I live in, or the suburb picks my pool of potentials. And I'm still limited to who I can marry... by who I *meet*. And I think a lot of arranged marriages, and the cultures or religions that they take place in, don't have as much access to the opposite sex as their parents can arrange.

[00:24:44] **Cassidy:** I think that's a really good way of looking at it, actually. That we're *all* limited in some way. We just don't necessarily realize it, or call attention to it.

[00:24:55] **McCall:** Also, just think about being 20 and what you look for in a partner. we don't have the experience at 20 years old to know really what to look for.

[00:25:04] **Cassidy:** I remember what I looked for.

[00:25:06] **McCall:** Exactly. It's misguided. I would not allow my daughter to marry- I would not arrange a marriage for her... that I did not really believe was going to be successful. there's an aspect of knowing what you're getting into from the start that when you're starting to see this person and date them, it's because you are planning on this becoming a marriage, and if it's not right, you can still bow out. But there's not a lot of dicking around - you're looking at it from a very different perspective, when you know this is about getting married to this person. Also, to have the support of both families in the marriage...

[00:25:47] **Cassidy:** I think that's a really important aspect.

[00:25:49] **McCall:** Like I know when I got married, I had all the people there read a vow as well, that even in times of strife, which are inevitable... to please support this marriage first and foremost - encourage this marriage before encouraging me to look at it as disposable, Try to reinforce this marriage. Even if I'm complaining, try to guide me towards the silver lining

[00:26:11] **Cassidy:** Yeah.

Cass' segue to Manpreet

[00:26:14] Just for clarity... We checked with a dear friend of ours Manpreet who lives in Punjab India currently to see how her culture and religion views arranged marriages. There, here in Oklahoma, I've grown up with a few six and was under the impression that arranged marriage might be commonplace in Sikhism, but here's what Manpreet had to say about it.

Manpreet on Sikh marriage

I also read that Sikhs are forbidden from marrying someone who is not a Sikh.

[00:26:45] **Manpreet:** No. Times have changed.

[00:26:48] **McCall:** You can marry anyone?

[00:26:49] **Manpreet:** I can marry anybody, if I want to. Anybody.

[00:26:53] **McCall:** Are you married to a Sikh?

[00:26:55] **Manpreet:** I'm married to a Sikh, but I can marry anybody. Times have changed and there is no bar from marrying anybody. Society can change. So, they can marry anybody.

McCall's segue to Monique

[00:27:12] **McCall:** Next, Cassidy and I talked to a very close friend, named Monique. She's Indian, but she was born and -for most of her life- was raised in Australia... within a Hindu culture.

[00:27:31] **Monique:** I'd been in a marriage for 20 years. It's a happy marriage - because I have been very committed to being happy. What that means is taking responsibility for my happiness, irrespective of whether it was going to be with this person or not.

[00:27:47] And actually, I think -he might not say it the same way, but- the level of work he's done on himself mirrors that as well. If I were to embark on arranged marriage, the way that I have seen done, it would be with an understanding that I'm going to not know that person entirely yet. And I'm going to have to get to know that person. And that we're going to have differences, but that we're going to try and have a shared value. And that we really want to create a mutual vision together. Right? That's no different to the way that I embarked on the relationship with my husband.

[00:28:23] I think the thing that I had, which was similar, was that I had broken heart relationships in the past. I knew that if I didn't work on it with this guy, I was going to have to work on it with the next one. So, I knew going into the relationship that I could break up with him. And work on it with somebody else... but God, he was hot. He was a beautiful human being. I wanted to work with this guy. And I work my butt off. And not necessarily to stay with him... but to figure out, when things got rough, what my options were, how honoring it was to stay with him.

[00:29:04] And I often say to people: "I don't think it's the things that keep you together... It's when things go bad, and they're not enough to break you apart... that's when you know that it's a good relationship." That's my experience. And I think that the framework of an arranged marriage basically spells that out for people the same way.

[00:29:22] **McCall:** Can you tell me some of the things you learned about gender roles - or what a *woman* is 'supposed' to do. What a *man* is *supposed* to do.-I have the sense- because of, as we said, kind of a monotheistic culture in America- that the idea of complimentary

sexes - that *equality* is just- *complimentary* is justified saying that it's *separate but equal*. And I'm curious what your experiences is.

[00:30:05] **Monique:** My experience- I come from a background, a cultural background, which has the Kama Sutra... for sexual exploration, and owning one sensuality. But also, a culture of sexual repression for women. And even boys aren't meant to own their own bodies, arranged marriage and some by the parents to a large degree sexuality's hidden, or *has* been hidden, or repressed. Ya know? So, that's - that's the contradiction.

[00:30:36] **McCall:** In both in genders? It's been repressed for boys and girls and men and women?

[00:30:43] **Monique:** I- look, there's a part of me that has seen in inequity, and has a huge amount of rage about that, and activism around that. But the person in me that's done a lot of self-development work, sees the wound of being the opposite as well. And I see that to a great degree, they're playing out their own role. And there's an expectation that's been placed on them as well. And although they get maybe the bigger -the nicer- cut of meat, someone else's still cutting the meat. In this culture where the- to a degree, where the old elders have a lot of the power...

[00:31:19] **McCall:** what does that look like to you as a young girl? What did you take from that? Whether it was explicitly taught or not?

[00:31:27] **Monique:** Look. I don't know whether it was the displacement of not having an extended family. Whether it was displacement from not having a strong bonding necessarily maternally, but I was checked out. Now, if that's a cost of being my culture and a female, I don't know.

[00:31:50] I would say that it's an element of that - of dispossession, absolutely. Absolutely. And where you are dressed really well for these functions, to look like a good cut of meat, to look like a good piece- a good cattle on the market? Absolutely. That may be hugely offensive to some listeners. And I'm sorry, that's not my intention.

[00:32:15] I'm talking from my own personal experience here. You know, but- and then we talk about this idea of spirituality - Shive Shakti Shakti's. It's the... the 'life form' of God energy - 'Shakti' is how Shiva energy manifests this. So, with the Shiva and Shakti- In spirituality, there's this strong female essence, and these strong male essences, and both are revered.

[00:32:45] But then the people that are largely performing these rights are men! So, there's *that* contradiction as well. Just like the sexuality piece with the Kama Sutra and the sexual oppression. You've got this religion where these *women* are being revered, *yet* the *men* are the only ones allowed to perform the rights. The people that are supporting the priest, get all the pieces together. In a domestic ritual, will be the women. And the... the oral tradition of the religion is passed down through the mothers, was my experience, not the fathers. My family priest male and he's taught his son the mantras. My experience was that I got it through the women. My observation is the women often weren't priests.

[00:33:29] So, there's these little contradictions as- and as I became a pubescent, I started to question this: What do you mean, I need to wear a skirt? To see this ritual. Bugger that...

Nice Work, Cass! But where's the rest?

[00:33:40] **McCall:** Not too shabby of a bonus episode, Cassidy. I'm rather impressed! It's not easy, is it? There's a lot of pieces-parts to keep moving. Well, nonetheless, you did a fantastic job!

[00:34:01] However... This is only *one third* of your material, isn't it? As far as I know, I think you've got two *more* bonus episodes to put out this week.

[00:34:12] So, what else are we going to learn this week, Cassidy?

Cass on What's to Come & "Bye"

[00:34:17] **Cassidy:** Well, thanks McCall. I couldn't have done it without you. Or Kyle, working behind the scenes either for that matter. And you're right - we *do* have more bonus material coming up. But... I don't know... we *might* jam pack *one more* bonus episode with some more on Indian religions, the feminine divine, and maybe even a little bit more on trans faith.

[00:34:40] So you'll have to stay tuned until the next episode of UnBoxing "God". Bye now.