

Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness & Busy Phillips

JVN: Hey, Curious People. I'm Jonathan Van Ness and welcome to Getting Curious. Unless you have been living under a rock, the *Mean Girls* movie is out! I'm beyond excited for that because I love *Mean Girls*. I love a reboot. I love the cast. So let's all get excited for *Mean Girls*, the musical. Busy Phillips is a New York Times best selling author, actor, activist and writer. She's known for her television roles on *Freaks and Geeks* and *Dawson's Creek*. She won the Critics Choice Television Award for her role on *Cougar Town*. She also appeared in films like *White Chicks*, *Maid of Honor* and *He's Just Not That Into You*. She currently stars in the Peacock Netflix original series *Girls5Eva*, which I love, and is in the new *Mean Girls* film inspired by the 2004 original and Tony nominated Broadway show which just came out in theaters on January 12th. She and her creative partner Caissie St. Onge, also co-host the podcast, *Busy Phillips is Doing Her Best*. Um also have some questions about the career and also mostly it's like cool mom-ing. What's it like to be a cool mom in 2024? So that's our guiding question and reminding you of our new little format alert. Um, stick around for the end of the conversation because we're going to find out what I learned and if I answered the question or not. All right, let's get to it. Thank you for taking, I've been seeing you on social. You're everywhere this week and this premiere, this gorgeous *Mean Girls* musical has got you just, you're seeing everybody. You're doing everything. So thank you for working in the time for us to come on Getting Curious.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Are you kidding? I've been waiting for years to be curious with you.

JVN: Are you serious?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Yes, I've been so excited to come do this for so long.

JVN: Ok. Wait, so obviously I'm a gigantic fan. I'm going to get to everything. But obviously it is like *Mean Girls* week. I wore a pink sweatshirt. Were you.... OK? You're minding your own business...

BUSY PHILLIPS: I got a text from Eric Gurian who is Tina Fey's producing partner and Tina and I have worked together now for, oh my goodness, like six years, seven years almost because I did a pilot for NBC that she produced. That was the first thing, I'd never met her. Um and, and actually never met her while I was doing the pilot, but the pilot didn't get picked up and, but everybody on their side was so excited about how the show, how that pilot had turned out, that they reached out to me and we like, we really want to continue working with you. And I, at the time this is 2017, 2017, and I was like, I don't think I want to act anymore. I am heartbroken by it and I can't take the rejection. And if this Tina Fey-produced incredible comedy, can't get picked up: what am I doing? I don't want, I don't want to do this. This is too hard. So then I decided to do something even harder because I was like, because I was like, but I think I want to host a late night talk show and will Tina produce that? And so they did and then she called me during the pandemic and then that, you know, got canceled and that was a bummer, too. Um and then she called me during the pandemic and asked me to be on *Girls5Eva*, which is a dream job and a dream show.

JVN: It's so good and you get to work with Sara Bareilles, oh my God!

BUSY PHILLIPS: I'm obsessed with Sara Bareilles. Have, has she been on?

JVN: No, but someday a girl can dream. I love her so much. I ran at her one time at the London and I almost like, I almost diarrheated right on the front of the London. Um because I just, I've loved her for like, ever since like, I, I'm going to write you. But that's not obviously like, that was my first intro to her. But really for me it's like Gravity. I'll twist myself inside out. I love her. But also I just also, I love Manhattan. I love, I love everything she's ever made. I love, I'm obsessed with her. I can't, but I'm going to shut up now.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Well, I'm going to tell you that I am going to say this without even checking with her. I know she's obsessed with you. And um and the third season of *Girls5Eva* comes out in March and I'm just going to put it out there that she definitely should be on *Getting Curious* before that happens.

JVN: OMG that makes so much sense. Okay so then?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Um So, so, so, but I was just sitting minding my own business and I got a text from Eric Gurian, Tina's producing partner: "Hey, Tina has a question for you. Are you around this afternoon?" And I was like, yeah, I'm always around for Tina, of course. Um And she called me and Jonathan, I genuinely in my head thought that because she and Amy Poehler had just announced that they were doing their live shows that the tour that they did. And I had just done some live shows on my podcast, like of my podcast with Caissie. And so I kind of, I literally thought that's what she was calling to just say like, "What was your experience like? Did you like it was it," you know, no idea. Way better. And so she started talking, telling me, "Well, you know, we're making *Mean Girls Musical* into the movie." And I was like, "Of course, I, I've known this, we were film, we've been filming together, you know, I know, of course, I've known this whole journey." I've, I saw *Mean Girls: The Musical* on Broadway like seven times. Um, and I was such a huge fan of it. And even, we had discussed, uh after *Busy Tonight* was canceled and Renée Rapp was cast as the new Regina George. And Tina called me and was like, "You have to see this girl. First of all, Busy, she looks just like you from *Freaks and Geeks*, like you guys are twins and you should think about like this coming summer if you want to bring the girls to New York and, and maybe be, come in as the New Mrs. George on Broadway. You could do it for like a couple of months." And that was 2020. Needless to say plans changed and yeah, and Broadway shut down. But even when they were making the movie, I, I wasn't, it wasn't on my radar. It wasn't something I was like trying to get because...I don't know, to be quite honest with you, I know how those things work and I knew and I knew that like, it's a big Paramount movie, they're gonna want, the kids are gonna be all mostly unknown. So where they get, like, the financing is in the adults. Like, this is just a real Hollywood business. I've been doing this for 24 years, I think, 25 years, um, professionally. So, like, so in my head I'm like, they're going to have to get, it'll be Jen Garner. You know what I mean? It'll be somebody who's like a big movie star who can get them whatever it is that they need. You know what I mean? That's I, that was all I, so I wasn't even on my radar at all. And when she asked me, I was so shocked and then I like started crying and I felt like I had won a pageant.

JVN: I mean, that's...what an afternoon, you never know. I'm going to put some of that secret energy out into the world like your whole life can change for the better in one afternoon you never know.

BUSY PHILLIPS: So you have to just, I suppose, I guess savor the moments that it's amazing because you never know.

JVN: Yeah, that's very true. But you had said just a second ago, you obviously were a big fan of *Mean Girls* in the first place. I mean, such an iconic movie. And um so like, were you scared? Were you nervous? Like were you like, I mean, like, because obviously because like when Tina asked, were you like, yes and then later you were like, wait, I'm gonna like, am I like? What am I? What do I have to do and stuff?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Well, in her sort of, um, getting down on one knee and asking me to be Mrs. George, she did say, you know, Amy...Busy, Amy and I've talked like, you're perfect for like, we think she's on board with this. We want, you know, you're gonna be great. We both think you're gonna be so incredible. I, you know, I'll protect you. And that's the other thing like when you have what I love so much is that um I love my relationship with Tina and, and Jeff, her husband who wrote a lot, you know, most of the music for *Mean Girls*, he wrote the musical and um and then also the movie musical, most of the music is his as well. Um Eric Gurian and like, I've worked with these Robert Carlock, her partner, I've worked with these people now for so long that I really did trust her, that she wasn't going to let me fail or look bad in or, you know, because so it wasn't even so, so in that moment, there was no hesitation. I—guess when it happened?

JVN: When?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Sunday night, the premiere was Monday. Just now. Sunday night, I was like, oh, no, what did I do? I, yes, I was like, Amy Poehler is iconic as Mrs. George. Why did I think this was a good idea?

JVN: Because that's kind of what like, I mean, first of all, for the record, I think it's an incredible idea. And I know you're going to fucking slay so hard. Um I know that you already did slay so hard. Um but that was kind of the question I was like, were you nervous to like, because that is just, it's an iconic role. Like I still remember those like terry cloth covered nipples. Like speaking of those, did you guys have to get some like Skim's nipple bras that Kim just debuted to or ere they not out yet?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Can you believe they weren't out yet?

JVN: I mean, that's outrageous. It would have been perfect.

BUSY PHILLIPS: I know. I know. As it is, my Mrs. George is—and I think that that was part of like the work that we did that Tina and I did and that, you know, I was able to sort of think about myself and as the mom of a teenager, which is so crazy!

JVN: That's...how is it possible?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Well, I was just a very young mother

JVN: I'm just going to say it: You're just breathtakingly studying like I knew like I know but like, but fuck! Like this glam. Did you do your own, I know this isn't *Pretty Curious*, but did you do that yourself today? You just did this glam yourself?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Yes. You know, I love makeup so much.

JVN: So you're just this person who just did your fucking glam this good. And actually do you have your phone anywhere? Can you just take a selfie of it? Just like for the promote just for later before the light goes because like that you guys just don't even understand like the

what I'm going through interviewing this model slash actress about something about reprising a role with her fucking snatched makeup like this, it's so stunning!

BUSY PHILLIPS: You know what? It's Charlotte Tilbury.

JVN: I'm just writing myself notes because I had to ask 17 follow up questions. But then I got so distracted by your glam. You guys we're going back. OK? First of all, but now I'm sitting here and then I'm going back. My version of my Janice, she kind of fired me as being her gay bestie because I lied to her about getting blackout on beer and vodka when we were 15 and I was supposed to invite her over. But then I didn't because I knew that she didn't approve of alcohol. And I was like, I got one day queen when there's no adults here. And I'm going to get curious about that. And then I lied to her about it and then she found out and she was so upset and that she never looked at me the same. So like I love you, Kelly. If you're listening to this, I'm fucking sorry. But I said sorry back then to you. I'm just saying.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Well I just saw my high school Damien when I was in Arizona over Christmas and he came; I posted a picture on my Instagram and he came to like hang out with my family and have dinner one night. And we had the realization while we were eating tacos that my daughter Birdie is the same age that we were when we met and became best friends. And then I kind of lost it. I was just, like, very emotional and kind of couldn't take it. Yeah. It was kind of crazy.

JVN: Every time I have one of those just like with my friends where I'm like, oh, we've been friends for however long I want to shit my pants just about myself. If I had a miniature me, I, I can't, I don't know, I literally...Parents: I don't know how you guys do it. Big respect for Moms. But I, but we have to go back but we are, but you can interrupt me to talk about Birdie at any time. Ok, because...

BUSY PHILLIPS: And Cricket. love, I love Cricket too, but I talk about Birdie more only just because she's, I've been through it more with her

JVN: Birdie and Cricket and...because you have two babies.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Yeah. Well, they're...Cricket's 10 now and...

JVN: But they're still babies.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Well, I know the 15 year old, doesn't it? It's weird. It's hard. She's like, she's, um, I just can't even, I mean, I was, when I was 15, she's just a different kind of kid. They both are than the, you know, the world is different. It's weird.

JVN: We're going to stick on this, we're sticking on this because this is what I was going to talk about next. But no, no, no, actually, no, I can't. I'm not, I'm not. We are going to go into mom's stuff but I have to stick on Busy a little bit first more. So it's Sunday. We're about to go to the premiere. And that was when you got the first, the precipice of fear of reprising this role?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Well, I think because it occurred to me that I was going to be watching it the next day with, to a theater full of people. And so I was going to say...

JVN: And Lilo was there!

BUSY PHILLIPS: Oh, yeah, she was, we talked a little bit.

JVN: Anything can we? I mean, like, no?

BUSY PHILLIPS: She just was like, "Hey, it's been so long since I've seen you," and I was like, "It's been so long." I remember exactly where I saw her the last. It was at Bungalow Eight. We were um, I mean, I was 20, I always think, like, think of her as so much younger than me, but she's really not, she's only a couple of years younger than me. She just has been famous since she was like a little kid. Yeah. Yeah. So I think I was probably like 26 or 27 at Bungalow Eight and I saw her and we were, and I was with Michelle and we were in line for the bathroom and like the three of us were talking for a bit and that was the last time I ever saw her, that's the last time I saw her in person. I think.

JVN: That's like...people that's like, [SINGING] I'm tired of rumours starting. That was still like, that's still my jam. I love it, whenever that song comes on, I still like it is so good. [SINGING] I just need to free me. And also I didn't expect to go into this Lindsay Jam moment. But I will just say her music career: give it to me because Daughter to Father, I cannot listen to that song without, I'll have a, I'll cry right now. Do you remember that song?

BUSY PHILLIPS: No, okay, I don't know her music career at all. She's

JVN: She's like, [SINGING] I'm tired of rumors starting, I'm sick of being followed.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Of course, I know this song from the clubs.

JVN: Busy, we don't have to listen to it, but I need you to watch, just watch a music video when we're done. Just take a moment because I just really, it was really a moment for you. I'll tell you what I think a cool mom is and then, and then you'll tell me what you think because to me, you really are the epitome of cool mom. You let your kids be who they are. Your advocacy work, I think fully qualifies as cool mom, and I think it's just so important. I mean, you're real, you talk about issues that affect young people, more specifically young women. Um this is especially last year was not an easy year. I just thought I just also not to keep continually like sticking my head up your ass, but I'm obsessed with you and it's ok. But like I just have been so proud of you watching, you continue to fight for reproductive rights and reproductive access and you have been fearless in putting yourself out there in that. And it's...

BUSY PHILLIPS: Well, also I want to say, I want to say that I am also fiercely active with the ACLU for gender-affirming care and trans kids as well. Because I think that the information that um has been weaponized by extremist uh politicians and the far-right um only does a disservice to the health care and well being of the LGBTQ community at large, but also specifically children and teenagers, I will cry. This is why I'm looking down, I can't look at you right now while I'm talking about this. Like, um I get really angry about people who are politicizing children's lives and politicizing women and girls bodies, people with uterus, bodies for their own gains and perpetrating lies. We were lucky enough to have a kid that came out as non-binary. Birdie was non-binary for a period of time. Guess what Birdie had access to? Gender-affirming care um by way of a therapist that was, you know, very well versed in being affirming uh with parents that used pronouns that my child asked for us to use for that period of time as Birdie was figuring things out uh for herself. And uh and Birdie ultimately was like, "Oh, you know what actually I really identify as she/her, I'm really, this is who I am," and that's fucking amazing. And how it has gotten so far from um supporting your child and helping them to figure out who they are inside and, and who, what their truest expression of themselves is to being this other thing is so infuriating and makes me so sad.

JVN: That's such an example of what we want kids to have is autonomy and access, time to figure it out. And that's such a great example of what happens and what the right wing says, like it look, look at how nothing bad happened, you know.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Part of what the complication is of me being in the public eye and a parent is that it puts my kids in like a weird position that they have to like reconcile who their mom is publicly with who their mom is to them. You know what I mean? And one thing that I realized or I just know sort of like inherently is that...so my mom always used to say, "Elizabeth actions speak louder than words." And, and I just knew like from the time when my kids were little that none of like the stuff that I say out in the world would mean shit if in the home, I was someone different. And so that has been like my guiding principle in parenting. And I sort of feel like you kind of can't go wrong. And, you know, I see a lot of, you know, there's always discussions, especially when you're raising um, kids that present as girls about uh their bodies or concern about their looks and whatever. And the truth is in my household, we've had really frank discussions about some of my own, my own weirdness about because I'm, because I've been an actress since I was 19 years old and I've had to have like frank discussions with my kids. But I also, even before I was comfortable doing it, I was like, I have to fake it till I make, it would put on a bikini and like get into the pool with them when they were little girls; would always try to be. I, I really had to train myself to stop negative talk about myself. That thing that's sort of famously in *Mean Girls* and it's in the new *Mean Girls* where the girls are like, "Oh, my pores are so gross, my skin and she's like, yeah, me too. I'm ugly too, I guess." Um, I had to really, when Birdie was a baby I was like no more of that. No more of that. I can't do that in front of this kid because to her, I'm like, perfect, right, when she's little. Now not so much but, um, but I was like, I just really, and so Mark and I had a conversation about it and I was like, "I really want you to call me on it when I, if you see me doing it, if you see me saying like, oh, I can't eat that because whatever, call me on it, like, tell me that that's what I'm doing because it's so ingrained in me from the world." Um, and it really did break that habit for myself and I do have kids that are like, very comfortable in their skin and really not like, um, so affected by, you know, like, it's hard though because, you know, it's hard.

JVN: But they have a good relationship with confidence.

BUSY PHILLIPS: They have a good relationship with confidence.

JVN: What if you're someone who's like, literally about to have a baby or like, you maybe have like a really little baby or one who's 1,2 or really any advice for new moms or new parents for cool mom-ing in 2024?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Yes. I, I mean, I don't know because it's like, so wild how everything changes. Like, but every year, you know, in terms of like, parenting do's and don't's, you know, they're like. Like, even from when Birdie was born to Cricket was born, um, all like, even the way that you swaddled then they were like, "Oh, no, that you can never swaddle that way." I was like, "But that's how I swaddled Birdie for eight months and they're like, no, you know, like everything changes." Do you know what I'm saying? Um, but, but no, but yes, um, but I think, like, the only advice I ever feel comfortable giving when it comes to, like, parenting and, or relationship stuff is that, um, everyone is very unique and you have to, like, listen to yourself and your own intuition and, you know, you know what's best for your child. And, you know, I had a kid who, um, in the, in the land of sleep training, that was huge when, uh, she was little, um, refused would not be like sleep trained. And I spent all this money and

I was like, like in my head all the time, like why won't this babe, I can't do, I'm doing something wrong. And then there actually was this like Op-Ed that I don't, I don't know, I don't even know where it was. It was somewhere in a paper that I read, um, of a parent saying, like I spent all this time and, and feeling so terrible about myself about spec, specifically this sleep training thing. And, um, and then I just realized my kid just, that's just not for this, this baby. And I let it go and is it, am I tired? Yeah, I'm still kind of tired. I'm still tired. It's still hard. But the thing that I was putting on top of it was making it three times harder. So, Mark and I like both read that article. Um and we were like, you know what, we're going to let it go and we're gonna just, we're gonna just like this maybe sleep training is just not for this baby. I think that the more you can actually not listen to everybody else's advice and just really like, tune into your own intuition and your kid. And if you're feeling like I have none that's also postpartum maybe. And like, and like also talk, talk to somebody about that, like, you know what I'm saying? Like I think that it's, it's a fine line between like isolating yourself and then feeling overwhelmed by not being able to make good on all of this advice that everybody has all the time because every baby is different and every baby has their own needs and every parent has a different situation. So it's like, um, you know, I always have thought if I could write a, a child rearing book called *How To Raise Your Second Child First*, I would be a billionaire. But there, it's impossible to like, actually tell someone how to do that because the truth is until you go through it one time, you don't, you don't know, you don't know that it's going to be ok. You're so scared, you know. And um I was at least, and a lot of my friends were.

JVN: It's about trusting yourself and also asking for help. It's both! It's like trusting yourself and also asking for help. And then if you just feel like totally nothing inside that could be post-partum and make sure you have access to a therapist or like mental health resources, which that also felt really profound. Like that really was giving it to me. I want to talk about your podcast because your podcast, we love your podcast. I also love Caissie. What day does it drop? Where do people find it?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Well, it mostly drops on Wednesdays everywhere you get podcasts. It's called Busy Phillips Is Doing Her Best and Caissie St. Onge—she is my executive producer/show runner from my late night talk show, *Busy Tonight*—um is my co-host and she's also just like a wealth of knowledge and information and just amazing and hilarious. And um we talk to different people about what they're, what they're up to and what they're doing their best at and about pivots in their lives. Um but sometimes we don't have guests and sometimes it's just about our lives, but we always, we always like, try to at least focus on what we're doing our best at that week. And um it's been really amazing and I love our listeners. I think we probably have some overlap.

JVN: I'm sure we do. That's why I was like, but I also was thinking if you've just been like, living your life for this recording, you're just like, "God, I need more fucking Busy in my life," while I was just like, you're in luck because you have a pod and it's so fun to spend time on your pod. So, get into her pod.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Yeah, you can get into the pod guys. It's a lot. They're very long. I will tell you that.

JVN: We really find that they don't really care how long it is as long. They're just down for the ride, which I love you guys to be down for the ride.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Yes. And that's what we found too. And we, we self produced it and we don't have a company, we just do it all ourselves. And we found that when we, uh, for one moment we like, went and were meeting with people and they're like, well, what we should do is we need to cut it so that it's like only an hour long, maybe an hour 15. And Caissie and I were like, that's not what our fans are into. They really have reached out to us and they're like, "We like the long conversations, we like really getting into it with you." And sometimes, like, this past year has been really hard for both Caissie and myself and we both had really big losses in our lives and we're dealing with a lot of grief and like, grief is not processed in 50 minutes flat. You know, and, and, and maybe not ever. But, you know, we like to give the space for the things that and also there's been a lot of stuff in the world that we've been trying to process and a lot of things that have been really hard for us to reconcile. And so we like to get into kind of long discussions where we are asking questions and like, we don't know all the answers. Like that's what I love about your podcast too. Like, you're curious, I think that being curious is like, that is the greatest gift. Anyone, that's the greatest thing anyone can have.

JVN: I wish we had more. I wish, well, I feel like we're doing good on curiosity. I mean, I could always use a little more but, but I just, I wish more people did have more curiosity, generally speaking.

BUSY PHILLIPS: It was interesting. I have been thinking a lot about this because um I've been thinking about this coming year in terms of politically and...

JVN: Where? Is there something going on this year? And there's a fucking, we're just going to, I posted something about politics on my Instagram two nights ago and reading the comments which I also committed to not doing as much on this podcast. You guys it's going pretty ok. I'm sticking. I am and I have to say I am happier not reading the comments as much. I made a plan to only read them like once in the morning, once at night, I'm pretty much sticking to the plan like 90% stronger than I thought. I would and I have to say I am happier, but I did dip my tone of those podcast into those comments about um the White Power movement. And I'm really concerned, I, I'm really concerned for Biden. I am all the way concerned and I think, I think I'm just my poopy panties. I think I'm pooping my panties and I'm scared and fuck and just fuck. Generally fuck unless all those people that said they were voting third party all live in California then maybe. But I just, I don't know what to do. I'm whatever. I didn't mean to have a nervous breakdown. I didn't mean to have a menty-b at the end.

BUSY PHILLIPS: But listen, but here's what I'm going to say to you. I actually think that's our Venn diagram. I think we're all kind of having one. Like I think everybody feels sort of like adrift and maybe, maybe, and I'm just coming to this right now as we're talking. But maybe the truth is there is no one person that's going to save any of us and save this country and unite the thing and do the thing.

JVN: No for sure, I just don't want it to be Trump. I just don't want him to come back.

BUSY PHILLIPS: I know I don't, I don't either and I don't know about what to do about that. Like, really don't know what to do about that. But I do know, I do know that when we get people engaged on like smaller levels that like real, substantive change can be need for the better. And that has been also that was like the way that the sort of extremist politicians and people with these like crazy ideas have taken hold in a bigger way is they started really

small. And um and I think that like, we, the people listening to this podcast and you and me, like, need to remember that we can go small and we can focus on, on like, issues in communities and like small races where, um, you know, somebody really progressive is running who's gonna prevent, um, the banning of books.

JVN: We love state and local politics.

BUSY PHILLIPS: And I think, like, I think that this, this, I just think that like, if anything, the last four years has shown me, it's that, um, on a national level I'm in, he's not the, you know, like Dobbs was still overturned and granted that was like, in part because of stuff that Trump had put in, you know, the justices, that he had put in office.

JVN: I mean, we were four justices to drop dead in like that first year.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Well, that's, I mean, this is, yes, of course. But, but like, uh,

JVN: We did have all three, but here's the other thing I always think about that too. Like, because it's like we did have, we did have Senate and we had the White House and I do feel irritated about it. And I get that like a 60 vote threshold was like racist and from the Jim Crow era and that the Democrats did have the, like if Sinema would have, but she didn't and if Manchin would have, but he didn't. And so we didn't have a caucus that was like, our caucus wasn't on the same page.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Sinema really bugs me.

JVN: Unless we get 60 Democrats. That's the thing. And I do think that as far as democrat leaders are concerned and AOC's even said this before. Democratic leaders need to be better about leveling with voters on like what people need in order to make good on the promises. Like any president can say all sorts of shit. But unless you get 60 senators and unless you have the majority of the House, it's going to have a really hard fucking hell of a time getting anywhere doing any motherfucking thing. And that's really what? Because we could have codified Roe V Wade and made it law, but we didn't have the fucking Senate to do it. And those fucking Republicans are like, nah, it won't be overturned. We don't need to nah it'll never happen. And then it did. So. Thanks, Susan, thanks a lot, Susan from Maine. You know, I did go to Portland, Maine for the first time this year. It was very beautiful not to go from reproductive rights to that, but it was very pretty. I have a really quick, rapid fire round to wind us down on a, on a fun.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Okay, but wait, but before we go into that, I do just want to say

JVN: About what are we gonna do?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Just about politics. I just want to say,

JVN: What are we going to do?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Here's what I'm choosing. Here's what I'm choosing. I'm choosing to believe still, that we have the numbers for good. I'm, I'm choosing to believe that, um, that we can do our part as storytellers and the people who listen to us and are our friends on the other side of their headphones, um will do their part by sharing and spreading the stories that make a difference in um their family and friends lives and that we will continue to show up for people who aren't able to show up for themselves or don't have the voices or the platforms and specifically for kids and, um, and for, you know, all of the people that are in the

states where, um you know, these horrific abortion law been in stated and, and, and um, and the yes and the, and the bans on trans affirming care. Yeah, like, look, I just think we can do it. I just think we can do it. And when you look at places like Ohio where, um or Michigan where then, you know, abortion gets put to the people. Um or, you know, like people show up, people show up, they want, they want, they're like Oh, no, not here. We don't want this. So we just need to like, we need to just like, keep, keep the hope alive and we need, and we need to like, and we need to keep doing like pushing forward because I don't know, man, we have no choice. We have no choice.

JVN: Yeah. Yeah. And exactly. Jesus Christ. I'm not stressed. I really like your output on that. I really like where you're going? Rapid fire. Are you ready? Ok, New York or L.A. for living?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Oh God, this is hard. OK. So really L.A. for me. But I live in New York.

JVN: Ok. Iced or hot coffee,

BUSY PHILLIPS: Hot.

JVN: Do you drink alcohol?

BUSY PHILLIPS: I do

JVN: Gin or vodka martini?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Vodka, dirty three olives.

JVN: And what about weed?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Yea, yes.

JVN: Indica or sativa?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Oh, I'm always sativa

JVN: Oh my God. Interest. It really winds me up. It makes me paranoid. It makes me think everyone hates me.

BUSY PHILLIPS: I feel very creative.

JVN: Indica I can just hear my own thoughts. OK. Yeah, because otherwise my brains like...Winter or summer Olympics?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Oh, gosh. That is really hard because I love gymnastics, but I love ice skating and I love the luge. OK. Maybe I go winter. Maybe I like winter.

JVN: Ok, Michelle Kwan or Tara Lipinski.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Michelle Kwan.

JVN: Thank God. When I decided to ask that question at the very end of this, I didn't want to go south. I didn't want to sit on a bad note, but I got sick because I thought, what do I know? Maybe you're out here just being a fucking Tara Lipinski stan. I mean, and God love her, but she's not the most decorated American figure skater of all time. She is not Michelle. Wow. I feel so much. Ok, this is OK, great. Um Now this is our last one. This is for you. If your life was a musical, what's the opening number?

BUSY PHILLIPS: All That Jazz.

JVN: And um what's you're like, "Oh my God, I'm changed forever," number.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Um Oh my God. Wait, hold on. What, what is it? It's like, it's gotta be something by like, what is it? I don't know...

JVN: Mine's really controversial if you want me to, but I'm only answering this one and also I can hear one of our producers, Chris, rolling their eyes now and I've seen everyone to just like, shut the fuck up. It's I Dreamed A Dream but Anne Hathaway's version.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Ok. Wow.

JVN: You guys, I downloaded it, just listen to it in my car just, there was something about Anne Hathaway's I dreamed a dream with her little buzzed head. I just was like, wow, wow, it's a-ha I'm never going to be the same song.

BUSY PHILLIPS: It's...OK. Ok. This is like so random, but it's a song by this band called Jimmy Eat World. That was um a band in it, so it's not a musical song. Um when I was in high school and it's called Goodbye Sky Harbor.

JVN: We'll listen to that,

BUSY PHILLIPS: But you have to listen to the original version. You can't listen to their redone version that they did for the 20th anniversary or whatever. Like, you know what I mean?

JVN: No, that makes sense. We wrote down. Ok. Show Stopping Finale. What's like your closing song?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Um, hm.

JVN: Is it something from Six? I'm really into Six right now.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Ok. I haven't, wait, wait, I've never seen Six.

JVN: Um Busy, you probably should leave from this to go do it. It's really good. It's a story of like, do you know about? It's so good.

BUSY PHILLIPS: I know. And Mary Beth Peil, who was Grams on Dawson's Creek. Is she in the movie? But she was definitely on Broadway.

JVN: Is there a movie?

BUSY PHILLIPS: Yeah, there is. Isn't there a movie with Kate Hudson? Isn't Kate Hudson in it?

JVN: No. Are you kidding?

BUSY PHILLIPS: What am I thinking of?

JVN: It's Six the musical? It's like the girl group. And they were like, they were like Henry The Eight's wives. Right. Right.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Right. Oh, wait. Oh! Six! I saw that. Oh, I'm thinking of Nine.

JVN: Noooo! There was really no better way to end that.

BUSY PHILLIPS: That's amazing. I'm thinking of Nine, I loved it. I saw it in London right before the pandemic.

JVN: I didn't get to see it until after the pandemic, but it's so good. I love it so much.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Oh, it's fantastic. I need to take Cricket to see Six because I took Birdie to see Six in London, like in 2020 in February 2020. And, um, I haven't seen it since it's been on Broadway and I want to go.

JVN: It's so good. You got to see it. I just, I, I, it took me on every emotion I've ever had.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Wait, what if I do Fosse again? Because I feel like, um, what is that song? Is it? [SINGING] It's good, isn't it grand? Isn't it great? Isn't it fine? Isn't it good, isn't it? But nothing stays in 20 years or so. It's gonna change, you know? But, oh, it's heaven now, a-days.

JVN: Have you always been able to vibrato that good? Did you have to get taught vibrato or was it just like natural?

BUSY PHILLIPS: I've never really had any voice lessons, but I've never been on Broadway. So I've never had to sing eight times a week or whatever.

JVN: I can't do it. I'm not going to do it right now. Um, Busy. That was gorgeous. I can't believe you went hard on that. That was gorgeous.

BUSY PHILLIPS: I was just feeling it. I was feeling the vibe and also I don't get to sing in the *Mean Girls* Musical, which I was bummed about. But I understand.

JVN: What about Girls5Eva?

BUSY PHILLIPS: I sing in that.

JVN: I know, I know that. I know because I watch it. Do we know about, we haven't heard anything...?

BUSY PHILLIPS: March 14th on Netflix.

JVN: What, what?

BUSY PHILLIPS: it was announced a little bit ago. A couple weeks ago. Season three is on Netflix. Season three will be airing plus the first two seasons and it all is dropping on March 14th and somebody better check and make sure that I'm allowed to say that. But I know it's, I know the date was announced, but I'm pretty sure I'm allowed to say that.

JVN: I'm so excited for season three.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Yes, I am too. It is actually it's the best season.

JVN: It is? I mean, I love it. It's you guys if you're not watching it, get it together,

BUSY PHILLIPS: But you can also wait until Netflix because then you can just binge the whole thing and I think you do love. Yeah, I think that would be better for us probably because we want to get a fourth.

JVN: You're the most. Oh yeah. Do wait, you guys watch it on Netflix and watch it right when it comes out and watch it to it's completion. Um you're the most active on the 'gram, right?

BUSY PHILLIPS: I mean, I was in a moment in my life but I feel like I'm less so now but I try.

JVN: Are you more on Tok-y?

BUSY PHILLIPS: What?

JVN: Where can people follow you the most? ,

BUSY PHILLIPS: Yea yea yea, I mean, that's where you can follow me the most. I'm just saying like at this point...

JVN: Well, you're a busy ass fucking woman. When you have time to be on fucking Instagram, now? Every time you turn around, you're getting a new show, which I love. Um Busy. I love you so much. Thank you for making time coming on the pod. We love you and I can't wait to see you and then I'll be in New York for like 10 days at the end of January and beginning of February. If you want to get coffee or dinner or lunch or anything.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Let's do it. Please do it all.

JVN: I love you. I love you. Thank you for coming on the pod.

BUSY PHILLIPS: Thank you so much for having me. Bye you guys.

JVN: So what is a cool mom in 2024? Honey, we found it out. Busy's guiding principle is authenticity. I thought that part was gorgeous. The matching the inside and outside with your kids. And that's just, I think it's beautiful. It's authentic, it centers integrity and I just thought that was beautiful. The work that it takes to, to catch the negative self-talk in front of little ones. I thought that was a really important takeaway for cool mom-ing in 2024. Um and then also, you know, trying to facilitate a strong relationship to self confidence. Um and then also that beat about like trusting your intuition, but then also being able to ask for help. I do a whole bit in my stand up show about asking for help and about how hard it was for me to learn how to ask for help. Um so that really resonated with me a lot. But now I got to tell you, honey, I'm curious about a few other things. Um really about one thing is like the experience of parents fighting for their kids and what it's like to parent a young queer person. Um also millennial parents versus like and also like, you know, millennial and Gen X parents now versus what it was like to be a parent in the late in the late nineties, early 2000s. So like, what's it like parenting in 2020 versus the 1990s because it's like in my mind, those are still only like three years apart, but it's really like 30 years apart. And I think that's fascinating. I don't really think about that. Um and then also what really came up for me at the end is like, how are we going to stay alive and hopeful for 2024 politics? So we're going to be giving you more of that I'm sure in the next coming year. Thank you so much for sticking around and for listening to Getting Curious. We love you so much. Thank you so much to our production team. Um And thank you for listening to Getting Curious. We'll catch you next time. Bye sluts, I mean everyone.

You've been listening to Getting Curious with me, Jonathan Van Ness. You can learn more about this week's guest and their area of expertise in the episode description of whatever you're listening to the show on. And honey, there's more where that came from. You can follow us on Instagram @curiouswithjvn. We are doing the most over there and it is so much fun. You can catch us here every Wednesday and also make sure to tune in every Monday for Pretty Curious. Still can't get enough? Subscribe to Extra Curious on Apple Podcasts for commercial free listening and our subscription only show, Ask JVN where we're talking sex

relationships and so much more. Our theme music is Freak by Quinn. Thank you so much to her for letting us use it. Our engineer is Nathanael McClure. Getting curious. It's produced by me, Chris McClure, Julia Melfi and Allison Weiss with production support from Julie Carrillo Anne Curry and Chad Hall.