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SPEAKERS

Steve Barclay, Rob Mineault, Lis Malone, John Grimes

R Rob Mineault 00:00

Sure, but, no, but, but, you see, I'm not so much of a I don't do it because I'm, you know, I'm worried about cleanliness or anything. I just feel like it just softens up the bristles to do it before, and then once you're done, then that's, then that's rinsing off. But because, I don't know, like, because, you know, the bristles kind of get hard and stuff once sitting for a few hours, you know, you want to give it a little bit of water to soften him up.

L Lis Malone 00:29

I mean, what here? What do you have? Like, baby teeth? Like, I mean, tooth bristles, toothbrush bristles are supposed to be firm,

S Steve Barclay 00:38

I guess so. But he does have baby teeth. It's from all that Chef we already this

L Lis Malone 00:43

is this is true. This is true. You know, Rob, you are so prepared for old age because they don't have to change your diet, you know? Oh, wow. Just give me soft food. Those ravioli will just slide right on down that old throat of yours.

S Steve Barclay 00:57
Come away.

L Lis Malone 00:59
They're gonna feed you like a little baby bird. They just shove it right in there. Rob will just be open mouth, but just shove those ravioli right in there.

R Rob Mineault 01:06
Listen, I'm I'm ready. Like, this sounds great. Like it's somebody is some nurse feeding me, Chef wired Every day. Yeah, I'm down. I'm ready. I'm ready. Take me now

L Lis Malone 01:19
until the nurse comes in, Hi, Rob.

R Rob Mineault 01:39
Hey and welcome to a another episode of at banter,

S Steve Barclay 01:45
a banter, banter.

R Rob Mineault 01:47
Why is, of course, the podcast we'll get to that don't worry. This is, of course, the podcast where we talk with advocates and members of the disability community to educate and inspire better conversation about disability. Hey, my name is Rob Minot, and joining me today. Hey, look who it is. It's the lovely, the talented miss less Malone.

L Lis Malone 02:16
Hey, I got a cowbell. I got a cowbell. We all got cowbells.

R Rob Mineault 02:23
Yeah, but I don't know that was, that was that was some cowbell

L Lis Malone 02:27
I but I strike my cowbell like a woman scorned. You know, different.

R Rob Mineault 02:33
This is true. And hey, hey, look who else it is. It's Mr. Steve Barclay.

S Steve Barclay 02:39
Yes, I am and I refuse to die.

R Rob Mineault 02:42
So no, no, Mr. Ryan Fleury today, which is why we had to. We had to. We had a a substitute cowbell there. Just out of curiosity, what are you striking that with metal spoon. Okay, that explains it.

L Lis Malone 03:01
What else would you strike? Yeah, do a little What do you want me to use? A little wooden pencil. No, no, no, no. Told you like a woman scorned. This is come on.

R Rob Mineault 03:13
Well, no, just it gives it a bit of a different resonance. It's all good. It's the new cowbell, and we embrace it.

L

Lis Malone 03:21

So, great job. I'm a little I got a feisty cow.

R

Rob Mineault 03:25

Bill, you do? Yeah, speaking of feisty, I feel like we need to, we need to start the show off, and maybe, I don't know, maybe clear the air a bit. I'm not really sure what, how this is going to go. As our listeners may, may or may not know. Of course, the the Winter Olympics just ended over the weekend, and of course, we had a big hockey game between the United States and Canada. And I don't know, I feel like maybe we've got a few hosts that we're on separate sides of this, this game, so I think maybe we better clear the air and let them work this out. So how is everybody post game?

S

Steve Barclay 04:12

Oh, fantastic. I mean, that was probably the best hockey game I've watched in a very, very long time. It was fantastic. It was a nail biter. Start to Finish list, congratulations. Your team played a phenomenal game. Yeah. I mean, it could have gone either way. It was. It was brilliant.

L

Lis Malone 04:32

You know, as a hockey fan, whenever you get a game that goes into overtime, it's like, just gold. I you know? I mean, that's just exciting hockey, just going to sudden death, and Steve's act 100% right? That. I mean, I was watching it live, and I was clenched and then once it goes and then when you're watching the clock go down in the third period, and you're like, oh my god, it's gonna. No, no, it's gonna go over time, and then, you know, you're, it's, it's almost like over time is like, a whole new like game, because it's, it's just, you know, like, said it's sudden death.

S

Steve Barclay 05:10

It's, you know, it's, you know, it's gonna be over as soon as somebody scores, right?

L

Lis Malone 05:14

Yeah, yeah. Really beautiful when you see three on three. I mean, I'm always a fan of that, because it just, it's, it's just

S

Steve Barclay 05:23

so not. I am so not a fan of the thrill.

L

Lis Malone 05:26

I love it. I love I mean, I wouldn't want to watch, I wouldn't want the whole game to be that. But I think it's just, it's just a very different strategy, kind of, you know, way of playing. I mean, they have to be really defensive. And it's just, it's, it's a lot of fun to watch. But of course, my team, my team guy, assistant captain, Jack Hughes, he from my team, the devils. He did score the goal, and he lost like three teeth. Do you see that?

S

Steve Barclay 05:56

Yeah, yeah. That was crazy. Wait during the game, yeah, yeah.

L

Lis Malone 06:00

He took a high stick to the to the mouth. And, I mean, he, the poor kid, looks like a Jack O' Lantern. I reach. Wow, that's terrible. He's got, he's good, yeah, oh, you know what that, believe me, that they've got it. They probably have molds of every player's teeth with the team prosthodontist. I mean, once they saw it, I'm sure they were looking at the videotape, and that guy was already like, Okay, we need a four to five incisor. We're gonna, you know, blah, blah, blah. And was already like, making the, making the molds and, yeah, I mean, the guy's gonna have new teeth, probably by, by breakfast tomorrow.

R

Rob Mineault 06:36

Like, did he lose them all in, like, in one hit? Yeah, it was one hit, yeah. And he still did, was he did he still play? He won a game,

S

Steve Barclay 06:44

scored the winning goal.

R

Rob Mineault 06:45

Yeah, I cracked a tooth on a tic tac once, and I just went straight to bed.

L

Lis Malone 06:53

Dental pain. It's like no other pain, in my opinion. Oh, yeah. So when that happened, I was like, I was like, Oh, my God, is he gonna be out? And no, he played with a bloody face, wow.

S

Steve Barclay 07:09

I gotta say, though, I really do hate the three on three, you know, having a hockey game, played five on five and then deciding it with three on three. To me, that's like having, you know, a tennis match, and then saying, Okay, well, we're tied at the end, so let's play ping pong now.

L

Lis Malone 07:28

Well, I would prefer that it's that I like, at least what? It just stays three on three. I hate a shootout,

S

Steve Barclay 07:34

yeah. Oh, same, same. Yeah.

L

Lis Malone 07:37

I mean, and they only do that. They don't do that during the Olympics, but they'll do that like, you know, the regular NHL season, and it's, you're just like, oh my god, I hate. I'm like, Frigg. Hate. Hate the shootout.

R

Rob Mineault 07:47

Yeah, wait, is this a Special Olympic rule that the three on three thing? Because I don't know if I've ever heard of this, but

L Lis Malone 07:55

Well, the three on three, no, three on three is a regular, you know, NHL, most probably all the leagues hockey, but the the shootout doesn't happen in NHL, like, postseason, right? Am I right? Only during the regular only during the regular season. So it'll, they'll just keep playing, you know, doing the three on three. But, um, yeah, but I hate, yeah, regular season, they do the shootout. I'm like, Man catch

S Steve Barclay 08:23

so if anything go the other way, make it seven on seven, just,

L Lis Malone 08:30

just clear the benches and just have them all. Like, just that would be a big like hockey stick, like rigmarole,

S Steve Barclay 08:39

but yeah, that was a that was just a wicked good game. Did you know, Liz, I didn't. Did you watch any of the other US games? Because I didn't watch the US play, but I did watch all of the Canada games. And I got to say, some of the officiating through this tournament was just brutal.

L Lis Malone 08:55

I had heard some comments about it. I didn't get to watch a lot of the games, is, you know, and I kind of, I tried to go back and watch some of them, and then when you hear the score, you're like, oh God, well, I don't want to watch it now. You just, you know, when I kept trying to avoid the programming where they're going to, like, just blurt out, who won and so, but, yeah, no, I did hear about some questionable calls. That's what I had heard. And I didn't get to see any of them, unfortunately.

S

Steve Barclay 09:22

Yeah, there was, there was one where Canada was playing. Who are we playing? I've already forgotten. Doesn't matter. But in one game, the team, the opponent's team, came back tied the game, and they had six players on the ice when they tied the game. And you can count all six players on the ice during during the play, and you can see six players on the ice celebrating the goal. And it was never called. It was just never called. And the same thing happened with the US team in the in the finals. There was. One play where there were six guys, they were all around the bench. There was kind of a line change going on, but somebody played the puck. There were six guys on the ice. It should have immediately been called a penalty, and it wasn't. So I don't know. I thought the officiating was was sketchy, and there were a lot of other, you know, non calls and calls that were just, you know, one one guy would do a hook, not get called for it. Another guy would do a hook, get called for it. You know, there was no consistency to calls. It's, it's frustrating player. Players have a hard time navigating that when you know there's no, no ref in consistency.

L

Lis Malone 10:35

Well, that was like you heard about the ice dancing couple from the US. That was they, they were stripped of their gold because of the French judge. Yes, yes, yes, I did hear that, yeah. And it was just so blatantly obvious. And what I mean, it wasn't even close, like they so,

S

Steve Barclay 10:54

yeah, the other the person who beat them fell and they didn't, yeah, yeah. That, that, to me, was appalling, like, I'm sorry you fall during your routine. You don't deserve to win. You know, especially when somebody else delivered a routine that was flawless, yeah. Oh, well,

R

Rob Mineault 11:12

that's good. So I have to say, good for you guys. I'm really glad that everybody was an adult about this. I didn't know what to expect coming into the show. I thought maybe there'd be some clothing or some trash talking. Good for you guys. You guys, spirit of the Olympics, good sportsmanship and all that. So, yeah, we're all winners.

S

Steve Barclay 11:33

He's he's disappointed less.

 Lis Malone 11:38

I always say that the people who really just love the sport, they don't have to gloat, like, I mean, like, when the devils suck, I will be the first ones to say, first one to say they sucked. And right now, like this year, they suck. They're not, they're not playing as well as they get. I am not an apologist for my team ever, and it's but you know, if someone plays really good hockey, you just, if you, if you, if you love the game, you just got to call it like it is, like, yeah, that was, that was a fantastic, fantastic game. It could have gone either way, like, easily. I mean, that's why I was just it was so, so close. But I one other thing I will say, though. So when they were doing the medals, and they were going down the row and given all the Canadians their mouths, I said, Oh my God. Look at those faces.

 Steve Barclay 12:25

Like, oh yeah, same, same with the women's team. Like, I've never seen a more morose group of people getting a silver medal in my life.

 Lis Malone 12:36

It's a bummer. They were just pissed.

 Rob Mineault 12:40

Yeah, well, it's disappointing, I'm sure, but they got a free trip to Italy so, and they didn't lose any teeth. I mean, be happy about that. I mean, that sounds like that guy. That guy really wanted it anyways. I hate, I know we could probably talk about hockey all the entire hour. But I'm really excited about today's show, so I think we should get on with it. Hey, Liz,

 13:10

yes, Rob,

 Rob Mineault 13:11

Hey, you want to you want to explain to our audience just who we got waiting in the wings to talk to us and what the heck we're doing? Yeah, well,

L Lis Malone 13:20

I don't know if I'm going to do this as well as Ryan does, so hopefully I'm going to, I'm going to do him proud, but you know, we'll see. So today we have a returning guest, Mr. John B Grimes, who is a disability and meningitis awareness advocate, a podcast host and most recently added the title of author to his credits with his newly released book. It's titled *Destiny is Debatable*, a memoir of meningitis losing sight and the love I didn't see coming. So welcome John to the show. Howdy.

J John Grimes 13:56

Howdy, hey, what's going on? Rob. Steve Liz, good day, Nick, what's happening?

R Rob Mineault 14:02

Yeah, well, listen, you know, it's a for us, it's, it's all the same. But hey, you went away. So we told you, we told you we'd have you back when you wrote a book, and then you went out and did it. So we would have, we would have had you back on just for the heck of it, but you didn't have to write the book. But I understand, I understand, I understand you really wanted to come back.

J John Grimes 14:24

So, yeah, that was probably the primary, probably the primary reason.

R Rob Mineault 14:30

No, listen, congratulations on the book. We've all read it, and it's amazing.

L Lis Malone 14:38

I will tell you that this, this book packs a lot, and so unpacking it, even to even start talking about it is, is a whole big process. So but, you know, for those who maybe didn't meet John from the first time he was on the show, so John, just, why don't you give us a little more information about you, and then sort of how this book came to be?

J

John Grimes 14:59

I. Yeah, well, I'm American, and I'm here to balance out the Canadian situation, since Ryan's not here with Liz, that's right. I didn't watch much of the game, although I did see the results, and of course, he was a hockey player. He got back in and won the game. So that's what it takes. Yeah. So I wrote a book I did and I was on, I think it was, do you remember when it was 2023

R

Rob Mineault 15:28

Yep, that's right.

J

John Grimes 15:29

So it's been right about three years since we first spoke, and I was in the midst of writing it, and it's something that's I've been trying to write for, oh gosh, 20 years. It's an event that happened to my life 28 years ago. And probably really trying to write it for 15 to 20 years, but seriously, seriously, writing it for the last about four to five years, and I can get into a whole lot about that. I'm not much of a writer, as it turns out, I can talk a lot better than I can write, but I finally kind of found my groove, and I was able to put it all together. But I had bacterial meningitis, more specifically known as meningococcal meningitis. Big word, meningitis is a big word too, but it's a, it's a, it's an airborne bacteria that pretty much anybody can get at any time, which is pretty scary and oftentimes. Well, the statistics are one in 10 that contract it die, and two and five that contract it, live with lifelong parting gifts, I would call it or disabilities, for the remainder of their time, and I'm one of the two to five people, so sight loss is the big thing, which I think is kind of what we're drawn here to. Here, I'm totally blind in my right eye, and I have 2300 vision. I don't know what the metric is on that, guys. I'm sorry I'm using Imperial numbers, but it's just not we use. It's not good. I'm legally blind, and I just I can see just enough to be dangerous and meningit like I guess the the 62nd story that I say is that I was in 1998 so back in the 1900s I was 19 years old. I was a college student. Went to Texas Tech University, and like most teenagers, felt like I was 10 feet tall and bulletproof. You know, invincible like a lot of teenagers do, typical student and one day, I felt like I had the flu, so I took some medicine and went to bed. Eight days later, I woke up in the hospital, blind, confused as I'll get out, and more than lucky to be alive. Miraculously, my fraternity brother, has found me unconscious on the floor in my bedroom. I'm definitely not the only guy that's got that story from college, right? No, unfortunately, rather than a crazy college night, mine was due to bacterial meningitis, and for the last 28 years, I've lived with the invisible disabilities that accompany meningitis, which is sight loss and neurological damage. And it was pretty much when I was leaving the hospital, about 28 years ago, that I realized that survival isn't the end of the journey, it's just the beginning.

R**Rob Mineault 18:38**

Yeah, there's, there's, there's so many great talking points and things to sort of talk about in the book. I actually had had trouble sort of weeding them down. But one thing that that I'm I'm sort of curious, especially when it comes to writing a memoir, is that you know you gotta you, you've got to make yourself extremely vulnerable and talk about a lot of things that it takes a lot to sort of share with the world. And certainly, you know, in the book, you're no exception. You talk about a lot of things that are they're really deeply personal. Was it hard, or was your all your experience in hosting a podcast? Did that help when it came to that?

J**John Grimes 19:23**

No, it was hard to write them, and some of that was just due to the physical nature of writing, or it was hard for me to put the right words to express the feelings. But they're also pretty personal, as you noted, and I think the overwhelming thing for me. So what's unique about me and meningitis is rare, but it certainly is real. And there's a, I don't know, a gamut of things that happen to people. It seems like nobody is really the same that comes. Out of meningitis, like oftentimes you'll get common things for after meningitis are amputations and which has got a much more physical appearance. I mean, you see people without fingers or toes or legs or arms, and it's obvious that you know something has happened there. But what was crazy for me is that all of my stuff is basically invisible. If you don't really know me, I don't use a cane or a guide dog. I live dangerously without, without those kind of things. So I think the thing that really drove me to want to write about it is I kind of wanted to hand somebody, originally was a piece of paper. The book is much more than a piece of paper when I went a lot deeper, but something that would kind of explain kind of some things about me and why I'm as crazy as I am, and why I may miss your handshake or your high five, or why I might do things differently than other people that other people typically have questions about, like doesn't really make sense, and so I really wanted to expose myself and become very vulnerable so I could, in one fell swoop, put all this in writing. So it was because I talked to people a lot about meningitis and things that have happened, but oftentimes when I talk to people, they kind of get a different story. I mean, the story is the same, but I give them a different version, or based on what they ask, they kind of get different details. But this was kind of a way for me to lay it all out and make it the same for everybody that wants to read it. So there, there was a lot of catharsis involved in this process for me, yeah.

L**Lis Malone 21:45**

So John, I was just thinking, like when I was reading the book that I mean meningitis is it is a condition that people hear about all the time. Everyone's heard about it. Everyone sort of knows of it. And I'm using, you know, air quotes, but I, and I'm including myself in this, but I had no idea, like, really, what the physical impact of meningitis is on the body, on the person, on the, you know, the long term of long term effects of it. So I I definitely feel that this, this body of work, gives a very, very raw and candid glimpse into what that experience is. And I'm, I'm just assuming you know, were you really trying to bring the readers into, enter into that world and sort of understand what that lived experience really is,

J**John Grimes 22:44**

yeah for sure, and I'll just push back a little bit. You guys may be aware of meningitis. I just think there's a lot of people that aren't. And maybe you guys, maybe you guys are super you guys are super good. So there's no surprise, I guess there. But like when I was before I got it, I'd never heard of meningitis. Now, again, that was back in the 1900s so lots of happened since then, and I think information about meningitis is better today, and awareness is certainly more than it was then, but I still think that there are people that don't know what it is and don't know how fast it can happen, and kind of the signs and symptoms that I mean, even, even recently I have, I know people that have gone to the hospital, they felt like they were sick. It felt like more than the flu, or this is something I need to check out. They go to the ER and the ER sends them home, because the only true way to diagnose bacterial meningitis is through a spinal tap, which is a lumbar puncture. So they gotta, they gotta pull fluid out of your spine so it you can't really diagnosis without that. And that's pretty evasive, you know, price, it's not a, it's not a strip you put on your tongue or, you know, it's an evasive test. So once you get to more of a situation where that you can get purple splotches on your extremities, on your fingers and arms and legs, and that's more of an indication of that the disease has gone septic and gotten into your blood system. And once that happens, it's it's a lot of times too late. Luckily, I didn't get to that point. But I think the biggest thing for me, well, maybe not the biggest, but one of the biggest, for sure, is just the awareness, so that people understand how fast it works and how tragic it can be on such a I mean, really again, I went to sleep and I woke up eight days later. It's just crazy to think that something can happen that fast, where I was unaware of anything that was happening.

R**Rob Mineault 24:53**

It's such a great book, because I think that it it does a bunch of different things all at once. You. I think that that sure sharing, sharing your story, and sharing what the details about meningitis, I think, is very important. But I think that you know these, the different stages that you went through. So many people, I think can relate to that, because they've either gone through something similar as well, or are going through it, which I think that that's where the book becomes extremely valuable, because carrying a lot of the ways that you work through, both the physical rehab, which you detail it this in the book, and it's this was this was rough. I mean, I think I actually wrote one of the one of your quotes down, because I really, it really struck me, which was you saying that survival had been a miracle, but learning to live again that was war. And you know, you're talking about just the mental and the physical toll that that rehab had in physical therapy, had, I think that that that can be really, really powerful for for people out there that that are going through that physical therapy, whether that's the result of an accident or if it is a result of some sort of disability. Can you, can you talk a little bit about your that that point in your life, and that physical therapy and sort of the downstream effects that it had on you when you, you know, got through it, and we're learning how to sort of restart your life with a physical disability.

J**John Grimes 26:39**

Yeah, I think you're right, Rob, it's, I think, applicable to anybody that's gone through any kind of struggle in their life. And the book is divided into eight sections. And the first three sections are kind of what happened, and then the last five are all this happened because of that. So it's really more about recovering from what happened than actually what happened. I go do, and the first three sections are, are the shortest of the eight. So it's kind of this is what happened, and then this is how we, and I say we, because it takes a village. I certainly needed lots of help from physical rehab, and just family, and my Christian faith is pretty close to the center of this as well, and friends and it really took a village, and there were some really tough times in rehab, particularly I'm remembering as as you mentioned at the the What was her name? I can't remember her name, but she was the occupational therapist, and I nicknamed her Debbie Downer because she's, I don't know if I mentioned that in the book, but that's what I call her, but that's already cloned, or SNL called it that. But her brother was Donald downer, who was the doctor that was just just wretched in my case. And I thought that they at some point had to be related, but she would remind me constantly of all of the things that were going to be difficult for me and all of the things that I wouldn't be able to do, and really just her disposition for anything that she thought I could or couldn't do, or what I would or wouldn't be doing in the future, was so it was just discouraging, and from a therapist perspective, I mean, I guess she was giving me some real, Real dose of medicine, I guess, in her opinion, of trying to make maybe wake me up or get me out of my little bubble that I thought, because I'm optimistic by nature, so I think I can, I believe possibility is always a possibility. And she didn't think that. And so it did take a lot, and getting out of the hospital was kind of, I guess, the best thing that happened to me so I could get out of the therapists way, because they didn't really think too highly of my future. And if I had listened to them, or even the doctors I I was, I was going to be, you know, we wouldn't be talking right now. I was going to be in a vegetative state for the rest of my life, however long that was going to be. So I think it's all about attitude and desire to overcome. And I guess I don't know where that came from, maybe my parents. Maybe it's learned, maybe it's genetic, but I had a pretty good dose of that, which ultimately was stronger than what the therapist thought.

L**Lis Malone 29:48**

Well, one thing that I was reminded of just in these last couple days in speaking with somebody is that I think that people. People don't realize how important our advocates are for us when we are in medical situations or emergency situations and we cannot be there to fend for ourselves. And in your story, John, you had phenomenal advocates in your family, and not everybody has not everybody has that. And not everybody even knows that they need to be if they have somebody who is under some sort of critical care, and they will just kind of sit back and let the medical professionals tell them what for?

J**John Grimes 30:39**

Yes, you're right. My my family, particularly my parents. At the beginning, there were my best allies. I mean, in life, nobody wants anything more than you, right? So you don't want your raise or a job or whatever it is you want, nobody wants it more than you do. The only thing that is close to that is, I think what a parents, now that I am a parent, I understand that better, and my parents were very strong advocates, and actually pushed back a lot of times. And I don't know, I think you just use kind of the smell test that doesn't really seem right, or, you know, I know my son, or I know my daughter, and this is not just doesn't seem right or doesn't then I don't like what you're saying. And I think you can sense if, again, my parents, my dad, particularly, was an attorney as an eternal optimist. And so when you get a bunch of negativity, or enough negativity, you're like, this has got to stop. We got to get some positive energy back in this room, and no, you're right. My parents were, they were a game changer. I believe in my situation, because it, it certainly didn't look good. If you if you believe the doctors, then, yeah, we're not talking today.

S**Steve Barclay 32:01**

Hey, it's Steve. You're listening to the at banter podcast. And I'm not just a podcast host, I'm also president and owner of Canadian assistive technology. Did you know that Canadian assistive technology prides itself on having the largest and most extensive product line of assistive technology in Canada. We believe in giving our customers the greatest amount of choice, because finding the right solution can make all the difference. Our wide array of products cover a spectrum of needs, whether you're looking for low vision aids like CCTVs or optical magnifiers or comprehensive blindness solutions, we've got you covered. We also offer hearing amplification solutions, alerting systems for people who are deaf, mobility, canes, physical access aids, communication aids for the nonverbal some products to support people living with dementia and specialized digital, accessible signage to make public spaces more accessible. We also have what we call our gently used marketplace for more reasonably priced options on consignment items, plus we have demo equipment available. Our goal is to provide all the custom accessibility solutions you need. Explore the possibilities today and visit us online@www.canastech.com or call us toll free at 1-844-795-8324, and now back to the show.

R**Rob Mineault 33:18**

So actually, and speaking of that. Could you tell the audience a little bit about the Texas Two Step philosophy? Can you talk a little bit about that and sort of what the impact of that was going forward?

J**John Grimes 33:30**

Yeah, so something that my dad and I would do when we got back home after I was in the house in the hospital for three weeks, and I got back to my parents house, and again, walking, talking, eating, swallowing, seeing, stand, everything was I had to relearn pretty much everything, and it was pretty frustrating, as you might imagine, I was also as a result of minute bacterial meningitis. One of the other kind of cool side effects was that I use a intermittent catheter to manage my bladder about six times a day. So I didn't have any friends that did that. I didn't have any friends that had sight loss, significant sight loss. And so when I was rehabbing at home, I would get pretty frustrated, and I would, there were a lot of long days and in rehab itself, and then back at home. And my, my dad and I, we'd walk. I have what's called a gate belt. So it's a belt that you it's a belt you put around your waist, and it's, it's like a nylon kind of thick enough where somebody on either side of you can grab a hold of it to help you stand up when you're walking. And so there were lots of times where dad and I would go for what we would call walks. And on one particular time he was talking about I was just frustrated with, I don't remember what, but something that had not gone the way I wanted it to. And he was saying, Well, it's kind of like. You know life, and I remember we were in our kitchen, and we had tile and there were we would step on the tiles. It was like, you take two steps forward, you take one step back, but you keep taking two steps forward, and ultimately you're going to end up where you want to go. You may have some twists and turns, but the direction is still forward. And I'm not a guy from Texas, guys, although I'm American, as I'll get out. I'm from Ohio. Okay, so I didn't know that. I didn't know the Texas Two Step, but that's the pattern for the Texas Two Step, the dance, and being in West Texas for all those years, I did actually know it by then, but I thought it was a pretty good way of describing kind of my recovery. There were setbacks, for sure, but there were more wins than there were losses. And when you start to, or when I started to add them all up, it's things seem to keep moving forward. And I just, I don't know, I just thought that was a pretty cool way to describe it, and it's a cool dance, too.

R**Rob Mineault 36:05**

So I want to talk a little bit more about rehab for a bit. When you're reading somebody's memoir, you're sort of able to sort of look at the big picture of everything, and you you recognize sort of some some interesting symmetry that's going on. And I'm so I'm curious to talk a little bit about about the rehab and then sort of what it was like in terms of building, I don't know what would you call it? Social resilience, maybe, in terms of, like, dealing with people's attitudes about disability and stuff. So I guess my question is, given that you're the that physical rehab was so taxing and you had to learn everything from from eating and drinking and walking and like it was, it was really intense. Were you able to take the resilience and the lessons that you learned from rehab and apply it to say ableistic attitudes or barriers that you found later on, whether that was, you know, through employment or even just socially,

J**John Grimes 37:15**

I think so. I would like to tell you that I could draw media comparisons in real time and say that's exactly what happened here, and this is exactly what I'm going to do, but it, no, it didn't. It doesn't. Man, I wish it would have worked that smoothly. That's just, in my experience, that's not the way life works for me. But I think when you're in the trenches, trenches, and you go through those types of things, I think you just get a different level of understanding of the amount of energy and effort that sometimes it takes to move things in your direction and do things the way you want. And it certainly helped, no doubt, but I don't know I'm not. I don't know that I'm good enough to really kind of draw those patterns forward. I think in my case, I just kind of had to go through those things to because, again, I was 19. I speak with people that have been, say, maybe blind since birth, and they didn't know any different. So they've always been advocating for themselves, or always been trying to adapt and do things a different way, and maybe to a certain extent, everybody does, which is true, but once you enter into a disability or some alternate way of doing what most people would perceive as common, then at some point you just get enough calluses that you understand that this is just the way I need to do things. And I think it was just going through that stuff and going through those experiences that ultimately, I mean, I don't have enough yet. I still things happen today that are, you know, challenging to it's not like it's a piece of cake these days, but it's certainly a lot easier than it was in those days in the earlier chapters of that book. So it just takes, I'm not, I'm not good enough or smart enough to, you know, I people ask about the book and what it's about. It's a lot of times it's about what not to do guys. It's these. These are some kind of lessons that I learned, and I would not suggest trying these. But here's some ones that did work right.

R**Rob Mineault 39:35**

One, I think that that it is really important for for people to read that what always strikes me with with stories like yours, and you know, everybody, everybody in the community you know, has their sort of their own story. But what the types of things that stand out to me is that, you know, you're constantly hacking life. I think when you have a disability, you're learning to do things. In different ways, and because of the inaccessible society that that we've sort of built, that kind of has to happen. One incident that you talk about in the book, that I was shocked by was, was, you know, you learning how to cross A intersection with no pedestrian audio or audio signals, and just listening for the the hum of car engines, yeah?

J

John Grimes 40:28

So that that's real, yeah. So there was a, there was a crosswalk, a few, I don't know, several 100 feet or meters, sorry, guys away. That was out of my way, but I think, I think I would rather do and I'm kind of, I kind of like to do things my own way, and I don't really want to rely on others any more than I really have to. So there's a lot of stubbornness built into my kind of general persona. But, yeah, I think it's kind of cool to listen and, know, it's kind of like a bar trick, right? I mean, like, my friends thought it was pretty cool, and I tell them to close their eyes. There were some times I did tell people, though I did have a cell phone, and I would talk to people, and I'd say, Hey, by the way, I'm crossing the street. If you hear us screeching tires and something hit the ground, it's probably me getting hit by a car. So call 911, I'm at 15th and university in Lubbock, but I just think, you know, the title of the book is called destiny is debatable, and I think that's supposed to be sort of provocative and maybe make you kind of wonder what that means. But the contrast to that that I say next is that action isn't so, while Destiny might be debatable, action isn't so, I think we have to take action and advocate for ourselves and not let things be left to chance. Because if things are left to chance, or you believe what other people say, then that's, you know, there's a, there's a famous, I think it's Henry Ford quote that says, whether you can or whether you can't, you're probably right. And I would like to believe more times than not that I can, rather than that I can't, and I'll figure out a way to do it.

L

Lis Malone 42:20

You know Robin, when you get the orientation and mobility training and you learn to use a white cane, you have to master the art of audible cues at intersections, because there are so much of the country does not have anything that's assistive in any way, yeah, yeah.

J

John Grimes 42:44

And that's one of the times I don't recommend that, by the way. That's one of the things I don't recommend. Yeah, I certainly don't recommend. But like this again, this is 1998 99 and that just there. I mean, even today, in 2026 there are crossing signals, most of them in my area in Texas are do have countdowns and spoken direction, which is obviously great, but 28 years ago, absolutely not.

R

Rob Mineault 43:15

Yeah, yeah. I could totally see that. I could I could totally see it up not being ideal or anything. I guess for me, what I took out of it was just the fact that it must feel somewhat empowering to be able to feel like you're able to sort of take control over a situation and make it your own and create your own work around about something, and not let something just like, oh, well, you can't do that. Another example from the book that that stands out is that you're when you talk about going back to baseball games and using a Walkman so that you could, you could use the radio play by play to follow the action. You know, again, a creative work around is something to connect, to reconnect with something that you really enjoyed before. So I thought that, you know, those are great messages for people who you know may be facing down, say, vision loss, for example, I think it's, it's a really powerful message,

J

John Grimes 44:12

absolutely, and that's, I think what I was saying earlier is I wanted to find a way to do things for myself. Again, I said it earlier. Nobody wants things more than than I do for myself. And it's interesting, you mentioned the baseball thing, because just a couple months ago. So in the US, there's a service called YouTube TV, and we had a problem between college football and the and YouTube TV, where there was a contract dispute. And so for like, three weekends, which is just ghastly. I mean, okay, so imagine you guys didn't have hockey, okay, for three weeks. Okay. So here we are in America. We don't have lots of people I know use a service, including people that live near me. And I was talking with a friend of mine, and he was like, You know what? I actually. The car, and I turned on the radio of the game. He's like, it was so much better, like the radio description of the game. And he's like, I met, I guess you know all about that, John. Because, I mean, he knows I of my site. I'm like, Yeah, because in radio, nobody sees the game, so the broadcast is, everything is, you know, when that, when that guy slides into second base, they they give you the total description of all the dirt that's flying and his cleats are up and the tags on his lower leg, and, you know, whatever happens, it's all described as though nobody was viewing and so there oftentimes our ways around those situations, particularly in the visually impaired, but it applies to lots of other disabilities too.

R

Rob Mineault 45:50

There's something else that I've written down there that I kind of thought was was interesting, that I wanted to talk a little bit about the this idea of navigating the battlefield when it comes to just dealing with with life, and especially in this in a sense of, you know, ableism and and other systemic barriers that people with disabilities, regular, find themselves up against. Could you talk a little bit about that concept, knowing when to pick your battles? I guess

J

John Grimes 46:18

it's just a situation where you just kind of got to find your way. I use the analogy of kind of the smell test before, where things just don't, don't seem right, or don't smell right, just probably somewhere you shouldn't be right. And there, there oftentimes is a path, usually they, I mean, almost every time there's a path, but if you are barking up the wrong tree, you're you're not going to find that path. You got to swallow your pride enough to say this, this is just not for me, and accept that, and then just look, here's the Adapt adaptation, or here's the way around that, and here's how I'm going to do things. Because if, I mean, if you're, if you want to get it, then that's what you have to do to get it.

R

Rob Mineault 47:04

Yeah, what struck me is I got a we got a real chuckle out of, guess what? We call it the Hooters incident. Can you talk a little bit about about that? And I think that's a great example of just like knowing when to when, knowing when to hold them and knowing when to fold them, so to speak.

J

John Grimes 47:20

So I'm like 25 or 26 and I'm with my dad and my brother, who is two years younger than me. He's like 24 and or like my brother's youngest person, and my my dad and my friend's dad are like, you know, in their 50s, 60s, whatever. And so we go, and we're gonna just go get some wings and some beers and watch a hockey game. Probably right? That's actually basketball, but I'll say hockey for the purposes of this conversation. And we order a beer, we order a pitcher. And the ideas and like, I have a identification card, I don't have a driver's license, and I, they wouldn't serve it. They would serve me. They would serve everybody else, but they wouldn't serve me. And so my brother and my dad and our friends said, Okay, well, this is crazy, so we're leaving. That's just we pushed it with the waiter and the manager of the restaurant. We push it with their corporate. So there's a franchise and then there's a corporate and I wrote a strongly worded letter. I contacted all kinds of bureaus with letters ta just, just all kinds of different I mean, I spent a lot of time and energy, very upset with it, and I was embarrassed, and I was frustrated, and like, you're taking a liberty from me, and this is America, and why can't I drink a beer? And I'm 26 and ultimately, the response from the corporate was not good at all. They sent me some gift cards, and you know, just, you just can't use them on beer. But you know, that was like, that was probably in, I bet you, that was in like 2000 say, it's probably been, it's probably been 20 years, right? And I have not been back to that establishment since, and none of the people that were at that there were six of us, five or six of us that day. None of us have been back. And it's just, I mean, ultimately, I understood that, that that's a private company, and they can do things the way they think things need to be done. And their and their impression, getting a fake identification card was more difficult than getting a fake driver's license. But I just think you have to kind of apply some common sense to some of these rules, right? And ultimately, I learned through the experience, over the course of a few weeks, that they hadn't done anything wrong. Legal. Lee, and as a guy who was a business owner at the time, I understand that. You know you have to do things to protect yourself, and I get it. But again, if you can't apply common sense, the guy can't see, doesn't have a dry I'm not faking anything, and you just vote with your feet, right? It's kind of how we say. You just, you just don't go back, and whether they're going to make it or not, I think they'll be able think they'll be okay without me. But I think the more people I tell about it, the more people understand that these are the kind of things that you got that's a battle you got to pick. And I I, I thought I could pick that battle and then realized that that was useless of me to do and waste my energy and time on, and I need to go in a different direction. There's lots of places that serve chicken wings and beer, and they were happy to have me,

L

Lis Malone 50:53

but you won't get, you won't get the short shorts and the, you know, the plunging necklines.

J

John Grimes 50:59

Well now, Liz, that's not why we were there, of course, obviously, listen,

L

Lis Malone 51:03

a blind man is not going to Hooters for anything other than the chicken wing. Let's, I know you listen. So there you go. There you go. That's exactly. That's your story, and you're sticking to it exactly. But I

R

Rob Mineault 51:14

thought, but I thought it was really interesting, especially when you you compare it to some of the other times where you did push back against the system and you did win. So specifically, you talk about in the book about taking your what was it state like with state insurance, license exam?

J

John Grimes 51:37

Yeah, so I had to for a in the profession that I am in, you have to be licensed, okay? And so I apparently was the first guy that needed visual a or cited assistance to take the it was, it's all. It goes through companies that do testing, you know, for the state agencies. And it was a private company, but apparently I was the first guy that needed to have a sighted assistance for that. And it was obviously completely crazy that I needed that, like I asked them. They're like, sorry, we can't help you. I don't know what to tell you. You'll have to go somewhere else. I'm like, well, you're like, the only place that does this. So I do need to do it, and I need, and I'm not being a big jerk about anything, but I am being forceful enough I think somebody coined the Fleury is like, pleasantly persistent. So you, you just, I mean, there's, there's a right way and a wrong way to do it. You can go guns blazing, and sometimes you got to do that, but there are times where that just, you just got to put a smile on and say, Hey, listen, I understand, but I need you to help understand that this, this is how I need to do this. And there's got to be a way to do it. And they did it. And the crazy thing is, is that I know lots of people that have taken those tests fully, you know, cited, and they took it, like, 10 or 12 times because they couldn't pass it, or even two or three times, and I nailed it. I had two of them back to back. I'm not trying to gloat here, but like, I nailed them on the first time, and they didn't really want to give otherwise, I would have been guessing right. I would have been as good as these other people, just guessing the answers and maybe trying to pass, but that's definitely a time where pushing back was the right way to do it,

R

Rob Mineault 53:27

and so then sort of just to wrap that all up in a bow. So what have what have you found through all of that? Like, have you found that you've sort of built your own criteria for you know when to fight those battles and when to not? Yeah, I think so.

J

John Grimes 53:42

I think I have a pretty good internal Gage for that now, and it's, it's probably pretty relative to whatever the situation is, but I've gotten much more through those experiences, comfortable with advocating for myself, because, as I said earlier, nobody wants anything more than me. So if I want to pass, if I want that designation or that certification or that job, or I want my drink at Starbucks, that's got my name on it, but I can't read the label, then I've got to ask the barista, or I've got to ask the person standing next to me, Hey, does that cup, what's that cup say? Because otherwise I'll be standing there all day waiting for a drink that may or may not be there, and then by the time I get it'll be cold, so I don't want it anymore.

L

Lis Malone 54:30

The other piece of the story that I would definitely like to touch upon before we start to bring this this in for a landing, is that, aside from this being a book where John really details his his life entering into this new world of disability, and then for the first three parts, and then his life afterwards, this is so much a story. About family, about love, resilience, and I think that it's unexpected in a lot of these types of in these types of books, of what you what you think, you sometimes think it's going to be very, you know, medically driven, and there isn't going to be any more story to it. But this, this story really Chronicles so much of your, your journey beyond the meningitis and sort of how you still found this incredibly beautiful life despite everything that you had to had to face. And so I wanted to put that out there. And I, you know, I it's, I guess, one of the things that I that I want to also mention, is that John met his wife through matchmaking. When I say a matchmaking, not a service, but through somebody.

J

John Grimes 55:59

Correct. That is correct. Yeah. Okay. We met on a blind date too, which is, yeah, you know, just, you can put all the puns in there you want, yeah?

L

Lis Malone 56:08

So I just say, listen to all the people out there. Don't poo poo when people try to set you up. Because this is, like, the most incredible story of someone being matched up with somebody. Because everyone goes to see, oh my god. Do you have this? I have this person that you have to me and you're like, oh my god, you roll your eyes. And and, you know, John and his, John and his wife, they now wife. They, they, they took a chance, and they and they have this really incredible life together. But I just, I just think that this book has a lot of little hidden gems about about life that just go so far beyond whether or not you think you want to read about something that has to do with meningitis, necessarily.

J**John Grimes 56:51**

Yeah, I hate to say that it's a love story, because I'm a man, and I don't really like love stories, you know. And it's not sappy at all. It's just really kind of the way things happened. And I think you're right. I had been through the ringer. I had been on dating services, and I had been on other match, you know, other people. Hey, you should meet this person or whatever. But ultimately, I kind of felt like I wanted to do things on my own. We talked about that a little bit earlier, but when it came down to meeting my wife, Erin, it was a match that came through some common people through a homeless shelter and a blind date and just odd timing. I mean perfect timing, but if you looked at it the different way, it could certainly be odd, and on the heels of a relationship that was particularly difficult for me to exit from, and I don't know there's just a there's a bigger power playing there that I can't explain, that guided me through those times and led me to Aaron, and it's not a love story, but it is. It's a love story told from a male's perspective, perspective, I guess so. It's not, it's not lovey dovey or anything, but it does go through kind of some pretty challenging things that I have to try to explain to Aaron, and really, some miraculous things that happen once I start to open up and find the right person to communicate those things to

L**Lis Malone 58:25**

no but I think there was a lot of a lot of sweetness to it. It's very it's, I think it's relatable in the way it's written, the way it's it's all, it's all laid out. And I think it really humanizes the story to to you know, on a different on a different level. Because sometimes I think that it's when you when people, when you read certain stories about something that is as profound as the the events that you you had to endure, it sometimes can push a reader back, because you're like, oh my god, wow. This is like, what you know? And then you, when you, when you start to move into other other aspects, where people are able to relate to it. It's a different relationship that you start that evolves with the reader, that that happens over the course of the book. So, yeah, I'll just leave it at that, because I'm the only woman here. And, okay, fine, you and your mess story. Okay, go on. No.

R**Rob Mineault 59:25**

I mean, listen there, there is some really, you know, touching, beautiful moments in the book. And I think that that it, it really this decision that you made, John, about showing what happens after, I think is is really powerful, especially to a lot of people that are going through similar things, because, you know, you talk about, you know, Ordinary, ordinary days when no one is cheering. And I think that that that is really powerful to show these the lived experience on the everyday. Struggles that that you go through. Because, let's face it, for for people in the community, that's your 90% of of their life is just doing that like just the everyday struggles, and that's the stuff that they're going to re they're going to relate to. And those are the those are the moments that they need to know that, hey, I'm not the only one that's going through something similar.

J

John Grimes 1:00:26

I think so. And I try to infuse enough humor throughout. I'm a pretty big fan of music, and I try to infuse some musical gems and some wisdom from music, but also humor, because I think humor is really something that can disarm someone. If you're trying to explain something challenging or difficult, you know, like something like catheters and stuff, you know, coming in with with light heartedness or or being able to laugh at yourself, I think can make all the difference. And I try to infuse enough of that so it doesn't seem sappy, like a love story. Doesn't seem like I'm trying to say that it's as bad as it is. And I think the way I end it, you know, I'll leave it up to you guys, whether it's commentable or not. But, you know, I had a dress. I don't know if any of your dads had dresses, but my girls all have their dad's dress that they wore, and I think that's kind of a fitting way to kind of leave things. Yeah, story, 100%

R

Rob Mineault 1:01:32

100% Well, listen, thanks again for coming by and visiting us again. Congratulations on the book. It's, it's really fantastic. When is it out?

J

John Grimes 1:01:45

It is out? Yes. So it was officially released on February 7. It was an Amazon number one bestseller. So you can, you did you said author at the beginning? You could, you can now say best selling author. Wow. Yeah, that's right. And it was a so was on paperback, and the ebook version was released on February 28 so February 7 was the day that I went to the hospital, 28 years ago. So that's why the paperback was released then, and the ebook version released on February 28 because that's the day I got out

R

Rob Mineault 1:02:19

of the hospital. Amazing, awesome. Go out and get it. Listeners, the name of the book, Destiny is debatable, a memoir of meningitis losing sight and the love I didn't see coming. Incidentally, I feel like you could have a longer title.

J

John Grimes 1:02:34

Yeah, I actually had, like, one that was three sentences longer, but my editor made me cut it down to something that was decently long, morosely long.

R

Rob Mineault 1:02:46

Well, see, what do they know? They sound like. They're a best selling author. What do I know? I know nothing. So don't listen to me.

J

John Grimes 1:02:52

Don't be so hard on yourself, Rob. Wait, are you?

R

Rob Mineault 1:02:54

But wait so, but actually, before we let you go, is there something? Is there something in the works? Are you? Are you working on something else? Are you just going to kind of rest on your laurels for a while and enjoy being a best selling author?

J

John Grimes 1:03:08

No, there's no rest. I do have. This has spawned a few ideas. So I had a different when I actually was set up to write this book, I had two different ideas in mind, and and the what, what we came up with, ultimately, is what, what we have now. But I think I like this writing thing, and I have some other elements of the story that I left a lot on the cutting room floor and, and some may argue I left too much in not enough on the cutting room floor, right? But I do think it was important to go through all of the things that I did to kind of describe what happened in the in the most concise way I could. But I think I've got, I've got at least one more that I, I mean, I could even do before the end of the year. I don't think it's going to happen, but I am promoting this, and I am, I have a couple book signings, and wow, I yeah, I'm trying to, particularly in the meningitis space. We started the foundation, my wife and I did. So it's called shots for meningitis, and all the proceeds from our book sales actually go to that foundation, actually. So anybody that buys the book, anything that we make from it, goes to the foundation. So it's pretty awesome thing too. And what we're trying to do is spread awareness for meningitis and help people and survivors like me that have these lifelong, lasting effects of things that you know they didn't see coming, things are just happened out of the blue. So I feel like that's kind of my lane now, and that's where I'm I'm headed.

R

Rob Mineault 1:04:57

Well, that's awesome. Well, listen, we will include all. Those links in the show notes. If anyone wants to go and buy the book, please don't wait three years. You'd come on anytime,

J John Grimes 1:05:09
sir. Interesting. You said, don't wait.

R Rob Mineault 1:05:12
That's right, I will.

J John Grimes 1:05:14
It's interesting. You say that because that might be what we're talking about the next time.

R Rob Mineault 1:05:18
Oh, I love it. I love it. That, in fact, I was, I won't. I'm not gonna ruin it for people. I'm not even spoilers, but it's, there's a great, great, great quote at the end of the book.

J John Grimes 1:05:27
So thanks, Rob, thanks, Steve, great to talk to you. Liz, see ya.

R Rob Mineault 1:05:32
John, take care. Well, there you go. Best Selling Author right here on at banter, really,

L Lis Malone 1:05:38
we're just, we just got best selling authors up the wazoo. Yeah, I'm kind

R Rob Mineault 1:05:42
of glad he didn't tell me that before, because I would have been nervous going into it. I didn't glad I learned about that after the fact. Oh, I didn't even know it was, it wasn't out. I wasn't sure if it was,

L Lis Malone 1:05:56

it was been out yet or, yeah, no, the print, the print version came out first, and now the ebook is out and, um,

R Rob Mineault 1:06:02

yeah, wow. Well, there you go. I wonder what best selling author we'll have on next. Who knows. Stay tuned, everybody. Now we've set a precedent.

S Steve Barclay 1:06:16

We have best selling authors on here. That's right, none of these, none of these sucky authors who,

R Rob Mineault 1:06:22

well, wait a minute. No, we did. We had another Best Selling Author. Yes.

L Lis Malone 1:06:25

Well, we had, we had, we had my, we had my, my author, Stephen hartovan, and he is, he is a New York Times bestselling author, yeah, yeah. That's like, I don't want to know. I mean, you know what? I mean, it's, it's a more prestigious, yep, yep, totally can't, yeah, not an algorithmic title.

R Rob Mineault 1:06:51

Oh, see, I didn't even know the difference. But you, I just, I was impressed, either way.

L Lis Malone 1:06:57

No, listen, I, I'm never I, I just say that. But I'm, I'm not gonna poo poo anything like, Listen, if you're, if you sell enough copies and you, you, you hit that spot, good for you. Yeah, I'll take you, take it and you run with it.

R Rob Mineault 1:07:10
Yeah, exactly. I mean, it's for prompting me. Like, maybe, maybe I need to start working on my man.

L Lis Malone 1:07:16
More, there you go. Listen, I think that Steve will work up the the cover artwork. He's already that amazing caricature of you.

R Rob Mineault 1:07:24
I mean, I think you're right. I do your

L Lis Malone 1:07:28
author photo is already done. Steve's got it in the bag. You're ready to rock. All you got to do is write this bitch.

R Rob Mineault 1:07:37
That's right. Don't wait.

S Steve Barclay 1:07:41
Advocacy and atrophy? Yeah,

L Lis Malone 1:07:45
you know, a life beyond ravioli.

R Rob Mineault 1:07:51
Not bad.

L Lis Malone 1:07:53
The bottom of my ravioli can

R Rob Mineault 1:07:59
Well, I'll work it up. I'll workshop this, and I'll have an update for you guys next

L Lis Malone 1:08:03
week. The man with the marinara mustache

R Rob Mineault 1:08:07
also good. That's an excellent marinara mustache. Yeah, that's great, actually. Oh, if I write a crime novel, that would be actually a really

L Lis Malone 1:08:17
good look at that. I'm all about the book thing. That's me, Yeah, no

R Rob Mineault 1:08:21
kidding, you clearly do this for a living. You think I don't know? Maybe, dear, okay, well, anything else he anybody wants, wants to talk about before we land this plane? As Liz said,

S Steve Barclay 1:08:37
No, I think we got to land this pretty quick here, because in five minutes time, the great orange one is going to make his State of the onion address. And I am so looking forward to seeing how long it takes him to get off the rails.

R Rob Mineault 1:08:50
That's true. Actually,

L

Lis Malone 1:08:51

I might have to tune into that myself. He said this is going to be a long one. I'm like, Oh no, you know what? That the fact that he's calling this one a long one, it's gonna be even longer than, I mean, all of them have been long. I'm like, Oh my God, and this is gonna be a long one. Oh, Lord man, yeah, we got work tomorrow.

R

Rob Mineault 1:09:11

Well, we'll have a lot to talk about next week, I'm sure. All right, well, then I guess that's gonna about do it for us this week, of course, big thanks to best selling author John Grimes for joining us, and we will see everybody next week.

S

Steve Barclay 1:09:33

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