

# Adulthood on the Spectrum: Realizing my autism after my child's diagnosis

## **Eileen Lamb**

Welcome to "Adulthood on the Spectrum," I'm Andrew an autistic certified financial planner. I co-run "Adulthood on the Spectrum," with Eileen Lam. Hey, Eileen.

## **Eileen Lamb**

Andrew, everyone. In this podcast, we want to highlight real voices of autistic adults, not just inspirational stories, but real people talking about their boring life. Basically, we want to give a voice to people like us.

## **Andrew M. Komarow**

Today, our guests is Cassie Hauschildt.

## **Cassie Hauschildt**

Cassie Hauschildt

## **Andrew M. Komarow**

Okay, so the T is silent just to confuse us. Cassie sought her autism diagnosis after her son Percy got his diagnosis. She also has a daughter, Amélie, who is currently presenting as neurotypical, she acts as an as an advocate for autistic individuals of all ages, and provides mentoring services to parents whose children have received a diagnosis free of charge. She works for a company that sells resources for therapists, teachers and caregivers of autistic children.

## **Eileen Lamb**

I think you butchered her daughter's name, right? Is that a

## **Cassie Hauschildt**

A French name? Yeah. Amélie. Eileen would know.

## **Andrew M. Komarow**

Oh, yeah.

## **Cassie Hauschildt**

It's fine. She's gonna get that her whole life. That's what she gets for having a Francophone mom.

## **Andrew M. Komarow**

There's a whole movie named after her. I got that. Right. Eileen is going to keep this in the podcast now?

**Eileen Lamb**

Oh, yeah. Yeah. (all laugh)

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Well I am not French. And I do like that movie. And my apologies.

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Such a good movie.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

It is a great movie. Is she named after the movie?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

A little bit. Kind of like that was definitely one of the things. I definitely wanted a French name. And

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Because of Eileen, obviously, right? (all chuckle)

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Yeah, not because I'm a Francophone and I actually got my Master's in musicology. And my area of expertise is romantic, romantic French music. So I ended up doing a lot of French translating, and I actually have a library membership to the French library as well. So

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Okay, very cool. So speaking of language, we like to ask all of our guests pronouns she, her, etc. and identity question how you prefer to be identified?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

She, her pronouns. And for identity, whatever comes natural, I use all terms interchangeably, very frequently.

**Eileen Lamb**

My favorite answer when people said, it's just like, who cares? Anyway, it's yours too?

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Yeah, not that my opinion matters as much. But yeah, I do agree with you.

**Eileen Lamb**

Great. So we have a similar diagnosis story that our sons were both diagnosed before we were. And I wonder if you can tell us a bit more about what made you seek an autism diagnosis and what the process was like?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Yeah, so Percy got diagnosed when he was 20 months, we started the process at 18 months, it just takes a little bit of time. So I knew with him at four months. And everyone thought I was just being paranoid. And I proved everyone wrong and myself, right, as I like to do. But then I started doing research, because that's one of my biggest things is I really am into researching things and getting as much information as I can. And so I started researching and made my husband research. And I was sitting on the couch one day, and my mom was with us, we take care of her, she lives with us. Not that she takes care of us, but it helps. And I said, you know, I think I'm autistic after reading all of these symptoms, and just being like, oh, oh, and the next day my husband came out, he said, "Do you know you have autism?" And I'm like, you're really lucky. I accepted this fact yesterday, or I'll probably be really offended by you just stating this. Solely because I was dealing with a lot of mom guilt from Percy's autism diagnosis, which I'm sure you can relate to a little bit, Eileen?

**Eileen Lamb**

Yeah.

**Cassie Hauschildt**

So then I wasn't going to get a diagnosis at first. But getting more involved in the autism community, I found the voices were very interesting. But I also learned a lot of, you know, things about diagnoses or symptoms that happened and a lot of other things. And a lot of things that are prevalent in autism sometimes are prevalent in ADHD, which can be managed with medication. And if I can get medical help, I'm going to, so we decided the move for us would be to get a diagnosis so we can know exactly what's happening. Along with having that so I can get, you know, the accommodations at work and I can get accommodations elsewhere. And who knows where our country will be in 20 years, but who knows where I'll be in 20 years, but if I need that help, I have the diagnosis to get it. We're very big about medical and science and evidence in our home. So I went to Google and Googled "Adult Autism Diagnosis Near Me." Fortunately, I live in a very large metroplex. I live in Dallas/Fort Worth. So there were plenty of options. And I found the one that I liked the most and did it all via telehealth, which was great, because I hate being in the same room as other people. And it was a long process. My husband had to be in a lot of the interviews. My favorite memory was we did this one of the speaking interviews and she booked three hours and at the end, she's like, I still have more questions. So we need to book another one. And I'm like, so tell me I'm autistic without telling me I'm autistic because I took so long with the previous answers that we needed another meeting. So that was it. It was fine. So it took it was probably about two months and at least 10 hours of interview time and test taking and analysis and all that.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

So now, what similarities do you see? And some of them that you may have like saw before your diagnosis and some after about what similarities do you see between Percy and yourself? And also, what differences do you see?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Well, I am one of the people you can't get to shut up and Percy is still nonverbal. So that's probably one of the biggest differences. Even as a child I never shut up, I have very vivid memories of my uncle asking my mother if I ever shut up. And I was like three. So that was fun. But um, we are both insane texture eaters, we were very sensitive about what we eat and what we touch. We also tend to have similar frequencies. So when we go to the store, if I hear a sound that's bothering me from like, the freezers, Percy will start something. And I'll say, Eric, do you hear that? I'll ask my husband to hear that he's like, I don't hear anything. I'm like, you don't hear that high pitch screen squeal that is like banging into your ear, like an ear pick? And he's like, No. So Percy, and I, and I'm very fortunate, I'm actually happy that I can hear that because even though it's bothersome to me, when Percy starts having a problem, I can pause and say, what's the sensory issue to myself here? What am I hearing or feeling or stop and see what may be bothering him and I think it's a lot harder for my neurotypical husband to be that observant.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

I think that's really interesting. Because, you know, there's, you know, autism such a spectrum, right. And although somebody who needs you know, a lot more support we may think doesn't have a lot, you know, in common, but they're still, but you can notice that because you are right, you know, even if the support needs are very different. Now, you have another daughter, who I believe is extremely neurotypical, and I'm going to ask the same question, what similarities do you see and what differences?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

I often say that Amélie, is the hard one. Raising a child with autism is a huge struggle. But for me personally, raising a neurotypical child is very hard, because they want a lot of things that I'm not comfortable naturally giving, she wants eye contact, she wants conversation, she wants interaction, and I'm like, Percy will sit next to me on the couch. And we will not interact with each other and just be there. And I love it, but Amélie is very social. And it's a little hard for me at times, she will actually wear me out socially. But she has a great sense of humor, she will eat everything in sight, which I kind of relate to now as long as it doesn't have a bad texture. And, um, she's very caring. She's very, I'm very empathetic. Like I like to take care of people, it's very much my thing is if someone's in trouble, I want to take care of them. Even if it's a stranger on the street, I want to take care of them. Amélie, if her brother is crying and having a meltdown, she will start having a meltdown. So if we're doing anything that Percy won't like cutting nails, cutting hair, brushing teeth, some nights, we have to remove her from the room because she will actually go into distress. And it's far harder to deal with two kids who are having meltdowns than one.

**Eileen Lamb**

Yeah, you say, like caring about other people. And you also mentioned in your bio, that you provide free mentoring to families who just received a diagnosis. And I didn't know that about you because we know each other, and you also have a job in the autism community. Can you tell us about your two you know what you do for free and your job?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

What I do for free is really, it's not something like I don't advertise it, except I do like I'm in a lot of the parent groups. And a lot of parents will come and they'll say, I'm, I, my kid just got a diagnosis. And I don't want to I'm doing, I want to find an ABA. I also admin a Facebook group, with a lot of parents. And you know, the one thing I always say is my Facebook messages are always open. If anyone messages me for any reason about needing help with an autism, autistic child, I answer it every time. But especially for locals. If they want help talking through ABA centers talking through school districts, just talking to someone I give them my phone number I say don't call till eight o'clock at night because that's when Percy goes to bed. And I'll spend two to three hours on the phone with complete strangers just talking them through what they're going through and what path may be best for their family. I'm not an expert and I always say that I'm just the person who did the research because that's what I enjoy doing. And that's what I that's what I can offer people I can offer you know an expert thing I can offer them at least a listening ear and a different side of logic that maybe is going on in their head. For my work job. I am the social media communications associate for a company called Different Routes to Learning we provide a lot of support in terms of text books, we sell assessment kits and so like the VB map enables we sell that but also we sell kits that include all of the products you need to do those assessments. They require a lot of products. So what we want to do is we want to make the ABA therapists lives and the special educators lives easier. We want to give them the tools they need. So what we do is we that the products we don't give anything that we don't believe as a quality product, and we make it easier for them. We do have things for parents and a lot of parents I like I buy a lot of stuff from them. We just released a new book actually called "Responsible and Responsive Parenting and Autism Between Now and Dreams." It is an amazing text. That is I will recommend finally to anyone who says I just got a diagnosis and I need help. And it really just walks through the you know when your parents are gonna get a kid with it. Here's the steps. And they use real stories. It's written by a BCBA, and a parent of an autistic child. So they kind of work together to provide real life stories. That gives you an excellent air of hope, while also giving you some amazing advice.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

What's the name of that book? Again?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

"Responsible and Responsive Parenting Between Now and Dreams."

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Interesting. So this is a loaded question. I can tell Eileen wrote this one. No, actually, sometimes this could go either way. How do you feel about the neurodiversity movement?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

I think neurodiversity is a very broad,

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Well, what is your I mean, speaking of which, I mean, what does it even mean that the word seems to be changing every week?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

I'm still trying to figure that out myself? Yeah. For me, personally, I don't get involved with neurodiversity for multiple reasons. First of all, I don't totally understand what it is. I understand dyslexia is under the neurodiverse umbrella. I know ADHD is there. And I know autism is in it. But it's one of those things like a lot of things are neurodiverse. But not everything that's neurodiverse is the same as everything else. So the thing that I can focus on really is autism, that's the thing, I understand,

**Eileen Lamb**

So wait you tell me you only argue with strangers on the internet and people about things that you understand, and you're well researched about?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

I try to because if I don't have the ability to give an argument doesn't seem like,

**Andrew M. Komarow**

That doesn't seem to stop a lot of people on the internet. So congratulations.

**Cassie Hauschildt**

It doesn't, but I like to be confident in my arguments.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Yes. So sorry, you can continue.

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Yeah, no, you're fine. Um, and that's the that's the biggest thing for me is, I don't, I don't know what all it entails. And I feel like what it entails changes every day. Like when I learned that dyslexia was part of the neurodiverse umbrella that was really shocking to me. And admittedly, I don't understand dyslexia, and I don't have it. But that to me, as the daughter of someone who worked in special education for 20 years was more of a learning disability than a neurological thing, which I understand that. I mean, I'm being I'm learning, I'm open, but

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Yeah, I mean, just as somebody who does a lot under the neurodiversity, and being a little skeptical of it, too, you know, I like to say it's, again, people who think differently, for the most part, need accommodations more than treatment, you know, there's no medication for autism or dyslexia, or, again, even autism. Even ADHD, right, again, there's some the stimulants. And I can tell you, you know, unequivocally, I have dyslexic employee, right. And I can tell you, we think way more alike than

a, you know, neurotypical. So it was kind of interesting, because I was a little like, wait, is neurodiversity autism? But I think you know, it, it covers like, you know, Tourette's and dyspraxia seem to be like the five like common ones, although it's evolving. And, you know, the more I'm working full time with and, and Eileen knows that person as well. And his favorite, you know, special interest just in the way he thinks differently. So, but I just want to share that with you, I found it kind of interesting, too. And I came from the same place of skepticism, skepticism, really dyslexia lately, and then working with someone, it's like, no, okay, I got it. There's some, you know, there's something there. So

### **Cassie Hauschildt**

Absolutely. And like, for me, even like, I might have ADHD, but we can't work on that to see if I have it until my anxiety is under control, because I also have anxiety, depression. So it's one of those things it's like, maybe I don't know, but we can't figure this out until this is taken care of. So I know that I think that might be a very common issue with people in the neurodiverse umbrella.

### **Andrew M. Komarow**

Yeah, and nobody's you know, it. Yeah. It's all again, people who think differently, it's kind of like the way I like to describe it right. And born thinking differently, right. Again, that's my personal interpretation.

### **Eileen Lamb**

So, you know, I found out Charlie, had autism when I was pregnant with Jude, and I remember asking all the doctors about the odds of the baby Jude, being autistic too it was all very new at the time. That was seven years ago. And I remember the first two years being like, so nerve wracking, watching these developments, you know, is he gonna talk? You know, at the time, he was really like, that was my, my worry. I just, I didn't want a child who had severe autism again, I know it sounds horrible. And I'm gonna leave it in. But, you know, I knew I could do well with a child who has autism like me, because I understand it. But Charlie's just like so heartbreaking, all the, you know, communication issues, the fact that he's nonverbal and the intellectual disability and all of that but anyway, but with Jude during the first two years I remember like that anxiety of not knowing if he was, you know, going to be autistic and if it was going to be severe, like Charlie, did you have these feelings too or anything similar or not?

### **Cassie Hauschildt**

So I actually didn't get pregnant with Amélie until after Percy's diagnosis and we knew we wanted another child. But at the time, when Percy was diagnosed he was in a pretty bad state he was a, he's a headbanger as one of his stims. He is a self-harm headbanger, and he only does it on hard surfaces such as hardwood floors. Percy had a permanent bruise on his forehead from six months on. I had never seen him without a bruise on his forehead. I had a doctor say once he hits his head hard enough, he'll stop doing it. And unless hard enough was enough to make him pass out, it was not hard enough, and he never stopped. After his diagnosis, we started him in ABA. And about a month or two after he had been an ABA, the improvement was so significant that I finally felt comfortable having

another child because I was like, I can deal with this kid now like I can, we're making progress. Whatever comes with the next one, that's fine. Like I can deal with it because at least I have answers at least I know what to look for. And I know how to find ABA and all of that stuff. Um, and then that ABA works for at least Percy. Works for our family. That's what mattered to me. Um, and of course, I mean, like, it's always it's always a scary thing, but we made it this far with one of them, and he's still alive. So I think we feel like we're kind of succeeding.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

No, that's, that's great.

**Eileen Lamb**

He's alive.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Yeah, exactly. Right. Oh, no, just I mean, just like the optimism of like, you know, you know, it sounds like that, you know, there was like, a lot of like, a lot of, you know, not as much hope, like a lot of struggling and a lot of just, you know, wanting your son to not hurt himself. Right. So, I mean, obviously not hurt himself. You decided to put him in torture therapy, aka ABA. That was sarcasm, by the way. But so as an autistic person, you I mean, you clearly said that he was hurting himself and ABA helped him stop. Right. Now, the other thing that also really interested me is, in the beginning, you spoke about how you do a ton of research, hey, how you're not an expert, but you will research a ton. And, you know, what, when you were doing your research, what did you find that made you okay with ABA, right? Because a lot of people will start doing research and they'll say they find lots of things that, you know, ABA is not good. Where would you do your research that that they didn't? If that makes sense?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Yeah, absolutely. The first thing with ABA is his PD, the developmental pediatrician recommended it. I went to this person for a diagnosis because I trusted his expertise. So I'm gonna put a lot of faith in what he says. The next person I contacted was my very dear friend who got her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. I didn't know it at the time, I thought she was working at a Montessori Preschool. So I messaged her and I said, Hey, can you tell me about ABA? Do you know of any centers in the area? About two weeks prior, she had started at a center that was down the street from my house. And she said not only do I know about ABA, but I can tell you a center I work there. Let me tell you all about it. Now this was someone who I trusted very much she has been a part of Percy's life since before he was born because she was my boss when I was pregnant with him. I knew who she was as a person, and I knew who she was intellectually, and I trusted her advice. Um, so then we toured that facility, and they showed us everything and they explained things. And then I started digging a little deeper, and I did see some of the stories from autistic people. The number one thing for me is I don't count a blog as a reliable source 95% of the time. And that's where you're going to see a lot of the worst information is on a blog. Then I read through the reviews, they go 40 hours a week. Yeah, well, most kids in daycares are there 40 hours a week. I knew it was play based I knew that he



wouldn't even know he was at a daycare at ABA. And most importantly, I knew he was going to get a two hour nap and they were going to help us with potty training. So I always I always jokingly say that I cheat when people like how do you potty train your child with their neurotypical kids. I'm like, I cheat my son's autistic. I just send them to ABA (all laugh).

**Eileen Lamb**

Yes, they helped us to it's you know, but a lot of autistic adults see it as torture abuse because, you know, if a child doesn't want to potty train, Why are you forcing them to be normal?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

I don't think that's normal. I think it's hygienic and I think that's the biggest thing but there's a big difference between normal and hygiene. For example, cutting nails. Percy likes to scratch when he's angry sometimes so we have to keep his nails shorter than perhaps he would like. But also toenails getting ingrown if don't if you don't cut them. I can cut his fingernails no problem. He hates the toenails. But I'm not going to put him in surgery for an ingrown toenail, which my brother had, my brother had an ingrown toenail at 22 had to get surgery for it as an adult.

**Eileen Lamb**

Oh, so okay, so we're gonna gross everyone out here. Okay,

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Fantastic.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

SO, okay. I had an ingrown toenail at, like 19. Right. And they kept kept going, they kept cutting it out. And then it would get infected and it will grow back. So I go back to the doctor, they give me antibiotics, then I go back, they cut it out. So apparently what they do is then they cut it down even deeper. And they pour acid in it. I was 19. I'm like, oh, acid. Cool. I've never tried that before. And they're like, none of that. No, no, we're just burning the roots of the toenails. So I don't know why I felt the need to interject with that story. But you know, here we are. And yeah, part besides.

**Cassie Hauschildt**

I was very, I was a lot younger, I think my brother and I have an 11 year age gap. So I was much younger than him when it happened to him. And he gave us detailed information. And that's one of the reasons I go through with cutting Percy's toenails because I was so disgusted. I have vivid memories of the words he said to us. So I'm like, nope we're not letting that happen to my three year old.

**Eileen Lamb**

Crocs. I will never wear Crocs again. Are Crocs still a thing, or did they go?

**Andrew M. Komarow**

So I stay away from them because of this, by the way. So you know, that's

**Cassie Hauschildt**

So yeah, that's, that's the biggest thing to me is there's one thing with normal, like, eye contact, you're doing that for the other person 95% of the time. I a lot of I'd pay better attention if I'm staring at a wall than staring at a person. Because then I started noticing things about them. But as an adult, I choose to sometimes look people in the eye. Stimming. Percy does a lot of non-harmful stimming as well. He's a hand flapper. And he's he's a verbal stemmer. And we love that because that's how he shows joy. So I went in, I said, I love when Percy shows joy via his stimming I don't want to call that and they said, as long as it's not disruptive to the class, like if he's in an if he's in a kindergarten classroom, he can't he can't be taken away from the education of another child. That's not okay. But as long as it's not hurting someone's education or hurting himself or hurting someone else totally fine.

**Eileen Lamb**

Is there anything about ABA, you don't like?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Yeah, um, he likes his teachers more than me sometimes. (all chuckle)

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Now, but also to is I mean, Eileen any therapy with any treatment, there's good doctors, there's bad doctors, there's good therapists, there's bad therapist. And I think you got very fortunate and lucky that there was somebody who you knew and who you trusted, who worked at a place that was good.

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Yes.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

How so, but that's not going to be everyone. Everyone else's experience. There are going to be places that are just, you know, in it for the money where people don't have the best experiences and, you know, what advice can you give to people who want to help their son or son or daughter from hurting themselves, but they're afraid of, you know, finding the right place? What, what advice can you give?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Sure, so, um, it's a short series I'm working on my TikTok right now, but I also actually wrote a blog about this for the company I work for.

**Eileen Lamb**

I did not know that. I did not purposely set you up for that. That's even better, so continue.

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Yeah, so I'm working on it's a series of my blog, but also before I got employed by the company I'm currently working for I wrote a blog for them about this called "Ten Questions every Parent should ask an ABA Facility," and it goes over like, are you going to force high contact or stop non-harmful stimming? Are you going to withhold food? We all know that autistic kids do not eat a lot or they have very limited diets. If you're going to be withholding food that can be really dangerous for some kids not getting enough nutrients. I'm not saying don't withhold a candy bar or an M&M, but don't withhold the one food that they're going to eat.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Eileen, did you see that I gave my daughter a breakfast cake. Every day. Three days in a row this weekend. Breakfast cake is cinnamon rolls by the way. I didn't know how four year old like what it is? Yeah, cinnamon rolls or breakfast cake. Yeah, sorry. I don't withhold that's not good either. By the way, right. Spoil the crap out of her. Okay.

**Eileen Lamb**

Your daughter is not even autistic.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

No, no, no, she's not.

**Eileen Lamb**

You sure?

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Pray. Yeah, we're sure. Yeah, we're sure.

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Um, but even things like how are you going to handle naps. What are you going to do to prevent meltdowns? I think that's the most important thing I've learned at this facility is what do you do to prevent meltdowns and what do you do after they happen? Because I have heard horror stories of them, pushing kids into meltdowns where with Percy's ABA. They asked him to say it verbally, can you say ball? You want the ball? Can you say a bb, ball? Okay? He doesn't want to say it. Can you ask for it with your AAC if you don't want to do that? And they lower the ask each time they always start with the highest ask but then they say can you point to it? Can you touch it? Can you lead me to it? But in some way you do have to communicate that you want it. You can't just expect us to read your mind.

**Eileen Lamb**

Yeah. What's it, what's your TikTok? Do you want to tell people where they can find you on social media?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

My TikTok is another autism mom. Because I love people calling me an awful person for thinking I was an autism mom. And then you can also join my Facebook, Facebook group Dino and Nuggets Corner.

**Eileen Lamb**

Yeah, I mean, it's it's good. I like that it's not not judgmental, because a lot of Facebook groups are,

**Cassie Hauschildt**

We will judge you if you try to abuse your child.

**Eileen Lamb**

With ABA?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

No, with like actual abuse, like a few. You try to force things into your child's mouth, but they don't want as a punishment. We will judge you.

**Eileen Lamb**

I haven't seen it. But I guess I can get behind this. I'm gonna ask you the quickfire questions. Everyone listening to us is actually the second time we're recording this because I lost Cassie's episode. She was very nice about it. And came again, but so she knows quickfire questions.

**Cassie Hauschildt**

I've probably already forgotten them though. So let's do this.

**Eileen Lamb**

What is your favorite food or drink?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Oh, goodness, Italian pizza, but it has to be like the good Italian pizza from Italy.

**Eileen Lamb**

Okay,

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Hold on, hold on the best pizza is from New Haven, Connecticut. I just want to say this is a resident of Connecticut. It's the only thing we have going for us in this entire state. Don't take it away from us.

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Okay,

**Eileen Lamb**

What's the name of the place?

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Pepes

**Eileen Lamb**

Pepes?

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Yeah. Okay, well, okay, that's up for debate. There's a few in the New Haven area. Like I like, Zuppari's is good to okay. But anyway,

**Eileen Lamb**

If you couldn't be any animal, fictional or real, what would you choose? And why?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

I would absolutely be a cat mostly because I'm 50% already there. But also, I feel like they are some of the most spoiled animals there are

**Eileen Lamb**

Really true. What's your special interest or one that comes to mind?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

I always say that when my son got autism, autism became my special interest. But a lot of people don't know that I have a master's degree in musicology and spent hours researching French music of the 1800s.

**Eileen Lamb**

Favorite autistic representation in the media fictional or not?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Oh, Temple Grandin. Which solely because I've recently learned about her work with cattle, and how she like sits in the cattle pathways and stuff to get to be on the mindset of a cattle and I think that's amazing. Like I love the idea of trying to become a cow mentally.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Eileen might be feeling like one physically lately?

**Eileen Lamb**

Not yet. No. But yeah, Thanks, Andrew.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

For everyone who doesn't know Eileen is currently pregnant. So she'll probably want to murder me for that comment later.

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Not the first one that you've probably hit her with, so yeah,

**Andrew M. Komarow**

No, no, probably not even the worst.

**Eileen Lamb**

That's too easy. Do you have a favorite quote or saying and if so, what is it and who said it?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

This is actually my own saying so I hope this isn't too like cocky. But the one thing I've always told my son and I feel I have to tell autistic adults a lot is autism can be the reason for your behavior, but it can never be the excuse. This may be the reason you're biting me, but it just is not excuse you're biting.

**Eileen Lamb**

Yeah. Cool.

**Eileen Lamb**

Well, thank you for coming. Again. We won't lose this episode, right, Andrew?

**Andrew M. Komarow**

She's gonna like triple save it. I mean, I am going to say that so we definitely will not lose it. It was good. No, this was a good one. Right?

**Cassie Hauschildt**

Yeah.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

I mean, not that there are any bad ones, right? Of course, they're all, every one is better than the next right.

**Cassie Hauschildt**

So that's what happens with learning.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Yes.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Thank you so much for coming on. We super appreciate it and yeah.