

**Audio Title: Leslie Priscilla**

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### Transcript

**Rebekah Borucki:** Hey, friend! I heard you were looking for our spot and I'm here to help you.

So, you're going to go past the corner bodega and down the block from the fresh cuts barbershop, and there you'll find a brick row house at the intersection of Literature Place and Social Justice Blvd. That's where you will find the stoop.

Our host Amanda Lytle will be there to welcome you to the conversation. *The Book Stoop* is the place for the hottest takes on book culture, nerd culture, current events, with best-selling authors, change-makers, and risk-takers, our favorite kinds of people.

I'm Rebekah Borucki, President of Row House Publishing, and this is season two of our podcast. Thank you for listening.

Now, I'm going to let you get to Amanda.

**Amanda Lytle:** Thanks Bex. Hey friend. Let me be the second to welcome you to our spot, *The Book Stoop*. I feel incredibly honored to be the host of this podcast and I'm so grateful to have you here. Today on *The Book Stoop*, I'm speaking with Leslie Priscilla.

Leslie is a first generation, non-black Chicana mother to three bicultural children. She founded this bilingual organization and movement, Latinx Parenting, intentionally rooted in children's rights, social and racial justice, the individual and collective practice of non-violence and reparenting, intergenerational and ancestral healing, cultural sustenance, and the active decolonization of oppressive practices in our families.

In this conversation, Leslie talks about feeling really angry and experiencing rage toward the systems that have allowed men to benefit from the woundedness and the pain of women. She has reached a new level of understanding and compassion for her mom as a mom herself, witnessing and experiencing carried rage and self-abandonment.

Leslie shares about her mission to raise her son as intentionally as she can, as well as celebrating the opportunity to break intergenerational cycles of harm and abuse and violence. She talks about reparenting as a discipline, the value of turning inward, representation in the parenting world and the importance of sustaining and uplifting culture.

Before we jump in, I want to invite you to share *The Book Stoop* with your community. If you're loving this episode, grab a screenshot and tag us on Instagram, @rowhousepub. Every share, five-star rating and written review helps us find more listeners and climb the charts. So we're super grateful for your help.

We start our chats on *The Book Stoop* with a rather fitting question, “So what are you reading these days?”

**Leslie Priscilla:** I just started reading this book that has been coming up in my consciousness for like the last year. It’s called “Rage Becomes Her”. I have it here. It’s *Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women’s Anger* by Soraya – last name, I think it’s Chemaly. But it really speaks to me because the last year I think in particular I realized that I’m like very angry. Like really pissed and I think it’s mostly a patriarchy. Like all these systems that are constantly something that I feel like me as women and women of color in particular are constantly having to fight against and are just huge obstacles to where we want to be.

So the title itself just spoke to me and so I just started reading it. I’m not going to say like I read the entire book. But it’s definitely already speaking to me and yeah, just reflecting a lot of what I’m already feeling in terms of just how mad I am. Like it’s – I don’t know. And I don’t even – you know, I’m raging all the time. But I think that – yeah, again as women, like there’s a lot of anger that we’re not allowed to feel and she’s definitely speaking to that. So that’s what I’m reading right now.

**Amanda Lytle:** So interesting that you brought that up because I was just saying to a friend of mine over the weekend that, you know, when we talk about positive and negative emotions and, you know, well, that’s a social construct in itself. But what I was going to say is that I’ve had to catch myself saying in the past, it’s on record, I don’t do anger well.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah, oh.

**Amanda Lytle:** You know, and so it’s like, well, what does anger even look like and why is it something that we can’t express? So I wanted to invite you to elaborate a bit on the anger that you’ve experienced. Can you please share a bit more?

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah. I think something that I’ve been very good at is kind of dealing with the issues that I have with my mom, right? So for the – I mean for the 34 years that I’ve been alive, it has been like a hyper focus on the relationship with my mom and, you know, it wasn’t really a positive relationship. I didn’t really have that strong of a connection with her growing up and a pretty chaotic childhood especially at a time that I was nine and ten years old and, you know, I placed a lot of blame on her.

I placed a lot of blame on the inability that she had to be able to stay connected with me or stay attuned or stay even like caring about me. So as I’ve been getting older now that I’m a mom, I have three kids, I’m like, “Oh, you were really stressed out.” You know, like you were really undersupported. You did not have a lot of resources and I think that gradually I’ve been realizing that she also had to fight a lot of the same systems that have been making themselves known to me over the last decade, 15 years or so.

So I've been able to move into a place of compassion for her and understand that she also carried this rage. You know, she also felt this frustration and helplessness and maybe did not have the privilege to be able to name exactly what she was feeling. So I've kind of shifted over to addressing what I call – you know, it has been the mother wound for me, like this mother woundedness of hyper focusing on my mother wound and recently I did a *cacao* [0:05:42] [Phonetic] ceremony in the summertime and really started thinking about the way that my father wound has been impacting me.

Actually that's when I felt this rage come up in that ceremony and I was like, "Oh my gosh." Like I was actually shown images in the ceremony of things that my paternal lineage and my maternal and paternal lineage had done to the women in my lineage for centuries now, right? And how we've been subjugated and how we have been made to feel like we didn't matter.

So I kind of came out of this ceremony and out of this meditation that was guided just angry. I was just like – I'm mad and I don't want to look at my husband. I don't want to look at my grandfathers. You know, their long past but I really started feeling this pull towards, right? Because anytime that something is getting stirred in you, you're like, OK, this is intentional. I've always been that way where I'm like, OK, this something that's emerging. I should look at it and at the same time I don't want to look at it. This is painful, right? It's painful to kind of face that wound.

So I was – I mean for the first time, in the summer I was just like I'm pissed at the men in my lineage. You know, I really feel this rage that they were not able to honor the women, you know, and therefore we've had generations of women that have been disconnected from their daughters and I mean all that stems from like so many centuries ago. You know, in colonialism and just patriarchal values and Latinx culture and machismo and all these things.

But I really have to kind of honor that rage for a little while and yeah, I've just – you know, I've been really interested in the topic lately and, you know, I'm still working through it, right? Like I just started reading the book. I did read *Love and Rage* last year and that was really wonderful.

But, you know, it's very directed right now. It's very directed and I don't want like any men that are listening to this podcast like oh my gosh, this girl is like mad at me. Like no, it's not necessarily men but it's at the system that have allowed men to benefit from the woundedness and the pain of women.

**Amanda Lytle:** Oh, honoring anger and that rage is so, so important especially for the healing process.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah.

**Amanda Lytle:** And I think it's so important because we're often told that that's not OK, that, you know – and again that just comes full circle back to the suppression of our feelings.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah.

**Amanda Lytle:** So I'm curious about how that rage has been coming through you and, you know, maybe manifesting or coming out in behaviors or in tones or in – even rituals, if you would like to elaborate a bit on that.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah. Well, I think it has just been making me need a lot of space from the men in my life, right? And I feel a little bit of guilt about that because my dad is getting older. He really – you know, growing up, he was the one that I was the most connected with and he was the playful one. I credit a lot of like my sarcasm and like my wit to him and the way that we were able to be connected and at the same time, my mom took on the brunt of all the housework, all the practical concrete stuff that had to get done in order for our household to stay afloat.

So I've been finding myself like really resisting wanting to hang out with my dad. You know, just like I don't – it's complex, right? Like I love you and at the same time, I'm processing all of the stuff that happened. He left my mom for another woman. There was a lot of complicated dynamics in my family at that time and so there's space that I'm wanting to take from my own father.

Then also that's translating into the relationship that I have with my partner, right? It's like I want space from my partner because up until I want to say 2019, like I hadn't identified but a lot of the behaviors that I've engaged in and relationships in general in the past were pretty codependent and it was all about pleasing my partner, right? It was all about like – and granted that has roots in relationship with my parents.

But it was like, well, who even am I if I'm not here to please a man, you know? So to a lot of that questioning and just kind of like sitting with that curiosity, like what do I like, right? What steps can I take without feeling like I have to check in first, like I have to make sure that it's OK with my partner, right?

So I mean obviously a lot of that I'm unpacking in therapy. Like that's the other ritual that I have. It's like I have to see my therapist every other week. We kind of continue to unpack that. But yeah, it can get really – it's just about when I'm experiencing a lot of that tension, that I think comes out as tone. Yeah, it comes out as tone. It comes out as just like not really wanting to be touched, not really wanting to be held, not really – and granted, like I am a Mexican woman. I am a Latina woman. My parents were immigrants from Mexico and my husband is white. So there's a layer also of like you are a white man that I married. There's dynamics of like the people that you come from. Also there are things that I'm navigating, you know, rage and anger about just whiteness in general.

You know, I am a white-skinned Latina also. So I can't say that I don't have European lineage. So it just kind of – it goes all the way back to wanting to have the space to process it and he has been really supportive and like has understood. I've been very open with him about the fact that I'm angry and I'm like, "I don't know why I'm angry. I don't know like ..."

I know why I'm angry, but I haven't had the ability to fully process it, right? Because this is like relatively – this ceremony that I'm speaking of just with the summer. But like still not that I'm moving through – but yeah, and then it's also because I'm a mother to a son, right? It's like I'm hyper reflective of the way that I'm raising him and wanting to make sure that like the cycle of fathering and the way that I've known it, more fathers are pretty careless or pretty aloof.

You know, my mom came from a father who was really abusive and in general just there's disconnection, right, between fathers and their children also. So the way that I'm raising my son is as intentional as I can be, knowing that he is also going to grow up in the system that really values men over women.

**Amanda Lytle:** I have so many things I could say about this. This is incredible. Leslie, thank you so much. I have been so fascinated with inherited family traumas and the fact that it does go down to a cellular level. You know, when your mum was five months pregnant with you, you know, like your ovaries were in you. You know, like the cellular biology behind all of this is just fascinating. But I did want to come back to the honoring heritage moving forward and the fact that you are a mother to your son.

So especially with the work that you're doing, I had noted where it says connecting with our children, connecting with our roots. So you're kind of in that in between, right? And there is this massive transition and there are so many unveilings around the world energetically right now with all of these systems. So ...

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah.

**Amanda Lytle:** ... I'm so curious about some practices that you have in this space that help you recenter and come back to yourself in that space where there is anger but there also has to be such a place of nourishing and nourishment.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah.

**Amanda Lytle:** So yeah.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah. It's – you know, the way that I talk about it is just like ongoing holding of grief simultaneously with celebration, right? So I am being invited to grieve everything that has been lost. I mean I know that I have indigenous roots. I know where my – the indigenous lineage came from and I know that that language was lost, right? Like I know that the – a lot of the traditions were lost. Not the values necessarily but I know that traditions have been lost. Language has been lost. Stories have been lost and yet I'm still here, right?

So I can celebrate the fact that I do have this opportunity to break intergenerational cycles of harm and abuse and violence and all these things. So that's kind of how I contextualize it. It's like I want to be able to hold the duality of celebration and grief simultaneously. What that looks like in my body has been its own unpacking, right? Its own kind of sifting through and tilling through what that feels like in my body.

So what I've realized is that the way that I was raised and the way that a lot of people in my culture were raised was to be disconnected from our bodies and that has caused us to not really be aware of when we are full, aware of when we might be hungry, right?

So just like basic little aware of what the tension in our chest or in our belly or in our throat means when we are up against someone who's causing harm to us, and it goes back to that people-pleasing as well. So the process for me has been to just stop and notice like what is happening in my body. Like where am I feeling this tension?

How can I bring a practice or breath even? Like how can I bring breath to the area where I'm feeling that contraction and allow myself to feel expansion? And mind you, like that's a privilege, right? It's a privilege to be able to like take that space and to say like, OK, I have a partner, right? That I'm able to say, like OK, I need a tag team. You take over with the kids right now because there's something that's going on with me that I need to like have a little bit of space and so I recognize that like not everybody has that same level of privilege as I do to be able to do that.

At the same time, if I do not offer myself that, then I cannot teach my children how to do that, right? So a lot of this decolonized parenting, what I call decolonized and nonviolent parenting has been to really reconnect back into what the body is experiencing aside from whatever thoughts or assumptions are being made, aside from whatever behaviors want to emerge from those feelings and from those thoughts and really beginning to use those sensations to identify what needs are needing to be met, right?

Just like what is it that I'm truly needing right now. Not what – what am I wanting to do? What I'm wanting to do is like punch my husband sometimes. But what am I actually needing?

**Amanda Lytle:** Right.

**Leslie Priscilla:** You know, I was like. “What is the need?” and it's really not – like I don't need to be violent in order to get my needs met. Sometimes it's like I am so sleep-deprived. You know, I am undernourished. I haven't had enough water today. Basic things like that, that I think a lot of us forget to do because we're in this like capitalist world of just busy, busy, busy all the time and we're disconnected.

You know, and I see that in myself, and I see that beginning to happen in my children just because this is the world that we're living in and I really have to stop and say, actually, you know, I need rest. I need to be able to create the space to breathe. I need to be able to lay down, right? Like I may have a pile of work to do and at the same time, the work has to be – rest has to be a part of the work.

**Amanda Lytle:** Hey friend. We are coming straight back to *The Book Stoop* after a quick break.

**Amanda Lytle:** I love that you were just talking about – it’s like in a roundabout way of talking about boundaries and needs and expressing that and how important the communication is of that, especially in a mom or a mentorship role of some sort where you are the nurturer I guess in this case too, right?

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah.

**Amanda Lytle:** The communication is so crucial because if we’re just internalizing everything and trying to process it internally, we will combust. Like we will – it will turn into something. It will manifest in some way with dis-ease in our body.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yes, absolutely.

**Amanda Lytle:** So I love what you’re doing about bringing that awareness inwards so that you can be with your son in that full way.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah.

**Amanda Lytle:** Yeah.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Well, I think one of the strategies that I used really effectively to be able to do that is to practice what I call reparenting, right? And just – and recently I’ve been kind of playing with the words a little bit. I’m like, “What is reparenting?” But then also like bringing in the idea of repair, right? And like soothing and nurturing and healing is so much a part of this already. So I’m like, OK, it’s reparenting but it’s also like repair-enting.

**Amanda Lytle:** I love it.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah. And so I have been very fortunate that I’ve had teachers that have been able to like kind of guide me back towards that version of myself that does come off sometimes when I’m activated, right? Where my children, it’s like well, it’s these needs that are coming up that actually my children are not responsible for, my partner is not responsible for. Nobody outside of myself is responsible for.

It’s a discipline, you know, because I think a lot of people, when they talk about reparenting or even listen to people talk about reparenting, it’s a lot of validation and it’s like you have to validate. You have to make sure that you’re like, you know, taking care of you and I feel like there’s not as much conversation about how this is a discipline. I mean like sometimes again it goes between like what do I – what is it that I’m needing? What is it that I’m wanting?

Those two things can be completely different things. So yes, definitely validating those emotions and those sensations but also being like what version of myself do I want to be and then what are the things that I can do and the steps that I can take in order to be closer to that version of myself, right?

So if I am saying that I want to be connected to my children and that I want them to see me as a model for human behavior and what is OK to do, then when I'm feeling these urges, to yell at them. Like is that going to produce, right? Like is that going to produce the effect that I wanted to in the long term or not?

Mind you, I still do yell, right? Like I still definitely do slip into those behaviors that I learned when I was a child and so for any parent out there listening, like I totally get it. I often tell parents like I feel fire in my hands sometimes because I was [0:19:19] *[Indiscernible]* as a child and I feel that urge to like whack my kid when I'm just like so overactivated.

So that does happen. I don't hit my children, but I've been, you know, shared – it has been shared with me by other parents that like they have not been able to stop themselves. I sometimes don't stop myself from yelling at them.

So when that happens, you know, it's not about being additionally harsh on ourselves and shaming ourselves. But it is about that repair process, right? I have to forgive myself for engaging in behaviors that are out of alignment with the way that I want to be, with the version of myself that I know I can be, and I have to take that step first before I even approach my children, right, to kind of acknowledge what they're going through. And that I have to take a step to know, OK, well, if that happened, then what am I going to do the next time that happens, right?

Like we have to kind of have a gameplan and I think that that proactivity is so important. I talk about this a lot in the parenting class is, it's like we have to have some kind of plan and maybe it's because I'm a Virgo and I'm like a list maker and a planner and I'm like, you know, as organized as I can be. But it really helps to have a plan, right? And my daughter actually like made a list of things that I can do when I'm angry.

You know, like she's almost 10 and she wrote a list of things that mama can do when she – and there's like take a deep breath. You know, count to 10. You know, find something that makes you happy. Go outside and so I often like find myself referring to that list because it helps, right? Like I didn't make that list for myself.

**Amanda Lytle:** Yeah.

**Leslie Priscilla:** But I know that she knows now, right, as a 10-year-old that there are ways to be proactive about our feelings and, you know, our systems of belief and our thoughts about what's going on. So yeah, it has been effective so far.

**Amanda Lytle:** Pre-recording you had mentioned the importance of turning inwards. I would love to know a little bit about what your perspectives on the importance of turning inwards are in the role of a parent.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah. So I think first of all it's very difficult to do that, right? Because when we were children and tried to turn inward and tried to advocate for ourselves and tried to kind of



speaking our needs, most of the time – and I’m not speaking for everybody but at least the people that I’m in contact with. Most of the time we weren’t listened to, right? That wasn’t like something that was valued.

So you would try to turn it inward, and you would say, “I’m full,” or you would say, “I don’t like it,” or I – you know, you would try to attune to what your needs are and then you would be told by an adult that you didn’t matter in this space, right? You’re like – what you were thinking, what you were saying, was not important.

So a lot of us carry this message that that level of vulnerability, which is that turning inward and kind of doing that reparenting work is weakness, right? And so I want to just like acknowledge that when we do that work, it’s strength. It’s being – it’s doing something that we were told was weakness, right? And doing it anyway and then feeling the strength that comes from that is actually what is healing to us.

So I think for parents, there is no parenting without reparenting, right? I think if we are trying to manipulate or control or change our children’s behaviors without doing that inner work, then we are setting ourselves up for long-term failure. So it’s not about stopping the tantrum necessarily. It’s not about all those little things that kind of push us to the edge. It’s about understanding what is happening in our bodies when that’s happening, right?

And that can be again a very vulnerable process. We can feel a lot of guilt. We can feel a lot of shame. We can feel like, oh my gosh, I’m the worst parent ever and that doesn’t necessarily support us in our parenting either.

So it’s like I’m pointing a finger at my child most of the time because I’m feeling this like societal finger being pointed at me, right? So there’s a lot of pressure that we as parents, especially in a society where we don’t as parents have a lot of support. I mean most of us don’t know our neighbors, right?

I can’t just be like, “Hey can I hand my kids off to you for a little while, so that I could just like take a shower without like someone banging on the door?” So there’s a lot of pressure that got transferred, that come from the pressure that we feel from this like societal pressure to parent in these certain ways, to get our kids to behave, to not experience their emotions. So that is what’s happening, right? And it’s not always conscious. But it is on us to kind of reflect afterwards and figure out where is this coming from, right?

Is this something that I want to continue to do? Is that something that I want to continue to believe that if my kids act this way, that they’re going to grow up to be fugitives from the law or whatever?

**Amanda Lytle:** Right.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Or be a bully, right? And so we have to check ourselves. Again, like this is a practice of discipline. We have to check ourselves and be like, “Where does this belief come

from? Is it accurate? How can I be accountable to what my children are actually needing from me?” which is a whole other point of reflection because sometimes it’s very difficult to identify what our children are needing, especially if they’re very young and they can’t really communicate with us or if we’ve already experienced a lot of disconnection in the relationship and they’re no longer trusting us with their feelings, which does happen.

But if we are continuing to make the effort at least, right? And there’s a lot of parents that have come to me and said like, “My kids are teenagers. I feel like I have messed up too much already. I don’t know what to do at this point. Is it too late?” Right? That’s the question. Like is it too late? And honestly, parenting is not about again what we’re doing to the children or with the children or with our children. It’s really about taking ownership of our own behaviors, of our own belief systems, of our own – you know, with the recordings that we carry from our own childhoods or from these societal pressures and constantly investigating them.

So my message to them is, no, right? It’s never too late actually to be able to do that work because you still have an inner child. You can still parent that child, right? Even if you have an adult child, like you still have little you in you that’s going to come up whenever you get activated by your partner or by your friend, et cetera, and it’s really on us to be able to tend to that little us, right?

So yeah, so I mean like when we do the work, I love just being able to like give the language around the inner niña, the inner niño, right, because it’s like oh, that’s who’s coming up, right? My inner adolescent is pissed. My inner adolescent is feeling grief right now and then it doesn’t necessarily have to be like a very cognitive experience either.

I think a lot of us who have been disconnected from our body for so long, we get really frustrated when we can’t make sense out of where these things come from. We’re like, “Oh my gosh. Where does it ...?” you know, and so when I’m inviting people to do those reflections, it’s not even so much about like figuring out and pinpointing exactly what situation or what experience it was from. It’s more about dealing with the experience in your body.

**Amanda Lytle:** Like the full body awareness, yeah.

**Leslie Priscilla:** With the full body awareness, exactly.

**Amanda Lytle:** Oh, this is so beautiful. Thank you. I would love, love, love to hear the back story to Latinx Parenting.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah, yeah. Well, it’s all interconnected with I think everything that I’ve been sharing. But I did not see myself represented in the parenting world. I think it’s like the short version, right? It’s just like I was reading the parenting books. I had set on having home birth with my daughter. I was like I do not want to go to the hospital. I want to make sure that, you know, she has a peaceful birth. That was like a big priority for me and then I started reading parenting books after she was born and I was like, “This all seems really great. And where’s my culture?”

You know, like where is – where are the values that I grew up with? Where am I in these books? And I didn't see that and so although these books were really wonderful. They taught me a lot about the brain. They taught me a lot about childhood trauma. They taught me a lot about intergenerational healing and, you know, concrete parenting strategies that I could do, a lot of that was interrupted kind of by this cultural just like – I had kind of like a chip on my shoulder about the cultural piece not being there.

So in 2014, I got certified as a parent educator and I started working with families, all kinds of families. I started working with people that were living in transitional homes. I started working with teen moms. I was teaching like seven or eight classes a week, two-hour classes, to all kinds of demographics. You know, wealthier people that lived closer to the beach, but my favorite groups were always the lower income Spanish-speaking parents, you know, in my city or in cities like mine, all brown faces and those sessions were the most powerful for me because I felt like they were supportive.

Like I feel like – I thought like I was doing good work and also they were so healing for me, right? Because I was – I'm looking around at these groups of people and I was like, oh my gosh, you're all my family. Like you might as well be – all of you might as well be my family. Like they were mostly immigrant populations.

So I thought like I was healing my lineage by doing that, right? So in 2018, actually 2017, I had had my second daughter and I was in a master's in social work program, and I took a leave of absence when she was born and then I got pregnant again and I was like I don't want to wait. Like I don't want to wait to get my master's before I get back out there again and start kind of holding space.

I feel like all I was doing was holding space, right, for these conversations to happen. So I had a cofounder at the time and she, you know, was really the one that empowered me. Her name is Lisa. Shout out to Lisa if you can hear me. But she was really the one that empowered me to really kind of step into working with specifically Latinx people.

You know, I was like that is where I feel the most joy. That is where I feel like I can do 20 of those classes a week and I wouldn't get tired of it. So Latinx Parenting was born of that, and it has been really beautiful to kind of understand where some of the very particular challenges that we have to navigate as Latinx people in our families. You know, healing our inner children in our families. It's layered. It's different than black families. It's different than white families. It's very specific, right? And although we as Latinx people are not a monolith, we do have a shared history of conquests and colonization, colorism, racism even within the culture.

So there are very specific things that I'm like we need to talk about these things within our culture. We need to talk about how to talk to our children about these things, right? If we are raising brown children – my children are half-white, so they are not going to deal with a lot of the racism that exists in the culture. But there are still things that I need to teach them, right?

And at the same time, teach them how to honor their culture and where they came from and to preserve our roots and to sustain – you know, there’s all this talk of like cultural competency but there’s not a lot of talk about cultural sustenance, right? How do we sustain culture actually? How do we uplift it and bolster it and not say like, “Oh, what happened to this poor, all these poor Latinx people?” you know, and pacify colonialism, all these things.

It's like, no, we have so many strengths. How do we amplify those? How do we make sure that those get brought to the forefront, you know, and shown? And so I have this hashtag in Chancla culture is the movement, right? That Latinx parenting is kind of pushing forward and Chancla culture is really conquest culture. It's colonizer culture. It's oppressive culture. It's power over.

So this idea of la Chancla which is really big and popular and “hilarious” in Latinx culture of – you know, generally it’s like a mom threatening or throwing a Chancla like a sandal at somebody, usually a child. That is kind of where the conversation begins into all of these power over, you know, really oppressive dynamics that a lot of us have experienced as children and Latinx families.

We are hungry to know how to end those generational cycles of harm, right? So that’s kind of the – what the movement is. I’m writing a book on it too. So please do have me back whenever it comes out.

**Amanda Lytle:** Yes, yes. Yeah. No, I was going to ask you about this book too. So I’m excited to get there. Tell me about the creative process because as you’re jumping into – it in itself is so emotionally intensive. It is a huge process. So how has that been?

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah. So I reached out to my agent – gosh, it was like a year and three or four months ago and she is wonderful. I love her so much. She has been so, so patient with me and she immediately – you know, I have been microblogging on Instagram. If anybody has been following on Instagram, it’s Latinx Parenting. But a lot of my stories are already on there. A lot of the things that I’ve written are there and she was like, “It’s going to be pretty easy for you to do this because you’ve already written a lot of the book.”

So I was like, “OK, that sounds really hopeful,” and then the proposal process started, and I was like, “Oh my gosh. I am an overthinker.” I’m like, “I get that.” You know, like when I feel that like urge to write, it’s really easy. But when I have to like sit down and write because I’m on a deadline, it’s really hard. It doesn’t come as naturally and I’m on a deadline right now to submit the proposal and I’m excited for it. But, yeah, it’s kind of crazy.

**Amanda Lytle:** It’s a huge process.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Yeah. But I love – you know, once I get into the flow, it’s like this is what I love and I constantly share with my team like if I could just like have conversations and write all day, like that’s all I want to do. Like I don’t want to do bookkeeping. I don’t want to like do all these other things that are required of me. I just want to write, and I just want to like speak to cool people and that’s like – you know, and I just want to share this message with as many

people as possible. So yeah, I'm not sure. I can't give a date at this point, but I will keep you posted.

**Amanda Lytle:** Yes, please do. I have so enjoyed this conversation.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Me too.

**Amanda Lytle:** I have an opportunity that I would love to throw at you to give a shoutout for an account, a person, an organization, disruptor, activist or change agent. So ...

**Leslie Priscilla:** Oh my gosh. Can I give three?

**Amanda Lytle:** Oh, of course, yes.

**Leslie Priscilla:** Can I give three? OK. So off the top of my head, I have a very good friend of mine. Her name is Paulina Almarosa, and she is doing similar work at Latinx Grief on Instagram. That's her bread and butter is grief work and so there's so much grief in parenting as well and so. But she's my go-to person. So like even in the reparenting course, she does a guest workshop in that because she talks about undocumented grief and all these really layered grief conversations happen on her page.

So I really, really love the work that she's doing. My friend Yolanda Williams of Parenting Decolonized works specifically with black families. Very similar work as, you know, to the work that I'm doing but specific to black families and then Nikolai Pizarro is the very first parenting book that I ever read that did reference black and Latinx families. So she's amazing. She's at Raising Readers on Instagram. So she also has this other project where she's like home studying and like – you know, her kids are like farming with her and she's inviting community members to farm with her.

So she's just – I'm just like in awe of her. So I mean I could go on and on and on because there are so many amazing people out there that, you know, are just – it's beautiful to be in this community and to see how we're all kind of contributing to this liberation work together.

**Amanda Lytle:** Oh, I appreciate you and your time. Thank you so much for being a guest on *The Book Stoop*. This has been such a great conversation.

**Leslie Priscilla:** I've loved it so much. Thank you Amanda.

**Amanda Lytle:** Thank you so much for being with us. Please be sure to follow us on your podcast app and leave a rating where you're able. Written reviews help us reach more listeners too. Be sure to check out the show notes for all the links and share *The Book Stoop* with your community. Talk soon.

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