

**Audio Title: Marcie Alvis-Walker**  
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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 Marcie Alvis-Walker. Marcie is a writer and the creator of the blog and Instagram feed Black Coffee with White Friends and Mockingbird History Lessons.

She's passionate about what it means to embrace intersectionality, diversity and inclusion in our daily lives. As a history enthusiast, she believes that learning our comprehensive history from diverse narratives is not only racially healing but also radically antiracist.

She recently moved to Chicago, Illinois with her husband, daughter and their dog Evie where she reads a lot of books, watches a lot of movies and drinks a lot of tea and coffee. In this conversation, Marcie shares some really powerful perspectives and experiences behind hurtful narratives as well as some personal reflections on faith, religion and identity.

We hear the back story to Black Coffee with White Friends, her upcoming book, and why creating new norms for our kids is so important. 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 at @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?”

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** So right now I’m reading a couple of things. I am a person that needs a lot of things going on to fit the mood and I do have a book addiction for sure. Always have. But right now I’m reading a book called “A History of the Bible” and it sounds super boring, I know. But it’s so not. It’s the history of the bible, the book and its faith and it’s by John Barton.

What it’s about is how – basically how the bible, the translations, it just goes straight through from beginning to end. Like this is what was changed. This is where these stories come from. A lot of people assume that the story of Adam and Even is just strictly a Christian story but there are lots of other faiths who have different stories, different cultures coming out of Africa, coming out of the Middle East, stories of Adam and Eve and creation.

They call it different things. So it’s that kind of thing that I’m most interested in in the world right now is what have we been missing. What have we just assumed and never questioned? I have always been the person who questioned the authority of the bible because it has been used for so many frankly just evil things and wanting to know how is it that we will continue to insist on this bible being absolutely true when – if it were any other book, none of us would say that.

So I’ve been really interested in the history behind it. Like all the different translators, the different scribes that were used to translate the actual work, the scrolls that have been found and this book covers all of that and it has been really blowing my mind and making me just more and more sure of how absolutely connected all of our stories are, much more so than I would say the Christian rite would want us to believe.

They want us to believe there’s one narrative and that they have the only true narrative. But the bible is really a patchwork of stories, a patchwork of books, a patchwork of translations. A lot has been taken. A lot is missing. A lot hasn’t been good and I know a lot of people – that will tick off a lot of people but it’s just the God’s honest truth. It really is.

There’s no person who is a bible scholar and I don’t mean a pastor, I mean a bible scholar who won’t say, “Oh, yeah. There are different scribes and there have been things that have been debated and yeah, that wasn’t there and that word isn’t original.”

The reason why it matters is because it matters when someone says this person is not allowed to marry, to love, to be whole, to have their identity because the bible says so when the bible in fact never said a word about it.

So that’s really where I’m at with that book and kind of tying into that, my fun book is the book called the “Underland”. Have you heard of this book? I’m late to the party.

**Amanda Lytle:** No.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** OK. This guy, this is one of his books that when I read it, it makes me sick as a writer because I'm just like we're supposed to be writing like that. That's not possible. So there's this guy. His name is Robert Macfarlane and he writes – he's a British guy and he wrote this book called the "Underland" and it was on the New York Times for a long time and I didn't think it was for me because it was about science. It was just kind of like, "Yeah, I will pass."

He's talking about how beneath the earth – we always want to talk about what's going on in the sky, like what's going on in the cosmos. We're always looking for answers in the stars but we don't look for answers beneath us and I think it's just such a metaphor for life. Oh my gosh.

So he actually goes on all these adventures with the people who do science beneath us like – and when I say beneath us, like down buried in the ground beneath us and like that's where they see humanity. That's how they study humanity, through the sewers.

There's a guy who's studying ocean life beneath the ocean, if you can even imagine. I mean it's so startling. I have no words to describe it. But the title of the book is the "Underland: A Deep Time Journey". One of the things, the most beautiful parts of the book that I've loved so much is that he talks about trees a lot and I'm a big tree girl. He talks about how trees – how these scientists have figured out that trees care and nurture each other through their roots, like the root system beneath. It's a very complicated community, but it's a community that nurtures and heals one another. Like through the roots, a tree can know that another tree is sick and they can adjust things to actually heal other trees. I mean it's just crazy, right?

But not only that. There's this thing that happens if you look at a canopy of trees. You will see trees that will intertwine. Like their branches and the leaves will intertwine and they will share a space. Like, you know, the tree coverage will make a canopy. But every now and again, you will get trees that will not do that and you can see the outline of space between these trees because they know that they need – they're giving a boundary to the tree next to them to grow.

That kind of stuff I just think we need a whole lot more of in the world. So been reading that and of course with my book club for my bible study, we're doing *Coffee Will Make You Black*. It's by April Sinclair which is a coming-of-age story. Think of it as a Black queer coming-of-age story that was written – set in the time of the '60s.

So if you love "Are You There, God? It's me, Margaret," and those sort of Judy Blume books, this is a book written in the 2000s but set in that '60s, '70s time. The main character will be in Chicago but in a different place in the world than say Margaret was in the '70s as a Black girl who's questioning her sexuality. So it's a powerful book and I think I kind of got lost. Like – and we even think it's on print. Like it's hard to find copies of it.

**Amanda Lytle:** Thank you so much for sharing those. This is why I feel like starting off *The Book Stoop* with a question like this is incredible. Now I'm super curious about these books and I feel like I need *Underland* now and ...

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Oh, it's so beautiful.

**Amanda Lytle:** Oh, I can't wait and when you mentioned the darkness, there's such a – darkness and boundaries in nature.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Yeah.

**Amanda Lytle:** There was something so beautiful you said about the darkness though that made me think of a conversation between Mark Groves and Francis Weller that I heard on a podcast and when he was talking about how some of the most beautiful things come from a space of darkness, right? And that our own hearts right now are beating in pure darkness, you know.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Right, right.

**Amanda Lytle:** A baby is born and created in pure darkness. It grows in pure darkness. Root systems like you said, oh.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Yeah.

**Amanda Lytle:** Thank you for sharing that.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Yeah. It's magic there.

**Amanda Lytle:** When you're reading all of this stuff – and I know especially when it comes to the bible, biblical narratives, and the change stories but also with the community that you've created online, Black Coffee with White Friends and Mockingbird. Can you kind of weave in how what you're reading helps propel the community that you have online?

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Well, yeah. I feel that – I've noticed in my own community online, my online communities that there are a lot of people who have been really broken by a narrative that was tossed or used against them. I will even just say my own daughter who recently came out was often fighting against these narratives being used against us. Not in our home but in the school that she was going to and at the time, we didn't know that these things were happening.

But when we did find out that they were happening, we took her out of that school. But when someone tells you that the narrative that they have for your life is that your life is doomed to some sort of pit of hell, that really doesn't exist in the bible. Historically a lot of those passages are very metaphorical. It doesn't mean that there's no such thing as damnation or hell. But we have damnation and hell here on earth that we totally ignore because we're so concerned about something eternal.

But anyway, having my daughter and also having foster kids and having relationships with people who through no fault of their own, life just hasn't landed the way that it has landed for people who generally will take the bible and say, "Well, your life is a mess because of this."

So for me, it's really important to push back against that narrative because nothing could be farther from the truth. If anything, the privileges that we have, the lives that we live that are beautiful and easy and, you know, you got food in the fridge are usually because of privilege and have nothing to do with someone's merit.

So I don't know. I needed to know what the history of these stories were, which is something that Jewish people have done since the beginning. That's the whole thing that Jesus is doing. He's fighting with other – not fighting but he's having conversations and pushback from other rabbis about the text. They're wrestling with the text and what it means and who has the better version.

But unfortunately, the way that we perceive it is that there's only one narrative. It's this narrative and there's nothing left to discuss and we won't even look outside of ourselves. We assume that so much of the bible is formed within the bible. But a lot of the stories like the flood, the story of Job, the story of Adam and Eve, the story of Esther, a lot of those stories are the same archetype stories in other parts of the country in the world and other civilizations have other stories that are so strikingly similar.

Boggles my mind that we've never looked at that and I think a lot of people think it's because it will somehow negate their faith. But for me, it has only made me more sure of faith because I believe faith resides in how you love and see people.

So it has helped me to love and see more people and more light and more Godness and this and this and eternity and the light of all things and not just a certain kind of person.

**Amanda Lytle:** What's the most challenging thing that you've read or have researched and learned about in your own experience?

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** I think the thing that I – the most challenging thing that I read recently was a book called "Unholy" and it was a book written by a woman who's not a Christian, not a person of faith. I don't think she is. But she's a news correspondent and she was a news correspondent during the days of Trump who decided to figure out what was happening on the right.

Like what was the far right about? And the thing that she realized was that, oh my gosh, this goes back to the church and I think – I've always known there was something sinister in that. But I didn't realize how intentionally sinister it was. I think a lot of people believe, OK, these people who are holding power are doing it because it's in the name of Jesus and they believe it wholeheartedly.

But when you read things about tele-evangelists, the wealth that they are able to amass, pastors, writers, thought leaders, Christian news people, Fox News, when you look at the amount of wealth and power that they are protecting and the way that she broke it down bit by bit really scared me and troubled me and it made me question how do I want to define myself in this

world, you know, because for the longest time I've always defined myself as a Black woman, a Christian.

Now that word "Christian" sticks really heavy in my throat. Like it's hard for me to claim it because it seems like such a bitter attack against everyone else. I feel like it has become that.

So that was the most troubling thing that I read and it really was just how the moral majority began, how the Heritage Foundation was founded. That was founded on racist ideas. Just hearing that was – and I listened to it on Audible so that I could take it bit by bit because these harder stories are a little easier for me in that way. That was hard, hard to hear, yeah.

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

So something that I love about Black Coffee with White Friends is how you're able to take the things that you're consuming or that you're learning about or things that are going on in your life and you put them into a space where it's educational, it's inviting, it's engaging. It's kind of how I see the content that you put out.

So I would love for you to share the story behind your online space because it keeps growing. Maybe we will start with Black Coffee with White Friends and then we will jump into Mockingbird and what that is.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Thanks for asking that question. You know, it's funny. I've told the story before. I never intended to have a public space. I'm a pretty private person and I'm very non-confrontational. Like I don't like conflict. I don't like to confront and I'm the person who will hear something and then whisper my response to the person sitting next to me rather than raise my hand and say the thing.

Like I am totally that person. But when I started Black Coffee with White Friends, it was all with my daughter. It was my daughter and I'm going to really try not to cry. It was my daughter struggling, so – struggling so hard in this space that was supposed to love her.

It did not love her and I – it started out being this beautiful story. She was going to this school. When we moved to Texas, she got in the school at this public school and she was loving it and she was about second grade. Come fourth grade, she started getting bullied for being smart and for making good choices.

Literally that was the thing that happened to her. But it was – the way she was being bullied was such an attack on her character and threatening. One boy had said that he was going to cut off her Afro puff, eat it and then throw it up.

For fourth grade, that's a pretty violent thought to have about another human being and I remember thinking – and she was very brave. I remember telling her, "Well, what if we didn't give you peanut butter and jelly so you didn't have to sit at the table with people who had nuts in

their lunch? And what if we did turkey sandwiches instead so you could sit with your friend?" that she liked and she said, "I really like my peanut butter and jelly sandwiches."

I just didn't want her to have to be brave honestly. She's this little tiny wisp of a thing and I didn't want her to have to be brave and so we took her out of that school and I thought I will homeschool her and then I was terrible at it, I found out, and then I found this school where I thought the sun and the moon set on the school. These kids look so happy and it was a Christian school and I thought, "Well, that means they will be kind."

**Amanda Lytle:** Right.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** They will be taught to be kind and nothing could be farther from the truth. So when Trump got elected, it got progressively worse for her because, you know, she had this progressive family at home, this very inclusive, loving family at home and what she was meeting at school was that her family wasn't loving right in the right way and that she wasn't loving in the right way.

I decided I wanted to write down some thoughts for her, some letters. I had always been writing. That's what I went to school for, college for and so I've been writing but I've been saving them for later, thinking one day she will find all this and boy, won't she be happy because my mom kind of left this earth and took her stories with her.

So I didn't want to do that to her. Started writing some letters to Nadia and then thought, "I'm going to write about the things that we were seeing in the world." But then I said – and how it was being – how I saw God, how I saw faith, how I saw spirituality, how I looked at the stars, the moons, movies we had seen, all of it.

Then I started writing to friends, just these dear white friends, letters because I was that person that would go out to lunch with all these white women and be the only one in the room and things would be said and I would think, "Ha!" and not really know what to do with it and have been groomed to not know what to do with it my whole entire life.

So I decided I write these letters and then one day I decided I'm just going to go ahead and post them because by the time Trump was president, like I have nothing to lose in this game, you know. There's no reason to hold back speaking now.

So that's what I did and I wanted it to be something that I loved looking at. My husband is a designer. So that helps and I just have to say he's an award-winning designer. So that was a privilege that I took complete – I really – I abused that every chance I get. So – and I wanted it to be about more than just my blackness. I wanted it to be about my faith. I wanted it to be about the movies I love, the songs I love, the – not so much the food I love.

But the idea of gathering, which I love. I wanted it to be about all the things of me because I hid a lot of that stuff from my white friends in Texas for sure because they were conservative and I

don't regret that. I think I did what I felt I needed to do to survive and I would do it again that way.

But when I left that school, I went out with a ring of fire. Like I went out with a torch trying to burn the whole thing down because I was so mad and so upset and so angry and so hurt and felt so used. I felt like it benefited them to have this one black person that they could take pictures of their kid, put them on a pamphlet sort of a thing and then I was like, OK, so I'm allowed to be Black in this space when you're controlling it. But I can't bring my blackly blackness to the picnic.

So yeah, it is where I get to be my blackest, truest self and it's jarring for some people because they're not used to having a Black person speak about faith in a very, very Black way. They're used to Black people who speak about faith that sounds a lot like the same faith they have. They're not used to having an abused person – I grew up in a very abusive household. They're not used to having a person who has loved ones who may have had abortions. They're not used to people having a mother who had an abortion or a mother who considered even aborting me. They're not used to that narrative.

Wrapped in Black skin, talking about Mary, Joseph and Jesus. That's just not something that a lot of people were used to. But I must say I'm really grateful because I felt a lot of people who felt like their voices weren't being heard either in that space.

I thought I would find a lot of – I thought there would be crickets honestly. I didn't think people would look one way or the other at this feed. But to find that so many people often say, "Yeah, I was told the same thing at church," or I was – you know, and they're not necessarily Black but, you know, a lot of women being told that they didn't fit, a lot of people feeling that they've just been so dismissed by the church and therefore God.

To me that's the most appalling, appalling, appalling thing for someone to say because when you dismiss people from God and if you believe God is love, you're dismissing them from the ability of being loved and I just can't stand for that in my life.

So that's what that feed is all about and the colors, all of it, is that I want it to be beautiful and eye-catching. I want to attract people on that honey. I really do and then for the ones that it's necessary, maybe have them drink a little, that honey, and for others, they might get a swat, you know with a – yeah, I don't know.

But it all depends on how you come at it or how you even come at me. I try to be super gracious but that's a work in progress. Like sometimes I can be but sometimes, oh, you know, I'm a person who likes to be right too. What do you do when, you know, White Karen and White Becky need to be right and, you know, me and my Black self, I need to be right too?

So that can be tricky in the comments section. But yeah, it has been such a gift. I would have never expected it honestly. If I could tell people – I can't expect some people of how much – I just really did not think it would be this but it is and I'm really grateful.



**Amanda Lytle:** Yeah. Something so exciting is now that a next endeavor of yours is a book with the same title.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Yeah.

**Amanda Lytle:** Yeah.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Yeah.

**Amanda Lytle:** So tell us the back story there.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Oh god. It's a complicated backstory. I had a publishing house. First our design team saw the design of the feed and the designers actually went to an editor there and said, "Hey, not only does this feed look good but the content, I think this is someone you might want to read her work and see what you think."

This light of light came beaming through Texas. Like she came to Texas to meet me and say, "Hey, I want to publish a book with you. I just want to work in the world. It doesn't have to be with us. I just think it needs to be out there," beautiful spirit and she said by me to let you know if you stay with us, I will work to find you an agent, a publishing house, if it's not us. But if you stay with us, I need you to know my publishing house where I work is super white. It's super white, super male. You know, it's super conservative. It has got a statement of how they see things in the world and I said yes, number one, because I wanted to work with her. Number two, I thought maybe that's a good thing. Maybe then people who would never read my book if they saw it on a more liberal label. Maybe this conservative, semi-conservative, moderate publishing house, having that, would make people fool them into thinking they were safe. It was really what I was thinking and then I get up.

**Amanda Lytle:** Yes, in the honey.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Exactly. But you know – and at the time of that meeting, my daughter wasn't out. I didn't know she was gay. I thought she was just – I don't know what I thought or what I – I just missed every single clue. I just thought she was not interested in dating, period. So I didn't think anything of it. So when I sat down with her, based on my friendship with – in a loose friendship. I adore Jen Hatmaker but I am not like in her close, close circle of friends.

She has a tightknit group of women who uphold her. What I am is I was – and be the bridge group with Jen Hatmaker and Jen Hatmaker had just gone through this horrible thing where all her books have been pulled off the shelf because she supported the gay and queer community and because I knew that that might be like a problem.

I had said that was Jen's hill to die on but it's not mine. Something I'm truly ashamed that I ever said. But I honestly believed it. I thought, yeah, let's support gay rights but, you know, it's not

my thing. It's their thing, you know, kind of a thing. I think that's how a lot of people feel about Blackness. You know, I support Black Lives Matter. But it's their thing, not my thing, right?

So I said that, wrote my book, wrote my book, wrote my book because it takes a long time, you know, and you're writing. You're giving stuff to them. They come back, all this stuff. Finally got this book exactly how I wanted it to be and my daughter came out and we were so excited. But then I thought, "Oh, I think there might be something in my contract where I can't support that community."

So if you ever get a book deal, read your contract carefully. But I wasn't sure. I was like I know it's on their website but I don't think I necessarily have to adhere to that. But I thought I don't want to be like Jen and have all my books pulled off the shelf.

So I said to this publishing house, I called the editor. We were talking about – she called me. We were talking about how happy we were with this manuscript, how excited we were. We were about to go to like all the nitty-gritty where you fine-tune and you get ready to print and I said, "You know, I need to tell you I had said to you that the gay community was my hill to die on. I need you to know, my daughter has come out. This is definitely my hill to die on."

She went to work. She said, "You know what? I'm going to tell you what the publishing house will say," and she was very clear. This is not what I would say. I'm telling you what the publishing house is going to say and what they will do and what the contract says.

Basically, I had to then call my agent, make a decision on pulling out of that contract, which was a no-brainer because I knew that I was going to go all in with my daughter and I knew I should have been going all in from the beginning because my daughter certainly isn't the first gay person that I know and it's a shameful thing.

So I was like if I'm going to be about humanity, I'm going to be about all of humanity. It's ridiculous. Why would I ever sign my name in blood like that?

But was able to get a new book deal and it has all worked out. I have no ill will towards this publishing house. They told me where they were. I knew where they were. It's not their job to change for me, right? They have a right to believe what they want to believe and to represent who they want to represent, the publisher they want to publish.

So that's the story of the book. So the book is coming out hopefully in 2022 under a different publishing house. So yeah ...

**Amanda Lytle:** I'm excited.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** ... cautionary tale out there for you all.

**Amanda Lytle:** Yes. Yeah, big one.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Yeah.

**Amanda Lytle:** I'm excited for this to be out. And will it mimic the space that you have online in a way? Like will there be a lot that you've taken from that to put into a book format?

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** No. It's entirely new. One thing that people haven't noticed is that I don't talk about myself personally a lot in that space. I talk about a lot of things. We can talk about Ted Lasso. We can talk about, you know, what a Karen is. We can talk about history. We can talk about a lot of different things. But I don't share really my personal story all that much. I did that on the blog and if anyone goes to Black Coffee with White Friends, the blog, you will see some of those stories. So it is a lot more of that.

It is the story of how I got to where I am now. So it's about my childhood. It's about becoming a mother. It's about all those things. So it's a collection of essays. It's a memoir and a collection of essays. So definitely more personal. Darn near killed me, writing things that were just really personal and going to spaces that were – that I didn't intend to go.

Yeah. So I think people will be surprised that – I hope people will be surprised that the vulnerability in it – I certainly felt vulnerable writing it, that's for sure.

**Amanda Lytle:** What kept you going? As a creative in these spaces, when you are going into the dark moments again and you're reliving a lot of tough stuff, what keeps you going? What keeps you nourished?

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** When I was writing a book and even now, I put up a picture of myself when I was in the fourth grade on my computer because I was the only little Black face in that class and I want – what keeps me going is I never want another child to feel how I felt growing up. That is really my goal. I don't want my grandbabies to be dealing with the same nonsense that my daughter dealt with. I thought when my daughter went to school, because when she was bullied at the public school, it was never about her race. It was a pretty diverse school. So it wasn't about her race.

At least not directly. Subconsciously it's always about that as a Black woman. But I just don't want this to be this continuing conversation where – if the conversation continues, I want us to move forward and to talking about new aspects of it. But we're still just trying to decide if racism is a thing, which is just mind-boggling to me that after all this time, we – you know, there are people who still can't even get there, can't even meet us there. So that's what keeps me going.

**Amanda Lytle:** Thank you so much for this Marcie. This has been incredible. I'm just being super mindful of your time here too.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** OK.

**Amanda Lytle:** We wrap up our conversations on *The Book Stoop* with the opportunity to give a shoutout to an account, a person, an organization, a disruptor, an activist, change agent. So is there anyone out there you would like to give a shoutout to?

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Yeah. I would like to give a shoutout to Kevin Garcia. They are amazing and one of the most amazing humans I've ever had the pleasure of having a conversation with and what they are doing with their feed, with their space and with their book. I think – just follow them.

**Amanda Lytle:** OK.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Follow Kevin Garcia. I'm seeing the identity for me as a person of faith, seeing the identity of God take shape in so many stories and their story was the first one that really brought me to that and I'm always honored to call them a friend. Yeah.

**Amanda Lytle:** Thank you so, so much for being a guest on *The Book Stoop*, Marcy. This has been beautiful.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Oh, I hope so.

**Amanda Lytle:** It has been great.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** It has been beautiful for me.

**Amanda Lytle:** Good. Me too.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Thank you.

**Amanda Lytle:** Me too.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Thank you.

**Amanda Lytle:** You are making huge, incredible waves in this world and I cannot – now that I know a bit more about your book, I can't wait to get my hands on it.

**Marcie Alvis-Walker:** Oh, gosh, you and everybody else. This child has got to go to college, so yeah, honestly.

**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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