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[Singing 00:00:00]

Gaby Dunn:

Hello and welcome to Bad with Money, a podcast about finances and feelings where we don't talk down to you. I'm your host, Gaby Dunn. This week, we are doing another break down and take down. I am so excited because I made my friend Christina Catucci, AKA TikTok's Steen, S-T-E-E-N. You have seen her on TikTok. If you are on TikTok, you can't miss her. She's hilarious. I made her read a whole ass book called Rich Dad Poor Dad. A lot of you guys talked about how this book was always in your house growing up if you grew up in the '90s to early 2000s. If you were young at that time, a lot of our parents had that god damn book.

I made my friend Christina, and I feel guilty about this because of how this episode goes, I made her read this whole ass book. I read this whole ass book, and it is horrifying. We just have to get into it, because I don't even know where to begin. If you don't know anything about this book, dive in with us because you don't really need to have read it beforehand. You don't even really need to know anything about it. We are going to get into every little nook and cranny of it, and it's so bad. I'm heated. Let's just get into it. Hello. Can you tell my audience who you are and what you do?

Christina Catucci:

Hi, my name's Christina Catucci or Steen. You can call me Steen. I'm a writer in LA. Right now I'm a producer in LA.

Gaby Dunn:

And how did we meet?

Christina Catucci:

We met through TikTok. I like making my little funny sketches. I was looking for LGBTQ friends and I found them.

Gaby Dunn:

And I said, "I protest LGBTQ people. I hate them." That's how we became friends.

Christina Catucci:

Me too.

Gaby Dunn:

You're unassuming in person, but you have very strong opinions. That's why I wanted you to join me on this journey because I... We read Rich Dad Poor Dad. I'm so sorry that I made you read this. I can't apologize enough. I have 10 pages of notes where I have just lost it.

Christina Catucci:

So much to say. The whole book was a bit. That's like how I would pitch this book. For someone who doesn't take it seriously, if you're not like a Republican or whatever, it's a bit book otherwise, because it's completely all bits.

Gaby Dunn:

I can't wait to get into it. First of all, okay, so this book is written by Robert Kiyosaki. He is the founder of Rich Global LLC and the Rich Dad Company, which became a private financial education company. He kind of franchised out the whole Rich Dad thing. He's written 26 books. The books are international bestsellers. This book was on every one... All these people commented saying, "This was on my dad's nightstand my whole life." As of Wikipedia, he is in a class action suit filed by people who attended his seminars. He's been the subject of two investigative documentaries. His company, Rich Global LLC, filed for bankruptcy in 2012.

There's this kind of ongoing theme with these books that we're reading where their businesses have later gone bankrupt. In 2016, he's supported Donald Trump for president. He also co-authored two books with ex-president Trump. He is from Hawaii, and so a lot of this book takes place in Hawaii. I debated going hard into this man, but I think there was so much just in this book that I almost want to keep it purely to what is happening in this book.

Christina Catucci:

Yes, yes, yes. That makes sense.

Gaby Dunn:

The book came out in 1997, the first version. It's called Rich Dad Poor Dad by Robert T. Kiyosaki. What the Rich Teach Their Kids About Money That the Poor and Middle Class Do Not! Huge spoiler alert, it really is just avoid taxes. But we'll get into it. I've been reading a lot of these books because I'm like, all right, what do these men have to say? I got to say that like 90% of it is avoid taxes as much as you can. The book starts with a 20 years reflection. 20 years, this book came out that many years ago. He talks about in the little sections of the book, he puts little updates to what he is saying.

The updates don't really do much or mean much or say anything in terms of reflecting on himself. The premise of the book is that he has a highly educated poor dad, which is his biological father, who is some sort of Liberal Democrat, and then he has a rich dad, who is his friend Mike's father, who is a sociopath. He takes what he learned from his highly educated poor dad and his rich dad who does child abuse to him for most of his life. It's not his actual father. It's his friend's Mike's father.

Christina Catucci:

Do you also think they were gay dads at first?

Gaby Dunn:

I fully thought that he had two gay dads. Yeah.

Christina Catucci:

Me too. I was like, "Oh cool. I've never heard of this before." It did not.

Gaby Dunn:

I thought it was either two gay dads, or I thought his mother was married to one man, and then later married the rich man. That's what I thought. I had no idea going into this that it was a man that was not his actual father, which is this book is an entire fuck you to Robert's actual dad.

Christina Catucci:

It's awful.

Gaby Dunn:

Which is wild. It starts with this lesson that basically is like, the increases in income are going to entrepreneurs and investors and not to employees. He kind of has this whole thing where like, you shouldn't save. You become a loser if you save. He says some stuff that does make sense where he's like, the reality is the rich will always pay less in taxes. As long as a person works for money, they will pay taxes. He talks about Democratic politicians trying to raise taxes on those with high incomes. He writes people like doctors, actors and lawyers, but not the real rich, which are the people who are actually in need of being taxed.

Now, one big thing that happens in this book and in a lot of books that I've read, but particularly in this book, and I don't know if you found this too, that he almost gets it. He has the right information, and then he makes the complete wrong conclusion.

Christina Catucci:

Oh, absolutely. He'll be like, "Rich people are evil and exploit poor people and that's what you should do." That's literally what he says.

Gaby Dunn:

Yes. I don't know. What was your information about this book, or going into it, how much did you know and what did you expect?

Christina Catucci:

I have heard of the title before, but never really knew about the book or what it was about. I was laughing the whole time. I was laughing.

Gaby Dunn:

You seem to find a lot of this very funny.

Christina Catucci:

I do.

Gaby Dunn:

Why?

Christina Catucci:

Well, for starters, just the way he writes is really funny, because he'll be like, "Oh, I suck at writing. I'm such a bad writer," and then it does suck, so I kept laughing because he would say that. He'd be like, "I'm such a bad little writer," and then it would be really bad. I was like, "Whoa, so true. You're really bad at this." Because what he does is he writes a fan fiction writer. He'll be like he pushed his glasses to the middle of his head and chuckled. One time he even said he put his hand on the back of his neck. I'm like, what? It's like a Harry Styles fan fiction. It feels like it's going to become that. In that regard, it had me laughing a lot.

Gaby Dunn:

As someone who has written a bit of a memoir myself, I always think it's funny when someone recalls a conversation, and maybe my brain just works differently, where someone recalls a conversation and is like, "He chuckled." I went through my journals in order to write my memoir sections and I have no clue what my dad did. I just have what I have on the paper. To spin this yarn of like a tumbleweed world by, or whatever, that to me immediately is like, this is not true. You're just kind of painting a picture.

Christina Catucci:

It totally has to be fake, right? Because that was something I was going to ask you as well. It's like, it's not real, right?

Gaby Dunn:

There has been some research into whether Mike's dad is real. They have some theories as to who he actually is. Mike himself has been interviewed I think on the Rich Dad Poor Dad Podcast, whatever. Mike is real. And then Mike's father owned a chain of hotels in Hawaii, so there's some element of this man is real. But yes, is this man, is rich dad actually real? Did any of this happen? Only Mike and Robert know.

Christina Catucci:

He's not going to tell.

Gaby Dunn:

I think a lot of it to me and what I've looked at in my research is that this man was a real man, but none of this actually happened.

Christina Catucci:

That's kind of what I was leading towards as well. Just the way he writes how children talk too gives away that it's probably not real. He'll just talk really, really properly, and it's supposed to be a seven year old. Tell me more about taxes and investing, Mike's dad.

Gaby Dunn:

He does a lot of conversations with his child self and with Rich Dad, and he gives himself the liberal talking points as a child. Almost as if to infer that only naive and childish people believe these things. Okay, this is the introduction. He talks about how one dad died leaving tens of millions of dollars to his family charities and church. The other left bills to be paid when he died. This is a reoccurring thing that comes up in these books where they're all written by men and it's like, do not pay your taxes. But then it talks about give to charity and give to your church. I was trying to figure out, if you believe so much in charity and giving back, why not taxes?

It's about control. They don't want the money to go to what they perceive as people who have done this to themselves, poor people, God forbid, atheists. God forbid, Black people. It really is just I want to give this to a subset of white Christians and how do I do that? And through taxes, they can't do that. He says that his poor dad said the rich should pay more in taxes to take care of those less fortunate. The others said taxes punished those who produce and reward those who don't produce. Okay. But then again, his takeaway is therefore don't pay taxes.

Christina Catucci:

He's just a bad person.

Gaby Dunn:

We talked about The Big Short, and there's the part in The Big Short where Max Greenfield's character is bragging about all the stuff that they've done down in Florida with the real estate market. One of the guys goes, "Why is he admitting to these crimes?" And the other guy is like, "He's not. He's bragging." That's what the crux of this is. Now, he's also been criticized and I think sued or called out for a lot of his advice being illegal, loosely illegal, which comes up a lot. He talks about how people have entitlement mentalities, which entitlement comes up a lot.

He also talks about how highly educated politicians and government officials are making financial decisions with little or no training in the subject of money. One dad taught me how to write an impressive resume so I could find a good job. The other taught me how to write strong business and financial plans so I could create jobs. Here's the thing, they create jobs, but then they say you should not be part of those jobs and that rat race. I get lost in this loop where I'm like, you're giving this advice, but then who works for you?

Christina Catucci:

Yeah, no, it's just weird that he's admitting that he's created these jobs, like you said. He infers that people who take them don't work very hard and are dumb. But then he describes the jobs as extremely difficult and exploitation. He contradicts himself in that way and then doesn't care. I feel like the whole thing that he's trying to say is like, you have to become the villain, become evil.

Gaby Dunn:

Yes. Well, the other thing that comes up is that these people are like, "I'm a businessman," but then they write these books and then their whole business and life and a way of making money comes from giving financial advice. So then they've just completely lost touch, and also their job is not their job anymore. Their job is to make a bunch of money off of other people trying to learn about money.

Christina Catucci:

Right. It was really weird too because at one point, I think towards the end of the book, he was like, "You should join an MLM." I was like, oh my god.

Gaby Dunn:

Yes, the MLM of it all. In chapter one, we learned that rich dad gives Mike and Robert jobs. You mentioned that he talks about Robert is worried that it violates child labor laws. Poor dad is like, "You have to go and get a raise or you should quit immediately. Ask for 25 cents an hour." They're doing stuff chores around the store and stuff. They're working for rich dad's company. There's all this stuff where basically he's like, don't ask for a raise, just start your own business. And if you learn this lesson, you'll grow into a wise, wealthy, and happy young man.

And if you don't, you'll spend your life blaming a job low pay or your boss for your problems. A lot of this book is him trying to avoid the little guy getting mad at the boss, which is him. Can you explain a little bit to choosing to not pay the kids?

Christina Catucci:

Basically him and Mike get a job helping rich dad with his store. A weird detail is that it's so dusty out that they keep the doors open because it's really hot as well and there's no AC. Every time these little kids stack all the cans up, dust comes and blows it all down, which I was like holy shit. They work for, what is it, like 10 cents? It's a very low, low wage. I think his real dad tells him to ask for a pay increase. When he does, rich dad is like, "No, and now you're getting no money." This is exploitation. This is awful. You're exploiting children, like you said. You wanted to teach me the value of money. You're not giving me money. And then very confusingly, he's like yes. I never got closure on that.

Gaby Dunn:

The idea is that he will then, because he's not making any money at his job, he will then become creative in his mind and come up with ways to make money and not rely on his salary. What ends up happening is he realizes that they're throwing away the comic books. He decides he's going to take the comic books. You can't resell them legally, but he starts a library of comic books. Other kids come and give a nickel to read the comic books, which he's getting for free from the store. He realizes that by not resting on his salary, he's able to then come up with a business idea. This whole thing is truly a very insidious trick to make sure that the blame falls on the individual person.

That the person feels guilty asking their boss for more money, that they view asking for more money as actually bad and actually keeping them trapped. Because the dad says, "If I gave you 25 cents an hour, you would just keep working here, and you would just have your wage. But because I'm giving you no money, now you're being creative." Often this is just to keep the employee blaming themselves thinking they're doing something wrong. It happens over and over again. He says basically after he fights him and says, "You exploit your workers," it says, rich dad laughs.

"You'd best change your point of view. Stop blaming me and thinking I'm the problem. If you think I'm the problem, then you have to change me. If you realize you're the problem, then you can change yourself."

Christina Catucci:

He sounds like a narcissistic abuser.

Gaby Dunn:

It's abuse. It's abuse this whole time. He also says, "My employees don't come to me and ask me about how to learn about money. They just ask me for a paycheck or a job. They work for money their whole lives." I just wrote life is immediate. You need money to live that this man doesn't seem to grasp. So then he talks about accepting a small paycheck and he says, "High paying jobs mean two things. You're working for money and the taxes you pay will probably increase. I've learned to put my money to work for me and enjoy the tax benefits of generating income that doesn't come from a paycheck."

Rich dad says, "Some people say I exploit people because I don't pay as much as the sugar plantation or the government. I say people exploit themselves. It's their fear, not mine. Most people become a slave to money and then get angry at their boss." I said how convenient, don't pay taxes and don't get mad at your boss.

Christina Catucci:

It's awful. I feel bad laughing, but it's so funny how dumb he is.

Gaby Dunn:

It preys on a real thing that people already think. He's going in and being like, "You're not good enough," to people who already believe they're not good enough because they're buying this book.

Christina Catucci:

Right. He's prey on their insecurities. He's a super capitalist. Some capitalists pretend they're not, but he's like, "No, I am. Here's my 26 books. Buy my MLM."

Gaby Dunn:

Yeah, join an MLM, which comes up later. Robert asks, "Why do people let the government do that to them," which is pay taxes. And then he says, "The rich don't. The poor and middle class do. I'll bet you I earn more than your dad, yet he pays more in taxes." I wrote, who does this leave behind? It's that thing where he's almost there. He almost understands this is unfair.

Christina Catucci:

But it's like he doesn't care it's unfair. He's like, as long as I'm winning off this being unfair, then it's okay.

Gaby Dunn:

That's exactly it. You just summed it up. That's exactly it. It's like, don't make the world better, just how do you get ahead, which is honestly, this is when people say, "Oh well, they're a billionaire, but they didn't exploit anyone or they're a good billionaire." There's no such thing. All of this is how to step on people. He has an employee that he works with him, the woman, and he says, "Oh, she's like a mother to me. She's family," but then he treats her like shit and he talks shit about her and says, "She's married to her salary. She's never going to get anywhere."

Christina Catucci:

Oh, it was awful, and then he had the kids saying... Well, I guess Robert wrote the kids were saying none of it happened, that they would never want to be like her. There was a single line where they were like, "Ew, we'd never want to be like her. I thought of her and how dumb she is." It's like, ugh, awful.

Gaby Dunn:

There's a reoccurring theme, and we talked about this in the Batman episode, of servants being like family. No.

Christina Catucci:

It's complicated and bad.

Gaby Dunn:

And I do apologize, but I have lost my mind.

Christina Catucci:

Oh no, this has driven me insane as well. I was really embarrassed at points reading this because I was reading it on a plane. I was like, I hope no one thinks I'm not reading this ironically. How do I position this so it looks like I'm reading it ironically? This is still in lesson one. I found something really, really funny where he talks about the cone of learning. It's basically like, I guess, this upside down pyramid that he rates how important learning certain things are, and at the very bottom is reading. And then I'm like, he wrote a book and it's reading. I'm like holy shit, he admits to not reading.

Gaby Dunn:

Oh my God. Well, he does say one thing that I agree with, which is that school is largely useless, which I do agree with. I mean, look, my notes are psychotic, which is fitting because I just kept writing sociopath. I understand that people have problems with it, but let me just say that I stand by that 100%. He says, "The main cause of poverty or financial struggle is fear and ignorance." And then he says, "And now here's how we exploit those people."

Christina Catucci:

It's awful. He does that so many times.

Gaby Dunn:

Let me read this to you. "You've been talking about the fear of not having money. How does the desire for money affect our thinking?" Mike asked. "How did you feel when I tempted you with a pay raise? Did you notice your desires rising?" Oh yeah, he does this other crazy fucked up thing, the rich dad, where he says, "I'll give you $5. Take the job." And then the boys are supposed to say no and they don't. And then he says, "Good. You're not able to be bought." Robert is describing the stress of that situation. Anyway, so then he says, rich dad says, "By not giving into your emotions, you were able to delay your reactions and think.

That is important. We will always have emotions of fear and greed. From here on in, it's imperative for you to use those emotions to your advantage and for the long term to not let your emotions control your thinking. Most people use fear and greed against themselves. That's the start of ignorance. Most people live their lives chasing paychecks, pay raises, and job security because of the emotions of desire and fear, not really questioning where those emotion driven thoughts are leading them." I said, what are you, fucking Jedis?

Christina Catucci:

He's describing all the things he's doing in the book as well to the reader, like you were saying earlier. He's like, "Fear is bad. You should be afraid of being poor, or you're dumb."

Gaby Dunn:

Just finding these people and exploiting them basically and don't let that be you.

Christina Catucci:

I have this one line here that I wrote down in quotes, "Son, I'm going to teach you tax evasion." I don't know what this weird stuff is, but he's like, "The rich don't," rich dad said with a smile. "The poor and the middle class do. I bet you that I earn more than your dad, yet he pays more in taxes."

Gaby Dunn:

Rich dad explained the rich really did make money. They did not work for it. It's like, okay, we're almost there. And then he said, "I hear things like, 'Well, everyone has to work or the rich are crooks. Or I'll get another job. I deserve this raise. You can't push me around. Or I like this job because it's secure.' No one asks, is there's something I'm missing here?" He also writes, "I constantly work to control my thoughts and my emotions. I've seen this play out over and over in my life. When emotion goes up, intelligence goes down. I wrote, bitch, are you okay?

Christina Catucci:

In the book, I just wrote, cis men create their own problems and then write books about it.

Gaby Dunn:

Ooh, say more about that.

Christina Catucci:

It's just like the way that they talk to each other is just really toxic and shitty, and it's all these systems that they created from a long time ago. They're like, "We have to find a way to crack this system that we created that's oppressing all of us. And if we don't, we'll die." It's like, what if you just stop enabling these systems altogether?

Gaby Dunn:

Well, yeah, but the thing is, is that then what would happen? These people wouldn't be as able to be rich. I mean, I pointed out... You talked about Ms. Martin, who's the employee. He says, "At an early age, we found out how hard it was to find good staff." I wrote, well, maybe they all learned rich dad's advice. It's this separation of them from these lower rat race type people, which they call them that, because they don't want this to get fixed. They just want to exploit what is already happening. I wrote, okay, the advice seems to be traumatize the people under you and don't pay taxes. In chapter two, he talks about it's not how much money you make, it's how much money you keep.

And he talks about how rich dad's empire goes to Mike and he has inherited wealth and then he chooses to run the empire, whereas Robert chooses to retire. He talks about a lot of people he admires. All of them are men. So then he gets into his core argument, which is assets versus liabilities. Asset puts money in my pocket whether I work or not, and a liability takes money out of my pocket. I do agree that we need to ask more questions and not worry about looking stupid, which he does say. But his whole thing is basically like you need to acquire assets and the poor and middle class acquire liabilities.

He doesn't really ever unpack why. He also talks about how most accountants and financial professionals don't agree with him, which is wild. It's bad because it exploits people without any care for doing that. It's basically turn off your emotions is really a big part of it. But then the problem is, is that he then does view himself as a good person in the sense that he then... This, again, comes up over and over again. He gives to his church. He gives to charity. He's actually giving all this knowledge to people and teaching them. He is actually a good person.

Christina Catucci:

But it's funny because he'll admit that all the charitable donations he makes, he doesn't pay taxes on.

Gaby Dunn:

Exactly. Exactly. Yes. I mean, a lot of it comes down to real estate. That's a big part of it is buying up as many houses as you can and then flipping them or tricking people into buying them for more money than they're worth. He's very much into creating things that make you money passively and not owning anything. In his 20 year update, he says there's a social demand for tax dollars. Higher incomes create even more of a bracket creep, as tax rates become more progressive, steeper, to pay for social services, also called entitlements. Social security and Medicaid entitlement programs face insolvency.

You probably pay taxes. Basically to sum it up, he's saying that people treat their home as their primary asset. People say that buying a house is something that we've been sold as the American Dream, but he thinks that you should invest in income producing assets rather than something that will depreciate over time, although I've never heard that about houses. But I wrote, people need homes. They need to be safe. They need it to be affordable, and he doesn't realize that people need basic safety.

Christina Catucci:

Yeah, I agree it's insane that he thinks a house is something you don't need. I'm sure he hates the concept of renting, because everyone says that you're sinking money into something that's not an asset. The other thing too that kind of leans into that is he said people who have families and need to buy homes are dumb. It's like, what? That was a big one, or he said that people don't get their money together and then they choose to have a kid. It's getting into this obviously conservative eugenics almost type thing. And then he says that their fatal mistake is getting a house. They should simply all join an MLM, the baby included, because that's what you get.

Gaby Dunn:

Honestly, that's how you create your down line is just keep having kids.

Page 109, he talks about working for a company is your salary and working for the government is taxes. He says you work for the company. Employees make their business owner or their shareholders rich, not themselves. Your efforts and success will help provide for the owner's success and retirement. Two, you work for the government. The government takes its share from your paycheck before you even see it. By working harder, you simply increase the amount of taxes taken by the government. Most people work from January to May just for the government. Three, you work for the bank.

After taxes, your next largest expense is usually your mortgage and credit card debt. Also, he earlier in the book says something about how people who have credit card debt are buying shoes or whatever, which I was like, you have no concept of what people use credit cards for. My question is, don't we need these people to be doing the work and don't we need them healthy, AKA, with Medicare, with social services? Don't these services that you're paying for help then your employees be better employees? He's missing these crucial things that have to just do with humanity.

Christina Catucci:

He doesn't see them as human.

Gaby Dunn:

That's really what it is.

Christina Catucci:

That's it is. It's like anyone who isn't rich dad is not human, even his own dad. He's like, "Fuck my real dad. He's poor. I hate the poor." That's the theme that I see in every single sentence in this book.

Gaby Dunn:

He also lists poor person expenses as tax, rent, food, transportation, and clothes. I wrote, he legit has no idea what poor people spend on. Clothes? Chapter three, the rich focus on their asset columns, while everyone else focuses on their income statements. Fine, we get it. There's some interesting stuff about the founder of McDonald's where he says he's not in the hamburger business, he's in the real estate business, which I was like, oh, that's actually interesting. But it's incredibly sinister because he's like, "I put bad food in bad neighborhoods." It really just kind of shows like, here, you know what?

Actually if you put shitty, affordable food in these bad neighborhoods where you've bought real estate that's inexpensive, you can just profit.

Christina Catucci:

Poor people in food deserts and that's it.

Gaby Dunn:

Right. This is an interesting segment, is he says, "There's a big difference between your profession and your business. Often I ask people, 'What is your business,' and they will say, 'Oh, I'm a banker.' Then I ask them if they own the bank, they usually respond, 'No, I work there.' In that instance, they have confused their profession with their business. Their profession may be banker, but they still need their own business. Businesses do not require my presence. I own them, but they are managed to run by other people. If I have to work there, it's not a business. It becomes my job."

Christina Catucci:

I wrote on that part actually like what would he call a doctor? You're not a doctor. You work for the doctor who owns the hospital. I feel like he would say that.

Gaby Dunn:

Yeah, because he doesn't work.

Christina Catucci:

He doesn't work. He's never really worked. The last time he worked was when he worked in the dusty shop, which didn't even happen.

Gaby Dunn:

Here's another instance of getting very close. Financial struggle is often the result of people working all their lives for someone else. I wrote, so close, maybe if the workers seized the business or means of production.

Christina Catucci:

That brings me to the part where he was talking about hating unions.

Gaby Dunn:

Before we get to the unions, chapter four, Robin Hood.

Christina Catucci:

Oh my god, Robin Hood's a villain.

Gaby Dunn:

Robin Hood is a villain he hates. I wrote, finally we are here. He hates the poor. That's it. We get to the biggest secret of the rich, which is corporations, fake corporations. He talks about creating everything into a corporation and a corporation is just a file folder in his office. He puts everything through corporations so that he can pay corporate taxes, which... Look, I have... My business is an S corp. I have a corporation.

My money that I make as a writer and as a director and all that stuff goes through my corporation. That is beneficial for taxes, although that is a real corporation I am working at. But he's talking about, again, how people say his advice is like sort of legal. Can you talk about how he views Robin Hood?

Christina Catucci:

He hates Robin Hood. He thinks Robin Hood is evil. In his mind, taking from the rich and giving to the poor is bad. He literally is a reverse Robin Hood, or that's how he sees himself, which literally means, like I said before, he's a super villain.

Gaby Dunn:

He doesn't think the government should help people. He says that the taxes were created to punish the rich, but then in reality, it wound up punishing the poor and the middle class.

Christina Catucci:

Right. He's like, oh, this is true.

Gaby Dunn:

Yes. Maybe we should enforce the tax code. His educated dad believed the government should help people. He doesn't like the government. He thinks the government workers are a pack of lazy thieves. I wrote, stealing for who? Lazy thieves stealing for who? You can say it, poor people. You van say it, sick people. But you don't want to say it.

Christina Catucci:

No, he doesn't.

Gaby Dunn:

Again, right info, wrong conclusions. On page 154, I wrote holy shit, so let's see what I was reacting to. Having two fathers teaching me, one a socialist and the other capitalist, I quickly began to realize that the philosophy of the capitalist made more financial sense to me. It seemed to me that the socialists ultimately penalize themselves due to their lack of financial education. No matter what the take from the rich crowd came up with, the rich always found a way to outsmart them. That is how taxes were eventually levied on the middle class. The rich outsmarted the intellectuals solely because they understood the power of money, a subject not taught in schools." So then I wrote, behead them all.

Christina Catucci:

I agree. It's so, so evil and upsetting that he keeps admitting that he's doing bad stuff. He also admits that he's stupid, because he's like, "We dummies outsmarted the intellectuals by oppressing them." Because at the end of the day, it's just oppression. He's like admitting that oppressed people are smart, and he's just trying to outsmart them by being an asshole, by stealing their resources and making everything too expensive for them.

Gaby Dunn:

I mean, it's wild. I think it's just this thing of having the cheat codes, and then taking people's blood, sweat, and tears. All of this could be resolved by just fixing the tax code, but he has no interest in that.

Christina Catucci:

No.

Gaby Dunn:

Rich dad wanted me to recognize his power and to desire to have that power for myself one day. I wrote down ritual abuse. Rich dad constantly reminded Mike and me that the biggest bully was not the boss or the supervisor, but the tax man. A corporation earns, spends everything it can, and is taxed on anything that is left. Then he talks about protecting himself from lawsuits. I wrote, why are you getting sued so often? And then he calls them brats who call attorneys to file lawsuits every time something doesn't go their way.

Christina Catucci:

I feel like if you are getting a slew of lawsuits and you still don't recognize that you're the problem. One or two lawsuits, okay. He's getting sued 400 times. How does he not realize he's bad?

Gaby Dunn:

Because he was taught that these people are just trying to get a hand out. That everyone who isn't doing what he's... You're right in that there's no empathy is that there's no concept that people might be different, that people might have different circumstances. I wrote that he's at least providing advice that is actually true. It is true that corporations pay less in taxes. It is true that these rich people are using exploitation and things like that in order to get rich.

He is telling tales out of school in some sense because he's like, "Attempts to punish the rich rarely work because the rich find ways to minimize their tax burden. They provide low salaries and no new jobs," which rich dad says saved him money and made the investors love him, whereas poor dad in the government is trying to raise salaries and create jobs. And that's stupid.

Christina Catucci:

It's just that he admits that he's exploiting and abusing people, but for some reason, he thinks that whoever is reading this book is going to be like, "I'm sick of being oppressed. I'm going to just stop being oppressed." He's gaslighting the reader into thinking that's possible at all.

Gaby Dunn:

Or stop being oppressed and become the oppressor. Chapter five, he says, "People resist change, but what they want is radical change." And he says, "I don't want to be part of those left behind." He talks about real estate and land agreements and playing the game in a way that others cannot, so basically shorting the real estate market, shopping with a bankruptcy attorney's office or the courthouse steps, displacing people by buying foreclosures, sheltering it all through a corporation, making tax exempt foundations.

When he calls these people intellectuals or government people or whatever, it's this very insidious thing that comes up a lot in these books where they give the point of view that is kind and empathetic and world changing, and then they take that view... They give it, they let you read it, and then they take that view and They go, "That's naive" and that's the thing that

Republicans say about leftists is like, "You're not living in the real world. You're naive. You don't know what you're talking about." He makes sure every time to of pepper in these things of like, "You don't know what you're talking about." Anyway, back to real estate, he is buying a 60K home.

He's selling it for 70K. He's finding foreclosures, which it's incredibly evil. He talks about it's wonderful because there are late fees or if they move out and the property can be sold again, whatever it is, with foreclosures or evictions, the court system handles that and he doesn't really have to think about it. He's reselling homes to people who think they are bargains. He's putting it inside a real estate corporation, so there's like several million of property in a real estate investment trust, which a lot of people have spoken out about lately because it gentrifies areas outside of cities.

It takes advantage of the terrible economy. He does this thing where he puts in offers on these houses and ties it up with a written contract. It's all these things that are technically legal, but I can't believe he's putting them on paper. But then he says, "Nothing I have written is a recommendation," which like okay. And then the world is full of talented poor people. He talks about people needing to learn sales, which I don't disagree with.

Christina Catucci:

Like you're saying, he's describing gentrification. He's describing very inhumane practices. And also, I'm guessing it's because this book was written in, what, 1997 that he can find a house for $60,000. I was like, are these made up numbers? I'm like, okay. He just kept describing in weird detail buying a house for whatever, adding $10,000, selling it, adding $10,000, selling it over and over and over again. I'm like, okay, this is just his weird game of cat and mouse where he really likes getting an extra $10,000, because that's not even a lot. That was the other thing. I get that he's doing this in mass, but it's like he's describing getting $10,000 extra a year and reinvesting it. Who really has the time for that?

Gaby Dunn:

That's his whole job. He's not doing anything.

Christina Catucci:

He's not doing anything.

Gaby Dunn:

He's busy literally slinking outside bankruptcy offices preying on people who are crying. So then he also says this one thing where he says he includes in the contracts pending business partners approval so he can just reneg at any time. He can go through all this shit with these people and then he can say, "Actually, I'm so sorry, my business partner doesn't want to do this and it says in the contract." And then he says, "They don't have to know that my business partner is my cat."

Christina Catucci:

How dare he rope the cat into this?

Gaby Dunn:

Chapter six, we're going to get into what you think about his unions. He's still very anti-school, which is fine. I mean, you did point out that it does make him anti-reading, which is...

Christina Catucci:

Which is hilarious.

Gaby Dunn:

He talks about building up your skills, and he also talks about, again, using factories overseas for what he's doing, which I wrote again, who works for you. He doesn't seem really that worried about that. Also, okay, he says this insane fear mongering thing which is, "Already, many hospitals in countries with socialized medicine need to make tough decisions such as who will live and who will die."

Christina Catucci:

Which isn't true at all.

Gaby Dunn:

Absolutely not. Retirement will instead stress government assistance programs and entitlements. What?

Christina Catucci:

I was literally reading earlier today about how ERs in America, thanks to our capitalist healthcare, actually do make decisions like that. He's describing the hell that we have here and the wonderful systems they have elsewhere. He's just lying.

Gaby Dunn:

It reminds me of when they were like, if you pass the ACA, there's going to be like death trials for elderly people. Do you remember that?

Christina Catucci:

No. Holy shit!

Gaby Dunn:

It was like this whole thing where they were like, "The government's going to decide if your grandpa lives or dies," which guess what? That happened during Covid in our fucking country.

Christina Catucci:

I was just going to say that happened to me. What? Holy shit!

Gaby Dunn:

We're going to finally get into the two things you want to talk about, which is he recommends joining an MLM, so please continue. What happened there?

Christina Catucci:

He recommended basically that you join an MLM, which made me laugh out loud. It really did. It made me LOL in real life.

Gaby Dunn:

Why does he say you should do that?

Christina Catucci:

So you don't have to actually work.

Gaby Dunn:

Exactly. Read page 228.

Christina Catucci:

Okay. Oh, this is pretty funny. Instead of simply working for the money and security, which I admit are important, I suggest they take a second job that will teach them a second skill. Also, I recommend joining a network marketing company, also called multilevel marketing, if they want to learn sales skills. He thinks you should join an MLM.

Gaby Dunn:

Yes. Good idea.

Christina Catucci:

He admits that he doesn't work for his money again, which is almost every other sentence in the book.

Gaby Dunn:

Now he goes into unions. What's the deal with his feelings on unions?

Christina Catucci:

He said that his dad loved unions, his real dad, the one who's like a hard worker and a socialist and probably a good person. He liked his union because it protected him from getting abused by his boss. Robert said, "I guess unions are okay. I kind of get how my dad liked it because it protected him or whatever, but I don't like them because they prevent bosses from exploiting their workers basically." He's probably a union buster.

Gaby Dunn:

He kind of hides behind rich dad and he says like, "Rich dad didn't like unions." I think if we take into account that perhaps rich dad did not exist, it's sort of like a Fight Club where he's actually Tyler Durden and so he's rich dad. He gets the benefit of saying, "Listen, I'm just reporting back what rich dad said," but really it's what he believes, which is you should not have people unionizing. He even says, "If you're in a specialized field, you can unionize. But if you are just a regular job, do not unionize."

He says, "My rich dad on the other hand spent his life doing his best to keep his companies from becoming unionized. Although the unions came close, rich dad was always able to fight them off." We're into chapter seven now. He says the primary difference between a rich person and a poor person is how they manage fear. That's fun. The five main reasons why financially literate people may still not develop abundant asset columns that could produce a large cash flow. The five reasons are fear, cynicism, laziness, bad habits, and arrogance. Then he says, he quotes rich dad saying, "I like Texas and Texans. In Texas, everything is bigger. When Texans win, they win big. And when they lose, it's spectacular.

They like losing? I asked. That's not what I'm saying. Nobody likes losing. Show me a happy loser and I'll show you a loser," said rich dad. "It's a Texans' attitude towards risk, reward, and failure I'm talking about. It's how they handle life. They live it big. Not like most of the people around here living like roaches when it comes to money, terrified that someone will shine a light on them and whimpering when the grocery store clerk short changes them a quarter." You hate poor people.

Christina Catucci:

I was trying to explain that part of the book to my girlfriend yesterday, because I was complaining about him. I was like, he fucking loves Texas. He doesn't ever bring up why. He's not from Texas or anywhere even close to Texas, but I think it's just because he knows there's a lot of Republicans there and that's his audience. That has to be what it is.

Gaby Dunn:

Yes, you're correct. So then he says John D. Rockefeller... He quotes him saying, "I always tried to turn every disaster into an opportunity." I wrote, at whose expense? I think about the people who took the PPE loans and then just invested and made a bunch of money off of them, people who went into New Orleans after Katrina and just started buying up real estate. People who are like, okay, it's a disaster for who? And if it's your personal disaster, the fact that you can crawl out of it and turn it into an opportunity is a huge privilege.

Also, you're a Rockefeller already. He writes, "For most people, the reason they don't win financially is because the pain of losing money is far greater than the joy of being rich." I wrote, they will die.

Christina Catucci:

Yeah. It's not about joy and pain. It's about life and death.

Gaby Dunn:

Exactly. Exactly.

Christina Catucci:

I hate this man.

Gaby Dunn:

I'm sorry to keep doing this to you, but we have to get into stuff. Busy people are often the most lazy.

Christina Catucci:

Is this the one where he admits that rich people are lazy again?

Gaby Dunn:

Yes.

Christina Catucci:

Shall I read it?

Gaby Dunn:

Yes.

Christina Catucci:

Okay. Busy people are often the most lazy. True. We have all heard stories of a businessman who works hard to earn money. He works hard to be a good provider for his wife and children. Extremely heterosexual. Already misogynist. He spends long hours at the office and brings work home on weekends. One day he comes home to an empty house. His wife has left with the kids. He knew he and his wife had problems. But rather than work to make the relationship strong, he stayed at work. This made his performance at work slips and he loses his job.

He's describing a nightmare scenario based on people's worst fears, probably the people reading this book. That if you work too hard in a nine to five, your wife and kids will be mad that you made them a steady income and leave you. It doesn't say why that he was at work too much, so his worst nightmare came true. It is scare tactic.

Gaby Dunn:

If they aren't busy at work or with the kids, they're often busy watching TV, fishing, playing golf, or shopping. Laziness by staying busy. Here's the thing, again, he has no concept of what poor people are doing.

Christina Catucci:

No.

Gaby Dunn:

The answer is a little greed as the cure. He says basically that you need to be like... That greed is good and that greed will make you want to work harder.

Christina Catucci:

I could be completely wrong. He's like a religious guy, right?

Gaby Dunn:

Absolutely. Christ and God and heaven come up a lot.

Christina Catucci:

In Christianity, greed is one of the main bad things, right? It's a deadly sin. He's like, yeah, I actually don't believe in that shit.

Gaby Dunn:

Well, it's funny because Dave Ramsey... I've been reading Dave Ramsey too and he's very Christian. He also does this whole song and dance about how actually we're misunderstanding what the Bible says about greed, which I can't even get into here. These Christian writers, largely a lot of these wealth writers are very Christian, and part of it is that they need to then bend over backwards to make sense of this money. A lot of it comes down to the prosperity gospel, which is the idea that if someone is wealthy, it's because God wants them to be wealthy.

This is the explanation for megachurch pastors, why Dave Ramsey is able to be a good Christian, but also have a bunch of money and try to avoid taxes, which is something Jesus would never want. Not that I know Jesus, but I'm just saying from... I'm Jewish, but from everything I've heard about the guy. So then he has this very interesting point of view that I don't mind where he says he pays himself first. What he means is that he pays himself his salary first, and then he lets the bills and creditors scream at him. He says, "The pressure to pay becomes my motivation."

He pays himself and buys what he wants or whatever, and then he puts off bills and everything else because he's like the loudness of these bills and these credit card collectors hounding at my door motivates me to work my second job or to find more money, which I'm like, that's interesting. It's certainly not doable for most people.

Christina Catucci:

Definitely I could never do that.

Gaby Dunn:

I do sort of enjoy the arrogance of not caring that these people are mad. If you get a late payment or something and you're like, "Oh my God, a late payment," part of it is the late payment. The other part of it is, "I feel so ashamed about my late payment." The other part of it is like, "Oh my God, this person at the bank is probably mad at me," which is an anxiety that's probably not true. But a lot of us have that, right? I'm interested in the idea of letting that go.

Christina Catucci:

Right. It's just funny, because he's definitely sitting in a place where he has savings accounts with millions of dollars. Even if a debt collector came to his door, he would just be like, "Here's a million dollars." He's not going to go to jail, because he's evading all these lawsuits.

Gaby Dunn:

He doesn't seem to understand that these things are compounded. There's the stress of working the nine to five, and then the stress of the second job, and then the stress of not seeing your kids, and then the stress of the creditor, and then the stress of the debt collector. He's not understanding that all of these things are happening concurrently. Wild.

Christina Catucci:

Because he doesn't do anything.

Gaby Dunn:

So then he says, "My accountant and bookkeeper screamed in panic. They're going to come after you. The IRS is going to put you in jail. You're going to ruin your credit rating. They'll cut you off. They'll cut off the electricity. I still paid myself first. I let the creditors and the government scream. They inspire me to go out and create more money. The worst of times is the best of times to make money," is something he says. And then also this sort of thing about getting rid of complaints.

This sort of going in and saying the thing, the complaint, and then telling you you're stupid for thinking that is the rich dad says, "Cynics criticize and winners analyze," which is I think a thing that we very much see with Trump and other rich people and Republican people and people that say, "I'm above reproach, because you're criticizing me and your opinion doesn't matter because I'm wealthy."

Christina Catucci:

Right. Sad.

Gaby Dunn:

Then he comes for me personally by saying, "There are many people in the world of money, finances, and investments who have absolutely no idea what they're talking about." And that is also a way to be like, you see? You might listen to these people who might have these socialist ideas and they don't know what the fuck they're talking about.

Christina Catucci:

Oh, rich dad. Oh, there was one thing I forgot to mention that I was looking at.

Gaby Dunn:

Well, tell me.

Christina Catucci:

He his own Monopoly game called CASHFLOW.

Gaby Dunn:

Tell me more.

Christina Catucci:

Part of his deal is he just makes weird shit. He created a board game and he has all these anecdotes in the book that are not real of specifically this woman who took one of his MLM classes basically in a hotel lobby. Really sad. He made them all play CASHFLOW, this stupid game about investing. Super infantilizing. She was like, "This game's stupid. I thought you were going to teach us about stocks," or whatever he was going to say. And then he is like, "Hmm, you don't want to play my board game? Well, your life's going to be bad."

And then he's like, "She came back to me three months later and her husband left her," something like that, because of money, because she didn't play the game right. He creates these fake anecdotes about how if you don't play his dumb fake Monopoly, then your husband will leave you.

Gaby Dunn:

Yes. Yes. Before we go into the next, is there anything that you marked down that you do want to mention that I breezed past?

Christina Catucci:

Oh yeah, the weird age pressure he puts on investing where he says, "If you want to be actually rich, you have to be rich by 20 or start investing by 20." Most 20 year olds are... I think his specific line is, "If you start young, it's easier to be rich. I won't go in into it here," of course, he won't, "but there's a staggering difference between a person who starts investing at 20 versus age 30." Then he goes on to say a bunch of problematic stuff about buying Manhattan for cheap, which obviously we know why that happened. It was not good. He basically is like, "I would've done it better," which is super fucked up.

That's all in the same paragraph. That's why I thought of it. But anyway, he's trying to freak people out who are reading this in their 30s who are like, "Whoa, I'm already 30 something. I need to start investing, because I should have had all this money when I was 20."

Gaby Dunn:

Well, it's interesting. You and I are both white so we can't get into this, but it is fascinating that he is AAPI and is Hawaiian. It seems to idolize specifically white men. I think part of the talk about Texas is also admiring white Republicans. The fact that he says, "I would buy Manhattan," not that all minorities should think of each other, but.

Christina Catucci:

I can't comment more than that. It was just crazy. It just came up out of nowhere. I was like, I don't know if that's relevant here, but that's okay, I guess. I don't know. Well, just like the general insanity of these charts, he makes these insane graphs where he starts with his income, his assets, liabilities, and expenses and just a crazy look. If I look at it long enough, I can follow it. I know if a Republican were to hear me right now, they would just call me an idiot, but these are very confusing graphs.

Gaby Dunn:

Also, what's in the graphs, right? What does he put in the graphs?

Christina Catucci:

Well, he puts income and his income. He does a poor person's income and his. And then a poor person is their job and they have to pay for food and whatever, and his will be rental income, royalties, interest, all this stuff that he doesn't really ever describe how he gets it, and the way he gets it is because he's rich. He's already rich so he's able to do that. But it's just kind of like a shamey thing where he'll put a four person and their expenses. It's funny to me. It'll be like, all my income goes towards food and shelter. Well, mine goes towards my property. It just felt so insulting. Also, another note I found is just. I don't know if you can see that, just that this guy's a dick.

Gaby Dunn:

What made you write that?

Christina Catucci:

The end of chapter one. Pretty much all the other stuff that I saw, I don't know if I can... You know the stuff about the boomers having a lot of exposure to lead? He describes a long sequence of him as a child. He and his friends create counterfeit money made of lead. He describes this extremely long sequence where he's like, "Dad, you said we can't make money. We'll show you." He collects all the lead in his town and melts it into little coins. He makes counterfeit money and his dad is like, "Whoa! You can't do that." And then Mike's dad's like, "Keep doing that." Basically he got massive lead exposure. That was in the first chapter, is that sets the tone for how he thinks forever.

Gaby Dunn:

That is so funny.

Christina Catucci:

If that's real.

Gaby Dunn:

It's foreshadowing that he doesn't realize is foreshadowing.

Christina Catucci:

He just admits... And I wrote down, he has lead brain. It's just a general note for all boomers is that they do really have lead brain.

Gaby Dunn:

Were they chewing on pencils when they were kids that fully had lead in them? In school, asbestos falling from the steel ceiling. I mean, to be fair, It's very funny because my dad... It's not funny, but my dad was a huge drug addict. I always thought he had no consequences. But then we were at the lake. We were swimming in a lake and he was like, "Oh yeah, I basically have no space between my nostrils." I was like, "Yeah?" And he was like, "It's all the cocaine." He's 75.

I just love the idea that it's catching up to him in some way that he just has no separation between his nostrils. But him in the '70s is like, "Wow! Cocaine." He doesn't care. I'm like, you know what? Good. A boomer should have some consequences.

Christina Catucci:

Oh my gosh! This whole book is a consequence of this guy doing that one act.

Gaby Dunn:

Yeah, yeah, I think you solved it. Oh my god.

Christina Catucci:

Another really dumb thing that I noticed, he just writes the same sentences over and over again. And ironically, it's around the part where he admits to having lead brain. Sentences that I just highlighted are, "The milk cartons were filled with plaster of paris. White powder was everywhere." This is when he is creating the lead coins. Then one more sentence down, "The milk cartons were the outer containers for plaster of paris molds." Those are pretty much the same sentence. He wasn't that old when he wrote this if it was in 1997. He was middle aged. What was he like, 50 years old?

Gaby Dunn:

Yeah. Did he not have an editor? No, he didn't probably.

Christina Catucci:

Either he just recorded himself and had someone transcribe it.

Gaby Dunn:

He didn't write own book, Christina. That's what stupid people do.

Christina Catucci:

He definitely hired someone on Wish and they wrote this book.

Gaby Dunn:

I know I haven't read it, but I can't believe he co-authored books with Trump, and I need to know more.

Christina Catucci:

Oh, I didn't even know that. It makes a lot of sense.

Gaby Dunn:

Chapter eight, he says, "Financially, with every dollar we get in our hands, we hold the power to choose our future, to be rich, poor, or middle class. Poor people have poor spending habits. A common bad habit is innocently called dipping into savings. The rich know that savings are only used to create more money, not to pay bills. I just choose to be rich and I make that choice every day. 90% of the population buys TV sets, but only 10% buy business books." Thoughts?

Christina Catucci:

Well, that just brings me back to my point that he doesn't read.

Gaby Dunn:

Right. Well, he has to read business books and you can't watch tv.

Christina Catucci:

TV rots your brain. I can't listen to him because he doesn't read. I can't listen to any advice he has about buying books because I think he means he literally buys them and just puts them on a shelf.

Gaby Dunn:

Maybe. I mean, this is the most out of touch stuff I've ever heard. I feel like arrogant or critical people are often people with low self-esteem who are afraid of taking risks. Again, it's this idea that anyone who criticizes him is just a loser. He talks about choosing your friends carefully, and he gets into the power of association. Friends with money talk about money and are interested in money. Friends who have no money have never come to them to ask how they did it, but they do come asking for a loan or a job. Don't listen to poor or frightened people. He also literally says insider trading.

He says, "Do insider trading. How far away from the inside are you? The reason you want to have rich friends is because that is where the money is made. It's made on information. I'm not saying do it illegally, but the sooner you know, the better your chances are for profits with minimal risk." I just wrote, who has access to this? He's coming up with the right idea again, but with the wrong conclusion. Yeah, the rich break the rules basically is what's happening. The rich break the rules.

Christina Catucci:

The crazy thing he said too about his poor friends or whatever is I think there was a single line in this chapter where he was like, "I am only friends with them so I know what not to be."

Gaby Dunn:

Exactly.

Christina Catucci:

Oh my God, can you imagine being his friend who's poor? Robert, can you please help me buy food? No, I'm just going to memorize this and never be like you because you're a loser. Who's hanging out with him?

Gaby Dunn:

He doesn't have any poor friends.

Christina Catucci:

I don't think he has any friends.

Gaby Dunn:

No, zero. Trump is his friend. I don't really know.

Christina Catucci:

Oh yeah.

Gaby Dunn:

He also makes these, and this happens a lot in these books and Dave Ramsey does this all the time, where he makes connections between things that aren't connected. What I find funny is that so many poor and middle class people insist on tipping restaurant help 15 to 20% even for bad service, but complain about paying a broker three to 7%. Those are unrelated.

Christina Catucci:

Completely unrelated. He also hates tipping waitresses.

Gaby Dunn:

Hates tipping. Well, not tip.

Christina Catucci:

Rich people don't tip.

Gaby Dunn:

So then I'm going to go into chapter nine just because there's so much. He talks about making all of these offers, writes six offers and offers half of what the owners ask for. The real estate agent is like, "This is so rude." It ends up that he's just like, "Whatever. I don't give a fuck about these people or what they want or how they live their lives. I'm just going to take their homes." Sometimes he doesn't give bad advice, but at least he's being honest is part of it. He's very honest about, he's like, "Do insider trading. Don't pay taxes." He's shockingly honest, and that I would say is the benefit of this book.

Christina Catucci:

You get to learn how a crazy evil rich man think.

Gaby Dunn:

Yes. You really are getting a sense. He says, "Consumers will always be poor. Look for people who want to buy first, and then look for someone who wants to sell. Small people remain small because they think small, act alone, or don't act at all." He's basically figure out what people want in the market and then take advantage of that, which it is advice. He talks about finagling more real estate deals and how to do that by avoiding taxes. He says there's three incomes, ordinary earned, portfolio, and passive. Passive is derived from real estate assets. Portfolio is paper assets, stocks, and bonds. And then taxes are the highest on earned income.

The least taxed is passive income, and then you convert earned income to passive and portfolio, which is fine and good. It's one way to do things. He also sells his own program by talking about return on investment, and he gives a whole explanation about why his program is so expensive and why it has to be expensive. And that is the thing is that at the end of all of these books, the person writing it will then direct you straight to their website.

Christina Catucci:

His website is a funny name.

Gaby Dunn:

Is it richdad.com or something?

Christina Catucci:

Yeah, I'm pretty sure it's richdad.com. Anyway.

Gaby Dunn:

I mean, look, we're giving him the plug. A lot of these books are like, "Here's how to save money. Here's what to do, all this stuff. Here's how you manage your money. Head to my website where you will then pay me and then I'm making money." All of this could just be an ad for this one thing.

Christina Catucci:

Oh yeah. This is kind of going off what we just talked about a little bit, but it's funny that he was selling his seminar at the end of the book or whatever, because I was researching him just a little bit. I didn't get a lot. But all over TikTok, people just upload his seminars. They're there for free.

Gaby Dunn:

Really?

Christina Catucci:

It's just a public form of opinions on his book. I feel a little bad because he's kind of old now and he's holding up a marker. He's just like, "Be rich and here's what to do." It's just a whiteboard and he's just talking and he's just babbling. That's all for free. He probably shouldn't have tried to put a paywall behind this when a lot of it's just there.

Gaby Dunn:

What is he talking about? Is he making any sense? And are people in the comments providing arguments to be like, "Here's why this is bad?"

Christina Catucci:

I think a lot of people on that side of TikTok are mostly Republicans, Conservative type people, and even they are like, "No."

Gaby Dunn:

Really?

Christina Catucci:

Not all of this is true. I was shocked. He definitely has his fan base or whatever, but yeah, it's kind of mixed response.

Gaby Dunn:

Like you said, you were right is that it really is just an actual honest look into the evil and what they are doing. Whereas to compare again to Dave Ramsey, Ramsey is like, "Jesus wants us to do this," but this guy is sort of unaware that he's just telling on himself.

Christina Catucci:

It's them revealing to us for free basically that they hate poor people. You get the peace of mind knowing that.

Gaby Dunn:

What they're actually doing and how we should enforce the tax code and how we should look into are these corporations real and how we should fight against real estate trusts and what is actually going on behind gentrification. It's like, thank you for the enemy's playbook.

Christina Catucci:

Right. Yeah, exactly. It's crazy too, because any fans of this book are gaslighting it. Those are my closing stand. They're going to circumvent the point and they're going to try to come up with some intellectual reason that he's actually right and you shouldn't criticize him, but he wants all of us dead.

Gaby Dunn:

That's it.

Christina Catucci:

All of us poor people dead.

Gaby Dunn:

We're cockroaches and rats, Steen.

Christina Catucci:

We're cockroaches to him. He admits it. He says We're lazy and stupid for feeding our children. I would never defend this guy. Those are my closing statements.

Gaby Dunn:

Thank you so much for joining us. Where can people find you and more about you?

Christina Catucci:

You can find me on TikTok primarily. My handle ...Steen, S-T-E-E-N. Yeah, that's pretty much where I am right now.

Gaby Dunn:

Amazing. Thank you so much for listening and for powering through all of that with us. If you have a suggestion of a book you want me and a guest to read and review on this show so you don't have to, please leave it at gabyisbadwithmoney@gmail.com or call in at 844-474-4040. You can also leave a voice memo if you prefer. You can also comment on Instagram, TikTok, Patreon, Discord. We are all over those places. Links will be below. Coming up soon, we are going to dive into Dave Ramsey and his book Baby Steps Millionaire with Financial Feminist Tori Dunlap of Her First $100K.

We also have a bunch of other episodes coming up that break down other stuff, but we do need recs for books. If you have a finance book that you want me to read, I'll do it. I'm committing. I'll do it. I will say that my partner and my co-host Mal Blum, who will join us on the mailbag on Friday, have said that these books get me too riled. But let's do it. I do it for you, guys. Again, please leave me recommendations for books that you want me to read and talk about. I do it for you, the people. Okay, love you. Bye!

Voiceover:

Dissecting politics with exclusive interviews, commentary, and humor. Useful Idiots with Katie Halper and Aaron Mate.

Katie Halper:

Andy Timmermans is banned from coming in contact with a chimpanzee at the Antwerp Zoo in Belgium. Part of what makes this complicated is that he was a pet.

Aaron Mate:

Don't be like, oh, it's harming his socialization. That already happened.

Katie Halper:

Honestly, they are getting in the way of their love.

Aaron Mate:

I mean, they haven't even gotten to second base.

Katie Halper:

I don't think so. It depends how long the chimps arms are though.

Voiceover:

Useful Idiots with Katie Haler and Aaron Mate. Listen wherever you get your podcast.