

Welcome to Professional Anomalies, where today, we embark on a journey through the skies and beyond. I'm your host Erica, and today, we're soaring into the clouds with my extraordinary guest, Kathy. She's not just a pilot; she's a trailblazer, a captain of the skies whose story will leave you inspired and awestruck.

Also, Kathy has her own podcast called Another Empty Kitchen about her time as a pilot, and I will be sure to include a link to it in the show notes.

10:09:07 An unusual job, you are unusual. For your field. So anyway, okay, let me start. Let's see, record on this computer.

10:09:22 Great, Erica. Thanks for having me.

10:09:20 Good morning, Kathy. Yeah, well, thanks for agreeing to hop on my new podcast.

10:09:29 Yeah.

10:09:29 So, for the listener, Kathy and I met because we're both starting podcasts.

10:09:36 Well, Kathy has already started her own new podcast. And what's it called again?

10:09:39 It's called another empty kitchen.

10:09:41 I love that title. Another empty kitchen. And so I just found her. Background very compelling and we started talking and I really wanted to interview her about her her very unusual career.

10:09:56 So. Cathy, what do you do? Okay.

10:09:59 Well, for as a career, I have been a pilot for almost Coming up on 40 years really pretty not too soon.

10:10:09 And which has been amazing. I didn't really start off to be a pilot at all and I just kind of happened into this career through other adventures in my life and it's been an amazing wonderful magical career not without its challenges and sacrifices but by Rolyburn and I'm still doing it.

10:10:29 I'm still flying so I'm very proud of myself.

10:10:31 That's amazing. And so how did you get into this field? Why did you be outside?

10:10:35 So I got. Yeah, no, go ahead.

10:10:37 Oh go ahead, sorry. I was gonna say, so, I might cut that out. Sorry.

10:10:43 So, what drew you to becoming a pilot?

10:10:51 Hmm.

10:10:45 When I was in my very early twenties, I met a man. And, you know, hot and heavy, fell for the sky.

10:10:58 Hmm.

10:10:56 And, he was just learning how to skydive. And I knew nothing about anything. I mean, I

10:11:02 Had never been around anybody like that or even knew much about it but I really like this guy so started going out there and watching him skydive and and realize kind of looked around with all the other wives and girlfriends sitting on the ground watching their boyfriends up there and I'm like, huh, no, I'd rather be up there than down here.

10:11:20 And, and I also realize if I wanted to stay with him, I was gonna have to learn out of Skype because he was going to have to learn how Scott of because he was really into it.

10:11:27 So my very first airplane ride in my whole life was my first airplane ride in my whole life was my first skydive.

10:11:32 So my very first airplane ride in my whole life was my first skydive. And so I had like 300 skydive.

10:11:34 And so I had like 300 skydive and so I had like 300 skydives before I ever even landed in an airplane.

10:11:40 Oh wow.

10:11:36 But, so I got super into skydiving and, One. Since skydiving it's kind of like, surfing or whatever, you have these events all over the place.

10:11:50 So we went to it's called a buggy skydiving buggy and there was one called the turkey boogie down in Los Angeles area during Thanksgiving weekend and went down there.

10:11:59 And spending the weekend, you camp out and skyline all day long. Anyway, I wanted to do this sunrise skydive and so you have to get up obviously for the sun and you pile in the airplane and so we're all these skydivers in this airplane and we're waiting the pilots haven't shown up yet.

10:12:18 They're all sitting there and it's a DC 3 so it's kind it's got a tail. It's a tail.

10:12:23 We also it's kind of slanted so you're on this slant and you enter from the back enough to walk up to the cockpit.

10:12:28 They're all waiting. I'll disgruntled her, you know, a lot of people are hung over.

10:12:31 Yeah.

10:12:33 And all of a sudden these 2 women. I'm on board. One of them is pregnant and they walk up to the cockpit and I'm watching and I'm not kidding you.

10:12:48 Yeah.

10:12:43 It was like the Oprah aha moment. I went oh my god women can fly you know I mean serious Thought of that or been around any women pilots?

10:12:55 I mean, I really wasn't around airplanes that much until skydiving but at literally I I went home I was in college at the time I wanted to thought I wanted to be a doctor.

10:13:07 Yeah.

10:13:05 And but it was gonna be a long haul to to get there and I went home thought I'm gonna change.

10:13:11 My track a little bit and look into this aviation and as it happened the junior college I was going to had an aviation program very renowned who knew it was just like coincidentally but nothing's a coincidence right.

10:13:24 But, so looked into that, got into that program, actually became the TA for the program, the head of the program who was this awesome freaking woman.

10:13:34 You know, older woman that was just this incredible lady that kind of took me under her wing. And I just started down the the path to aviation.

10:13:43 I got my first job as pumping fuel at a little small airport here or in the Bay Area and And then from there went and got a job literally sweeping the hangar floor for this new kind of fancy charter operation that was, had just been developed over at the big airport and I've worked my way up at that job from sweeping the hangar floor up to captain and several other jets.

10:14:10 I worked there for 14 years and worked all the way through. So, and that's kind of a long winded story, but.

10:14:17 I was.

10:14:15 No, that's fairly interesting. You were hooked. So. So you started off cleaning the hangar and you made it all the way up to being a captain.

10:14:25 So is that a normal trajectory? To start, you know, load not even working in a plane all the way up to working to fly in planes?

10:14:35 Is that is that like a

10:14:33 Okay, I think that you know from like most first of all, you know most pilots are men's first of all you know most pilots are men and especially you know we're talking now over 40 years ago which you know we're talking now over 40 years ago which you know we're talking now over 40 years ago which you know was even less women back then.

10:14:47 And luckily, and I always envied this, and I don't know if it's just guys, but I envy this and anybody who knew when they were a little kid, I want to be a piloter.

10:14:55 I want to be an astronaut. I want to be a firefighter. You know, like I never, I never had that.

10:14:59 I was like, I wanted to, you know, I wanted to party and have a boyfriend and you know, I just hadn't really thought I wanted to be a doctor at 1 point, but So most young guys they know and they want to they kind of start on you know they start learning how to fly but most people do unless they come from they have saved a lot of money or they come from you know somebody who's gonna help finance

10:15:28 Interesting. Okay.

10:15:21 their whole learning gig. Usually people do start off like pump and fuel or working in a hangar and just being around it, you know, is you know it's cause you want you when you get into it you get so into it you just want to eat it up you want to be around it all the time and then I was lucky to get a job, you know, and for a really great company that really did.

10:15:45 Promote me moving up through the ranks and help me but you know as soon as I could I bought a little tiny airplane so I could you know build my time and You know, I would just go, I'd work all day and then I'd go with the, you know, somebody was flying a charter all night or they were hauling freight and they'd say, you want to go?

10:16:04 I'd say, yeah, I'll go. You know, and I'd go fly all night, come back, you know, go take a shower and go back to work next day.

10:16:10 So. Yeah.

10:16:10 Oh wow, and so you said that you know you bought a plane so you could get your time or earn your time.

10:16:16 You said what does that mean?

10:16:18 Well, do you, you don't just, you know, learn how to fly and jump into a job.

10:16:22 There are several ratings you have to achieve and you have to you have to build experience. Before you have enough experience to qualify for, you know, any kind of paying flying job.

10:16:34 So you start off with your private pilot license, you know, which is if you live near an airport, but you see little airplanes buzzing around.

10:16:41 Those are usually people working on their private palace license, just learning the basics. From there, you get your instrument rating, which teaches you how to fly in weather.

10:16:51 So all airplanes have, navigational equipment and radios and, and different instruments on board that if you're in the weather, you know, it's what allows us all to fly all the time.

10:17:02 You, you run, you're flying off of, you know, either GPS signals or ground based radio signals or so you get that second and then you go onto your commercial license.

10:17:13 Which then allows you to. Start charging, you know, you have to you have to prove and all these licenses like it's it's you know a written test and you have to do all this really very specific.

10:17:26 Like practices and you have to do them to standards that are very, very tight. And then you have to go on a check ride with somebody who's usually a federal aviation administrator.

10:17:38 Or designated and pass the check ride to get that rating that then allows you to, you know, move to the next rating.

10:17:45 So all that takes time and if you don't. Have a little airplane. I I was fortunate I got a little airplane it didn't cost very much money.

10:17:54 It was definitely worth it. Financially, otherwise you've got to rent planes every time you go.

10:17:59 Oh.

10:17:58 So you're renting from, you know, a school or whatever and paying the instructor and, you know, so for me, I just figured it was worth it to buy a little airplane.

10:18:08 Do as much as I could in that and then. And then from my skydiving experience.

10:18:15 Because by then I also had a lot of skydives. My very first actual flying job was flying skydivers.

10:18:23 Oh, okay.

10:18:24 So, you know, On the weekends, I would do that. I stayed at the company where I was sweeping the hangar floor.

10:18:29 I worked my way up through management. I managed their charter department and manage their field department. Oh well I was building this time on the side so

10:18:43 Yeah.

10:18:37 I mean you were basically born for adventure because you were so bold to become a skydiver all those days ago and then you know, you had the gumption to become a pilot.

10:18:47 So it's just that makes sense for you until this. I'm sure for the listeners.

10:18:50 Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Right. It was good.

10:19:03 Oh my goodness.

10:18:57 In skydiving, I have to say, also became I ended up becoming getting on an all women's skydiving team, a professional skydiving team which I I ended up kind of taking over and managing and so we were the first corporate sponsor at all.

10:19:09 I'm in skydiving team in the United States and we. We're together for over 14 years.

10:19:15 I'm jumping into like air shows and you know store openings and football games. Okay.

10:19:19 Oh my goodness. Is that what you jump out as a team and then you all hold hands and make shapes and oh my goodness.

10:19:25 Yeah. Right. We have snow, we'd have smoke, on our feet.

10:19:29 Another Another anomalous position, the job that you've had.

10:19:31 Yeah, there could be a whole podcast on that because that was a pretty awesome. Honestly.

10:19:39 Yeah.

10:19:36 I may have to circle back then. Then, her professional parachutor. Oh my goodness. I grew up in Sacramento and we so I live not far from the Lodi parachute.

10:19:48 Yeah, that's where I that's where I learned to fly at Lodi and I lived.

10:19:50 Oh really?

10:19:52 Yes, I lived in a little trailer when I was learning to fly in skydiving and yeah, yeah.

10:19:58 You probably saw me.

10:19:57 Okay, I I always feel like I have bad luck, so I'm gonna get the one shoot that malfunction.

10:20:05 Okay.

10:20:03 So I just all just stay on the ground. That's incredible. So, so.

10:20:13 Let's go back to this little plane you bought though. So you, you, you get you, you earn your hours flying that plane and then use that plane to fly parachute, as you said.

10:20:24 No, no, no, no. It's a little, but yeah, it's a little too seater.

10:20:25 Or not that plane that was just like a baby like a practice plane. Okay, so that's Is that all you do with it then is you just fly around with your friend look at views is that what you use that plane for?

10:20:37 Well, I, you know, I, I used it well, cause I was also skydiving, you know, a lot at that time as well.

10:20:43 Hmm.

10:20:48 I see.

10:20:45 So on the weekends I'd fly out to the drop zone because I was guide I was living in the Bay Area, skydiving at LUDI or over at D Davis. How does it drop zone 2?

10:20:54 Oh.

10:20:55 So once after I left Loda and moved back to the Bay Area. And got my job, you know, sweeping the hangar floor.

10:21:00 Okay.

10:21:01 I would use my little plane to fly back and forth and you know. Get it.

10:21:09 Actually, that was not very fast. Yeah.

10:21:04 Oh, so it's like a car. A very fast car. Okay. Okay, but my My first thought, this is kind of a tangent, is that I know how some people live here or on a golf course.

10:21:20 So I'm reminded of how John Travolta, I think, at 1 point lived in a house and his Right next to a hanger.

10:21:29 So he had his. Playing like his car that he'd keep in his garage so he could just fly whenever he wanted to.

10:21:35 That's incredible.

10:21:32 Yeah. Yes, yeah. There's actually several communities. Like that like up in Sacramento area.

10:21:44 Oh yeah. Huh.

10:21:41 So that's kind of my dream someday to have my own, the barn, that's my hangar and the my apartment and my my little grass strip out in the you know on the cliff and then I can also go down and serve.

10:21:54 That's that sounds like you know if you have a bar and you have your little plane it sounds like a scene from an action movie where they need you know people are lost and they're

running from an action movie where they need you know people are lost and they're running from someone and they're running from someone and they think let's go, you know, people are lost and they're running from someone and they think, let's go check out this, check out this

10:22:09 Yeah. It's gonna be apocalypse here. Get in the plane and go. Yeah.

10:22:09 bar And Kathy will save the day. Yeah. Okay. I watch a lot of dystopian movies.

10:22:19 Yeah.

10:22:20 I think so. Let's see, our access writing down a list of questions while you were talking because I didn't want to forget anything.

10:22:32 Yeah.

10:22:30 And of course I use the light blue pen on green paper. So. So You know, we were trying to book this call and I know you kept getting gigs.

10:22:39 So right now, do you fly for a major airline or do you still just fly privately? .

10:22:45 Or

10:22:47 Oh, okay.

10:22:44 Yes, now I fly for I'm a corporate pilot, so I fly a Driscoll's Barry company.

10:22:51 I don't know if you, you know, if he berries, you probably, Driscoll's berries.

10:23:00 Oh, okay.

10:22:54 And so I fly a couple, they have a couple of airplanes and I fly like the executives and the in, you know, the young, I call them kids, he's young, awesome.

10:23:05 Scientists that are, you know, figuring out how to grow all this fancy fruit. And, yeah, so it's pretty cool.

10:23:13 So, and it's close by, so it's great for me. There.

10:23:16 2 different airports I fly out of and they're both less than an hour from my house, so it's really nice.

10:23:23 Oh, interesting. And then really, this is gonna sound like a dumb question maybe, but. You were talking earlier about how you worked.

10:23:30 Did you say worked at a gas station for planes earlier or did I have that in my head?

10:23:35 No, no, it is. Oh, they're called. It's called an FBO, which it stands for a fixed-based operation.

10:23:45 And that's basically a gas station for airplanes operation and that's basically a gas station for airplanes.

10:23:45 Okay.

10:23:46 Yeah, where Yeah, cause you got it, you, you know, airplanes need gas to go.

10:23:49 Right.

10:23:50 So all airports have some kind of facility and depending on how big the airport is. There might be several different ones.

10:23:59 And when you get, you know, you're on fly fly private jets and fancy fancy airplanes and, you know, wealthy wealthy people.

10:24:05 So these, these. Yeah, airplane gas stations, FBOs get pretty fancy, very nice, different place.

10:24:12 You know, I just have another major tangent that, you know, you worked at that gas station because You knew you wanted to be around planes, you know, and work your way up.

10:24:24 I think I might have told you earlier. Few weeks ago I went to this fiftieth anniversary for little house on the prairie.

10:24:32 Okay.

10:24:30 I promise there's a tangent here, but I I was reading or someone said on a panel.

10:24:36 That Charles Land or Charles L, which is Michael Landon who played Charles Ingels. So he decided he wanted to be an actor.

10:24:43 So he got a job as a gas attendant at a gas station across the street from one of the major studios and that's where he was discovered but he knew he wanted to get in there.

10:24:52 So. Okay.

10:24:52 Yeah, I know. I mean, I told kids because I do a lot of talks. I could schools and stuff, but I tell kids, and you know, Pick your wildest dream.

10:25:01 What do you really want to do? And that just start figuring, you know, taking, you know, the one step at a time towards it and that's exactly right.

10:25:08 Yeah.

10:25:15 Yeah.

10:25:17 Yeah.

10:25:09 Do you know I went and pumped gas at it a little airport he went and worked at a gas station I mean I believe if you surround yourself with You know, can make it happen.

10:25:20 Yeah, and just, you know, finding opportunities. This is another tangent, I guess, about myself, but I used to tour with Cirque.

10:25:28 I did that for 5 years. And I just fell into that job because I was at home one day.

10:25:33 I was living with my parents at the time and I looked at the newspaper and there was a big ad for circus like coming to town and I remember seeing them on HBO as a kid and they needed temp staff.

10:25:45 So I thought, well, I'm kind of between jobs. So I just applied and they interviewed me.

10:25:53 Nice.

10:25:49 And I sold tickets as a temp and Sacramento. And I got really friendly with the supervisors and they asked me if I wanted to come along. So I joined the circus.

10:25:59 That is such a great story.

10:26:00 That's this long, you know. Yeah, and so I did that for 5 years. Yeah, so I did that for 5, you know, off and on for 5 years because the contract would end here and there, but I worked on 4 different shows and toward or across North America, but had I not seen that one ad in the paper one day.

10:26:18 Yeah, good old days.

10:26:15 You know, an actual hard print paper that are hard to find out these days, but. And I remember thinking too that I wasn't qualified enough to work the IP or something.

10:26:25 Then I was managing supervising the VIP tent on occasion while I worked for the circus. So.

10:26:30 But it's just one of those timing things, you know. So. Anyway.

10:26:32 Yep. But I don't know, I believe, I believe the universe like throws this stuff at us, you know, and sometimes we, but if you pay attention, it's like, bread still get you where you're gonna go.

10:26:51 Yeah.

10:26:39 Yeah. Yeah, I just, Yeah, you just gotta stick your neck out, get out there, you never know, who you're gonna meet or some, you know, just like a Never thought I'd be touring with a circus for 5 years.

10:26:54 Good. It's awesome.

10:26:55 So. But so, you know, going back to why I really wanted to interview you for the show was that there's I googled this figure before the interview.

10:27:08 I, the how many what percentage of pilots are women? Do you know that number?

10:27:12 I believe, the last time I had talked to anybody or looked at it, it was 4.9.

10:27:19 Yeah, yeah, it was low.

10:27:20 And even, yeah, what I do, even less, which is kind of kind of amazing because I, I flew for a big airline, you know, for a while when was younger and at that time I went I was in you know my initial class was a hundred people.

10:27:36 100 you know new classmates what 2 were women Yeah, myself another and I was the only civilian.

10:27:45 Oh really? Okay.

10:27:44 They were all military people Yeah, and, and that was, you know, 20 something years ago and I would, and back then I think it was 3%.

10:27:53 I would have thought that by now it would be more so I was kind of shocked lately. I've got other friends, women, you know, that are obviously pilots and And one woman, she's got another company called another empty kitchen, but she makes like stickers, really cool stickers and I'll have to women in aviation and she's got one and it says 4.9.

10:28:11 Uhhuh.

10:28:16 It's like 4.9% is what we are right now. And it's like, wow.

10:28:20 It's not a lot.

10:28:21 Yeah, I think the I don't know if this is a legit site, but I think it was a center for aviation said that in the last 20 years or so.

10:28:31 The number of women pilots has increased by 71% or something. So it's still, I don't know if that's a good number or not, but.

10:28:39 Why do you think that number is still so low?

10:28:43 I. This is my just totally my personal on it is that, a, you know, it, it takes a lot.

10:28:51 I mean, you really gotta wanna do it. It's like, you know it takes a lot of time a lot of dedication and a lot of money so you've you've got to be able to you know kind of put your other parts of your life aside for a bit.

10:29:04 And I think also that. It's hard to have a family and do this kind of job.

10:29:11 And I think that a lot of women you know might start down that path and then you know you realize because you do you sacrifice a lot I mean I am a mom I you know I had a couple of kids and you make a lot of sacrifices and it's kind of a double-edged sword.

10:29:28 I thought a great job. I ended up being a single mom I, you know, could support my kids by myself, but.

10:29:34 You know, when I worked I was gone. So, you know, it's like And I kind of think that's my personal opinion.

10:29:42 Yeah.

10:29:42 I don't, you know, it's statistics. I don't know, but that's what I kind of think it is, that, you know, women choose.

10:29:46 Yeah.

10:29:48 You know, a career where they're going to be able to be more hands on, you know, others.



10:29:53 Them. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

10:29:51 Yeah, I think that's obvious because personally too. I mean, I have acquaintances who became flight attendants and You know, everyone saw I think that sounds like a really fun job.

10:30:04 I have pets And I live by myself, you know, I can't do that. And I, it's just pets too, you know, so if you have kids, I mean.

10:30:09 Yeah. It's hard. Okay. Yeah.

10:30:13 Even more responsibility, you know, so you can't you, yeah, be very limited and I understand, you know.

10:30:19 And it has definitely been. I mean, I love it and I'm very grateful and I have had an incredible career.

10:30:26 I really feel blessed but you know, I feel like my kids, you know. You know, things didn't go.

10:30:33 Perfectly, you know, and I, and I, you know, I think also being a mom, you always feel guilty.

10:30:38 Yeah, that's in every family. Yeah. Okay. Yeah.

10:30:39 Even when you're at, had this discussion with many months. We all feel about something, but.

10:30:44 Right. You do your best. You do your best.

10:30:46 You know, yeah, do your best and you know, I was always like, I worked really so hard to have this career and I you know I just felt like you know if nothing else I'm showing my kids that they should follow their dreams no matter what it is they won't join the circus you know go for it you know they want to Be whatever you want to do, follow your dream and don't let anybody tell

10:31:08 you, you know, you can't do it. But, you know, a lot of those dreams come with, you know, almost all of our dreams come with some kind of sacrifice somewhere along the line.

10:31:22 Yeah.

10:31:17 Yeah, I mean, me, my travelling with the circus, all my family a few times a year, you know, but you know, I've also become a richer person.

10:31:26 Definitely.

10:31:26 For having toward the continent and working with people from all around the world and getting getting to live in different cities for 6, 8 weeks at a time.

10:31:35 And Some of my roommates were Olympians, you know, so. I have some funny stories about that too, but.

10:31:41 I forgot to ask you though. I love the name of your podcast. Why did you name it that?

10:31:48 Why is it called another empty kitchen?

10:31:48 So another into kitchen when I was flying for the airline like I mentioned a little bit ago. When I first started flying and I was in, yeah, first officer, so you're in the right seat.

10:32:12 Gross.

10:32:02 So you're pretty much, you know, on the radio a lot. And, I would answer a radio call from air traffic control and then I would hear, you know, voice come over another up to kitchen and after a few times of hearing that I asked the captain I was with I'm like what does that mean why am I hearing this all the time and he said well you're a woman you probably left your

10:32:25 Hmm.

10:32:21 husband and your kids at home and you took a job from a man. I'm like serious. And he's like, yeah, and that's the way that's, you know, that was a way the men, you know.

10:32:33 And I'm not saying all men by any means, but, you know, this is what's happening.

10:32:40 And, and I just thought. It was funny because another aha moment like I'm gonna write a book called Another Empty Kitchen About My Life's Woman Pilot and this was 20 something years ago.

10:32:49 And, so, and I've been writing this book for 20 something years, you know, it's not public meeting yet.

10:32:56 Oh yeah.

10:32:57 It's going to be, but, that when podcasting came along, you know, in this last couple of years, I, I got, I lost my son 2 years ago and, so.

10:33:06 I'm so sorry.

10:33:12 Hmm.

10:33:07 Yeah, it's like, thing that every parent just dreads, right? And, But through that loss, it pushed me to kind of look around and see what, you know, I don't know.

10:33:22 I could either go down this grief hole and be, you know, you know, whatever, or I can try to.

10:33:26 Yeah.

10:33:29 Do something and so from that I started I don't know I took a Tony Robbins first and Kathy Heller blah blah you know all this seems like podcasting.

10:33:37 Yeah.

10:33:44 Yeah.

10:33:38 I can. I can use podcasting, another empty kitchen, talk of 2, you know, not necessarily like women I talk to as you see, if you haven't listened to not not necessarily pilots, but we all kind of leave an empty kitchen at some point.

10:33:56 Yeah.

10:33:51 In one way or other, even if you work at home, you know, your, you know, most women have.

10:34:00 And, so anyway, that's that's where the name comes from.

10:34:00 Yeah, that reminds me too, I don't know if I read it or it was a scene from a movie and movie reference or something, but Ruth Bader Ginsburg when she was in college she was targeted or maybe it was Hillary Clinton, someone who was in law school was being told.

10:34:15 They're taking a man from a job or taking a job from a man, you know, just by being there.

10:34:20 Like that. Same thing. Yeah. Yeah.

10:34:20 Right. Yeah, yeah, it isn't just pilot. It's like, I think any, boy, or it's male dominated, you know, it has traditionally been male dominated.

10:34:31 Yeah, the women who are trailblazers like yourself, you know, that you get the brunt, but Yeah.

10:34:36 Yeah, you do, you know, and it's like it's fun now since I started this podcast and so of course I googled another empty kitchen just to make sure like I'm not taking the name you know does somebody already have it or what.

10:34:47 Right.

10:34:51 Wow.

10:34:48 That's how I have found several other women. That have have hustles, they're all pilots, but they all heard that and they, you know, the woman earlier she started to stick her company.

10:35:00 This other woman has like a food blog and she's because you know we're on the road all the time so it's kind of about you know how to eat on the road but she calls another up to kitchen so you know it's but we all heard this saying you know we don't you don't hear it anymore now you hear different things but Yeah, it hasn't gone away, but.

10:35:15 Oh, I'm sure.

10:35:19 Oh. Yeah.

10:35:19 Which is sad because you think by now. But, but it hasn't. And, Anyway, but it's not, I don't, you know, it's like I'd say we took a derogatory term, all of us that are using it now and we're turning it into a positive, you know, Yeah, yeah, we did leave.

10:35:34 Yeah. Yeah, turn it around.

10:35:38 Yeah, we pursued our dreams. We have great stories to share and, you know, that's kind of where it comes from.

10:35:45 You know, you were talking about how you wanted to write a book too and over 10 years ago I was working for the state government and I hated it.

10:35:52 And so, and my mom had, she had been fighting cancer for a long time and I just thought I don't wanna be at this job if when I finally lose her.

10:36:01 So I enrolled in beauty school. And so what I did is every day I said my mom thought I was not, you know, went to college.

10:36:06 Okay.

10:36:08 Why are you going to beauty school? And I mean, these school is hard and it's also, it's a skill that not everyone has.

10:36:09 Okay. Yeah, it's, No, I agree.

10:36:15 It's a, it's a skilled trade and you either have it or you don't usually, you know, but anyway.

10:36:19 But my mom was worried, you know, but I thought I just I didn't want to tell her the reason why I really left.

10:36:25 You know, I didn't want to go back to my miserable job in this cubicle where I had little work to do when I lost her.

10:36:30 So, but I said, Mom, I want to write a book about it. So every day I created a blog.

10:36:34 Called Hare America, because Erica is in the word America. So it's called Hare America.

10:36:36 I love it.

10:36:39 So every day I secretly wrote a blog post. I renamed the school all my classmates.

10:36:43 About what it was day to day in beauty school what it was like because at the time I was 34 everyone else was like 18 19 20 it could be their team mom you know.

10:36:53 But you know, we'd be in the back curling our, mannequins hair and, they knew I had been in.

10:36:59 An EO investigator for the state of California where investigated sexual harassment and discrimination points. And so they'd say, hey, Erica, you know, my, my supervisor in and out is keeps asking me out. What can I do?

10:37:11 You know, so we'd be sitting in that curling hair and I'd be telling them about the right, the right to where to file complaints, you know, and stuff like that.

10:37:16 Yeah.

10:37:17 But anyway, so and I entered every contest and I won a lot of them. I even wanna a big one where I got flown to Vegas, but I wasn't really good at hair.

10:37:25 Okay.

10:37:28 I was just, I like the book. Anytime it was time to close the books and go do hair, I was like, I just want to learn more about the science of hair actually.

10:37:34 Yeah.

10:37:34 Such a nerd. But so I knew it really wasn't for me, but anyway. Back to the blog.

10:37:39 So, you know, I did a blog post every day because I thought I'll just turn this into a book.

10:37:44 You know, even an e-book or something, but you know, while I was there, my mom did that. A lot of other things happened.

10:37:49 I flew to Congress for the first time to DC to talk about colorectal cancer with my dad and brother.

10:37:55 That was during beauty school cancer with my dad and brother. That was during beauty school, because that's my mom passed from and it was our first advocacy day.

10:38:00 But because of that, I ultimate I finished beauty school and I ultimately moved to DC. And I started working in healthcare policy.

10:38:05 Wow.

10:38:10 Yeah, I know.

10:38:08 In DC. So see all these little you just never know where you're, I obviously I get bored easily.

10:38:14 Yeah, no.

10:38:17 I keep switching careers and I can't stick to one thing, but, I'm always trying to find something new, but anyway, back to that book though, I still haven't published it yet, but that may be something for you to do.

10:38:26 You know, even if it's just for yourself every day, write one chapter, one, some of my blog posts were just 2 paragraphs or one paragraph or.

10:38:33 Yeah, I love that.

10:38:37 Yeah.

10:38:34 It was a really exciting day with something happening, you know, you know, so. Jennifer had a fight with Susie in the hall.

10:38:41 Okay.

10:38:42 Someone stole their tissue box, you know, something like that. But anyway, you just do every day and then turn it into a book.

10:38:49 Yeah.

10:38:53 Yeah.

10:38:45 Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, I love that because it is it's kind of daunting like, and I mean, I've been, for years.

10:38:56 Yeah.

10:39:00 Yeah.

10:38:58 I have all these little stories. It's like that. It's like little snippets of this happen or that happen there and they're fucking they're great and they're interesting and But then to sit and I think, okay, I gotta sit down and I write this book.

10:39:07 Yeah.

10:39:08 You know, I get overwhelmed, but I just started. Working with the man. He's helping me have a website because I figure if I'm it is part of the website too.

10:39:15 Nice, okay.

10:39:19 But from just actually this weekend I started writing the via for the website and it added ended up to be like this cool little story.

10:39:25 Yeah.

10:39:25 It's just the story what I told you about how did I come up with another empty kitchen and writing it and I thought so this is easy if I just do just like you said if I just do

10:39:33 Yeah, a little essay. It every just a collection of little essays. And you can do an e-book.

10:39:36 Yeah, I love that.

10:39:39 Cause I was taking all classes and how to write ebook too and how. How actually lucrative it was, especially these women who write these saucy romance novels, erodica was like number one download.

10:39:45 Thank you.

10:39:52 Wow.

10:39:49 I think it's like a secret but secret genre people like to download and read, but just stuff off.

10:39:57 Yeah.

10:39:55 Oh my gosh, some of it was something, but. But I mean, you could, you know, even just share my, you know, as an e-book, publish an ebook.

10:40:04 I was gonna publish my hair book. Cause after at the end I just hidled each. Chapter you know day one day 2 you know even I've had a few posts about visiting the different the 3 major beauty schools in the Sacramento area and how I decided which one to go to.

10:40:18 And all the way up till I take my final licensing exam. You know, and it was it just ended, you know, but.

10:40:25 Where was it going that? Don't even remember now. But so anyway, oh, I was gonna break it into 3 books.

10:40:30 So it's like Hare America split end. Hair America, Rinse and Repeat because I dropped out of beauty school to help take care of my mom before she died and I went back and had a new class.

10:40:40 That's great.

10:40:38 I called up Rinse and Repeat. And then the third one I think was called. I think it was 10 until they called the last tangle.

10:40:46 Yeah!

10:40:50 Yeah.

10:40:45 I didn't love that. So, but there was another one. But just like a 3, a trilogy, you know, the hair America trilogy and in my head, I thought, this will make a great Okay, throw man in there.

10:40:59 I'll be a Romcom for a screenplay. What was it, sorry?

10:40:54 Yeah, but it also it also Yeah, that could also inspire somebody like that. That's what I want, you know, like, have you on the podcast.

10:41:02 Yeah.

10:41:06 Yeah.

10:41:10 Yeah. Yeah.

10:41:04 I would like you to talk about that because that can inspire somebody. Who you know some young woman who doesn't know what to do but you know, you, she reads your stories even if they're funny but it also is telling your true story of how you did this.

10:41:18 That is

10:41:17 Yeah, and you know, What's funny is I am I pretty much knew halfway through beauty school.

10:41:26 I didn't think this was I was gonna do it, you know. Because I'm very, I mean, look, I could barely start this podcast.

10:41:30 It took me 4 years to kind of make turn this in or for it to come to fruition, but.

10:41:36 I don't have the gumption to just fake it till you make it, cause that's kinda how you have to cut people's hair and act like you know what you're doing.

10:41:42 Yeah. Yeah.

10:41:45 So, but I, I just thought, no, I'm going to finish it. And honestly, I don't regret it.

10:41:51 Yeah. Wow.

10:41:51 Even I'm still paying off that student loan. 10 over 10 years later. Trade schools have student loans too.

10:41:55 A lot of people don't know that. But, Was I thought it was the perfect place for me to be because after my mom died I came back to a place where I had structure I was surrounded by women, you know, and it was it was good for me.

10:42:08 Yeah.

10:42:08 So I had to pay for it a lot, but I can't cut my own things today, but you know, it's just.

10:42:14 That But like you said, look at journey it led you on, right? You know, I mean.

10:42:15 I mean, I could, but not very well. So. But. Yeah, and again, it's like I consider it myself a richer person for all these different experiences I've had because I've met people from all walks of life.

10:42:28 You know. I may not have hair skills, even though I won a bunch of competitions.

10:42:36 Yeah.

10:42:35 I think it was because I was good at entering contests, you know. And no, and I, my classmates would say, you went everything.

10:42:42 I was like, no, it's cause you don't enter. You guys, you have to enter.

10:42:45 I know.

10:42:46 You have to do it. You know, and I even ran for student council. No, was it student council?

10:42:50 No, I was in student government. I was representative from my class, but of course, you know, the major issues in beauty school when we met for student government, we're we're getting a mozzarella cheek, mozzarella cheese sticks in the cafe now or no one's washing their people aren't putting the dirty to the soil towels in the right bins, you know.

10:43:08 Yeah.

10:43:09 and then I'd be those because I was much older than everybody, right? I was probably the oldest student in the school of about 100 than everybody, right? I was probably the oldest student in the school of about 100 at that time.

10:43:20 Yeah.

10:43:17 And Of course, I'm the one asking how are you going to get us more clients? How, I mean, you know, how are, what are you gonna do?

10:43:25 Because we're paying you this money, but we have hardly any clients, you know, how we're supposed to practice.

10:43:29 You know, just, oh, they did not like me. That's a whole other. Should have a podcast just for beauty school.

10:43:28 Yeah. Oh, you were shit. Yeah.

10:43:34 Beauty school blues, you know. Anyway, so that was a major tangent. Yeah.

10:43:38 That's a good movie. Beauty school blue.

10:43:46 There you go.

10:43:42 Well, yeah, I just thought I had to stand and see that, you know, Jennifer Lawrence could play me, you know, Erica and her, she's 34, she's in her cubicle, hates her job.

10:43:52 What's tired of working for because I've had 8 day jobs none of them have been very fun I've met some cool people but they've I retired from working for the state government.

10:44:01 I retired in my thirties. Actually, in my forties because I did work for the government up here for bit, I didn't like that either.

10:44:07 Yeah.

10:44:07 But anyway, so I do have some, these are some questions I was jotting down as you were talking.

10:44:14 If I can read my own questions. So do you have a favorite plane? Okay, a favorite jet or a plane or?

10:44:22 I do. Well, I, you know, I, I had the, I mean, and this is just like, is a crazy story, but.

10:44:30 I was flying for another company. I've been a corporate pilot for most of my career and I've flown for this one corporation and and The owners were crazy.

10:44:40 They're bunch of brothers and they're crazy well. Anyway, they wanted to get a great big airplane.

10:44:44 They wanted to get a 7 57. And so we went, there's a place in Roswell, New Mexico.

10:44:50 It's kind of a graveyard for airplanes. And it's also where all the, you know, spaceships and all the aliens are and all that.

10:44:56 Hmm.

10:44:57 So, So we they were going out there and just you can just walk around. I mean, it's acres of these big, you know, huge like airliners and stuff.

10:45:06 I think even this is plain as there. I mean, it's kinda crazy. Anyway, he, my boss found this old 7 47.

10:45:16 And he fell in love with it. But it was like You know, it needed a bunch of work.

10:45:22 It took a year. He bought it and it took a year of us going out there like I would go with the mechanics and stuff and working on it to get it to, you know, error worthy enough to fly it out of there.

10:45:33 So it was kind of cool. It was like a, project of love kind of going out there when we had time and working on this plane.

10:45:40 Hmm.

10:45:41 And it was a cool airplane. It had previously belonged to some king in another country and so it was like Oh my god, you've just seen this.

10:45:50 Oh my goodness.

10:45:52 It was crazy. Gold plated, you know, bathroom. I mean, it was just wild. But anyway, we fixed this plane up.

10:45:59 And we blew it out and I got to, you know, take take several crew to fly a big airplane like that, but I got to fly it.

10:46:07 Out of there and to bring it back home to California and you know it just I just fell so in love with this airplane and it's just like a big whale you know it's a great big whale.

10:46:14 Yeah. Yeah. The power. Sounds like you're really flying, huh?

10:46:17 It is so big and this is like I didn't like even. Oh my god, it's like such a, you know.

10:46:26 It was, it's a great big plane and I love that. Didn't last very long.

10:46:25 It's like your driver stick shift. You're driving a big plane. Okay. Okay.

10:46:32 We didn't have it very long. Really not very practical, but the things, the times I did get the flight, it definitely was my airplane at 7 47, but.

10:46:41 Yeah.

10:46:47 Okay.

10:46:41 So this is me not knowing anything about being a pilot to if this is me referring to movies again, but you know if someone needs to get away and you know Oh, there's a plane and they get into it and they just kind of look at the controls and then they fly it.

10:46:57 Are you able to just basically go into any plane and fly it? Or is that a special skill? Okay.

10:47:03 Yeah, you kinda gotta know. I mean, I'll tell you what. Everybody who's grown up with these.

10:47:11 Computer games now, like I've fly kids on the weekends. I take little kids.

10:47:16 It's a kids fly free thing I do. And, some of these little kids, I had a kid last weekend.

10:47:23 And he was probably 8 10. This kid knew everything. I let him fly. He's like, he's 10 years old and he's like, and I, do you know this?

10:47:29 Wow.

10:47:31 Because I've got, you know, whatever Microsoft flight simulator on my computer or whatever. So, you know, kids these days I've grown up with that stuff like and you'll hear about people that a few years ago.

10:47:47 Yeah, that's where I live. I live in Seattle. Yeah, I remember.

10:47:44 Somebody stole that plane out of Seattle and kind of a famous thing. Yeah, I'm not, I was living up there then too. I was working for a big coffee company up there.

10:47:54 Huh.

10:47:57 But, anyway. That guy saw that plane and he crashed it out there at that little island, but he, you know, got in and started that thing up and flew it and I don't think he was a pilot.

10:48:10 Oh wow.

10:48:08 I think he might have been a mechanic or something, but But I think you can, you know, these days you can learn a lot from the computer games and the computer, the simulators that you can put on your computer.



10:48:19 Reminds me there's Another movie reference. There's a it's a true story though a young man Got so good at that video game, Grand Turismo.

10:48:30 Have you heard of this? That he actually Drove. He, he's, they've turned it into a movie, but called Grand Turismo.

10:48:37 Huh.

10:48:38 Where he he was It's not he was actually so good at driving because of all the years he played Grand Turismo May, this video game that he's actually a professional renowned professional race car driver now.

10:48:55 So kind of the same, I don't know. But,

10:48:54 Wow. Yeah. Yeah, it is the same. Like, you know, when I was young, we didn't have any of that, you know, But now, Yeah, no space camp.

10:49:08 That's cool.

10:49:03 Yeah, what I went to space camp. Oh, go ahead. Sorry. No, I went to space camp in 1989 and we had we did a flight simulation.

10:49:21 Okay.

10:49:11 It was very rudimentary. But it looked like. You know. like you're playing a Commodore, 64 screen or something.

10:49:24 I don't even remember what position I had. I was not in I was on I was in ground control.

10:49:29 Okay.

10:49:28 Or mission control, sorry, not, mission control. I wasn't allowed in the shuttle like they do in the movie where the kids fly into space.

10:49:37 Yeah.

10:49:37 Knowing how I don't like to jump out of planes or start podcasts I'm really not I probably was the best person to go on the actual plane anyway.

10:49:43 Okay.

10:49:47 So I guess my last question is. Have you had any close calls? Have you had any?

10:49:53 I've, I've had, things happen that, but you know what, pilots, we are so well trained. I'm not kidding you.

10:50:01 We have to go to training. I'm not kidding you. We have to go to training. Like I'm leaving on Saturday.

10:50:06 I'm going to be what's called recurrent training and I'll be in a simulator.

10:50:09 I'll be practicing all the emergencies, you know, everything from fires to loss of electrical.

10:50:16 So we practice these things all the time so that when it does anything does happen we it's like you just kind of go Yeah, yeah, you don't even think you know like freak out. Oh god.

10:50:23 You're in a mode. Yeah. How's that?

10:50:28 It's like you know and you go through it and you get it on and it isn't really till you get on the ground later and you go, oh my god, you know, bought whatever.

10:50:36 Your programs.

10:50:35 But we're all pilots and to make it to Yeah, to make it to this level, we have to be so well trained.

10:50:44 Hmm.

10:50:42 And so even things that are close calls, you know, I mean, it has to be something.

10:50:49 I'm not going to say stuff doesn't happen. Obviously, it does. We hear about it all the time, but.

10:50:50 Right. Yeah.

10:50:53 For the most part, we're trained so well. You know, that even things like.

10:50:59 You know, even like. Security stuff like getting hijacked. We go through some intense training on how to deal with stuff like that.

10:51:08 So

10:51:08 Yeah. I guess I do have one final question actually. What is what is the best part of the job?

10:51:14 What's your favorite part of your? Being a pilot.

10:51:20 Well, as far as the very active flying, you know, just lifting off the ground.

10:51:28 I know, I, still, I mean, I have, you know, over 10,000 h and I like.

10:51:32 Every time those wheels lift off the ground, I always go, you know, this is just like.

10:51:37 Yeah.

10:51:43 Yeah.

10:51:38 I mean, it's just like, so even though I know how it all works, I know the physics about it all is still magic, you know, it's just so cool.

10:51:46 And

10:51:46 As a passenger, I get that kind of excitement too and if I'm sitting next to the window and I look out and I just we're going in the air and I get that little butterfly feeling too.

10:51:55 Okay. Thank you.

10:51:56 So you at the front where you get to see. The wide open before you that must even be an even more profound experience.

10:52:02 It really is. I've been very lucky. I've flown all over the world. And like, I'll tell you what flying up north and being in the northern lights.

10:52:12 Oh, I'm jealous.

10:52:12 I've literally flown up north and being in the northern lights. I've literally flown up north and being in the northern lights. I've literally flown all around my airplane.

10:52:15 You know, like you feel like you're part of them and it is, oh, that's magic.

10:52:20 Just think, wow, pretty cool. Okay.

10:52:26 Thank you.

10:52:22 Oh, that's a perfect ending to our interview. Kathy, thank you so much for letting me interview you about your.

10:52:31 Interesting, unusual profession. I'm glad to know you and I, this was a very, interesting and enlightening conversations.

10:52:44 I really appreciate your time.

10:52:45 Thank you. Erika. I enjoyed this too. Is it's actually an interview on a podcast.

10:52:48 Yeah. Oh really? Okay, well hey.

10:52:51 So I mean, So thank you so much for making.

10:52:54 You're so bold in everything you do.

10:52:57 Yeah, I enjoyed it and I wish you well and I hope you'll come on my podcast next because I, yes.