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Jennifer, Newspaper:

I was picked up by this adult man.

Ian Chillag:

Literally picked up, like from the store?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Yeah. And what happened was it was raining. And so he held me up and used me as a hat. He was keeping the rain off his head. I just kind of soaked it up. And then after a while, we were undercover and then he folded me up and I remember he just kind of tucked me under his arm and I could feel his heart just [inaudible 00:01:04] which maybe actually sounds a little bit irregular. Do you think? But I was really close to him. It was lovely.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Hello. My name is Jennifer and I am a newspaper. I'm the Canberra times from Monday the 24th of October, 1988.

Ian Chillag:

Okay. So you're from 1988, but you're still around. Where have you been living?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

I live in an attic. I'm on the floor. The floor is wooden. I'm not sure what kind of wood, because I've always wondered if maybe we're distantly related. So it's a little bit awkward. It could be family I'm right on top of. I don't know.

Ian Chillag:

Well let me just ask. So October 24th, 1988. What are the big stories that day?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

There was a new roundabout put in, in a new part of Canberra. That was a pretty big news story.

Ian Chillag:

Okay.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

A local school got an extension for their public crossing their street crossing.

Ian Chillag:

I hope it's okay to say this. It sounds like you're kind of a slow news day.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

I wouldn't put it like that myself, but I can see how maybe some people may think that it's slow, but these things happened. And so they're in me. There was a day when even less happened. It was 1930, the 18th of April. There was no news.

Ian Chillag:

Just nothing at all happened?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

No. And a BBC presenter was doing the news and he just went on there and said, "Today, there is no news." And then they played music for 15 minutes.

Ian Chillag:

So this was a radio newscaster. And so little happened that day, he just got on the microphone and it was like, "There is no news." And then music.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Just played music.

Ian Chillag:

I think about the times when I have nothing to say, how nice it would be if I could do that. Like if someone asks what's new, if I could just, instead of trying to think of something, just say, "There is no news," and then music would play. That would be so nice.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

I can tell you one thing about music.

Ian Chillag:

Okay.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

I have the top 10 charts in me, top 10 music charts. And at number one is Bobby McFerrin with a song called Don't Worry, Be Happy.

Ian Chillag:

I remember the song.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

I think this is like what people call good life advice. Don't worry. Be happy. I mean, I think it's easy when you're a human. But I have literally every bad thing in the world right now inside me.

Ian Chillag:

Yeah. So it would be hard not to worry.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

It would be more like, worry, worry, be worried. That's not such a good song title.

Ian Chillag:

It's interesting. That day with no news, when was that?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

1930, the 18th of April.

Ian Chillag:

I mean, that itself is news. A day when nothing happens? Because things normally happen. A day when nothing happens, that itself would actually be very big news.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Maybe that was the leading news story on the 19th of April, 1930.

Ian Chillag:

So Jennifer, I want to ask, something that happens, something I imagine you would worry about, is typos. Do you have any typos?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Not that I know of. No. No.

Ian Chillag:

Is it something you think about?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

I think when you're a newspaper, you want to be factual and accurate. And so that's important to me. It's like if you walked out in the morning and you had something on your face. You probably wouldn't keep it on your face, or you wouldn't want people to see it on your face. And I feel like that if I had a typo in me, if I found out I had a typo in me, I think I would be pretty devastated.

Ian Chillag:

It gets like me having spinach in my teeth.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Yeah. Not that you have any in your teeth right now.

Ian Chillag:

And I cannot see any typos on you.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Thank you. You know, it's definitely possible that I have a typo. You just hope if you have a typo that it's not like a big one, like in the Wicked Bible.

Ian Chillag:
The Wicked Bible?

Jennifer, Newspaper:
400 years ago there was a Bible that was printed, but they left out a word. You know the verse, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

Ian Chillag:
Yeah.

Jennifer, Newspaper:
They left out the word not.

Ian Chillag:
So it said, "Thou shalt."

Jennifer, Newspaper:
"Thou shalt commit adultery.

Ian Chillag:
So there's a Bible in which God is actually commanding people to commit adultery?

Jennifer, Newspaper:
Yeah.

Ian Chillag:
If you don't want to anger God, you have to have an affair.

Jennifer, Newspaper:
Yeah. The seventh commandment. Go at it.

Ian Chillag:
That seems like about as big an error as you could make in the Bible. Like if you're just losing one word that's-

Jennifer, Newspaper:
Yeah.

Ian Chillag:
I mean, thou shall kill. That I think, if everyone was told they had to kill, that could have created a lot of chaos, but..

Jennifer, Newspaper:

But it would have stopped eventually when you ran out of people.

Ian Chillag:

Wait, so what happened with the Wicked Bible?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Well, they didn't want it to get out for everyone to read and start committing adultery, so they had to destroy them and they ended up burning them. Most of them.

Recording:

Hello? You've reached the office of John Laughton [inaudible 00:07:25] and [inaudible 00:07:27].com. The world's largest dealer of rare and antique bibles. I'm either out of the office or helping another customer now, but please do leave brief message and I will call you back as soon as possible.

Ian Chillag:

I'll try him back in a minute. So we have this thing we say about newspapers. Like when you're talking about a story that's big, you talk about it being above the fold.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Yes.

Ian Chillag:

And I wonder what is above your fold? Is that okay to talk about it?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

I feel okay. I mean, you are talking about my body, but I feel like you're doing respectfully, so it's okay.

Ian Chillag:

So yeah. So do you feel like what is above your fold is more important than what's below your fold?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

See, I've never thought of myself like that, because I am actually kind of folded into myself. I feel like the whole of me is really important. What about you? Do you think that what's above your fold is more important than what's below your fold?

Ian Chillag:

My fold?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Your fold.

Ian Chillag:

So I guess my waist would be my fold.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Yeah.

Ian Chillag:

I think yes. I mean, definitely like my brain. I think I could probably survive with what's above my fold and not with what's below my fold, but I certainly feel like the stuff below my fold is also... That's also very important to me.

Recording:

Hello. You've reached the office of John Laughton [inaudible 00:09:03].

Ian Chillag:

I'll try him back. Jennifer, I wanted to ask. Do you have obituaries?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

I have tear stains on my obituary, and a coffee stain. So they were clearly awake and very sad.

Ian Chillag:

Yeah.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Do you think that's why they stopped reading me?

John:

Hello?

Ian Chillag:

Hi John. Thanks so much for talking with me.

John:

Certainly. No problem.

Ian Chillag:

So you're a seller of used Bibles. Do I have that right?

John:

Well, we don't usually use the term used, but technically yes, they are very much used. We are the world's largest dealer of rare and antique Bibles. We deal primarily in Bibles that were printed between the late 1400s and the late 1700s.

Ian Chillag:

So I Googled Wicked Bible and I found your site. You have one for sale for \$99,000. Is that right? What can you tell me about it?

John:

Well, the Wicked Bible is one of a number of curious typographical error Bible printings. There are a lot of them. The Wicked Bible is just one of the more curious, one of the more sought after by collectors. It's just a regular old, early to mid 1600s King James Bible that would have come and gone from history without anybody giving a second thought to it, except that they made this error. And so the allotment of these Bibles that were printed, the text blocks before they were bound, were gathered up and burned as being an abomination. Now, there were just a few that were rescued from that fate. We can only suspect that back in 1631, there were probably some people that were working in the print shop that were saying to themselves, "Why don't we see if we can sneak a dozen or so of these out before they gather them all up and burn them?"

Ian Chillag:

How many of these Wicked Bibles are surviving today, do you think?

John:

That's a very difficult question to answer. Generally speaking, usually there might be anywhere from 10 or 20 that exist today, to 50 or 60. Now another curiosity about that same Bible, it had another typographical error in it. Just a couple of pages further into the Bible there in the latter part of Exodus.

Ian Chillag:

Really?

John:

Yes. And a lot of people find that second typographical error to be even more offensive than the first.

Ian Chillag:

Well, what does it say?

John:

It says, instead of, "God hath shown us his greatness," they had typed, "God hath shown us his great ass."

Ian Chillag:

No, really?

John:

Yeah.

Ian Chillag:

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Ian Chillag:

I think if I were doing what you do, I think about somebody sitting down with the newspaper for an hour or two and just being stared at, I would be very uncomfortable. I mean, I don't think I couldn't tolerate a minute of someone just looking at me.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

I love it. I miss it so much, just to be looked at. No one does that in the attic.

Ian Chillag:

Well, this would be a good time. I'd like to read you and we'll just see what that's like.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

I would love that.

Ian Chillag:

Okay. So I'll just pick a story from your front page, above the fold, above your fold. It looks like it's your international section. From Buenos Aires. Three dead after dog falls 13 floors. We talked about how you're a slow news day. This seems like kind of a big story.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Yeah.

Ian Chillag:

A dog, which fell from a 13th floor balcony on Friday night, triggered three deaths in a row in central Buenos Aires. Do you want to take over here?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

The dog, a poodle named [Kachi 00:14:42], hit Matta Espina on her head and both the woman and the dog died instantly. Edith Stolla died on the spot when knocked down by a bus while standing in the middle of the street at the edge of a crowd that had gathered to watch the scene.

Ian Chillag:

So one person died when a dog fell on them from above, then another person died when they stopped to look at the scene of the first person.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Yes. And then an unidentified man who saw both incidents suffered a heart attack and died in the ambulance on his way to the hospital. It was not immediately clear why Kachi fell.

Ian Chillag:

I have to say that's one of the most incredible stories I've ever seen in a newspaper.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Thank you.

Ian Chillag:

Also, the headline says three dead, which really is not fair to Kachi, who also died. Kachi the poodle.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

This was a decision that was made about who deserves to be in the headline. If it was a newspaper for dogs, the headline would have gone differently.

Ian Chillag:

What do you think it would have been?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

One dog died. That's also the obituary. Did people ever figure out why Kachi fell?

Ian Chillag:

I don't know if that ever got investigated.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Because all these stories, I don't know what happened on October 25. Like I don't know what happened to Kachi. I have no idea what happened after the 24th of October, 1988. Do you know what happens next?

Ian Chillag:

I mean, I know a lot of things that happened since October 24th, 1988.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

That must feel really good. Just to have so much information, you know?

Ian Chillag:

Yeah. Yeah. I don't know. I guess it depends on the information, you know?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

You know, I don't know. Like I can tell you that Bill Gates came to speak in Canberra.

Ian Chillag:

Yeah. Looking at you, it says Bill Gates came to speak in Canberra the day after your printed.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Well, that's in my future. So I don't know how that went. He was talking about the future of software. Was there much of a future in software?

Ian Chillag:

After October 24th, 1988?

Jennifer, Newspaper:

Uh-huh (affirmative).

Ian Chillag:

Yep. Yeah.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

That's great.

Ian Chillag:

It did well.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

I know Whitney Houston's coming to sing soon. She's supposed to have a beautiful voice.

Ian Chillag:

Yeah, you still hear it all the time.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

That must be nice.

Ian Chillag:

It's funny. I'm giving you the news.

Jennifer, Newspaper:

I guess it might be nice for me if things didn't happen after October 24, 1988. If things were still exactly as they were that day. All future newspapers only have one story. October 29th, 1988, Jennifer was picked up and read today. May 1st, 2003, Jennifer was not put in the attic.

Ian Chillag:

This is Everything Is Alive. This episode was recorded live at the Audio Craft Podcast Festival in Sydney, Australia. Thank you to everyone at the festival for an incredible time. And thanks to everyone at aftrs, A-F-T-R-S, for recording us and hosting us. The show is produced by Jennifer Mills and me, Ian [Chillag 00:18:33] with Eva WatchOver and Isabella Kulkarni. Special thanks to Emily Spievak. This episode was edited by Hillary Frank. She is the creator of the Longest Shortest Time, and author of the new book Weird Parenting Wins. Jennifer the newspaper was played by Jennifer Wong. A big thanks to John Laughton [inaudible 00:18:54] for telling us about the Wicked Bible, and thanks to Reuters for covering

the domino of deaths in Buenos Aires in 1988. Also, thanks to Bill Gates for your talk in Canberra, and congratulations on the success of your software.

Ian Chillag:

Everything Is Alive is a proud member of Radiotopia from PRX. Without Julie Shapiro, executive producer, we would be entirely unfit to print. We are on Twitter at Ian Chillag, and you can get in touch with us any number of ways. At everythingisalive.com. We'll see you soon.

Ian Chillag:

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Speaker 6:

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