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Transcript

Wynne Leon

Welcome to the sharing the heart of the Matter podcast, where we honor the Storyteller and us all. I'm Wynne Leon and in this episode I'm with my dear friend and Co host Vicki Atkinson. And we're talking about the latest book from author David Brooks, how to know a person. We talk about his great. Encouragement to be vulnerable enough to be seen. And his image of each of us as a creative artist who has a unique way of seeing the world. We dive into the methods that help us listen well. And we have a great conversation around what it takes to tell our own stories. Vicki also shares with us the wisdom she learned listening to David Brooks gave a commencement speech when she was a faculty member. She explains why his approach was so much more meaningful than many of the others she heard in her forty years in academia. This is a great episode about how we can be intentional about getting to know others we know you'll love it. Hey, Vicki. Hi, Wynn. It's so good to have another conversation with you.

Vicki Atkinson

Agree. Agree. I look forward to it.

Wynne Leon

I do too. You know, I haven't finished David Brooks book. How to know a person yet. And I think the only reason you're allowing me to be here is that I went to see him speak in person when his he was on his book tour. And what struck me about listening to him was that he's so conversational. Like he read the first chapter of his book. But I didn't realize that he was reading that first, that it was a chapter until I came home and looked at the book and. I was like ohh. He just has that tone that's so friendly it makes you.

Speaker

Hmm.

Wynne Leon

Feel like you know him? Yeah. Is that one of the reasons that this book has resonated with you?

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. Yeah, I think so. I think he everything you said about. His storytelling soul, you know, and and your experience being with him in person. You know, at a reading when you told me that I. Went like whoa. That's so much fun, and I actually, until you told me that he just written a new book. I hadn't put that together. So you were kind of on the leading edge. Of sharing that with me, but it made me immediately remember back to my academic life when he was a commencement speaker. And you

know, people in in the academic world, or people who've been through, you know, ohh, it's another graduation speech. Right. Yeah. There. There are certain, you know, tropes. The things that you just expect to hear. But his was so different and so inspirational in in a way that I think is uniquely his as an observer of people and life. Yeah, but I I loved that. You said you had that opportunity. And I think you told me you actually got a signed copy of his latest book, which is called how to know a person.

Wynne Leon

That's right, I did. Luckily.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, but I I I love that because I think you and I talked in our last episode about collaboration and how important that is to us personally, but how much we recognize the importance of that for people generally relationships you know, in in all the various parts of our world.

Wynne Leon

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

World's plural. Yeah. And when we think about, well, what are, what are the tools, what are the things that we can use? To do that better, you know you and I talked about a bunch of things last week, but I think this idea. Of. How do we thoughtfully approach getting to know people and putting some intention to that is something that, you know, he wrote an entire book about it and he pulls from a lot of. I think that's one of the things I like.

Wynne Leon

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

About it, he's a very. Non denominational this isn't really a self help book. He's not saying one person is the guru who knows at all you know or this person's figured it out, but it's a like a beautiful menu and a sampling of here things that that I have recognized that have potential and let me share them with you. So it's it's a beautiful easy read and some things may. Make you know you may make a connection with some, you know, perhaps not. But I like how he approached it and also how he describes his way of living to do that. That is how he chooses to be in the world, right? Yeah. I just want to circle back to a particular question.

Wynne Leon

Hey. Like. So when you're on the faculty of a college, you have to go to all the comments. And.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. Yeah. And people, you know, like me, that I could look in the closet here on the other side. Who have, you know, doctorates and, you know, some regalia stuff. You. It doesn't matter how hot it is. And it was hot that day when, you know, Mr. Brooks was speaking. You have to have all all your

stuff on all your stools. And your extra due dad. So yeah, that's that's where I was. And I got to meet him briefly during. The little luncheon, you know, for the speakers. But yeah, I was sweating in the in the. Faculty seating area. Yeah, yeah.

Wynne Leon

Do you hear a lot of advice about how to live life right and start out the gate and get going and?

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, and and some of it, I'll be honest. You know any of my academic colleagues that might be listening to this? They're gonna be thinking about vicki's bad behavior when the speaker is really bad. But, you know, we would steal water from the people sitting in front of us, the little bottles of ice water to, like, douse our feet. Stay cool and. You know those long gowns with the big, deep kind of folds in them are actually pockets you know, so we trade snacks back and forth, but we could always tell if the speaker was good. Our attention was focused on what was happening on stage. If the speaker was just giving us.

Wynne Leon

Mm-hmm. Yes.

Vicki Atkinson

The same stuff that we've heard, you know, in a different voice, we were probably. Less obedient than the students. Yeah, it's a good thing you're sitting behind them.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, he had to go to more graduations than the students ever did.

Vicki Atkinson

Oh my gosh. Yeah. But I, but I think it your point is, is a good one. You know, when you're in higher Ed for, you know, 40 years, you know, as I was, you you see it all. And I wasn't always a faculty member. I was an administrator for part of it. I was a professional technical employee. I was an adjunct faculty member. So you and I was a student as well, so I think. I felt like I'd seen and heard a lot, and I think I was a little jaded and then, you know, David Brooks comes and I go, hmm.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, I like your style, buddy. You're right. Yeah. What are the coats you highlighted from the book? Is every person you meet is a creative artist who takes the events of life and over time creates a very personal way of seeing the world.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

Yeah. Can you say more about how you've seen that play out?

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, I think a lot of us find ourselves in this. Place where we're supposed to be present all the time, and maybe it's because you and I both written books in a memoir genre that necessitates the looking back. I believe there's like a a judiciousness about perspective and it's possible to look back, look forward and be in the moment. And if you do that well, you can pull in from the past, you know, and think about the future and and inform what's happening in the moment even better and I think. For me that the people that I meet, that have a depth and a richness to their experiences, they're kind of seeing all of that at one time. They they don't parse their lives out into, you know, past, present, future. It's, I'm. I've evolved enough that I know I am part of my experience. I'll use it to propel me to encourage. You know to be goal oriented, even if things. That are disappointing or destructive. Difficult happen. Perhaps in spite of them. So I love that quote because I think. It's not just the the tired old thought about the tortured artist, but I think people who can tap creativity. It comes from a very deep and personal space.

Wynne Leon

Mm-hmm. We've seen that a lot with the people that we've talked to, the things that resonate are very specific and personal, but they resonate with others because they come from that depth.

Speaker

MHM.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. And I think one of the the things I enjoy, you know, talking with you and and the guests that we get to visit with is that. Almost to a person, everyone who takes a chance about being creative and expressing themselves in some way is also walking a really fine line about their vulnerability.

Speaker

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

And it takes a lot, you know to do that it's one thing. To. To be creative and then hold on to you know what you're thinking or feeling or creating. But to release it into the world, knowing that it may not be understood or people will have opinions or thoughts, right takes a lot of strength of character.

Speaker

Hmm.

Wynne Leon

That. Yeah, yeah, that goes to to the, to the subtitle of this book, which is the art of seeing others deeply and being deeply seen. Yeah, we talked about that again and again. Oh, my gosh. Writers as in in our podcast. And. And when we tried to see our parents as people. That. That willingness to to

both be seen, which is, as you know you said, vulnerable. And then there's that willingness to try to look at the totality of the people around us, not just in their interactions with us, but who they are.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. Yeah.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, completely right.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. And I think, you know, Brooks does a really nice. Job of talking about that that you may not want to have a deep connection with every person, but you know he talks about I think the the one thing that is threaded throughout is that it is an investment of time and you know whether you're examining a relationship or thinking about how much you want to invest in a new relationship.

Wynne Leon

MHM.

Vicki Atkinson

Repairing an old one. Most of it is about time and how you use it and how. How deep do you want to go and maybe it's OK for some things to be at a superficial right, but some things are destined to be more than that. And I think one of the things that I get from what he wrote is, you know, kind of buck, buckle up and hang on right cuz.

Wynne Leon

The level.

Vicki Atkinson

You know, take the time, listen to what's coming forward. Decide if that's for you. Is it useful?

Wynne Leon

Right.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. And he taps, you know, a variety of kind of psychological perspectives, too. While he's doing that kind of who we are in groups, who we are individually. But there's a lot of reflection, I think, throughout and encouragement.

Wynne Leon

Encouragement to be deeply seen.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. Yeah, right. And you know, to take the time and to do that, the deeper listening.

Wynne Leon

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

You know which we've talked about and and you really can't replace that with. Because the the antithesis of that is, you know you've got deep listening, and then there's a quick judging. The quick judging is, like, so tempting, right, it is. I know two things about you, therefore, I know.

Wynne Leon

You right? Yeah. Well, you know, and it's funny when I meet new people, sometimes at this phase of life at, you know, 50. 54 is that you sort of could say like ohh I've met this person in. Some sort of stereotypical fashion before and, and you can even sort of assume that you know how the relationship would play out, but that's, you know, that's selling short. So much of the richness that comes with relationships.

Vicki Atkinson

Hmm. Yeah. And I believe that having that with you is good because you've had the experience and you're you have a better awareness perhaps you know about what else you might want to know. But I also think there's a lot of fear associated with that, that new people can be scary and whether it's, you know, people that are in new relationships or parents where I think about the circle of people, you know, in your life, you know, that is ever growing. Right. Because if they matter to Mr. D and Miss O, they matter to you. Right. But you're you're constantly trying to evaluate all of that or people in new jobs and working with teams. It's you you can't say I've I now understand. I'm gonna put a lid on it. I.

Wynne Leon

Yes. Right. That's funny. Mr. D was getting ready for school this morning, you know? And he's four, and he's going to preschool and he says. I think that there's a new boy and there's going to be a new. Boy in our class. And. Well, what if he attacks me? I said, oh, yeah, new people are, you know, different. That's that's hard. And he says, I said, well, what would you do if he if he did? And he said what I'll tell the teachers. And I said, well, that's a good idea. And I said, and if somebody is new and they attack you, do you know why that might be? And he said what? They might be afraid, ohh, I said. Ohh. Too hard to be the new person.

Vicki Atkinson

And yeah, yeah. Well, and even his question thinking about someone being new and might attack, you know, it makes me wonder if. You know Mr. D isn't channeling. Gosh, I know what that emotion is like when I've been new and it's it's kind of a mess and I feel quite right. And I, you know, I wanna go home. I don't wanna be here. I wanna be in my safe place. Cause new is scary. So it's so funny how like wildly intuitive kids can be right.

Wynne Leon

MHM. Right.

Vicki Atkinson

Right. But I love that he's maybe taking an emotion he's felt, but he's putting it on the. New kid, right? Yeah, yeah, yeah, right and.

Wynne Leon

I don't know that I didn't know that they were getting a new kid. I'm not sure that they are, but it is funny that he was sort of umm. Happened. Oh my gosh. So we talked about the other things that he could do. He could introduce the new kid to other kids and he could, you know, show him where things are, if that happens. Yeah. Be a guide. Be a buddy. Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

Right. Was this another one of his like, brilliant in the car conversations or on the way to school?

Wynne Leon

But I'm I'm dithering about putting my shoes on.

Vicki Atkinson

He is. He is so good at the stall techniques. Ohh.

Wynne Leon

Well, he's learned.

Vicki Atkinson

Mama, tell me about the universe, right?

Wynne Leon

Oh, no, that's miss. Oh, she's she's the master. Anything that he he does is just the derivative of her brilliant stalling techniques.

Speaker

Yes.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, but you have to do that. That thing that you talked about a few weeks ago when you guys were at the airport and he was he. He was making a stand about wanting his little luggage to go on the belt. You know, the conveyor belt. You're like, no, we're not. Doing. That but you you knew in that moment you needed to give him full attention as best you could. And when he says, you know, the the new kid might attack me. You know your parents? Radar goes Ding right there. What? What? What are we talking about? Right. Right.

Wynne Leon

Yes.

Vicki Atkinson

Ohh my gosh. Your kids are amazing.

Wynne Leon

Ohh well, thank you. They they they are. They have some good stories as I just you know posted about one of miss those recent stories today.

Vicki Atkinson

It's a good one. Good.

Wynne Leon

Let's.

Vicki Atkinson

One, it's a good one. Yeah, no, I love.

Wynne Leon

Which? That such a good segue it's another quote from David Brooks book book. From page 217. You can't know who you are unless you know how to tell your story. Yeah. My gosh, that's a biggie for writers.

Vicki Atkinson

God. Yeah. And that, you know, it's funny because we've talked to people, other authors that have to really condense their story into an elevator pitch. What's your story about your story? There's that. And then, you know, if you take that to, who are you in the introductions when you're meeting new people? You know, it's usually. Who are you?

Speaker

Hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

From a what do you do? Where do you live? Where did you go to school, you know, and I think people are are thoughtful generally about trying to find those connections. Yeah, right. Try to to make those connections. But yeah, that's a a terrific quote. I love that one. You can't know who you are unless you know how to tell your story. So for me, it's that. It's the tell, and if you're a writer, the tell is I'm going to write about it.

Speaker

MHM.

Wynne Leon

And whether you write about it in totality or you write about a snippet of it from this moment this day, yeah.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

Figuring out how to.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, and it's. All good, right? And some people do that telling you know, and it turns into a book. And for some people, they're prolific bloggers, you know, and they have thousands of followers, and they've been at it, you know, for years. And it's a a body of work about who they are.

Wynne Leon

Do. Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

Because they've given it up to the world. You know and and you know, here I am and I was thinking about you and I related to that and it's the those common ground pieces that, you know, bring us together. And we were talking about that last week the collaboration you know you in the telling your story. Trying to think of a channel you haven't opened, you know to do that because you know there's the podcasting, the blogging, the professional stuff, writing a technical manual.

Speaker

Hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

Right. Writing the memoir. Right. And so I think some of those pieces, I really connected with because there is a bravery. About communication and doing it in in all the ways that are compelling. Yeah. And you know.

Wynne Leon

Well, I. And and I would say both of you and I probably have have tried this is that it's just practicing practicing telling your story, you know, telling a good story. Yeah, and practice being vulnerable to do that.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. And it's it's not easy.

Speaker

Hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

Because I think there is a. A productivity piece to it that when you decide telling your story is something that you want to do, it's.

Wynne Leon

MHM.

Vicki Atkinson

The almost like an itch you can't scratch. You have to keep at it because there's always another reveal, and I think you and I have talked about this too, that if a day goes by and then some.

Wynne Leon

MHM.

Vicki Atkinson

Capacity. We're not writing or speaking or doing the storytelling or something it we feel out of balance, yes.

Wynne Leon

Right, right.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, it's a necessary.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, and and it can get so tiring too. I think about some of the more personal deep stories that I've told, and it's almost painful to to do the writing and then to.

Speaker

MM.

Wynne Leon

Have to revise it or look at it again and it's sometimes like ah. I'll do that.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, yeah. And yet the need for feedback is really strong, right? Am I? Am I being heard? Am I connecting?

Speaker

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

You know, yeah. What is a reader? You know, whether it's a trusted reader or just, you know, a friend or a confidant am am am I connecting am I? Is the message coming through? Hmm. But it's it's it's a very solitary thing. It's hard to know that right. It's so hard to know.

Wynne Leon

Right. And that's where the blogging community is so great. I mean, people are really have.

Vicki Atkinson

Wonderful responses. Yeah. And it's an, I think, an encouraging place for people to try things out and write in different styles. And I think, you know, back to what we were talking about in our last episode, those ways in which we get to know people, certainly being present and together in person is the most beautiful thing. But you know, it was fun, you know, seeing the feedback from people that were just sort of aghast that you and I haven't actually met in person ever, you know, it it will happen, but it hasn't slowed us down a bit, right. And I think it it speaks to. How much of A reveal and how much of that connection making can happen, regardless of where people are? Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Wynne Leon

Especially if they if they do that storytelling like. Yes, yeah, yeah, Yep. But of course, you know, listening is a huge key and David Brooks touches touches on that as well is a line. These days, as I hear people tell me their stories, I try to listen the way I listen to music, I try to flow along with the melodies, feeling the rises and the dips along with them, like music, stories, flow. They are about rhythm and melody.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

And we've talked about rhythm in so many different contexts. I am thinking about Jack Canfora, who talked about Shakespeare's rhythm and how much Jack does revisions as he writes to get the right cadence.

Speaker

MHM.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

Matt Mark Vojska, one of our other podcasting blogging buddies who sees things in rhyme. Rhythm matters.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. And I think David Brooks, when he was writing about that, I knew that you would love that part because it's, it's music is a metaphor almost that, you know, and not everyone is like Todd Fulginiti, another one of our friends who's, you know, a brilliant musician. He literally thinks in terms of music.

Wynne Leon

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

But that offering when you're writing it, it does have that sort of. A cadence and a rhythm, and it can be very soothing and readable and and I think a lot of people who dive into books about how to write well. You know, we've seen this advice from a lot of. Different. Gurus or sages that it's good to not write sentences that are consistently the same length? You know, vary that a little bit, you know, and think about punctuation and and movement. And you know what I love about that is that when you're listening to someone talk or you're reading their words. You can almost tease out sometimes if you're doing that deep listening. What are they not saying, right, what's right? What's just underneath that isn't quite audible or discernible. That's a little whisper of something.

Wynne Leon

MM.

Vicki Atkinson

You know and and I love writers who can do that because it's it's a foreshadowing without foreshadowing, right. It's it's a tiny reveal that you can't quite put your finger on, but it is like music. Yeah, but I I love that Brooks said that when he said I try to flow along with the melodies, feeling the rises and the dips along with them, you know those pauses and conversation. But the other thing that he's saying. By not saying it directly. Is that he's patient while he's listening. It can have these stops and starts right, but rather than interjecting or, you know overly asking questions, let that whole composition kind of flow until it gets to a natural resting place.

Wynne Leon

MHM. That's pretty cool. I love the way that you just pulled out. What was it said? And just a great example of.

Vicki Atkinson

Well, I think great writers that we want to follow, they do that, those the little hints of something that isn't, you know, an explicit statement, right. But it it gives you a feeling that you can connect to without it being sort of, you know, bopped on the head. Yeah. Yeah, right.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, and it it just invites you to do a deep read as well. Yeah. Yeah, absolutely. So one more reference that I want to highlight that you've pulled out. It's a reference to George Bernard Shaw. Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself. Yeah, and works. You know, he has thoughts about taking the lessons, the Hard Knocks and the surprises.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

Refine. Our concept of our ourselves and the and to see the world and others with more grace and humanity, can you say more about how that touched you?

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, I loved that piece and I it took me a minute to put it together and I was telling you before we started recording, I actually went back and pulled the transcript from David Brooks's commencement. Because there was something you know in that quote that I connected with that I couldn't quite put my finger on and I it, this may have been one of those things that I connected with, but it may not have been the only one. But you know, every graduation speaker, every commencement speaker, their goal is to offer up the lessons, right.

Wynne Leon

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

And it's it's, you know. I've heard so many. It's you hear the top five things. Hear the 10 things. Here are the two things, you know that you. Need to know. And his his commencement commencement address was different and that he did the storytelling to get to the lesson, which actually didn't make you know, his address.

Wynne Leon

MM.

Vicki Atkinson

Longer, but it made it more compelling to listen to. And I thought about you when I went back and read the transcript last night because it, you know, you're my adventurer girl by a mile. But what he talked about he.

Speaker

He.

Vicki Atkinson

Brooks talked about the first two explorers to reach the South Pole successfully and one amundson he described, you know, in in a little detail, not a lot, but he was very deliberate. He was very planful. He was successful. The other person who was attempting at the same time. With Scott and he was maybe a little flashier, faster, you know, motivated differently. Me maybe a little bit more competitive, but definitely not quite as planful. And on the way back, Scott died. Emerson and his team made it there and made it back. But you know, and I don't mean any disrespect to Scott's descendants if I'm characterizing inaccurately. But what Brooks said that I loved is, he said, paraphrasing. From his speech, he said. Take from from that experience this in exploring and in life. Discipline actually does work. Discipline actually works, and then he went on to say if you need to think of it as productive paranoia. Mm-hmm. Prepare for the eventualities. That, and you're not inviting, you know, something cataclysmic by doing that, but being planful is an OK thing. Mm-hmm. And I think the connection that I make to his book about how to know a person is. The truth

about that when he described Amundson, you know, successful trip to the South Pole and back is he was very thoughtful about who he took with him. Just don't pick up anyone and say, hey, you know, let's go right. But but think about, you know, who, who's part of your crew, who's part of the expedition?

Wynne Leon

Mm-hmm. OK.

Vicki Atkinson

And then he added that really there are two traits that he found to be most important in his life in general. And again, he's trying. The you know, let some new graduates set sail with as much. Vim and vigor and you know, feeling a sense of purpose. But he said this. If you just combine two things, let them be extreme personal humility with extreme personal willpower. I'm like, Oh my gosh, if that's all you got in that backpack that you, when I talk about if you're a tool kit only has those two things, you know, be humble, right know that you don't know everything but get to know the people who might round you out, make you a better you. And while you're doing that, take responsibility. You know, for for what you're carrying. Your own personal willpower and. Take a few risks, but it's OK to be planful. Mm-hmm. So I. I mean, I love the the quote from Shaw, but I also like that connection to how bricks when we talk about consistency, the people that we love, who provide inspiration, we're talking about a book that he just wrote and a commencement address and other things.

Wynne Leon

MHM. Great.

Vicki Atkinson

That he's written going back, you know, a decade he is who he is, right. And his voice, I think I connect with it. Well, you know what I love about that is it also ties to our conversation last week about collaboration which is the the the.

Wynne Leon

Combination of structure. Planning and unstructured. So you know you plan for everything that you can and then you have some characteristics that are going to carry you through.

Speaker

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

The rest.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, yeah. And the the two things don't have to be mutually exclusive. You can be planful, but then also be responsive.

Wynne Leon

Right.

Vicki Atkinson

To the unthinkable, the unexpected, and maybe laugh along the way when.

Wynne Leon

MHM. You can right? Yes.

Vicki Atkinson

Because the stupid will happen face. I'm sure they weren't laughing when they, you know, died on the way back from the South Pole, right. Scott and his crew. But I mean, some things are are giggle worthy and it's OK to go there. I.

Wynne Leon

Was thinking as you were talking about, who to pick on your trip. Yeah. Wanna pick the person that thinks 99 bottles of beer on the.

Speaker

That's.

Vicki Atkinson

Right. I mean, there's a time and a place. This is not.

Wynne Leon

It right. I'm gonna pick that guy.

Vicki Atkinson

No, no. And and so you know, you think about like the future entrepreneurs or people in healthcare that were sitting listening to Brooks talk about that. Yeah, there will be no profession. You know that any, you know, newly minted graduate will ever be an ever where they aren't going to be part of a system, A-Team, a group or something. You know, where you've got to build trust. Kind of sussed out. Are you my people? Are you not my people? Do I need to work around you? Right. You. Or do I want you to come close because you you make me a better. Me. Yeah. That's hard stuff that is avoidable across your entire life.

Wynne Leon

That's true. And it's such a great, great segue to why I enjoy this partnership with you is because you do on on our trip to the South Podcast.

Speaker

Maybe.

Wynne Leon

You make it, you make it way more fun and you make me a better me.

Vicki Atkinson

Ohh no. Ohh yeah yeah, should that ever come up. I'm gonna tell you. Bench me. Right. Pick someone from your mountaineering life, and I will. I'll have a hot meal. Ready for you when you get back. I'll do all of that. But no, you don't want your cream puff friend. No. Well, no.

Wynne Leon

I called it the South podcast. I mean to have you along on these writing adventures and and teaching and.

Vicki Atkinson

OK.

Wynne Leon

On our storytelling mission to encourage other peoples to tell their story and to share vulnerability. You're great. You're great companion.

Vicki Atkinson

Well, right back at you. Thanks for tolerating me and in all the ways that that matter. But I I think that. It that's the the thing that has sustained us these last couple of years. It's the the recognition that we. Enjoy one another. Mm-hmm. But I I learn from you. And there's that richness. And not wanting to just be around people that will go. Yeah, that's great all the time. And and don't really add anything else. So I think it is. Yeah, it's it's a good soup to be in.

Wynne Leon

Right. It is a good soup to be love.

Vicki Atkinson

It is. It is well and we are not saying that people need to rush to, you know, read David Brooks's book. But I think. We liked it, we liked him.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, yeah, there's there's a lot, a lot of goodness there. And David Brooks, as you said, he's got a contestant message over many of his books. 2nd mountain character about showing up. And we like it. Yeah. Yeah, absolutely.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. Yep, well, this was fun. Thank you.

Wynne Leon

So fun. Thank you for spending the time. Nice to see.

Vicki Atkinson

You you too.

Wynne Leon

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