

9<sup>TH</sup> UNPLUGGED

KARLA HYLAND

OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MS. HYLAND: I'm Karla Hyland.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And you are listening to 9<sup>th</sup> Unplugged.

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: Before you become unplugged, tell us your job title and the department you work for.

MS. HYLAND: I am an official court reporter, stenographer and I work for the court reporting department in Osceola.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And how did you end up getting into court reporting?

MS. HYLAND: Oh, that's a good question. I was thinking about going back to school and not sure what I wanted to do. And a woman that I worked with in an office was getting a divorce and she came back from a deposition and said, you know what you should do, is become a court reporter. She drove away from her depo in a Mercedes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Amen.

MS. HYLAND: And I said, oh –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Why not.

MS. HYLAND: -- that's what I want to do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go. You got a Mercedes?

MS. HYLAND: No, but I do have a Lexis.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that's nice.

MS. HYLAND: And I love it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Absolutely.

MS. HYLAND: It's ten years old but it's my favorite car ever.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Absolutely. So let me ask you a question. Do you do stenography?

MS. HYLAND: I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Does that hurt your fingers after a while?

MS. HYLAND: No, I think you get tired, like your arms get tired after a while, to sitting too long for you know writing fast. It gets kind of exhausting.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. I was curious and I'm wondering if others might have been curious and would ask that question.

MS. HYLAND: I get that question a lot.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right. As long as I'm in line with the questioning. All right. So let's get unplugged. Let's get unplugged. Where did you grow up?

MS. HYLAND: Okay, I grew up over the east coast of you know, Maine, New Hampshire. But I'm from upstate New York, so that was always home.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That was home. And did you leave that area for a certain reason?

MS. HYLAND: My dad was in the Navy so we moved a lot.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right and so how was that experience, with being – with having

–

MS. HYLAND: Great.

JUDGE LATIMORE: -- a dad who was in the Navy?

MS. HYLAND: I loved moving.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You did.

MS. HYLAND: Yes, and actually I just realized this is the longest I've ever been in one place, eight years.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, okay.

MS. HYLAND: So which I think normally I moved around every three to four years so –

JUDGE LATIMORE: So that means you're a keeper.

MS. HYLAND: I'm here. I'm here to stay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, good. We're happy to hear that. And what are your favorite hobbies?

MS. HYLAND: Gosh, well, I like hanging out with my dogs.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, we have a dog lover.

MS. HYLAND: I do, yes, I do love dogs. I have three.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You have three dogs.

MS. HYLAND: They're like toddlers. So they do take up all of your time.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. And where did you get your dogs?

MS. HYLAND: Two came from a rescue, the Pet Alliance in Orlando.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. HYLAND: We went for one, ended up with two. They help each other. They're both fearful dogs. One came from a you know hoarding kind of situation and the other one came from Puerto Rico as a rescue.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, wow.

MS. HYLAND: And so they both really bonded together and helped each other learn how to be dogs and not be scared.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, that's good.

MS. HYLAND: Yeah, and the third came from -- actually my son's father had a dog that got to be bigger than he expected and he was never home, so my son said, we have to take him, we can't let him go.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Absolutely not.

MS. HYLAND: So we did.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. That sounds good. So do you have any other pets?

MS. HYLAND: I have about 50 fish.

JUDGE LATIMORE: 50?

MS. HYLAND: Yes. They had babies so I don't know what I'm going to do. I have so many. I'm starting to look at more aquariums because I don't know what to do with them all.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You have a pretty large aquarium.

MS. HYLAND: I don't. They're just very small fish because they're all babies right now.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, okay.

MS. HYLAND: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, fish sale, right?

MS. HYLAND: Yeah, I know, right free fish, come on over.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go. Come on, get a fish, take a fish home, okay. All right, and so are there any kinds of animals that you would not have?

MS. HYLAND: I probably would not have a bird because they live too long. I know that sounds terrible but you really have to –

JUDGE LATIMORE: You not counting the days on your dogs, are you? Please tell me –

MS. HYLAND: No, I do not, okay. But birds, I mean they can live for 50 years.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, I heard you have special feelings about goats.

MS. HYLAND: They climb trees and they jump a lot.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that is just too much.

MS. HYLAND: Scary.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It's a little too much, right?

MS. HYLAND: Yes, like a frog but giant.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So tell me, was there anything positive that happened during the pandemic in 2020 for you? Can you tell me something that was positive?

MS. HYLAND: Well, I think not being busy all the time, you know, there's nowhere to go, there's nothing really to do. And we pride ourselves on being busy and always on the go and doing stuff, so I think figuring out that you don't have to be busy all the time –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Kind of slowing down and –

MS. HYLAND: Yes, and you can still enjoy life.

JUDGE LATIMORE: -- smell the roses.

MS. HYLAND: And family, and yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. So is your family local?

MS. HYLAND: My mom lives next door with my grandfather and my brother and his wife and kids live about five miles away.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, so your grandfather has an interesting story, right.

MS. HYLAND: He does. He was a judge for, well, I say Judge, he was a Justice of the Peace for about 30 years in our small town in upstate New York.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wow, and then you had some pretty much close contact in his job and the things that he did?

MS. HYLAND: Right. When we would go home to visit, oftentimes the troopers would come and bring defendants, people that were arrested into his house to be arraigned. So as kids we just thought that was cool, it was so neat.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Ever think about going into law?

MS. HYLAND: I did. I wanted to be an attorney but it just didn't work out that way and then I ended up in court reporting school and I just really love writing on my machine. I love keeping up with people speaking and –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. Do you ever have weird things happen to you?

MS. HYLAND: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: A lot?

MS. HYLAND: I have had a couple of odd things happen to me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Tell me. Tell me; share that with me.

MS. HYLAND: When I worked in Pinellas County in criminal court, we were doing a hearing with a serial killer who was on death row. He actually passed away on death row. But they asked him how he chose his victims and he looked around the courtroom and he pointed at me, and said her, she's my next victim.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wow.

MS. HYLAND: So, yeah, odd things. I had something odd happen here in Osceola County but I don't know if it's –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, I'm still stuck on the serial killer pointing you out in the midst of the courtroom.

MS. HYLAND: Right.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I mean, like how did you – how did you respond to that?



MS. HYLAND: I just didn't. I was like oh, well, you know at the end, the judge said there will be no, you know, no contact with any of the court personnel.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's a good way to go. Were you the stenographer at the time?

MS. HYLAND: I was.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Did you skip a beat?

MS. HYLAND: I did. I was like --

JUDGE LATIMORE: I think I would have stopped typing.

MS. HYLAND: -- wait, what?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right. Well, that is something that's different but you handled that very well. What does your family think about your career as a court reporter?

MS. HYLAND: They think it's pretty neat. My dad has -- well, he passed away in 2017 but he used to laugh when I was in freelance, and he thinks that all I did was sit at home and watch TV and then go to the mailbox and collect checks. But of course you know our jobs are much more than that but in freelance you get to pick your own hours and you kind of don't work all day long outside of the home.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah.

MS. HYLAND: You work a lot at home.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'm curious, do you believe that there's life on other planets?

MS. HYLAND: There has to be something out there, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You think so.

MS. HYLAND: I do. But I don't believe we walked on the Moon.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You do not.

MS. HYLAND: No.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, what do you think about all the news reports and the celebrations?

MS. HYLAND: About walking on the moon.

JUDGE LATIMORE: About walking on the moon, yeah.

MS. HYLAND: I just – I think it was something great that brought the country together but I'm not really sure that it actually happened.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, and what about all the other explorations, like Mars and all that's going on?

MS. HYLAND: I do think that's ongoing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You do.

MS. HYLAND: I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. HYLAND: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. That's interesting because I've heard others who may have said that they did not –

MS. HYLAND: Right and I do believe you know through the pandemic, in the middle of all of that and Tiger King, all of a sudden we hear that there's UFOs and you know the government has proof of that, that's pretty neat.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you have a favorite holiday?

MS. HYLAND: Probably Christmas. It just brings family together.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. And do you have anything that you are terribly fearful of?

MS. HYLAND: Heights. I don't like to be up high.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do not.

MS. HYLAND: No.

JUDGE LATIMORE: No roller coasters.

MS. HYLAND: No, I used to like them but as I've gotten older, nope.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Does that affect you in a building as well with the elevators going all the way up to the top?

MS. HYLAND: Sometimes, if there's a large window, and I'm standing in front of it, I may feel like I'm going to fall out.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. Okay. What is the hardest lesson that you've learned?

MS. HYLAND: Um, I would think it's to stop taking things personally that other people do because a lot of times it's not about me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Not about you.

MS. HYLAND: Right.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. Something with them.

MS. HYLAND: Right.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, that's interesting. And I just wonder if you were in a place where you met, and I'm back at the aliens now, met somebody from another planet, how would you respond?

MS. HYLAND: As long as they weren't I don't know trying to murder me, I think it would be very neat. I would want to know all about –

JUDGE LATIMORE: You'd be interesting in learning about them.

MS. HYLAND: -- learning about them. Sure, absolutely.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I think that's wonderful and I think that's better than meeting the man who was in the courtroom, pointing you out.

MS. HYLAND: I think so too.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That might be a nicer friendlier kind of conversation.

MS. HYLAND: Absolutely.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, thank you so much. I appreciate you being unplugged with me today.

MS. HYLAND: Thank you.

(Music)