

Where's My Book Deal! TIS E. 51 - Transcript

Lisa 00:06

Welcome to the introvert sisters, the podcast by introverts, for introverts hosted by Sharon and Lisa, to INFJs with a lot to see.

Sharon 00:22

Hi, I'm Sharon. And I'm Lisa. And together, we're the introvert sisters. Welcome to our podcast. Welcome. Welcome. Welcome. And today, we want to talk about something that has got us both a little bit riled up.

Lisa 00:38

Yeah, we're grinding our gears, right?

Sharon 00:42

It really is, it really is, you know, we were out walking. And we started talking about white fragility. And I had words, on the subject of white fragility didn't I, Sis?

Lisa 00:55

you had a lot of words on these subjects. And you had also a lot of words on the book. So let's get started.

Sharon 01:02

Yes, well, here's the thing. I recognize that for some people, this concept is their way into doing the work. I recognize that I recognize that the term is a handy shorthand for talking about some things. However, I have a problem with the fact that a white woman with no lived experience of racism is making coin, teaching other white people about racism. Because if you're going to learn racism from some body, shouldn't you be learning it from the people that actually have the experience? And the knowledge to pack it? To back it up?

Lisa 01:43

Yeah. Because I mean, to me, like, the irony of it all is that it is reinforcing.. It is white supremacy. It is such a great example of white supremacy. And that whole culture in action, the whole toxic mess that we're trying to get out of, because of course, of course, in this matrix that we that we live in, of course, a white woman is at the top of the bestseller list for books about racism, of course. Right?

Sharon 02:09

You know, I want to know , where's my book deals? Right

Lisa 02:12

hey, I want a book deal too. Where where are our book deals? Right? Where's my book deal? Where's my, where are my speaker engagements, all that stuff? Where are my appearances? Right? Paid ones

.. all the coin? Where is it? Where's it for us? Where's it for all of the others? All of our other friends, friends and colleagues and connections on LinkedIn, all of the people of color, all of the black men and women who are fighting this and living this every day. I can't even get a guest on a blog. Let alone let alone a multimillion dollar book deal.

Sharon 02:46

Yes. And here's the thing. I mean, because she has doubled down on that. And she's writing a book. She's written a book, I think called "nice racism". Just you know, the title alone gives me hives. Right.

Lisa 02:59

Okay. Why does it give you hives?

Sharon 03:01

Because there's no such thing? Right, right. There really

Lisa 03:05

But it's pandering. You see, the thing is, is that diAngelo? Yeah. And can I just see, as a black woman, there's only one DiAngelo that I stand, and it's not her. Okay. But, you know, she just as she's created an audience, she's found her niche. Yeah, right. She's crazy. I know. She's pandering to that audience. Right? And also, can I just say on the subject of coin, right, because somewhere on. Well, two things. One is on the subject of coin, I refuse to put any her way. I have not bought the book, I will not be buying the book. If somebody wants to donate, they vote to not put any money in that woman's coffers. It's not going to happen,

Lisa 03:07

because there are black people writing about racism, and diversity, equity inclusion, and all of those things. Those are the people I want to support and that I do support. Yes. Right. You know, instead of talking about white fragility, read Teresa Robinson's book Blaxhaustion about how black people feel when they experience racism all the time. Yes. How about how about we put that at the top of the bestseller lists?

Lisa 04:04

Okay. There's plantation theory. There's there's a whole a whole wash of other books and other publications by black and brown people. Right? Yeah. That we can be supporting? No,

Sharon 04:16

yes. And here's the thing do you know you know, this is not let us let us let us disabuse ourselves of the notion that these black people are less qualified to write about racism. Because I tell you okay, for my part, not only do I have decades of lived experience of racism, I have a master's in media and culture.

Lisa 04:37

Right. And and you were a lecturer at Coventry University in the UK for years. Yes. So you are actually .. pedagogy is what you is what you do. You are an educator. Exactly. You know, there's intersectionality is you're an educator, you're a black woman. You have lived experience, of course of

racism. Yeah. And if anybody should be right leading discussion Since on this topic, it should be you on people like

Sharon 05:02

you. Right? So you know, where's my book deal?

Lisa 05:05

Where is right? Okay, we're kind of like saying it sort of semi tongue, tongue in cheek, but it actually really isn't because it is. It's really, really dangerous. That to me, right, that that book is at the top of the bestseller list. Both books really are at the top of the bestsellers list, because it says that we're actually .. it's performative. We're not solving anything. And it's trying to make things easier and easier and easier. Oh, I want to tap back onto because I never finished my thought about coinage. Yeah. And Di Angelo. The second part of that was that I know that she people have started asking, Okay, you say that you don't donate? Yeah, I see that you're supporting the culture that you're supporting the movement? How are you supporting it? Where have you donated to, where's the backup for this, where are the receipts, and they're, to the best of my knowledge, there have been no receipts, we have not seen the receipts. We are however, going to do some additional research. And if we come up with receipts, we will drop them in the show notes. But as of this recording, I personally have not seen any receipts. And even if there are receipts, it's probably so minimal. Yeah, it's one of those like tax tax write off all the years, that really means really means nothing. Right. And so, you know, I, what I would like to see, and we have, you know, white allies in our respective circles, absolutely. Who have opened their platforms to us to others, and we appreciate and we're grateful, right? What I would like some, you know, white people white allies to start doing is literally passing the mic, passing the opportunity on and saying, okay, you know, when when you get approached, you know, for your book deal or when you get approached for your your appearance or your speaker engagement or whatever, right? Say, You know what, I as an ally, who automatically benefits from whiteness, I'm actually going to pass this on. Right? I recommend, I recommend Sharon Hurley Hall. I recommend Lisa Hurley, I recommend Elizabeth Leiba, right. I recommend Ashanti Maya Martin, right there. Madison Butler. Okay. Future Cain. There's so many. Right? The list goes on and on and on. Right? Yes.

Lisa 06:17

And so yes, pass on those opportunities. You want to know if you can what you can do this tangible pass on those opportunities, share the mic, share

Lisa 07:35

the mic, right? Share, because sharing might mean sharing the coin. And when we talk about. I know reparations is a buzzword that people people, you know, don't respond well to the word reparations because they feel like they're being robbed. But you're not being ... it's called reparations. It's not it's not robbery. Yeah, we were robbed. We were we were stolen and then robbed. Right through being robbed. And we're still being robbed. And so it is a it is a means of recompense for that. For centuries of financial inequity. Yeah, right. And so, yeah, we definitely are asking, Where the heck are our book deals? Where are they? Because listen, I am tired of, you know, it's, it's been a long, almost two years now. Yes, right. Almost two years now we've been at this. It has, and we do the work out of love, right? Out of love, out of necessity, out of passion, out of purpose. Absolutely. Out of purpose. We're in

alignment with our purpose, right. But alignment, much as I believe in it, alignment does not pay the bills. Right. And so we have bills to pay, and we want and we want to get to the point also where we're not struggling. Right. And this is not to imply that I think I'm saying like the global collective global collective global collective

Sharon 08:55

we we are not, you know, we're not, you know, we're not saying that we are struggling,

Lisa 08:59

I am not, I am not impoverished, and I'm not struggling in that sense. However, I always welcome more luxury into my life. I'm just putting that out there. And I welcome more luxury and we like and we deserve to be paid for our labor. And, you know,

Sharon 09:13

paying black creators allows us to focus more on the work without having to be bogged down in some of the day to day things. Right?

Lisa 09:23

Can anybody say virtual assistant? Because I need I probably need like three at this point, right?

Sharon 09:29

Yes. And you're not so here's the thing, you know, it's weird to you know, circling back round this whole white fragility I can I just see. Yes, yes. Yeah. Can I just say that we don't want this idea of white fragility to lead to learned helplessness, helplessness, to the idea that, okay, oh, I'm so fragile. There's nothing I could do about it.

Lisa 09:54

Um, so we can I'm still learning

Sharon 09:56

you know? Yes. Okay. Right. We've been reading we've been learning Time for action and time to not use that as a crutch. But if you are looking for your your crutches and your insight, look at the people who combine lived experience with several academic and other qualifications that make them the true experts on this. You know, I'm sorry, you know, as a white person, you know, and yes, I love all my white allies and my family and my friends. But as a white person, you cannot be an expert on racism. You just cannot.

Lisa 10:32

Yeah, because you don't have the experience. You know, you don't know you are you are on the same way. We are on the outside of everything that you gatekeep, whatever. Right? Right. You are on the outside of this because you don't live it. Right. You don't live you you believe that? You do. Yeah. Right. But believing does not make it so. Right. You know, it's not making

Sharon 10:51

you can't you cannot understand it viscerally. And therefore, what you say about it is limited by your lack of that understanding. Yeah, right. Yeah. And I'm not saying please don't get me wrong here. By all means, read, learn, become aware and

Lisa 11:10

share what you learned, share what you've learned. Right. But

Sharon 11:16

but, you know, find your true experts to learn from right. And I'm telling you, that is not Robyn Di Angelo,

Lisa 11:23

not Robyn Di Angelo. And I know, I know. And the thing is, is, particularly I think about having been educated both in the Caribbean. And in the US. There are differences in in approach. I don't know what you feel about the education system in the UK, so you can speak on that, but there's a spoon, there's a spoon feeding that goes on in the US system, that does not happen in the Caribbean system at all. Now, maybe the Caribbean system could do with a little bit. But side note, it's very sink or swim it's very, it's very similar. So and I'm not recommending that, you know, it'd be unnecessarily tough. But I think that there does need to be a measure of ownership and responsibility for one's education, what you choose to ingest exists, right? And so, but people are so used to being spoon fed, right, you know, the culture, were spoon fed, and you or you just decide, you know, what, I'm not going to do this assignment when it's due. But then I'm going to complain when I failed the class, right? And get my parents to come in and make a fuss and get my A anyway, that is what underlies this culture of, you know, I'm just going to show up with my whiteness and not do anything, and be mediocre and still get rewarded. Right? Yeah, that is what underlies this entire thing to me. Yes.

Sharon 12:45

I mean, you know, I just, I don't understand I, you know, I don't understand how this person is at the top of the bestseller list.

Lisa 12:55

You know, even cuz we're in a white supremacist culture. Yes. I know, you understand. I know. I know. You want to bring, we're getting round.

Sharon 13:04

Because, you know, even at the, even at the height of, you know, the height of the social justice revolution, so called that called, so called. Yes, right. You know,

Lisa 13:16

it's more like a 90 degree turn.

Sharon 13:19

A few months after the murder of George George Floyd, even after that, you know, there was Robin Di Angelo is sitting at the top of the bestseller list. While you had Ijeoma Uluo. You had Afua Hirsch, you had all those people sitting below her on the best seller list.

Lisa 13:33

Yes. Right. And every time I looked at it, I just I just became I actually became irate. Yeah, right. I became irate because I was like, Look at this ridiculousness. This is exactly what we are fighting against exactly what we're fighting against. And here it is on the but like, literally, the plantation system on a bestseller list. Yes. Right. Yes. You have the white on the top, and then everybody else underneath. Yes. Right.

Sharon 13:59

You know, and, you know, you know, on in a way, you know, you you know, you don't blame people for saying, Okay, I have learned about this thing I want to tell her about this thing I want to but you know, the fact that the system enables this foolishness to go on? Yes. Because

Lisa 14:13

Because Because the thing is, is that people, you know what I'm not I'm not claiming that necessarily at that time that I was ready to write a book. I'm not claiming that. No, no, no, I am, however, ready now. But right. But But I know that there are lots of people who work but there were people that had people that had two books that people had already published. Yeah, there are people who were already published. Yeah. And there were people who were looking, seeking publication deals that could not get them because a whole bunch of white people took the space, per usual, right took the space, took the deals, took the opportunities, ran off with them, got their tax accountants to do magic, rode off into the sunset with my money. Just saying. Not that I have strong feelings

Sharon 14:55

of not strong feelings about it. Yeah, so you know And, you know, it's all it's all that system where certain opportunities are more available to certain people with certain hues. Yes, right, or lack thereof, right. So you know, certain people find it easier to, to get seen, to get the features in the magazines that lead to more sales to you know, certain people already have the financial wherewithal to buy their way into certain positions.

Lisa 15:24

And let me oh certain people, you see this is where privilege comes in, right? Certain people have the privilege to be able to take time off to write their book. Let's start there. Yes, right. Because now, mind you, because I remember reading that Maya Angelou used to write because she lived a full life, right? full life. And she used to write at like four o'clock in the morning. Yes, right? For like two hours. And that was a time that she could carve out right now, I don't know about you. But I don't know that people willing, we actually got up about four o'clock in the morning, right now, if you could be sleeping, you will be sleeping. Yes. But that's the time that you could carve out privilege is, being able to not even have to not even have to carve that time out. Because you can go move in by your parents, you can go to your lake house, right? I'm just saying, right? You can go go? Do

Sharon 16:10

you have your savings on your inheritance.

Lisa 16:14

Your parents can you know, cash in some some stocks or whatever, right? You know, and then you know, you can go and then get on people's talk shows and talk about bootstraps don't even freaking start me on bootstraps and bootstraps and

Sharon 16:27

people don't have boots. Right. Right. Or when people who have boots with boots have holes,

Lisa 16:31

let me tie boots going holes, laces frayed everything. Yeah. You know,

Sharon 16:35

so. So it's a system. And we all know this. We all this, this is not news to anybody. You know, systemic racism is systemic racism, because this kind of thing can happen and does happen. Right? Because that is what the system creates, allows and promotes and it Yeah, it

Lisa 16:49

fulfills itself, it continues perpetuating itself. Yes. You know, it's why

Sharon 16:54

certain people are at the top of the bestseller list are making big money. Right. And the people that are below on the bestseller list, may well be you know, having a second job, so that they can actually fund their writing. Right. Okay. Ridiculous. Yes. And then the people at the top of the bestseller list get all the prime speaking engagements. But I say again, one has to as a would be ally, examine as you learn more, I am not mad at you. Don't get me wrong. I am not mad at you if this is the way that you got your introduction? Work, right. No, no, not really. Okay. But once you have done that, your next step has to say, Well, where are the black people writing about this? How can I learn from those people? Right?

Lisa 17:42

If you're on panels, right, and you do the work of asking beforehand, who else is appearing? If it is a sea of whiteness? Step away and pass that flipping mic? Step away, right? No, because because that's where the work comes into that. And it's not, it is not so much taking away from us is sharing with others exactly who deserve it. Like I

Sharon 18:08

also raising awareness among your peers, that there is a better and more equitable approach to doing this. This Yeah, because every time a white person says, I do not want to be an all out on an all white panel, the organizers have to start thinking again, yeah, right.

Lisa 18:26

Because Because part of your work as a as a non black, non person of color ally, as a white ally, right? Part of your work is really it is work it is action is verb, it is creating opportunities, and sometimes creating opportunity means stepping away, right to create a path for someone else. Right. And, oh, we should also mention here, right on the topic of where I mean, you know, we're talking about book deals. We're also talking, As Sean mentioned just now about speaker engagement. Right. And we're just why you and I have both joined the Black Speakers Collection. Thank you, Madison Butler so much for giving giving us a platform. Right us all black speakers. Yeah. And listen, let me just tell y'all do not start with his foolishness. In this year and beyond. Right. About there's a pipeline problem with black speakers and your cap file.

Sharon 19:19

I will tell you that. That started I believe at the beginning of December 2021. Right before the end of December 2021. It was close on 1000. Black

Lisa 19:34

speakers. Yes. This was this was not this was not any. There was no marketing campaign. Yeah, it was a few posts on LinkedIn. Right. And so there are but there was a hunger for it. Yeah. Because all of us realized, oh my gosh, like there's an opportunity. Right? And and not only is an opportunity, but we deserve to be paid for our labor. Our labor we don't

Sharon 19:58

think four centuries of free labor was enough.

Lisa 20:00

Right. Okay. I'm just saying, right, actually, you're just saying, I'm just saying what you're saying. But yeah, so, um, there is a Black Speakers collection. So when you are, you know, for Black History Month and beyond and okay on that topic as well. We are available beyond Black History Month. Yes. ffs, right. Beyond that, okay. So but when you are hiring when you are building your your panels, right? Start with the Black Speakers collection, and others and others like it exactly out here we are, we are here we are available, and we deserve to be paid for our experience on our expertise or lived our lived experience under expertise.

Sharon 20:45

Exactly. You know, so you know, where's my book deal?

Lisa 20:48

Where's my book deal? I'm just saying I'm ready. All right. All right. I'm ready.

Sharon 20:52

I think that's it. Yeah. Pay us. Thank you for listening to this this episode of the introvert sisters. We appreciate you and we will catch you on the next episode. Bye.

Lisa 21:09

You've been listening to the introvert sisters. loved what you heard. You can catch all our episodes on Apple podcasts, Spotify, SoundCloud, and all other major platforms. subscribe, rate, and write a review. Find us online at the introverts sisters.com And follow us on Instagram and Facebook at the Internet sisters. See you next time. Peace