How to Survive the Future

Episode 2: Bloomington Birth Center

By: Alex Chambers and Allison Quantz

A show about today from an imagined tomorrow
INFO

Title: Bloomington Birth Center

Episode Description:
Katie is a criminology professor and a doula. She’s also the mother of two sons. They’re grown men at this point, but they still do dinner together almost every week – along with her older son’s wife, and her husband. This episode starts with some news from Katie’s daughter-in-law.

Interviewee(s): Katie Barrus

Groups/Orgs mentioned: Bloomington Birth Center

Episode Link: IndianaHumanities.org/future/

Other links: TandemBloomington.org/

QUOTES

• “It was the most amazing and the most frightening sense of responsibility and love and transformation.” – 4:25
• “But when we got to the hospital, it became scary to me.” – 7:09
• “After I had the epidural, I very much became, like, a patient to the staff. Like an unnamed patient, kind of. They were doing things to me, and I was just kind of on the bed with no feeling.” – 9:43
• “Only then did it really hit me that that experience was traumatic for me.” – 16:09

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

• How did Katie’s birth story challenge the mainstream narrative of giving birth?
• How did these stories affirm or challenge your understanding of the birthing process?
• How have you connected with the “generations of labor” in your life?
• What advice will you give to the daughter figures in your life?