

Kathryn Thompson and Scott Davis Transcript, 2026

JH: Alright, so it's great to be with you both. Thank you so much for agreeing to do this. And I guess I'll start by saying I think it's about a decade since I visited you in your very beautiful home, and it's a lot to ask you to catch me up on a decade, but can you catch me up on a decade?

KT: Where do we start? Do you have specific questions? Or,

JH: Well, I guess, I guess sort of tell me how it's been with the girls. You know what they're.. I sort of met them in adolescence, and now they're really young women. What has that kind of journey been like for you both? The parenting journey,

KT: It's been pretty good, you know. We get along pretty well. Grace went to the local community college for five years before she transferred to Davis, UC Davis, and then she, so it was kind of a long journey for her, and also it was during the pandemic. So, once she entered as a junior in Davis, she was working at a restaurant and taking summers off. That's why it took so long at College of Marine. And then, when she got there, she was in an apartment, but she was remote for a year. Oh, yeah, wasn't getting the true university, so finally her last year she got to be in person and do college things, so and then she did an internship when she came out in nutrition and registered dietitian is what she's going to be when she passes the test, so she did that at Kaiser, and then they ended up hiring her, so

JH: Awesome

KT: being back home, and so it's been a long journey, but you know, she stayed focused, and both of them are like so done with school, even though Camille has another year and a half, they're just so over it, so yeah,

JH: So is she going to move back in, or is she going to find her own place?

KT: Camille or Grace?

JH: Grace

KT: Grace is living here.

JH: Oh, she is okay.

KT: When she graduated, it's like, why pay exorbitant rent in Marin? And

JH: Totally

KT: And she goes from work to out with friends or to Pilates class, so she kind of just sleeps here.

SD: Yeah, she's. I hardly ever see her. I mean, she's, she's really into, well, she's got a lot of friends, but she's her big thing is eating, and you know that's what they do. They don't go out and drink a lot and stuff, not a little bit, but mostly going to San Francisco and eating pretty much all Asian food. That's, she's completely

KT: Hot pot and Pho, and then also she, this group of friends go to sporting events, so she goes to what, football and baseball and basketball,

SD: Yeah, hockey, everything

KT: into that, she's enjoying that, and you know, playing in the spirit,

SD: yeah, she was a, she was really into in high school track. In junior college, she was on the track team,

KT: and then so she doesn't run anymore, but she goes up to Oregon in Eugene, where they have the pre-Olympic finals, and just follows all these people, and is so it's really fun. Back

SD: Now, we were kind of talking about Grace. I just, I find it kind of interesting that she's completely drawn to the type of food that they probably would have eaten where she was from, the Sichuan Province, you know, super spicy, and she's vegetarian, like

KT: been vegetarian since she was six,

SD: but when she cooks, like I can barely walk in the kitchen, it's just so spicy, it

KT: makes you cough, yeah, you know, whenever we go to a restaurant, she wants the spiciest. She just loves it.

JH: You think maybe there's a little bit of a kind of a DNA adaptability thing?

KT: Being from Sichuan Province...and Camille like spicy, but not as..

SD: Not that spicy, and she's immediate. She loves meat

KT: And there's been times where she was getting a lot of canker sores, I'm like, you need to take a break. She's like, no, it's worth it, and you know, just powered through them, and now her body's just used to it.

JH: When I met Grace, I'm going to talk to Grace too, but when I met her, she.. I remember you mentioned Scott that she had a boyfriend who was at the time Chinese, I think, from Chinese American family, and he spoke Mandarin.

SD: Yeah, James,

JH: James, did that continue, or yeah, yeah.

KT: He graduated school, and she tried to go out there and keep things going, that he was pretty lax about it, and she was like, yeah, I can't do this alone, and yeah,

JH: They're young.

SD: Yeah. She's had other boyfriends that were, you know, Caucasian, maybe Hispanic,

KT: Not Caucasian.

SD: Oh no, not Caucasian.

KT: She...

SD: Oh, no not Caucasian. She has a preference to...

KT: [unclear], who's Hispanic,

SD: Yeah.

KT: And well, and Jason

SD: Oh, they. That's right, Jason was half Chinese,

KT: Japanese,

SD: Japanese, Asian.

JH: So she has an eclectic...

KT: Both of them have never had a Caucasian boyfriend, which is

SD: Camille is drawn to more Asian men, people, I guess.

KT: Justin's Vietnamese, and before that, Peter Cho was Korean.

SD: Yeah,

KT: Yeah. Anyway,

SD: They both really like, like, Asian food. Yeah,

JH: Well, so they, they were both.. I remember when we initially talked, and I talked with them, like you were saying, Scott, they were, they were, they really liked doing like families with Chinese children things, FCC things like that when they were younger, but they were pretty rooted in your family life, and I think you know, I was talking to Camille recently, and I asked her if she thought much about birth parents or birth family searching, and she's like, not really, no, I'm, I'm, I'm really set with my parents, and I don't have a lot of curiosity about looking backward. Did that ever, is it has that been pretty consistent through both of their childhoods?

KT: I've always brought it up to them, you know, like if you ever went to, because I'm on social media, I see things on, you know, Facebook and TikTok and stuff, Instagram, and I remember

asking Grace what she went to after we had Camille, and she's like, "No, I don't want to. Sorry. Oops, it's [the family cat entered the conversation]

JH: Okay.

She's like, "Was that did she do something?"

SD: No,

KT: I don't. I really like Camille. I don't want to find out I have another sister, and just like, I really like they're almost five years apart, and so now they're close, you know. They were close when they're little, and then teenage years - four years and 10 months is a lot. And then, yeah, and now whenever Camille comes home, they'll go to the city together, and yeah, so they, they both have a lot of Asian friends, especially Grace, and they still like now Grace is the instigator to do, like, the Marin Chinese Cultural Association has a dinner for New Year's that's going to be coming up here, and she'll like say, 'We got to get tickets, and she invites her friends that are Asian and not Asian, so it's neat to see her. I mean, because I'd be fine if she's like, yeah, I don't really want to do that. We would still go, but she's into it, and yeah, what else do they do? The FCC, it's no longer.. does that.. is that still functioning somewhere? Because,

JH: Well,

KT: Yeah, not..

I mean, they're around, but because the program, the international adoption program in China has effectively closed. Then I think they just don't have the purpose that they had before. And also, what I notice has happened in the decade that I've been doing this, you know, the adoptees are coming of age, so they can tell their stories themselves forming, you know, like China's Children International, CCI, was formed by two adoptees, one of whom's story is on is on the oral history site, and there I've noticed, for instance, recently on Instagram, there's a lot that folks are putting out for one another about citizenship and status in the current environment, yeah, immigration environment, so they're they're starting to, and have been really kind of finding their voices, and and so maybe FCC, you know, maybe it's kind of an evolution. It served its purpose, right, beginning for a number of years, and then now it's kind of like you pass the baton,

KT: Right? Yes,

JH: See what they're going to do with it, and what they're going to.. that's why I wanted to re-interview, because it's interesting to see how they're reflecting and what they're making of this whole experience, and so how are you all thinking about, or are you thinking about the current immigration discussion? Do you, do you have any concerns or worries? Do you see it as related or unrelated to being the parents of children from another country who are citizens, naturalized,

KT: Alarming to me, but I know that we did the all the paperwork we could, you know, some people put off doing the becoming what is that naturalized citizen, or what is it that some people. People didn't do, and got in trouble later.

JH: Naturalized citizens, because, yeah, because if they were adopted before, after 2001 when the Child Citizenship Act became law, the citizenship process, the naturalization process, and the adoption process went along the same road. This is what happened with

KT: Us Camille, too, in 2003 She was automatically, yeah.

JH: So, so when you, you know, you come home, you don't have to go through the naturalization process. You already did that. You took the oath of citizenship in China, and all of that, but there have been incidences that were there, have been a couple of fairly high-profile cases with Korean adoptees who were not covered, and who did not, who were not naturalized, and so now there is pending legislation in Congress,

KT: Yeah,

JH: To close this loophole, but who knows what will happen at this point?

KT: Yeah, I know. I got nervous a while back because a friend that adopted two girls from China, [friend's name], yeah, her daughter [daughter's name] lives in Texas, and would go out walking, and she just started feeling uncomfortable that people would slow down and look at her, and she's just like not doing that, and then, and then, Grace and Camille were going to some functions, or, you know, not riots, but what do you call it,

SD: Protest,

KT: Protest, yeah, and I was like, it just made me nervous, I'm like, are you sure you went to, and they just assured me they're both really careful and stuff, so that did

SD: That kind of hits home, right? I mean, Devin told Maya to don't go to the protest, and if you do go out, bring your passport, because ICE was going crazy somewhere down in Texas. It wasn't Austin, it

KT: was like last summer, like our girls don't have current passports, I believe.

SD: They don't?

KT: Well, they haven't traveled outside the country in a long time, so do you feel like it's important that they have that?

JH: I mean, I don't know, I'm not.. I think they have, they're both citizens, they have their citizens, they have citizenship documentation, and I think that should be perfectly fine, and that should suffice. I mean, every time you talk about this, you think, am I being paranoid? Am I not being paranoid? You know what I mean?

SD: I don't know, with what's going on. I don't think we're being paranoid. I think that I think we should get them. I think we should.

KT: Grace might still have...

SD: She went to Mexico, yeah, but no, it's the more I talk about it's you see the stuff on television, yeah, you need something right then and there, you can't say, oh, I've got documentation, we can get it, kind of need it immediately,

JH: Can you tell me a little bit about what that has been like as, as the decade has moved ahead, sort of being a little bit older than other parents and contending with some of the things that happen as we get older at the same time that we're raising adolescent children,

KT: Right? Do you want to talk? I feel like I keep taking over.

SD: Yeah, well, I mean, I think we, you know, our health was well, I mean, I had a little glitch when I had the cancer in 2012 but other than that, being older, I feel like our health has been good, where we could keep up with whatever they needed to do, you know, when they were younger and stuff, and I didn't feel like it was ever a problem, you know, especially around here. I think there's a lot of older parents where we live, so I, you know, I really.. I don't really see any, as long as you're healthy and active, I don't really see any big downsides of being an older parent, you know?

JH: Any upsides?

SD: Good, sure. More wisdom, you know? I mean, you've experienced more and feel like you have more to give,

KT: And I never like resented the time they took, because I'd done everything I wanted to do when I was younger, so I was just, could never relate when people are like, "Oh my God, give me a break. I mean, definitely I had long days, but, but yeah, I was just like, just blown away that I could ever feel the love I feel for them, you know? Just so cherished. And also, within, we had a play group when Grace was little, that were still close to like seven families or six, not so much with Michelle anymore, but they were all older too, and like you said, in Marin, I might be a couple years older than the parents, so, but not that much, a lot of people had kids later, or now people get. Pregnant when they're 40 or 42 and, and so, and one thing I was going to mention, as far as like the girls kind of taking the helm, as far as getting together, like I said, for Chinese New Year, Grace is still, they kind of went their separate ways and came back together, that initial play group that had like five girls and two boys from Taiwan, and that group is really close, and Grace and her friend Lily, that's from China, they organize a Christmas party that we all go to each year, and it's just like it's just interesting, I'm like, well, we're not organizing stuff anymore, she's, she just takes over, she's like, you know, just organizes everything and stuff, decides who's going to bring white elephants and what food's going to be there, and like we get to just show up.

SD: Yeah, I mean, we got together like once a week for years...

KT: Like every Friday.

SD: I'm sure we told you all this ten years ago...

KT: We tried to do it with Camille, but other people that had two kids, like they were just too busy, so Camille was part of the older kids group, but yeah, so it's neat to see that she just really values those connections, and Camille too, just knowing that, you know, they can talk about being from China and Taiwan, and yeah,

JH: Yeah, and that they're, they're, they've sort of taken the lead in that,

KT: Exactly,

JH: You know, you, what you, what you started and gave them, they can, they're continuing in their own way,

KT: Yeah, yeah, definitely.