

Episode 7 understanding bios

Cat:

Spend five minutes in child welfare, and you'll be bombarded with opinions on biological parents. Today we have a biological parent here with us, who has faced and overcome many obstacles, and has built many close relationships along the way. Today we have Mack here with us to share her story and her insights.

Jack:

So Mack, let me ask you a very serious question. Okay. What is your favorite drink at Starbucks.

Mac:

A Java Chip Frappacino.

Jack 1:59

What is your favorite thing to do with your kids?

Mac 2:06

Take them to a water park or the beach,

Jack 2:10

That's cool and they always talk about going to the beach with you and they really like that.

mac 2:14

I always sunburn them but it never stops them from going

Jack 2:18

Listen, I think that's just part of life when your skin is on the lighter side and you live in Florida, you get a couple good burns at the beginning of the summer, you're good to go.

mac 2:27

Yeah, well I do it like every month we just burn once and then, then we're good for a little bit.

Jack 2:32

Okay, what is your absolute best memory ever with your kids.

mac 2:38

Oh that's really hard. Um, honestly probably say these past couple months like when I pick them up and like to see how happy my kids are to be with me and then my kids like I'm trying to get them to sleep in their own beds right now but they just want to sleep with me and they sleep and they like snuggle me and they're like literally on top of me, my, my six year old she likes to put her foot in my face in the middle of the night so I mean that's not really fun but I mean it's I'm glad that she's right there and she's close.

Jack 3:08

Give me one word that you think people who don't know you would use to describe someone who's had their kids removed.

Mac:

I'm unworthy.

Jack:

Do you see yourself that way?

mac 3:21

Absolutely not.

Jack 3:22

Do you think that there is something that makes people have judgment about someone who's had their kids removed.

mac 3:31

I mean honestly the first thing that comes to mind is- you must have done messed up really bad for your kids to be taken from you in the first place. So I mean, and honestly we all do we do mess up really bad but the difference is we got caught.

Jack 3:49

Different circumstances can determine who's going to get caught or not but fortunately, even though you got caught you've completely radically changed your life.

mac 4:02

I mean, I'm glad I got caught because it did save my life and my kid's life. God only knows where I would be if I didn't get caught.

Jack 4:07

It's really just a matter of chance or choice and, you know, one step differently and I could be in your shoes and you could be in my shoes so I think that it's really important that people take time to get to know parents and not just make assumptions based on the choices that, you know, put them in this position. Because if I was judged solely based on the worst decisions I've made in my life, you know, I wouldn't want people thinking of me that way.

As much as I hate that you had to go through the experience of having your kids removed, I'm really glad that you're in my life and that wouldn't have happened without it.

mac 4:45

Yeah, it definitely opened up my eyes and I'm like completely grateful for you because I probably wouldn't be where I'm at without you either so

Jack 4:52

Let me ask you a question. I know you mentioned at some point in time that you spent a night in foster care when you were younger, do you remember that at all, or is it just something because I know some things that happen to me when I was a kid I only remember it because someone told me is that something that you remember or you just know happened.

mac 5:10

So I mean I remember little bits and pieces but I'm not sure if it's just my memory or stuff that I have been told like I remember I was literally only there for one night and it was.

They tried to get my mom in trouble because she said cuss words in front of us and so

Jack:

shut the freak.

Mac:

Yeah, she said cuss words, and I believe it was my grandmother who called and my mom went to the judge and was like, show me one parent who doesn't cuss in front of their kids, and you can take my kids and the judge was like have your kids back. But this was in a different state to and this was like. And then, in the 1900s.

But I remember like going to this, and like I had my brothers and my sister's with me and like we all got separated so I mean that was scary and like going to different houses and

like, one on one of us getting dropped off and like I remember going in there and the foster mom wanted me to take a shower, but I was like so uncomfortable that I didn't want to take a shower so she like tried, she helped me take a shower and I think I was like six so I probably didn't need help, but I was like, terrified, and then we went up and we went somewhere, and I don't really remember where, but it was like some store. And then we went to the courthouse and they gave me back to my mom.

Jack 6:34

Can you tell me, because I, you know, I know that we all have different, I guess, journeys in our life. And I know we've talked a little bit about some of this but I was kind of hoping that you could share with us kind of your, your, I guess your journey like, When did you finish high school,

mac 6:55

No, I tried to but I got pregnant with my son,

Jack 6:58

so when did you get pregnant with your oldest child?

mac 7:03

I was 17. Um, so I had dropped out in like 10th grade, and I just really sucked at focusing so I kept I did the GED program twice, and then I got pregnant and I probably could have finished, but you know I was tired all the time and like I didn't want to wake up, so I just stopped going.

Jack 7:26

Okay so you were in school till 10th grade, and then you got pregnant, and you were trying to do the GED program, and you were in a relationship with the father of your first child, right.

mac 7:41

I mean if that's what you want to call it. So I've known my, my oldest kids dad, His uncle since I was in sixth grade, and we moved like two blocks away from him, so I just went to go say hi, as a family friend and then he had a nephew there and he told me don't talk to my nephew. He's bad news and at 17. We're gonna do the exact opposite. So, I went and got into a relationship with him.

Jack 8:12

You were in a relationship with Him, you had two children, And your second child. How old

were you when you had her?

mac 8:24

I got pregnant with my second child when my son was six months old I believe I was on birth control, but I was like, not taking them the way I needed to, I guess. I thought I was but apparently not because I had another baby

So the relationship with their father ended at the time, because I was a completely naive child

My mom didn't let me know about the bad things in the world. I didn't know what drugs were and he was doing drugs and stealing money from us. So eventually he ended up going to jail for stealing some of my mom's things and selling them so he went to jail and i broke up with him cause you cant really date somebody in jail.

Jack 9:06

So, so that relationship really ended, you ended that relationship because he went to jail because he was stealing and using drugs.

mac 9:14

Yeah, he was stealing my credit cards like I remember on New Year's Eve I had bought him alcohol, and I gave it to them and then I went to sleep with the kids and I put my debit card under my pillow and I don't know how this man got it but he got under my pillow took my debit card, went to the gas station and bought beer cigarettes and spice I guess whenever it was over the counter and bought it and I like woke up and I was like what the heck, where's my debit card at, right. Yeah, so my next kid's dad is on. Again I was young so don't judge me for this, he was, he was a bad boy I mean, he's not a bad guy, but it's just, I just don't trust him anymore so that relationship fell apart at the end to

Jack 9:57

do either of them have relationships with the kids. No. So you're a single mom of four kids at this point. Right, absolutely. And who is your support at this point

mac 10:08

honestly I mean my mom was always there. So I mean I guess it would be my support, but I had friends that were drinking so they were my support, they didn't do drugs so I guess I thought wasn't bad. Honestly, I thought they were really my support then like I guess I don't know because nobody from that time is still around me.

Jack 10:29

So you didn't really other than your mom, you didn't really have a lot of support at that time. Now, right,

cat 10:33

we talk a lot about how children needs structure and stability, but we forget that as adults we absolutely crave structure and we crave stability as well. And in fact it's vital to our sense of well being emotional support helps to combat loneliness, it reduces depression and anxiety so emotional support is just vital to all people, all humans, adults and children.

Jack 11:01

Your littlest little cutie princess who doesn't like dirt. Tell me how she came into this world.

mac 11:08

Um, so I bought with her dad and I was using already at the time and I watched him overdose in a hotel and I was by myself with him I watched him overdose and like it terrified me and I guess it was like a trauma bond that I got, like with him and I wanted to save him, but like, now I know I can't save anybody but myself but that's how I got pregnant with her like we, I tried to save them I moved him into my house which was not a good idea. Now, and then I think we just got pregnant, I mean I guess drugs make you fertile.

Jack 11:50

You know, I've kind of seen that to be the case. I don't know really how that won't happen, it just happened I mean someone should clue in all these fertility doctors saying what. So, you know you've talked about struggling with drugs, is that the reason your children were removed.

mac 12:09

Yes.

Jack 12:09

Let's go back a little bit. What was the first time you ever use drugs.

mac 12:17

So actually I remember the day I did the first time I did drugs i on picked up my friend, and she had just got out of jail and I met her at the mall. I was like not really too sure of it so like she couldn't get ahold of anybody and I was just like kind of relieved. And then, like, nine o'clock 10 o'clock at night finally somebody like came up and I was just kind of like

whatever and then I did it and I was like, Oh, this isn't bad like I have all this energy like, I'm, I feel like I'm being fun to be around, you know, and it kind of went off from there. I remember I was doing it for like two weeks and then I tried to like not do it, and that's when I realized I was like, Oh, crap like, if I don't do it I'm not gonna get up and do anything, I'm just gonna like go to sleep and I don't want to go to sleep because I, nobody had nobody other than the people who have did the drug with I knew that I was using so like I, nobody would have thought that me I would have done. Like, I was, I was always working, I always had my kids, like I did everything with my kids, so whenever it eventually came out that I was using everyone was completely shocked and like, at first, nobody believed me they thought I was kidding and I was, it was a joke and I was like no I'm serious, I need help.

cat 13:37

So this puts you in even more of a vulnerable position.

Jack 13:41

So then after two weeks, that's when you realize that it was a problem.

mac 13:45

I think it was two weeks I'm almost positive I was driving with my friend, and like I said to her like I was like, um, I'm not addicted I'm just doing this for fun, but then I had dropped her off and I went to my mom's house. And I didn't have anything with me because like I wasn't brave enough to bring it to my mom's house at this time yet.

And then, like I did, so I'd have nothing and like I'm falling asleep, and I couldn't get up and pose my kids and then my mom's like trying to give me dinner and I'm just like, No thank you, and she's like, What is wrong with you, saying nothing.

Jack:

And at this time she still didn't know?

Mac:

My mom didn't know until I told her.

Jack:

And when did you tell her?

Mac: Um, I don't remember exactly when I told her, but I was so ashamed of myself like I couldn't say to her face.

Jack 14:38

Was it before or after the kids were removed?

Mac 14:42

Okay, my mom was actually the one to call DCF on me first.

Jack 14:45

Oh wow, I didn't know that.

mac 14:46

Yeah. Um, so yeah I told her through a text message that I was using and I didn't want to anymore and I wanted, I want him to stop and, like, help me please, and her way of helping me was calling DCF, Because maybe they could have helped her because she's never dealt with and so she didn't know what to do.

I mean, I was mad at her. But looking back, where I am now like I understand why she did. This is trying to get her wanted to help me and that's the only way she know how I'm was there.

Jack:

Okay so, like, to me when I know your story. I kind of look at like the series of events that happened and I'm like, Well no wonder she ended up there, you know, from the experiences that you've had, when you were younger, to some of the situations that you had when you were older. You know, I could see how someone could be put in that position, but do you think that, you know, the first time you use Do you think that if that hadn't happened it would have eventually started happening, or do you think it was chance on that day?

mac 15:50

I think, honestly, like, if meth wasn't ever presented to me... cuz it was my fault, like nobody forced it into my mouth and like said do this or we're gonna shoot you in the head, like it was all me like, that's me, but if it wasn't put in front of me like that. No I don't think I would have ended up on this path.

Jack 16:08

So, what I what I'm wondering is, like if there was someone in my life that this was going to be in their future, how could I stop it. So in your situation like you were just in a really dark place. It sounds like you were struggling with some depression. So how could someone

have stopped it if someone was a support to you and recognize that you were struggling with depression, and maybe found a way to get you into therapy or to see a psychiatrist, do you think that would have stopped the path that was to come?

mac 16:38

I mean honestly, for me, no. My mom was giving me all the support she could like she was helping me with my kids like when I felt overwhelmed, she would take them for me. I think I was just going down that path and eventually that's where I was gonna end up, if somebody wanted to put it in front of my face would I have done it. No, but I was drinking more than I should have so when I become an alcoholic instead of an addict.

cat 17:05

So you are already predisposed to addiction, and it was presented to you at a time when you were vulnerable and struggling and lacking an adequate healthy support system.

Jack 17:17

So the first time you used your, you were with your friend. She was like hey you gotta try this meth stuff... Had you ever heard of it before?

mac 17:25

So I mean, she had come to my house before while she was on it. I looked at my boyfriend at the time which is my kids dad, and I was like who would want to do that she is all over the place like arms fling in like eyes looking bug eyed I was like who would want to do that. So I mean I've seen her on it but I mean I guess she was like, she was my friend since I was little, so I was like, well, she's not gonna put me in a bad situation.

Jack 17:52

Yeah so you trusted her. So was she like a support to you?

mac 17:57

When it came to drugs.

Jack 17:58

I don't necessarily mean she was helping you make good choices but was she someone who you would go to when you were upset because at the time you were upset about the breakup with the father of your two middle girls?

mac 18:11

She tried to get my mind off things and be like, You're pretty. You're worth it. Like, you

don't need him, you can find anybody, so she was trying to be there for me and like I've known her for a long time and she's never gotten me in trouble so I trusted her.

Jack 18:26

When you first started using you already had four kids?

Mac:

Yeah

Jack:

You first started using you had recently broken up with the father of your two middle girls

Mac:

Yeah.

Jack:

What were you like then, what was your life like while you were going through that breakup?

mac 18:46

So, I was completely depressed, I was hurt, I felt like I wasn't good enough. I was so depressed that I couldn't eat like I physically couldn't eat like I would try to eat, and I'd make food for the kids and I would make myself a plate and like I was so depressed that I could not eat.

Jack 19:05

Okay, so you didn't feel this after the breakup with the first guy but that was more on your terms right because he wasn't a good person to be around for you or the kids so you kind of made that responsible choice. Yeah, but the second time you like he broke up with you.

mac 19:23

Yeah, he broke up with me and started dating some girl that he told me, Don't worry about her. She's just a friend.

Jack 19:33

So, he started dating someone that he had probably had relationship with before he broke up with you.

Mac:

Yeah

Jack:

And you were brokenhearted you were depressed. I mean it really does sound like a clinical depression at that point where you feel like you can even like get out of bed or make food and stuff like that and at this point you're all alone in taking care of four kids. Were you living with your mom then?

mac 19:58

No, I was alone, I had an apartment by myself. I mean I had me my, my kids dad at the time and the four kids.

Jack 20:08

But then when he moved out, it was just you and the kids?

mac 20:10

Yeah, I mean my neighbor would help me get the kids like off the bus or something like that, I think, only one of them was in school at the time, I think he was my son was in kindergarten and other than that, and the kids weren't in daycare, so I had them all the time and like I'm going through this breakup and I don't know how to deal with it. And I'm doing the best I can so like **when somebody offered me something to like make all my feelings go I was like "please like, this sucks. I don't want to feel like this"**

Jack 20:41

Right, and so were you at that point in time, he had left you you're alone with four kids, your friend is the person who's trying to help you get through the breakup and she's the one that offers you meth.

Mac:

Yes.

Jack:

Okay. Is there anybody in your family... because we find a lot of the times that when someone uses drugs that they're usually more predisposed especially when they get addicted. I know some drugs are more addictive than others and you know I'm no science, biology, chemistry expert here but I'm assuming that genetics plays into that.

Did you have any like, aunts, uncles anybody, brothers, cousins, anybody who has struggled with addiction in your family, you don't have to give me specifics but has

anybody in your family struggled with addiction?

mac 21:29

Yeah, my dad's an alcoholic, and my aunt, so I don't think she's ever come to terms with it but she's an addict. I remember whenever I was younger, my aunt would give me something to make me go to sleep. I'm thinking it was a Xanax, I don't remember it. Yeah, and then I was spending the night at some house with her and her boyfriend and she gave me something to go to sleep so I guess they could go and have sex while I slept and on gave it to me. And this man has now passed away from an overdose but yeah, I was, I was in like, seventh grade, eighth, so and again I didn't know what I was taking in it's my aunt so like she's not gonna give me anything that I'm not supposed to be like it's like a Tylenol PM, right?

Jack 22:13

Yeah I think at that age, that you just trust the person that is taking care of you and you, you know, I would never think that someone was like, or there's something that you've said to me a lot, and I'm gonna ask you to share that about, you know, How your feelings about the kids having come into care and, you know,...

mac 22:34

It's my fault that my kids were taken from me. Nobody did anything to me to make my kids be taken away and it kills me on what I did, not only to myself, but to my kids. To see how hurt my kids were when they were taken away from me, not once, but twice. The trauma that I put my kids through because I didn't mean to hurt them, I was trying to deal with my emotions the only way I knew how. The fact that I hurt my kids it kills me.

Jack 23:05

Yeah, whenever you say that to me, that's when I know you get it. And that's why I have such faith in you because it takes a lot to not only take accountability for what choices you've made, but also to recognize the effects on your kids. And that's admirable.

mac 23:24

Yeah, I mean it didn't come to me right away that it was my fault. I mean first I wanted to blame my ex and you know if he wouldn't have gave me the wrong pee, I wouldn't be in this situation. But when it comes down to it, I was gonna get caught eventually. I mean, honestly, I'm glad it happened because it saved mine and my kids life.

Jack 23:43

Yeah. You mentioned a couple of times that your ex had overdosed. The first time that you saw someone overdose was that then?

mac 23:52

Yeah, that was the first time I've ever seen somebody overdose and it terrified me like I was so scared I didn't know what to do. And I was by myself with him, I mean he jokingly said something about he's like come take a shower with me and I was like, Um, no, not happening and like 20 minutes go by and he's still in there and the shower is running and I'm like, Is he okay and I didn't know he was doing something you could overdose on. So like I just opened the door and I found him with his face in the toilet, and like he was gone and I flipped out like I got him on like on his side, just in case he threw up so he didn't like choke on it,

Jack 24:29

But he was like unconscious?

Mac:

He was blue. Yeah it was really scary and like it scared me to get clean for like a little bit but then when you see somebody that overdosed and like, they're not doing anything to change it but you're trying to do something to change it, it's like well if they don't care why should I care.

Jack 24:50

What happened like so he was blue you flipped them over how did, how did he come back?

mac 24:55

So I got him on his side and I had him laying there and I was about to call 911 But I had called one of the guys that was there with us, and they literally happened to be in the parking lot so they came in and they were dumping ice water on him, and they were trying to give him come back and they call this dealer and his dealer came back and narcaned him and he wasn't high anymore but he was alive.

Jack 25:21

Yeah. Okay, so, um, most, most people who have strong addictions especially drug addictions have experienced either severe traumas, such as physical, sexual, emotional abuse, or struggle with mental health issues that are unmedicated or that haven't been receiving therapy. Did you once, once you started inpatient rehab and really intensive stuff. Did you ever figure out, like the core reason of why you became an addict or do you think

it was just the culmination of a lot of things?

mac 26:00

So I think that I had trauma from my childhood that I literally just buried underneath me and then I had stuff going on with my dad where I wanted my dad to be there for me and my dad at the time was in the area I was living in, and you don't know this jack, but my dad actually tried to get me to do meth with him. He tried to get me to buy with him so then that was like a connection like, oh my dad's there for me he wants to hang out with me he loves me.

Jack 26:33

Was that before you started using meth?

mac 26:35

No this was after. Yeah he we went to a strip club together

Jack 26:41

Family bonding...

mac 26:42

I mean he doesn't do anything now, but at the time like I guess just this area's just not good.

Jack 26:51

Do you know that Cat and I were doing some research last week, and even though the Miami area, Miami Dade that they have like millions and millions more people than we do and in our area that we actually have more children in care.

mac 27:12

I believe it 100%

Jack 27:13

It's such a hot spot for, you know, especially the opioid crisis and, you know, meth is a really big problem around here and it breaks my heart. I just wish because especially, when I see people on drugs I just see broken people and hurting people and I just wish that we could fix the brokenness, instead of getting angry with when bad things are done because of the drugs, you know.

mac 27:37

I mean I know somebody who does drugs and like he does it because he grew up with it like that's the only thing he knows so I mean to, like he doesn't know how to live without it and then my kids dad, he was like, born with a silver spoon in his mouth like he had everything like why did he have to go and do drugs because like, there was no need for it but I don't know we both end up in that situation.

Jack 28:05

You know, sometimes when you look on the outside and somebody might have a lot of money or position and seem to have a great home life and there might be other things going on that. That happened behind closed doors that sometimes nobody ever finds out about.

And, you know, just just because somebody seems to have a perfect life, it doesn't always mean that they do but also sometimes people are just given every opportunity, and still end up down that path and it's, it's heartbreaking.

Especially when you see how it affects all the people around them and the people that love them and you know that I lost my brother last year, and when you know we had no clue how such a healthy young guy could just drop dead in the middle of, you know, in the middle of the night I guess and, once all the blood work was done and we found out that he had overdosed and none of us knew that he was using drugs, it was shocking. It's crazy how, you know, drug, the drug epidemic does not discriminate at all, and will take a lot of people. Have you lost anybody who used?

mac 29:19

My first boyfriend that I ever had. When I came home from rehab, he overdosed and died. One of the girls I was friends with in rehab, she overdosed and died. Um, I know there's a bunch more but those are the two that like literally stick in my head.

Jack 29:36

Well, I want you to know that I'm really glad that's not you and I'm sorry for the losses that you've had, but I am so so so thankful that our girls have your heart beating and healthy body and that you're doing so well.

mac 29:53

I mean, I'm really thankful that drugs didn't take me out and I did get my stuff together because that could have been me if I didn't do it and then my kids would be living without a mom because I didn't want to get my stuff together and I never want them to feel like they weren't good enough for me to get clean.

Jack 30:08

So let me ask you this then. Are you scared that you're gonna relapse?

mac 30:13

I mean, I am always gonna be scared I'm gonna relapse but do I put myself in this situation, where like I have drugs in front of me? No, there's always a chance that somebody is going to relapse like somebody can have a bad day and be clean for 20 years and go out and relapse like it happens, but I know if I were to ever relapse, I have people to reach out to, I have meetings to go to I know where I know what I need to do to get clean again.

Jack 30:40

Okay. And do you have like, I know you and I have talked about this but what, like, Do you have a plan like when you start feeling like you want to use so if there's somebody out there who's feeling like they want to use Do you have any tips for them, or steps they can take?

mac 30:56

Well I mean whenever I feel overwhelmed, I go, I either call you or I go to my transitional housing, or I go to a meeting, and like I see how bad it could be because you hear people tell their stories on how bad it used to be and how better life gets once you do get clean. I mean, your problems don't completely go away but I'd rather have all the problems I have now like being terrified of what I'm going to feed my kids for the rest of their life than the problems of when am I going to get high next, right, right.

Jack 31:32

And I know that we talked about, like, one of the things is making a phone tree. So some people that I had spoken with told me that one of the first things you should do is make a phone tree, make a list of people that you can call when you're feeling that way. And, you know, if one person doesn't pick up or doesn't have time to chat and you just keep going down the list, and you know get somebody on the phone who can get you through that. And yeah, because this is it, the kids are coming home for good. No take backs.

mac 32:03

And just because they're home for good doesn't mean they're not coming back to visit.

Jack 32:08

It better not. Okay, let me ask you this. You've been so successful in what you've done that

a lot of the programs that you were involved with have been using you to mentor other parents. So with your experience with that what have you found to be the biggest thing that keeps people from beating addiction?

mac 32:30

Not letting go of their old friends, thinking that you can be clean and sober and still live the same life that you were living.

Jack 32:39

Right, so it's really that isolation factor of like just absolutely removing every aspect of that and not letting anything seep through.

Jack:

Yeah. So what do you think I know this was like a really big question, but what do you think the community as a whole can do to stop more kids coming into care? So we know in our area, the biggest reason is drugs. So what do you think our community could do to help that so that more kids could stay with their parents?

mac 33:09

Like, so whenever I went to tell my mom that I was using and I wanted help, I was so embarrassed and scared of what my mom was gonna think of me, So, I mean there's a lot of judgment on addicts, but we don't go and like, I mean we do use the first time and like that's how it starts, but it's not like you know you drink coffee, once and then you don't get addicted to it. So, what makes you think you do drugs one time and you're just going to get addicted to it. So, I mean, offering like somebody to talk to and be like, Listen, I'm not going to judge you like I'm here if you need help. I mean I have people that are still using. Now I mean they reach out to me and they like ask me for rides or something I'll be like, I'll take you to detox But like I'm not taking you to no trap house I'm not taking you to nobody's house. I'll take you to detox, or transitional housing, and even then I wouldn't do that alone.

Jack 34:00

Yeah. What are your goals for your future and your kids future?

mac 34:09

So goals for me is to eventually move out on my own. Whenever I feel like I'm stable enough to do it by myself because I will have all my kids, you know, as a single parent. I want to get my CNA license and better my career .

With my kids, I just want them to do good in school and honestly like I just want them to like keep looking back on what they had to go through as a child and not repeat my pattern. Yeah, I mean I want to break the cycle with them.

Jack 34:40

That's amazing because that's like something that you see in foster care a lot is because of the trauma that kids go through just being in the foster care system that a lot of the times they end up being more predisposed to make those choices but I think that you've just done a fantastic job of being honest with your kids about, you know the consequences of actions, and I really am a lot less worried about them with them than I, then I would normally be so yeah that's a great goal. So tell me the first thing you're going to do when you get home today with your kids,

mac 35:18

So we're not even going to get home till late because we still have to go pick up their sister after we leave here so honestly we're probably going to make dinner put a movie on and snuggle. Oh the snuggles.

Jack 35:31

What would you want the public to know about biological parents?

mac 35:37

That **we all make mistakes but that mistake isn't who we have to be forever. Like I'm an addict. I guess I'll always be an addict, but I'm not making those same mistakes that I used to make. I've changed my whole entire life around and I don't want to be judged for my past for my whole life.**