

[Transcription]

Grief After Dark- Podcast

Season 1: Dark Waters

BONUS 01: Shameless Promo featuring Micki & Moonstar Charms

[Gentle Piano background music]

Disclaimer

Micki: This podcast addresses death, difficult emotional content and contains profanity. Listen with-

D: Your own motherfucking discretion [laughs, coughs] Get your kids. This is Grief After Dark

D: Yayyy Welcome to Grief After Dark bonus episode number 2, today we're going to be shamelessly plugging because that's what we need to do and we've kind of realized that we haven't really introduced ourselves properly so here we go

Micki: Yeah I mean D and I have actually built some pretty cool shit in our lives and then we did this entire podcast with zero shameless self promotion

D: Yes

Micki: And after four episodes I'm kind of embarrassed to not do it. So here we are , I am ready to shamelessly promote my jewelry business called Moonstar Charms

D:yes [clapping] Who is Moonstar Charms?

Micki:It's me. Goodbye. [laughs]

D:[laughs]

Micki:The end. Honestly where do I start? [reminiscently] Back when I was a child...

D: [laughs]

Micki: Probably I'd say in the eight year old range. There was a gemstone superstore of sorts in South Pasadena that my dad used to take me to. I think it was called Grieger's but i'm not positive I know it started with a G. I want to say it was a superstore but I was 8 and so for me it was just massive and they would have these big barrels full of tumbled gemstones and beautiful lit up display cases with museum level rock specimens and so my dad would take me there and he would buy me some rocks and he would buy me some, just simple little findings you know, shit you would just like glue a rock onto. I actually still have a piece that I made, a little brass kind of leafy finding on top of a pieces of blue lace agate

D: Nice! [laughs] I love it

Micki: which was one of my favorites as a kid. Uhhh so i'd like to think that that's how far the gemstone roots go for me because I really did like rocks even as a kid. Uhh fast forward several decades when we lived in Burbank, and this is i'm going to say my early thirties there was a gemstone store where she sold rocks, she sold jewelry, uhm she was psychic as fuck, specifically with rocks and so, and I did this with people several times, i'd be like ask her what rock you need in your life

D:[laughs]

Micki:So many times, and I would watch her and she would look at the person and you could see her focus just come to a pin point on them and immediately respond with the right answer and everybody that she did it to was always like "woah" and often ended up purchasing from her

and she definitely deserved it. After meeting her right around the same time getting my love of rocks and their metaphysical properties kind of resparked I had a friend that really liked making jewelry and she thought she was gonna start a jewelry company and she had just bins and bins and bins of rocks and beads and jewelry making supplies and I was working with her and another friend of mine who was doing sort of motivational speaking classes on manifesting on gratitude and just giving yourself a more fulfilled life. And, she used to do this thing where to call awareness to your thoughts , when you caught yourself having a negative thought,, we would wear rubber bands on our wrists and we would just very lightly snap the rubber band. So some of us didn't just want to wear like a rubberband on our wrists all the time and so me and this friend, the jeweler. We decided to get together and make a bunch of really cute like beaded, elastic bracelets that you could just very lightly snap and it was a little less painful than a rubber band as well and aesthetically far more pleasing. So she brings all her supplies to my house, we start marathoning bracelets and I am immediately obsessed. So she says, do you want me to leave, I was like this is so fun, this is so cool oh my god I love it. She's like do you want me to just leave my supplies here? And I was like YES! I ended up making like a hundred bracelets over the course of like a handful of days, it was all I wanted to do, I just wanted to bead these little elastic bracelets. So we bring them to my friend's speaking events to sell, to help support the speaking event, and my bracelets are selling really well. Well then I end up, through a series of events, going part time at my job, i've got more time on my hands, I start a self study on gemstone healing properties some of the geology of rocks as well but like what I'm really interested in is like historical energetic use

D: Right

Micki: Of these rocks, across different cultures, across several centuries and it was really interesting and really fun. So I start telling all of this to the lady who runs the rock shop, she starts having me make jewelry for her shop. I decide to invest a whopping \$200, that's what I started my business with because that was all I had

D: Right

Micki: So I took \$200 and I bought a bunch of beads and Bought some jewelry findings and some clasps and tools, took them to another speaking event and sold \$300 worth of jewelry and was like well shit that works. Invested, re-invested the \$300, bought more beads, bought more supplies and literally right there, Moonstar charms was born.

D:And I'm so glad it was!

Micki: oh thank you, me too.

D: Because it's been such an adventure to watch and to like wear your jewelry and for those of you that don't know, all my favorite pieces of jewelry are pieces that Micki has made like one other person. Our mascots are acting up right now [dogs barking]

Micki: I hear em [laughs]

D:[laughs]

Micki: They get excited

D:So where can they find you now?

Micki: So there are a couple places that are really close to where I live that carry my stuff. Mostly in my own shop at Sticks & Stones,, handmade here in Durango. But I'm on Etsy

D: mmhmm

Micki: Moonstar charms@etsy.com

D: And we'll share that on the website as well. We'll do a whole little fancy page

Micki: a little link

D: It's gonna be a whole little page

Micki: [sheepishly] Oookay

D: Not just one little link!

Micki: Alright

D: [laughs]

Micki: yeah it's just, it's been such an incredible journey. I think I started my Etsy store in 2010

D: Yeah

Micki: So about 10 1/2 years ago, and I was kind of selling a little before that but that's kind of where I like

D: It's longer ago than that, that's 11 years ago [laughs]

Micki: The jewelry yeah for sure, my Etsy shop is kind of where I feel like the markings of my professional business began

D: Right, and then what other skills do you have?

Micki: In addition to jewelry making?

D: Yes, I know that one's your favorite but what's the other thing that you do?

Micki: Uhm gosh! Well, I play piano,

D: Yes!, Micki is behind that fantastic intro that comes on every time. Micki's tickling on the ivories

Micki: Those are three of the best chords I've ever written [laughs]

D: [laughs]

Micki: That is actually, yeah those are three chords in a song that I wrote that I haven't done a damn thing with because I am extraordinarily shy about my music. I have terrible performance anxiety and that's why I'm a podcaster because I get to just sit in a dark room all by myself and you don't get to look at me there.

D: [laughs]

Micki: Judge away

D: [laughs] judge away

Micki: yeah I play piano. I love gardening. I would consider myself to have a pretty good green thumb. I have a ton of plants. I mentioned knitting, I do enjoy knitting. I read a lot though that's not necessarily a skill

D: Of course it is

Micki: I read probably 30 books a year so

D: Wow that's amazing

Micki: More than some, less than others

D: That's impressive

Micki: Well thanks. A lot of fiction and nonfiction. Uhm what else do I do?

D: Photography

Micki: You know,

D: Which is one of the reasons which we bonded firstly

Micki: Yeah, I am familiar, quite familiar with a camera and lightroom and photoshop different photo editing programs. I used to work in photography and a little bit of headshots, and some wedding photography for a couple years. I worked in a pro photo lab for like 15 years when I

was in L.A. which is where I picked up all my post production skills. These days mostly i'm gonna say like 99.9 percent of the time if i'm holding my camera I am photographing jewelry for my Etsy shop, but man it's a good skill to have cause those pictures have to look pretty or people are gonna think you're full of it

D: right, Micki took some really amazing engagement photos of myself and my spouse, just fyi.

Micki: Ohhh I forgot about that

D:[laughs]

Micki:Descanso Gardens

D:Yes

Micki: Those were adorable, but you guys were adorable and that was very easy

D: Yes, we had so much fun. We have those pictures, those are some of the only pictures we have up around the house, are pictures that you've taken of us

Micki: Yay

D: Which I don;t know if it's a coincidence or magic or whatever, but that's that. What else are you passionate about?

Micki:I am passionate about life and living, and savoring life

D:mmmhmmm

Micki:SO i'm kind of a bigger fiery, passionate personality, so if it's something I'm interested in i'm moderately passionate about it. I am very passionate about art in general, making it and appreciating others. I find art absolutely everywhere. I can't go on a hike without marveling at the artistry of nature, you know a sunset can make me cry [laughs]

D:[laughs]

Micki: Uhm yeah, i'm passionate about people caring for one another. Passionate about caring for one another. Passionate about education for the future generations so I can be old and not terrified for the world I live in

D:Yes

Micki: I am so so passionate about every nook and cranny of art

D; right, right right right

Micki: It is what's most moving for me

D: What's your favorite type of art to ingest?

Micki: In general I would probably have to say music, because it's such a big part of my day to day and I run the gamut. I was listening to my uhm, I think it's called soothing classical station on spotify, the last concert I went to was Slayer. I mostly play classical music on the piano but I also like almost every kind of music

D: You made a Christmas Cd too one year didn't you?

Micki: I sure did, we did it for two years!

D: Two years yes

Micki: At least two years , maybe even three. Yeah we did couple straight forward Christmas albums where they were actual Christmas songs and then we did a Very Unmerry Christmas that was all break up songs [laughs]

D: [laughs]

Micki: Cause you know, not every Chrisstmas is fucking merry

D: That's true, you already know, I fucking hate Christmas so like, no offense to anyone who loves Christmas , go ahead that's your business, I don't want to shit on your parade or anything. Is there anything you have a burning desire to tell everybody?

Micki: Yes I do.

D: [whispers] What is it?

Micki: If there is something that you are interested in, particularly if there's something you'd like to make, I would love for you to just make it

D: mmhmm

Micki: Just make something. Make. read Big Magic by Elizabeth Gilbert

D: YES!!

Micki: Fucking, get over yourself and just make art. Make something. Don't worry about whether or not you're going to be good at it. DON't try and sell it, don't turn it into a business. Just if there's something in you that creatively wants out , please, I beg you, let it out because even if it's only for you: that level of expression is unlike anything else you can do for the rest of your life

D: Honestly

Micki: Make some shit

D: Make some shit. I would also suggest the commencement speech by Neil Gaiman

Micki: Make Good Art

D: Make Good Art [laughs]

Micki: So good

D: So good. Welp I think that concludes our shameless plug for Moonstar Charms and y'all need to go find Moonstar Charms on Etsy and order something because it's fantastic jewelry

Micki; Hey you know what else we haven't said a damn thing about?

D; What's that?

Micki: And, we're so far into this adventure our website is GriefAfterDark.com [laughs]

D: [laughs] Oh yeah

Micki: I mean you can probably search us and find us. Please find us at Griefafterdark.com and we have all kinds of links to the different things that we've talked about on the episodes. Every episode has a ton of links, there's transcriptions that Dionne has worked very hard on, there's captioned video links but yeah go on Griefafterdark.com check things out, peruse and find a link to Moonstar Charms jewelry should you feel like you have any need for some new fresh sparklies in your life. Also, if you feel like you might need a rock, please contact me, if you're not sure what rock it is please contact me, I love doing custom stuff and pairing people with good energetic juju one way or another so hooray. Thank you so much for your patience and love and [laughs]

D: [laughs] Everything?

Micki: Your Niceties with my shameless self promotion

D: Oh absolutely Alright you, peace out y'all [laughs]

Micki: Thank you, cheers