Corey Andrew Powell ([00:02](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2.24)):

Hello everyone. I am Corey Andrew Powell, and it is an honor today to be joined by Pashtana Durrani. Pashtana is an Afghan human rights activist whose focus is girls education, and she's also the founder of Learn Afghanistan, which is a grassroots organization established to safely and securely provide education to girls through a distributed network of tablet computers and using an offline platform. Pashtana, welcome to Motivational Mondays.

Pashtana Durrani ([00:28](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=28.96)):

Thank you so much for having me.

Corey Andrew Powell ([00:31](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=31.01)):

It is my pleasure. And I do wanna stress right there and that opening when I mention, uh, the Learn Afghanistan platform is offline, is that a specific function that is purposeful so that it's not trackable? Or can, can you talk a little bit about that?

Pashtana Durrani ([00:45](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=45.79)):

Sure. Um, I think one of the reasons that we work with offline platforms like Rumi or like Skills Ed, the reason that we use those modules is, um, because we don't have a lot of internet in Afghanistan and also not a lot of electricity. So imagine you're a kid in a mountainous region and you still want access learning material, but you don't have internet. And I come from a district where internet, the mobile signals go down on 6:00 PM So imagine internet is a big luxury. So the offline, uh, module is just to make sure that if you wanna learn in the night, if you wanna learn in the evening, if you wanna learn any time in of the day, you don't have to worry about the internet. That's the most important part.

Corey Andrew Powell ([01:23](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=83.92)):

That's amazing. So you've already uploaded the curriculums, basically and they just go through it on their own?

Pashtana Durrani ([01:29](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=89.43)):

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Mm. Um, so it, it's a different models. Over the course of years, we have perfected a lot of models for different, uh, because not every child is the same. So if you are in a rural region and you wanna access our learning materials, but you don't have a learning in-person, uh, space like we have for some people in different regions, um, you can download all the content or we can help you download all the content on that platform and you can access it anytime and you can study if you at all pace. If you have questions, you can just reach out to us through Facebook or something like that, or you can just call the facilitators. And then there's another model, which we call hybrid that we are running right now in the secret schools where we collect all these students in the same space, but the teachers teach them through Google Meet. And, um, what they do is like, they use the platform when they're at home. And because we don't have the whole day to teach them, they only come for three hours, two hours given the situation so that when they go back home, they use that platform to learn. Then we have a radio career component where kids who might not know about as Afghanistan is a big country, so there's an education r where they just listen to our program and it's given in auditory lesson. So yeah. All those models.

Corey Andrew Powell ([02:39](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=159.7)):

Yes. And I know that's a big deal for you because you were, I read the part about you, uh, being in love with Encarta <laugh> .

Pashtana Durrani ([02:46](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=166.68)):

Yeah. <laugh>. Oh yeah, yeah. That was such a big space space for me. Yeah, I remember that.

Corey Andrew Powell ([02:52](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=172.639)):

Yeah. I mean, but some, but you know, you learned a lot there though. I mean, it's, you were, it was funny how you said it didn't really equate to what they thought was important, but you learned so many facts. Oh yeah. And I think a lot of people learn that way. They just absorb it. So I love that you said students learn differently, so you're adjusting your, your models to, modules to work with that. Now, to to date, uh, you have educated 7,000 girls and boys in Kandahar, Afghanistan, train more than 80 teachers digitally so they can, uh, facilitate these programs. And then you also have initiatives for girls health as well, like menstrual hygiene. And you, you really are making a difference in these girls' lives. But I wanna just talk about how you got there because you, yourself, you have a long history of being an educator, if you will, because you started like at seven years old, right? Yeah. <laugh> in your father's school, was it?

Pashtana Durrani ([03:47](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=227.12)):

Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Corey Andrew Powell ([03:47](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=227.92)):

So talk a little bit about that, because I wanna just tell you before I begin, I wanna hold up your book, which is an amazing book called Last to Eat, Last to Learn. Make sure I get my glare off of the book there. Your father is a rockstar to me.

Pashtana Durrani ([03:59](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=239.57)):

Oh, thank you.

Corey Andrew Powell ([04:00](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=240.4)):

Thank you. Oh, he is so incredible. So, and your mom's awesome too, but you know, your father had this very different position from an Afghan father point of view perspective.

Pashtana Durrani ([04:10](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=250.16)):

Yes.

Corey Andrew Powell ([04:10](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=250.3)):

And so I would love just to talk a little bit about the fa the the influence your father had and how you were educating people with him at seven years old.

Pashtana Durrani ([04:17](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=257.67)):

I think, uh, when, uh, people talk about of one men, all they see is like men who are controlling or who are the sort of people who don't want a lot of liberty for their kids. I remember when I was six, five years old, he was like, your only ticket to freedom from this craziness is like if you get educated and it's not like a father. Like, you know, normally people are like, oh, you'll get educated, you'll go somewhere. He was like, no, that's your only freedom ticket. Um, later on I understood why he said that because as much as my father is a progressive man, when he passed away, there was a crazy world that I entered where all my uncles, my cousins mm-hmm. <affirmative> really wanted me go, gone from that space where I wanted to take over his, uh, position. But then you look at this, uh, space where he created not this for me, he created this for his sister because his sister was divorced, uh, in a place in a space where divorces were not common.

Pashtana Durrani ([05:12](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=312.64)):

You don't do that in tribal ruler regions and you don't do that in our community. And she had a divorce and she was sent to study post that. And then she comes back. And one thing I remember was like, my dad didn't become a feminist because of me, I'm gonna be honest, he became a feminist because of his mother and sister. What they went through the repressive cultural norms or the social norms that we have in place. And he was like, I wanna change that for everyone. And he started with his sister. Then I came into the play, of course I did resemble his mother a lot, sir, that was win win for me, <laugh>. Um, but the best part was like he was not choosing women to do that for them. Oh, she's my daughter, I'm gonna do it for her. She's my second daughter, I'm gonna no for him.

Pashtana Durrani ([05:55](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=355.12)):

Every village girl is supposed to come to the school and learn. And the funny thing is, which I hated back in the day, was like, I used to go to this private school in the morning and I used to study all subjects in English. And then in the evening, because we had a two time school for younger girls in the morning, for older girls who couldn't make it in the morning, cuz they were doing house chores would come in the evening. And I was forced to sit with those girls and teach them everything I learned in the school. So if I was learning anything in English, I was supposed to do that. And for me it was horrible because it's like I learned the morning time, I did my time. Why am I doing it engaged? Right, right, right. But um, but I was taught like, this is your social responsibility.

Pashtana Durrani ([06:33](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=393.36)):

If you're privileged enough to be able to afford a private school, you should be sharing that knowledge. And I think a lot of that subconscious conditioning is the reason that this makes me feel that we are responsible for our communities and our country and we should be the one doing everything to build from scratch. So yeah, a lot of that. But I do remember like my father being the sort of person who's like, you're way out of this chaos is education or make this chaos better. You know, one of the two things. Yeah. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. So yeah, I admire him for doing that. And he has stood up to his own brothers for me to his own community. I mean, when I was 14, I was sent to a boarding school and, um, I remember people, his cousin telling him, what if she brings bad name?

Pashtana Durrani ([07:14](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=434)):

And my father was like, so what? Like, you know, she'll bring bad name and then she'll marry the guy. So what, like for him, right? Right. Saying that is a big deal, you know? Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Um, but he was okay with that, or he had to make himself okay with that, comfortable with that thing. And, uh, I'm so fortunate that now people in my family who were not sending their daughters to school, send their daughters to school because of me mm-hmm. <affirmative>. So, um, it's not just because of me, but because of my father. But yeah, it's an important stuff, including in my own family, you know?

Corey Andrew Powell ([07:45](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=465.59)):

Yeah. It's wonderful you're carrying on his legacy because, you know, through the pages of this book, his passion for education comes through and then, and his passion for wanting you to learn comes through. And I, I just wanna, I'd love these moments so we can really clarify some things for people who don't understand certain cultures. When you say, uh, bring on a bad name, would that be marrying outside of the Afghan culture? Is that what that would mean? Or, or for you to do something that was dishonoring? Or what would that mean exactly?

Pashtana Durrani ([08:09](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=489.81)):

So, uh, it's a lot of things. It's a lot of things you could, uh, be, uh, hanging out with friends that are not good company. Uh, you could be heading somewhere without a scarf or without your proper hijab. Mm-hmm. Uh, uh, even to this date, like if I include a picture on my, what substitute is without a scarf message, why are you doing this? Don't do that <laugh>. Okay. I'm like, okay, calm down. <laugh>.

Corey Andrew Powell ([08:32](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=512.08)):

Right, right. I'll put the scarf on. Okay. Right.

Pashtana Durrani ([08:34](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=514.52)):

Yeah, yeah, yeah. And I, I, I'm not saying it's a repressive thing, it's just a sort of thing that we are conscious about, it's sensitive to towards our own community mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Yeah. And, um, or like, you know, I fall in love with a guy because I was going to a co-ed private school, so I was like, oh, if she falls in love with a guy in a boarding school in a foreign land, what if she is like, you know, brings bad name and like, you know, talks to him, oh my God. So sort of that sort of stuff. Um, but he is like, okay, so what she'll marry again. That's it. Like that would be the, like, that would be the world coming down. But yeah. Uh, for a ruler man and still being in, um, and those tribal regions and being able to stand up to like, you know, more than 15 men in your own, uh, community and family, um, just to send your like teenage kid to school, uh, is big move. It's a big move. I appreciate him on that.

Corey Andrew Powell ([09:25](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=565.16)):

Yeah. Oh yeah. Yeah. No, it's, it's wonderful. And you speak about the social structure as well, a lot for girls. And I love, well, first of all, the title of the book, uh, alone, where you say Last to eat, Last to Learn it is quite literal in that regard because I, the part where you speak about being, um, on the refugee camp as your family were, uh, and all the girls around you were greatly, a lot of them were, um, illiterate, but also hungry. And then you talk about the structure of eating in the household, and that's like a traditional Afghan family tradition. Like the norm would be that there's a, a hierarchy in who eats. So can you share that a little bit?

Pashtana Durrani ([10:05](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=605.17)):

So for starters, uh, one thing that we have to understand is like, it's not generally done this way, but given the structures or the poverty in Afghanistan right now, it's most commonly practiced. And, um, of course the research shows that girls go hungry to bed, even now. And Afghanistan, girls are the ones who are going angry to bed. But then again, in the structure, I have seen it in my family, the men are served first, the boys are served with them, then the young kids are served, then women eat. And then the, with, with the women, the older daughters eat, you know mm-hmm. <affirmative>. So like, those are the last lengths to eat. And sometimes I'm of course, challenged with it and people are like offended by, oh, we don't do that. We all eat together. Um, then you guys though, <laugh>, if we do, why do women go to bed hungry?

Pashtana Durrani ([10:53](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=653.72)):

Why do you younger go to bed hungry? Right, right. So, um, in practice, if, uh, like, you know, everyone's love their daughters. I wouldn't say otherwise. Um, but in general, if you're under the poverty line, if you're struggling with poverty, you would really wanna feed a son who's gonna go and do the work, who's gonna bring in money rather than their daughter. Okay. Who's supposed to get married, you know? So that's the social structure. And with the refugee camps, I think majority of these young girls were malnourished. Even if they were fed, majority of them were malnourished. It's the same case even now. Um, I was talking to one of the friends at Wellesley and she was telling me that, uh, there have been refugees in New Jersey who wouldn't let their older daughter go to school. And then the social services came in and stepped in because they thought that she should be doing the house chores, you know? So for me, maybe and the oldest child, so I'm doing a lot of that trauma healing. But that does happen. That does happen. I was fortunate and privileged, uh, enough not to go through that. But you do need to voice in your concerns on what happens. And that was something that did happen often around me. Yeah.

Corey Andrew Powell ([12:00](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=720.04)):

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. And then even with education, because, uh, for the families that did want education for their kids, it would be the boys, the males, right. First who would be considered for education, not the girls. Because as you said, the is that the girl is supposed to be married off. Yeah. Yeah. And then she becomes part of another family structure and no longer part of what it was called the, the gaco, I believe it was called Gaco.

Pashtana Durrani ([12:23](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=743.33)):

So it's like when you live in a joint family, we call it gaco. It's more like, okay, if you are bringing in something to the table, we are gonna invest more in you. And I think it applies to everyone in the world. It's not just Arons, but it's highly, um, highlighted in Afghanistan more because of the social structures and also the social norms is like if a girl is, uh, uh, like, you know, supposed to be getting married at 18 and 19, and they're told to be signed all the time, they're a tool to be this person who's supposed to embody niceness, decency, and like, you know, uh, being kind to everyone. Um, they don't need to like, you know, worry about long term. So if it's a public school, sure, I'm gonna send you, but if it's a private school and I can only afford one child's education, I'm going to invest in a kid who is my son, who's gonna stay with me, it's gonna take care of me in the old age. So I think that that's the sort of mentality, I mean, it's, it's probably more like, you know, uh, back in the day the west <laugh>, like we really invest more in the sense, rather than the doctors and it still apply to some parts of the world today. Yeah.

Corey Andrew Powell ([13:28](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=808.87)):

Well, I was gonna say, you know, quite honestly, I know America wants to be progressive and claim it's progressive, but you know, we have that, those same sort of chauvinism here. Oh, yeah. Yeah. And preference for the male child and misogyny. And even recently, I was doing a report on something and I saw that, you know, there a lot of the southern states just a few years ago had to change the date of consent for marriage because there were men marrying like 12 year olds and 11 year olds in Tennessee, and

Pashtana Durrani ([13:58](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=838.45)):

Oh, yeah. Yeah. I have seen a lot of reports that those reports scare me. And like, even with like, you know, Britain, I think I was reading it two weeks ago or something, that they didn't have the same policy for them, like, you know, with the age to get married.

Corey Andrew Powell ([14:13](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=853.16)):

Yeah, it's different in different places.

Pashtana Durrani ([14:13](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=853.52)):

I was shocked. I was so shocked. Like I was like, these were the people who were preaching human rights to us. <laugh>.

Corey Andrew Powell ([14:19](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=859.44)):

Yeah. Believe me, I, I, I mean, you know, I, it's a struggle sometimes because I, you know, I, I love my country, but I'm the first one to also call my country out <laugh>. And, you know, so we have a lot of our own things. And I've read just a couple years ago that up until like, I think 2000, maybe it was 2010, the youngest child to get married in America legally, and Tennessee was like nine years old or something. Wow. Like really? So, you know, we have our issue <laugh> our issues

Pashtana Durrani ([14:45](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=885.76)):

With that too. Yeah. Yeah. I mean, uh, it's all over the world. Like, uh, young girls are like treated this transaction, uh, as like part of this transaction, oh, if I murdered your brother, you are gonna give your daughter in, like, you know, like, as a payment. Yeah. Like wash the bad, like, you know, the blood between us because we related. Yeah. Um, then in like, you know, at the same time, like, you know, in the us like women gender pay gap or like, every time you look at feminism, it's seen as such a bad light. And the same applies to the whole world. I think the same was for other countries, but, uh, given that I'm from my own country, and I'm gonna talk more about that, I think I do personally sometimes am hurt. And I feel so weird when I talk about these things because it's my country's reality. And you really wanna represent the good part of your country.

Corey Andrew Powell ([15:36](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=936.04)):

Of course, of course.

Pashtana Durrani ([15:36](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=936.2)):

But you also can hide away from the reality of the country that it, we are still one of the repressive countries for women, and we are still repressing a lot of women rights. There is no women rights in Afghanian right now. And young girls rights, you know, the part that's forgotten is this young women rights, women at, uh, some age, certain age, when they become mothers or older, they still have some sort of power or autonomy. Young girls don't. So that's sort of hurt, like, you know, it's, uh, hurting to see that. Yeah.

Corey Andrew Powell ([16:07](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=967.36)):

Yeah. So in that early age, there's that window where these girls really are sort of owned or controlled by the government, if you will, until they.

Pashtana Durrani ([16:15](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=975.24)):

Right now, right now, yes. By the government, back in the day, were by the social or cultural or the toxic masculinity norms that we present in place. Oh, you're not supposed to go here, you're not supposed to show your face. You're not supposed to do that. Right. Right. Why? Because you're a girl.

Corey Andrew Powell ([16:30](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=990.68)):

Right, right. But now, if I'm not mistaken, and please correct me, um, the Afghanistan government is basically the Taliban government now, correct?

Pashtana Durrani ([16:39](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=999.84)):

Yeah. The defacto regime. Yeah.

Corey Andrew Powell ([16:41](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1001.68)):

Right. And so, unfortunately, with that comes a lot of the very extreme oppression of women. And that is where the banning of education for women comes from. When a really strict Sharia law, if you will, where women aren't supposed to learn, right. Are girls completely not allowed to go to school? Or is it that they can go to a school to a certain age and then they have to no longer, or they're no longer allowed to go? What is the balance there?

Pashtana Durrani ([17:05](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1025.45)):

So first we have to talk about Sharia, where it's like confused, like, oh, Sharia, is that a oppress of sort of like, you know, anti-women sort of policy. If she is so bad, then why Saudi? And like, you know, all these Middle Eastern countries still allowing their women to go to school. Um, we are like, you know, in the middle of two regional, uh, powers like Pakistan and Iran, they let their women go to school. So are they not Muslim enough? Like you have to question those. But then again, coming back to Afghanistan to a certain age, which is like from grade one to grade six, which is like, you know, starting from age four to until you're 12, you can go to school, but 13 post that you can't, you're not allowed. And the next second year will just start in a week for girls, for people in Afghanistan, for young students, but girls won't be allowed to go to school. The university just started for boys, but women are not allowed to sit in the same, uh, uh, settings. So yeah, that's the current repressive, uh, policy towards young girls.

Corey Andrew Powell ([18:05](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1085.39)):

Yeah. And that's also in addition to the social structure too, where the women, those other things are in place too, where you can't walk down the street with a man unless it's your husband, or, I mean, there's all these things we hear. And then please correct me if I'm wrong, or you're not supposed to be in public with a man that's not your husband or something like that. <laugh>

Pashtana Durrani ([18:22](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1102.44)):

I mean, for starters, we are like a different country. Like, you don't go with someone, like if you don't know them. Like, I grew up in a family where I was not allowed to go out at a certain time. Um, I was not allowed to talk to, uh, like, you know, unknown men and stuff like that, so mm-hmm. <affirmative>, and that's normal. That's, and I would understand, I would understand why is that in place? Because we come from a different culture and that's part of our identity that's normal. But then this sort of autonomy to make that informed decisions, like when I was 18, I worked with, volunteered with organizations where boys were there and my father was fine with it because he didn't see anything bad in that, you know? Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, uh, I was working with people and there seemed to be boys too, so that was not bad. But in today's Afghanistan, that's extremely bad. Yeah. That's not possible. That's correct.

Corey Andrew Powell ([19:09](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1149.32)):

Like, I couldn't go, like, you and I were working together and I'm like, Hey, Pashtana, let's, let's, let's go, let's go to lunch. And we start walking down the street.

Pashtana Durrani ([19:15](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1155.64)):

<laugh> That's not happening. Wow. That's not happening. Yeah. Um, the same time, like, you know, when Afghanistan, like, yes. Uh, when I was in Canada, I had to go everywhere with, uh, my brother or like in somebody in my family or a man and around me. Now it's more like, you know, I remember talking to my cousins and uh, he was telling me he was like, the Taliban literally stopped a man and told him like, is she really your wife or are you like imitating someone else's wife? And the guy got so and he was like, you know, you explained to me if she's not my wife, prove it to me. You know, and they broke into a fight and everything for me, I was like, how horrifying it would be for a man to take a sister, a wife outside in today's Afghanistan Yeah. Where they have to fight the whole world just to take her out to the doctor.

Corey Andrew Powell ([19:59](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1199.04)):

Just to walk down the street. Yeah.

Pashtana Durrani ([20:00](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1200.48)):

Just to take her to the doctor or like, you know, just to take her shopping or like, you know, anything of that sort. So it's a, it's a different Afghanistan right now and in general, we do not like to like, you know, mix with like the male population and that, which is fine. It's not something out of the normal people do that all over the world. Right, right. But the fact that you have to prove that you are related to this person and you have to carry your documents all day long. It's something depressive. It's something. Yeah.

Corey Andrew Powell ([20:28](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1228.88)):

Yeah. Sad. Yeah. I mean, cause I know to your point, I mean, I think when you are from another culture, it's very easy to dismiss other people's everyday norms as weird or strange. But reality is, you know, respectfully, it's just not something we are familiar with. And it's not strange or weird to the people who live in it. That's their culture. Yeah. Cause I'm sure we have our things too that are, um, strange <laugh> typical. Oh, yeah, yeah. You know, so, but you're right. When it comes to the point where you have to now prove walking down the street ID and making sure that's when it does become more of a very, very, um, oppressive society, which I guess is what Afghanistan, it's like now under the Taliban.

Pashtana Durrani ([21:08](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1268.99)):

Yeah. Yeah. It's a repressive society where women are not allowed to work, girls are not allowed to study. There's a domestic violence case. You cannot report it because there is no setting in place. A lot of them, uh, like entities that tried helping women back in the day, they're not available anymore. There no shelters for women. Um, and I don't get me wrong, yes. Back in the day, Afghanistan's government was corrupt. Yes. We didn't have a lot of laws that were put there in practice, but it doesn't dismiss the fact that we had a constitution that gave us the rights. You know? So that's something we need to understand. And the most important thing is today in Afghanistan, you just can't have a normal family time. If you are, let's say, young married couple, you cannot go to a park and have like, you know, a normal day, you cannot do picnic. That's not allowing. So, uh, just for the social construction, let's forget education. Let's forget everything else. You're married, you're doing the Islam thing, the proper thing. You are following every sort of like the law here. You're properly married, you have your documents and everything, but he still can't have a good time outside.

Corey Andrew Powell ([22:17](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1337.57)):

So what would be the problem is like, what's the, what is looked down upon about a husband and wife, for example, having a picnic in a park.

Pashtana Durrani ([22:23](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1343.8)):

Nothing. Nothing, nothing. Back in the day, everyone went out enjoyed the tu carra or like Dala. Yes. Yeah. I mean, we are known for like, you know, <laugh>, Kas are known for like, you know, their Thursdays and Fridays picnics over the mountains mm-hmm. In Afghanistan. Mm-hmm.

Corey Andrew Powell ([22:38](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1358.6)):

Like a lot of fun. Lot of fun apart.

Pashtana Durrani ([22:40](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1360.48)):

Yeah. Yeah. Oh, so much fun. So much fun. We are green tea and our dry food. And as just leaving to like any place there that has water was like an obsession. But now it's more like, oh, that's not allowed. You're not supposed to be in public. It's more like a leisure of public from the public spaces. Yeah. Yeah. And the sort of, it's like sort of instilling fear in people. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, like, you need to fear us. That's more of the sort of thing I would say. Yeah.

Corey Andrew Powell ([23:07](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1387.88)):

Yeah, yeah. Yeah. That's always the core of every oppressive society. Even again, with America, with, um, a, a post-slavery America, we end up with a group called the Ku Klux Klan. Yeah. And their whole purpose was to keep the other group fearful so they wouldn't vote, they wouldn't ever wanna come outta the house. It's like a, it's always replicated around the world when that sort of oppression.

Pashtana Durrani ([23:29](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1409)):

I was watching this, um, movie the other day, the help, I don't know if you know about it mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Yeah. And I just couldn't believe that this was a few years back in the us you know, like in my head I couldn't believe. And then at the same time, I kept on thinking to myself, I was like, in many ways, like, you know, people tend to think the West is better than the other countries, but in reality, they were the ones who were like abusing human earth to such an extent. Not that they have realized that they wanna make sure that everyone is on the same piece, but at the same time, you have to understand even today's government in Afghanistan is a west enabled government. Yes. Even today's policies that oppress women in Afghanistan are west enabled, uh, policies. And I don't get me wrong, they were good and bads in Afghanistan. I am, I went to college because of the taxpayers money in the US mm-hmm. <affirmative>, I'm gonna accept that. I will never shy away from that. Um, but at the same time, women and human rights were abused back in the day. They're still being abused and the west is just coming by. And that's shocking.

Corey Andrew Powell ([24:31](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1471.59)):

Yeah. No, I know. There is definitely that affiliation with the, uh, the United States being involved with those policies in those different, very different countries in the Middle East, uh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, um, Iran. Now we're having some issues obviously with, but I think what's important too, is what you just said about people don't realize how recent certain history is.

Pashtana Durrani ([24:53](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1493.75)):

Yeah.

Corey Andrew Powell ([24:54](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1494.7)):

And, um, when it's not something that you are involved with, it doesn't feel like it's, um, current. But when, like, for example, when I think about the Taliban, it's not my culture. So to me it's just like a headline that I read about in the news, and it's kind of, every now and then I hear something happened a little bit of a fight. But I lose sight of the fact that just people living under this every day, you just said, you know, you people aren't coming outta the house. They can't go anywhere. And that's on top of the other construct where you said in your book that normally an Afghan woman, typically she would just be in the house.

Pashtana Durrani ([25:28](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1528.5)):

Yeah. Yeah. My mom is at the, my mom is in the house 24 by seven. I barely remember the last time she went out. But the point is, she had a choice and she doesn't now, that's the difference. That's the difference. That you need to understand.

Corey Andrew Powell ([25:41](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1541.39)):

She had a choice, and she doesn't now. Yeah.

Pashtana Durrani ([25:43](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1543.06)):

That's the only thing you need to understand. It doesn't mean I have to be out every day. I like, that's the whole thing. I, it's so hard to make others understand. It's like, they're like, oh, were you threatened? No, I have the choice to go to work back in the day. Now I don't, I had the choice to go to school now I don't. Yeah. And the same goes for like. People look at the Taliban through this lens, oh, the Taliban repressive, uh, on fighters. But nobody knows that. It was University of Nebraska that sent us books that had all of that, uh, material that radicalized our next generation, um, for honor was changed to Jijak. And I remember reading those sentences where I, uh, my teacher would teach me and they would be like, oh, I should be proud if my proud if my father is murdered, or if my brother is martyred in the fight against the infidels mm-hmm. <affirmative>

Pashtana Durrani ([26:35](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1595.39)):

When they were fighting the whole war against the Russians and stuff. Right. So imagine infiltrating into young minds at a primary level age, and you radicalize the society to an extent where people think that it's their only mission, uh, to save everyone and everything. And then you expect them to become normal. Yeah. And you wouldn't even pay for reparations. You wouldn't, uh, even, uh, like, you know, um, uh, take, uh, the responsibility and then you would label them, oh, nevermind, these people are like that. We were not like that in the 1960s. We have been a poor country, but we were very much a very, um, independent country, you know, on the seventh, uh, uh, anniversary of Afghanistan's independence a hundred years ago. And Mal said that independence belongs to all of us when she was, uh, like, you know, talking to Oxford University. And she was like, we all deserve it. So when we all deserve it, why is our politics always being Christian? Why is our policies are culture being infiltrated and rec radicalize our knowledge and being used against us? Yeah. And the sad part is nobody realize it anyways.

Corey Andrew Powell ([27:47](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1667.99)):

Yeah. Oh, and you also, you mentioned Oxford, which is also a big part of your, I would say, your, your journey, which is when you were younger, about 16, I believe you were, uh, admitted to a, a preparatory Yeah. Study program at Oxford, which was like a dream come true. It's like the epitome of education for everyone in the world. And you did not go because you felt a greater calling to, well, I mean, I think you were, I think you wanted to go, but you felt a greater calling to stay around and educate other young girls in Afghanistan. Talk about that decision. And I guess you don't regret it now, but at the time, talk about how you were trying to balance that decision.

Pashtana Durrani ([28:33](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1713.54)):

I think, uh, the reason that I regretted back in the day, like, you know, I, I not regretted but felt sad about it was because my mother was so much opposed to it. And my father kept on telling me was like, you know, go study and then come back and I'm so grateful I didn't listen to them, you know? Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, go study, come back, come back with me now, and I cannot do anything now. So.

Corey Andrew Powell ([28:55](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1735.35)):

Yeah. Cause all the work he's done in that time, it was, is amazing work. You would've never done that work if you

Pashtana Durrani ([28:59](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1739.91)):

Exactly. So no, thank you. And the only he part is like, you know, I was in for a proprietary program. I applied to a lot of schools in Germany, in the UK, uh, anywhere I could find. And for me, it's like, uh, like I need to end up in a good university. I always, my dad used to make fun of me as like personalized offices with people's universities. Like any big personality, he just goes and checks their university. What university did they go to? Right? Like what, where did this person go to? I was, at one point I was say, obsessed with like the world women leaders. I checked, I was like, where did Indel Gandhi? And then it became like, uh, Oxford, right? Oxford, yeah. But then it came like she failed her Latin exam or, or something. And then later on she was given her degree and everything.

Pashtana Durrani ([29:43](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1783.66)):

And for me, I was like, oh, okay. Like, you know, I was so obsessed to an extent I needed to know which exam did she go to or not go to mm-hmm. <affirmative> or like, you know, the same winford, a lot of women leaders. So for me, that was an obsessive sort of thing. I wanted to go to a good college. Maybe a lot of my conditioning was American television, and everyone is obsessed with it, like, you know, going to college <laugh>. But once I made the decision, I stick to it and I'm so proud of myself. I mean, it, at the end of the day, it was preparative program. I don't know if I would've ended up in the Oxford, like, you know, or not. Right, right. But then at the same time, like a lot of people, 90% of the people end up in Oxford from that program.

Pashtana Durrani ([30:20](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1820.26)):

And there's good part is like nobody, people think when I'm like seeing all of this, I'm seeing it out of romanticism. No, I'm not. I love af Afghanistan more than anything in the world. You know, there have been times where I have put it before my parents, which normally is not a case with AF one child. They love their parents, you know? So for me, Afghanistan was the first priority, and I understood that if I could make a difference now, I shouldn't be waiting for it for four years later. Maybe I could go for my master's, like, you know, somewhere or something, which I am accepted into a very high prestigious school that I cannot talk about <laugh>.

Corey Andrew Powell ([30:56](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1856.22)):

Oh, well congratulations on that, <laugh>.

Pashtana Durrani ([30:58](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1858.78)):

Thank you. That's great. Thank you. Um, so for me, taking that decision, sticking to it, doing everything. I mean, I had a lot of nervous breakdowns. I cried my eyes out. My mom did tell me, you a horrible kid. I told you go to the school.

Corey Andrew Powell ([31:13](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1873.56)):

As she threw the, as she threw the shoe at you.

Pashtana Durrani ([31:16](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1876.46)):

Oh, all the time. Shoes hangers. I mean, at times she would be like, just give me like, you know, one of those Instagram side eyes, <laugh>, you know, like, it's like, you know, yeah. You, you done.

Corey Andrew Powell ([31:26](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1886.9)):

You should've done it. Yeah, yeah.

Pashtana Durrani ([31:28](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1888.3)):

Yeah, yeah. But now when I talk to her, she's like, you, you know better. So yeah, all of that. I mean, it's, uh, at 16 and shouldn't be making those decisions, but I'm glad I did that. Yeah. And I have always did this headstrong person. I do my own decisions and I'm a very decisive person. So I'm glad my parents respected it though. My father respected that.

Corey Andrew Powell ([31:48](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1908.7)):

Yeah. That's wonderful. Thank you so much. Pashtana Durrani, Afghan, human rights activist and author of The Amazing Book Lasts to Eat Last to Learn. It's stunning. Especially when you talk about the Disappearing Girls. I want people to really read about that and understand like why they're disappearing from all the different oppressive things you you'd highlight in the book. So thank you for being a guest today on Motivational Mondays.

Pashtana Durrani ([32:11](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1931.54)):

Thank you so much for having me. Thank you.

Corey Andrew Powell ([32:14](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/MizhO7OEKdYMfDpPWBcSpn1u-_wW7lGHXsVXboUQhP7hQBXPRRFPuIOmyjF5tZZUmxEef5dmbylZ-1UZn6XmAiivfRw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1934.02)):

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