

00;00;01;02 - 00;00;34;03

Gabby

Welcome to the Gab talks by the Independent Press Award. I'm your hostess, Gaby. Ole Zach. Today we will be chatting with Greg and Porter Rawlins, author of Pablo the Plate Painter of Mazatlan, winner of the 2022 New York City Big Book Award for children's fiction. Craig is a former CEO, Ant Financial Securities. He serves on the National Advisory Council for the Woodbury School of Business at Utah Valley University, where he was responsible for creating the financial planning bachelor's program.

00;00;34;15 - 00;00;54;05

Gabby

Though unofficially retired, Craig continues to lecture and consults in different facets of investing and business. An entrepreneur at heart, Craig has focused on writing stories that inspire and encourage children to pursue their dreams. Craig joins us from Hawaii. Congratulations, Craig, and welcome to the Gab Socks.

00;00;55;00 - 00;01;00;11

Greg

Hey, thank you so much. Gabby, I am just thrilled to be here and thrilled to talk about what we're doing.

00;01;00;21 - 00;01;16;14

Gabby

We're excited. So before you tell us about Pablo, I want to talk about a quote that you have in your book right before the book gets started. You have something you say Families are rich with their own traditions in history. What does that mean to you?

00;01;17;18 - 00;01;38;06

Greg

Well, I've been fortunate enough. I grew up. I grew up in the South. Lived out west for a number of years and fortunate enough to travel around the world. I've met people from every walk of life you can imagine. And I'm always curious and I always ask, you know, what they do as a family or what their traditions are.

00;01;39;00 - 00;01;58;09

Greg

I like that. I like learning about what people do and and what their backgrounds are and what's important to them. And so I discovered that every family, every family out there, it may be maybe it's a holiday get together, it's a family reunion, maybe it's a special meal. They have maybe it's a special event that they go to.

00;01;58;20 - 00;02;17;02

Greg

But every family has traditions in it. And if they don't, then they can start their own. And that's the other thing I love about about travel is I've learned so much and we've incorporated some traditions that we've that we've discovered in other places, in our own family traditions now, which has been a lot of fun.

00;02;17;10 - 00;02;35;01

Gabby

That's so wonderful. And when you when you carry out those traditions, I'm sure you think about the many places that you've been and the people that you met. And I, Dan Craig, that one of the reasons you were inspired to write Pablo is because of someone that you met when you were in Mexico.

00;02;35;14 - 00;02;39;15

Greg

Right? Right. Yeah. A very long time ago. Back in the 1980s.

00;02;40;16 - 00;02;42;18

Gabby

We way back when?

00;02;43;19 - 00;02;49;26

Greg

Way back, way back. Bring social media. You know, we've had to actually talk to each other.

00;02;49;29 - 00;02;52;15

Gabby

Yeah, we have just we're correlations.

00;02;53;02 - 00;03;19;12

Greg

I was on a trip to to Mazatlan, Mexico, and I met the man that was the impetus behind the character Pablo, and was so fascinated by his talent and his ability. And I literally took most of my week that I was there. I ended up meeting with him and talking with him almost every day and kind of got his background, his story, how he got to where he was.

00;03;19;12 - 00;03;43;28

Greg

And I was so enthralled by the fact that he had started literally from nothing and had now, you know, had a very good business. And and his his artwork was sold quite a few places. And he just loved to paint and he loved to express and he loved to capture people's memories. And just so enthralled by that that I actually started sharing that story when I was lecturing at high schools and colleges.

00;03;43;28 - 00;04;04;09

Greg

When I came back to the states and the story kind of just stuck around. It was one that people remember it and it kind of stuck with them that you can, you know, pursue your dreams, you can accomplish if you're willing to put in the time and effort and practice, which is the one thing I think the book really shows, is that it takes it takes time and practice to become good at anything.

00;04;04;24 - 00;04;23;03

Greg

But I just was so enthralled that I eventually said, you know, this is like a great children's book. So he basically inspired this. It's the whole story is based on true events. It's it's based on a real per person. It is a fiction because there are you know, we actually did create the story around that, but it's all based on true events.

00;04;23;03 - 00;04;29;07

Greg

And it he really had an impact on my life and as I've shared his story, it's had an impact on others.

00;04;29;26 - 00;04;40;22

Gabby

So tell us what that spoiler is. It is a children's book. So it's it's not a 400 page novel, but just give us up and give us a little brief synopsis of Pablo, the plate painter.

00;04;41;13 - 00;05;06;24

Greg

So Pablo, when he was a young boy, he loved to draw just like any child, loved to draw things, sketch things, and he gets his little pad notebook out and he starts drawing things that are around him in his daily life. I mean, the goats in in the garden or the are the that little community, the town he lived in and just started drawing pictures and drawing and drawing.

00;05;06;24 - 00;05;25;18

Greg

And he got really good at it. He loved art and school He would when he was in primary school, you know, drawing was art was his favorite class. And the teacher saw that he really enjoyed it and started explaining colors. And his mother started finding out what a what a, you know, great little artist he was becoming at a young age.

00;05;25;18 - 00;05;50;21

Greg

And she took the time to introduce him to a local man that was a painter and artists in the community and kind of forged a bond with this this individual and mentored Pablo. And he continued to work on his craft and and became quite good at what he did. So it's it's all about if you believe in something and you enjoy something, you know, following that to fruition.

00;05;50;21 - 00;05;52;28

Greg

And that's that's kind of what he does in the book.

00;05;52;28 - 00;06;09;02

Gabby

Yeah. There were actually a lot of lessons in the book work ethic when he was called to clean the studio with staff. Write what you think you're you're the you're the author, Craig. You're the creator of the story. What did what do you think's the most important message that you want to convey with Pablo?

00;06;10;04 - 00;06;41;02

Greg

I think the most important thing is, well, there's a few things, like you said. I mean, the fact that that knowledge is important and seeking knowledge is important, that hard work is important, that being respectful of your elders, being respectful of your teachers is important. They do have a great deal to share the importance of mentoring, the importance of finding someone that can guide you through your career path or guide you through your lesson work or, you know, school work or whatever it may be.

00;06;41;02 - 00;07;21;11

Greg

You know, these are all considered boring things nowadays, but they're at the heart of every successful person I've ever met. You know, time, effort, patience, respect, hard work. Those are very common themes that I worry that we're losing a little bit. And why? Pablo and other books that I'm working on now are going to have that same kind of thread woven through the storyline where it's it's about sticking to your guns and believing in yourself and finding those that will help you achieve your dreams and then basically paying that back because none of us got to where we are without the help of other people.

00;07;21;15 - 00;07;25;13

Greg

None of us and anybody as they're self-made, is lying to you.

00;07;25;27 - 00;07;45;29

Gabby

I agree. And you know, you've you've met a lot of people along the way. You were a pharmacy CEO, You were in the financial securities industry. So you have a lot of experience which you've been sharing at colleges and consulting and so you've written two other books, The Wholesaler's Companion, which I read all didn't read, but I read a set.

00;07;45;29 - 00;08;02;08

Gabby

Very interesting. And The Emperor's Dilemma, which I thought was really incredible. I didn't read it, but I know the story and I you would describe it as a business fable. So you did a number of years ago. How and why did you make the Leap venture children's fiction? That's a leap.

00;08;03;06 - 00;08;11;13

Greg

It really is. And it wasn't. I mean, I thought it was I mean, I thought I was going to be writing boring business ordinance books.

00;08;11;15 - 00;08;12;04

Gabby

Yeah, you know.

00;08;12;04 - 00;08;21;22

Greg

Our business books. And and it kind of I realized at a young age that that I had a bit of a gift for gab.

00;08;22;21 - 00;08;23;28

Gabby

And no pun intended.

00;08;24;23 - 00;08;47;23

Greg

No, no pun intended it all. But I had a a gift for storytelling and was able to articulate what I was thinking very well. And stories stick with people. They stuck with me as a child. The stories that I was told was a child stuck with me. Most of us, any adult or any child, they have a favorite story and that story sticks with them.

00;08;47;23 - 00;09;21;20

Greg

And whether it has an impact or not is is hard to tell immediately. But over time it has a massive impact. And and I said, you know, I'm going to probably get a lot farther along if I start sharing these stories with the people that will embrace it. And that's children. Yeah, because most adults are pretty set in their ways and if it's if it's not going to lead directly to what they're hoping to accomplish, they a lot of times will set that aside, that children will read stories over and over and over again.

00;09;21;20 - 00;09;44;13

Greg

I've got a friend of mine got the book and says that he gets his grandkids, ask him to read that book all the time. He's almost done, you know, And and to me, that's that's the point. Number one, he's sharing time with his grandchildren. He's sharing the story with them. It's a story that's sticking with them, you know, And it's all about following your dreams.

00;09;44;13 - 00;10;18;20

Greg

And so I made the leap from trying to convince adults what they need to do to to an audience that was more pliable, that was willing, more willing to listen and use a format of storytelling to convey the messages that I feel are important, you know, hard work and respect and following your dreams and putting in the time and and being patient and all the things that I think we're losing as a society were were I worry a lot as I see some of the kids growing up, that they have not had those opportunities and aren't falling back.

00;10;18;20 - 00;10;38;17

Greg

My greatest heroes were the books I read as a child. Yeah, and I was big into that. I read all of Edgar Rice Burroughs, or if he wrote something, I read it. I you know, I read so many stories like that, and they were ingrained in me. Robin Hood, he all of that just got a.

00;10;38;18 - 00;10;39;03

Gabby

Lot of your.

00;10;39;08 - 00;10;49;26

Greg

Yeah, Yeah. I mean, just Tom Sawyer or Huck Finn. I mean, I read all of that stuff and I loved it. And those stories have stuck with me very, very much so. So I made the leap to children's books.

00;10;50;17 - 00;11;12;15

Gabby

Well, you know, it's it's true what you say, because I think everything is just so quick and instantaneous as these days. And that's what the older kids are looking for. But if you can get them at a younger age, the age that you're targeting for your books, that's that's really, really crucial. You know, the the story itself is really fantastic.

00;11;12;21 - 00;11;17;11

Gabby

But let's talk about the illustrations, which are really also stunning.

00;11;17;11 - 00;11;43;23

Greg

Yeah, I really have been fortunate to find very, very talented people. Rufus, as they do, is that I never pronounce his name right. Xavier Davis is a phenomenal artist and actually I met him. I'm really not sure, 100% sure the exact way I met him, but I know his through his business colleagues that I met him through. And I was just fascinated by his, his artwork.

00;11;44;04 - 00;11;56;29

Greg

And he wasn't doing book illustrations at the time. He was doing he does like business illustrations like the Dry Erase Mark, you know, where the board, the active board or the cartoon board.

00;11;57;04 - 00;11;58;08

Gabby

Yes. Yeah. Yes.

00;11;58;19 - 00;12;06;15

Greg

That guy, he was doing that kind of stuff. And and he's doing character drawings. And he actually did my logo for for my website.

00;12;06;15 - 00;12;07;16

Gabby

Oh, okay.

00;12;07;17 - 00;12;33;16

Greg

Now, just a very talented artist. Would you ever consider doing a book? I've got the story idea. So. And this was pre-COVID. We started talking pre-COVID, I think, 2018. And and he said, Yeah, I could do this. It took a while. Colbert obviously slowed things way down a line where you're such an amazing artist, and he captured Pablo and he captured what I was conveying.

00;12;34;14 - 00;12;52;22

Greg

Pablo, what you're seeing in the book is, is either the transcript is very short, but the story that I told was several pages long. And so he got the whole transcript and we went through and read it together. I said, Sure, with your kids in suits, your kids think. And so he started piecing together the look and feel of the problem.

00;12;52;23 - 00;13;14;26

Greg

I gather pictures from central Mexico were where this story takes place and some of the villages and things that I had gone to. And I said, here's pictures, here's what it look like. Here are the streets here, the buildings. And he just captured everything so well and he captured Pablo so well. And it just it was amazing and it just kind of flowed easily.

00;13;14;26 - 00;13;15;18

Greg

It just was.

00;13;15;20 - 00;13;20;22

Gabby

It was really a collaborative effort. Then you really seen something where edited illustrate it together.

00;13;21;13 - 00;13;31;11

Greg

We really did. And that's why he's prominently put on the on the front cover, because he he was just as instrumental and making this happen as the story.

00;13;32;05 - 00;13;44;00

Gabby

Well, it really is beautiful. So you talked about where you grew up. You grew up in Kentucky of what sounds like really an idyllic child said you said you read Tom Sawyer. It sounded like you were Tom Sawyer. Greg.

00;13;44;13 - 00;13;45;19

Greg

I sure tried to be.

00;13;45;20 - 00;14;01;21

Gabby

I mean it. I mean, I'm envious. It sounds like a beautiful way to live. So your upcoming projects that the year I scared away Santa and the Poppy series actually draw a lot from your childhood and the influence of your grandparents?

00;14;02;14 - 00;14;35;18

Greg

Yeah, I guess. Yeah. I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for grandparents. I, you know, broken home. Very, very common tale. And my grandfather stepped in my poppy. He stepped in and he became the strong man in my life. And my grandmother was an entrepreneur on desk rental properties and had a beauty salon. And so my, my entrepreneurship and my my business savvy I can attribute to her.

00;14;36;02 - 00;15;01;19

Greg

And they they taught me all the life lessons I needed to know they were they were children growing up in the Depression era. So, you know, saving and being frugal and being respectful was common, was a very common thing. And I'm very fortunate to have had such great influences in my life. And we lived down in rural Kentucky out in the sticks of Butler County.

00;15;01;26 - 00;15;26;17

Greg

Wow. Yeah. And I just loved it. Had a great childhood. We didn't have much. I mean, I wouldn't say that, you know, we had a lot, but we had what we need. It. My I got to go out on my my grand my my father's grand parents home. They had a farm out in the country and got to experience a lot of that growing up, getting chased by our gander.

00;15;26;17 - 00;15;39;22

Greg

That was the meanest goose on the planet. And, you know, just a lot of that stuff. And and I'm very grateful for that. Now, hunting and fishing and running wild, barefoot and stuff. Southwestern Hills, Kentucky.

00;15;40;11 - 00;16;02;04

Gabby

Wow. That that really sounds incredible. And your grandmother, she sounds like a heck of a woman. I mean, this had to be in the what, the the sixties when she died, maybe even before that, where she had a hair salon rental properties. And and did I hear correctly that your very first business at six years old was in her hair salon?

00;16;02;23 - 00;16;06;10

Greg

Oh, my gosh. Yes, that is true.

00;16;07;02 - 00;16;12;17

Gabby

You were a manicurist in her hair. Hard. Yeah. Wow. Yeah, I do my research.

00;16;12;17 - 00;16;13;18

Greg

Oh, man.

00;16;13;21 - 00;16;36;13

Gabby

Yeah, well, I've got that. Fascinating. And it gets even better than that. I understand that. Good old grandma. I love her. She took you to the bank with a wad of money to deposit and showed you how to be a businessman and how to conduct. Now, like that's a.

00;16;36;14 - 00;16;48;06

Greg

Key. She. Yeah. I mean, I remember every day at the close of business, every day they might build bridges. He built most of the bridges in the southwest. You can. Well.

00;16;48;15 - 00;16;49;12

Gabby

That's poppy.

00;16;49;23 - 00;17;05;21

Greg

That's poppy. Yeah. So you come home from work and we'd hang out and then grandma would close business and bring home the receipts, and I would help her count the money out at the end of the day. And literally and you could not do this nowadays. This was a small town, so that's all the way you could do.

00;17;05;22 - 00;17;07;21

Gabby

So pretty sure that. Would it be allowed in now?

00;17;07;22 - 00;17;26;29

Greg

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. But what a great opportunity. She would trust me with the nightly deposit. I would walk the four or five blocks to the, to the bank and put them, put the money deposits for the day and the night deposit box. She trusted me with that it or not, when I was young, you know, six, seven, eight years old.

00;17;26;29 - 00;17;56;08

Greg

But she she trusted me with that. And. And she yeah, she took me around, introduced me to the mayor and the sheriff, and he taught me how to meet people and and shake hands and look people in the eye and, and respect. And I she there are not words that I could convey of, of the impact that she's had not only on my life, but the lives of all of her grandchildren and and many others in the community.

00;17;56;08 - 00;17;59;14

Greg

I mean, she just was a force to be reckoned with. Sure.

00;17;59;14 - 00;18;07;00

Gabby

Sounds like it. Well well, it sounds like you're putting it in writing with the Poppy series. So tell us about that and when could be it? We expect to see that.

00;18;07;26 - 00;18;23;14

Greg

The Poppy series is probably well, the stories are there. It's just now we're working on laying them out and what progression we want to lay them out since there are there's about right now between eight and 12 stories that we have done.

00;18;23;24 - 00;18;25;13

Gabby

And what's amazing about the stories.

00;18;26;03 - 00;18;44;15

Greg

The basis well, the basis of the stories are like kind of what I said. Yeah, the you know, her taking me downtown and introducing me to people, how to meet people, my poppy teaching me how to fish and how to heart, how to respect the land and how to, you know, how important it is to to not take more than you need.

00;18;46;11 - 00;19;17;00

Greg

You know, he was a builder. So, you know, he helped me build a tree house and dialog me how they built roads, bridges, you know, it just it's just those experiences I had growing up and getting those life lessons from from, you know, two very caring, amazing individuals that that pretty much took me under their wing and taught me, I hate to use the phrase the older what it is I would say they taught me the better way.

00;19;17;14 - 00;19;26;03

Greg

Yeah. It'd be a human to be a person in society, to be a contributor. They they taught me the right way.

00;19;26;22 - 00;19;27;14

Gabby

The right way.

00;19;27;17 - 00;19;32;07

Greg

To block the kick set off is actually the year I scared Santa Clause away. That's.

00;19;32;07 - 00;19;36;16

Gabby

Yeah, I like that title. I know it's a working title, but I kind of like it. Tell us about it. Yeah.

00;19;36;27 - 00;20;03;03

Greg

So this is this is this is autobiographical. This is going to be somewhat interesting, but as a children's book, I know it takes place in the sixties when I was rather young and I had a terrible habit of like most children that are, you know, four or five, six, seven years old, so excited for Christmas that they they just can't sleep and they just can't wait to get up in the morning.

00;20;03;03 - 00;20;28;08

Greg

And yeah, apparently my my, my poppy who who kind of kept me under wraps or felt Christmastime yet it kept me busy. I would get literally I would get up at, you know, 4 to 3 in the morning and he had had enough of it. So, yeah. So this story is about the year he was going to put a kibosh to my early rising.

00;20;28;08 - 00;20;41;22

Greg

And so the story kind of follows along with this me as a young boy, just doing everything I possibly can to to watch Santa bring those gifts in so I could get to him right away.

00;20;41;27 - 00;20;49;18

Gabby

That sounds like a lot of fun. So when you expect that one, I'm assuming the year I scared Away Santa will be published before the Poppy series.

00;20;50;03 - 00;21;02;26

Greg

Yes. Yeah, that one's going to come out this this year. In fact, actually, this is some of the I just pulled these off. These are these are print. These are not the originals. The originals are the originals are being digitized right now. You see.

00;21;02;26 - 00;21;07;15

Gabby

Wow. Beautiful. And now is this the same illustrator that on all AP series?

00;21;07;23 - 00;21;14;17

Greg

Now, this is a different illustrator. I wanted to look I wanted to go for an older look, a more Norman Rockwell classic.

00;21;14;20 - 00;21;16;02

Gabby

That's what it reminds me of.

00;21;16;02 - 00;21;41;02

Greg

Yeah, yeah, yeah. And so I was fortunate. My, my, my Aunt Brenda, who is a artist in her own right, quite good. Introduced me to this woman called Carolyn Davidson of Sage West Galleries, who is just a phenomenal talent. She's an acclaimed author and and we got to meet her and floated the idea sent her the whole story the long version.

00;21;41;10 - 00;22;11;12

Greg

Now it's going to be edited down for that for the book. And she read it to her grandkids and just fell in love with it. And she says, I'm on board. And I said, Awesome. I don't even know where to begin, because frankly, she was well out of my ability to afford it. She loves the project, and we're actually in editing right now that the originals we did originals, they're all 16 by 20 originals that she painted for the story that are.

00;22;11;19 - 00;22;12;06

Gabby
Beautiful.

00;22;12;15 - 00;22;26;19

Greg
Artwork and they're gorgeous. And we're getting those digitized right now so that we can do the editing. We I anticipate it is very possible that we could have this ready for print by March 1st.

00;22;27;11 - 00;22;34;01

Gabby
That's that's exciting. I hope so. Just in time for spring and then the holidays and get it marketed. That's fantastic.

00;22;34;12 - 00;22;36;19

Greg
So you got to get in the Book Award contest.

00;22;36;20 - 00;22;37;19

Gabby
Exactly.

00;22;37;19 - 00;22;40;03

Greg
Once I know somebody who runs a couple of girls.

00;22;40;03 - 00;22;52;03

Gabby
Oh, okay. You don't have to do it. You'll have to talk to that person about it. Now, tell us, Craig, why is education so important to you? Because obviously it is fun.

00;22;52;10 - 00;23;23;16

Greg
I think I have to go back to my grandparents. They my out outboard. Panama came up through the school of hard knocks you know depression era and and my pop was was more of an educated individual he was a supervisor for bridge building so mathematics and geometry and you know he understood all that stuff and and they just instilled into me a strong desire to learn about the world around me.

00;23;23;26 - 00;23;55;17

Greg

In fact, it was my grandmother that brought me to Hawaii as a as a 12 year old boy, because she said, we need to go see the world. So she put us in a plane and brought us to Hawaii and took us to Pearl Harbor. We remember walking on the USS Arizona and my pop had been in World War two and and had served in the European and Pacific Theater and just were very good about instilling into me the amazing things in our world that we need to know about.

00;23;55;17 - 00;24;19;17

Greg

And that's what got me reading. I wanted to learn more about it. And and now here I live in Hawaii and I am lucky. Jack Yeah, and still still seeking out adventures and still having them and still meeting people and, and they just instilled a great deal of desire to learn. And, and I try to do that with, with, with my kids.

00;24;19;17 - 00;24;23;07

Greg

And, and of course, they never listen to you. You know, you're.

00;24;23;07 - 00;24;23;22

Gabby

Never.

00;24;24;04 - 00;24;24;28

Greg

Allowed. Yeah.

00;24;25;03 - 00;24;27;05

Gabby

So you don't know anything now?

00;24;27;05 - 00;24;31;22

Greg

No. I was probably the same way, I'm sure, when I was a teenager. I knew it all.

00;24;32;01 - 00;24;41;08

Gabby

Yeah. I don't know. It sounds like it. It sounds like you had some big ears and you did a lot of listening to your, you know, your grandparents and learned a lot of valuable lessons.

00;24;41;16 - 00;25;09;03

Greg

I did. And I had a tremendous amount of respect for them. And then they you know, their respect starts at home. I think I think, you know, we've we've got to do better about respecting each other at home. And my grandparents sure did that for me. And and so I I've tried to be the best person I can be and learn as much as I can and and put myself out there and fall flat on my face at times, but not be afraid to fail.

00;25;09;14 - 00;25;10;22

Greg

And that's kind of where I'm at.

00;25;11;10 - 00;25;19;17

Gabby

So. So, Craig, on that note, how do you define success?

00;25;19;17 - 00;25;49;03

Greg

Success is a very personal thing. I mean, you can't look at what the world says is success, because if you do, you're like a dog chasing his tail because success is a moving target. When you look at what the world define success as, I think success is really when you achieve your goals, whatever that is, if it's losing weight or if it's gaining weight, or if it's writing a book or if it's if it's traveling or if it's getting a promotion or if it's being your own boss.

00;25;50;07 - 00;26;01;09

Greg

Success is is is very personal. And I think if you start viewing success as what you think is important to you, you'll be far more successful.

00;26;01;25 - 00;26;08;19

Gabby

Oh, I love that. That that is something truly to think about. So this is a fun question. Craig, What's your biggest passion right now?

00;26;09;25 - 00;26;11;09

Greg

My biggest passion.

00;26;11;20 - 00;26;15;00

Gabby

Yeah. You're living in Hawaii. You've got to have a lot of them. Come on.

00;26;15;15 - 00;26;21;26

Greg

Actually, you know, what's become my biggest passion is after we started growing our own food.

00;26;22;08 - 00;26;24;07

Gabby

That's a passion. That's fantastic.

00;26;24;08 - 00;26;48;07

Greg

We we've got a beautiful greenhouse, so we grow all of our own herbs. We have all our own fresh herbs that we grow. I've got I've got a banana tree that I planted with my grandson, Alabama Banana tree. We got a banana tree. We got about 14 pineapple plants that are growing. We got so we've got tangerine jean and orange and avocados.

00;26;48;20 - 00;27;08;26

Greg

We've got a BUI, which is Abdu excuse me, which is a custard filled yellow tropical plant which is really good. We've got ice cream bean tree, which yeah, we're doing a big bean pod, but the beans are coated with a white coating that it tastes like vanilla ice cream.

00;27;09;00 - 00;27;09;27

Gabby

Wow.

00;27;10;13 - 00;27;22;00

Greg

So that's my passion. Now I'm growing stuff, playing catch with the dog, writing stories and doing a little consulting when when they arise, when the need arises.

00;27;22;10 - 00;27;28;20

Gabby

And still an idyllic life. Very, very Andrea sounds wonderful, saying yes.

00;27;29;03 - 00;27;31;13

Greg

I'm a 30 year old. Overnight success.

00;27;31;23 - 00;27;44;27

Gabby

You That's great. I love it. So, Craig, tell us tell us how we can find out how our listeners can find out more about Brad. The projects you have and how we can buy Pablo.

00;27;46;06 - 00;28;14;06

Greg

What Pablo right now is available through Amazon, and so that's the easiest way to do it there. We do have some limited autographed copies that I'm happy to personalize, and that's through our website at Craig, the author AECOM Craig the Ulta.com. We hope to be well, we're working

on and hope to be available through Barnes Noble, Walmart and another other several other carriers.

00;28;14;06 - 00;28;17;16

Greg

But right now it's Amazon and through Craig Realtor.com.

00;28;18;02 - 00;28;26;13

Gabby

Fantastic. Well, Craig, this is great. Thank you so much for sharing Pablo with us, for sharing your inspirational story with us. It was really a pleasure.

00;28;27;00 - 00;28;30;27

Greg

Oh, my pleasure, too. Thanks, Gabby, for taking the time to have me on today.

00;28;31;08 - 00;28;38;06

Gabby

Wonderful. Thank you so much. This is Gabby Ozark of the GAB talks. Until next time, keep on talking and keep on reading. Take care.

00;28;38;07 - 00;28;43;10

Greg

Oh, all alone on.

00;28;43;10 - 00;28;44;28

Gabby

Okay, Craig, that was great.

00;28;45;18 - 00;28;46;09

Greg

Fantastic.

00;28;46;20 - 00;28;51;02

Gabby

We could. And did I. Did I cover everything you were?

00;28;51;19 - 00;29;05;02

Greg

I will say I'm impressed, Gabby. You did some homework and pulled up some things that I know I've shared but did not expect them to be brought up here. So that was that was kind of fun.

00;29;05;12 - 00;29;13;23

Gabby

That means a lot coming from you, Craig. Thank you so much. I'm impressed by your vegetable, your bite, What? You're growing out there. My God.

00;29;14;07 - 00;29;27;12

Greg

Yeah, it's. Well, they're all young trees. They're all young. The tangerine is the only one that's producing right now. But I think probably by next year, we should add some Valencia oranges.

00;29;28;08 - 00;29;29;04

Gabby

Oh, I love those.

00;29;29;15 - 00;29;43;08

Greg

Now I've got our Asian pear and a plum tree, but they're they're probably a few more years out. But yeah, we're teaching line. I got a teaching line that started producing, but we trimmed it back because we wanted to bulk up a little bit more. So.

00;29;43;11 - 00;29;48;09

Gabby

Wow, that's notes thick. Now, how much how, how much space do you need to grow all that?

00;29;48;26 - 00;29;50;00

Greg

Well, I've got three acres.

00;29;50;05 - 00;29;53;07

Gabby

Okay. There you go. Okay, good. Wow.

00;29;53;07 - 00;30;01;20

Greg

Now, I actually moved out to the Hawaiian countryside. I'm about as close to what I grew up in as a child as I could be right now.

00;30;01;29 - 00;30;02;27

Gabby

But in Hawaii.

00;30;03;05 - 00;30;06;25

Greg

But in Hawaii, Yeah. So the beaches, the beaches, 30 minutes away.

00;30;07;04 - 00;30;09;15

Gabby

The literally the best of both worlds.

00;30;09;24 - 00;30;15;05

Greg

I think so. And I got snow on the carrier from the last storm. So I can see snow go and.

00;30;15;05 - 00;30;15;19

Gabby

Lay.

00;30;15;25 - 00;30;18;04

Greg

Out and work out in the garden all at one time.

00;30;18;10 - 00;30;28;06

Gabby

All my goodness That's great. All right. So what we'll do is we will edit it and send it to you just to make sure everything is okay. And then it'll go like everywhere, right?

00;30;28;10 - 00;30;33;27

Greg

Yeah. And then I just and then also too, I'd love to get a link so that I can put that on my website as well.

00;30;34;07 - 00;30;34;27

Gabby

Definitely.

00;30;35;09 - 00;30;42;07

Greg

Yeah. And make sure I can put that on my Facebook and you know, put that out there so I can have it linked through mine too. Oh yeah, that's great.

00;30;42;14 - 00;30;46;20

Gabby

I forgot to put my video on. I'm talking to you all this time. I'm so glad you're doing it.

00;30;46;20 - 00;30;48;03

Greg

Yeah, I'm just staring at shipping.

00;30;48;04 - 00;30;53;04

Gabby

Yeah, I'm just the object parking and I forgot my video going on. I'm so sorry about that.

00;30;53;04 - 00;30;56;03

Greg

I hope this was a good interview for you. And you enjoyed it.

00;30;56;08 - 00;31;01;19

Gabby

It was great. Thank you so much, Craig. Hope to talk to you soon. And don't forget to let us know when the book publishes.

00;31;02;09 - 00;31;20;06

Greg

Well, I plan on submitting it. You'll you'll probably see it in your. And I hope it's I hope it is. I hope it's as good as possible. It's a far more meaningful story to me because it's my story. But I think I think. And how would I submit that? Would it be would it be nonfiction? Wouldn't it be children's nonfiction?

00;31;20;11 - 00;31;23;01

Gabby

Yeah. Well, yeah, I. Oh.

00;31;24;01 - 00;31;26;02

Greg

Because there's it's it's true. It's a it's.

00;31;26;02 - 00;31;27;04

Gabby

A and yeah.

00;31;27;12 - 00;31;29;16

Greg

Well, biographical. I mean we're adult.

00;31;29;24 - 00;31;41;05

Gabby

Yeah, I would say so. I mean, why not? Why not? I mean I, I, Pablo was great but I have a feeling that, that the Poppy series and this one might be even better.

00;31;41;14 - 00;32;04;00

Greg

Poppy series who's got potential just because there will be well books depending on how we lay the stories out and that's what we're trying to do right now is lay the stories out. But that one

could be quite good. I'm trying to it's an illustrator. I'm actually now looking for illustrators for that. It won't be Carolyn Davidson. She's her husband's got Parkinson's.

00;32;04;00 - 00;32;08;05

Greg

And so her her time to paint is dwindling.

00;32;08;05 - 00;32;09;14

Gabby

Yeah. Yeah, that's tough.

00;32;09;26 - 00;32;16;04

Greg

She's got responsibilities there. So I'm looking to actually partner with the artists in Southern Kentucky.

00;32;16;27 - 00;32;21;00

Gabby

Also that that'll be fantastic. Really? Yeah.

00;32;21;10 - 00;32;30;00

Greg

I'm reaching out to Western Kentucky University, which is 18 miles from where I grew up, and hopefully we can work with the art department there. So I got my fingers crossed.

00;32;30;03 - 00;32;35;12

Gabby

That would be special. Now what do you do all of the every book in the series at once or or what's the plan.

00;32;36;24 - 00;33;01;01

Greg

Really will depend on lining up illustrators on who we whether we get my my guess is we may end up working with several because they're young if I can go that route and incorporate some students and give them an opportunity to to do something there. Again, working the education angle, I just I really like bringing kids up through the educational system, given my opportunities.

00;33;01;05 - 00;33;01;20

Gabby

That sounds.

00;33;01;20 - 00;33;29;16

Greg

Great. If we can work that out, we'll probably get them. I think we'll probably have them all done within a very short period of time of each other, but we'll release them over time. Okay. They may take a several years to release the whole series. We may least release maybe, you know, two or three books a year. But I think we'll probably get the entire series done aggressively thinking by end of next year.

00;33;29;17 - 00;33;32;00

Gabby

I would think, wow, that is pretty aggressive, actually.

00;33;32;05 - 00;33;41;15

Greg

That that's like I said, that's aggressive. That means we won't have them published. But I think we'll have the illustrator in place. The stories will be better outlined.

00;33;41;18 - 00;33;42;13

Gabby

He'll have a plan.

00;33;42;27 - 00;33;49;21

Greg

Well, how about we have a very good, solid plan and we'll know financially. That's always the kicker. So I got to sell more books. I got to.

00;33;50;00 - 00;33;56;24

Gabby

Get down on the props now. Okay, so listen, this sell, this will be live on a lot of platforms, so hopefully that'll help you out.

00;33;57;07 - 00;34;02;28

Greg

Well, I really appreciate the Abbey. Thank you again so much for coming. And that was great. Thank you.

00;34;03;06 - 00;34;09;05

Gabby

It was so nice meeting you. Okay, Take care. Bye bye. Have a great day. Bye bye.