

MORNING STORIES TRANSCRIPT

Hard Questions: Californian, Flash animator, and Mom, Liz Dubelman searches for answers to the hard questions.

Tony Kahn:

Hi everybody! [Tony says in a thick drawl] as Adam Curry would say. This is Tony Kahn, the Producer and the Director of *Morning Stories*, from WGBH-FM in Boston.

Today's *Morning Story* comes from a lady named Liz Dubelman. She lives in California. I found out about her because a friend of mine told me I should check out her website at <vidlit.com>. That's v-i-d-l-i-t dot com. Liz does flash animations that are based on her own experiences and books that she likes and some of them, written by her friends.

Well, I took a look at her stuff and I was amazed at how wonderful, how wonderful her work was. How witty. How terrific the soundtracks were. Now with radio, you make the pictures in your own head, but I was fascinated by what she might do with one of our *Morning Stories*, so I asked her if she wanted to illustrate one for her site.

Well, she found one she really liked and she'll be finished with it soon. When she does, we'll let you know when it premieres and then maybe you can hear it on our podcast, add your own personal pictures and then go to <vidlit.com> and see how she visualized it.

Anyway, in the midst of all of this we also got an extra benefit 'cause I asked Liz if she wanted to do a *Morning Story* of her own – just the soundtrack. And she said, "Yeah." So here it is. Straight from her own experience at home as the Mom of a young daughter. She calls it: Hard Questions.

[Upbeat music begins to play]

Liz Dubelman:

One evening, recently, Grace, my four year-old asked me about sex.

Liz and Grace Dubelman speak in unison:

"Mama, how does a baby get inside a mama's belly?"

Liz Dubelman:

"Well," I said, "A little piece of a Daddy and a little piece of a Mommy come together and grow inside a Mommy's belly into a baby."

Liz and Grace Dubelman speak in unison:

"How do they get the pieces?"

Liz Dubelman:

I panicked. I had just read on a popular parenting website that a four year-old won't ask about conception, and even if they do, they'll be satisfied with the simplest of answers.

"In your case, a doctor put the pieces together," I said. Grace is an *in vitro* baby.

Liz and Grace Dubelman speak in unison:

"How did the doctor get the pieces?" she asked.

Liz Dubelman:

"Take your bath," I said.

[Sound of running water and a child laughing]

[Sound of typing]

Liz Dubelman:

As my husband bathed our child, I ran to the Internet and looked for advice from the same parenting website in a slightly older age group. When Grace was in her pajamas I told her, "When Mommies and Daddies have private time together, they do a special type of cuddling that helps get the pieces out. [loud sigh] Grace let out a long exhale, either from exasperation or exhaustion. In any case, I was off the hook.

[Kids playing and shouting]

Liz Dubelman:

The next day I asked a family counselor, who's also the director of a preschool. She said I should tell Grace the truth and convey that it's [the two women speak in unison] "natural and beautiful. You do think procreation is natural and beautiful. Don't you?"

Liz Dubelman:

"Well, of course," I stammered. She lent me some books.

[Keyboard music begins to play]

Liz Dubelman:

The next expert was Grace's teacher. Her advice was to stick to biological explanations for now. If I had a sense that Grace was unsatisfied with the answer I'd given her so far, I should create an opening for her to bring it up again so she feels she can ask me anything. She let me rehearse in front of her.

Later, as Grace was eating her after-school snack, I said, "Remember when you asked me last night about how babies get into their mommy's bellies? Well, I wanted to make

sure I did a good a job answering all your questions. “

Liz and Grace Dubelman speak in unison:

“You did, Mama. I just have one more. How do Mommies and Daddies do that special cuddling that gets the pieces out?”

Liz Dubelman:

I took a deep breath and said, “A man has a seed that’s kept in a sack behind his penis. A woman has an egg inside her belly.”

Liz and Grace Dubelman speak in unison:

“No!” [chuckles]

Liz Dubelman:

She said giggling.

Grace Dubleman:

Hold on. Wait.

Liz and Grace Dubelman speak in unison:

“Like the eggs we eat for breakfast?”

Liz Dubelman:

Yes. And when the egg and the seed get together, they make a baby.

Liz and Grace Dubelman speak in unison:

“But how do they get together?”

Liz Dubelman:

She asked.

[Upbeat music plays]

Liz Dubelman:

I told her in simple, unforgettable detail.

[Music continues]

Liz Dubelman:

Her face had a look of shock, disbelief, and amusement. As if I had just told her about the giant in *Jack and the Beanstalk*. “If you have any other questions at all,” I said, “just ask.”

I felt good about the exchange and told my husband. He thought I did a good job, too.

And giddy with not having to do it himself, he said he would field the next tough question. That night at dinner, Grace held up a piece of chicken.

Liz and Grace Dubelman speak in unison:

“Isn’t it funny,”

Liz Dubelman:

She said.

Liz and Grace Dubelman speak in unison:

“That this is called chicken and those cute little birds we see at Easter time are called chickens too.”

[A fork clinks against a dinner plate]

Liz Dubelman:

I shot my husband a look. “Honey,” I said. . .

[Music plays}

Tony Kahn:

Hard Questions from Liz Dubelman, today’s *Morning Story* from WGBH-FM in Boston. If you want to hear more of our *Morning Stories*, and we’ve got plenty available for streaming, check out our website at <www.wgbh.org/morningstories>. That’s all one word. <wgbh.org/morningstories>. *Morning Stories* comes to you from WGBH-FM in Boston every Friday. So, see you next time.

[End of recording]

Transcribed by: Lorena Knight