

# Dive Deep Interview with Roger and Kathi Lipp

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**Jill Savage:** Well, we want to welcome you to No More Perfect Date Night and we are so excited that tonight we have Kathi and Roger Lipp with us. Kathi is the author of 17 books, and Kathi and Roger together have written a book on marriage as well. We are just so excited to have them join us. Kathi and Roger are a blended family, so they bring a wonderful different perspective that we have... We really want to explore tonight because that brings its own challenges, and we just want to say, welcome Kathi and Roger, thanks for joining us.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah, thank you.

**Roger Lipp:** Yeah, thank you.

**Kathi Lipp:** We're so glad to be with you guys. Thank you so much for having us.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah, we're excited. Tell us a little bit about yourselves. What you do, where you live, a little about your family?

**Roger Lipp:** Sure. We're in San Jose California, so we're enjoying nice weather right now.

**Kathi Lipp:** Yeah. [laughter] We're so sorry, rest of the country.

**Roger Lipp:** Sorry.

**Jill Savage:** Yeah. No, we're not enjoying nice weather today, but I'm glad you are.

**Mark Savage:** Frigid wind. [laughter]

**Kathi Lipp:** So sorry.

**Roger Lipp:** I work during the day. I work for a high tech company here in the valley, I have since 1985.

**Mark Savage:** Okay.

**Roger Lipp:** I'm an old timer there.

**Kathi Lipp:** But he also has been very involved in our ministry. I feel like I have two jobs: my ministry, and making sure that everybody stays alive.

[laughter]

**Kathi Lipp:** That's my second job. Roger has his main job and then our ministry. That's what we

spend our days doing. It's a big team because we have lots of volunteers and interns. And we have four grown kids and one son-in-law who I just adore. No grandkids or anything yet, but a puggle and a cat, so we stay busy.

[laughter]

**Mark Savage:** Before we move forward, tell us a little bit about your ministry, just for people who aren't aware of that.

**Kathi Lipp:** I'm sure there are one or two who have not heard of us and that's okay. We really do three main things. One part of it is curating leaders. We try to bring up leaders who want to be speakers and authors, so that's a big part of our Ministry and our internship. Then, we have communicator academy which Jill's been a part of, which we're thrilled with. Helping world-changers tell their story. We have the Leverage conference which is a speakers' conference, and we have training courses.

**Kathi Lipp:** Where my heart kind of sits is Clutter Free Academy. And people are like, "*Oh, getting clutter out of your heart.*" I'm like, "*No, we're actually talking about your junk here for the most part,*" because I really believe that so many, especially women, have stopped living the life that God has called them to because of their stuff. It does affect your heart and your mind. We have an online group called a Clutter Free Academy on Facebook. That is the nicest place on the internet; the most encouraging, helping people get free from their clutter. My Dad was a hoarder, so I had a lot of stuff to overcome, and this has really helped us get some freedom.

**Roger Lipp:** You're going to go to change the world if you can find your car keys.

**Kathi Lipp:** Exactly. That's our saying. You have to be able to find your car keys before you go change the world. Exactly.

[laughter]

**Jill Savage:** I love that. [laughter]

**Mark Savage:** That is so true. Oh gosh.

**Jill Savage:** Yeah. I remember when your book... It's Clutter Free, right?

**Kathi Lipp:** Right. Yes.

**Jill Savage:** Came out. Yeah. I remember thinking, "*Wow, what?*" I really sensed that that was going to have some traction and it really has.

**Kathi Lipp:** It really has. And that's where our ministry kind of changed. We decided that we really wanted to...we've done a lot of marriage stuff which we love, but there are lots of good marriage people out there, like you guys. You guys are changing marriages all over the world, but I really realized, something that 80% of people struggle with is clutter. Then the next book was Overwhelmed. Overwhelmed can be through your marriage, through your relationships, but it can also be your stuff. To really hone in on this, we don't have to live overwhelmed lives. We don't have

to be overwhelmed by our stuff, we can make empowering choices.

**Jill Savage:** Very true.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah.

**Jill Savage:** Very true. Well, one of the things that we do here at No More Perfect Date Night is to try to pull back the curtain on very real marriages, and talk about the real stuff, the stuff that we all struggle with in some way or another. We really want to dive in with you guys and talk about not only what have been the good parts of marriage, but what have been the challenges in marriage that you have experienced? We'd love to dive in right there and when you think of...you guys have been married 12 years?

**Kathi Lipp:** Yes.

**Jill Savage:** Okay. And when you think of your 12 years, what do you think are some of the biggest, maybe the biggest one or two challenges that you have faced as a couple?

[chuckle]

**Roger Lipp:** Well, the whole blended family thing is a.

**Kathi Lipp:** No joke.

**Roger Lipp:** Huge, huge challenge. Yeah. Just trying to get everybody on the same page, because we live in Silicon Valley, we have a fairly small house. Taking two families and cramming them into 1400 square feet is a challenge.

**Kathi Lipp:** Yeah. Our boys were not thrilled. Roger's daughter moved out, it was the first time she'd ever live apart from him because she didn't want to share with a 14-year-old, so we say that...in blended families, each year is like a dog year.

[chuckle]

**Kathi Lipp:** It was really tough. I just felt like we looked at each other after about six months of marriage and said, "*Did we make a horrible mistake here?*" Because we loved each other, but we had kids who were...we had a protester at our wedding. Our son Jeremy was just like, "*I won't stand up with you guys. I won't.*" Yeah, it was bad.

**Kathi Lipp:** And so what I have come to understand, for most blended families, and we've talked to hundreds if not thousands, is that the first five years are like a war zone. Everybody came in knowing their position in the family and then you up end all of that. Suddenly my oldest son was a middle kid and he's never shared a room before, but now he's sharing a room with his step-brother. Honestly we did the best we could, we went to counseling as we made this transition and the counselor even thought...she was like, "*I don't know about this, guys.*"

[chuckle]

**Mark Savage:** That's not encouraging.

**Kathi Lipp:** Yeah. But I would say it was about five years until we all kind of found our groove, and people want us to be The Brady Bunch where my step-kids just call me Mom, and that's not it at all. But I can say I have an honest friendship with them.

**Roger Lipp:** When in fact we got married when our kids were older.

**Kathi Lipp:** Yeah they were 13, 14, 15 and 17. We were idiots. We now recognize that. [chuckle] But also though, just because it's hard, doesn't mean it wasn't right.

**Mark Savage:** Right.

**Kathi Lipp:** It was the right thing to do. God has done things in this marriage that I stand amazed, but I also know we had to go through some really hard stuff.

**Jill Savage:** Right. Yeah. Boy I can see that. One of the things we talk about in No More Perfect Marriages is the blueprint that you brought from your growing up years-your family of origin blueprint. For you, Kathi, you already have mentioned that your father was a hoarder. That's a part of your blueprint because you bring that into your adult years, you bring it into your marriage. But when you're talking about second marriages, you bring a double blueprint.

**Kathi Lipp:** Oh! Dude...

[laughter]

**Kathi Lipp:** You look at this. I know you guys are familiar with the imago theory where you marry your parent, right? What I've come to realize is my dad was an engineer. My dad was a very analytical guy, into science fiction all this kind of stuff, and then I married somebody who was exactly like my dad. But here's the thing. My dad was an unhealthy version, my first husband was an unhealthy version. I cannot get away from this model. This is what I'm supposed to be married to.

**Kathi Lipp:** The difference is, Roger was a healthier version of all of that. I feel like to me it wasn't just the type of person I married, but he was committed to growing in health. I feel like, for almost any couple, if both of them are committed to growing and health, regardless of what their past has brought them, it's important to recognize that. To recognize, *"Okay, I'm trying to figure things out, that I didn't figure out from childhood. I get that, but I'm doing it with somebody who says, 'I honor marriage. I care about you. This is hard. We're going to figure it out, and we're going to do whatever it takes.'"*

**Kathi Lipp:** That's why we've spent a decent amount of money on counseling. We spent a lot of time talking about marriage and we spent a lot of time talking about where we are. We're really committed to making sure that we get to spend time together just the two of us to work on stuff.

**Mark Savage:** Oh that's awesome.

**Jill Savage:** Yeah.

**Mark Savage:** Roger how did you guys meet?

**Roger Lipp:** We met at church. We were both involved in church programming, what you do on a Sunday morning.

**Kathi Lipp:** You really not going to tell the scandalous... [laughter]

**Mark Savage:** Well now we want to hear that.

[laughter]

**Roger Lipp:** Well, depends on how far back we want to go here. But I guess the very first time we met was when you were working at our older church in the office.

**Kathi Lipp:** No. Oh no, no, no, no. I was babysitting your kids.

**Roger Lipp:** Oh, babysitter. That's right. [chuckle]

**Roger Lipp:** I was... Yes.

**Jill Savage:** You were the babysitter of his...

**Roger Lipp:** So I married the babysitter.

**Mark Savage:** Wow!

[laughter]

**Jill Savage:** Oh my goodness.

[laughter]

**Kathi Lipp:** But we really did get to know each other through church. I kept trying to set him up, because he was a single dad and I thought he was so awesome.

**Roger Lipp:** I thought you wanted to talk about the folding machine. [chuckle]

[overlapping conversation]

**Kathi Lipp:** No, no, no. Let's not go... no. It doesn't play well with people.

[laughter]

**Roger Lipp:** No, okay. Alright. We did a lot of ministry together in that church and in other churches. So we've been connected in churches for a long time.

**Kathi Lipp:** Yeah.

**Mark Savage:** Wow.

**Kathi Lipp:** And I got to see who he was, and what his heart was, it was very cool.

**Roger Lipp:** Yeah.

**Jill Savage:** I love that.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah. That's awesome.

**Jill Savage:** Kathi, I'm so glad you brought up that Roger is a healthier version of your father, even your ex-husband. One of the things we talk about is that when I'm a better me, we're a better we. I think that that's also what you're talking about. Can you guys talk just a little bit about maybe some of the personal places that you have had to explore some growth, chase after growth, and chase after getting healthier in your perspective? Can you just think of maybe one thing that each of you have struggled with that you could share a little bit about? How did you pursue that growth? Was it counseling? Was it God's word? Was it meeting for accountability with a friend? How did you actually pursue that to make yourself a better me, so that you guys could be a better we?

**Kathi Lipp:** You want to go first or...

**Roger Lipp:** Sure.

**Kathi Lipp:** Okay.

**Roger Lipp:** I think communication was a key thing for me. In my first marriage, it was so hard to communicate when things got difficult to talk about. My go-to move is to shut down and to become quiet, and withdraw, and that's just how I'm hardwired to do that. And I knew that going into this relationship that when things were hard, I would disappear. So, how do I overcome that? There was a lot of counseling, a lot of prayer, and asking Kathi to hold me accountable for that.

**Roger Lipp:** The book, Getting the Love You Want was really instrumental there. It talks about the couple's discourse, I think it's called. It's a structured set of questions to go through and steps when you're having a conversation. Understanding and exploring, those kinds of things. And I found that very helpful. It took a couple of practice rounds and a little bit of safety [chuckle] to get it wrong. Eventually, we found it easier to have those hard conversations.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah. What was the name of that book again?

**Roger Lipp:** Getting the Love You Want.

**Mark Savage:** Okay.

**Jill Savage:** Alright. We'll put a link to that.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah. That would be good.

**Jill Savage:** 'Cause it sounds like it's a good one.

**Kathi Lipp:** I think we have about 12 copies around our house.

[laughter]

**Kathi Lipp:** It's just like, we keep them on hand if we need to hand them to somebody. For me, I would say, one of the biggest struggles was that I had a very tough time with Roger's son, Jeremy, when we first got married. He was very angry and very resentful. I found myself acting like a child, like, *"I love you. Why don't you love me back? You idiot."* It's like, *"I don't know why he didn't find that charming."* [chuckle] We went to counseling, and we wanted to send Jeremy to counseling. Just go fix him.

**Kathi Lipp:** What we really came to understand was... no. We were the ones who needed the counseling, in order to make sure that our reactions were healthy to him. I would say, that was probably the biggest strain of our marriage was my relationship with Jeremy because it just made me feel... my kids love me. Why doesn't...it was just unfathomable to me.

**Kathi Lipp:** And I had to realize, Jeremy is in a bad position. He has a mom who loves him, and now we've got this going on, and he had had his dad to himself pretty much his whole life. Now I was coming in and I was switching things up. I had to realize pretty much always the answer is, *"I need to change."* I can't force change on anybody else, but I can empower change in the relationship by my changing. That was one of the biggest struggles at least for me, when we were especially first married.

**Jill Savage:** That's great.

**Mark Savage:** Wow.

**Jill Savage:** Now, you were talking about how you really had to change how you were responding to him. Honestly, I'm sure that, that leaked over into how...you learned some skills for responding in general.

**Kathi Lipp:** Yeah. Absolutely.

**Jill Savage:** Can you share, when you think about how you changed-from what you were, to what began to work better and how you were responding? I think we can probably apply this to all of our relationships. Can you think about maybe one takeaway?

**Kathi Lipp:** Well, I would say, one of the things was realizing that he was doing the best he could under the circumstances. He didn't hate me; he just didn't know how to process me. I used to drive him places and I would think every time he got into the car, *"Okay. We need to work on our relationship."* No! Finally, what I did, and it's something that he still talks about today, is he would get into the car and I'd put a comedy album on. At first, what I did was I would drive up to his school and the comedy album would be on, and I'd turn it off, and he'd say, *"No, you can leave it on."*

**Kathi Lipp:** We started listening to comedy albums, Bill Cosby before all the things happened. Jon

Bennett, all these clean comedians and we would just laugh. I noticed one day, somebody said something about chocolate cake at the dinner table and Jeremy and I at the same time said, "*Dad is great, he gives us...*" We were both quoting a line from the comedy album. We had this little connection there.

**Mark Savage:** Wow.

**Kathi Lipp:** I had to realize that my responses couldn't always be, "*We have to fix this right now. This has to be fixed right now.*" I had to be in the place of saying, "*You know what, we're in a not great place and that's okay. We need to figure out other connections.*" And for us, it was comedy albums. It was something easy and subtle, but it just made it easier for us to be around each other.

**Mark Savage:** Ahh. That's incredible. That's great insight.

**Jill Savage:** I think you can apply that to marriage too especially when marriage is in a hard place and we feel like, "*Okay we need to talk, we need to deal with this, we need to think about it.*" Sometimes we just need to be with each other and not dealing with it. We need to be having fun together and laughing together.

**Kathi Lipp:** Yes! I think fun is so underrated in all of our relationships. That's why we're taking a little trip this weekend. We're just going for a couple of days, couple of little flights. We said, "*Okay there is no agenda we're just going to be together and we're going to go watch movies, and we're going to go to dinner, and we're going to sleep in.*" And I think when marriage is hard, you do feel like this all the time. What our marriage counselor would say is, "*No, go to a movie together, even if you're not talking it's a shared experience that's positive and you need as many of those as you can possibly get.*"

**Mark Savage:** Right. Right. Yeah. Yeah.

**Jill Savage:** That's wise, I love that. I love that. You guys, it's funny... are you both okay with kind of having a loose plan but not...sometimes one person in the marriage likes to plan everything out and one person is very spontaneous. Where do you guys fit in that? You were talking to us a little before we started the interview, about your trip. You got a bunch of \$49 flights on Southwest. You can keep your "A" status, love that. You're literally like, "*Hey let's take advantage of this.*"

**Kathi Lipp:** Hashtag priorities.

[laughter]

**Jill Savage:** So which one of you is more spontaneous and which one of you is more structured?

**Kathi Lipp:** It depends on the situation.

**Roger Lipp:** We hand that one back and forth.

**Kathi Lipp:** It really does. His family, growing up they would... Did you plan? Your dad never planned a thing, no.



**Roger Lipp:** But I'm an engineer.

**Kathi Lipp:** Yeah. But for vacation we both can go without a ton of planning and be okay but we can also spend a lot of time planning and be okay with it. I think it kind of corresponds to the dollar amount.

**Roger Lipp:** We did our Disney World trip and there were spreadsheets involved of activities and all kinds of things. We got the kids involved through the spreadsheets. It was an interesting thing.

**Kathi Lipp:** It was so fun. Yesterday I said to Roger, "By the way, we have the plane tickets and we have the hotel."

**Roger Lipp:** That's it.

**Kathi Lipp:** That's it.

**Roger Lipp:** That's the extent of our plan.

**Kathi Lipp:** So when you ask me, "*How are we getting to the hotel?*" That is a common decision. I don't have any of that done. We've just come off of a really intense work time, and so we're okay with that. I also know, when we are traveling together my brain shuts off. I put him in total control, like when we're doing ministry stuff. We just have to be clear with our expectations before we go. That's why I said last night, "*Here, just so we're clear, this is the level I've planned, which is level one, not level 10.*" We're okay with it. Also to say, "*Hey if you need more planning you should probably do that.*"

[laughter]

**Jill Savage:** Yeah. That's good because I think sometimes we don't have those simple conversations that you talk about Kathi, of, "*Okay going into this weekend we have the plane tickets and we have the hotel, that's it.*" That's a gift to give to your spouse to make sure that you are both on the same page and that you adjust expectations.

**Kathi Lipp:** And it's all about expectations, wouldn't you say?

**Roger Lipp:** Yeah, absolutely.

**Kathi Lipp:** To go in with a budget and say, "*This is what we're planning on spending, etc.*" It doesn't have to be planned but we just have to make sure we're coming in at the same thing. We went on a trip with another couple one time and, come to find out, we came in with very mixed expectations. This was like their trip of a lifetime, and for us, this was a three-day little trip which was super fun. We were excited to be with our friends, but we didn't put as much weight on it. And we had to have a clarifying conversation in the middle of that trip to say, "*Do you need us to step this up? We can, we can get dressed up, we can do all this kind of stuff.*" That's not what our plan going in was, but it's good to have the conversation.

**Jill Savage:** Yeah, that's good.

**Mark Savage:** So you've mentioned a couple times or you talked a lot about your working together in Ministry. What are some challenges that you've had in working together in ministry? Maybe a challenge and a lesson that you've learned.

**Kathi Lipp:** I can start if you want me to. I have to realize that just because Roger is quiet doesn't mean he's not powerful. I've always known that. I know he is so powerful, but I also know it can look like-just now when I said, "*Hey, can I take this?*" It can look like I'm in control which is not the circumstance, so, I need to make sure, especially with our team, that I let them know, "*You may see my face more often but this is a package deal, we do this together.*" The only reason that this Dog and Pony show gets up and running everyday is because we've got somebody who's smart and savvy behind it.

**Jill Savage:** Wow.

**Mark Savage:** That's cool.

**Jill Savage:** I love that.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah.

**Kathi Lipp:** There are lots of marriages where somebody is much quieter than the other person and so it's very easy for that person to get overshadowed. I had a ministry leader tell me one time; this is the best compliment you could ever give me. She said, "*I don't know much about you but I know that you write books and I know that you love your husband.*" I'm like, "*If that's all you ever know for the rest of your life, that's important to me. You may not hear from him very often, but I know that he is the secret weapon behind all of it.*"

**Roger Lipp:** I think allowing us to play into our strengths in this relationship has been important. We don't necessarily fit the stereotype that a lot of people have for what a relationship should look like. Kathi is very outspoken and strong and that's cool, that's fine. She is putting so much energy into our ministry and so much passion, and I can come along and do the supporting, kind of the business side, and some of that stuff and it's great for us.

**Kathi Lipp:** How much strength does it take for a man, how much self awareness and composure does he have to have, to say, "*It's okay that my wife shines.*" You know what I mean.

**Mark Savage:** No. I don't understand that at all.

[laughter]

**Kathi Lipp:** But it's true.

**Mark Savage:** That's a whole other talk.

[laughter]

**Kathi Lipp:** It's a whole other talk.

**Mark Savage:** It takes a lot.

**Kathi Lipp:** It takes a lot. It takes a lot, for us to be able to say, we recognize each other's strengths and we express that to the world. Even if the world doesn't get it, we get it. By the way, our team gets it too. Our team, they're excited when they get to work with Roger, because they know that they're going to learn stuff. They love working with him. The third arm of our ministry, her name is Angela, who you got to meet, Jill. She and Roger are thick as thieves. They work so well together, and I just get in the way. She's one of the people I respect most in the world. She respects Roger the most in the world, and that's really important to me. I know you guys get this.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah.

**Jill Savage:** Yeah, we do. Honestly that was part of the struggles that kind of led up to our crisis, that was an element of it. We've learned to work better together, since we began to put the broken pieces back together of our relationship. That's been one of those.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah. Playing to our strengths and celebrate and being comfortable with, "*This is the way we're made and that's okay.*"

**Kathi Lipp:** Yeah. We can't be ashamed of the way that God wired us.

**Mark Savage:** No.

**Kathi Lipp:** I think this is why there are so few ministry couples where the woman may be better known. It takes such a man who is submitted totally to God, and who understands his strengths, without having to have it proved in the arena every single day.

**Mark Savage:** Oh yeah.

**Kathi Lipp:** That's a huge thing and so guys who can do this... I mean I have such admiration for men who are in this, like you Mark. I think about Bill Farrel and people like that, who have come along. They're working together, because they're more powerful together.

**Jill Savage:** Absolutely.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah.

**Jill Savage:** And you don't have to work together to have the takeaways from what we're talking about here.

**Kathi Lipp:** No.

**Jill Savage:** And you don't have to be in public ministry together.

**Kathi Lipp:** No.

**Jill Savage:** Because really what we're talking about is, as a marriage we're a team, no matter what.

**Kathi Lipp:** Right. It's the same for parenting; it's the same for just a marriage relationship. Does it have to look like everybody else's to work, or can you guys figure out together what your strengths and weaknesses are and then say, "*Hey, we're going to come together because we are more powerful together.*" The other thing is we're always on each other's team. I have a mission statement; we call it the personal manifesto. One of the top things on there is, "*I'm on Roger's team always.*" So whatever Roger is doing, I'm his biggest cheerleader, I'm there. And whether it's parenting, marriage, work, I'm on his team, as he's on my team.

**Jill Savage:** That's good.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah.

**Jill Savage:** And that's a good word for all of us. So you guys, you wrote one book together and I believe the title is, Happy...

**Kathi Lipp:** Happy Habits, yes.

**Jill Savage:** For Every Couple and it's 21 days to a better relationship. I'm guessing maybe there's 21 habits?

**Kathi Lipp:** Yes. We have little projects and there some of them are for men, and some of them are for the women, and some of them are together. You get some days off from being nice, you don't have to do it 21 days in a row. A lot of church groups use it for a four week study to go through, and to just re-center yourselves on what is God's plan for our marriage, and what's important to each of us.

**Jill Savage:** That's good.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah.

**Jill Savage:** Can you share one habit?

**Kathi Lipp:** Yeah, okay. One of my favorites is to do something you were doing when you were dating. For us that would be going and looking at stars. It's kind of funny, we lived in two different towns about two hours away when we started dating and so we would meet in Tracy, California and talk about how romantic it was. If you know about Tracy, California it smells like cow all the time. It was half way point for us, and so a couple of times we've gone to the movies and to Tracy, just it's something...

**Roger Lipp:** We love Tracy.

**Kathi Lipp:** We love Tracy, yeah.

**Kathi Lipp:** Yes. Smells are a little different. We traveled past there a lot to go see my mom or go to speaking events. We'll stop in Tracy and just talk about how romantic it is. We're the only people in the world who think Tracy is romantic. Just kind of recapturing some of that fun and that excitement from when you were dating.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah. Roger, what would be a habit from the 21 that you think of?

**Roger Lipp:** Oh, sure. One of the basic ones was know the important dates and information about your spouse. A lot of this is about learning respect. How do you capture a birthday or something, after you've been married for so many years? Right? You sneak a look at somebody's driver's license? How do you do that, if it's not a date that's really locked into your brain? We gave some structure to, *"Hey, we're just going to record all this stuff that might be important. What's your pants size? What's your birthday? What's our anniversary date? [chuckle] Let's just get it all written down."*

**Kathi Lipp:** A no judgment zone, to write all that down in the book, so that you can always have a reminder of when that is. Because it's amazing how many people do not know their spouse's birthday or anniversary. Or their favorite perfume.

**Roger Lipp:** A couple years after we got married, we were buying some makeup or something because you were doing a video shoot I think. They were trying to sign you up for a loyalty program. You were busy doing something, so I was answering all of the questions. They kind of caught me by surprise and asked me for your birthday. And, I came up with...

**Kathi Lipp:** April 14th.

**Roger Lipp:** April 14th. Which was not her birthday, and it was not my first wife's birthday. It was the combination of their birthdays, which was totally wrong. Now every April 14th we celebrate Kathi's un-birthday.

[laughter]

**Roger Lipp:** We go out shopping and to the movies. It's been an expensive mistake...

[laughter]

**Roger Lipp:** But, well worth it.

**Kathi Lipp:** It's super fun. I will say that I did not get upset that he did choose his ex-wife's birthday month. I do not have any false anger that he's still in love with her, or anything like that. It's just a funny story at this point but...

**Jill Savage:** And I'm glad you reframe it in a funny way.

**Kathi Lipp:** And I've gotten a new outfit, and a dinner date, and a movie every single year out of it. Cha-ching, baby!

[laughter]

**Jill Savage:** I love it.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah.

**Jill Savage:** Well we have one last question. We always like to end our interviews with this question because we learn so much from everyone. Do you guys have a perfect date night, or something that you really enjoy doing on a date night that you do on a maybe semi-regular basis?

**Kathi Lipp:** I'd say adventure dining.

**Roger Lipp:** Adventure dining. Yeah.

**Kathi Lipp:** Apparently it's all about food for the Lipp's. We do something called adventure dining, where we try to find some place new. When we're traveling, we don't eat at some place we can eat at in San Jose. No Chili's, no Applebee's, anything like that. We try to find a hole in the wall, or something, a chain that's local that everybody loves. We did White Castle one time. Sorry, not impressed.

**Jill Savage:** Oh! Are you kidding? I grew up on White Castle!

**Roger Lipp:** You just alienated three fourths of the audience.

**Jill Savage:** But, but, I understand because I grew up on it. That's one thing. I can only imagine what it would taste like if you just tried it as an adult.

**Kathi Lipp:** Well we're mourning because Arby's went out! Now this is not good food, but do you guys have Arby's?

**Mark Savage:** Yes.

**Jill Savage:** Yeah, we do.

**Kathi Lipp:** Okay. They've just killed all the ones in our town. It's so horrible. Even when we're in San Jose, we will try... We'll try some place ethnic that we've never been to before, and we really enjoy that. Just trying something new. We know from research that doing things that you did when you were dating improves your marriage. Also creating new memories, doing new adventure, is so healthy for a marriage. But we didn't do it for that, we did it for the dim sum. It has been an excellent side benefit to go and do fun new things and discover new favorite places.

**Roger Lipp:** Yeah.

**Jill Savage:** Oh, I love that.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah.

**Jill Savage:** Well, and you know what I love is that you even have a name for it, adventure dining.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah, yeah. I think we should do that.

**Jill Savage:** I think we should too. See? This is what I mean. This is so fun! We learn so much from each other. I think that's great and I think we should start this evening.

**Kathi Lipp:** Oh, fun.

**Mark Savage:** Yeah.

[laughter]

**Jill Savage:** I love it.

**Kathi Lipp:** Give us just a second to catch up with that. Yelp is a great way to do that. Go on Yelp and seeing what's highly rated and only has one or two dollar signs, because it doesn't need to be expensive. But, find that great soul place that everybody knows about but you, or something like that. Yelp is really a great tool with that.

**Mark Savage:** Right. Yeah. Okay.

**Jill Savage:** That's great. Well, that's great.

**Mark Savage:** Well guys, thanks so much for spending this time with us.

**Kathi Lipp:** Are you kidding? It's been a pleasure. Yeah, this has been fun. It's giving us some ideas for our trip today.

[overlapping conversation]

**Roger Lipp:** That's right.

**Jill Savage:** Well we are so appreciative and we want to tell all of our listeners and those that are tuning in, thank you so much for joining us today. And this is Mark and Jill Savage.

**Mark Savage:** Yep.

**Jill Savage:** We're signing off with a reminder, *"A real marriage isn't perfect. A real marriage is two people being perfected."*

**Mark Savage:** Yep.

**Jill Savage:** Thanks for joining us.

**Mark Savage:** Have a great day.