



God Hears Her Podcast Transcript

Feeling Out of Place

Season One | Episode Twelve

Elisa Morgan: Welcome to God Hears Her. I'm Elisa Morgan.

Eryn Eddy: And I am Eryn Eddy. What was the last major life transition that you've experienced? Maybe you moved to a new city or experienced a career change, or maybe you had a child at home and now that child is at school, or maybe it was more traumatic change, like a divorce or a loss of a relationship. As women, we can find our identity in so many different things, and then when those things disappear, it feels like we disappear. Well today on God Hears Her, Amy Boucher Pye joins us to talk about some of the major transitions in her life.

Eryn Eddy: She is an editor, an author, she writes for Our Daily Bread, and she's also a friend of yours, Elisa.

Elisa Morgan: Yeah. Yeah. I actually met Amy in London, because that's where she lives. And we were at Kensington Palace, which was featuring an exhibit of Princess Diana's wardrobe. It was fabulous. It was amazing. And since then we've spent some time together, especially at Our Daily Bread during writing conferences and stuff like that, but she's not here to talk about clothes, mm, snap, or about writing devotional articles for Our Daily Bread. She's actually here because she has an amazing story to tell about losing sight of her identity. And how God restored her to discover who he made her to be.

Eryn Eddy: Let's get to it. Here's Amy Boucher Pye as she describes moving from the US to London with her husband, and the identity crisis that followed. This is God Hears Her.

Amy Boucher Pye: I met an Englishman over 20 years ago, and we got married, and the deal was, was that he was going to finish his seminary. And in the Church of England you have to give back three years being a curate, so we were going to be in England five to seven years. It's been 22.

Eryn Eddy: Oh my goodness.

Elisa Morgan: And he's English?

Amy Boucher Pye: He's very English.

Elisa Morgan: Okay. Where did you meet?



Amy Boucher Pye: We met when he was at seminary outside of Washington, DC. We met at a book club.

Elisa Morgan: Nice.

Eryn Eddy: How romantic.

Amy Boucher Pye: I know. I walked in and he said he had an aha moment.

Elisa Morgan: Oh, I love that. Did you?

Amy Boucher Pye: No. Mine came later.

Elisa Morgan: Yours came later? How much longer later?

Amy Boucher Pye: Oh, not long.

Elisa Morgan: Okay.

Amy Boucher Pye: Not long.

Elisa Morgan: Okay. So he's in seminary. You meet at a book club. How long did you court?

Amy Boucher Pye: Not long. We actually started talking about marriage after our third date-

Elisa Morgan: Oh gosh.

Amy Boucher Pye: ... Which we don't recommend. But yeah, and he actually proposed to me on the day Diana was buried. While he tried to. I have a whole chapter in my first book, *Finding Myself in Britain*, about how he tried to propose, but I was living in Washington DC. And he came, he was there at the same time, and he was taking me out to dinner. And I knew he was going to propose. I called my best friend, I did my fingernails. He's going to do it tonight's the night. And then he took me, because he wanted to propose on British soil, which was so cool, but that was the day Diana was buried. And so can you imagine what the British embassy was like?

Eryn Eddy: Oh my goodness.

Elisa Morgan: Yes.

Eryn Eddy: Yeah.

Amy Boucher Pye: There was police directing traffic-



Elisa Morgan: Oh, my goodness.

Amy Boucher Pye: People selling flowers. It was just a Bedlam. It was such a mess. So we got up there, he had these dozen roses in front of all of these flowers, and that's... I didn't know this, but that's when he gets a nudge from the Holy Spirit going, you know, if you marry her, there might be other times when you're away from your country, are you ready to count the cost?

Elisa Morgan: Wow.

Amy Boucher Pye: And he wasn't, which actually is because he takes things so seriously. He thinks them through. So gave my dozen roses to Diana.

Elisa Morgan: Oh my goodness.

Amy Boucher Pye: So he did that, and then he turned to me and gave me this-

Elisa Morgan: So he put the flowers in the pile with all the other funeral flowers.

Amy Boucher Pye: Yeah. And I'm like, what's happening here? My plan is not going to [crosstalk 00:04:42].

Elisa Morgan: Yes. My nails. My nails.

Amy Boucher Pye: So it was 24 hours of heartache. And then he came back the next day after church, and we had broken up, and then he came back and went shopping on Sunday, which he didn't like to do, to buy another dozen roses and he came and proposed. But it had a happy ending, but there was some drama there.

Eryn Eddy: So you did break up.

Amy Boucher Pye: Yes.

Eryn Eddy: When you saw or when you felt like it wasn't going to happen.

Amy Boucher Pye: When it didn't happen.

Elisa Morgan: When he gave the flowers to Diana.

Amy Boucher Pye: Well, he just, he was still counting the cost and said, I guess I'm just going to have to go back to England and we'll have to... I'm like, okay, it's done. And then three hours later he came back.

Elisa Morgan: That was a difficult three hours.



Amy Boucher Pye: It was. I was... Yeah.

Elisa Morgan: So you married, and you ended up moving to Britain.

Amy Boucher Pye: I did, yes, because he was still in seminary, or theological college as they call it.

Elisa Morgan: And you stayed there, you've lived there for 27 years now.

Amy Boucher Pye: I did. Yes.

Elisa Morgan: Wow. What's it like to be, don't we call that an ex Pat? Is that the right term?

Amy Boucher Pye: Well that's an interesting thing. You're either an immigrant, or an ex Pat, or what are you?

Elisa Morgan: Because you're an American.

Amy Boucher Pye: Yes, I am British, too, now.

Elisa Morgan: Okay.

Amy Boucher Pye: I am a subject of the queen. I have a dual citizenship.

Elisa Morgan: And the King, meaning Jesus. Go ahead.

Amy Boucher Pye: And I was just going saying the most important citizenship is our heavenly citizenship. Yes.

Elisa Morgan: There you go. Okay.

Amy Boucher Pye: Yeah. So it's an adjustment, but we live in London, and being an American in London is not even that interesting, because there's so many people from so many different nations. Our church, we have about 100 or so, and we have about 19 nationalities.

Elisa Morgan: Oh nice.

Eryn Eddy: Wow.

Amy Boucher Pye: So it's just a taste of heaven.

Eryn Eddy: It's like a melting pot of culture.

Amy Boucher Pye: It really is wonderful.



- Elisa Morgan: We Americans are so insulated, and duh, about the reality of our global church. That is wonderful that you get to worship constantly in that.
- Amy Boucher Pye: Yes.
- Elisa Morgan: I want to go back 22, three, four, however many years it is and ask you about what the process was like. You're a young, excited bride with her fingernails done, thinking this is going to be awesome, and I've fallen in love, and here we go. What was it like to pick up roots and move? You didn't probably know it was going to be as long as it did.
- Amy Boucher Pye: No, I didn't know.
- Elisa Morgan: Tell us about that transition.
- Amy Boucher Pye: Well it was devastating, actually. I was this career woman living in Washington DC. I had a very wonderful life with the church and lots of friends. And then I moved to England. We were in Cambridge at first, and I was all of a sudden, Mrs. Pye. Going to a doctor's appointment and they called for Mrs. Pye. I'm like, who's that? That's my mother-in-law.
- Eryn Eddy: Right.
- Amy Boucher Pye: And to not work. I wasn't working at first.
- Elisa Morgan: And what was your profession in those days?
- Amy Boucher Pye: I was an editor.
- Elisa Morgan: Okay.
- Amy Boucher Pye: I hadn't moved into writing yet and I had worked with Os Guinness in Washington, DC, and he talks a lot about calling. And I knew that my calling was not my work, but oh boy, when you're not working, you're like, who am I? And where is God? And I thought this was all right. And it is right. And I know it's right to be married, but it's so hard to be away from my family. And this was when the internet was... The internet was there, but the UK was behind a bit, and we didn't have mobile phones, and we definitely didn't have Skype. Even a phone call was really expensive. So I felt like I was cut off. And I wasn't working. And who am I?
- Amy Boucher Pye: And I felt like a little child actually, because the language. And Os did say to me, "All these little differences will add up to a big difference." So I knew it wasn't called a parking lot, but I couldn't remember that it was a car park. And so I'd be afraid to talk, and I'd feel like, I'm so American and they're going to judge me as



soon as I opened my mouth. So I felt very self conscious and I had to really go back to my identity as, I am God's beloved. I am a child of God. That is my worth. God sees me, God hears me, I know who I am because he loves me. It doesn't matter that I'm not working, I'm not contributing to the household finances. I can just live in Cambridge and go punting on the Cam. You know, punting are those boats.

Eryn Eddy: Yeah. Okay.

Amy Boucher Pye: Yeah. And just be a tourist for a little bit and it's okay, but it was a long, long process. And even at times now, not so much in London, but if I'm speaking out in the country quite often when people say, "Oh, how long are you visiting?" "Oh, 22 years.

Elisa Morgan: Because they can tell just by your accent.

Amy Boucher Pye: Yeah. Yeah.

Elisa Morgan: Being an American.

Eryn Eddy: That's just so... You learned something through that process being completely stripped of anything you found your identity in, to walk into where your true identity.

Amy Boucher Pye: That's right. And I think so many women can relate to that because we're stripped of our identity. As a student, and then you move out, maybe you get married, then maybe you have kids, then maybe your kids grow up, and you're not a mother in the same way anymore. Or your job changes, or you lose your job.

Elisa Morgan: But I think that's real, what you're talking about, especially for women, because we do lay aside roles and we mistake roles for identity.

Amy Boucher Pye: That's right.

Elisa Morgan: And it gets really confusing when you've laid aside roles. I remember when I left being the CEO at a nonprofit that I just had been the poster child for, for 20 years, and I called it the dismantling of Elisa. And I wanted to be less necessary, not unnecessarily. And it's a very humbling process.

Amy Boucher Pye: And how did you stay true to who you are in the midst of that?

Elisa Morgan: Well, it's really what you just said. You have to remember who you are and how God sees you, and realize that my identity is not the role. The role was a place I was invited to serve.



Eryn Eddy: Yeah.

Amy Boucher Pye: That's right.

Elisa Morgan: But I'm still here. It's very different, and it takes a huge adjustment. And I know so many women who've gone through that, is they become emptynesters, and all the busyness of having kids around is suddenly evaporated, or vice versa. The opposite direction. They've been in a busy career and suddenly they decided to stay home with their kids. What happened to me? So this is a real felt need.

Eryn Eddy: You gave yourself permission, too, to play a little bit, and be like-

Amy Boucher Pye: I tried to.

Eryn Eddy: When you said that, that would be really hard, having a career and a community of people that you're constantly around, serving, giving, and then you're in a place what feels a little isolating and dismantling to not know who you are, but then you're like, I'm going to get myself permission to play a little.

Amy Boucher Pye: Yeah. I had to give myself permission. It was still hard, and I think, walking alongside yourself, I think CS Lewis says. And I felt so often that I was walking alongside myself and not living in the present in the moment. So it was a struggle to ask God to really connect all those parts of me. And friendship with women, actually, is really how God helped me too. Obviously I had my wonderful relationship with my husband, but I had so many friends in DC and I just prayed, Lord, please just send me at least one friend. And he sent me a lovely Irish woman, a lovely South African woman, and a lovely Scottish woman in the first place we lived and it was such a Godsend.

Eryn Eddy: How did you meet them?

Amy Boucher Pye: Through church.

Eryn Eddy: This church.

Elisa Morgan: Did you have to be a participant in that process or did God just put them on your doorstep?

Amy Boucher Pye: Oh no, I had to-

Eryn Eddy: That's a really good question.

Amy Boucher Pye: Yeah. No, I had to pursue them.

Elisa Morgan: What did you do?



- Amy Boucher Pye: I don't even remember, to be honest.
- Elisa Morgan: Mm-hmm (affirmative). We can come back to that, because what I wanted to ask is, if you could for a few minutes, make it practical in terms of looking back. And most of us are just in a daze when we go through transition and we don't even know how we survive it, but looking back, can you identify some principles or actions that you took that helped you through the transition? Because so many women listening are going through some kind of transition and they're going, "Oh, you're, you're speaking my language. I'm stuck. I'm in a daze. I'm in a fog. I've lost myself." Any principals? Look for friends, asking for friends, remembering your identity really is-
- Amy Boucher Pye: I think, really going back to first principles of making sure your relationship with God is completely solid, because in those tender times it's so easy to be swayed by the different wins, or the insecurities, or nobody likes me, I don't have any friends.
- Elisa Morgan: It's like you're back in junior high.
- Amy Boucher Pye: Yeah, I made a gaff. I mean we've moved a couple of times-
- Elisa Morgan: Oh, that would be a mistake. Excuse me.
- Amy Boucher Pye: Oh, sorry. Yes, I made a terrible mistake of saying something horrible. So really going back to the first principles of reigniting your relationship with God, that love relationship that you have. Reading the Bible, praying, asking to hear, to sense God's voice, so that you know that your identity is so solid. And then going out there and praying and asking, "God, send me some friends." I have met a lot of friends at the gym. I love going to body combat classes, and body pump, and all of that. And there I just play being the American, because I can be loud and outgoing and trying to make friends and I always say, "Oh, I'm Amy." Because Brits don't like to introduce themselves. "This is Eryn. Eryn, have you met Elisa?"
- Amy Boucher Pye: And so I think really going out and asking God to help you find friends, but then also doing your part in that. And sometimes it's making a plan, joining a crafting group, or a writing group, or a walking group, or whatever kind of group it is, and go, "Lord help me find myself in you and help me to also be your light in this season." And I think as we look outside of ourselves and go, she's really hurting right now, or she's got a need. How can I minister to her? And then we start to feel better about who we are, because God's like, "I can use you as my hands."
- Eryn Eddy: Yeah.
- Amy Boucher Pye: "I'll be working through you."



- Eryn Eddy: Yeah.
- Elisa Morgan: I think one of the best pieces of advice I've received is to invest by owing. Think about that. So instead of just being the answer woman, which we think is the Jesusy the thing to do, say, "Can you help me?"
- Amy Boucher Pye: Yes.
- Eryn Eddy: To invite.
- Elisa Morgan: Yeah, to invite somebody else, can you help me? And then somebody else is going to feel valued and necessary and so then you have this beautiful mutual exchange that's kind of cool. So you ended up staying for all these years.
- Amy Boucher Pye: Yes.
- Elisa Morgan: So what has surprised you about that? And has anything shifted? I mean, you're probably the welcoming one now.
- Amy Boucher Pye: Well, I hope I am.
- Eryn Eddy: Well, because you probably know what it's like to feel-
- Amy Boucher Pye: On the outside.
- Eryn Eddy: On the other side.
- Amy Boucher Pye: Yes. And a friend of mine, an English woman who actually is American, but she sounds Downton Abbey, she really does. She said, when she was living in Washington, DC when we were engaged, she said, "You know, Amy, you'll just always have one foot on each side of the pond now." And that's true, I think, not just with me in my life, but that's true in life. Sometimes we have to relinquish something, but God gives it back to us in another way. I'm still close with my family. I mean, we don't get to see each other as much, but the bonds are strong and connected, and I get to come back every now and again, like now, and go to Target.
- Elisa Morgan: Target run.
- Eryn Eddy: Tarjay.
- Elisa Morgan: That's right.
- Eryn Eddy: Tarjay boutique.



- Elisa Morgan: That's right.
- Eryn Eddy: When we come back, the conversation with Amy continues on the topic of identity, and specifically her struggle to step confidently into becoming who God made her to be. For anyone who's struggling with the questions, who am I or who am I supposed to be? Don't miss the rest of this conversation. I found it so helpful. I hope you do too. That's coming up on God Hears Her.
- Elisa Morgan: Hey guys, if you're enjoying this show today, please take a moment to write a quick review and rate us on iTunes and on whatever podcast platform you listen. Reviews and ratings help us reach more people, because iTunes and other podcast platforms push highly rated shows in front of more people. So if you could take a moment to write a quick review and rate us, that would be super helpful in helping us to reach more women with the message that God Hears Her.
- Eryn Eddy: We're back. This is God Hears Her, and I'm Eryn Eddy.
- Elisa Morgan: And I'm Elisa Morgan. We're in the middle of a conversation with Amy Boucher Pye about the struggle around identity. Who am I? Who am I supposed to be? And in just a moment Amy will share about a moment in her life when she struggled to accept and step confidently into all God had made her to do, but before we jump back in, just a quick reminder that if you miss anything in today's show, or if you're in the middle of doing something else, the talking points are available in the show notes and they can be found in the podcast description or on our website at godhearsher.org. That's [godhearsher dot o-r-g](http://godhearsher.org).
- Elisa Morgan: In the show notes, you'll also find a link to a free resource entitled, What is God Calling Me to Do? This is an article that specifically addresses the topic of career and calling for anyone who hears the next part of this conversation and who's struggling to discover what God has for them to do. Again, the link is in the show notes or on our website, godhearsher.org.
- Eryn Eddy: Let's get back into our conversation as Amy Boucher Pye describes accepting who God has made her to be in Christ and how difficult this was for her, even as she was finishing the rigorous pursuit of a Master's degree in Christian Spirituality. This is God Hears Her.
- Amy Boucher Pye: My whole journey as a writer and as a speaker has been accepting who God has made me in Christ, and that I have a brain, and that I can think. And at one level, the whole academic study, way until the end, until I got to the dissertation, I just didn't think I belonged. That I wasn't smart enough, that I couldn't do this deep reading and this critical thinking, and I just battled on through the end. And that was part of God transforming me to say, I am your teacher. To take Psalm 23 and say though you might walk through the valley of bad papers. I am the one



who upholds you. I am your teacher and I give you my wisdom, so receive it and know that you're my child. It's back to who I am in Christ. That's a real recurring theme for me.

Elisa Morgan: You've personalized that beautifully, and I hope, maybe everybody listening can think about that. Though I walk through, fill in the blank.

Amy Boucher Pye: Yes.

Eryn Eddy: Yeah, exactly.

Elisa Morgan: God is with me.

Amy Boucher Pye: Yes.

Elisa Morgan: That's very personal.

Eryn Eddy: So good.

Amy Boucher Pye: How have you both, when you've walked through the valley of whatever, how have you felt God's presence near you and changing you?

Eryn Eddy: I went through a divorce. And then a lot of debt. Almost filed for bankruptcy, business struggling. Just all sorts of... When I talk about metrics of where we find our identity in our self worth that are not sustainable. Mine was in relationships, and status, and finance, and all of that. So then when I was stripped of it, I was at the end of myself and I had to ask God like, "God, I want to see myself the way you see me, because I'm seeing myself through all of these circumstances." And that's where it was like an overwhelming peace, and I can't... It's like it felt like a hug of his presence.

Amy Boucher Pye: Oh yes.

Eryn Eddy: When I just prayed and surrendered my life to him, and was just like, "Please make something new of this. Renew my life. Transform me. And change things inside of me, and heal areas that I don't even know how to even approach."

Elisa Morgan: I'm remembering a situation when I was on a plane coming home from a speaking engagement and our family was going through such difficult times. My daughter was pregnant as a teenager, and my son was finding himself in hard places, and I couldn't be home for some important moments. And I was on my way home and my flight was delayed and it was like, "Really God, you know where I need to be. Please, please, please." And I looked out the window. We were stuck on this tarmac, and that actually, Amy, Psalm 23 went through my heart. And it was not the verse though you walk through, it was, I will make you lie down in green pastures. And I looked out the window and there was this tiny



scrap of green, in the middle of the runway, of grass. And I just thought, "I'm going to commit right now, God, to look for the green, the pasture, the place that you're going to help me to lie down when I'm walking through the whatever."

Amy Boucher Pye: Even though it's storming all around.

Elisa Morgan: Whatever it is. And you know, I think our conversation has been about being in transition, talking a lot about moving, as an American, to the United Kingdom, to London. But all of us are in transitions where things that we depend on are stripped away and the assurance, the transformative truth is that even though we walk through, God's with us, and that he will make us lie down. So let's look for the green, if you will.

Amy Boucher Pye: Look for the green. I love that. That's such a good reminder.

Eryn Eddy: Going back to you. What would you tell anybody that's listening that doesn't feel like God hears them, or sees them, and you can look back and you see when you may have felt that way, what would you tell them?

Amy Boucher Pye: Well, I would say to get quiet. Hopefully if that works for them. If they're a huge extrovert, they might need to get talking to another person, but for me, I was reading the Bible. And that wonderful part of Isaiah where God says, 'I've known you and I love you. You are my beloved.' And there are just different parts in the Bible where you just can hear God speaking through the words of scripture. And I really believe that the Holy Spirit leads us to the scripture that we need to go to at the right time, whether on our own or whether through the help of another person. And the Holy Spirit will bring that alive and it'll be like God is speaking straight to your heart. And that's what I needed to hear, is that I was beloved by God, and that he loved me, he knew me, he saw me, he hears me.

Amy Boucher Pye: And I think a lot of the time we have to ask him to help us turn off our whatever voice is. I'm not good enough. I've done this, I've done that. And just to quiet down and you could put your hand on your heart and go, "I've asked you, Lord Jesus, to come live in me and I know you do. So please speak through the words of the Bible. And I think God will. And then just hold onto that truth. Write it out and put it on over your sink. If you're the dishes, or on your phone, or on your computer, and just live out of the truth that God is with us.

Elisa Morgan: God is with us. He sees us, he hears us, he knows us. And nothing anyone can say, including ourselves, can change that.

Eryn Eddy: That's so encouraging. You've been listening to God Hears Her, and our guest has been Amy Boucher Pye, who is supposed to be here to talk about her book, *The Living Cross, Exploring God's Gift of Forgiveness*, but her advice and experience with issues of identity ended up being so helpful we decided to stick



with that thread for our conversation, but we would still encourage you to pick up a copy of her book. Again, it's titled *The Living Cross, Exploring God's Gift of Forgiveness*, and it offers a 40 day exploration of what the Bible says about forgiveness. If you want more information, there's a link to her book in the show notes.

Elisa Morgan:

Also in the show notes are the talking points for today's conversation, along with links to verses mentioned, and a link to a free resource titled, *what is God calling me to do?* This is an article that specifically addresses the topic of career and calling for anyone who is struggling to discover what God has for them to do. So click the link in the show notes, which are available in the podcast description or on our website at godhearsher.org. That's godhearsher.o-r-g.

Eryn Eddy:

Thank you so much for joining us today, and don't forget God sees you, he hears you, he loves you, because you are his. God Hears Her would not exist without the help of Peggy, Luanne and Quinlin. We are so thankful for you guys.