

If you've ever happened to tune into Dallas's public radio station, KERA, around lunch time you've probably heard Kryss Boyd's work.

Boyd is the host and managing editor of *Think*, a daily long-form talk show broadcast from Dallas NPR member station, KERA.

Boyd's twitter bio reads, "Reader of many, many books." Her banner is a photo of her signature colorful sticky note tabs – she reads hundreds of pages of literature before every single episode – and there are two a day, five days a week. That means a lot of sticky note tabs.

"It's taken me a while to kind of get a process that works for me," Boyd said. "My schedule (goes) from eight in the morning – when I start working – until seven or eight at night, when I'm done with research. It's pretty similar all the time. But what I'm thinking about (each day) is different."

While her current routine is fairly set today, she says it hasn't always been easy. After the sudden death of her first husband, she found herself a single parent to her two kids.

"For five years before I remarried, I was Mom *and* Dad," Boyd said. "I had to work and I had to raise my kids and there was no one helping with either one ... and that made it really easy for me to prioritize."

In the aftermath of her husband's death, Boyd managed to jump start her career in radio and raise her kids. While she's proud that she's managed to do both, she doesn't like to dwell on it – for many women, she says, balance simply a fact of life.

"It's funny, no one ever asks men how they balance it all, because the assumption is they're not really expected to," Boyd said.

Boyd was born to middle-class, Catholic parents in 1970, who she says embodied "every kind of norm of American culture." Between middle school and high school, her family relocated from New York to El Paso.

"You hit adolescence and you're having all this brain development and you're just hyper aware of things and you're in this amazing moment of growth. It was the ideal time to make a change," Boyd said. "Just everything was different, everything from the topography of the land, to how people lived. El Paso is the desert, so nobody, almost nobody has a front lawn. People have like, rocks in the front and some artfully placed cacti."

Cacti aside, Boyd said that her upbringing in El Paso has helped her better understand a lot of today's issues.

"I feel so fortunate to have lived on the border because nothing about immigration from Latin America frightens me," Boyd said. "I got a sense of the full potential and humanity and intellectual capacity of people of immigrant backgrounds that I think has been a little harder for people who haven't been raised (in a place like El Paso)."

Boyd said her background influences her work, but it's not the main focus.

"My identity is ... just a tiny speck of the American experience, so I want ... to read about someone else's experience, and ... find the ways that I completely relate to them even though their life looks nothing like mine," Boyd said "(Maybe) there's something that I've seen as a given ... and they say, 'Actually, I see it completely differently.'"

After fourteen years on air, Boyd's show has grown to reach a wide audience, and she says it's not always who you'd expect.

"I think there's an assumption about the kind of person who listens to public radio in America, and I can tell you, at least based on who calls in, which is not necessarily a perfect subset of who listens, but we hear from all kinds of people," Boyd said. "It's not just white people making artisanal pickles."

Boyd said she attributes a lot of *Think's* success to its commitment to exploring big, universal ideas in a way that's approachable to a wide audience. She said she tries to seek out stories that might change her own perception.

"I really want my brain to stay flexible and I never want to think I'm finished learning about something," Boyd said. "You have to always be open to the fact that what you are expecting is not what you're going to get. The best journalists, period, are the ones who listen."