

Lucy Hutchings Hunt

LIVE THE CHANGE BY LUCY HUTCHINGS HUNT: FEATURING CRIMINAL DEFENCE ATTORNEY LISA HOULÉ

Intro :

Thank you for joining me, Lucy Hutchings Hunt for my podcast Live the Change. My goal is to bring you powerful and authentic conversations from inspiring global business voices. Helping to share these fascinating stories about the magic and rewards that heart-led leadership brings, fuels my personal mission to support and motivate as many fellow business-owners and entrepreneurs as possible.

Are you ready to get honest, step out of your comfort zone and step into your best, heart-led business self? Sure you are. And if you're not ready just yet, keep listening to my guests' inspiring stories about how they personally Live the Change, and you soon will be.

Today I'm thrilled to be speaking with Lisa Houlé, who is a former Los Angeles County prosecutor, now a criminal defence attorney based in Redondo Beach in California. She is the perfect person to be heading up and founding her really insightful campaign Before You Push Send. It's all about raising awareness of the pitfalls and negative potential ripple effects, of sexting amongst our youngsters. So anybody that's got children, like I have, mine are a little bit too young hopefully, but you know as soon as they get to around the age of 10, 11 this becomes a real issue within our schools today, you know kids having mobile phones, and coming of age in a sexual way with technology, it's so different to how many of us were brought up. In-fact certainly to anyone of my age group, it's a completely different landscape, so Lisa's campaign Before You Push Send is all about raising awareness amongst parents and young people, but specifically parents and educating us so that we can help our children navigate their coming of sexual age in a world where technology means everything and is completely different to how it was when we were young. I think this conversation is fascinating. I really hope you'll check Lisa's website out at lisahoule.com and have a look at her campaign. She is somebody that can travel globally. She really is the right person to be talking about this, having prosecuted hundreds if not thousands of people for sexual crimes in court and now as a defence attorney who defends people who are prosecuted of such crimes in a sexual way. Without further ado, I'm going to crack on with the show. I hope you enjoy it as much as I enjoyed speaking with Lisa.

The Interview

LHH: Lisa, are you with me?

LH: I am with you.

LHH: Yay! How are you today?

LH: I'm good, Lucy, how are you?

Interview cont.

LHH: Really great. So what time is it, you're in Los Angeles today? Is that right?

LH: I am in Los Angeles and it is 8.30 in the morning and it is completely covered in fog. I feel like I'm in Scotland.

LHH: Well, I am actually in Scotland!

LH: I know you are.

LHH: It's a beautiful day here and I've just had the most delicious lunch in a very civilized restaurant and I never think of Los Angeles of been covered in fog, so...

LH: It's rare that it is, but we have had some wild weather out here. It's all good though - we needed it.

LHH: And you're speaking to me from your office, is that right?

LH: Yes, I am my office in Torrance, which is a suburb of Los Angeles, closer to the beach.

LHH: Lovely. Although maybe not quite so lovely today, but on an average day. We first met last year at Keri Murphy's Brilliant Event. I've met so many amazing people through Keri. I'm probably the biggest British advocate Keri Murphy's Brilliant Event, but I've met all these wonderful women, yourself included. It was absolutely fascinating to meet you and hear what's brought you to this point in your career, this turning point. So, you're a former Los Angeles County prosecutor, now turned criminal defence attorney. Just to make sense of that to that for any UK listeners, you used to prosecute people on behalf of the government, but now you defend them. Is that right?

LH: That is correct. For 15 years, I was an LA County Deputy District Attorney, which is one of the biggest prosecutors' offices in the nation here in the United States. During that 15 years, most of my time was spent prosecuting sex crimes and domestic violence, and domestic homicides. It was fascinating work. I really, really loved every minute of it, but in 2015, I just was really ready for a change. It was not any one thing in particular that caused me to decide to leave my wonderful job as a prosecutor. It just was truly that I was ready for a change and I was up for a new challenge. And so, I opened my own practice and I've been doing that now for almost four years.

LHH: So as a prosecutor, are you employed by the government - is that right?

Interview cont.

LH: As a prosecutor, I was employed by the government. I was employed by the County of Los Angeles, which is a very big county in southern California and so, I was prosecuting cases on behalf of the people of the State of California. So, what that means as a prosecutor is that you are prosecuting people who commit crimes, on behalf of the citizens of the state of California, to make sure that people who commit crimes are held accountable and punished appropriately, if punishment is deserved. And that's much different from what I do now: my client is an individual person who I represent. If they are charged, I represent them during criminal proceedings in court to either defend the case outright, if my client is innocent, or to mitigate the damage, if my client says - well, I did it and I want to take responsibility, but I just don't think that I should be punished for the max. And then the other way that I am sometimes brought onto cases now is to represent people during a criminal investigation with the police, pre-filing or pre-charging. It's quite different from what I used to do.

LHH: And you said earlier that a lot of the cases that you worked on as a prosecutor were to do with sexual violence or domestic violence. Is that still the case with your cases as a defence attorney?

LH: That's a great question. The simple answer is yes, but again, the big difference now is that I'm defending those types of charges. Those are the cases that I now specialize in as a defence attorney. As you can imagine, since I specialized in those types of cases as a prosecutor, it's natural for me to want to now defend those cases because I understand them. I am an expert in understanding those types of cases. You know, sexual assaults in particular, are a very unique type of crime and type of charge, and there are a lot of steps in the process from accusing somebody of a sex crime, to getting to the point where the prosecutor files charges. That's quite a long process. The police, generally speaking, are very thorough and very experienced in investigating these types of cases. So, it takes somebody like me with this degree of expertise and experience, from having worked as a prosecutor for so many years, to understand how to defend those cases now. So, I really add a tremendous amount of value to clients who come to me for representation against these types of charges.

LHH: I can imagine. So, I remember asking this question when we were just chatting once, but some of the stuff that you're privy to in court as a prosecutor or as a defence attorney even, it can no doubt be quite disturbing. And I say this as an avid watcher in the day of CSI and what's that program...?

LH: Special victims, Criminal Modelling...?

LHH: Yes, Special Victims, I don't watch it anymore, but I used to watch an episode a night and I actually don't know how I ever slept.

LH: I agree.

LHH: That's what you do for living. How do you sleep? How does that affect you?

Interview cont.

LH: Again, that is such a great question. This is a long conversation, but I will try and be as direct and brief as I can. It takes a very unique individual to be able to work in this field to begin with, especially when we are dealing with violent crimes, and then especially, to take it a step further, when we are dealing with sex crimes, sexual assaults, molestations, those types of subjects. They are very emotionally charged. The subject matter can be very upsetting, and I found in my work that is incredibly important to stay balanced, to not focus 100 or 110% of your time on work. It's important to have other interests and other activities in one's life. Family becomes incredibly important, friendships become incredibly important. For example, somebody like you, who has added such an important part to my life, even in the little bit of time that we've spent together...

LHH: What a lovely thing to say!

LH: ...But it's important because, it really illustrates the point that when you're dealing with such horrible, traumatic, upsetting subjects in your daily work, you need to have a balance and you know, getting back to my relationship with you as a friend and a colleague and a fellow female entrepreneur, it's just so important, even in the simplest, most brief conversations, to really connect with people and feel like you have a network around you to support you in your work, because life already is hard. I don't think anybody says that life is easy, and if they do, I don't think they're giving you an accurate answer or an honest answer. But then when you add to your life a career that is difficult like, you know, doctors, have difficult lives. Lawyers have difficult lives...

LHH: ...I was just thinking about doctors dealing with people coming in with terrible injuries or diagnose cancers, children dying, that kind of thing. It's a similar sort of heart-wrenching, gut-wrenching life, having to deal with that. I mean my father was a doctor and I often think, father of five children and yet going to work, having people ill and complaining and dying on him all day, and then comes home to five wailing children and a grumpy wife.

LH: That's why I say that it's so important, especially in careers like this, like mine, to make sure that you have a really strong stable network of friends, colleagues, family, husbands, partners, children, whatever it is - because these cases really do affect people deeply and profoundly, and there were a couple of times in my career as a prosecutor where I thought, this is getting pretty dark and pretty deep and perhaps I should take a step back. You know, for a couple of months, I never really had to do that. There was one time where it just naturally happened after I went out on maternity leave with my second child and when I came back there had been a change in the prosecutor's office, so I didn't go back to my immediate position right when I came back. It took a few months, but it is important. It's really important to have balance and to take breaks and to understand that, with emotionally charged subjects, you sometimes need to take a step back and kind of decompress.

LHH: And, I don't know whether you're a person of faith, but how does it affect your connection with your spirituality or higher power? Has it ever made you question that, or has it deepened it, or does it just make you completely abstinent? I'd be really interested to know.

Interview cont.

LH: I think it strengthens it. There have been perhaps a handful of times over my 19 years as a lawyer where I have questioned, what is my role? What is this world coming to? Why is there so much violence in the world? Am I contributing to society by defending these cases, prosecuting these cases? Where do I fit in? But I think ultimately, I have to have faith in myself that I have chosen this career and this path for a reason, that I gained a tremendous amount of experience and insight and maturity as a prosecutor, which now really helps me tremendously as a defence attorney. You know, one of the biggest things that I hear, the biggest criticisms I hear of defence attorneys including myself, is how can you defend these people? How can you sleep at night? How can you live with yourself? Well, the bottom line is, everybody is entitled to representation when they are charged with a crime, everybody is entitled to a defence and a defence attorney. You wouldn't go to an operating room and operate on yourself if you were sick and had a life-threatening disease or a terminal illness, or needed to have your gallbladder removed, you wouldn't do that on your own. And in the same way, somebody who is charged with a crime shouldn't have to defend the charges themselves. They are entitled to somebody who understands the process and the rules and the system and can provide a valuable set of checks and balances to make sure that the police are doing their job appropriately. Most of the time they are. Sometimes they aren't.

LHH: Tell me a little bit about that. Are they entitled to it as a matter of course, or is it a service that you have to pay for? Does everyone get a defence attorney?

LH: Yes. So, I am a private attorney who is hired by the individual person on their own without the aid of the government. However, if there is somebody who cannot afford a private attorney, they are absolutely entitled to the services of the public defender, which is a state attorney who is equally experienced and equally capable of defending somebody who is charged with a crime. The one caveat is, you have to qualify for the services of the public defenders. So, somebody who makes over a certain amount of money isn't going to qualify for a state-appointed lawyer and they will have to hire their own attorney, or if they choose to represent themselves, they could represent themselves.

LHH: I think it's similar in the United Kingdom. And tell me as well, is it the case that people are assumed innocent until proven guilty?

LH: Yes, you are presumed innocent until or if the government proves you guilty. So, a common example in trials is there may come a time at the end of the case where a jury says, you know what, the government hasn't proved the case beyond a reasonable doubt, and I don't find that the person has been proven guilty, and people can be acquitted. It happens all the time.

LHH: But that doesn't necessarily mean that they are innocent. It just means that they haven't been proven guilty.

LH: That is correct my friend, and that is a statement that I used to make all the time as a prosecutor - just because they're presumed innocent doesn't mean they are (laughs).

Interview cont.

LHH: I think it's interesting because I heard, and I'm by no means an expert on this, but just somebody that sort of has a casual interest, that American law stems from English law because I imagine there's a connection there from having been a British colony, but the further south you go in Europe, in Roman law for example, it isn't the case that you're presumed innocent. It's actually the opposite way around and that was why, do you remember the young American girl who was, I forget her name now, but she was...

LH: Yes, Amanda [Knox] and that's again, I think that's a whole another discussion. But a defendant in the United States and in Britain, you know, can't be compelled and shouldn't be compelled to have to defend themselves before the government has proven anything and in fact, a criminal defendant doesn't have to ever say a word in their defence. They can put the entire burden on the government to prove the case and their attorney can stand up and say, well that's all great except for one problem - that has not proved the charges against my client beyond all reasonable doubt. And since a criminal defendant is entitled to remain silent and not be compelled to testify against themselves, you know, that's a very precious right and for Roman law to be different is really shifting burdens and compelling criminal defendants to have to speak out in their defence, which I do not necessarily agree with.

LHH: But it's just one of those things that's worth knowing as a piece of general knowledge. If you're going to be having to defend yourself, you want to be doing it in England or America.

LH: If I were ever charged, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else but the United States.

LHH: Now I'm in Scotland, we have slightly different laws in Scotland, to that of England and Wales even. So, this is all relevant really.

LHH: Anyway, to go back to our subject, I met you in your capacity as a private attorney, and there's an element of entrepreneurialism in that because you're self-employed or you're working for yourself. So, you're representing yourself as a business entity as it were. But, as I met you, it was very much you sort of stepping into the role of social entrepreneur. Do you want to go into that a little bit?

LH: Sure. So, being an entrepreneur is such a fascinating thing. Entrepreneurs, I don't think you ever get a good night's sleep because their minds are always turning and churning and spinning and they're always thinking of, you know, what else can I do? How else can I have a positive impact? So, over this past year, I was really on this journey to figure out how I can use my experience and expertise to change the world and make the world a better place, and bring some sort of awareness and education based on my experience. So, I have figured out what that looks like, and my new business, which has just launched, is educating parents and teens about the dangers of sexting. You and I have had conversations about this, about the need for this, and I have over the past year had hundreds of conversations with parents, community members, community leaders, police, prosecutors about this phenomenon, that is literally all over the world.

Interview cont.

LHH: It's a pandemic. Every echelon of every society. Well, anywhere that there is access to a smartphone. The problem with kids texting underage sex stuff on phones or laptops or whatever, it's just rife and it's terrifying.

LH: It is absolutely terrifying. You know, I have kids, you have kids. Half the population of the world has kids and what was happening, which you just said, is kids are using their smartphones to send sex messages and photos and videos to other kids. And it is happening at a frighteningly young age, even in elementary schools, shockingly enough.

LHH: What age is the elementary school for you?

LH: In the United States it is kindergarten through fifth. The youngest age that I have heard of kids sending sext photos or videos is fifth grade, which is like age 10 and 11. It is very prevalent in the middle schools and high schools. And as you said, it is happening everywhere in every community, every socioeconomic background, whether it's private school, public school, parochial school, you name it, it's happening. And my concern as a lawyer, as a mother, as a person, as a community member, is, oh my lord, what is going on and how can we stop this? Because my knowledge and my experience as an attorney has given me a lot of insight into how these simple sexts can turn it into just life-altering and sometimes life-ending consequences. Teenagers have committed suicide over the shame and humiliation of a sext that was intended to be kept private and suddenly was shared with their entire school and other schools, these stories are happening and being told all over the country and the world. Parents have no idea what is happening until there is a disaster and until there is a life-altering event where a student finds out one day that their naked photo that they sent has been shared with everybody. And what I started to realize was, part of this is happening because parents don't realize that the kids are doing this. So, in order to help stop it, I need to get in there and educate the parents about the phenomenon of sexting that's happening literally under their nose that they just are completely unaware of, and then with the teenagers, I've got to get in and talk to them to explain - they may think that what they're doing is no big deal and that they're just sending it to their boyfriend, girlfriend, friend or you know, whoever. But most of the time those photos or videos are not being kept private, and while they thought that the person that they sent it to was going to keep it private, it wasn't kept private and then suddenly their most private body parts are being shared unbeknown to them with multiple people. And they don't think about that and that's the problem. They don't think about how this can go wrong.

Interview cont.

LHH: It's very difficult for parents. I mean I'm in my early forties and you know, I came of age at a time when mobile phones didn't even exist. I mean, I don't think there were any, I think my uncle had a car phone and he was very futuristic. When I was sort of 13, 14 and starting to feel those first flutters of desire for the opposite sex or whatever, it was all about maybe a handwritten note. There was just nothing that could be pinned back to you, as it were. Gosh, I remember one of my friends' older brothers, he was my first kiss and then he denied kissing me and it literally broke my heart and it was one of those things that followed me around for about 10 years. But had that been now, it could've been so much worse. You know, I remember saying to the girls at school, Kieran kissed me and then he denied it and the shame and the pain of that, and he admitted it years later. But the point is, the shame and the pain of being rejected on that level was very, very painful and that was just verbal. So, I can only begin to imagine the depth of humiliation and pain that a young person might feel when there's a tangible record of some kind of interaction that's then used against them or use to shame them.

LH: The problem is that sexuality is being explored and experimented with at such a greater rate than it was, for example, when we were growing up. I'm similar in age to you, and when we were growing up and were 12, 13, 14, 15 like you said, it was just a kiss. You know, now kids at a very young age are experimenting with all types of more advanced sexual activity.

LHH: Why is that? Is that because of technology do you think?

LH: Yeah, I think that that has a huge part in it. I think that society is more advanced. Media has contributed to the sharing of information more and more easily and more frequently; the Internet has contributed to the sharing of pornography and sexual photos and videos more easily. Kids sometimes inadvertently access pornography, and then they look at it and say, oh, I've never seen something like this before and then they continue to look. Society has changed, and again, this is one of those points in this interview where I will say this is a whole another conversation, but society has changed. There is very much a breakdown in personal interaction and communication, and things have become much more at arm's length. We don't have the same human to human personal interactions that we used to have, so things have become desensitized and sex has become desensitized, so that teenagers now when they are doing this, it's like no big deal to them, because of the changes that we've experienced as a society. It's not like it used to be. It just isn't. Kids don't go out and run around with neighbourhood kids anymore. They sit behind a screen and play video games. That's an example of exactly what I'm saying. Less human interaction and face-to-face conversation, which with it brings emotions and empathy and those types of things, because you feel those things when you are physically seeing and in the company of another human being, you lose those things when you're just communicating with phones and computers and all that, so it makes it easier. Kids can take bigger risks. They have a sense of courage and confidence, hiding behind a smartphone that they wouldn't have in person. So that's all part of how I think we have gotten to this point.

Interview cont.

LHH: I'm sitting here having these sorts of poignant memories. My memories of the days of Jane Austen dances where Elizabeth Bennett and Mr Darcy would sort of eye each other across a crowded room and then, you know, maybe dance briefly and it was so sort of highly charged and yet significant. I guess the poor young people of our day and age don't get to experience that, not that I've ever really experienced that kind of thing. Mine was more like, eyeing someone at a disco, you know, but I'm harking back to the days....Actually, living in Scotland, my children are learning to do Scottish country dancing - I'm sure you've got something similar in America, but it does involve dancing in groups and what's nice about that is that everyone dances together. The young people absolutely love it, because it's an opportunity to really interact and throw each other around the dance floor and rather than just standing there and vibrating and jiggling in front of each other, they're actually get an opportunity to grab a girl around the waist and swing her around. There's something sort of unusually healthy about it. I think maybe it's just because it's not what they do normally, because they're normally sort of sat behind their phones perhaps. Anyway, many more opportunities to do that, I think the world would be a better place. We haven't got forever to talk, although I could talk to you forever about this. But it's not just young people, is it? I know recently, you talked to, was it an NFL football team?

LH: It was a hockey team here in Los Angeles, the Kings and I trained them on the truth and consequences of sexual assault and domestic violence. Really, the angle there is to educate adults, college-age kids, and athletes about consent, and what it means to consent and more importantly, how when you meet a woman, for example, out at a bar or a party and the woman has been drinking, and maybe the guy has been drinking too. The issue becomes if the other person that you are going to have sex with, is so incapacitated that they don't understand truly what is about to happen, and they aren't consenting to having sex because they're so drunk that they don't really know what's going on. That is a crime. You cannot have sex with somebody who is too intoxicated to consent. So, this is a common theme for example, with college-aged kids, teenagers, even high school, graduate school, they go to parties, everybody's having a good time, people are drinking and then after hours, later on in the early hours of the morning, people are having sexual intercourse or engaging in sexual activity and the following morning, one of the people says, I have no idea what happened last night. Did I have sex? Did somebody have sex with me? You know, I'm not sure what happened. Those are very serious problems for the people involved. I have seen many, many cases both as a prosecutor and as a defence attorney where one of those people goes to the police the following day or a couple of days later and says, I went home with this guy. I don't know what happened, but I woke up and I think something happened that I was not aware of and then they take them to get sexual assault exams at a rape treatment centre and they discover that the guys DNA or bodily fluids, they've gotten samples of them during the exam. And the guy ended up getting charged with a crime, because they had sex with a girl that was completely passed out or drunk out of her mind.

Interview cont.

LHH: This is actually a particular problem, isn't it? We've had so many cases of this sort of thing in the press here in the UK, especially with high profile sports players who are probably well known to the public because their faces are splashed around in the press and people know that they have money. I'm not suggesting that anyone would deliberately entrap someone in that scenario, but these sports people are particularly vulnerable to those kinds of situations. The circumstances kind of create a perfect storm, is what I'm trying to say.

LH: Yes, they absolutely do and like you, I don't want to suggest that somebody would deliberately go in and make a false allegation, but I will tell you that it happens. I've seen it happen. I've seen it happen across the board with celebrities, athletes, non-celebrities, non-athletes, police officers and non-police officers. It happens and that is again, a whole other conversation, but part of my point in going in and talking to this group of high-level top-performing hockey players was to say exactly that – these people know who you are. You are a target. So therefore, you have to be very careful with the choices that you make. If you, for example, meet a girl at a bar and want to take her home, that's all great, but I would be very, very hesitant if I were you about engaging in sexual activity with someone that you meet on the first night because you don't know who she is, but she knows who you are, and it's easy to make an allegation. Very easy.

LHH: That's terrifying.

LH: Absolutely terrifying.

LHH: As the mother of two boys, I'm scared and my little girl, I'm going to re-invent the chastity belt for her (laughs).

LH: Well, and on the other side, it really does a disservice to true victims. I mean there are real victims out there who are violently raped and attacked and people have sex with when these women are passed out from drinking too much, and the false allegations take away from the truthful allegations, and the real victims, their cases get compromised when other people try to go to the police and make money off of accusing a celebrity. So, this is such a complex world that I'm involved in, in my career because a lot of it comes down to assessing people's honesty and credibility and truthfulness, and it's hard to do that. It's really hard to do that and you need a really good detective and a really discerning attorney to be able to sift through true allegations and false allegations and get to the crux of that.

Interview cont.

LHH: You just made a really good point that jolted my memory of something. We had a case in the UK not long ago where a girl had accused a chap at University of taking advantage of her, so she was accusing him of rape and basically if the police had properly investigated the mobile phone evidence at the time, it would have been obvious – and later on this young man was proved innocent – but the point was that because of the move forward in technology, because of the way technology is advancing all the time, as I understand it, in this specific case, the team of investigators didn't necessarily have the right tools or the right education to properly research the evidence, because everything's changing so quickly, you know? But if they'd known to look at the sort of snapchat talks and whatever it was that was evidence in this case, they would have seen that she was absolutely consenting, if not encouraging. That's what he was acquitted on at a later date. But the point is, it's hard isn't it? Because the criteria upon which you might get charged or not charged, or freed or not freed, is changing the pace of technology.

LH: It absolutely is. And that's a very important point, and that's why I always, always, always tell the detectives from the bottom of my heart and with the utmost sincerity, thank you for the work that you did on this case. Whatever the case is, because it's so important that they understand how these cases work, that they are up-to-date with the latest training. And that's why, generally speaking, a detective, first of all, you know, for a police officer to become a detective, they have to have a certain degree of years and training and experience and then you don't just start out as a detective, prosecuting homicides or rapes. You start out with simple crimes like a theft or a hit-and-run or something like that. You really do need to have a degree of expertise before you are allowed to investigate sex crimes and it's exactly because of that, because there are nuances to these crimes. I mean, there's a lot of science. There are, as you say, advances in technology with phones and social media that can incriminate somebody just as much as they can exonerate somebody, and if you have a detective that doesn't understand all this, oh my goodness, it can end up a very, very long court battle before a client is acquitted.

LH: And so again, that's why I say it, because like I was saying at the beginning of the podcast, sometimes I'm brought on in the early stages of an investigation before somebody is charged. I just had a call the other day from a detective who said, I just wanted to let you know that the case was rejected. Your client is not going to be charged and I said to the detective, thank you very much for the work that you did. I really appreciate it, because if it had been somebody else, he might've been going to court next week with me having to defend this case for another couple of years.

LHH: Lisa in America or California, are you anonymous? If you're prosecuted for a sex crime, do you remain anonymous?

LH: Absolutely not. You are absolutely publicly prosecuted, meaning anybody at any time can find out that you've been charged with a sex crime. Courtrooms are open to the public. The victims can remain anonymous to some degree. In fact, nine times out of ten, they request confidentiality. So, if I'm a victim, they would refer to me as Lisa H instead of Lisa Houlé, sometimes they refer to them as Jane Doe, but the suspect or the person that gets charged is absolutely publicly named, publicly prosecuted and it's a big, big process of undoing the damage and clearing one's name, if that's even ever entirely possible.

Interview cont.

LHH: Yeah, it's the same in the UK. And there's a big argument to say that maybe there should be some anonymity for the person who's being charged, because I heard this terrible radio show once, and it was about a mini cab driver who was on a zero hours contract. But anyway, he'd been accused of something horrible by his passenger who basically didn't want to pay her fare, and in the end, he was proven innocent, but only after about 18 months of going through the hoops and you know, he hadn't been able to work for that time and he was the sole breadwinner. And, you know, it just can absolutely ruin people's lives. And if they aren't guilty, it's just terribly, terribly tragic. But like you say, you don't want to penalize the people who really are victims.

LH: And that's why these cases are so complicated. That's why a lot of lawyers don't want to handle these types of cases. That's a very interesting point. You know, there are a lot of lawyers that say, I don't ever get involved in defending sex crimes. I don't ever get involved in defending molestation cases. I don't want to be associated with those types of cases because they are too stressful, too complicated and there's too much drama.

LHH: Oh well thank you, on behalf of the people who do need you, for being there and doing it, because it's obviously not the easiest job. Lisa, I love what you've called your new programme Sext Education. Absolutely love that.

LH: Thank you.

LHH: So catchy and so apt. How can people work with you if they want to bring you in - how does it work if they want you to come and talk to them about sex education - Sext Education?

LH: Sext Education - a little play on words, right? I am willing to share this message wherever anybody wants me to share it. I can be contacted and scheduled to go literally anywhere in the world. That's the big dream. I can be contacted through my website, which is www.lisahoule.com. There's a contact form on there to set up a call and to schedule me to be brought in. I can speak at businesses, parent-teacher organizations, school assemblies, small groups...wherever the need is, I can be brought in to talk about this. It's such an important topic. It's near and dear to my heart. I need to get this message out there so, that young people think before they push send on these sext messages and so the parents understand that, even if they think their child would never do this, they still need to have the conversation and have an open dialogue so that their children understand how disastrous the consequences can be.

LHH: Lisa, I'm just so grateful to you. I just want to take a moment to acknowledge you for stepping out of your role as a prosecutor and as an attorney and actually using your experience for the greater good, because it's that professional experience that just adds so much more depth to the message and so much more weight and I know that everybody everywhere in the world right now, needs people with your experience and understanding and sort of bipartisan understanding. We really need this, so it's so gratefully received into the universe. So, I just want to acknowledge you for that.

Interview cont.

LH: It's my absolute pleasure.

LHH: We're going to wind up, but just before you go, I'd love it if you could share your top three gems of advice for anybody coming up in the elevator behind you as it were, you know, be they entrepreneur, parent, or young person. What are your three kind of top tips for life?

LH: Oh, my goodness. Wow. Fantastic question. My three top tips for life are:

Lisa's 3 Gems of Advice

Number one: Be authentic and sincere with yourself.

Number two: Always, always, always follow your passion and your true spirit of how you want to contribute in this world.

Number Three: Keep your friends and your family close. Even friends who you may not speak to on a regular basis, maybe it's that friend that you only see once or twice a year or maybe even less, but always tell people how important they are and keep your network tight and keep it real.

LHH: That's so great. Thank you, Lisa. Such a privilege and I feel really chuffed to have had you on the podcast and to be able to share this message with hopefully a global audience, not just your local LA audience.

LH: Thank you too for your work that you do. Thank you for your unwavering support of my mission and the mission of other entrepreneurs, we couldn't do it without you.

LHH: Oh, bless you. Thank you. Lisa. Listen, I know it's early in LA, so you've got a busy day no doubt and I hope you have a great day in the fog clears, and I will see you in a couple of months.

LH: Yes. Looking forward, my friend.

Live the Change - Message

I really hope you enjoyed listening to this episode of my Live the Change podcast. If you did, I'd be so grateful to you for emailing or texting a link to the show, or for sharing it on social media with those you know who might like it too. My mission is to share heart-led business experience, strength and hope with as many people as possible. I'm proud to be building a sharing, caring and service- focused business movement that I'm so glad you're here to be part of. If you haven't done so already, help me build, by following me on social @lucyhutchingshunt or by getting on my list at LucyHutchingsHunt.com. And remember, we rise by living lifting and being of service to others and by finding our own unique and personally fulfilling ways to Live the Change. Until next time!