



TRANSCRIPCIÓN ORIGINAL DE STUDIO OCHENTA

MIJA ON THE MIKE - TSIPPORA SIBIDE

00:11 LORY

Bienvenidos and Welcome to Mija on the Mike, a podcast that is celebrating the experiences of daughters of immigrants from around the world.

00:18 LORY

I am so excited for our guest today that we are actually doing it in real life. This is a real studio that we're in. Crazy. Today I'm so excited to invite podcast hosts and marketing experts, Tsippora Sidibe.

00:29 TSIPPORA

Yes.

00:30 LORY

So tell us about your culture. This is the first question we ask all Mija guests.

00:35 TSIPPORA

Well, my culture is kind of plural. So I'm a French lady born and raised and my parents are from Senegal. To be honest, I've been in Senegal only once in my life and I was 16. So I only discovered my parents' culture at 16 years old.

00:53 LORY

Oh my gosh.

00:54 TSIPPORA

Yeah, I know. So yeah, I would say that being like a French woman with like African culture, it's kind of complicated to be honest. I think we will talk about it, but yeah, it's not an easy thing. And I kind of feel the same way of living as like Latinos because like the immigration story is so here, it's so present in my parents' life that I cannot erase it. So even if I want to be like, I'm a Parisian, it's not possible.

01:23 LORY

Why? Why is it that you can't feel that kind of ownership about that Frenchness?

01:30 TSIPPORA

Because in France, and this is maybe political, but your color, your skin, your culture is always something that we will remind you. So even if you come and you say, I'm French, people will ask you, yes, but really, why are you from? Like, your parents are they from France? And I'm like, yes, they have the like the ID card. So yes, they are French. So even if you want to say I'm French, people will ask you, nobody, you are not really French, you know?

01:59 LORY

I always wonder about that because some people take that question and they're like, sure, I'll explain where I'm from and other people kind of take it as almost an offense. Like, what do you mean I'm from somewhere else? And so it feels like you're kind of seeing it between the two things, right? Because you do identify Senegalese without having been there.

02:16 TSIPPORA

Yes.

02:17 LORY

So having that experience, what is it like at home for you? So like the Senegalese culture, even if you didn't have it and you couldn't go back to the country necessarily, how did you kind of experience it at home?

02:28 TSIPPORA

Well, first of all, language. This is something funny because I have in France, we have what we call the carnets. It's like the health, like not boot, like you have since you're like a baby. And you have like the evolution of like the baby, like from zero to one year, for example, for even after. And in one of the page, there is one like medical, let's say, checkup that I had. And the doctor was saying that I didn't speak French. I only spoke my like my mother language. So which is like a swimming case, like one of a language from Senegal. And I'm always so surprised because I don't speak it. So I think language was the first thing that was from Senegal that I hear every day in my life. Since I'm a baby, food. It's also a very important part. We have a lot of dishes and like every weekend we had like all the dishes from Senegal. And during the week my mom, she didn't have time to cook because it's like big meals and stuff.

03:35 TSIPPORA

So it was French during the week and it was Senegalese during the weekend and also family. So I had a lot of like uncles, aunties, cousins. And this is what like I had people like I could look and they were like me. So this is also one thing that was part of my childhood and make me feel Senegalese. And music also music was really important. We had all those VHS with like video clips from like back home, like my parents back home. And so during like Friday nights, we would like just play it and we would be dancing. Well, the kids, not the parents.

04:22 TSIPPORA

So we would be dancing and we would be like because we didn't have Spotify or the radio. So it was the only link with like the new music from there, for example. So yeah, I would say that all these different elements were part of my culture. And I also had the calls from my

grandma or my aunties who are still there in Senegal. So each time I was like taking the phone, they were speaking the language. I couldn't understand. I couldn't answer. So I was just like, Mami, this is for you.

04:58 LORY

I think that resonates so much with Mija and the experience of kind of being between the two. I'm curious about how that community kind of shaped who you are and how also the saying that your Franco Senegalese, can you say that even? Do you? I mean, because I know the hyphenated identity is very American. We know this. How do you kind of navigate that here in France where it's not necessarily accepted to say that you're two things? I mean, this is from what I've my own experience in seeing people talking about. Oh, no, your French first.

05:31 TSIPPORA

Yes.

05:32 LORY

So how did you get to even understand that? I imagine as a child, you don't see it at all. And then when you get older, you're like, oh, wait.

05:40 TSIPPORA

Yes. And I think that even my parents, they wanted us to be French first, to be like integrated. That's why I don't speak my parents' language because my dad really wanted us to speak perfect French to be good at school. So he was saying like other people's kids that were talking the language, they were not good at school. So we didn't have to be the same.

06:06 LORY

Oh, harsh assimilation.

06:08 TSIPPORA

Exactly. So I think the first step in my head, I was like French. And then when I grew up, when I went to Senegal, when I saw people like me, I was like, yeah, but I'm not only French. So I have actually somewhere that is filled with people like me. So I started thinking, okay, so I'm not only French, I'm also Senegalese. So I was 16 when I decided that I was both. And then I went for Erasmus in Scotland.

06:39 LORY

Okay.

06:40 TSIPPORA

And I was always like, same to people I'm French and people were just like, okay, the...

06:48 LORY

... we're proof or anything. They're like, okay, I get it.

06:52 TSIPPORA

Yeah, it was more like, okay, so I'm French. So I came back to be only French. My French identity was back. And then I came back. And then people just again put me the Senegalese

like etiquette. And now I feel that I am both because we have like French character. I can't lie. I mean, I have like French things. I when people see me doing things, thinking I am a French person. So I cannot deny it. But since I'm an adult, I'm like trying to be more and more like in contact with my Senegalese rules. Exactly.

07:32 LORY

Oh my gosh. That resonates so much when you go abroad with your immigrant passport that you got. Your passport privilege that your parents gave you. And then I had the same thing because I always had the thing of being Latina and being from the States as a whole nother experience. Like the same thing of coming to France and people being like, you're American. And no one is questioning that. No one is thinking like your English isn't good or that you know, you're not fully American. No, you're American in every sense of it. And so even I had the same questioning around I'm both though. You guys are saying I'm only American, but I'm also Colombian and in France, there was like this kind of push and pull with those two things.

08:15 LORY

So I want to know about like immigrant expectations in France. I think a lot of the time when we talk about the immigrant experience, it's like you move to another country to have better opportunities to start family and do something different from where your country of origin is. Sometimes it's a lot of it is monetary economic power and all these things. And so there's expectations around the daughter, the eldest daughter, the daughter of the immigrant family to do well to succeed and not necessarily follow a fun creative path. And being both of us on fun creative paths as creators and entrepreneurs, I would love to know like how does that translate in France? Like how did you experience this expectation here in French culture?

09:01 TSIPPORA

Well, it was hard because I had the pressure from my Senegalis parent. Like you said, I had this social pressure like you have to be good. We have like done this sacrifice. So you have to be good at school and do a very good job and even provide for us like when we will be old. So you have this pressure.

09:21 LORY

You have to take care of me.

09:22 TSIPPORA

Exactly. So you're like, okay, so I cannot be an entrepreneur. I cannot be a creative person. So I will just go for a good job like for a big company and this is what I did at the beginning. So I started doing like they asked me to do and then 30s is coming and you're like, no, I can't do this anymore.

09:41 LORY

There's so many people who have that crisis. If I don't want to be a doctor or a lawyer, please accept. I want to be an actor.

09:50 TSIPPORA

Exactly. So you're like, okay, but to be honest, I didn't tell them that I quit my job and that I started like my freelancing journey. So I was kind of flying or just like not lying, but not saying anything about the...

10:04 LORY
Live mission.

10:06 TSIPPORA
Exactly.

10:07 LORY
And on the Sunday call, you didn't say, yeah, you just said, I'm working hard. Yeah, I say what I'm working on.

10:11 TSIPPORA
Exactly. Which is true.

10:13 LORY
Yeah.

10:14 TSIPPORA
So I was doing this for a moment and then one day I just decided to tell the truth, but I waited to see that everything was fine. That I was actually having something.

10:24 LORY
Business.

10:25 TSIPPORA
Yes.

10:26 LORY
That you could say, don't worry about.

10:28 TSIPPORA
Yes. Exactly.

10:30 LORY
There's this concern of the intergenerational concern.

10:34 TSIPPORA
Exactly.

10:35 LORY
Mommy, I'm fine.

10:36 TSIPPORA
Yes. So you have to be the one saying, it's okay.

10:39 LORY

It's okay. No, it terrified my parents when I came here and that I wasn't trying to become like, I don't know, wasn't working for a big corporation or like wasn't hired by like a big company to do what I do. And that I decided to start my own thing. It was like nobody else in my family started a company. So it was like, what are you trying to do? Who's going to support you?

11:00 TSIPPORA

What are you doing?

11:01 LORY

Yeah. Because I almost feel like it's a safety net that they think that they've created, which and you know, in some senses, yes, because they give us the passport privilege, right? Now you are French. I am American. We have powerful passports. We can do things. You can go to Scotland. Yes. Be like, I'm French. And no one is going to say anything about that. And that's amazing. And so that's so cool that you get to kind of breaking cycles, right? That is the words that you chose to use. I want to hear about how you feel about this kind of breaking a cycle of expectations of what you're supposed to do as a daughter of immigrants.

11:36 TSIPPORA

Yeah. This is the key word, I think. So I'm at the end of my family. We are five. And so I had a lot of pressure. I was like the third parent. I was like having a lot of press responsibilities. And I was kind of a little mum. So I was doing everything like administrative stuff and so on. And then at 28, I decided to move and come here in Paris. And first, the geographical distance really helped because I was not close to them. I couldn't just drive and see what is happening there and so on. And yeah, it was kind of, okay, I can live without them. I can do whatever I want.

12:19 TSIPPORA

So this was the first step when I was like, okay, so you can be like someone else, which is not like the family girl, the elders, the perfect girl who is doing everything that their parents are saying and so on. So this was a very good step for me. And then I broke the cycle when I decided that I didn't want to have kids. So I was like, I've been this all my life since I'm like a little girl. So I'm exhausted. So no, no. I don't want to be another mum for another baby or another child. So this was the second step. And today, I think that I'm breaking the cycle by beginning to be the daughter, you know, like learning to be a daughter, learning to be a sister because when you're like third parents, you're another sister for like your siblings.

13:13 LORY

Yeah, you're asking them to do things right. You're, you know, maybe imposing responsibility. And that's a completely different experience. You don't get to be friends with your siblings when you're in that space.

13:24 TSIPPORA

So I'm learning everything now. And it's hard because sometimes I just want to be, no, don't do this or no, I recommend you do this and I'm like, stop.

13:34 LORY

Yeah, you have to kind of keep it in like let them experience their life and just laugh at their mistakes. Like you should as a sister.

13:42 TSIPPORA

Yeah.

13:43 LORY

And you're saying, no, you don't have to do that.

13:45 TSIPPORA

Exactly.

13:46 LORY

That's so interesting that you're kind of relearning your own definition, not only culturally, but also like in the family.

13:53 TSIPPORA

Yeah.

13:54 LORY

Because family is so important to our cultures, right? And you mentioned something about how like your family is that kind of community. How did that community react when you decided to do this? Have you fully come out to them as I don't want to be a mom?

14:07 TSIPPORA

Yeah, I fully.

14:08 LORY

Wow. Yeah, that's huge because for, I don't know if you have the same thing, but like in Latin culture and just just even in my own family, like as successful as you will be as amazing as the work that you're doing, your greatest accomplishment will be having a child.

14:24 TSIPPORA

Yes.

14:25 LORY

So how did they take it?

14:27 TSIPPORA

Well, my dad was fine. He's a man. So I was like, okay, I don't need even you like advice, but it's okay. So it was like you do whatever you want with your body and your life, but my mum, she's still hoping that I will change my mind because I didn't say it, but in Senegal, we have like, we have a Muslim culture. And in the Muslim culture, you always like do bendesh like a benediction to your daughter when she do something well for you. Like when she give you money or pay you something, you just say like, I wish you will have a kid like you.

15:05 LORY

Blessings. Yeah.

15:06 TSIPPORA

Yeah. I'm like, no, no, I don't care. Don't say that, but she's always saying it, you know?

So I think that she's still hoping that I will change my mind. She's not pushing. She's not like each time I have her on the phone. She's not like, you have to be a mum and so on, but I can feel that she's still.

15:26 LORY

There's an expectation still.

15:28 TSIPPORA

Exactly.

15:29 LORY

I think that's really hard to deal with just even societal on the societal level. There's always going to be that questioning around. Are you going to do it? You're in your 30s.

This is the time.

15:40 TSIPPORA

Yeah.

15:41 LORY

You know, if you think you don't want it, you'll decide differently in a couple of years.

15:43 TSIPPORA

Exactly.

15:44 LORY

You don't know. Freeze your eggs, you know?

15:46 TSIPPORA

Yeah.

15:47 LORY

But it's so wild to think about it also culturally, right? Because you have this, I expect you to do this. Continue the family line. But I guess like, I wonder how it is for your siblings as well. Like do you have the same kind of questioning around them? I mean, as the eldest, do they also kind of see your decision? And react in a specific way or?

16:09 TSIPPORA

Well, I know that my sister, they don't have any, they haven't said to me like, I don't want kids or I want kids. So they're still I think thinking about it. My little brothers, on the other hand, they are like, I want to be a dad. So they are like, I want it. It's like clear. So yeah, I think and my mom, she was scared of that that I would be like influencing the others.

16:32 LORY

Oh, yeah.

16:33 TSIPPORA

And I'm like, no, I mean, at the end, don't. Those guys are going to be dad. So it's okay. I didn't like.

16:39 LORY

That's so cool though, that you have such a good relationship with your siblings as well. Now that you're like you said, becoming a, most like a better sister.

16:50 TSIPPORA

Well, it's a work in progress to be honest. I think it's more fluid with my brothers, but with my sisters, it's a bit more complicated. As even in age, so I'm closer with like the daughters and the like the baby brothers. like the last ones.

17:08 LORY

Yeah.

17:09 TSIPPORA

So I have a different relationship. And it's like if they haven't really known me, so I can reinvent myself more easily. So yeah, it's easy to do this transition with them. But with the girls, it's a more, it's a bit more complicated. So working progress. I think it will be like very hard. Yeah.

17:32 LORY

Yeah. With my own siblings, it's always, it's because I have several. It's the same kind of questioning around like expectations and like how are each of us going to live our dreams kind of thing? So speaking of dreams, I would love to know your, I guess maybe going around back to expectations and like the questions of the dreams that our parents have and the dreams that we have for ourselves, like what is the French dream versus the American dream? Like what is the expectation?

18:05 TSIPPORA

I think that the French dream is to have a decent job and then buy a house. And I think it's a kind of pretty simple life, you know? That's so interesting because I always think about what that dream is now because so many people can no longer buy homes. So many people can, you know, look at work differently now. I feel like what becomes of that dream? What is it now?

18:28 TSIPPORA

I think it's very changing and it's kind of maybe becoming like in the US, where you're like not being defined by your job. Young people, I mean, I'm talking with my brother and it's like, I know that I will not do this job in my entire life. You always did know that maybe in these 30s, you will be changing and maybe have another job.

18:50 LORY

Yeah, more adapted.

18:51 TSIPPORA

Exactly. Yeah.

18:53 LORY

Sorry for the shock that for our parents that we changed jobs over three, four years.

18:57 TSIPPORA

So imagine with this new generation, these will be like...

18:49 LORY

Tomorrow, I'm going to be a k-pop dancer. Not to say that that's a bad thing, guys. It's not. It's just that I think that that generation has done, you know, they're more open to these creative careers and being like, yeah, maybe a worker, maybe not. They have security that we didn't have.

19:16 TSIPPORA

That's the point.

19:17 LOY

Aswell. I think as daughters of immigrants, we're always asking ourselves, is this safe for me to do?

19:22 TSIPPORA

Yeah.

19:23 LORY

They're trying to do this without a safety net because we've seen our parents suffer or we've seen how much they struggled to make it so that we are safe. So when you take that away and you're like, I want to have my dream. It's so hard.

19:38 TSIPPORA

It is. It is.

19:41 LORY

Oh my gosh. And how do you deal with that? You personally, like, how have you emotionally kind of accepted that change in your dream?

19:48 TSIPPORA

It was hard because you have the practical thinking and like, I'm not like from a very easy family, like rich family. So because most of people here that are entrepreneur, to be honest, they have like the parents behind...

20:04 LORY

their beyond, beyond, beyond, is it?

20:07 TSIPPORA

Beyond, beyond, is it?

20:08 LORY

Whereas we're more because we're daughters of immigrants. It's more like no one is sponsoring this. I'm the only one doing this. I can only support myself.

20:16 TSIPPORA

Yeah. I cannot be like wrong. You have to be the good thing because if you don't, you have to go back to work like a normal job.

20:25 LORY

Yeah. So much pressure.

20:27 TSIPPORA

Yeah.

20:28 LORY

So much pressure.

20:29 TSIPPORA

Exactly. I think that I'm still in this, you know, kind of, I'm okay, but there is the cliff, you know, at any time I can just work and then it's the end and you have to go back to work. So I'm not really like at peace, like saying, okay, I'm fine. I have found my perfect path. I know that if I do this and this, it will be perfect. I'm still like with this adjustment, like, so yeah, it's not very easy every day.

20:58 TSIPPORA

I wish I would have like this safety nest, as you said, with my family and so on, but it's not the case, but it's kind of the magic of like daughters of immigrants. It's like you have to find new solutions to reinvent yourself.

21:15 LORY

And innovate.

21:16 TSIPPORA

Exactly.

21:17 LORY

Find a community.

21:18 TSIPPORA

Yeah.

21:19 LORY

And do it your own way.

21:20 TSIPPORA

Exactly.

21:21 LORY

No one's going to help you make it happen.

21:23 TSIPPORA

Yeah. That's the point. And I think this is the difference between maybe, maybe I'm like doing an extrapolation, but when you're not having all this background pressure, you don't have time to just look at the day to day. You have to think ahead because you don't know what is going to happen. And I think that the day that I will be like, okay, I'm fine. I'm just enjoying the day. This will be the sign that I'm fully French.

21:52 LORY

It's like a battery charging. I'm 100% French now. I'm curious about what you feel about the word generational trauma because it feels like it's so trendy to talk about that like that. In that way, the struggle of our immigrant parents, how we are kind of living past it, growing from it, being inspired by it. But we call it a trauma. And it feels, I don't know, I don't like that it's a negative thing.

22:22 TSIPPORA

Yeah, me too.

22:23 LORY

Because it is a beautiful thing. They worked so hard. And you know, some people don't have this good relationship with other families, but if you do, then that struggle is actually something that makes you unique. It's stronger and more powerful. And owning that is what makes it powerful. So I don't know, I don't like the word calling it trauma. Generational inspiration, generational. I don't know what word could work, but there's a French word.

22:52 TSIPPORA

That's true. It's very like, yeah, I don't know. But you know, I think it's like maybe a process because we are this generation who put this word. You know, we decided that this is generational trauma. It was not something trendy, like...

23:08 LORY

Exactly. In the 90s, and like when our families were coming to these countries, they were not calling it that at all.

23:14 TSIPPORA

Exactly. So maybe we are the generational trauma generation. And that the like the next generation is going to find another world because there will be actually without trauma because we will be the one healing everything, you know?

23:28 LORY

Yeah.

23:29 TSIPPORA

So maybe, yeah, maybe it would be generational healer or something.

23:32 LORY

Like generational power or something like that.

23:33 TSIPPORA

Yeah.

23:34 LORY

I love that you mentioned that because we had this conversation before, we hang out by the way. We talked about how the new generations, like, you know, are younger siblings or even those who are, you know, born later on in the country that feel more French. They feel more American. They feel so much of a little bit of a separation between the original culture and they don't have this questioning at all. They're like, I'm multicultural, whatever #whatelse. And I'm like, I would be so cool to just not have these questions.

24:07 TSIPPORA

Life will be easier.

24:09 LORY

Life will be easier. Mija Podcast will be irrelevant in like 20 years time. It really will be because like these new kids, they're not asking these questions anymore. They're like, yeah, I am. And what? Who are you to tell me? I'm not French. J'avis du. I'm from here.

24:22 TSIPPORA

That's so true. And I wish, I wish that for this generation because it's not very healthy to be in this kind of...

24:30 LORY

Limbo. Let's bring all these questions and how are you doing it with your podcast?

24:36 TSIPPORA

Yeah. So, talk to "Tant que je serai Noire" or "As long as I'm black" is a podcast that I created three years ago because as I said, this is where I decided to not be a mother like really coming out and saying it out loud. And yeah, I just wanted to create a space where like black women could just talk about this topic. I realized that as a black woman, you cannot really have this laser to choose like in like people head black women are like mothers. There is no question.

25:11 TSIPPORA

So I was like, but why? Why do we have to follow this lead? I mean, I don't want this. So I just wanted to create the debate about it and a lot of women really related to it saying, yeah, that's so true. Like mom saying to me, I've never thought about it like I became a mother, but I never asked myself why and if I really wanted to do it or if it's the society, it like pushes me to do this. So I was like, oh my god, we have to do something about this.

25:42 TSIPPORA

So I started to like interview like women and ask them like, why they decided to be a mother and if not out the culture is like pushing them to do it. And at the beginning, it was only like women experiences. And then I realized that like for a black woman in the history, we didn't

really have the choice. Our body was like, yeah, a public property, you know, slavery, colonization and even today, like I don't know if you see like the situation in it's like an island, a French island where there is a lot of black people and they decided to control birth because they think that there is a lot of babies. So they are like going to ask women to like do forced stabilization. And I'm like, the history is just repeating itself.

26:36 LORY

Yeah.

26:37 TSIPPORA

Like we...

26:38 LORY

Don't have agency.

26:38 TSIPPORA

Yeah. I mean, yeah, I'm so shocked. I mean, and this is why I decided to talk about this topic. And today it is more shifting into justice, reproductive justice.

26:48 LORY

Okay.

26:49 TSIPPORA

And the right to have a child has the right to choose to be a mother or no in which conditions. And this is something that is from the U.S. but I think that we need it in France as well.

27:00 LORY

Yeah.

27:01 TSIPPORA

Because we have the same...

27:02 LORY

Discussion.

27:03 TSIPPORA

Exactly. So this is how "Tant que je serai Noire" born. We have a lovely community in Instagram. I've met a lot of women, incredible women. And even if I'm not a mother, sometimes I can listen to a mother's story and I'm like, oh, I can relate.

27:20 TSIPPORA

I mean, we have this experience that is similar and at the end, I just wanted to say to people that we are human. Even if I'm not a mother, even if I'm black at the end, I'm just a woman. And we have all our struggles, but at the end, we are just women. So that's why I created it. And I hope that as you said, next generation, we not have to think about this question. And that it would be natural to say, oh, no, I just don't want kids. That's it.

27:51 LORY

Yeah.

27:52 TSIPPORA

No question in, you know?

27:53 LORY

That's so inspiring. What is something that you learned that you were surprised by when you're doing these interviews and talking to these women?

28:01 TSIPPORA

Well, first I learned that kids are cool because at the beginning, I was like, oh, my God, kids, blah, blah, blah. How do you do that? So I realized that it can be a very joyful for some women and I can understand it. I also realized because in my website, it says, "Tant que je serai Noire" like "as long as I'm black, will I be a mother?" And this question is actually for me because as I said, I was like a little mammy.

28:32 LORY

Right. Because you're the mother in your community in a way.

28:36 TSIPPORA

Exactly.

28:37 LORY

Because you take that role on no matter, like as soon as you're of age. Become a mother and then you have that questioning.

28:45 TSIPPORA

Exactly.

28:46 LORY

That's so interesting. It's so community-based, right?

28:49 TSIPPORA

Exactly. So I was like, oh, my God, this is like my therapy. So it's actually really helped me, even me in my journey, to like discover what I really want, what I don't want. And yeah, it's like a lot of questioning being the eldest. So yeah, it was really helpful even for my personal, let's say...

29:08 LORY

Questioning journey.

29:10 TSIPPORA

Exactly.

29:11 LORY

That's fascinating. I love that because it also brings it back to Mija where in Latin culture, you're everyone's daughter.

29:18 TSIPPORA

Yeah.

29:19 LORY

And so your success is everyone else's success. And everyone is Mija, you know? And so I think that's so interesting that in your culture, it's like, no, I'm mother.

29:28 TSIPPORA

Yeah. I have daughters. I am the one saying Mija.

29:32 LORY

You know, that's solidarity as well. Like you're supporting other women within the community. And that's more valuable. And you're in from your space if you're not a mother mother, you can be a mother in so many ways.

29:45 TSIPPORA

Exactly. And what I learned also is that because you were talking about this double identity being French, Senegalese and at one time, I wanted to just like cut with the family saying, okay, no more of this shade. I'm going to be like the other French people and just say, I don't want to be a family person anymore.

30:06 LORY

Oh.

30:07 TSIPPORA

So I tried this, but it's not possible.

30:09 LORY

You can't do it.

30:10 TSIPPORA

I can't.

30:11 LORY

You can't just shut down. Because it's community-based cultures. You can't just be a solo duo.

30:15 TSIPPORA

Exactly. And this was another slap like, no, no, no, you're not only French. You also have this. And I tried. I'm always takes to saying to my friends, I've tried, but they are not leaving me.

30:30 LORY

And that's a good thing.

30:31 TSIPPORA

Yeah.

30:32 LORY

And that's a good thing.

30:33 TSIPPORA

Exactly.

30:34 LORY

Okay. So let's come to the end. I would like for you to share an anecdote about your childhood growing up in Senegalese, Paris.

30:42 TSIPPORA

Yes.

30:43 LORY

Do you have a cherished memory about your childhood here?

30:46 TSIPPORA

Yeah. So it's a very interesting memory. I was like maybe six or seven. And so I'm from Ootsavwa. So it's like in the mountain and stuff. So during summertime, my dad would take us and we would go like for a barbecue or like just swimming and like playing with my sisters and my cousin. But we only had one car. So my dad had a very like huge car with a very big trunk. So some of this will be like in the trunk to go there. And I remember once we would be stopped by a policeman and they're so shocked. But like in a good way, they're like laughing and saying, oh my god, what is happening in this car? And they just let us go. We could do like the rest of the travel and be like playing at the lake and so on. But I was like, oh my god, this is something that today would not be a we will not be able to do that. But I can feel like my dad really wants to like have this kind of joy being like normal kids and go back to school and say that during summer we did this, this and this. But he did it with the like what he had.

32:05 TSIPPORA

So yeah, this is something I can never forget. And it's a way to remind me that don't forget where you're coming from. Even if you become easy, you don't have to forget that once you had to share a car with all your siblings in the trunk.

32:23 LORY

Oh my gosh, girl, I can relate. I've been there too. We did have the same thing literally going to relate to this. She's Mija pero french. All right, we're going to wrap this up now. I want to ask you some speed round questions. We ask all of our me house speed round questions. So what language do you swear and when you accidentally touch a hot plate?

32:52 TSIPPORA

French.

32:53 LORY

What's your favorite food?

32:54 TSIPPORA

Yassa

32:55 LORY
What is that?

32:57 TSIPPORA
It's like chicken with onions, salsa with rice, very yummy.

33:03 LORY
Song that you've had in your head this week.

33:05 TSIPPORA
Oh my god. Djadja, Aya Nakamura.

33:08 LORY
What's your last Google search that you feel comfortable sharing?

33:12 TSIPPORA
I think it's like around like this generational trauma thing.

33:18 LORY
Yeah. Really into it those days, yeah. What is your most embarrassing dream that you had?

33:26 TSIPPORA
I think the most embarrassing one is to be rich, like to be this French woman who could just do whatever she wants without like being suffering and thinking twice. Yeah, I think I just wanted this leisure tea, you know.

33:40 LORY
You wanted to be Oprah Winfrey.

33:42 TSIPPORA
Yes, exactly. Oh, Emily in Paris, you know. Like, la la la, everything is perfect. I can do whatever.

33:50 LORY
La la la. Okay. And what is your biggest dream right now? What is something that you're aspiring to?

33:57 TSIPPORA
To be my own business woman, like not having any barriers, just like, yeah, I think this French dream of you can do it because you work hard at school. And yeah, I think it's just that being able to have my not say the but very comfortable with that. And that, yes, exactly, but by myself, like working for someone else, you know.

34:22 LORY
All right. Thank you so much for your time.

34:25 TSIPPORA

Thank you.

34:26 LORY

This has been so much fun. I've had so much fun. We keep going for hours. So tell us where we can find you.

34:32 TSIPPORA

Yeah. So in Instagram @tanquejeserainoir. In the website of the podcast www.tantquejeserainoire.com and in any like listening platforms, if you want to listen to the podcast, it's in French. I'm sorry. But yeah, this is where you can find me.

34:55 LORY

Amazing. Thank you so much.

34:57 TSIPPORA

Thank you, Lory.

34:59 LORY

Thanks for listening. This is Mija on the Mike, a season of reflection on our shared experiences as daughters of immigrants. Over the next couple of weeks, I'll be sharing stories like these and inviting guests to share theirs.

35:16 LORY

Follow us on Instagram at @mijapodcast. That's M-I-J-A podcast and leave us a note if you like this story.

35:23 LORY

Tune in every Wednesday for a new episode. This is a production of Studio Ocenta, a Latina-owned multi-lingual podcast studio dedicated to raising voices across cultures. For more from Studio Ocenta, follow us at @ochentapodcasts on Instagram. That's O-C-H-E-N-T-A podcast with an S on Instagram.

35:40 LORY

P.S. Don't forget this season is also about you. If you have a story you'd like to share or if you'd like to be a guest on the show, I invite you to reach out on Instagram at @mijapodcast and leave us a message with a short story or memory of yours that warms your heart. We'll read it out loud on the show. Hasta pronto. Ciao!