

This is a global player original podcast it has been a hell of a week are you okay no really are you okay I hate to start all holly willoughby but of course it's been a hell of a week in all sorts of ways and we have covered the ins and outs and ups and downs of the BBC story Boris Johnson as usual and all sorts so we thought that on this Friday weekend edition of the news agents we would give you something a little bit different an extended conversation of one of our extended conversations with politicians and in this case it is West Street shadow health secretary in Elford MP and it's off the back of what I think is one of the most extraordinary memoirs that I have read it's called one boy two bills and a fry up a memoir a tale his story and his wider extended family story outlining his journey his personal journey from the East End to Westminster and who knows how high he will rise it is very very unusual to have a politician like that with a story like that and so in this extended conversation we thought we would explore some of those themes about class politics Christianity and even a bit of binge drinking it's really worth a listen and we hope you enjoy it it's Lewis here welcome to the news agents the news agents so where's the boy in one boy two bills and a fry up is with us in the news agent studio where's thanks so much for doing this now thanks for having me let's just start with that title just for people who haven't read it yes what does it mean what does it refer to yes so the book is one boy which is me two bills and a fry up the two bills are my granddad's one on my mum's side of the family one on my dad's both of whom i think in some ways epitomized to very stereotypical but different east end families so on my mum's side of the family the notorious granddad's string of convictions from robbery in and out of prison throughout my mum's childhood my childhood pops yeah granddad pops and then on the other side of the family my dad's dad bill streeting royal navy veteran in second world war civil engineer for his entire life Tory very patriotic yeah absolutely proper wildcore working class Tory sort of pull yourself up by a bootstraps only ever voted liberal in tower hamlets to keep labor out that's how staunch a Tory was and then the fry up is the fry up that literally saved my life because when i was conceived of certainly an accident my parents were both teenagers they were 18 right 17 18 and my mum decided she was going to keep the baby against all all kind of pressure on the rest of the family advice in the family and so on the day the abortion was booked she cooked self-fulfilling this breakfast because the one thing she was told she couldn't do on the day of the abortion was to eat before the procedure so having that fry up was the insurance policy i guess that even if my nan kicked off as she did she couldn't go through with it because she'd eaten breakfast so your nan as you recount the book your nan and other members of the family were we're not happy they're furious understandably as far as i'm concerned i mean they were my parents were young their relationship unsurprisingly didn't last and it was only really when i got to their age i thought having a child at this age is a massive sacrifice i mean my mum and dad sacrificed a huge part of their youth and your dad didn't raise me your dad was unhappy himself yeah he didn't want absolutely did not want to be a father wasn't ready to be a father didn't alter the fact that he was there for me from day one and has been there for me ever since but i can totally understand how he would have felt at the time which is i'm not ready to be a dad and yet i've got no agency or choice in this and they didn't have a lot of money yeah no they were in real poverty yeah i've been sort of trying to find a way of phrasing this question i've been thinking about it and i've sort of loathed to it in a way because you know this interview is about

you but the thing that i felt reading your book repeatedly i mean it's a great book you know beautifully written it's very direct and you know it's a it's a real story and it's a very unusual political memoir in that sense but i've read a lot of political memoirs right and i don't think i've ever read a political memoir where i have seen and felt a connection to that story in that way because like you i'm from a working class background my mum was a teenage mum as well and there were there were real sort of similarities and sort of parallels to it and what i sort of felt about it is that actually the fact that that's unusual really stood out to me right like probably like if i were Boris Johnson i've read loads of sort of political memoirs quite a lot of them are you know they will probably seem quite similar if you're reading a sort of your Boris Johnson you're reading about Harold Macmillan or Anthony Eden but that tells you something doesn't it it tells you something about class in this country it does and i'm so glad you said that because this book wasn't written for the political class the west minster bubble your sort of classic literary reviewers it was written for people from backgrounds like ours and the best thing for me apart from the feedback from my family as i was writing it the best reviews i've had have been from people who've been able to email me because unlike a lot of authors my email address is publicly

available i'm a politician so people can write to me directly and i've been really moved by the emails and letters i've had from people who've read the book and have connected with parts of the story because i actually think that publishing is not too dissimilar to politics the media and other elitist professions in the they are often you know publishing is full of people who are from more affluent backgrounds largely writing for and publishing for people from more affluent backgrounds and part of the mission of the book for me and for my editor tom perrin whose idea the book was actually he approached me with the idea it wasn't my idea at all was that this book was for and about people from working class backgrounds and more than anything else i hope that they're the

people who buy it most and the kids from my sort of background you know are reading it in school libraries and the theme of class is dominant throughout the book just in case people don't know i mean what was your family situation like when you were a kid in terms of money income class the east end and so on just give people a sense of what it was like it was very difficult growing up because my parents were young and they were poor i mean my dad had a job in fact my dad's worked

throughout his entire life at that time he had a job as a shipping clerk on what was the bare minimum

wage even in those days my mum was in and out of casual low paid jobs throughout my childhood but

obviously as a young mum she didn't have a job at all and was reliant often on the benefit systems put food in the fridge money and electric meter and you talk about going down the social as yeah and that was just a totally dehumanizing experience which i saw firsthand and i think explains why contrary to a lot of the instincts of the left which is pro-state the role of the state in helping people from backgrounds like mine actually lots of people feel like victims of the state rather than supported by it because of the way in which public services relate to them particularly what was then dss and isn't today the dwp job centers and sometimes my mum was treated like she was a scum of the earth and i'm afraid to say looking at some of my case work today as a constituency

mp there are still job centers that treat people like the scum at the bottom of their shoe rather than extraordinary as people extraordinary although it's not extraordinary actually as you say it would

be redolent of a lot of people's experiences every day but there's an extraordinary exchange that you recount that your mum had with a particular social security or job center work yeah my mum was called

into a room at the back of the dss office which was in itself unusual normally they would interact through the counter and she was basically sat down and interrogated about her kind of circumstances

and this woman said to my mum don't you realize that we pay for your son out of our taxes and my mum sort of had enough of this and basically said you know i think you'll find my mother pays for my son out of her taxes great riposte yeah and this escalated into point where my mum had had enough and and i think she'd be basically called insolent or something by the dss officer and my mum my mum turned around and said well you're the most obnoxious

bastard i've ever met in my life and sort of walked out and my mum's main anxiety about that whole exchange was whether or not the word obnoxious was right in that con section she went home and looked in the dictionary and sort of breathed a sigh of relief that she got the word obnoxious right sounds like it was completely spot on she was worried about yeah and there were lots of i mean i have to give you loads of other examples of some of this in my family dss offices housing offices and you do see it i'm afraid reflected in some public services does that inform your politics now it does very much um and certainly informs the way that i run my office and the way in which my constituency staff relate to people and it also informs the way that i advocate on people's behalf with some of these public services and it's why i think we in terms of public services we should never forget that public services are there to serve the public and to treat people with respect when they encounter them because actually there are a lot of people facing a lot of hardship who often feel like they're being judged or looked down their nose by people from more well-heeled middle-class backgrounds who are there on the other side of things making decisions about the services that they receive but you've already alluded to it i mean what's more extraordinary even unfortunately than the kind of cliché rags to riches being working class and making it to Westminster story is it's not just the working class side of your family on your dad's side which is you say perhaps more traditional working class but on your mum's side i mean it was actually a family which was involved in quite serious crime it's right both your nan and your granddad yeah it had really big consequences for the family so when my nan was pregnant with my mum she was serving time in Holloway prison where she had a prison cell with Christine Keeler who was at the heart of the profumo affair amazing and they became lifelong friends actually but it meant my mum was born at the Whittington hospital when my nan basically handcuffed to the bed and surrounded by prison guards as well as midwives she was handcuffed to the bed and wow my granddad's criminality had a big impact on my mum's childhood growing up a very disruptive childhood there was lots of instability at home lots of poverty at home and domestic violence at home it also had consequences for my nan because she got caught up in some of my granddad's criminal dealings how she ended up in prison and it had a really big impact on her life i mean my nan once she got divorced from my granddad she turned her life around she ran the local tenants association where she lived in whopping she was involved in the

joint docklands action group campaigning against the gentrification of london's dockland she was a real activist social campaigner she could have been a great labour council or even a labour MP but she was always ashamed of her criminal record and was worried that it would embarrass her and therefore

her life choices and chances changed so here's a question i struggle with if some people ask me sometimes what class do you consider yourself to be now class is clearly really important and this book as i say it's a central theme someone says to you now what class are you what do you say i would describe myself as being from a working class background leading a middle class life do you still feel working class now in feel it yes and no i don't think your class ever leaves you but i wouldn't kind of patronize either members of my family or other people that do not have the level of security that i have now i mean you know i've got mortgage i'm on a decent income i don't worry about money in the way that i used to it right up to becoming an MP actually when i left university had it and finished in the national year students i had loads of debt not just student debt but commercial credit card debt and i had a career development loan as well so i was sort of saddled with a huge amount of debt that i only paid off once i became an MP so even though i was on

decent salaries relatively decent salaries in working for different charities in the voluntary sector it wasn't until i became an MP that i would probably say i had real financial security but you always feel isn't it the truth about class though is and you've alluded to it in a way you always feel slightly betwixt and between i mean particularly i mean when you went to Cambridge i'm sure you felt this especially acutely that you you're always slightly between two worlds as easily as you might sort of flip between them i don't know about you but when i went to oxford i always sort of slightly played up to wherever i was i mean this is the only time this has ever happened right i remember girl oxford saying to me oh louis you're so lovely you're the college is a bit of rough it's the only time that's ever happened to me believe me and i would sometimes play up to it did you ever have that well i was never particularly open about my background

in the way that i am now i mean people knew that you know when i went home from university i was working full time in Comet to pave my way through universities there's a blast from the past yeah a blast from the past yeah it worked on the customer service this which was which was and mcdonald's

which yeah works at mcdonald's as well during my levels it's funny in a way when i launched my book a few weeks ago i had this kind of launch event where i had my family school friends university friends people i've worked with outside politics people i now work within politics all in the same room and years ago that would have been my worst nightmare of all my worlds colliding in one place because for years and years i was i was actually ashamed of the poverty that we grew up in you know certainly when i was at school i was aware that we weren't we weren't as well off as other kids in in the classes that i was in despite going to in a city state schools in london i always felt that we were the sort of the sharp end of even the poorer kids in the class and you know so it's not something i would have talked very openly about and one of the interesting things about the book is the number of friends you've got in touch say i had no idea things were this bad do you still feel any discomfort talking about it no actually if you'd asked me this a week before the book was launched i would have said i was utterly terrified and nervous about the reaction and white having second i think because in a way for a labor

politician right i mean you will not be unaware that it's it's a pretty good story to tell right it is rare like we started this in tutang it's a rare thing to have a politician who has come from genuine poverty who can talk to people authentically about poverty and empathize with them in a way that millions of our fellow citizens experience every day in a way i'm surprised you didn't want to own earlier i think my anxiety was that the book isn't just my story it's my parents my grandparents my family and i did start to have some doubts along the lines of am i now just opening up my entire family to a level of scrutiny and criticism that normally only i receive as a politician because we live in a social media age where people are just unbelievably unpleasant on social media and i've got a skin like a rhinoceros it doesn't particularly bother me anymore and i tend to laugh at some of the ridiculous things that written about me on the internet but i think it's different for my family but actually the reaction's been great and i think we've all sort of breathed a bit of a sigh of relief about it what is the political message of the book because i can say i mean class is a big theme but in a way you could read and i know you address this to some extent but you could read your story in two ways right you could say that as we've said it is a shocking indictment at british society that there aren't more west readings in the house of commons but of course some people were looking at it and so well look he's pulled himself up by his bootstraps he worked hard he applied himself he got to cambridge he became the president in us he became an mp he's now in the shadow cabinet staring down the barrel of being a cabinet minister in a year or so it's possible for west reading it's possible for others i think consistent with my center left politics the only sort of really hard political bit of the book is comes at the end in the conclusion where i basically say look hard work matters individual effort counts and that isn't acknowledged enough i think on the left but similarly what people on the right of politics just simply do not understand is that i would not be where i am without the transformational power of a great state education the security provided by the social housing the safety net that was provided by the social security system which unbelievably was more generous under mrs stature than it is under mr sunak and without those foundational pillars there would not have been the extended east end family networks support my mum when she was doing casual waitressing or when she needed a bit of extra help with the shopping or the electric meter there would not have been the mrs dodds and the mr nashes and the other teachers i described in the book because i would have been shoved from pillar to post and school to school as lots of kids now are in in our country in my community in particular you know that safety net and springboard of the welfare state has been eroded and family matters individual effort and hard work matters but in and of themselves they're not always sufficient and the state has a role to play in you know as kier put it just the other week smashing the class ceiling that still exists in our country today and i'm really glad actually that kier and bridger are talking about smashing the class ceiling because i think that when we were last in government we almost declared victory too early and tony blare john prescott would talk about a classless society not without justification i mean the last labor government lifted more than a million children out of poverty school standards i mean it's one thing that is different now from the 1980s school standards under the last labor government were transformed in this city in london and although the things have gotten a bit worse with the attainment gap widening under the tories london schools are still better than they were in the 1980s but the class divide is still there and we've seen that i think writ large with the

populist politics we've seen in Britain in Europe in North America and so unless you deal with the deep entrenched class inequalities in our society you will not get a country firing on all cylinders you will not have a cohesive country that's at ease with itself and I think we've seen a backlash in Western liberal democracies because political leaders have not taken that class divide seriously enough right we're going to pick up some of these themes with West Reading right after this this is the News Agents

Welcome back where's what we talked about class we should talk about some of the other big elements of the book and sort of themes of your life one of which is really interesting is Christianity and your Christian faith and something that you inherited from your dad's dad your grandad I'm struck there are an unusual number of senior politicians not just in this country but actually around the world who slightly unusually now given how secular modern Britain has become are religious and for whom religious faith is important do you think there's some connection between those two things between religious faith and the centrality of it and politics and the sort of person who ends up in politics you've got to have a sort of drive and a mission don't you yeah although I'd say that that driving mission and values don't have to be informed by faith and there are other people I sit around the shadow cabinet table with or in the parliamentary labor party or actually more broadly across the House of Commons with who would not describe themselves as being remotely religious but maybe it gives a sort of have a kind of an ethical foundation and a moral mission about what they want to do one of the reasons I'm now talking about my Christianity more is first and foremost I'm at ease with it and at ease with myself in a way that I wasn't when I was growing up I wasn't even when I came out as gay at university

It's taken me a long time to reconcile my sexuality and my faith and I have done that so I'm comfortable

Talking about both issues more than I than I was I mean you describe it in the book that was very tough yeah that was the biggest obstacle to me coming out was my faith and I'm keen to talk about that more partly to religious audiences than to the secular public the other reason why I'm keen to talk about my faith more is actually more directed towards the secular public because I'm really fed up with people only ever hearing about people of faith in politics when they are invoking fire and brimstone to vote against people's social rights and equality we've seen a bit more of that of like yeah and I'm sick of it and I think we see the worst bit in America where for reasons I cannot understand a bunch of gun-toting lunatics seem to think that if Jesus was alive today he'd be carrying an AK-47 I'm going for Trump and vote for Trump I mean I don't know what they're

reading or what they're smoking but I that's not the message of the Gospel that I take but even here in Britain I kind of see too often the headlines associate Christianity with opposing a woman's right to choose or voting against LGBT equality I've totally you know respect people's orthodox religious views on those issues but for me the message of Christianity is fundamentally about love care and compassion for others and social action and when I think about what I see in my own constituency which is one of the most religious constituencies in Britain with you know Christians

Muslims Jews Sikhs Hindus Buddhists who got some Zoroastrians all living alongside each other I associate faith in my community with social action with action on homelessness with running food banks with fundraising for international disaster appeals and I think that's the fundamental

motivation of people's faith not kind of invoking kind of hatred and bile up people who are different well you've talked about that and talked about people invoking that sort of fire and brimstone thing i mean do you feel that maybe we are sliding a little bit in terms of social conservatism and around lgbt rights that there's something in the air at the moment we see it may be involved in certain news stories we see in terms of some of the rhetoric that we're hearing not just in america but here in britain around lgbt rights yeah i must say the recent years have shaken my almost inexhaustible optimism that things can only get better and nice blur reference well you know that's that was the zeitgeist of the 1990s and that was the mood and the optimism that i was sort of coming of age around in politics and and actually just in terms of my own identity as well you know labor was busy changing laws and hearts and minds on lgbt equality and created a culture where i felt more comfortable coming out and now it feels like the lgbt community is being reminded that the clock can be very easily turned back and even in the conservative party where i applauded david cameron for being the prime minister that supported equal marriage even though majority of his conservative nps voted against it he took a stand and he recently wrote a piece in which he described his pride at being the prime minister who oversaw the introduction of equal marriage i can't imagine rishi sunak writing such a piece and i think his party is descending very rapidly into of a diet version of the worst elements reactionary elements of the u.s republican party and by some of the things some of them are saying and the deafening silence from from others i mean

with some honorable exceptions where are the one nation tour is where is the moderate mainstream of the conservative party where modern conservative tradition that took them from opposition to power

they're cowed by they're cowed by the populace in their own ranks and i think the risk at the next general election for the conservative party it's and for conservative voters who are much more mainstream is you might think you're going into vote for rishi sunak but are you sure he's still going to be there if the conservatives are the largest party or in the position to win a majority or is he going to be replaced with a more extreme conservative leader i think the conservative party is becoming a basket case and i think that's another reason why at the next election the risk isn't changed with a new government led by kia starma the risk is continuity with the conservatives more of the same in terms of a weak economy and failing public services and growing inequality but also a risk that they will once again change their leader to an even worse face of the conservative party than rishi sunak do you think wider society may be egged on by that buoyed by it in some way do you think wider society or our discourse is taking a more homophobic turn i mean you'll be aware that there were some people who argued not getting into the particulars of it that at least some of the noise around say the scofield scandal was because this was a gay relationship and that it would have been treated differently if it were a man and a woman i'm not sure about that actually i'm not sure about that if it was you know an older man and a younger woman i think people would still be concerned about the appropriateness of a relationship but i would certainly say that there is a culture in this country at the moment that's making the lgbt community feel unsettled trans people in particular but i think it applies to the wider lgbt community and in terms of where we are on trans equality there are some difficult issues that need to be worked through in terms of children and young people and how we can best support children who are questioning their gender identity and making sure they're receiving appropriate support there are issues in terms of the anxiety that some women's groups and

campaigners have about single sex spaces and i think what we saw in terms of the gender recognition act in scotland and the case of that prisoner who identified as trans but do you regret the tone of that debate at the moment yeah i think we can do a lot better on tone and if we get the tone right we'll get to better outcomes because i think what the Scottish gender recognition reforms showed was why you can't just legislate with good intentions you do have to legislate with worst-case scenarios in mind because i think lots of women felt gaslighted when they were concerned about well what happens if a male sex offender chooses to self define as a woman and how will they be treated in such a scenario you do have to work through those scenarios because the law has to protect people against the worst elements of society not just hope for the best and i think we could have a much more reasonable conversation if we were a bit more open and honest and creating a culture where people can raise concerns without fear of being silenced and shut down and similarly you know thinking about this from you know the trans rights side of of the debate we often have these discussions absent of trans voices and i think if we saw and heard more of trans people in the media on the airwaves talking about their lived experiences their anxieties i think that would generate much more understanding empathy and insight that would enable people to have a much better conversation about the challenges and the issues talking about empathy and insight i mean in terms of the tone it was only a month or two ago that the home secretary was at a conference which i was at and she made a joke about trans people she made a joke saying that kia starman might you know transition you know the next thing we know he's flip-flopping around all over the place i paraphrase but that was the thrust of it i mean in terms of the tone change i mean we are it feels to me heading into a pretty dark place sometimes with some i just i think it's so unedifying to see some of the most powerful people in our country punching down and using as punch lines and punch bags some of the most vulnerable people in our society i think the prime minister is guilty of it i think the home secretary is guilty of doing it and i think it demeans them demeans their office and frankly rishi sunak saying oh i i know what a woman is well if you know what a woman is why maternity services in this country is so appalling that women describe childbirth as a traumatic experience and are not receiving the care they need often being diverted to different hospitals than the one they were expecting to give birth in because there aren't enough midwives available if you know what a woman is why are so many women afraid to walk down the streets at night because there aren't police around there aren't world lists and safe streets for women to feel that they can do normal things and go about their lives without fear of harassment or worse still violence i think often these cultural issues that they're trying to use as a wedge are also about distracting from their appalling record on the things that count and i would just add to the very long list of reasons why the conservative party is a bust of flush and ready for opposition is that they don't want to talk about how you're going to deal with the cost of living and improve people's incomes and livelihoods they haven't got a plan to rebuild the nhs out of the ashes of its worst crisis in history they haven't got a plan to make sure kids are well supported and educated in our schools they've failed on all the fundamentals and they hope that by stoking some culture war over here that people be distracted and i just don't we're certainly not going to fall for that in the labor party but i don't think the country will fall for it because i think this country for all of the challenges we've got at the moment this is a country full of fair-minded decent and compassionate people i think are turned off by this behavior so given we're just in the privacy of the news

agents studio hq working-class lads usually very ambitious what's the upper limit for your ambition where's would you like to be labor prime minister you might be the most working-class prime minister

labor has ever had if you were to achieve that summit is it something you'd like to do people talk about your ambition a lot you know that why is get this i always get asked this question which why i find it so tedious now because there's no good way of answering it i mean i always answer it honestly and then i end up seeing these silly headlines saying you know streeting reveals ambition i mean every politician wants to be prime minister what streeting reveals ambition to be prime minister and then loads of my friends roll their eyes and say how's this news but there's a serious point here which is i have a leadership role in the labor party i think we can win the general election which given where we were in 2019 is nothing short of a miracle not under any illusions that one of the reasons we've got wind in our sails at the moment is because of the Tory disaster the smp implosion but i'd also say the only reason we've got sails on the ship at all is because of kias leadership i think he has gripped the labor party taken it from its worst christ in history changed it fundamentally to a point where people now look at the labor party and see him as a credible prime minister us as a credible team and the party as a credible party of government he deserves so much more credit than he gets if the only thing i have achieved in politics is being the health secretary who takes the NHS from its worst christ in history to building an NHS that's fit for the future that will that will be more than enough for me and by the time i finish doing that there'll probably be a new generation that come through and say all right thanks grandad you can go and write your next book now the next bit of the memoir the second fry up we start with class i'm going to end with class we said there aren't that many ways streetings in the house of commons do you ever look around the house of commons and some of the people that you meet and in whitehall at the top of british society and think how did you get here that maybe i always say i always say to students actually if ever you're struggling with imposter syndrome you can just turn on bbc parliament channel and you'll see a bunch of legislators who will make you feel so much better about your own qualities and abilities having said that and being rude about some of my colleagues it's fine keep going i do think for all the cynicism most people in politics are in it for the right reasons are good people trying to make a difference and we might disagree on the best way to do that that's the space in which democratic politics is contested but i have been this is your tori grandad yeah yeah it is a bit you know also i've just seen a few things recently where people have talked about you know marie black did this when she said i want to get away from the toxic culture of westminster now i'm not not for me to speak for marie i think she's very clear about where she stands that's obviously how she feels and i've quite a lot of admiration for her and the way she kind of spoken up in the last eight years but i also think westminster can also be a very kind place when i was going through my experience with kidney cancer i had an outpouring of love and support on all sides of the house of commons i think that this is the best job i've ever had in my entire life it's a privilege to be a member of parliament and i would hate people to read the headlines about the worst of westminster and allow those headlines and those behaviors to put them off because we have got a problem with bullying we have got a problem with harassment we have had problems over the years with basic trust whether broken promises or expenses no sorts of issues but that is still a minority of behavior and i'd say to people if ever you

turn on the tv and you see someone in politics that you think shouldn't be there or doesn't represent you be the change you want to see if you are reading about behaviors in politics that you think are appalling come and get involved and help us clean up the culture my anxiety is that it'll be people from underrepresented backgrounds who see those headlines and think oh that's not for me and those people who think that's not for me are exactly the people we should be trying to attract so absolutely finally shadow health secretary the reason i've got a dash right now as much as i'd love to talk to you all day is because i'm going to get a flight to my stag party and understand from your book that everything in moderation you're a bit of a binge drinker i'm your health secretary so what what should i be imbibing on my upcoming stag start off with some still water oh here we go glass of milk to line your stomach when was the last time you had a glass of still water shadow health secretary when you were at about still water down here well yeah we don't normally provide booze but i think we should actually be quite nice other be so much more fun emily make this is always on the app or all spritz in the when she's usually sat in that if anything's ever going to get me in trouble in politics it is my tendency to answer questions honestly and to be quite blunt and direct about things when i do so thank you to simon hatston when he did the interview for me around my book we were out walking down white chapel road and looking for a pub that was open and i sort of confessed to being a binge drink for a night it's her favorite tip oh i think it tends to be a pint of lager or a packet of gin and slim or a snowball i'll tell you what i really like now is espresso martinis they're good not a porn star martini no espresso martini is because i have to keep awake because i'm always so busy espresso just worked too hard oh you see you got that in there that that's the politician espresso martini i just say to listeners as shadow health secretary everything in moderation everything in moderation east em boy to west minster to espresso martini's where's pleasure enjoy exactly one boy two bills are available in all bad and presumably even good book shops as well yeah good book shops excuse me is this it was a sunday times bestseller can i just oh yeah he didn't take long before he got there all right that's a book shop she can't find it in bad but anyway there's no such thing as a bad book quite so where's thanks so much thank you this is the news agents right well that is it from all of us for this week i am off to san serrini on a stag do yeah really remember you can catch up on all our shows from this week on global player and you can find our new podcast the news agents usa wherever you get your podcast thanks as ever to our production team on the news agents it is presented by emily where's my fridge mateless john shut the fuck up soapel and me louis goodall we'll see you bright and early or hung over an absolutely bloody knackered on monday have a lovely weekend this has been a global player original podcast and a persophonica production