MELVIN BROWN: PODCAST ONE-SHEET

# Beyond Control: Raising Thinkers in an Age of Compliance

*a book for parents raising the adults their kids will become*

Forthcoming February 1, 2027, from Cordelyn

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## THE PITCH

The world children are entering rewards judgment, adaptation, and independent thinking, and punishes mere rule-following. Yet the parenting patterns most of us run were never designed for that world. They were inherited from institutions built around compliance: raise your hand, wait for the bell, earn the sticker, because I said so. Parents never chose these responses; they absorbed them. And nobody stops to ask what those responses were actually designed to produce, or whether that's what they want their child to become.

For Melvin Brown, that question started with another one. When his younger daughter wanted to make a book, his first plan was the easy default: paper and crayons. Instead, he stopped and asked her a question. Her answer sent him down the long road of learning to publish, and that became Cordelyn, an independent press. Cordelyn exists because of one question, and that question opened the door to the one behind Beyond Control. Beyond Control: Raising Thinkers in an Age of Compliance is out February 1, 2027, from Cordelyn.

Melvin Brown wrote Beyond Control for the parent who can see that conventional approaches aren't working but doesn't want another bag of tricks. It is a philosophical framework, not a technique manual: no diagnoses, no scripts, no thirty-day plan.

## THREE CONVERSATION ANGLES

1. **Resistance as information about development.** Why your child's resistance is information about development, a mind forming judgment, not defiance to be managed.
2. **The reward-chart paradox.** How the systems we build to motivate children quietly undermine the motivation itself, and where the sticker chart actually came from.
3. **Why he refuses to give scripts.** What a parenting book owes readers when quick fixes are the problem, and how examination replaces instruction.

*Draft alternates (adaptable to the show): where the line sits between healthy guidance and automatic compliance; how children practice judgment before high-stakes decisions arrive; what respectful disagreement teaches a family.*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melvin Brown is a U.S. Navy veteran and a former Fire Controlman. He runs Cordelyn, an independent press. The press began with a question: when his younger daughter wanted to make a book, he asked her one before reaching for paper and crayons. He is the author of Beyond Control: Raising Thinkers in an Age of Compliance (Cordelyn, February 1, 2027).






*Photo: Marcilena Photography*

## DETAILS AND CONTACT

**Book:** Beyond Control: Raising Thinkers in an Age of Compliance, forthcoming February 1, 2027, from Cordelyn

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