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This is why I love Book of the Month. They know how to pick books. You can get *The Survivors* or any of the other January picks for \$9.99 with promo code LAZYGENIUS. That's five bucks off your first book, no shipping costs, and no obligations month after month. You're only charged when you choose a book. And this month I very much *The Survivors*. If you want to do the same, go to bookofthemonth.com and use promo code LAZYGENIUS.

#192 - What To Do Before Reorganizing Your Home

Hey there! You're listening to The Lazy Genius Podcast! I'm Kendra Adachi, and I'm here to help you be a genius about the things that matter and lazy about the things that don't. Today is episode 192 - what to do before reorganizing your home. We all get that early January itch that carries into the dark winter of February where we just want our homes to feel good to be in. After the holidays, we take down all of the decorations, we have more stuff to store because we likely got some gifts, things just naturally transition after the winter holidays and into a new year. It's just the way it goes. It's in the air. Don't fight it. We like a reset!

But we often start at the wrong place, and I want to prevent that from happening to you today. So before you start reorganizing your home with all the resetting and purging and moving stuff around and considering moving as an alternative to dealing with your stuff, do this one thing.

This is going to likely be a short episode, but it is very important. Name what matters. Then we're going to use two Lazy Genius principles from my book, *The Lazy Genius Way*, that are essential for creating a home you love to be in. We'll get to those principles in a second. First, name what matters.

You have to know what matters most in your home. Last week, I walked us through how to name what matters in 2021 by using three simple questions to help narrow the field - what could matter, what does matter, and what matters most. This is a path you can take in any scenario really, and for your home, it's super important to do. You have to know what matters most about your home in order to organize it in a way that supports what matters, how to know what to keep

and what to get rid of, how to think about tending it and cleaning it on a regular basis. All of that is connected to what matters most. All of it. There's no universal list of items you should have or not have. There's no universal cleaning schedule that you should follow or not follow. There's no universal purpose for one home compared to another. You have to choose for yourself, and if you start getting rid of stuff and putting stuff back before acknowledging how that stuff contributed or takes away from what matters most, you're doing work for no reason. It's wasted effort.

I honestly think that's why so much of our organizational mojo gets lost really quickly, because we don't have a framework. We're flying blind on what to keep and what to toss and where it should go. You can't make a decision without knowing the point of the decision in the first place. So before you do anything with your home - anything - you need to stop and name what matters most about your home.

And if you need some help on the specifics of that, most of the time we organize and reset because our home doesn't feel the way we want it to. Like I said last week, something can matter most in different areas of your life, and the same is true of your home. But for the sake of the reorganizing and resetting, generally the thing you're trying to tend to is the feeling of your home. How does it feel to be in it? You want to name the feeling that matters most, and that will direct everything else. So go through those three questions we talked about last week and I just mentioned her again - what could matter, what does matter, and what matters most. Once you have the thing that matters most and know what follows in terms of priority, you can know how to move forward.

For me, the thing that matters most about how my home feels is calm. Calm wins all the time. That's why I don't have detailed organizational systems and instead just put a lot of stuff in baskets in general areas of the house because if stuff is put away out of sight, the house feels calm. And what's leftover in terms of decorations and fabrics and candles and the vibe all contributes to a sense of calm. Calm always wins. Now the secondary thing that matters to me is comfort. That changes how I direct the calm. If the second thing was cleanliness or simplicity or uniqueness, how I create calm would alter a bit. So your second thing isn't unimportant. It helps direct the decisions of what matters most. So make your list! Name what matters most! Nothing will work well until you do that.

And then I want you to keep two Lazy Genius principles in mind during all of your reorganizing decluttering resetting efforts. The first is Essentialize. When you essentialize, you name what matters and get rid of what doesn't support that. Sometimes you also need to add something in to support what matters if you don't have it yet, but the main thing is to get rid of what is in the way. It's likely a lot of your organizational efforts will be a lot easier and take way shorter if you just get rid of stuff that doesn't support what matters. You'll have a lot of space left over to see what you have remaining. It's pretty great because there's no real organization required. Just purging and moving things out of your home.

The second principle to use in this task is Put Everything in Its Place. Everything needs a place in your home. Your home likely feels a way you don't like because things don't have a home. Your stuff needs a place so you can find it, so you can easily put it away to make your space feel more calm or tidy or welcoming or whatever you're after, and having things in finite places helps you see what you do and do not have space for in the future. One bonus tip I always like to share when I can is to not buy something new unless you know where it's going to go. If you love coats but only have three hooks to put coats on, you probably should reconsider having seven coats. That's why your coat area is overwhelming. You have finite space that you keep adding to. If coats matter that much, find a different storage solution. But if coats don't matter enough for you to invest in a new system, essentialize your coats. Get rid of the ones that don't support what matters most, and then put the rest in their place. That is their place. That is where they live. Giving everything a place helps you keep your stuff from taking over. If it doesn't have a place, it doesn't get to stay.

And that's it. I have some past episodes about organizing different areas of your home or ways to think about specific areas, but ultimately, you don't need a big system to tell you what to do as much as you think. I mean it helps to a point because systems already built make a difference but only if the person who built that system has the same priorities as you do. You have to name what matters most before you reorganize your home or do whatever it is you want to do to make your space feel different than it does now. So name what matters and then use the two principles Essentialize and Put Everything in Its Place to direct you as you make your decisions one small space at a time.

And that is what to do before reorganizing your home. If you like these ideas but need more direction than this episode, I have fun news. We have now opened the Lazy Genius store which has all of the digital products I've ever made available to purchase whenever you need them, including The Swap: The Lazy Genius Guide to Decluttering for Life. You can see that along with The Meal Plan, The Clean Slate, the Lazy Genius merch shop, and my favorite tools and items from Amazon and all kinds of things at thelazygeniuscollective.com/store. In the past, we've had the ebooks available for limited stretches of time, but now we're going to keep them available forever and always, at least for the near future forever and always. So if you like the ideas in this episode but need even more of a step-by-step, check out The Swap in the new Lazy Genius store.

Okay, that's it for today! Thank you so much for being here, and until next time, be a genius about the things that matter and lazy about the things that don't. I'm Kendra, and I'll see you next week!