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SPEAKERS

Olivia N, Mia

Olivia N 00:02

Okay. Today is December 19 2022. I'm Olivia Newsome interviewing Mia here virtually on Zoom. Do I have permission to record this interview?

Mia 00:14

Yes.

Olivia N 00:15

Do you know you can stop this recording at any time?

Mia 00:18

Yes.

Olivia N 00:19

Can you state your name, age and pronouns?

Mia 00:22

I'm Mia. My age is 21. And my pronouns are she her?

Olivia N 00:28

How would you describe yourself?

Mia 00:33

Like identity, or like, in general?

Olivia N 00:36

you can do your hobbies, your interest for like, I like video games in coloring with crayons, whatever.

Mia 00:45

All right. Um, so I am so sewist. I make a lot of my clothes. And sew lots of things. I am a student. I'm currently studying communications and College. I'm also asexual demi-romantic, and a lesbian.

Olivia N 01:10

Can you tell me where you're from? Where you grew up? And kind of what your childhood was like?

Mia 01:16

Yeah, so I am from Missouri. Um, I grew up with roots. I live in the house that my dad grew up in, and that his grandparents, my great grandparents felt. So there's lots of legacy. And so, um, let's see, my childhood was pretty good. wasn't that long ago? Just weird to think about? It? Yeah. So not sure what else?

Olivia N 01:56

No, like, you're totally fine. And everything that you've talked about was good. He said he had a good childhood, I grew up in Missouri, with lots of roots. And do you have any connection to those roots? Like how do you feel when you're living in like, your house that your great grandparents bill?

Mia 02:14

Yeah, it's cool. My mom grew up in, went all around, she didn't have roots like at all, she moved a lot as a kid. And so she wanted the exact opposite for her children. And so it's really cool to be here and have that history and like, go to the same elementary school my dad did. And like being the fourth same fourth grade classroom, and you're now like, being able to have that is really cool. And just kind of being a part of a community. And like a space, the thoughts of history.

Olivia N 03:02

Can you talk a little bit about what middle school was like? And then what high school was, like we've talked about, you liked growing up and you had like, decent, good childhood with lots of heavy heavy routes down that trace back really far. Can you talk a little bit about your middle school experience in your high school experience?

Mia 03:21

Yeah, middle school sucked. was very bad. I have anxiety. And that's when like, peak anxiety hit. And like it got so so, so bad, and I have been not as many resources and help as I could have. Also, it was very transitional for me, because in elementary school, I struggled. A student like a lot, I was visually impaired. I couldn't read it until I was eight. I mean, sound but not enough to say I was literate. I just had a very hard time and received a lot of help and services. But by the time I went to middle school, I didn't need as much help. I was kind of more mainstreamed into like, not needing as much services as much help. But it was really challenging and hard. With that transition along with just middle school in general.

Mia 04:33

High school was fine.

Mia 04:37

By the time I graduated, actually, march to me

Mia 04:43

was a very different experience from like all of my friends. Because I felt like I knew what I was doing by that point. And I was in so much things and like was very involved in so to have that and have They'll that and then it all to just like poof, be gone really hard for me. Because like transitions in general are kind of difficult. And so for me to have finally, like, found my place and be comfortable and then be gone,

Mia 05:18

it's really hard.

Olivia N 05:22

So you mentioned, like that process of being mainstreamed from lower to middle school, was that a choice that your parents made for you or like the school system made for you? Yeah, so

Mia 05:36

it was more of a school system. So when I was a little kid, I was so far behind in like reading, and spelling and all of that stuff that I needed more help. So I was like, taken out of the classroom, and not one on one. But one teacher to five kids who all were like, remedial reading, like, a few hours a day, I'm gonna have my whole little group of, of like ADHD kids and kids with dyslexia, right. And by the time I was in fifth grade, I ended up actually reaching reading level and aging or not aging out, but like kind of testing out of needing remedial help. So then, and that kind of fit perfectly when when I transferred to middle school transition there.

Olivia N 06:37

So you also talked about having anxiety in middle school. And I was wondering if you could expand on that. And if you at the time, you can do kind of both you can talk about, like what you were feeling at the time, and maybe like looking back on it now. Being a couple years removed, like, Do you have any thoughts about like, what was causing you anxiety? Was it your classmates? Was it live? Did you have like generalized anxiety that you couldn't place? Were you on meds? Those kinds of thoughts? Great, right. Yeah.

Mia 07:08

So I've always had anxiety. I started ADHD medication when I was 11. Pretty sure it was 11. And that, so before, it's like my impulsivity with my ADHD balanced out the generalized anxiety I have always worked with. But then the ADHD medication made it so that the impulsivity wasn't really nothing as much. And so it just, like highlighted it, made it like, start impacting my decisions, what I did, what I didn't do. And by the time I reached in middle school, I was just having such anxiety about transition, things changing things, like I didn't know what was going on, I needed to get to class on time. So in middle school, I was that kid who like all of my friends would like talk in the hallways, and like stroll to class, and I literally would weave between people. I'm like, fast, you are so fast that like, I wasn't running, but I was almost I get to class on time. And one of the things that like was a major issue that I did was not okay, and it's like, Why did I do this to myself, but also, I you know, it was my brain.

Mia 08:43

I stopped going to the bathroom at school

Mia 08:48

for seven hours a day.

Mia 08:50

Because I didn't I did not want to be late to class. And mind you I had an accommodation so that I could be late to class and it wouldn't be like something I can be penalized for by all of my teachers when I did that made it such a big issue. I felt like I couldn't use it in your lanes. So then I'd have to stay after class and do like, Yo, Sir Move for that accommodation and they'd be like, Oh forgot about

Mia 09:25

helpful. Anyway,

Mia 09:30

so i i Yeah, I didn't go to the bathroom for seven hours a day. And I stopped drinking water so that I could do that and not was like looking back like yikes that was very bad. I actually did not alter middle and high school.

Mia 09:53

Not very good for me as a human.

Mia 09:58

It's funny girls. because one of the amazing things about the pandemic, is it reset that. Even after high school, I was unintentionally still like doing my routine I've been doing for the past seven years of my life it's wonderful. But yeah, that was like a major thing my anxiety impacted. It also impacted like, when I talked to I talked to, like, I was very quiet and like did not feel comfortable starting conversations or talking to people, which makes making friends very challenging. So okay,

Olivia N 10:43

I funny story, I did the exact same thing. I didn't drink any water because I also didn't pee, because of anxiety. Do the same thing. I just wouldn't I just wanted to be like, I also did that. And then I also recited in the pandemic, because I was in my house. And

Mia 10:59

I was like, Well, yeah, like,

Olivia N 11:02

I'm not going I'm not going anywhere. So I'm not going to be late, because I'm here. Yeah, but yeah. You talked a bit about having to like, fight with teachers about your falling your accommodations. You talk about that, like what it was, like always having to advocate for yourself in school.

Mia 11:22

Yeah, it was a lot. So in elementary school, my story is kind of complicated. So in elementary school, they did not want to accommodate me, because I did not have behavioral issues. I couldn't read, but I wasn't acting up. So they didn't want to text

Mia 11:41

me.

Mia 11:43

So it was it was a battle to get any sort of accommodations in elementary school, like my parents had to talk about bringing a lawyer friend to the meeting.

Mia 11:54

People took them really, really, really seriously. But before that, during the CO she's writing, they have like near Oh, she's not.

Mia 12:05

But so

Mia 12:06

I had fought for the while my parents had fought for those accommodations. And so my mom instilled in me that I have to fight to get what I need. And middle school

Mia 12:20

actually took a lot. So

Mia 12:23

I went from having a five or an IEP, an Individualized Education Plan and elementary school because I was a testing for it. I was so behind I needed that. I tested out of that. And I got a 504 for medical conditions for my dyslexia and my ADHD, so that I could still receive accommodations without being academically behind. So the thing is, when you have an IEP, even in middle school, you have people who will fight for you who will make sure you have accommodations, and make sure you are receiving appropriately. There's things put in place, when you have a fiber for at least in my school system. What happens is your plan is regulated by people who are not educated and how to check in with the students to make sure they're receiving their accommodations. And so all of the kids I knew who had fathered fours never received accommodations. And lastly, we're putting classes with IEP kids and like luncheon to like take tests in a small group environment with the IEP kids, which like a lot of us didn't have. But I being the person who was taught to, like, always fight for my accommodations I did. And I had conversations with these counselors, which I don't think their intention was to be patronizing, but they very much were. Because they're like, oh my gosh, no one else does this, like you're so good on top of things advocating for yourself.

Mia 14:06

Like I'm educating, I have

Mia 14:09

to educate them on how to help me. And it's like, this should not be something I have to do.

Mia 14:17

And that was middle school,

Mia 14:19

but there was I was grouped more in with the IEP kids. So I didn't initially have to like be like, Yo, I'm not receiving my accommodations. What are we doing? Because they were kind of trying to slowly transition me into basically receiving no services. But my eighth grade. I was like, making meetings with counselors be like, Yo, where are my final test plans? Why don't have this figured out? I do not test in a normal classroom. You should know him. Right. Okay and high school it got worse. because same thing. I was put in with a counselor, he had been working there for over 20 years. He had been in charge of 504 kids for a long time. He should have known how to accommodate me how to make sure I was getting what I needed. No idea. Absolute B, zero idea. And by the time you're in high school in my system, none of the fog of war kids are getting any sort of accommodation at all. Unless they No, not not at all, unless they specifically asked which all of the other faculty for kids I knew, did not ask, because they didn't want to be bothered. I did not care about that. But basically, the issue was that there was no protocols in place to get fiber for kids their accommodations, because no one

Mia 16:01

asked for them. Which meant there was no space for me to take my tests. I had to be in the counseling center lobby.

Mia 16:15

Yeah, it was busy.

Mia 16:18

So I test in a small group or a individual environment. Because that way, when I go over time, other kids are VL. Like, why are you still here? The test is over the bell has run, you need to go to your next class. So I needed a different environment. But I was just one individual, and I wasn't in any other classes with other kids who needed the same accommodations I did. And so they had to put me in spaces. Was great though by the time. By the time I was a junior and senior in high school, I had bought enough for finals, because they could no win finals, we're so for finals, I would not go to my classes. Instead, I finally found a place for me that wasn't a counseling center lobby, because they finally realized it was too noisy and not a good testing environment.

Mia 17:26

They put me in the library storage closet.

Olivia N 17:31

were literally in a closet.

Mia 17:33

Okay, it it was big.

Mia 17:37

But it was like they had all of the equipment he didn't use anymore. And like chair stacked. It was basically like an old classroom size around. And there was a tech guy who was there half the day who had a

Mia 17:50

cubicle. It was in there with

Mia 17:56

God, it was during this cubicle,

Mia 18:00

and it was like in the sight of the library. No one ever used because it has all of the old computers

Mia 18:06

Yeah. Oh my basically storage closet.

Olivia N 18:12

And that was the best they could do.

Mia 18:14

That was the best they could do. And it's so hilarious. Because I was totally unsupervised. I could have done whatever I

Mia 18:22

wanted. No one wouldn't know

Mia 18:26

that they trusted

Mia 18:27

me enough to just like put me in this gig storage closet and say take

Mia 18:31

your final

Olivia N 18:35

bin you could have been cheating you could have been googling

Mia 18:38

Yeah, yeah, exactly. They would never know Larry and they never know it was it was way better than the like Counseling Center lobby. Like I don't even know and it's hilarious because like some of my professors I haven't class my last hour and oh teachers I guess not college so not professors. I had one teacher who like when I went over time I can stay after school I'm like I'm not staying after school to complete this test. And I was allowed double time but end of the day there's no double time and so she was she's not I would

Mia 19:15

cheat on my chest like look the question

Mia 19:20

that's not how my brain works I couldn't even cheat if

Mia 19:23

I wanted to take it the next day. It's not like you remember all

Mia 19:27

the questions needing accommodations and there being no bike system put in place to give them to

Mia 19:33

me was like I don't even know. It was not something I expected it to be gas. Bad

Mia 19:44

yeah absolutely wild.

Olivia N 19:49

absolutely wild and like this is where our public education this is where it's It's so disappointing and So, unfortunately, so many other people have experienced that. And the fact that you had to self advocate so young to these adults who are literally supposed to know what this is, because it's their job. Yes, you can talk to an accommodation specialists. And they're like, so what do you need to be accommodated with? That's your job. Like, your old job.

Mia 20:29

Like, I thought, I'm like going into college, I want to be an accommodation person and help other people because it was such a like, always a fight, because these people who were supposed to know what they were doing, I might overhear, educating them, like, I need this accommodation because of this. I am not receiving this. What can we do to make this happen? Yeah, I don't know. You ever had to do this before? You've been teaching here? 20 years, like, come on.

Olivia N 20:59

They never know how to do the job that they are literally getting paid for. And it's the only thing they do. Yeah. So many thoughts about IEPs and Bible fours. And I, later on, we'll talk about what that's like in college, because I'm genuinely curious to hear about how this will be. Yeah, I'm curious because like,

my middle and high school did not have that I went to a private school. And like, they just didn't accept, like disabled students in any. Yeah. They didn't. There were no accommodations. That was like, not a

21:39

thing. But

Olivia N 21:42

yeah, I'm so curious to hear about like another universities like Disability Services. But how to YouTube and the legalization of gay marriage in the United States influenced you growing up?

Mia 21:56

Yeah. So here's how I found gay people.

Mia 22:03

So I,

Mia 22:06

growing up,

Mia 22:07

me, for a very long time didn't understand what gay meant. Exactly. Okay, so my mom had this weird rule. So, you know, kids will use the word gay, instead of like, stupid. Kind of, like the R word. You know, like, is that so my mom had a rule in house that you don't call things gay.

Mia 22:34

It's kind of strictly to T don't talk about anything gay at all for people. Right? Which I do not think was her intention. But that's how I ended up paying. Um, so like YouTube. And so Okay. Other thing that's kind of cool was

Mia 23:00

so in middle school, which looking back is

Mia 23:05

actually pretty awesome. We had one straight couple in middle school, the recipient couple in middle school. So and so one of my friends was at the time identified as a lesbian, and they were, you know, in a relationship and would like, hold hands and hope. And, like, do everything the one other token straight couple. Yeah, in middle school, and our middle schools actually, we didn't have an issue with it. Which was cool. So so like, I had gay friends. And then like, now, I had gay friends back then. And they didn't know it. So it's like, yeah, like, unintentionally gravitating towards each other, always. But the cell, but at the time, it's like, I had friends who were also like LGBT.

Mia 24:07

And I should say that to do that, okay.

Mia 24:15

Anyways, but so, like, I had no representation that I'd ever seen, like, in the world. But also I was the type of kid who would look for gay books in the library to search for them and find them. And because because my wife already actually my public library, a wonderful collection of queer books, like so many, so many to choose from. Like I get to talk about the trends in LGBT literature over the past 10 years, well, not maybe not 10 years, but you know, like, time do I have tried so much of that,

Olivia N 25:01

talk about it and talk about it.

Mia 25:04

Well, it's just really, really interesting the trends, because like, some of the first like LGBT literature out there, like firms that are lead to 1000s, because the was accessible to me, I've read it was very much like, main character gets hate crimes, especially like, if so in early 2000s writing literature that I have had access to, especially if the main character is trans, they almost always get hate crime. Always. Which, thankfully, encouraged by a publishing because I'm still a big fan of queer ya let is not the case. I mean, it happens, like sometimes, but it's not like if I picked up a book about a trans person, I know there will be there will be a hate crime within this book. No longer the case. Very, very good. Yes, I very much approve. I think that's very good. change that's happened. But even like, books of gaming characters, way more focused on like, challenges of being gay character, it's hate crimes. That's anything. But then books where it's like happy gay people existing in the world. Like David Leviathan, love his books, because happy day people living in the world. Avoid needs voiding one of my all time favorite books, because it was the first book that I found was like gaming characters, where it's like, happy gay people. And I'm like, yes, no hate crimes. Like there's a there's conflict and stuff around like identity and being gay, but it's not the main focus of the book. And it's, it doesn't feel like it was written for a straight audience to get like, you know, sympathy points, right? Which a lot of like early, why a queer lit seals like leaning back on it, you know? Yeah.

Olivia N 27:17

No, thank you for the survey. Because I think that's really, really helpful information. Because I've read like somebody with a life and books as an adult. Not as not as a young adult, but I don't even think I've thought to search for that's a lie. I read a lot of gay male books, like gay men, because that was just all I could find.

Mia 27:41

Yeah, there is so much of that, like, compared to

27:45

lesbian books. So yeah.

Olivia N 27:47

So I read mostly, I didn't read a lot of straight romance, I almost exclusively read gay romance, because it's the only thing I could find. And not in like, a fetishizing way at all. But just because it was not straight romance, and the only like, there was no queer romance section yet. It was just LGBT

sections. But it was never like the I was always gay and bisexual just fine. And I loved it. But can you talk a little bit about how disability affected you? Kind of growing up? We've talked a little bit about it, when you're talking about your accommodations, and ADHD, and dyslexia and all of that. But can you talk a little bit more about maybe struggling to find friends? Or maybe media representation or a lack of representation? That kind of like general life stuff?

Mia 28:42

Yeah.

Mia 28:44

Um, so I come from a line of women with ADHD. I am the third generation that we can like say, yeah, definitely second generation to be diagnosed. And so for me, and my mom has disabilities. And so growing up, it's like, this is the way things are and this is what you need to do because this is the way and if so, that was just

Mia 29:23

I don't know, I I had a very like,

Mia 29:29

not really an opinion or like a I wish this wasn't the way things were like, necessarily, like, I'm sure it would have been easier. But I kind of accepted it. And I don't know if that's my adult like lens looking in on my kids or not. But for now, like that's kind of how I feel like where I was.

Mia 29:56

It did.

Mia 29:58

In some ways, I made friends was

Mia 30:00

getting friends finding friends harder, but in other ways it didn't. I think a something about me and my experience is different is I was not picked on or bullied, or like being the child with it was visually impaired. Um, I was just there and kind of accepted it, they actually thought it was cool. I had a big machine in the back of the classroom and enlarged my stuff. I have like cool things and like audio books and stuff in there. That's cool. You know, there was that same year. Also, I think having an IEP and being with all the other kids who needed extra help, really helped me because like, I was friends with

Mia 30:52

all the people that were there. You also needed help, because we would spend

Mia 30:57

like, you know, small group time with each other and get to know each other like really well. So I have like, some friends over there like boys and one other girl. Just that's the way that it was a lot of the time.

And so yeah, so in like elementary school, it didn't really affect me socially, as much I've injured my anxiety differently, affected me more. Because I had a hard time like connecting with people. Especially as I got older. And then in middle school, my anxiety more than anything else really impacted the way I interacted with other people, or didn't, which was a big thing. I was very, very, very quiet. Didn't really have many friends. Just yeah. Oh, also. Now, another thing about my middle school is I was best friends

Mia 32:13
with a boy

Mia 32:16
who was blind. And he had no other friends. And not really not that like he would talk to you. And that would like go up to him and interact with him all the time. And so like we were buddies, but it it drove me nuts got on my nerves. It made me feel so incredibly uncomfortable. And I wasn't exactly sure why at the time. And now I'm like, Oh, that makes sense. People thought we were dating or like would insinuate that we were dating. And I'm like, No, absolutely not. This is not a thing that's ever going to happen. And like I made sure he knew that. I'm like, No, never. Like no this now Right? Um but yeah, like we had a teacher who's actually laying them sped teacher, he was my transition when middle school like you don't have an IEP, you have a 504 son, he had all of the just table like kids who had extra services in his homeroom. And which you like, which is how I was friends with this boy.

Mia 33:39
You too, should talk to each other. Right?

Mia 33:43
But like he would like, pretend like act like we were dating or whatever.

Mia 33:48
Yeah. Not at all.

Mia 33:52
But I think also like being around other disabled people was really helpful for me to just like, kind of feel like, Yeah, there's definitely other people who are experiencing the same or similar things that I'm going through

Mia 34:15
Can you

Olivia N 34:17
talk a little bit more about maybe when you realized that your sexuality was different from maybe what was around you? Or maybe like when you started learning about your asexuality and being semi romantic?

Mia 34:33

Yeah.

Mia 34:35

So it's been a long journey. So in middle school, I had queer friends. And that was really cool. I also was friends with someone who is very, very religious and to the point of everyone's thinking she was homophobic, which in some, she's more apathetic than homophobic, but not supportive. Except the very strange thing is all of her friends were here.

Mia 35:19

It was a very strange situation.

Mia 35:24

But I forgot what question I was answering. Oh, okay, so like, when did I figure out? So like, I was having all these queer friends, except for this one person for like, my main, like, girlfriend group, right? With this, like, these queer girls, and then this one person who wasn't. And so but also I had straight schoolwork girls, who were very, very, never having crushes on boys. Like I do not, do not continue. Do you not understand this? But then like my friends who were super girls who were having crushes on girls and online. I don't know if I can understand this or not like, I don't know. And so I think like middle school, I started to realize, I don't think I'm straight, but you don't know what. But also, I knew lots of people who went through lots of many identities. And it was very hard on them. And it was very, very hard on their parents. Because it's like, I don't know what my kid hits. They don't know what they are like, this is very hard. And so I like I saw that happening. And I'm like, I don't want this to be a thing. It's hard, because I don't know. Because a lot of my life, I'm like, I'm not straight, but I don't know what I am. And so I didn't want to tell my parents, like until I knew I thought I did, it would be easier on everyone if I knew for sure what it was. Which took a very long time. Because it's like, my first clue was could not compute at all having crushes on boys didn't understand it. I thought it was strange in beard and like, Why? Why? But, so I didn't really have crushes on girls either. And it's funny, because it's like, I'm not really experiencing attraction to anyone. I must be bisexual.

Mia 37:47

That's one point. That's where I was. Um,

Mia 37:57

and so that was, that was a weird time. By I think I started realizing I was asexual, but it scared me. Because I knew that like expectations of me and things that I genuinely wanted in life was, you know, be married, have children eventually. And for a long time, like, I've always wanted to have be a mom and have kids. And my mom, from a very young age has been, like, channeling it into all of her kids that like, you get married first. And then you have kids. And it's all like if I want to get married to a woman, like at the time I couldn't, because it wasn't legal.

Mia 38:48

Yeah, it's like, the it's not a thing I can go do right now. So that sucks.

Mia 38:57

But so once gay marriage is legalized, I didn't have the feature. Right?

Mia 39:05

It was awesome. But anyways, so like being asexual, it was like something I like, passively knew about, but also a wanting these things wanting romantic relationships. And like, thinking that asexual and aromantic was the same thing was like, very confusing for me. And then I learned they weren't the same thing. And I can have a sexual orientation and a romantic orientation that were completely separate to each other is a very wonderful thing to understand.

Mia 39:47

So I'm,

Mia 39:49

like my high school identifying as asexual didn't know romantic orientation didn't have her chews on people never really did.

Mia 40:05

And

Mia 40:06

I thought that was a normal experience as an asexual person. And then I talked to lots of other aces and found out it is not done there's so many Demi romantic experience. But I didn't really start identifying as Demi romantic. until

Mia 40:28

college, I was a teen

Mia 40:31

for a while my romantic orientation online, suddenly, or bisexual pansexual, because I honestly don't really didn't really know at the time. But now and in the past few years, I think a better like definition of my identity is like something was vn kiss, it's so like, I want to have a wife and kids. And like, all these wonderful things in my life. Right? Um, that yeah, it was it was definitely a journey getting there because they're relaxed with like, proper representation barriers and like, not knowing experiences of other people. And like syncing my experience with like, you know, not a universal one. But like, the general one, and then find it now. Oh, is not?

Mia 41:25

Yeah. Where

Olivia N 41:27

were you meeting these other asexual people? Was

41:30

it? Was it online? Yeah.

Mia 41:34

So I, yeah, so online, asexual, like forums and stuff. Also, I in middle, not middle. And high school, a actually knew quite a few asexuals, which is cool. And so with having conversations with people I knew in real life, and also in having conversations, especially in college, because I didn't really understand my romantic orientation until college. I'm the type of person who I've been excluded in some ways. Because I'm perceived as straight a lot. And also, I'm asexual. And so like, in my high school, LGBT club, one guy one time. So I was a token straight person, which I was open about being asexual at the time. And he's like, oh, yeah, you're basically air token straight, normal, like I am not. And so I'm the type of person who will get in positions of leadership to make sure that other people like me, who are marginalized within a marginalized community, have a voice, and are, like, make sure they feel like they belong to because it's very easy. If people who aren't in the more like marginalized areas don't have a, a leadership position, it's more easy for someone to maybe unintentionally be exclusionary. And so I was in high school, I became the president of our LGBT club. And then in college, in my community college, I was in leadership there as well. And I met even more like a romantic people, they're an asexual people, and then even have a sexuality and disability and agitation network. They do a conference every year, an asexual asexuality conference and 2020, they did it virtual. So for the first time, I was able to meet like, all of these different asexual people from all around the world. And that's around the time I started accepting and that it clicked that like, my experience of romance is

Mia 44:19

different than other people.

Olivia N 44:26

Very cool. Like, I think it's really important when you're in these places, if you are able to or have the ability or energy or spoons to do so is to advocate for people like yourself, people more marginalized than you. And it was cool that you were thinking about that. And getting into positions of leadership so young. I didn't think about that. I mean, I didn't think about it, in those words until very recently. Yeah. Can you talk about when you said identifying as a lesbian, like you said, you mentioned it briefly briefly, but

Mia 44:59

Like, were you like 20? I think I was 18 or 19 or

Olivia N 45:09

19. Okay.

Mia 45:12

So I was very, I was identifying as queer for a very long time, but like, didn't really know. Exactly. I mean, I think I started identifying as sapphic before busking, because that was more. You know, and a good transition for me personally.

Olivia N 45:36

Yeah. That makes sense. i That makes sense. Um, how have your like clothing? Addressing? Like, as high femme, assisted with affirming your identities or your lesbianism? You mentioned how sometimes the way that you're dressed sometimes in gay spaces are in general, you're perceived as straight? Depending on the space.

Mia 45:58

Yeah, yeah. So

Mia 46:01

um, it's definitely like, being found in like dressing, like, some handsome girls like a 1950s housewife, it brings me great joy. Also, the way that I dress and what I wear is, like, almost like a performance. It's, you know, and it's like, how I showcase my art, because I make my clothes. And so like, I feel like I am walking arch. And when I wear what I've made, and I love, like, being like, super fun, and super, you know, like, checking back these like, you know, 1950s housewife, aesthetics, and like, being who I am. And just like living in that, and then like, showcasing and being very unique, has like, no one in mind, one that I know, dresses like me. It's really cool to have that like unique individuality thing. Also, just like, it makes me so happy. To to be like super extra, and how I dress.

Olivia N 47:21

That's super interesting to hear. Like there's, I know, mostly online, like there's some high firms who have like 50s aesthetics, and no like, like vintage clothes, not vintage values. And that kind of subversion is really interesting and very cool and beautiful.

Mia 47:36

Yeah.

Mia 47:39

It's hard, just like, I used to be even extra when I am now. It takes energy and time and planning. It's like, I don't have all my energy I used to. So it's sad. Like, he needs to do makeup more and like, even more extra than I then I like, reasonably can be now President Trump.

Mia 48:04

I do what I can and makes me really happy.

Olivia N 48:08

That's the best part of it. You got to do what you can I completely relate to the part of us not having time, or not having the energy. I feel like there was a point in time where I would wake up and be able to put on a full face of makeup in the morning and be like, Wow, I feel great. And then now it's just like,

Mia 48:25

it is what it is. Yeah.

Olivia N 48:28

I'm hoping that maybe I gain that energy back some point at some time. But this is a little bit of a turn. But can you talk a little bit about what it was like when you were outed? And does the phrase coming out to yourself resonate with you?

Mia 48:46

Yeah, um, so as I previously mentioned, that I was actually sad. I was very involved in like LGBT clubs in my high school.

Mia 49:00

By my

Mia 49:03

junior year of high school, I was the vice president, or not vice co president of the club. Very, very good distinction on that Friday, but yeah, so and then by senior year, I was the sole president of the club. But I still had this friend who was perceived as very homophobic. And in some ways she was and you know, whatever it is, she didn't know how homophobic she was. And but she had been my best friend since I was nine. And I didn't have that many people. And so we were still friends and hung out and people knew that. But it made a very strange scenario, because talking to people now And back then half of the school thought that I was saying the other half of the school thought it was depending on what you knew about me, right, if you knew I was like LGBT club president, you would think I was good. If you knew I was friends with this girl, you would assume I was also homophobic. And it's very weird. Especially when my friend that I've been friends with for years befriended a like, no question about it. homophobe was very clear about that. Is it? You know, it was it was very strange. Anyways, so half of the school settings gay. And so in a very convoluted the mom of one of the girls I had been friends in the past,

Mia 51:09

Armenians herself friends.

Mia 51:11

And this this mom knew for a fact she was out and she did it with intent. She added me to my mom. It was awful. I at the time, I had a basically

Mia 51:30

I was, let's see, junior year.

Mia 51:36

It was in March, it was like March 16, junior year of high school. So I was 16. And I was in class. It was my last class of the day, my cell phone had been off, because it had basically no function, realized it had been off all day. So I did turn it on. My mom had, like, keep getting notifications. But I'd gotten a bunch of text messages. And my mom kept sending these like really cryptic text messages. Like, when you get home, we need to talk, your sister needs to go somewhere else because my sister is 12 years younger than me. So she's little like the time and my mom keeps giving me these cryptic messages. And my grandparents at the time had a dog who's old and I thought the dog had died. And she's

already know the dog didn't die. And so then I thought maybe a grandparent had died or something just because of this very cryptic way. She was speaking to me, and like almost reminiscent of boys that like they had ears My brother and I into conversations when other people had died.

Mia 52:55

Which I don't think that was not his intention.

Mia 52:59

But that's the package. Oh,

Mia 53:03

so and then she I'm like, What are you talking about? Who died? She texted me back. She's like, No one die. Is there anything you haven't told me? Cooking in mind? Oh, no.

Mia 53:22

was like, Oh, good. Like, does she know that I'm that I'm queer.

Mia 53:29

And I still intense.

Mia 53:34

I turned my phone on, like the last 15 minutes of my last class of the day. And, and so like, we're done with our lesson, but so I'm sitting over here. And tears are streaming down my face. Oh, I don't know what's gonna happen. Like, I don't know, anything at this point. And like, I'm passguides face and I'm just sitting there. My teacher comes up to me and she's like, Okay. I can't explain to you or even really know. And so then, like, my grandmother picked me up from school every day. And so I had to like, the only time not crying, like my tears on my face and like, put myself together for this 10 minute right back. Actually Go is fine. And then I get home and my mom has printed PFLAG papers. Okay, how to accept your gay kid

Mia 54:45

which which was a choice you put in my spot at the table? Looking back is hilarious.

Mia 54:53

It's my favorite giving new literature on how to be stuck to your gauge. Yeah, and like, oh my gosh, it was so bad. Because, like, at the time, like, I knew I was asexual. So she didn't like what the heck even are. You didn't hurt that badly. But that was kind of the chest and like, I'd found out, like I came home, my sister left found out for sure. Like, I keep putting papers in my spot at the table.

Mia 55:29

And

Mia 55:31

it was, it was really hard, because it's also like, I'm not just a lesbian. I'm also asexual. Every time we have to come out to people have to educate them, which is why I like just doing education work in general, doing like a sexuality one on one workshops to prevent people from having to do the emotional labor that I have to do over time a cat, which is why I don't like doing it. Especially people like in my life that are like, you know, related to me. And so, this Yeah, this was like, really not a good experience. being outed.

Mia 56:16

Especially by someone who knew what she was doing. Like she she like, knew she was alchemy. She knew my mom still makes me really mad. And she's a teacher. School. Not at the school, but she she worked in high school.

Olivia N 56:39

Yeah, that's so fucked up. Yeah, yeah. Well, see, the thing is

Mia 56:43

she knew for a year, she knew basically three kids. Which, I mean, half the school Mother's Day, so I mean, yeah. Anyways, so like, she she knew for a very for a few years before she program. I don't know why she decided to tell my mom and not let me tell my mom. Um, but yeah. So. But it was it was so hard, because it's like, my mom had a very hard time with it. Because she's like, if you were gay, I could understand that. If you're bisexual. I could understand that, but I can't understand this. Because you're like, something I didn't know existed, right?

Mia 57:29

Which, which stopped.

Mia 57:32

And like, you know, kind of achieving layers of my identity. Because at the time I identify as like asexual by romantic because it's so lame. What is my reason orientation? No. Question.

Mia 57:50

of the time.

Mia 57:52

And so, yeah, so it's all like, yeah, it's like, I'll randomly sometimes update her I'm sure we all agree. Okay. Like, it was just I think it was really hard for everyone. Like, my dad, like, seemed I was saying,

Mia 58:10

my mom did not.

Mia 58:12

Oh, she had no idea. She thought there was a really good outline.

Mia 58:20

And so well, and I also think doesn't so far, right? Like she she had no idea. And so yeah, that was that was really, really hard. But on the concept of like, coming out to oneself, I've come out for myself so many times at this point. I think it's, for me, it's like the first step. I think, especially like knowing about asexuality before I really like identified as a label of like, sis, definitely, like, you know, something that fits me because I can you brought it a few years before I'm like, Yeah, this definitely fits like it's different from like, romantic orientation. That's right. But just you know, because I have a whole lot of confusion and so when I finally like find stuff and and find community and find locals, but like, I feel fit me like it's, it's wonderful.

Mia 59:20

Thank you for telling me

Olivia N 59:26

telling me that story. I know that was like, hard to talk about being outed fucking sucks, especially by a teacher.

Mia 59:34

Yeah, yeah. When she was a college professor. Even worse. Yeah.

Mia 59:42

It's one if she didn't know and that would be one thing. Yeah, but she told my mom like I know you don't know this, but your daughter's

Olivia N 59:54

your mom like now?

Mia 59:55

She's, she's fine.

Mia 59:58

I uh, she was very Are you heard that she was a quote, the last to know and a quote? I mean, she's not there's portions of my family that will never know if I have anything. But it's just I feel like she would have reacted differently if I would have been able to tell her. But she's also the type of person that doesn't like to be unprepared, doesn't like to be blindsided. And so my, my plan was to, to basically say, I am I'm getting I am clear without saying it, which free will not have a long time, actually, I was doing the groundwork. I was telling them exactly what I was involved in. I was doing all of that. So that it wouldn't be a surprise when I came out. And that's why my dad had just assumed because I had been laying that groundwork for years at that point. But my mom was just it was it was very hard on her at first because she felt blindsided. Now, she's cool, though. I feel like she's, she's talked to me a little bit like that. Sometimes she wishes that like my identity wasn't so complicated. Right? So that it would be, you know, easier for me to, like, interact in the world and like, find a partner and stuff. Which I mean, I get that, but like, you know,

Mia 1:01:34

it is. So

Olivia N 1:01:39

it truly is what it is. And like I understand that parental wish that maybe your kid didn't have to struggle as much. But like, maybe just keep that to yourself. Like, what are you going to do? Not Be yourself? Yeah, like, I wish I weren't you and you're like, thanks. I'll take that into account.

Mia 1:02:01

Yeah, you have a knowledge of conversations. She's like, cool about it. So in my identity updates, which it's like, I feel like my job is just like, you know, complete squid opera. I don't have to give him identity updates.

Olivia N 1:02:18

Now, like, he doesn't love you, but he just like whatever. Yeah, like,

Mia 1:02:21

literally, it's just the whole of me no matter what, like, he doesn't really care. But it's not like he doesn't care about me. You know?

Mia 1:02:34

Yeah, my mom is like,

Mia 1:02:36

I feel like she wants to be more in the know live life labels and stuff.

Mia 1:02:41

Yeah, periodic updates. Can you talk about?

Olivia N 1:02:52

We're getting into the community questions. So can you talk a little bit about how being a sexual and Demi romantic impact your lesbianism and how it also shapes your lesbian community and how you interact with, like lesbians in the lesbian community?

Mia 1:03:11

Yeah, so it makes it more complicated.

Mia 1:03:14

It makes, I've been in situations where it's like, I'm, I'm so layered. And like, I'm not just a lesbian, I'm a lesbian and, and so like, being accepted in communities that are lesbian specific. And like finding those and also not worrying that I won't be accepted. Because I'm Ace and Demi romantic is like an extra thing. And so it's, it's a bit more challenging. And so I find myself gravitating towards more generally queer community and queer spaces than like, lesbian specific. And it's like, I wish I did have this like lesbians specific community, but it's so hard to find that and to feel like I'm accepted with the other

identities that I hold and how my lesbian experience is vastly different from from lesbians who are our romantic and sexual and how they interact with the world.

1:04:35

Yeah, like, like,

Olivia N 1:04:38

like aloe, like aloe sexual and like aloe romantic lesbians. The spaces that they operate in, can sometimes V hypersexual. And I was wondering if you could talk about dating as An ace lesbian, as an ace, Demi lesbian, and then maybe like trying, like I can like trying to talk through a little bit more, because I understand what you're saying. Like I get it, but for the recording or for the interview, if you could talk a little bit more about why specifically lesbian spaces don't feel as comfortable to you, as opposed to queer spaces, like, is it the hypersexuality of like, Allo, Ella? Sexual lesbian spaces?

Mia 1:05:29

Yeah, um,

Mia 1:05:30

other thing is like, just generally, I don't know whether I want to talk about finding an ex girlfriend or not, because my mom just

Mia 1:05:41

found out.

Olivia N 1:05:45

I don't want to talk about that. You don't talk about that at all?

Mia 1:05:47

No. I'm like, I kind of do, but I do not.

Olivia N 1:05:51

You shouldn't talk about like, if you want to, we can skip it. Or you can just talk about what you think the dating space could be like for other asexual lesbians, like speaking broadly, or generally, yeah, not about yourself.

Mia 1:06:06

Okay, yeah.

Mia 1:06:08

Let's see. So, yeah, so I feel like a lot of like, what's being spaces are hyper sexualized, and that does not mean like, I do not feel very comfortable in this spaces. Also, so kind of barriers to like lesbian specific spaces. That's definitely one. Another is, I'm 21. But I sciatica. I take enough medication that are like, do not drink with this medication. It's like, unsafe for me to do so. That sucks. Because, like, in my mind, I never thought I'd be like, you know, like, person who didn't drink a lot. But I thought like

having access to these, like community spaces, like, you know, Smolny like, meat like 16 pot like, yeah, when I'm finding right now I can go to like lesbian bars is there are so many in my community. Right? And so like, I can put these spaces and play with others messaging. So I'm like, Yay, you know what, sapphic women? You know, like, yeah, those goals, Bonanza, like, I don't really feel like, I want to be in those spaces as like someone who's, like, doesn't really like being sexualized, and also someone who does not drink. It's like, I don't really feel like those are spaces I would be comfortable struggle. And there's not really any other, you know, organized lesbians space for me to go to. It's just

Olivia N 1:07:59

a random question. Kind of unrelated. Do the bars and goals area have like sober nights? Or is that not a thing? I

Mia 1:08:08

don't know. If they do, they're not publicized?

Olivia N 1:08:11

Yeah. So maybe, maybe you did. I don't know if that's like a thing in your area. But there's like sober nights. I don't like the bars. Because that's an issue. Like I think some of the other people who are the other storytellers and other participants are talking about like, a strong. They wish there was more spaces that were substance free, for multiple reasons, can be sober, you could not drink for any reason, you could just really you do drink, but you don't want all of your community activities to be centered around sober activities. I mean, I mean substance, substance use. And then one of the other people that I was talking to, her name is Rachel. She recently injured her knee, and she's now living as a disabled person who requires mobility aid and can't stand much. And she was talking about the fact that, okay, she wants to be in a substance free space, but then the only other lesbian spaces are like sports. Yeah. She can play rugby. Yeah, you can't stand for to like she can't get tackled, or like kick a ball. So like, that kind of leads into the next question, but can you talk a little bit about how a disability like your disabilities inform your interactions with lesbian community? And especially since you've been recently living with chronic pain?

Mia 1:09:41

Yeah, yep. So I've had chronic pain officially. For a year now. Some for 1620 21 is my last

Olivia N 1:09:53

day. It was it was almost your anniversary. Yeah, it was your chronic pain anniversary.

Mia 1:09:58

Yes, yes. It was like two days ago,

Mia 1:10:01

three days

Mia 1:10:04

ago, yeah, it was very hard that day such. So I'm not really any closer. Anyways, so Well, in general, you know, living with chronic pain, and losing a lot of things that I used to have and energy I used to have. It's it's the community in person, really, really challenging in general. I go to a small, private college. But we did have an LGBT club, I was in leadership in it.

Mia 1:10:49

I since have

Mia 1:10:52

been so unwell I have not able been able to be part of the leadership and so that community has died, it is officially dead. Because no one else will do the work. Which sucks. And it sucks that I've lost that and that the people who would benefit from it from having an LGBT community space on campus have lost that. Because there aren't enough people who will be in leadership positions to support having

Mia 1:11:30

very disappointing.

Mia 1:11:33

And so like all of the in person, like queer spaces. I mean, honestly, that was my only one. But that's gone. And also my, you know, thinking about future and what I, you know, could you communities, I could be a part of stuff like that, it's like, I don't have the energy, I don't have the ability to like safely do that. There's actually quite a few like queer community centers near me. But their locations, it's like, I don't feel comfortable driving because I have driving anxiety, I'm getting lost anxiety. And very, very bad getting lost in xiety. Especially I was in a car accident earlier this year, that's just kind of made things worse, because I had to go to I had to go to a doctor's appointment that was in a location wasn't necessarily comfortable driving to. But I had no other options. Coming home, I was in a car accident. And so now I'm like really, really hesitant starting places I don't know how to get to get home from which is also an extra barrier to accessing community spaces in person.

Olivia N 1:13:15

That's the issue. Like whenever people are thinking about, like queer spaces or lesbian spaces, they're almost never thinking about the access the access of disability, or like what barriers like what access barriers are present, like if you're having an event, and people can't get into it because the door is in a wheelchair accessible.

Mia 1:13:38

Like one of my local community, LGBT community centers.

Mia 1:13:46

They, they had to

Mia 1:13:49

and make formal statements, because so basically what happened, they lost their building during the pandemic. And so they needed to get somewhere fast. They chose a place that was above a bar with

no elevator access. And the community has very, very upset about that because it was completely inaccessible to a large variety of people. And so they've sent smooth, but still it's like, in the heart of the city and like I'm not, they don't it's so very urgent for me.

Mia 1:14:32

So, but thankfully they listen to disabled people.

Mia 1:14:39

For a while they were actually stopped having events in their space once they realized how inaccessible it was. I honestly think when they move there, they realize, Oh no, this is going to be horrid when we have in person events. So yeah. Any of that, and so what Once they started coming back in, they like half their people who really didn't suffer. So like, I can't get my wheelchair up the stairs, or like, I'm not entering a bar to ensure this community center. Like, they realized how bad it wasn't. So they have to move all of their community events, we had to book rooms in the local libraries to use their spaces, but yeah, thankfully, they found a better accessible place. But that was a that's an issue for a long time.

Olivia N 1:15:39

So can you talk about the differences from before you started having chronic pain? Like, what did your lesbian community look like? And maybe if you could talk through that sense of loss of community, because of chronic pain, and how shitty people are?

Mia 1:15:58

Yeah, so

Mia 1:16:00

I had, I had like

Mia 1:16:03

lesbian friends who were like, my bestie and community from being in these, like, leader ship positions of these late LGBT clubs, so you can't make college. And it's like, once I tried, like, I lost those friends and I lost, I lost people. Is it like, you know, when it's hard to like, make plans and communicate with people and like, you know, have have energy to do stuff. It's like, you get dropped to class. Like, I had issues like in high school having friends, because I didn't have a cell phone like everyone else. And I had a, I had a phone I had to pay minutes for and my anxiety, my anxiety decided to focus on not having enough minutes when I needed them, which meant I never gave my phone number out to any of my fresh because I thought that we talked too much. And I wouldn't have enough minutes to text my parents, but I liked when I was alive. And so I didn't text anyone. And so I didn't have very many friends because no one wanted email.

Mia 1:17:27

And I feel like

Mia 1:17:30

when I was 18, and I was making friends and I was doing good things, right. And I was creating community and and I was you know part of things

Mia 1:17:43

and making friendships.

Mia 1:17:45

And then I feel like the pandemic kind of like slowed that momentum that I had in chronic pain killed it. So like, currently, I don't have friends I do stuff with. I have no one. My community in general was kind of God and my lesbian community is blessed me.

Mia 1:18:10

It's not easy. That's fucked up.

Mia 1:18:17

I mean, I do have friends. But it's like, we don't do things we just

Mia 1:18:26

like I to do more to.

Olivia N 1:18:29

Yeah, no, you're so tired.

Mia 1:18:32

I'm exhausted. So yeah.

Olivia N 1:18:36

Can you talk about building lesbian community online?

Mia 1:18:41

Yes. So, hi, I'm not in communities that are like, specifically for lesbians online, but I'm in lots of communities that are waiting for queer people online. And it's funny because I'm in a lot of selling queer spaces, which has a said the majority of people within those spaces are sapphic women and trans people who frequent be selling queer spaces. And so I have lesbian community within

Mia 1:19:22

which is really

Mia 1:19:23

cool. And so in during the pandemic, there's a project called so queer, which is an Instagram account. But it's also they have monthly zoom meetings that meet once a month. And it's it's really cool because I was able to get this feeling of care community back and also like a bunch of people they're less and less Also, just like, you know, talk about sewing, talk about your identity, talk about the intersections

between sewing and queer identity, which is always really interesting conversation. And then I'm on Discord servers that are like clear selling specific. And that type of thing, which is really cool.

Mia 1:20:27

As a librarian,

Olivia N 1:20:28

I have to know how did you I'm so interested in like information, seeking and finding behavior. So how did you find these spaces? Like, where did you find the discord? Like, where did you find the Instagram account? How did you find these communities?

Mia 1:20:45

That's so I found just so we're

Mia 1:20:49

it's really funny. I actually remember I don't remember how, and then we'll go yes, I do. Okay, so there's a creator, retired YouTube creator, and a Victorian, who taught hundreds of people how to so they are awesome, they made awesome content for a very long time. They taught me how to sell, like, part of, you know, like, I use their YouTube video tutorials, like a lot in my journey of selling. And I have followed them on Instagram for a month. And actually, they are the reason I am on Instagram. So I get these used to do when they were still on YouTube called Naked thrift try. I was actually yeah, like, I was a really big part of that. And so you'd post on Instagram. And then they would go through the things that their viewers had made and posted on Instagram. So that's why I'm on Instagram in general. But also, they were the first person I saw talking about. So we're, like, 2019, I think they had posted something about it on their story on Instagram. And so I'm like, Oh my gosh, this account is so cool. Because the project started to kind of get clear, so it's together. And so it's like a collection of queer. So it's who is the so queer hashtag on Instagram. And, and Shannon, who, who runs it? The she, she's really cool. And actually pre pandemic, they were doing some virtual events during pride month. And then when pandemic hit Shannon decided to take, like, make community make sure that we were able to like interact with people and create a community together. And so in 2020, I started going into these sewing circles. But so queer. Two is really cool. Also, Shannon is how I found out like in a contemplative way about this project. Which is so cool. So really, yes, yeah.

Olivia N 1:23:26

Thanks, Shannon.

Mia 1:23:29

Because she posted something about the lesbian Herstory archives. Yeah. Cross posted on or, you know, like, Didn't her stories on Instagram. And so then I'm like, Oh, this is cool. And so I followed it, and then they posted about your stuff.

Olivia N 1:23:48

Okay, so

Mia 1:23:49

cool.

Olivia N 1:23:51

I think I think that's what's so fun about and it's quite ingenious, like, I know, Anika is also Lee is also chronically ill and has Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, and the fact that they're posting about online queer spaces that are, but loads more accessible to disabled people. And then that, that you're like, able to be in these spaces, and you're still able to build a queer community and lesbian community online that perhaps takes less spoons and less energy. But still is meaningful and still as important and impactful in your life. Like your whole face lit up when you started talking about so queer, and like the sewing circles. And I think those are great, awesome community spaces that you found. And that yeah,

Mia 1:24:48

nurturing and it's because it's also a gets a sewing circle and I get to tell like my grandparents. So like, I'm not one grandparent, but like, not the other side of it. This. So like the set out to you, I can be like, it's in a virtual sewing circle. They've never know it's it's a clear one.

Mia 1:25:15

It's so funny though, because they imagine like a bunch of little babies like

Mia 1:25:21

no, that's not what this is all. Wonderful. Okay,

Olivia N 1:25:27

that's so fun. Okay, so can you talk a little bit about what identifying as a lesbian means to you? I know what a big question. I know, I know, I know. But like, I can ask a different question. And you can think about it or? Yeah, let me I can give you an example. So someone who was it? Was it Rachel and Michelle, someone a couple days ago, also was like, Oh, that's so broad. I don't know what to say. I'm like, don't stress, don't stress, I have some ideas for how to like spark it. Spark the spark something. So you can think about a time where you were like, existing as a lesbian, and doing something and it felt really fucking good. You're like, you know what, this is like, the perfect moment. Where like, I can be I'm a lesbian. I'm doing this thing. That's awesome. And I feel great in my body, and I feel great in myself. And I feel great. And with these people, or maybe by myself, if you read a book that you were like, there's some great lesbian representation here, and I love it. And it was like, wow, it was just like, the moment was just perfect. Some ideas.

Mia 1:26:42

Okay, think I'll think about it. No problem.

Olivia N 1:26:48

I'm gonna ask you a different question, then. Can you talk about lesbian spaces that you wish existed? We touched briefly about substance free spaces?

Mia 1:27:00

Yeah, so yeah, I

Mia 1:27:03

wish that there were ones that were they were accessible. And General. Like even finding queer spaces online, it's actually really hard to find, like lesbian spaces. I think actually find asexual spaces are way easier than lesbian spaces online. It's probably has something to do with asexuality and the internet being kind of intertwined in general writing. But like lesbian spaces was me and like Instagram I stuff that said about like, being a lesbian and kind of like, so queer is because I also feel like, I really like finding spaces that are clear and so that not all we have in common is being queer, but we all enjoy the experience of being queer. But we also have something else that we have in common in life, you know, being so as having an interest in creative endeavors. And I've never come across a lesbian community that is like that. Which I think would be really cool in kind of Nikki some of the issues I have as not just a lesbian, but like, the lesbian, like asexual Demi romantic lesbian, as to be in a space that's not centered, actually, on like, lesbian identity, but also other things that we're interested in. I

Olivia N 1:28:45

think that's a really good point. Like I know that sometimes I find those spaces on Lex, I don't know what Lex is, like, where you are now. But they have like community spaces like queer soup nights. And there's like this queer Sports Club. That I don't know. There's lots of queer spaces queer movie nights. I don't know if Lex is like super popping, like, where you are, but but but that's one place where I find those like affinity spaces because you know, just being gay or just being lesbian isn't always enough to make friends. Because you might have nothing in common, actually.

Mia 1:29:24

Yeah, I feel like lesbian sport, things exist just so that you can like be a team and be less games and like, achieve a goal right? And that was so funny

Olivia N 1:29:35

is most of the people were not actually sporty. It was around Halloween. So like someone came dressed up as Sailor Moon. They were like a full like, they were cheerleaders who came just to watch we weren't like it wasn't sports. Like it was like a sports activity but no one was like, sporty. Yeah, I don't think any of us had played kickball in like years and years and years. It was funny. It wasn't it was highly interest. anything. But yeah, that's off topic, but I think there needs to be other spaces like that as well. Like there's this fiber arts group that I was thinking about looking at.

Mia 1:30:10

Oh, interesting.

Olivia N 1:30:13

I don't consider myself like a fiber artist, but I crochet. Well, but for fun, but for fun. Yeah, I was like, I'm not good at it. But uh, like I make, like scarves and stuff. And making a corset. I'll show you later.

Mia 1:30:29

But it's cool.

Olivia N 1:30:30

I'll show you the pattern. But yeah, that's that's all like, Okay, question. I'm gonna go back to the identifying as a lesbian question. But this is a second to last question. Congrats. What does lesbian Joy mean to you? You wouldn't be combined those questions if you were like, how, like, what brings you the most joy in your lesbian identity? Can you can talk about historical fashion and historical sewing?

Mia 1:30:58

Okay, yeah, yeah. Yeah.

Mia 1:31:01

So what's the question?

Olivia N 1:31:05

I was talking about how you're like, you're a lesbian and you love sewing, and that makes you really happy. And we talking about that? Yeah.

Mia 1:31:14

Yes. So one thing that like is wonderful is, I felt like a greenish less light. And so when I'm able to find other vintage lesbians, it's like so cool. Like, even online. Like Jessica Coker. infozone is someone who I've been following forever. And she is a disabled lesbian who dresses exclusively in 1950s fashion. She is so cool. Like, when I saw her when I was 15. And you aren't goals like Olympic year when I grew up, working out. And also like finding, you know, like FEM vintage, because fans like me, is you're really fun. Also, I, as someone who's kind of put myself in an educator role, I've created curriculum and stuff about like, queer history was the history of that type of thing. And so I love being able to connect my current life, you know, my current experience and what I'm going through, and like, you know, what lesbians before me went through and their experience and that type of thing. It's something I take great joy

Olivia N 1:32:46

Oh, thank you. I think honestly, like, I think you really answered the both of the questions that I could, I wanted to ask you, I think they did a great job. Is there anything else that you want to add on before we stopped the recording? So you don't have to have anything? Okay, so I'm gonna stop the recording. Don't leave the zoom. Okay, bye.