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SPEAKERS

Olivia N, Nala

Olivia N 00:00

Okay. Today is December 20 2022. I'm Olivia Newsome interviewing Nala virtually over zoom. Do I have permission to record this interview?

Nala 00:12

Yes.

Olivia N 00:13

Do you know you can stop this recording at any time? Yes. Can you state your name, age and pronouns?

Nala 00:22

My name is Nala. I am 20 years old. And as I go by they them pronouns.

Olivia N 00:31

So can you tell me where you're from where you grew up and what your childhood was like.

Nala 00:36

So I am from Maryland to be more specific, believe Maryland. I grew up in a townhouse for like my whole life. Until like my senior year of high school, we moved into a house. I have an only child, I didn't have any siblings growing up. So since I was only chatted to have any siblings, it was, I would say, like, My childhood was really like, dependent on my parents to be like, my only form of entertainment in a sense, or you had to depend on yourself. When I was little, I always try to make friends with people in the neighborhood. Of course, because like, you know, the house I grew up there, we like go outside, make some friends, you like no one's outside, there was like other video games and stuff. But you know, it's all the time this time alone are making up stories in my own like little comfort of my own home. And so sorry. And when I was little, I guess, like, also, just speaking that it was I had growing up, I had like, I was always big, I was a plus sized person. I was a big kid, I was tall. And I was chubby, always, I've just always been that way. I've never been any different. So of course, growing up a

chubby kid, it will always lead to bullying in some sort of sins or just in general just like sometimes people just being dicks and it's they don't you know, kids don't really understand the differences between like, you being born a certain way compared to you. You know, you just being like a regular kid, like people always wonder why couldn't like run around with them all the time. I get tired so often, because I was always chubby. So growing up like that, it was hard. It was hard. But I also was like the type of kid that always made friends in some way. Like, I just tried to attach myself to people because we're your early childhood, we grow it up without people other than your parents. You have to like trying to find other new people's always been like, it was always like, it seemed like a job for me. And then when I was little, I didn't always like going outside. They're always like interacting with people. I guess I was like anxiety, lucky at the door, right introvert? So don't be like, hey, like, they got we're doing stuff on time. Oh, yeah. So as a kid, I was very much like, quiet, but also just try to make friends with everybody. And it was hard at first because people would just teach me about my weight. Like, oh, like they call me Miss Piggy. And, you know, I was, I was only on Brexit. And there'll be like, it wouldn't choose future things. But it was I remember, like being a kid. And I was always chosen to be the anchor for a tug of war. Because I was the biggest kid in my class. So I will always be like the anchor for tug of war. And we will always win because I was competitive. But it was also like, in a sense of just, you know, I knew it was more in a sense out of joking because our big rather than it be like, Oh, that will keep you late. So yeah, it was it was I say it's pretty like sad whenever I describe it. But for me growing up, it was just kind of like how it was until I got to middle school high school.

04:32

Can you

Olivia N 04:34

talk about middle school in high school like did you like attending middle and high school? What did you do?

Nala 04:41

Um, so Middle School in high school was an interesting time. I may 6 grade I remember my senior year I took a year at a public school back in like in Bowie Maryland or Maryland in my rounds or like to school she thought it was very ghetto. Oh, her words it was like, ya know what, she got her there. So she said we need to go with my dad and my dad has public school it was called Stephen Decatur. It was just as ghetto. He doesn't fancy your name. But she want to be my dad. It's so I forgot to mention that my mom and dad are divorced. They've been divorced. I was four. It's, I didn't think it was a big deal. But it is also kind of ties it to a little bit, a little bit of like who I am. But I love my dad during that time. So seventh or eighth grade was really a time where I really kind of branched out it's a different knowing different sexualities. Because I grew up in a religious household, my wife, she's a Christian. But like, I don't like to say like, because whenever I say my mom was a Christian, people automatically go to this like white view Christian Christianity, where it's like, oh, like she's like Bash gay people and stuff like that. Oh, well, Rob was the god of it. Christian. She loves God, she lives her life through God, but she doesn't always close at say, follow the rules of God, you know, like, See, see, kind of what she's supposed to drink. So it's like, you know, like, that type of stuff. But she used to like, you know, grow up religious still with the church every Sunday where Sunday best, you know, with children's church, all that stuff. So you already know what it is like, get to Sousa Lee. So

Olivia N 06:31

I get that. I grew up Southern Baptist. Southern dance. Oh, that's from the DMV. I'm also from the DMV. I'm from Virginia for Southern Virginia. Oh, yeah. Yeah. I know about I know all about that. And all about them to continue.

Nala 06:48

Yeah. But my dad, he was always the he was always a what do you want to do type of dad. He was like, Do you want to go to church if you don't want to go to church and you don't have to go to church and I was like, Okay, so when I went to live here, we didn't go to church. We like you know, on Sundays what I didn't have to go over to our mom's house. We didn't go to church in there over my dad's cuz my dad's always been the more emotional period that my mom was. So I figured out like in school, would it be to be bisexual? It would have been like this, my friend. We were talking. And I don't know how it got to the sexuality conversation. We were talking and she was like, oh, yeah, I think I'm like bisexual and I looked at her crazy girl like, What the hell is that? You know, growing up, and you know, Christy, you don't really know it is sexuality straight, so I let him straight. So I was like, What the heck is bisexual? And she was like, Oh, these are like girls, and I'm like, Guys, and so you could like girls, you can. I didn't know that. Like, that's something that's allowed, but you could do that. And she was like, Yeah, you can because definitely, like girls just like Hodor what they do. And I was like, what's that? Like, everybody doesn't do it? It seems like everybody doesn't have to do it. Like, you know, your people just do it. And so after hearing that, I was like crap, like, because I've always had I would say like your eye for people, but like, women were different. Because talking to women, I will always give permission emotionally attached, that I want to talk to you to guys like guys won't be like, it was a brand like, you know, we've dabbled, I will be real cool. And like real friendly. Like, and girls will hate me for it. Because I just get along with guys so well, but when I was criticized so they never see me in that way. And then too, it's just I never really saw them as a daily partners. But when I was in middle school, it was kind of like the norm to like guy, so whatever my friends were like, Who do you ever question? Him, you know, cuz he's like, you know, the smartest kid in the class. Like, that's the was like my type when I was younger, I guess. But Middle School was different. It was it was very different. It was kind of like first introduction to differences of sexualities. And it was when I really started

Nala 09:06

to be like, Ben,

Nala 09:08

I don't know. And then I came out to my dad first i i came out to first as a vice, bisexual, I was like, Dad I buy and he was like, Okay, I IV as long as you're happy. I don't care. Like my dad was very much that I didn't come out to our mom's by though I never told her. I was by.

Nala 09:28

It did as we can

Nala 09:29

go. I like a three year came around. And I was like, Okay, I don't like getting dudes. I really have like a crush on this girl. And I I feel like this is like, I feel like this is just like something that just happens like you just have a crush on a girl and they'll have crushes on dudes, like what's going on? So of course, we all know the infamous BuzzFeed quiz. Am I gay? And I took it and it came out like yeah, you're you're gay. I was like, that's a lot I'm actually gonna get an IQ. Okay, good. I was like, Oh, okay. Oh fuck. Oh, but I haven't taken multiple different quizzes after the bug free quiz. It was very much like yeah, no, you're gay. I was like, okay, all right. Oh so now what I do and I feel like no one talks about this incubation period of figuring out your game where you're just kind of like you just I wouldn't say put it off but you're kind of like I have I have a life to live like figuring out my sexual identity. Is it really all my top priority right now I have to figure out like my life so I tried to do schoolwork put school at first but like my course like crystal girls never went away it was like a they were going to dress it

Nala 10:46

so a for a year.

Nala 10:49

I was driving with my dad and we were trying to find before it aftercare because he's not eligible to come pick me up after school every time because he lives the worst in the city. In DC, I worked and I was went to school in Maryland, so it clicked rarely. So it was like a hard transfer. So transport, so he was looking for before aftercare. So we're talking and I don't know how the conversation led to this, but we're talking and he's like, I like I don't know why, but I say this is the perfect time to tell. I would like to get like, this is perfect time to tell like yes, we're driving the car we love we're about to go to the before and after care wherever the frick hives is going to tell him. So her drive we got like, Dad, I can so the reporter tell you he goes like oh shit, like what's going on? Like, so we're pulling into this before I forget it. This is really funny. replayed, it's frack Yeah, we'll get here, but I like that are gay. And I literally said I'm like, Oh, damn, well, that's weird. And he pulls into the parking lot. He laughs and I'm like, What? Are you laughing? I'm like, well, mostly he's like, no, like, he called me baby girl. And that's his nickname for us. I know, we've grown up guys. It is you. I love it. And the fact that you told me while we're pulling up into a church because the before it africare was in a church, because he was like they had offered cheap rates. It was it was cheap. And so I told her we were pulling up into the church. He was like, Well, I felt like it felt like I kind of knew I kind of do this. We're gonna walk into this church, and we're just gonna go there. And I promised the lady, we're just gonna go, but we're not going here. Like, we're gonna find somewhere different, but you're not gonna year. And I was like, okay. It's like the ladies telling us like, yeah, we have like circle prayer. We do like it did. We try to like, diminish the thoughts and like homosexuality and stuff. My dad was looking at me like, we're not going here for dog going here.

Nala 12:48

And so yeah, after that.

Nala 12:52

It was fine. Like me, my dad, we were always cool. But I still hadn't told my mom yet. I was like, you know, I tell them my mom was telling if I told her, it will break her heart. I was like, I didn't feel like doing it. But it was like, I'm like dragging your middle school. But this is like really what my whole like gay

awakening happened. I think at this time, I remember my dad were arguing a lot. They were getting into a lot more fights.

Nala 13:17

And

Nala 13:19

with that, it led to me getting involved, even though I should do I shouldn't have gotten involved. I should have never done that. But I did. One time, my mom called me. Because I was talking to my dad, I was like, ready to get my dad feeding him stuff. Like feeding him stuff in his ear. He's running back and CDB stuff is like real bad. It's like real bad divorce. ParaType. Like, you shouldn't be getting involved at all. And so she calls me she's all angry. She's like, Yeah, and I told her, I was like, you know about That's why I told told that I was gay before I told you.

Nala 13:55

pindrop drought,

Nala 13:56

all that I was like, oh, so that just came out from a robot like, in the worst way. And it was bad. It was like, you know, it was just in a moment. She was upset. So she was saying like, certain stuff later, she didn't mean it. But like so so she's like, you know, it's just like, oh, yeah, fine. Just whatever whatever. Like they're like in phone call it so now I'm like, crap. I know. I just came out too late, but and for why we didn't address it. Like I didn't fight at all that I think we like apologize and stuff like that, but then we never really addressed it. So password. Yeah, I'm in high school. I moved back with my mom. And I'll go to high school. High school was very uneventful for me, I would like to say except, of course, obviously. COVID You know, COVID was like the knock on the door like, hey, let's make this fun. That was my call. We started my junior year, but I saw off my Okay, freshman. Sophomore year I didn't want it makes sense. My first time being an online relationship. My freshman year I flipped relationships with quotes. I put in quotes. It wasn't real. I don't look back on it. I don't think it was real but it's real. It was real to buy emotional 50 year old heart it was this girl Her name is Emily. I hope I'm saying here right? I can't remember I tried to block this part of my life off. Freshman year I we met online of course we both like well tried

Olivia N 15:30

online.

Nala 15:32

We originally met online on Kik. No, that's a lie. We met on Instagram. Talk to escape a little bit and then we moved to kick. And after he moved to kick me back to Instagram. It was a jump. It was a jumping period. The kick was like I was in and out of kick a lot. But we basically, we just started talking, we like Voltron. And we started roleplay our role playing your favorite characters will try and and I don't know what led me to like her. But I just love talking to her. We talked every day it was like a codependency talk every day, like every single day. And one day I told her I liked her. And I you know, as we emotional teenagers who don't know how to regulate our emotions, it was over phone call and I

was like, I like you. And then she was like, I don't know if I like you. And at that point, I like you know, grow reuse, like do not do not push the issue anymore. Don't even say if there's I don't know that it's about like leave but me teenager me not like that. I was like, Is there anything I could do? Like change my weed I could like get you to like me and stuff like that. It was used as like, I don't know, maybe we should try dating a little bit. So I was like, Okay. used to say I was the first girl she's ever been with. She's the first girl I ever was I can't really be bad at the fact that like ours are first.

Nala 17:05

So

Nala 17:08

oh, Jesus even really should do last long. It lasted about two months. It was like very quick, it we ended off of something she she got mad at me because again, I didn't have a lot of friends. I didn't have a lot of people to talk to at the time. I was just you know, as a kid, I was an eye on Instagram. A lot of times we gravitate towards social media when we were younger. So it like my little follower count when I first had my cosplay account, had like fucking 200 followers, so I didn't really have a following I was just it almost 200 People were just like, enemy and IT people type bullshit. So I just went live and I was like ranting about like stuff like it was a conversation we had I forgot what it was about. But it was sometimes conversation. And I ranted about hours like stuff. I didn't like it. I guess you joined the live at some point I didn't notice. And she knew us about her. So then she sent me this really long text message about how she really didn't like to be how she's just getting together because she felt bad about it. And she was just like I didn't want to say though stuff. And so

Nala 18:18

yeah, I did that.

Nala 18:20

I call that I woke up to that text message just because you have it at night when I went to bed after the labor went to bed. So we'll go to a text message and I called I was sobbing I was like, what I know like I don't have friends. I know you want to talk to us. I was venting. Nobody was even alive. I didn't save it. She's just like, No, I just I don't want to deal with this. I don't deal to trauma. It's stuff like that. I was like begging her like, what can I do? Like what can I change? I could do more I could do that. She's just like, honestly, I go if I you attractive. I don't like you. I never liked the way you look. It's so as the you know, as a teenager, I had to go to school that day. I literally was like, it was like a weekend. It was like a weekday shit. It was like I had to go to school that day. So I was sobbing the whole day throughout school. Like I couldn't stop crying. I didn't know what to do. It's like my first breakup, in a sense, like, it wasn't just like we broke up a mutual terrier. So she broke up with me because it's something like I was just talking and I was just ranting. She's just loud. All this stuff that I've done. Like, just she's a hole in the game. And it was just I think that was the first introduction to what I felt like to for someone to hold stuff in, like against you and then rent it out for you and it was just like, it's kind of like a blindsiding thing and I just didn't know what to do about it. So yeah, after that I had a crush a couple of girls in high school there's just one very proud of what her name was. Daisy she's very good she still friends and say oh, you see what about this solar right? Look, you got the I just personally Avery she Oh my god she she was so nice to me She treated me like you know back on a shoe like a Fred but I thought it

was worded Fred it she played it to my flirty because apparently I flirt very subconsciously but i don't know i Do you know? I hate to bring this up because it's like astrology shit but it's a libre you know it's libre we I give off 45 So I don't be too pushy played into it. So what I did was I thought it was smart. And this is it this time. I don't jump in. But me and my mom had already talked about my sexuality. Is she was cool with it. She was like, Oh yeah, I'm actually tired. subprocesses I'm okay with it. I just don't know how to help you. You know me like I really like die so I don't know how to be like, like talk to a girl. But when I told my mom I like discrediting Daisy she was like, because I didn't know how to tell her she was like How about you write her a letter? Sounds like almost cuter like that'd be fine. I could give it to her and run away so just she doesn't she just read it I just get a response later. So take this really long letter it's I think it was like four pages long about how much I liked there why I like it. I basically format format at the letter s essay. So it was like it was very much like just I formatted glitter like essay and I was just like, This is why Yeah, I got it. I poured my heart out. Give her the letter. I think it was before Christmas or Thanksgiving break is Thanksgiving break. And you know we're public school so Thanksgiving breaks like week. Do you really let her run off a freaking out all throughout class like God damn, like why the fuck would I give her that?

Nala 21:45

Oh, he texts me. Oh, sorry. Got it off

Nala 21:56

sorry. Um,

Nala 21:57

she texts me that day.

Nala 22:01

Are we mad that day? The next day?

Nala 22:05

Basically say like, I thought about it. I actually thought about

Nala 22:11

a speaking relationship. And I just thought about it for a while and I don't like girls. Like I've thought about it, like I literally was just basically really simply to the flirty stuff, but

Nala 22:25

that really like me.

Nala 22:28

So I was like, oh, okay, I was like that's fine. This is

Nala 22:33

fine. Mostly broke

Nala 22:36

me for like a while Sorry Sorry. So it was that was the last crush I had in high school just proceeded on like high school. Of course. The Daisy thing ended at the beginning of junior year. So but then we stay friends. So we're really cool now. Like, I like go back and I'll be like, remember what I used to like you? Oh, well, she'll be like, Yeah, I do. And like we talked awkwardly now but like, at the same time, we just have like conversations were just kind of like talking about like high school and stuff like that. Did Of course COVID Hit COVID Hit and you know, it was bad. It was really bad. I finished up my junior year in COVID Started my senior year COVID My grandma unfortunately passed away, which we're planning on getting more into and then I went on to compete in a competition CCAP where I want a full tuition scholarship to go to culinary school. So that's my progress. Like literally after the whole day stuff. I was just emotional shot throughout high school I literally was just work school, sleep, work school sleep because after my grandma passed where school competition practice sleep work, school competence rests with I was just full blow working through like the last two years of high school. So I don't really remember it. I just was like in pilot autopilot mode. Because I was going through so much emotionally that I just kind of like shut it all down, stuffed it all down stuff the wrong way. It was just like, get the diploma. So yeah, I really like middle school, high school, very two very two different experiences. But most schools when I really found out, I was gay and then high school is where I tried to expand on it but it was hard because you know, people don't really know who they are in high school.

Olivia N 24:48

So we've talked about so much we talked about Emily, we talked about DAISY, we talked about coming out and how that has Beyond and maybe a little bit about how you didn't come out to your mom at first, because your dad was the more emotional parent. And I was wondering if you could talk a little bit more

Nala 25:16

about how growing up black was like,

Olivia N 25:22

and in class so racing class growing up did you go to like a majority white school or a black school or that kind of thought process.

Nala 25:36

So I'm Chris Black, as you will see. I feel like every black person kind of like had this phase where they were younger or like, it's a little like teenage years where there's like, like, I want to be white in like straightening your hair or your hair, like wear the suit clothing stuff, but I grew up very black, like very southern black wife, my wife side of the family is originally from Mississippi, but then they're all from Cleveland. With their my great grandma moved her family up to Cleveland. And then my mom straight away, it moved to barely. My dad's family's also for Cleveland, I don't know, we're kind of my dad's family spread out. It's like Atlanta, Mississippi, so there's a lot of South, but I don't have like black black. It's just this though, like, I grow to Black was like, you know, I grew up in a predominantly black neighborhood and predominately black school, predominately like everything. So I never really had the experience of like, be like, singled out because there's always I was always around black people. It's just, it was never like a bully where I was like, crap, like, you know, like, Oh, this is except for when I went out of state to visit my aunt, and she lived in Detroit, Michigan. And I was visiting some friends I

met all allied like UbD for the first time, it was great. So we decided to be at this restaurant. And I walk into the restaurant. And I walk into the restaurant and I look around

Nala 27:13

I kid you that I was

Nala 27:13

the only dark skinned black person in that restaurant. I was looking at like, where are the black people I was like, hold on to because you know, you've been I've been in this like secluded space like here Maryland's like very predominately black. So I mean, I lived my whole life in a secluded space of the black it is going outside to the outside world. It was like, Oh, crap, it's not all like this. It's like, we're, you know, like, we're not the majority. Like you were like, what, what the hell was happening? I was like, first, it's really saying that I was different. You know, I was like a different person. Other than B plus sides, of course, class by bomb, she were middle class. So I got a lot of things like what, especially being an only child, you know, I didn't have to share with siblings. So it was a little easier. But we still like I still was like, on a budget in a sense. Like, you would never like try to go shoot beyond what you can what you can and can't get innocence. Like, my VA will, like, I'll be like, I want this book ahead. My role will be like, you can't get it. Who can't afford it. Like you're gonna want to use your old job, your job, buddy, do all that for you to do stuff like that. Or shall wait till Christmas, and get it for me. Because like, I'll be What are you all year it didn't show wait all week till Christmas to get it for me. I grew up middle class. My dad on the other hand, though, there's one portion of my life where my dad unfortunately was out of a job. And sorry, we'll be out of a job. He relied a lot on food stamps. For like, actually, like I was a big reason why he was getting food stamps because like, we'd be customer you we you know, he had partial currency. So I would come over on the weekends, and he would get food stamps, and we would go grocery shopping and stuff like that. But there's one point where my dad he didn't have a job he could get you to have a buddy and I stayed the whole summer with him. We couldn't do anything we could we could go out we couldn't really do much except for like, stay in the house he had because he all he could do was pay for like a Netflix subscription. And I was it because he was getting like unemployment. So that's that year I watched a lot of TV. Hello. But there was one point in my life where I really really hit rock bottom. We didn't have enough money and the lights went out. Light heat all that without it. It was all from March all the way to June when I was living with her through by every year. It is We did have enough enough money to pay a light bill though that. So all throughout that whole time, I had to take cold showers. I had to sleep in the basement because we were You were you. heat travels upwards. So as it gets hotter, my upstairs bathroom master bedroom, I couldn't sleep in it because it's too hot. So I slipped down in the basement. We only could eat. We only could keep food for so long. So we would go to the grocery store. And it's all he can afford like a rotisserie chicken from the grocery store, a prepackaged salad, and accountability, a minute bait. And that's what I would eat every day for like a solid like three or four bucks. Because it's all we could afford. That's all we to eat. So yeah, that last one was was rough. I still remember the day with my dad was like I got a surprise for you. And I was like what I was like, What are you talking about? I was really sad because he just picked me up for a box house. I was like, damn, I gotta go back to school. And I gotta go back at his high house. They're like, wow, she had powers. Yeah, your conducting was great. You know, she was just like, every time I went over to her house for the weekend, it was like a vacation. Like, you got a flu. Like, we can take a hot shower, like, don't play. I was like, yes, let's do it. So he said, Hey, I got a surprise for you. And

we're pulling out to the house. And I look at it and I see the lights on. I like stop. I was like the lights or would like I walk in the house air conditioning bills like my face. He ordered my favorite food. And he was like, I just wanted to tell you I got a new job. I got the lifestyle back or we're gonna be okay. And you know, that was that was the first I where I was like, okay, but a little a little while after our house got foreclosed on. So we had to move out of it and move to apartment. My mom was really much the boy the stability is just stability in my life. While my dad was even though he was emotional support, he was a staple. So that's why I moved back with my ball for high school because my dad did have a house. He and the school I would have went to my mom didn't want me to go there. So talking about that it was like, I definitely say like I'm in the middle, like between middle class is kinda poor. Because when I was living with my dad during the time that we were like, broke but when I was little eyebrow when I look at my ballpark over my barber middle, so it's like I'm in the middle. It sits. It was weird. You know, it really humbles you. It really humbles you makes you understand what you don't have, like what you have support it. Like what am I teachers notice, I was coming to school, tired. I was asleep because it was hard. I came school tired. You know, I did take cold showers doesn't always clean you. So sometimes, you know, classical foci is she was like, okay, like, I don't really look this way. I don't usually like this, like I My hair's done, everything's done. So I came to school looking like this, like teachers concerned. She was like, what's going on? What's happening? I really do want them to call like CPS. Because they were due that they had taken away from my dad. I heard the schools I mean, what that say like, everything's fine. I just have to just have things go around the house and stuff like that. It that's what like really, really hit me like crap. Like, this is normal. This is this is what people usually go through stuff.

Nala 33:38

But

Nala 33:41

yeah, it was a it was hard, but it does have will you it does change you. I now like take everything out. And when the power goes out, I am the first one to be like, let's save our energy. Take your phones off all that stuff. I just, I spray the accent. It's like some people call it trauma. I call it resilience. Like you know, I just it was how I was growing up. And like I'm very humble. All the things I get there like if like there's my mom got me just new computer because my old computer I spilled sweetly on it so died, but it was like a computer for 2017. So she lived a good life. But like now I was telling her while I was like I don't care what computer you give me. I just need what she gave me this one. And I was like, This is great. Like, I've had this phone since like 20 9380 Like, I bought my iPad I bought like all the headphones and things that you usually I buy. Because ever since I was 50 I worked because I was like I never would have be in a position where I say to myself, I can't afford it. I can't pay it. I never wanted to be in that position. I have to see what my dad would do. Always after like, you know, see how like that affected him and how it affected my family. It was like I never would have been in a position where I was I can't afford it. So of course, I started working at the team. I got a job at Six Flags. That was an experience. After working at Six Flags, I got a job at Target. That was also experience. I got a job at target at the height of the pandemic got a

Olivia N 35:19

target job. Those are so hard to get. Yeah, I got a job to target.

Nala 35:23

I literally I feel like the only reason why they hired me was because I told them I speak silent, which Oh, you sign a little bit. Now I practice that's okay. That's okay. Yeah, I gotta understand what you're saying. I haven't practiced it's been a bit it's good when somebody was like, fingerspell your side I will always go like, slow. But I, I think I got a job because I told my side and I told him I already applied. So then when they check that I was already applied, they're like, oh, yeah, sure. And I did the job fair. A trick to do you hired a target pretty windy. Go to the job fair. Because when they do the job fairs, they hire you on the spot. And so if you're, if you present yourself with a good interview, a you basically kiss targets ass, you'll get hired. I told him I'm gonna go into that store since I was a little kid. You know, my ball used to go there all the time. I was basically kissing targets as the lady was eating it up.

Olivia N 36:33

I love Target targets. The best thing ever target to save my life. Actually, yes.

Nala 36:37

I love it. It's great. Like I shop here all the time. I love it so much. But I got to Trump at the end of 2018. Then of course, 2020 came and do pandemic. And I worked all throughout the pandemic. I'm talking about the height where people were like, Fuck Basque. We don't need to hail Yeah, let's put on our masks. To Oh, COVID Xover. Yay, to fuck come inside over. Everyone's still dying. It was like it was a roller coaster. I quit my job in May of 2021. That I had a break period because that's what I wanted my scholarship. I was like, I don't need to work. But I need to work. I need money. And then I got a job at a restaurant called local tavern in DC. And I worked there for I think Jude all the way to December. I didn't I went to school in January of 2022. Here we are. I was in school for a whole year. Well stuff. But that was just a nice little jump between class and race and all that stuff. Yeah, it does. Hopefully you just teach you a lot of things and be black in America, it's as your witness. It's a hard day, you know, it's different. Of course, I've went through, I've edited a couple of races, situations, a couple of profiling situations. Remember what time me and my friends walked it to we're just joking around, we're walking around a ball. And we walked into a Gucci store. And, you know, we're all very much not Gucci buddy people. But I had two white friends and B. So we're walking around the store acted like rich ladies, I wouldn't say okay, rich white ladies there was just like, Ooh, that's nice. Like, I love this bag of B, you know, just acting like we're not actually thinking about purchasing anything because I can't afford it. It's Gucci

Nala 38:34

walking around,

Nala 38:35

and I'm thinking, Well, yeah, just too much like I can afford that to do. And one of the stories lady, she walks up to me, she goes,

Nala 38:42

Excuse me, ma'am, is there anything I can help you with? No,

Nala 38:49

I was just looking at it, I said no, we have I'm just lucky. She was like, let me know if there's anything else you need to help if you need me to help. I was just like, Okay. And we're still walking around because like, you know, our friends are looking at stuff. They're looking at the shade stuff trying to buy, I turned around. I noticed this lady is still standing behind me watching me as we're looking around and stuff but I'm like, This can't be this can't be real. Like she's not actually watching. Just be like she's watching us because we're teenagers. Like, you know, we're teenagers. She thinks you're gonna rob the store, okay, like I pick up a bag, or holding in my head. And I'm like, This is cute. Like, this is a nice book bag I sent a picture of it to my mom. It'd be like, I want a book bag like this. Not a Gucci bag. But I want a book bag like this because I was like book bag purse here. I pick up the bag holding it in my head. And I was about to take a picture of it. If a lady goes like what are you doing? Like

Nala 39:51

taking a picture of the bag?

Nala 39:52

She's just like, put the bag down. If you're not gonna buy it, like don't pick it out. Oh, like what the fuck is it? If I put the bag down, I'm like, I'm sorry, I didn't need to cause these. She was like, yeah, why store? You're not purchasing anything to get out. I like what the fuck is happening? I was really good entirely. So I'm like, why specifically do I have to get out? If all my friends have picked up stuff? They put on shades? They've done all the stuff wise up that I have to get out. Because she goes, she's just like, I don't care if all I get out or we're gonna call security. I like what? Call security for what? I'm so freaked out. I'm like, Why are you calling security? I'll leave just I don't get it. And my friends are like, Alright, we gotta go. So they're ushered me out. I'm pissed. Oh, like, there's no reason why she had to call security. Sure she had to talk to you like that. I was just holding the bag. And my friends, friends. And they're just like, you know, sometimes, you know, it's just the way you're you could have just looked like she probably thought you were still Yeah, like why the fuck would she think of stealing it? If I was gonna steal so I would have been out there enjoy. Like, don't play, the tag would have been popped off and we would have gone out there enjoy. I would have rocked out with it don't like, I was really going to steal something cool, walks into a store and thinks like, and like you see teenagers browsing. And I all I've done is touch a bag and you automatically think I'm stealing it. That's crazy. That was one situation where I really realized like, but I'm like, different in like, be in this country. It's like, you know, people look at you differently. And they're like, I'm a big black. Like, at the time I'm presented as a female. I'm a big black woman. And people look at me differently because of my size. And they like oh, you know, she totally like, you know, like, Oh, she'll take me like, you know, or something like that. Or like people would think I would just steal stuff. Or I would just look like brandy. That's always what I've gotten like people would tell me when they first meet me. Which doesn't make me feel good will be like the first time I met you the first time I saw you I thought you were beat as fuck. I was like why is it it just like because you just you just look upset. I was like, that's literally my wrestling face. Like, I can't change it. Like my resting face is a straight face. It's like, I don't know what you weren't like you always want me to smile. It when people when I talk people usually say my voice is very deep. And they associate that with like a man's voice. So back when I was working at Target, you know, I sometimes I wore this polo shirt with, you know, the khaki pants traditional target shirt, or feeds. The khaki ones nobody really wore khaki pants. Everybody wore jeans. I was checking out this guy. I

was like, hey, you know how you doing? You know, or you saw them goofy? Like you know, all that stuff I'll check in other stuff is I'm just like, we should I guess car he say I take cancer or like I got cancer now I got Pokeballs and makeup Boyd. I know in my heart a box. So I don't really like to do. I was like, ma'am, and I will set your cache and it uses my bad bread. You just you know you you give all those wires. I was like just by hear your voice. You sound like you do like, well, I know I sound like a person. I sound like oh,

Nala 43:34

what are you talking about? Yeah,

Nala 43:38

it's always been it's been weird. It's been good. And black is you know, even though you go live in a predominantly black place, whatever. I used to travel out places. That's what I experienced the most like racism. In Tokyo. We started about college or college spirit. Split, have fun experience stuff like that.

Olivia N 43:58

Yes. We can talk about college and that and that stuff later on in the interview. But would you be willing to discuss a little bit more about what it was like growing up with anxiety and depression?

Nala 44:13

Yes.

Nala 44:15

As a kid, you don't really know that you have it. I will describe it like this. When I was a little girl I used to girl at the time, but I was a girl. I used to look at myself. Sometimes have a beer and you never notice it. But it's like for people like to have anxiety or depression. It's like almost this loud voice in the back of your head. That's like you shouldn't wear that. It makes you look fat. Take it off. You should wear this. It doesn't make you look fat credible. You know you want to eat that cookie, eat it. It's fine. You shouldn't eat that. Now you're gonna get fired. It's like, sorry. It's like this these voice is that you don't really know who they are you think is your conscious, but it's really just these emotions that you don't know. And when I was little, I was always scared of people. Like I was always nervous about just social situations, but of everything. Like, what if I die on this roller coaster? What if I drag this pool? What if when I walk across this road, a car comes zooming down, it's the one of like, whatever I like, cut, like something. I cut my whole hand off. I always live with this voice in my head. That was double think of the worst scenario, the worst thing that could happen to me. And I never understood what it was. I thought it was just fear, like, Okay, I'm just scared of everything. I'm just worse. Okay, I'll live my life like that. Oh, my life is the worst whenever. This is what I do. I had anxiety when I was what was it? I think it was crap. It was like around high school type. It was my first competition. Clue. We had the junior competition for CCAP. And I was I was freaked out. I was like, I don't know how if I could do this. And I think I puked that word. I puke, I didn't eat, I didn't sleep. Usually throughout big events, I would never puke. But I wouldn't eat, I would never eat, I would just for a week straight. I would just practice not eat it. It was always your big events, or like they were just big investment like little bits that could change my life, too. It was during that event where I was shaking. It was just physically I was shaking,

the whole time shaking. I couldn't stop shaking. And that's what I like to do like crap. So these are right, this isn't feel right. This is right. I shouldn't be this scared about doing something I like to do. Another issue this happened with I was in school. I had to give had to get a presentation. Now we all know, whatever, you know, you go to school and you have to deal on your presentation. It was always this. This this thing about like Ill presenting in front of your peers. Gross. I don't want to do it. But for me, it was the city fear of presenting in front of people. It was like I couldn't get up. Like whatever my teacher would call him he I would like shake. Like my answer would be like, yeah, yeah. And I wouldn't be able to speak I remember one time I teach your call to me. I started speaking I started crying. Because I was so scared. Like the, you know, like, what was happening? Why what we're doing how people are looking at me how people perceive me. I think also growing up bigger, you look at yourself a lot differently. Because you are a lot harder on yourself and like Doctor, doctors within your bigger is always has something to do with your weight. Always, always. My knees hurt, loose weight. My joints like I can't move them. Sometimes it hurts to walk. They crack every time I walk. Maybe if you lost a little bit more weight, it will help. It's getting hard to breathe. Like I can't like I'm trying to walk up the stairs like you're winded. And I don't know if this and I've been working out I've been eating healthy. I don't know what's going on with me. Well, if you lost a little bit more weight and change your diet, you'll be different. And when you focus your whole life or that your whole life or losing weight it you have this you have this like Oh, anxiety towards a lot of things. And that's how a lot of like eating disorders come about. Because now focusing in on what I eat never focused on it or how I look. And I feel like that's where my depression really sparked when I was like in middle school, because everyone else was losing weight. Everyone else was getting big, like big boobs and losing weight and slimming down or like coming into their bodies and I had the same body. And I did everything I talked about every diet, every Weight Watchers, every starving the every, like all of that I did everything I could to change my diet and it was not working. It wasn't till I got older. I went to the gynecologist for the first time where my gynecologist told me she was like your PCOS. I was like what? She was like, Yeah, you're a PCOS polycystic ovarian syndrome. So, it basically means I was born with a lot more testosterone in my system of insulin resistance. Meaning it's harder for me to lose weight but it's easy for you The Gateway. So I never thought like holy crap like this. This is the reason why it's been so hard. Like, this is literally why I was going through this. I know it kind of railed off or xiety depression is like it was a it's a defining factor within it. Because with PCOS this high fived out like it contributes to igniting your anxiety and depression but I felt like I always had anxiety. But depression came about in middle school a bill to a really bad point in my seventh grade where I think is like possible triggering, I have my first suicide attempt. Cuz I was bigger, you know it people tease me about it a lot.

Nala 50:53

My dad

Nala 50:58

that what that value tried do something. It was stupid. It was like, you can't struggle yourself. Unless it's like you hate yourself. But like I was trying to, and my dad scared the crap out of me. But it was a good scare. Because it was just like, if you really wanted to die, the district what you would do. And, you know, usually when you're a kid, you're like, What the fuck? Like, why are you telling me this, but he's scared because you like that fear that you have about death.

Nala 51:28

That means you don't want to kill yourself.

Nala 51:31

That means you don't want to. Because if you really wanted to, you would have already done it. And I don't know why. But that conversation really helped me hold it like, Oh, God, I really don't want to die. But as I got older, I didn't know how to regulate my emotions still, you know, because therapy wasn't really a thing that we did, you know, you could go to therapy or be dependent on what your family really thought I wanted to go therapy ever since I was like a little kid. Or I thought I should have went to therapy or after my parents got divorced. I think I did want to tell you that for a little bit. I went to a therapist, but after a while they stopped. But I was like, I think it was 50 where I was like your therapist. I need to talk to somebody about this. Because there's days I will wake up and I would go to bed. And you know usually when that indication all appears go like you're just lazy. Like you got to go to school. I really feel like I can't get out of bed. I can't move. I can't. I don't feel motivated to do anything. I don't want to get back to the bathroom. So, yeah, it I think it really hit my family when the pandemic happened. Because now we're all in the house that you don't see me. You see what I go through. Like usually my mom, she goes to work early in the morning, and then I go to school or like I go to school early. So I would wake up and go to school or she'll five you ever would go yeah, get up, go to school. Or I'll be like, I'm sick. You lie to be sick, but you really get sick. But the pain when the pandemic hit, my mom really got this get a glimpse of how my depression was, you know, pretty weak. And that's what she was like, Yeah, you really need a therapist. So me and my dad worked. So finding a therapist, I found would, she was really nice. And I started talking to her. And I realized she diagnosed me. She said, Okay, now I have your diagnosis. She gave me a diagnosis, but I also got a diagnosis, right doctor? So there's two diagnosis were in the works.

Nala 53:47

She diagnoses she's like, You have moderate

Nala 53:53

anxiety, but severe depression. And I would argue we you hear that? Oh, initially you're like, fuck, like, you know, yep. This the mental illness definitely have. It's like, you know, at times, at that time, it was heartbreaking to me. But now it's like, you know, it's a part of me. I know I have it. I know it's real and ideal for every day. It's hard. Of course, growing up with it. It was hard because you didn't know what it was. You didn't understand it. You start your saddle, where people would characterize as you'd be lazy, or you'd be fearful. But with anxiety it wasn't the fact that I've steered the roller coaster. I was scared of the app you get control of how of what happened if something bad happened. Like it wasn't the fact that secure to heights effective. I can't be in control of how high I go to it and when we fall, it wasn't me drought and scared of fear drowning it was the fear of me losing control of my own breed. The like I have this whole like, I feel like anxiety really has to deal with like control. If you can control the situation if you can figure out if you can find every underlying think about it, you feel more secure. Like I asked bajillion questions to everything to any outcome because I want to know what I want you to. Because if I ever walk into a situation where I don't know any day, it makes my heart race. I started sweating so freaking out. One time in college recently, this girl, there's a safe circle. It's called WebEx. It's a clever way. It was a safe circle that they were having. And this girl she was she was going in on her

roommate. Id I'm talking about like, she was divorced. Were we ever and I was agreeing with her because all the stuff that Ruby apparently did was really messed up. But did she just suddenly that really freaked me out and maybe panic. I was a first second time experience panic attack.

Nala 56:03

She said the girl she's black.

Nala 56:08

I was like, oh shit. There's like three black people. Like, there's three blind people in the room is B, my friend and my other friend. They were all sitting in the room. We're sitting down and we're like, sitting in a chair like,

Nala 56:21

fuck. Like, what

Nala 56:24

are you talking about? And she's like, she's black. And she was cussing me out. And in her native tongue. It was like it Alicia is the girl said if you're gonna cuss me out, at least cuz we are ageless. And I'm like, This is fucking for real. And she was like, she's just like, dirty, like, you find her hair everywhere.

Nala 56:43

And I'll just take it like,

Nala 56:46

imagine. And my roommate, the person I live with, she's white, too. She my roommate will talk about me like this. You know, like she or like, Whatever, whatever she sees me angry. Does she see this? Like, whenever she sees me upset because she was talking about how her roommate is angry. And how she starts yelling at us, like super upset. Like you could tell her face. Like her actions. Oh, like, crap. Like, I started freaking out. I started going like, what the hell like, Does this help people see us? Or is this how people perceive me? Whenever I'm upset, I had a panic attack did it there. I couldn't move. I was sitting there. Like, I don't know what to do. I don't know what to do. I don't know if I should leave. Because there's my friends of it. I was like, I don't want to leave because this is like what they are no Ford. But she's like going in on this girl. The fact that she admits that she was black. It just hurt the situation more. It was like that you got three black people who sit in the room? Like what the fuck? Like, why did you have to mix it that you could have said all that shit about your roommate, and never mentioned her race? And we all would have agreed. But now I gotta look at you crazy. Like why do you have to say that? Like, what did I had to do anything editor you're talking about? In that moment, I felt singled out. And again, it sounds like you lose control of the switch of how you like the situation. And that brings all that anxiety brings all that panic.

Nala 58:12

And yeah, it's it's

Nala 58:16

been hard. It's it was hard growing up with it, not knowing it. But it was both. It was mostly hard about that. Yeah.

Olivia N 58:23

So we talk a little bit about your earliest interactions with online queer spaces. And this is where you can talk about like cosplay and anime and stuff.

Nala 58:36

Like, where did you find them?

Olivia N 58:40

And what did you like and dislike about these spaces?

Nala 58:45

So I

Nala 58:51

week so sorry, can you repeat the question? I was no

Olivia N 58:55

problem. No problem. So can you talk about your earlier interactions with online queer spaces? Like how did you find them? What did you like or dislike about these spaces?

Nala 59:08

Awesome. Um, so

Nala 59:12

I feel like I've only selected people to know about this. But we all know about the answers kick back. They're like things like that, like kick usually had these little apps within Kik, where you could go into them, and you could suture things. It was a lot of like, sexual dig based off of it. Where I really learned about gay stuff was like in this one section where it was like, you could talk to girls. Kid, I think it was like I typed into it. And I was like, I think okay, like, I will lead me to like, what do I do? Like, how do I attract

Nala 59:55

girls? And even it was like

Nala 59:59

a sexual thing. Hey, this one wavy or users grown, I was like, 13. See, messaged me back and was like, How old are you? And I was like, you know, you're teaching your kid you don't want to tell the truth. So I looked at you. And she was like, you know, you're not. I was like, yeah, they're deep. And she's like, Okay, let me tell you something. First of all, she gave me some really good advice. Of course, like before bed. A lot of goobers are the app and stuff like that. But she was just like, before you even like

try to talk to a woman. Think about yourself. Think about who you are, find out who you are before you even try to date women. And what she is is like, I could tell you some things about what it's like to date women and things like that. If she told me some things, it would kind of sexual at some points, but she was trying to like, tell me beyond the sexual aspect. But it was funny. It was like that was the first introduction. I had to like talking to a group lesbian. What Instagram when I started cosplay, I identified as a lesbian efforts. Because I did what I didn't want guys to direct me for some reason I really did. When I started cosplay, and I got on Instagram, if I had a screw and to tie you know, if it was Tuesday, at the time, and I was like, I wouldn't be able to I wouldn't screw. So I got to Instagram to divide his legs. We had a bunch of people reach out to me. And it was like, Oh my God, you like to animate. I like let's create this group chat or Kik, where we all talk. And we could talk about how we're all like, gay and like these guys think these two gay guys should be together. But they're also talking about how they were gay. So kick was like, kick was like the discord of today, it was like more of a sense of you get. You'll get to these like group chats, it will be like these little subgroup chats that you will have stuff. So like I had group chats with people that like we like intimate with, just like the lesbians. And then we had like group chat, all lesbians and we just talked about, like, how we found out we were gay and things like that. And that's really where I found the online community like with the gay people, and it was also like, well, your cosplay. Also, when you go to cards and conventions and stuff, i i When I first went to Atlanta with my friends, we decided to be like Sebastian and grelle for all my anime fans. Yeah, we were Sebastian and gravel. We were really a Cosley. I just dressed it all read it. She dressed in all black. But we were like, Hey, we're on a budget. I know. Oh, sorry. We, we wait there. I don't know how this is like the gods bless those. But there's a proposal going on. And I was we were watching from a distance. And it was two girls. I think it was like a daisy. And a peach. And Daisy got down on what be Eddie pulled out a proposal for the peach and I think like that was like, Oh my God. Like, if everybody was clapping, celebrating, it was like, then in there, I was like, this is horrible. This is do these these spaces like causley animate all this stuff, except people like that. And it's cool. Um, so that was beyond a little bit beyond i But online, I talk with a lot of different people like on Instagram about gay and stuff. And like, I usually like, try to find people that are also gay, or is the group to like, also be like, Yo, like, what? What do you do? Like, how do you? How do you be like a lesbian? You know? Like, what, how do you present that way? Like on guard or in person? And then like this would it's just I had I was just like, are you stirred? Are you fed? But I was like, What? What the fuck are those? I thought it was his last views. And they're like, No, are you studying film? I was like, What's the difference is like studs are like, masculine vibe type lesbians did say firms are like fitted. I was like, I don't know. I love me some pants and a T shirt. I'll put up a cup every now and then like the new one. Oh, you're so stiff. I was like, I guess?

Nala 1:04:44

I don't know.

Nala 1:04:46

So then people will just classify me as a stiff. Alright, I was like, Okay, I'll

Nala 1:04:51

rock with it.

Nala 1:04:53

For all of you out there. Never just rock with it. Find out yourself. Don't just rock with it. Because you're gonna be So could use I thought I was I first I thought

Nala 1:05:04

it wasn't for me.

Nala 1:05:06

Then I jumped from a stuck to a stem stayed in the STEM space for like ever and did with a fib for a while. It is a nice little personal doctor by door it said goodbye dairy. Yes. Here we are today. So I feel like you have to figure it out for yourself but online that's what I really gravitated towards like trying to find out who I was Do other people online. So,

Olivia N 1:05:38

can you mention how your grandma cosplay anime and Instagram were influencing you growing up? I want to circle back to that to make sure that we hit that.

Nala 1:05:48

Um, so my grandma oh my god, don't cry about her but my grandma she I feel like she was the heart of my family. My mom's side of the family. She was everything to be she was like my Bob. The Bob like the bullshitter Bob I wish I had that second adult love about love you Bob. She's in the church. So love you so much. I was working with my grandma was the most of the world I had. She she would listen to me ramble for hours because I'm a Rambler. I like to talk. I really do. I ease up a conversation. I will talk for a while is anyone ever like me? And she will sit and listen to the entire time. Had our little editor little two sets be like oh no, she did it or like what follow please. And she just was the She really taught me how to be who I am. In a sense of my personality. I'm a very I'm a jokester. I have GVC like tell a lot of jokes, but I also a very considered pet like, compassionate. I have. I love people. I love talking to people. But of course like my introvert this is like people burger was like Lucky introvert too. So I just I kind of got it because she likes to chill in the house watch. She's like watch Steve Harvey. And like Elliott is the that's also funny. Like she watched a lot when I used to go visit her it was just like LSD was so cool. But productive. She's that but my grandma she was she was literally by rock my my soul. She I literally told her to the first person I told that I was gonna go to culinary school that wanted to be a chef. I said I want to be chef grandma. She was like, cool. I love that. You'll be a great chef. Because she taught me how to cook. My grandma was like I learned how to count by counting potatoes to peel the to cook though. I learned how to use a microwave because I kept pressing the buttons it trying to figure out how to work it to put in my girl I got annoyed she just be like this is how you do it does I do that? I literally learned a lot of the days of what I know. Based off a cookie. In my best memories with my grandma it was always kitchen. My grandma used to wake up super early at like 5am in the morning is started cooking breakfast for me. And I wake up at eight and show me like now that I got Sapir case a piece of baking biscuits, I guess eggs. We had this we had our you had time to bake all this stuff. It's just like I just wanted for the making breakfast. And it's just those moments were just like the the best like grandma and my grandpa unfortunately got sick. She has breast cancer. So she could work. She could be in the kitchen. I remember what time I came home. And why while she was upstairs working. Were there while she was sitting down if she was just days. I was like grandma was going on. So

possibly like all the pie alley. Like what's going on? Because he can't hear the smell good. I just did the stuff but I smell like what's what's the smell and I come into the pot and I like the rice is she was making was either birdie or it was like over cookie. I was like whoa. I was like oh come over. I'm like grandma was going oh like what happened? She was like, I don't remember I didn't remember cookie. I don't remember doing it either. I was like girl you had rice burner or the stone lab it. I feel like that moment was really like, it really hit me hold that she was changing. Demographic I bet she turned into this person I really didn't know. I Kibo key chemo really does. Our people don't really say it but chemo really does change you. It changes you as a person because of all the chemicals that you have to go through. And my grandma changed She, her personality was different. She was the grip I grew up with. I loved her still, but it just wasn't the same. And I had to mourn kind of the death of that grandma, the one that could get up at 5am in the morning and break big breakfast, the one that could make me laugh, the ones to consider Listen to me. At times, I would always be like, I don't want to see her like this. She was so sick, she could walk through a bathroom by herself, she had to have help. We had to bathe her, you know. So she was just she got to a point where we put it at home. It was like a nursing home. It was like a sister living not a whole lot of years ago, but assisted living. And she started getting better. Start eating War started talking more. And I told her at the time when she got sick. I told her I was like, I'm not going to be a chef, any word. Out of that. I'm gonna do costumes I because I told her, I said, I don't want to be a chef. If you're not going to be able to be in the kitchen with me. I don't want to be a patient. I don't know that if you're not gonna be a she looked me dead in my face. And this is the last time that allowed her to sculpt her. But this is like the last like I had the conversation with the grandma. I knew she would be in my face. And she said,

Nala 1:11:17

all are not going to be here forever. One day I will pass away. And I would not want you to regret your

Nala 1:11:29

career decision just because you expect me to be here. You are not going to be here. You got to do to what to do. So as I do that, I want to be a pastry chef. So I said I will tell you it I'll be a pastry chef. Think after that. It was a year after that conversation. We in August it was I got accepted. I got pre accepted to go to the CIA. I got like, I was like, Yes, I got accepted. I told my grandma I got accepted in the culinary school. She was like, hey, like it was amazing. That October, I think it was October. It was in October, October. One day we went to this third COVID is 2021. So 2020 2020 is still 2020. We over like we went over to grab my grandma's house. And I was like that girl was assisted living home. And we had to talk to her to window. We could see her because it's COVID and we could go in there. You know, it's like, old people were like that at the high risk. So I had talked to her to a window. It was something about that day that just read like this is the last time you're gonna see her. And she was just so days so out of it. She was really responding so much it she saw me because I did I did visit her often because, you know, no grandchild was to see their grandparent like that. You know, like, see someone who you thought was so strong. It was always like, you know your kid you're always gonna You're always gonna be old. Like what was she does look tired. And she saw me she started crying. I was like, wherever while you cry and I'm here.

Nala 1:13:22

She looked at me. She was like, darling, I love you are proud of you. I was her last words to me.

Nala 1:13:33

And then I think it was that Sunday. It was weird. I don't know how the conversation came about. But we talked to her. We talked to me about what we're talking about. We have figured out a funeral stuff. I was like for what? What do you mean funeral stuff like my grandma still alive? Are you talking about like, just in case if she passes, we got to figure out that stuff. I

Nala 1:13:51

swear to god that one day.

Nala 1:13:55

I think it was Sunday, Sunday. We totally bake brownies. I was like what? Greg Bradley so my grandma my grandma's favorite dessert. I made a box brownie or baked it with like some marshmallows in it. And that Tuesday, Tuesday Wednesday by my doctor by door was like what was going on? She said you're gonna pass we're about to go get her for the sister living

Nala 1:14:23

Do you want to cope

Nala 1:14:27

so that she were was everything to me. She was the whole reason why I'm here today. Why I'm still here today. It just yeah, she was compelled by personality to who I am. And she's the reason why there's a Bobby's bakery. You know, seek like, I read the to her. I was like, I want to do like I want to have my bakery called he called all the bees. And they have like a bee and I was just gonna have a bee like swirly like, that's the sign. But now I want to be in a butterfly swirling together to heart because my my grandma said everything was butterflies. So yeah, that's what my grandma has listed that was a long causeway. Whoo. I joined the cosmic community very young. I was I think 1415 When I joined because we community I saw high IQ, we all low IQ. So my favorite anime of all time, and the person I loved the most was Sudha superwash he was like saying character all the time. I was like, I'm gonna cause for him. Let's be costly. So I constantly when I first caught in cosplay, it was great. It was CatCard went there. Met a bunch of my favorite people. I loved it. It was so much fun. As involved tracking Well, we all will try bowling ball try Cuba. I was like, yes. Plus is cool. Dude, I would go I would do honk. I didn't hug cosplayer. 2018 or 20 at caticlan. It I wouldn't say blew up but a lot of people saw we were just like, oh my god, you would just like hug mostly because I was fat black. But it was it was a I'll tell you. What is a wave. What is a wave? So I took that and somebody reached out to me, it was like, Hey, we're doing a wall truck group. Do you want to be a part of it for Otakon is a convention I never went to. I was like Sure I'll do it. We got together did this cosplay thing. And it blew up. Everybody really liked our group. It was like we were full of like not first full group. But we were a full like, Voltron group. And everybody really liked it. It was a part of like a really popular cosplayers. And I was I was really honored to be a part of it, but a lot of differences came into it. You know, the cosplay community prides itself on being diverse, welcomes anyone. It's not like that at all. Actually. the cosplay community specifically really only likes white cosplayers, White City cosplayers, as that those are the ones who get the most views. Those are the people who gets the most likes, no matter what you post, I can post a hug picture and another hug picture me a hug and a white person hug. I put our person both side to

side. Mine is obviously better quality, and theirs is low quality. But they have 5000 likes, I have 200 Why is that? I don't know, other than the fact that people will always favor white people over us. It's just how it is. It's how the in the Catholic community is like the biggest one of the biggest scams as the most wealthy community, you have to be a certain way a plus size in order to be accepted as a class size. cosplayer, you have to be a certain type of black. In order to be set as a black cosplayer, you have to be a certain type of motherfreakin something it you you have to have either the best wigs, the best costume or add for someone to look at your stuff and go you are cool. I like that. I like that. I'll follow you. For a lot of time, I focused a lot of myself or my cosplays because I thought it said it would be a fun activity that everybody does that I like to do. It became a job by lights by my my interactions what I post. When I talk about who I talked about, I used to talk about anything on my page, I constantly page I used to say any thing and people either listen or don't listen, I wouldn't care but when I joined that group, and when I got to be a part of all just those white cosplayers I changed everything about myself. I used to that. They said I'd say what I wanted to say I used to that I used to censor myself. You know, I used to talk about I used to talk about issues like the colorism within the cosplay community blackface all that ice talk about that all the time. And I stopped doing it because I befriended all these White House ways they did have to deal with that. They didn't know what that was like.

Nala 1:19:38

So

Nala 1:19:40

growing up it constantly really it fluids we to look at myself differently. It was a fun activity at first, you know, of course it was something you jumped into suddenly involved. It was it was a lot of fun. But at the same time it really I think constantly really made me judge myself war. Churchill I was outside mostly on the outside that I wasn't inside. It also made me question who I was on the inside. I really, I will say this, I was involved in a very tumultuous situation back in early 2020 To 2018 to 2018 to 2020. I basically grew fell out, I got kicked out, cuz it's so other stuff.

Nala 1:20:32

Just a lot of stuff happened. But

Nala 1:20:37

we were filming this video so or High School Host Club video, you know, or, or, you know, kids kids home. Of course, there's a different types, you know, there's a natural type, the tweeds, the all that stuff. I was boring for High School Host Club for our group cosplay because we need an affiliate and we wanted a group of a whole group I wanted to be kill you because I'm actually I love to kill is my favorite. But I let my other friend became really at the front that our friends will be down, but we're not friends. But at the time that we were afraid. So I let my friend beat Kalia because I was like, you know, I don't know what it costs to drop, but let's just do it. I decided to be boring. And we felt this little tick tock video, it was just like, going through all the types. And of course my more he was at the end. And then we had this pan over to like this group shot. Someone reposted a Tiktok video or a spam page. And all the comments were just horrible. They were saying like, could worry where they find this Bori they look like a goat that boy looks like a gorilla. Like a It was bad. It was bad. And I wanted to call them out, like not the page itself, not the comments itself. But I wanted to like it like Raisa COVID Like the accounts

name because I didn't want the calculating workflow. But I want to race the cows name and just post the college and be like, this happens. This is real. This is what it really means to be in the causeway community. This is this shit that is really happening within our community and we need to do something about

Nala 1:22:25

it. When I found out my group were like, Let's just report the cow ignore it. I was like What? What are you talking about? Like,

Nala 1:22:39

they're completely disrespecting me. They're teasing me. They're making fun of me. Like what are you talking about? This is what I started getting like, like I was I was going I was like, what is happening? Like, what are you guys talking about? This is really offensive. Like this is something like we should be fighting for we shouldn't be ignoring like this is important. Let's ignore it. Let's not let's stop talking about it. So I'm going off. All right, we have a QA I like this is ridiculous. This doesn't we need to talk about this. These are like real issues within the cosplay community that no one's facing. And they're like posting on their stories posting on their posts. Like it's a shame that somebody would do that to our video. We all look so good. And it's like you're discrediting the fact that this is happening to be and just be it's not that it's happening to you it's happening to be that I call you at eight they're calling via eight there's a I ugly there's a I look like I shouldn't I don't belong there. Well the rest of you guys look good and then glittery all the compensate I was having I love the video up until that big person showed

Nala 1:23:43

up that big lifers who showed up so

Nala 1:23:48

I really get pissed I like this is ridiculous like we not only need to block and report the account but we need to call this behavior out there we should come out they did nothing. They told me that if I said anything about it, they reported me that we're going to report some other stuff like they tried to report they kind of like follow the cow and report it and like get it stuff like that but it wasn't doing anything it didn't do anything. It just made it worse

Nala 1:24:16

the video

Nala 1:24:17

was up still it says the video was up anybody can access it anyway I could save it anyone could just do anything to it. One day I'm scrolling and I get a tag on my account or my my Instagram account and I like the one he tagged me in it that you board upward group anymore with the flex happening I look in the comments of what post hashtag it is the video or like here we go. Like I just saw my time with you the comments because I found my account Debit no the video have been edited. Instead of it being the silent type across it. It was the fat digger type. And about 2000 people saw that video before I was eligible to see it. And bass reported, like, I'd talk about it and I, I took I took a video of that video, a screen recording of that video, it posted it to my story. It was very black history buff, and I say, Look at

what happened. This is what's happening to black history. But this is what's happening now. I was trying to be sales before but I'm not going to be started to get this is what's happening right now within our community. A community that's supposed to be so protected. So understanding so open so diverse. This is a diverse, this is this is a show shit. I was pissed. I was going in. And one of the one of the, I guess, like I call them the leaders because every because they were one of the people who made the group, one of the leaders of the group reposted my story, but didn't tag me at it. So I had to go on a separate page because I had all the plot because it was a big argument to happen. But I also wanted to go to another page of all the pages see that they have posted a story. And every single person in the group reposted only their story. The person who reposted my story, but do you ever tag me or anything?

Nala 1:26:27

So I I'm petty as fuck

Nala 1:26:31

but I didn't do so why? Cuz I did what I didn't want to do I didn't want to stoop to their level. So what I did was I messaged each of them and I said it is funny now that you decided to change your mind every posted and say that this is bad now with before I was telling all of you that this needed to have it and now you come after what? After it gets a little bit of traction.

Nala 1:27:00

That's that was foul.

Nala 1:27:03

And only one person responded don't three people responded to me what apology like to apologize, would said that it was messed up that this was happening to me. But the rest of them have said nothing else.

Nala 1:27:18

And that's what I realized.

Nala 1:27:21

Within this, like within this world within this day, it is community. No one community will ever be solely just positive. There will always be some negativity towards certain things, there are always going to be something that will affect the community, whether it's diverse, whether it's not diverse, whether it's open, whether it's not open, it's always going to be something that will affect or hurt a community is whether you could take it and accept that fact that that's what it's going to be like

Nala 1:27:50

or you can change it

Nala 1:27:54

and you can you can be like you know what, this is what it is this happened to be, but we're gonna continue to cosplay me personally. I decided to leave the cosplay community like as a social media

influencer. I decided after that situation I could do it. I'm not going to do it for anyone else but myself. I'm only going to constantly if I want to. So that's how it fluid still a little bit.

Olivia N 1:28:20

No thank you for telling me that because I know you have other cosplayers other people in the community so it's really great that you're talking about your story and like what happened from your angle? Would you be willing to talk about struggling with your identities and be like being non binary and that kind of internal struggle that you may or may not have

Nala 1:28:41

had? Yeah. Um,

Nala 1:28:45

I feel like anyone who says like I struggle with my identity a little bit I don't know how true that statement is. I feel like for me when I first came out as que I didn't really believe myself even though I wanted to say it like I literally was like, Oh, be though I still like dudes. What are we talking about? But I really like like all my sexuality it was really the biggest struggle because at one point I was like no I by I don't know why I said I was lesbian or bi or I'm pansexual I'm so sorry

Nala 1:29:22

to say apologies um,

Nala 1:29:39

I was like no, I'm I'm so like, very much. Not gay at all. What are you talking about? Like I believe in God. I believe in Jesus. Like, Jesus doesn't like gave you more he talked about.

Nala 1:29:52

That's why Jesus loves gays. Like,

Nala 1:29:58

it's so serious. Do He's looking at the record straight. So

Olivia N 1:30:02

the record straight and Jesus loves

Nala 1:30:03

people. Jesus will gay people call those gay people I'll die on that hill. I'll die on that hill. Yes, as it should. But no, I, I literally, for awhile, like after chemo, it was also a battle. And even now it's a constant battle. You know, like, when I came into my gender identity, Natalie really had me questioning a lot of things because I go by since I when I came out as non binary, non binary, I came out to my friend, first I was over you, What year was this? Oh, this was actually this is pretty recent. It was actually this year. Okay. This year, I, earlier this year, I think it was March, March or April. And I just had them use my pronouns, because I didn't want anyone else to know at the time because I was truly trying to still figure it out. Because it just felt right though because I went by she they since 2018. But I

was like, like, I love I still love she you know she is giving? Yes, see, yes. But there was something that happened within my brain. It was somebody who was talking about me, but not in a bad way. But like just talking about the general. And I heard them talking about, yes, she's doing this and that and I was like, I don't like the way the sounds like, I hate this. Like, whenever somebody was using like straight feminine pronouns for me. It made me feel weird. Like it didn't make it. It's alright. I just feel like it's me. And there's somebody I forgot who somebody was like, oh, yeah, they're like, they are just great. Like, I love violet. They're great.

Nala 1:31:51

I was like, there

Nala 1:31:56

and then there's my friend was there. I was like, you know, he's what David protocols I was like, No, I You see they pronouns. But I liked the way exam. There. I liked that. I liked the way it sounds. And I had to do, I had to do my research, I had to do some self discovery. And I really read into what it was like pigs are binary. But I also felt it you know, like, I never I realized all my life I never really identified with being one gender. I never really thought that it was my thing. A really telling thing was just funny. I have a fanfiction. That is published. on AOL three,

Olivia N 1:32:43

you'll be sending me your link your

Nala 1:32:45

account, I will be but is. It is. It's called good enough. It's a hugging key fanfiction from Volterra. But the relevance that has is

Nala 1:32:58

I read her gender fluid.

Nala 1:33:01

IV made a very gender fluid. I really like wearing dresses and skirts and identifying the feminine. Like, I like the idea of someone who's viewed as masculine, and so broad. And so like, oh, like, it's just like, you know, you think that like, oh, yeah, he totally tops. But no, he does it. You know, he's like, very delicate, and he's so nice and sweet. And like, I always love that. I love that it could but the reason I love that was because it was me. And in a way everybody always viewed me as such a tough person because I've always grew up big, and I was born, but I actually really, like soft and really nice. And people don't well, aren't you still gonna identify feminine? Li I'm not I don't a female though. I don't I don't identify as a female and identify as male, obviously. So I was like, well, at the time, I was like, Okay, well, maybe I'll just female and I just don't want to accept it. You know? No, no, it wasn't that it was very much non binary. And when I looked it up, I thought like, Okay, this can't be real. Like just can't like people actually can't be doing this like I don't know about y'all, but I never was the person I was just like a grammar Grammarly doesn't make sense. When have we ever as a human race? Thought about grammar when it came to anything that's like gender or sexuality related? Stop bullshitting. It's not Grammarly correct, who cares? Who really gives a crap I was never like that I just

didn't think people could actually put this on a resume. You couldn't put this on a doc stupid like you know like I know there's like she her like he heard other but I never knew that Bob binary was like something that was like actually involved in within the LGBT umbrella. So after can We got to a non binary, Fred, they gave me some articles to read, and some other stuff to really think about it. He told me about, like how, you know, you could really understand it as I read those things, and I understood it. And I was like, I still don't know if I should say I'm non binary, because I don't really know. But my friend was like, just try out the pronouns, see how they feel. So they started calling me they then pronouns earlier in March.

Nala 1:35:31

And that's, and then

Nala 1:35:35

like, I did after that, I felt like, I was like, I started telling people, Hey, I got my data and pronouns. And I don't know why, but whatever somebody says, like, I go by these pronouns, is that okay? Like, why am I asking you if that's okay, or not? Like, it's just, it should be I go by the the pronouns respected? You know? And I reached person that came out to, they will be like, Yeah, of course, like my friend Hidatsa. I told him, I used a them pronouns. And they were like, also great. And then they use my pronouns very, like, very well, like dared, like, whenever they talk to you about me, like, they didn't want to do that. Or like, Donald, they didn't want to do I will always

Nala 1:36:17

go like,

Nala 1:36:20

I guess so have the I will be like, oh, like, yay. Like, it's not even just like using my pronouns. It's the first time I felt company, within a conversation to someone talking to me describing me. You know, like, when people talk about me, they'll be like, she or like she and her? And I'm like,

Nala 1:36:37

Yes, we like that at all.

Nala 1:36:42

I mean, like, of course, I still let my mom and my parents call me it, because I don't I don't think everyone anyone ever talks about how draining it could be trying to explain to your parents or someone who's older pronouns and sexuality and stuff. Like, we already jumped over the gay hurdle. I don't know what it has to do with. So I haven't really display that to my parents that much. He said, My dad said, so if I went by that, I will lose my dad, like, so my daily pronouns,

Nala 1:37:13

that that'd be cool. He'll be like, you know, still gonna mess

Nala 1:37:18

it up. I say, Yeah, I know, you aren't. Even that I let you slide. Okay, so that I told my dad and my dad, he tries, he still sometimes slips up, and that's okay. Like, he'll call me she hurts like, my dad's side of the family. But that's fine, because I haven't come out to the but my dad, he tries he really does. But I just don't feel like having that conversation with anyone else. Oh, my family side, but like, or the internet or my friends. I don't care. You know, it my mom probably gonna read this article. Yeah. But have you this is really great time to go around to her like read article, you'll understand.

Olivia N 1:37:59

No, that's so that's so speaking off of that. Like, would you ever talk? Could you talk about if lesbian or dyke ever felt scary to you as an identifier? So like moving back a couple years? Like was it scary to first identify as a Dyker? Lesbian?

Nala 1:38:16

Yes. I feel like there's always this initial fear. When you first come across the word lesbian. I don't know why, but like, when you're younger, it feels like a forbidden word. Like, oh, I got lesbian. Oh, like, you know, you just, it's just weird, emotional thing. Like, oh, my god, like what? Especially growing up in a religious household, like when people describe Oh, my God, ustedes bring it to the mic. I am so sorry. I was so sorry. That's when people in my house or like in church, when people describe a nice view, is usually the preacher going like, and all those lesbians and gays have a burden and I'm like, oh my god, like, why are we talking about people like this? But back then, when I first identified as a lesbian, I was a firm believer in not telling people I was a lesbian. I just told people I like girls, and only girls, which is a lesbian, but I didn't want to say that cuz I didn't want to say the word. I never use date because I thought they was a white lesbian. You liking a white lesbian? Also, I also thought like, was offensive. So like, first was offensive, and then it translated to like, I thought it was like only white people use tight, so I was like, I'm not gonna use that. Why did we use it? So I'll use lesbian. Now. We haven't grown age. I love it. I love the word. I love it so much. I say it real freely. I'm a lesbian, and I love it is great. But when I was younger, I never wanted to say it who what's to say it, because it puts you on this title in this space of like, This is who you are. And I feel like people now look at lesbian as a lot broader than what it used to be used to be just used to be girls like girls now it's like, non man like dog bed. Like kind of in the sense. So, as much as I can remember, I, someone has explained it to me a lot deeper. And I just right now, like, because I like I, you know, my brain can only focus on a lot of things at once. But it was it, they explained it to me. So while I was like, because like, I feel like a lot of times, we were even like now like s Jin Jin Z. Whenever we're introducing to a new topic, we need to be apprehensive to it. Like I remember when I first heard about he him lesbians.

Nala 1:40:51

I was like,

Nala 1:40:53

that will make sense. You know, when you first hear it like that don't make sense. What are you talking about? But then when you explain it, and when you read about it? You think you like oh, oh, you know, like, you start really learning about the differences and stuff. It was like, different. But the word when I was younger, it was like, almost rubbing against my lips. But now it's like, I can say it all the time. But I wouldn't care. Nobody really cares for a shin it is it's okay, it's a word that has deep meaning. But it's it's

also a word. You know, it's that who just defines you. But it just, it's like a nice title that you have that you could just you could say. And it's it describes you and it brings you some type of comfort. But at the same time, it's not just who you are. And I don't know how to say that in a in a other way other than it's like that. It's not something that's bad. So it's good. It's a good thing is a good thing to be. Yeah, it's a great thing to be gay, like what is a great thing to be a lesbian? And I like the and I love the word. But yeah, before it could I wouldn't be able to tell tell you. Let's talk

Olivia N 1:42:12

a little bit about lesbian sex. So yeah, like your first encounters with it? Where did you first see it? When did you first have it if you have expectations about it before?

Nala 1:42:30

I don't know. Like, I always get this way. But ethics is funny. Um, so I am a virgin. In both ways, in the ways of God, but also in the ways of think I love describe it. Like I always just want people to laugh. You breaks the ice, because whenever we're talking about sex, it can be hard. I mean, Virgin. I never had sex before ever. But I have introduced to lesbian sex because of porn. Unfortunately, I was introduced support at a very young age. I was about 10 When I first saw pornography online, I don't know how my friend got access to it found out about it. But we all know a popular website. Porn is very, you know, it's a website. And she found it. And she found this video. And I don't know why. But it was just like, was two girls it was a guy or girl. And but we were looking at the categories. And I was like, what's that one? My kiss? Oh, it was i What is lesbian when we click on the lesbian one. And we're just opened up with this broad just all types of like, different prints. I like whoa. What is that? Oh, no. Okay, did that let's not address that anymore. And but something in my system, my brain cells were so woken up, but we decided not to address it. We're 10 years old. Why are we talking about this? Fast forward to 13 I now have my own phone. I can text call and do anything I want on it. I decided to revisit what I've seen. Because you know,

Nala 1:44:24

me personally,

Nala 1:44:25

I want to know what I saw as 23 years ago. It's not that long ago. So I revisit I revisit what I saw. What's really awakened in me was was that it was the the first time seeing it and it was like, Whoa, like, this is for real, like girls do this. And I think that's when I first real I first learned about like how girls have sex. Because I was you know, it's always a curiosity in your brain, especially when you first come out. I'll tell you really loud and my mom said it next room. That's hilarious.

Nala 1:45:04

She's right. She's got a meeting.

Nala 1:45:08

When you when you're younger or like, when you first come out, you're kind of always like, you. I don't know why. But for me, that was the thought process in my brain. I was like, how do like, I know they

can't have babies together? Like, how do you like, have sex? And if somebody told me, so he said, like, you know, people don't always have sex. Just have babies, right? I was like,

Nala 1:45:32

No,

Nala 1:45:33

I thought that's how this works. You have sex you have baby. That's the only time you have sex is to have babies, right? Like, no. sexual pleasure is like beyond babies. I was like, what? Opened up up was like, open up a whole new route. So from like, 40 to vow, I just did watched everything. hentai all of that, all of that I swear to God.

Olivia N 1:46:10

tentacles and stuff. are like the dick girls. Okay, damn, I have this I edit the transcripts like myself, and I'm like, Girl

Nala 1:46:26

I don't like that was me like this is okay. Keep going. It's good. You're all there is? I've I've literally now has like, seen almost everything. Yeah, nothing really surprises me anymore. Because when I was younger, I just watched everything. And sometimes just watch it just to watch it. You know, you, you didn't really watch it. Like, you didn't really know what pleasure was. So it wasn't really anything of it. But of course, as you get older, you start realizing oh, by the parts work. So yeah, and these are watching probably things but I was watching it just to watch it. And now I can talk about sex and all this stuff so freely because one I was introduced to at a young age. So I knew about it younger, so I don't mind talking about like my friend, my Mormon roommate was asking me questions. She was like, No, I just have to know I have to know what's going on Amy? Oh, God. The mature they are in trouble. I'll say oh, like, like, what's going on? A and it's like, I just have a question. I was like, okay, like, what, like,

Nala 1:47:41

what is like,

Nala 1:47:43

do you have like sexual attraction? I was like, yeah, it's kind of like, the whole point. Or, like, one of the place like some people can be airways or like Arrow and she'll be lesbian, which is very valid. But I was like, Yeah, I do. The movie was like, was that like, I was like, it's like, how you have sexual attraction to a guy like, you just liked him. And like, you know, you could have sex with them. And then she was asked me to describe lesbians like, and so I'm like, giving her like, vivid details. And she's like, how can you talk about this so freely, like, but she's blushing. I like, was because like, I knew about it very young. It's not a shocker. To me. It's not something that's new. And she was like, how can you never had sex with anybody? I was like,

Nala 1:48:28

because one, I personally, in order for me to give this up.

Nala 1:48:34

There has to be commitment. You know, we gotta be together. I can't just, I don't know. I'm not I know. I can't respect all her behavior. Do what you want to do, babe. We love hosts here. But me personally, can't give it up. I can't, we got to be committed. Because there's no way you got to talk about me. You can't talk about me. But I just always been like a conservative person when it comes to that, like getting close. Like I've made out with someone before, obviously, but, you know, no one has ever gotten down to these parts. So I've so I just I, I've always been conservative with with that. I just feel like that, like, I don't buy commitment. I don't mean marriage, you know, married. Like, I mean, like we have to be together for a certain amount of time, in order for me to get to that point. Because again, like I'm Plus Size does play a factor into how I perceive how like I proceed with with sexual contact. Because, you know, I know where you walked into this. You already knew I was plus sized but that means I gotta take off my clothes. I don't know where we're going. Whoa, no, I don't want to

Olivia N 1:49:46

know like speaking about lesbian and lesbian sex. So we're gonna move on a little bit more to talking about community. I know the dreaded community question, not trick questions. Nothing like I'm not expecting any answer. Like, just whatever feels right. And however you think about community, it like in conversation with your lesbianism. So I'm going to skip it. I'm just going to, I'm not going to combine them. But yeah, you'll see. So how does I think it works like a building off of you talking about sex? And not having a GED and your reasons why, how do you think like race informs your interactions with the lesbian community like race and size? Like as a plus sized person? Do you feel like it's harder to make romantic or even? What is the word that I'm thinking of? Platonic platonic relationships? With other lesbians?

Nala 1:50:51

Yes, no, I feel like platonically as as we get together, like, as like lesbians, we can all like, you can you can all respect each other, and stuff like that in our own GUI, but like romantically, I do feel like there's a barrier there. Because I feel like as you we people don't want to admit it. But when you see, sometimes when you see a plus sized person, even though you're like, Yeah, I love big girls, do you really? Do you really, because you don't really know, everybody thinks they know what it's like to be a bigger person, but they don't. There's underlying things there. There's not just insecurities like we're not just insecure about our way, it's not that it's the insecurities when it comes to eating around you. When it comes to being around you sitting around you. Even breathing around someone can really affect how someone looks at you. Like, say, for example, I'm sitting down, and we're just talking and like, you just hear me heavy breathing and stuff. And some people usually would actually like, why are you breathing so hard? And I like just how it's like, sometimes it's just how I breathe. But other times, even if it was based off of my weight, why are you asking me that? Yeah, that's, you know, dating is very hard as a plus sized lesbian, because you you have a standard, of course. And your standard doesn't always fit everyone else's standards. Like, you know, I have, I'm very open. I don't think that just by of course, you have to be like a certain like, you have to be gay. Of course, we try not to see for straight people here. You know, and, but for me, personally, I mean, like, I've, I've had the worst interactions, like, you know, some people say, Oh, you're too big for me, or I don't like the way you look like, you know, it's hard. It's hard to get some, like a lot of women to look at you and go like you're attractive. And people will might think like, it's easy, because you're a girl who likes girls? No, because girls have like,

standards and once and needs to that, like people just sometimes don't fulfill. And like our standard obviously preferences. That's what I mean. People prep prefer skinnier, wider lesbians within this community, then we like to be open enough to admit. And I've learned that very quickly, especially being on data gaps. I have, I am a sad user of Tinder. I am a very sad user Bumble. And I've been interacting on both. And I haven't experienced this on both where it got places, but it didn't get too far, you know, beyond online, like, hey, let's meet up. Let's let's talk like, let's go get lunch. And people are like, men don't want to, or they'll go shoe. And then like, I had one girl who it went really well. But she was like, I don't want to be with a bigger person. Because I feel like it just wouldn't work out. Like, I feel like we wouldn't give like it wouldn't give what it was supposed to gave. And I'm like, fuck you. It's hard. It's hard to date.

Nala 1:54:19

Big. Yeah, I

Nala 1:54:21

feel like it's even harder to date. Big Gay. And it's even harder to date. Big Gay and black.

Olivia N 1:54:26

Yeah, it's like, it all adds up. It's like a bootable homicide.

Nala 1:54:34

It just gets worse and worse. And I'm like, Ah, I just want someone to look at me and go like, what you look like, I want to know you. You know, and that's what I strive myself for. Because I always my crushes, you know people can't look at the people I like and go like they all look the same. People go by people I like it. Like they're all different because I like who I like, personality wise, I like you because your personality makes me gravitate towards you. Rather than I like you. Because Your looks are good. Like, you know, of course, like, keep yourself to a certain standard, and like, but usually when you love yourself, it shines through your looks with you, like people are like when you are a nice person, it shows through your looks.

Olivia N 1:55:26

Can you talk a little bit about like, your interactions with the lesbian community, not just romantically, but thinking about like race and class? What doesn't usually like maybe online lesbian spaces that you're in? are wanting to go to something that's like really expensive? Or like, maybe you've already talked about the racism that you've experienced in online cause play spaces, but have you like experienced or noticed any of that racism in like the lesbian group chats or like, lesbian online spaces that you're in now or queer spaces where you have conversations with other lesbians, stuff like that, or people who don't like men?

Nala 1:56:17

Luckily, I haven't really experienced any recent racism within our community.

Olivia N 1:56:23

Just racism, like maybe you're talking to other black lesbians, and you're like, this is cool as fast and I love like talking about

Nala 1:56:30

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. I've met a couple of other black lesbians within a college and stuff or like people are like, people who, who are like, yeah, lesbians. And, like, it's just, it's so fun to be like, you're black again. I'm black and gay. You're back again, a nerd. I like again. That's fucking crazy. And it's so positive, so good. It's a really fun moment where you really meet people who are just like you. One of my friends has a partner. And they're like, Oh, they're the epitome of gay and I just, I love them so much. They are literally like, if you put a lesbian and just the Hallmark book market of just gay and it's just like, it makes me so happy for them. And also, it's just like, Oh my God.

Nala 1:57:26

You know, for me,

Nala 1:57:28

I love you both. But I love Beasley's. Woof. Like it's so sad. When it comes to like, be in other spaces, like, I'm so sorry. Try to remember the question as,

Olivia N 1:57:44

okay, it's just talking about being in lesbian spaces. Yeah, a black non binary lesbian was that's like, what your experience has been.

Nala 1:57:52

It's been like, it's been fine. I would say like, a lot of times being black really does play a more intuitive my like my game this in a sense. Yeah. Because when you're black, you know, like, specifically I was talking about music. Music is very different. For a lot of people, whatever

Olivia N 1:58:10

the fuck girl and red is like Phoebe Bridgers.

Nala 1:58:14

Thank you.

Olivia N 1:58:16

Amy Richardson curling red. Your

Nala 1:58:19

I swear to God, like this is the gay at the zoo. For me, this isn't for me. And literally, like, I remember one time I was we were at it like it was a party I was at. And they told me like it was a Halloween party and they were like, No, you got the arts you make the playlists? I'm like, fucking bet y'all we replay this I'm gonna make a play this so I got to park biggie. I got like Earth Wind and Fire over there. I've just got a bat you

Olivia N 1:58:50

throw it back.

Nala 1:58:50

I was thrown in back I had a throwback place I have for like Cardi Nicki all that aren't really replaying rap songs back to back.

Olivia N 1:58:58

I mean, yeah, it's a party.

Nala 1:59:01

But this is how you could tell like the differences within people like the the white crowd was all sitting straight show in hockey, I try to talk to the music while me and my other black friends got up went to the kitchen. And we were just hurting. We were dancing, drinking. And it was just like, that was like, a real moment where I realized like, holy shit, like, you know, even like when you're gay, it's like different. When you're like, around other gay black people are like other gay people. Sorry. That's just why people like black people is different.

Olivia N 1:59:36

Now can you talk about how your anxiety and maybe depression interact, impact your interactions with lesbian community and how you think about

Nala 1:59:47

those with my me like gay, it's like it's harder to communicate with anxiety and depression, too, because you kind of like you feel like you have to be x through, like, gay in order to show it, like, Yes, I'm a homosexual, please look at me, I'm gay too. But it's like, I don't really, I don't present very gay. People don't look at me and go like, Oh, she's a lesbian, or they're, they're gay, or like, they're not biting, don't look at me and think that because of the way I present myself, I walk into a lot of like, situations in the room. Very tried to be very, like straight presenting. Because one, I don't. I don't know why, but there's always a voice in the back of my head to say like, what if someone does hire me? Or doesn't like me? Because of this? Like, can I really present this way? If this if I do present this way, then I know that, you know, it will end up like, people will assume things about me, and I don't know, if I want those assumptions. You know, it's harder to really interact with people, not just like, platonically or romantically, because now it's like, a whole different aspect, like, like, do they like me? Or do they just like the thought of me? Is this really like a thing that's actually gonna happen? You know, it's this fear, as always, I described anxiety is like this unknown fear of just not knowing, and you're always trying to look for the end result, like people usually say, Don't date to marry. But for me, I'm like, yo, if I'm gonna let somebody in a we we committed, you gotta like me, you gotta be with me. Like, it's an even though Yeah, you gotta date first. But it's just I haven't really dated, you know, like, I, I because I have this fear, just like the rejection, the unknown, the breakup, all of that. And, you know, when I'm, when I get rejected, or I've gotten rejected a lot, like, it's kind of sad. But when I get rejected, it really does do something, not only to yourself, and your self esteem, but it does something to your mental health. When you're depressed, it really hones it, you it hones in on yourself, because it goes like, Okay, what is it about me, like, recently, my crush that I had, and my therapist was like, you have to get some

clarity, because you don't know what they feel because of my Chris, I told them, I like them. And they're like, I don't know, I don't really know. Like, I want to, like, I don't really know, at the moment, and then I was talking with therapists about really, you gotta get clarity, you got to understand, like, where they're coming from. And so I told my Chris, like, I need some clarity, I need like, it's really going to happen or not. They go by different pronouns. And I really identify as a lesbian, but they know they only like,

Nala 2:02:49

mostly like women.

Nala 2:02:51

And so I told them, I was like, listen, like, I need clarity. I need to figure out what's going on, like, what's happening. And they were like,

Nala 2:03:04

I would like someone like you, but not you. And I was like,

Olivia N 2:03:18

oh, fuck that.

Nala 2:03:19

It's very, it's very fucked, though. At a time. You know, it's fucked up, like, the conversation to me. Because I liked it so much. It went well. I mean, like, it was a good conversation. But it was basically them putting me down, like in a very try to be gentle way. But then also coming back and following up the fact that they might be arrow ace. Right, or arrow Mantic. Yeah, I know. This is. Oh, yeah. I'm sorry.

Olivia N 2:03:50

No, no, no, I was like, you're good. You're good. i That's the one thing about this is like, we're on the same wavelength. I know. I know what you mean. I know what you mean.

Nala 2:03:57

Like, and I know there's, I know, they're saying a because they're just kind of like, they think that's what they are to and I that's what they are. I definitely will respect that is but like bringing that up right after just because I mentioned the fact that I like you like, or like I need clarity. It gives off this vibe of just like you just don't want to. Yeah, you don't want to admit the fact that you don't like me, but you just want to cover it up with the fact that you think your arrow ace, like

Olivia N 2:04:25

because didn't they just say that they would like you they would like someone like you.

Nala 2:04:31

That's not a race. Yeah, maybe they're like,

Olivia N 2:04:37

asexual but not romantic. Yeah, weird.

Nala 2:04:42

It's just like those are those were the experiences I guess. Like with those like, especially with like anxiety, it's stuff. It's just it affects you it affects you a lot. Or

Olivia N 2:04:55

I can I can imagine. Can you talk about Um, how race informs gender identity and how like your gender identity as being non binary informs your interactions with the lesbian community? Like what's it like being a non binary lesbian? How does race affect identifying as a non binary lesbian?

Nala 2:05:17

It's interesting. I mean, like, I love it, because like, you know, like, I'm freaking people, you should think like, oh, it's like a double hit or like your girl by your legs. We get it. You're black. Oh, Jesus Christ, like, life is hard. Yeah. And I like no, I love it. That makes me nothing at all the board differences because I who wants to be like everybody else. I want to be like everybody else. I want to be cool. I like it. But there is a part of me that's only like, damn, like, I will never be, like, picture perfect normal. Because people you know, even though we like to say like, nobody wants to be horrible, which I am 90% like that. I don't want to be vulnerable. But there's a 10% about me that's like, like, you know, you wish you had that normalcy that you could step bubble, and she could stay. That's like, you know, you're normal. But then now it's like, every time you add something to it, like that bubble opens. And it's like, your non binary. So then now you have to tell people your pronouns, like I got my name down. You know? Are you gay? Like, oh, yeah, you reject you guys. Like, I don't like been lesbian. You know, being black. It was hard for me. Because, you know, black people don't address other genders. other genders last year? Yeah. Who got the time? The energy? You know, some people. Time for that? Yeah, exactly. You know, work too hard. You know, so it's, it's very different, like, race does affect it a lot. Like, it really affects me even wanting to come out as non binary. I was gonna go my sheet here for the rest of my life. I was like, You know what, I'm a woman. I'm a lesbian. As cool. Like, I've already jumped that hurdle. God forbid, I gotta come out today them to my parents love first, you know, you got to come out to your whole family. You know? Nobody got the energy, you know. Especially discussing with straight southern people, you know, they'd be like, Oh, what are you talking about? Like, what do you be looking at? Oh, there's Google is free, Google. Good. Well, I like to respond to people like how, like how we just learned people like white people when they access racist stuff, like how we tell them look up stuff. That's how we respond to people now, like, whenever they talk about like, what is non binary, Google is free. Google is free.

Olivia N 2:07:42

I swear on everything, talking about it, who can educate you? Because why do

Nala 2:07:47

I have to do it? That's like a one thing about like being black and be like gay about white. It just adds so many things. I have to explain to people that just pisses me off. Because it's like, things like have to explain like how certain languages how used to even would be gain affects black people. Like, with when a white person goes like her. I like

Olivia N 2:08:10

I didn't want to use it earlier. I was like, nevermind. I was like, it doesn't feel right coming out of my mouth.

Nala 2:08:15

Or like when a white person calls me sis. No. Ah,

Olivia N 2:08:21

like a lot of my black non binary friends are like, look, I still go by like, this is okay. Like sis is not

2:08:26

dysphoric

Olivia N 2:08:28

it's when it's coming from black people. When it's coming from black faces like, this is like gender neutral. I feel like everyone calls people sis.

Nala 2:08:37

Let's say y'all all the time. Y'all when I described anybody I say y'all like

Olivia N 2:08:43

so. It could be like, I hate to say it, but

Nala 2:08:53

I was like very. But it's like literally like I say dude and bro a lot like to everyone, everyone, you can be the most feminist, right? I'll still call you and I'm like, dude, guess what I just learned and stuff like that. And I mean, like, I'm cool. England, like people would call me queen still. And I like Hey, I mean, like, I don't care. But like, usually I would like black people say it or like, Yeah, but like, when white people like say, a ve like gay society is gay white men. Yeah, that really pissed me off. Would they use our AV

Olivia N 2:09:36

pops and stuff.

Nala 2:09:38

Oh, don't play. I just literally go like, what are you doing? Or like, I'll be like when somebody says period. I like it. Listen. Listen, listen. This can't be this can't be for everybody.

Olivia N 2:09:53

No, it really can't. So what's it like making a meeting lesbians in your area now?

Nala 2:10:01

So I'm back from Maryland in New York a lot. Well, not a lot. That's why, for every light at the end of every semester, I was summer semester, so So I come home for like three weeks in the summer, but I usually, I'm in school, I'm in New York now a lot more. It's, it's fun, like now, because, you know, when

you're barely, you don't really get to, I don't get to meet a lot of lesbians, because, you know, a lot of a lot of them are either like DL or like bi or like, Yeah, or like just date or whatever. They don't want to claim that they're lesbian. Or if you do meet a lesbian, this in Maryland, they're like, mountain buoy or like, the, like they're in southern or North Maryland, where it's like, no one else is talking about white people. So when I'm in New York, again, a lot more white people out there, but in my club in Saga, we've had a lot of people who will tell us like, I'm actually lesbian. I'm like, Whoa, holy crap, I could meet other less. This is crazy. But it's great. Like, of course, we're all different. Of course, we're all Sure. You know, like, you know, there's a lot of white lesbians out there and it's fine. It's, it's cool. But it's still like, it's still like a good experience to meet people that are like you that like, or like, like girls who like girls, or like people who like people. Ascribe by the resets, I literally just had it

Olivia N 2:11:31

on men who are attracted. Yes. Like other non men. Yes. Thank you. So I find lesbianism.

Nala 2:11:37

Yes. And so it was like, it's so good to meet people like that. And we have great interactions like I think one time we had a craft night we had crafted and I crochet. Yeah, I dabble a little bit crochet.

Olivia N 2:11:54

Wait, okay, this is my crochet scarf. I made it like, last year. It's not very good. This is the first thing I ever made.

Nala 2:12:02

Oh my god, I literally am working on a toe bag for my friend. Yeah, I, I said I was gonna have it finished by 16 that lie. But I started crocheting a while back, like earlier this year. And I have this blanket that I'm working on. I haven't finished yet, but I'm going to at some point. But usually when we had that craft, I it was kind of like me, this person is the person next to me. And we're all just crochet. And so then at one point, my friend is goes like, like a lesbian sitting there crochet. And they're just like, Wait, we might be lesbians. But at least we could get something out of it. I was like, Yeah, and this is funny. It was like, it's been great. It's been great meeting people that are like, we feel the sense of like be lesbians. But of course, you know, being a black lesbian is like, Why yes, let's do it. Like, you know, definitely, I could definitely be like y'all, y'all cool. But I have yet to be another plus size, black lesbian. So it's been hard. It's been hard being the only like, one in like all my friend groups. But whenever I read another blacklist, like it just makes my heart so happy to be like, yes. Can you understand?

Olivia N 2:13:27

Sorry, can you talk about the struggle to build in person lesbian community, you know, because you're in like a lot of online spaces, and maybe any difficulties with building in person community.

Nala 2:13:40

I feel like, in person, you, there's no like, filter anymore. There's no way you're in person, you're like literally talking. Like, whatever comes out your mouth comes out of your mouth, like you can't delete it is trying to say something else. Like you can't filter it. You can only say like, what really comes out of your mouth. So a lot of times my opinions are like what I think it says oh my face, and I can't change it, I

can't hide it. And so like whenever I hear certain things or other people like especially within our community, it just makes me cringe. Like there's sometimes there's like even we do it in gay or lesbian spaces, there's like some type of transphobia or you know, those types of spaces that things like that. And I hear it and I kind of go like what the fuck, like you know, it is hard because I have a lot of like, whenever somebody asked me like, What do you think about it? Don't get me started. I have lots to say thank you.

Nala 2:14:39

Like

Nala 2:14:42

I literally it's hard because I speak my mind. And I don't mind it and people don't like it sometimes because you know, they just kind of like you just agree to everything I know I don't agree with everything but I agree with what's right here like, like for like the making Like being in person is harder because, like I said, like it's there's no filter, there's no, like, there's no way you can delete what you said. You said it. And whatever I hear so Donald like, I kind of cut it off. I like deuces a hard pass. Hard pass. Nevermind. We're not gonna be friends. No, like, if you just swipe left on people I wish I could Oh person, because I just be like, yeah, no, the friendships done, it's over, especially when it comes to like, racism in the lesbian community to, like, the racism that I've experienced that just be a lesbian as a black person, in a lot of in person spaces is hard. It's like it is like micro aggressive shit. Like, when people when I told people, you cannot control someone's reaction to what you say, but you can control what you say. My wife read friend at the time, was like, Well, how can you get mad at me for saying something racist? If I don't know it's racist? Can you? Can you listen to what you just said? Can you say it real slow for me? Like you said something racist, thus, I get upset. But how are you going to do it better be freaking upset? Because you said something racist? Why did you say something racist in the first place? Like that's the thing like, those conversations happen in person. And like, you can, like you can only say, other black people in the room, they kind of go like what the point is, shoot.

Nala 2:16:30

What the fuck is this?

Nala 2:16:33

So like, it's harder in person that I will say that it is like online because like online, I could just, you know, I could type people can be a anyway anyway, online, which could also lead to a lot of fake relationships, that happens. But when it comes to online, I feel like everyone kind of can do a lot more research before they talk about something rather than in person. Because in person, you know, I'm not gonna say that, like, we could get physical but people can get real educated with hands really quickly. You can learn real fast with some with hands that you do anything else. And you know, people start getting Roebuck it's a real busy at the mouth. And you know, you start learning some things, and that's what happens.

Olivia N 2:17:15

Let's talk a little bit about what identifying as a lesbian means to you. Like, what does it mean to you to be alleged? I think

Nala 2:17:27

there's like such a deeper meaning to it. But for me, being a lesbian is just being a person who really appreciates

Nala 2:17:41

the same gender

Nala 2:17:43

for what they who they are, are the same person or a person an armband, who likes as our band. I think being a lesbian to be is just

Nala 2:17:55

appreciating

Nala 2:18:02

the say like, just appreciating us like, either you like, like people like within yourself, I guess. I don't want to say like the same gender because I always say that if I like sway a shear, like, that's different. But to me, like in a broader sense, it's like that. And I just really love the fact that our community, and a sense of I know, like we could talk so much share about it, but I love what we where we come together. And when we do something together, we are together in a sense of change. We've done so much within history that a lot of people don't know, like we've done so much with when it comes to like, liberation, like gay liberation, things like that we as lesbians have done so much to change how the world that only precedes cavemen, but also also us, we're not just a fetish. We're not just something that people like to view, or corporatism. We are people who have lives, who want careers, who are just like any other shape person, just like any other people, in your personal in this world. We are just someone who like we're just about man who likes Darwin. And we just love it appreciate those people. That's what allows us to be it just means another person who loves who they love, and wants to live a life that is just like any other person and that's what I utilize for you.

Olivia N 2:19:31

lesbian community mean to you. Ah,

Nala 2:19:35

it means to me as a sense of just a group of people that can really round together it help each other. It's like a place where you go always fall backwards. So some people that you can always come to we in a place of need. We have questions. We have concerns, when you're worried about something when You can't figure out something when you're in need of like housing in need of like food, or trying to find shelter trying to find protection, our community will always no matter what we're going through, there's always going to be somebody like you that could raise their hand and be like, I can help you, I'll be able to help you, I'll be able to. So it's like, that's what the community is to be someone who can help someone in there can either it's 10 people, or 10,000 people that are like, I'm there for you. I'm here for you, I will help you because you're one of you're one of us that that right there. I feel like that's a sense of community.

Nala 2:20:46

Let's talk a little bit

Olivia N 2:20:47

about what lesbian spaces or communities do you wish existed.

Nala 2:20:54

I wish more just lesbian clubs within schools existed. I think that people don't want it to be like a segregated day where only lesbians have their own space. But I want it to be that because we can do so much educating all lesbians or we wouldn't be unless we is within those spaces. We can, because I feel like I feel like gay men get a lot of what if, like the rap, like a lot of the publicity when it comes to being in the gay community. But it's more than that. It's girls, it's gay girls who like gay people, in general, but also like lesbians who are, who are really like, pushed down in a sense of not knowing much about our community, like what we've done. And in all, like, like what we know as like, gay liberation, in a sense, like, I feel like when you look at a real gay guy, you always go like, you always think about the the HIV epidemic and the AIDS crisis that happened. And that's where you really start, but you don't know the behind the scenes how lesbians were the only ones. Some, in some places were the only nurses that will be able to come and treat them knowing that it was a physical contagious disease, but it was a sexual based disease that anyone could get, like it straight or gay, you could get it. And I feel like there's not a lot of teachings, there's not a lot of spaces that will teach people that it also not just to teach about our history, but how we interact sexually, how we interact romantically platonically, how you can exist in this world without having to change so much about yourself, in order to fit a certain stereotype. I feel like clubs like that, especially within like, not just college, but like in schools and stuff will help. A lot of younger lesbians feel more comfortable with their identities. I also really love. I think there's already lesbian clubs, but like, party clubs,

2:23:07

but they're small,

Nala 2:23:08

there's not a lot. And you know, I'm not gonna hold you, I feel like some men don't they infiltrate those sometimes. So I want like, I want people I want to bouncers at the door be like, Ah, you're not gay. So it's your thank you. And I want more clubs, I want more tight spaces where we can dance, or we can laugh. And I'm gonna put this out there, I want more black lesbian spaces, where I will only allow black lesbians into this space, because I only want to know, like, I want to know what we, as black lesbians are going through what is like the spirit because it's different. It's is different, no matter how much you want to put it, or how much you want to bring us together to try to say that we're all the same or that we're all different. You know, and I want a space. This is jumpy, but I also want to space for plus size lesbians. A lot of more plus sized lesbians faces because I feel like no one really thinks that what they say or how what they say or how it said affects us. You know, we get a laugh off a fat joke. It's, you know, I've heard the wise I grew up with them and don't care. But when it comes for your own people, like it was it hurts more, because like, we're, we're, you know, gay, gay people gay, we gay, you're gay.

Nala 2:24:29

So but

Nala 2:24:31

plus size lesbian spaces would be great too. I would love that like a club or like a, like a get together, like potlucks. I would those. I like gay potlucks because I like to cook so I love I love to cook like potlucks and things like that, like YouTube unity pilot girls would be nice. Let's talk

Olivia N 2:24:50

about what lesbian Joy means to you. I know that's a big question. You can talk about maybe a moment where you were lesbian. You were existing in it. face are with your lesbian friends and it just felt amazing. Or you can get more like philosophical and metaphorical and talk about lesbian Joy more abstractly.

Nala 2:25:12

I feel like I haven't gotten to like it just this pure lesbian space, where it's just us lesbian, we're just having fun. I don't think I've ever been in that space before, because it's always going to be a mixture of different people like bisexual things like that. But I literally enjoyed the with just this higher rated violence we

Nala 2:25:35

enjoy what I'm married. I,

Nala 2:25:39

I think like, for me, it's I'm a very romantic person. i This is my boundary, I wouldn't be married to a lesbian lawyer. And she works for and she has she holds her for. And you know, I'm a baker or like a pastry chef. And we have two kids, and we live our life. And we're just enjoying it. That's my that's why where I can see myself the happiest, where I like, not just like, not just like in a relationship, but just having that community are there. Like, we live in a very diverse community. Like, I can go down the block, and there's another lesbian couple down the block. Or like, we invite other people to our house and like their lives, we used to have, like, we have this like great, like dinner and stuff. Like everybody's wise, it's there. We're just having this great brunch or whatever the hell and like, it's just great. Like, I feel like, I feel the most a joy and a piece when I'm surrounded by people I love. And I feel like it'd be so great to have that robot where like, you know, my wife is standing right next to me, or, or my partner, if they right next to me. And it's just like, I love you. Like it will lead to it. Just that space. So just like that safety that come through it within our own home. It will be great. It'll be great for me.

Olivia N 2:27:16

Is there anything you want to talk about before we stop the recording? Anything I missed anything you want to say before you go any last words? Jesus.

Nala 2:27:28

Apologies for me having allergies.

Olivia N 2:27:32

It's fine.

Nala 2:27:33

I probably sounded a lot more stuff here to how I usually say out ID apologies if I offend anyone by statements, I literally ready to go three brain cells. But to anyone who reads this, if you read this and you kind of go you're questioning yourself or questioning who you are. Don't rush into it. Don't rush it to try to figure it out. It's it's a process you will question yourself I've mostly all the time. But what really matters is what you care about it what you want. And that's all that anyone that's all that you should really care about is what you want and what you care about. So don't let anyone tell you who you are, or try to describe to you what you need to be because you are who you are. That's all that support it. And you know, it loves you.

2:28:28

Oh,

Olivia N 2:28:29

I love you too. All right, well, thank you very much. Don't leave the zoom just ending the recording. Yeah, okay.