

# Imm1\_zoanne\_interview\_2023-01-22\_001

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, people, friends, lesbian community, girl, feel, talk, mom, middle school, gay, spaces, honestly, growing, high school, women, jamaican, book, boyfriend, weird, brooklyn

## SPEAKERS

Olivia N

**Olivia N** 00:03

Today is January 22 2023. I'm Olivia Newsome interviewing XO am virtually over zoom. Do I have permission to record this interview? Yes. Do you know you can stop recording at any time? Yes. Can you say your name, age and pronouns?

00:22

My name is Lillian Logan. I'm 22 implements are she here? They?

**Olivia N** 00:28

Can you tell me where you're from? Where you grew up and what your childhood was like.

00:32

I'm I'm from Brooklyn, New York. Born and raised. My family though is Jamaican. So my regular New York good? Um, yeah, my childhood was pretty much like, I've been to Jamaica a couple times. But I wasn't grown there. I was raised in Brooklyn. So I'm very much like a city girl. I used to the city. I know the ins and outs of it. I went to pretty much like even though I grew up in Brooklyn, most of my childhood was predominantly, like, black spaces oriented, even my schools. So I never ventured out of Brooklyn for school, like some other kids have. Aside from college, obviously, but yeah. Did you have any siblings? Um, yes, I do have an older brother. He was always around. We lived together still. Um, that was pretty fun. Not so much fun anymore. But that's like, a story for another days. My I live with just my brother, my mom. My dad, he lives on Long Island. He's doing his own thing. His business. But yeah, just been the three of us. We're all as long as I can remember. Honestly.

**Olivia N** 02:06

So are you close with your mom? Like, what was your relationship? Like when you guys were young? were you when you were younger?

02:11

When I was younger, my mom and I pretty much always been close. But she because she's been like, my matriarchal and patriarchal figure. So it's like, she's been around for everything. I love her so very much. That's the honest, my best thing I would say. Like, I feel comfortable telling her certain things when I was younger, probably not so much. Only because like, she is Korean. She was used to like the old, the old ways of thinking like, um, like, certain things like, you know, we have to go to church, and we have to be right by the Lord, like, you know, stuff like that. But I will say, since her like being here, over the years, she's definitely, like, abandoned so many of those. Because they're not that they're not that true. I'm pretty sure she's like, you know, seeing the light or something.

03:08

Yeah, they're not that true. So yeah, me and my mom are pretty close. Um, my, like, I was saying, my brother and not so much, but this, I'm chillin about that.

**Olivia N** 03:23

So, when did your mom immigrate to the US,

03:28

um, when she was 19. And so and she's in her 50s Now, so that's like over 14 years. You she hasn't been back home as yet. So that really is kind of sad. It's like my, like my goal to like, not get enough money. So I could just move her back home because, you know, that's her birth. birthplace. I'm sure she misses it. Like, huge. Yeah, she missed a lot. We're supposed to take a trip there soon, hopefully. My time. But yeah, so yeah, she's been here like over 40 years now. Um, in terms of like her being accustomed to, like New York, when she got here, she didn't really have the means to, like get jobs the legal way, you know, so she's, and she came here with teaching degrees from Jamaica. So that's, those are the kinds of jobs that she always had, like she was, um, she was a teacher for up to like two years ago. And that's since she got here. So you know, she has a lot of teaching experience. She teaches me a lot. Like I really I owe her so much.

**Olivia N** 04:51

So can you talk a little bit about what middle school was like?

04:56

Middle School, okay. So I'm from Brooklyn, but specifically Canarsie. I'm Canarsie, I went to is 66 was kind of like chaos. Like, honestly, um, in terms of like, my personality in middle school, I'm always I've always been like a jovial person. Like, I'm always, like, I like to, like, talk to people. I'm always, I've always been like, a book, smart, like, nerd type person, that my mom's a teacher. So it's like, if you book saying, right, you know, again, you know, like, it's not gonna be good for you. But yeah, middle school. What was going on was generally, we put myself there. Um, a lot of play, a lot of like, watching other people get in trouble. Because I couldn't get in trouble. I would, my mother would not have that. And especially like, I don't know, I was always like, associated with different groups of people, but I've never necessarily like implanted myself in one specific group because like, like I said, like people like different types of people. So I'll be everywhere, honestly. Um, yeah, it was a very good student. A lot of the teachers there because of that, they would always like have it out for me low key, I have no idea why it was very weird. Like, there's specific instances where teachers will say like, I didn't hand in my

work, or they would say like, I would like purposely disrupt their classes. It was just very weird. Um, but you know, came out a student every single semester there so that's really a business. Um, yeah, most schools one, honestly, that's serious.

**Olivia N** 06:47

Can you talk a little bit more about your friend groups,

06:50

ring groups? Okay. Yeah, so um, like I was saying I kind of had a lot of different friends. The middle school that I went to Eisley six actually, like transferred there from another zone school. That home school it was a little too, too high for my mom's liking. Like she didn't want me getting involved with like, you know, the wrong kind of crowds. I mean, you can get on Google wrong crowds anywhere, but that school specifically like most times, you're zoned school is not the best. And it sucks you know, for like the children because like, that's not our fault. But so yeah, ICT sites, which is where I went, my friends, I had like, couple guy friends. I'm still friends with some of them today. We would really just be doing nonsense at school. Like when we didn't have glass like and it was like lunch or something we would really be outside doing nonsense. My girlfriend's a lot of them. I don't really talk to them, which is kind of crazy. Like my girlfriend's from middle school. I don't really talk to them but like we still have each other like on social medias and stuff like that. So I'll see them occasionally. Or like we'll see each other outside occasionally because you know, Brooklyn is big but it's small so it's like you know we ran into each other sometimes like oh my god What are you doing you know, just a little catch up thing um, what were we doing the most and kind of thing like we would always Oh, Middle School is when musically was hot. We was outside on the playground doing music leads every single like every single chance we got it we wouldn't do it musically. We probably just chatting like that's really it. Or just playing around you know, there was no school is also kind of weird. Like they had those weird days where the boys want to be weird. So I don't know. I never really pay that. No mine though. Because what I don't want to be involved. I would just leave them to the nonsense.

**Olivia N** 08:54

What do you mean by the boys being weird? Like,

08:58

like, okay, like to be specific. Have you ever heard of those canes where they're like, oh, let's go slap girls on their butts. Like that was middle school days and UI on the playground like they always would you know that the girls and I would really just like what is happening my my business some of the girls was with it. Some of them were not obviously. I was not. I was like, okay, yeah, I'll leave that to yourselves. Like I don't know it's just so weird even now thinking about it like why like what was that even for? is always being pleasantly gross? I guess. Um, yeah, my friends we like I feel like middle school no one really judged per se. I don't know if they would get in. I couldn't tell. Like you know, we were just so caught up in doing whatever classwork and then having fun after I didn't live too far from school. So I would always just on what back home, we would go to like this a bat, these abandoned train tracks near our school and just like, you know, do dumb stuff. We just do random stuff we talk and all that kind of stuff I never got, even though I know there were like people in middle school who were like, in drugs or like doing, you know, stuff like that at such a young young age. I never really

associated with them. Like I knew it would be happening, but I didn't I didn't want no parts. Like I said, my mother would beat me so I didn't want no part. I'm also bring young what do we even need that stuff for? Yeah, so Middle School, was kind of the gist of it. What about high school? High school? Oh, gosh. High school was fun until it wasn't like oh my gosh, this is why I say middle school was way better like high school. Okay, coming in like ninth grade. I went to high school in Flatbush. It was like an early college school. So for the first two years, we did. We did school like on a different campus. And then for the last few years, so junior and senior year, we were on Brooklyn College campus because we were early college school. So all of my classes were always rigorous. Like they they were basically preparing us for college. So when once we got to junior year, we were doing college classes. We weren't really doing regular classes anymore besides like, chanting like writing or something like that. But even still, there was college writing, like, you know, we weren't because that was like, it was like, on track school setting us up for college. So high school. It was really fun at first, like I remember ninth, ninth grade, I mean, the couple friends that I made. So I did go into high school with one friend from middle school. We went to that same high school together. And we made friends with other like she was Jamaican as well. So we made friends but like this other Jamaican girls, because this is Brooklyn. A lot of people were Caribbean, like Caribbean background. So we found like, you know, some other Jamaican people trying to think what I Oh, I befriended like, my high school was like chaos for me. I had a boyfriend, all of high school. And oddly enough, I never kissed that man.

12:38

I told him that I didn't know how to kiss. And he was like, I will teach you and I was like, no. But he was still my boyfriend all the high school like you see the power? Like what? Yeah, like, think about it. It's like, what is the man but yeah, that was teach. So you know, we always kind of like, integrated our friend groups. And we kind of just became a friend. So it'll be like, his guy friends and my girlfriends. And we always would like, go to the library together, go different places together, celebrate birthdays together. Like that was kind of my sorry. That was kind of like my high school experience. It was a big group of friends. And everybody knows that big friends never last. Why? Because they'd be weird. Like, I literally talk to none of those people anymore. They're weird. Like, it's very crazy to think about the few friends that I do have from high school still, I gained them like junior and senior like when I got to the Brooklyn College campus I gained them junior senior years. So those my girls they not going nowhere. Um, but yeah, everyone else that I was mainly associated with in high school. I don't talk to them anymore. But we had so much good moments. So it's kind of it kind of sucks. like, Damn, you know, when you have all those memories with people that you don't talk to anymore. We were doing everything like we would always hang out at Target on junction after school, or Burger King. Oddly enough, I have no idea why like we were there for hours talking playing we always had no cards like it was one times you know, homework. I don't know where that was at but you know, we graduate so that don't even matter. I mean, I'm just getting memes on that work. Of course scholars you know, we're an early college school we scholars, but we like to do nonsense as well. I'm always going to a C suite 16 Always somebody's birthday we're always doing something Yeah, high school was pretty it was pretty calm until it wasn't like specifically senior year it was a lot of like just drama, drama, surrounded rights drama surrounded around. Like relationship relationships. I reached out are surrounded like relationships drama surrounding like, who's about to graduate who's not really wasn't anybody's business like, you know, it was just a lot of like nonsense senior year. And the work obviously got harder because we were in college classes at this point. So the work was harder. Um, they were forcing

us to go to gym. That was very gross. I was not going to gym, I graduated high school with a 75 engine because I did not go. It was first period like, why am I wait? When you're a senior, you know, like when you're senior in high school, your classes get complex, especially that last semester gym was our only class. gym was the only class that we had to take. And my period was first period in the morning. Why am I getting up at 7am to go to gym, and then to go back home. I was not going to gym, I would just be going to campus to see my friends honestly. And then we would probably like go get food or something. But I was not going to gym. I literally graduated with a 75 in gym because I was not gonna be at high school, like I said was fun till it wasn't.

**Olivia N 16:15**

So why did you go? Feel like you have to have a boyfriend in high school?

16:23

Why did I feel like I had to have a boyfriend. I never felt like I had to have a boyfriend. Honestly, I truthfully, I never really haven't been up. Okay. Putting myself like back in high school. I wasn't in a lot of relationships, like, you know, like, some of the girls were like, oh, yeah, this like boyfriend every new boyfriend every week. Like I had a friend in middle school. She had a boyfriend like every two weeks, like a new boyfriend. And I was just like doing to you, girl. So when it came to high school, him being like my first official boyfriend, like it was kind of cool. I'm like, okay, you know, this is cute, because like, even though I don't talk to him anymore, because he does some weird stuff. But he was like, one of the, like one of the few people that actually understood me, I really wish that we stayed friends. I wish I knew myself more to know that we should have just been friends because I feel like the experience probably would have went a little bit differently. But it wasn't like I felt like I had to have one. It kind of just happened. Like he would always like hang around me and my friends because he was trying to talk to me. So I didn't know that. Actually, I didn't even know that. I was just like, Okay, we cool. Like, you know, I didn't know that. But he was like the he was one of the tallest boys in our grade. Um, he was like, like, in high school. He was like, ideal candidate somewhere if that makes sense. Like, you know. So I was little I was a little proud. And I was like, Okay, tell me a little tool took away from my boyfriend. Um, yeah, he was like one of the people who understood me and we like, like, some of a lot of the same things. We he lives we looked far from each other. But he would always like, Come walk me to the bus stop. Like every single day. So it's like, I think it's more like circumstantial how we became like together. Like we're like, oh, we spend all the time together. We talk all the time. So might as well like, you know, go together. And then yeah, we kind of just was together all of high school, oddly enough, except for senior year, like we broke up because he was weird. He would take me to prom. This man did not take me to prom. I was so mad. What's so bad? Because, okay, he had like another girlfriend like they were friends since middle school. And he did not take me to prom because I didn't want to wear burgundy to prom. Like me who's been your girlfriend, all of high school. You don't take me to prom because I don't want to wear color. Like that was so stupid to me. Like literally so stupid. And guess what the hell this man would have prom. Black. And gold.

**Olivia N 19:06**

Wasn't even burgundy.

19:08

And wasn't if I was so mad, like, I was so upset. I'm like, this was a waste. And I didn't talk to him at prom. And he was so mad about that. And I was like, I don't care. You ruined like you've not ruined prom. He didn't ruin prom for me. But like, I wanted that whole like, you know, like, especially because you were my boyfriend so I that's not how that works like he's supposed to take we're supposed to go to prom together. Like you could have been so cute. You ruined it here on my pictures. I mean, I still look good, but but still ever right? You know, like it was just weird. Like, I don't know, sour taste for him. Well, sour taste for him now. Not at the time.

**Olivia N 19:45**

Yeah, yeah. So how did race affect you growing up?

19:51

How did race affect me growing up like I was saying, I've pretty much been around black people all my life. I guess the US Facts would be, like systemic, really, it'll be like funding that we wouldn't get. It would be like, how are our applications were viewed when we sent them out to certain places? I never really, like anytime I would venture out of those circles, it would probably be to like, go to some programs, or volunteer work. Um, I never shied away from the fact that I'm black, like, if you and that's kind of weird. I never would shy away from that fact. It definitely didn't feel like it didn't feel like a big deal, if that makes sense. Because Because of that, because of the circles that I was, like I was in. It didn't like nobody really had, we didn't have to explain anything. Like we know, we're black. Um, obviously, as I've gotten older, and I understand more, like, the outside world, and like, as I experienced a whole bunch of new things. That's just like, oh, shit, like, NYU, I swear, that was like, why is that place that place? That place is not real, like, I've never been like a shy person. So it's like, going into NYU having to, like, be on the fence. Like, felt like we on the fence that I'm black. And I deserve my spot this stablshment like, that was some bullshit. I'm sorry. I can I

**Olivia N 21:48**

can curse. You people. People have said and we'll say much worse.

21:52

Right? Okay, sorry. Cuz what the hell was that? Like? That was very specifically. I hope I'm answering your question. But like I remember specifically, like, I think it was sophomore year of school, I had college writing are some I remember whatever, right? It was a writing course. Um, we were having a discussion about reading, gosh, we were reading. I can't even remember what we were reading. But we were reading articles. And it was about like tycoons in other countries. And one of them was like, I think of Brazil, like a Brazilian guy. He was really rich. He was I think, was he was a Brazilian man. He was like, really read something like that. And one of the, like, questions, or to our professor was asking that she's like, um, do you guys think that this list was would look like a little bit different? If Black and Brown like something like would this list be different? If other races like were allowed? I can't even remember the question she was. She wasn't like she was she was unproblematic. She was she was fine. It was the students like this man, he rose his hand. He's like, Well, my dad is a business owner. And he's always taught me that I can do like anything that I want. Because I have the means to get it. And he will help me in any way. And we're like, Doug, wait, like, Duh, like, you literally have all the tools. He's handing them to you. So I'm kind of, I wish I remember the specific question. But like, when I was like,

like, arguing with him in the class, because he was basically making it seem like, we didn't have that opportunity. And we couldn't get there. You know, and I was just saying, it's not that we cannot get there. We definitely will. Are you crazy? Have you seen the amount of billionaires that are on our like Forbes, and they're black, whether they're coming from America or you know, other countries in the world, because they have a lot on the road that I don't even know about? And there's black people out here making strides. So what are you talking about? But basically, he was saying that we couldn't get there as easy. And I'm like, yeah, it's not going to be it was never going to be easy for you for us. Because what you just said the tools are handed to you. They're not handed to us. Even like you feeling like we can't be there. Is pretty like, it just goes to show that literally like it's basically proving his point like it was never going to be easy for us, but don't say that we can't make it there. Like I just I never had to defend being black before like that. That was what NYU was for me. It was like, I don't like is that culture shock? Yeah, I guess like I never had to defend it. I never had to be on edge. I never had to. Like I never had to Yeah, I hate NYU. I love the black community. Of course. Like I love that but everyone else. It was just like what let me not say everyone else. I made some nice friends they're, like, have like, sorry, not color as of color now color. Yeah, I've made some cool like, you know, there's always going to be unproblematic, like, actually good people, whatever. centerboard good to be, but the other ones like the ability, like, I, oh my god, I hate that shit. I really hate it. Like, why do I have to prove that I belong here? Anytime that I've had to like, explain myself, well not really explain myself, Well, okay. So being, like being from Brooklyn, I have, like a certain aura to me, if that makes sense, like the way that I took, it may not come off as, like, I'm not gonna just start spitting vocabulary words out of my mouth, like, I'm going to talk to you in slang first, before I talk to you, how I can't like how I can switch, you know, I mean, so anytime I would be in class or like, you know, volunteering, you know, we have to do at points, whatever. I'm talking how tall I taught, like, anytime that I felt like I needed to switch, right, you know, I took I took anytime I felt like I needed to switch. It was probably in defense, for like, some dumb shit that these people be saying out of their mouths. And every time they would look like, oh, my god, wow. Ooh, she could do that. Like, you dumb ass. Boy, like, why would I be sitting in the same class as you if I could not articulate myself? Are you crazy? Like we're reading the same books? We're doing the same work. Like, please do not play with me that I hate. I hate that place. Like it was just so. Gotcha. But yeah, I hope that answered your question. I never really had, like race was never really a problem for me growing up, if that makes sense. Like, everyone I knew was black, hung out with black people. All the spaces I was in was black. My teachers were black. Thank God, I never really had like, no, thank God, because I've heard different stories. Not even like in Brooklyn, like there's different. Like depending on where obviously where in Britain, you are, like, I'm sure people who grew up in like Flatbush mill basin, downtown Brooklyn, they probably have different, like different experiences, because those would mostly be where the non colored people would be. Yeah, like the Hispanics. I had some Hispanics people in my, in my grades, but not not a lot. Yeah. Yeah, thanks. You

**Olivia N 27:50**

know, you'd answered my question anyway. Any way or? Or how you decide to respond to the question is how you answer the question. So we're gonna talk a little bit more about

**28:06**

maybe class, okay.

**Olivia N 28:08**

And then maybe you can talk about what it was like growing up first gen. With with, with the Jamaican mom,

28:15

right. Um, so growing up Christian, is kind of scribbled it down, like, like, everyone's like, counting on us. Basically, that's how it feels like everyone at home is counting on us, everyone back home, like in the, in the, on the island is counting on us. So it's like, even though we don't have even though we never really had the, like money to do certain things, because I would consider we're definitely working class. So you know, like living paycheck to paycheck to paycheck, having to, you know, only do certain things during certain, like deals or stuff like that, like, I mean, for me, it never really bothered me, because I didn't know that there was more, if that makes sense. Like because the way I was conditioned growing up, this is what we, this is what we got, and we make the best of what we got. So make sure you study hard. So you can get if you want more, you get more, you know, like, make sure you don't get into trouble. Don't like that was really how I was brought up. So I definitely was like a little sheltered. My mom wouldn't really want me going out to do different things. My brother on the other hand, him being a boy, and older than me, he got to work with you guys do whatever you want. And honestly, like he could go out. He could and he that was stressful and he played football so a lot of our money went towards him. And it kind of sucked because like What about me? Like, you know, it really sucks, but we still we still got by like, because, you know, we had our mom, my, like, Dad would help every now and then but not, not significantly, not significantly enough that we could like splurge if that makes sense. So growing up, it didn't it didn't feel like I was being left out of stuff because I just accepted that this is what we do. And we make the best of what we got. So that's why like, education was always stressed. I'm following the rules always stress I'm really I mean, there's a lot of stuff I've done that a mom Chun I don't know ever about. ever got to know about but you know, in her eyes, we came out pretty good. I think we did. We came out pretty good. We my brother, you know, he's weird. But you know, came up pretty good. Is that I had to add that part, we came up pretty good. So

**Olivia N 31:24**

did you ever feel like any pressure, like growing up first gen, like you talked about how there's like, like an understanding that you have to give back to people back on the island? Like, did you feel that pressure to like perform in a certain way?

31:41

I mean, definitely a lot of pressure to outperform. If that makes sense. Like, you have to be your best self whether that be in appearance in like stature in your, your minds because everyone is waiting on you to fail. Like on the outside. So definitely a lot of pressure. I even though I think I've always been like a good like a good kid. I would always just venture out on my own. Like, even before I like the legal working age, I tried to get a job, just so that I can get things that I wanted, like, you know, because if my mommy can't give it to me, maybe I like to try and get it for myself. So I would like do like tutoring on the side for little kids, like work at daycares. Like those are the kinds of kinds of things well, at least then you could do those kinds of things without, you know, being legal age to work because it's not like we're stupid or anything like we know what we're doing. Um, and then when I when I did turn 14, which it was is the legal age in New York. Um, I started like with some programs, and a lot of them are like,

non part of it, what's the word? That's always left my head. What is it? When I'm, oh my gosh, why did I just slip on this word? Okay. They don't get paid to do the work that they do. There. It's an NGO. Okay. It's like funded? Not Yeah. Okay. I don't know why this term is like, yeah, I don't know. It was just weird. But yeah, so a lot of the programs that I worked with, they were like, those are most of them, were giving back to the city, whether it be like giving back to homeless or like helping out with food drives, as a lot of things like that. Um, what else like doing a lot of things, we're still like working with kids, because those are like, easier jobs to get so camp counseling, anything I could do to be outside, I would do it. And if I was making money at the same time, that was even better. So right, like that was even better so because, you know, my mom kind of really wanted to shelter me, but I was like, Nah, girl, got the world to see. I got the world to see. Like, I was trying to be out like how my brother was out. Like, that's my favorite. But yeah, definitely felt a lot of pressure, but I feel like we're conditioned to not even realize it like, even like sometimes when I think about it now. I'm just like, damn, like, that kind of sucks. You know, like, it really sucks, but we were just kind of, we just kind of had to take it. Honestly. I mean, that's not how it should probably should have went, but we survived. That means anything like you gay. Yeah, we survived it that counts for anything.

**Olivia N 34:58**

So you kind of mentioned it a little But you were talking about how like your brother was able to do things because he was like a dude, he was a man. And you weren't because you were not in our nine. So can you talk a little bit more about how gender has impacted you growing up?

**35:13**

Um, definitely. So being Caribbean in traditional, you know, the woman is supposed to clean the house, cook food from young you supposed to learn those like skills, the man is supposed to be strong, and be able to provide or protect. And we cater to them. Like, that's the like, that's been the stereotype for years. So, especially, I don't know, probably half of they, like love to uphold, and they love their boy children. Like it's insane. They love their boy children. My brother's eight years older than me. So he's 30 right now. Um, I didn't really feel the age difference when we were younger, because we just don't, we were just doing whatever, you know, we're kids. But as the years have gone by, like, definitely, that bill is gone. And he, like he's very distance. Even though my mother still like cuddles him in a weird, weird way. He got to do a lot of things being as my mother would like, put money towards his football. I don't really know, like, especially at the time, so it was like 20 like 2008 to 20. When he was like, seven or 2018, like 2008 to 2018. That was like his, like football? Well, no, actually all the way up to college. But my mom didn't have to pay for it. I mean, at that point, because he had scholarships for college. So up until like, when he graduated high school, I think was 2014. I can't remember but it would always be oh, we have to set aside this because Kim has to go to football camp, or we have to do this because cam has football. And I have to do this because you know, like it would just be so it would be so annoying. Because I don't know I really kind of this is like one of the few things I kind of, like, resent from my mom, because I'm like, she never put me in anything. Like what if I had some skill Sue? I wouldn't have fucking known like, like, you know, she didn't even like I'm pretty okay, let me not say I'm pretty sure but I'm sure there were some free things in the city that I could have done. You know, like, Yes, I never, I never experienced going to like camp, which sucks. I never I've never been to camp. Anytime I've been to camp. It was literally me as a counselor. Like everyone's at camp for

myself. Even though I'm pretty like I'm pretty like, you know, us being working class. I'm pretty sure a lot of these things were expensive. So it's like she can't do both. You can't there were three

**Olivia N** 37:47

things or three things.

37:49

She didn't have any access to them that's

**Olivia N** 37:52

probably already know about them. Because they're like your local like, you're a local you're in NYC native. There's like three things for Brooklyn natives to do. That's what

38:01

I'm saying. I just feel like maybe she didn't know about them. So I can't blame her all the way. But it's like, what about me? Like, what if I was what if I mean, what if I really could have been like, a good ballet dancer right now? How would I know? Like, I never got to try out a lot of things. A lot of things that I did. It would be a lot of things I have done, it would be like maybe visiting other other family members like she did. She did somebody like Pennsylvania.

38:35

Rosa had gone a couple of times. Jersey, like Yeah, like, you know, I never really got to do

38:49

like, like sporting activities, like my brother is like so heavily in that. And that's honestly because I'm not she don't want to admit it. But he's her favorite because he's a boy. Like, I don't know what logic. They are like holding on to like it's very smothering, especially to me being you know, a woman I can't do a lot of things went well. I mean, like, okay, sorry, let me rephrase. I can't do a lot of things. I couldn't have done a lot of things growing up. Because I was a girl. I couldn't go out late. I couldn't be in certain places, though. My brother could, you know, because he's a boy and he is different. I couldn't wear certain stuff. I mean, truthfully, I like my mom would just mean but I kind of would like I liked boy clothes. I like both honestly. So I didn't really care about that part. But just the stigma associated with it. Like it's always remind, it's always a reminder, you know, like, Oh, don't wear that because you know, things can happen like oh, it's so on so it's coming over put this on so you're, you know, not showing off too much for them in your own home. Like,

**Olivia N** 40:07

was it also family members too? Yeah, like, members that you had to cover up for?

40:12

Yeah, it's always Yeah, we didn't really live we it was always it was always the three of us living like together but anytime let's say somebody needed like, you know just a place to stay real quick or like they were visiting. My mom would always help out people and yeah, we're right where vibes. She was always helping people. So it's like Damn girl should have been focusing on us. You got all these

**Olivia N 40:38**

resources but not for us.

40:40

Exactly. Can't help. Yeah. Yeah, everybody. But God, I didn't. I hated it. I still hate it. Because, like, he's a grown man and coddle him. And I'm, like, I'm not saying like, he's undeserving of that sort of attention. But it's like, it's not equal. So, you know, and she cannot deny it. Like, she can't, she tries. But I'm like, Mom, just give it up. He's your favorite. And I've long like, come to terms with that. Because like, I can't, I can't, I will never be a man. So what does that have to? You know? Yeah, some things a lot of things in life. Like, even like my childhood, a lot of things. Just had to kind of just forget them. It's sucks. Like, you know, it's kind of numb to those certain things at this point.

**Olivia N 41:36**

So, can you talk about how size impacted you growing up?

41:41

sighs definitely. Like starting let me start with family. So starting with family.

41:47

It was most I will say more like my dad's side of the family. So anytime I'd be with like, my dad's side of the family, they would always bring up the fact that like, I was obviously chubbier than my cousins, or I was, like, just overall bigger. They're like, wow, you eating what are you eating? And you know, always very weird. I'm always like, I was always going to doctors and stuff like that. And they would literally say like, yeah, she is like she becoming becoming obese, but she's healthy, like healthy in terms of like my organs, not in terms of like, because you know, you can be bigger and not unhealthy. A lot of people do not understand that. And, I mean, as a kid, I was eating a lot of nonsense, though. So that was one of the things like the doctors would be like, you'd need to change that. Like you don't change the things that she's eating. But even still, when I did that, I'm still big like, so. Yeah, but family. Yeah, my nickname was like, fluffy. And that was one of my nicknames growing up. Yes, fluffy. Like, you know, Jamaicans they have doings give you a nickname for everything. Like, it won't even be associated with your real name. Like, there's a girls named Kevin. And their nickname is like, George like, what does that even mean? It doesn't even make any sense. But yeah, family and never. I don't know, for some reason and never, like, bothered me, coming from family because like I said, a lot of these things were conditioned. So it's like, it's just what I was used to. Like, unfortunately, that's, you know, that was kind of the mindset. It's like, okay, just another day of y'all pay in. Just another day, I'll be mad about something that's not the change. School. I don't know if it's like my personality. I never really got bullied for being fat. But it definitely was a topic. Like, I remember middles no elementary school. Like, because, like, you know, our, you know, middle school, sorry, and middle class correct. The first time, like our uniform. I like obviously, I'm that so um, you know, been filling up the uniform in different ways in the office and not uniform. And it's like, wow, like, Why do you have to wear it like this? I'm just like, why is that your business? Why does this affect you? Like, I never got outwardly bullied like I'm saying like, it was never like, bashing me to my face type stuff. Only certain times, like there was this one middle school. He was so stupid. He's so ugly. Like, anyways, always be the hate and ask, like, pick

one. Pick one. But like, he was like, Yeah, I'm like, why are you fat? Like you need to, like fix basically tell me to fix it. And I'm just like, What is this doing? Like, how does this affect you? It doesn't. And I remember I told my dad Oh my god. I remember I told my dad and I was like dad like Key so on so like said this about me and this man, can you believe this man gonna say well you are so dad like bro. Life is funny. That is like a core memory that's a core memory for me I'll never forget that because we use take me home and I'm like even if I am bad nigga you are my dad like what is wrong with you? But yes school and I'm really got outwardly bullied but it was definitely like they're like I remember another instance where it was this was this um yeah oh we were doing measurements for gym you know, I always have to do measurements for gym. Or like the Pacer Test and stuff like that. Um, it will be like snide comments like, oh, like she she didn't make it past so and so. Or like, Oh, I'm like, who's like, Oh, she she's breaking the scale some but like, just bullshit. And I don't know, I feel like maybe it's like my, like, tough persona or like, my tough outer skin. Like, I really try not to let that stuff bother me because I'm be fair regardless, necessarily, but I'm happy you local natives like that's really what, you know, just that sort of, like not giving a fuck, because it doesn't it's not affecting your life. Why does it bother you? Yeah, that's how size has, I guess played a part in my life? Definitely. I feel like and in it. I'm trying to think have I? Maybe Maybe this maybe I'm also lying to myself a little bit. Maybe I just didn't know. Maybe I just didn't let it bother me. Because I you know, like, who wants to feel bullied or like, wants to? You know, like, accept shame from other people. So it's kind of like, maybe I just put up a facade like, yeah, I don't really care. But at some point, I just didn't really care. Because yeah, it never stopped me from getting friends. I think that's a part of my personality to like, and I'm just I'm getting friends. It was never like topic of conversation, like as one spot like, go badly. What? What else? What else? There's a whole bunch of other attributes. I would say maybe like, dating wise, that is probably where like, I would feel it the most. But that was also when I was when I thought I wanted to date men. So I would attempt dating men and it would be a problem for them. Because they're weak. Yeah. You feel me? Like, yeah, they're weak, or they want a certain look to feed their ego and that's fine. If that's what you want, go find that leave me out of it. Like, you know, like, there's a lot of weird people who have like, the fat fetish, stuff like that. It's very disgusting. And it's very demeaning to not only the person, like, you know, the, like, the actual person whose feelings are getting jeopardized because you want to fetishize them because of their body weight, like ish. This world does not make any sense. Sometimes when you think like when you have to say it out loud. Like, what the fuck is even that about? Yeah, I'll definitely say like, the dating scene is probably where I was affected by that. I remember. Like, I thought I had a boyfriend in middle school where I'm at this point, I don't remember. I thought. I remember. I have a friend Middle School, and we would like to be on the phone. Like, you know, we'd be FaceTiming he like, oh, like send me some pictures of you. Not like well, he probably made explicit but I was not doing that. No. I was in like, like, he's asked him pictures of me and he just and one day he called me on the phone and I heard a whole bunch of girls laughing in the back. And they're like, oh my god, you're so fat. Hahaha like your pictures and I was just like, wow, like I thought she was my boyfriend like now now I'm like, you know now you hate that like okay, and that that's another core memory too because they was dead laughing on the phone like they were all week and I was really hurt because like I thought I was my boyfriend. I eventually got over it because like I don't know and I try not to list certain stuff bother me because I know who the fuck I am in the day so ya know Hey, regardless you feel me like regardless so I'll the dating scene is probably where it bothered the most at home. It bothered me but I can't ANNA also put up a guard there, too. So yeah, just you know, just fake it till you make it like none of that is real. Tape. So,

**Olivia N** 50:10

yeah. Let's, we're gonna talk about what your first exposure to lesbianism was. Do you remember? Right when you first learned about lesbianism

50:22

reference learned about it? Yeah. Was it like did you like see like a

**Olivia N** 50:26

lesbian couple lesbian family friend? Was it online?

50:31

Weird. I was like, versus

**Olivia N** 50:35

maybe like queerness in general.

50:40

Which I think like the first instance it was probably in movies. There is this okay. I don't know if you seen this movie I'm about to talk about. But if you have not go watch that movie conspired. Um, I love movies. I would always like watch me by myself. Or like, you know, go and watch movies. I love movies like, film. Don't analyze this. That's my stuff. Um, but there's one specific movie. I'm pretty sure this is what expose me to like queerness lesbianism. It's called. What is it called? I'm not a cheerleader. Have you ever seen that movie? Yeah, you have that? Yeah. That was awesome. Um, yeah, that movie specifically, like, as I like thinking about my first instance, watching that movie. Definitely exposed me to a lot of different things. Like, what expose me to the fact that people thought queerness was like a disease that could be solved through therapy. Um, it definitely exposed me like, you know, to the actual being, like, being lesbian being gay. Like, those communities. And when I was watching that movie, like, I didn't. At the time, I wasn't associating myself with any of the characters. It was more so like, I'm watching this movie, because it's a good movie, you know? But then, as I think back to the movie, I'm like, wow, like, I really liked this movie, because I actually do, uh, you know, I do, like, I guess fit in with some of the characters or I do associate with being a part of this community. So that's why it's always been like a favorite for me. And I didn't know that until recently. Obviously, recently, because I'm still new to this community. That's why I'm Jack and I'm still new here. So I never really I never really let down. So yeah, that would be like my first introduction to it. Me realizing. Like since then, I'll say, I watched that movie, like maybe like, third teams. Remember, but probably at that age. So that was definitely like my first introduction. And then since then, it'll be like people that I've met. That would be the other ways that I'll be like, okay, like, you're gay. That's cool. You know, like, live your life? Yeah. So when did you first start

**Olivia N** 53:28

identifying as a lesbian? And how did you end up arriving there?

53:34

I would say I first started identifying what is it 20. They also have personally identifying as a lesbian, in 2020. This is why I really consider myself like news, the community, because I really didn't know this entire time. Like I was always attracted to women, but I didn't act on any of it. So I didn't. I didn't feel like I was a part of the community because I'm like, I'm not gay. But it was really me in the novel, not knowing. Because at the same time, when I worked at Primark, like when they first opened in like, 2019 2018, I can't remember I had just started college. So I'm sorry, high school. Yeah. 2018 2019. There were Oh, even before that, actually, let me run it back. I used to work for AmeriCorps. And there was this fine Spanish girl. She was fine. Like, if she knew it, so she was like, more like mass presenting, but she was fine. Like, when she would like be talking to me. And she's like, she would go come home with me. Girl, girl, right when I think about it now, I'm just like, Wait, what was that like? Think? But see, that was awesome because I wasn't thinking of it like that at the time. But when I think of it now Oh, I was definitely check that to her and I wanted to be around her every single time we had work. I'll be like, yo, yo, yeah, let's come by me, you know, but she was so fun. And like, I have such good memories of that. We have primary that was like 29 like still like later 2019 Um, there was this girl. She was from Brooklyn to. And her like she was tall and dark skinned and fine. And she had short hair of Madonna says, She's So Fine. And she's nice, like, Oh, she's fine. So like, like, even to this day, I still have her like on Instagram and stuff. I'm pretty sure she's straight. Because whenever we'd be talking to you, he told me like about her boyfriends or whatever. And I'd be like, That really sucks. Because you, you would be my perfect girlfriend. You should be my girlfriend. But yeah, even still, then I never acted on any of it. Because like I said, I didn't necessarily know or I didn't even know how to honestly. Because, you know, there's that. Like, it's fair arrow is very hard. Like being a femme lesbian, because people don't think I'm alone. It's me. And so, especially me not really knowing myself at first, like, that's also confusion, like nobody wants to be confused or get their feelings hurt, but I really didn't know. So you know, like, that would also be that. Like, specifically, why even bring that up is because there was a time where I actually did change my shot with a girl. And she basically laughed in my face. I was like, oh, kg. I yo. Oh, gosh. So this is when like, I started to realize that I was attracted to women in I would actually date women. But the breaking into the breaking into part two actually get to then when that's the part that was like very difficult. Like I said, because they didn't think I was gay. So you know, they didn't want to they didn't want it to be like, Oh, just another straight girl trying to play with you know that and I hate I would hate that as well. Like, but I was like, that's why it was difficult for me because that really wasn't the case. Like, like, like I just said I was I had a boyfriend from high school and I did not kiss them in. So that's what kind of like what is that? But yeah, so I tried to shoot my shot with a girl. I was working with her at the time. I tried to my shop with her and she literally laughed in my face. She laughed and she was like, oh, no, like, I'm attracted to short white girls. I was like, What the fuck? Yeah, that was. That was Yeah. That did it for me. Like basically she was trying to think of, well, maybe that's that is her type if that's your type, okay, boo. But it's like, here I am a tall, fat black woman and you're gonna tell me that you like short white girls. message loud and clear. Like you Billy I understand loud and clear. I'm not your title. That's fine. But yeah, that was like my first time getting rejected and trying to like, you know, accept this girl. And then when I felt back off, because you just declined me. So you know now it's just like me being respectful because we work together. She was on my body. Like she was on my body bad. Like she wouldn't be calling me often. kind of find out how I'm doing I can if I want to go places with her. And I'm like, Do you think I'm an idiot? Like, what do you think is happening? You literally just declined me to my face and laughed. Like girl be fucking for me like a real girl. Like, that was ridiculous. But in I will say dating apps also really helps. Because it eliminated the like nervousness

of having to do it in person. Because you saw like you saw what just happened. So it definitely eliminate that. I and like, dating apps and social media, I will say because even like, What 2019 And so yeah, okay, so yeah, 2019 when I was like in the transitioning phase, because I will say 2020 is when I actually started dating women like I dated this girl that I met off Tinder. And it was cute was calm. She was my first real lesbian experience. Yes, like, do my first real lesbian experience and it didn't really work out but you know That's not the point. It was me being able to, like be accepted. And her being come because like, my one another big thing for me, I didn't want anybody to feel like I was just trying to, like, learn or play around with them if that makes sense, like a lot of straight girls made do or a lot of like maybe by women I heard, I don't know, I just be hearing, like, you know, the fact that they would play with lesbians feelings because they want that experience x aspect. And because I didn't have any experience, I always made it clear. I was like, Listen, I am really attracted to but I don't have any experience. If that is a like, you know, was like, if that's going to be something for you, then we can stop because I don't want anyone to feel like I'm trying to take advantage of their like, there's like, you know, their life their story, because my story is now beginning if that makes sense. So yeah, that was 2020. And that girl, she that amount of Tinder. She was my first lesbian experience. And since then, you know. We we get around you've been around around. Check. Yeah, exactly.

**Olivia N** 1:01:22

So we kind of mentioned it already. Like, were you really nervous when you were first like having like lesbian sex or queer sex?

1:01:34

I was so freaking nervous. Okay, I didn't want to be bad. Like,

**Olivia N** 1:01:42

Real? Real.

1:01:43

I did not want to be bad at it. Like, that's so obviously, you know, I was watching porn like crazy. I'm like, Nah, I need to know. I need to know what I need those do and I didn't. None of my like, well, at the time, like, at that time, none of my friends were get lesbian, so I couldn't even ask them. You know, like, I couldn't ask them. Like, yeah, why don't you put see like I couldn't ask them. Um, I was nervous as hell like, and the girl like she. Thankfully, she was. Well, okay, actually, no, she wasn't okay with it. At first, like me being nervous, which I was like, damn, like, kind of sucks. Like, I'm nervous. It's not that I don't want to I'm just like really scared. Like, she thought I was a pillow princess. That's what she said. She was like, wow, like, Are you being a pillow princess? And I'm just like, No, I'm fucking nervous. You crazy girl like, damn. And she was just making it weird. A little bit. Like, I don't know. She was definitely making me aware like she was trying to make it seem like I like was coke coercing her into giving me headfirst? I was like, You did that we was making out I was fine with just making out. I didn't say we had to you know, I mean, I wanted to I was like, it was definitely consensual. But it was the way she made it seem like I just wanted her to give me head. And then we go about the day like I never. I never said that. I just don't like I don't even know how to initiate this act. Like that's what I was trying to explain to her. So eventually, I did and you know, she had a great night. And so did I. So that was that

was really fun. We I was very nervous. Like, yes, I promise you I sat there for like 20 minutes just really just kind of playing in my head. I'm just like,

**Olivia N** 1:03:41

scared like she know like, it's so nervous. You're like, what do I do with my tongue? Why does my fingers Why does she hates me?

1:03:49

What a girl.

**Olivia N** 1:03:52

Also, the lesbian community is so small. You're like, what if I get like a bad like a bad review? And,

1:03:59

like a bad review exactly this

**Olivia N** 1:04:01

bad? I don't recall

1:04:05

like, Oh, yes, my first time but it's like, I really didn't want to be bad. Like that sucks. Like, you know, she just pleased me. I want to play you too. So I would have I would have been sick. She said it was bad. It was also kind of weird, because like, well, obviously, I was basing it off of porn. So that was my first mistakes. Report. Like the it wasn't gonna go how porn goes, obviously, but I didn't have nobody else to ask for no pointers. So no, that's what I had to do.

**Olivia N** 1:04:38

I mean, did you feel like the porn you were watching was at any way similar to what actually happened?

1:04:46

Similar only because I was just following whatever care Nora was doing. Karen Nora is my idol. I love her entire life.

**Olivia N** 1:04:54

Yeah. Also, like, has a great poem. Online like

1:05:01

personality nowadays right? I love her like all overall like she's like seems like such a cool friends. But yeah, she is my idol she really you know, she held it down for me then because I don't know what the hell I was doing. So I was really just like mimicking I would just meet with her and apparently you work so childcare nor wherever you

**Olivia N** 1:05:27

know thank you for doing the good service of actually talking about realize the insects and what it could actually be like yeah. Did it ever feel scary to identify as a lesbian? Oh, definitely.

1:05:42

Scary for specifically at home. Like I said, my mother is Jamaican, and you already know the stereotypes go begins and well. Yeah, Jamaica was kind of what was it specifically to make like, why do they hate gay people so much like them? Like even our music, like, you know, like buncha German. It's very, it's very dangerous to be a gay person in Jamaica. I will say it is a bit easier considering I am a woman. It is a bit easier black gay men have to go through a lot more in terms of their presentations, because you know, people will accept lesbians kissing because they fetishize it before they will accept like no, two gay guys kissing. Um, it was very, I never I still to this day have never outwardly said to my mom. Yeah, I'm gay. But she's met my girlfriends. So. Right. Right. So it's like, well, I mean, what else would it

**Olivia N** 1:06:43

be like? You haven't brought a man back in a very long time.

1:06:47

Like, what else could that mean? Even like some like family members Zoghbi or like family friends? They'll be like, Oh, maybe you just haven't met the right one. And I'm just like, I've met lots of them.

**Olivia N** 1:06:56

Like, I know lots of men actually. And I don't like any of them. Actually,

1:07:00

they're all gross. And actually, you don't have one. So maybe they need to work on yourself. Maybe, you know, maybe there's also that reason. Maybe you're gay, like fuck. But yeah, at home. I never also I never ever released I my dad definitely does not know. I don't even think I don't even care to tell him like, yeah, that means, you know, whatever. I don't know. Maybe one day, I'll just do like those cute things where people like, bring their parents a cake.

**Olivia N** 1:07:36

Or, like, you finally get married. And you're like, This is my wife. Right? You know, like, it's

1:07:42

like, by the way, type shit. No, yeah,

**Olivia N** 1:07:45

it doesn't feel important to come out to them in like any big way. Right?

1:07:50

Right. It doesn't. I don't know. I just I just wanted to be sure. Like I said, like, I'm definitely sure now. Like, I'm sure that I'm marrying a woman. Love women like that. I'm sure of that now. But when they was like, first when I was like, first finding out myself figuring out myself. I definitely was scared as fuck.

Because I'm like, oh my god, lift. Everybody hates me now. Or what if, like, they, you know, like, because, you know, you hear those scary stories like this scary story that happens to people in the gay community. And I, like my heart goes out to them. But I didn't want to become another one. Like, I didn't want it to be like, my mom rejects me so much that she like, doesn't talk to me. Or, like, you know, like, kicks me, I don't think she would kick me out the house. But like, you know, she doesn't talk to me anymore. Like, or it's not the same. Or like, my friends think differently of me. You know, like, I didn't want it to be anything like that. But also at the same time, that's also a part of that self love Journey and learning that the people who continuously stick by your side are the actually meant to be there. Like, if this is how I choose to live my life. You may think differently of it. You're not meant to be there. You're not meant to be here.

**Olivia N** 1:09:16

So you mentioned how as a stem, it's kind of hard to be seen as a lesbian by other people in the community. So can you talk about it's like clothing, jewelry, makeups tattoos piercings have like, assisted with your lesbianism in any way.

1:09:37

Oh, hell yes. So let me tell you about this. My Lee. I love this piercing. I love this period. My nose ring fell out but like yeah, whatever. Yeah. I don't know why septum is like a rite of passage. But it's like anyone could get that. I don't know. Weird. I wanted the Medusa. I really wanted it. I didn't Yes, sir. It's Olivia her sexy Medusa. I really wanted it. But I don't know I don't think it will fit my face like How will fit like how it fits yours like you have like more space kind of right here. So this Miley, she is one of my best friends because I'm always smiling. I like to smile. Especially, you know, I'm trying to sell somebody up, I'll just smile real quick like, yeah, you know? And they're like, Wow, you have that in your mouth. And I'm like, Yeah, I'm cool. You know, like, Are you only like, I'm cool. I'm cool. Yeah, you know, and I'm tapping clothing. Like, like I said, I would I'm definitely a femme but I also like to just like mass presenting. I don't really care. Like I'll socio both ways. But like when I definitely just like, you know, dresses, heels or like, just extra, like, extra girly, whatever that is like when I'm extra girly. Um, men love to hit on me and I love love, love denying them telling them that I eat pussy. Like, I love that part because their face is hilarious. And then you know, you get those weird ones like, Oh, but I can change that for you, like, literally throwing up in my mouth. But I love the fact that I can walk around and deny them because they look so stupid. When you say that they're like, they're just like, What do you mean, you look like this? And I'm just like, yeah, dummy. Like,

1:11:35

we look like everything. It's so satisfying. It's so satisfying that I met I'm not gonna lie. I'm the I love the smiley piercing. She's

1:11:48

helped me a lot. I can't wait. Somebody got it up. You know, I'm trying to get a new job because my job they don't really support that. But once I get my new job, you're gonna see ya see me in my final form. And best believe she's going to be a hottie. Like I'm a hottie now. But when I'm in my final form, Yama, you're not prepared. You're not prepared.

**Olivia N 1:12:12**

Oh, really? Can you talk about how your lesbianism has been influenced by like reading books? Your in your friends in some way?

1:12:19

Okay, definitely. Um, Bev does still have my life. That's my bestie she like teaches me so much. Especially like, being welcomed into lesbian community she like, she would always be like putting me on, like little things like hazel and they're like, You are like read this because it it's like more like you. I recently, okay. So I recently read this book like

**Olivia N 1:13:06**

okay, my bed back. No, you're good.

1:13:09

I recently read this book. Have you read this? No, I didn't view this. You should definitely COP this. I'm like, shameless plug nothing versus Brian's you? It's amazing. And I wish there were more books like that when I was growing up. Because, you know, people never. People don't think that. Like queerness should be represented in books or movies or shows which is stupid. So dumb. Like, even like watching as like, I'm not a cheerleader. Like, even simple things like that. Could have made me like could have helped me identify with myself earlier on. So right. The fact that I, you know, as an adult, I'm having to expose myself to them all. I mean, it's not bad. You know, everything happens in stages, whenever they're meant to happen for you. I just wish to happen little earlier for me, like, yeah, you know, like, I feel like I would, I would have been more I would have done things differently, obviously. But yeah, I love this book. Um, it's like, it's like, it's a story with also poems. And it's this lesbian couple, well, lesbian friends, I should say, who are kind of sorry, who are kind of a couple, but they're not. And then they go through this like traumatic experience that they learned that they can't be with each other. So yeah, but it's so it's so good. Like the way Ashley would vote speaks the way she writes like, I just was, it felt so relatable. So yeah, I love that book. I feel like there should be more representation in books and movies. Oh, yeah. I can add to that agenda. Hopefully real soon I can ask that agenda. Oh, you're gonna write? How Yeah, cuz I don't know this book really inspired me girl do it. I feel like especially like my own life, like the way it Wilson obviously like since I've been a part of the community I feel like the way my life kind of goes. I feel like it'll be book worthy. Yeah, you know, so stay tuned.

**Olivia N 1:15:23**

No, I'm in tune. I'm tuned in. Yeah. So can you talk a little bit about your gender identity? Is she they pronouns and identify with black womanhood at the same time? Like, why is that? And how do you think race informs your gender identity?

1:15:46

I don't think race informs my gender.

**Olivia N 1:15:50**

Or you can talk about what it means to use she they pronouns and still feel connected to black womanhood. Okay, well.

1:16:00

Personally, I? Well, personally, okay, um, be a black woman first. Yeah, that makes sense. Whatever space I entered, that's what's gonna be the two most prominent things you're going to learn about me first, because I can't change my skin. I can't change my gender. So I'm always gonna be a black woman. First, me being a part of lesbian community. It definitely ruffles a lot of feathers. I don't know, for what reason? Like, I don't know how this affects their lives, but a lot of feathers. I have tried, like, I've tried to. I'm teaching like, I'm trying to unlearn a lot of behaviors, and I'm trying to teach myself to not not really give a fuck, about how I present all of these factors to myself to other people. Yeah, because I cannot change them. You know, like, we can't change who we are. We can only adapt. Right? So being a gay black woman, you know, got to add that part. Now being a gay black woman. It's very nerveing. Because one, it's like almost mocked or like, laughed at like, you're not actually gay. Like, you know, yeah, that like you haven't had a room and stuff like that. Being like, in when he got like, office space, I almost don't want to, like I don't, I don't want them in my business. But I don't shy away from adding the fact that I am a gay black woman. Like I don't view certain things like how you're viewing them because I'm not checking it like and they are baffled by that. Like, they can't seem to understand it. They they want to make sure that I'm sure that's their favorite. That's their favorite thing. They're like, Oh, maybe you're just not sure. Maybe you haven't had the right man. Like I'm tired of hearing that bullshit. I swear.

**Olivia N** 1:18:21

You can be like, maybe you just cry. Like dating women or dating a lesbian if you're like, how do you know that? You How do you How are you sure?

1:18:29

Exactly the way that everyone is? Sure. I really, I'm pretty sure a lot of women hate their husbands. And that's because they do that, you know, like that's because they seem they seem better. They don't know better. But yeah, I don't think it's like I've tried to I've tried to layer that those parts to my personality, like, presenting myself as she they mostly because I would I would consider myself non binary because I don't care. Yeah, I don't care about like, Oh, you're fat. I'm like, Oh, you're gonna like I don't really care about that stuff. Um, I'm still a woman at the end of the day. And I like what I like, I like I like to dress I like to just I like to do things I like to do. And if one day I feel like putting on sweats sneakers and snapbacks I'm gonna do just that. And I still have my lashes on and I'm gonna still have my fucking bust down. I don't care. Like, that's just how I am. So, yes, sometimes it feels hard, obviously, depending on the spaces that I'm in. I personally want to be in more like welcoming queer community spaces because I don't really know that many But I also think I demand like the sort of attention that I demand. When I enter a space is unknown. It's already, like, intimidating for people for some odd reason. But when they learn that I'm also gay, they're just like, wow, like, like I'm saying, like, interesting new science project like, told me

**Olivia N** 1:20:28

uncomfortable,

1:20:29

very uncomfortable, very irritating. Like, once I once I noticed, like, that's how this conversations gonna go. I'm just like, Yeah, I'm done here.

**Olivia N** 1:20:39

Like, I'm checking.

1:20:41

I'm checked out know exactly.

**Olivia N** 1:20:44

So, how do you think like, so when you're meeting lesbians and making friends while they're lesbians? How do you think race informs your interactions with lesbian community?

1:20:56

I feel like we got to, like, stick together. Because, like, definitely that, like, community like sticking together aspect because, one, it's like, I don't know, specifically for like New York, it's like, if you're not mass presenting, like a stud or anything like that. Like you, you're not gay. Like, I don't know why people think like, that's very stupid. But I think now people are, as people are learning more, as people are accepting more, they're definitely like, you know, realizing that people can look, however they want to look and still be a part of this community. I recently have made a couple friends that are gay. And it's pretty fun. Like, we get to talk shit about shape people. I love that. Yeah, but like, we get to talk about our experiences being black, whether we like whether we're talking about, well, okay, so a lot of them, they didn't know, they were gay. So you know, they like to tell me like you know, about them growing up, which is very different from obviously, how I interacted with like, growing up, because I didn't know I was gay. Yeah, it'd be like for them, like, they always had to be on the fence. Or they always had to. They always had to hide it on Yeah, because they're black women. And it's not excepted from their households not accepted. Um, but I love I love being able to express myself freely with these, these women because we were all you know, everybody's just trying to be their best self. And feel as free as possible. So it's like when you are able to connect with other people who are on the same time as you on the same timing as you is a fun time. And we'd be in the club doing nonsense. So I love that. So how does

**Olivia N** 1:23:18

sighs inform your interactions with lesbian community talked about, like, getting shit from when you were thinking about dating men when you were younger? Like, how does that work? Now in the lesbian community,

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I would say now, it's definitely way better because women, women are more accepting of certain things because we understand each other's struggles, and we understand that none of that stuff really matters. You know, love who you love, whether they look like me, or they like you, you know, like that shouldn't it shouldn't matter. Especially because it is always more than appearances. Like, you can't if you can't connect with that person on a deeper level than that should be the red flag, you know, not I mean, obviously, like, like, Would you like if you have like preferences, whatever, like that's on you. But

I will say for me, I like all types of women. My girlfriend now. I'm obsessed with her. She's so freaking cute. Like, I'm obsessed there and she Okay, so in the past, I would say I've dealt with only one other like plus sized span and that was pretty cool because like we're both like literally the exact same like didn't last name things but didn't work out with her. So that's that but my girlfriend now I'm obsessed with her like she's so frightened. And she's more mask presenting. But she also she doesn't like like she doesn't like to be called a because she's not so you know, like, yeah, so even though she's mass presenting, she is such a girly girl, if that even makes sense for what I'm trying to say like she loves me think she loves talking about, like, Taylor Swift songs like, it'll be just some random stuff. And it's just like, why does the why is this where your mind goes? Yeah,

**Olivia N** 1:25:29

I know what you mean, I know what chat

1:25:31

like, but I love it because that's what she likes though. And she isn't like she's also on like the bigger side so

1:25:38

she doesn't care that I'm fat. I will say women are more. Definitely more accepting of things. Yeah.

**Olivia N** 1:25:47

So do you think like, how does class inform your interactions with lesbian community like making and meeting other lesbians?

1:25:57

I will say

1:26:04

there's always still the notion of, if you're like, a stud or whatever, you have to assume the male role and you take care of everything. Which is so stupid to me. Because as to do things for myself. I'm being with women. It's always I felt more comfortable, like being able to say like, yeah, don't gotta worry now. Or even like, demanding, like, it'll, I don't know, it's more like fun and inclusive, because it'll be almost like, fighting over who gets to pay the bill? Like, what kind of shit is that? When it's fighting with a man, it's way different. Like, you know, like, it'll be like, who knows what they are down for it? Like, you know, it's fun. It's not it doesn't feel it doesn't feel like a burden. Like if I don't have money right now, but I still want to have good time with you. We can still do that. You know what I mean? Um, I'll definitely say that

1:27:18

I associated with people who are still working class like me most of the time, but it'll still like they would still assume that like spoiling aspect which I don't mind like, you know, that's nice because I was spoiled them back to but it doesn't feel as heavy as it would with men.

**Olivia N** 1:27:48

Yeah. So what's it like making a meeting lesbians in your city now? Is it like

1:28:02

I'd say it's kind of fun. It's definitely fun. Like, because I never like I've never I've never experienced a lot of like, which I think I've never experienced things like gay clubs until recently. I've never like hung out with solely lesbians like because that was just that was just how it went for me but now it's super fun like we all get to like I said talk shit about straight people. Um, now I actually you know, have some people I can explain my stories to and they can you know, give me pointers like now it's it's fun because now they understand what I'm talking about. And I understand what they're talking about and we're able to relate to each other in a way that I never had before able to relate in a way that makes me feel like I can like I'm not judged obviously. And I will say do you mean meet like meeting or dating because I will say I was gonna say like dating like now well obviously prior to like meeting microphones but dating now dating now it's there's less tension like it's not as well story is not as stressful as it was in the beginning. Also, because now I'm learning what I like, what I don't like so I have a bit more insight when you know, trying to find a partner. So like

**Olivia N** 1:29:58

when you're Where are you Meeting these other black lesbians, like how did you guys find each other?

1:30:03

If it's not from other, like mutual friends, if it's not getting mutual friends definitely online so I recently had a lot of like new friends on Facebook and a lot of them work part of the queer community. And all of them are sexy. So you know this Okay, pretty girl, friend her back. And we were just like talking, like just know, like just having regular conversations because we're trying to get to know each other more as friends and wanting more lesbian friends. Because it's definitely a different like, you know, like I say, you're able to express yourself differently with people who understand with people who relate to you. So it's pretty fun school. Mostly. Definitely online though, cuz I don't know like, where to where to lessons that were Yeah, we'd like

**Olivia N** 1:31:08

to go so what lesbian spaces? Do you wish existed? Well, lesbian spaces. She's

1:31:30

probably like a lesbian spa like a lesbian spa club that will be lit or jumping. Jumping. Where do I not want men? Yeah. Maybe like all lesbian? party seems. Okay. Right. I'm sure that exists, but I haven't been to one. Yeah, so that would be really fun. Um,

**Olivia N** 1:32:02

it's hard to enforce. Right? Yeah.

1:32:07

Yeah, don't think what else? Oh, I've seen I've seen on I think Tiktok that in Cali. They have? Like a lesbian club who literally, me smoke. Do our read books like that slit? Like a lesbian date? That's lit.

**Olivia N** 1:32:35

I would like that a lot. So what lesbian spaces have you been in previously?

1:32:43

Or where are you in now? You get where have I been? Think?

1:33:01

I'm saying honestly, I still feel like there is more opportunity for me to see more because yeah, I don't think I've seen enough. The little bit of lesbian community like places that are not communities, places that I've seen. Worse, mostly queer spaces. It wasn't strictly like a lesbian space. So I could say like, the queer spaces I've been to witness they haven't only been solely like lesbian spaces, like up into underground, like rave type scenes, and it's mostly queer people there. Um, I've been to Oh, my friend had like, a picnic one time. And it was like an all inclusive picnic. So that was another like queer birthplace I've been but never solely lesbian. I want to experience that more. Definitely.

**Olivia N** 1:34:07

What does identifying as a lesbian mean to you?

1:34:13

Identifying as a lesbian means to me that I finally I finally get to like, experience love from someone else. That's not family. That's not like a friendship kind of love. Because I wasn't sure what I wanted at first. Now that I know that, you know, I'm attracted to women identifying as a lesbian, it just it kind of like, sealed, sealed of things about myself that I already knew, like, I already knew that I was unique. I already knew that I like to do a lot of different things. And it may be on account of me being gay. It may not be but As I feel like be engaged, a little added, sprinkle on top of everything. Like, I'm proud to say that I don't really care much about others opinions on it because at the end of the day, it's my life. So, you know, at the end of the day is my life so I get to call. And I, it's I think really it is like the experiencing that that genuine love aspect because I wasn't I wasn't seeking it from family. I wasn't seeking it from friends. I was more craving it from someone else. And when I was falling short with men, I had to think something else I'm like, nah, this can't be my life. Like, this can't be my life forever. So as I get identify more with my lesbianism, I also started to love myself more and accept myself more because this is my true self. And it definitely like makes me feel alive. Like as cliché as that is.

**Olivia N** 1:36:20

It's not cliché at all. Yeah. So when are you happiest as a lesbian? Like, what does lesbian Joy mean to you? When are you happiest? Happiest, being

1:36:39

okay, I kind of I kind of thought back to when I get to deny men, but aside from that. Like that one sided kind of evil, like getting to deny men. But aside from that, I will say I'm happiest. Honestly, I'll like be as when my girlfriend now I'm really so happy with her now. Like, I never like outside of like friends. I never felt like that before about another person. So getting to enjoy myself and the things that I like to do, but someone else would like to do them. That's That's pure joy to me, honestly. Like literally the other day, like we're both on the obsess with the weekend. The other day, she's we just like had him on shuffle

and we're just singing our hearts out living our best. All right, so cute. That's really cute. Right? And it's just like, the like, that's something small to me that I only shared with myself. Yeah, you know, so getting being able to share with her. It's very special to me. And that's pure joy.

**Olivia N** 1:37:57

Is there anything else you want to talk about? Mm hmm.

1:38:04

I'm not sure. Let me see. Let me think actually

1:38:13

Oh, I guess I kind of want to talk about like, being apart. Like those maybe being like being a white lesbian community, but they still adapt like patriarchal mindset. I hate that so much. Because it kind of defeats the entire purpose of being a lesbian. Like, right? Not even just being less like being being someone who denies, like, denies what society says is supposed to be correct. Right? I feel like I've been around some people in the past who because like that, because they like women, they still want it to be that like, who's the boy and Who's the girl and it's just like, What the fuck are you saying to me? We are both women. Like that is so annoying in such a turn off honestly. Because how could you say that you are attracted to women or like you want to be with women, but you still are looking for someone to like control or looking for someone to control you in the way that a man does, which is very manipulative and very disrespectful. I'm not for none of that. I'm not here. Honestly. Yeah, kind of that that realm of things.

**Olivia N** 1:39:47

Well, thank you very much. I'm gonna