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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, people, queer, black, lesbian community, high school, big, spaces, lesbian sex, feel, classes, band, shit, year, queerness, friends, middle school, new jersey, moved, toes

SPEAKERS

Olivia N

Olivia N 00:01

Today is February 11 2023. I'm Olivia. Here in New York City in my apartment in Brooklyn. It's not me, whatever. Do I have permission to record this interview? Yeah. Stop recording at any time. Yeah. Can you say your name age pronouns?

00:21

My name is Sophia Dubose. I use the she pronouns. And I'm 21

Olivia N 00:28

How would you describe yourself?

00:30

I do. I am a black, non binary lesbian. They asked me,

Olivia N 00:38

What do you like to do? What are your hobbies?

00:40

I like I love to cook. I love to bake. I love listening to music. I've been in a PokemonGo era. So a lot of Pokeyman go lately. I'm also spending time with my friends, especially my queer friends. I feel like I'm missing all of us in the music. I might have said that already. Yeah.

Olivia N 01:06

Can you tell me where you're from? Where you grew up? In what your childhood was like? Yes. Or do you? Crazy? to enunciate for the transcript?

01:18

No, I get it. As someone who's used voice memos and may trend and you'll get the transcript you're like, damn. I'm sorry. I will also try to enunciate

Olivia N 01:28

No, you're good. Don't worry. Don't worry about it. Okay,

01:30

well, I'll work my way backwards. I'm from Maplewood, New Jersey. But I grew up in Middletown, Delaware. I lived there for 16 years. And then I moved to Maplewood when I was 16. So it was the middle of my sophomore year of high school. Where I grew up, yeah. Where I grew up, where I'm from,

Olivia N 01:52

what was your childhood? Well, my

01:54

childhood, I had a good childhood. I am the oldest of my parents for kids. So I was the first I was revolutionary. These bitches would not be here. If it wasn't for me. I never let them forget. So on the oldest, which comes with its own challenges, of course, but think despite that, I had a good childhood. I grew up in a very, like, upper class, upper middle class, black household. So you know, I never really grew up. Like, I never really grew up in struggle. Like I know a lot of people conflict, the black experience with like, struggling financially, but that's just not, that's just not my reality. It never has been. So I'm really great. I'm really grateful for that. And I'm gonna point in my life where I'm very honest about it, and I don't ignore it. Like I come from a place of financial privilege. Like, that's just, that's just my life. That's just my life. But yeah, definitely grew up, I grew up in the suburbs, even in New Jersey, I live in a more, I guess, like, urban area, but it's still that's still the suburbs. I'm very much a suburban black girl at heart like that is my upbringing. It was a good, it was a good childhood. I think I definitely had like, complicated moments, and I still kind of reflect on as an adult being like, Why do I think this way? Why do I act this way, and that was because I spent the majority of my childhood like, in predominantly white spaces when I was, you know, either, like, the only black person or I was the, you know, the most visibly black person, you know, which changed when I moved to New Jersey, because there was just more like, where I grew up, it was all or like, mostly African Americans. Like, we were all African Americans, that I moved into dirty like, I'm meeting like, like, you know, like African immigrants like Caribbean immigrants. And for the first time I damn like, I am not the darkest person in the room, which was crazy. That was a new experience for me. But yeah, but even then, like, I feel like Maplewood where I live now is more more diverse, and more segregated at the same time. So that's something I had to navigate. When I moved, being like, there are more people who look like me, but because like, I've always been really, you know, really good student with a good school because I took the classes, you know, took honors and AP level classes, I would know but you know, black people in these classes. I'm like, Damn, that's crazy. But yeah,

Olivia N 04:16

can you talk about your relationship with your parents? What's that? Like?

04:20

Yeah, I have a good relationship with my parents. I think I've always been like a daddy's girl. So my dad and I've always had a really strong relationship. I think that's mainly because when my when my mom

had my youngest sibling, Coby in 2000, but there's 2008 that my mom got pretty bad like postpartum depression. So it was a lot of like, my first memories with all four of us is a lot of the all four of us like in the basement, like hanging out with my dad. I just like spending time together. So that was a lot of fun. I can hold the phone if you want. We can like pass it off. Here. Yes. Sorry. I'm sorry if I was spit my life story in the mic

Olivia N 05:09

Did you later in the market we bought I'm sorry. Okay? The transcript my editing shit. getting anything out it is

05:19

what it is EDIS. Woody's. Okay, actually got to start talking. Um yeah, my mom my postpartum when my youngest son was born. So I just grew up being really close to my dad. I want to have crushes on kids in school boys, sadly. But, you know, I was talking to my dad about it. I think it took me I think as like an older teenager slash like young adult, I became a lot closer with my mom, I think especially when I started my first relationship and like, got sexually active. Like, I was not trying to talk to my dad about that shit. So I talked to my mom. And that's when I got shadow of a person, Shadow shadow of people. Anyways, um, that's when I got closer to my mom. When I was, you know, more on like later in high school, and also going to college. Because my dad, my dad didn't go to college, but my mom did. So there's something some experiences that I have that my mom will understand a little bit more than my dad will and and also I'm an RA my mom was an RA. So there's some stuff where I'm like, I'm on the phone, my mom and I'm like, Mom, I'm writing incident report. Like, what should I say? She's saying, Oh, this my mom. I can't do that. Like, she's so silly. But yeah, I wasn't. I was often close. I've always been close to my dad, I think I'm at a point. I think young adulthood I was when I got to a point I can't. Because I used to, like talk to my dad about like, anything and everything. And I want to point where it's like, I can't do that anymore. And it's funny because my dad and I are less close is because I sometimes I gotta value my piece. Yeah, like sometimes I gotta value my pieces. Your parents don't have to know this. Yeah, sometimes parents don't have to know. Or sometimes sometimes conversation conversations are better suited for my mom. Like I'm not. Yeah, it's like, I will not talk about politics with my dad. So respectfully, a black conservative, he's not a conservative, black moderate, I don't know. strapper. I don't even I don't really know what my dad is politically. It's just interesting. It's interesting. I feel like but I feel like we have, I feel like my dad and I have similar, like end goals and policies, we just go about it in a completely different way. I think my dad is very much. It's almost as giving almost like Obama vibes, like work the system like in your favor kind of thing. And like uplift works for me, like uplift, like you climb, or like uplift people through the system, like, Oh, I'm at this high ranking thing. And I want to like help uplift people, you know, through the existing systems where I'm more like, abolitionist and not thought. So sometimes it's like, and it's hard, because I'm like, I know, we have the same end goal. But as we go different, we have different ways of going about it, which is, you know, sometimes can be difficult to grapple with. Because I'm like, I know, cuz I know, he doesn't have bad politics. I'm just like, you just need to think of it differently. Anyways. So I talked to my mom more about that stuff, because she's a little bit a little bit more radical in her politics. So if I ever want to talk politics, which I believe to, I typically do that with my mom, or with my friends, like, but yeah, despite despite some certain like sticky moments, like, I think I have a pretty good relationship with my parents. So yeah.

Olivia N 08:21

Can you talk more about the talk more? You mentioned it briefly. But can you talk a little bit more about what it was like being in predominantly white spaces when you were younger?

08:35

Yeah. Talking about that, that was bad. I was like, I'm still not in predominantly white spaces. Because I go to a few I, sometimes I forget that NYU is a PWI. Because I only hang out with the black people and like the queer people at NYU, and then go to these classes. And I'm like, Damn, I'm really the only naked here. Like, that's so crazy. Like, I'm like, I'm really interacting with white people against my will like unconventionally. No, it's like, it's crazy. It's so crazy. Um, but yeah, I think growing up a predominantly white space is definitely still like shapes my like, shaped who I am. And like, my perception of myself, and I'm still trying to break out of that, because I'll go to I'll go to therapy, and my therapist is black. And oh, why do you think this way or why do you like do this thing? Or just like we were talking about, we'll be working we've been working a lot on like celebrating myself and like my accomplishments, and like, why don't celebrate myself? As much as I should? Because I have been in predominant spaces all my life and I was always either do as well or in all honesty, better than you know, the white kids. I would be in classes with the white kids I would do activities with and I would always like, be like humble. So I want to make anyone feel bad but I'm, I'm just better than you and that's okay. That's okay. You have to accept that. But that's not for me to like, I don't have to water my shit down. Um, because you're salty. Like she's trying to go assemble. Okay, um, yeah, else did

Olivia N 10:14

it affect your psyche?

10:16

Um, I'm trying to think I think that also has a lot to do with my queerness. Because for a while I couldn't feel like I didn't, I never felt queer and queer enough because I wasn't white, or didn't play in the white queer aesthetics. Because I didn't really know a lot of black queer people at the time where I was trying to figure it out myself and my identity. So I'm like, I can't be queer, because I didn't have that representation of, I mean, other than like, Ken, but I gotta have that representation of like, what black queerness or black lesbianism could look like. Because all the queer people I knew were either white or like non black. So I was like, I felt like an ally in my own community. Like, it didn't give, not to unpack that because I know, I'm, I know, I'm queer. Like, I know this deep down. But when I'm in these community spaces with all these, you know, white people or non black people, it just, it just doesn't give, it doesn't give.

Olivia N 11:03

Can you talk about what Middle School? Can you talk about what middle school was like, a middle and high school?

11:08

Yeah. So in the phone so dramatically. Um, yeah, middle school, in high school and middle school. This is different. Because middle school, I had Mills, middle school was all in Delaware in high school was

mostly in New Jersey. So middle school, I went to a predominantly black middle school in my area. I know, I wanted to go to the predominantly white middle school, because that's where a lot of my friends were going. But I couldn't go into that school, I don't think my mom wanted, my mom was like, You need to be in school with some neighbors. And she was right for that. She was right for that, because I benefited so much more. And I still have friends that I made. at middle school, like are still like, I still keep in touch with some of those people. So it's great, um, Middle School. I'm trying to like really think middle school wasn't Middle School. It was, it was true. I think I made Thau the first time in my life where I feel like I really was making friends. Like, I switch elementary schools a lot. Like I went to three elementary schools, between first and fifth grade. So I never really felt like I could, I never really had chance to really like make friends. Or when I did, like, I was very, I was very shy as a kid, I was a lot more introverted, thinking in, in middle school, I was kind of still in that, like, more reserved, like our social, but our social, the people that I knew that I liked. And also this is the first time where I was, you know, in, in these classes, and I wasn't like, you know, one, a few black kids. And there were other like, you know, black kids who like were really smart academically, and like, you know, really cared about school. So, that was a lot of fun. And I had like black teachers, too. In middle school, probably most, like more, that's my time, I had the most black teachers actually, like in sixth grade or just in middle school, in general, but it was nice. It was nice. I think reflecting on it. Now, it was nice. Being in a space where, you know, like, I have, like teachers and faculty who were like, looking out for me and who looked like me. And of course, the white teachers loved me like, What the fuck, I don't think there's anyone who loves me more than a white teacher. Like be for real. Be so for real. But I enjoyed. I enjoyed middle school a lot. And after middle school, I was supposed to go to the predominantly white high school cuts where we had like, a whole like, you know, like when you live in a neighborhood like it gives you like all the schools you're supposed to go to. And I'm supposed to go to the predominately white high school, but all my friends are going to the other the older Middle School, because we had two middle school high school, we have two high schools in my town, in our district that was like I want to go and at the time, I was a really big band kid in middle school, like I played. I've played the flute since fourth grade. But I think middle school is when I really like got into it. And that's where I kind of built like my social life around band for a really long time. So at the time, Middletown had the better band. Middletown was the name of the high school that I went to Middletown high school, but yeah, but also I had the better band and I knew more of the people in their band and all my friends were going to go so I was like, Yeah, I want to go to Middletown. So I switched. And then I went to Middletown for my freshman year, which is a lot of fun. Because the band let the band had a pretty strong black community and we all kind of like looked out for each other. I think it's I forget when I realize I was queer. I think I might have been Oh, that had to be freshman year. No, I think it was after I moved. I lied. I lied, I think was after I moved. But yeah, I remember. When I was in high school. I had my first boyfriend that lasted like a month. Oh, well, that's life. Um, but I went to high school and I really I really enjoyed high school. Honestly, I kind of thrived like my freshman year. I felt like people knew me. I had friends like my classes were nice. I was with people that I knew. Like, you know, it was very They were for me to be the only black person in a space at my high school. Not even because it was diverse, like Middletown and just where I grew up, and it was very black and white. Like there wasn't really a lot of other racial diversity beyond that, but I finished my first year there. And then over the summer, my parents like, we're moving to New Jersey, and I was like, damn, I was really upset because I had a really great year, you know, my first year high school and I wanted to, like, continue that. And I was like, damn, but I kind of let that let that vision go because I'm very far with it. You know, like, I'm a doula. I

have my four year plan, like, I'm gonna do this, this and this, I'm gonna do all these things. And then that kind of got shattered. They're gonna get better. And so then, oh, yeah, yeah, but what happened was moving didn't work. The timing of moving didn't work or how we planned we wanted to move before the school year started, so I could start my sophomore year of high school in New Jersey. We wanted to be closer to family, my family lives my grandparents live like less than our all my grandpa's like less than our way that's a perfect location for by car from where we live now. And then also, we wanted more. We also just wanted more diversity. Like the schools that I went to were relatively diverse, but the neighborhood that I lived in was not because I lived in like one of the newer developments where a lot of like, wealthy white people, or wealthier white people lived, and then also, I lived in my neighborhood was called Parkside. Right and there was old Parkside and new Parkside so new peroxides were all of like, the cheaper new build, I lived in old Parkside. Yeah. So this is people who, like bought property, and bought houses, like built from the ground up, like before the stock market crashed, like, I think my parents bought that plot and built that house in like, 2006. Or maybe 2005. But like, you know, like, people, you got to have money to live in Parkside. Right? I think what this allows you to have money, but also I know that black people have to make more money to live in these predominately white neighborhoods, which is crazy to me, cuz I'm like, Oh, you have to make money to live here. And I'm like, no black people have to make money to live in the neighborhood. White people can be like, very much like middle class and like living these wealthiest neighborhoods. Well, right. And then when you're black, like, yeah, like my parents probably make double the money than like, my fucking neighbors. But we live in the same neighborhood. Like racism. Racism is so crazy like that. But anyways, back to my point, we moved to New Jersey. We moved close. Actually, I started my sophomore year in Delaware. I started my sophomore year high school in Delaware. And it was really awkward because I told everybody I was leaving. I was like, I'm not going to be here next year. Like I'm moving to New Jersey. I'm going to be on then I came back. Damn, I picked that up. Now we're gonna pick it up. I came back. And they were like, without you're moving. And I'm like, I am moving. I just don't know. You're good. I was like, I am moving. I just don't know when. But then I moved. I moved like a month later, I moved on October. Yeah, I moved in semesters. Yeah, I moved mid October. And then we were still like, closing on the house. So we didn't like move move we lived in. I lived in an apartment with my family in Jersey City for like two weeks. And then we moved to an apartment in union and I lived there for me maybe a week or two was starting school and the commute was hell, like I had to get up at like six in order to make it to my first class at like eight. Because the commute was just so long. Not even because we were far we weren't even that far. It's just all there's so much traffic. That's what everyone's going to work. But anyways, that was kind of hard. And then my, the school that the high school that I went to in New Jersey, it was like double this triple that school is fucking huge, triple the size of my old school. Because my old high school was like, pretty small, like two floors, like very walkable. Like, I would come home sore, like from all the walking to have to do get to our classes, because the high school that I went to was like, four floors. And it's like, because it's, it's we have one high school for both of the towns and our school district. Okay, so everyone goes to the same high school. So the bass is a big ass school. And there's not block scheduling. I had block scheduling and my high school so it means I have four classes a day. This This was like very, I had eight classes a day for like, you didn't have like a book? No, not at my high school, or high school that I went to from sophomore to senior year classes of late work due every day. Yeah. And there are 45 minutes. So by the time I actually settled into a class, like I'd have to go and it was over. Yeah, it was over. So I was like, I've been in high school classes. That's ridiculous. Yeah, it doesn't make it doesn't make sense. I

learned things I don't know. It was just very that a very antiquated way of going about things about school. But anyways, yeah, I moved. My sophomore that's the first time where I met like more queer people and like realized I was queer in some way which is really cool. But yeah, you said middle school and high school down out of it. done and I was still like really big bands kid. Really big bands kid in high school. I didn't really do much outside of bands. That was kind of my big thing. Band is a lot. Yeah. But I did have a marching band that did Wind Ensemble I did pit like I was very, very big bands could not tie my bow. So because we were both really big band kids at the time. So really big bands kid all the high school. Junior year, junior year, Junior year is when Paul and I started dating. So we did our little romantic thing. Still did band still did school. And sweat classes were really segregated. So it's like, I would know like black and brown people, but I wouldn't have classes with them. So that was kind of like a a thing. In my school, and then we always were whether we have like fucking like, class action, like fucking lawsuit against our district for segregation and shit. It's bad. It's really bad. It's really bad. But, you know, like, it's bad. But anyways, then senior year, senior year was great. And then COVID hit, which like, kind of sucked.

21:10

Because that's where I was, cuz I basically like I was like, working out, like literally working my ass off, like fall of senior because I'm like, You know what, like, my spring of senior year looking at it. Like I don't do any work. Like I just take a deep breath and get to chill out and do all these fun things to the fall because the fall was doing on my college applications. I was like I was working that hard. And not to get that like, release in that like sell it like celebration in a traditional way. It really sucked. But oh, well, we want I'm not one of the people who's like really bitter about like not having a graduation or not having a traditional prom. I kind of wish that upon because I would step on next personally, but, you know, then I graduated and now I'm in college, which has been really lovely.

Olivia N 21:53

Can you can you talk about how class race and gender affected you growing up?

21:59

Dan, that's crazy. Nick

Olivia N 22:00

asked question Does our biggest question, we get all into one question.

22:04

Yeah. Because it's like, they just I'm just intersected about race and gender. I'm just intersectional like that.

Olivia N 22:09

That's the whole point of the project. No,

22:13

because intersectional like that we

Olivia N 22:14

all are. Okay. Yeah. race and gender.

22:17

Because doing three separate questions, I would answer them on one question anyway. Yeah, exactly. And growing up just like period.

Olivia N 22:23

How do you trying to figure race and gender, like when you were thinking about yourself?

22:30

It's like, I think that's thing really thinking about race and gender as well. Maybe not binary for real, because I'm like, I'm not a woman in the same way these white women are women. Like I just cannot be associated with y'all for real. Like, no, but it's just for me, like black womanhood is outside of the gender binary. Because the gender binary, at least to me, is inherently racialized. And it's like, racialized in a white way. So I'm like, I just didn't see myself in that. But and I'm like, You know what, I'm still a black woman, that's still a label, that means a lot to me. So I'm gonna keep it cuz I just whole crisis was like, if I'm non binary, I mean, I'm a black woman. And I'm like, these are literally just words, at the end of the day. Literally, they're literally just words. So I'm like, Yeah, I'm a black woman. And yeah, I'm also non binary, you know, and just like, I'm really big on, like, embracing my femininity, because it's something that my ancestors, like, weren't really able to do, because they're just like, the hyper masculinization of black woman. And then also, like, my ancestry is like, I'm African American, on all sides of my family, and you're good. So you're good. I'm African American on all sides. My family's on the, you know, descendants of enslaved Africans. So you know, they didn't get the opportunity to embrace feminine embrace femininity in a way that I'm able to now. So that's a slay, I guess. One Ma, let me be yours anyways. Oh,

Olivia N 23:51

you're gonna suck.

23:52

transcript is gonna suck. I'm so sorry. It's the ADHD. I got to put a song lyric in there. Yeah, do race, gender, gender, race, race class. Yeah, class is interesting for me, because I brought it up before but just like people really accomplished blackness with financial struggle. And I'm like, that's just not my reality. And for a while, I felt like less black. Because people because the black people that I knew, like, especially when I lived in Delaware, like weren't financially struggling. So there was this whole thing of like, where they wouldn't invite me to like go places with them or they wouldn't invite me to like their parties, because they felt like they felt like I was less black. And also I've really supportive parents so like if I all my band called my dad went to like all my band competitions every football game like he'd always be taking pictures. Like I've so many bandwidth with me banda. He was the band I think people eating snacks. did he carry you guys around? Yeah, well, he would like drive kids home. He'd bring me snacks. I don't know if you buy or buy snacks, but he brought me snacks. Um, my dad was

Olivia N 24:52

the track dad. Yeah. Big Car. Big snacks. Yeah, picture taker of that washer. Yeah,

24:57

exact pattern. All right. I was always there I don't think that intimidated some of the kids but oh like your dad is so protective that people are protected oh the people there was there and people really compliment black black dad like being there for the kid just being like overly protective and like weird and I'm like, and for a while like I really internalize that and believe that and I'm talking like that and my dad is not he's not over protected. It's not I mean, he's protected he's my dad because he's protective of all of his all of his kids, but he's not like overburdened but um, I told him that I want to go to a party like we probably talked about it a little bit but he'd let me go if that's something that I really wanted to do. Um, but yeah, so a lot of kids a lot of the black kids in Delaware when what early high school is my freshman year that didn't really invite me to places because you know, people really conflict blackness was struggle and I'm not going to be like God but just didn't invite me because yada yada yada cuz I'm like, That's because your class right? I'm like, advisor fuck, and I'm like, that's, that's okay. I guess. But then like people are made me feel like less black because, you know, I did well in school and I was a kind of a nerd, like, you know, because of like, the activities that I'd like to do. Like weren't like stereotypically black. Like, I wasn't an athlete. Like I did very well in school. I was I was a bands kid. And I was very good. I was a very talented flute player, Piccolo player, because I remember when I would just I would just like because we need to get really getting ready for like music world so right now we're just like warm up and I'd play and like all these white people be like staring at me, cuz I was a freshman. And I just be like, too little too. And I picked I played piccolo my freshman year which is not which is not normal.

Olivia N 26:32

Oh fuck yes, but all history. I was also a band kid.

26:35

Yeah, that's not normal. They typically don't trust freshmen play piccolo because it is fucking in a civilized fucking you know but I was good Yeah, and I don't I don't like marching flute at all.

Olivia N 26:46

No, the breath you need to have as per day

26:49

I don't I mean, I made

26:55

actually, Riddick for a while so the flute marching was flew to so long and on we'll be just so I don't like it. I marched flute one time. So at the March flute for a parade, early, my first parade in New Jersey on March flew, because they already had like four piccolo players. And I was like, Okay, I'll take the back seat for this one. But then I marched Piccolo, my first like, you know, actual band season, you know, of in New Jersey, and the band New Jersey was very difficult. It was like, majority white. It was very white, my band in New Jersey did my band record often, we were the we were like, we were the whitest band in North Jersey, because of course, we were around like Newark, orange, East Orange. What even

West Orange band very good, but also very diverse. But we're literally the widest band and I come from my high school was a very big band school that we competed open class. And also like, it was normal for bands in the area to compete open class. Because every really good everyone was open class. And then I come here and we're a class and I'm like, What the fuck? I'm like and people. And no they did if you would always call me if it was my first year in the band. And it was very, like, they put more emphasis on rank and like how long you've been in the band. And I was like this my first year in the band. And people will treat me like as my first year and I can literally out March and outplayed all of you. Like, don't try it. Don't try it. Like don't try it. I come from a like, I'm a comfort I come from school. Our band is like kind of serious. Like don't play with me Do you not here. That's why like I always like, like, always felt the need. I mean, I feel less of this now but I felt the need to prove myself because white people will always think if you're a black person in the space, you're under qualified and you're just supposed to be there or you're not supposed to be there.

Olivia N 28:42

We're here. I'm here. How am I under qualified?

28:47

Right same room, right? And I'm like no, let me make it very clear. Let me make it very clear what you're dealing with. Because I can now play you I will outwork you you're so real for that sorry we're taking a break for a living be

Olivia N 29:05

able to spread

29:08

your toes so sure your feet or your shoes because they've been spreading yeah I know because they know because they got it got it they got their new shoes and they're like these hurt and I'm like you're spreading your toes leather shoes

Olivia N 29:27

shoes with a wider toe box to support the prime ality of

29:33

each be spreading this crazy wire toe so like stubby Oh, I broken all we have the same size. How about the same size but we were the same size shoe? How was that your foot looks so different from mine. Your feet are like like Why have like 30 feet. So girth Wait a minute, please take up my sock. This transcript is gonna be awful. I'm so sorry. Like my phone. This is long and skinny.

Olivia N 30:01

Oh my first kind of thick so

30:05

it looks like a you know those like those Lego

Olivia N 30:10

Lego but I was really like I'm really practicing the spread.

30:14

I have to practice my spread I'll be spreading my shit my spreads my primal toe spread game is very bad you

Olivia N 30:23

see how your toes are like a slope? You gotta like

30:27

I'm practicing I'm practicing my toe spread the moment you have those primal I got baby feet those generation one

Olivia N 30:36

yes generation one like zero ship jets zero feet.

30:40

Yes I like Gen like five you're like

Olivia N 30:43

evolution shoe feet. Yeah, like Nah, you gotta have flattened why?

30:48

Your feet really are flat and wide. That's why

Olivia N 30:50

we're cros I love that the ground so well. Now my stance is so I love that. It's all in the toe spread. See, Paul gets it.

30:58

Paul gets it. I'm not despotism. I'm not there yet.

Olivia N 31:01

They just made so much sense to both of us. I was like, you have to spread your toes. And they were like you're so right.

31:06

Yeah. And I'm just like, What the fuck?

Olivia N 31:09

Say anything else? I just was like, you literally have to get into this poll literally has to them. Your feet hurt. Yeah, like you gotta get shoes with a wider toe box. Real? We're Congress's. Yeah. Okay. barefoot shoes now.

31:21

Big Big Feet shoes, photocopied feet. I can't do this. I don't know why. Well, that's our racing classes ship. Yeah, sorry, my band. Oh, sorry, Bing. No, you're good.

Olivia N 31:33

You're getting sweaty. Now. I was like, I have to free them. But then I'm like, wait to show my toes off.

31:37

Show the toes off. flex those muscles. That was a Pokeball

Olivia N 31:46

I don't know why it was like, like, I'm cheating like Wolverine. Does he ever retractable? No, he doesn't. I've seen a seat. Okay, because I was like, Wouldn't it be fun if he had like vibrate? does is he Vibranium?

31:57

I don't know the the superhero lore. I feel like his his body

Olivia N 32:00

is vibrating. I would believe you like from Black Panther Lee got Vibranium skeleton. Well, I mean, don't quote me on that. You're

32:09

sorry. I'm gonna recording your shit.

Olivia N 32:13

I don't really know. But what if he had like the toes that could like out? It's like he got a cup with his toes and his nails. That'd be crazy. He'd be too powerful. It would be too powerful. Yeah. Sorry. No, you're good. There's a vision of fighting game and she had long toes and when she would like slice throats. Wow. With her toes. Yeah. Wow. Yeah. That's crazy. It's crazy. I think she was like a shifter.

32:38

I don't know what that is. An animal shifter? Oh, yeah. I don't play. I don't play video games, the know the lore. Sorry. I'm like staring at your questions. I'm like, Did I miss anything?

Olivia N 32:50

You're not looking at the questions. I'm asking you the question.

32:54

I know, I'm sorry. I'm the best way to see it. Growing up, who are what Dan is probably like my parents and my family. We were very big. Like, I'm very close with my, like, immediate family because I didn't grow up super close to close to given like location. I didn't grow up super close to my extended family. Like I was not just that person. And that's probably why my, my my immediate family like was very, very

supportive. Because it's not like, oh, Grandma's gonna come to like, to your concert or to your band competition. It was always my, you know, immediate family. And we're pretty big family. So I had five people rooting for me. And that's all I needed. Yeah. My family. I'm something of anything like pop culture related, but I can't really think of much it'll come up later, and maybe it won't. Yeah.

Olivia N 33:51

So can you talk more about when you were realizing your sexuality?

33:57

Yeah. Just like queerness in general, or like, lesbian specific.

Olivia N 34:02

queerness. Okay, because I know that was first.

34:05

Yeah. Sorry, I had to swallow some phlegm. I'm sorry.

Olivia N 34:11

Love is not gonna come up on the transcript. I think it is.

34:16

I don't know. I might, I might just spell it wrong.

Olivia N 34:19

So when did you realize your sexuality was different? Um, probably

34:22

when I when I was in high school, like my sophomore year of high school. And I think like that was my first time where I like met other queer people. Or other like queer people who were like out guy had like when I was in high school, like my freshman other one queer friend. And I don't even know if she still identifies as gay. She's like, I'm pansexual and I'm like, Okay, go period like I support you. Literally fist up, but then I met more like, more people, but in Delaware there was like Delaware. We were like, there's a lot of clouds of conservatives in Delaware. I will say it's a very classic conservative place where people like love to feign being liberal or being like, you know, tax haven very much Lex Luthor. Yeah,

Olivia N 35:07

give like references.

35:10

I love that for you though. But I was like, it's very like, like everyone's trying to be PC. But then like you cross, like where we were, if you go further west, you're in like bumblefuck, Maryland, like deep red Maryland, if you drive like maybe like 10 minutes west, so you know, just don't go there. Yeah. But when I moved to New Jersey when I first realized my queerness, and my relationship with my body,

and also creepy because I would see these girls on Instagram, so I was like, I see this girl Minister get one I'm like, do I want to look like you? Or do I wanna, like fucking? And I realized, like, I didn't, I didn't want maybe like, maybe both boss was like, I didn't want to win. That was like, that wasn't like one slim thick was like the really big thing. It was everyone wanted to be everyone wanted like that pear shape. And that's just not that's just not my body. I got big titties, like, that's just not my truth. I was looking at all these slim, thick women. And I'm like, do I want to look like you are doing fuck you. And I'm like, women are hot. Like women are hot. Like, I guess men. I wasn't like men are cool, too. But like, woman Uh huh. And then I think I talked to another person about it. And she's like, No, I don't feel that way. About women. No, I'm like, wait a minute. That's not like, not everyone thinks that. But women are like a little bit hot. And then I realized I was bi, which was fun. But when I look back on my my snapchat memories are so funny, cuz I was like, Ha ha ha, I love them. And I'm so gay. He and I'm like, No, take that literally. You're not bisexual women. Women are so beautiful. I would love that type of bisexual where it's like I like Like, every woman like every woman ever was so attractive. And then I would be like very hyper specific about the type of men that I would like. But then we'll get into we'll get into that. We'll get into that. But I'm sorry, I can sit me. Yes selfie of them. They took out their passion twist today. But anyways, yeah, it was my bisexual era for a while. But then I also like didn't really feel queer. Like I felt alpha to felt like an ally in my own community because I didn't have like black queer community. So I didn't feel represented in my own community, which led to me feeling this like sense of alienation in the queer community, just because I didn't really know, black queer people like that until college. So I do my first year of college, you know, this is the first time where I'm really, you know, meeting like, more lesbians. My roommate was a lesbian. He's a trans femme lesbian, we're not on speaking terms anymore. But we got to had a, we had a pretty at a falling out. So you know, happens, but she was a lesbian. And, you know, I was, like, I looked upon was like, most of my friends were like trans lesbians. And I was like, this is very cool. And then I remember was like, just wait, babe. We were roommates. She knew. She knew and and I was dating. I was dating polo at the time. Right? Who was kind of in this is like, freshman year of college, but we they were kind of entering their like trans trans femme genderqueer. Era. And I was like, tea slick. Because like, I didn't know they're gonna be transparent, but my trans femme roommate was like, there was no man who'd be that excited to put on sparkly eyeshadow. Like, you're a part of trans and I'm like, You're right for that. Like period, and post trans, boom, love that. But then we break up, like fall of my freshman year. And that was like I was I was very sad time, very struggling with my mental health, but I got therapy. That's when I started therapy. So yeah, and then I entered the dating world again, for the first time in a very long time, and I start talking to men, which was not fun. Could never I'd never felt like I was beautiful. Like, I was putting on a role. I was playing a little game. Like it, it felt like I would literally get so anxious talking to men, like I would literally feel like I have to throw up shit myself cry. Like it would just go I'd go through so much. And I was like, I just don't like the way this is making me feel. And I went through a whole summer I was like talking I went through a whole summer I was talking to a man. He's He's a catfish, by the way. Like I figured that out, like way after I was talking to him. But anyways, I talked to this guy for like, so long and I was like breaking myself. And I was like, damn, because he was hot. He was I might have been a lot he was hot. And then I was just like, I can't do this anymore. Like I'm literally destroying myself. And I got it was like August 2021. And I'm like, I'm thinking to my mom because my I talked about Ultimate Therapist. And she's just like think there's something I thought about and I'm like I'm looking for and that's when I realized that it really hit me that like pose pose pose pose pose not Amanda was never a man to begin with. Right? So I'm looking for a dynamic that I had with a femme or like with a non man in

men. Something's not adding up. And then I realized I was lesbian and I was like, oh my god, this is crazy. And I was so scared. I feel Like, I don't know, I'm about to talk about it. I'm about to get into it. But I'm like, I don't know if like lesbian. I listen to scary. A scary word like, oh my god, like, this is crazy, because it's definitely like a stigma around like lesbianism and like not centering men and with like your romantic and sexual endeavors, but I'm like, I want to therapy. And I'm like, ebony. Ebony is my therapists name at the time. I'm like me, I'm a lesbian. And she's like, Wow, I love that for you. Why don't you sell something online to like, being really supportive, which was nice. And then I was like, This is scary. And she's like, Why Does it scare you to not think about that? And I don't know. I'm trying to find words for it. But then I thought about it. And then I'm like, I'm a lesbian. And then I embraced it. And now I'm lesbian. And I will never let people forget it ever. Like I bring it up all the time. Because not dating, not being not centering men and your romantic and sexual, or really anything, is kind of slay like, I love it. But I think just, you know, realizing, I'm lesbian, I think I had a lot and also just having a lot of like animosity towards white lesbians, because it kind of assumed that words like I didn't know, like, how I didn't think I could be queer because I didn't know black queer people, I didn't think I could be less because I didn't know black lesbians, and interacting. I'm healing from my white lesbian trauma, which is I didn't love interacting with my lesbians. It felt very exclusionary, where it's like, if you only want to fuck white girls to see that. Like to see that you saw me on Simeone to sit in. But so I had very kind of like an animosity towards white lesbian, but I don't have now healing, healing, love that. But, you know, kind of healing from that. And also, just like, more and more importantly, like just meeting more black lesbians and being like, yeah, like, this is a POS like all of these intersections and identities that are possible. And I'm not like, weird or like, this is not only something for white people, like, yeah, yes, that's what I got.

Olivia N 42:17

I don't know what I was gonna say. Do you? Can you? Real? So what were your first encounters with lesbian sex? both directly and indirectly,

42:27

lesbian sex? Well, I will say lesbian sex for me because I haven't had sex with anyone with a vagina. So it's like, the ones I've had, it's been with Poe, who has a penis, so it's like, that's what I mean, lesbian sex looks like a lot of things. For me, I think in talking with them, I'm gonna focus more on the sex I had after like, I self identified as a lesbian. That makes sense. So yeah, so the sex I've had in like, the past, like, year or so. Um, it's really freeing. I think also, just being like in a t for t relationship, like gender and like gender roles don't really play a big role into our like, sex life and like, who does what, which is really cool. It's really freeing to just to be able to explore myself and my body with that with the confines of like, gender or like, I am woman, I do this like you are man, you do this kind of thing that I've had in sexual dynamics in the past. So lesbian sex, also, I come a lot more, like the stereotype is true in that way, whereas like, lesbian sex, like you do, or just like queer sex in general, I feel like there's a lot more pleasurable, and there's a lot more folk, like less focus on performance and more of a focus on like, feeling good, and like pleasure, is something I've noticed, and just the sex I've had as a lesbian. Sometimes I do feel I don't feel weird. I'm kind of over that now. But there's a point where it's like, I felt like less of a lesbian because I haven't had like, like, I haven't eaten buzzy, or like, I don't, you know, I've never had sex with someone with a vagina. So further for a while, was like, I felt like less lesbian or I was less open about my sex life, because I didn't want people to think of me as less of a lesbian

people I don't, my partner doesn't have a vagina. But also, like, if you think that way, you're probably transphobic I don't want to fuck with you anyway. So, you know, that's why I'm just I'm really, like, not decisive, but like, for lack of a better word. Like, I'm really just like, you know, like, decisive is not the right word, are just really mindful in lesbian spaces. Because some people some lesbians are transphobic in that way, where it's like, some of y'all are just just anti penis in a really, really weird way. I mean, understand that there's definitely trust there. There can be trauma there and I'm not trying to discount anyone's trauma, but like, don't be transphobic you know? Yeah.

Olivia N 44:54

So when did you first learn that lesbian sex was a thing?

44:58

When did I learn Hold on? I'm gonna do it. Somebody's TV critics and T ye.

Olivia N 45:02

Is it Sweden?

45:04

We better find out.

Olivia N 45:06

I like dumps the sugar

45:09

is it perfect? No, I'd be dumping the sugar in my tea for real. What a living. I think. I'm trying to think cuz I never was like a big like porn watcher. As a kid. Like, I feel like that bounces out the fact that I found masturbation like very early on like I was in elementary school when I started masturbating. Anyone imagine but I didn't like watch porn or anything I maybe I read like a schmuck on Tumblr or some shit. Or like, I've been very embedded in mind. I just like close my eyes. I'd be like, sexy thoughts. And I would just do that. People might not be so funny. I don't need to like watch anything. Like it's all up here. Like my mind is mine. My mind is so big. It's so powerful. My mind is so powerful to come in even now. Yeah, partner. Yeah, I mean, like, they're still thoughts. They're still thought, just because I'm in front of them. And like, I'm like, I'd be in my zen mode. I'd be like, seeing colors and shapes. You do see colors. I do see colors. I do talk about holes about how you see I do put poles I thought I was like crazy.

Olivia N 46:15

Not crazy. I asked several other people and they see colors during sex. Yeah. Were they other lesbians? Yeah, I don't know. What

46:24

else would I be asking? Straight people? That should be a question. Oopsies colors when they fuck yeah. Never came up. Never came up. Really? I didn't ask. Maybe I'll do an art piece. Colors I see

during lesbian sex. Ooh, it a bracelet. Do it. I may pull a bracelet. I need to remake it. It's orange. Because orange is like colors that you see. Orange is like my main sex color.

Olivia N 46:46

You see colors. What do you think you see orange?

46:48

I don't know. Orange is a good color. I associate a lot of good things with orange.

Olivia N 46:51

Let's say you close your eyes and you just come so hard that the colors just show up. Yeah, that

46:56

I see colors when my eyes are closed. But I see colors. So orange, sometimes I'll see blue. Mostly Orange. Orange like the classics. lately. I've been seeing like hot pink. Sometimes we'll see lavender.

Olivia N 47:07

Y'all fuck a lot, too.

47:09

We do fuck alarm. You're always naked in the pictures you send me sometimes we just be naked though. In all honesty, fucking Yeah, I come over. I just take off my clothes was the most because I wear the clothes that I'm wearing the next day to post place. So I don't want to get them dirty. Socks. Take them off. Yeah, yeah, sometimes we just be naked. Like, I'm not leaving. I'm gonna just my TV's gonna be out. Anyways, lesson first, I'm seeing that's an interesting question. Because I don't have a moment like, Oh, yes. It's the first time where I've seen like, lesbian sex was a possibility. Maybe? I don't know. I feel like sex ed. Maybe Sex Ed talked about it. They talked I think they kind of talked about gay sex. But also like, my experience with sex ed is interesting. Because in Delaware and New Jersey is very different. Like the sex education I got in New Jersey was a lot better than it's actually a traditional gone Delaware because Delaware it was. It was there. But it was more abstinence based, like, oh, the only way you can avoid all these bad and scary things from having sex and if you just don't have it. And I'm like, and even with my parents, my parents didn't really talk a lot about queer sex. Either, was I don't blame them. Because what are you know, they're just to set black people. I don't know what they're gonna tell me about gay sex. I think I just learned my age like that. But I just learned more from like, I've been just increasingly being in community with queer people. And I also just being sexually active myself. And just like having lesbian sex. I can't really think of a time where I'm like, That is a time where I knew lesbians fucked. It just I was I became a lesbian who started fucking, and then you know, boom, that's lesbian sex.

Olivia N 48:50

So did your views on marriage change before after you identified as a lesbian?

48:55

Yes. Well, yeah. Yeah. I think after identifying a little bit also, just like dating pocus, Paul was very, like anti marriage. Just sounds for them. That does make sense for them. But Paul was very, like anti marriage. Me, I'm kind of poll makes me sometimes I'm talking about Paul my middle, like a conservative. And I'm not I just think Paul was very dedicated to, like, real life applications of their politics and their values. And that's a really big thing for them. And for me, I think it's just like, I think of more of marriage as a construct now. And also I'm kind of out of different within, like, the love that I have with my partner and our relationship and our future looks different from, you know, the life that my parents built for me and my siblings, so it's gonna be very different. And that's still something that I'm unpacking because I really enjoyed my childhood and I want to recreate a lot of that for my kids, but also realizing that you know, that's just not the relationship structure I'm under. That's not the tax bracket I'm going to be in so So, you know, I think I'm the person where it's like, we don't have to do a whole big wedding ceremony, we will be getting legally married for the tax benefits like period for the tax benefits. I will be getting married, at least on paper, but the whole idea of like having a wedding, and doing all that stuff does not appeal to me as much as it did in the past or before I kind of like came out as a lesbian, like, embrace that part of my identity. But yeah, I think we do look at dinner. Like one thing about both sides, our family, we love food, big food family, I'm like, let's just take our like immediate family out for dinner and do something with our friends, like celebrate our love. And like call it a day. Um, we really want to travel like I'd rather and also the economy's just bad. Like a bad use between spending money on like a wedding or celebration or like a fucking house. I want to help. Yeah, like I really want to be a homeowner. Because I know Poland I want to return to New Jersey after you know we're done our little city shit. And I want to like settle down I have kids like we probably come back to New Jersey because area that we both really love. So you want to get married? Like legally

Olivia N 51:08

you want like you see yourself impose like end game?

51:11

Yeah, I do see myself in post endgame. Not trying to jinx it, though. But yeah, I do. I'm just very long. I've always been that way that I think I've even when we're dating in high schools opponents end game like I'm not I'm very long term in that way. Like I was never someone who could date casually, or fuck casually. I'm like we either in it to win it or like, in a position to win in the position or go like, I don't know. Maybe I'm like, idealistic and like hopeless romantic for that. But yeah. You.

Olivia N 51:39

So has your lesbianism been influenced by theory or academics in any way?

51:44

We ask that so funny. To you, um, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. You said my academics,

Olivia N 51:53

you read shit about lesbians or feminism? Does it influence you in any way?

51:57

I don't read a lot about lesbians or feminism. I want to read more. But I'd be down to read more. But it does also just given given the classes that I take, like queerness is very rarely discussed. So most of the companies now have feminism and queer theory or through like Poe, or like, just my friends who do read that stuff. It doesn't mean that I don't that doesn't mean that I don't want to it's just yeah, I've written shit. Like what do I be read? I'm reading about like segregation. And like, like it like politics and like, you know, food. But yeah, sadly, no. But that's okay.

Olivia N 52:36

I don't think race informs your interactions with lesbian community.

52:42

It does that shit a lot. Because I I'm still kind of here healing from white lesbian traumas, healing, healing, but also I really just love being with black lesbians and other like black queer people. So and also, I feel like in the same way race impacts my gender like race impacts, you know, my sexuality my lesbianism? Because I'm I'm a femme I'm a black femme. I do not emasculate me. Nor don't do that. But I think it just because it impacts how I show up and like and how I show up and what I'm more mindful of and what identities are more salient than spaces. So if I'm in a space, where it's all queer people are all lesbians, but it's not like majority black, like my race will feel more salient. But from a space where it's like all black says people are Black says that people, and I'm the only queer identifying person, my Korean is a few more salient. And I struggled with that a while I think, especially my sophomore year, in college, so like, last year, because I always thought, you know, when I was in queer social spaces, I would be the only black person. And I felt really awkward. Because I was, you know, the only black queer person, then then No, I was in black spaces, I would be the only you know, queer identifying person. And that wasn't really a great, that wasn't really a great experience either. So just constantly like struggling with how I wanted to show up in spaces. And just seeking out more black queer community was something that I really, really want it for myself, and now I have it. I won. I won. So you know, it's not something I struggle with as much anymore because, I mean, luckily for me, now, the majority of the spaces that I'm in by choice are, you know, filled with a lot of queer people of color trans people, because those are just people that I'm friends with now, and I'm really happy that I was able to like, create that community for myself.

Olivia N 54:38

Can you talk more about what it's like being a black Femme and also if like clothing, jewelry, makeup, tattoos, piercings or other body mods or other forms of gender expression? Is this with your identities like your lesbianism or your gender?

54:52

Yeah. That's a lot hair. You said hair all this shit. You said hair and blue in the same sentence. That's crazy. That's It's crazy cuz my therapy and therapy, I'd be having whole sessions dedicated to the hair in therapy, like whole sessions, cuz like, I think especially like being like coming out of genderqueer like, made me do a lot with my hair like come in to call or you also just come into college to like I came to college and I had my afro my little natural hair moment and then I did a lot of wigs out a wig era for a while. I had a wig era. I have like, I have like seven wigs. Yeah, mostly human hair, too. I have a, I have a 18 inch 613 wig. I think it's like 1313 by for lace. I have a 16 inch. Like, I don't think it's black. I think it

might be like two or four. With Ella Williams like kind of wavy. I have a UI of a human hair like 14 inch pot like water wave wig, or like my 20th birthday. I have to like 24 inch wigs. They're synthetic, though. I want this jet black. And one that is like brown with highlights. So I think like maybe like four with like 27 or 30 highlights. Well, then I have a bob in his like, he's not black. It's like dark brown. And I cut it so used to be maybe 12. And but now it's like it's pretty. It's pretty choppy. But it's cute. Putting on that was a pain because I don't have to straighten it when I put it on. But I have a lot of wigs Fun fact, and a wig era my freshman year and then I went back to my natural hair. And I twist Oh, I twist for a while. Yeah, twist would be just super cute. And then my sophomore year, had my afro also went they went back and forth between like my Afro and wigs at the beginning of my sophomore year. And then I cut my hair. I cut my hair, early 2022 It was New Year's Eve. So January 31 2021, I did the big chop. Because I was just at a point, I was at a point with my gender where like long hair, like me and long hair, we're not seeing eye to eye, gender wise, and I think it is it's because I want to point where it's like, I don't even think that was I think like I was at a point where it's like I was be I couldn't find my belt I was being perceived as like too feminine all the time with longer hair, and I got misgendered a lot. My sophomore year, especially when I was using like, I was using de she pronouns like for everyone. And you know, queer trans people would use de and then sis people would use C. And because it was at a point where I didn't have a lot of like queer community, like most people up for me, and it just made me feel really dysphoric. And then in addition to the fact that I had really long hair at the time, I thought my hair was causing me being misgendered was not just people being shitty, but I know that now, but suddenly I cut my hair and I had short hair for a while then I cut in I dyed it which was a lot of fun. So you know and now I'm back having longer boxers and I was really nervous because I'm like this could have gone really bad. This could have gotten really bad I have for contest I've blonde Box page right now with a fade, that like goes up to my tumblers very high fade. But I really love it. This is probably one of my favorite hairstyles that I've had I've had is very lesbian, very dichos. Very, like delicious. Yeah, very, like delicious. I love it a lot. But just kind of doing the full circle. That's okay. It's kind of doing that full circle moment where it's like now I'm like, I'm comfortable enough in my femininity to be like yeah, I'm still non binary, I can have I can have a 24 inch bust down and a steal them, like be so for real. So I'm at a point where I'm just like, I'm less concerned about how other others perceive me and my queerness and playing into like what society expects non binary people to look like and what society expects black queer people to look like and just like doing what the fuck I want with my hair, which is a lot of fun. But I also want to talk about jewelry. I have a jewelry making business at dub beads on Instagram, follow me support me support a black dyke trying to get my bag get my money up not my money up your butt. Anyways, I make a lot of beaded jewelry. I started that I think it was the summer after my freshman year my passion twist era. I'm gonna get passionate once again. That was summer of 2021 That's not when I started my business. I started my business last summer, but that's just when I started making beaded jewelry for fun because Ken did it and I was like I want to do that too. So I did it and then I became better than candidate Why didn't become better I just did it more and they kind of did more crocheting but we were we're both very crafty. But I made so much beaded jewelry because I loved I love jewelry and for me like I was always really worried about like looking queer enough and like being perceived as someone who's not straight and for me like accessories and accessorizing was a really big part of that. that so I made my own like you know necklaces, bracelets and necklaces were my big thing and they're still on my big thing now like necklaces are my most popular item in my next little small business but you know necklaces bracelets I started wearing rings I used to not like rings I didn't like how they squeeze my fingers cuz I really skinny fingers but instead of making beaded rings you

know and I would just like sit outside in my backyard and I would be like all day and I loved it. I loved it it was my go to summer activity and I still do it now my gifts for people are always like beaded jewelry and I've gotten really good at it. So now I make you know I make a lot of pride jewelry like you know when I you know I have like a non binary necklace I have a trans necklace I have a fuck ton of lesbian you know necklaces which I think helped me become a lot more comfortable with like identifying as a lesbian because like I you know were not like bracelets to I'd wear like little like bracelets and jewelry to kind of like a flick like self almost like a self affirmation let the self affirm my queerness like not you know not everyone will like maybe see acknowledged perceive me as queer but I have my own little like bracelets and have like a vey them bracelet you know so it's like if it's a bad if it's a bad pronoun day I like look at my breast and be like okay like made them like that's me. God or like what see my little lesbian bracingly Yeah, like that's me. But yeah, I love jewelry. Other body mounts. I don't know my nose is pierced. I like it a lot. It looks good. Yeah, you're sticking folks by sticking pokes. I don't know if that's like a big gender sexuality. I just love food. I'm a Food Studies major. I love foods. I do little Stick and poke. I think it's a very gay hobby, though. Doing your own sticker books. I don't think straight people do that. But I do moans decomposed. I haven't done them in a while. I'm trying to be good for my parents. Apparently, like stop doing Stick and poke. Just get a professional tattoo like help you pay for it. And I'm like, Okay, I have a professional do it. But it's all right, my nails are my needles are clean. My needles are clean. Do I use sharpie to draw myself? Yeah, but my needles are clean anyways, but I just think it pokes myself I have three sets of eight second pokes that I've done myself on my body. Most of them are food related. So I have like a radish, a carrot, a leak. Some peas with some faces on them. A mushroom that on my upper thigh. I have a flower but a flower is my flower will like the trends. The trends symbol, so that's a flower like a little daisy and it's like has a little trans like arrows and shit. I have a butterfly, which Ariel did. Nobody knows. But Ariel did the butterfly on my thigh. And that's my first second poke. I was drunk. I was drunk and they were crossed. And there was it was them. And my friend Asia who I haven't seen in a while he was not a lesbian, I believe but Ariel is an arrow is the one who did Arizona who did the butterfly tattoo on me at my former roommate who I no longer speak with apartment. No just sitting on a chair. And I got drawn on with a pen with a buckler. I really wanted the butterfly tattoo. So then I got a butterfly and I wake up the next morning and there's a butterfly on my thigh. No Magewell that's so cool. But yeah.

Olivia N 1:03:24

So can you talk a little bit more about how your gender identity impacts your lesbianism and how you think about lesbian community? Yawn?

1:03:34

Yeah. gonna answer you said how my gender identity influences your lesbianism. My lesbianism? Yeah, it definitely does. Because some, it makes me very selective with the lesbians I surround myself with. And it's not even like I'm picky where it's an a, you know, some lesbians can be transphobic. And luckily, I haven't had to deal with a lot of transphobic you know, shit from the community, which is great. But I'm just mindful because a lot of words and a lot of rhetoric about lesbianism and how people talk about, you know, lesbianism what that means to them can be very transphobic and as someone you know, who's in a tea for tea relationship or TV will lesbian relationship with their partner and also with you know, with a partner who doesn't pass, right, that can make it really not difficult, but it can make it really interesting to like go to lesbian spaces clinic CO and I have like conversations about going into

like lesbian bars and stuff as a couple because Paul doesn't pass. Yeah, it's like, no, that's like no, okay, but I know. Yeah, the fear of like, you know, being perceived as like a lot more sense. Yeah. Yeah. Because it's not the first time we've been invited to like lesbian bars and stuff and we live in the area. But it's like, there's always that hesitancy of like, okay, like, how are we gonna be perceived in this space? Because two people Yeah, because it's two people who like, are in the community or like, don't really know, like, if you're queer or if you're lesbian, you live in Poland. I It's like that's too. That's to gay people. But like

Olivia N 1:05:04

lesbian bar, and most people who go to

1:05:06

bars are lesbian, right? Right. There's still that inherent fear, especially like from just people, because I'm like, I still get so like, it's so crazy and people really perceive Poland is boyfriend and girlfriend. Like that's crazy. Since people probably do Yeah, straight people. Yeah. Which is crazy, cuz I'm like, cat. But that didn't even I don't even like I don't really I don't really, I don't really care because I know I know the relationship with my partner and I have like, I don't need I don't need that to be validated by Cisco people. But yeah, it's still like an ongoing lead. Damn. I really think this is a man and a woman right now. That's crazy. And y'all think I'm the woman like that's crazy. They are the woman. cat owners, which got a call from me. You guys want to say? This is hard? The cat is like sniffing me. I'm trying to try. You want to know you want to speak into the mic? No. Dummy has something to say is dummy lesbian. No. No.

Olivia N 1:06:06

Agender ain't romantic. Asexual

1:06:09

Demi? Just palm Jo TT.

Olivia N 1:06:12

So last in your face. What's it like making in meeting lesbians in your city? Now? How are you making your lesbian community? Where are you meeting them?

1:06:22

Meeting lesbians? Um, so before I mean, lesbians do Olivia for room. I mean, lesbians. Do Olivia and Po. Po Poby. Meeting more probably meeting more black lesbians than me. And it's kind of upsetting. Well, is that upsetting? Because they put me on, but like, you know, anywhere else? Yeah. Sorry. Demi. lovie cat sat right on her titties. You chose a good spot. Bestie I can't be mad. It's probably soft to smelt lesbians through me and Pope. Yeah, I meant a lot of lesbians to you and bow. Because I met I met you through poco. And now we're like besties. And then I met Maya, Maya and S through you. So? Yeah, yeah. And I'm like, Wow, I love that. No, I have more lesbian friends. I'm also just like, you know, as ever, I think ever just like, in like prioritizing, like connections with queer people. I've met more queer people are just like meeting people and being like, Oh, I'm a lesbian. I'm like, No shit. I am, too. That's how this happened. So I've known people, but I just didn't know they were a lesbian. And then I

found out there were lesbians and I came so much closer with them. Like I have friends from my ASL class, Eden and Gina and I did not know they were lesbian until we literally were working on our final project. And I'm like, damn, this is crazy. So and then we all hung we all hang out now, which is a lot of fun. We got ramen the other day. It was very good ramen. But yeah.

Olivia N 1:07:46

What was your first experience like to a lesbian related place or event?

1:07:52

My first experience was the SOFEX of color picnic that we went to. in September. That was my first like, lesbian event, which is funny because at that point, I've been out as a lesbian for a year. But my first year of lesbianism, I didn't go do lesbian things, or I didn't like have lesbian community in that way. So that was my first lesbian outing. It was it was in September. I think it was the weekend after school started, like early September, at Central Park. And it was very fun. 2022 It was 2022. So I was blown. I was it was right. It was like a couple weeks before my birthday. But it was yeah, it was past fall. 2022 Yeah. But yeah, it was. It was very warm out. I went with Olivia is right next to me. I will Olivia, my s we all went together. So it was a lot of fun. I got to meet other lesbians. Yeah, it was fun. I didn't really do too much socializing with the other people I kind of just like, because this is also my first time like going out with like, my NS I was like, kind of feeling that vibe out. And then also, like, I knew I was cool. I was like, close with Livia. And then I think you all just knew more people that were there. And I was kind of like, here for the vibes, eating my little fruit. But a lot of fun. I enjoyed. I enjoyed myself a lot. And it was nice just being in a space where like, we're all lesbians and like, we're all people of color. Like I didn't feel like that sense of oh, I'm the only this from the only that so it was just nice, you know, being in that kind of space with folks. So

Olivia N 1:09:36

what has it been like building lesbian community during the pandemic? Has there been a struggle with any physical in person lesbian community building

1:09:43

during the pandemic? I know that I didn't come out as a lesbian until like summer 2021 And that's when like Society decided we're done with this pandemic shit. So haven't struggled with Finding in person lesbian community too much. But I also like, on the scene that I don't go to a lot of events because of COVID concern that if it's like, if it has a masking requirement, I'd probably feel more comfortable going, but also time I'm busy. And also like, I know, I feel like I know a lot of lesbians already. So I just socialize with the lesbians that I know more than seeking out like, I guess new community in that way. Or if I know our I'm, like, hesitant to go go somewhere, like alone. Like, I would go with a group of lesbians to lesbian event, kind of like what we did for the lesbian picnic, but I don't know, I feel like I would just be really like anxious and like in my head the whole time. So having some kind of be there to like, snap me out of it or just someone to like, we can do the experience together. Like it makes it a lot less nerve wracking for me. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:10:54

So what does identifying as a lesbian mean to you?

1:10:58

For me? For me, it just means like, liking non men. Like I'm a non man who you know, likes and prioritizes relationships with other non men identifying folks. So, boss, my definition lets me know, I know, everyone's definition of lesbianism looks different, but mine is just like, I'm not a man. I like people who are not men.

Olivia N 1:11:22

What did it feel like when you first identified as a lesbian?

1:11:26

What I feel like it's scary. But it talks about earlier. really liberating, honestly. I was like, I feel like this fits like I've never like I was bisexual for a while. But I never really felt like a fit. I don't know. But I also like I didn't, I wasn't like, oh, like, I might be a lesbian like that thought there really come up until I was in college. And I like met more lesbians. But I didn't really know a lot of lesbians in high school. But now I know a lot of people from my high school that are now lesbian identifying, which is like a lot of fun. Love that. So I was looking at our window right now. Anyways, yeah. So can you repeat the question? That was the question. Oh,

Olivia N 1:12:13

what does lesbian community mean to you?

1:12:15

It means I don't know. A lot of things. I'm very big on like, you know, like, what does queer community and lesbian community look like outside of nightlife I know, like, there's so many rich, there's a lot of rich history and like gay nightlife, and especially like lesbian bars, but personally, that's just not my scene. So I'm very much I love a good like lesbian house party, queer house party. I was thinking about hosting a lesbian house party at some point, because all my friends are like, I want to meet more lesbians. Oh, my God, oh, no other lesbians at NYU are just like, in the city. That's crazy

Olivia N 1:12:49

thoughts about that, like people just I feel like a lot of people our age don't want to put energy into finding lesbians and they want it to happen instantly. And without effort, like in the way you can make community fast online. Yeah. Because I was like, here in New York City. You shouldn't. If you don't have lesbian community, in your space right now, that's because you are choosing not to interact with it for whatever reason. Yeah. Like, it's not hard to build lesbian community. If you actually want lesbian community. There's so many lesbians just like you who feel that same isolation. Yeah, just like talk to each other.

1:13:25

Yeah, I put in the work. Yeah, I put in the work. Not as good as you know what, you're right. I put in the work, but do but I also like organizing parties where like, more queer people, like my queer friends can meet, like queer people they may not know. Or having like queer socials and just creating a space for people to just kind of like exist. Like, we don't even gotta go because it's just like, let's exist together

guys. Let's like, you know, drink and play games. Or, you know, what else do we do at our little parties? Oh, no. Drink and play games and like, listen to music. Like, that's my vibe. Or like, I'm very much I love to go out to eat. So like, you know, let's all go like feeling lesbian community. To me looks like lesbians doing things together. And it can be the most like mundane shit. Like that's still community to me. We Olivia and I's lesbian community looks like eating bagels. And sitting Yeah, eating bagels and sitting down and talking for hours. Like that's that's our vibe. But yeah. Also cooking I love cooking with with gay people. Or, like, I wanted to like lesbian dinner parties. But yeah, I'm gonna throw I'm gonna put on a list a lesbian dinner party at some point. We'll stay tuned.

Olivia N 1:14:43

Stay tuned. Stay tuned. So what lesbian spaces do you wish existed?

1:14:49

Do I wish existed? That's crazy. I don't know can I can we can someone find me a lesbian cooking class, like cooking class like take a little cooking class but it's all love Beans. I want to do like more. Because I love food. Yeah, I love food and I love to get more involved in like, Well I'm so I'm working on it I'm working on, it's getting more involved in like, queer food spaces is something that I'm working on I follow on Instagram, I try to, like, follow a lot of like queer people, especially queer and trans people like in food, and they follow me back and they interact with me, which is so crazy. I always feel so special. I'm like, You're so sexy. You so sexy, and you fellows neck massage, like that's crazy. I am gay. That's my truth. That's my truth. But yeah, just getting more involved in like queer and like lesbian food spaces is something that I am trying to actively work towards. Because that's an intersection where I haven't really discovered like, I'm very invested in like black food and like black food history. It's got just you know what I want to do, but getting more into like queer food, even like queer black food histories. So yeah.

Olivia N 1:15:59

What does lesbian Joy mean to you? When are you happy as lesbian joy

1:16:02

when I'm with other lesbians? Like, I'm happiest when I'm when I'm with other lesbians, or just about other queer people at large but especially other lesbians. And also honestly, not to be sappy. But when I'm with Bo. Or can not somebody kind of run around kind of never run up? I was I was just nice. Having like another like, non binary, like non binary lesbian sibling, because in a lot of ways I can as my trans Latina as my like queer elder.

Olivia N 1:16:31

Oh, what's up, Ken? Out?

1:16:32

Yeah. Ken was on high school. Oh, Dan. Yeah. That rough. Yeah. That was really rough. High school was not a great time for them. But Ken was out. Ken was out as a queer trans person in high school, maybe like, yeah, like their sophomore year. So candidate candidate out for, like, four years or a little while because we're not for a while. So and a lot of ways, like Canada's like my trans elder, or one of

my trans elders, queer elders, and a lot of ways because Canada's just out and can really late or I helped, but can really lay the groundwork for my parents. So like, just like queer education, and like, you know, like, this is what gender identity is, is what gender euphoria is. So by the time I came out, it was like, okay, cool. Like, it wasn't really as big of a thing. But when Ken came out, there's a lot of like, you know, queer education and all that, that, you know, my parents needed and that kind of laid that groundwork. So I have a lot of, like, you know, reverence and respect for Ken in that way, when it wasn't just gonna be like, Oh my God. But also, I really just love being with Paul and I feel so you know, seen in our relationship, even though like, it is an interracial relationship and even you know, that comes with its own like, complexities but they're just so they just treat me with you know, the utmost kindness and tenderness, you know, like even like it's the smallest the smallest the smallest things they do for me like make my heart melt and yeah, they just create such as a safe space for me to just like rest and exist as a black, you know, black queer person black or lesbian. So, yeah.

Olivia N 1:18:12

Is there anything else you want to talk about?

1:18:14

Anything else I want to talk about? Um, I'm trying to think I talked about a lot of shit. I did.

1:18:24

I don't know. I love lesbians. I'm very happy I get to be part of this project. Nothing is coming to mind that I want to add

Olivia N 1:18:38

cool bye