

Imm1_bs_interview_2023-03-04_001

Tue, Mar 07, 2023 12:57PM • 1:19:11

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

queer, lesbian, friends, literally, gay, people, grew, nice, feel, knew, love, watch, mom, nails, movies, high school, point, sister, women, thought

SPEAKERS

Olivia N

Olivia N 00:01

Today is March 4 2023. I'm Olivia Newsom, integrating BB here in New York City on my couch in Brooklyn. Do I have permission to record this interview?

00:11

Yep, you do.

Olivia N 00:12

Do you know you can stop recording at any time?

00:15

I do know that.

Olivia N 00:16

Can you say your name, age and pronouns?

00:19

Okay. Yeah, I'm Barb. I'm 22. And my pronouns are she they?

Olivia N 00:24

How would you describe yourself?

00:26

I'm a Libra. I'm a Libra. If you look it up in the dictionary, I'm probably there. Um, yeah. Oh, my God. Like what? Describe yourself out.

Olivia N 00:40

Like your hobbies.

00:41

Oh, I love love music and film. I'm currently an intern at Washington Square films. So that's really fun. hobbies. It's really just going to concerts with friends. Is that really a hobby or a form of entertainment? Um, I wish I could read more. I wish I had the time to read more. But I love reading. Yeah, I'm, I love my besties they're my hobbies hanging out with them. I love like hanging out with them. And my sister, my twin sister. Yeah.

Olivia N 01:11

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

01:16

Yeah, I grew up in North New Jersey for about 14 years in this like, predominantly Latinx neighborhood. So most people were like, either from South America, Brazil, or Portugal even. Yeah, I grew up there. And then come eighth grade, I transferred to the suburbs of Westchester, Pennsylvania, outside of Philly. And that was like the biggest culture shock. Um, yeah, I was probably like one of the only like, maybe like one of 10 like Latins kids in that school. Yeah, that was that was kind of insane and took some adjusting adjustment. childhood was like, Okay, I grew up with a single mom, with my dad being around. But that's pretty much it. And I grew up with pretty much just like my sister, my mom and all my extended family is in South America. So that's just us for most of my life.

Olivia N 02:13

What's your relationship like with your, with your sister growing up?

02:17

Um, well, she's my twin. So we pretty much did everything together. We were a package deal for most of our lives until college, where we finally got to be individuals. It was Rocky in high school. But we got over that. And now we're like, at a much better place. I'd consider her my best friend. At this point. Yeah, that's my ride or die. That's my bestie

Olivia N 02:41

What about your mom?

02:43

Um, also bestie I love my mom. She was really supportive when I came out. She's the type to like, buy me like really cheesy pride merch that I will never ever use. But just to make her happy. I'll like have it around. And, yeah, she's definitely one of my biggest support systems that I've never doubted. So love her. I think she's a great mother.

Olivia N 03:11

Can you talk about how class influenced you growing up?

03:14

Um, we Yeah. So we like the neighborhood we grew up in wasn't grew up in wasn't super great. It was pretty, like lower class. I've never like, like, my mom was pretty adamant and getting me what I needed.

And even what I wanted, even if it like came to a sacrifice to her, but like yeah, grew up, especially after a recession. We were lucky poor. And it got better when we moved to Pennsylvania, but that whole class thing definitely affected how I like see, like class now or like money or like, anything like that. But we we got by and she tried her best. And I saw that. Yeah.

Olivia N 04:03

Can you talk about middle school? What was that like?

04:08

Middle School sucked. In middle school. I moved. This was again, I only spent one year in a traditional American Middle School. Because most of my life it was K to eight with the same people I knew since I was six years old. And then I moved and but I did meet my best friends there and we're still amazing friends now. I was so so deeply in the closet. Yeah, but oh my god Middle School, like white middle schoolers are the worst. Or ones who grew up like culturally like very American slash European. Yeah, I was ready to get out. One year was too much. Too much.

Olivia N 04:53

So we'll talk about high school was it more of the same

04:57

high school um, I I mean, it was the same people. So that sucked, too. And I was at that point, I was still adjusting to the suburbs and that kind of environment, especially because I, the suburbs I moved to was the 14th richest county in the country. So most of these kids had also grown up rich, which was in were extremely out of touch. And that was crazy to wrap my head around to especially even my friends, like, bless them. I love them. But sometimes they were ignorant that way, but you know that it was overall harmless. It was more just because they were young. But yeah, high school was fine. I was even more deeply in the closet in high school, I had a lot of queer friends. And I befriended a lot of, like queer and trans, like population, that school which wasn't that big. But I guess it was just more of like an ally thing back then. I dated a boy when I was 17. Which, I guess at that point, I had repressed my sexuality so hard. But yeah, I really didn't date him for that long. He was a sweetheart. But obviously, that didn't work out. Yeah. Then I was out of there, out of there. Now here in New York.

Olivia N 06:18

So what was it like moving to such a rich County? Like, if you go to public school?

06:25

Yeah, it was public school. But you know, public school, you're funded by property taxes. And the property around us was, you know, most houses were anywhere about like, more, like the lowest part like and was, I'd say, half a million and up. So our schools were very well funded. And it was a brand new high school had only been around 10 years. Like we had like a cappuccino machine into the cafeteria like, and we had fencing and archery for gym class. Like, it didn't sound like a public school, it looked like one. It acted like one but most of these kids didn't know any different. This is this is what they expected. This is what they thought, like, knew they were gonna get themselves into and then they're gonna go to college and go on their way. Everyone had a CT prep. I didn't everyone paid like full

price for their college apps. I didn't I got those waived. Everyone paid for their lunch or like brought in their own stuff, or took their really nice cars to go out to eat. But yeah, that was that was that was kind of wild.

Olivia N 07:32

So you mentioned a couple of times how you were repressing your sexuality throughout middle and high school was leading that repression.

07:39

I'm like, okay, so I wasn't the type of person like always knew they were queer. Or, like, knew they were gay. It took a while, like, I didn't even think about like, like attraction to anyone, until like later in life, like I was a late bloomer. But it was probably a mix of like, being Brazilian. And Catholicism is a really big part of that. But the thing is, I wasn't raised Catholic. My mom, like left Catholicism, even though she's still like, she's still religious. Don't get me wrong on that sharing. Got her, you know? besties. But, um, it's still it was present enough that I was aware that like, oh, gay and religion? No, no, but that. Also the fact that like, I really just did not want to struggle like a queer person. Like, I was just like, like, I knew it was hard. I had queer friends. I saw what they went through. I was just like, I don't want this. This doesn't seem fun. Like I it was mostly like avoiding any, any struggle, which is like terrible, but, you know, we all know it's easier to be straight. Yeah, also, my family I that I know of. There's no queer women. I think I'm the only one unless someone's closeted. We do have queer men in our family. And that's all my family knew about. They knew how to navigate and socialize with queer men that's different to them. It's like, oh, gbf you know, my grandfather's gay, my, like Godfather who, who passed but he slash uncle. He was queer in San Francisco in the 80s. So he I never even like got he didn't die because he didn't die because of the AIDS epidemic. He knew others that that did. Yeah, he passed before it can come out. But like, that's, that's all my family knew. So because of that, I was like, I don't want to be the first one. I don't want to be the one and tell everyone what it's like. So I didn't. I didn't. Yeah.

Olivia N 09:48

Can you talk about how gender affected you growing up gender norms and stuff?

09:54

Um, it wasn't like, because I I grew up with a single mom and with my sister, it was like a girl's house. But like we did everything like it's not like a like we didn't have a nuclear family in the sense that like, I had to like call my dad to do like the manly stuff like my mom did what she could like she played both. You know, I don't say both roles of mom and dad because I don't think that's like a thing, but she did. So it wasn't really an issue. I grew up a girly girl. I loved pink. I were both in my hair all the time. i My sister and I loved Barbie and brats. Like that's how we grew up. And we loved it. It wasn't forced down our throats by her mother, even though she was my mom is super girly. Like she like pink is probably the first column I've ever seen in my life. Yeah, and I guess, but she made it a point that like, she did not want us dependent on men. Like she, she had learned that the hard way, moving to a new country because my dad wanted to and she didn't. And she made it a point. You know, you have to be independent, you have to know how to do A, B and C. So gender itself was a girly? Yes. Did I feel like I had to be girly? No. So yeah, that's where I'm at right now.

Olivia N 11:14

Can you talk a little bit more about what it was like growing up Latin a and what it was like in your household and with your extended family? And

11:19

yeah, so yeah, all my all my family's Brazilian were first gentleman Americans were like, known as the American granddaughters. All have our extended families still in Brazil. And we're kind of detached in that way. My mom still talks to them every single day. And I feel for her a lot because I wish you can talk to them in person every single day. But because of that there's there's a slight language barrier. I speak Portuguese, but it's, I don't. It's still complicated, like with texting even. So I'm not super attached to any of them, even though I know they're there. And I have their support and everything. But yeah, Brazilian culture was huge. Growing up, it's the food, I ate some music I listened to, I didn't get to stereotypical, like American music and food until school and then later in school, especially when I moved to Pennsylvania. Like I didn't know that white people might crazy over come on Eileen, like, I didn't know that was a song. And then I moved to Pennsylvania, and they played in homecoming and everyone went batshit. I'm just like, stupid stuff like that. So that cultural was super present. It's still present in my life. I love it. I went to Brazil, I've only gone to Brazil about three times. And every time has been, I went when I was for 12 or 13. And then again at 17. So I was a completely different person each time I went. And it showed my family doesn't they don't know me as like, they know, like different versions of me in different ages. But yeah, I that culture is still very much. I'm super proud of it. Like I will take any opportunity to mention that I'm resilient to like random people. I love it. Yeah, yeah.

Olivia N 13:09

So can you talk about diabetes and what that was like growing up?

13:12

Yeah, I didn't get diagnosed until I was about 12 Like a month before my 13th birthday. So I lived, like, most of my childhood, like eating anything I wanted and like not having to worry about, you know, paying for medication because I'm now I'm like, you know, the expensive child I had to like pay to live, which sucks. But for most of my teen hood, I was really embarrassed by it. I did not talk about it unless I needed to or like, I disclose it to my friends. But that was it. And I made them not tell anyone. I don't know why I was so embarrassed about it. Um, I guess because it's like an invisible disability. So it's not like, you know, I didn't want to seem like it was like, asking for attention or that it was like a struggle even though it definitely was. And yeah, it was kind of hard. Especially I know for my mom, she did not take it well, because she I guess she was more scared than I was. You know, her little daughter is like suddenly leading, you know, her to attend to me all the time with medication that's nice to be handled properly. But yeah, it was it was isolating for a bit and it still is to a degree. I don't have any diabetic friends or anything like that. And I don't, you know, obviously I don't like it, but now it's kind of I can't imagine living without it. Since I'm 22 Now, I'm almost you know, in two years, it'll be like half my life I've lived this way and I'm gonna be living this way. But I'm very lucky for for now the US has to get shit together and make the shift free. Um, but for now I'm very lucky that I have a support system and my mom does everything she can to make like she can to make this process like easier. So, yeah.

Olivia N 15:01

Did you ever struggle to get insulin growing up?

15:04

Not growing up. I've had issues like in college because I'm so far away from my parents and like, my mom would like, like yell on the phone if like, I did not have insulin until she got it. I don't do that. It's more of like crying on the phone until I can get it. It's you know, insurance is tricky. NYU, forcing their students to have NYU insurance if they don't have insurance in state is tricky. It's expensive. So I didn't struggle as a kid, but I did have some moments where, like, I've like, I remember there was one night that I had to I didn't have any like, I ran out. And everyone around me had run like literally didn't have it in stock, which is ridiculous. So I was like, really scared obviously, because I have to be on insulin 24/7. But it ended up fine. I just woke up super early, tried to getting getting it somewhere else. My like, literally my friends texted me and they're like, We can come sleep over with you. Like we'll stay with you if you need if you need company. My sister offered to come from Philadelphia, like on the bus, like an overnight bus to come stay with me if I needed that. So it's scary. Yes, but it's never gotten to the point where it was like lethal. And I'm so so lucky for that. I I'm well aware of that. And I think about it all the time.

Olivia N 16:26

Yeah. So more what influenced you the most growing up?

16:30

Who or what? Um, I don't know, I like I, I feel like this is a basic answer. But at the end of the day, I'm such a pop culture girly. Like I really do. Like, it's, you know, I chose to study media culture communications, like, I'd like to think I'm pretty in the know with most things. I don't think yeah, I don't think that's a stretch this day. Or to say but so, obviously is like a preteen it was, you know, boy bands and Wattpad and like fanfic and fandom culture, never got behind Tumblr, but I had the spirit I think if I had gotten behind him or would have been way more severely mentally ill. But that was a huge influence. I was a really big reader. So that kind of fandom culture in terms of reading, and then come high school and college. It's more music and film now as opposed to books. And like white bands. But yeah, I I you know, I love I love a good trend. I love a good viral sound on Tiktok I love to I know it's brain rot but I'm sorry makes me happy. I love Tik Tok. I'll say it Yeah, so mostly influenced is just like knowing what's culturally relevant or pop culturally relevant is has huge influence on a lot of aspects of my life.

Olivia N 17:51

What were you reading on? Wattpad?

17:52

Like fanfiction one direction. like One Direction adopted me. My god. Um,

Olivia N 18:02

that one where they were all vampires? Oh,

18:05

there's probably several there's definitely not one like 100 million. Oh, I didn't read I didn't here's the thing. When I read fanfiction. It was always like it was either the like, for example, one direction like if it was Nile he wasn't now from one direction he was now a boy. Yeah, in someone's life. It was like an A it was never like why and like your name like it was always another girl's name. Okay, it was an OC. I'm just like, I I read it as like narratives like in there. Like a book. Ecology us I did mafia. Yes. A few mafia ones. Not college ones. Not not they're all they weren't always. Now some of them were like, no, no, no, no, no. Like, no, I should specify. I had read more than just fanfiction. I read like just spokes. Yeah, like people didn't have any publishers they wanted to write they put it on Wattpad I'm, like, stereotypical. I. I had this like, everyone, okay. Like, the trope of like, the good girl bad boy. Yeah. Oh my god. I know. Please like, like bad boys. Broken Heart was like, amazing. You read it? That was good. I'll say it. No, because there's like, there's like three books. There was one specific chapter where they were having a Halloween party and this one stuck with me because I think about it. And she and she, the girl the good girl came in dresses, Jessica Rabbit. And I think about that all star Jessica Rabbit and angel or devil? No, I know. And then like, the bad boy was like, Oh my God. She's actually so sexy. Like, no, but so it was I was thinking the same time. No, I remember thinking like who's it? At that point? I was like, who's Jessica Rabbit? Again? I didn't never saw the movie. I looked it up and I was like, oh my god, blink like blink blink. This is insane. So I probably only had like a crushes like Question on the good girl. Like, even like, yeah, that's that's typically what I consumed on my pad. Real. Yeah, same.

Olivia N 20:10

I was into the wearable stuff too.

20:12

Oh my god. Yeah. Not mentioned no I read a lot I think I think I had like one year I had read like 100 Like it was like I read a lot. Um, because I had the time I was I was in middle school like what was it? I didn't work like those stories. I don't probably the romance honestly, like when you're 13 you're like I like you know, you're just starting to have crushes at school and like, I don't know, I just loved reading about, like, romanticizing everything. Plus, I'm a Libra. We love doing that shit. Okay, come on.

Olivia N 20:50

So, when did you start realizing that your sexuality was different from what was around you?

20:58

I like I said earlier, I like it wasn't like I didn't know when I was like a kid. Like thoughts about like, here's the thing. It's weird because I had thoughts but they weren't like, significant enough where I thought they were like an issue like something I should like confront. Everyone thinks about girls this way. It wasn't even like thinking about girls. It was more like I'd watch something like I remember like watching Matilda and see like Miss Honey. And be like, I just think she's so cool. Like, like Kim Possible. I thought she was it. I didn't have a question. She go. For me. For me. It was impossible. Because she like the ginger. I love gingers, but like literally, yeah. And I would just watch and I was just like, you know, I just think she's like, so badass. I will like, I will like mask is like, I'm such a feminist. I love it when women's lay, but like literally I just like, had a crush. And then in eighth grade, I would. Oh, my

little okay, this I haven't. I don't really talk about mostly because like, I forgot it happened. But like I had made this like one friend in eighth grade that like it was rumored that she was bisexual. But she was, I think, honestly, it was eighth grade. And like, I think she would like just like the guys who would like kiss girls for fun. Because it's eighth grade that, but I thought she was I thought she was like so pretty. And like I was like, No, I have a friend crush. I just want to be your friend really bad. I mean, look. It was like, I was just like, Have you ever felt like oh, I want to be your friend so bad. But, obviously. But I was also gay. No. Yeah. So and then I kind of like shove that behind, like my brain. And then come high school didn't think about it at all. Like, I like I was starting to meet queer people. And then I was like, huh queerness is a thing. Interesting. Like, most of the queer people were surrounded by was like, was trans men though. So like, it's not like we have like overlapping peaks. periences I mean, maybe, but not really. Um, I just was now well aware of like different sexualities and identities. So shout out to them and love them. Um, yeah, I just, I started to realize I was like, hmm, I don't have crushes on guys. I don't have crushes on girls, but just I don't like guys. So it was more of like, I realized I was just like, not vibing with men. Does that make sense? I wasn't necessarily going like, Oh, I love women. And then I had the I mean, I don't know if I'll answer. You know, I'll stop you right there. Yeah, I had realized that I was just, I couldn't. I had to, like pick guys to like, yeah, you know, I had to, like, choose them. And then I did that. Yeah, I would pick the guy

Olivia N 23:48

that like, people were talking about being into. And I mean, I didn't have any crushes in high school. But in middle school, I pick the guy we're talking about, and then I'd be way too into them.

23:59

Oh, God, I got it. overcompensating. Yeah,

Olivia N 24:03

let me like

24:04

Zack, Zack, okay, I like that, too. isn't really what you mean Zach doesn't struggle, like in the lesbian archives? For fun? Oh, my God, not the name drop. No, right. No, but I didn't like I didn't even really do that. Like I did it a little bit in middle school, but it was mostly like, if my friends would be like, Oh, do you think like Jake, like if that's a random boy name? Like Jake is cute. And I'm like, I'm like, yeah, he's cute. But that's it. Like I didn't like have a crush on like, I didn't even pretend to have a crush on him. I would just address the fact that like, he was like a good looking person. But yeah, like all my friends around me were having

Olivia N 24:46

what did you think about him? How did you guys even get together?

24:48

Oh my god. Okay, so he. We had classes together like freshman and sophomore year, because he asked me out unirea and I did not know he knew my existence I full transparency. I knew he existed. i Our social circles Never overlapped. We had really different friends. He was like, he was very much

like, quiet boy next door, played football. So sweet. He was also a twin, ironically. But he had a twin sister. And I had a lab like I was in her his twin sisters lab group, and she and there was like a school dance that weekend. And I did not plan on going because I really didn't want to go. And she was like, Hey, girl, I'm doing this to girl to girl heads up. My brother's gonna ask you out. And I was like, what? She was like, Yeah, I know. I know. You don't know that. But he likes you. He's gonna ask you out. I'm literally just doing this because like the girlies. I was like, Oh, okay. And then she was like, would you say yes, I was like, I mean, I guess Sure. The dance got canceled. But he's still. He I had given her my number to give to him. And because I was, here's the thing, men are like boys, like boys had never really shown interest in me that I knew of. I'm sure they had like, crushes on like my sister. Because like, we were twins, but she was like, girlier. And like, so that was like, Yeah, whatever. And then so we texted he was like, clearly more emotionally mature than most of the guys I had seen. So that in itself, I was like, This is good. Okay, at least I can have like, hang out with like, an emotionally mature boy, that at that point. Um, he asked me Oh, we did like really wholesome dates. Like we went and saw like a movie. Or like, we went to like, our first date was like, at a like a, like a sports bar and grill that was like popular in town. And it was really what I did most of the talking. I think he was really shy. I think he was like, nervous, I would hope. Because I remember I was nervous. Um, and yeah, I think on our third or fourth date, he had like, asked me, I remember Oh, my God, I remember this moment. Exactly. He had said, Can I be your boyfriend? Like he didn't say like, can you be my girlfriend? He said, Can I be your boyfriend? And I thought that was like, the I thought that was great. And I was like, yeah, yeah, you could be my boyfriend. And he was like, really? And I was like, yes. What do you really? Oh, cuz he was so sweet. Like for him. Um, and yeah, I had told him I was like, honestly, I thought you had a crush on my sister. Like, I didn't know you were like, I didn't know you knew I existed, whatever. And he was like, he was like, I think, did he? He said, I think I liked you since sophomore year. So a bit of while watching you. Yeah, I guess from afar, which honestly, I'm a little flattered. Um, and we dated for about five months, which I guess in high school years, pretty long, pretty decent. That's half the year. Um, I just I tried so hard to be emotionally invested. Or, like, literally, like I, like I we didn't even like go out that much. Like, because I didn't like, every time we went out. I felt so nervous. I was like, Oh, he might expect me to do A, B and C, and I didn't want to do that. Even though he literally never never pressured like he was he was such a like a nice guy. And I'll, I won't say a bad word about him. But that's, you know, that's just me. You're a teenage girl. You're 17 you're expected to do stuff, and I was not ready for that. Um, so I broke, we broke up with him after the five months. And it was really like, friendly. I felt terrible. Um, but yeah, I just knew that like, at the fourth or fifth month, I was like, something's up. I should I should be way more invested than I am. And I cannot drag this guy along with me. Like, that's terrible. Because he was invested. He had said that he had said, I love you. And I was like, Oh my God. Like, I can't like one five months in high school. Like, at that point. I was like, high schoolers don't say I love you. That sort of thing. Some do. But yeah. And I couldn't say it back, which was terrible. And I felt awful. We went to prom was sweet. Was no one who we dated. No one knew. Like about it. I talked about with my close friends, but it's my close friends weren't the ones who would like gossip. Yeah, no. And he was. Yeah. And he was shy.

Olivia N 29:45

So you never brought it up.

29:47

He like he was like we'd walk in the hallways together. But I guess people just thought we were like, hanging out. Um, but that would be it. Yeah, even though he was like on the football team, but he was one of the Shy Guys on the football team. But yeah, great guy. Great music taste. I'll throw that in there. I got him on to Lord. He took me oh my god, he bought me four tickets to Lord. He got a job just to just to like, take me out. Like if I wasn't gay, I would still be with him. Yeah, like truly, I would be. I still wouldn't be with him. Yeah, yeah. But alas, I'm gay.

Olivia N 30:24

You are gay? Yeah. Do you remember what your first exposure to lesbianism was?

30:31

Um, lesbianism specifically? Literally. No, I think it might have been like oranges, a new black. And I didn't even watch it. I watched the first episode and I stopped watching because I got gay panic. You're like, I can't do No, I saw Natasha Leone, like literally eating someone out and I was like, Oh, I can't watch this. I can't. I couldn't. And that was it. Then I forgot about it. Yeah, I hadn't been again. I had been exposed to like gay men. Yeah. Um, but that was again, I can't relate to that. I'm avoiding man. Um, so yeah, I can't believe I'm saying we're just a new black. But there you go.

Olivia N 31:08

People have similar things. You're not the only person reference like some type of media.

31:13

Yeah, like a movie or a show or? Got it? Oh, wait. No, I had watched the first episode of oranges new black before Buffy. But Buffy was my favorite show in high school. So I guess that might have been like the, the most serious exposure like Tara or excuse me, Tara, Tara and Willow. And I still it's still my favorite show. I love it so much. I rewatch it and yeah. Wow, that was a cultural reset for me. Possible. It was like, Can I be a witch? No, but I can be a lesbian

Olivia N 31:48

gay and that's close. No.

31:51

I mean, I mean, it could be which I wanted to see for yourself. I don't think I'm built for it. But yeah.

Olivia N 32:05

Okay, did lesbian or died as an identity ever feels scary for you to

32:11

identify with? Yes, I came out as gay first. Like, I didn't say the word lesbian. Like it like, which is not shocking. Like, it's such a sexualized word. And I was like, I don't want to be that. Like, I don't even like at that point. I wasn't even really thinking about like sexual women. I was thinking of just like, women in the way of like having crushes on them. Like, sex. What? Like, yeah, so Dyk I did not I didn't like I love saying like, now love it, like didactic. But like I like at one point. I was just like, it is such a nasty slur. Yeah. And I was just like, I can't imagine me saying that. Um, and then I got over it. I started, I started

coming out, like more to my friends. And I made it a point that after I came out as gay the first time, I would only use like, I'm gay. You know, I'm a lesbian. And then like, kind of, like, retrain my brain to just keep saying the word lesbian and take out the meaning I had on it before, and put my experience of my own meaning to it now. Now I use it all the time. I'll say like, I met as vn allez B, and, um, yeah, I couldn't even really like say I'm gay, like out loud to like my sister when I came out. Like, that's why, like, I gave her coming out letter. I couldn't say it out loud. But I came out to myself. Like, you're like two, three years before I came out to my sister. She's the first person I came out to as queer. I use the word because to me queer felt. I don't know. It felt easier. It felt like less like, like a punch in the face. Like queer. Okay, it's an umbrella term. I'm still queer. But yeah, I thought it was easier. But now, I'll use steak and lesbian all the time. I do identify with those labels. And I think they serve me that the labels have to serve everyone, but I do like using them.

Olivia N 34:07

Can you talk about your journey to lesbianism? Like when you start identifying as a lesbian and how you got there?

34:14

Yeah, um, so I like I said, I came out as queer to myself first I had, like, I had written it down. Like I was like, if I could write because that like writing, like for most of my life was important. It's not so much important anymore, and that's okay. But I was like, if I write it down, that is true. And I was like, Okay, I'm queer. I wrote it, like in my journal. And that was it. That was the full sentence. I'm queer. And then I started like, trying to just say the word out loud a lot of times. I I would have crushes and then I came out to my sister, when she visited me like one weekend freshman year, and I knew that was like if I think this will year 2019 This was a week before they kicked us out. For COVID Oh, wow. Yeah, yeah. And she had come to visit, she wanted to be my friends. I had missed her. She was on spring break, but I wasn't. So I knew that if I had come out to my sister, it would be much easier to come out to everyone else. Because she's my twin, like, she's the one that knows me better than anyone. And that was like, hard. Like, I was shitting myself doing it, like handing her the letter. I had never felt physical anxiety. It's always been mental. But like, I just remember losing control of my body that day, like I had lost control any limb that if it could shake, it was shaken, like, um, so I came out to her, she was amazing with that we cried like, she most she just like, she was like, I'm so sorry that if I had, like, you felt like you couldn't tell me and I was like, I wanted to, I just, there was other things stopping me, wasn't you. And then I started coming out, I came out to a friend from college, like I had only known her a few months at the semester. But I knew that that was like, going to be a really good friend. So I came out to her. And then I came out to another, and then my roommates. And then like all my friends, because I was like we're leaving for COVID I'm probably not going to see you for a while. So it's now or never. And I it seems like I was shoved out. But I was I was using COVID as an excuse. I was like, I'm gonna come out now. And then I went back home. And then I stayed for a year. And then that was back in the closet. Besides when I would hang out with my high school friends, because they knew I had come out to them. But I would go back home and my mom didn't know at all, we we wouldn't really talk about boys, because I think she knew and she didn't want me like forced that on me. She would say like, you know, if you feel we're gay, that's okay. You know that? And I'll be like, Okay, great. Good to know. I'm not nothing to do with me. No. Like, you're an ally. Fantastic. doesn't apply to me, though. So yeah, it was more like it was like an up and down. Like I felt like on top of the world coming out and then

having to go to Pennsylvania for another year. And being like, identified as straight was back down. And then I went back to NYU junior year, and I was like, gay, gay, gay, gay. Like I'm gay. Everyone though it please. Yeah, and now I'm, you know, a senior. I'm still kind of relatively that year really, like, reversed. Like, my queer journey, I guess, because I just went right back into the closet. So I'm still pretty new with like, queerness and being gay and like, I have gay friends. But like, I would love more lesbian friends. And I don't go to queer bars that often. I am still I'm still learning. I'm still getting by with that. But yeah, the journey has been definitely up and down. Not super linear, which I feel like is most queer journeys, I would say. Yeah.

Olivia N 38:04

So how did you mentally make the leap from straight to lesbian?

38:09

Straight to lesbian? Hmm. It's weird, because it's not like I even was like, Oh, I'm bi. Like, like, I was like, I like I said earlier, just like, I just like, don't like men. Oops, whatever. That's it. That was it. That's it. I don't like men. But then I'm like, Well, I like I like, I like, okay. Like, I was like, Well, what if I'm, like, asexual, I'm like, No, as I did. And I guess it was more of just like, of so long of me being like, oh, you can't be gay, like, your friends can, but you can't. And then I started like, it was a switch. When I broke up with my high school boyfriend. I was like, Well, I know, I have the capacity to love and like love, like romantically. But it's not working out with a man. Oh, shit isn't gonna work out with a woman. And then that's like, where like, like a mental key like, turned. And I started looking like when I would be like, could like watch my shows or like consume media or like, listen to queer music. I was just like, Wait, this actually makes more sense than when I listen to like, music with like, he him pronouns, or would watch straight couples or read like straight romance books. I was like, this makes more sense. I guess this is the leap. I'm gonna have to take like, this is what I'm gonna have to start looking at the world this way, like through a queer lens. So yeah, the leap was almost like it was like a switch. Like, there was no gradual. It was just like, well, now I have to look at this, like navigate this world as a queer person now, even if it's like only in my head, if that made any sense. No, you make

Olivia N 39:49

a lot of sense. So have clothing, jewelry, makeup, tattoos, piercings or any other body mods or forms of gendered expression? Is this was affirming your gender or your lesbianism in any way?

40:03

Yeah, I I was so excited to get my nose piercing. I went with my roommates they got their ears pierced because they didn't have their ears pierced and I got my first nostril piercing. My sister got it first, ironically. And she got hers in the stereotypical lesbian side not knowing. And then I got got at the opposite side because I didn't want to look like her since we're twins, but, um, I got my nose piercing my septum, and I was like, great as a double piercing people have to know I'm gay now. Like, that's how I thought. I'm COVID and then Matt COVID Yeah, no one saw the piercings. Like, online. No, literally. No. Oh my God. That's what it was fucking hoping. Like, no, because my first thought my first of all classes like they would see like my room. And my room like, looks gay. Like, yeah, at least to me, like, I'm getting your day room. Just like, I don't know, the kind of posters that are up or the like, claro post, like, you know, like a Claro tour poster. I'm just stuff like that. Um, so I was hoping that way. Um, I

don't have any tattoos. I really do want them though. It's more of been I just, I can't come up with original idea and I want to be original with my tattoos. But I will be getting them hopefully soon. Maybe I'd love to get another step on my opposite nostril. So I would have like three maybe like an industrial termite year, but it seems super painful. So we'll see. Yeah, clothes. I like the stereotypical like, I love wearing rings. My fingers feel naked without rings. I'm such a beanie girly. I love a good Biddy. I've like currently, you know,

Olivia N 41:45

archive history. She is in a beanie inside right now.

41:51

Oh my god. I have

Olivia N 41:53

to let them know. You are wearing a beanie right now.

41:57

Oh, well. Okay. Oh my god. No, I have a baby. But here's the thing. Let the record show. I'm wearing a beanie because I have luscious curly hair for y'all singles out there. Lashes curly hair. And I had washed it this morning and the roots didn't get that many products. So they were looking rough. So I covered my I use my beanie. Also I looked like a great btw so I'm wearing a beanie. Um, I have like 14 like I have so many dollars just like the same but different colors or like different or knitted as opposed to like weird anyways. Um, yes, I love a good beanie. And I think that's a lot of people do not like I look queer in that way because I'll pair it with like a Cargo Pant or like a dickey the carabiner Come on. Oh, my carabiner is literally Carhart be like I'm a stereotype. I saw it and I loved it. I love your strawberry when it's so cute. See the car when my sister got me? Shout out to her. Yeah, for Christmas. Um, uh, you know, again with a support. It was kind of funny. She got me and her boyfriend them that same boyfriend like my boyfriend's a lesbian in my opinion. I love it. He's great. But not to bring him up. But, uh, but yeah, we both got matching karabiners so that's like an accessory I considered to but

Olivia N 43:20

do you wear Yeah, like carbene are on like any side like, do you wear your like, do you wear them on a specific day?

43:26

Yeah, well, no. Yeah, I do. I'm not wearing any right now. But beside the left. Oh, my God, I just met you. But thanks for the you know, no. Anyways.

Olivia N 43:45

That's okay. The World No, because you win.

43:48

Well, here's the thing. A lot of people like, we're just so used to being in New York and surrounded by queer people. But the gag is that my sister is the one who told me what it meant. Oh, shit. I gotta put on

the right. No, I told and she was just like, so she was like, Can you do me a favor? Can you just switch every time I see you? And I was like, Sly thanks. I will. So I switched my carabiner like, Oh, she fucking gas but like, literally like, so she was like, Yeah, at that point when? Well, now we do. So now she like it's fine. She knows but like before when we didn't talk about sex? She would. She was like, I am good. Let me just switch it. I mean, or I would just keep it in my pocket. Yeah, just like so. I don't know. Yeah, because but now we're open with that. So it's fine. But um, yeah, about sex like can be weird. You like gross? No. Well, yeah, she's like, she's my twin sister. Like, you know what I mean? Yeah, um, no, it's like it's a car carabiner and it has like a multi tool on it. Um,

Olivia N 44:49

animals. Hello Kitty.

44:51

I literally love it. You're just so you though.

Olivia N 44:55

Yeah. Never have a multi tool on it.

44:57

I'd rather die. No, I love Oh my Are you kidding me? filer on it. I literally have a nail filer I have a nail filer I have it's like oh my god screwdriver bottle opener. A knife was scissor um I love it. I stand by before I go out that makes sense for you know literally I mean it's a terrible nail filer but it does the job metal one Yeah, there was like rip your nails out. Yeah, no, but it does it. It gets rid of the edges.

Olivia N 45:30

Like bite them off and I had like

45:34

just quick Yeah. No, I don't bite my nails. So like I just rip off my nails. No, I'm like, I'm actually pretty good with my my nails. Terrible. I'm really good nails. I'm not gonna lie. I have been told well my mom not me. That's like that's the weird way but like, I'm sorry. They're like nice. Like spread my toes really far me. Oh my god. We're spreading our toes right now guys.

Olivia N 46:00

It's like better for balance.

46:01

No, let anyway so here's the thing I My mom does, I'm bringing so I've always cut my nails. Like kept my nails really like clean and like good because she does nails so she will not let me out of the house. She's like you're getting those cuticles done and you're gonna file your nails and she would want me painting them but I told her like literally like off inside people know exactly. So I don't I don't pay my nails but like they're they're like shape they're pretty good. Yeah, I don't bite my Yeah, someone. Oh my god Monique was also in this project. She was like I'm sorry bar but you look like you bite your nails. And I went fuck you. No, no, she said that because she was like, I don't know. It's just like the anxiety

and like the your leg a little someone who would who would? Who would bite their nails. And then I showed her I was like, Do you see my like the look fine. You're like pretty healthy. Anyways.

Olivia N 46:54

Pink and glitter before I go to gingers. You should.

46:56

You should.

Olivia N 46:57

It's important.

46:58

Oh my God. Have fun.

Olivia N 47:03

I have to say that out loud. Anyways,

47:06

now that we're done talking about my nails. Hey, lesbians. I have great nails and curly hair.

Olivia N 47:13

Like a post for you? Like this is my new friend.

47:18

But I know where she wears her. carabiner it's definitely you know, it's okay. Do you see what I'm wearing? A world? No. I mean, yeah, about the house. You don't like you know, it's weird. Like I only attract like stereotypically like top and like butch women. Really? Yeah.

Olivia N 47:36

They're all dating each other now.

47:37

And which is like, not what I want. Like, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Olivia N 47:42

I have your problem. I don't have your phone.

47:43

Take the problem. I Venmo you my problem. Like, look, I love butch women as well. I think they're beautiful. They make the world go round. Yeah. That's the answer. Like it's like yeah, I mean, yep. Don't have your problem. No. Oh my god. I think like is it like, I'm like starting to think like that. Like my dating profiles are girly, but I don't think they're girly. I've just been like a girl. Like mass people like other like masculine presenting, but that's also true. That's also true. That could be the reason why

Yeah, but it doesn't help that look like a Cabbage Patch Kid like I literally like no, here's the thing, like in my in my day to day like I have really rosy cheeks and like my hairs like really big and curly and like sometimes my clothes aren't Superman now right now this is a bad rep this is bad I like purposely like messed it up today

Olivia N 48:29

but I did not I've been my inside flows

48:32

in your your your sweats you're in Emory grad school that much do you wear dresses and skirts? Oh I can't stand dresses and skirts skirts. I have one pair of pants. No, I really like the Q lots Oh my god. I have like 14 pairs like literally like I have like three Dickies though for for Dickies. I'm never like three or four carpenter pants and the rest are like baggy jeans. Overalls tops and dresses and skirts. I literally the last time I wore a dress was prom and I like cried I hated it. I like the only thing good thing about it is that I had pockets. Like I bought the dress I like I like Starcraft I felt so bad. My sister was like I'm so sorry like you don't have to wear one and I was I wanted to I didn't have a good fucking guts. I couldn't do it. Like how was it going to explain to my mom she was so excited for me to wear a dress, or maybe a skirt. But like as to be like a midi skirt or like a maxi skirt. But cuz yeah, I mean dresses and skirts. I'll get along. But when women wear them lovely. Please, please. No, it's okay. We're good. Thank you. Yeah, these movies. Oh, love. Oh, yeah. The early ones I watched were really bad. I just keep slipping off the couch. So I'm like sniffing the whole time like this audio is just me sniffing. But um, yeah, the first ones I watched were not good. They definitely like warped which ones were those and had to lose the Warmest Color below her mouth as porn

Olivia N 50:18

loves blow her mouth and like you

50:20

might need to reevaluate their tastes in

Olivia N 50:25

movies department

50:27

know they have to reevaluate their tastes and film. That's so funny. No blow her mouth is like she did you know the seed where she's just strapped? She's just

Olivia N 50:36

like, she's like a roofer. Yeah, okay. Yeah. And like in this one,

50:40

she like one of the like, cheats on there like fiance slash husband. It's like, Oh, great.

Olivia N 50:45

And then the other one is, like, emotionally manipulative and just like she was like,

50:50

like, super like platinum hair. Like short hair. She's hot. But like, it's like, no, the gags when I saw it. She like, had a sexy that she was already like, had a shop on like, there was like, she like, it was just in her pants already. I was like, Oh my God. Like at that point in my life. I didn't know there was even a thing. Like I was young. I was again. I was young. I didn't like I didn't like, I didn't know like, how like, lesbian sex. Like worked. I know, which I didn't know at the time. I was like, Where'd that come from? Where'd that come from? Why is it blue? No, literally, that was that was a shocker. And like blues, a woman's color is just like it was like the director's wet dream. It was like a 10 minute sex scene. Was their educational some ways? Yes. But like, but like, it was terrible. And I my new when I watch movies, or queer movies, sci fi movies. My new thing is that if I look at what I'm seeing, and not, I don't wanna say uncomfortable, if I feel like I'm peeking, like, if I feel like I'm like intruding on an intimate moment, I know. It's a good movie. Like, I should be like, I should be watching with like, my hands covering my eyes. Like it doesn't even have to be sexy. And, like, it's like them, like, you know, like, their pinkies getting closer, and I'm like, embarrassed for them. That's a good fucking movie. If y'all need breaks, I'm literally this.

Olivia N 52:18

No, I'm going off topic. No.

52:21

Yeah, I'm like, oh, there's this one movie. It's like an Australian indie. And it's like, fuck, like amazing. But I think it's, it's it treats like girlhood very delicately. I think it's called My first summer. And it's they're like, they're like, 1718 like, this is the relationship I wanted in high school. And I was what I just remember watching it and just like, like, my eyes, like my hand in front of my eyes, like most of the time, because I was like, these girls like don't know what hit. Like, I was like, I was just like, I was like, Oh my God. Think like, this is adorable. And that's how I know it's a good movie. So never start your query experience watching blow her mouth and the Blue is the Warmest Color is a terrible, terrible terrible with God.

Olivia N 53:08

Can you talk about how it impacted you though? Like what did you feel when you were first watching these queer movies? He's

53:14

a panic. Literally. I was just like, what? Why? Like, like, obviously it was just like, oh, this is what Hi. I was just like, What? Is this? What people feel when they watch like fucking Oh, claps keep talking. Okay, um, I was watching it. I was like, Is this what people feel when they watch like some shit like Magic Mike? Like what?

Olivia N 53:38

I'm actually going to watch the last Magic Mike installment magic my glass dance.

53:44

Oh my god. There's three.

Olivia N 53:46

Yeah.

53:47

Oh my god. I've only watched the

Olivia N 53:49

first I've seen them all.

53:50

Oh my god. Oh, no, I just I don't like Matthew McConaughey. So I don't want to do I just don't like him. Okay, what do you like Loki? Republican. Oh, second of all when people were like I love it when Matthew McConaughey goes all right. All right. All right. Shut the fuck up. I really cannot. I hate it.

Olivia N 54:08

I find it funny though. I love Magic Mike.

54:11

I mean, it's funny. My favorite string like I don't mind like even like, like, what's his name? Like Channing Tatum or whatever. Like, they're fine. It's just Matthew McConaughey. And that one guy that's like married to Sofia Vergara. I love him. Yeah, I love him. No, he really does. Um, but yeah, I was watching these movies. And I was like, I get what Trey people are on about when they watch like supposedly sexy movies. I get it. Too bad. They're sexualized for the wrong reasons. So what's next? Oh, am I real? Am I reading this on that? Okay. How have your views on marriage changed from before and after you have identified as a lesbian, both as an institution but also As a means of romantic unity. I'm just hearing my voice right now. Sorry, y'all. I'm getting over some allergies. But it's fine. It's fine. We're dealing we're dealing, um, marriage actually. Yeah, I didn't fuck with marriage before. Before identify as lesbian. Um, or I guess having fun with weddings. I thought marriage was cute. But also like, I've never I've never seen a healthy marriage at that point. Because my parents divorced. And most of my friend's parents were divorced, and the ones that weren't, should have been. Um, so I didn't know what a healthy marriage between a man and a woman looked like. And then the thought of being married is actually really nice. And I would, I would like to one day get married. Like, I do think it's cool. The thought of kissing my future, like partner for all my family that was like, oh, like, That's so embarrassing. They'll literally just go to dapper up. I don't know. Yeah, no. No little handshake like the parent chap or whatever. Um, no, but now the idea of having like, like a spouse or like a wife is like really nice. And as it is, as an institution, I can go on like a whole spiel, but like, at the end of the day, I don't walk this aside. Fuck Okay, getting married. Sounds nice. You really wise, like raising a family? That sounds nice. Yeah, I, I'm a fan of it now. So and I know that like, with like, an a partner who's like, a woman or a not like, a non binary person, a non man. Like, yeah, it's like, like, I know that there's like much more potential for it to be healthy. And, you know, a union chip and a partnership as opposed to just like two people fighting about bills, lino, so vibin

Olivia N 57:01

what were your first encounters with less insects? indirectly?

57:04

indirectly? Like, hearing about it, seeing it? Like, like the movies, literally? Yeah. Um, yeah, so I'd say like, the movies I watched were the first time I like even knew, like, what? Like, lesbian sex could look like? Yeah, not that it should always look like that. But what it could look like. Yeah, I, I hit like, you know, like, gross boys at school, like talk about like, scissoring and shit. And I'm like, What's that? Like, that's like a word you hear around? But yeah, I guess the movies I would watch was probably my first exposure, because they were basically porn. So movies make you feel

Olivia N 57:51

uncomfortable about lesbian sex, like hearing about it?

57:54

Hearing about, um, in the sense that I was like, Oh, is this really what it's supposed to be like? And then that made me nervous. Because I was like, Oh, I don't know if I can do that. Like, or like, or if I want to do that, or if it should be doing that, like, I don't know. It made me nervous. Yeah, it made me nervous. I didn't. I just I knew nothing. I really knew nothing. So the fact that this was like the first time hearing and seeing about it, it was it was just like, Oh, damn, am I actually cut out for this? You know? So yeah.

Olivia N 58:29

So how does class inform your interactions with lesbian community now?

58:35

Class? on anything about, um, I'm not sure. Like, we're talking about like, socio economic. Yeah. Okay, cool. Um, it's more of just like, you know, a lot of you NYU, queers are rich. Okay, like, um, so, that is interesting to talk about. And I'm not gonna go ahead and say that, like, I'm not at least, like comfortable right now with like, financial support from my parents or anything, like I'm not gonna lie. I'm just not, but also it's like, some more out of touch I've seen but that's not even specific to queers. It's just like queers IOU or like queers, like in the village, like are out of touch with that kind of stuff. And it's a little hard because it's like, oh, we had different childhoods we had different struggles Yeah, I guess that the fact that like, you know, this is actually like not a more of a negative more of a positive is that like, I guess like when you're dating as a sapphic woman usually like split. So like, not one of the women is like paying for the entire thing unless you offer so that's kind of nice. That's kind of nice. Because being being the like the mask person, like I guess like society would expect you to pay like girly a pay. I'm getting paid minimum wage. I I would pay if I had the money I would like I would I love gift giving. I love spoiling people but so that's where class is like positive, you know, like I we could split fun stuff. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:00:13

So how does being like a in in influenced your interactions with the lesbian community?

1:00:22

Um it's more of just like I would it's more of a me try to seek out other like Latina like lesbians like I don't know any um I again like I've mentioned before I really only have like one lesbian friend as opposed to other queer friends. Yeah, yeah they are black so like RJ exactly in our experience it even if they were like Afro Latina like it would still be drastically different. Yeah, I mean, I have like afro, like, my mom's side is like she's adopted. So her family is Afro Latino, but like, I'm not like maybe culturally I know more as like hope as opposed to other like white Latinos on Afro Latino culture. But yeah, so I just seek it. I would love to see if we would have some common experiences. Especially because most of South America there's a lot of overlap with culture. It's distinct enough, but I would love to see that overlap with like, in with my queerness it would be nice. Um, yeah, so I just like, we dry repeating the question is, like, how it affects me is like a lesbian like being like, like,

Olivia N 1:01:29

what? Like your lesbianism or building community? Yeah. So like,

1:01:33

the community part is lacking. But it's also Yeah, I guess I can't say much because it is lacking. Like, I wish I had something to say in terms of like, what I know, but I don't so. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:01:49

So do you think about your gender at all when you're building lesbian community or like, thinking about your own lesbianism and your gender?

1:02:01

Yeah, yeah. Um, I think mostly, it's just like, or like gender expression or how I might come off as like. Like, I only recently started using the pronouns she, they, but the thing is, is that like, I, I don't know if like, I have trouble saying the reason why I use those pronouns is like valid because, like, I have no qualms with like, she her like, I like, I'm used to it. I don't mind it. I usually like use day so like, people acknowledge it's more of like an acknowledgement. As opposed to me feeling like, I like I am non binary, but like I because I consider myself a woman. So it's more of like, it's just like, I want you to acknowledge that. I'm like, my womanhood isn't attached to like, my greatness or my sheen. hurtness it's like, attached to, like, my womanhood, to me is like attached to my lesbianism. I'm like, I don't like I like, I have trouble finding the words to say this, but like, my womanhood is really only touched by, like my lesbianism if it weren't for me being gay. Like, I think I like I think it would be like struggling to maintain this image of like, when a woman looks like um, so yeah, I Yeah, so gender like that's like pronouns wise. I. I'm not super girly. I don't think I get like perceived a suit like as like, girly like or anything like that. Um, but not you shaking your head like that. No, but here's the thing. I like straighten my hair. And men think that's a wave. Like I'm suddenly straightening flirt with you. Like, sometimes occasionally. Like,

Olivia N 1:03:52

no, like parties. You go to parties with lots of street men.

1:03:55

Like, it'll be like a Tisch party or like, Oh, okay. Yeah, okay. Yeah, this was a while it didn't think God it doesn't happen often. Um, because I avoid it. And I look like a Lego when I'm walking around, like by myself, like, I'm like a big pants and a big shirt. Like, come on. Like, you got the hint. Right? But like, I remember I was like, Girl, no, she was doing Halloween. I dressed up as Velma. So I was wearing a skirt my hair straight. Because it was a costume. Yeah, do bend know that like Don't Miss Gay. Yeah, do men know that? Like no, they they like literally started to do that. Okay. Okay, yeah yeah, no, that's your good all right. Yeah, okay, cool. Yeah, so men like don't really get the hints like what I if I wanted to look really I could. And I do know if I if I if I wanted to. I could and then I could easily like, we're not going to go to Whole thing of like if the the idea of being straight passing is even a thing like whatever. We're not Getting into that. I'm just getting to the point that like, I don't like, I purposely go out of my way to look gay. So like, because of that, like, I don't think anyone would clock me as otherwise if I don't go out of my way to do it. So men grow. So rose, why

Olivia N 1:05:18

do you like presenting more masculine? Like, do you think about it often? Like why you choose to present in a certain way?

1:05:26

I don't know. It's simple. It's just like, as simple as just like, I feel like I feel better. I feel better. And also what I there are times where I like, like, I went to a concert with my sister literally. On Tuesday last Chapel Road. It's a very it's a very gay concert. Yeah. Oh my god. You know who she is? Oh, I met her. She's so sweet. Oh, you did? Yeah. She's amazing. I'm better not at the concert, like, two years before that. Um, but yeah, I went and I was I was the theme was watch a Kpop star. So I was like in low rise jeans. And like, which I hadn't asked I'll say it. Like, I have like in low rise jeans and like a tight baby t. So like, now you kind of see like a figure and like, which I don't usually go for, um, and like my hair was like big and curly. I had glitter on my eyes. I had jewels on my face. I had like two little Red Jewels and like a Greenwell on top to look like cherries. Like, that's girlier and I felt good. Like, I felt pretty, but I only do that once in a while because like it feels extra nice. Um, but yeah, the mask like are dressing more masculine. Notice that saralee mask I like to say address because I think anything in my closet. Could be Friday one. Yeah, I was gonna say if that makes sense, but I think it does. Yeah, so more androgynous I think just makes me feel good. It makes me like, like, I'm not that desperate. Like, I look like this. But like, I'm not any less woman than like the girl next to me. Who doesn't? You know what I mean? It's kind of like a reminder. I'm like, Girl, you're still a Girly Pop. You're just like, you love a good cargo. Not a cargo carpenter. I mean, I have a cargo but not always. Yeah. So it's more of just like how it makes you feel?

Olivia N 1:07:19

What's it like making a meeting lesbians? In New York?

1:07:24

What's it like meeting making and

Olivia N 1:07:25

meeting them? How are you making lesbian friends? Where are you? Oh, oh, okay.

1:07:29

Um, again, I don't know. But like, I don't have trouble meeting queer people talk about, like queer people like that. Like, like, I don't know, like, you know, I'm gonna say my gaydar is good. Like, it's not that hard to find a queer person in class, and I'll sit next to them. Because you like not because like, Oh, yay, they're gay. I'm gonna sit next to them. It's more of like, gay, they're gay. Chances are we have a lot of things in common other than our queerness. Like, it's the music. It's, it's the films, it's like the culture, we probably have some a lot of overlap, I'll probably get along with them. Um, that is fine. I it's typically class, I take some queer classes. So that's why but actually scratch that because I don't usually meet them there. It's class or it's friends of friends. Because if you have other queer friends, they have other queer friends that you don't know about. And then you meet them, like at a party, or you bump into them at Washington Square Park. And you get each other's Instagrams like that. But in my experience, it's been more I've made a friend. And I'm just like, Hmm, there's something about you that I like, not knowing that it's queerness. Because at that point, like, I wasn't queer, and then we all ended up coming out. It's like, we like all my friends, like a friend I've had since kindergarten, came out to me, like came out to me like when we turned 20. And I was like, Girl, me too. Literally. What? Like, we just attract? It's weird how like queer, like queer finds queer. And that's been the case mostly, it's been accidental most times, which is great. I love it. The surprise. It's so fun. It's a little treat. So

Olivia N 1:09:12

okay. I like read the word and then none of the words made sense to me. So when I tried to say it out loud, it didn't make sense. Got it. You got word soup? Word soup, even though I've seen these questions like

1:09:26

no, your brain does to them. You've asked them so many times. I'm so sorry. I'm not I probably like not even giving you new info. Like there's probably like three other girls.

Olivia N 1:09:37

Everyone's story matters.

1:09:38

Oh, I know that though. Door. Yeah. Okay, I do but it's more of just like a girl. Give yourself a break. Just carry out.

Olivia N 1:09:49

No brakes. No brakes, no brakes until I graduate. Okay. What was your farther away? What was your first visit to a lesbian? related place are that like,

1:10:02

lesbian, lesbian bar. Yeah, it's probably lesbian bars. Yeah. I leave, I went to like Henry on Hudson after, like, which I didn't vibe with how much I'll be real, like it was fine. Um, but I'm kind of a party pooper. I don't like dancing. And it was like a dance night. So I just went on the wrong night. Um, but we went for our birthday for my friend Monique. And we took we took our entire group, which is not all

queer. Some of them are straight, but they're really chill, okay, like one of them. Like, like, my straight guy friend is dating a queer woman. So he's used to queer spaces. And he does well of them actually. And then like my two straight friends that are women were just like, really comfortable because no one was harassing them. Because no shocker there, they're gorgeous. So they do get like, like, inappropriately hit up and they don't enjoy that. So and they're well aware of like the space that they take up and we took them because it was a birthday. We wanted to hang out. But yeah, um, so that I would say a bar. I kind of wish that all the queer spaces are going to didn't involve alcohol, like, not because I don't drink I do, but like one drink is expensive to drink is not good for me being diabetic. I shouldn't be doing it. We're doing it often. But also, it's like, damn, I kind of just want to have a wholesome, sober time. Like, is that so much to ask for? But like, you can't go to a bar and be sober the entire time. Like you get bored. You get bored. Like, come on. So yeah, I'd say that Henry had Hudson cubbyholes. It's too tiny. Those fallen again. It's okay. Um, I was fucking with gingers, though. Okay, gingers was nice.

Olivia N 1:11:51

So you've been to all three of them. Yes, I have. Why do you lifeline to lesbian bars?

1:11:55

Well, I went to all three because my Monique was writing an article on them. So we just went to go scope them out. But I just go because it's like, you know, you feel it in the room with any everyone there is like, similar to you, or has had at least one someone experience you. It's nice. doesn't even need to be addressed. But you know, there's, there's comfort in knowing those around you get it? A bit. So good stuff.

Olivia N 1:12:22

What's it like? Building lesbian community? In the in the middle of a pandemic?

1:12:29

Horde? Um, you know. I mean, at least it's better. Now. I know, we're still in a pandemic, but obviously, like, we're all vaccinated, I feel way more comfortable going out. So it's definitely easier. But when it was really bad, I wasn't building that community. It was non existent. The best I could do is like, just like, see a gay person on Twitter, not even interact with them. They're just they're, like, are beyond gay tick. Tock. Like, social media was like a big thing. But yeah, I feel like I've said this several times. But it's like, yeah, I don't have like a large lesbian community. I know they're there. And I feel like I feel the presence. Like it's never like, I never feel like I'm isolated. So it's fine. But yeah, it's definitely hard because you have to be I'm immunocompromised too, so gotta be safe with that. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:13:28

So what does identifying as a lesbian mean to you? Big question.

1:13:33

That's a broad question. I'm, like, what, how do I define lesbian? Or like, Am I like, just anything?

Olivia N 1:13:40

I mean, I think a lot of people have answered it. And we'll talk about the importance of identifying as a lesbian, like, what makes them like, why do they like identifying as a lesbian? What it felt to finally identify as a lesbian, that kind of thing. Yeah,

1:13:55

about it. felt great. I like love again, it took a while for me to like, learn to love the word, but I do and it's to word slash label that serves me. Because of its history, and I don't know, I like it's more of just like I say, like, obviously, I'll say I'm gay. Like, the look to me, like gay seems like, I don't know how shitty the sounds, but like, not watered down, but like lesbian is like, Oh, that's a punch, like lesbian. You know? Like, don't get it twisted. I'm a lesbian. Um, so I don't know, it just has like a kick because of the the tone and the history in the in the connotations associated with it. So, to me, it's more it's like, I don't know it's more of like a like a statement with like a period at the end Yeah, I I'm glad I've gotten to a point in my life where I can just like, use it freely. But definition wise, I don't even got one. I think I don't I don't really fuck with people who have a solid definition for anything, I think, because it's like, realistically, if you're queer, like go outside, like, touch grass, like, Please Like most people have their own definition for most things. Because all of this doesn't matter anyways. I mean, it matters and it doesn't. It's just like, Who are you hurting by? Like, unless you're actively hurting someone by using a specific word like, obviously don't use it. But yeah, so to me, like, I can't even like, personally, like, define what? Using that or using the word lesbian this to me, I know for me, it's just means I'm attracted to like, like, feminine presenting people or like women. Yeah, or like feminine like non binary people. But yeah, that's a that's what it means. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:16:00

So what? Lesbian spaces are communities? Do you wish existed on wish spaces? Do you want to be your wish you were more involved in or get involved in other than substance free spaces?

1:16:11

Yeah, that's, I think that's the biggest one like substance. Like, again, I like I had a good time. I like I like, you know, smoking with people, or drinking with people is always nice, especially because like, I don't think I'm like an obnoxious drinker. Nor do I get nauseous. I'm drunk. I just get giggly. So it's like I'm having a good time. But, um, yeah, it would be nice. I wish I can like, oh, man, I just love the music scene. So just like more music scenes with like that. It's like lesbian oriented, I guess. With more queer artists. I do listen to a lot of queer artists, like most of the artists I listen to are queer. But like, they're slightly bigger. I would love to go to like a local, like a local show where I know the artist is queer. And the audience is also queer. Because it's combining my two of everything because the music in Safak women like why not? So I wish that that would be nice. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:17:07

What does lesbian Joy mean to you? What are you happiest as a lesbian?

1:17:11

Oh my god, literally. Am I still licking the baby gay phase that I'm like, I remember I'm a lesbian. I'm like, happy about it. Um, yeah, I mean, just like the ability to like, not feel all that shame. Like I felt for like, so long, like that's gone. And it comes back occasionally. But that's like, it's yours. I'm learning and

unpacking. So like, of course, it's not going to go away overnight. But yeah, just like lesbian joy is just like, like, sometimes I'll like be talking to like a lesbian. Like, my God. Okay, Monique. Monique, you keep making a fuckin feature on here. Like we'll be talking about like, going on dates, or like women we found attractive. Like, I texted her, I was at Starbucks. They saw redheaded mask and I was like, Monique, you need to be here. Like, I'm like, Monique, you would love this. Um, just like the fact that I get to talk about like being queer or like having like, dumb crushes on the sub like from like, falling in love with the subway, some shit like that, like, freely as if like 16 year old girls do with like, guys in high school is like very healing to me and like, makes me happy and it is a source of joy. Just the ability to be like silly and gay, you know, um, and having the other person like know it and like, not make you feel silly for it or make you feel stupid for it. is really nice. So yeah, it's a lot of me going, huh. I never thought I'd get here. More to this point in my life.

Olivia N 1:18:46

Is there anything else you want to talk about?

1:18:49

Um, I guess not. I'm really I'm not good at like, I'm not gonna improv. Um, yeah, no, these questions are great, but I don't know if I was. That was a long one. Oh, sweet. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:19:07

Yeah. Thank you. Thank you.