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SPEAKERS

Olivia N

Olivia N 00:00

Today is January 28 2023. I'm Olivia Newsom interviewing a Nanda here in New York City in my apartment. Do I have permission to record this interview? Yes, Dina, you can stop recording at any time. Yes. Can you say your name, age and pronouns?

00:17

My name is a Nanda long. I'm 22. And my pronouns are she, they?

Olivia N 00:23

How would you describe yourself? Um,

00:27

I would say, I'm a writer. I'm funny. Um, I'm from Philly. And yeah, I would say I would say, I would say maybe I'm a I'm a more like, quiet. So. Um, yeah, but mainly a writer, and mainly funny.

Olivia N 00:53

Can you tell me where you're from? You mentioned you're from Philly. But can you talk about that? Like, what it was like growing up in Philly, what your childhood was like?

01:00

Yeah, um, well, so I'm from Philly. But I did spend a pretty, like, substantial amount of time growing up right outside of Atlanta, like in Clayton County. I was there from ages five to 10. And then the rest of my life I spent in Philly. Yeah, I mean, growing up in Philly was very cool. I always feel very thankful to live there. There's like a lot of freedom and a certain level of awareness that I think growing up in a city just forces you to develop. And so I, I felt like I've always been aware of that, and always very grateful that like, that was where I ended up. Yeah, there was also I know, this is probably coming up later, but I was homeschooled, too. And so yeah, I feel like growing up in Philly, it was just a lot of museums and lots of co ops and a lot of time outside. I feel like, I don't have too many memories with Philly in the winter, just like lots of like springtime. Field trips, I guess is what I was doing. But then growing up in Atlanta, or

outside of Atlanta, i Who knows what counts as Atlanta. These days? I'm not really sure. But I feel like that was probably the exact opposite. Or at least, like my experience was the exact opposite. Like, it was just less accessible because of public transportation. So yeah, I felt like growing up in Atlanta, I grew up sort of alone. But then growing up in Philly, I felt like I was constantly around people. And so what kind of people were you around? Um, I was around mainly other homeschoolers. So So mainly a lot of like, very granola white people. Yeah, a lot of like, just like anti establishment families or, like, families that didn't really believe in traditional education and, or just like traditional jobs or, or traditional, like housing either. So I guess, like, a lot of I don't want to say aggressive because I don't think they were but I think it was progressive for the time. Like, it was also the early 2000s. So just a lot of like, hippie dippie Yeah, like home schoolers, but then I was also Muslim. And so. So in Philly, I was around, okay, it was a lot of things going on. I was around a lot of like homeschoolers, but then on the other side, there were a lot of like Muslim families in Philadelphia. So it's like, in my private life at home. It felt like my religion was like at the forefront of my life, but then like, outside of the home, it felt like my education was the forefront and so that's sort of like the two like realms of identity I feel like I understood and identified with for like, the majority of my childhood like it was hard to see myself outside of that. Can I pause for

Olivia N 04:41

Oh, of course. Drink water, remember? Okay, cool. So you grew up mostly around other homeschoolers who are like white granola hippie? dippie. So why did your parents end up? homeschooling? You? Were not white? Yeah. That wasn't like, yeah. How did it affect you growing Yeah,

05:00

um,

05:03

well, my parents, they are sort of like the, I think they always felt like the black sheep in their own families. And yeah, they just always felt very different in terms of like life philosophies, like, you know, they, my mother was, they're both raised in Philly. My mother's family was like, a more traditional, like two parent household, like, upper middle class or like the black Philly version of upper middle class and the 80s and 70s. And so I feel like she grew up with a very narrow idea of like, expectations and like, like respectability politics, and just like, of what she was meant to achieve. And I think she never, I just think she resented that. And I think it was like a rebelling, that what started as a rebellion, but really developed into like, a life philosophy for her, um, where she just, like, began to really question everything. And I think she, she also went to, like, primarily white schools growing up. And so I think she felt like growing up in a system where, like, she wasn't allowed to question authority, and, and was also expected to assimilate into like, this white culture that, you know, she wasn't even surrounded by in any other areas of her life. I think she just sort of thought that that's what, like, education was like, I think she viewed it more as an indoctrination than, than, like an actual education. Don't know if that makes sense. But yeah, so. Um, so in her, I also have older parents. So by the time she like, was ready to have kids and was in her 30s. You know, she didn't complete college or anything. So, by then she had developed like, her own philosophy, just around education and just felt like, it wasn't worth the money really. And also felt like anything you can learn prior to college, she felt like you could learn

through experiences. So that was her philosophy. And then my father, honestly, he wasn't like, as involved in the homeschooling aspect, he, but he was very adamant about his children being raised Muslim, like, his thing he converted when he was 20 or so. Um,

Olivia N 07:47

so he converted in like, the 70s. Yeah. Okay. Right, with like, the Black Panther movement and that kind of stuff. Or just outside of that, or like the black movement. Or he just was a black Muslim who happened to I think,

08:01

I think he was a black Muslim who, who just happened. Okay. I cultural? Yeah, yeah. I think like, like in terms of timing. We never we never talked about though, but I believe like, yeah, how old is he? He's like, 16. Now he's 60 or older in his 60s, maybe like, 64? Yeah, that would be the that would be the context. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, well, well. I mean, I know he converted after he went to the service. He wasn't in Vietnam, but like, I know, he wasn't a service like briefly after Vietnam. And then I know, between like that period, he, I believe was like, briefly homeless for a while as well. And then he always said that, like from that period, he he found Islam. But I never really, you never really told me like, what his first introduction was. I'm sure honestly, it was probably Malcolm X.

Olivia N 09:10

timing wise,

09:11

yeah. timing wise, timing wise. But also in Philly, like, there was a big, like, Pan African movement around this time to I don't know if you've heard of like the move. Yeah, yeah. Yeah. So yeah, this that was like the bombing was later but like, they were present in Philly around this time. And so there is a lot of overlap, honestly, between the Muslim community and also like, a lot of like Rasta and like Pan African communities. And so especially growing up in West Philly, like, he's from North Philly, but, um, but I'm sure he was like, moving around and around this time.

Olivia N 09:52

What was it like being homeschooled?

09:55

Um, it was

10:00

Well, I kind of hated it. You know, I think like, I just didn't understand growing up, really, the reasoning behind it. And I sort of felt like, I was just excluded from a lot of experiences that I felt like maybe belong to me or like, should have belonged to me.

10:28

And I don't know, I was obsessed with like movies and stuff. And so I always, I guess I felt like

10:43

I mean, I felt left out, but I also just felt like, like half of a person. Um, because I just felt like I was just growing up like, with myself, like, without really access to the world at all. Um, but I mean, like, from being homeschooled from like, a day to day. It was it was just, it was a lot of like reading a lot of watching TV. Just like lots of consuming media, in place of like, social interaction or, or just like using media to like form whatever perspective I had about the outside world. Not to sound like I was wrapped, but you know what I mean? That mostly your time inside,

Olivia N 11:42

and we're, yeah, Ling group. Were you guys went out and did certain activities together? Yeah.

11:47

Okay. So I'll explain this way. Because I felt like, I went through a lot of different phases. being homeschooled so early on, like living in Philly, like you were involved in co ops. And so it would be like weekly excursions like, I know, we went to the swan collapse center that was like, out in like, farm country. So like, we would do that.

12:16

Yeah, and

12:19

yeah, and so that's where we found a lot of our community but then moving to Atlanta, moving outside of Atlanta, there was essentially like, no real connection to homeschoolers there. I'm sorry, I'm losing my train of thought. Because I'm moving around. It's okay. Can we pause for a second? Sorry. Yeah, so like I was saying, um, it I feel like I went through two to three very distinct phases of homeschooling, like, the community we found in Philly was, frankly, just like a very stereotypical brand of wealthy white liberals. Which I will say maybe we can talk about this more later. But it was surprisingly clear, like in hindsight, maybe lesbians are just the type to homeschool their kids. Maybe that's I don't know. I don't know. But, but in hindsight, like, yeah, very surprisingly queer, which I do appreciate. But then we moved to Atlanta. And so homeschooling there is like, it's from an entirely different, like, Pan African lens. Um, which was something that I had never well both like a Pan African lens, but also like a like like a black bourgeoisie, honestly, because another thing I want to mention, um, it's hard to homeschool unless you're wealthy, because like, where all these resources coming from, and a lot of people just end up hiring tutors for their children. Yeah, so So I feel like that was something I didn't really understand about homeschooling just like the socio economic implications of being homeschooled until I moved to Atlanta. Yeah, because that's when I really started seeing black people in different socio economic statuses. That's just like wasn't something I saw up north. Yeah, so that was really interesting to see. Um, but I guess going back to like how it literally felt for me like it just felt like growing up Without like a solid ground, so welcome I get sorry. That distracted me I have ADHD. So but you Yeah, it's just like, you know, I think I think, um, you need your surroundings to help develop a sense of self, especially growing up. And so I don't know, just like growing up where it felt like a lot of my identity was predetermined by my parents politics. Like, on top of being black was just like, a lot. And I feel like I didn't know. I didn't know how to, I guess get what I needed out of the circumstances. And like, why would I? But yeah, it just made it very difficult to like, see myself through everything. Especially since

like, a lot of the kids I met were just like, doubling down on their parents, in a lot of ways. Or at least that's just how I felt maybe that's, like judgmental to say. Yeah, but it was just like a very confusing time of bouncing between, okay, all of these like rich granola, white people in the farms. And then, and then honestly, all of these rich granola, black people. And just like, don't know, just just being so how do I phrase this? I guess I just felt very political at a young age. And I just didn't really understand like, what that meant, or? Yeah.

Olivia N 17:06

So you mentioned a little bit about, you mentioned just right now being political and having like an understanding of socio economic stratification in like the black community, especially when you were in Atlanta, as opposed to when you were in Philly. So can you talk a little bit about how class influenced you're coming of age here and we've talked about it like with regards to homeschooling, but if you could talk about in another axis or like continue about that? What it was like growing up? Yeah.

17:43

Oh, um

17:47

Well, it was well, so I grew up like poor like, I'm, like always live with family and like, my parents never really had jobs or like if they did have or if they were employed, it was like I don't know they were just doing gigs like I don't really know how else to describe it just like like they would be getting the kind of jobs that you'll get if you need a job but you just don't really know what direction your life is going in. That was sort of my parents relationship with work. Um, and so I always knew that like money was a stress for us I always knew that like money was kind of shameful for us as well and so the question was how did it influence my coming to me Yeah,

Olivia N 18:49

influence you growing up or you're coming in experience?

18:55

Well I think like

19:02

I mean in a lot of ways i i think it affected like, like my understanding of my body honestly. Because like what like money directly influences like clothes you're able to get in and like the foods you're able to eat and or like the activities you're able to enroll in. And so I felt like all of that was influenced by each other. Um Yeah, so just like growing up without like, a lot of clothes or like, clothes that fit I'm sorry, I'm like going I'm like thinking of a few thoughts at the same time.

Olivia N 19:46

Go on a tangent.

19:47

Yeah. I, I Okay, I guess I'll continue this clothes thought I think I'm also growing up Muslim and like having rules of modesty. Always being in the back of my mind, clothes and like my access to clothes and the clothes that I was allowed to wear versus like what fit my body was always just like presence. And now like, especially as a lesbian clothing is like, one of the most important things to me. It is it's like how I feel safe, like every day and like, being able to find clothes that I feel safe in. Regardless of like, how I want to express myself, like that's, like that day even is that's very important to me. And so, and I've always I know, I've, I've always felt that way. And so just not having access to like to think, like style. Yeah, it was really difficult growing up. Um, I think it's, like, impacted my relationship with food and just like how I view food, like as an experience versus like, food as nourishment, as well.

21:15

Yeah, it's so weird. Food is so weird. And it's also like, impacted how I view family to like, like going back to like having to stay with people and just like housing and things of that nature. Um yeah, I feel like family and money was always like, weirdly tied.

Olivia N 21:47

Which family were you staying with?

21:49

Um, mainly my mom's parents, my my maternal grandparents. Um, but like, when I was younger, like, around the age, I moved to Georgia, we would also squat with my father's family sometimes, but he's not close. Like, not, um, or at least we weren't, he was. He wasn't open to his family really like knowing us as children. So we would like sometimes stay with them. But primarily, it is my mom's family. In West Philly.

Olivia N 22:33

Was it like growing up in a multi generational household?

22:38

Oh, my God.

22:40

I'm

22:43

sorry, stressful. I feel like it. It was stressful. But it was also like, I'm, I'm glad that I grew up with so many different perspectives. I think like, there was always a combative energy just because of so many different like generational beliefs and, and just growing up in a very, like, outspoken family. Or at least having outspoken grandparents. That was a stressor but

23:18

yeah, I don't know. I think it like I think it taught me well how to how to talk to older people, which is a very valuable skill. But I don't know, I think it just gave me a lot of I think I was thankful to be able to

grow up to see my mother as a daughter, in addition to like being a mother. I think that gave me a lot of perspective at a young age that I'm thankful for.

23:53

Yeah, but it was.

23:57

was interesting.

Olivia N 24:02

So did you have any siblings or were you an only child?

24:08

Yeah, I have to say I haven't mentioned. Okay, I, um, I have two brothers and a middle child. So I have an older brother, and then a younger brother.

Olivia N 24:18

Where they also homeschool. Yes. Yeah. Are you close with your with your brothers? Oh,

24:26

yeah, I would say

24:30

I would say overall I am pretty close with them, you know, like siblings. Things are constantly changing. But I would say yeah, we are pretty close in the sense that we can we can talk about things and will be mostly on us.

24:53

So yeah.

Olivia N 24:59

So Uh, we've talked around kind of how you grew up in a black Muslim household and talked about what it was like growing up with modesty rules and how your dad was really adamant about you growing up. And like, all of y'all growing up Muslim. Yeah. So can you talk a little bit more about what it was like growing up in a black Muslim household? Where your grandparents? Also Black Muslims? Was the whole house? The whole black Muslim? How was the what was that? Like? How did you experience it as a kid?

25:31

Um, well, so I'll start by saying that my father is like the, to this day, the only Muslim in the family on both sides. So yeah, I can see converted again, like in young adulthood. So in that sense, like, I always felt very separate from the rest of my family at least. Well, because I feel like growing up, I really identified with being Muslim, even if, like, I wasn't the best at practicing. But I that was a really, really, I felt like it was the forefront of my identity for at least like the first 10 years of my life 10 to 12. So it was

interesting growing up with like, a very Christian family. Well, I guess, I don't know if I should say very Christian, but there there are, like some very Christian spots scattered throughout. Um, but no one else is Muslim. I would say like, I mean, I only know this experience, like post 911 But it was like uncomfortable and like, it wasn't always understood. And there was sort of this impression that like, you were being like indoctrinated in something. Which is like dramatic in hindsight, but that's really I feel like how people felt in the early 2000s Like, I'm just so like, guarded and like offensive, or is a defensive I guess is maybe the word. I'm

27:38

sorry, I'm thinking

27:45

yeah, it was just like met with a lot of food. Mostly. I feel like from my mom's side

27:53

because a lot of people on my mom's side are like evangelical Christians and like, are very religious on that and, and so yeah, they just viewed us as just like, a like another species. It felt like that and like, on top of being homeschooled, I felt like we were kind of seen as like a coal. Yeah.

28:19

Yeah. So

Olivia N 28:23

how, where did the money come to get homeschooled?

28:27

Um, it wasn't there. We didn't have any. Um, so we compared to like other homeschoolers, like we didn't really have the resources to do like we like we had like Hubble museum memberships but like, like we were able to like find deals around like paying tuition for these coops and or like, like, we never were able to hire a tutor. So like in terms of resources, it would be whatever my mom was able to like prints in Google and piece together so so your mom, you guys. Yeah, my mom taught us. She taught us until we were like, or until I was like eight or nine or so. And then she handed the reins over to us. Um yeah, so

Olivia N 29:26

you guys taught yourselves from age 18

29:30

I went I went to high school yeah, I did end up going to high school so I taught myself from eight to like 14 Damn Yeah, yeah. And it was

Olivia N 29:46

Yeah, an algebra by yourself, huh? Yeah, I did I learned she made you guys teach yourselves. Wow. Oh, yeah, well because a lot is that illegal?

30:03

My felt like it

30:10

well, you know what's crazy when you are homeschooled? Did you have to provide like, like government? Yeah. Yeah, I know. I don't know. I couldn't tell you Okay. Oh, yeah. Yeah, but he took 14 Yeah, it's a 14 It was a long time. It was like, like, what

Olivia N 30:35

did she she she would just like, give you PDFs of things.

30:39

She was just like, giving me logins on to like, like different websites, she would find that with like, have worksheets and like, like Khan Academy. She was like, a big one

Olivia N 30:53

on Khan Academy. Every

30:55

subject. Yeah. Like stuff. Yeah. Yeah. And just variations of Khan Academy was sorted. Yeah, yeah. It was. Yeah, well, because so I've been saying homeschooling this whole time, but technically we were unschoolers is what she would call us. They were certainly

Olivia N 31:20

unschooling Yes, absolutely.

31:22

homeschool on unschool. Like, I went to a free school, which I guess I'll talk about later, too. Yeah. What's a free school? A free school or a Sudbury school? Is a school without teachers that stay with it. Without teachers, without subjects without like, periods or anything? Um, it's, and you just send your kids there and it's all supposed to be self directed learning and everyone of all ages just like commingles and there's no like separation. Um, there's no teachers. There's adult facilitators is what they're called. What is so

Olivia N 32:18

yeah, walk me through a day at a at a free school.

32:21

Yeah. Well, okay, join so

32:26

your high school was a free school? No, my I went to a regular high school. I was but I went to a free school like ages like 11 to into like, 14 So I guess middle school ages. Okay. So but we're Yeah, we're like, I was home you were I was at home. You were at home

Olivia N 32:45

from like, zero to 10. Yeah. And then at eight she was like, it was like, logging the Khan Academy. And then from 11 to 14 went to a free school.

32:56

Yes. I was still logging in the Khan Academy. At the school, yeah, the free computer there. Yeah. Or I would just like read all day, honestly. Okay, um, okay. Yeah. Or I do want to because it's kind of crazy. Yeah. So for like disciplinary things at the school we had something called the when we had a judicial committee and I so for a long time I served as the Judicial Committee clerk so I was essentially oversee I honestly I

Olivia N 33:52

really go to school for like, 15 years. So you weren't the judicial clerk on the Yeah,

33:59

for like, a long time. Yeah. For the better half of like, two or three years. Like, was it 11

Olivia N 34:04

to 14 Like, was it like 15 to like, Wait, all ages, do you mean like,

34:10

I do. Wow. It was actually four to 19. Um, yes. For the Judicial Committee,

Olivia N 34:24

like a five year old there. Yeah.

34:26

Like I would be so. So essentially it was child court.

34:49

Was that's how it was there wouldn't be one adult. I'm the facilitator. But it would be me and then it would be a younger kid and an older kid is how we had to choose You so it wouldn't be me, a five year old, and then maybe a 16 year old. And the cases would be these worksheets that everyone had to, like fill out on their own. And so if you broke a rule like like, it would be like worksheets with like a child's handwriting. Like so and so, like left without signing out, like stuff like that. Yeah, yeah. Yeah. So read it, write it down for So yeah, we're

Olivia N 35:34

no subjects. No teachers know, there were adult facilitators. What is that? Like? How did you teach yourself? So like? Was it just like an open courtyard?

35:46

I mean, it was a building. Yeah, yeah. Yeah. So in each of the right, okay,

Olivia N 35:52

did you teach yourself like,

35:53

what does that mean? Yeah. Yeah. Okay. So, um, there was like an art room. They had a library with no librarian. Yes. In fact, I might have been the librarian at one point. I honestly might have been, but yeah, um, yeah. No librarian. Um, there was like a play TV room. There was a music room downstairs. But then there was another room that was just like, mats and like, play and like a play area? I don't know. But you were expected to teach yourself with just like the materials at hand. So there were like, a lot of computers. There were again, there was a library. I don't know what was in the library. Um, I feel like it was mostly just novels. But But yeah, you were genuinely expected to like, like eight to three. Yeah, from literally honestly, from four they expected you to be able to like know what you wanted to learn, and find the resources to teach yourself and the adults who had to find them? No, no, they weren't supposed to, because that would defeat the philosophy.

Olivia N 37:11

So what was the Yeah, sure. to student ratio. I mean, adult facilitators?

37:18

Um, there were, I want to say like five adults, and like, I'd say, like, three children. No, there were like, like, probably like, 30. Yeah. It could be worse, I guess. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. 30s. But again, spending day just afforded 19

Olivia N 37:41

What was it like making friends? So you didn't go to school? So yeah, and then you weren't you? Weren't? You were at a co ops and stuff. Yeah. Do you have any friends growing up before high school?

37:53

No, I

37:55

know, I didn't truthfully. Um, yeah, I mean, like, I was also a very, like, socially anxious, like, socially awkward child. And so I mean, obviously.

38:12

Um,

38:15

so yeah, so definitely, like, as a child, up until, like, I went to the free school, I did have friends there. But up until then, I truly like, didn't know, like, what a friend was like, how to make it like, just like, I truly just have my brothers. So we were very close, like, as children. But then I go to this free school. And there's like, a handful of kids my age. And so yeah, and so I do end up making, like my first friends there. Um, but just because like, but I remember I was like, really reluctant to make friends. Because I didn't know how. But I think at some point, it was just like, you know, you're there, like, eight hours a day with nothing to do. Um, so yeah. So I think I eventually just got comfortable with talking to people. And yeah, I will say, as crazy as like being on that judicial committee was I think it did help me learn how to talk to people. So there's that. Yeah. But yeah, I didn't really have friends until high school, I would say.

Olivia N 39:41

So. What was it like transitioning from homeschooling? unschooling free schooling to public school? It was a private school. Yeah, it was public school. Yeah. to public

39:51

school. Yeah. Like

39:56

it was

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honestly I feel like it could have been a lot worse. Like, I mean, like academically I would like I was like failing classes. Yeah, that makes sense. Yeah. Know what, like you didn't know algebra know,

Olivia N 40:15

calculus at that point.

40:19

But essential Yeah, yeah. Yeah, like didn't know names for like different grammar rules like truly Yeah. But I feel like socially well by then I felt like I had enough practice. Like I knew how to make friends. At this point in my life I like had a boyfriend. Um, so going into high school, I felt like, much more equipped with like talking to people. Um, but I don't know, I just felt like I had to, like, shed myself of like, everything I grew up with. And, like I was raised to believe and yeah, I just felt like I had to like start high school is a completely different person. And that person was a nerd. Like I say, I had to, like, strip myself clean, but this person was like, I don't know, wanting to join like an anime club. Yeah, um, yeah, the GSA stuff like that. Um, but honestly, I will say All things considered, it wasn't too bad. Did I make some terrible friends? Yes. But it could have been a lot worse, it could have been a lot worse. I'm glad that like I at least had the experience of being around people. Because it was a much more drastic adjustment for me like going from home, honestly, to the free school because I just like did not know what to do with myself.

Olivia N 42:07

So you said you mentioned that you were in a variety of clubs. So you mentioned how you wanted to join the anime club? I don't know if you actually did. But you mentioned the GSA. Yes. So I'm going to have to ask you about it. Oh, yes. What was it like in the GSA? Did you have a role? What was your GSAs vibe? What were you identifying as at the point of joining in the GSA?

42:35

Um,

42:38

I think I identified as buyer pan at the time. But by the time I joined the GSA, I, like had already known that I was into women for sure. Are you it's like thumbs.

42:52

How did you come to that?

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Well, that does take me back to the free school. Yeah. Well, people started asking me, like, if I was gonna, like people. Yeah, they just, people just thought that I was. And so like, it wasn't until I was being asked where I was like, Oh,

43:17

are they right? Um, but

43:23

it was a lot of things. I guess that helped me realize, like, it was the outside pressure. It was also just like, being around people my age for the first time and like, I don't know, now, it's like, everyone's thinking about sex. And like, I was too, of course, but not outside of like fanfiction, and, um, and so I just like, there wasn't a connection for me between like, like sex and like a sexual self. Up until that again, like people started asking me. Also, like, I started dating a boy at the free school, but he was trans. And before he came out, he was identifying as a lesbian. And so like, for a long time, I was just like, oh, like, I'm into a lesbian. What does that mean? Yeah, so I feel like it was really a lot of external factors. I don't know if I would have realized that early. If people hadn't, like started asking me like, I don't know if I would have realized in high school. Honestly, talk about your school's DSA. Oh, yes. Yes.

Olivia N 44:37

What What was it like?

44:39

Um,

44:41

well, I didn't stay there for very long because it was very honestly white and like, I don't know it just an like white male gay. was sort of the vibe like, like one of the teacher chaperones was just like, like a Just like a older twink like, I don't know, like it was just like a aspect of gay culture that I never really I

just didn't feel like seen in so I didn't last there for very long, but the vibe was I feel like every GSA like all freshmen, like Yeah, I don't know, like the discussions would just be like, What do you pronouns me and like, it wasn't like a real sense of community, it just felt like like they were trying to make into an educational tool when I was really looking for just other people. You know?

Olivia N 45:40

Um, can you talk a little bit about who or what influenced you the most growing up be social media, the internet, that kind of thing.

45:57

Um, I feel like,

46:01

I feel like for the majority of my childhood, it was probably my older brother. We're only like three years apart in age. And so I felt like for the majority of my childhood, oh, he's also gay. I feel like that's an important context. But yeah, I feel like for the majority of my life, I like saw him just as an authority on behavior, but also like, like fandom and like media and music and things like that. But then, I feel like when we started to what, I guess when I started to like, pull away more and was like, Ah, I need to find a sense of self. Then it was definitely like Tumblr, like,

Olivia N 46:50

where are you on?

46:51

Oh, my god. Um, what

Olivia N 46:53

years? Were you on Tumblr?

46:55

It was like,

46:58

I want to say like, 2011 Yeah, yeah, I was too young on Tumblr, too. Like, I'm probably like, 2014 2015. So I was, uh, you

Olivia N 47:08

were in the thick of it.

47:09

I was in the thick of it. I'm probably the worst era for the website. It

Olivia N 47:14

certainly wasn't the best. Yeah. So talk about that. How did Tumblr influence you? What Tumblr what? What, what part of Tumblr were you on? Yeah. Just so you know. Everyone's talking about this and you're fine. And you're not okay.

47:28

I'm glad. I'm so glad to talk about Super Hoolock Oh, my

Olivia N 47:32

God about the pale gray aesthetic. Hill. Brian just started. Yep. Yeah, about cut for Zane. Oh, wow. I talked about lots of different things. See, I'm trying to jog your memory. Yes. Okay.

47:46

I don't know. Yeah, I was definitely it's one I was on the Kpop side. Yeah, um, yeah, but I was also like, I wasn't like a subset of the Kpop. side. That was like, Kay fashion. Yeah. Do you remember that? Yes. Okay. Okay. Which like, I don't know. Like, I don't even know what that side of like, what the draw of that was, or, or like what I even like, you just like change the hues on photos. I don't know. It's just it felt like I don't know. No, I never. Yeah, it was just like, I felt like that brand of Tumblr just promoted like colorism and like, just like body shaming. Like, that's really. Yeah, so I was like, that was probably like the height of my Tumblr phase where I was like, Ooh, like, I have followers. Oh, you were posting I was posting you had a blog that you were active on? I was very Yeah, I was so active.

Olivia N 48:50

So what else are you doing other than K fashion?

48:53

Um, oh

48:56

no. Oh, this is like wow, it's like taking me back. Yeah. Um, well, okay, I guess comes back to writing. I was big in the fandoms like, I was in the anime. I wasn't a Doctor Who and so I was

Olivia N 49:15

enemy. Where do you like shown in or so do you?

49:18

Um, were you doing like,

Olivia N 49:21

were you doing like the action ones or like the romance ones?

49:24

Definitely romance also like Nana, or no, I've

Olivia N 49:29

actually never seen that. Okay, it was not was not No, no, no. Wasn't on 2015 2011 2015 Tumblr. Like the picture? Yeah, like the fandom wasn't? Yeah, yeah. Yeah,

49:39

I agree. Um, I like can't even remember like names.

Olivia N 49:45

Romance anime really 20 in like that young. I was mostly as shown in like, okay, okay, I wasn't, I wasn't I didn't do that until I was an adult.

49:56

Really? Yeah, I don't know. I always I was always like, oh law. especially for High School Host Club like Yeah, yeah. Would you watch like Mecca? No. Okay, I would watch. That's okay. Yeah. Oh,

Olivia N 50:13

nice. That wasn't 2015 No, my timing is off. But yeah, that's like, I know what you're talking about.

50:18

Yeah.

Olivia N 50:21

Yeah. fandoms were anime.

50:25

Yeah. Doctor Who Doctor Who?

Olivia N 50:28

Kpop you weren't so Kpop K fashion?

50:31

Yeah. I'm trying to think what else I was into

Olivia N 50:36

you were blogging. You were writing? Yeah, you were getting into any trouble. Any draw?

50:42

Oh? Oh, I'm sure. I really had to think about that. I don't even know. Well, you know, I, um, so I would like also roleplay on somewhere

Olivia N 50:56

or you did role playing,

50:57

I did role playing what like, what

Olivia N 50:58

kind of role playing?

51:02

I would do I would do it all I would do like, like the action lines. But then I would also do like, belong, like, paragraph type.

Olivia N 51:13

With phantom three role playing in? It's okay. I

51:18

know. I know. Because I keep remembering. Okay. Wow, it was yeah, it was like, like, various animes that I can't even remember what they're called. Now in the role playing animals. Also Doctor Who? Also, like Victoria's I was like, very active in the Victoria's fandom, which is

Olivia N 51:43

random. Now, that makes a lot of sense. So I'm gonna ask you some questions about other sides of Tumblr. Okay, I feel like this is unintentional. Social media. Like, it's really interesting. Because it's, it's impacted so much of like young people's lives like young non men, especially, especially young queer people. Yeah, young dikes and young lesbians. So yeah. It doesn't matter. She interrogating me about the ships I was into on Tumblr. Because I said super Hoolock and you didn't blink. And that means anything to people. I was testing the waters. I was like, how many words can I say?

52:23

That's so funny. You

Olivia N 52:25

knew all the words and I was like, okay, yeah, yeah, I know how messed up your brain is. So, I'm gonna ask some questions about how Tumblr influenced you positively. Okay, and then I'm gonna ask you how Tumblr has negatively impacted your brain, especially as a child. Yeah, you've mentioned a little bit of both. But I'm gonna ask you now how Tumblr has impacted you positively. Like, what did you what? Why did you seek out Tumblr in the first place?

52:51

Um, well, I honestly I'm just funny, cuz I do. I feel like I never. That's okay. Um, but honestly, I do, like, credit my activity on Tumblr to like, helping me realize how much of a writer I am. Like, I think like, if I were role playing, like, I don't know, if I would have been exposed to, like, plays down the line and like, and poetry and, and prose and, you know, it's just like, stuff like that. Yeah, and, and just like being in a community with people, like, who like desperately wanted to do, you know, like, the media that they love, they like what to do with justice. I think there is, like, like to be a like a deep fan of something you have to be like, there is like a level of criticism and like love that you have to balance to like, create work that shows your love for the show. And so I feel like that was positive for me. Like, I like I was

constantly doing writing exercises without even realizing it. And I think I improved or just like found like, some parts of myself through that.

Olivia N 54:10

What were the negative sides of Tumblr that she would say you mentioned like

54:14

yeah, a little bit. Yeah. Um,

Olivia N 54:18

were you on the negative sides of Tumblr? Were you just

54:21

vibing No, I was only on the negative sides. Um, yeah, I felt like like when I was like fashion blogging, that was probably the height of like, negative Tumblr just because like, like a fashion blog all that is is like making people's skin lighter and like, just like editing their legs and and things like that. So yeah, I feel like I also it how do I explain that I feel like this is also the era of like Marina and the Diamonds and like Lana Del Rey and like the 90s some Yes, yes. And like what did they call it now? Like heroin chic? Like I think that's what they call it. Grunge Yeah, yeah, absolutely. So it was that era, so I just felt like yes, I'll see

Olivia N 55:25

you singing Yeah. Yeah, my Spotify rewind. is very accurate. With Apple Music. Why the fuck and then yeah, like we're playing like young gods by Halsey. Oh, my God. Donna girl. Yeah, I would go west coast. And then do I do do well? Do you want done that song?

55:57

Yeah. And

Olivia N 55:58

I want to I want to know, or do you want to know? Do I want to?

56:02

I think it is. Yeah, I think do you

Olivia N 56:10

just I literally just listen to that song. And I was like,

56:12

yeah. Taking me back honestly.

56:24

No, honestly, when she? Yeah, yeah. Um, yeah, I just feel like that coupled with like, like body standards and Kpop. And like, 2012. Like I just feel like it led to a lot of like, negative views around like

my body and blackness, that I then had to spend years deconstructing. Yeah, and unlearning and, yeah. Yeah, just understanding that, like, bodies can look different. I don't know.

Olivia N 57:01

We're gonna talk a little bit about mental health. Okay, so can you talk about what it was like struggling with your mental health? Growing up?

57:09

Yeah. Um,

57:13

well, so I was a very, like, insanely, socially anxious child, like, Oh, my God, like, I just could not I couldn't talk to people. I just like, especially mainly my peers. Like, I was always fine with adults, but like, with my peers, I just like, I don't know, I just could never feel comfortable in a social situation. I was also a very, very, very depressed Yeah, and so I feel like I'm growing up, I definitely did not have any language for that. Like, I just thought that I was just like, failing. Like, my body was like, failing on me or, or like, or that they're just something fundamentally wrong with me. But again, like, I didn't have the language for that until I was a teenager. So thoughts around mental health just like manifested in feelings of failure and just like, or just like, not even acknowledging it as a problem like gaslighting myself into like, being like, Oh, like this is fine. Like, um, but yeah, I was a very like neurotic child, like, like, I'm, like, if I slept in past 8am I would get up and cry. Because I just felt like I was just like, wasting my life away. Like things like that was always the person like, on the wall at sleepovers just like it's really just afraid. Just scared for my life. I also feel like my anxiety made me lie a lot. Like just to like, keep face or I don't know. Yeah, it was definitely a liar. Yeah,

Olivia N 59:22

so what happened in your teenage years when you started to be able to place names to experiences that you were feeling in your body and in yourself?

59:30

Um, yeah, um,

59:35

well, I mean, they're, well, I'll just say like, frankly, there. There's like a history of mental illness like in my family. And so by the time I was a teenager, my older brother was also going through his own mental health struggles. And at this point in my life, like my father was out of the picture. And so with my mom like more in control now Um, I don't know, she she was like, able to recognize that like, maybe this is a medical problem or like maybe there's ways to fix it other than know, like molasses and like, I don't know, like whatever natural remedies. So I'm also for context is like, like a witch person. Yeah. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:00:26

Did you get vaccinated as a kid?

1:00:28

Nope. No, I, um, yeah, I had to get so many vaccines like my first year of college. Yeah, it was pretty crazy.

Olivia N 1:00:37

Did you go to the doctor at all as a kid?

1:00:40

I did. But because I had like severe asthma. So literally, if they did not take me like I would have died. Yeah. So that's really the only reason. And also, like, I have like hearing issues and like, I don't know, audiologists a lot. Yeah, yeah.

Olivia N 1:00:56

They ever teach you sign language? No, no, that was never an option. No, it

1:01:02

was never discussed honestly. Which, like, honestly, kind of pisses me off. I feel like it should have definitely been an option like I. Yeah, because I like I still need hearing aids. And I wish that like sometimes I had the ability to speak sign language and I like had access to that community. Yeah. They should. It should be an option. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:01:28

Okay, so your mom recognize the signs of OCD and depression. And then yeah, took you to a doctor. She performed. Yeah, approach mental illness for you. I love working with black moms. Black kids need mental

1:01:47

Right, right. Well, I will say it. I like my shoulder.

1:01:55

Oh, okay. Okay, cool. I'm

1:02:02

not so cute. So you

Olivia N 1:02:06

know where it is? Oh. Oh my god. Yes. And it stands up. Wow, this is so cute. Okay. Help your mom.

1:02:18

Yeah, yeah. Well, I feel like for me, she was not thinking about my mental health. Like, not until I was like a senior in high school when I was like, I need help, like, I need help. But through like my brother and like, her care towards my brother, that's when I started to like, just like learn vocabulary, literally, because it was like, cuz, you know, he would just like, explain, like, what was going on with him. And I was also sort of expected to like, like, help with his mental health. So, so I feel like brother, yeah, okay.

Yeah. So through that, I just started to learn that like, oh, like, this is a practice. Um, but it wasn't until like, like, I had to like advocate for myself. Really?

Olivia N 1:03:11

Did you end up going to a doctor?

1:03:14

Yeah, I did. Um, I ended up seeing a therapist, my senior year of high school. But and then I started seeing a psychiatrist, like in college, but separate from that, like, I didn't, yeah. Okay.

Olivia N 1:03:30

So I'm going to ask you a little bit of a two parter. So I'm gonna ask you have, like, what was your understanding of gender and gender norms growing up? And maybe your first exposure to lesbianism? And you can answer them they don't see at the same time. Yeah, like, tied together in any way to you at the same time?

1:03:54

Um,

1:03:58

well, so. So the question is my understanding of gender like, yeah,

Olivia N 1:04:01

like, how did gender norms impact you at all? Yeah, understandings of gender. Um,

1:04:08

I just felt well, okay. I guess I like understood gender as like, anything, like related to womanhood as oppressive, and then anything related to like maleness as, like freedom. Yeah, that's definitely like, I feel like the binary ways I understood it growing up. Because to me, like womanhood meant like modesty. It just meant like limitations to like my natural impulses to things like an impulse to like speak up or an impulse to just like sit a certain way or to like wear a certain thing I felt like it just felt like it was always like Like, what's the word? I'm in opposition, I guess with just like when my family thought like a woman, or just like what like girl hood was, I just felt like always very opposite or just like shackles. Really, um, but then also confused. Because I'm like, there were like, I felt like in terms of like hair and like the way I would dress and like, things like that, like I was expected to look and dress a certain way but also, I would see my mom do things like grow out her armpit hair and like, get locks and like do things that I'm we're in opposition to even some of like her own beliefs weirdly of like womanhood, but especially in opposition of like, what my father felt in and what like my grandparents felt Yeah, so that was so that was very amusing. Um, and then I think like having two brothers Yeah, I just, I just always saw their boyhood is like a freedom that I wanted.

1:06:37

Yeah.

1:06:39

And then my first introductions to lesbianism was probably also through fanfiction. I wrote a fanfiction earlier.

Olivia N 1:06:49

We where were you reading these? fanfictions

1:06:51

were Yeah, um, fanfiction.net Yeah, yeah.

Olivia N 1:06:59

Wanting any Wattpad I actually

1:07:01

wasn't on Wattpad three. Yeah, yeah,

Olivia N 1:07:05

so fanfiction.net 803 Did you read Tumblr fanfic?

1:07:09

Yeah, for sure. Okay. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:07:14

And what ships were you reading that had lesbians in?

1:07:19

Tori and Jade from Victoria's classic I feel let me think definitely, like, certain Kpop idols like I think like someone from like Girls Generation

1:07:47

Yeah, listening once I can really remember that. We're like, Yeah, my initial

Olivia N 1:07:52

what were your thoughts around it? When you read your first lesbian fanfic? Yeah, what were you thinking?

1:07:57

Oh, my God. My mind was just like, Absolutely blown, honestly. Like, I remember just like, having to like, take a second to just like reread, and just being like, oh my god, like, I had no idea. You could do that. And like, and just like women and like, together like, ah, um, yeah, but then I remember being like, okay, so I can never mention this though. Or just feeling like, huh, like, this is only something I can think about, like in the house alone, like without? Well, um I mean, you know, I, well, growing up like, okay, even though I felt like I grew up in like some pretty alternative communities. And like, I did definitely see lesbians growing up, even if it didn't register that they were lesbians. But that being said, like, I wasn't in

a family that felt accepting of queerness in any way. And my father is actually like, homophobic. So like, like, he's type of homophobe that he used to call Lady Gaga lady gag. Like, you know, like so yeah, so that was just sort of like I don't even think I had like a an idea of like, oh, like, this is like queerness but like, I knew anything other was just not cool. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:09:47

So when did you start identifying as a lesbian and how did you get there?

1:09:53

Um,

1:09:55

well, I honestly didn't, like, firmly identify as a lesbian. And until I feel like probably my freshman year of college, but talk about that. Yeah, yeah. Um Well, I mean, okay, so I first realized I probably was a lesbian in high school because I realized that I would never marry a man but that I would marry a woman. And I remember like, yeah, yeah.

Olivia N 1:10:30

I'm never ever gonna marry a man. That's exactly I'm like picture coming home and then like his shoes wrapped the door and

1:10:39

never never. Oh my god.

Olivia N 1:10:42

I could like date them, but I would never marry Yeah, exactly.

1:10:48

Yeah, absolutely. Um, yeah, so then, but then I had that realization, but then I was like, oh, but, um, you know, I still felt shackled to just like male validation. And then, of course, I read the lesbian master doc around this time in high school. Yeah. In high school and on Tumblr. I honestly don't know. I think I found it on Reddit. And on Reddit. I think unread. Google, like I thought it came up and I've definitely what happened? I think I definitely Googled like, oh, Am I gay? Probably some variation, you know? Or maybe like, I'm attracted to them, but I don't like them like something like that. Um, yeah, so then I learned what compulsory heterosexuality was, and just like, felt like that was a real battle for me honestly. Releasing myself from just like, wanting men to like, want to fuck me like that. Yeah. Even though I've like, truly have never had any, like, confusing or, like, substantial experience with men that was like, Oh, I must be attracted to them, or Oh, I really want them to be attracted to me, but it was just like, it just really had a grip on me. Um, yeah, yes. And I came to college, and was still identifying as bisexual. Um, but honestly, I think the turning point for me was like, I had a conversation with my mom on the phone. And it was like the first time she really acknowledged that like my attractions women and I was point she'd like, known about me like questioning as a young teen and like, I like been in like the Pride Parade. Like, I'd like to go into pride like she knew about all this, but this was our first time like, really talking about it. And so yeah, I guess it just took for her to acknowledge it. For me to feel like

okay, maybe because for a while, I just and I feel like I've heard other lesbians say this too, but I felt like I was like, mourning like I guess like her expectations of me, but also just like, mourning this like setup promised reality, this promised cushion of heterosexuality. Um I say promised even though I was always gay, like there was like, what? Like, what man? What man? Yeah.

1:13:56

So

Olivia N 1:14:01

you mentioned a little bit about

Olivia N 1:14:10

how your mom maybe kind of knew that you may have been queer in some way growing up. Yeah. What are your thoughts about coming out? Do you believe in it? Have you come out multiple times before? And does the phrase coming into your identity versus coming out? resonate with you in any way?

1:14:34

Um

1:14:39

I think like

1:14:47

I guess I believe in both, I think like, um, well, I feel like they're like really separate. Things. I feel like I'm Um, I mean, I guess I wish that like coming into your identity were more of like a popular phrase. And I think that's more important. And I think that's where all the real work is. And that's, like, where your time should be focused. Um, but I do I have come out multiple times, in some dramatic ways.

1:15:28

And

1:15:33

I guess I believe in it, because like I don't know, I think I feel like for me, at least, it was helpful to say it to continue to come in myself even like, even if what I was saying was constantly changing. I never really, I don't know, like, what are other people saying? Is it like, this idea that coming out is more so for others than yourself? So there's

Olivia N 1:16:03

no thoughts about that coming out in that way? Okay. I think maybe we like talked about it, like off camera and stuff. Yeah, or off recording. Essential, essentially, people just talk about whatever coming out means to them. And sometimes they share coming out stories, sometimes they don't. Sometimes they're like, you know, I don't like when, when some parts of the gay community posit coming out is like the pinnacle of being gay. Or say you're not gay enough. If you're not out to like, your parents, yeah, to

unity or out in some visible ways. So people talked about that. Yeah. Someone got outed, and they talked about what it was like getting outed. So there's different things you can talk about here. Or you don't talk about anything?

1:17:07

We pause for a second. Well, I think. Um, yeah, but in terms of coming out, like, I guess I do have experiences where, like, I've come out and like, I wanted the drama, like, the spectacle. And I do have experiences where, like, I've been kind of outed, or like, pushed to come out very publicly, when I explicitly said like, this isn't what I wanted to do.

1:17:46

I think like,

1:17:49

I don't know, I believe in like, whatever you feel gives you agency. Because it has, it has felt good to come out. And the times that I have and like I'm just because of like, I've had a lot of personal struggles with like accepting labels and like, feeling like a weight of an identity but so when like situations like that, where I felt like, like, I have to detach from shame. Um, I've been thankful that like, I have come out. But I also sort of feel like this idea of coming out is very, like 20 times like, it's very glee. Like yeah, I just, I guess I feel like I don't know. I guess what is coming out me anymore. Or I guess I wonder like, how relevant it's becoming for like, younger queer people. younger than us. Yeah. Honestly. Or are or even like a year or two younger than us? Like I feel like I feel like depending on like, what time you were in middle school. I feel like there's like a two to three year difference right there like you're in year olds

Olivia N 1:19:17

on this project. Oh, really? Yeah. So if you could, you could like listen to what their thoughts are about it. But yeah, I would honestly love to smart reading like the I'm getting read. Yeah. What do you know about Lesley Feinberg?

1:19:36

Oh, god damn Yeah,

Olivia N 1:19:39

I was checking I was like, huh

1:19:41

Wow, okay. Wow,

Olivia N 1:19:49

like they read a No thanks. Yeah. That's so they have such nuanced understandings of their own gender.

1:19:55

Yeah, well, I'm sorry. No, that's amazing. No, honestly. Very with it in this project. That's amazing. Honestly, that's, that's what I wasn't. Yeah, no, it was not me. Was not me at all. No. No, I feel like the most nuance. I had was like, like, ooh, like Goldstar lesbian, like, you know? Like, I don't know, like, no nuance like, wow.

Olivia N 1:20:31

So you first identify as a lesbian in college freshman year? Or was it later on freshman sophomore, was it?

1:20:38

It was?

Olivia N 1:20:41

Or did it feel like a gradual slide into lesbianism?

1:20:44

It was definitely a gradual, slow. Point. Yeah. Kind of hard to pinpoint. I feel like that phone call with my mom was November. I was like, Okay, no, going back this time. Yeah, definitely. You never went back. I never went back. I never went back.

Olivia N 1:21:00

So we're gonna talk about sex. Okay, so what were your first encounters lesbian sex? You mentioned? Fiction. So I mean, both indirectly, indirectly. So yeah, hearing about lesbian sex. You watching lesbian sex. You reading about lesbian sex, your understanding of it before you had it? Yeah. And then what was your first encounters with queer sex? Yeah.

1:21:21

Well,

1:21:24

okay, so when I was younger, um, you got to age. How young? Okay, okay. Okay. Um, I was like, Okay, well, I first like, read like a fanfiction with lesbian sex. And I was like, 11. So that was like, the very first encounter. And then after that age, I'm, like, 11 to like, 14 ish. I wanted to be a sex educator. And so yeah. Which was just like a mask for my own horniness. Talk about?

1:22:00

Yeah.

1:22:03

Yeah, literally, literally. Um, yes. So for a long time, I felt like I was just viewing sex through like, like a more like clinical lens and not really like, through like, a personal or like, pleasure focused. Like, I feel like I don't know, I was pleasure focus in the sense that I was like, clips. I was like, I guess it was awesome. Yeah. I also felt like it was the age where like, this was like, when, like, early 2010. So I feel like there's this conversation of like, where's the clip? I feel like that was big at this time. That was just

Olivia N 1:22:53

like, you know, the 2010s. We're about where the where are we now? Like, did everyone find

1:23:00

the claim? Exactly.

Olivia N 1:23:03

Let's talk about

1:23:06

um,

1:23:09

yeah, but then yeah, so. Yeah, so that was like my main initial, like, indirect exposures. But then, like, direct exposure? Well, I haven't had sex yet. So it's like, how do I even begin? My relationship with sex? Yeah, yeah.

1:23:35

I feel like

1:23:41

I feel like a lot of like, coming in to lesbianism for me was like, not being afraid of pleasure. And understanding that like, as a person, like, I desire pleasure. I deserve pleasure. In Yeah, in like, whatever form feels closest to like, to me too. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, but I didn't. I felt like I didn't understand that for the longest time. Like, I felt like I guess referencing I'm all about love. But I felt like I was not living by like, a love or pleasure based like philosophy or ideology. I felt like also, like being conditioned as a woman. I just felt like okay, like, like, pleasure is not meant for you. Like, like, You're not meant to experience desire. And so, so I just had a lot of shame towards sex for honestly, the majority of my life Um I think also like going back to like Islamic rules like for dating and sex and I that was like a very big part of my upbringing thinking that like, sex is like deeply tied to religion and sin and and that it's only like meant to happen in within like a heterosexual marriage

1:25:38

Yeah, yeah, so I just carried around a lot of shame. Um what I guess like my first introduction to like queer sex, and like, what queer sex even looks like.

1:25:58

Um,

1:26:01

well, when I was like, around like, 14 or so and I was dating this trans man and like, sex was constantly a discussion because we were like, 14 and like, 1516. And so

1:26:20

yeah, so, um, that's when I started to have like, a better idea of like, okay, so in life, I will be having different kinds of sex. This is like, there are different examples of sex. That's not just like, penis and vagina, or maybe it is or I don't know, or I'm rambling now.

1:26:49

But even like, at that age, it's like, I was pressured to start having sex at a young age, I think. Because, like, I like I was kind of pressured to, like, come into my queerness at a young age to, um, but yeah, even like, when I was first learning about queer sex, it still didn't really feel like it was related to like choice at all. Yeah. Which I feel like has just strained my relationship to sex? Like not so cute, honestly. Um, yeah, I feel like it's probably taken me up until now. Just to know that like

1:27:45

it's okay to have desire and that like, it's okay to acknowledge your own desires and to to center your desires. Oh, damn. Do you ever box? No.

Olivia N 1:28:03

I think I like brushed her teeth. Oh, she gets mad as you have gingivitis. Okay, oh, are you okay? Are you mad at me? Are you mad at me? No, no. No. So can you just had a moment? Are you okay, he's moody. Anyways. So we've been doing the sex talk. Do you feel good about that? Or is there anything else that you want to talk about? Oh, coming into your desire and learning. Yeah, self pleasure and that you can have desire?

1:28:47

Um, do you feel pressured

Olivia N 1:28:49

by like, the lesbian community of our age to have sex?

1:28:54

Hmm.

Olivia N 1:28:56

Do you feel like there's an overemphasis on sex? Or an under? No?

1:29:00

That's such an interesting question. Honestly. Um, like in media versus our community or like, how to

Olivia N 1:29:11

know how everyone responds. You can talk about your conversations with your friends. Yeah. With your lesbian community. Your understandings of the you the lesbian thing be like, if you were to zoom out and look at just like young lesbians and young queer people in general, and also talk about lesbian media. And, you know, there's a lot of sex in there. Yeah. Having sex versus pressure right or so.

1:29:40

Right. Well, I think like, I think overall for the queer community, I think that like queer sex historically, it's just like, like lesbian sex is always in question or I feel like historically it has been in question. Like if it even exists, and then queer sex has has? Well, I feel like queer sex has needed to, like have a, like maybe a hyper sex positive spin toward it just because of like, you know, history. But I do think that that has led to like, maybe an over emphasis on sex because because I feel like thinking about my own lesbian community. Um, I feel like not many people are having sex, or like people are but but people also are and I don't know, maybe there isn't enough space for that. But I don't think that like I don't know if I agree that there should be less of an emphasis on sex either. I'm like, very. I'm very big on. Just freedom.

Olivia N 1:31:04

curious what your thoughts were? Yeah.

1:31:06

Yeah, I don't know. There is. I mean, it does feel like even still, like into my 20s. Like, a constant conversation. Regardless of if, like the people I know are having it or not. I also feel like, well, I feel like there's a pressure on lesbians to like, always have good sex. You know, like, I feel like no one ever talks about that. Maybe it's not always. Yeah, not always like an amazing marathon. Like, yeah, also, just

Olivia N 1:31:44

like, how are you supposed to be good at something that you've never done? Yeah. Like, you're like, if it's your first time having sex. Why would you be good at? Yeah. Or like, there's Yeah, I know what she mean. Yeah. There's this extra pressure to perform. Yeah. Because you're supposed to be good at it. Yeah. That's

1:32:02

like, you're supposed to be intuitive. Yeah. Like, yeah. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:32:11

So how has your lesbianism been influenced by fear your academics?

1:32:20

Oh, I didn't see this question. Oh,

Olivia N 1:32:23

you want to come back to it? Are you ready? Yeah, we

1:32:25

can talk about it. Um I feel like theory has

1:32:40

that's such a good quote. Actually. Can we come back to it? I'm gonna write it down.

Olivia N 1:32:46

So the next question I'm going to, I'm going to ask you is about how clothing, jewelry, makeup, tattoos and piercings or any other body mods have assisted with affirming your identity, or your lesbianism. Anyway, you mentioned how clothing has been a real source of freedom for you. Especially growing up modest. So can you talk a little bit how clothing jewelry body expression, other stuff has influenced your lesbianism?

1:33:16

Yeah, um

1:33:21

well I think like it from like the obvious perspective I recognized pretty early on like piercings are signaling and so yep um, yeah, and so I started getting piercings around like 14 or 15 Truly for that reason. And then like eventually just like getting more piercings and like just feeling connected to my body and that sense and like I don't know like feeling in charge of pain and like are not in charge but like I don't know I feel like getting piercings has become meditative in a way and it's just like it it offers me control that I do appreciate

1:34:20

but

1:34:23

can I see the question

1:34:38

I think like

1:34:43

piercings have also helped me like, maybe like emphasize parts of my body that emphasize but also like recontextualize I think parts of my body that I've like felt a lot of shaman I are parts that I felt have felt no control and I'm like growing on me so that's been really important to me to like help me reclaim my body and then clothing I would also say is like it's the same thing I feel like clothing can also be painful. And so like finding my own style or like finding my or honestly using lesbianism as a lens to find style I feel like it's really helped me like just like check because clothing used to be painful to me to like shop and to like try things on and just like yeah, just having things on my body Yeah, but it all just comes back to like wanting ownership Yeah, and now I feel like now I feel like I finally got to play a little bit more like it felt like for the longest time I like truly had to like dress a certain way as like survival as or like as a distraction for like something else like I used to dress crazy I used to dress like like a rainbow gay honestly. Yeah, it's like different kinds of signaling. But now I feel like I I'm like enjoying playing with my gender expression more. So that's just been another fun way that during the night yeah, I don't know. It's fun like using clothing and also using piercings to like highlight parts of my body that maybe feel more androgynous or that feel more like mask aligned or things of that nature

1:37:11

Yeah, I feel like my relationship to clothing has become a lot more fluid. And also about like, less decision making. That's also been helping me feel a lot freer.

Olivia N 1:37:31

So have any forms of art, like photography paintings, like film, theater, zine sculpture helped you with your lesbianism? And since you're also a writer, you can talk about the creative process and you can talk about art making as well as the consumption of art you can talk about both

1:38:07

well I feel like I'm

1:38:12

that maybe this goes back to the theory question too. But definitely like, like reading poetry and also like reading essays has really just helped me give like words and visions and and just like to give like a concreteness I think to a lot of feelings around lesbianism that I've always had. Um yeah, like I definitely grew up reading like a lot of like Audrey Lorde and like Adrienne Rich and like, like their letters to each other and things like that. Um

1:39:04

yeah, um I feel like

1:39:13

with media I don't know it's kind of it's kind of a difficult question. I feel like outside of like,

1:39:24

like some of the people I just named like, I have had a difficult time seeing myself in lesbian media or like seeing myself yeah, just seeing myself reflected

Olivia N 1:39:49

Why do you feel that way?

1:39:55

Well, I think like I think just like, um,

1:40:04

a lot of popular lesbian media, or at least a lot of like what I grew up watching. And a lot of unfortunately, what I have seen is still like, very white very femme or it's like historical. In a way this doesn't resonate. I honestly feel like only Okay, well, no, I, there's a couple that I Okay, I remember now there's like a couple movies. But like, aside from like, the Watermelon Woman, and the incredibly true adventure to girl some love. Like growing up, I just never really felt represented in anything lesbian related. Maybe that's why it took me so long to like, come into this idea, or part of why it took me so long to come into this identity.

1:41:06

Yeah, because it feels like I don't know, there's never a middle ground. It's like either, like so specific, or it's, it feels like cycling through like narratives of lesbianism that I don't know, we can't get away from like the hypersexual lesbian or like, or like lesbians that can't touch each other. And like historical lesbians, I don't know. Yeah, talk about

Olivia N 1:41:37

your art making process as a writer.

1:41:43

Like specifically making like sapphic doesn't have to be making Safak or you're

Olivia N 1:41:47

a lesbian. So we can talk more about isn't have to be even like the actualization of your lesbian identity. But you could just talk about like, the art making process in general, and maybe how that's helping you feel more grounded in yourself and in your body, in your work and in your thoughts. It'd be like writing is freedom, or you can talk about or you've talked about, like, lesbian or queer things that you do write or have written or why you did that. I just know that you did that. But that's not necessarily what I was going for. But you could talk about okay, I just want to know, because you're a writer. Yeah, that was one of the things that you claimed as part of yourself.

1:42:26

Yeah. Yeah. Well

1:42:38

Well, I think something

1:42:39

like that. I'm also honestly still learning but like, writing I feel like it like helps me create time. For myself, like,

1:42:57

I feel like

1:43:00

I feel like with each piece I'm able to like

1:43:07

like, create and like carve out a pocket of, of just like time for myself, because I feel like, just the time to like, sit with things and like the time to, like journal and like, I don't know, just but really mainly time to like, sit with something. And I guess I would say that's probably the most important part of my process, because my process is really like, I'm kind of writing all the time. Like, I don't really. I don't really sit down and I'm like, I write this today. And I write that tomorrow, I did this, then then I sort of have to

approach it. Like I'm constantly like, it's, it's constantly on my mind. And it's like, I'm never taking a break from it. I don't know if that makes any sense. But

Olivia N 1:44:01

yeah, project is that I really am trying to get people to not feel like the words that they are saying have to make sense. Or that you have to come to a definitive answer, or that you have to say something that is the most understandable to the majority of people. Because it really doesn't. I don't care if no one understands what you said, yeah, it doesn't matter. Honestly. So you don't have to feel like you have the pressure to explain in a way that feels the most palatable or like the most whoever you think is the most understanding because it's gonna like people who get it will get it and then people who won't Well, and that's really all that matters.

1:44:47

Yeah. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:44:51

So you approach writing is like a constant act that you're always thinking about and always doing and it feels like a necessity and not a burden. It's just something that like naturally happens.

1:44:59

Yeah, well, it Um, I wouldn't say, I don't know if I would say it's like it feels that naturally happens. Because it is definitely a constant, like a conscious choice that I have to do it constantly. Um, yeah, but it just feels like, it feels like it's the only lens, I have to really understand anything. And so in that sense, like, it just feels inherent to me like it is constantly happening, because there's no other way I can really like process things. Yeah, so I'm constantly like, my memos are bad or whatever.

Olivia N 1:45:45

So now we're gonna get to this section talking about community. So how does race inform your interactions with the lesbian community? As a black lesbian? And do you have an understanding of how race impacts your gender? You don't have to, but like the first you can talk about your interactions with race. Right? And other lesbians. Yeah, a race and your lesbian community?

1:46:19

Well, I feel like in my immediate lesbian community. I do know like a lot of black lesbians are like partially black lesbians. And that's been very intentional, and honestly, like, sometimes difficult to cultivate. But I feel like sometimes like black lesbian culture feels very separate to like the rest of the lesbian community. Yeah, like, I feel like you know, ideas of attractiveness are very different to like black and non black lesbians, or maybe you can say that to other lesbian groups about what's been groups.

1:47:19

But yeah, like understandings of attraction is one but also

1:47:29

how do I phrase that? I guess just like contextual, like cultural context, as well. It just feels like, you know, I can't just like go out as a black lesbian, it's like, okay, it's like, what are the options? You have to like, survey who's there you have to like, maybe, or maybe change your expectations as to like, which queer events and like communities you can join. It feels like like, let's say if I want to be in a black queer space, it's like, either I have to create it or feel comfortable with. I don't know, like, not finding that. But it never feels like limiting. I don't want it to seem like that's what I'm saying. But yeah, it does just take a lot of extra effort to find black queer community. And that's all I can speak for.

Olivia N 1:48:42

How are you finding these black queer people or black lesbians? How did you find each other? Yeah, pretend I don't actually know you. Okay, definitely. Like pretend I'm not ancillary to the

1:48:54

right. Honestly, I feel like a lot of dating outs. You find people on old dates who have become friends. Lax is I feel like I've definitely met quite a few people off of legs. But also just like Instagram, and then like, friends of friends. I feel like if you if you meet like one black lesbian, then you do eventually I feel like you get to know everyone. Yeah, but but I would say, do your other people or dating apps? For sure. Then I guess it's like, what even is the definition of a dating app?

Olivia N 1:49:45

Yeah, we'll talk about legs. Yeah, yeah. Um, so how does your mental health affects your own lesbianism and your interactions with the lesbian community

1:50:01

Um,

1:50:04

I honestly feel like it limits me. And I'm just saying that just because like a lot of my mental health issues do revolve around like, some pretty bad social anxiety. So sometimes I feel like there isn't always space for, for lesbians to gather that isn't like, like a club or for like,

1:50:32

some sort of larger event Yeah, so in that sense, I feel just separate from a lot of like, the resources and establishments that are already that already exists for our community.

1:50:55

It just feels like I'm, like my own barrier. Um yeah. Which is, you would think, because I feel like the queer community is very, like not accepting, but I guess like, I guess pretty woke about a lot of like, mental health struggles, but like, you know what I mean, you know what I mean? It's like, at least it's been in conversation. Yeah. Yeah. For decades. Yeah. Um, but that being said, I still feel like there's not a lot of like resources or collectives or, or events that may recognize like, different levels of like, emotional, like mental accessibility. Yeah.

Olivia N 1:51:50

Do you feel like your lesbian community accommodates you?

1:51:56

Yeah, yeah. I feel. Yeah, yeah. My specific friends. Yeah, I feel like, I feel like they do. I feel like, um, it is constantly a conversation and there is like, action.

Olivia N 1:52:10

What kind of actions would you say? Like, make your lesbian spaces more accessible? Or lesbian spaces where they accommodate to your needs and other people's needs? Like what has happened?

1:52:32

Well, I think like, um,

1:52:39

I guess like, in terms of like, what has literally happened, it's just been a lot of conversation, like a lot of like, open conversations. Skin, I'm coming from like, like, a social anxious, like, sure.

Olivia N 1:52:49

open about what, like,

1:52:52

I guess about like, my needs. And just like, what, like, like, the extent in which I can, like participate in the social event versus like, if we need to, like scale down, but guess or are also just like, you know, like, making a lot making time for like, one on one hangs, like, quality time and like, less. What's the word? I guess? Like, like strenuous or activities, or like low impact activities? Um yeah, but just being able to, like, have these conversations were like, yeah, it's just something I really I value and I don't take lightly.

Olivia N 1:53:56

How does class impact how you view lesbian community? We're in New York City.

1:54:05

Right. So that's Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

1:54:21

Well, I think

1:54:35

Sorry, I'm trying to figure out how to like, say, can you actually come back to this question? Sure.

Olivia N 1:54:42

So how does your gender identity inform your interactions with lesbian community? Can you talk a little bit about your gender identity journey? And if you ever feel any exclusion from specific lesbian spaces

1:54:58

um, I'm also in terms of like, my own relationship to my gender identity. I am very much still on the journey. I feel like this is a more recent thing for me like, like even the inclusion of a them pronouns and just understanding like, my own relationship to like masculinity and femininity, and, and neither and sometimes I feel like the only vocabulary I have is being a lesbian, for how to describe like my relationship to gender.

1:55:46

Because I feel like

1:55:52

I guess I feel like lesbian can be for a lot of people. It can define like a space beside womanhood or like, yeah, I guess beside is maybe the right word. I feel like it's the only word I have that like describes my relationship to how I'm perceived as well.

1:56:29

Yeah.

1:56:34

Yeah, like if I were to, I do define my gender. Also as being a lesbian. I don't know how else to really describe it. Maybe sometimes, I guess. I feel like I don't have a gender. I don't know. Don't quote me on that. You can but like, don't quote me. No.

Olivia N 1:56:55

I'm figuring it out.

1:56:59

Yeah, yeah. Yeah, that's, that's, that's what feels the best.

1:57:09

I also feel like um,

1:57:14

I do really feel at home like figuring out my gender within the lesbian community just I feel like historically, there has always been space for just like these gray areas of expression

1:57:38

Yeah.

Olivia N 1:57:44

So we're gonna go back to the question about class. So how do you think class informs your interactions with lesbian community? Or do you still want to go back to that a little bit later?

1:57:57

Then we can talk about it. Um

1:58:05

so that's honestly the interesting question. Um, one of the first things really made me think of was like I guess like, lesbian accessibility to like family. Like, and not like your immediate family, but like, creating a family. Um, I feel like the times where like, I have specifically like, notice class differences amongst lesbians has been like, I don't know, like lesbian, like parents and like, the art world and like, things like that. Or, or, or, or even like, lesbian homeschooler parents. Yeah, I guess like I don't immediately not immediate, immediate, it's not the right word. I don't know if I noticed, like, major differences in class impacting lesbianism like,

Olivia N 1:59:11

oh, it's gonna be impacting your organism. So like, we're more loving community.

1:59:17

Okay. Like, how

Olivia N 1:59:18

does class inform your interactions with with lesbian community be like in the city? Like, does it and

1:59:24

oh, like my, okay, okay, okay. Oh, oh, okay. Oh, did I Okay, okay. Yeah, um, oh, well, then that's,

Olivia N 1:59:38

like all these questions are about right interactions with Right, right.

1:59:41

Okay, okay. Yes, I need to refer sorry.

Olivia N 1:59:48

You've been talking? Great.

1:59:50

Okay. Okay. Um,

1:59:55

okay, well then I guess like for my specific The relationship with class I do feel like sometimes I don't always have access to like different events or different clubs or, um Yeah, yeah. Yeah, I guess I would say mainly different events that like, I feel could introduce me to other aspects of the lesbian community or just like new people. Um, like, I don't know, like movie screenings, like different signings or different like, gallery openings. Well, I guess gallery opened for me but different. Yeah, yeah, exactly. Emanating. Exactly, exactly. Um, yeah, or just feeling like sometimes I feel like to be gay, I have to, like, have a degree in being gay. Like, it's, it feels like they're so those be like, a knowledge barrier, like, and I and that also relates to just like my accessibility to education and and theory and things like that. And

then also, just like, oh, like, I can't afford the cover for this club, so I can't be around other lesbians today. Like things like that, too. Yeah. Yeah, also, I'm sorry. Okay. Like just like

Olivia N 2:01:38

legs akimbo. Like no class

2:01:45

and then also just like, I guess on even on smaller level, like the price of drinks like sometimes it feels like that can keep me from like, meeting new members of my community. Yeah.

Olivia N 2:02:04

So let's talk about Lex. What do you do on Lex?

2:02:07

Um, I'm mainly I, I've done a couple things. Blacks, I guess. I've found dates off of blacks. But I've also I guess I like to use it as kind of like a gay Facebook marketplace. Um, I almost bought a bike off of lax once but, and I do also use it like, I feel like whenever I need attention, then I'll go straight to LAX. I will. Can I ask what do you use Lex for?

2:02:48

Yeah, you can ask. Okay.

2:02:52

So, um,

Olivia N 2:02:53

what do I use Lex for? Honestly, I just like reading what people are posting. People are really warning. So warning. So I read all the videos. And yeah, like reading about

2:03:03

the

Olivia N 2:03:05

the bush top shortage.

2:03:08

Yeah. The map top

Olivia N 2:03:10

shortage. And like reading about that. I like reading. I learned about different community events online. But I go to a, I meet people in certain specific subcultures and comedies on legs that I get involved with. So I would say I use Lex not necessarily today. Yeah, I don't really date. But I did date. I guess you could use legs. Yeah. I just feel like I don't know. I feel like I feel like that's what I use legs for.

2:03:46

Yeah,

Olivia N 2:03:47

I don't I don't date on legs. But that's not because I haven't tried. It's just because I don't know. It's like yeah, it is hard. It is my favorite thing is to get off of legs. Yeah, I'm like, you can just DM me. Yeah. I'm like, we can do it here. Ya know, right. Just like read someone's feral post. And I'm like, yeah. You want to get your holes destroyed by like, a DOM, like a DOM top. And you're in your hole is open right now and Clinton Hill.

2:04:22

I mean, it's always

Olivia N 2:04:25

said yeah. Anyway, yeah. Like, I want to make federal posts. I made one post.

2:04:37

But yeah, you have to you have to. I was like, no, no.

Olivia N 2:04:41

That's the thing about all the kids in my age range. Also live within the miles around me and they're all my friends. And I'm like this. clicked on it. Because you probably saw it and we're like, no password. respond to this one. Yeah. Because what you have to do is you have to, like, share a real piece of yourself.

2:05:09

Yeah. No, you do. That's so true. Yeah. And the worst part

Olivia N 2:05:13

is, is that the worst? Yeah. The worst part is, is that you're also sharing this piece of yourself with like, several of your acquaintances. And I'm like, Oh, wow. Now, you know, this really specific knowledge about how I like to get fucked. I don't know anything about you. Be like that once. You know, this really specific thing? And I'm like, Oh, so that's like, when I'd be hesitant about like, posting online? Yeah. Every day, every day, every lesson in New York City. Yeah, literally. Just literally, you have to be careful. Because like, you don't want to put your put your face on it because you don't know who you look like. Right, right. But you don't have to look Instagram. Let's say you did. But like, your boss could see it like your co worker. Yeah. It's like this understanding. Just like I was like, if you saw me. No, you didn't. Yeah. Like, it doesn't matter. I was like, Yeah, we're all struggling. It's hard out here. I'm gonna go to your next post. Yes.

2:06:23

Okay. I've deleted I have

Olivia N 2:06:28

Yeah, I make Aquaman Maya and s. s have done most of my expose. Yeah, and I like close the app and like cry and scream and like threw up and oh my god, like s recently made a post for me. On bare legs. Oh, looking for my bestie

2:06:56

okay, yes, please.

Olivia N 2:06:58

But yeah. Anyway. What was your first visit to a lesbian related place or event? Like?

2:07:09

Um,

2:07:12

I guess it would be like pride.

Olivia N 2:07:15

You okay? Yeah. My ear just hurt. Oh, I'm good. My nose piercing like the canine you follow? And so like, yeah, yeah, yeah, no, you mean?

2:07:25

Um, yeah. Yeah, I guess it would be like pride. Like, like, 2013 I want to say lesbians at Pride. Yeah, I did. Yeah, that's okay. It's okay. Sorry. I did find some lesbians. I've tried. Um, yeah, I just I'm sure let me remember. I remember just being very much like, well, that's I think at that point, I was like, Oh, I'm an ally would like whatever. But yeah, I mean, I feel like at that point, I thought of like being clear is like, Oh, it's a party and I feel like going to like Philly pride in like 2013 Definitely. Just reinforced that idea. I don't know if I really learned from that. Um, but it was positive. And it was cool to like just to see like regular lesbians like especially where I grew up because you know, it's the sense of like, oh my god like all these people came out of the woodwork like where have y'all been? Yeah, exactly on the street. Yeah. Like one day you're just here like tits out

2:08:52

yeah

2:08:55

yeah

Olivia N 2:08:57

like go back to work Yeah, so what was your first lesbian event or place in the city

2:09:09

huh

Olivia N 2:09:14

oh we're gonna be like established to be like yeah, friends in the living room. We can do an establishment to like they're like both all of those count like yeah, your understanding of community and what it means to you.

2:09:26

Oh, well, I I guess my first establishment is probably going to like Henrietta's but on like a Sunday. On a Sunday. It was very dry. Very white. Lots of men, you know, like, yeah

2:09:49

yeah, um, but then I'm like, non established like, just like me and my friends. We thrown a couple like lesbian parties, things like that. I don't this I mean, like, it feels gay, so I'm gonna say it but like all those trips we've taken upstate, that feels like, like a lesbian meditation retreat, honestly. Yeah, that'd be the first in the city.

Olivia N 2:10:22

What was it like when you guys were planning your first lesbian party? Like, why did you get throwing it? Why did you end up posting it in the first? Yeah.

2:10:31

Um, well, we just felt like

2:10:39

we just, I don't know, we just wanted a space where like, it was just like only lesbians. Like, we just felt like we had an experience that really like other parties or clubbing, especially, like, creating space for lesbians of color. Um, so we and you know, we had like a great apartment for hosting so we were just like, we like realistically we know more lesbians and like anyone so why not just get everyone together and and just have everyone meet and throw something. So I guess it was just a desire to like create the space that we like desperately wanted, but just couldn't find anywhere else.

Olivia N 2:11:27

So, what does lesbian community mean to you?

2:11:37

Well, it means it means everything to me honestly. It means safety. It means like, like a nonverbal understanding

2:12:01

also, like literally I think of lesbian community and I think of my best friends.

2:12:08

It also like,

2:12:11

like, I think a lesbian community and I think of what feels like my second life which I'm now living or like my first life that's really mine

Olivia N 2:12:34

What does identifying as a lesbian mean to you?

2:12:43

Well,

2:12:46

it means honestly, so many I still I say this all the time, but I feel like being a lesbian, like yes, a sexual identity. It's like a political identity. It's a philosophy. It's like, I feel like it affects every single decision I make. I feel like like being a lesbian being sapphic is the lens in which I see literally everything and anything like if I can relate it to being gay, I will. Yeah, like

2:13:32

it's just like, I'm just like smiling, just thinking about it. No, but it really it really does feel like an all encompassing. Identity. It feels like every part of myself that I felt like hasn't fit in somewhere else. It feels like it fits in with like lesbianism. Yeah, it really does influence. Like who I bring into my life, like literally every outfit I put on influences like the music I listen to the stuff I read the stuff I watch. It influences like how my relationship to my family has changed our relationship to my brothers. Yeah. It means everything.

2:14:29

So

Olivia N 2:14:31

what lesbian spaces do you wish existed

2:14:43

um

2:14:48

I wish there was like, a greater space and emphasis for like disabled lesbians. Like fizzle but also like neurotypical and like every neuro divergent

2:15:09

also, like

2:15:15

I don't know I'm always saying I want more space for like mass for maths. That's just me. I mean, that community exists, but I want to see more. Like it's not very big. I feel like it is a no Why do you know yeah

Olivia N 2:15:41

so you like so your mask?

2:15:46

I mean,

2:15:47

I guess okay, I guess. I guess like, no, no, like, I don't know if I identify as mass. Yeah, but but, but at the same time, I'm definitely

2:16:00

maths. Yeah, yeah

2:16:13

oh, I also feel like this is just for like the larger like the queer community in general, but also for lesbians. I wish there was more space for like, like sober. lesbians. I'm not sober. But sometimes I wish I were to space. Yeah. Yeah. Come

Olivia N 2:16:37

on. You should come to our movie nights. Oh, I would love to S ME. to people that are lesbians that you probably don't know. Okay. We watched Happy Feet. A couple weeks ago.

2:16:51

Oh my god. I would love to know. Okay. Yeah,

Olivia N 2:16:56

I mean, we're not like drinking. Like, wine. But yeah, not like, people aren't drunk. Right? Right. We're watching happy

2:17:09

watching. But yeah, wow. Yeah, I would love to let me know.

Olivia N 2:17:14

Yes. Yes. Yes. So we're spaces for lesbian spaces for disabled lesbians. Mask for masks spaces. Sober spaces. Is that like when are you happiest?

Olivia N 2:17:37

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

2:17:41

Um Well, I'm happiest.

2:17:51

Like, honestly, with my friends. I feel like I'm like, like, I put on a little outfit and I like walk into the living room and I feel like okay, and then like my friends are there and and like things like that are alright, yeah, whenever I get to like, share being a lesbian really

2:18:27

Yeah, I'm happiest

2:18:35

Yeah, it's just like, I don't know. It's just like, the small things that like a firm queerness like which can literally be like an outfit but also just like a glance with a friend and like movie nights.

2:18:56

Um

Olivia N 2:19:00

yeah, but whenever I feel like seeing with my friends, I think is there anything else you want to talk about before we stopped?

2:19:14

Um

2:19:20

I don't know. I

2:19:21

think that's good.

Olivia N 2:19:22

I think I'm good. Okay. Well, thank you.