

[Video: Laura\_Love\_Audio.WAV]

[00:00:00] [Beginning of video recording]

MORGAN: Okay, that's going.

LOVE: Well, I should have moved my cars.

MORGAN: Oh, that's all right. We're here. [Laughter]

LOVE: We're here. We're here. We're queer, get used to it!

MORGAN: We're here. Yeah, exactly. All right. So, just a little overview of what to expect over the next hour. We're talking about your experience at the University of Washington with the Women Studies department, and how you see feminism in your life now, and everything that you've done since your time at the University of Washington. Yeah, that's what we're gonna focus on.

LOVE: Okay.

MORGAN: Do you have any questions before we get started?

LOVE: Not really.

[00:00:44]

MORGAN: Okay sounds good. So, I'll just, I'll get started. My name is Amanda Morgan. I'm here with Laura Love on Zoom. I'm in Renton and you're in Port, excuse me, Port

Lud...wig...

Port Ludlow?

LOVE: Port Ludlow!

MORGAN: Port Ludlow, that's correct, okay. And today is...

LOVE: Place named after some dude.

MORGAN: Some what?

LOVE: A place named after some dude.

MORGAN: Oh. [laughter]

LOVE: Some guy.

[00:01:16]

MORGAN: Some guy out in... it looks like you're on a farm?

LOVE: Yeah, this is where I'm living now. Yeah, this is a little acreage that I have out here and I'm just starting to sort of get my, my gardening on. As you can see a girl's best friend is her tractor.

MORGAN: Yeah.

LOVE: And the other best friend is her little barn, but the most bestest friend is her cat and my cat just left. So, maybe she'll make a special guest cameo appearance later.

[00:01:55]

MORGAN: What's your cat's name?

LOVE: Princess.

MORGAN: Princess fitting. I have two dogs.

LOVE: Yes she came with that, I didn't, I didn't name her that.

MORGAN: Oh okay. [Laughter]

LOVE: I didn't name her ... [indiscernible] [laughter]

MORGAN: I have two dogs but they're napping. They might go through the background; you might see them.

LOVE: Sure. What sort of dogs do you have?

MORGAN: I have a golden retriever. Her name's Penny. She's 11. She's just right down below me here. And then, I don't know if you... That's Oki. He's on the couch there.

LOVE: I had a cat named Oki!

MORGAN: Yeah. He's a golden retriever... dachshund mix.

LOVE: Yeah, oh, oh good.

LOVE: I have a golden retriever in my life as well.

MORGAN: Yeah, they're good dogs.

LOVE: Yeah they are.

[00:02:40]

MORGAN: So we have it on camera. Do I have your consent to be recorded?

LOVE: [nods]

MORGAN: Great.

LOVE: Yes you do.

MORGAN: And I did get your signed docuSign. I was a little concerned because I haven't set that up before. I've always been the one who's just signing things so I'm glad that it worked.

LOVE: Yeah, yeah, that it did.

[00:03:02]

MORGAN: So just to start, can you introduce yourself?

LOVE: Yes, my name is Laura Love, and I am a singer-songwriter, musician, book type author. And I come from Lincoln, Nebraska. And in 1987, I began to take a series of women's studies courses at the University of Washington that changed, that raised my consciousness and my conscience, and saved my life.

MORGAN: Oh I love that. I definitely can relate to that. I feel like the University of Washington is like opening doors not only career wise but also like mentally as well... just like opening your eyes to so many different things.

LOVE: Absolutely.

[00:03:52]

MORGAN: What pronouns do you use?

LOVE: She... her.

[00:03:59]

MORGAN: Great. And so you mentioned you were born in Nebraska. What was your childhood like?

LOVE: It was horrific. My mother was a paranoid schizophrenic, and she was in and out of mental institutions my whole childhood. So my sister Lisa and I were in and out of foster homes, and just neighbors would take us for a little while, while our mother was in an institution. When I was six and a half years old, she hung herself in front of me and my sister. And we were somehow, we lived in a basement apartment that was just overrun by cockroaches and waterbugs... these great big [ick sound]. Anyway, so my mother hung herself in front of us, and we screamed so loudly, and we were up on the chair trying to get her down from there. And we screamed so loud that the woman who lived upstairs who was our landlord came rushing downstairs, and she was a childcare-giver and she happened to be having – it was a Sunday – she happened to be having an open house for the parents of her charges. So they all came running down and there was mom hanging and my sister and I were trying to get her down. And so that was... those types of catastrophes punctuated my childhood. And also, I'm African American. I'm a light-skinned black woman. And so my experiences, and my sister was several shades darker than I am, and she, although we had the same mother and father, and so we were, there were times when we were going to all white Catholic schools, and then we were, you know, just called n\*\*\*\* every single day, and then my mother was having a breakdown of sorts and then she moved us from Lincoln, Nebraska, to Omaha, Nebraska, 60 miles away, and, and sold it to us by saying, and it was because we were being thrown out of some living situation for non-payments. And so she said that we would be in the

black community, and that we would have, we wouldn't be called n\*\*\*\*\* anymore. And so we got there the first day, the kids started calling me honky, and saying that I thought I was cute and that I talked funny and I walked funny and then they started just to beat the holy crap out of me. Until my mom just said you don't have to go anymore Okay, you know so we just stopped going to school the fourth grade...

MORGAN: In the fourth grade. That sounds really hard.

LOVE: Ended up going back.

MORGAN: Yeah, that sounds really hard.

LOVE: Yeah, it was tough. It was tough. It was tough. But it kind of solidified my notions that, and my deeply held beliefs that kindness and cruelty are something that all races and genders are capable of. And in the most dire circumstances, black people and white people helped me and us out. And so I came to realize that it wasn't race-based. [laughter] And that white people are capable of tremendous kindness and cruelty and as are black people. And it wasn't endemic to either nationality, it didn't have anything to do with skin color, is what I'm trying to say.

MORGAN: Racism is learned, not inherent.

LOVE: Yeah!

MORGAN: So you-

LOVE: That's what I was trying to say!

MORGAN: [Laughter] Yeah. Just summarizing.

LOVE: I like what you said right there, that was good.

MORGAN: That's what I'm hearing. [Laughter]

[00:08:55]

MORGAN: Oh, so you were born in 1960, right?

LOVE: Yes, I was.

MORGAN: What was... because that was in the midst of the civil rights movement. So maybe I want to know what your perspective was on the big social and political events during your childhood?

LOVE: Well, they really came to the fore for me. There were some things that were happening when I was in the fourth grade, nine years old. That was when things, you know, 1969, '68, '69, third, fourth grade, started to become obvious to me that something was going on. And I just have the teeniest, tiniest glimmer of a memory of what it was like when Kennedy was shot, John Kennedy was shot. Tiny, tiny, tiny. But by '68, '69, things were, the civil rights movement was in pretty full swing. And I remember at the all white Catholic Church school that we went to, St. Teresa's, I remember them trying to get more inclusive in a way. And so they started, that was kind of around the time when the masses started going from being Latin to being English. And I just remember them changing the lyrics to songs that... I remember there was a song called, [sings] "whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers that you do unto me." And then they cite all these examples like [sings] "when I was poor and broken and..." hungry or something, [melody] and they changed it... changed the words one day and called it good. They changed it, so they changed it to, [sings] "when I was Negro or Chinese or White." What was up?! I was starting to realize a lot of, there seemed to be some sort of movement and wording changes, you know, and then when we moved to Omaha, Nebraska, one of the first things I saw was on North 24th Street, which is a black neighborhood of Omaha's, still is and was then, I saw this race, race, not riot really, but just there were like the whole ghetto, Omaha ghetto had been burned down.

MORGAN: Oh wow.

LOVE: Just you know very, very recently from when we arrived, and I remember seeing black folks in the streets, and they had like a dumpster or something they were burning trash in

the streets, and they were just screaming they were just like you know, you know, just you know “ain't no power like power to people cuz power to people don't stop” you know, that kind of stuff, and they're just like you know, and it was just you know, “What do we want? Freedom! When do we want it? Now!” kind of stuff, you know. And I was like, wow, somethings happening here... And I just, I started, and I remember my mother always from the first moments of saying stuff like, when we would go into this grocery store, she would say, you know, and kids, you know, how they pick out, you know, little things off the aisles, you know, in the stores that they want. And she'd say, “you put that down. These honkies are gonna kill you. These honkies will throw you in jail.” And I was just like, dang, that was pretty global for a little fondling of a balloon. You know? And then I remember my mother going to work at this place called, in Omaha, called CCC, and it stood for Components, Concepts, Corporation. What the hell does that mean? Anyway so, she went to work one morning while we were, my sister and I were staying home from school because it was, you know, fourth grade and I didn't have to go anymore because I was all beat up. And a bomb went off. And like this little homemade bomb went off and she came home and she said, well I don't have a job anymore. And so it was just that whole, it was a tinderbox. And then there was a little girl in our neighborhood, a 14 year old girl, and she had been walking home from the grocery store on North 24th, and she was walking through a vacant lot, and at the same time the Omaha police were looking for a suspect who had robbed, you know, robbed, had taken such shoplifting, I think it was, at the store. And I remember the white police officers just, you know, very close to where I live, shot and killed this 14-year-old girl, dead, and said that they thought she was the suspect, the great big black man who had robbed this store. And that just blew up the neighborhood. And so there were all kinds of things happening that let me know that these weren't ordinary times. And also just seeing the difference between how my sister was treated and how I was treated. You know, my sister who eventually killed herself, seven years ago.

MORGAN: I'm sorry to hear that.

LOVE: Just racism got to her.

MORGAN: I'm sorry to hear that.

LOVE: Yeah, it's been a rich and storied life, sometimes very sad, and punctuated by incredible moments of joy and wonder and just incredulity that I'm still here.

[00:15:57]

MORGAN: Yeah, so all of that... do you... was that the motivation that brought you to the West Coast, or how did you get over this way?

LOVE: No, no. At the time, I had these notions that I was a heterosexual...

MORGAN: [Laughter]

LOVE: ... and I was in love with a guitar player named LeRoy, and he... at the time I was going to school at the University of Nebraska, and getting straight A's and just thinking I was all that and a tuna fish sandwich. He - turns out - he was gonna move to Portland. He was a jazz guitar player. Jazz guitarist and I said, oh great, when are we going? And he was like, and I, we got all the way to Portland before I really realized that he really wasn't asking me to go with him.

MORGAN: Oh no.

LOVE: He was quite a few years older than I was. And so, so that's how I moved out here; for love, and I stayed for the women.

MORGAN: [Laughter] I mean relatable.

LOVE: Stave to Mock, Stave to Rock.

[00:17:09]



MORGAN: And you, were you already involved in, you... I mean he was in, a guitarist in a band. Were you already doing music as well?

LOVE: Yeah, I had recently met my father. My mother had raised us with, and told the story that our father, that she and our father had been married as, you know, made sense to me, and that he had died in a car accident when we were infants. And so when I was 16 years old, by this time my sister and I were on our own living in our own apartment. She was a year old or so, 16, 17, living in our own apartment because she was going off the deep end, and we didn't want to at that point go to foster homes anymore. So we were looking for a movie to go to and or some kind of entertainment. And on a weekend, we said, we came across the Lincoln Journal and Star, a story in the entertainment section about how our father, how Preston Love, our father, had returned to Omaha and was playing a gig and he had been living in Los Angeles for a number of years. We were like, now that seems incongruent with being dead. And so we went to the gig and I met him at 16. And so my mother had been a singer in his band years and years earlier, and he had also played with Count Basie. He was kind of a big deal jazz guy at the time and then he went up to Motown when Motown moved from Detroit to LA and he was the musical director there in the 70s. So anyway, so there's a lot of music there. You know, my mother and my father had this musical collection. And then when I met him in 1976 at the zoo bar in Lincoln, Nebraska. He said, ah, you know, he just acted like, oh, great, great, great to see you. And wasn't all that shocked that a child of his could just walk up to him and say, "hey, you're my daddy." And it was a totally unique experience for me, but fairly common for him. So he said, "oh great, you know, hey, you want to sit in? You know, I'm sure you get your cover charged back. You want to sit in?" I'm like, "okay, Dad," and so I sang. And I just remember him saying, "yeah, you can be a singer." And so then, you know, and that, you know, around the same time I was meeting that guitar player that I was crazy about LeRoy. And so that's really how I got started singing.

MORGAN: What um...

LOVE: To make a long story.

[00:20:07]

MORGAN: [Laughter] I know I looked at some of the other interviews that you've done that are online, and yeah you've done a lot with music. It's really impressive. There was something that mentioned an all women's band in Seattle or in the Pacific Northwest. I'm not sure if it was Seattle or Portland. Can you talk about that?

LOVE: Yeah, Venus Envy.

MORGAN: Yeah.

LOVE: Venus Envy was the name of that band. And yeah, it was Lisa Koch, sometimes Peggy, Flat, dearly departed comedian. Oh, gosh, Linda Sievert and Alinda Sherman. So the four of us, you know, they used to call us the Lesbian Beatles.

MORGAN: [Laughter] I love that.

LOVE: I want to be Ringo!

[00:21:03]

MORGAN: Love that. Was that when you were in the band with them, was that before or after your time at UW... or during?

LOVE: Well, the reason that I even formed that band was because of my time at the University of Washington. I began just to take women's studies classes and I had these wonderful teachers. One of them, there was Shirley Yee. She was just a wonderful professor and then there was a woman named Sue Ellen Jacobs, and they really shaped my... I mean, my understanding of gender, ideology, sex, feminism, just all kinds of isms that I knew somehow on a visceral level that these things were taking place, but everything they said just blew my effin mind, and I just couldn't even understand how I had walked around all my life not ever hearing anyone talk about these things and, and really zero in on the

reasons why and how they shape our lives and the way that women, that women are, the trajectory of women's lives is often really determined before our birth and, and you know like Title IX came to, Title IX which was, which is the, I don't know was it a constitutional amendment? I don't know. But anyhow, it was a big deal. It was 1972.

NOTE: Love was on her phone for the interview and moving her phone around at this point.

[00:22:56]

LOVE: And I'm sorry, [indiscernible noise]

MORGAN: [Laughter] It's okay.

LOVE: I'm really sorry about that. I'll try to be more consistent with my inconsistency. But I remember Title IX was saying that girls had the right to be involved in sports and everything that boys did. And I didn't know that before that, there, in a lot of junior highs and high schools, there was no such thing as girl sports. And so anyway, so the Women Studies classes, I, well, let me let me go back a little bit further. When I was at the University of Nebraska in 1978 to 80, I was going on a BEOG, Basic Educational Opportunity Grant that was the brainchild of Jimmy Carter. And I loved that. And it basically said, you know, keep your grades up, and you can go to school, go to college even if you don't have any money. So you know so I was you know sporting a 4.0 and mighty proud because I didn't think I was ever gonna even be able to go to college. And then after that, and I followed LeRoy out to Portland, Oregon, and I thought that I would just be able to start school again. Well, that was years later during the Reagan administration, and there wasn't any BEOD nothing. And so then I started growing marijuana, and that allowed me to fulfill my promise to my high school English teacher that I would get a college degree. And so then I went to the University of Washington, and decided I was going to, you know, have a major in Psychology and sort of a minor in Women Studies. And that's, and I was at, you know, I've been sort of dabbling in various garage bands where I was, you know, the chick singer or I was, you know, just not

writing my own music. And I just remember having my mind blown and rocked so hard by the information that I got from these Women Studies classes that I... quit. I was in a sort of a dude-centric band called Boom Boom GI at the time. And I quit that band, and I formed my own band, and that was Venus Envy. And it just whipped me around that whole, the things that I learned about gender politics, feminism, sex, misogyny and then they informed me to this day, I took African American studies, I took women's studies, psychology classes, and that's what college is for, I think, is to teach you stuff you don't know and you ought to know.

MORGAN: I agree.

LOVE: So that, yeah.

[00:26:32]

MORGAN: Did you end up majoring in psychology or was it gender... Women Studies?

LOVE: Yeah, I got a degree, I got a degree in psychology for what that's worth. I kind of started out there. Well, the reason I was interested in getting a degree in psychology was, you know, just to try to figure out why my mother was so crazy, and why was our childhood so messed up. And so, so I answered a lot of questions there too about the nature of mental illness, certain types of diagnoses. So, I just decided I was going to use all my pot money to... to learn stuff that I wanted, I wanted to learn. And so, yeah, that's what I've done, did.

[00:27:28]

MORGAN: I love that. What was your favorite class in the Women Studies classes that you took?

LOVE: I did a lot of them. I loved them all. There was one called Women, Words, Music. And I can't remember who taught that. Maybe it was Ken Clatterbough? No, it's because there was actually a man teaching a women studies class which I thought was interesting. I think it was a Sue Ellen Jacobs class. I can't remember because I just, once I liked these

people I took you know, all their classes kind of thing. Her class was called Women, Words, Music, and I thought, well, great. I like women. I like words. I like music. And the project that got you out of there was you had to either write a 10 page sort of, well, some sort of a 10 page something about what you'd learned in class or, you know, relevant to the class itself. Something, ten pages, or you could give a concert of your own original material. I think I'll just do the concert, you know. And so that was the cassette I put out called Menstrual Hut.

MORGAN: Amazing.

LOVE: And I didn't know there was such a thing as a menstrual hut until, until that class. And so I remember being very pleased that I put that out, and that I was able to not have to sit there and write 10 pages... single-space. And so I submitted that cassette to the Michigan Women's Music Festival, which I also learned about in that class, and they gave me a gig.

MORGAN: That's awesome.

LOVE: And that started it all.

MORGAN: That's so cool.

LOVE: That started it all.

[00:29:39]

MORGAN: So what is the Michigan Women's Music Festival? I don't know what that is. Can you tell me?

LOVE: Oh boy, oh that just breaks my heart that you don't know... [indiscernible]. No, it started out in I think 72, (hi kiki), started out I believe in 1972 a woman named Lisa Vogel wanted to have a space for women to spend a week out in the woods naked, and just celebrating womanhood. And so it lasted, let's see, it was, I believe it ended in... lets see... It was 2015, so nine years ago. It was mostly due to pressure from, sorry, from

trans activists... men who... declared that they were women, and wanted to be included in, able to attend. And the festival organizer, Lisa Vogel, was adamant that you had to have been born female, XX, which I agree, I agree with completely. And as a matter of fact, I'm just disheartened and dismayed by the... insults to women's sports that I feel unfair in particular having to have women, you know, women born female having to compete against biological males in sports. I'm adamantly opposed to that. And so, but that's basically one of the main things that ended Mich-Fest, which was just a transformative experience for women and girls, for me and everyone. And I just feel that it's unfair to... You know, I feel like it's one of the most egregious forms of misogyny... for women... born XX females who had a childhood, a girlhood, and now are being... And now are being raped in prisons by men who say they identify as women. And that's fine that they identify women. I have no problem with that. I don't have any problem with biological males wanting to dress however they want to dress, wanting to... Although I do feel that taking hormones for men or women is a dangerous thing. I just, synthetic hormones just, they're hard on your body, and I don't... I feel that the main problem with men, biological males and biological females feeling that they can't express themselves or be happy in life with... the hormones and the bodies they were born with, I think speaks more to the limitations we place on gender expression, on why can't men wear makeup and skirts? Why can't women wear suits? Why can't women... You know, it's like... The greater issue for me is that we are not allowed to express ourselves in ways other than the well-trodden path of femininity and masculinity. And that is the main issue as far as I'm concerned. So it broke my heart when the Michigan Women's Festival was sued by the ACLU I believe, and determined to be, what was it? It was like a hate organization or something like that. And it just, it just, you know, and the years prior, there had been trans activists, male to female, who had come into the shower facilities and, you know, were just, you know, walking around the whole block and tackle out there. And, you know, some of these, you know, these women, a lot of them, born, you know, in the 40s, 50s, and 60s, this was their refuge. This was their time to be, whether they were gay or

straight, to be, you know... among women. And there was an aggression. There was an aggression that was shown to the women. And you know, there were assaults, I've been assaulted by trans activists, men, who identify as women who screamed that I'm a TERF and kicked me and shoved me around. When I attended a talk that was being given by the Seattle Public Library that was being given by WoLF, which is a, do you, Women's Liberation Front. And, and, and I had, there were men there, men who identified as women who were screaming, "TERFs go home, die TERFs," which T-E-R-F, total, let's see, was it Totally Exclusionary Radical Feminist, I believe is what that stands for. And then, you know, and I had a sign, they were, it was very tense before there were police there, and I had a sign that I was carrying that said, "anatomy matters." And then the A-N-A-T-O-M-Y matters. And then the M-Y as in my anatomy matters. And I had that underlined and they surrounded me and started pushing me. You know, I wasn't chanting, I just was quietly holding that sign as I proceeded to the entrance to the event. And I was assaulted, and the police pulled me out of the crowd to save me, and ushered me into the library. The... women, the women born women were not represented in that group that was screaming, TERF go home and F-you, you know, TERFs. And I believe very strongly in women's spaces, women, XX women... There's my kitty. Who is also XX, by the way. I believe strongly that women, that the oppressed, it's up to the oppressed to define, and say who the oppressors are. And it feels like mansplaining when they scream at us that we're... that we're... Oh they talk about, what is it? The cotton... The cotton ceiling, which is that, you know, a lot of lesbians want to be dating lesbians, female lesbians. And that's fine. You know, whether they, you know, which I have no problem, you know, I have, I'm absolutely supportive of women, lesbians, you know, women born women who want to date men, women, trans identified men, trans identified women, whatever. I really have support and love and compassion for them. However, I feel pushed around when they define what womanhood is. And I think that's up to women to define what womanhood is. And I also feel like... it's important that we be the ones who say what womanhood is.

[00:41:22]

MORGAN: So all of that makes me think of intersectionality. And I'm wondering if, because that term didn't really come to be until, until the 80s, and I'm wondering if that was something that you saw at the University of Washington during your time there, or if that is something that got developed afterwards, especially like, around not only women's studies, but bringing in race, bringing in sexuality, bringing in all the other things that create intersectionality.

LOVE: Yeah. Well, yeah, I mean, I'm... All the sectionisms.

MORGAN: [Laughter]

LOVE: I mean, all the sexual, bisexual, intersectional, transectional, I did, I felt these were all civil rights issues, and discussions, and I'm open to having more of these discussions. Sorry, it's getting a little hot out here now.

MORGAN: That's okay.

LOVE: Oh, my hair. Oh my hair, oh my God.

MORGAN: [Laughter]

LOVE: So, I really... am a lover of all people and all types of people. I have friends that are right-wing, you know, don't agree with them, but certainly agree with their right to express themselves and vote however they like. I feel like intersectionality is a great word to describe the confluence of all of these disparate and, and, or even similar ideologies where something, some discussions need to happen. Some discussions need to happen. And I'm open to those discussions. And I believe in everyone's right to express themselves in the way that they feel most comfortable with. But that right to expression does not extend to, you know, to my body. I don't feel like, I feel like my sexuality and who I would date or be involved with romantically, you know, doesn't have anything to



do with their rights. And so I've read these diatribes from, from the trans community of men who say that they're women, about how, you know, we're bigoted if we don't, as lesbians, include men in our dating pool. And sexuality is, you know, it's off limits. Okay. It's personal to every person. Yes, I discriminate against men. I don't have sex with men. I don't have sex with, you know, children. [Laughter] I said, it's animals. You know, there is a discrimination factor there. I have the right to be discriminating in who I consider to be an appropriate, or in my dating pool, I guess you would say. And I just, I don't want to be called a name like TERF, because I wouldn't consider a biological male to be a lesbian. There's a distinction there. It's a bridge too far for me.

MORGAN: I think that's just preference, right?

LOVE: Mhmm.

MORGAN: Yeah.

LOVE: And it's okay to have preference. Yeah, it's okay to have a preference. You know, am I agest because I really haven't dated a lot of centenarians? You know, you know, no one under 18 or over 100. You know, not that, you know, I mean, yeah, preference. Preference. And certainly, I've loved these people in my life as friends, but not as potential romantic partners.

MORGAN: Mm-hmm. Yeah, that's fair. Let's see...

LOVE: Yeah, I mean, in almost every lesbian dating site, there, well, not almost every one. I would say many lesbian dating sites are dominated by trans-identified men. And, you know, lesbian meetups are often... populated with trans-identified men and I... so that ain't what I'm talking about when I.. when I...

[00:48:11]

MORGAN: What do you think about, because you had mentioned women's spaces, and I know that there had been some stuff in the news about the lesbian bar the Cubby-Hole in New York, lately about how men have been in those spaces, and how there aren't very many queer women spaces left in the States. And I think that, I just, what you were talking about with women's spaces makes me think of that.... What are your thoughts on that?

LOVE: Yeah. Well, there are certainly spaces where if, if, if, women-born female feel comfortable with trans-identified men who wish to be called, who wish to be called she or her, or if they feel comfortable with that, then by all means, include them. But if they don't, it's up to them to say, we wish to meet and be represented by women or female. And so, I feel again that it should be a women's choice whether to meet with, to include biological males who identify as women into our definition of female and womanhood. And I don't. I don't particularly, I don't include trans identified males into my definition of womanhood. So, but that's me.

MORGAN: What is your definition...

LOVE: That's not everyone.

[00:50:31]

MORGAN: What is your definition of womanhood?

LOVE: Well, you know, I haven't really completely assessed that but it definitely XX. [Laughter] You know, you, you have to have two X chromosomes. You have to have had... well that, that, that's basically it as far as, just I mean, other things are sort of, I think, you know, there's, there's intersex individuals, intersex individuals who have like an X, X, Y, you know, sure. Two X's. That's to just to widdle it down to its lowest common denominator is you got to have an X, and then you have to have another X.

MORGAN: Okay.

LOVE: That's what a woman is. In my definition.

[00:51:55]

MORGAN: Yeah. So I'm curious how you bring your, your definition of womanhood and feminism into your daily life now, and your time since being at the University of Washington.

LOVE: Well, part of it is speaking out against this prevalence and growing predominance of language changes like “pregnant people.” People aren't pregnant, women are pregnant, women are pregnant. It's not “chest feeding,” it's breastfeeding. And this sort of...the language is changing in ways that I found, that I find offensive. We can't say... the word woman is becoming almost... derogatory and... because of, and because of the push of, of males who identify as females. And so we have to say, yeah, like, you know, “chest feeding,” “people who are pregnant,” and it's offensive to me... So the things that I learned in, at the UW Women Studies classes have given me voice, and the ability to... think about it, think for myself about... where I stand and how I... define... feminism or anti-feminism or misogyny, I think it informed how I move in the world every day now, every day. And I often think back to those first... those first lessons, those first classes where I just sat there with my... just agate, you know? Thinking about how incredibly obvious but elusive things were like having no right as a woman to vote until 1920? 1920? I was just looking yesterday at some ads from the 50s, 50s and 60s and 70s - commercial advertisements. And one was telling men how they should spank their wives if they misbehaved. And also just the way cleaning products were advertised to women, and you know it's no wonder they're all addicted to mom's little helper. Gotta get out of the sun a bit now. It has moved, and I must move with it. So, see if we can do this in such a way. Is that just too much?

[00:55:58]

MORGAN: No, that's okay. We're coming up to the hour anyways. So we can start wrapping up. Is there, is there anything else you'd like to add in regards to your time at the University of Washington and Women Studies?

LOVE: Not really, just that I can't even quantify how much value, and incredible truth I learned at Women Studies. And these conversations will continue. And hopefully we can continue them with love and acceptance and tolerance and not violence. Hopefully we can continue to have these conversations and reach something that is more comfortable for us all.

MORGAN: Yeah, I love that. I think that yeah, we're definitely gonna have to keep talking about all of this stuff; it's not going away. [Laughter] Great. So, um...

LOVE: So, thank you so much.

[00:57:04]

MORGAN: Yeah, it's been a pleasure talking with you, and listening to your life and your stories.

And

yeah, thank you.

LOVE: With you as well. Thank you very much. I saw your, is that your partner, the rugby one?

MORGAN: That was me.

LOVE: Are you the rugby one?

MORGAN: I'm the rugby one. [Laughter]

LOVE: You're the rugby one. Good for you!

MORGAN: Thank you.

LOVE: Wow!

MORGAN: Joining rugby was like one of the best decisions I've ever made. There's such a good community there.

LOVE: Really? I just, that just blows my mind, well, good for you.

MORGAN: Thanks. [Laughter] Um...

LOVE: Yeah. Rugby on!

MORGAN: Yeah.

LOVE: Is that a scrum? Is that in rugby, a scrum?

MORGAN: It is, yup. That's where everybody's like this, yeah, yeah. Rugby is like the gayest sport you could do.

LOVE: It's super gay?!

MORGAN: Yeah [laughter], for women, yeah, huh that's funny.

[00:58:13]

MORGAN: So moving forward with the interview stuff in the next couple days, I'll be sending you the transcript of our conversation so you can review it. And if there's any edits that you'd like done, let me know when I can make that happen. Yeah, other than that, if you have any questions or anything else that you'd like to add later on, you can just send me an email.

LOVE: Thank you so much.

MORGAN: Yeah!

LOVE: Thank you. I really enjoyed this. This has been a fun, a fun little interlude to my, my farming work.

MORGAN: Yeah. All right. Well, I'll let you go. I'll let you get back to it. Have a great day. It looks so beautiful over there.

LOVE: [Indiscernible]

MORGAN: Alright.

LOVE: Alright, I'll see you soon.

MORGAN: Okay, bye.

LOVE: Bye, bye Amanda.

NOTE: Video recording ended at [00:59:05] but audio file doesn't end until [01:01:45]

[Audio interruption 01:01:45]

[End: Laura\_Love\_Audio.WAV]

