Lillian Jimenez

ENG 2575

Fall 2017

Fascination Inventory:

1. List of forty interests

* History

1. The weather, hurricanes, tornadoes
2. Types of clouds
3. Ancient Greece and Rome,
4. England in the time of the Celts, paganism
5. Tollund man and other bog bodies
6. Ancient religions, the ancient mysteries, the oracles
7. History of Europe and North Africa during enlightenment and during the dark ages
8. Archeology, Paleontology
9. Early US history, American Indians- The Salem Witch trials

* Activities

1. Training horses, Riding horses
2. shooting (guns or arrows),
3. Building things
4. Hiking, getting to the top of a mountain and eating packed lunches
5. Road trips
6. Rock climbing, climbing truss
7. Baking biscuits and other things
8. Swimming in the sea

* Art

1. Sewing clothing/ leather things/ books
2. Oil painting, Water colors
3. Taking pictures - lazily
4. Writing stories, but slowly.

* Work

1. cars/ trucks/ working on them
2. Driving trucks
3. Searching for the least expensive version of anything I need to buy/ eBay/ Thrift shops
4. Coming up with new ideas for business/ work that I think will be fun
5. Figuring out how things work

* Time Wasting

1. Lucid dreaming
2. Watching TV shows on Netflix- never liked waiting one more week
3. Reading the Dailymail and other internet distractions
4. Languages, though I can’t learn them
5. Videos of happy cows, animals of different species that are friends
6. Nova and other PBS shows
7. Rereading books I love over and over

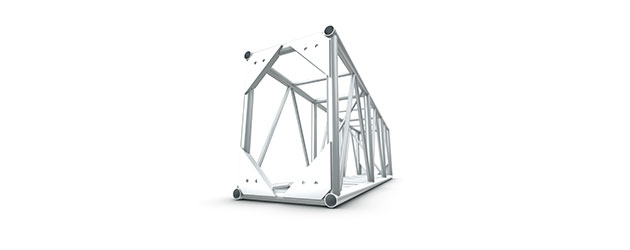
* Mics.

1. Camping gear
2. Actively ignoring political extremism from both sides
3. Waking up with the sun
4. knowledge of random facts
5. reading books
6. Democratic Socialism as seen in Scandinavia
7. The state of Maine
8. Short explanations of each

**History**

* **The weather, hurricanes, tornadoes:** I have always loved staring at clouds, playing and getting soaked in the rain, and hearing about big weather events. When I was little I would stare at the sun because it made me feel invincible - I wasn't a very smart child- and play in the rain in the summer. I like the different colored light that happens before sunset, and its long shadows. Feeling the power of Nature is important to me, it reminds me how small I really am in this gigantic universe.
* **Types of clouds**  I love big fluffy Cumulonimbus clouds like they get drifting over Lake Erie in Detroit, or the big dark storm clouds of New York in the Summer. Which darken the city below and lead to amber light and clear sky. I like grey days where the entire sky is covered completely in stratus clouds and there is drizzle and fog.
* **Ancient Greece and Rome:** I heard about ancient Greece and Rome growing up. I watched movies such as Jason and the Golden Fleece, Jason and the Argonauts, movies about Cleopatra and Caesar. I read books about the gods, and Helen of Troy in school, it was all very interesting. I still like reading about Rome and Greece, ad watching movies and television about the subject either documentary or fictional.
* **England in the time of the Celts, paganism:** I first was exposed as a child to the stories of Arthur and the round table, of knights and witches. I loved the television series with Sam Neill about Merlin. I like learning about the history of England and the ancient religions involved, as well as the various invasions of peoples Norse, Germanic etc. Learning about Paganism is interesting as well and its effect on religion today.
* **Tollund man and other bog bodies:** I first read about Tollund man in a magazine when I was younger. I was very intrigued by mummies and still am, but this was a perfectly preserved human from thousands of years ago. Imagining what life was like then is interesting and it helps to have a preserved human as a picture of the time. I have since read articles and research about bog bodies and watched many PBS programmes about them.
* **Ancient religions, the ancient mysteries, the oracles, etc.:** As you may have guessed I have a thing for ancient religions. Ancient Mystery religions, and other religions based on research are even more intriguing. I like reading ancient manuscripts which have been translated recently by researchers, so they are not skewed like the King James version of the Bible. Things like alchemy, healing, Ancient christian magic, the dead sea scrolls, ancient Egyptian religion, the oracles, the roman and greek mystery religions and paganism, where women were not treated with such overt chauvinism all interest me.
* **History of Europe and North africa during the Middle ages and the Renaissance:** I like reading about the fall of Rome and the period of decline as well as the Renaissance after it. The Black plague is very interesting to me as well I am halfway through the Decameron and it is interesting to see life through ancient eyes. The “dark Ages” intrigue me for the faith that spread throughout Europe, I often wonder what would have happened if other religions had survived.
* **Archeology, Paleontology:** What got me started with these two subjects was Indiana Jones, and a hefty amount of Dig Documentaries from PBS and straight to VHS recreations of dinosaur life through different eras. My brother dressed up as him for halloween and we went on a fake “dig” on a road trip. I loved watching archaeologists and paleontologists dig things up in an orderly fashion and then piece things together to come up with reconstructions of the ancient world. I still love learning about both, and continue watching documentaries and reading research
* **Early US history, American Indians, the Salem Witch trials:** When I was younger we would travel for vacation and wherever we went around the US, we would find the history tourism part of town. We visited places like Amish country in PA, Salem MA, Jamestown VA, and Washington DC. I remember best the reenactment villages and museums, where we learned about forced schooling for American Indian Children, of indian and Pilgrim settlements where we tasted period foods, the Salem witch trials and others. We also had photograph books of American Indians and early america which I loved. I was also big into the American Girl Doll thing.

**Activities**

* **Training horses, Riding horses:** I’ve ridden horses since before I could walk, my mother put me on ponies at the petting zoo. I finally convinced my parents to let me take lessons when I was ten and did that until the end of high school. I now volunteer at GallopNYC training horses and helping out, its a really unique opportunity which keeps me sane in the chaos of the city.
* **shooting (guns or arrows):** Growing up my sibling and I had a Red Ryder BB Gun and a couple bows at my grandmas house. Whenever we would go we would practice, albeit a bit unsafely. An arrow found its way into our uncles yard more than once, and we would routinely shoot each other with the BB guns. Now I shoot real guns and a lot more safely, but I think all those years of practice with bows and BB guns led to my aim being pretty good.
* **Building things:** I joined stage crew in high school, and built sets, lighting rigs, painted the sets and learned how to sew. I like building things because it taught me a lot about common sense and spatial reasoning, something men are always surprised I am okay at. I joined crew because my parents worked as electricians for film, and my whole family were “do it yourselfers”. I wanted to be just as self reliant.
* **Hiking, getting to the top of a mountain and eating packed lunches:** I started hiking in high school possibly middle school. We went up to Haramain and hiked to the top of a hill. By the summit, I was red faced and feared I would die. I was very out of shape. I learned to love it and have gone back into the woods many times.
* **Road trips:** I used to go on road trips for all family vacations. We would go to see other cities and stop at historically significant places, while playing Brain Quest flash cards in the car. I love watching the countryside go by, getting so tired everyone in the car just starts laughing and singing and being weird. I still love road trips and have taken on which led from NY down south and through to Las Vegas. I hope I can go on more.
* **Rock climbing, climbing truss:** I am still out of shape maybe not so much as that first hill I climbed but I still like going to a rock climbing gym strapping in and facing my fears. I am a bit afraid of heights. Forcing myself to get to the top of a route or climbing up and inside of 3’ foot wide truss, 50 feet off the ground, is a good mental exercise. But also a really good workout. 

**Img 1.** A picture of Aluminum Box Truss

* **Baking biscuits and other things:** I like food, because I was forced to eat everything on my plate when I was little. I learned early how to love different flavors. I like cooking because it was encouraged when I was younger. I just got into baking however because baking is scarier. It involves a little bit of science and what seems like sorcery. But watching The Great British Bake-Off makes it seem simple, or simpler than I thought. My favorite thing to bake is Savory Biscuits/cookies, I make some that taste exactly like Cheese-its.
* **Swimming in the sea:** I hated water when I was little, I would scream if anyone tried to pick me up and walk around with me in my grandmas pool. I was happy sitting in my ruffled bathing suit right at the edge dipping my feet in. It took an entire year of pre-K swimming classes at the Y to get me to swim in an area where I could touch the ground, I still remember being so impatient with myself and deciding to just go for it and jump in. The ocean is one of those things I am a little afraid of, but I like just jumping in and chasing the waves.

**Art**

* **Sewing clothing/ leather things/ books:** I started sewing when I was younger, I mostly made quilts for some bizarre reason. In high school, I learned how to sew clothing items for theatre, which led to sewing clothing for myself through the years. I have done some stuff with leather, a bag or two, which led into making books. I make books occasionally as gifts, I actually haven't kept any for myself, but would like to start selling them possibly.
* **Oil painting, Water colors:** I was forced to be an artist, or pretend to anyway, by my parents, my mother put me in art classes at Brooklyn Museum when I was in elementary school and she still has a framed, what can only be called abstract piece, above the mantle. I was a fine arts major in high school, I learned everything from sculpting color and black and white film photography mixed media and oil painting. I still paint, I am drawn to it because it forces you to be in the moment, and it takes concentration. I like the feeling of having something come out and it be pretty.
* **Taking pictures - lazily:** My father had a Nikon film SLR which was expensive when I was young. He kept it locked in a metal briefcase just in case. He and my mother always took pictures, they worked in lighting, and made sure to teach me about light, shadow, and color. I even did an additive color mixing science fair project were we all sat on the living room floor and mixed different color lighting gels until we made white light.
* **Writing stories, but slowly:** I like writing, I tried poetry for a large part of my angsty teenage years, but since I am no longer that angsty I had to switch to writing fiction. Storytelling was a large part of my childhood. My dad would read to us every night after he got home, Boxcar Children mostly, we loved hearing the stories. If my dad worked late, my mom would either read or invent stories to tell us, and we would help add on and request our favorites. I have a couple of ideas im working on now.

**Work**

* **cars/ working on them:** I want to know exactly how cars work, not the new ones with unidentifiable electronics systems which you can only scan with expensive random equipment. Just ones before 1995, with basic ABS and possibly a radio as the most intelligent thing in them. I have helped swap an engine on a Lexus is 300, put door cards, front and rear lights, and handles back on after a paint job, and recently learned how to change the rear diff on a BMW sedan.
* **Driving trucks:** When I was little, I would get to go to work with my parents and hang out, the teamsters were the only ones who didn't really have to do a lot of work during filming so I hung out with them. They were nice and also really cool driving big truck, and I went a number of years during childhood wanting to be a teamster. When the organization I work for got a fifth wheel four horse trailer and Ford F350, I requested that they train me to drive the trailer, so I could help out. They kindly did, although we got kicked out of Floyd Bennett Field while I was learning how to parallel park. I currently drive for them whenever they need to trailer their horses around brooklyn and queens.

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**Img 2.** Example of a fifth wheel horse trailer

* **Searching for the least expensive version of anything I need to buy/ eBay/ Thrift shops:** I take pride in finding the cheapest thing. My cousin thinks the only way things can be luxurious is when they cost over at least 50 dollars. I don't need a luxurious life. I need pride in the fact that I did not get swindled out of my hard earned money. When I need something I rarely by directly from the source. My iphone 6Plus, and my MacBook Pro I got on eBay for a fraction of what they normally would cost. I get clothing from thrift stores, goodwill, and also Marshalls. I like finding things I’ve been holding out on for possibly years and buying them when I see them for the right price. My friends call me for eBay advice and to find them things they don't want to pay full price for.  **Coming up with new ideas for business/ work that I think will be fun:** I like coming up with ideas I think will be lucrative. I also am terrified I will never come up with anything and have the guts to actually follow through with it. I have been listening to how I made this podcasts about tech startups and remarkably a lot of them seem like the creators stumbled into success.
* **Figuring out how things work:** In general I like to know how things work. I will look up how a motor works, or how a watch keeps time because I need to know. This is also kind of a time wasting crutch as I usually leave endeavors like this when I should be studying or working.

**Time Wasting**

* **Lucid dreaming:** I love to wake up in the morning and stay in bed with my eyes closed and go back into the dream I was dreaming. Usually my mind will take me away again and it will be like watching a weird POV movie. Sometimes if I dislike what is happening I say no and think of a better idea and let myself fall back into the movie.
* **Watching tv shows on netflix- never liked waiting one more week:** When I was little we had to wait an entire week for the next episode and then an entire summer for the next season. I hated it with a passion. I love that I can pop on netflix and watch whatever I want, no DVD buying or VHS recorder tape, head cleaning nonsense needed.
* **Reading the daily mail and other internet distractions:** Dailymail, Buzzfeed, and Imgur. I like the daily mail for the commentary and the right leaning side to all news articles. If there is an article about someone being offended by the gender nonconforming name of a new restaurant, there are satisfying comments about how ridiculous that is. When the content gets to right leaning I like Buzzfeed for its lengthy reports about those who would otherwise be ignored by the media, and their irrelevant quizzes about what kind of bag you are on a tuesday. When Buzzfeed gets too liberal for my taste I go to Imgur, where there is a community of people who like cats and not caring too much about politics in a refreshing way.
* **Languages, though I can't learn them:** I can only speak English, sort of at that, though half of my family is fluent spanish speakers. My dad never really taught us, I’m not sure why, I do regret it though. I understand some spanish, and would like to study more. I also want to learn Russian, Japanese, and Norwegian or Swedish, and german. I would love to be a person who learns languages quickly, I can pretend though, all of my Japanese friends are always impressed with my pronunciation.
* **Videos of happy cows, animals of different species that are friends:** I love happy cows. Frolicking cows look hilarious, they’re so big but they manage to bounce like deer. I love the videos of cows being happy after being rescued from factory farms. I also love meat mind you, I just think animals should have humane lives in a field rather than eating corn in warehouses. Different animal species that are friends are also some of my favorite things. A blind horse being led by his seeing eye goat? Its enough to make me cry like a baby.
* **Nova and other PBS shows:** I grew up with PBS shows. This old house on saturday nights followed by keeping up appearances which both my dad and I found hilarious, probably for different reasons. Nova was my favorite, I learned about space and dinosaurs and history through recorded VHS tapes that I would watch on repeat. I watched wild mustangs on Nature, and learned about different habitats from all over the world. I saw the first reality television show, where contestants lived as their ancestors did, in tenement houses or on a farmhouse out west. I still love these shows, and more from PBS, they open up the world in a way no other service can.
* **Rereading books i love over and over:** I think I’ve read Harry Potter about 30 times, the whole series not the individual books. I love revisiting books I have read before and gaining new insights on things I have missed. The earlier the book the farther back the memories go. I can remember where I was when I started reading the first book. I do this with other books as well, like Anna Karenina.

**Mics.**

* **Camping gear:** Being a fan of hiking and camping, I really like outdoor gear. My family has a lot of random camping gear we all share. Recently I have finished my goal of getting a full set of my own lightweight high tech camping equipment. I now have everything I need to survive in the wilderness, except the stamina.
* **Actively ignoring political extremism from both sides:** I really hate political extremism. Watching people be that hateful boggles my mind. Not only do I question why they do that sort of thing in public, I wonder where they get the energy to actively hate something so much. Avoiding liberals and conservatives is a hobby of mine. I do not watch the news, I do not read stories about racists or liberals demanding outrageous things. I like not being involved and living my life with the belief I don't need to know about what the news deems important.
* **Waking up with the sun:** I love waking up in a tent or lean-to with the sun at 6.30 or 7am and actually feeling refreshed. And also more sore than I ever remember from hiking the day before. It makes me feel “one with nature” and strong.
* **knowledge of random facts:** Jeopardy was my favorite show as a toddler. I would run into the room and hum the tune whenever I heard it come on TV. Perhaps that is where my obsession started. We also had to play GeoSafari which asked questions and you entered the answer on a keypad, which I actually liked. We also had to play BrainQuest on road trips and I loved competing with everyone and knowing the right answer. I still do, and will go on random Googling adventures when I have questions or I find something that sparks my intrigue.
* **reading books:** Reading was instilled at a young age. I belonged to the free book a month club at the Brooklyn Public Library, I remember trying to choose a book above my reading level and the old librarian was scandalized as it was too big for me and above my reading level. She actually tried to take it away but I, a usually shy kid, was very firm with her and I got my book. I think it is vital to keeping a mind sharp and imaginative. I am very grateful that reading was made such an important thing when I was young. My goal is to make more time for reading.
* **Democratic Socialism as seen in Scandinavia:** Democratic Socialism is very intriguing to me. Imagine healthcare, childcare, schooling, and social services doled out as easily as you public library. Obviously it isn't that simple. While it probably will never happen here like that, the notion that it can possibly get better from this corporate oligarchy has my interest. Otherwise where do we go from here?
* **The state of Maine:** Family trips to Maine during August to Baxter State Park were my favorite. We would camp hike, do thru-hikes, and take in tick-free paradise. Being in the park and hearing the sound of trees blowing in the wind, or seeing a beaver splash around in the lake, or the actual stars you could see were amazing experiences. BSP is more wild and less used than other Federal parks and it made for a community like feeling. I also love the actual state of Maine. The little towns, the 100 miles of wilderness along the highways, and the connected feeling of the cities like Bangor.

1. Elaboration of Five of the Forty

## Ancient Things

Ancient religions, the ancient mysteries, the oracles, etc.: As you may have guessed I have a thing for ancient religions. Ancient Mystery religions, and other religions based on research are even more intriguing. I like reading ancient manuscripts which are translated in today's english by researchers, so they are not skewed like the King James version of the Bible. Things like Alchemy, healing, Ancient christian magic, the dead sea scrolls, ancient Egyptian religion, the oracles, the roman and greek mystery religions and paganism, where women were not treated with such overt chauvinism all interest me.

I dislike the current offerings of religion today, I don't think one should be told to actively ignore information to be considered more religious. Research, knowing things, and learning, are more important. I much prefer learning about ancient religions as they seem like they were in much closer relation to nature and to the start of humanity (obviously taken with a moldy grain of salt, as there was no scientific way to explain the world back then). It is also intriguing to see history through ancient peoples perspective.

## Horses

Training horses, Riding horses: I’ve ridden horses since before I could walk, my mother put me on ponies at the petting zoo. I finally convinced my parents to let me take lessons when I was ten. I took classes every weekend and went to stable camp during the summer. I stopped taking lessons in high school and missed just being around horses.

I found GallopNYC and signed up as a volunteer when I was a little lost in between figuring out that I hated working in technical theatre and figuring out I could go back to school to pursue a career I could be proud of. They let me take care of horses, and help with lessons for kids with disabilities. I found them when I really had nothing else that I could be proud of in my life and they helped me see that I could ask for more.

## The Great outdoors

Hiking, getting to the top of a mountain and eating packed lunches: I started hiking in high school possibly middle school, we went up to Haramain and hiked to the top of a hill. I was red faced and feared I would die. I was very out of shape and I hated it. Then I got to the top and we ate PB&Js. I think I lay down on the top for most of it, but the view was unbelievable.

I have always loved getting to the summit of a mountain or hill. Its one of the best feelings. My favorite by far is walking along Mount Katahdin in Maine we came upon a plateau with wild grasses in bunches everywhere all blowing in the wind. I was like a scene from Lord of the Rings. An even better feeling is when you are almost all the way down and you start to see landmarks you remember from the beginning of the hike and you can't wait for dinner and a sleeping bag.

## Building Things

Building things: I was raised in a family who if they needed something built, built it themselves. My uncles owned construction companies, my parents and my uncle worked in electrics. If I needed something like a bed, we would build it there was never a question otherwise. This led me to join stage crew in high school, and built sets, lighting rigs, painted the sets and learned how to sew.

I like building things because it taught me a lot about common sense and spatial reasoning, something men are always surprised I am okay at. More than once a man has told me I was good at something for being a girl, which, I think I can take pride in. I have a good mind for knot tying and looking at something and knowing the best way to solve a problem, which I really like about myself.

## PBS Shows

Nova and other PBS shows: I grew up with PBS shows. This old house on saturday nights followed by keeping up appearances on saturday nights. Nova was my favorite, I learned about space and dinosaurs and history through recorded VHS tapes that I would watch on repeat. I watched wild mustangs on Nature, and learned about different habitats from all over the world. I saw the first reality television show, where contestants lived as their ancestors did, in tenement houses or on a farmhouse out west. PBS opened my mind to possibilities I wouldn't have otherwise been aware of and it still continues to do so.

My love of British PBS shows started with Keeping up Appearances, and continued through masterpiece. I have watched Shakespeare with some of my favorite actors and actually understood no only the plot but the conversations. A random thing which was an effect of all of this is that I love accents and mimicking them. I love copying a characters accent that I like and practicing speaking like them. Sometimes I talk to myself with a British accent. Obviously if I went to England people would know immediately I was not native but it is fun.

\*be curious