

[Episode 10- A Conversation Between Alison Day & Kate Deering Transcript]

(Day) Cool, thank you.

(Man) Okay, yup.

(Deering) Cool, thanks.

[door closes]

(Day) Well, hello, Kate.

(Deering) Hello, Allison.

(Day) Here we are, five days from election day.

(Deering) Yes.

(Day) You're voting, right?

(Deering) Yeah, totally.

(Day) This is the first time I can vote.

(Deering) Yeah. No, same here.

(Day) I'm kind of excited.

(Deering) Yeah. [Day laughs] I know, the primaries are kind of like, "Oh, I have to do all this research now."

(Day) I know, I know. [shivering sounds]

(Deering) Yeah, I know, it's strange. It's like, I don't-- nothing's really straightforward.

(Day) Yeah, not at all. Even the things that seem straightforward are not. How do you know what's real and what's not?

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) Yes, heavy research.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) But that's good. We are researchers, are we not? [laughs]

(Deering) Yes we are. Yeah.

(Day) So Kate, tell me a little bit about your goals in school right now. Like, your dream.

(Deering) Yeah. Well, I've always loved science and math. Like, that was-- I grew up reading books with my dad, just going through parts of the body and stuff like that.

(Day) Aww, yeah. Cool.

(Deering) Yeah, the fact that my dad raised me-- he was basically the main person in my life because my mom was working and he was disabled.

(Day) Okay, okay.

(Deering) So I was really brought up with him in--

(Day) Does your dad have a science background or--?

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) Oh cool, cool!

(Deering) Yeah, he has a degree, a bachelors, in biology with a minor in chemistry.

(Day) Oh, awesome! So that's where you get it, huh? [laughs]

(Deering) Yeah, it is, it is.

(Day) That's cool.

(Deering) I mean-- I guess there's a lot of girls who are-- they really look up to their dads, and there are some that don't.

(Day) Yeah.

(Deering) But I was really fortunate to have one that I really looked up to.

(Day) Me, too. [laughs]

(Deering) Yeah, that's good, that's always-- that's fantastic.

(Day) Yeah, that's cool. And that you got to spend a lot of time with him and get those influences. Yeah, I feel very fortunate, also.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) Both my parents went to college--

(Deering) It's really important.

(Day) Yeah, yeah, it's just been really-- it's good because they know that school is important, and so--

(Deering) They're going to support you.

(Day) Right! Exactly! It's so nice. My parents were the most supportive people on the planet Earth and it just--

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) When you feel that, "Oh, thank you for loving me no matter what."

(Deering) I know, I know. Like, "Even when I don't love myself, you were there. Thank you. It's super important.

(Day) Exactly. It's super nice to have that great support system.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) Especially with all the hard stuff we're doing.

(Deering) I know, I know. Especially when you just have so much on your plate and it's like, "I cannot do this." You can just fall back.

(Day) My mom is so sweet. She lives in Gilroy, which is like 45 minutes from here. And a couple of weeks ago, she came to my band concert and she brought me a big bag of frozen food that she had made and then froze and was saving to see me.

(Deering) Yeah!

(Day) And so I've been eating all these lunches that-- and I feel funny because I have no idea what they are. But I just heat them up in the microwave in STEM and I'm just like, "Oh yum! That's what that is!" And then I eat it. [both laugh]

(Deering) Yeah, exactly, it's like, I have no idea what I'm eating.

(Day) Exactly. But, yeah, that's what kind of mom I've got. She's just, you know, always making me food, even when I'm not home. Like, "Mom, aww! Let me be an adult." But it's cool.

(Deering) Yeah, exactly.

(Day) It's good.

(Deering) Yeah, I know. I feel like I should be more independent. Like, you have this pressure to go out and be this person. And you're just like, "I don't know how to be a person" When you're little, you're like, "Oh, adults know everything." Like, "You! You know all the answers to life." And then you grow up and you're just like, "Does anyone know what they're doing?" Like actually, do they know what's going on?

(Day) [laughs] Exactly! Yeah, it's a little bit of a shock when you turn 18 and you're like, "Wait, I don't know all the answers yet."

(Deering) Yeah, exactly.

(Day) Hmm.

(Deering) And then there's those gems that do, quote-unquote, do know the answers.

(Day) Do know what they're doing, yeah. Which is kind of incredible. I've never been one of those people, honestly.

(Deering) I know,

(Day) I'm always like-- even right now, here I go into college, picking a major but not really sure, so that's cool. I mean, luckily, at least it's like, for me at least, I'm like I have an interest in this, so that's a good sign.

(Deering) Yeah, exactly.

(Day) I have a passion for this, so that's cool. What I want to do, a little harder to say.

(Deering) I know.

(Day) I guess that requires more research. [laughs]

(Deering) Uh huh. Yeah, yeah, and they say that-- I mean, whenever you go into a science, a lot of teachers are encouraging you to go into engineering because that's where you apply it.

(Day) True.

(Deering) And you're a chemical engineering major, right?

(Day) Yeah, yeah, right now. In the moment.

(Deering) Yeah, so-- in the moment, exactly. [laughs]

(Day) Yeah, yeah.

(Deering) I'm inbetween majors.

(Day) Oh, okay, nice. Yeah. The chemistry is what draws me in and engineering is what-- I mean, it also draws me, but it draws me in the fact that I feel like I can do something useful with it, you know? And like maybe I can make a difference in somebody's life or some piece of this world.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) That is at least comforting to think about, you know? [laughs] For me.

(Deering) Yeah. Like the regular, the pure science is just for the--

(Day) It's interesting for sure.

(Deering) It's interesting and it's like you're asking, "Oh, why?" Like you have to be very specific, you have to really know-- you're getting down to the key details. But in engineering you're applying it and using it in more real life situations and you're doing-- you're creating--

(Day) It's useful. Yes.

(Deering) --for the economy, for--

(Day) Something about that creation is very cool.

(Deering) Yes. Exactly, I agree.

(Day) [laughs] It's cool.

(Deering) Yeah. But....

(Day) So wait, what are the three majors you're bouncing around in?

(Deering) So there's just the general engineering.

(Day) Okay, cool.

(Deering) I mean, I don't know, that's just my one of my majors, too, right now.

(Day) Sure.

(Deering) But there's also chemical engineering.

(Day) Okay. Oh cool!

(Deering) Exactly. And then there is software engineering.

(Day) Cool. Even better! So now if you just get a degree in all three, you'll be set.

(Deering) Yeah. [Day laughs] I know, seriously, like--

(Day) You could get a job like that!

(Deering) Yeah, exactly. I mean, they're both--

(Day) Honestly, the truth.

(Deering) So many people need those types of majors--

(Day) I wouldn't recommend choosing one, choose them all, right?

(Deering) Yeah, exactly! [both laugh]

(Day) If you can!

(Deering) Right.

(Day) It's kind of cool, but--

(Deering) I know and there's just so much demand for it right now--

(Day) For that, like, blended, right?

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) Having a diversity in your abilities--

(Deering) Exactly.

(Day) My dad always talks about how people need-- or how companies are looking for t-shaped people. So if you think of a capital t, so the top of the t is like having a good, somewhat, breadth of-- how do you say that word? I don't know. A span of knowledge--

(Deering) An array.

(Day) Yeah.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) Kind of a knowledge of many things that is, you know, somewhat basic. But you have a basic knowledge of a lot of things going on.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) And then you also have this lower part of the t which is like having a really specific knowledge and a strength.

(Deering) Oh, yeah, in a structure.

(Day) Exactly. Like having a strong--

(Deering) Like having a pinpoint.

(Day) Exactly.

(Deering) Okay.

(Day) So yeah, if you have this software engineering in here and you've got whatever, or some computer skills. And then you also have this really intense focus on chemical engineering, you're set.

(Deering) Yeah. Yeah, exactly.

(Day) [laughs] People are going to want you. [laughs]

(Deering) Yeah, it's all about the social skills, too.

(Day) Yeah. exactly. Oh my gosh!

(Deering) No one knows-- I don't want to say no one because that's a really big generalization.

(Day) Yeah. No [laughs]

(Deering) But there's such a huge difference in people who can communicate versus people who can't.

(Day) Yeah.

(Deering) There's people out there who you could hire and they're just going to be a human calculator for you. And they're not going to be able to communicate.

(Day) Which if that's their job, maybe that's okay. But a lot of times, your job doesn't just require that, you know. A lot of times, your job requires teamwork and working with other people.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) And being communicative all the time. And being like, "Oh, this is what I'm doing. What are you doing?" "Let's do this together." "Okay, I'm going to try this." Well, it's just like this constant back and forth, and if you're not a good communicator, your teammates are not going to be happy.

(Deering) Yeah. Exactly.

(Day) [laughs] And your boss most likely will not be happy. [laughs] Yeah, no.

(Deering) Exactly.

(Day) At least they need to know what's going on. But, yeah....

(Deering) Yeah. So I do want to ask you, how did you grow up into loving science?

(Day) Into science? Definitely...let's see. I don't know, I feel like--. This is so funny, I was thinking about it this morning and I'm just, like, an everything girl. I just want to try a little bit of everything, and I guess at some point I just decided that science was actually more fun than other things. So among all the things I was trying, kind of like in middle school I really found a little nook in science. I did a bunch of science fairs. Our school did a science fair at school, but then they also had a program called bio lab.

(Deering) Oh, okay.

(Day) And they would bring in an organization from San Jose. They were called Schmal Science. And they would bring them in and bring in basically a lab and all this equipment and stuff. And let you design your own science fair project that was kind of researched-based, you know.

(Deering) That's awesome.

(Day) So in 6th grade, I was learning how to pour agar into a petri dish, and wipe the dish with bacteria.

(Deering) Interesting.

(Day) And grow the cultures, which is something a lot of 6th graders don't really get to experience.

(Deering) Yeah, I know.

(Day) I don't think.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) So it was really cool getting that experience-- using real lab equipment. And being in a scientific world with real scientist coming there to help you.

Another cool thing-- like I said, my parents are really great support system for me and have offered-- really extended my opportunities endlessly.

(Deering) Yeah, that's--

(Day) So my dad, he works for IBM in Almaden. And they have a cool--

(Deering) I've never heard of IBM.

(Day) Oh, International Business Machines. They used to be-- I mean, that's their name. They used to make computers but now they're kind of, again, more shifting towards the research side of things. I don't know if they even make computers anymore, honestly. But they also, if you've ever seen an old cash register, like in a Safeway, they'll have a little IBM logo on them.

(Deering) Oh yeah, uh huh.

(Day) I don't know--

(Deering) I know what you're talking about.

(Day) Equipment, like computing equipment. Basically, in the day. They used to make clocks. my dad has a big clock in our living room.

(Deering) Oh really?

(Day) Uh huh. Actually, I guess it's a time stamp clock. Anyway, so they didn't really make clock, I guess. Maybe they did, but.... They've kind of shifted gears more towards research stuff, and they do a lot of projects with other companies. And bring other people in and send other people to other places to work on different things. My dad was working on a project on Caltrain a couple years ago, which was cool.

(Deering) Oh, okay, wow!

(Day) But, yeah, they, IBM Almaden, run a girl's science and technology camp.

(Deering) Oh, that's awesome! That is so fantastic!

(Day) It is so cool! It was so cool! It was a few weeks long; I want to say four. I did it in 6th grade.

(Deering) Yeah, I was going to ask when.

(Day) And then 7th grade. I went back for 8th grade to be a mentor, which was really fun, you know.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) Just, like, a really, really great experience. Yeah, again, you are surrounded by real-life scientists. And they're coming-- you get a new person every day. A new engineer, a new chemist, a new physicist, a new mathematician. We did forensic science, you know.

(Deering) Whoa!

(Day) Which was cool because they're reaching out to all these different areas and letting-- and showing people what there is to offer out there.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) And showing women what there is to offer out there, more importantly, in a really safe space, girl-only, cool thing.

(Deering) Yeah, showing you what you can get into before sending you out into a world--

(Day) How do you choose when you have no idea what it means to be any of those things, right?

(Deering) Exactly.

(Day) At least you have this idea, right? Computer scientist, or what does a computer scientist do, you know, and you learn a little bit about that.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) It, yeah, I've been so fortunate to have those opportunities through my dad--

(Deering) Yeah, that's fantastic.

(Day) --and that really, I think a lot of that is what, kind of, put me on that track, which is something that really interests me. So luckily, that worked out.

(Deering) Yeah, exactly. That is beautiful that you got to be able to introduce-- having that opportunity before you went into a world where there is people who are getting-- be like, "Oh, you cannot do this."

(Day) Right, yeah, because there's people out there that will tell you that you're not cut out for it. [laughs]

(Deering) Yeah, exactly.

(Day) And it takes determination, for sure, and some faith in yourself, definitely.

(Deering) Uh huh. Yeah, because you can go into a classroom and just have a teacher be not believing in you at all. And if you don't know what you're talking about, then they're just going to

(Day) "Well, why do you believe in yourself, anyway?"

(Deering) Exactly.

(Day) Nobody is believing in you except your parents, of course, who love you.

[both laugh]

(Deering) Yeah, exactly. Yeah, it sounds like you have similar parents to me in terms of support.

(Day) Yeah, it's good. [laughs] It's nice.

(Deering) Uh huh. For me, I didn't have a lot of structure growing up--

(Day) Hmm, okay.

(Deering) --like, at all, I did not have any rules, no boundaries, no nothing.

(Day) Interesting. Really?!

(Deering) So it was almost like science because I didn't really care about school early on.

(Day) So you chose science.

(Deering) Yeah, I chose everything that I chose.

(Day) You chose your structured...uh--

(Deering) Yes.

(Day) Interesting.

(Deering) Yeah, I actually would ask my parents for boundaries. And I would be like, "Hey, don't let me do this," like, "I don't want to do this anymore."

(Day) Aww!

(Deering) And they wouldn't do it. They wouldn't even do it.

(Day) Oh my gosh!

(Deering) So when I grew up, I was like, "Okay, I don't want to be like a potato."

(Day) "I don't want to be a potato!" [laughs]

(Deering) I don't want to be that kid that just grows up into an adult and just sits there and not be useful.

(Day) "What am I doing?" Yeah. [laughs]

(Deering) Exactly.

(Day) So you'll have some purpose. You were looking for purpose.

(Deering) Yeah, exactly. And so I think that's what-- I was like, "Okay, I'm going to pick something--." Like, in my head--

(Day) Something really strong and confident.

(Deering) Exactly. I'm going to do something great.

(Day) You know, I think I was something along the same lines, too.

(Deering) Yeah, exactly.

(Day) There's something, yeah-- oh, okay.

(Deering) Yeah. So if someone says, "Yeah, okay, I'm going to get a degree in this--"

(Day) Then they're less likely to actually get that degree than somebody who went in saying--

(Deering) Than saying--

(Day) I don't know, I was just, like, "Okay, here I go!"

(Deering) Yeah, exactly. Or even if they kept it at the back of their head, and they were like, "Okay, I'm going to do this but I'm not going to tell anyone about it."

(Day) And they're not, yeah, they're not putting it out there, not constantly fueled by that idea of "This is what I need to do." Or, "This is what I want." Or--

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) I definitely agree with that because I feel like if I had-- right now if I had something that was so pressing or so..."I need to get this degree, I need to do this thing and I need to do it in this amount of time..." Like, right now, I'm scheduled to graduate in 2019, so I'm on the 4-year community college plan.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) You know, which that's not the way it's really built the to work, but it's okay because I don't care.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) And I'm enjoying my time doing it.

(Deering) Exactly, exactly.

(Day) It's been fun.

(Deering) Yeah, that's really funny because I'm pretty much on the same schedule to graduate. Well, maybe in 2018.

(Day) Honestly, part of it is that it's not really possible, at least coming in from where I came into, I had to start in Math 4, I think as you at least started there, right?

(Deering) Yeah, I started at Math 152 because I just didn't pass the entry exam.

(Day) There you go! Exactly.

(Deering) It was so necessary.

(Day) Yeah. No, it's good, right? You need to build that base first. But yeah, so if you start at Math 4 or 152, think about all the math you have to take to be a chemical engineer.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) So if you're doing 152, you do 152, Math 4; that's a year. Then you do Math 5A, 5B; that's a year. 5C, Math 6, that's a year. And then Math 7.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) Let's do some mad math. That's three and a half years! Right?

(Deering) Yeah, yeah. Exactly.

(Day) At least, just for math. And that's like, "Okay, well, am I going to take all the physics classes I need to take along with all the chemistry I need to take?"

(Deering) Yeah, exactly. All in the same--

(Day) All these general eds-- no way! I'm not doing that! I made that mistake my whole first year. And, luckily, I have learned, and I only took math and chemistry this semester because I was--

(Deering) You cannot do more.

(Day) Yeah, that's technically 10 units right there, and I was, "That's good. I'm going to take that and I'm going to take band and yoga. And I'm going to work. And that's going to be all that I'm going to do."

(Deering) You have such a big schedule that is--

(Day) So do you!

(Deering) Yeah, but no, not-- I feel like it's big, but it's not like-- if I listened to things, I'd be like, "Okay,--"

(Day) We're doing the same things. Working the same job. I mean--

(Deering) Yeah, we do.

(Day) Yeah, so it's like whenever people say that, like, "Ohh!!" And I say that, too. When you said that to me the other day in the STEM center, you're like, "Oh, you have as much work as the rest of us, right?" And I was like, "Hmm, I don't know." You're like, "You probably do." I was like, "Yeah, I probably do." You know? I guess we don't really give ourselves enough credit, I don't think.

(Deering) I don't think so, either, except-- actually, this leads right into it. But especially as women, we do not give ourselves enough credit. And I mean that-- like my grandmother, I found out my grandmother raised five children. She was a complete stay-at-home mom. And my grandfather worked three jobs. I guess he recently told her never worked hard.

(Day) Oh my gosh!

(Deering) Yeah, and she was crushed.

(Day) Wow!

(Deering) Like, it's kind of going-- he's not--

(Day) His mental health may be declining? Yeah.

(Deering) Just a little bit, at least. And, I mean, but I don't know if he would actually say that if his--

(Day) Right. It's hard to see those changes happening, honestly.

(Deering) Yeah, because there's totally possible because they were born in the year 35-- 1935.

(Day) Yeah, yeah.

(Deering) So they're very much-- in a time old-fashioned--

(Day) Time period, yeah.

(Deering) It was a different time. And so there's a total possibility that raising children wasn't considered hard work, when that is some of the hardest stuff that you can do.

(Day) [laughs] Yeah!

(Deering) You're trying to raise human beings to be decent.

(Day) Yeah, successful adults, productive members of society.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) Yeah, oh my gosh.

(Deering) And she did a great job, given the circumstances.

(Day) Yeah, yeah.

(Deering) You know, like, my grandfather was an alcoholic and she had to deal with that, and five children.

(Day) It's amazing.

(Deering) Yeah. I would not-- like, thinking about myself, being that-- wow!

(Day) My mom is one of 13 children.

(Deering) Oh my gosh!!

(Day) Yup. Man, but-- okay, she grew up in Mexico in a Catholic family, so that tells you a little bit about why they have 13 children.

(Deering) Yes.

(Day) But, I mean, at that point, it's honestly like your kids are raising the other kids.

(Deering) Yes, exactly.

(Day) So not to say that it's less hard--

(Deering) No, but, it's totally how it is.

(Day) That's why a lot of Catholic families or families in Mexico would have a lot of kids, to help raise the other kids to help do work, to make money for the family, you know, that kind of thing. And so my mom grew up in a family where hard work is the only way you're going to be getting anywhere, you know.

(Deering) Yeah, uh huh.

(Day) So when she moved here, my mom-- I mean, she is for sure one of my biggest inspirations.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) She moved here when she was 18, from Mexico.

(Deering) Wow!

(Day) Well, she visited when she was 17. And fell in love with a man in New Orleans. Yeah, of course, right? She went to-- she experienced Mardi Gras in New Orleans at the age of 17--

(Deering) Oh my gosh!

(Day) --and fell in love with a man, which that doesn't discredit my mother in any way, you know--

(Deering) Yeah, no.

(Day) --but, it's just a very funny situation. On a church trip.

(Deering) Oh my gosh!

(Day) [laughs] And then went back home to Mexico and wrote love letters between the two of them for, like, a year. And then she moved over here and... It ended up not working out, but anyway. She ended up meeting my dad in Morgan Hill, kind of nearby here. And I grew up in Gilroy, like 15 minutes from Morgan Hill.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) Yeah, but the story with my mom is she came here and, I mean, she knew, like, no English, except for the small English that she learned on that church trip and maybe some communication with this guy who she was, you know-- like, she had told me when she went here, like when she moved-- or when she visited for that trip, she had no idea what people were saying, you know, that kind of thing. And it's just, even when she moved here after, when she was 18--

(Deering) Yeah, she was still trying to figure it out.

(Day) She was-- yeah, she had no idea, you know. Like, how to even communicate with-- I mean, some very basic communication, but she moved here with at least two of her sisters and a couple more of her brothers followed soon after. And they all kind of stayed together here in California, here in the Morgan Hill area. And actually, three-- so her and two her sisters and one of her brothers live in Gilroy now. So they all are very close--

(Deering) That's fantastic.

(Day) --very tight-knit family.

(Deering) Yeah, and we don't have that anymore, right? In our society, people, they move away from each other.

(Day) Branch away, yeah. [laughs]

(Deering) It's really sad because I know all my family was really close.

(Day) Yeah, yeah.

(Deering) And then they just decided to, you know, to move out.

(Day) Yeah, yeah.

(Deering) And it's just, like--

(Day) It's hard, far from your family.

(Deering) Yeah, exactly. And so, I mean, I have family over here and we barely see each other. It's just like, what has happening, you know?

(Day) Yeah, it's very strange.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) So yeah, it definitely makes me feel really special to have that family who is really stuck together. And when I go to gatherings or birthdays or just dinners, they'll have dinner-- they usually have dinner once a week, like Saturday night, or whatever.

(Deering) Oh, that's awesome!

(Day) They just hang out. And they're all their best friends. And I'm like, that is so cool, you know, that you're siblings are your best friends. Like, I hope one day, my siblings and I will be like that. I've got three, so there's so possibility, I hope that could work out.

(Deering) Yeah...[falters]...yeah. I used to be grateful that I was an only child, but then...I mean, I don't know. I have my boyfriend's siblings have become my siblings now. This...I would love this.

(Day) Yeah!

(Deering) Like, If I was with them, I would probably try to kill them a couple of times because--

(Day) [laughs] Yeah, that's what siblings are for.

(Deering) Yeah, but I mean, they're-- I mean, just to have-- it's like you're experiencing everything with them. Nothing is just happening to you.

(Day) Right, you're with them in everything and it's all a family thing.

(Deering) Yeah, that's what I've heard, anyway.

(Day) Well, yeah, that's your experience with them. I mean, there are some siblings that are like siblings to you.

(Deering) Yeah, exactly.

(Day) It's like a really, really nice thing to experience. Yeah-- wait, I was trying to tell you about my mom and I forgot. But she moved her and she went to community college in Gilroy and she originally wanted to do nursing, and then decided she didn't want to do that. And so she, I mean, all the time was learning English and also working full time at a restaurant in Morgan Hill.

(Deering) Wow!

(Day) With her sister. And that's where she met my dad.

(Deering) Oh nice!

(Day) But she ended up going, after community college, she went to Berkeley--

(Deering) Oh wow! That's awesome!

(Day) Yeah, under a program that was helping underrepresented students at the time go to school. And then eventually, transferred to another school in Monterey, specifically to get a degree in language and translation.

(Deering) Okay.

(Day) So she now translates for the court system-- Santa Clara county court system in Morgan Hill.

(Deering) That's awesome!

(Day) Which is really cool. And she likes her job, you know. And her job is speaking Spanish and English all day.

(Deering) Yeah!

(Day) So she has this really cool job. And it was all because she just really tried really hard to get to where she wanted to be, you know.

(Deering) Yeah. Yeah, that is hard work. It's hard work to come to a country after you only having an idea of what it's like.

(Day) Exactly. You're whole life lived somewhere else.

(Deering) And then learning English and going to Berkeley no less.

(Day) [laughs] Yeah. It's crazy, yeah.

(Deering) Yeah, and becoming a translator.

(Day) It's super cool! So I know my mom, her drive inspires to be driven. Far more valuable than anything, I think.

(Deering) Yeah. So I do want to ask...when you ask the men in your life if they're feminists, what's the response that you get?

(Day) [laughs] Well, hmm, this is interesting.

(Deering) Interesting to think about.

(Day) Yeah. Yeah, when I met the guy who is my boyfriend currently, it was interesting because he, at the time, definitely did not consider himself a

feminist. So that was interesting. And, I mean, I could see that with, kind of, some of his views and some things that he would say, I'd be like, "Uh, really?" But I always called him out on it and he would, kind of, usually, be like, "Yeah, yeah, you're right." And then it was funny because when he introduced me to his mom, he was like, "Mom, I met another feminist."

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) Like, "I met this other girl and she's a feminist just like you, Mom." Because in his experience, the only woman he knew who was a feminist was his mom.

(Deering) Wow!

(Day) And some lady who he was like, "Oh yeah, I know this one lady, but she's crazy...blah, blah, blah." I was like, "Okay, I don't know her, so...." Whatever, everybody has extreme people in their life. So that was his only experiences with feminism, which is kind of not a great representation. I mean, his mom is awesome. But he kind of thought his mom was the only feminist out there, you know. And he slowly, slowly but surely-- we've been dating about a year, and it's been-- yeah, he's been learning. And I'll have to ask him, but I would hope at this point he would consider himself a feminist, but I don't know, I'm not sure.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) I'll have to ask him.

(Deering) So I hope you don't mind me asking, where's he from?

(Day) He was born and raised right around here local. Corralitos.

(Deering) Really? Wow!

(Day) So yeah, pretty liberal area, you know.

(Deering) Yeah, interesting.

(Day) I guess Corralitos is a little bit country and he kind of grew up-- definitely around some other influences. He also-- yeah, I'm going to drink some water really quick.

[both laugh]

(Day) Yeah, he's a very confident person. And he grew up and his dream was to be a motorcycle rider. Not a motorcycle rider, sorry, he does motocross. Like dirt bikes.

(Deering) That's what I was thinking.

(Day) I'm not really into that, so I don't know, whatever the language is, but I guess it's kind of popular around here. Somewhat.

(Deering) Yeah, it is.

(Day) So that's what he wanted to do. And when he was very, very young-- I think like five or six, he got his first bike and he started learning how to ride. And that's what he did.

(Deering) Wow!

(Day) His whole life. His school was always second to that, you know. And he was just always racing and always doing this. And he eventually became a professional rider. When he was 18, he went pro, which is super crazy.

(Deering) Whoa! Yeah.

(Day) But, yeah, and so that was his dream. And then at some point, soon after, he kind of decided that wasn't for him. And so he put that aside and decided he wanted to go to school.

(Deering) Wow!

(Day) And now he's actually studying mechanical engineering, so--

(Deering) Oh yeah, that would make sense.

(Day) Yeah, which is kind of how we got connected,

(Deering) Nice. Did he go to Cabrillo?

(Day) Yup, I met him here at Cabrillo, which was cool. But, yeah, so it's kind of like, he was kind of raised in this environment of win, win, win! You know, that's what he thought was what-- that was his goal. And it was-- a lot of it came from his dad, so I think he was for sure predominately raised by his dad, where his brother was predominately raised by his mom. And it definitely-- like, I think if his mom had spent as much time with him as she had with his younger brother, then maybe--

(Deering) He would be different.

(Day) Yeah, he would have a different personality. Because you can totally see-- when you see the dad and him and his mom and his brother, it's so funny because their personalities are so much, like, paralleled.

(Derring) Yeah.

(Day) So yeah, he did have some experience with that, but you know....

(Deering) Okay.

(Day) We're-- it's funny because he says that, yeah, I expose him to new ideas sometimes. I'm, like, that's cool, you know.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) And he definitely exposes me to new ones once in a while.

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) What about you?

(Deering) Well, I mean, I've asked-- I have actually asked my boyfriend, Rowan--

(Day) Oh, okay.

(Deering) This question many times. At the very beginning of our relationship, I was like, "Okay, so what are you--"

(Day) Let's get this straight! [laughs]

(Deering) Yeah, basically. I was like-- I mean, my dad was always been a very compassionate person and-- but he always taught me, like, you know, this equality that we have, that we have to have between humans. There's always-- you need to treat people--

(Day) Between human, that's my favorite word. Humans.

(Deering) Exactly. He's like, "You're common people," you know.

(Day) Yeah, yeah.

(Deering) And no matter, even if you don't think they're a good person, you treat each other with respect--

(Day) Yeah.

(Deering) And when I asked Rowan this, he just, he would not say that he is a feminist.

(Day) Wow!

(Deering) He will not. And I mean, he even-- because he doesn't like how it's been skewed, the definition, right?

(Day) Yeah.

(Deering) And so-- I mean, like, are you going to say that you're not a smart person if someone changes the definition of smart?

(Day) Yeah. Or like if people perceive the definition to be differently, right?

(Deering) Yeah.

(Day) Because there's this stigma against feminism. Unfortunately, this conversation is going to have to be cut short because Damian just gave me the second "wrap-it-up" sign, so... The building is about to be on lockdown. We've got five minutes before the alarms come on, so...

(Deering) All right.

(Day) Unfortunately, we'll have to continue this later, but it will be continued, and it shall be good.

(Deering) Yes.

(Day) Thank you, Kate. Good talking to you.

(Deering) It's been awesome talking to you.

(Day) That's all for now.