

CASSIE INTERVIEW 2

SIDE 3

000

K: For the time being this is good.

C: OK. I was going to tell you when I first came out to people, my niece for instance. See, my niece and my nephew, I'm not their mother, I never gave birth to them, but I certainly raised them. And I felt, and they felt, that I was like their mother, you know, next to their birth mother, because we raised them, my lover and I, and they were raised around all these women. I told you there was about 16 of us. They were raised around them. They grew up with them. But the thing that I saw was that we were a type of people who are very affectionate people. And anywhere we'd go and whoever we're with, we're always huggy and kissy and you know, greet each other. And we do that with anybody, so my niece and nephew both said that they never, never thought anything about it, because we just done this with everyone. And we were very careful what we done, you know, around them. And they never knew. My niece said, well, she said when I got up in high school she said, I surmised but she said it didn't bother me because I'd lived with it all my life anyway and I'd never thought you know, too much about it. And anyway one time why I was talking to my first ex, and I said, about something about I wish that I could talk to Donna. And she said, well you can. She says, she knows about us, knows about our lifestyle. Why don't you talk to her? And I said, oh really? And she said, oh, sure, I've talked to her. She said her and I have talked about it a lot of times and she said, she knows. She says it'd be nice sometime if you'd talk about it. So I don't know what got into me, but some times I get that way, and I decided well, I would write her a letter. So I wrote her a letter and I told her about my lifestyle. And boy, she come sailing down to Pueblo and when we got home from work she was at the house waiting for us. She grabbed me and hugged me and jumped, we ran around and around and hugged each other and she said, I'm so proud, I'm so proud of you and I'm so proud you told me, you know and all that. I've known for years but I never thought you'd ever tell me, you know, and you finally did. So that was what happened with her.

K: That was great.

C: And then the next one that happened is I have these friends that were friends of Chris's and mine when we lived on the farm. And they were just like family to us and we were just really close, close friends. And in fact, they were they ones that saved Chris's life when she had her bad asthma attack. I was on crutches and in a wheelchair. I had tore my knee up. And they came over to bring water to our stock because we had a broken waterpipe and we had no water. And they came over to bring water that day. And when they got there Chris was just almost not breathing. And we didn't have

a phone and I was getting ready to try to walk to the highway on crutches, a quarter of a mile, to get help. And when they drove in and Lloyd is just a great big guy, he's big red-headed fellow. Big mustache you know, and a red beard and (laugh) and he just grabbed her and put her in the truck and grabbed me and stuck me in there and threw the wheelchair in the back and his wife was driving and we took off and we got down the road a ways and his wife said, Chris is not going to make it. Cause she wasn't breathing. She was blue as could be. So we stopped at some people's house there that we knew and all the neighbors around there, and they had a phone and they called and they got the sheriff out there first and he came and he had oxygen in his truck and he put it on her until the ambulance could get there. But anyway, they just were so close to us. And the poor guy, he's got leukemia, and he's just been really, bad, bad, bad. And they lived in Canon City. After we all left the farm and he was really bad, very bad sick. And they had to move to Arizona because he couldn't stand the winter anymore. So I haven't seen them or heard from them for so long and somebody told me that well, now let me go back on my story though, I'm telling it wrong here. I don't know why, but it was after I had the heart attack I thought and felt like that it was important that people know me. That I wanted them to know me, who I am, and love me for me, and not for what I am. And so I felt like I wanted Lloyd to know it, because he's just like a brother to me. And of course, Cathleen too. But anyway, I wrote to them. And I told them. Well, I wish I could find that letter. I got the most gorgeous letter from that woman, just beautiful, telling me how she loved me and she didn't care, you know, and that I was God's child and that's all that mattered, you know, and she said and Lloyd will write to you, she said, we're not speaking for each other. Well, I never heard from him. And time went on and time went on and I didn't hear from him and my brother lives in Canon City and he saw somebody down there one day and he told him that Lloyd had died. And I was just shattered.

077

Because nobody let me know that he died. And I thought well, maybe he didn't want them to because of what I had told him, you know, and I thought, oh, that's terrible. So I finally wrote to Cathleen and I guess that I really was desperate when I wrote to her, because she called me. And she left word at my friend's to call her at work that day. I wasn't there, I was gone. And when I called her why she said, honey, she said, I'm calling you because she said, your letter was just awful, and she said, and she said, Lloyd is fine. Where in the world did they get that information? She said, he's alright. And I thought, oh, praise God, you know, cause here I thought he was dead. And I said, Cathleen, I thought that you were made at me because I came out to you and I thought that that man died and that he wouldn't let you get in touch with me. I said, I was just shattered. And she said, oh my, no. She said, he's fine, she said. He just is like that. He won't write.

I said, would you please have him call me? She said, I'll do it. He will call you tomorrow, and you look for his call. She told me what time and everything, so sure I was there and the phone rang and he came on and he was just as sweet as, saying hi, my love, how are you? He said, hey, you know something? He said, I'm going to whip you good when I see you next time. He said, don't you know me well enough to know that I love you for you? He said, I don't care what your lifestyle is, honey. He said, I never cared and I never will. I love you because you're you. And he says, you're still very special to me. And I thought you know, that was so great, because you know, you don't know what people's reactions will be when you tell 'em. But I still believe that if they love you, they really truly love you, that they'll understand. They have to. So recently, oh just within the last months, I came out to my nephew. And the reason, what prompted it was I wanted him to go to this chorus. He said, I told him that I'd joined this chorus and he said, oh, well that'd be nice he said. We'll have to go to some of your concerts or something and hear you sing. And I thought, oh, yeah, you know, this is gay and lesbian. So one night I was talking to him on the phone and I thought well, there's no time like the present. We was talking about family problems and stuff and I just told him. He said, honey I've known that since I was 14. He said, I've known that, he said, I don't care, I never did care anything about that, he said, I love you because you're you, you silly thing. (laugh) And I said, Oh, I said, I just wanted to tell you because I feel so badly cause I said I wanted to ask you to come to my Christmas programs and stuff, and he said, all you have to do is ask. So anyway, so I went out to him, but I won't be seeing him there because him and his wife, his wife is on my case, so, but anyway they know. He said there was no problem. But I think that something I could tell you was when I came to Denver to live in 1986 a friend of mine that I had known for 30 years--again I know a lot of people way back when--she lives in Fort Collins, and I see her almost all the time at the dances. Well, anyway, my first ex says well why don't you get in touch with Denny when you're in Denver and she'll take you out places and introduce you around and you can go places, cause she knows, she's lived around there all of her life. So I got in touch with her. I was living at my niece's and she came after me this night and we got all dressed up. I got all dressed up and we went out. And we done the bars. And we went to Ecstasy's. It was Divine Madness. And back then they had a lot of people there on Thursday night. You know, they're getting ready to close because they can't make it. But it used to not be that way. It was really boomed. We went in that place and I want to tell you something, I didn't know there was that many lesbian women in the world, let alone in Denver, Colorado. I stood there, she said my eyes got big and my mouth was hanging open (laugh). I couldn't believe it, you know? I mean, it was just unbelievable. And then I went and got into these groups you know, and all this stuff, and I really got very involved with the community, because

I needed to. I didn't you know, I was new here, I didn't know anybody. And I think that's one thing that saved my life, was the fact that I did get involved. Because I've often wondered. If I'd have had that heart attack and I hadn't had known anybody, what would have happened to me? You know? In fact Bobbie and I talked some one time about getting a group of lesbian women together just to be there for people who need someone. How important that is, cause there's so many of them around that have nobody. And I don't know, we went to Lits, and Lits closed right after that. And oh, I've had some really funny times. God (laugh), not knowing anything you know, being so dumb.

164

K: What happened at Lits?

C: Well, one night one of the little gals that lived in the house where I lived at the young woman's house, there was 4 of us lived there, and this one little gal, she's a young woman, and I got a whole lot of kids. I never gave birth to any child in my life, but I sure got a lot of children, got a lot of kids and I love them all, they're very precious to me. And she's probably, well she's in her early 30's now. She was in her twenties when I first met her. And she always, you know we always look up to one, she looks up to me, you know, calls me Mama, and so we were out one night and we were cruisin'. We were looking for women. And we got caught. (laugh) And this gal comes over to me and she said, hi. I said hi. She said, I've been watching you over there. I said, oh yeah. And she said, I know, I caught you. She started talking to us and so she asked me if I wanted to go out. And I said, sure, you know, so we went out and we had a good time. Only I found out that she was, she was a drinker. We went to the Sisters one night and she got as high as a kite and she left, no, it was the Highland. Before the evening was over she left because she said, I've got to get out of her, I've had too much to drink, and she went home. Left me setting. But there's a lot of sadness in the world, you know. But at least she had sense enough to know it.

K: That's true.

C: Yeah. But oh, and I've had a crush on this one and a crush on that one, and found out that it didn't work that way. You know. I just have something to learn about women. Finding one. Guess you never get too old to learn, honey. If I can learn (laugh), oh, I think it's funny.

K: Well, I think it's a great thing to be able to laugh at yourself.

C: I have to (laugh) because it's so ridiculous sometimes.

K: What's ridiculous?

200

C: I think about me falling in love with that woman and I just fell so hard. Just absolutely. And everybody said, well, it wouldn't have done any good for us to have said anything because you would never have listened, but we wondered what in the world were you doing? I mean, you know, you just left yourself wide open for this, and I said, but I didn't know (laugh). And if you don't know what do you do?

K: And next time, tell me (laugh).

C: [X] said, oh [Cassie], she says, don't you know, she said, I wanted to say hey, slow down. But she said you wouldn't have listened to me anyway. But it was so funny because we, I'd been friends for so many friends and we were laughing one day and we were saying you know, I got involved with this gal from Kentucky and everything just went to hell, you know, I mean it just . . . and Lou said and I stood right there and watched you and we talked about it and she said, one week later I done the same thing. She said, what's the matter with us, why don't we ever learn anything (laugh)? I said, cause we're women I guess. I said, I don't think there's a lesbian woman in the world that knows anything when it comes to love. You know, I don't, I just think that we're absolutely crazy.

K: One of my friend's favorite joke is, What is a lesbian with a U-Haul? A lesbian on her second date.

C: (laugh) Right. Right. That's as right as can be. And I got tickled at my little [Y]. My little [Y], listen to me. But they're my kids. [Y], I lived in her house, I roomed in her house and lived in her home with her. We were never lovers, never have been, but we've been the best of friends. And she's got her a new little lady, and they're so in love, and it's just so, thrilled me because I've been with [Y] and I've seen her and been with her and seen her go through how many different women and all these experiences and everything and when I had this thing going with this gal, that I fell so madly in love with, she just looked at me and she said, well honey, she said, how did you do that? How in the name of God did you do that? she said. There was no reason. I said, I don't know, I just absolutely don't know. Well, she met this little gal through a gal that was staying with her for a few days. She gave her a place to stay cause she broke up with her lover and she had no place to stay. So she let her stay there fore a few days. And she brought this gal over. And she was just super. Oh, she was a cutie. And [Y] kind of looked at me, you know, wriggled her eyebrows (laughed), so [Y] and I was down to Miss C's this one night and along comes this little chickie. And she says, oh, she said, I just was by, I just happened by and I saw your car out there and I thought I'd come in--she was talking to [Y].

252

K: Not you.

C: No.

K: [Y].

C: I said, bull (laugh), she didn't just happen there, she was looking for you. Well, anyway, she broke off with this other gal and she had met [Y] there you know at her house, and she was looking for her and she found her and boy they got a thing going, and they are so in love and it's so cute. But [Y] just fell, my God, she just fell, just head or heels, and I looked at her and I said how did you do that (laugh)? I said, you didn't even know her. How did you do that? She said, oh shut up, Cassie. (laugh) See how we are? I said, why did you do that, I said, you never done that before. And she said, shut up. I said, well, I figured that you asked me so I could ask you. She didn't have any better answer than I did. Just happened. Isn't it funny though?

K: Sure is.

C: But anyway, I'm tickled to death for her.

K: That's great.

C: I think that's great and I, I really believe that they're going to just make a great pair for a long time. The situation was just right, and everything was right for them to meet and I know that I'm impatient and I know why I'm impatient. I have a fear inside of me that something will happen that I won't be able to have another lover in my life and I, you know, I want my life to have love in it again before I die. And I know how quickly your life can be, [snap] that quick. And it is, it's a compulsion with me, it's a almost a drive. It can't be that way, because if you do I found out if you show this to people that you're desperate you're going to scare every woman in town away cause they, there's something about us that if we know somebody is desperate or somebody's really trying to get to us, we'll turn and go the other way, that's the way we are. But I think you know, how many more years do I have? And I just want to have somebody and be happy again and have somebody in my life, but yet I know too that you've got to be able to, it'll happen when it's ready.

K: Right.

299

C: You can't force it, and I tell you too I believe when you're not looking is when you're going to find it.

K: I think that's really true. Somehow it always seems that way, doesn't it?

C: This lady that I'm going with right now. The way I met her I was at Miss C's and there was these two ladies there, they're lovers, and they were at the dance and one of them loves to dance as well as I do and she came over and asked me to dance. She said, man, I've been watching you dance and she said, I just love to dance. You know how to really cut a rug out there, she said, let's get at it. I said, OK. Man, we danced that night just like crazy. And she said before she left, I've got a neighbor lady that I want you to meet. She said, I know that you and Claire would get along just wonderful. Well, I never saw anymore of her, and then here a while back why there she was again. And we danced, but my knee was bad and I didn't dance like I generally do with her, but we danced some. She said, I still haven't told Claire about, given Claire your telephone number. I said, well, I told you you could. And she said, yeah, well, I've still got to do that. And I said, well, get with it, you know. Well, I didn't hear anything and didn't hear anything, and finally she called and she says, I finally got them to give me that phone number. And so she called me and I didn't think she ever would, but she did. So, she's a nice lady. I like her. I've rattled on and on here and gettin' rattled out.

K: Yeah, why don't we call it a day.

326

END OF SIDE ONE