

WEBVTT

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00:02:26.370 --> 00:02:27.990

Jacqueline Aviles: Hi. How's everything? Can you hear me?

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00:02:28.710 --> 00:02:29.400

Victor Santana: I can hear you.

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00:02:30.030 --> 00:02:33.060

Jacqueline Aviles: Okay, perfect. Thank you so much for your time.

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00:02:35.730 --> 00:02:48.720

Jacqueline Aviles: Okay, perfect. I just wanted to let you know that today I will be recording everything we talked about. I will also be sending you a copy of our recording and what we talked about, is that okay with you? Perfect, yeah. Okay. Thank you, Victor. How's your day going

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00:02:49.530 --> 00:02:54.960

Victor Santana: I'm pretty good. You know, just trying to stay sane with, you know, shelter in place in quarantine.

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00:02:55.500 --> 00:03:00.960

Jacqueline Aviles: Yes, it's a lot to take in. It's a lot to process to have been home for so long.

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00:03:02.160 --> 00:03:09.300

Victor Santana: It's a time to reflect. You know, just try to like to work on oneself within your own home.

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00:03:10.020 --> 00:03:10.560

Yes.

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00:03:12.090 --> 00:03:21.450

Jacqueline Aviles: Okay. Well, today I wanted to get to know you a little bit better and based on what we've talked about. I'm going to be going into depth about it. So, please

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00:03:22.770 --> 00:03:30.840

Jacqueline Aviles: Is there something that right now that you would not like me not to bring up or is there something that you don't feel comfortable sharing?

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00:03:31.230 --> 00:03:31.890

Victor Santana: I'm an open book.

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00:03:32.940 --> 00:03:34.470
Jacqueline Aviles: Okay, thank you. I appreciate that.

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00:03:35.790 --> 00:03:36.870
Jacqueline Aviles: Okay, so

14
00:03:38.040 --> 00:03:46.740
Jacqueline Aviles: As a way of getting to know you better. I would like to know if your name has a deeper significance or if you know the reason behind your name?

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00:03:48.090 --> 00:03:56.820
Victor Santana: Well I got my name originally from my dad, I also have quite a few

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00:03:57.840 --> 00:04:01.320
Uncles and family members are also named Victor. So it just fits.

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00:04:04.500 --> 00:04:06.300
Jacqueline Aviles: Is it a family tradition?

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00:04:06.810 --> 00:04:09.330
Victor Santana: Wasn't really a tradition. But just like a trend.

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00:04:12.180 --> 00:04:18.990
Jacqueline Aviles: Thinking back and reflecting on your life, what is the earliest childhood memory that you have?

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00:04:21.810 --> 00:04:26.760
Victor Santana: The earliest childhood memory?

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00:04:27.810 --> 00:04:31.350
Victor Santana: I would probably have to say playing in

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00:04:33.240 --> 00:04:37.680
Victor Santana: The backyard at my grandma's house with all my cousins and family members.

23
00:04:39.240 --> 00:04:44.580
Victor Santana: Which had a sandbox in her backyard. So we all liked to play and she had a little slide too.

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00:04:46.410 --> 00:04:50.820
Jacqueline Aviles: Nice. Did your grandma live here in the area or was this out of town?

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00:04:51.480 --> 00:04:52.800

Victor Santana: Yeah, she lived actually

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00:04:53.970 --> 00:05:00.870

Victor Santana: Maybe a block away from me, at the time, and all my family lived together. So we'd all kind of just go to her house and she'd kind of

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00:05:01.890 --> 00:05:03.810

Victor Santana: babysit all of us when we were younger.

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00:05:05.580 --> 00:05:10.110

Jacqueline Aviles: Nice. By all of us, Do you mean you and your siblings? or you and your cousins.?

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00:05:10.470 --> 00:05:11.400

Victor Santana: Yeah, all of

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00:05:12.690 --> 00:05:15.690

My siblings and cousins too.

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00:05:17.130 --> 00:05:21.660

Jacqueline Aviles: How was that growing up? I'm guessing it was a big family?

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00:05:23.550 --> 00:05:41.040

Victor Santana: It was all right. We always got into trouble, we would butt heads and like to fight or whatever, but it was all fun. We just played games with each other.

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00:05:42.960 --> 00:05:45.900

Jacqueline Aviles: How was your experience growing up?

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00:05:47.190 --> 00:05:49.320

Victor Santana: Um, it was pretty

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00:05:50.460 --> 00:05:59.520

Victor Santana: Rocky I mean, nowadays looking back, it feels kind of like a fever dream, sort of like I forgot I live that because it feels so long ago.

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00:06:01.980 --> 00:06:08.700

Victor Santana: It was pretty rocky mostly just like struggling with being understood by other kids.

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00:06:11.100 --> 00:06:13.770

Jacqueline Aviles: Kids in your school kids in your family?

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00:06:14.640 --> 00:06:28.950

Victor Santana: Mostly other kids in school and some of my cousins, because they didn't really conform to what they thought was normal? Like hanging out with like girls.

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00:06:30.150 --> 00:06:37.710

Victor Santana: through elementary school and stuff. They just kind of found that weird and they were like, I guess question me about it.?

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00:06:39.390 --> 00:06:41.310

Jacqueline Aviles: Your family or your friends?

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00:06:41.700 --> 00:06:49.200

Victor Santana: Um, I guess just my classmates at the time. I wouldn't really consider them friends just like people in my grade class.

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00:06:51.960 --> 00:06:56.610

Jacqueline Aviles: Is this something that at the moment you didn't understand?

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00:07:00.330 --> 00:07:04.710

Jacqueline Aviles: Or how was that like for you, being questioned?

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00:07:06.720 --> 00:07:15.300

Victor Santana: Well, at first it just kind of made me feel like, Oh, is there something wrong with me or like something and they couldn't really verbalize it. Um,

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00:07:15.870 --> 00:07:29.070

Victor Santana: I kind of like was thinking I was probably doing something wrong by, like, I guess not hanging out with people. I should have been hanging out with, I guess, or so they said.

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00:07:30.120 --> 00:07:35.040

Victor Santana: But yeah, so yeah, it kind of was made to feel kind of like I was different, or not normal.

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00:07:36.420 --> 00:07:39.960

Jacqueline Aviles: Okay, Could you tell me about

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00:07:42.390 --> 00:07:47.490

Jacqueline Aviles: How important was your family to you, growing up?

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00:07:49.170 --> 00:07:54.840

Victor Santana: Definitely a major presence.

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00:07:55.980 --> 00:08:00.960

Victor Santana: And a major role in shaping me as a kid.

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00:08:02.460 --> 00:08:08.340

Victor Santana: In the sense that It will be instilled in me.

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00:08:10.350 --> 00:08:30.330

Victor Santana: Kind of like these gender norms or like how things should be and I always kind of came into conflict with those, but I never really will close the I just kind of like internalize them and just kind of learned not to express myself in front of them.

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00:08:32.370 --> 00:08:42.000

Jacqueline Aviles: Okay, is this something that you have worked on? Besides, in your childhood? or as an adult?

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00:08:43.140 --> 00:08:44.340

Victor Santana: Like expressing myself.?

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00:08:44.820 --> 00:08:45.120

Jacqueline Aviles: Yes

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00:08:45.930 --> 00:08:53.880

Victor Santana: Yeah, to some capacity. I like, I guess, more like floral things

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00:08:55.110 --> 00:09:07.500

Victor Santana: More I guess things that I guess would be considered more feminine, but I don't really push the boundaries as much. Even when I didn't like the floral things that are most likely met with some criticism.

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00:09:11.040 --> 00:09:11.730

Jacqueline Aviles: Oh,

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00:09:12.870 --> 00:09:18.870

Jacqueline Aviles: Can you tell me a story about a situation where this happened?

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00:09:20.640 --> 00:09:24.840

Victor Santana: One time I got a shirt that was like

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00:09:25.860 --> 00:09:32.850

Victor Santana: White. It was a button-up shirt, which had white with red roses on all around.

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00:09:34.410 --> 00:09:37.560

Victor Santana: I had worn it and

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00:09:38.820 --> 00:09:41.670

Victor Santana: I was just given

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00:09:42.750 --> 00:09:51.690

Victor Santana: weird looks and then like occasionally they would tell me I don't like it when you wear like these things.

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00:09:53.490 --> 00:09:56.100

Victor Santana: They wouldn't really stop me from wearing them at the time.

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00:09:57.840 --> 00:09:59.970

Jacqueline Aviles: Was this in High School?

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00:10:01.050 --> 00:10:02.640

Jacqueline Aviles: How was your high school experience?

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00:10:03.690 --> 00:10:05.550

It was,

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00:10:08.970 --> 00:10:13.320

Victor Santana: It was all right. It wasn't terrible it but it wasn't like necessarily the best

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00:10:15.600 --> 00:10:26.370

Victor Santana: I only really have like one close friend throughout the last four years since I didn't really feel like I fit in with most others because

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00:10:27.750 --> 00:10:33.240

Victor Santana: Of like my gender identity and like sexuality at the time. And,

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00:10:34.710 --> 00:10:45.510

Victor Santana: Yeah, I guess I was more pessimistic than most. So I didn't really like to fit in with them. So I guess there was a sense of isolation.

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00:10:46.800 --> 00:10:48.360

Victor Santana: And alienation in high school.

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00:10:51.240 --> 00:11:01.530

Jacqueline Aviles: You had told me that you had joined some clubs within those clubs. Did you still feel isolated or how was your experience in the clubs?

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00:11:02.130 --> 00:11:15.660

Victor Santana: Um, for example, I was in the Japanese honor society. So it's like if you took on Japanese all four years, you were in it and our class was so small.

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00:11:16.920 --> 00:11:18.120

Victor Santana: So there was like

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00:11:19.320 --> 00:11:24.120

Victor Santana: At one point, 10 of us and the class in total,

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00:11:25.440 --> 00:11:42.630

Victor Santana: It was kind of like some of the best students in the school academically. So it kind of tends to start comparing yourselves, especially during testing times.

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00:11:43.800 --> 00:11:54.570

Victor Santana: SAT and so, at times it was kind of like I felt more vulnerable since there are fewer people so that would have asked me about stuff. And I felt like I didn't really fit in with them.

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00:11:56.640 --> 00:12:00.540

Jacqueline Aviles: Is that something that you did only one year. Did you do it all four years of high school?

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00:12:01.230 --> 00:12:03.210

Victor Santana: I took Japanese all four years.

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00:12:03.540 --> 00:12:08.130

Jacqueline Aviles: Okay, you formed a

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00:12:09.720 --> 00:12:15.210

Jacqueline Aviles: community with them throughout your High School experience and felt this way, the whole time.

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00:12:16.200 --> 00:12:35.640

Victor Santana: I'm much more evident than last year because before there were more people in it, a lot of people decided not to take the fourth year of Japanese which was AP, which is obviously harder. Um, so I guess it was like a whittled down to like 10

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00:12:37.980 --> 00:12:42.600

Victor Santana: And I like that one did feel a sense of community both I felt kind of like

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00:12:44.340 --> 00:12:45.600

Different from them.

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00:12:59.970 --> 00:13:02.820

Jacqueline Aviles: Can you tell me about your life at home.

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00:13:04.560 --> 00:13:06.900

Victor Santana: I'm currently more

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00:13:06.990 --> 00:13:11.010

Jacqueline Aviles: And more of your upbringing.

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00:13:11.670 --> 00:13:28.320

Victor Santana: Um, it was like very tumultuous because my father like struggled and struggled with alcoholism and I was kind of brought up under like the culture of

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00:13:29.880 --> 00:13:32.250

Victor Santana: Machismo.

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00:13:33.750 --> 00:13:40.020

Victor Santana: If that makes sense. So my family's from like rural parts of Mexico where you're kind of like

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00:13:41.460 --> 00:13:42.660

Victor Santana: Brought up like

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00:13:43.920 --> 00:13:47.010

Victor Santana: What's the term "machismo" and have a strong sense of manhood, so like

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00:13:47.700 --> 00:13:49.350

Jacqueline Aviles: very traditional.? Yeah.?

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00:13:50.940 --> 00:14:00.270

Victor Santana: So, and I was like the only son from my dad so he really wanted to shape me into him because I am the only son. And obviously, he tried to get that from me very early on.

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00:14:00.750 --> 00:14:13.560

Victor Santana: Since I didn't really want to go hang out with them and do like the things that he would do, I guess. So I guess you kind of like gave up on trying to mold me that way like early on. Um,

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00:14:14.670 --> 00:14:26.820

Victor Santana: But yeah, there was always kind of like this antagonism between me and my father because it was just very like he's trying to mold me a certain way and me kind of like refuse that I'm still yeah

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00:14:27.570 --> 00:14:32.640

Jacqueline Aviles: Would you say that causes tension in your family or like in between you and your father.

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00:14:33.300 --> 00:14:35.970

Victor Santana: Just overall yeah will cause tension to the family.

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00:14:38.190 --> 00:14:42.900

Jacqueline Aviles: And can you tell me more about your father, as far as his upbringing.?

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00:14:43.920 --> 00:14:47.460

Victor Santana: Yeah, so, um, my dad was born here in Sacramento,

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00:14:48.690 --> 00:14:49.110

Victor Santana: And

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00:14:50.160 --> 00:15:00.150

Victor Santana: Then he moved immediately back to Mexico until he was like 16 and then he moved back here and that's where he met my mom but um he had

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00:15:02.790 --> 00:15:07.170

Victor Santana: No further than a high school level education.

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00:15:08.370 --> 00:15:20.730

Victor Santana: Um, he worked a bit in the fields and then moved on to working in construction and that's kind of where he stayed for most of like my life,

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00:15:21.990 --> 00:15:34.140

Victor Santana: So yeah, he's like the breadwinner in terms of our parents. He's the only one working.

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00:15:35.730 --> 00:15:39.510

Jacqueline Aviles: Has it always been that way or is it just at the moment because of quarantine?

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00:15:40.080 --> 00:15:54.600

Victor Santana: Um, well, my mom used to work up until she had my youngest sister, which was in 2015 um but before that she worked for the California newspaper

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00:15:56.700 --> 00:16:00.900

Jacqueline Aviles: For a number years so yeah but if you do with the California newspaper

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00:16:01.920 --> 00:16:12.720

Victor Santana: She worked with advertisements, I believe, like going over with, like, how to display companies advertisements in the newspaper.

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00:16:14.070 --> 00:16:16.320

Jacqueline Aviles: Okay, can you tell me about your mom.

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00:16:17.400 --> 00:16:37.590

Victor Santana: Um, well, my mom was born in Mexico, and then she migrated over here when she was six. Um, and then she will just kind of life in Salinas. For most of her life. She graduated from Allison and went to Heald College at the time before

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00:16:39.030 --> 00:16:39.480

You know,

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00:16:42.390 --> 00:17:02.250

Victor Santana: And yeah, she worked. I think she worked for a car dealership at one point before working at California's Newspaper and then she had me when she was 18 and my sister when she was 20 and then again, my youngest sister like four years ago. Okay.

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00:17:02.910 --> 00:17:06.510

Jacqueline Aviles: Nice and could you tell me

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00:17:10.200 --> 00:17:13.290

Jacqueline Aviles: How is your father and mother's relationship.

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00:17:15.270 --> 00:17:34.920

Victor Santana: Um, well, from what I can tell, like growing up, from what I witnessed. I always kind of saw it as very toxic and term and the terms that like my dad hasn't stopped drinking since like you were since I mean

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00:17:36.180 --> 00:17:40.620

Victor Santana: I will always remember my dad drinking. There was never a point where he wasn't

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00:17:42.000 --> 00:17:53.550

Victor Santana: So that means my mom, of course, had been dealing with that for at least 20 years and there was no point. There was no sign of change. In fact, he had openly said that he would never stop.

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00:17:54.540 --> 00:18:05.550

Victor Santana: Um, and obviously like they would argue about like, you know, like money and you know like his drinking problems and

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00:18:17.970 --> 00:18:18.330

Jacqueline Aviles: Hello.

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00:18:22.020 --> 00:18:22.440

Jacqueline Aviles: Hello.

124

00:18:25.410 --> 00:18:26.880

Jacqueline Aviles: Oh, sorry.

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00:18:27.600 --> 00:18:30.180

Victor Santana: My internet connection was getting weak. Sorry.

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00:18:39.150 --> 00:18:42.810

Jacqueline Aviles: As the oldest son what expectations did your family have?

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00:18:44.160 --> 00:18:56.400

Victor Santana: Um, they just kind of expected me to be more mature more responsible and just in terms of like

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00:18:58.140 --> 00:19:00.570

Victor Santana: I guess like my grades and stuff.

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00:19:02.160 --> 00:19:05.010

Victor Santana: But there wasn't that much of a difference. Since my

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00:19:06.660 --> 00:19:09.060

Victor Santana: Another sister is two years younger than me.

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00:19:10.230 --> 00:19:10.620

So,

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00:19:15.450 --> 00:19:21.960

Jacqueline Aviles: Did they ever treat your sister differently or the same?

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00:19:22.200 --> 00:19:31.320

Victor Santana: My parents are like, very like

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00:19:32.400 --> 00:19:37.050

Victor Santana: Much Easier like a way of like living very like preacher article

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00:19:39.570 --> 00:19:50.340

Victor Santana: Yes. Like, they will treat her differently in terms of the day expected of her to learn to like, do the dishes, and do basically like household chores.

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00:19:51.660 --> 00:20:03.960

Victor Santana: And I mean if I did the dishes that would sometimes kind of feel weird about it because I'm not supposed to like doing that it's supposed to be here and their eyes, at least. So it's just kind of like

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00:20:05.130 --> 00:20:07.140

Victor Santana: they enforce like gender norms on her.

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00:20:08.610 --> 00:20:11.730

Jacqueline Aviles: Okay, is this something that they try to do to you as well.

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00:20:12.960 --> 00:20:26.550

Victor Santana: Um, to an extent, and like my dad always kind of like trying to control how my hair is. My hair cut or like how I dress like you always want to make it be short and

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00:20:28.140 --> 00:20:30.720

Victor Santana: I like didn't want that sometimes

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00:20:33.510 --> 00:20:37.560

Victor Santana: He was very controlling about my appearance to make sure it was like masculine enough

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00:20:41.310 --> 00:20:52.800

Jacqueline Aviles: Oh, did you ever try to stand up for yourself and say that's not how I want it or was this something that you just kind of would agree with him to please him?

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00:21:00.000 --> 00:21:00.930

Victor Santana: I can't hear you.

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00:21:01.830 --> 00:21:08.460

Jacqueline Aviles: Is this something that you and your dad would compromise on like cutting your hair? Is this something that you tried to

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00:21:10.410 --> 00:21:13.110

Jacqueline Aviles: Rebel and do whatever you wanted

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00:21:14.580 --> 00:21:17.940

Victor Santana: It was mostly just kind of like my dad really trying to like

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00:21:19.770 --> 00:21:31.230

Victor Santana: Put these limitations on me and I never kind of like showed any signs of, like, like, you know, giving up or like letting him do it. So I guess eventually just kind of gave up.

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00:21:33.360 --> 00:21:39.630

Jacqueline Aviles: There like a vivid example or vivid memory that you have an incident where he tried to control your appearance.

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00:21:40.560 --> 00:21:53.910

Victor Santana: Yeah, I'm more like you will take me to get like a haircut and stuff and then I will tell them how I wanted it cut and like at one point he even went up to like the

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00:21:55.260 --> 00:22:13.140

Victor Santana: Lady doing my hair and like instructor on how to do it and stuff like right in front of me and it was pretty embarrassing and then like one time he made me wear, just like this baggy denim-like clothes and like this.

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00:22:14.550 --> 00:22:26.970

Victor Santana: Hat that I didn't really want to wear, but he was forcing me to wear it. We would go like out in public, and I would run into people I know, looking like that. So it's pretty embarrassing.

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00:22:28.230 --> 00:22:29.310

Jacqueline Aviles: How old were you at the time.

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00:22:30.240 --> 00:22:34.650

Victor Santana: Um, I was in middle school. So like around

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00:22:36.630 --> 00:22:37.500

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00:22:39.450 --> 00:22:39.990

Working

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00:22:42.210 --> 00:22:43.050

Jacqueline Aviles: Um,

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00:22:46.260 --> 00:22:49.080

Jacqueline Aviles: Did you ever try to have conversations with him about it.

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00:22:50.610 --> 00:22:51.360

Victor Santana: I'm

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00:22:51.840 --> 00:23:08.460

Victor Santana: Not really. Outside of like arguments, not really, just because I like the same way you gave up on me. I kind of gave up on him and I knew that he wasn't going to change his views and it would be too exhausting to try to convince them.

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00:23:10.560 --> 00:23:14.820

Victor Santana: So no idea, I really like to sit down and have like a conversation with them about it.

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00:23:16.740 --> 00:23:18.930

Jacqueline Aviles: Going back on.

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00:23:20.700 --> 00:23:24.060

Jacqueline Aviles: How you were saying that your dad would drink all the time.

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00:23:25.140 --> 00:23:27.840

Jacqueline Aviles: Were you ever afraid when he would drink.

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00:23:30.450 --> 00:23:46.080

Victor Santana: At certain times. Yeah, because he would be stressed out from his job and then project like that anger onto us. And, I mean, he would kind of have these big as like, you know

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00:23:47.610 --> 00:23:56.610

Victor Santana: And like he would threaten to break our phones and one time he ripped my mom's purse.

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00:23:57.900 --> 00:24:09.090

Victor Santana: And yeah, so he was like, he would have these outbursts and stuff. He never laid a hand on us, but like, of course, like that was always like worry

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00:24:11.610 --> 00:24:27.090

Victor Santana: I mean, I would have a dream sometimes where he would almost kill me and stuff so yeah like I guess when you drink. So I just kind of like lock my room and stuff, but he doesn't really have that same outburst as much

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00:24:29.580 --> 00:24:30.120

Jacqueline Aviles: Um

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00:24:34.740 --> 00:24:38.160

Jacqueline Aviles: Just from like a traditional standpoint you think that

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00:24:39.390 --> 00:24:43.230

Jacqueline Aviles: That's one of the reasons that

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00:24:44.250 --> 00:24:52.050

Jacqueline Aviles: That he is the way he is just because of a traditional standpoint, like that. That is encouraged and instead of being frowned upon.

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00:24:54.990 --> 00:25:06.300

Victor Santana: Yes, because I'm like, I would go to Mexico, like every year. So like I was very like familiar with like the culture and his particular town and stuff and

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00:25:06.870 --> 00:25:13.410

Victor Santana: I mean, we would go and like during like las fiestas, which is like basically like the rodeo, but like I mean smaller

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00:25:13.980 --> 00:25:32.670

Victor Santana: And like basically people just go there to drink like of course they watched the show or whatever, but they're just kind of sitting there and they're drinking like whatever, and it's kind of just very like a norm for like every man like drinks and stuff. And there's no never really

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00:25:34.230 --> 00:25:38.130

Victor Santana: You know, like there's not really frowned upon, I guess.

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00:25:39.030 --> 00:25:45.240

Victor Santana: So like I mean he grew up with that culture. So he believes it's right.

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00:25:46.830 --> 00:25:47.430

Or okay

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00:25:49.140 --> 00:25:52.080

Jacqueline Aviles: What was your experience like going to Mexico.

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00:25:53.340 --> 00:26:03.690

Victor Santana: Um, it wasn't the best because I'm whatever issues they face like at homework, just like exacerbated like there because

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00:26:04.680 --> 00:26:13.500

Victor Santana: I would stay in one room like the four of us that's we would stay at my grandma's house which is like a two-room

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00:26:14.340 --> 00:26:26.520

Victor Santana: House, so it would be like the four of us, and it'd be like to, and there was no sense of privacy. So each time he would get drunk, you kinda have to like to deal with him.

182

00:26:27.930 --> 00:26:30.420

Victor Santana: So there was no avoiding him in any sort of way.

183

00:26:31.680 --> 00:26:42.540

Victor Santana: And of course, since it's like a smaller town like I just couldn't like to relate to, like, the kids there since they're just very also like break like being brought up by the same

184

00:26:44.340 --> 00:26:47.100

Victor Santana: Like conservative viewpoints. Um,

185

00:26:48.240 --> 00:26:51.840

Victor Santana: So this is where it feels very alienating

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00:26:56.370 --> 00:26:58.860

Jacqueline Aviles: In your time there. What would you do for fun?

187

00:27:09.270 --> 00:27:10.770

Jacqueline Aviles: I'm sorry, I can't hear you.

188

00:27:16.860 --> 00:27:17.820

Jacqueline Aviles: Hello, sorry.

189

00:27:18.210 --> 00:27:36.630

Victor Santana: So I would just sort of wait until like we were to go out to like to visit some other place like a bigger city or whenever we would go do errands and like the town nearby um I mean as the years progressed, sometimes I brought books with me.

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00:27:37.980 --> 00:27:51.780

Victor Santana: Yeah, that's kind of like what I did or like sometimes I think my aunt had a Wi-Fi connection. So I would just go to her house and stuff.

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00:27:55.980 --> 00:28:02.160

Jacqueline Aviles: What was your experience in Mexico as far as

192

00:28:04.800 --> 00:28:05.460

Jacqueline Aviles: The culture.

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00:28:06.810 --> 00:28:08.340
Victor Santana: The culture, um,

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00:28:10.860 --> 00:28:18.030
Victor Santana: I like, I mean, there are certain aspects of it that I really like and it feels like home. Um,

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00:28:19.800 --> 00:28:30.870
Victor Santana: But there are also other aspects that are just very toxic in terms of like the just very conservative like values,

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00:28:31.920 --> 00:28:36.900
Victor Santana: And like just very patriarchal and just

197

00:28:55.440 --> 00:28:57.480
Jacqueline Aviles: Hello. Oh, yeah, I can hear you.

198

00:28:59.220 --> 00:29:00.810
Jacqueline Aviles: Sorry, I didn't get that last part.

199

00:29:02.100 --> 00:29:11.790
Victor Santana: Um, I would just enjoy the food like the music just like in whenever I would go out and view, like other parts of like how they are and stuff.

200

00:29:14.010 --> 00:29:23.220
Victor Santana: And just like you know interacting with like the people there. It was the nice part of it. Um, so yeah.

201

00:29:24.240 --> 00:29:26.190
Jacqueline Aviles: So overall you would just have to be very nice.

202

00:29:27.900 --> 00:29:30.030
Victor Santana: Yeah, they weren't rude people

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00:29:31.710 --> 00:29:36.840
Victor Santana: Just they tend to be very conservative, religious, and stuff.

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00:29:38.340 --> 00:29:40.860
Jacqueline Aviles: Did you grow up in a conservative or religious home.

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00:29:41.730 --> 00:29:44.580
Victor Santana: I grew up in a conservative home.

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00:29:45.900 --> 00:29:59.070

Victor Santana: My grandparents are very religious, but they never really enforced out on me because I mean I didn't live with them and my parents are relatively young so they didn't really enforce religion on me. They just assume that I would be like Catholic

207

Jacqueline Aviles: Um,

239

00:33:26.010 --> 00:33:27.270

Jacqueline Aviles: Can you tell me

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00:33:28.500 --> 00:33:31.020

Jacqueline Aviles: How was your experience?

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00:33:32.610 --> 00:33:34.620

Jacqueline Aviles: Being aware of your sexuality.

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00:33:37.440 --> 00:33:49.830

Victor Santana: I knew about it as early as like third grade, I think, and like even then I mean I was already kind of like at the time being made to feel it goes weird I just kind of like

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00:33:51.030 --> 00:33:52.590

Victor Santana: I wasn't very like masculine

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00:33:54.060 --> 00:33:58.950

Victor Santana: It was that very confusing experience of trying to realize like, who liked and stuff.

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00:34:00.240 --> 00:34:10.980

Victor Santana: I just kind of like, notice that I liked boys and I was like, Okay, let me just like not tell anyone about it. Just keep it to myself from, from now on,

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00:34:12.270 --> 00:34:19.800

Victor Santana: Um, but, uh, yeah, just kind of like learning to keep that part of me like you know private

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00:34:21.330 --> 00:34:24.180

Jacqueline Aviles: Is something that you've, you

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00:34:26.400 --> 00:34:33.990

Jacqueline Aviles: Like was it hard for you to do that. Was it like a constant battle that you would fight within yourself, or was it something that like you wanted to share

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00:34:35.400 --> 00:34:46.740

Victor Santana: Um, it was something that I mean I didn't struggle like internally. I knew kind of more like more so I wasn't that aspect. Like, who I liked and

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00:34:48.720 --> 00:35:03.690

Victor Santana: I was like, really confused about myself. Um, but I just kind of wanted to, you know, express it. And, you know, feel accepted for expressing it. So yeah.

251

00:35:06.120 --> 00:35:06.630

Jacqueline Aviles: Um

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00:35:09.690 --> 00:35:14.250

Jacqueline Aviles: Can you tell me about your friends. How about your experience coming out.

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00:35:15.660 --> 00:35:24.690

Victor Santana: Um, it was, it wasn't the best experience. Um, I didn't really have an option to come out.

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00:35:27.240 --> 00:35:33.690

Victor Santana: It was kind of forced by my dad and it was just kind of like

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00:35:35.460 --> 00:35:54.660

Victor Santana: He didn't really address it to me directly, he just kind of went off to like drink to get drunk, and like you know drink away his sorrows and argue with my mom because apparently that was a failure on their part or something.

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00:35:55.830 --> 00:36:06.180

Victor Santana: Um yeah, I mean, eventually they would kind of like try to blame it on me like saying that I was causing them pain and suffering and that I needed to change.

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00:36:07.500 --> 00:36:19.860

Victor Santana: And I mean, I never really let that like to get to me. I would like to tell him like, you know, like stick to this faith that I would never change for anyone, not even them.

258

00:36:21.330 --> 00:36:26.070

Victor Santana: Um, so I guess he just kind of likes to learn to come to terms with it.

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00:36:27.510 --> 00:36:28.800

Victor Santana: Or at least like ignore

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00:36:30.690 --> 00:36:33.990

Jacqueline Aviles: Is that something that took a while for him, or was it something that he

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00:36:35.220 --> 00:36:37.350

Jacqueline Aviles: Like within time was able to accept.

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00:36:38.790 --> 00:36:49.440

Victor Santana: I'm, I'm pretty sure he still doesn't accept it, he just kind of tries to overlook that part of me. Um, he just kind of

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00:36:51.900 --> 00:37:10.530

Victor Santana: Just learned not to talk about it. I mean, I would still Overhear conversations he would have with like my mom at the dinner table from my room and how he said that he doesn't know how he will do it when like I get married or something or if you'll even be able to go,

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00:37:11.670 --> 00:37:24.060

Victor Santana: So yeah, He even mentioned saying that it would be like a shot to the head or something, that's like his level of suffering.

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00:37:26.430 --> 00:37:29.970

Jacqueline Aviles: Do you think this comes from a lack of awareness.

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00:37:31.530 --> 00:37:43.680

Victor Santana: Yeah, I mean, it's mostly just a lack of understanding and kind of a level of disgust that was instilled in him from very early on. He learned to be

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00:37:44.370 --> 00:37:50.220

Victor Santana: disgusted by these people and learned that there was a way your suppose to act and be a certain way.

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00:37:50.670 --> 00:38:08.370

Victor Santana: So when he had his first son he kind of wanted to mold me into his own ideal son. So when I turned out to be the exact opposite of that. It was very frustrating, to say the least.

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00:38:11.040 --> 00:38:11.520

Jacqueline Aviles: And

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00:38:14.850 --> 00:38:16.170

Jacqueline Aviles: How was your mom's reaction?

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00:38:17.340 --> 00:38:18.090

Victor Santana: Um,

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00:38:18.390 --> 00:38:19.710

Jacqueline Aviles: How did your mom, find out

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00:38:20.790 --> 00:38:32.790

Victor Santana: I well I just kind of actually did come out to my mom like a bit earlier, um, before my dad found that photo and I came to her like over text and those like

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00:38:33.840 --> 00:38:49.890

Victor Santana: Those like overdramatic and or whatever. But, just kind of in denial, she just kind of said like, Oh, you're just confused. You're still figuring stuff out, I guess, like comfort herself or something.

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00:38:53.220 --> 00:39:06.030

Victor Santana: And she didn't take it too badly. There was just moments of her just kind of being ignorant, um, in terms of like

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00:39:07.320 --> 00:39:11.460

Victor Santana: Thinking that its a phase that you'll grow out of or something.

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00:39:13.380 --> 00:39:19.080

Jacqueline Aviles: Have they ever tried to make an effort to be more aware

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00:39:20.580 --> 00:39:23.850

Victor Santana: Um, I know my mom like

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00:39:25.230 --> 00:39:41.250

Victor Santana: Recently I was just talking to her about gender and stuff and she and she completely understood it, you know, and I was just teaching her stuff about like trans people without, you know, I mean myself like telling her, I was

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00:39:43.800 --> 00:39:50.340

Victor Santana: And she completely understood and she didn't really like to have any opposition to it.

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00:39:52.530 --> 00:39:55.530

Jacqueline Aviles: Which is nice. Yes, that is, have you told her.

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00:39:56.460 --> 00:40:00.810

Victor Santana: No I don't plan on telling anyone until I move out.

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00:40:04.140 --> 00:40:08.640

Jacqueline Aviles: How do you think that's going to be for you, or what do you think their reactions will be?

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00:40:09.750 --> 00:40:15.090

Victor Santana: Um, I expect my mom and my sisters to be

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00:40:16.140 --> 00:40:28.560

Victor Santana: Fine with it. But I mean, I expect to lose my relationship with my father, and most of my aunts and uncles and cousins, since they're all pretty conservative

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00:40:30.600 --> 00:40:39.030

Jacqueline Aviles: Is this something that you've tried to talk to them before, like just having an open conversation with him about

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00:40:40.800 --> 00:40:41.550

Jacqueline Aviles: How you feel

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00:40:42.750 --> 00:40:44.640

Jacqueline Aviles: Or, do you avoid it?

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00:40:45.060 --> 00:40:48.480

Victor Santana: This is a world he doesn't. He's not really

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00:40:49.980 --> 00:40:59.250

Victor Santana: Those types of reflective conversations when he's sober, he kind of like tries to avoid them. If anything, say if he kind of like

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00:40:59.700 --> 00:41:06.060

Victor Santana: acts up and then the next day we tried talking to him about it. It's almost like an annoyance to him. He doesn't really want to hear it.

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00:41:06.780 --> 00:41:16.110

Victor Santana: So I imagine if I tried to talk to him about something he would just kind of like try to avoid the conversation in general. So I haven't really made an effort to

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00:41:17.010 --> 00:41:18.900

Jacqueline Aviles: Have you ever tried to talk to him. When he's drinking

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00:41:20.340 --> 00:41:26.790

Victor Santana: he's, he's very irritable. One is drunk or he's just very

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00:41:27.990 --> 00:41:33.270

Victor Santana: Susceptible to emotion like anything you say

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00:41:34.560 --> 00:41:42.510

Victor Santana: That could be taken the wrong way. He might probably take offense to it. So we just can try to restrict as much interaction with him.

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00:41:46.620 --> 00:41:50.040

Jacqueline: Have you ever had a conversation with him about his alcohol problem?

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00:41:51.870 --> 00:42:00.990

Victor Santana: Not really outside of him saying that he won't like ever stop, even though he knows that it will kill him. Eventually,

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00:42:02.280 --> 00:42:08.670

Jacqueline Aviles: Does he drink excessively or is it just like a six-pack per day or?

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00:42:09.360 --> 00:42:13.680

Jacqueline Aviles: Hard liquor.

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00:42:13.680 --> 00:42:32.310

Victor Santana: He tends to wait till Friday or like the weekend to drink, but when he would drink he drinks all day and it became a trend to where he would

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00:42:33.930 --> 00:42:45.900

Victor Santana: Drink all afternoon after he would come out of work Friday and then hed spend Saturday, just like you would leave early in the morning and he'd be gone. The entire day and then come back late at night. Super drunk.

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00:42:46.800 --> 00:42:55.230

Victor Santana: Um, and if he didn't do the same thing on Sunday, he would sometimes be sick the entire day.

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00:42:57.000 --> 00:42:57.390

Jacqueline Aviles: Yeah.

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00:42:58.740 --> 00:42:59.820

So, um,

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00:43:01.710 --> 00:43:03.690

Yeah, it was like

307

00:43:04.740 --> 00:43:08.880

Jacqueline Aviles: Best just to ignore it.

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00:43:10.830 --> 00:43:12.330

Jacqueline Aviles: What does your mom do? Think about it.

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00:43:18.240 --> 00:43:19.290

Jacqueline Aviles: I'm sorry, I can't hear you.

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00:43:28.440 --> 00:43:30.840

Victor Santana: My connections on similar no

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00:43:31.680 --> 00:43:34.020

Jacqueline Aviles: It's okay. I was either

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00:43:35.340 --> 00:43:40.020

Jacqueline Aviles: Um, how is your mom's reaction to him drinking

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00:43:42.630 --> 00:43:54.000

Victor Santana: She doesn't like it and they do argue about it. Um, but now she kind of just treats it like

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00:43:55.080 --> 00:43:59.160

Victor Santana: A normal thing of like you know that she'll

315

00:44:00.330 --> 00:44:12.090

Victor Santana: Just kind of have to like a workaround so when she knows that he's out most of the day like she'll also like try to not be home as much as she'll go visit like my grandparents or something.

316

00:44:14.670 --> 00:44:17.370

Victor Santana: So he kind of like tries to live around that.

317

00:44:25.980 --> 00:44:28.020

Jacqueline Aviles: Turn to support when you need it.

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00:44:39.840 --> 00:44:41.010

Sorry, it's my connection.

319

00:44:42.810 --> 00:44:43.320

Was it

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00:44:44.370 --> 00:44:47.100

Jacqueline Aviles: Who do you turn to for support when you need it.

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00:44:48.090 --> 00:44:48.810

I'm

322

00:44:50.130 --> 00:44:51.630

Victor Santana: Currently,

323

00:44:52.710 --> 00:44:57.690

Victor Santana: It's mostly just my counselor.

324

00:44:59.040 --> 00:45:01.560

Victor Santana: From Heald college.

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00:45:03.510 --> 00:45:05.400

Victor Santana: That I meet with like once a week.

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00:45:06.750 --> 00:45:07.890

Victor Santana: I kind of

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00:45:09.420 --> 00:45:21.210

Victor Santana: Used to just rely on my friends. Um, but, I mean, there's only so much that they could do so I can learn to just try not to like to lay it out, lay it all on them.

328

00:45:22.320 --> 00:45:32.310

Victor Santana: Because I mean, most of them can't really understand what I'm going through right anyway so I feel like it was, I wouldn't really get the response that I would want anyway.

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00:45:34.590 --> 00:45:37.170

Jacqueline Aviles: What kind of friend group do you have

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00:45:38.490 --> 00:45:52.350

Victor Santana: Currently it's mostly comprised of like LGBT and artists like we're all kind of like are trying to pursue a career in the arts and some form or another.

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00:45:53.610 --> 00:46:04.590

Victor Santana: It's very positive. In that sense, since we're like, encouraging each other like each other's art and stuff and supporting one another.

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00:46:07.410 --> 00:46:10.080

Jacqueline Aviles: Do you have a person that illustrates

333

00:46:11.940 --> 00:46:13.740

Jacqueline Aviles: Their significance in your life.

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00:46:18.360 --> 00:46:22.110

Victor Santana: You have someone that is important to me is that question.

335

00:46:23.130 --> 00:46:25.920

Jacqueline Aviles: Um, yes.

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00:46:28.140 --> 00:46:29.100

Victor Santana: Um,

337

00:46:30.120 --> 00:46:37.230

Victor Santana: For a while, I had my guidance counselor in high school, he was kind of like one of the first I'm

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00:46:38.190 --> 00:46:46.680

Victor Santana: Like male figures in my life. I felt comfortable around me, like actually expressing who I was. And, you know, and

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00:46:47.220 --> 00:47:00.180

Victor Santana: Like go through him where I was able to search like seek out help like through therapy and stuff. Um, and just like a very likable individual overall now that I'm in college. I just

340

00:47:02.070 --> 00:47:04.650

I become closer to

341

00:47:05.850 --> 00:47:08.280

Victor Santana: You know, my friends and stuff so

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00:47:09.930 --> 00:47:10.470

Jacqueline Aviles: Um,

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00:47:12.360 --> 00:47:19.230

Jacqueline Aviles: Can you tell me more about your environment and the LGBTQ to the community.

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00:47:20.670 --> 00:47:26.370

Victor Santana: And my friend group. Um, we're just sort of

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00:47:29.640 --> 00:47:31.680
Victor Santana: My position is kind of a

346
00:47:32.790 --> 00:47:43.290
Victor Santana: Very vocal about like my political positions and I'm just kind of like my values,

347
00:47:44.400 --> 00:47:59.280
Victor Santana: I'm very vocal about our opinions. They were not afraid to kind of like Challenge one another like opinions on certain things. So it's just kind of like we all grow as people through one another.

348
00:48:02.910 --> 00:48:03.630
So, yeah.

349
00:48:05.820 --> 00:48:11.370
Jacqueline Aviles: It does take some good values to have it with friends. I respect that.

350
00:48:11.970 --> 00:48:14.580
Victor Santana: Yeah, we're not,

351
00:48:15.690 --> 00:48:25.980
Victor Santana: We don't really like having, you know, just a bunch of like yes men, you know, like people that just like agreeing with you that like we actually are open and honest with one another and which is good.

352
00:48:28.290 --> 00:48:29.310
Jacqueline Aviles: What is the

353
00:48:31.200 --> 00:48:35.670
Jacqueline Aviles: What are the biggest challenges facing the local LGBT community.

354
00:48:36.810 --> 00:48:40.650
Victor Santana: Um, I think they're pretty kind of reflective

355
00:48:41.850 --> 00:48:42.780
Victor Santana: I'm

356
00:48:44.070 --> 00:48:53.220
Victor Santana: in the broader sense of like what I also experienced a sim Edmiston necessarily alcoholism. That doesn't relate to everyone.

357
00:48:53.700 --> 00:49:11.040

Victor Santana: But I mean in terms of, like, I mean silliness. It's like 80% like that. The next and with our culture comes like you know that's the element of patriarchy and so that kind of hurts.

358

00:49:12.120 --> 00:49:14.580

That, you know, like, people were living next to and

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00:49:15.750 --> 00:49:21.330

Victor Santana: LGBTQ to combat like

360

00:49:22.770 --> 00:49:23.400

Patriarchy

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00:49:25.710 --> 00:49:28.260

Jacqueline Aviles: And you mentioned alcoholism within the Community.

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00:49:29.430 --> 00:49:35.520

Victor Santana: I mean, I know that it's not applicable to everyone. Not everyone shares my own experiences.

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00:49:37.530 --> 00:49:52.710

Victor Santana: But I'm like in terms of my community. I know if they don't deal with it they don't have to struggle with the alcoholism aspect, they have to struggle with the patriarchal mints to our culture.

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00:49:55.560 --> 00:49:59.580

Jacqueline Aviles: What do you think are some things that we can do as a community to

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00:50:00.630 --> 00:50:02.670

Jacqueline Aviles: kind of bring awareness to

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00:50:04.470 --> 00:50:12.810

Jacqueline Aviles: Not necessarily awareness, but kind of stop the hierarchy and stop the kind of to make it more liberal

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00:50:13.710 --> 00:50:23.340

Victor Santana: Um, it's very important to just be open to learning. You'd be surprised how many people like just

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00:50:24.030 --> 00:50:38.220

Victor Santana: Go into a conversation with an open mind and learn that people who are trans or gay or lesbian aren't like these, like, discussing demons. They were made out to be

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00:50:38.670 --> 00:50:52.560

Victor Santana: And they are actually people and their existence is there really any more political than say like someone who's like heterosexual or likes our gender.

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00:50:54.300 --> 00:50:59.310

Victor Santana: That they're just people, then they're not saints, then they're not demons. They're just people

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00:51:20.130 --> 00:51:22.710

Jacqueline Aviles: Um, that being said, a lot of people

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00:51:24.090 --> 00:51:28.560

Jacqueline Aviles: Tend To Like you said, like have those strong

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00:51:30.060 --> 00:51:38.880

Jacqueline Aviles: Ideas that it is a sin or that it is wrong. Have you ever had any moment or a time when someone felt like that towards you?

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00:51:40.200 --> 00:51:50.730

Victor Santana: Um, I actually had like an argument with like one of my cousins who I was close with throwing up and he didn't know that I was that I mean I was LGBT

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00:51:52.110 --> 00:51:59.310

Victor Santana: At the time, this is kind of like arguing from a position of just trying to humanize them and say that. Oh, no. They're like,

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00:52:00.240 --> 00:52:12.360

Victor Santana: They're you know people. And I mean, although we were both young it seems like arguments weren't really arguments. He was just kind of talking from a point of just discussion.

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00:52:13.980 --> 00:52:14.520

Um,

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00:52:15.540 --> 00:52:26.820

Victor Santana: And I had to really try to like educate him on just the, I mean the fact the humanity within you know

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00:52:28.020 --> 00:52:40.260

Victor Santana: LGBTQ likes people in turn that there they are natural and, you know, they are also recurring throughout history there aren't just kind of like an abomination.

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00:52:42.330 --> 00:52:47.940

Jacqueline Aviles: A heavy ever witness or been put in danger because of your sexuality.

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00:52:50.790 --> 00:53:05.430

Victor Santana: I don't think I've ever been put in danger, per se. Um, I mean, I do also like witness kind of others with it, who were like in my high school

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00:53:06.210 --> 00:53:17.130

Victor Santana: Who was visibly like trans, who had transitioned, and they were very much kind of like on everyone's lips. Everyone was talking about them.

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00:53:17.940 --> 00:53:30.630

Victor Santana: Um, and I mean I understand. I could only imagine the level like how hard it is to be under that much scrutiny when the whole school is talking about. You simply for being who you are.

384

00:53:32.790 --> 00:53:35.790

Jacqueline Aviles: Did you hear about the case that recently happened in Puerto Rico.

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00:53:40.650 --> 00:53:42.090

Jacqueline Aviles: No, no.

386

00:53:44.460 --> 00:53:51.240

Jacqueline Aviles: There is a woman a transgender woman that was recently killed, and it was recorded and it went viral way up.

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00:53:51.570 --> 00:53:54.330

Victor Santana: Is it the one bad bunny

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00:53:55.860 --> 00:54:00.570

Jacqueline Aviles: Yes, So where is the story?

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00:54:01.830 --> 00:54:05.580

Jacqueline Aviles: What are your thoughts on that music video and how he's trying to bring awareness to that.

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00:54:07.710 --> 00:54:13.080

Victor Santana: I'm, I'm very appreciative of the music video. He did great.

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00:54:13.470 --> 00:54:24.990

Victor Santana: Yes. Okay. I'm very appreciative of, um, those who are in the hedge demonic majority, so like straight and like,

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00:54:25.620 --> 00:54:35.370

Victor Santana: I am very appreciative of like having of people, you know, being allies to a marginalized people and actively trying to

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00:54:36.000 --> 00:54:40.800

Victor Santana: Reduce the stigma within it on. Do it like I guess those groups.

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00:54:41.700 --> 00:54:49.890

Victor Santana: Like, I really appreciate those elements to it. I think it's also very we also have to be like very aware of, like, power dynamics in terms of like

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00:54:50.280 --> 00:54:58.680

Victor Santana: Who's doing what that we need someone who's like straight insist to like humanizes us, and I understand people's frustrations with that but

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00:54:59.130 --> 00:55:16.560

Victor Santana: I'm more concerned with just slowly and slowly, like, little by little, changing people's minds to humanize us. And so I know I welcome it like you know his actions and they appreciate it a lot.

397

00:55:17.910 --> 00:55:22.350

Jacqueline Aviles: Have you ever tried, or have you ever thought of becoming an activist for it.

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00:55:23.550 --> 00:55:24.750

Victor Santana: I'm very vocal

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00:55:25.860 --> 00:55:33.360

Victor Santana: About my own political beliefs. And I'm like, very, I mean, I'm a political science major. So,

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00:55:34.890 --> 00:55:48.990

Victor Santana: Yeah, I really want to. I'm very interested in becoming a political public figure in some aspect, whether it be public as a policy analyst.

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00:55:50.250 --> 00:55:51.660

Victor Santana: Political commentator

402

00:55:52.800 --> 00:56:01.740

Victor Santana: Just or just like a performance artist. I always feel like it's important to voice. So, or just be the change you want to see the world.

403

00:56:02.910 --> 00:56:12.930

Jacqueline Aviles: Yes. Is that something that you get to pursue and I'm guessing you are going to be transferring soon or in your first year this year.

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00:56:13.590 --> 00:56:18.600

Victor Santana: I'm gonna be transferring to San Francisco, hopefully.

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00:56:18.900 --> 00:56:19.290

Okay.

406

00:56:21.420 --> 00:56:23.040

After my second year so

407

00:56:24.060 --> 00:56:38.850

Jacqueline Aviles: Nice will just let you know I'm currently doing human communications with the concentration of illegal studies. So it's kind of like, political science, but also talking about like human communication so I recommend it if it's something that you

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00:56:40.260 --> 00:56:45.960

Jacqueline Aviles: If by any chance you do want to stay local. It's a great program so far.

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00:56:46.230 --> 00:56:48.810

Victor Santana: I'm also a Communications major. So I'm a double major.

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00:56:49.440 --> 00:56:50.910

Jacqueline Aviles: That, hey, nice. That's really good.

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00:56:52.200 --> 00:56:52.740

Jacqueline Aviles: Um,

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00:56:56.190 --> 00:56:58.620

Jacqueline Aviles: Is school, something that you've always been passionate about?

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00:57:00.870 --> 00:57:08.460

Victor Santana: Yeah, it' you know, there is power. There's power and like knowledge.

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00:57:09.660 --> 00:57:13.230

Victor Santana: And you know it like

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00:57:14.550 --> 00:57:23.010

Victor Santana: just learning about history and just the world we live in is like so important. I mean, it always kind of

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00:57:23.640 --> 00:57:42.780

Victor Santana: baffled me how like people just didn't have an interest in, like, you know, learning about, you know, where we live, like in something like and a lot of people like really like right off like politics and stuff, but I think, you know, they are important to be

417

00:57:51.030 --> 00:57:51.480

Jacqueline Aviles: Hello.

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00:57:54.540 --> 00:57:56.370

Jacqueline Aviles: Hello, sorry.

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00:57:59.970 --> 00:58:00.360

Jacqueline Aviles: Hello.

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00:58:01.050 --> 00:58:01.770

Victor Santana: didn't cut off.

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00:58:02.010 --> 00:58:02.760

Yes.

422

00:58:04.050 --> 00:58:04.920

Victor Santana: Where the Decalogue.

423

00:58:06.180 --> 00:58:11.610

Jacqueline Aviles: That it baffles you that people don't want to know more about where they live and

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00:58:12.870 --> 00:58:26.790

Victor Santana: So I think it's very important to like stay aware and stay cognizant of, like, you know, current events, um, because, I mean, there's always people trying to take your rights away from you to take part for themselves.

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00:58:27.900 --> 00:58:30.330

Victor Santana: And at the end of the day it will affect everyone

426

00:58:31.500 --> 00:58:33.660

Victor Santana: Which I think it's very important to stay educated

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00:58:34.740 --> 00:58:35.880

Jacqueline Aviles: Oh, is there any

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00:58:38.700 --> 00:58:42.390

Jacqueline Aviles: Specific reason why you chose to go down this career path.

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00:58:43.860 --> 00:58:55.290

Victor Santana: For the longest time I like holding my bootleg the same beliefs that hold. Now, I kind of hold it like that even when I was very young. Like at the more basic level.

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00:58:56.430 --> 00:59:05.100

Victor Santana: And, you know, whenever I would like to argue with my cousins or family members about it. I didn't have any way of like articulating like my point of being able to argue it

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00:59:05.670 --> 00:59:23.310

Victor Santana: Um, so it kind of was under the impression that like goes arguing more from feelings, rather than, like, you know, a fact like reality. And that's kind of something that people who are conservative like try to like, you know,

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00:59:24.660 --> 00:59:27.630

Victor Santana: Email like a perpetuate about like

433

00:59:29.040 --> 00:59:33.240

Victor Santana: Like people who are liberal or left-leaning that we're all about feelings and not facts.

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00:59:33.750 --> 00:59:50.040

Victor Santana: So once I started to learn and, you know, educate myself, I realized that I was not only, like, you know, morally right. But I was also like actually right in my beliefs and being able to, like, you know,

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00:59:51.030 --> 01:00:01.320

Victor Santana: Argue my point articulate is something that I think is important. So I'm able to deconstruct these ideas in every like and other people's minds to give other people a voice.

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01:00:21.150 --> 01:00:25.800

Jacqueline Aviles: Whoa, um, could you describe the cost that has the greatest impact on you so far.

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01:00:27.720 --> 01:00:36.180

Victor Santana: Um, so far. I really have this of all the classes I've taken like ever or just currently

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01:00:37.050 --> 01:00:38.490

Jacqueline Aviles: I'm ever

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01:00:39.510 --> 01:00:40.140

Victor Santana: Um,

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01:00:41.580 --> 01:00:54.840

Victor Santana: I really enjoyed my ethnic studies courses and especially since, you know, very rarely. Are you ever in a space where you get to learn specifically about, you know,

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01:00:55.770 --> 01:01:07.860

Victor Santana: The experience of minorities within this country and what they had to endure in the past. And so when I took those courses over the summer. It was very

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01:01:09.930 --> 01:01:21.810

Victor Santana: I was like, I felt like I was in space, or I was or like myself, and my experiences were seen and validated.

443

01:01:23.610 --> 01:01:35.730

Victor Santana: And especially my like Ethnic Studies course called chicana which focuses particularly on experience within the US.

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01:01:36.990 --> 01:01:45.690

Victor Santana: Um, so, it talks more so about the experience of Chicano women and also like queer individuals.

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01:01:46.770 --> 01:01:49.740

Victor Santana: Um, which I mean I relate to a lot

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01:01:51.360 --> 01:01:52.410

I really like the course.

447

01:01:53.490 --> 01:01:55.560

Jacqueline Aviles: Is this, of course, a healed.

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01:01:56.550 --> 01:01:58.950

Victor Santana: As a course that hurt. No, no.

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01:01:59.340 --> 01:02:00.150

Jacqueline Aviles: Okay. Sorry, I meant

450

01:02:03.930 --> 01:02:05.670

Jacqueline Aviles: Yeah, it doesn't exist anywhere.

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01:02:12.930 --> 01:02:16.800

Jacqueline Aviles: As far as other classes. What class that you were very drawn to

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01:02:18.090 --> 01:02:19.140

Victor Santana: Um,

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01:02:20.670 --> 01:02:23.580

Victor Santana: That I've taken or one and look forward to taking

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01:02:24.540 --> 01:02:34.200

Victor Santana: Both I'm currently taking a contemporary government abroad course. So I'm learning about foreign governments.

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01:02:34.830 --> 01:02:40.770

Victor Santana: And I mean, I think it's really interesting because, I mean, I also look at the. We also learn about like.

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01:02:41.520 --> 01:02:55.050

Victor Santana: layout of these countries like the ethnic, religious-like like the makeup of these countries and you learn a lot about the world I'm I'm also I'm

457

01:02:55.740 --> 01:03:07.440

Victor Santana: Very excited to take my political theory or philosophy classes of courses in the future. I'm always like, I mean,

458

01:03:08.340 --> 01:03:24.570

Victor Santana: I find that very exciting to be learning about just like political theory and very, just like grounding my politics like education and understanding more. That's something that I'm, like, very excited about.

459

01:03:28.260 --> 01:03:45.990

Jacqueline Aviles: Yes, I'm currently taking a constitutional law class and I love it. It's just there's so much that it just blows your mind once you do start to like find out and like research and be aware of all these things that no one really brings light to. Yeah, exactly.

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01:03:52.080 --> 01:03:53.790

Jacqueline Aviles: So going forward,

461

01:03:56.940 --> 01:04:01.050

Jacqueline Aviles: Is there anything else that you're excited about, um, besides school

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01:04:02.940 --> 01:04:13.230

Victor Santana: Um, well, I'm excited to transfer, not just for like the school but like in San Francisco with such so like

463

01:04:14.310 --> 01:04:31.890

Victor Santana: Like well known for, like, a server. See, and they just, it's like art and let the like underground scene for like queer artists and I'm like, very excited to finally be able to, like, you know, meet people.

464

01:04:33.210 --> 01:04:34.950

To meet like-minded people.

465

01:04:36.480 --> 01:04:42.030

Jacqueline Aviles: That's very exciting for me, that is it's, there's so much to do as well.

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01:04:46.560 --> 01:04:51.900

Jacqueline Aviles: You mentioned that there's a lot of artists. What kind of are you into

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01:04:53.430 --> 01:05:00.570

Victor Santana: I'm, I'm very into performance art, um,

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01:05:01.590 --> 01:05:05.190

Victor Santana: And like illustrations and I'm

469

01:05:25.800 --> 01:05:28.740

Jacqueline Aviles: Hello. Well, okay. Sorry about that.

470

01:05:29.670 --> 01:05:36.090

Victor Santana: I'm, I'm very like I like art that has like a deeper meaning to it and has an is more

471

01:05:38.040 --> 01:05:40.770

Victor Santana: And has like a broader

472

01:05:41.970 --> 01:05:42.990

Victor Santana: political message.

473

01:05:45.480 --> 01:05:45.840

Jacqueline Aviles: Okay.

474

01:05:47.520 --> 01:05:53.550

Jacqueline Aviles: Um, if you could give advice to a young person today who is dealing with similar issues. What would you say how

475

01:05:55.470 --> 01:05:55.890

Jacqueline Aviles: Yes.

476

01:05:55.980 --> 01:06:10.380

Victor Santana: Um, I would just say that to take every um painful or just like hard experience or just any like past traumas as

477

01:06:14.010 --> 01:06:30.900

Victor Santana: Like as a strength like to find strength without within you like your past within the pain you've had experience within the trauma view you've experienced that it's not reflected off of your value as a person. I'm

478

01:06:32.550 --> 01:06:42.210

Victor Santana: On that you aren't worth how others have treated you in the past and that you are actually in charge of your own life.

479

01:06:43.260 --> 01:06:46.500

And how happy you will be ultimately

480

01:06:49.500 --> 01:06:49.980

Um,

481

01:06:51.060 --> 01:06:52.830

Jacqueline Aviles: But you say that there's a sense of

482

01:06:54.270 --> 01:06:59.010

Jacqueline Aviles: Would you say you experienced a sense of relief. Once you did decide to come out.

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01:07:00.600 --> 01:07:14.070

Victor Santana: I'm innocent that there isn't, as any sort of like a secret that nothing. No, not like these assumptions of me, like, you know, assuming they'll give them a grandkid or something.

484

01:07:14.820 --> 01:07:15.060

But

485

01:07:16.230 --> 01:07:26.160

Victor Santana: I mean, so there's like that aspect to it. Um, it wasn't like the most fun experience. But I mean, no. I guess my truth is out there.

486

01:07:27.630 --> 01:07:28.170
Some way.

487
01:07:29.310 --> 01:07:30.480
Jacqueline Aviles: Yes, that's good.

488
01:07:31.950 --> 01:07:35.340
Jacqueline Aviles: Um, is there anything else that you would like to add on.

489
01:07:36.360 --> 01:07:37.470
Jacqueline Aviles: Or think that

490
01:07:39.540 --> 01:07:42.360
Jacqueline Aviles: Maybe wasn't made clear, any questions.

491
01:07:46.920 --> 01:07:48.480
I can't think of any Reno.

492
01:07:50.520 --> 01:07:52.440
Victor Santana: I think that's, yeah, that's it.

493
01:07:53.190 --> 01:08:02.250
Jacqueline Aviles: Yes. Okay. Very good. Thank you so much for your time. I really enjoyed our conversation and I will be reaching out to you shortly.

494
01:08:09.300 --> 01:08:09.720
Hello.

495
01:08:13.110 --> 01:08:16.980
Jacqueline Aviles: Hello, hello. Sorry, did you hear me?

496
01:08:17.850 --> 01:08:22.650
Victor Santana: Um, I think I heard like I saw you mouth toward thank you so

497
01:08:25.620 --> 01:08:29.430
Jacqueline Aviles: I appreciate your time and I enjoyed talking to you and

498
01:08:30.990 --> 01:08:39.480
Jacqueline Aviles: Thank you for opening up with me and talking hockey and I'm going to be reaching out to you shortly to send you a copy of this. Okay.

499

01:08:39.510 --> 01:08:47.790

Victor Santana: Thank you so much. I appreciate you taking the time. And you know what you're doing is super important and valuable. So I really appreciate the work you're doing.

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01:08:48.810 --> 01:08:52.650

Jacqueline Aviles: Thank you. Is there any feedback that you would give me maybe for future reference or interviewing

501

01:08:59.430 --> 01:08:59.820

I really

502

01:09:01.650 --> 01:09:06.090

Victor Santana: I mean not yes like real pretty good questions. Like, honestly. So, I mean,

503

01:09:07.230 --> 01:09:15.150

Victor Santana: I don't have anything for that, you know, just keep doing what you're doing. Yes. Yeah. Like, I like the questions. Yes.

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01:09:16.680 --> 01:09:18.330

Jacqueline Aviles: Okay, thank you.

505

01:09:20.490 --> 01:09:21.360

Jacqueline Aviles: Got to you soon.

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01:09:22.530 --> 01:09:23.040

Victor Santana: Good night.

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01:09:23.160 --> 01:09:23.730

Jacqueline Aviles: Okay, thank you.

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01:09:26.040 --> 01:09:26.520

Jacqueline Aviles: Bye.