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00:00

I think I think that there has been a lot of change. I'm a perfectionist, and I don't. Please easily. But there's no question that there are more people who are out. Now I think one of the things that colors my thinking on that is is a dilemma in Houston. Because I do think since 1985, and the January 19 referendum that we have gone downhill, I think more people are scared. But I do see a lot of young people in the bars coming out at an early age. And that's exciting. I really love them. Hi, I go to the bars. And I'm a layperson, and I'll work at my desk on scripts or on a production schedule until midnight or so and, and I'll jump up and my friends kidding me about using that as an excuse, but I'll go to the bar, some house, maybe for only 30 minutes. And I'll see young couples in the bars, especially on the under 21 night, and there'll be embraced or when I'll be jealous and envious. And finally, I'll watch. Because I didn't do that at an early age in my life. And so I'll wait for until they break. And I'll usually walk up to them and tell them how jealous I am. And tell them that they need to have two goals that one that need to come out at work within two years and at home within three years that that's where our power is. If I go back



01:17

to what I thought gay and lesbian people were like, they definitely have changed. Because it was only what I thought it wasn't what I knew, because I didn't know any gay and lesbian people. I don't really know a lot of young people, but the ones I do know. They seem to have a lot of pride. And they seem to know who they are. I think the advice I would give them is to be true to themselves. And to keep working for the rights that we all need and deserve. Oh, well.



02:00

Yes, I'd say. So. Back when I first suspected my tendencies. I was 615 15 years old, just out of high school in a small rural high school in Texas, not far from Houston. And I went away to college. But then I was all 16 years old. And I strongly suspected I was one of those homosexuals. So I went to the library and read about homosexuality and found out that it was a sickness that that was visited upon folks. And I determined that I didn't want any of that. So you know, it took lots of bottles of alcohol for the next 30 years to keep that from, you know, to try and change myself and it didn't work of course. And but I remember a desperately I went to

a girls school. So it's, you know, there were there a lot of lesbians there. It's affectionately known. Among some of us today is the dyke factory of Texas. However, I purposely avoided all those people, because I know who they were. I don't know how I knew. But how do you? How do you all I knew the ones that I that were rather obvious. Or I felt like we're fit the stereotype actually. And some of the rest of them I didn't know because I've run into her here in Houston since then, and I had no idea about her. But everything was very closeted and very, nobody, you know, nobody talked about it. If I hadn't been so shy and retiring and, and less bookish. Of course, some people find that hard to believe about me, but but I was and I you know, everything was hidden and it's wonderful to data you know, you can you can, you know, read newspapers, in things in the newspapers, even the evil the stripe press says says some positive things in between the rest of the time that it's not, and we have access to a gay press and to information that's that's uplifting and helpful. That's the fact that's how I eventually came out is you know, other people helped me but I was I got some of my my, did a lot of reading. So. So that's that's pretty much it's changed. It's changed for the better, but not nearly fast enough.



04:44

Spiritual question just for you. How important is sobriety to your wholeness and your pride?



04:51

Sobriety is the most important part of being proud of person is proud and happy with themselves and with their with their gayness or their lives. bidness as you may say, I can't say too strongly or too often, that the advice I'd have to all people young and old is to, they're not going to ever come to grips with their sexuality with their problems in life, if they if they don't get sober. And I think that's especially important in our community, because we have been so oppressed and so downtrodden. And so maligned by so many people, families, by society, by everybody, that we've often turned to drink I did. And I'm no different than then a lot of folks. It's no respecter of, of economic conditions. It's no respecter of intelligence is no respecter of anything. But it's a very important thing if we, if we don't deal with the the alcoholism, we can't deal with ourselves and we can't be proud of ourselves. And to me, that is crucial. Crucial, I'll never drank again.



06:13

And again, my experience of gay life has since 19, said before, as far as changes, yeah, radical changes, I guess, since I came out. AIDS has completely changed our community. I think the main thing I noticed is, and Bill White, my lover and I have discussed this often, in the early years, we seem to do very few women, gay women are lesbians. And we find now that some of our best friends are women. I think that's been a radical change. I think for both men and women, gay men and women is discovering suddenly that there's this whole other community that we actually do have something in common. And I think part of that is because family more and more gay men are realizing that there's a hell a lot more to being gay than sex. And once they get that through their heads, then they realize that we have a lot of common goals and just common ideals that we share with gay women. I think it's that's been the biggest change. I've seen this and it's been radical Well, I guess my only count my contact mainly with with younger members of the community is primarily through the store or to the caucus or other

activities. I find them much more liberated than I ever was at that age or even after that age. If I have any concern is I think a lot of younger gay men don't always understand the the impact of aids I think there's a tendency to to slough off safer sex among younger man that that concerns me. But otherwise, I find that much more together much more dedicated, much more comfortable with themselves. And certainly, younger men and women were years ago.



08:07

Lesbian and Gay men from Houston, remember what it was like for them then? And what it's like now. I'm Mary Helen will return to Houston voices of gay men and lesbians produced by Jimmy Carper. In a minute on 90.1 FM KPFT Houston stay tuned for KPFT is live coverage of the gay and lesbian pride parade starts at 530 on 90.1 Deborah Bell, Bruce Reeves and Cindy Freeman will join us from Westheimer we'll have lots of great music also, right here on Pacifica radio right now. The flirtations.



08:47

The last question for Lee, Eleanor, Pat and Larry concerns how they think their lives will be in the future, you know, I



08:55

have no idea I, I've learned to go with the flow, not quite as rigid as I used to be. Try not to expect things to happen quite as fast. But I do feel like that is going to be more radical than I've ever



09:10

been right now. My life is pretty wonderful. Because I'm in a relationship with a person that I expect to be in a relationship for the rest of my life. And I'm very happy. Very fulfilled. In the future, I expect my life to just continue on as it is and you know, perhaps even get better. Oh,



09:35

I have a wonderful life now.



09:37

I don't as far as the future. I think I take the attitude and I don't know maybe more people take the attitude. I think we are at least I think more in terms of day to day at this point. Given the health crisis and everything else, I don't really plan even in terms of the business. I don't really plan that far ahead. And as far as life, we really do take it a day at a time. And that's, we like to

think it's getting better every day. We watch all the reports say that are coming out of Italy right now in terms of the AIDS conference. There seems to be a lot of, I think, hopeful signs on the AIDS front.



10:19

Now for a different perspective. We talked to John Barco, a 22 year old gay activist, we asked him all the same questions, we asked everyone else.



10:31

My name is John Burgo. And I first came out when to myself when I was 16, junior in high school, and 1986. And I've been dealing with it ever since. I was like 10, or 11. You know, because things that happened in Boy Scouts and everything and denying it, you know, and myself, even at the same time that I was lusting for all the men that were around me. And it was, I was really lucky. When I came out. The reason I came out was that an exchange student and German exchange student was living with my family and sharing a bedroom with me, and I was madly in love with him. And I had a terrible crush on him. And that's the point where I could no longer ignore the fact that I was gay, where I was just like, totally, I was really upset when he wasn't there, I was incredibly jealous of his girlfriend. And it's just that, you know, the reason you feel this way is because you're gay. And so the very first person I told was a teacher in high school, and she was my best friend. And things were great. I mean, things were great. She was very accepting. And very, she really made a lot of support in Indian herself, and also in dealing with my feelings about him, which was the big stress in my life. And I just started telling people, and probably by the end of that year, I told maybe a dozen people in my high school and people that I knew, and except for when I told my mother, I got nothing but fairly positive responses. And so it made me feel very confident about coming out a lot to a lot of different people. I was being born in September of 1969. So my life was pretty simple. Just a little queer baby, doing the things that little queer babies do. Like most other babies, I first heard about it when I was in high school. When I was a junior, after I told that teacher, I was still dealing with a lot of problems. And there was this youth counselor that came to the school once a week. And so my teacher helped me arrange a time to go see her, and I wouldn't talk to her. And then she went back to the county agency that she worked for and found everything she could in their files about gay people. And she copied made huge copies for me, and brought them back to me. And one of them was an article in the American Library Association Journal that talked about Stonewall. And I was just really excited, because almost as soon as I came out, I was like, I was an activist, you know, I would get really pissed off when I heard people, you know, like in Congress like Jesse Helms saying, stupid awful things. And, and when I just heard about, about it, and the police raising the bar, and, and, and all the patrons fighting back and everything, I just felt so excited and energized, I think it's a time for us to remember everything that we've accomplished in the last 22 years. And to be really angry about the things that haven't gotten done, not not angry at ourselves, but angry at all the stupid people and the stupid society that stands in our way, and to remember all the things that we still have to do in dealing with AIDS and helping gay and lesbian youth. And, you know, getting some real political power for ourselves to represent ourselves in government, and the violence, you know, and all these problems that we still have to face, but to celebrate the fact that we have come so far, and that we really have a community of people who are working to end these problems. And what I'm gonna be doing this year is I'm going to events and like I've done every, every year, as soon as

I came out, like that, first year, when I was 16, a lesbian teacher that I knew in school, who I come out to took me to see planning glasses, it was my first Gay Pride Week event. And the services that I've done something and so like, I want to see play this week and going to going to the parade, of course and marching with the people from U of H. And, and just trying to be with as many as my friends as possible. But I don't think that game was me. People have changed too much since the time that I came out to the present because it was only six years ago, five years ago. But I think in talking with people and reading about the last, you know, 22 years and even before them, I think people have changed a lot and people People are coming out more. And people are realizing more and more that, you know, when they get a negative reaction from people about their being gay, it's not their problem is the problem with the person who's giving them the negative reaction. And I think that's a big change in the last. I mean, it's, it's a big change for myself, you know, from when I was 16, and I was terrified about my mother, you know, having a fit, if I if she found out I was gay to saying she has to deal with it, it's her problem, not mine. I also think that, that people are starting to realize that the problems that we face as gay and lesbian people, no matter what group we come from, or what gender we are, or what color our skin is, or what language we speak, or what we'd like to do in bed, are a lot of the same problems, and that we really have to work together to overcome them. I think that young people in the community today have think they see a lot of those things that that other people saw as dividing factors, like men and women, or black and white, that divided people in the community, I think for not all young people, but for a lot of young people. They're getting over that, you know, the young men are learning to, to change their behavior towards women, so that they don't, they're not patronizing, and they're not behaving in even unconsciously sexist ways. And, and younger women in the community are learning that there are young men who want to change and giving them a chance to change. And I think there's a feeling more that you know, rather than being gay, or lesbian, or black and white, wall, queer, and we're all together, and there's a strong feeling of community. The advice I would give is that I think a lot of young gay people also tend to overlook the accomplishments of the generations before us. And if they, they look at the past 20 years, and they see older people as not having, not having accomplished very much. And I think they really have to look at everything that's happened. And look at everything they've done, and learn, learn from learn from what the community has accomplished, and also the mistakes that the community has made. But to learn, you can't just like start over and we will not just we're not we're not coming from nowhere. We have a whole past behind us that we have to respect. I mean, better and better all the time. I think in Houston, I see a lot of changes that people are coming out more people are getting more involved in the community, that that they're they're people saying, you know that they can do their own thing and do what they want and not too ashamed of themselves.



17:43

Can you believe it? Cyndi Lauper on 90.1 FM KPFT Houston, you're tuned to gay and lesbian Pride Day 1991 right here on 90.1 FM. I'm Mary Helen. We're gonna have some more good music. We're gonna have some more informative documentaries coming your way in just a few minutes. A collage of gay and lesbian authors, including excerpts from come out two letters from Amherst, Massachusetts collegian the poetry of Houstonian, the late Pat Parker, and a short children's story by Morningstar. This is from the Pacifica affiliate KPFA in Berkeley, California. We'll get to that in just a minute. But first, this song by Sue



18:13



18:42

Sally, who could scorn on resume, em Forster and other well known gay writers who occasionally concern themselves with gay themes. However, in the light of recent hysteria emanating from Miami, we thought it more important to emphasize the works of local and more contemporary gay writers. Today's reading is a collage of lesbian and gay male themes. Beginning with excerpts from a play come out. We hope these readings will give lesbians and gay men a sense of our own culture, which has so long been denied us and that are straight, or as he had undefined listeners will be under able to understand a little more about what being gay is all about.



19:20

Faggot, a bundle of sticks or twigs for use as fuel. Oxford English Dictionary 1300



19:26

Faggot with special reference to the practice of burning heretics alive, especially in phrase fire and faggot and to fry a faggot to be burned alive. Also to bear carry a faggot as those dead who renounced heresy. Oxford English Dictionary 1555



19:45

Target, a term of abuse or contempt applied to a woman. Oxford English Dictionary 1591



19:53

Faggots a male homosexual Oxford English Dictionary 1914 Fairies now



19:59

So swishes bags lessees call them what you please The New York Daily News 1972



20:08

It's words that break your bones five equals Nigar equals deich equals spec



20:14

it will queer will carry whop equals pansy cake equals pervert equals change equals equals, equals v.





20:25

Coming out is a documentary play, adapted from historical and autobiographical accounts poetry and fiction by Jonathan Katz. It was produced last year in New York. Now here are some excerpts from the play as recorded by Martha Shelley at WBI our sister station in New York.



20:44

Gertrude Stein the song of Alice V. 1921.



20:49

I caught sight of a splendid missus. She had handkerchiefs and kisses. She had eyes and yellow shoes, she had everything to choose. And she chose me. In passing through France, she wore a Chinese hat. And so did I. In looking at the sun, she read a map, and so did I, in loving a blue sea, she had a pain and so to die in loving me, she of necessity thought first, and so did I. How proudly we swim? Not in water, not on land, but in love. How often do we need trees and hills? Not often? And how often do we need mountains? Not very often. And how often do we need birds? Not often. How often do we need a kiss? Very often.



21:53

Christopher Isherwood 1972 Despite the humiliation of living in a heterosexual dictatorship, and the Fury I have often felt against it. I have never regretted being as I am. A single man, Christopher Isherwood, 1964, George and Jim had already fallen in love with the house.



22:17

They loved it because you could only get to it by the bridge



22:20

across the creek, the surrounding trees and the steep bushy cliff behind shut it in like a house in a forest clearing. George said



22:27

as good as being on our



22:28

own island. Peering into the low damp dark living room. They agreed How cozy would be at night with a fire. Jim thought



22:36

the garage would be useful for keeping some of his animals in the skunks, the raccoon. Their cars could be parked on the bridge. The



22:43

bridge was beginning to sag a little Jim said all well, I expect it to last our time.



22:49

Breakfast with Jim used to be one of the best times of day



22:52

it was then fall tricking their second and third cups of coffee that they had their best talks. They talked about everything that came into their heads, including death.



23:01

But now George can't remember what Jim's views were on this



23:05

Such questions are hard to take seriously. They seem so academic.



23:09

Think of two people living together



23:12

day after day, year after year in this small space



23:15

standing elbow to elbow standing at the same small stove squeezing



23:18



23:19  
past each

23:20  
other on the narrow stair shaving in front of the same small bathroom mirror constantly jogging,

23:25  
jostling,

23:26  
bumping against each other's bodies, mistake or on purpose sensual, aggressively, awkward impatiently in rage or in love.

23:35  
The doorway into the kitchen has been built to narrow two people in a hurry

23:38  
are apt to keep colliding here.

23:40  
It is here almost every morning that George stopped short and knows. Almost as though for the first time

23:49  
Jim is Dead is dead.

23:53  
Jim used to moan and complain and raise hell over a head cold, a cut finger.

23:58  
But Jim was lucky at the end. The only time when luck really counts



24:02

the truckers conscious right? He never felt it.



24:05

His smashed leavings were of no use to them for their hospital rituals.



24:09

How strange to remember the night when the long distance call came through from Ohio



24:14

and uncle of Jim's whom George had never met, trying to be sympathetic, even admitting George's right to a small honorary share in the Sacred Family grief. But then as they talked becoming a bit chilled by Georges laconic. Yes, I see. Yes, his Kurt no thank you to the funeral invitation, deciding no doubt that this much talked about roommate hadn't been such a close friend after all.



24:37

And then at least five minutes after George had put down the phone. When the first shockwave hit, when the meaningless news suddenly met exactly what it said. His blundering gasping run up the hill in the dark to his friend Charlotte, his blind stumbling on the steps banging on her door, crying, blubbing, howling on her shoulder in her lap all over her and Charlotte squeezing him stroking his hair telling Then the usual stuff one tells



25:02

most of George submerged in sleep.



25:05

The brain inside its scope cognizes darkly



25:09

decisions secretly signed and witnessed.



25:13

Wherever George go now you will stay



25:14

in California because of Jim No. Humans in the past now.



25:20

He is of no use to George anymore. But you want to remember some so faithfully George makes himself remember, he's afraid of forgetting Jim is my life but



25:28

he will have to forget if he wants to go on living.



25:31

Jim has death, then why



25:33

will George stay here?



25:34

This is where he found Jim. He believes he will find another gem here.



25:38

He doesn't know it yet. But he has started looking already.



25:41

Why does George believe he will find Him



25:43

He only knows that he must. He believes he will because He must like George is



25:48

getting old, loaded very soon be too late.



25:51

Never use those words to George, listen down the future George clings only to now it is now he must find another gym. Now. He



25:59

must love now he must live. Arthur Evans



26:03

1970 gay people, when they first realized that they're gay, have a process of coming out. That is coming out sexually. We've extended that to the political field, we feel that we have to come out politically as a community, which is aware that it is oppressed, and which is a political power block feared by the government. Until the government is afraid of us afraid of our power, we will never have our rights.



26:42

Chesler women and madness 1972. Surely a black lesbian.



26:51

You know, I dreaded even thinking about the term lesbian. And I used to cope by telling myself I was normal. He understand. The only thing that would take my normality away would be for me to have an actual gay experience. I used to tell myself that you're not gay if you never do it. So I didn't. Because I didn't want nothing to tread on my sanity. I was trying to live with myself. And I went out with fellows and let them me. The more they did it, the worse I got. And the more I pretended to act normal, the crazier I got. And I mean, I was going out of my mind. When my mother died, I just stopped pretending to be something that I wasn't. Because it ain't done much straightness in the world. And it put my mind at ease, you better believe it. And I regained my sanity, which was slowly seeping away from me from trying to be on gay, and I am definitely gay. And I realize that I am definitely not the sick one. And you know, I'm a lesbian, right? I don't have to love men, and I damn sure don't have to depend on him. And that is freedom, honey. Because no matter how heavy my load, honey, I'm gonna make it because I'm free. I feel that I am free. Walt Whitman



26:57



28:33

1860



28:34

I dreamed in a dream. I saw city invincible to the attacks of the whole rest of the Earth, a city



28:41

where all men were like brothers. Oh, I saw them tenderly love each other. I often saw them in numbers walking hand in hand.



28:50

I dreamed that was the new city of friends. Nothing was greater than the quality of robust love. It led the rest.



28:58

It was seen every hour in the actions of the men of that city. And in all their looks and words.



29:05

I dreamed in a dream. I saw city invincible attacks the whole Joan Armatrading with Rosie on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. Before that you listen to Frank, a song called Take off your swastika from the I enjoy being a girl disk. You're listening to continuing special coverage of Houston's gay lesbian pride celebration. We'll have live coverage of the parade which it'll begin at 530 when the parade begins down Westheimer Avenue so hope you'll stay tuned to 90.1 FM. I'm Mary Helen. Some of the special programming that you've been listening to we played a piece of poetry by gay and lesbian author are excerpts from some different poetry. And we're going to hear now from pokey Anderson. You know, in the past 20 years, lesbian publishing has grown tremendously. We've gone from the apologetic self hatred of the Well of Loneliness to the rollicking joyous books like Ruby fruit jungle by Rita Mae Brown, and curious wine by Katherine forest. Katherine forest is one of the most popular lesbian authors writing today. And she recently came here to Houston on a book tour celebrating the publication of her eighth book. Her work is published by Nyad press in in the United States and has been translated into a number of foreign languages. One of her mysteries is in the process of being made into a movie. Here breakthrough host pokey Anderson, interviews, Catherine forest, hope you enjoy it. Listen carefully, because there's sort of some surprises in it for you. So here on 90.1 FM stay tuned for wonderful programming like you expect from your Pacifica radio station. Here's Catherine horizontal,



31:11

. . . . .

about you used to be just working downtown somewhere and all of a sudden you became a writer.



31:17

And that read seems like an amazing Odyssey to me as well. I think the the magical event for us simply turning 40. And that seems to be something that it's sort of a taking stock time of life. And a lot of women that I've met around the country have shared with me sort of the same phenomenon, I guess. And you kind of look back and see where you've come from and where you still want to be. And anyway, I decided to take six months and try and write a book. And I think a lot of people think that they can do that. And three years later, I had learned my craft. And nine years ago yesterday I met Barbara Greer of Nyad. Press on on a trip that she made with Sheila Artis Taylor, the author of faultline and southbound how in Los Angeles, and at that time, I had the manuscript of curious wine ready. And so this rocket ride sort of began there and has taken me today to Houston, which is a kind of inappropriate kind of analogy to use. Talking about rockets.



32:33

Curious wine? Had you written anything before and thrown it away? Or was that really your first try?



32:39

That's a good question. Curious wine is my first published novel, I wrote the obligatory autobiographical novel, which I think really an awful lot of writers have to do you have a lot of, I think you need to get rid of some of the ghosts in your life. So that you can really get down to the, to the, to the business of writing material that you can really have some control over. I and I did I wrote, this particular novel is still sitting on my shelf, and at some point, I will get back to it because I think that there's publishable material in it. But I basically rewrote that same book about eight or nine times and really learn to write with it. So and I brought that painfully acquired experience to our curious wine.



33:27

Well, there's somebody who has told me that curious wine has certain elements of autobiography. Barbara had said that.



33:37

I don't, I really don't think so I would describe myself as someone who is, you know, there are writers who definitely mine their life, for their material. I and I think I do to some degree, I don't know how you possibly cannot. But I would say that I write an awful lot out of my imagination. All sorts of filaments and ingredients come together. In a book, some, sometimes characters in

my novels are suggested by people that I've known. But eventually, they acquire an entire identity and life of their own. And I really don't think that books work, unless that happens that they become sort of living entities kind of marching around in your brain.



34:23

Do your characters actually like lead the way for you, as some people say, Well, my character had to do this, and I didn't want him to, but they did.



34:32

I don't think so. It is. I sort of had envisioning, you know, some writer behind a typewriter, just chasing her characters around the room, come back here and sit down and be but I think that sometimes they do do things that surprised you. And that's a wonderful indication that you have a characterization that really works, that you have a three dimensional person because I really don't care who In your life, you don't know everybody entirely and and even people that you are terribly familiar with, continue to surprise you. It's one of the delights of life I think. And one of the delights of writing fiction. Amateur city was a novel that I almost fell into i Well, I did fall into it I had, I had no thought that I would ever write a police procedural when I started with that book, I was going to write a novel using my background on the business world. And character by the name of Eleanor Neil was to be the central character in that book. Until the investigating detective came on the scene. In Kay Delafield, so captured my imagination. And were so much the type of woman that I was looking for to write about in terms of a contemporary life and a high on a woman and a high visibility, high profile profession, and how she dealt with her lesbian identity. And so all of a sudden, I'm working with an operator with a police procedure. And I did everything I could do to help myself, read everything I could find about women in law enforcement, and made umpteen calls to LAPD to get information. And after I had the manuscript finished, I went to one of the gay organizations in the city and asked if I could, if they could help me locate a gay or lesbian cop to look at the manuscript. And they did locate five on none of whom would talk to me. And what that what that indicates, of course, very, very clearly as to homophobia and the intense fear at LAPD, which I proceeded to write into the entire series because it's there, it's existing, it's continuing. And anyway, I, the book came out and two weeks later, I got a letter from detective supervisor Mary F otters and in Madison, Wisconsin, who is Kate's exact equivalent, she is a homicide detective of Kate's rank, complimenting me on the accuracy of amateur SETI. And, of course, I was just enormously ly relieved. And we began a correspondence this is back in 1984. And how we have become very, very close, and she has I've had additional input into the box, but Mary has been really a very prime source. And I've gotten an awful lot not only technical detail, but kind of the spiritual makeup and and just the qualities required from someone who does the kind of work that she does. She's she's an extraordinary woman,



37:40

probably most people wouldn't, would agree that not everyone reads your books for accuracy and police procedures. Your your erotic writing has gotten a lot of accolades from lesbians around the world. How do you do your research for that?



37:59

most fun part of my work.



38:04

You get volunteered?



38:08

The really I can I can answer that actually, seriously a couple of ways. I think that one of the reasons that my love scenes work, as well as they do is the fact that it's it's, it's the way that I approached them as a writer, it's I'm not, I'm not the one who's making love in my love scenes, it's my characters who are. And by the time I get to those love scenes, I know those women so well. Curious wind, for example, when I started the central loveseat, in that book, it began as like, I don't know, like a paragraph and a half or maybe a page and a half. In the more than I did that I knew those two women, the more I knew about them, though, the more that seemed lengthened out. And, as far as I'm concerned, the love scenes are just an unparalleled opportunity to characterize. I think that you can say things about women in those scenes that you can literally say no other way. Again, I can use Curious Wind as an example. Elaine in that novel, comes off as someone really rather cold and remote that's the way the rest of the women in that cabin see her. But yet when she's with Diana, there's a there's a tenderness in a protective nurse and the gentleness and all of those other things that come out in her and just the way she makes love with Diana. And that's true in the rest of the books. I really feel that women bring something to their lovemaking that no other combination of two does. I mean, I just say this sort of out of instinct and I think that that that the quality that we bring us a healing quality that we bring to each other. And I think that that's in all of my scenes. I think it's overtly in the Delafield series. There have been, there was one woman in Amateur City who helped to heal Kate and Kate has done her own healing in some of the other books. And I, you know, and I would also say that, I love to write them because I think women are just very, very beautiful together. And it's something that I love to celebrate in my work, I simply the rightness and the beauty of our love, and why we pay the price that we pay for our relationships,



40:39

I was thinking about why your love scenes are probably different than most of the others I've read and, and there's a purity about them. Where you know, a step setting aside all the daily grind and, and the discrimination and the problems that lesbian face. There's this immediacy, a very much in the now, kind of quality to it, where I think a lot of us have a very hard time putting aside all that from our daily lives and going home, and then you know, all of a sudden, everything's okay. And you make love and so that, that's why for me, it's it's a very special time in your books.



41:21

Thank you. It's, that's, that's a wonderful observation to make. And, of course, I think that that's



one of the one of the functions that fiction does. It's, after all, you know, fiction is sort of a distillation of our lives. And certainly, our lovemaking is, I mean, that's kind of a distillation of the joy. And, and the beauty. I think the key Delafield really personifies, and or the way that a lot of lesbian women live and continue to live in this country that they don't attend a gathering like that. I think they would be overwhelmed by it if they did, because women are when you know, when they find community. But I think most of us continue to live in small enclaves where we know a certain amount of certain number of gay people. And we sort of formed sort of overlapping circles in terms of knowing one another. And that's changing, it's gradually changing. An awful lot of, you know, our gay brothers and lesbian sisters who have been on the front lines for us over the past two decades, and Stonewall have really opened doors for an awful lot of us and I think more and more of us are walking through those doors. And that is one thing that that is the subtext to that to murder at the Nightwood bar. It's it's not only a murder mystery, but it's a it's a woman's journey to community and and another thing that I'm proud of about that novel is that is the diversity of community. It's one of the things that I'm most proud of about the gay and lesbian community because we are the only culture that I know of that incorporates all races all colors all Creed's the gay and lesbian community is ready the world as it should be. And the worlds that