

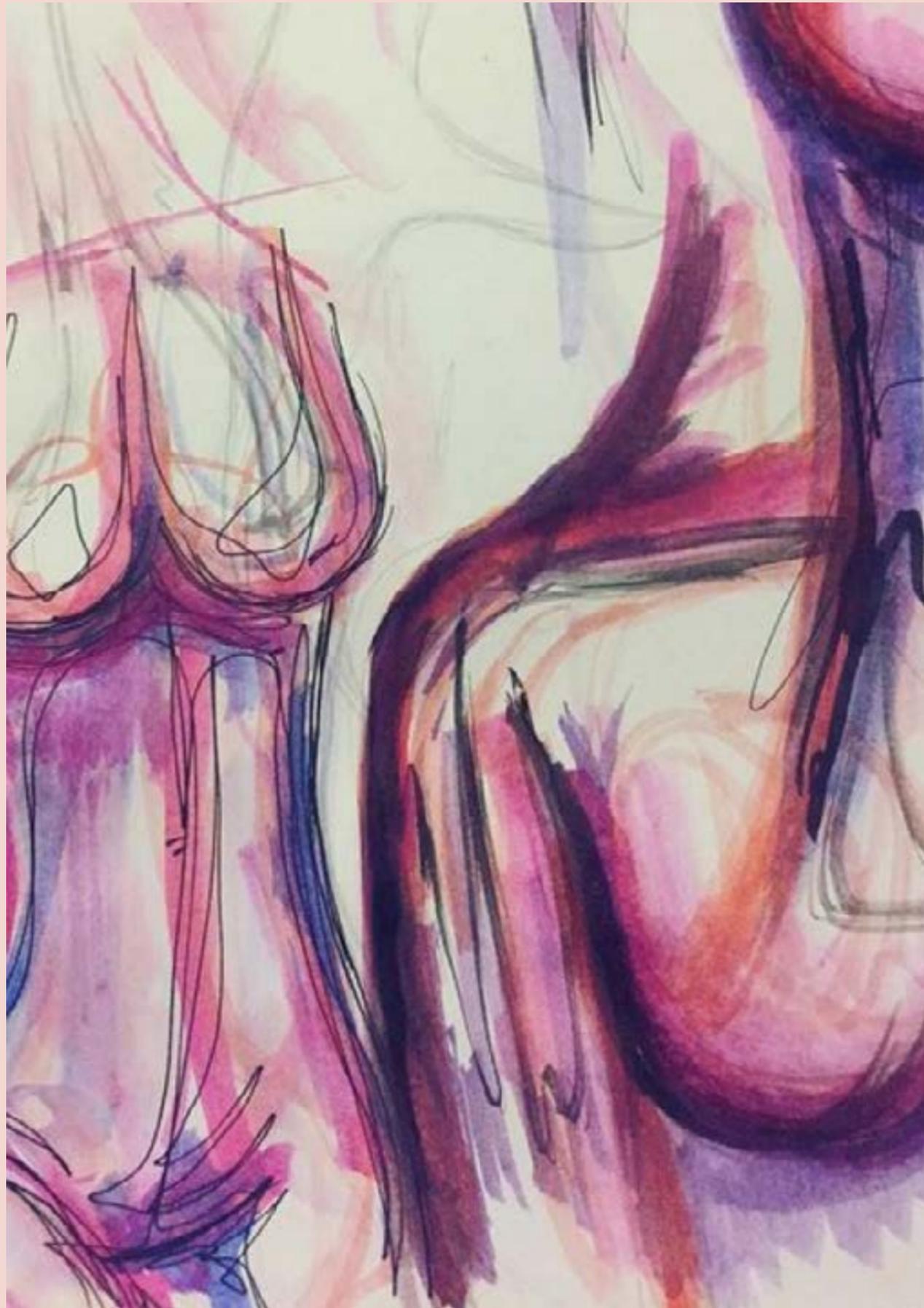
EMPOWERMENT

Je Tu Nous



EMPOWERMENT

ISSUE ONE



illustrator: serena maria @serenamariaceramics_

“*EMPOWERING
WOMEN
IS
UNFINISHED
BUSINESS*”

LAURÉN DU BIGNON
EDITOR'S LETTER

JeTuNous sprung from an ambitious pair of students; myself and editor Beth, wanting to create a space that celebrated creatives and our passions all in one place. We both have a love for art, magazines and literature. I recall saying to Beth that my dream is to run my own magazine one day and her confident reply was; let's do it! And she meant now! We thought, why not create a feminism, fashion magazine that brings creatives together in one space but allows industry professionals to easily contact contributors? I felt there wasn't a platform available to creatives that cut out the middle person, and just allowed potential business to directly contact them, whilst also providing an end product that can become part of their CV. Our goal at JeTuNous is to have created a safe space that strives for equality and discusses topical issues whilst also bringing some gorgeous visuals to our readers attention. We have created and selected articles, features and art work based on what we enjoy, what provokes topical discussions, what evokes empowerment and what stimulates us to create. In issue one, I am excited to share with you such talented people that have contributed to JeTuNous, that believe in similar attributes that we do and wanted to join us to celebrate feminism. A few of my favourite pieces to look out for in issue one are; In conversation with Grace F Victory -discussing diversity in blogging and representation issues within publishing, our cover girl Maya Felix on body confidence, our interview with the wonderful political feminist girl band Peach Club,

a feature interview with MP Jess Phillips: Daring to be a Women in Politics, and so many amazing photography and art work submissions throughout the issue. A massive thank you is in order for the girl that has more hours in a day than Beyoncé, senior editor Beth Ashley for whom without this magazine would not be possible. The amazing and talented Hannah Hopgood who turned the graphics throughout the entire magazine into stunning, coherent pages, and Ieshia Thaper for coming on board and bringing our social media to life! A huge shout out to my family and friends for their constant support and in particular my wonderful Step-Dad for his dedication last year to finding printing and funding options for us. With thanks to everyone that contributed and helped throughout the whole process over the last few years, and of course thank you to our readers for supporting us - we hope you like the magazine as much as we do. If you would like to get in contact with us, submit or just have a chat - head over to our social media platforms or contact us through our website.

Love,
Lauren
Editor in Chief

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THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISM

Chichi Ogwe



Intersectionality is a term describing the overlapping social identities that privilege or oppress a person. The idea behind intersectionality is that the overlapping social identities create different components to a person's overall identity and their experiences as a result.

Intersectional feminism explores these identities in relation to women and this is important because while all women are affected by the patriarchal system in the world, every single woman's experiences is different. Feminism is about empowering women to be themselves and create their own destinies as well as challenging female oppression, discrimination, sexism, inequality and patriarchy. However, in order for feminism to be effective, intersectionality needs to be understood.

Intersectional feminism acknowledges the different experiences and challenges women face. A black woman's experience will be different from a white woman's experience.

A disabled woman's experience will be different from an able-bodied woman's experience. A LGBT+ woman's experience will be

different from a heterosexual woman's experience. A woman's experience in less economically developed will be different from a woman who lives in the West. Intersectional feminism recognises that while all women have a common shared experience in being female, some women have more privilege than others and some women are more exposed to discrimination and oppression than others.

Intersectional feminism is universal. Intersection feminism is for all women. It reaches out to all women, regardless of race, ethnicity, class, disability, sexuality, marital status, educational level, income etc. It is inclusive - it doesn't go by the 'one-size-fits-all' feminist narrative we see day to day.

Intersectional feminism is visible. It recognises the existence of marginalised groups and the lived experiences of the members of these groups, while society ignores

those who are disenfranchised. As a result, intersectional feminism gives a voice to marginalised women, enabling the creation of safe spaces, social movements and freedom of expression. Ultimately, intersectional feminism brings together women from different backgrounds and unites them in the fight against gender inequality.

Overall, feminism is defined as the advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of the equality of the sexes. But in order to ensure the advocacy of this, it is important that all women are included in the narrative. Women have various lived experiences, challenges and struggles, and intersectional feminism acknowledges and includes all of them. Intersectional feminism is a validating school of thought and it fights for all women, not for the privileged few.

That is what women's rights should be about.



“My work deals with the use of the banana as a phallic symbol. These are women taking back the male gaze and bjectification by destroying the thing that objectifies them, keeping a slapstick approach at all times.”

Fine Artist:
**Courtney
Beckett**



“I have always been interested in the idea of change. One of the biggest shifts in fashion I have noticed recently is the comeback of strong colours that make people stand out from the crowds. Chroma is a project exploring the differences between styles and ideas for expressing your personality through hair, makeup and clothes.”

Photographer:
**Kasia
Gebaska**

Photographer:
**Kasia
Gebka**



EMPOWERMENT

CHROMA



CHROMA

ISSUE ONE

DARING TO BE A WOMAN IN POLITICS

WITH JESS PHILLIPS

Written:
Beth Ashley

Jess Phillips is the Labour MP for Birmingham Yardley, a kick-arse feminist, and basically the coolest person on twitter dot com. I discovered Jess on a podcast one day, where she was taking down the patriarchy and being her usual funny self. I instantly started stalking her social media platforms and read her book; *Everywoman* (It's great. Get that on your TBR pile). I then met her at an Avon collaboration with Refuge, an International Women's Day event raising awareness about domestic violence in teenagers which we were both speakers at, and I decided I needed to interview her right away.

Jess used to work as a manager at Women's Aid, a charity that supports women and children who are escaping domestic violence. After 2010 saw its first conservative government for a very long time, Jess saw how much poor policymaking affected these women. So, she decided to do something about it – and transformed into a politician.

Jess is a great character, armed with a thick black country accent, the powerful stories

of thousands of women (including her own), and superpowers in making men in politics listen to her amazing ideas. This interview is full of incredible truths, about being a woman in the political arena, the courageous act of daring to be a funny female, and how she brought her previous experience from the inside of women's refuges to parliament. She also debunks some myths about domestic violence and lets us know what we can do with our own individual platforms. While discussing the intense topics of violence and how shite the government can be in dealing with it, Jess remains forever positive, full of laughs, and hopeful for a better future. And I left the interview feeling exactly the same way.

B.A: Now, you are the (very fantastic) MP for Birmingham Yardley. And people have in equal amounts criticised and celebrated your personal portrayal as a politician and the personality that you bring. I personally love it! Your rawness and humour brings this very 'real' side to female politicians. A lot of people's representation of the female politician is very two dimensional. When we think of a female politician, we first consider Theresa May as the most relevant and probably most famous [current] female in politics. When most of us think of Theresa, we consider her to be quite cold – when we think about women in the political arena, they give us the impression that 'cold equals power'. You're not afraid to be funny, and I love that. There's a stigma where women, especially those in professional roles, almost aren't allowed to be perceived as funny.

J.P: I think that's true. I think lots of women, and potentially especially those from an older generation, have made that conscious decision to be serious, because if you're not taken seriously already (because of a million other things) you don't want to give people the opportunity to not take you seriously again. The idea of humour was put to one side for a lot of women.

BANTER WAS FOR MEN, AND WOMEN HAD TO BE SERIOUS AND GOOD AT THEIR JOBS TO PROVE THEIR *WORTH*

It's a very sexist system. And so, **IT IS A BIG RISK TO BE FUNNY AS A FEMALE** or to allow yourself to be humiliated or laughed at because people already don't take you seriously. But, I think humour is important in politics. It's democratising. Everybody likes a laugh. Everybody likes to poke fun at themselves. And I think that you can build up a report with a group of people or masses of people without even having to meet them if you can make people laugh. It's the quickest and best way to create an interaction with someone.

LAUGHTER IS A DEVICE FOR DEMOCRACY that people don't use enough.

B.A: That's a great way of looking at it. I admired that you had the courage to be funny and let yourself be laughed at as a female in politics, but I hadn't considered that it's an actual political tool.

J.P: It puts people at ease, if you can laugh. It makes people feel comfortable and think 'Hang on. We all go to the loo. We're all normal human beings. We're all capable of making a fool of ourselves.'

HUMOUR HUMANISES YOU.

B.A: Was this your motivation for entering politics, then? I think your humour creates the image of 'the relatable politician' (whether or not that's intentional).

J.P: The truth is, there's no simple answer as to why I wanted to become a politician. I wanted to get into politics at the time that I did for a number of reasons. The main inspiring fact was that we had a Tory government again, and we hadn't had one since I was sixteen. And I started to see how the people I worked with (women in refuges, women with mental health issues and who had suffered terrible abuses) were starting to become affected. I started to see how poor policy decision making was affecting their lives, and I started to feel the

unfairness that had existed when I was a child. I started to feel it and notice it again. And so, that is why I decided to do something about it. Because I was cross.

I WAS ANGRY, AND ANGER IS A GREAT INSPIRATION

That was the main reason [for becoming a politician]. But I suppose, once I'd decided that I had to do something about it, I also made a conscious decision that **I WANTED PEOPLE TO BELIEVE IN POLITICS AGAIN**. People don't believe in politics, and in 2010 it was particularly bad. There was no faith in politicians. It was all of the back of the scandal about MPs' expenses, and the hatred of politicians and 'the establishment' was so high, and what I saw, was that actually, that is bad for the people – not the politicians. Through this, politicians carried on regardless. It didn't make a difference that people hated them. They carried on doing their job and making decisions. But what's bad, is when people disengage from politics. It's bad for individuals if they think there's no one there to help them. It's a problem if people think politics doesn't concern them, and that politicians are all the same. That is bad for democracy. And so I decided, once I was inspired to get involved, that **I WAS GOING TO MAKE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO BE HUMAN.**

B.A: That's amazing. Sorry, I spaced out there because I was like 'wow...' (bad journalist). You were the only politician that I ever thought of as being a relatable human being. But I do think that Jeremy Corbyn has also brought some of that humanity into politics too.

J.P: That's what people love about Jeremy Corbyn. The relatability. And in the election campaign, nevermore did that matter than it did then. Corbyn has noticed the lack of relatability in politicians for individuals too. I'm not the only one who noticed it. I'm not doing this because I'm some sort of savant. There is a general feeling in British society that people want humanity and they want to see and feel. In the election, you couldn't

have had two more different candidates. It wasn't just two slick men in suits standing up and saying slick things. It was one very authoritarian figure who was very closed off and one very relaxed figure who was like 'Yeah, maybe we make mistakes. People make mistakes'. And that definitely will have helped people see a difference in politicians. That would have helped the results for the labour party. His humanity carried him through the election."

B.A: So, you're an MP now. But before you went into politics, you worked at Women's Aid didn't you? How did you begin working there and how does your background with them transfer into your political work?

J.P: Politics has always been a huge part of my life and one of **MY BIGGEST DRIVES TO WORK IN POLITICS WAS FEMINISM**. I was raised by the women's movement, essentially. My mum was a 70s feminist rebel and I went to play group at a women's liberation group. To me, it was just cold church halls, eating sliced oranges and building bricks and knocking them over again. Like any other kid. But the women there were radical, and I was raised to be a feminist. There was a big scandal recently about kids being radicalised by feminist mothers and I thought 'they're probably just eating soggy toast'. The idea that you can radicalise a two-year-old is hilarious. A two-year-old won't listen -

HUMOR HUMANIZES

LAUGHTER IS A DEVICE FOR DEMOCRACY.



to you for more than one minute. I didn't really know what's going on at the time, but I was essentially raised by the women's movement.

FEMINISM HAD ALWAYS BEEN A BACKDROP TO ANY POLITICAL IDEOLOGY THAT I HAD

, and I was raised by two very strong feminists; my parents. I had always been aware of the power imbalance between men and women. I was aware of women being abused by their partners and by their families and having less of a role in society.

When I joined Women's Aid, I took a huge pay cut because I just really wanted to have a job doing something like that. It was a huge opportunity. It's a brilliant place to work. I used to go to fundraising dinners with the labour party, and people would do what I call the 'cancer face' where they tilt their face with sadness when you tell them you work for Women's Aid. When you tell people, you work with women who have suffered from domestic violence, they look at you like you're a saint and they look so sad. **IN REALITY, WHEN YOU WORK AT WOMEN'S AID, YOU'RE WORKING WITH BRILLIANT PEOPLE WHO LAUGH ALL DAY.**

You could write a million books about the amount of characters you meet doing that job. It was a lovely and empowering place to work. Everyone should work in the voluntary sector at these kinds of organisations where everyone has to come together. It's a real lesson in life. Obviously, every single day, there are stories to be told and part of my job (I was there to gain funding and help improve services) was hearing those stories and telling them. **I'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT STORYTELLING. TELLING THESE WOMEN'S STORIES CAN BE QUITE HARROWING.**

However, the vast majority of work that went on was helping those women. You help them get away from horrible situations. Sometimes you'd come across systems that blocked you out. There would be problems like not being able to find a bed for a teenage girl who'd

been sexually violated, or you can't get a mental health assessment for a woman without a two and a half year waiting list. There were all these things that made you angry while you were there, but most of the time you're helping. And you can think of new crazy ideas to help, like building a Summer scheme in the refuge or hosting a sports day for the children staying there. At Christmas time, it was like the place was a fortress. The amount of donations and things being sent was amazing. There was a factory in Cradley Heath who donated thousands of pounds worth of presents to the refuges. We said we could take the money and sort it for them, but the blokes working in this factory wanted to go to Toys R Us and buy hundreds and hundreds of presents for the children. Kids could play Operation and Buckaroo, and these donators loved knowing that they'd done that for them.

So, for every terrible story, there's equal hope and resilience and community of people wanting to help one another. Women's Aid is a great place to work and I miss it desperately. I deal with similar cases now, with far fewer resources. I still hear all the stories from my office now, but the hope is far less.

You can help people as an MP, but the level of support offered to these women by charities like Women's Aid is unrivalled. We can only move pieces of paper around and hope that the system picks women up. I miss the fun

parts of Women's Aid. The Christmas parties, Eid parties. We'd use any excuse for a party. If there was someone who'd been a client for five minutes, we'd celebrate with them.

B.A: You definitely haven't stopped working in that area, then. It's just your environment that's changed.

J.P: Yes. Now I tell the same stories in parliament. Arguably, I affect far more women with the work that I do now, and the sector gets in touch with me daily to tell me how proud they are. So that is lovely.

B.A: Working there must have provided you with a whole archive of stories, which is really helpful for convincing people that these services are needed. There are still people who need convincing of the importance of refuges.

I HAVE AN ARCHIVE OF STORIES THAT WILL KEEP ME TALKING FOREVER

J.P: If I work in parliament for another fifty years, I'll still be able to recall on a woman's story to tell the government they're doing something wrong. Or doing something right. This government gets some things right on domestic violence; there's no two ways about that. It is a rich tapestry and I will have it forever. During the Christmas recess, I go back and visit the refuges. And sometimes I think about picking up some shifts because the world does move on, while women are still shat on, basically. They're still more likely to be murdered by their husbands. They're much less likely to be able to stand on their own two feet financially when they first come into the Refuge. And those things will never change, in my lifetime, I can't imagine that. But we have to keep trying.

B.A: That leads on to my next question. We met at a panel for raising awareness of domestic violence in teenagers. Do you find it mad or annoying that we're still having to

host these events where we talk about violence women experience?

J.P: Yeah, it's terrible.

B.A: Does it motivate or dishearten you, or does that depend on the day?

J.P: It motivates me. I went to this festival recently - I was just there to speak at it. Just as I was leaving, a band called First Aid Kit were on stage. This woman, from the band stood there and talked about [The Brock Turner Rape Case] in America. This woman had written a song about it, and just before she performed, she told the story of the case to the audience (and there's about ten thousand people in the field). And she said **'WHAT WE WANT TO SAY TO THAT RAPIST, IS YOU ARE THE PROBLEM. NOT THE YOUNG WOMAN. IT'S YOU.** The whole audience cheered this woman saying this. And I burst into tears. It's incredible that an audience was cheering on the idea that it wasn't the woman's fault. I thought, ten years ago, that anger against these sorts of cases didn't exist.

I told my husband that I was so amazed and how much it warmed my heart to see people responding like that, and he said "People like you did that, Jess. People like you and all those feminist activists did that." And I do feel like it's getting better. Those people in that crowd; their daughters are going to have a better life.

Bystander attitude is changing. Those who are neither the perpetrators or the victims; their attitudes are changing. You will still get people hearing women's experiences and saying, "Well why didn't you just do this?" and "Why didn't you just leave?" but that's them protecting themselves.

By saying things like that, they're convincing themselves that [domestic violence] wouldn't happen to them because they think they'd behave differently. It's like when people say something religious when someone dies. It's just to make them feel better. They're not being mean, they're actually being kind. But they're being kind to themselves. ["Why didn't you just leave?"] is a ridiculous question. People won't even leave their phone in a fire alarm. Everybody nows we're supposed to just get up and leave when a fire alarm goes off. But instead, we gather all our belongings. So why do we expect women to just leave or choose a different path straight away? How can we expect women to just leave everything that they've ever owned, sometimes even their children? How can you just expect people to walk away? It's ridiculous that people think that. But even though progress seems so damnably slow and the statistics for violence against women is so stubborn, there is a cultural change occurring. We have to pat ourselves on the back for that.

This interview originally took place on the *Beth's Bookshelf* podcast. You can follow Jess Phillips for more fun, feminism and politics on twitter @jessphillips. We recommend you also read her book, *Everywoman*, full of interesting stories on womanhood, her journey through it, and its place in politics.

Beth Ashley is the editor for JeTuNous, a journalist, copywriter and blogger. You can see what she's up to, including behind-the-scenes JeTuNous action, through her twitter @bethmayashley

**“WE CAN'T GIVE UP.
WE ARE MAKING
PROGRESS”**

DON'T STOP

TILL

YOU ARE

PROUD

**CHANGE THE GAME AND MAKE IT
YOURS**

Distortion & Dysmorphia

“Internal organs were the inspiration for this project, considering how we are all made up of the same things. In particular, studying the intestines and the peculiar shapes they create. I turned these ideas into an exaggerated garment that focused on a bold, unusual silhouette.”

Molly Gilliland









Braless is Harmless

Written by Jess Herbert

@halfgirlhalfteacupx

For girls, puberty follows a similar blueprint: your period starts, hair emerges everywhere and you have to take an emergency trip to M&S to buy your first bra because one day these two mounds of fat just appear on your chest.

From that first flip-flop print A cup when I was 11, I've worn a bra every day- putting one on in the morning quickly became part of the morning routine which I do on autopilot, never pausing to question the implications of each action. But after years of fumbling through both the jungle of racerbacks and balconettes, and my purse- because these pieces of shaped cotton aren't cheap- I suddenly asked myself why? As a B cup, I never made it far enough down the alphabet to need the support and on a student's budget I could use that extra £18 a month on, like, tampons or Jägerbombs instead. That's when I decided to stop wearing bras for a while.

According to the Free the Nipple movement, Page 3 and Rihanna, leaving the house without your over the shoulder boulder holder is easy- when other feminists are papped with their babs on full view behind a sheer white shirt they're glowing with confidence, bouncing (literally) down the street with a Harley Quinn style swagger in their hips, and iced macchiato in their grip. How misleading they were.

The first day I went braless I accompanied it with the baggiest jumper I think Urban Outfitters have ever sold which looked like I'd worn my duvet to town but, even with

the cashmere barrier, I felt just as uncomfortable as that time my grandma called a family meeting because she'd mistaken my leaky period for spilled jam and wanted to know who was to blame. In the back of my highly irrational mind, every time a dribble of rain struck my chest, my jumper was becoming transparent, or when I bent over to tie my laces the world was getting a sneak preview of David Attenborough's next documentary about Britain's mountainous regions.

I went to sleep that night dreaming about the comfort of a bralette, lace straps enticing me in, ruffled fabric concealing unwanted outlines...it was actually quite erotic. As much as I wanted to run back to the safety of my bra drawer, I realised I needed to complete this challenge in order to prove that I was in control of both my body and wardrobe. There are millions of men with larger chests than mine (lucky buggers) yet they don't feel compelled to squeeze themselves into a Boux Avenue changing room and make horrendously awkward small talk with a trainee from the measuring team to find out what size their seeds have germinated to now. So I stuck with it and got used to jumpers. Then slightly tighter jumpers. Then dungarees. But t-shirts

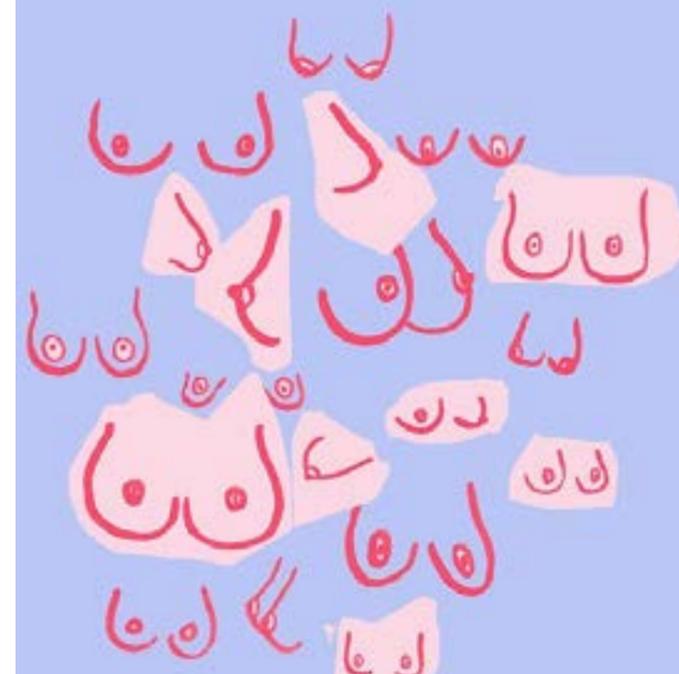
Why should I feel forced to wear something that those biologically similar to me don't, merely because I have the vagina to match?

tripped me up. I'd finally get the nipple outline to mellow but the slightest temperature change would set the

headlights onto full beam again and I would have to position my hair like Sara Paxton before she's given clothes in Aquamarine to prevent my philosophy teacher's eyes from loitering too long. There was something about being exposed in a classroom that made me internally cringe- the fear of being sexualised by the people around me when I was trying to study loomed over me as I wrote notes on Sartre's Existentialism. But even stronger than that fear was the anger that a few old men could shatter my confidence and reduce me from an intellectual in the making to a pair of tits.

That's what I think about now, every time I stand in front of my wardrobe, wondering whether to buckle up or not: do I really want to continue letting my boobs be solely synonymous with sexiness, or do I want to normalise them within my life? Because unless I want to go on letting the weather, my teachers and society generally dictate what I do with my chest, then I need to become comfortable with bralessness. I've learnt that some days will be tougher than others, but eventually wearing a bra will be a choice, not a pressure, and I'm excited for that day. It's been a long time coming.

BRALESS



is harmless









MAYA EMPOWERMENT FELIX

Introduction

Maya Felix is an influencer and model, who gained an online presence after photographer Ben Hopper's body hair project went viral, which Maya was a model for.

Maya says she feels most beautiful immediately after having sex with her partner. "I will always go and have a wee (girls, it's important to pee after you have sex) and I look at myself in the mirror. I will just feel very emotional. And tired, understandably. But also, very glowy, and womanly. I'm not very good at considering myself sexy, but if you don't feel a little bit sexy after sleeping with your partner, you need to work on that."

Maya uses her platforms to spread messages about body positivity, the empowerment of women, intersectional feminism, and the vulnerability and everyday sexism women undergo.

Editor/interviewer:
Beth Ashley
[@bethmayashley](#)

Photographer:
Lauren Du Bignon
[@photographyldb](#)

Model/interviewee:
Maya Felix
[@onlylittlemy](#)

Maya uses her platforms to spread messages about body positivity, the empowerment of women, intersectional feminism, and the vulnerability and everyday sexism women undergo.

"I feel most vulnerable when I'm a woman, which is a lot of the time. I feel most vulnerable when I'm walking in the dark, or when I get separated from people in a club. I don't know if I feel vulnerable about my looks at any time, but I feel vulnerable about my safety. I struggle with anxiety a lot, and one of the times that flares up is when I'm getting dressed to go out. So, a lot of the time, I'll feel vulnerable. I've been late to a few things because nothing feels quite right, so I can't leave the house yet. So yeah, those are the times I feel quite vulnerable."

Myself (editor, Beth Ashley) and editor in chief Lauren spent a day over at Maya's house to create this photoshoot and interview Maya about her experience, from her decision to stop shaving and going viral, to putting that newly-found spotlight to use.

B.A: You seem to have an amazing relationship with your own body. You post a lot of exposed photos and you appear to be very confident. Do you believe you have a good perception of yourself?

M.F: I think my relationship with my body has been quite complicated over the years. I think like most young women, you go through different stages and phases of feeling differently. You know, I've received a lot of messages from women sort of saying 'I wish I could be brave and confident

about my body the way you are' and I think, for example, on my Instagram or the mood I put out there, I try and sort of champion body positivity but it would be unrealistic to say there aren't days where I'm not happy with my body. It's hard to love yourself every day. It's a process. And it's an involved process. And it takes putting work in.

I also have two chronic illnesses; a joint condition and a stomach condition, so I definitely have those days. I actually went to talk on body confidence with a really amazing group called Anybody and it kind of made me realise that I think I spend so much time maintaining my body due to illness that I don't spend enough time celebrating it, which was quite interesting to realise. I imagine other people with illnesses might be able to relate to that. A woman came up to me at the end and said she had arthritis. She said the first stage of her relationship of her body was just maintaining it and feeling healthy, and then the next stage that she's currently working on is embracing it and trying to love it and feel beautiful.

B.A: What kind of story do you try to tell with your style?

M.F: I think my style is quite individual... which I like. I've never been very good at following trends or being particularly stylish, but I have a big focus on comfort. Comfort comes first, and then looking good. But I think when you're comfortable, you look good. I think it took me quite a long time to realise that. When I was younger, I would very much think "wear a short skirt even if you can't move in it" and "wear high heels even if you can't walk in them" and that is all great if you feel confident that

way. I think I thought those things would make me confident whereas nowadays, I go out in comfy baggy trousers with maybe a little bit of mid-rift showing and that is enough. I'm comfortable, and I look kind of cute! I think 'relaxed' is probably my style. However, if I go out clubbing, which is very rarely, I want to look like an expensive escort. That's my thing.

B.A: Baggy trousers to expensive escort; I love that. How expensive?

I mean... pretty expensive. Like no one in the room could afford me. That kind of look. No one can deny that sex workers look incredible. They create a fantasy, and I'd love to look half that fabulous.

B.A: Is there a particular way you try to express yourself, whether that be through your clothes, or your general persona?

Yeah. I think I do. So, I used to act a bit. Not professionally at all but I used to enjoy being a sort of amateur, and I think that has taught me to sometimes play a part with what I'm wearing. I think your costume is sometimes just as important as any other aspect of the character you are playing. I really enjoy being someone else sometimes. For example, when I went to the Women's March a few months ago, I thought 'If there's ever a day to wear a practically see-through tight white vest with my tits out, and some big baggy trousers with my Doc Martens, it's today.' And I might not go out like that every day, but it was like it was my part for the day. And before I went out my partner said I looked like Sarah Connor in the hospital scene in the terminator and I was like "That is my dream. That is all I want to be." So I think I do, for whatever I'm feeling one day or whatever I'm going to be doing one day, sometimes think 'Who do I wanna be?' when I get dressed.

Sometimes I just want to show off a certain aspect of myself. Sometimes, I want to turn up to work in a pair of heels and a really slick jacket because I want to be like a boss bitch today.

B.A: Have you always let your hair grow, or did you used to shave and there was a point where you decided to stop?

M.F: I decided to stop shaving, not necessarily as a big bold statement, which I think a lot of people assume it was, but just because I was just really at my wit's end with it. I'm mixed race and what that's ended up with, is me having very fair skin but very thick, dark, course hair, and shaving was really painful. It was a constant source of why I hated my body, and a source of shame around my body. I was feeling like I couldn't be pretty or feminine (whatever the fuck that means) because I had I had dark stubby armpits all the time, or they were red, or bleeding, or even infected. It grows back in 12 hours, too. If I shave my armpits at the beginning of the day, it was like a man's chin hair by the end of the day. I wanted to get laser hair removal and my mum basically drew a line at that point and said "No. There's nothing wrong with you. There's nothing wrong with your armpits. You don't need to have hair removal. You just need to try something different." And so, I just decided to let the hair grow, and eventually decided that I actually quite liked the way it looked. I'd be quite self-conscious about it a first but I eventually got comfortable with it.

You can also do cool stuff with it! Sometimes I dye it blonde with facial hair bleach and that looks really pretty! And then you can add colours! It's really cute. I now do things where people see my armpits too. I do pole dancing, and I used to be quite self-conscious at the classes. These women at these classes, they all look amazing! Very different, very diverse, but a lot of the time their hair is shaved and waxed, and they're very bronzed women, who all look

“

IT WAS A CONSTANT SOURCE OF WHY I HATED MY BODY, AND A SOURCE OF SHAME AROUND MY BODY. I WAS FEELING LIKE I COULDN'T BE PRETTY OR FEMININE (WHATEVER THE FUCK THAT MEANS) BECAUSE I HAD I HAD DARK STUBBY ARMPITS ALL THE TIME, OR THEY WERE RED, OR BLEEDING, OR EVEN INFECTED. IT GROWS BACK IN 12 HOURS, TOO

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”

beautiful. That’s their choice and that’s great, but it did make me feel conscious at first. After a couple of times, though, I realised that actually, these people have seen my armpits a lot and they don’t seem to give a shit! Even if they have to spot me, and they’re getting a face full of armpit, they don’t seem to be fussed!
B.A: Have you ever received any negativity surrounding your body hair or been told that it needs to go for some reason, such as acting or work?

M.F: I’ve never been outright told I need to shave it, but I’ve known when I’ve been doing a shoot that it wouldn’t be okay. That was when I was quite a bit younger, when I did test shoots with agencies. I was 15, and I didn’t have as much armpit hair then. I think I understood for those things that it would probably be best for me to shave my body hair. Which I think is, in part, a shame that I felt pressured to shave it but I think at the same time, I do also think it’s really important for women to not always have to be a ‘champion’ of body positivity and feminism. Because it can be tiring and it can be hard and you don’t always want to go out and fight the world every day. Sometimes I just really don’t want to hear “You need to shave” or have that conversation or interaction with someone, so I’ll just shave. I’m just protecting myself, really. Which is fine.

B.A: Have you received any online negativity following photos of you going viral?

M.F: I’ve had some interesting remarks [after Maya’s photoshoot with Ben Hopper went viral], but the positive always outweighs the negative. I have had some really negative stuff as well, and that’s fine. That’s just knowing that people have seen it and people have been shocked by it (which is maybe sometimes necessary) and it obviously moves something in

someone, to some degree, if they’ve felt the need to make a comment. I’d rather it had some kind of an impact, and hopefully their minds will eventually change. I have had some interesting comments. I probably shouldn’t read them all, but I do. But sometimes I’ll look at a comment and it will be in another language, and I think “Do I really want to click ‘See Translation?’” and I’ll click it and it will be “You’re disgusting! You make me wanna puke!” and I’m like “oh, wonderful.”

People in Singapore seem to love me though. I have a bit of a fanbase going on there. It’s amazing! I get lots of messages from people in Singapore telling me they’re my number one fan and they love what I do!

B.A: It must be weird to get messages like ‘I love what you do’, when all you’re doing is just being you. Just very publicly.

M.F: Yeah. I honestly didn’t think it would be that much of a big deal. I guess when you do something different that breaks the mould, it’s a big deal to people in some way.

L.DB: I think when people see those photos of you, it gives them the confidence that you’re displaying.

M.F: Yeah! Comments like that really touched me, that I was able to do that for some people. I think it’s just opening your eyes to it as well, because actually if you look at the amount of time humans have been in modern civilization, the percentage of time that women have felt they need to shave is so small in the long-run. [Shaving] is not something that people have always done. I mean, it’s advertised very successfully. Gillette are very good at making us feel like it’s something we have to do. But it’s bullshit. The strangest comments I get are people saying that [my body hair] is unhealthy or un-natural. That it’s

un-hygienic for women to have body hair. It's really amazing that shaving brands and the beauty industry have collectively done such an incredible job of marketing this message and brainwashing people to think that they are smarter than our evolution. Our natural bodies. To think that shaving is something natural?! How can letting your body do what it wants to do be un-hygienic? And also, how is it unhygienic for women but not for men?!

How is having armpit hair so disgusting on a woman but on a man, we just see that as natural?

L.DB: It's the same with sweat. I was having this discussion the other day – a man was telling me that he thinks sweat is disgusting on girls. How is it that it's considered so unattractive on women but it's often seen as an attractive thing on a man, all masculine and manly? Why is there a difference between a man and a woman sweating?

M.F: The beauty industry has given us a lot of impossible hoops to jump through, because they can make money from it. And it controls and oppresses women to a point that we conform.

B.A: What message do you have for those who turn their nose up at female body hair?

M.F: It doesn't bother me. I think it's sad. I think it's a shame that some people have such strong and negative opinions about women's natural bodies. I try not to waste too much energy on those people. I think a lot of people think that their opinion of you matters, and that their opinion of you should shape what you do. I get a lot of comments from both

sides. People on one hand saying "You should shave. You're un-hygienic. You're filthy". Whatever. And I also get comments saying, "Just so you know, I would still fuck you." Or "Just so you know, I'm a guy, and I think you're really beautiful." and when men message me to let me know it's okay with them, I just think, well, I never asked if it was okay with you. I don't care if it's okay with you or not. Your opinion really doesn't make any impression on me whatsoever. If you were offended or had an opinion about something I said or if you wanted to challenge me on my views, I'd be happy to discuss that because it's good to be challenged on your viewpoints and your thoughts. But when it comes to the way I look... Why does it even matter? How does that affect your life, why do you care what I look like?

B.A: What message do you have for young girls who feel like they need to adhere to a certain image... a certain standard of beauty?

M.F: I don't feel like I'm the most qualified person to give that advice to women.

B.A: If only men felt that way!

M.F: Yeah! I don't think I could give much advice on modelling or acting because I'm not exactly successful in either! But to women who don't necessarily meet the status quo and are trying to carve their little place in that industry, I guess it's finding your niche.

If it's too painful to be fighting against people who want to change you, there will be people out there who want to celebrate exactly what you are. Find those people, and make the most of those people. I've worked with wonderful people; brands,



photographers, groups of people such as yourselves who have no interest in me being anything other than who I am, and other women being themselves is inspiring and beautiful. If you surround yourself with people like that, who remind you that what you are is enough and is important, and that you are valid and celebrated, then it will give you the confidence to face the people who don't.

It will also open up more spaces for women like you, and maybe one day it will make its way into the mainstream. We can make positive change.

B.A: How would you like to use your presence to influence others?

M.F: One of my dreams is to work with young girls and promote body positivity and sex positivity. For young people to be taught positive, inclusive sex education. Everyone needs to learn about their body.

I want my online spaces to be safe places for women to be. The only place I ever delete comments is my Instagram, because that's personal. That's mine. My Instagram is my presence, and my message, and I would hate to think that a woman following me would click on a photo of mine and think 'that's beautiful. I want to do that' and then look at the comments and see negativity and feel beaten down by that.

I think generally, I want to use my presence online to promote female empowerment, body positivity, and intersectional feminism.

I want to learn a lot as well. I want to be informed and challenged, because that's important too. I have a lot of learning to do. I'd like to be a positive, inclusive, feminist energy in the world. Even if I could just have a very small space of a very lovely collection of

women who feel a bit more positive about themselves thanks to the things that I put out there, that would be wonderful.

Designer:
Oliva Pattison
[@bethmayashley](#)

Model:
Chloe Carter

Photographer:
Shanon Goddard
[@onlylittlemy](#)





"I created this bomber jacket working under the theme of contortion, in particular looking at how the body can be manipulated. This concept was explored by distorting images of the artist 'FKA Twigs', known for her ability to contort her body in dance. These images I created were digitally printed onto satin; this print then being embroidered onto, in order to create a raised 3D effect that mirrors the surface of the body and its muscles when manipulated. My aim with the colour scheme of the garment was to create a blend of all the rich and beautiful skin tones we see in the world, a message of diversity. The jacket has an oversized, loose fitting style in order to fit in with the current androgyny fashion trend."

Designer:
Oliva Pattison
[@bethmayashley](#)

Model:
Chloe Carter

Photographer:
Shanon Goddard
[@onlylittley](#)

Writer:
Kevin Kissane
 @kevinkissanepoet

Photographer:
Tyler Mainville

AS A YOUNG BOY: GAY, CLOSETED, and so unaware of what the fashion world had to offer someone like me, eager to show my real self through clothing, life was hard. For a family barely scraping the middle-class tier, access to clothes was limited to chain store men's departments. These sections are more often than not a sliver of a percentage off the pie chart of the stores' demographic, tucked into a back corner, operating on the assumption that men don't care what covers their bodies. Blue jeans, plain graphic tees, sports jerseys; these did not appeal to my young queer eye.

I remember walking through the store, mesmerized by the rivers of color which characterized the sections labeled "women's". It was like gazing at the northern lights, so many patterns, and such breadth of fabrics and lengths.

I grew jealous. I have since evolved, grown more self-confident, gender roles be damned, but for those who aren't comfortable breaking into the women's department for a bit of flare, one fashion tool is a lifesaver to the boy or non-gender conformist looking to add some character to their wardrobe.

Self-expression is imperative to a happy and healthy heart. For me, this came in the form of socks. That's right, socks. The fashion designers that dictate what is acceptable for whom, deemed the sock an appropriate garment for exploring the unique and absurd facets of our personalities.

Something easily hidden by the legs of your jeans, socks can be as eclectic as possible without fear of judgement. For

**"THESE ARE THE DAYS OF
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 DOING THE UNEXPECTED"**

me they were a symbol of my hidden spirit, a personal testament to my character that I didn't have to show anyone if I didn't want to. Now, I am fearless of what prying eyes think, and wear my socks loud and proud with a rolled leg.

Options and combinations are endless. They breathe life into an otherwise bland, or basic off the rack ensemble. They lend to my quirkiness, showcase my oddities, and make apparent what generic men's fashion does not.

Socks allow men to be creative where gender roles tell them they are supposed to blend in. Gone are the days of the same short sleeve in every color, straight fit blue jeans, and an overriding fear of appearing "gay" or "feminine". These are the days of self-expression, where we are valued not by how well we follow orders and stick to trends, but by how much we stand out by doing the unexpected. The future of fashion is a continent ready to explore, and for me the journey begins with a pair of socks.

**ONE PAIR MAKES ALL THE
 DIFFERENCE**

CELEBRATING MY QUEERNESS THROUGH THE SOCKS ON MY FEET





Chocolate for Breakfast

Written by Cecily Cook

@cecilyeffy

This morning was a busy one in our house. Cleaning, tidying and sorting, one of those days that really help you to clear your head! (You're looking at an obsessive de-clutterer). We were in such a rush to get out for a coffee after the hustle and bustle of the morning that both me and my younger sister had forgotten to eat anything. And so, in true Cook fashion- she grabbed a box of chocolates and off we trotted!

Please don't go thinking this is a regular occurrence! I simply loved the fact that despite her off days of being very self-conscious and worried about what she was eating, she was now choosing to eat something she wanted for the very first meal of the day... at 12pm (oops).

Now, I know that a large number of you nutritional addicts will be kicking and screaming at the idea of chocolate for breakfast (are you crazy?!), but for those who know how much of a struggle it is for some people to enjoy themselves despite their fears and anxieties, you will, (hopefully), be applauding her, as I did. Over the years my sisters have seen me struggle with my body and diet. I've struggled with eating disorders and haven't been the nicest to myself at times.

However, lately, things have begun to change.

I have started to empower those around me in an attempt to treat myself in the same way. Now, this doesn't mean I go around trying to fix anyone. It's simply a tool to make self-love and care a little bit easier, warming myself up for the bigger race!

How easy is it to tell someone else they look gorgeous, handsome, pretty or lovely? It's super-duper easy! And most of the time, the words just fall out of my mouth. I'm a confident compliment-er yet I can't seem to accept the same compliments about myself.

That needs to change.

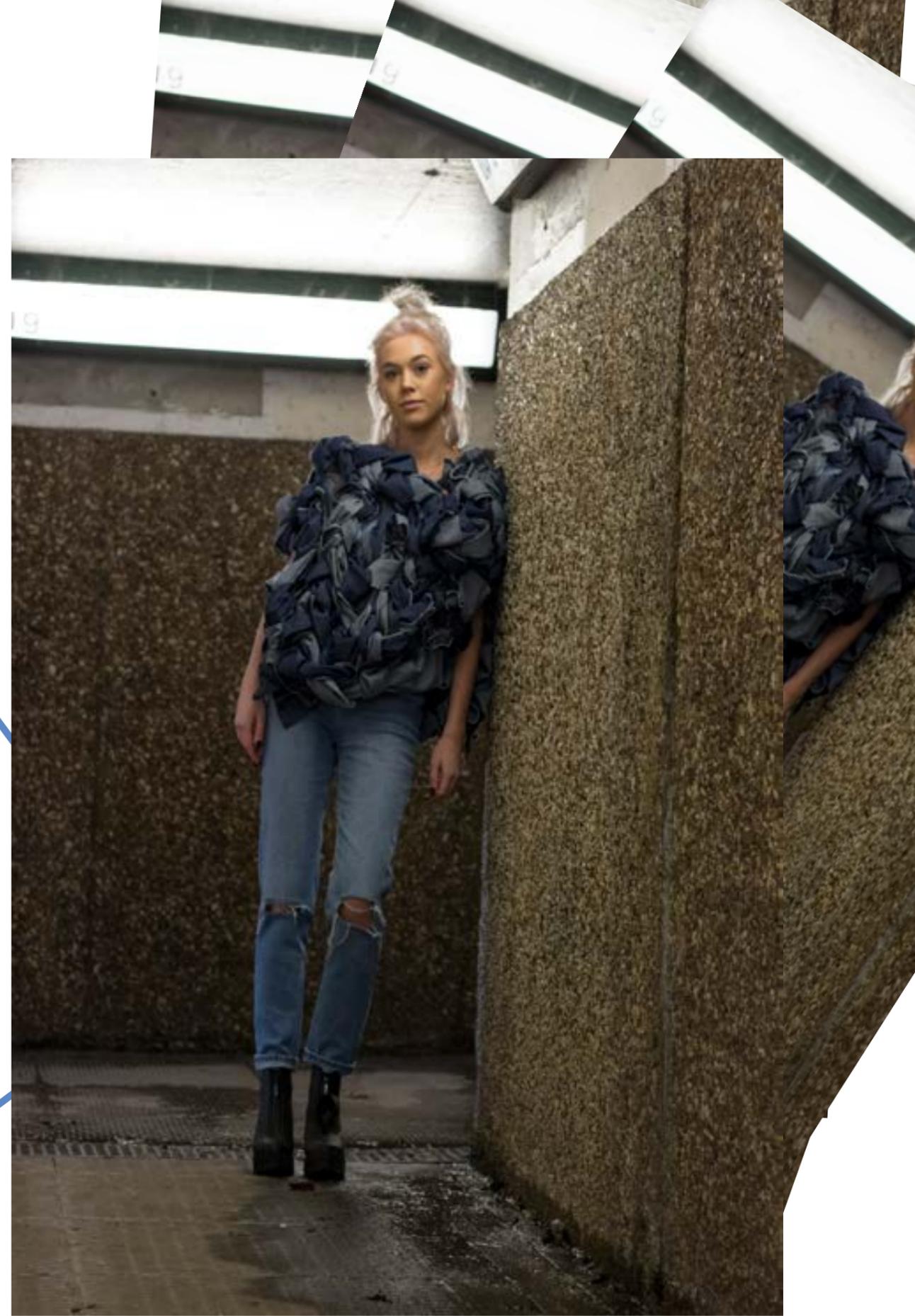
On my blog a while back, I spoke about self-care and how to make it easier- the main idea I spoke of was treating yourself the way you would a child. You wouldn't say half the things to a young person that you do to yourself day after day.

There will always be a smaller size of clothes to squeeze into, a different hair colour to have, or a different skin type to be stuck with. But when does the race to become "sounder" stop? Can you honestly tell me that you want to spend the rest of your life chasing an idea of perfection that doesn't exist?

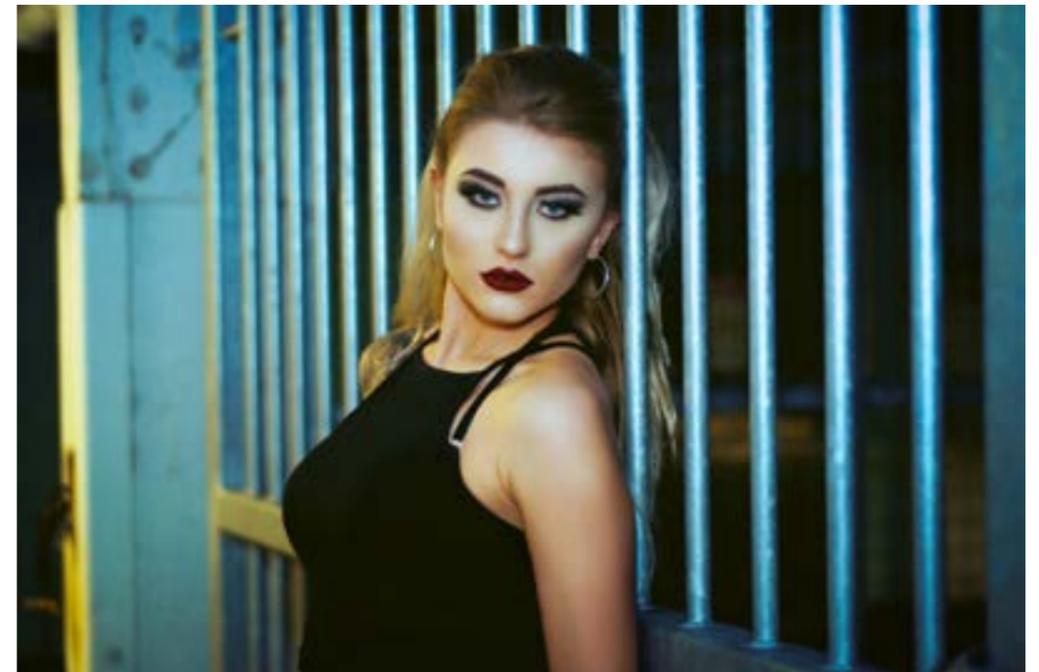
It's a slow, sweaty, and dirty ride to becoming confident in yourself and loving who you are - but in the end, it will feel like the biggest relief you've ever felt. (Except after squeezing a baby out, that's a pretty nice one too.)

If you begin to spur other people on, who's knows, one day soon you may become your own number one supporter.

**“BE WHO
YOU ARE AND
SAY WHAT
YOU FEEL.
BECAUSE
THOSE WHO
MIND DON'T
MATTER,
AND THOSE
WHO MATTER
DON'T MIND”**







**I loved watching YouTube videos,
but I kept thinking**



Why does no one look

like me

IN CONVERSATION WITH GRACE F. VICTORY; ON DIVERSITY IN THE
BLOGGING INDUSTRY; WRITING HER BOOK *NO FILTER*, AND WHAT'S
NEXT FOR HER ONLINE EMPIRE.

Written by
Beth Ashley

Grace was a joy to interview. Even on a cold early Thursday morning, the whole discussion was chilled, relaxed, with us both in our comfy clothes and nattering about the internet. You can tell from just one conversation with Grace that she is an extremely ambitious person, and refreshingly friendly. She's been known for many years as *THE INTERNET'S BIG SISTER* as she shares her life's wisdom with her viewers, whether that's how to style trainers, or dishing out the down-low on sex. Her vibe when scrolling through her blog and watching her videos as always felt as though your sat on the end of her bed in her dorm room, listening to her tell you about her day.

Grace is a master of many trades, with her booming YouTube channel, her blog where she perfectly meshes fashion with opinion pieces (she's the one blogger whose opinion pieces leave you with both emotional healing, and a craving to buy a new jacket) and her book; *NO FILTER*. She's even gone and done a Ted Talk, where she delivered the perfectly crafted spoken word poem *'MY HOME IS THIS'*.

In this interview, Grace and I get chatting about diversity in blogging, along with representation issues in the publishing industry (particularly that of which she noticed while publishing her own book; *No Filter*).

BA: Well, I was thinking about this interview last night about what angle I could take this interview in and you've pretty much got a million things you could talk about!

GV: I'll talk about anything, honestly!

As the Internet's Big Sister, Grace is often known for being able to talk about anything, honestly and fearlessly. Her topics covered on YouTube have included periods, anal sex, going back to ex's, mental health, dealing with trauma, all mashed in with day-to-day beauty and fashion content.

BA: You've built yourself an entire empire. We have your YouTube, blogging, and now a new book too! I'm really loving No Filter – I love how you've made the book really personal and put little pictures of yourself and your family when you were younger in there!

GV: From my childhood, yeah! My face hasn't changed at all. My face has been the same since I was like four years old!

BA: So, let's chat about the publishing process for No Filter. How did the decision form, from you – a blogger and YouTuber – of thinking, 'this isn't quite enough, it's book time'?

GV: I've always wanted to write a book, really. I wanted to write a book that was an extension of what I was offering on my blog, something more. I spoke to my management team about it, who are amazing and are always for my ideas and want to kickstart my projects in mind, and they were all for it.

I remember talking about what I wanted to put in the book and we got the ball rolling straight away.

It's crazy - I remember, we went to so many different publishing houses, me and my management, to find the right publishers and the right deal for me

and what I wanted to do with the book. There was meeting after meeting. The weirdest and most amazing thing though, was that the second I met with the publishers at the house I went with, I knew they were the ones. I'm a very spiritual person, I really am, but I don't exactly believe in God or a higher power, but something told me that this was the one I needed to say 'yes' to, the second I entered the room.

I just went in there, they were smiling, they looked friendly, there were snacks on the table.

BA: That's amazing... Do you think it was the snacks that told you?

GV: Maybe! I was very happy about the snacks!

BA: What was that whole process like?

GV: I'm not gonna' lie, it's basically meeting lots of old white men in posh publishing companies - which can be intimidating when you're pitching a book involving diversity.

There's a serious diversity problem in the publishing industry which no-one seems to be talking about. Did you know, I'm actually the first female influencer of colour to get a book deal?

BA: Are you serious?

GV: Yeah, the first! KSI has a book deal, and I think there's another black YouTuber who has a book, but I'm the first female.

I can't tell if it's an achievement or not.

BA: It's kind of saddening. And it's something I never would have thought about addressing, because I'd just assume a book written by a female influencer of colour would definitely exist...

GV: Exactly - it's fucking mental. Can I

say fuck?

BA: You can say fuck. Fuck.

GV: Fuck.

BA: Issues of diversity is kind of the whole reason we're here chatting today. We got talking on twitter about how bad the diversity - or lack of - in blogging is and here we are.

GV: Yeah, the diversity issue in blogging is a big one - and again, people have only just started talking about it and raising awareness.

BA: I think unfortunately, a lot of people aren't viewing it as an issue because all the successful bloggers are mainly white, an issue caused by a lack of diversity and now the ignorance is being reinforced because of it.

GV: Absolutely.

BA: You've been blogging and creating videos on YouTube for a long time - as diversity always been a clear problem to you?

GV: I started YouTube in 2011, seven years ago now. Let me tell you, it was a very different platform back then. At the time, I was working in care.

Beauty videos and 'how-to' videos were the thing and I soon started loving any videos that were beauty or fashion related. I also noticed that most of the people on [YouTube] making videos did not look like me. There were no big girls of colour on YouTube doing their thing then, and so I decided to join in with the whole 'making videos' thing. I felt really inspired by all these women talking about the things they were passionate about and I guess you could say I wanted to join in. And I think me looking the way I do was a part of my growth. [My channel] grew quite quickly – everyone's did back then – but I think my growth had a lot

"I'M NOT HERE FOR MEN"

to do with providing relatability and representation for a group of people no one had thought about yet. I think about when I used to watch videos before I started creating them myself and I used to think "I love [watching YouTube videos], but why does nobody look like me?"

My first video was a MAC haul and the quality was shit! But I just kept going

BA: Well that's just perfect!

GV: That's the one thing I focus on; being real. I cover anything and everything on my channel and I want to include everyone. Everyone is welcome on my platforms as long as they are respectful. There's so much bullshit on YouTube – I don't want to be a part of that. I just talk about what I want to, when I want to.

There's only one group of people I'm not here for, and my channel's not here for, and that's men. Nah, I'm not here for men. I don't really care about men, in the bigger picture. Myself and a lot of influencers who talk about similar topics to me get a lot of 'what about men' when we talk about particular topics and it's just not about them. Yeah, I'm here for all the women. Not the men - I don't have the time for that shit. ■

Grace's book, *No Filter*, is out now in all good bookstores (and Amazon) and is packed with personal stories, feminism, tales of empowerment, and more. This interview was conducted by editor Beth Ashley, and you can see more on her blog at www.bethashleyblog.co.uk. Turn over to read Grace's tips on improving body confidence.

I AM mine



BEFORE I AM EVER
ANYONE ELSE'S

from grace's instagram: @gracefvictory

DIVERSIFY YOUR FEED

Don't follow heaps of the same white, straight, thin women on Instagram who are idealised by the media and will have you feeling like you need to conform to certain standards. If you follow a range of differently shaped, differently coloured, and differently abled women on your social channels, you'll see women for what they are all different, all equal.

This is the simplest way to improve your body confidence. The more body positive accounts or accounts that display different representations of women that you interact with, the more Instagram will recommend to you. You'll quickly diversify your whole feed. You have to actively change your social media environment.

STEP OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

Wear something that you usually feel like you shouldn't wear because of your body type. There are no fashion rules. You don't need to wear spangs. Wear whatever you like. You can't grow when you're comfortable.

Grace has written an entire blog post on wearing clothes that aren't typically 'flattering' for your shape, and why that's basically complete bullshit. You can check it out on her blog at gracefvictory.com.

BODY CONFIDENCE TIPS FROM Grace Victory

BE KIND TO YOURSELF

Treat yourself as if you are your own best friend. If one of my friends came to me saying they were feeling down and didn't like their body, I'd make an effort to make sure they know they're hot as fuck. So, we should do that for ourselves too. And that goes for the negative words too. If you wouldn't say it to your best friend, don't say it to yourself.

It doesn't matter what size you are, what skin colour you have, what you look like, you are amazing and worthy of love and respect.

QUESTION YOUR SURROUNDINGS

When I look at magazines and I see perfect skin with not a single blemish over a woman's entire body, I know that's not fucking real. I used to feel like there was something wrong with me when I saw images like that. Now, I question it. I see images like that and it doesn't affect me as much because I know it's not real.

PEACH CLUB



ARE A PUNKY FEMINIST GIRL-BAND BASED IN NORWICH, MADE UP OF *KATIE, AMANDA, REBECCA AND CHARLIE*, AND DESCRIBE THEIR SOUND AS *'POLITICAL TUNES FOR YOUR EAR HOLES'*. THEIR PEACHY VIBRANT STYLE JUXTAPOSED WITH BADASS ATTITUDES SET THEM APART FROM OTHERS IN THE INDIE-BAND SCENE, AND WE AT JETUNOUS LOVE IT. PEACH CLUB HAVE BEEN BACK IN THE RECORDING STUDIOS RECENTLY, WORKING ON THEIR NEXT BIG PROJECT (BUT SSHH, IT'S A SECRET!).

EDITOR IN CHIEF LAURÉN DU BIGNON CAUGHT UP WITH THE GIRLS FROM PEACH CLUB TO TALK MUSIC, INSPIRATION, AND SMASHING THE PATRIARCHY THROUGH THEIR SOUND.

GAINING THEIR INSPIRATION FROM “lots of 90s female punk bands like Hole and Bikini Kill, but also old school ‘dad rock’ bands like Black Sabbath”, Peach Club are one of the coolest indie-bands on the scene.

One band member, Becca moved to Leeds for University, but the girls all very much consider themselves Norwich-based and love performing there the most. “We’re all from Norwich originally. – We’re yet to perform in Leeds unfortunately, but we love playing in Norwich because we feel very

One of our favourite things about Peach Club, is how much their tight friendship comes through in their performances, and how they incorporate the strive for equality that they want to promote with their love of music. Peach Club have a truly amazing way of portraying their feminist beliefs through their sound, without distracting from it.

Peach Club have a seriously cool brand knitted together across their personal style and online present. Their individual styles work, but it’s

“CHARLIE AND REBECCA KNEW EACH OTHER [BEFORE FORMING PEACH CLUB], BUT WE ALL MET PROPERLY THROUGH BECOMING A BAND AND WE’RE ALL SUPER, SUPER CLOSE NOW! - WE’RE VERY BLATANT WITH OUR *FEMINIST IDEALS* AND VIEWS THROUGH OUR LYRICS AND THE WAY WE PRESENT OURSELVES ONLINE. WE’RE ALL INCREDIBLY PASSIONATE ABOUT FEMINISM AND EQUALITY SO IT’S DIFFICULT NOT TO INCORPORATE IT IN OUR MUSIC. THE RECEPTION [WE’VE RECEIVED FROM FEMINIST MUSIC] HAS BEEN MOSTLY POSITIVE.

WE DO GET THE ODD ASSHOLE PATRONISING US - BUT OTHER THAN THAT, IT’S USUALLY GOOD!”

comfortable in the venues. We know all the local bands so the shows are always really nice.”

The first thing we wanted to know, is where the name Peach Club came from because we’re obsessed with it! “Originally it just started with Katie doing a solo project called Peach Hex, and we just kept the ‘Peach’ part because we like that peaches are all soft and bruise easily, but we’re all badass! The band just sort of fell into place after Katie decided to no longer be solo.”

all completely natural! “Our style came completely naturally! We like to sort of colour co-ordinate [for performances/photos] but we don’t really plan how we dress. Our ‘brand’ is also natural. It’s just who we are. We haven’t tried to shape ourselves in any way.”





photographer: poppy marriott @poppymarriott_





