

Anaya Jordan Interviewed by Brianna Stokes

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Brooklyn, New York

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

protests, racism, happening, capitol, racist, learn, pandemic, overthrow, Brooklyn, trump, feel, police, policemen, life, distribute, work, understand, fact, personally, interview

Brianna Stokes: My name is Brianna Stokes and I am interviewing and Anaya Jordan, located in Brooklyn on February 5, 2021. Do you give me permission to record and distribute this oral history?

Anaya Jordan: Yes.

BS: What is your name?

AJ: Anaya Jordan.

BS: How old are you?

AJ: 20.

BS: What is your occupation?

AJ: I am a group leader. After Elements. I work with children.

BS: What is your racial identification?

AJ: I am an African American woman.

BS: What is your sexual orientation if you don't mind me asking?

AJ: Pansexual.

BS: Okay, where are you from?

AJ: Brooklyn, New York.

BS: Did the way you grew up impact how you thought about cops and racism?

AJ: Yes.

BS: How so?

AJ: Because where I'm from Brooklyn, basically about a project even more targeted.

BS: What do you mean by that?

AJ: So, if we fit a racial profile, then we'll easily be picked up without question or anything.

BS: Ok, the next topic is COVID-19. How has this Coronavirus changed your life?

AJ: I'm so used to being outside in the morning to get to school and then straight to work. But now it's all virtual, and it's really hard to transition.

BS: Okay. How has it been being home so often more now?

AJ: It's been insane. I feel like I'm going crazy now. Basically, because I can't go outside if I want to but also because I can't really interact with people as much as I used to.

BS: Okay. How does it impact you mentally and emotionally? If it did, how so?

AJ: It didn't really impact me emotionally but mentally I have more time to like, think about things that I did before.

BS: How has it impacted you socially?

AJ: Like I said before, I can't really go outside and hang out like I used to. So, I can't really see my friends. Or the rest of my family like I used to.

BS: How do you see each other now? If you do?

AJ: Virtually. Sometimes Zoom, FaceTime. Small gatherings.

BS: Are people in your household still working?

AJ: Yes.

BS: What are they working as and what are their jobs?

AJ: Me personally, like I said before, I work at a classical program that's now virtual. My mom works in a pharmacy, so she technically has to go out. And my (inaudible) who is a nurse i so they both have to go out. (inaudible)

BS: What have you learned about yourself and your family since the beginning of this crisis?

AJ: I basically learned that we don't really do much with our free time. Since we were even before Covid, and now we have to like fill that in.

BS: Have you found ways to fill that in?

AJ: Me personally, I try to find new things like training and stuff. I started a side hustle.

BS: What is the hardest part of this pandemic for you?

AJ: Being inside, trapped. all of that.

BS: Can you explain on it, please?

AJ: Before I used to be able to like, just go outside just for a breather. Now, If I go outside, I have to wear a mask.

BS: Has there been any positive outcome of this Brandon for you?

AJ: Can you repeat that please?

BS: Has there been any positive outcome from this pandemic for you?

AJ: I've been hanging out with my family more.

BS: Okay, well, what do you think the nation and the world should learn from this pandemic?

AJ: That we pretty much don't have a lot of time on our hands. That people are dying every day. Make the best of the days as much you can.

BS: Okay. Next up. Oh, another question. What do you think about the COVID vaccinations?

AJ: I pretty much think it's a scam kind of. Not really a scam but like, it shouldn't really be distributed as much as it is until it's really been tested.

BS: Next up, Black Lives Matter protests. First question, explain to me why you think these anti-racist protests started?

AJ: Because there's a lot of racism in the world, and a lot of people don't recognize it, or want to address it.

BS: Okay, why do you think New York City became the epicenter of the protests?

AJ: Oh, I'm not sure. I'm guessing, because that's been a lot of racism happening mostly in New York. Going back from, you know, Breonna Taylor and Trayvon Martin stuff.

BS: Well, how have the uprising across the country shifted how you think about your ethnicity? Just like, how do you feel like it hasn't changed what you think or how people see you?

AJ: It's pretty much the same thing. I think that the only thing that really changed was the fact that I see now that we really do have a fight for equality.

BS: Okay. Are there any stories that you're willing to share about encounters you may have had racism or the police before?

AJ: I really don't say it was racism. But when I went to high school, taking the college courses. A white lady decided to touch my hair because it was in a puff and you can see my current pattern. She just touched my hair out of nowhere.

BSL And that made you feel?

AJ: At the time I didn't really think nothing about it. And it took me like a good week to really understand what happened.

BS: Okay. Are there any like stories or anything from close people to you that have had encounters with racism or the police before?

AJ: No.

BS: How have the protests in the context of the Coronavirus shifted the way you think of the race in America?

AJ: Can you repeat that please?

BS: How's the protests in the context of Coronavirus shifted the way you think of the race in America?

AJ: Now, I just think there's a lot more racism than I ever thought before. And I don't really know how we're going to fix that, to be honest.

BS: How has the past year change how you think about police and racism in the US? If it has or it has not, please explained.

AJ: It really hasn't because I know that police are racist. Even though I know that I know that there are policemen that aren't exactly racist, but they get tired of what the race is on. So, I already had it.

BS: And do you feel like more that there are not enough good cops taking a stand?

AJ: I feel like the good cops do not want to be penalized for it by going against your own people.

BS: Okay. Did you learn more about the history of racism in this country since the protests started?

AJ: Not exactly. Like I want to say that I've been learning Yes, but I feel like what I'm learning I already knew.

BS: Makes sense. Has there been anything that your parents have been doing that inspires you to do anything or to see life differently and think?

AJ: They could keep going. Pretty much like we understand what's happening, but there's not much that we could really do without a lot of people actually wanted to make a change. So please keep going, make little changes in your own life, like stop being racist towards another race or just be accepting pretty much.

BS: What do you think about the local or national government response to the protests that began to May 2020?

AJ: I feel like they went overboard. To be honest, like we didn't really need tear gas and stuff like that. From the start, there was a peaceful protest, and other people who weren't don't even live in New York, came and acted out.

BS: How would you like to see this movement resolved?

AJ: I would like for there to just not be racism, or at least for us to actually understand that it's real, and that something really needs to happen.

BS: Next category, 2021. What is your reaction to the invasion of the US Capitol that happened by Trump supporters on January 6, 2021?

AJ: Personally, I was pretty upset with it because, not the fact that they did it, but the fact that the President actually told them to do it. And when they actually invaded and got it, there wasn't a lot of policemen there or the National Guard, like it was like a protest there to stop.

BS: what do you lead the people to violently overthrowing the government?

AJ: The fact that Joe Biden won over Donald Trump, and that his plea that it was rigged, was overturned. And they didn't really like that.

BS: Okay, are you surprised by how they were treated by the police?

AJ: No. Not at all, because they were mostly white protestors that invaded the capitol. So, it was like they wanted to be (inaudible) with them. But had there been a personal quarter there. It would have been completely different.

BS: There were reports that the members of the groups that stormed the US Capitol included police officers, elected officials, members of the US military. What, if anything, should we as society do with the information of the part of the US, parts of the US law enforcement, elected officials and the armed force tried to overthrow U.S. democracy?

AJ: I think we need to take that information, and really just try to understand what exactly is happening. How is it happening and why it's being allowed?

BS: What do you hope for this upcoming year for society?

AJ: I'll pray that we all lose. Yeah, now we can understand what's happening, how different risks are being treated, and to find solutions, or to attempt to find solutions to stop it, or to at least minimize it.

BS: Gotcha. What do you think about the Presidents Trump's reaction to this invasion?

AJ: I feel like he's a hypocrite. You told them to go and do it. And when they actually did it, you want to act like you don't know where they came from. When the idea of them actually doing it happened and how they could invade your people or put your people in danger when you did it.

BS: What do you think about the impeachment trial for the former President Trump?

AJ: I feel like it took too long. affiliated to talk. Even though he got impeached the first time, the second time the impeachment happened so close to him being removed from office. It just makes no sense at this point.

BS: Okay, that wraps up our interview. Thank you very much for your time and have a good day.