Sophie:

Today's episode of She's All Fat is brought to you by Big Fig Mattress, the first mattress for a bigger figure. It's the first mattress made specifically for plus size sleepers, which is everyone plus size unless you're like me and need to take a ton of melatonin to fall asleep and then I still want that comfy mattress.

April:

Big Fig Mattress was created with plus size bodies in mind. For example, every Big Fig mattress has cooling gel technology to help with sleeping hot, extra edge support, high density foam to prevent mattress sagging, and 1,600 pocketed coil springs port your neck and back.

Sophie:

The equally strong and supportive foundation is included in the price and you can also purchase a frame to go with it. Each Big Fig mattress holds up to a thousand pounds and has a 20 year warranty. You know the team at She's All Fat loves lounging on our beds, and we love the idea of a mattress made especially for us fatties.

April:

They have a trial period as well as financing options, and you can find out more information at www.bigfigmattress.com. You can save on a Big Fig mattress by entering code SAF at checkout.

Sophie:

How does being super fat change your interactions within or like approaching spaces in the fat positive are body positive community?

Alex:

Do you ever roll your eyes so often that you're worried they might stay that way? That's the short answer.

Sophie:

I'm Sophie.

April:

I'm April, and this is She's All Fat.

Sophie:

The podcast for body positivity, radical self love, and chill vibes only. This week, we'll discuss fat labels, Peter Kavinsky, and straight passing privilege. April.

April:

Yes?

Sophie:

It's week two of season three. What are you obsessed with this fine week?

April:

Okay. Two things I'm very excited to share. Number one, there is a YouTube page called Colors. The concept is there's one microphone and then the musician gets to pick the color of the background, like it'll just be like three walls painted a color. And then they come perform their song like stripped down just with the color and with the microphone and that's it.

•

April:

It's a make or break for if you can really sing or not because you have your background music, but you're just by yourself singing in this room, and it's cool to see which artists think about coordinating, like some people will wear the same colors, some people will wear complimentary colors. Some people just pick white and they don't care. It was very cool.

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by <u>Rev.com</u> Page 1 of 28

Sophie: Wow.

April: And there's two really good performances that I'm going to link to. The first one is

formerly known as Eliza Doolittle, now known as just Eliza. She's going through a

rebrand.

Sophie: Okay.

April: Sang her hit from last summer called Wasn't Looking, and it's just so good. All the

comments are just like, "Her swagger makes me want to buy the album and become obsessed with her," because she has an amazing voice, but it's just about the way she

embodies a performance.

Sophie: You can just see her underwear.

April: She's absolutely wearing like a sheer dress.

Sophie: And her nips, wow.

April: Her nips are fully out and I'm so happy for her.

Sophie: I like when people have the confidence to sing with their eyes closed. That means they

really think they're good. Wow. She does have swagger. Okay.

April: She's amazing. I love Eliza, and then the second one I linked to is ...

Sophie: I tried to watch this and I didn't understand what was happening.

April: I also don't understand what's happening. So EarthGang, from what I learned after I

Googled them, they're a two-person rap duo. People say they remind them of Outkast, like a new age Outkast, but they're just like ... They separated them so they had two separate performances but edited them together because they're a duo. And then just the way they performed the song was just like, I can't really comprehend it. Like the energy was so high that I didn't know how to take it in as a consumer. I didn't know how to conceptualize it, but it's just this really cool song. It made me so excited to learn about them as artists because of seeing them perform in this space. And then my other obsession this week is just the way that black women have been talking about Peter

Kavinsky on the internet.

Sophie: Are you about to pull an Ira and just read your own tweets?

April: No, none of these ... One of them is mine, but the other ones are from other black

women.

Sophie: Okay.

April: No. So if you haven't watched To All the Boys I've Loved Before yet, turn off this podcast

and go listen to it.

Sophie: Yeah.

April: That's way more important. So this incredible rom com came out called To All the Boys

I've Loved Before, and the love interest in it is named Peter Kavinsky, and he is the sexiest person on the planet. I regret to inform you that he is the sexiest person on the planet. And so it's been really funny watching a lot of black women be like, "You know, I love black men, but Peter Kavinsky," like we're trying to process this attraction together. Hunter Harris wrote an article for Vulture that's just like "the thirstiest thing on the planet." Bim from Buzzfeed has been live tweeting her re-watching it every second.

Ashley C. Ford is going through it. Like we're all going through it.

Sophie: The thing is that he looks like every fuck boy does in high school, but he acts so nice.

April: He has a heart of gold.

Sophie: I'm sorry, but just that ... I could write you notes every day. Like what?

April: My favorite of these thirsty ass tweets is Bim tweeted, "Sorry, but we're going to have

to talk about the Pitch Perfect light-skinned selfie squint Peter Kavinsky did at King Box house party." There's a lot there, and I'm just going to leave you with that, and then you'll process it on your own, but Peter Kavinsky can truly get it any day. So that is my

obsession. What are you obsessed with this week?

Sophie: I've been using a lot of FaceTime. Victor, my boyfriend, is abroad, basically. He's doing a

job. He's working on a campaign for two months and he'll be back after the election. So

miss him, but been doing a lot of FaceTime. Grateful for FaceTime. Sometimes

corporations are good. Just kidding. Apple's not good.

April: Oh my goodness. Apple's not good. FaceTime's good.

Sophie: FaceTime's good. I have also been spending a lot of time in the various who weekly

Facebook groups. If you're a listener who likes D list celebrity gossip, listened to Who

Weekly. We both stand for Who Weekly.

April: Who Weekly is the best podcast.

Sophie: It's so good.

April: I believe that.

Sophie: And I also really love all the Facebook groups because one of my main traits of liking

gossip that doesn't actually hurt anyone's feelings.

April: Same.

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by Rev.com

Page 3 of 28

Sophie: Which is what D list celebrity gossip is.

April: Just take it in. It's just candy. It's amazing.

Sophie: So all the associated Facebook groups that are like both for Who Weekly talk and for

whatever other specific thing talk are pretty fun to hang out in. I haven't been on Facebook a lot in a while. I have a lot more free time right now. So I also just got a lot of really good heirloom tomatoes at the farmer's market last week. They're delicious. Been getting back into audiobooks. Like I said last week, devoured both of Samantha Irby's books on audiobook. I had already read them, but it's really fun to hear them in her

voice again.

April: No one should read her book but her. It's so perfect.

Sophie: And then I just started reading on my Kindle, We've Always Lived in the Castle, which is

like a classic Shirley Jackson kind of spooky novel. And I'm also reading this graphic novel called Monstress, which is a graphic novel by someone called Margery Lou and I've seen it, I highly recommend it. And the other thing I'm flipping through is just fall decorating

mags.

April: It's time. Fall is here.

Sophie: I'm not really gonna do anything. I just like looking at the pictures of fall and Halloween

crafts. I might do some crafts.

April: I'm looking forward to fall this year, I think just because summer was so miserable.

Usually I'm not super stoked about fall because it seems sort of like ominous, like winters. Winter is coming. But this fall, I'm excited. I want to put a sweater on.

Sophie: Yeah. Victor tried to grow pumpkins this year, so we have two pumpkins out there.

Don't know if they'll make it to Halloween if now I'm the one responsible for keeping

them alive.

April: Oh god.

Sophie: But we'll see.

April: Prayers up for the pumpkins.

Sophie: So yeah, those are just the things in my view this week, not really obsessions. Let's move

on to some Apple Podcast review shout outs. If you give us a review and a rating on Apple Podcasts, we will write your user name down and give you a shout out right here on the show. We really appreciate it when people do that. It helps boost our visibility, it

helps us get opportunities, it helps us get sponsorships.

Sophie: So if you have a second, please, and you're listening on the Apple Podcast app, just take

a quick second and rate and review us on there. So here are some people who we want

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by Rev.com Page 4 of 28

to thank this week for doing that for us. Okay. @Zelda(noreally) @lovethyself365, @lovinmyself, and @sincerelyariana. Thank you all so much.

April:

Thank you. I love reading those on the toilet when I'm having a bad day. So thank you so much. Now we're going to be doing our patron shout outs. These are for people who have become a patreon at www.patreon.com/shesallfatpod. Y'all keep the lights on over at SAF, and we really appreciate you. So we have Hailey Nelson, Laura Benia, McKenna Sullivan, Carlota Ruiz, Rebecca M. Davis. Thank you all so much for all the support.

Sophie:

Awesome. Okay, so moving onto the tip jar. We are going to have an upcoming episode, not sure if it's next week or the week after, on being the intersection of fat and nonbinary. So we have done some amazing interviews for that episode, and just like we asked for this episode about being super fat, we want anyone who identifies with being in that intersection or has something to say about body positivity and being non-binary and how those things are in conversation as part of your identity. Send us a voice memo.

Sophie:

So for this tip jar this week, in our Patreon Facebook group, which is for Team Paisley MuMu and above, people are talking about how to find fat friends IRL. That was a really cute combo because people started being like, let's meet up.

April: I want to see photos from Meetup so bad.

Sophie: Oh my god. People are giving each other plantar fasciitis tips and also, people posted

Sunday night teeth brushing selfies. It was lit.

Sophie in the outline wrote, "It's lit!" I'm walking out. April:

Sophie: Apparently, compression socks that you can get cheap on Amazon are helpful for

> plantar fasciitis, which I'm going to try because I have it and it sucks and my feet hurt all the time unless I'm like specifically wearing my ugly ass shoes. So this person in the Facebook group wrote, "Compression socks help reduce swelling in your feet, which reduces crowding or squeezing. They also help support your foot from splaying out, keeping them in a more effective position for walking. The way they reduce swelling is

by helping your veins return blood up your leg," which I didn't know.

April: Wow.

Sophie: Interesting, right? People out there are smart. We have doulas, we have doctors.

April: Very helpful.

Sophie: Yeah. Also, just a reminder that over the summer we switched up our Patreon reward

> system a little bit. So if you're a team I Love Bread, which is the level above Team Paisley MuMu, you're going to be getting an extra weekly podcast segment, which is something

that's been highly requested. So that's in addition to all patrons have access to like

audio extras and outtakes from the episode every week. So if that's something you're interested in, just go to patreon.com/shesallfatpod and look it up.

Sophie:

Also, if you want to be part of the Patreon and have access to those things and you're a supporter but you can't afford it right now, then we have links to our scholarship application. And we can't match everyone who applies, but that link is in our show notes and on our website, and we try to make the fatmily as inclusive as possible.

April:

And if you want to sponsor someone to get this scholarship, there is a link in the show notes as well, if you are feeling generous. Alright, so our next tip jar is from a listener who loves Mitski. We talked about Mitski in our episode last week and they said, "All of my queer Asian American friends and I relate to Mitski so much, not only because she was Asian American, but her music is so vulnerable and explores the facets of being an outsider."

April:

Sophie:

So Mitski talks about her identity a lot, especially in the title track of her first album, Your Best American Girl. So we would recommend checking it out if you have those intersections or if you just want a good pop indy groove, checkout Mitski. Everybody's talking about her.

April: Wow.

Sophie: Everyone's like, "Same." When Mitski said, "I'm so lonely," I felt that. I was like, you

If you want to post sad lyrics and then be like bisexual culture on Twitter.

guys-

April: Dang, she's in the zeitgeist. Shout out.

Sophie: Okay. So now onto any news or corrections? This is a #sorrylindsay. I am lonely because,

again, my boyfriend is out of town and I have made Lindsay sleep over several times in the last two weeks because I get afraid of ghosts. So #sorrylindsay, thank you for staying over with me. One quick correction we have is that the amazing person we interviewed last week, MD, we said their last name wrong. And as someone who also has a

hyphenated last name, I do apologize and take full responsibility for this.

April: You let your community down.

Sophie: Fucking sucks. So MD's name is pronounced MD Spicer-Sitzes and not Spicer-Sitzes,

which is how we said it. So sorry, MD. You're the best.

April: So we have a special little treat for our listeners who have been so supportive of us for

the past two seasons. We had a listener named Tori English offer to make phone wallpapers for us, which is so cool, and they will be found as a highlight on our Instagram page. So Tori is a Canadian graphic designer and illustrator with a passion for

creating lighthearted and playful designs. And you can find out more about her at her

handle, @bytorienglish. That will all be in the show notes, and then you can get your wallpaper on our Instagram page.

Sophie: Or on our website or in the show notes. We'll post a link to it. That was just ... I was

honestly so blown away by that because she just emailed us and was like, I like graphic

design. Can I make a phone background for you? We were like, what?

April: Thank you.

Sophie: That's so nice.

April: And they're so cute.

Sophie: They're beautiful. Like it's just so cool. Like someone on the Facebook group made those

little cards one time for people to hand out if they want to tell people to stop promoting

diet culture. People are just so creative and cool.

April: It's very sweet. So thank you again, Tori. Alright. We should really get to the Meat Of It,

don't you think?

Sophie: Let's do it.

April: This season, we're spending several episodes talking about the intersections within

fatness that we, meaning me and Sophie, don't personally experience. So this week on

the Meat Of It, we're talking about being super fat.

Sophie: So let's define what being super fat is as best as we can as two people who are, again,

not super fat.

April: A good touch point to kind of start conceptualizing what this is, is Roxane Gay. She talks

about small fats, Lane Bryant fats, and beyond in her book. And by the way, if you want to hear us talk about her book, Hunger, there's an episode about it in season one. It's called Roxanne Gay's Hunger. That beyond category that she mentioned is the super fat

category.

Sophie: Yeah, so there's other ways that people in this category identify as. This is not a term

everyone uses. I've seen infini-fat or death fat, which is specifically a term people use in response to the way that doctors will classify super fat bodies. Yeah, I don't need to say the term because a lot of people are very against the term doctors will use. But basically

the way that doctors will be like, "You're gonna die essentially."

April: So you might be asking yourself, why do we need these divisions? Aren't we all fat? And

you know, that might be the case, but also, it's really important to recognize and acknowledge those differences in our experiences within the fat community. I don't think it serves anyone to pretend like we all have the same experience even if you are valid in your own personal experiences with fatness. And so that's why we have

categories.

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by Rev.com Sophie:

Yeah. I've seen a lot of people talk about what it means to be super fat in terms of access, accessibility, and privilege, basically. So for example, someone who is chubby or small fat, they'll probably face prejudice or pushback from their family or friends, but they can still go to the mall and buy stuff, and they can probably go to most public spaces like a restaurant or a movie theater without any problem.

Sophie:

Someone who is a mid fat will have to shop probably at fat specific stores like Lane Bryant. Most straight sized stores won't carry their sizes, and they probably will have to spend some time being aware of whether or not they'll be able to fit into spaces they might want to go to. Like for example, they might need to use an airline seat belt extender, or they might be worried about not fitting into a booth at a restaurant, or feel really tight in a theater seat.

Sophie:

Someone who is super fat might have trouble finding clothes at all. They might have to order clothes exclusively online, but from like three places or just order the largest size available and just hope it stretches. They deal with issues of accessibility and prejudice that smaller fat people simply don't have to, everywhere from just fitting into public spaces, to the doctor's office, to prejudice in hiring, to the way ... A big increase I've seen with my friends who are super fat in the way that people in public feel the right to comment on their bodies.

Sophie:

So I think it's very useful to have these things. And just like the word fat, I think it's like people have to kind of claim the categories for themselves, you know? I'm never going to be like, "You have to deal with it, you are super fat," or something.

April:

Yeah, but we wanted to do this episode just because it's important for us to think about what issues of accessibility are we having in these various categories and how they might differ from each other.

Sophie:

And because we are always trying to be aware of our own privileges and do our part to center the more marginalized bodies and people in the body positive community.

April:

We talked to Alex, who's a friend of the pod, and identifies as super fat.

Sophie:

The following discussion includes mentions of numbers, scales, and weight loss in general. So just trigger warning for that.

April:

Chew The Fat. Okay. So we are in the studio with Alex.

Alex:

Hi. My name is alex. My pronouns are she, her. I'm 24 years old, and I am a friend of the pod. I am a law student here in Los Angeles, where I am from.

Sophie:

This season, we're talking about ways of being fat or intersections of fatness that April and I don't experience ourselves. So we're talking today about being super fat. So can you tell us what that means to you?

Alex:

Sure. So pretty much since I became aware of body positivity and then subsequently fat positivity, which is definitely my preferred term for my experience with this, I became familiar with the different sort of "levels" of what it means to be fat. It sort of dawned on me pretty quickly that I fit in the realm of super fat. I guess to me, super fat means primarily to have a body that is so outside the "norm" of what it means to be an average person, particularly in this country, that you are limited in terms of your accessibility pretty much on a daily basis.

Alex:

And you can be limited by your own body in terms of what your body is capable of doing. So I have been at a weight where I have had trouble physically getting out of bed. I've had trouble walking down a flight of stairs, walking up a single flight of stairs. I mean, that was a true ordeal for me and has been a really true ordeal for me. But also, not just accessibility in terms of your body, but accessibility in terms of where and what you can do.

Alex:

Can you sit at a restaurant? Can you fit in a movie theater seat? Can you fit in a car seat? Do you need a seatbelt extender with you at all times? And if those experiences resonate with you at all, then I think you're welcome to join me in considering yourself a super fat.

April: It's a very helpful definition, I think.

Sophie: I think so too.

April: I think so too.

Alex: I can say it again. [crosstalk 00:20:07]

April: It's just about we literally get the question all the time of just like, what is the difference

between the categories? I think the experience you just had-

Sophie: There's just no hard line.

April: Yeah, there's no hard line.

Alex: Yeah.

April: But that list of experiences is easy to be able to be like, okay, I experienced that or I

didn't. And I think that will help people have sort of like guidelines for what's going on.

Sophie: Yeah.

April: So thank you. A lot of people who are smaller fat or not fat will email us not

understanding why it's important that we make those distinctions because those experiences are different, obviously. So I'm wondering, what do you think is the most

misunderstood thing about being a super fat person?

Alex:

So I think for me the most misunderstood thing was the degree of frustration. I mean, I think we live in a society that is extraordinarily hostile to fat people. When I really hit super fat, the level of accessibility became so much more challenging to navigate, and I found myself frustrated all of the time. I am constantly frustrated as I walk through the world because it's not just, are people to be mean to me if I try and pass them in a supermarket aisle because I take up more ...

## PART 1 OF 3 ENDS [00:21:04]

Alex:

People going to be mean to me if I try and pass them in a supermarket aisle because I take up more space in the aisle? Or are people going to glare at me when I'm buying things that they're making judgements about? But literally just I'm at a restaurant, I'm sitting in a chair, does my chair stick out so far that the waiter can't get by behind me? You're constantly embarrassed. Doors are too narrow for me. I mean every experience of trying to be a person in the world is humiliating. I think I took that frustration, and have taken that frustration for a long time and internalized it as just rage. It's very challenging, I think, to try and exist in a world that isn't meant to accommodate you ever.

Alex:

You go to a restaurant sometimes there's a wider chair, if you're a mid-fat, you're comfortable. Sometimes you get lucky and you go to one of those movie theaters that has those reclining armchairs, and they're wide, and they're nice. That experience never happens to me. Nothing is built for me. There is panic every time I go somewhere new. That level of panic is extremely psychologically draining. I think it's a couple of frustration and just exhaustion. It is exhausting.

Sophie:

Do you have other friends who are superfat too?

Alex:

Part of my broader experience with being fat has involved obviously trying not to be fat. I don't think there's any fat person that exists that has not at some point tried not to be fat. My parents are very health conscious, and I wouldn't even call them body confident friendly. You know what I mean? They haven't hit fat positive or any of ... I mean they're not even close. They sent me to fat camp a lot growing up. I went to three different fat camps. Then I had two different six months periods at a place I lovingly referred to as fat resort, which is just a weight loss resort in North Carolina. It's great. I have nothing bad to say about it, except for that I achieved nothing there but smoking a lot of pot and having sex with older men.

Sophie:

Amazing.

Alex:

That's the honest answer. At fat resort, so a lot of people, every time Doctor Phil or Doctor Oz trots out an 800 pound person they're like, "We're going to shame you on national television, and then we're going to pay for four weeks to cure you at fat resort in North Carolina." And of course there's A, no cure for being fat, but B, nobody makes meaningful lifestyle adjustment that's 800 pounds in the span on four weeks. That's a highly unrealistic proposition. So then of course they fail. And of course Doctor Phil or Doctor Oz brings them back and is like, "You're a failure."

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by <u>Rev.com</u> Page 10 of 28

Alex:

So in that context I actually met a lot of people who were sometimes two to 300 pounds heavier than me. So I consider myself a superfat. Weight fluctuates all the time, but I've weighed well in excess of 500 pounds over the course of my life. My experiences with lack of accessibility are dwarfed by those people's experiences. So I don't have necessarily like a BFF who is a comparable weight to me, or who's heavier than me. But I know a lot of people who are, and a lot of people whose experiences are even more rage-inducing I think than mine.

Sophie:

Dang. We have talked earlier in the pod a bunch about the importance of fat friendship, and having fat community, and people to share things with you in a positive way. So even though you don't feel like you have superfat people who are in person with you now, what is your sense of fat community and fat friendship right now?

Alex:

Well it's currently sitting in this room with me. It's primarily the two of you. When I am sad or frustrated about different elements of my experience about what it means to be fat, or somebody says something effed up about fat people on social media, it is great to have someone who I'm able to text. I mean it's really ... It makes the burden less frustrating, right? Because I think an undercurrent to so much of the broader frustration with what it means to be a fat person is just to feel a lot of damn rage. I really value sort of my friends' neutrality towards my body. And they also exhibit a lot of patience towards my body, especially at times where I have really struggled with my mobility, or my ability to breathe, or different illnesses. They're sort of just like, "Yeah, we'll wait. Okay cool."

Alex:

The best gift I think anyone can give if you have a fat friend is just listen to what their needs are, and don't make them feel like a freak for having needs that are different than yours. At the same time I would say the worst thing, it's really hard listening to people who fit into the normal standard of what it means to be socially acceptable body-wise, it's very challenging to listen to them complain about their bodies. They totally have the right to do it. I know they are hit with as much messaging as I am about why their body is flawed because it has a quarter inch of fat on the back of their arm. You know what I mean? I fully respect their need to talk about that, their need to process that, and their need to be frustrated with that. I am not the person to talk about it with. Because you may think that I have more understanding, or more compassion, or I get it. I do get it, and you actually don't get it.

Alex:

And that's where I think the disconnect can be really challenging is that I want you to receive that support, but you're not going to get it from me because it's too painful. I think people in the fat positivity community want to sort of undercut I think a lot of the time how much pain there is, because we're trying to legitimize ourselves as a movement, right? So you want to be saying all the time, "Things are great, we're doing great, everything is okay. We have a right to be here. We're happy the way we are." And we are. That's not up for debate. But that doesn't mean that there doesn't exist lingering pain, and resentment, and frustration at a lifetime of rejection. One doesn't negate the other. You can have both. Both feelings are allowed to coexist, as my therapist tells me all the time. So while I care that you've put on 15 pounds and it's hard

for you, I care. I don't want you to be unhappy. Don't talk to me about it. It's too hard. It's just too hard.

Sophie: How does being superfat change your interactions within, or approaching spaces in the

fat positive or body positive community?

Alex: Do you ever roll your eyes so often that you're worried they might stay that way? That's

the short answer.

Sophie: This is like a Jewish Judy Blume novel being narrated.

Alex: I love this.

Sophie: This is incredible.

Alex: Gilda Radner for kids.

April: True. Take us there. I love it.

Alex: Sometimes it's hard because you want to be happy for other people, and you want to be

sympathetic to other peoples' problems, but sometimes it's hard to do so. Because the reality is, is that even the fat positive community is not really meant for people like me. You join a group, you join a Facebook group, and they're talking about these things. And maybe once in a while someone will make a post about having to deal with skin rashes, right? But if you're a size 16 you may not even know that's a thing. But the reality is, is that I can't go to a restaurant without significant anxiety. I can't get in my friend's car without carrying a seatbelt extender in my purse, I have to worry constantly about sweat, and rashes, and I have to wear leggings every day because otherwise my skin will fucking bleed just from my thighs hitting each other. My feet swell, and my ankles swell, and all of those things that are a constant consuming thought to me about just getting through the day. It's hard sometimes in those groups because people are like, "Yes, loving myself, look at my belly roll." And I'm like, "Bitch if I posted a picture of my belly

roll on here no one's going to like it."

Sophie: Exactly.

Alex: Because there's a ton of internalized fat phobia even in the fat positivity community.

And it's ... I don't always feel welcome. I frequently don't feel welcome. I don't know that that's someone's fault, or someone's problem necessarily, right? But I will say that

in general, fat positivity spaces are geared to people size 20 and under.

Sophie: And it could also feel kind of white feminism-y a little bit in terms of ...

Alex: Oh my god yeah.

Sophie: Not just in terms of white feminism itself, but also in terms of a justice movement that's

arching towards gaining the privileges of the most privileged group. I feel like a lot of

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by Rev.com Page 12 of 28

body positive spaces are like, "Look I'm fat, and I'm doing the same things thin people can." I think it's okay to be like, "Because I'm fat I deal with these other physical realities, and that still doesn't mean that I shouldn't exist." So yeah, what do you love or celebrate about being superfat?

Alex:

I don't know that there's anything I love about being superfat, but what I appreciate about being superfat is having been forced to reckon with my own passiveness and getting my needs met, and having to learn to use my voice, and harness my voice to get what I need because being superfat is hard. So when you go to a restaurant that has no chairs for you, and you have to in front of your parents, and their friends, and their friends' children be like, "I need a different chair." And you watch how everyone's body just freezes up. There is something empowering in being able to tolerate the discomfort of that situation and just sort of be like, "Okay I'm sorry you're unhappy, but I still need a fucking chair. My need does not change based on your comfort level," and sort of learning to lean into that, as much as I hate that phrase, is something I'm grateful for through the experience of just being fat.

Sophie:

Yeah. I'm grateful for our friendship because it forces me to confront some of those things about whatever privileges I do have. Not in a, "I'm so blessed to not be superfat" way but just in a ... It's so much easier for me to feel protective of you than it always is for me to feel protective of myself.

Alex: Like that time at the Grove?

Sophie: Oh yeah. Wait, can we talk about that?

Alex: We can talk about that.

Sophie: Like it's so much easier for me to be like, "Alex deserves the world," than it is for me to

say it about myself always. You know what I mean? I don't even know how to ... I'll just

be pissed again.

Alex: We went to dinner at the Nordstrom's at the Grove, and we were walking out of

Nordstrom's after. This old man basically came up to me and was like, "You know I have a good diet for you." He was like, "Let me tell you about this great weight loss diet. You could lose a lot of weight," and Sophie just went off on him. I was ready to just be like, "Okay no thank you, bye," and sort of sprint as fast as someone 500 plus pounds can sprint to the parking garage. Sophie just went for him. He treated her like she was the asshole. He was horrified, he was like, "I don't understand, why are you talking to me in this way? I'm just trying to helpful." And Sophie was like, "Did she ask you? Did she ask you?" It was awesome because no one's ever stood up for me in that capacity in any way of my life. So it was actually very touching for me because no one has ever told someone to fuck off. I think that's one of the best things about having fat friends is there is a degree of fellowship and protection that comes along with that. You fuck with one,

you fuck with all.

April: Yeah.

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by <u>Rev.com</u> Page 13 of 28

Sophie: Well it did fulfill a lifelong dream for me, which was to really righteously tell someone to

walk away.

Alex: You did do that, that's right.

April: That's amazing. I can't believe you hadn't done it prior to your life.

Alex: I know.

April: What people don't know, what our listeners don't know is that Sophie wishes you

would. She wishes somebody would try her.

Alex: That's so fucking accurate, holy shit.

April: She wants to fight. People think I'm the mean one on the podcast, this bitch wants to

fight.

Alex: She does.

Sophie: I'm very chill and I am very calm and kind at all times.

April: Absolutely not.

Sophie: I don't know what you're talking about. But it was great. Well because if it was ever for

myself I would have a degree of doubt. But I didn't have any doubt and so I could just lay into him. It was great. Before we ask you if there's anything else you want to add, listen,

we're both very curious about your other fat camp experiences, spill the tea.

April: Sophie's been hyping this for months.

Sophie: I don't know. Alex is always like, "You don't know how much I fucked at fat camp."

Alex: Okay, so I didn't fuck at fat camp, I fucked at fat resort.

April: Oh, okay.

Alex: I was too young to fuck at fat camp. Last time I went to fat camp I was 14. It's totally fine

if you fucked at 14, I just didn't. First time I went to fat camp I was 11, summer after sixth grade. I went for four weeks. I had a terrible time. I cried every day. Not because there was anything wrong with that particular fat camp, but just because I was so socially awkward. I probably weighed all of 160 pounds when I left, and I was like 5'7" by

then.

April: Not fat.

Alex: I was by no measurement fat. I lost like all of 12 pounds in four weeks and then my

parents were disappointed in me. I had a terrible time. I read nonstop. Second time I

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18)

Transcript by Rev.com

Page 14 of 28

went to fat camp was the next year. That was a less positive experience and a more positive experience. I made a lot of friends, which was great. That was a negative experience because that fat camp was pretty poorly run. We were up near Modesto, which is central California and it was a barren wasteland. They would have us run outside in 100 plus degree heat and that was traumatic. They didn't really feed us right. Everything was sort of focused on this before and after photo to sort of sell your parents on the fact that they'd made the right choice. Third fat camp I went to, there's a company called Wellsprings and they run a number of fat camps throughout the US. They almost went under during the recession because who the fuck could afford to make their kids skinny during the recession?

Sophie: It's not realistic.

Alex: "Sorry little Jimmy, we can't afford to make you skinny this year." "Damn." That was

both a good and bad experience. It was pretty bad from a fat camp perspective. All the fat camps try and educate you about health. They make you go to class during the day. It's like class, running, class, running, class. They'll take you to class and teach you about how much sodium you should have every day and you're like 14 and horny and you don't really give a shit about how much sodium you're supposed to have every day. Cal State University Channel Islands had just been converted from the abandoned remains of the former California State insane asylum at Camarillo, so only about half the buildings were converted when I went to camp there. Sometimes our nighttime activity was explore the locked up remains of the mental hospital that hadn't been converted

yet.

Sophie: Oh my god.

April: Whoa.

Alex: If you want to know why my parents have spent thousands of dollars on therapy for me,

that's a pretty short answer.

April: Oh my god.

Alex: I was extremely traumatized by that experience. Oh god, so many bad stories. We used

to smuggle in food. The best trick I ever found was to hide cookies inside maxi pads because you can open up the maxi pad wrapper just enough to slide something back in. They'd search your bags going into fat camp to make sure you didn't have any food.

Sophie: Besides all that amazing material, that will be a patriotic short this week. Become a

patron at One Dollar Above to get access to those fat camp sex stories. I'm not kidding.

April: Whoa.

Sophie: Then is there anything else you want to add or that you wish we had asked, or any other

resources you want to give people, or just anything else you want to say?

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by <u>Rev.com</u> Page 15 of 28

Alex: I guess my best resource advice for people who are superfat or who struggle with some

> of the issues that I've struggled with as a superfat is athletes foot cream is wonderful for skin rashes. If you graduate out of that, go to your dermatologist and don't be ashamed.

They're a doctor. They're required to help you. They're not just there to do Botox.

Sophie: The LA just sprung out.

Alex: I'm sorry, my dermo is just always trying to sell me Botox. I'm like, "I'm 24 years old. Call

me when I'm 28."

Sophie: Geez.

Alex: Don't be ashamed to ask for what you need. It's really hard to do that, and it's really

> hard to do that when the world is so aggressively hostile to you. I think it's worth trying to get your needs met in any way you can. You are superfat, that doesn't mean you're obligated to suffer. That doesn't mean you have a moral failing and therefore all the pain or awkwardness or whatever issues you have medically are some sort of, "You must suffer as a result of your moral failing as a fat person." Get what you need if you can. If you can't, Google your resources. If you're a student or an employee, you are legally entitled to your school or your workplace accommodating you. You are protected by the government no matter who's running it, unless the Trump administration repeals

the ADA. Protect yourself while you can.

Sophie: Great.

April: Very ominous.

Sophie: Yeah, very.

April: But very real.

Alex: And be nice to yourself. You didn't do something wrong.

April: Thank you. I think that's a great ending.

Sophie: Thank you so much for talking with us, Alex. We really appreciate it. We hope this was

kind of fun.

It was super fun. I hope I didn't let you down. Alex:

April: No, not at all. We're so excited to hear about your experience. You're also so funny and

cool.

Alex: Says April.

April: Thank you. Sophie does not give me enough compliments.

Ep 3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by Rev.com

Page 16 of 28

Sophie: Wow. That was bait night almost again.

April: You almost did.

Sophie: Wow.

April: No, but thank you so much for being here and for sharing. Can't wait to hear what our

listeners think.

Sophie: I just think we should end by saying we have explained one person's experience of being

superfat.

Group: You're welcome.

Sophie: Okay, so that was our amazing interview with Alex. She's obviously a very cool special

person. We're very lucky she came on the show. We also have a clip from our

conversation with J at Comfy Fat Travels and at Comfy Fat and some other platforms, who we talked to in our Fat and Non-Binary app. Here is a little clip about J talking about

being superfat.

April: You will hear more from that in that Non-Binary episode in a couple weeks.

April: I would be interested in hearing what you wish people knew about being superfat.

Here's the thing, we get a lot of problematic emails in our account saying like, "Even though I am a size eight, I still feel victimized because of my "fatness" and I don't get how that's different." I know for one that I think people have a hard time seeing how it could be harder for anyone who is fatter than them because aren't we all fat the same way? But I'm wondering if there's specific things that you feel like are misunderstood about your experience that someone who is a small to mid-fat might not fully grasp, or

might disregard because they think you're having the same experience?

J: I really think it comes down to accessibility for me is the biggest one. Imagine being in a

world that wasn't built for you. I think some people totally get that, especially if they have disabilities and stuff. But when it comes to small fats versus superfats, that's a huge issue. It's not just about the fact that I can't go to a clothing store and physically try on a piece of clothing before buying it. That sucks, and also that's not the only thing. It's like I have to consider if I'm going to physically fit in a space, if I'm going to be able to sit

down in that restaurant, or get by the crowd of people, or how much walking is

involved. I'm not trying to equate superfat bodies with not being able to walk much, but specifically for me that's been a difficulty, is really the accessibility is hard. Buses and public transport and obviously flying, it's all really difficult all the time. There's so much thinking involved. I don't think you can know what that's like unless you really start

listening to people talk about it.

Sophie: April.

April: Yes.

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by Rev.com Page 17 of 28

Sophie:

So now that we have learned from these amazing people, how do you think you and I can work more and do more to better support our superfat friends and family?

April:

I think first of all Alex gave a lot of great tips on what makes her feel supported, and I really appreciate her sharing those. I think it really is just about making an effort to think beyond yourself. I think human beings naturally think about their own experiences because they're them and it's hard to think about what someone else's experiences could be like. But it helps to kind of think about, okay if I'm uncomfortable traveling, if I'm uncomfortable at any restaurant, if I'm uncomfortable moving through the world because of accessibility, someone who's superfat is experiencing that plus X. Whenever I'm thinking about advocating for myself, just reminding myself that that ally-ship is needed even more for people who are more marginalized than me because of their bodies I think is super important.

Sophie:

Sometimes people will say things like, "Okay, that makes sense to me but when you get really fat it's not healthy," or something. That basically is something they feel comfortable saying to me because they don't think I'm so fat that I can't be "healthy". I have tried in the past to be like, "Well, you can't tell people's health by looking at them."

PART 2 OF 3 ENDS [00:42:04]

Sophie: Like well you can't tell peoples health by looking at them. And also health is not-

April: They don't owe you their health.

Sophie: Yeah. And also health's not a moral good. Like it doesn't have anything to do with

anything, or should not have to do with how you treat someone. There's no ultimate

health, as we've talked about before.

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie: But I don't really think I have come across a good way to be, 'cause when someones

saying that, when they're first learning, like it's a common thing for people to say when they're first getting into body positivity. If they're still stuck in a health centric, morality based view of the world. And since I know what they're really saying is, "But I don't support those really fat people." And I haven't quite figured out a way to say, "Health is not a moral good. Nobody owes you your health, and also superfat people are valid and

good." Because then I'd also have to explain superfat, you know what I mean?

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie: I just don't have a pithy response yet. But that's what I've been thinking about, and

working on, because I know that because I'm not a superfat I hear that, and I haven't, I

don't feel like I've nailed it yet.

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative). I think a helpful way to think about it is like, so people always

wanna trap you and say, "Well my 600 pound life, that's unhealthy, right?"

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by Rev.com Page 18 of 28

Sophie: Yeah.

April: So I think when you get trapped into one of those conversations, which happens a lot,

just to think about how there's no number or size where somebody starts deserving

respect.

Sophie: Yeah.

April: Like I think there's no reason to try to rationalize someones health if you don't know

them, or someones why their fat if you don't know them, but I think if your response in those moments can just be, regardless of what weight they are they still deserve access

and they still deserve respect.

Sophie: Yeah.

April: I think is a, 'cause then someone, if they wanna argue with you on that, then they look

like an asshole.

Sophie: Oh, people do too.

April: They do.

Sophie: They'll be like, you don't deserve anything, capitalism, bootstraps, pull your-

April: [crosstalk 00:43:45].

Sophie: It's like I gotta get it, escape. Go to Alt quit. Alt ... What is it? Command shift?

April: Control, alt, delete?

Sophie: Yeah. Control, alt, delete.

April: Control alt delete our whole society, honestly.

Sophie: Yup.

April: It's embarrassing.

Sophie: But yeah, that's the step I'm thinking about right now, and I hope to continue to

increase my allyship to superfat people more and more. For all of our episodes where we're talking about intersections that we don't personally experience, we've asked our listeners, that's all of you, to send in some voice memos if you identify as experiencing that intersection. So here are some voice memos from our lovely listeners who are

superfat.

Speaker 1: As a superfat woman, I constantly feel like the world is not meant for me. Anytime I go

outside I feel, anyplace I go, shops, restaurants, anything like that. There's not enough

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18)

Page 19 of 28

room. I always feel like I'm taking up way too much space. I feel, like I can't even sit at a booth anymore whatsoever. And I have to think about weight limits for everything. So if I go somewhere and they have, their chairs look wimpy, I'm not gonna go there 'cause I can't. And that happens all the time. And it happens everywhere. Like places you wouldn't even think about. I get worried when I go into bathrooms and they have those one toilets that hang from the wall instead of being positioned on the floor, because I don't, I just constantly worry that somethings gonna break underneath me.

Speaker 1:

And then of course, they tell you "Oh when people stare at you, you're just imagining that they're staring at you." No, no. Literally everyone stares at me. I have been riding in a car and had people point and laugh, and if there's people behind me laughing, they're laughing at me. And convincing my friends of that is, they don't believe me. Because of all this, I do actually struggle with agoraphobia, going out at all, because it's such a hard thing to do. Even in the body positive spaces, I have a hard time feeling like that's a part of, like I get to be a part of that space, because my body is the most disgusting to most people.

Kayla:

Hi. My name is Kayla. I'm 25 and I have been fat my entire life. From when I was a kid, through High School, I was bullied. Not always consistently, I had friends, but it was here and there. Sometimes worse than other times. And then when I got out of High School the bullying stopped, and I was in the real world, and I was able to reflect and realize that no ones opinion matters except my own. And that's when I learned to love myself, and to love my body, regardless of losing weight or gaining weight, and regardless of what other people think.

Speaker 2:

Hey April and Sophie I just wanted to say that as you guys talk about superfat folks and infinifat folks, it's important to remember that superfatness, I feel like the larger you get, the more of a dramatic difference you can experience inaccessibility. Because everybody bodies are shaped differently, and when you gain weight and your body gets to a certain size, like everybody gains weight in different places. And so the larger you get the more extreme that becomes.

Speaker 2:

So you see people, you run into people who talk about being 400 pounds but they can still fit into a 3X. Or you can be 300 pounds but you require a 32 or a 34, or something like that. There are folks who have small tops, and big bottoms, and large legs. There are people who are big all over. There are people who carry it all in the front, or the back. So the regular variations of the human body, the bigger it gets, the bigger those differences become. So one of the reasons why I think that it's difficult to talk about a single solution for a lot of superfat issues is because our bodies are just really, wildly different in many, many cases.

April:

Here at She's All Fat, we love our Undersummers shortlettes. They're anti-thigh chafing slip shorts that make dresses, skirts, and whatever else you wear, into chafe free zones. They're not just for flowy summer clothing though, they're also ultra comfy bottoms to wear to bed. You have to try them and then you too will never wanna take them off.

Sophie: Under summers has a new short fusion style available in black, blush, and beige. They've

sold out twice since their release earlier this summer. The proof is in the pudding with Undersummers. Once you get a pair, you'll wanna have a bunch more. Like me, I have a

drawer for them next to my underwear drawer.

April: My mom actually stole a pair of my Undersummers.

Sophie: Really?

April: Yes.

Sophie: They're so good.

April: She claimed them. Also, pudding made me hungry. Okay. I like to wear my

undersummers with a big t-shirt when I'm lounging around watching To All The Boys I've

Loved Before, for the 44th or 45th time. And under a dress when I want to feel

comfortable going into a coffee meeting.

Sophie: To buy your own set of Undersummers use code LOVE for 10 dollars off your purchase.

That's a new code for us so hear it again, LOVE, for 10 dollars off your purchase at undersummers.com. The website has size charts, and a variety of lengths and rises, so you can find your perfect pair. Code LOVE for 10 dollars off your Undersummers

purchase today.

April: And now it's time to ask a fatty. If you want advice you can send a voice memo of

yourself asking a question to fy@shesallfatpod.com. You can record it on your

computer, or the voice memo app on your iPhone. Just keep it short, about one minute max. Or if you're shy, you can send us a plain old email at fyi@shesallfatpod.com, and we might answer your question right here on the show. This week on ask a fatty we

have a very special letter from Hannah.

Hannah: My question has to do with the word fat. I use it as a neutral descriptor for my own

body, but I am technically street sized, though just barely. I'm a size 12 to 14, average height, and I'm not the flat bellied plus size model type either. At this size, am I allowed to use the word fat to describe myself? Even if I do fall into the fat category, is it a word I should not use to describe myself when I'm in the presence of those who are fatter

than me? Thanks.

Sophie: We get this question a lot. We did choose this specific one because, this Hanna sent us,

that voice-

April: We like that voice.

Sophie: Sent us that voice. But we get a lot of versions of this question about whose allowed to

use the word fat? Who gets to use the word fat? Am I allowed to use the word fat? It's

funny because nobody sends us a picture, but it's like-

April: That very true.

Sophie: Do you know what I mean? No ones like, "Look at me, am I fat?" But it's just like, am I

allowed? Which, I always try to be like "What are people really asking for in this

question?" You know?

April: I mean I think that people sense that we're trying to reclaim the word by calling our

podcast that.

Sophie: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

April: So maybe that makes people think that we could be the judge of it. But, no.

Sophie: We're not the judge of it.

April: Definitely not.

Sophie: The only thing I'm the judge of is, you can't say, "I feel fat."

April: Yeah. Because that's not a feeling.

Sophie: That's not a feeling. If you mean I feel bad, especially. Don't do that. Don't compare fat

and bad. It is valid in some ways because we are rejecting the "Overweight", "Obese" labeling, and we're also rejecting BMI stuff. So we're rejecting a lot of labels. But I feel like straight sizes go up to, like a 12/14 sometimes 16, depends. Plus sizes are maybe an easy way to look at it. I don't know. I mean it's hard 'cause a lot of people who are fat, or who have been fat, also have some dysmorphia probably. Like I know I don't always see

my body accurately.

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie: But I think it's less like, what am I allowed to say, and more like, okay, how do people

treat you?

April: Absolutely.

Sophie: Because you'll know if people treat you a certain way because of the way your body

looks.

April: Like the whole point of reclaiming the word is that, what has been associated with the

word prior to that is being shamed, not having accessibility, and just being treated like your body is definitely not the norm. So I think you'll know based on whether or not

people mistreat you because of your body, in this way.

Sophie: Yeah. Sometimes I think we get this from people who are like, "I'm insecure about my

body can I call myself fat?" And it's like, well you can be insecure and be thin, that's fine.

You know? We get it a lot from people who are in this 10/12/14/16, and it's like

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18)

Page 22 of 28

everyone's body is different. People how are a size 12 look different if they're, however tall they are, or even different body composition, or whatever. So there's really not like a hard and fast rule. If you're trying to be like, "Oh I have some extra fat on my belly then I would if I was a size 8." That's fine.

April: Yup.

Sophie: That's accurate. You know?

April: Like your experiences in your body are totally valid, and I think that sometimes people

want to claim the word fat because it helps as a way to express that marginalization that they face. So I think even if you are in between, or you still have body shame, that's totally valid. But the term fat, and also the fat communities that we talk about and that we engage with, exist because of that marginalization. So if you haven't had that, you still are allowed to talk about your struggles with your body, and your body image, and the way you've been treated, but maybe the word fat isn't the best fit if you're feeling

like you're more of an inbetweener.

Sophie: Yeah. 'Cause like we talked about, there's a difference between self-love and self-image

and body positivity. So it's like, "I feel insecure because I don't look like a magazine model cover." Or whatever, is different from, "I can't fit into this ride at Six Flags."

April: Absolutely.

Sophie: You know? I hope that helped Hannah. Thank you so much for giving us that lovely

voice, and we hope that you feel validated. You're also, like again, were not gatekeepers

and you're valid, and your experience is valid.

April: Go with your gut on it.

Sophie: Yeah. Your fat gut.

April: Alright.

Sophie: The shirt I mentioned, and any other resources, will be in our episode notes. Thank you

Hannah. Now lets move on to "It's Okay, You Can Ask." A segment where we give each

other permission to ask each other questions about each others experiences.

April: Say it.

Sophie: About each others experiences and intersections.

April: And by the way, that's just us giving each other permission. Again, do not ask your

friends probing questions, that is rude. Okay.

Sophie: And also that does not mean send me questions about what you can say to black

people. Please, stop doing this. Don't do that to me anymore, please. Don't ask me that.

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by Rev.com Page 23 of 28

April: Please. Alright. We'll find out the answers to our burning questions like, "Aren't Burning

man and Coachella the same thing?"

Sophie: Or "Who is Chaka Khan and why are their lyrics taped to her fan?" As I said, I know who

Chaka Khan is.

April: Okay. So Soph, it's my turn to ask a question.

Sophie: Great.

April: Which are my least favorite weeks. Because I prefer to watch Soph squirm, but-

Sophie: That's rude.

April: This week I have a question. So I have read a couple articles from people who are

bisexual, and feel, like have talked about feeling weird about being straight passing. And some people will write about what they do to communicate with people that they are queer, even if they might be with somebody who is, they look like they're in a hetero

relationship.

Sophie: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

April: So my question is, what does it feel like to you, if people assume you're straight? And

are there things you do to make it clear that you're not? And in what situations do you

do that?

Sophie: So I started dating Victor before I realized I was Bi, before I knew I was Bi. That only

happened a couple years ago. So the whole time I've known I was Bi I was in a straight-passing relationship. When I first realized it, I got freaked out and was like, "Am I gonna have to break up with Victor and start dating girls?" And then I was like, "No, no, it's fine, it's fine. It's just part of your identity. You're fine." It's hard to navigate a little bit

because being straight-passing is also a privilege.

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie: You know? So it is annoying to have that erasure when it happens. I don't personally

experience that as a marginalization because it puts you in danger to be visibly queer, you know what I mean? So it's like, it's annoying when I'm erased in that way, or when someone will be like, will only talk to me about liking boys or something like that.

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie: It doesn't come up quite as directly. Or sometimes it'll be like, "Oh I didn't know you

were Bi." And I'll be like, "Yeah." And then they'll be like, "Okay."

April: Okay.

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by <u>Rev.com</u> Page 24 of 28

Sophie: Like usually it's not, "All of us are straight here, right?" You know?

April: Yup.

Sophie: But sometimes I do feel left out of queer spaces because I'm in a relationship with a

man, and that can suck. But again, it's like, because I'm not as visibly queer, I'm not the one who's gonna face the most oppression from it in the same way that ... Not that, I'm not gonna list all the other ways that queer people face oppression, but for example, my friends who are girlfriends, they get a lot more weird shit when they're out with each other than I do when I'm out with Victor. I'm not, nobody can visibly be like, "Oh you're Bi? Wanna make out with a girl in front of me?" Or something, like that doesn't happen.

April: Good.

Sophie: You know what I mean?

April: Is there a situation where, lets say you were having ladies night or something, and it'd

be like, "Were all straight here, right?" Is that a situation where you'd be like, "No." What is a situation when you would feel like you'd need to clarify, or you'd want to

clarify?

Sophie: Probably, I mean it's hard because some situations would be like, it'd be around people I

don't really know, right?

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie: Or at work or something like that.

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie: I don't run into that that much, and I don't know that I would wanna announce my

sexuality at work.

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Exactly.

Sophie: In a work space. I think for me, it's more important to me to find the spaces where I feel

comfortable expressing my queerness, and finding out more about myself, and feeling

comfortable in that, than it is about everyone else needing to know about it.

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie: I do feel, sometimes, uncomfortable in spaces that are queer spaces. And then people

will be like, "Your straight." And I'm like, "No, I'm not. I'm not actually." There's just not that many situations where I need to talk about my sexuality. Just like, when I'm on

Twitter.

April: It will come up on Twitter.

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18)

Transcript by Rev.com

Sophie: Yeah. I just sometimes feel the need to defend myself if I'm in a gueer space.

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie: Because people will be like, sometimes people will be like, girls say that they're Bi for

attention or something like that.

April: Yeah. Definitely, I've heard that. Well I hope that you are able to find a part of a

community that will accept the fact that you're in a relationship with a man and still let

you be there.

Sophie: Yeah.

April: 'Cause I know how important that is. And I will say, I enjoy watching you try to process

what Bi Fashion looks like. I think it's very cute.

Sophie: Thank you. It's fun. It's very freeing. I spent so long as a fat person being like, "I gotta

look so feminine so that everyone knows that I'm not gay." Or whatever. You know.

April: I always felt like a mom in my body, growing up.

Sophie: Exactly.

April: When I wasn't a mom.

Sophie: Well I wanted, I had spent a long time feeling like, to be feminine is to be small. To be

feminine is to be attractive, is to be small, is to be cinched in, or whatever. And the only representation I saw of fat queer women was more butch women basically. And I was like, "I want boys to like me, and I wanna be perceived as straight and small." You know?

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie: Before I figured any of this out. So it's fun to now, both be fat positive and be like, what

is it like to wanna be perceived as queer?

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie: You know? Now that I no longer am afraid of someone being, like I would be flattered if

someone was like, "Oh, fat lesbian." I'd be like, "Thank you." You know what I mean?

April: Absolutely. And I have seen you be clocked for being queer.

Sophie: Yeah.

April: And it's amazing to watch 'cause I didn't know what the fuck was going on. Then

afterwards I'm like, "Oh I see." And I saw that you feel happy that someone could

correctly identify your identity.

Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18)

Page 26 of 28

Sophie: Yeah. It feels very affirming.

April: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie: That makes me feel good when that happens, 'cause it makes me feel like I'm, I don't

have to be super performative about something, or say it all the time, to be seen as who

I am. You know? So thank you for that question.

April: Of course. Thank you for sharing.

Sophie: It's still in progress, would love to chat with other fem, Bi, fatty's about stuff. Yeah.

April: Alright. Thank you.

Sophie: Thanks for asking.

April: Of course.

Sophie: And that's our show. Be sure to check out the show notes for links to the stuff we

mentioned today, and don't forget to send us your questions via email or voice

recording to fyi@shesallfatpod.com

April: Please make sure to leave us a review on Apple Podcast, it's super important in making

sure people find the show. If you leave us a review on Apple Podcast, we'll give you a

shout out on the pod next week.

Sophie: She's All Fat is created, produced and hosted by us, Sophia Carter-Kahn, and April K

Quioh. If you'd like to support the work we do, you can join our Patreon by visiting patreon.com/shesallfatpod. When you pledge to be a supporter you'll get all sorts of

goodies and extra content.

April: Our music was composed and produced by Carolyn Pennypacker Riggs. The website was

designed by Jessie Fish. And our logo is by Britt Scott. This episode was mixed and edited by the iconic Maria Wurttele. Special thanks to our fairy intern mother Lynn Barbera. Our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter handles are @shesallfatpod. You can find the show on Apple Podcast, Spotify, Stitcher, Google Play and wherever else you get your

pods. Bye.

Sophie: Bye.

April: Look at this photograph.

Sophie: Look at this graph.

April: Okay.

Sophie: Oh my God. Ep\_3 (Completed 09/13/18) Transcript by Rev.com

Page 27 of 28

April: Alright.

PART 3 OF 3 ENDS [01:02:24]