

Odd One Out: The Life as a Boy Living with All Girls

TB is a 15 year old boy who was born and raised in Tacoma, WA. He currently goes to Lincoln high school with an interest of doing work with tech in the future. I interviewed my brother to hear about his perspective as a boy living with all women his whole life and how it affects his views on women and his ways of thinking. The interview was done face to face with my iPhone recording.

Me: *What are some advantages you think you have being the only boy?*

T: **I think an advantage I have is standing out and getting attention because I stand out, kind of like being monitored.**

His answer seemed really over thought and he was trying to think of every possible answer, he was fidgeting a lot and stutter a bunch and I think that's because in general he is shy, so I was happy with any answer I could get from him

Me: **Do you think being “monitored” is an advantage? Because me personally I hate the feeling of being always watched**

T: **Yeah I don't mind it, I'm used to it**

Me: **Okay on to the second question, Do you think that you understand women better than guys who don't live with all women, like do you think you know a lot more?**

T: **I hope I do, you know I see the experience of women daily so I think I've got better insight than most guys.**

I don't think he wanted to sound cocky in a way, because he knows more than he says he does.

Me: **Do you think there are some aspects you're missing out on because you're the only boy?**

He had a distant look in his eyes, like he was thinking about the question real hard.

T: **Not really, I just feel comfortable where I'm at right now.**

Me: **So you've never had the thought “ Man, sometimes I wish I had a brother, or a cousin I could talk to and relate to.”**

T: **No, I really do enjoy this.**

We looked at each other and laughed , I laughed because I know he was still being too nice and most likely saying what I wanted to hear

Me: **You know you can be 100% honest, I'm not going to get mad, I really want to hear everything you have to say and I mean everything. I swear I won't rat you out to the family.**

He started to laugh again I knew I finally (sort of) had in him in a comfortable position

T: **Okay, okay fine. What's the next question?**

Me: **Okay, I'm really interested in your answer in this one, what's one lesson you've learned from living with all women?**

T: **Women have it very hard in society**

Me: **Do you see how that factor seeps into our household, like how it affects our daily lives?**

He start saying “uhm” a lot and seems to be thinking really hard about the answer

T: **Of course, I see that there isn't a lot of options for work and a bunch of discrimination based on gender and race based on your guys experiences. You guys also aren't given as many opportunities as you'd like and when you guys do get opportunities they're bottom of the barrel.**

Me: **I really liked the wording you chose for that answer. Okay onto question number 5, What's one weird thing women do? I'm interested in this answer.**

We start laughing again

T: **I can't even think about anything really?**

Me: **Really because I feel like us as women do so many weird, crazy things from the point of view of a male.**

T: Okay this isn't really weird, but it's kind of different I think, I like how most if the time women bond really fast.

Me: I like that you said that because it's true, well at least for me. If I'm in a room with women and men I generally gravitate towards women because I'm more comfortable around women and they're just easier to talk to. Speaking of bonding do you ever wish you had another male in the house to bond with, like a cousin, brother or anything like that growing up and now?

T: Not really, I mean I would be fine either or but it's not something I've ever thought about.

Me: Really, like you've never thought of it at all? It's never crossed your mind once?

T: No I haven't.

Me: Well I think about it, more than I should. I'm always thinking "What if Chyna was a boy, would I like her at all?"

Chyna is our younger sister who is the baby of the family, My brother and I bond over teasing her a good majority of the time.

Me: Okay, this I the last question I think, do you sometimes feel left out since like 50% of the time you can't really relate to some of the things we say and do? Like I know there's period stuff we always talk about and stuff.

T: Not really, I actually think that's one of the good things about living with women, I think it can help me understand women better, but because we are all so close I've never really had the chance to feel left out.

My eyes start watering and I start smiling extremely hard because I genuinely love hearing all my brothers thoughts

Me: Stop, dude you're going to make me cry, oh my gosh I really like hearing all of your thoughts and stuff because you aren't really as vocal so this whole thing is such a good experience for me. I actually have one more question surprisingly, it just popped in my head, in the future do you think your life will be positive affected or negatively affected from growing up with just women?

T: I think it's a good thing, like it would be positive, but yeah it would definitely depend on the person and their experience.

Me: Okay so do you think a girl who's grown up with mostly guys might be different or similar to your situation?

T: Yeah I think it would kind of be different because men do behave differently than women.

Me: Now you are one of the youngest, and younger siblings do end up taking traits from their older siblings, are there any traits you think that you've taken from one of us?

T: Well I think I try to be optimistic and I get that from you so there's that.

Me: That's so sweet, oh my gosh.

T: I guess I also try to make sure no one's feeling left out and I get that from mom.

Me: Earlier you brought up a girl living in an all-male household would be different, and do you think that there is more feminine or masculine energy in this house, because from what I see I think there's a lot of masculine especially from mom because, you know she has to be and I was just wondering what your input is in that.

He pauses for a moment because I said I was going to be done like two questions ago but luckily he's still cooperating with me

T: There's definitely a lot of masculine energy here, but also equal amounts of feminine energy as well, it evens out from what I see.

Me: I think that's all the thoughts and questions I have for you. Thank you for being my interviewee and answering all these questions very last minute.

The original plan was to interview my mom but she ended up falling asleep so I just went to the next best option and in my opinion it all worked out. I feel like me hearing some of my brothers thoughts and opinions was very needed and I like getting insight on his point of view.