

Lindsay, GreenThumb Harvest Fair
September 18, 2021

Rachel (00:00):

I will record, here. And, oh, you have it in a perfect place.

So, Lindsay, would you mind telling me your name, how old you are, around, where you grew up, where you live, who are you, you're a student. Tell me who you are.

Lindsay (00:15):

Yeah.

My name's Lindsay. I'm 20, right now. And up until very recently, I've lived in California. So, I grew up in the Sacramento Valley, and then I went to school in Santa Cruz. [crosstalk 00:00:29]

Rachel (00:29):

And you live here, now?

Lindsay (00:31):

Yes.

Rachel (00:32):

And when you think about climate change, what do you think about, and how do you feel?

Lindsay (00:36):

Yeah.

We were talking about this earlier, but the first thing that as the mind is wildfires, because, growing up in California, wildfires are a big concern, and most of my life I can remember being in a drought. So, those are some of my earliest memories, seeing Conserve Water signs everywhere, not being allowed to wash your car.

And then, I remember being younger and I used to love summer. And now summer is my least favorite part of the year, because it's wildfire season and wildfires, we knew that it could happen, but it was more of a rare occurrence. And now, when we get to summer, it's like, "Oh, boy. Here we go again." And it's just like, you see the first plume of smoke rolling, you're just like, "Oh, boy. Here we go. It's fire season."

It's ridiculously hot. This last summer, there was weeks it was above 100, and you just have to stay inside.

Rachel (01:32):

And how does it feel?

Lindsay (01:35):

It feels odd and scary. You learn to get used to it, but there's a constant fear in the back of your head that, any moment, you could have to evacuate, or you never know when the fires are going to hit you.

Rachel (01:52):

And what does that feel like? You said it feels odd.

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Lindsay ([01:58](#)):

Yeah.

Rachel ([01:59](#)):

But what does odd feel like? What's the emotion word for living in that unknown?

Lindsay ([02:06](#)):

Yeah.

I would say eerie, unsettling, because again, we try and go about our lives. We try to go to school and work, and again, the power can go out any minute. And you're trying to work and there's just ash coming in through the windows and the doors. So, it's like you're trying to live normally in a situation that is not normal. Because it's like, "Oh, boy. This is just how the world is. I guess we just have to deal with this, now."

Rachel ([02:37](#)):

Yeah.

What's so interesting to me about your story is this insistence or this need from society to, as you said, live normally in these un-normal circumstances. Why do you think that is?

Lindsay ([02:52](#)):

I think the idea is like, what else are we supposed to do? In the wildfire example, it's like we try and go about our day. Is us not working going to put out the fire? What are we going to do, here, about a fire that's consuming thousands of acres of property? I have my own life to worry about. How is this going to help the fire.?

Rachel ([03:23](#)):

You told me that you're in school, right now, for Climate Change, Society, and Policy, you said?

Lindsay ([03:28](#)):

Yeah.

Rachel ([03:30](#)):

And what brought you to that program, and what are you hoping to learn from the program?

Lindsay ([03:37](#)):

Yeah.

I would say, last summer, again, fire season, when I didn't see a blue sky for a month and a half, it just gave me a new sense of urgency. And I knew I was graduating in the spring of 2021 and I was like, "I still want to learn more. I want to be able to learn more about climate change, and hopefully use that so we can do something about it instead of the doom-and-gloom, "Oh, I guess everything's on fire, now, and we just have to accept it."

Rachel ([04:11](#)):

So, what do you feel hopeful for, for the future?

Lindsay (04:15):

I would say, honestly, it's hard to feel hopeful sometimes, but I would say, again, being in the program and seeing people from so many disciplines, people who have a background in music and art, and seeing how this is becoming sort of mainstream. This isn't just seen as some fringe, hippy, tree hugger, thing, necessarily. It's starting to be taken more seriously in different disciplines.

Rachel (04:47):

What kinds of innovation or ideas or movements or activities are you seeing that gives you hope, right now?

Lindsay (04:58):

I think there's a lot of emphasis on environmental justice and equity. So, that's something I think is pretty cool, trying to pay more attention to how exposure to toxins, making sure that we're doing it in a way that doesn't exacerbate existing social inequalities. I think that's encouraging.

Rachel (05:21):

How does thinking about climate crisis affect how you plan for your future, personally?

Lindsay (05:30):

I plan as if everything's normal, but I just always have this worry in the back of my head. It's similar, I guess, to the COVID pandemic. You make plans, but you just accept that it could go awry at any moment. I would say, when I was, again, in California, I had had better evacuation readiness plans. Before, when I was younger, I was like, "Eh, it's not going to happen." But now it's like I've accepted, "Okay. The fires could hit me, one day. So, that's something I've had to think about. But, sometimes, it is hard to think about the future, because it's uncertain what the future's going to be like.

Rachel (06:19):

Do you think that's a different experience that you're having growing up than your parents had, for instance?

Lindsay (06:25):

Yeah.

I would say there does seem to be a generational disconnect, because, again, me and, I'd say, my friends my age, we're seeing this, and we're like, "Oh, boy. It's already this bad." And we're seeing the IPCC report saying that, if we don't start taking action, this is going to get worse, that's our lifetime. Whereas, people who are older, they might not have as much time left. This is a hypothetical problem. Whereas, I would say, to me, it maybe feels more concrete.

Rachel (07:00):

Absolutely. Absolutely.

Let's see. We've been talking for seven minutes. We have one more question to ask. What are questions that you're asking yourself, right now?

Lindsay (07:17):

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It's like, or mostly like, "What can I do in the moment?" Because I think sometimes I have these big ambitions, or something. What am I trying to say, here?

I think I'm just trying to focus on like, "Okay. I obvious can't fix the whole climate, fix the whole crisis." And so, I think I just try to live day to day. What can I do, right here, right now? Maybe I can't do everything, but I have some skills, some tools. So, I just try to think about, it's little or big, what can I do? Whether it's fixing my clothes so I don't have to buy new ones and throw them away. And we're trying to reduce food waste. Buy in bulk, so it's less packaging, that kind of [inaudible 00:08:12] .

Rachel (08:13):

So, what can you do on an individual level.

Lindsay (08:16):

Yeah.

I would say, something I've noticed a lot, a lot of environmental movements seem to focus on recycling. And I'm not going to say recycling is bad necessarily, but I think we need to treat it more as a last step, and try and make it such that there's less waste in the first place. So, trying to use what you already have to the fullest extent. Repair. Repurpose. Reduce food packaging, if you can, so buying in bulk or buying without packaging.

Rachel (08:55):

Yeah.

I said that was my last question, but I have one more question.

Lindsay (08:58):

Okay, okay.

Rachel (09:00):

What are ways that we have a responsibility to show up to this moment?

Lindsay (09:06):

Like...

Rachel (09:07):

In what ways must we show up? You're talking about what can you do on a day-to-day? What does meaningful change look like, and how do we make them?

Lindsay (09:14):

That's kind of a tough one. I would say, really whatever skills or resources you have, you can use. Any kind of job can be a climate job, using whatever perspective you have, even if you're in music and art, you can use that for environmental education. I think a lot of times we think it needs to be these big flashy demonstrations. And I'm not devaluing that, it's just that's not everyone's forte, and that's okay. Whatever you can do, use whatever tools you have at your disposal.

Rachel (09:58):

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Lindsay, thank you so much for talking with me.

Lindsay (10:00):

Ah, thank you.

Rachel (10:01):

I so appreciate this conversation.

Lindsay (10:03):

Yeah. I'm glad this was helpful.

Rachel (10:06):

Yeah. This was wonderful. Thank you.