Individual Interview 5 – Matilde

(Full time: 36:06)

Int: Hello, welcome.

Matilde: Thank you.

Int: How are you?

Matilde: I’m good, thank you. How are you?

Int: I’m great, thanks. So, just a quick overview of what we’re about to get into today. Well, you’ve read the consent form and you have understood the consent form?

Matilde: Yeah.

Int: So, just a general idea of what we’re doing. We’re going to be looking at the concept of belonging, more specifically the emotional side of belonging, then we’re going to have a look at the concept of safety, and then we’re going to bring it all together and have a look at belonging, safety, being a woman in South Africa.

Matilde: Perfect.

Int: So, we’re going to start off very nice and simply: how would you describe having a feeling of belonging? So, this emotional side of belonging.

Matilde: I guess community has a lot to do with that. If you’ve got a community you’re part of then you do feel like you belong to, yeah I guess, the community, but ya it’s a sense of safety in a way. That, you know, you’ve got people you can rely on or go to for anything and everything, and people who will have your back. So, yeah I guess in a way that’s how I would describe belonging; a safe space.

Int: So, you’ve recently moved countries?

Matilde: Yeah.

Int: So, your belonging as being a South African, has that changed? Has that become disrupted or has it become more solidified?

Matilde: It’s completely changed. So, I really don’t feel like – not that I don’t belong here, but like I don’t belong here. But also what’s weird, is that because I have moved, I also don’t feel like I belong in South Africa anymore. So, it’s kind of like, there’s not a ‘home’, if I can say. It’s kind of this grey area right now, cause ya, there aren’t many South Africans here and they – like it’s completely different culture as well. The way they approach everything is different, so in that way, ya I don’t feel like – I belong here because I am Danish, but I don’t belong here because I didn’t grow up, in that sense.

Int: So, do you still identify as South African?

Matilde: Yes and no. I guess I’m not reminded of South Africa a lot here, like I am when I see stuff works and I know stuff doesn’t work in South Africa. There’s electricity then I’m like: “Cool, S.A doesn’t have any.”  
But um, yeah it’s… it’s just – I just kind of feel like I’m a just person here, whereas in South Africa you are defined by your culture and your people, here its just, you know, everyone’s their own person, which is goo but for me being new here and this, the Danes being very… I guess proud of their country, in the sense of, you know, they say they welcome others but then they don’t really either. So, they are very clicky and patriarchal. So, like very patriarchal, which you wouldn’t think, but ya so. So, I don’t know. Yes and no. It’s a weird space to be in right now.

Int: It is weird to think of the Danes as patriarchal, because they are seen as this really socialist, liberal country. Um, do you have an example of when you noticed this?

Matilde: Well, the flag is everywhere. In South Africa the flag is up in, you know, when something happens, but you know, here the flag is everywhere. And also, when my boyfriend was looking at residency here, the last step is kind of a ‘pledge to Denmark’ in front of a group of people. Which I though was very patriotic, very weird.

Int: Very culty.

Matilde: Yes! Denmark is a cult, I swear, I swear. It’s a cult. Like it’s not as intense as the States, where they pledge their allegiance every morning at school. But, you know, the flag is everywhere, they are very proud, and also if you imply an insult they get very defensive and very… you know, like if I say the Danish language is strange and I can’t deal with the grammar, it’s: “Ya, but every language has that.”  
So, it’s literally down to the smallest thing – “Ya, but I speak English so to me it is weird, it’s not saying Danish is weird.”  
So, yeah in that way it is very different to S.A in that way.

Int: So, you said there were like ‘cultural shocks’ for you.

Matilde: Yeah.

Int: What was that moment when you were like: “Toto, we’re not in Kansas anymore.”  
Like that moment like, “Okay this isn’t South Africa, this is a completely different place”?

Matilde: You can walk at night. And it’s so normal. Like, you know, my cousin would walk home at three o’clock in the morning, drunk as hell, as a female, and she’d, you know, that’s safe. That’s normal. And also, education is free from the get-go. First time you step into school, in kindergarten to the end of your university years, everything is free, and you get paid for that, and I don’t know – oh, it’s also completely online. There are apps for everything, like there’s apps to shop, there’s apps for the travel system. Oh, also the public transport works. And it’s safe and it’s efficient, and it’s on time; and oh yeah, there’s also now – okay, let me not say that. But they are very punctual. So, you know, everyone, is on time, you know, if you say you’re going to be there then, you have to be there then. Whereas in South Africa, you know, you have people: “Sorry, I’m late whatever.” And they just kind of be there when they want to, um. So, yeah there are a lot of mini traditions that they have, like a million different ones, especially for Christmas now. It’s very different to how it is in S. A. And they start celebrating hat from November like every week is kind of a new thing, and now there’s this advent thing. So, a lot of mini little traditions. And there’s also like a ‘Friday bar’, where everyone does, where either you go to a pub or you go to someone’s house, you have a ‘Friday bar’ at the end of the week, to celebrate the end of the week, so. Which I can see how as a Dane, then you can see, ‘I really belong here’, you know. It’s a big sense of community here.

Int: Amongst the Danes?

Matilde: Sorry?

Int: The sense of community, is it just amongst the Danes? So, if you’re not Danish, there’s this community but you’re kind of looking at it from the outside.

Matilde: Yeah, definitely. Yeah, and I mean they are very nice, so it’s not like it’s to your face that they will kind of exclude you, it’s just the way they are. A lot of the time you are also in the same class since grade nine, or I think from grade four you’re in the same class, so you create your friend group and that’s your friend group. My cousin is still friends with her friends from grade five. So, they’ve grown up together and its very difficult to get into a friend group, like that, so, in that way, like down on a smaller scale it’s difficult to become part of a mini community or whatever. But they are also very welcoming in the bigger aspect of things and there are a lot of international incentives to help people adapt more to Denmark. Ya, everyone’s nice and everyone speaks English, so no one gets really difficult about the fact that you can’t speak Danish, so they’ll happily help or they’ll show off that they can speak English. I think it’s more of that. But, yeah then obviously when it gets to the more ‘governmental level’ then it gets a bit – ya, it is very difficult to become Danish or to come into Denmark. They’re getting very closed off now.

Int: So, you said earlier that your sense of belonging has been really disrupted by this move. You don’t feel like you belong in Denmark, and you don’t feel like you belong in South Africa anymore. When you were in South Africa did you feel like you belonged to South Africa or in South Africa.

Matilde: Yeah, then I definitely did. Like it’s got a lot to do with ‘my people’, and I guess the kind of community as well, and it was home, so, in that sense ya. And whenever I go to most other countries, you know, I’m a very proud South African, and I’ll happily show the country off because I do believe it’s an incredible place. So, ya, when I was in South Africa, I would definitely say I felt like I belonged.

Int: So, in this vein talking about South Africa… did you always feel this; did you always feel from like the day you were born, ‘I’m South African’, and until this moment when you left and it was disrupted?

Matilde: Um, I think it grew the older I got – actually, I think the first time I travelled that when I started feeling my connection to South Africa a bit more. Being out of it and seeing different aspects. I mean Europe is very different to South Africa, so I guess seeing that I really felt, you know, South Africa is still my home. But that was still when I was traveling, and I knew I was going back. So, yeah, I think definitely more as I got older. When I was younger it was just kind of, ‘I live here’.

Int: So, you’re not coming back I take it?

Matilde: I don’t know. I don’t know, um, that’s still all up in the air. I have no idea what I’m doing with my life, which is fabulous.

Int: You’re young, I mean, I don’t-

Matilde: Exactly. \*Laughs.

Int: Think you have to know now, like really. \*Laughs.

Matilde: That’s what I’m really trying to tell myself. \*Laughs.

Int: Just breathe. We’ll get there – like turning 24, and I’m just like: “That’s not happening.”

Matilde: Exactly. \*Laughs. Hey listen, I’m only turning 23 I’m not jumping to 24 just yet.

Int: Must be nice – I’m going to be 24 in like four, five months.

Matilde: Why are we getting so old? \*Laughs.

Int: \*Laughs. It’s getting tough.

Matilde: Yes.

Int: So, when you were living in South Africa, did you feel safe?

Matilde: No. Well, I guess that also really started showing when I came to Europe. It more, when you’re there you’re used to the precautions that you take. You know, you’re used to carrying pepper-spray around, and knowing a bit of self-defence, looking behind your shoulder, putting the alarm on at night, you know, that’s all you know so that’s, you know, you’re used to that. But then coming to Europe and the cars are just out on the street, you can walk straight up to everyone’s front door, there no alarms, there no fences, there’s no high walls, you can walk at night. Then you start realising the privilege of safety at Europeans have, compared to us. But I think more – I do feel safe because I know how to function in South Africa, and I’m used to that and I know where not to go, what not to do, and stuff like that. But like, there were definitely a lot of times where you would feel unsafe or uneasy.

Int: So, you’re saying there’s some places that you just don’t go. What are these places?

Matilde: Sunnyside, or town, no, no. Unless, I’m with my dad or a man, unfortunately. Also, dark alleyways are obviously a ‘no go’-

Int: Are these ‘no go’ – sorry?

Matilde: We say ‘obviously’, but ya.

Int: Are these ‘no go’ zones for women or ‘no go’ zones in general?

Matilde: I think both, but it’s especially for women. Like my father will also say that he doesn’t like going to Sunnyside. If he doesn’t have to, he won’t. But when my best friend from England came, I wanted to just show her different parts of it and my dad said, “No, not a chance are you guys going alone.”  
So, it’s safer for a man to go – ‘safer’, in context for a man to go alone. But it’s definitely a ‘no go’ for women. So, I think it’s not safe for both, because you never know who they are going to hit, but it’s even more unsafe for women because, it’s kind of more guaranteed you might get hit if you’re alone.

Int: With women, are they – do they have to have a man that comes with them, and a man doesn’t?

Matilde: I think for peace of mind, yes. I mean it’s not guaranteed that they’ll be attacked or anything, but I’ve definitely been in situations where I’ve been alone and I’ve approached by men, but if I’m with a man I haven’t been approached, so. More for peace of mind I would say, but I don’t know enough to say that a woman has to have a man by her side.

Int: Previously, you state that there are certain safety precautions that you take; putting on the alarm, carrying around pepper-spray. Are there any else?

Matilde: So, if I don’t have pepper-spray, I’ll put a key in between my fingers if I’m walking from A to B, that’s just a mini thing I can do. And I’ll also try to take precautions regarding my hair actually, how that is styled, because I heard that if you have a ponytail it’s easy for someone to grab you by. So, I just try to be cautionary about that, like I will put my hair into a bun or something like that. And also I read somewhere that if you walk like you’ve got purpose, like you’ve got somewhere to be, you’re less likely to attacked, but if you’re kind of dwindling along then your more approachable; so I always walk with a purpose, so that I look intimidating. And I also put a face on so \*Laughs. “Don’t come here.”

Int: Exactly. The hair one’s interesting, cause I’ve read and hear about people saying: “Well, we dress – we cover up more.”  
But the hair I never thought about, that actually quite an interesting one. Did you hear about that from someone else or was it just something that you figured out on your own?

Matilde: No. There was a man, a former – a convicted rapist and human trafficker that spoke out after he’d been to jail and everything. He said: “This is what we look for our victims.”  
I can’t remember when – I saw it years ago. But yeah, he said: “These are the certain things we look for.”  
Also, another thing he said was, “If a women doesn’t have anything to defend herself with” – so like with a bag she can hit them or something like that, then she can defend herself with that. But if she’s just walking without anything, they can just attack – you know, grab her and cool she’s got nothing so. Yeah , it was an ex-convict, that said this is what we look out for.

Int: While we’re on this topic – how would you describe your life as a South African woman living in South Africa?

Matilde: Uneasy. I mean it’s never… guarun – like your safety is always in question. Even something as simple as going to the bathroom, I mean there’s just the general thing that you go with a friend, whereas men can go to the bathroom alone. So, it’s just always – we’re always on the look out to see if someone is following us, to see if there is a potential threat anywhere near us, so I would say it’s very… well, I guess, if I compare it to myself now to how I was, I was very tense the whole time, especially if I was alone, cause it’s just constantly on the look out. But here it’s just so calm because the chances of people following me are very slim, it doesn’t happen often, and stuff like that so. I’ve really noticed a big shift in my general, like my body is just calmer, my head is calmer, I’m not as tense. So, in South Africa I think – ya, it’s just uneasy for women; there’s just no guaranteed safety.

Int: That’s really interesting because a lot of people when you ask ‘can you please describe this feeling of belonging’, a lot have said it’s calm; its this feeling of being calm, of being safe, of being accepted. So, your life is constant, as a woman in South Africa, really tensed up. What do you think that does to our sense of belonging?

Matilde: I think it would definitely… I guess, ya I agree that belonging is calm, I definitely agree with that. But if we’re always tense that kind of takes that pure belonging away, cause I guess if you’re attacked that’s, you know, sometimes in a sense makes you feel like, ‘you don’t belong here so we’re taking you out – we’re going to do something because you don’t’. So, I think it definitely can change that feeling of belonging, which is really heart breaking. But ya, I guess, you feel like you belong if you’re with people you feel safe around. Then you’re calmer because you know – if I’m around a group of boys that I know, you know, they’ll stand up for me; I’ll be fine.

Int: You’ll be okay.

Matilde: Yeah, they’ll fight, it’s okay. \*Laughs. I’ll run.

Int: \*Laughs. So, I take it you’ve gone out to the clubs here in South Africa and the clubs out there in Denmark.

Matilde: Yeah.

Int: Are they very different types of environments or are they very much the same?

Matilde: So, they’re the same – I want to say South Africa is very aggressive, but so is Denmark but in two completely different ways. So, when I went out in Denmark, you know, everyone just shoves everyone, but no one gets offended. Like you have to shove people to be able to walk through the club. South Africa they move and whatever, but that was really strange for me. I literally had to push someone, and they just carried on and stuff. But in South Africa it’s very aggressive in the sense of, you know, especially – I don’t want to, um… sound really bad here, but, you know, it’s a general thing that is Afrikaners have ‘brandewyn’ they get really aggressive, and they fight. There’s a lot more fights in S. A. that you can easily get caught up in; I’ve almost been caught up in a fight, because two drunk people are, you know, not able to think straight, and we’re almost caught up in that. They’re aggressive, but in different ways. Denmark it’s a lot safer, like you, you know, you also feel like the security – although the security guards in S. A. are also quite good, you know. I have gone to security guards, and I’ve said, you know, ‘I feel unsafe here’, and they will take it further. So, ya, I guess there is a sense of safety, but the stories you hear in S.A. are different from the stories you hear here.

Int: And then getting hit on, is it also different or just the same?

Matilde: Oh my gosh, so different.

Int: Really?

Matilde: So different! The Danes have a certain headspace where it’s completely selfless and it’s actually seen as a bit of an insult if you hit on a women because the Danes are very much like: “I’m not an object. I am a human.”  
And that’s like ingrained in them from childhood. So, I’ve actually, I haven’t been hit on in my past few months here. And also when, I took note once when I walked past a group of boys, I took note if they would look at my ass as they walked past me because that’s what I’m used to in South Africa. None of them turned around. So, not once have I felt objectified here, whereas in S. A. you feel objectified all the time. And like, I think there is a huge sense of entitlement as well. If you say ‘no’ in S. A. they get really angry or they don’t know why or whatever the case is. Whereas here, they are so much more respectful – ‘no’ is no, it’s not ‘convince me’. So, it’s very different. And there’s many different forms of ‘hitting on’ in S. A. from groping to objectifyingly complementing you and whatnot; yeah, it’s very different. You actually feel like you disappear here, you’re just one of the people.

Int: It’s very interesting. And you’ve said you’ve travelled quite a lot – have you gone out in other countries, is this a similar thing in Europe?

Matilde: So, I’ve only gone out in England as well, in London and Essex, and those – Essex’s is fun, I’m not going to lie. If you want a goodnight out, go out in Essex; it’s wild, it’s very wild. But ya, there’s not as much – although \*Sighs. There’s not as much groping and it’s not like aggressive, um, flirting, if I can say, as it is in in S. A. It can be quite aggressive flirting sometimes. Ya, but in London it’s also a bit more: “Okay, I need to watch out the men.” – ya they can also get a bit entitled. And also if you’re South African they think your exotic and that’s cool. But they’re generally quite nice. I haven’t had any major bad instances in London – I have had one or two, but not too many.

Int: Okay, just before we’re going to have to restart; we’re going to end off with this question, and then we’re going to restart. Did you feel as though you were free in South Africa?

Matilde: Free in what way?

Int: So, I take this from – I don’t know if you were in South Africa during the #AmINext? movement?

Matilde: Ya, I think I was.

Int: So, I take it from that context. So, this idea of, because you’re a woman in South Africa, the chances of you becoming the next victim, the next, um – ya, the next victim basically, of gender-based violence specifically. That seemed to push this movement quite forward, and this notion of freedom conflicts with this. If I have to constantly worry if I’m going to be next, am I ever really free?

Matilde: Ya. No, no, and I do agree with that cause the statistics also just show how often it happens. And the statistics also show how bad it really is. So, it’s a natural thought of ‘am I next?’, and I think a lot of women then have to add a few extra precautions or really have to make sure that they have a man or some sort of defence with them, so that they can stand up for themselves. So, I really do think that the concept of freedom is stripped from us. Whereas here, it’s a lot – like, here I would say you’re free, cause it’s very calming but in S. A. I do think that the concept of freedom is taken from you.

Int: I think you mentioned earlier that you had a friend of yours that walked home at three in the morning, drunk out of her mind. Have you done that yet or is that on your bucket list?

Matilde: No, I’m too South African for that! \*Laughs.

Int: \*Laughs.

Matilde: Like I still have the S.A mindset of ‘You do not do that’ – don’t walk down dark alleyways; like my family will happily walk down dark alleyways. And actually my cousin challenged me to sleep outside on the street, on the grass on the street. Like, “Let’s just sleep outside and I’ll show you it’s safe.”  
And I started crying because that’s, that’s pushing the line for me a little. That’s crossing that big boundary there.

Int: Ya, just the idea of – not even just sleeping outside, just like walking home alone at night, or just walking home, at night.

Matilde: Yep.

Int: Specifically, if it’s just me, if I’m on my own, there is not a chance in the world that I would do that, even if it’s in an estate. If I’m with a group of girlfriends, probably not, but – ya, that’s just shocking.

Matilde: No, it really is. And my family is luckily very accommodating with that. They know that I don’t like walking at night, especially now that the days are so much shorter. It’s pitch black by five o’clock, it starts getting really dark at half-past-four. So, if you’re coming home at six, it’s dark. So, you kind of have to walk at night, but they walk their dog and they never expect me to walk with at night, in the dark, because I’m not easy with that. I’ll walk in the day and that’s it. So, they’re, luckily, very accommodating with that, but I can’t do that; I’m still – I’ve done it, not drunk, but I have done it, but very hastily and looking behind me all the time. \*Laughs.

Int: \*Laughs.

Matilde: And if there’s a man, I’ll cross the street. \*Laughs. I’m still South African. So ingrained.

Int: It’s so ingrained. I like what you’re saying that it’s so ingrained that this justified fear that you won’s sleep outside – that’s not going to happen, okay. Maybe in a few years time, but not now.

Matilde: It’s going to take a while to step out of such a deep ingrained comfort zone.

Int: Exactly. Alright, so I’m going to stop this meeting and we’re going to restart another one.

Matilde: Okay, perfect.

Int: Welcome back!

Matilde: Thank you. It’s been a minute.

Int: So, a few – yeah, it’s been a minute. Okay, so, we’re going to talk about the physical structures of your homes, because – well you’ve moved homes now, so your South African home compared to your Danish home. Let’s start with your South African home, what does it look like from the outside and everything.

Matilde: … The physical home, like not the people?

Int: Ya, ya, the physical home.

Matilde: Okay. It’s a high wall, with fencing, and then a big garden, its quite a big house, and then ya. Big garden, and then an alarm system. We used to have bars, but ya, we don’t have that anymore – we’ve got fencing, it looks nicer. \*Laughs. And then my Danish home, is literally steps up to the doorstep. I mean to the door, the front door. We don’t have – our car is literally just outside on the street. So, you drive in from the street, park, and walk to the front door, so, yeah. And I see people walking past all the time. Also!

Int: Ya?

Matilde: Bit of a sidenote, but you’ll see why I thought of it, but the other day I was chilling at home and I saw a white van pull up. So, naturally I started freaking out because white vans are a red flag, and I locked the doors, locked the windows, and I see this man who got out of the white van in my back garden. So, I was like obviously freaking out, whatever. It was the window washer.

Int: \*Laughs.

Matilde: He was just there washing windows. And I was like: “How is that a thing, you just pay someone to come wash your windows, which means he can come, look right into your home, walk into your back garden because there’s like a little gate which is hardly ever locked; and then he can walk in, wash all the windows and then he leaves.”  
And I just thought this was the most mind-blowing thing, and I obviously as a South African was freaking out, and that’s why I locked everything and I went upstairs and I was hyperventilating, I was like: “Okay this is the end, what am I going to do.”  
Like I got myself some sort of thing I can use as a weapon. Turns out he was just there for ten minutes, washing windows, and then he left.

Int: So weird.

Matilde: There’s just a huge sense of trust here. Actually, the Danes over trust.

Int: I think I feel that as a South African, like ‘y’all people crazy, like no’.

Matilde: ‘Don’t do that, don’t just come onto my property’.

Int: No, no, no! It’s my house.

Matilde: Mmm, ya, exactly. No, exactly, and that’s why I brought that up, because you can just walk into anyone’s home, but no one does it. So weird.

Int: That’s weird. So, living in South Africa, what was your biggest fear?

Matilde: That I’d get shot. That I’d – even sometimes at home, when I’d be upstairs then I’d sometimes, it’s obviously ones of the irrational fears, I’ve fortunately never been in that situation, touch wood. But also, when you’re driving and there’s a taxi or I’m scared that I’ll be caught in between. Also when you’re out, like I’ve said I’ve been – like I’ve had a fist come in front of me as a guy was going for another guy. So, that’s not been shot, but that’s some form of violence against me when I’m not even in the situation. So, I guess general violence around – with something that’s not even relative or important. One time I was driving to work and I got turned around by cars because they said people were stoning the cars in a form of strike, which happens often but yeah, I think definitely one of my fears in being shot, even though in our area it doesn’t happen often. But it can happen.

Int: It can happen. So, have you ever had to interact with the South African Police Service?

Matilde: Ya – I’ve been pulled over, but nothing – okay, I have, when my mother passed away and then they came and investigated ‘why’. We had a detective come in and she lowkey accused us of – well, she was checking to see if we had killed my mom, which she very quickly saw that we hadn’t but.

Int: Ya.

Matilde: Ya. that’s kind of the only instance I’ve really had with the police, besides-

Int: Being pulled over ya. So, when you were pulled over what was that experience like? Was it very routine, was there an insinuation that you had to pay a bride even though you’ve done nothing wrong, or was there anything else going on?

Matilde: There definitely was an insinuation that I had to pay a bribe, even though I had done something wrong. I was driving without my license. So, which – I broke the law, and, um, she said, you know, this woman was like: “Okay, well that’s two charges, driving without your license and one other charge and she said that would be about two thousand rand.”  
And just openly said, “Well, I’m a student without a job. I don’t know how I’m going to pay that.”  
And she said, “Okay well, what are you going to do?”   
I said, “Well, I can go fetch my license and show it to you.”  
She said, “No, that’s not an option. So, what are we going to do?”  
“Well, you’ll have to give me the fine, because I” – I don’t want to bribe, that’s not, you know, morally I don’t agree with it. So, I said, “Well, give me the fine.”  
She was like: “No, is there not something else we can do?”  
I said, “Officer, I can call my dad and ask. I can make a plan, but you’ll just have to give me the fine.”  
And eventually, after this back and forth, she just let me go, after saying, “Give me the Coke.”  
\*Laughs. So, yay, I got out of a two thousand rand fine for a Coke, or a Red Bull something. And actually, she did take my ID, and she walked and wrote up my fine, and then the other officer came up and he looked so high – like his eyes were bloodshot red he was saying how hungry he was, and stuff. So, I don’t actually know if he was high because he was standing in the sun and whatnot, but they weren’t there for long, because we passed by there, bought something at the shop, and when we came back, they were there. So, they weren’t there for very long. And ya, he kept saying how um… hungry he is, how crappy his job is, he actually wanted me to marry his son. It got into a whole weird – so, they were very nice. It didn’t feel aggressive or anything, especially if you oblige and if you just be respectful, then, it was quite chilled. Eventually they just asked me if it was valid, and I said, “Yes.”  
And they said, “Okay, don’t do it again and give us the Reb Bull.”  
So, we gave them the Red Bull, and that was it.

Int: That was it, gee. So, this is something that has come up in the other interviews as well, when I ask participants, “Do you see a foreseeable future here in South Africa.”  
I did ask you if you plan on coming back and you were like: “Ah, I don’t really know, I’m quite young at the moment.”  
But is South Africa a place where you would like to settle down and possibly have a family?

Matilde: A hundred percent. I mean it’s a gorgeous place, and I love the different cultures we have. And that is one thing I do miss, is just the diversity of South Africa. And also, when we come together are one nation it is absolutely beautiful. But also, we have beautiful landscapes and everything, but, um, I do have to wonder if I brought kids up in Denmark, they’d be brought up in a calm environment. I’m so calm being here, whereas in South Africa, its like: “Okay, but this, this, this, this, this; this is what you have to look out for; this is what you have to do if you are in this situation.”  
Um, and I mean, also when I started going out a bit more, my mom started saying, “I don’t want you to go to this location because it’s just not safe.” Or “I’m only okay if your boyfriend or friends are there, I don’t want you going alone.”   
And stuff like that. So, it’s just a lot more to look out for. If it was safer, one hundred percent I’d love to raise my kids there, its just a beautiful place, and the weather is so good, so.

Int: I can’t fault you on the weather, weather is fantastic!

Matilde: And we have amazing beaches.

Int: Exactly, ya. Um, ya, that’s basically all that I have for you today. If you have any questions, concerns, or deep-seated worries, or if there’s anything you’d like to add, you are more than welcome to do so right now.

Matilde: Now, that you put me on the spot. \*Laughs. Not at the moment no.

Int: But you also have my email address, so you are more than welcome to send me anything you might find interesting, whether that be Tik-Toks, or articles, anything you find interesting or would help say something that you weren’t able to say here, your more than welcome to send that through. But ya, that’s all that I have for you today.

Matilde: I can think of a few Tik-Toks, that brought South Africa up and I’m like: “Aah that doesn’t paint us ina good light.”  
But, ya I’ll happily send stuff through to you.

Int: Okay, awesome.