Individual Interview – Rosalind

(Full time: 56:16)

Int: Hi, hello.

Rosalind: Hi Simone.

Int: How are you?

Rosalind: Good, and you?

Int: I’m glad, thanks and you. \*Laughs.

Rosalind: \*Laughs.

Int: You have read and signed the informed consent form?

Rosalind: Yes, I have.

Int: Well, read and understood the informed consent form.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Alright. So, a quick overview of what we’re going to be looking at today. We’re going to be looking at the concept of belonging, but specifically the emotional side of belonging, and we’re going to have a look at safety. And then we’re going to have a look at how belonging and safety work together within the lives of South African women. That’s basically it – do you have any questions, concerns, or deep-seated worries, you may ask them now.

Rosalind: No, thank you.

Int: I’m glad. So, like I said, we’re going to be working with the concept of belonging. There’s two sides to belonging, we have a political side and we have an emotional side. I’m focused on the emotional side, so this feeling of belonging. So, it doesn’t have to have be with where you are placed according to others or where you place your self in groups. It’s all about this emotional sense of what it means to be a part of something. So, how would you describe having this feeling of being part of something?

Rosalind: In South Africa specifically or just in general?

Int: You could go in general and then we could look at South Africa specifically.

Rosalind: Um, I feel – I think when you feel like you belong somewhere you feel safe and secure, and you feel comfortable to voice your opinion. And you are free to be yourself.

Int: And you feel this sense of belonging to South Africa or you feel a different sense of belonging to South Africa, or no belonging?

Rosalind: No, I do feel a sense of belonging to South Africa, ya.

Int: Is it different to the sense of belonging that you’ve just described or is it just the same?

Rosalind: It’s… ya. It’s very similar.

Int: Okay.

Rosalind: But obviously, like you’ve said, there is – you don’t always feel safe, but when you talk about my home or my house or whatever, then I feel safe. It is in South Africa, and I do feel like I belong here because the people who are important to me are here.

Int: Um, that is one of the things, is that we’re looking at belonging, there are two things that come into play here, we have place and we have people. For you, would you say place is more important or would you say people are more important, or that they are equally important?

Rosalind: People.

Int: People over…

Rosalind: Place, yes.

Int: So, you feel a sense of belonging to South Africa – you are a South African.

Rosalind: Mm.

Int: Through and through, no one can refute that?

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Ya. And so, you’ve just said now that you don’t feel safe in South Africa. So, in general do you feel safe in South Africa or are there pockets where you feel safe in South Africa?

Rosalind: There are pockets where I feel safe.

Int: And these pockets include like your home, and?

Rosalind: Yes, on campus specifically. Um… places that I know very well, and that I know are – how do I – not fenced… it’s secure.

Int: Ya, gated, got security.

Rosalind: Yes, yes.

Int: What about your car?

Rosalind: When I’m at home in my car, yes, but not when I’m on the road.

Int: Like just in the driveway?

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: As soon as you’re out of the driveway, you’re like, ‘Damn, this is not it’?

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Other things – like you have just said now, belonging to people it’s not just place.

Rosalind: Mm.

Int: So, does this sense of safety follow with people. So, you feel safe with certain people out of – more than other people and that’s why you belong with them?

Rosalind: …That’s a good question.

Int: Ah, thank you.

Rosalind: I think that sense of belonging is, does follow people because I don’t think you have a sense of belonging to a place.

Int: Well, we can have a look at that because you’re South African.

Rosalind: Okay.

Int: You don’t identify as any other culture?

Rosalind: No.

Int: Have you travelled overseas?

Rosalind: No.

Int: So, you have only travelled within South Africa?

Rosalind: Well, Namibia but that’s not.

Int: Yeah.

Rosalind: It’s basically a South Africa.

Int: Ya, basically – well, was a South Africa for a very long time.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: So, where have you gone and travelled in South Africa?

Rosalind: Yoh, a lot of places. Like the Cape, we have done the Natal area – all around the coast actually.

Int: And you’re from Pretoria?

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Born, grew up in Pretoria, never left Pretoria?

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Same.

Rosalind: \*Laughs.

Int: No, literally. I have lived in the same five K radius my entire life, never left.

Rosalind: Really? Well, there’s no need to go unless you have to.

Int: No, I live in Waterkloof!

Rosalind: Ya, it’s great. \*Laughs.

Int: So, you’re a Pretorian like through and through.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: So, when you go to Cape Town, do you view that as another one of your places or some area you’re just visiting?

Rosalind: It’s just a place you visit, but I don’t feel like I am out of place, because it’s still South Africa.

Int: It’s still South Africa, but you’re not a Cape Townian.

Rosalind: No.

Int: So, that’s what I mean – there might be a connection to a place.

Rosalind: Okay.

Int: You’re a Pretorian, so we speak – in my opinion, I think Pretorian people speak a little bit different to Joburg people, we drive so much more better.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: The taxis in Joburg I think they are a bit stressed about Joburg drivers. I do not deal with Joburg drivers very well.

Rosalind: Mm.

Int: Cape Town drivers – they all just running on Tic, I promise you.

Rosalind: \*Laugh. They are. There is a – what do you call it, a ‘hast’ about them.

Int: Ya, no. It’s mad. Like I get you live by the sea, but don’t you have a place to be it’s such a metropolitan place, like come on guys let’s move – let’s put foot please.

Rosalind: You know, I don’t want to know.

Int: I swear to God, I’ve seen a car going backwards it was going so slow.

Rosalind: \*Laughs.

Int: \*Laughs. Um, let’s move on and go… has this sense of belonging to South Africa or to your family has it been constant throughout your life or has it changed, has it gotten deeper has it gotten less?

Rosalind: I think it gets deeper as you get to know yourself more.

Int: ‘Get to know yourself more’ – and this, well lack of safety that you’ve felt outside of these pockets in South Africa, is that something you have always felt or is that something you grew up and realised?

Rosalind: I think it is something that you always feel, because you’re always know about the dangers of it. Especially if you’ve been warned about it since you were young, so.

Int: Were you warned about it since you were young.

Rosalind: Yes, ya.

Int: And you parents would be like… I don’t know. What would they be like?

Rosalind: They were like, ‘You are not allowed to go outside the school area, unless there’s a specific reason’. Um, where I was in primary school ah… what do you call it – the aftercare.

Int: Ya, ya.

Rosalind: The ‘Naaskool’.

Int: Ya, ya, the ‘Nasskool’.

Rosalind: Yes. It was literally on the school grounds so I never had to leave school. Um, and if I had to wait for my parents to pick me up, I would wait inside the school gates, um, things like that. So, it’s like you always stay like secure areas.

Int: Ya, ya. Don’t wonder around; stranger danger.

Rosalind: Yes! Don’t getting into someone’s car that you don’t know.

Int: Basic knowledge that you think.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Um, were you taught type of stuff at school, in school?

Rosalind: I think it was probably mentioned, but I don’t remember.

Int: Wasn’t too scary, just like, ‘Oh ya, I’ve heard about this before’.

Rosalind: Ya, I think it was something like that.

Int: So, we grew up with these, I don’t want to say warnings but – warnings.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: And instructions on how to be safe in South Africa, like you don’t get into another car, you don’t-

Rosalind: Don’t walk with your phone out.

Int: Exactly. And this sense of conscious safety – is safety always on your mind or in the back of your mind and only comes up sometimes?

Rosalind: I think it’s always on my mind, especially with my dad’s job as a forensic investigator and all of those things – all the things you hear about it. It – you always have to be constantly aware, even if you are on campus or in a safe part, you always have to be aware; you can’t be lacking.

Int: Yes. Like you say, there are safe pockets in South Africa but where are also places where you feel like you just can’t go, either as a woman or alone.

Rosalind: Taxis, just walking on the sidewalk, only on big road, can’t do that. Can’t go jogging unless it’s in an estate. Um… ya, stuff like that.

Int: But when you’re with people, you’ll do it, not easily?

Rosalind: It depends on who I’m with.

Int: Okay.

Rosalind: And if I – let’s say if I were to walk, like sometimes I walk to \*a friend’s place, even that I was very uncomfortable with in the beginning of it. But when I’m with a group of people I feel – you know, safety in numbers.

Int: No, it really is. Ya.

Rosalind: And then I’m going to run faster than everyone else so.

Int: \*Laughs. But that’s the whole thing, you don’t have to be the best fighter, you just have to be able to run faster than the slowest person. That’s really it.

Rosalind: \*Laughs. Yes. But ya, so it depends. Like I can’t go hiking on my own, with all the stuff that’s happened. So that’s something that’s really bad for me because I love nature, and sometimes you need your alone time hey.

Int: Ya, no. It’s nice to go for a hike on your own – like I speak from like going to resorts and stuff like that, because then I will hike on my own because I know it’s completely secure all the way around.

Rosalind: Yes, ya.

Int: But not a chance would I go to Wolvespruit now and go for a hike alone.

Rosalind: No, you can’t, you can’t. Even if – can’t go with a friend, a female friend. It has to be with - \*Fiancé has to be with me, or some other guy, I don’t know. You can’t go alone as a woman.

Int: So, what we’re basically talking about are these safety precautions that we take just because we have to.

Rosalind: Mm.

Int: Do you have any other daily safety precautions that you take all the time?

Rosalind: Like I always drive with my windows closed, my car’s always locked. Whenever I walk somewhere, I don’t carry my phone in my hand, I put it in a bag. Always check that my car is locked, triple times because of the remote jamming that they have. Always aware of your surroundings, so you don’t walk with earphones in your ears, so you can hear if anything is going on. I think it’s being aware of your surroundings; being aware if someone is following you, being aware if a car is behind you, being aware of who is around you – what are they doing, are they looking at you, what are their intentions.

Int: Mm, exactly. Um, and then when you went to Namibia did the same thing follow you?

Rosalind: Sense of safety?

Int: Ya, well the almost like safety consciousness, like being always aware.

Rosalind: Um, well, we drove – so, we drove there through Botswana and that was a bit scary because Botswana is rough. There you are in a different country, you don’t know the people there and you know it’s a very poor country. So, there you’re very conscious of your safety. And then when we got into Namibia, I would say I felt very safe because there’s literally nothing.

Int: There is like nothing in Namibia expect for like retirement homes and like a diamond field.

Rosalind: Ya, we drove for like twelve hours and it was just like sand everywhere.

Int: How beautiful, like stunning.

Rosalind: Ya, a bit depressing.

Int: \*Laughs. Have you ever driven to Langenbaan?

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: That to me is the worst drive ever because there is nothing on either side – well, there is sea and beach, I don’t know, like grassy beach land. But it’s nothing. And that the exact same thing, and that’s like the worse drive I have ever done in my entire life.

Rosalind: I think it’s worse in Namibia because there’s not even plants or water when you drive there.

Int: Ya, ya, it’s a dessert.

Rosalind: Ya, when you go to the ocean you will look at the waves, sometimes you’ll see a whale, sometimes you will see a dolphin, but like in Namibia it’s literally like desolate. Because if something were to happen, when would they find you?

Int: \*Laughs. That’s not a bad way to look at it because there is a stretch of highway in Namibia where I think they call it like ‘death zone’, because if you crash out there…

Rosalind: Ya, no one’s going to find you.

Int: No one’s going to find you, you’re screwed, like that’s it. \*Coughs, sorry. So, ya with these safety precautions they kind of link into how we build our houses in South Africa. Our houses are fortresses.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: So, if we go through the safety precautions that are set on your house, what are they like?

Rosalind: Um, all of our doors are always locked. We have like a Trellidor, so we can keep it open – keep the air coming through, but it’s still locked. Um, never – I personally never sleep with open windows, and I know my parents do, even though we have beams I don’t like doing that. Also not… what do you call it, a ‘stoop’?

Int: Ah, a patio?

Rosalind: Yes, but the top one.

Int: A balcony.

Rosalind: A balcony ya. Even with a Trellidor, I never sleep with it open, even in an estate with patrols every hour. And we’ve lived for like fourteen years and never broken-in, but still you feel that you need to do these things. Even my mom, she refuses to leave our keys downstairs, she takes it upstairs, you can’t take the cars and whatnot. Even when our gardener is there, everything is locked, he can’t get into the house. He can only get into the back room, or whatever, where the stuff is. Stuff like that.

Int: So, with these like safety precautions that we have and everything – do you feel safe? When you have locked your door on the balcony, when your mom has taken the keys upstairs, like do you feel safe when all these measures are put in place?

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Okay. Have you ever experienced crime while you were in South Africa.

Rosalind: Um… not actually something that happened, but was actually traumatic, was one time when I was younger I went with my mom to one of the malls, Woodlands, and there was… I think it was Pep. We went into Pep, but it was really quite and it – I don’t know why but it was very dimly lit and there were these, I don’t know, they looked like construction workers. They were walking around there. And now, we were in the fitting room and I fitting clothes and if something didn’t fit, my mom went – she wanted to get a different size. So, she locked me in the room, and while she wasn’t there, there was literally someone standing outside of the room and I could see his boot standing there. I was literally in my underwear, because I didn’t have my clothes on, and I was scared shitless because if he wanted to break the door down, he could have and no one would know; even later on when we went out of the fitting room and we went to go get shoes, he was standing right across us, and I was standing here and he kept on getting closer to the point where my mom said, “Let’s just go.” Because we were scared, because that was the time when they snatched little girls.

Int: Ya, ya.

Rosalind: So, that was one thing that was pretty scary. Um… I don’t think anything else really has happened to me personally.

Int: Have you ever had to interact with the South African Police Force?

Rosalind: Yes, when they pull you over other than that, no.

Int: How was that experience?

Rosalind: No, it’s very stressful.

Int: Stressful. Were you in the wrong or was it just asking for a bribe kind of situation?

Rosalind: Yes, we were in the wrong a bit.

Int: Okay, then it’s somewhat fair.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: How was that experience – did you think that the officer handled it professionally, was he unprofessional, was he overtly unnecessary, was there good procedure in place like he was a good cop, or she?

Rosalind: I wouldn’t say he was a good cop, because he was asking for a bribe, so.

Int: Ohh.

Rosalind: But I think with most of them it is like that.

Int: Ya. I think a guy literally got arrested now, an illegal, got arrested now because he stole a metro-police uniform, and was literally just pulling people over – like just for the bribes. And you know what, entrepreneurs come in all forms, because no one reports this stuff.

Rosalind: No, where do you report it? I mean, the police.

Int: Exactly. It’s a terrible cycle of doing nothing.

Rosalind: No, even if something were to – oh, something that did happen, but it wasn’t a crime. When I was still at Prinsoff – the medical campus. You know what area?

Int: Ya, ya.

Rosalind: It’s very sketchy.

Int: Ya, it’s Town.

Rosalind: So, my battery of my car was very dodgy at the time, like it was near it’s end. So, it was a Friday afternoon, I think it was like two or whatever, and my car didn’t want to start. Got someone there, helped me jump start the car, and as soon as I got outside the gate my car started dying. And I drove because I wanted to get home as soon as possible. And then my car died, like literally didn’t want to start at all, dead, like completely – like I couldn’t even put on my safety indicators. And I was like in the middle of the lanes, like the most right lane. And it was just in front of a robot, and at the robot there was an accident as well. And there were so many cars, and it was the sketchy part like literally I think like a block away is the house with all the druggies and stuff.

Int: Oh, yes ya, I know exactly where it is.

Rosalind: Ya, so I was there. And literally no one stopped, no one helped, and I was too afraid to ask because you don’t know.

Int: Exactly.

Rosalind: So, I literally have to push my own car up a hill to get out of the way, and I just sat there, phone dad, phoned \*Fiancé. Both of them came through, but it’s far away so it took them like half an hour to get there. That was quite traumatic because you’re sitting there – basically a sitting duck. So that was very traumatic, but I wanted to say in a case if something happens, I wouldn’t phone the police, I would phone my parents. Or I would phone Roadside Assistance. I have Tracker, so if anything happens, I press my panic button and then ya.

Int: Ya, you feel a lot safer knowing that you have Tracker and all of these things in place.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: With these – sorry, I just lost my train of thought. Um, we’ll come back to that.

Rosalind: Okay.

Int: Oh, how do you view the South African Police Force? What’s your perception of the South African Police Force?

Rosalind: Oh, it’s negative. I don’t think that they get anything done. And like I said, I wouldn’t phone them if I was in any situation if I need to – I would only go to them if I had to. Even when – the reason why I don’t drive alone at night, is because if they pull you over there is nothing – I don’t feel safe. They can do whatever they want because they have power.

Int: Ya, they’re the police.

Rosalind: So, no.

Int: One of the things that does keep on coming up constantly, is that people will go to the police to report that their phone has been stolen.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: And if affidavits could be done at insurance companies, they wouldn’t even go to the police. They wouldn’t even bother.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: Which is quite scary because I drove past Brooklyn Police Station on the way here and I mean like it’s busy. There are people, and it’s busy, it’s busy, and you’ve got like two people chilling outside. And like… even their presence is unsettling.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Like I do not like that part of Hatfield. That part of Hatfield is like.

Rosalind: Ya, I never even drive past there – I hate driving past it.

Int: But ya. How would you describe your life as a South African woman living in South Africa?

Rosalind: In terms of?

Int: Just in general.

Rosalind: Um… I think there are a lot of people, a lot of women that need to be more aware of their safety, need to be aware of what you’re wearing especially. I know there are a lot of things about the freedom to wear what you want to wear, freedom of expression, but there is a point to what you do. If you’re going to dress up as, just a bra and a panty and whatnot, you’re going to attract attention. If that’s unwanted or not, you’re bringing that attention to you. You always need to be aware of these things.

Int: Ya, you can’t cover yourself in honey and then walk outside and not expect yourself-

Rosalind: Exactly.

Int: The bees to come after you.

Rosalind: Yes. And then complain about what happened. That’s not victim blaming, you just need to be aware of these things. You can still dress up attractive and feel good about yourself and not be looking like a prostitute.

Int: Ya. I think the issue comes in that you should be able to do these things.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: But ‘should’ is an idealistic term.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Like that is maybe something that might happen in the future, but right now we’re not in a position where that can be a realistic thing.

Rosalind: I don’t think it will be able to happen because men will be men. And that’s the thing, they – one thing that you have to. Not all men, but some just don’t have – are able to control their impulses. And that’s just how men are, that’s just how women are, and that’s just what happens, and you just need to be aware of this. And if you choose to go out in whatever you want to wear, you need to be able to handle yourself. Don’t go out alone, don’t go out with just female friends, go out with a guy friend. You need to take precautions. You need to be aware of these things.

Int: So, just taking off what you’ve been speaking – you go out, you’re a student. I mean like, you’ve gone out to The Strip or?

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: And how was that experience?

Rosalind: Ahh, it’s a bit intense.

Int: Ya, The Strip’s intense.

Rosalind: It’s very intense.

Int: I give this situation to some of my participants: so, I’ve a got a cousin coming from Germany. She really wants to go on a jol. Could you please give her a ‘survival guide’ to The Strip – so like, ‘do’s and don’ts’ of The Strip – to make this a good, safe, night out.

Rosalind: Don’t drive there. Don’t park your car there, that’s the thing: never park there. Number two, don’t go out alone. If you go, go with friends, people that you trust, people that you know, people that are aware of your safety – and make sure that the people you go out with will look after you. So, if you get shitfaced and you don’t remember anything that happened, there will be someone that will look after you, take you and make sure you get home safe, but if you’re with people that all just want to get shitfaced and no one will look after you and know where you are then you shouldn’t go. And I think, the best would be, don’t stay there after twelve PM I would say. Leave like, one or two-ish, I would say the latest. But don’t stay till four, five – literally, that guy was shot at five in the morning.

Int: Ya, that was insane.

Rosalind: So, and yah, if you’re staying out at that time you’re looking for trouble. Um… if you… oh, if you go out make sure you have a bag where you can put your phones in and stuff – don’t put it in your back pocket, don’t carry it in your hand. I have like a fanny-pack, I love my fanny-pack. Or a chest bag or that little small bag from like Cotton-on that you just like crosses over. Anything that can close like properly that any – they’d have to – you would be aware if-

Int: Ya, they would have to grab you to grab it.

Rosalind: Ya. Don’t take your entire wallet with you, just take your cards or just your phone to tap with because with your cards they can tap with the machines whenever they want, unless you have an RDfied blocker, but with your phone you actually have to type in the thing so. I think those are some of the things that you can do; be aware of what you are doing, um… ya.

Int: So, one of the things that has come out quite consistently throughout the interviews was the fear of spiking. Are you afraid of spiking? Is that something you think about as well?

Rosalind: Yes, so whenever I go out what I usually do is I keep the bottle cap, I just twist my bottle closed again. I guess if it’s one of those mixes that you have, in that case I will try to finish it as quickly as possible – um, or share, because usually it’s specials; you share the special with someone else. But otherwise, I’ll just buy mixes – pre-mixers bottles. I wouldn’t want to have an open bottle. And also, it’s really gross so. Also, I wouldn’t go leave my drink anywhere, but I must say – I don’t want to say that I’m privileged, but I have \*Fiancé. And he is usually the one – he doesn’t drink a lot – so, he’s always watching over or he’s watching out for my drink, I can leave my drink and go and dance. But if you don’t have that, I think you have to – you would have to be more aware. For me, I’m comfortable.

Int: Ya, because you’ve got these safety things in place.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Have you ever been spiked? Do you know of anyone who has been spiked?

Rosalind: Yes, I know of a few people that have been spiked, but I have never been spiked before.

Int: Ah, we’ve been through that one… so, we’re talking about what you describe your life as a South African woman, was it – it’s dangerous. You have to be aware of your safety and all of this. And we do take a lot of steps to make sure that we are safe, I mean we have spoken about your house, you have taken a lot of steps there, when you go out there are a lot of safety precautions that you take – you’re very aware, you’re always watching. Then we have a situation of the ‘#AmINext?’ situation, where – I don’t know if you were on Tuks campus when we heard about Uynene, the UCT student that was killed in the Post Office; raped, killed, mutilated in a Post Office.

Rosalind: Hectic.

Int: And literally, she went – she did what she was supposed to do – went to the Post Office and that was where she was raped, murdered, mutilated. So, we do all of this stuff to try to keep ourselves safe, but at the end of the day it doesn’t seem like we are safe, so the question becomes, ‘why do we do all of this?’. Why do we check our drinks, why do we fortify our houses, why do we go out with guy friends? Why do we try to protect ourselves so much when it perhaps doesn’t work, or doesn’t keep us safe actually?

Rosalind: We don’t want to make it easy.

Int: Hmm.

Rosalind: Like if I’m going to get killed, might as well just fight it. Um, that’s my whole thing. It decreases your risk, the risk is still there, it doesn’t go away and you’ll always be caused to be conscious about that, but if you take the steps, the necessary steps, you are decreasing you are decreasing your risk. I mean it’s like, um, safe sex. There’s still a chance for you to get an STD if you do everything that you are supposed to do, or if you don’t want to get pregnant, there’s always a risk of it happening but it decreases your risk.

Int: Yeah. Um, so do you plan on remaining in South Africa for the foreseeable future?

Rosalind: No.

Int: Why not?

Rosalind: Um, one of the reasons is that there really is not a future for me as scientist here. I must say, one of the good things here is I think the ‘Afrigen’, where they make our vaccines – no, ‘Afrivac’. In the Cape, I think it’s in the Cape. They built the thing there to make our own vaccines. And that’s one great thing actually that I think is a good asset for us, because we had to get all of our vaccines from overseas; and apparently, we are the only country in Africa that produces vaccines.

Int: Really?

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Well, it makes sense, I mean like if you look into South Africa in Africa-

Rosalind: Infrastructure.

Int: We’re one of the better countries to be in.

Rosalind: Yes, ya.

Int: I know we have the biggest TB organisation or like HIV organisation, as well.

Rosalind: Mm.

Int: So, we have like a lot of these places to do research, but like you say you can do the research but you have to like send it over to get the vaccine or.

Rosalind: Yes. So, we’re getting there but I think it’s – I would love to come back. I love South Africa, I think it’s a beautiful country, and I would – my people ae here. I don’t feel a sense of belonging overseas, and I don’t think I would. If there’s other South Africans, even if everyone went with me that I loved, it’s not ‘home’. Even though I said it’s not a place-

Int: It’s ‘home’.

Rosalind: It’s culture, it’s what you know; it’s comfort even though you know it’s not safe. I think that’s when I would probably move more to the Cape side. I think it is more developed. It’s ah – it’s a different vibe there.

Int: Ya, no, Cape Town is completely – it’s a different country when you’re in like-

Rosalind: It is, it is. And they – I think here, it’s just… they actually want to get stuff done there. Here, we’re kept behind by corruption-

Int: It’s like three steps froward, two steps back.

Rosalind: Yes. Um, so what I think what I would want to do is go overseas, experience – and then if like opportunities arise, I would want to come back to South Africa but if not then it doesn’t happen because there are so many South Africans overseas that are basically scattered across the world.

Int: I think there are pockets of South Africans all over the place.

Rosalind: Australia, New Zealand, or Canada.

Int: Also like the US, the UK.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: There’s so many all over the place.

Rosalind: So, even if it’s not possible to come back, I think it’s just better in terms of job security, in terms of actual security – no place is safe, but.

Int: Places are safer.

Rosalind: Yes. And ya… I just, loadshedding, literally.

Int: \*Laughs. Looks like we’re going to be on constant stage three for the next two years.

Rosalind: Yes. How are we supposed to survive on that?

Int: I don’t know.

Rosalind: And how are we supposed to pay an increase of eighteen percent?

Int: Did you hear, it was supposed to be thirty-five. Thirty-five, that’s insane.

Rosalind: On a service that you don’t get.

Int: Exactly.

Rosalind: For something that I don’t get.

Int: A lot of South Africans are moving over to Solar, I think that is – but apparently we’re going to be taxed on Solar; going to be paying a mandatory nine hundred Rand.

Rosalind: Yes, ya.

Int: And if you don’t use Eskom, it’s fine they still get your nine hundred Rand.

Rosalind: It’s still like what happened with the whole networks era – Netflix and Disney because no one was buying Dstv anymore.

Int: Oh?

Rosalind: They wanted to tax you and you’d have to pay.

Int: But like your ‘Tv-licence’ – geez, I remember Tv-licenses.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: Well, I suppose they still exist.

Rosalind: They still exist, you’re supposed to do that.

Int: I just don’t think – I don’t know of anyone with a Tv-license.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: Out of all my friends who have Tv’s – I don’t know, do you get your Tv-license when you buy a Tv?

Rosalind: I think so. Ya, I think you-

Int: I think you have to.

Rosalind: I think you have to, ya.

Int: Because I know it funds the SABC one, two, and tree.

Rosalind: Yes, yes, yes. No, you have to. But the thing is, like every time you find a solution a new problem is created. And that’s just exhausting.

Int: The research that I did two years ago in my Honours year. There was this sense, that we are heading towards a societal collapse.

Rosalind: Mm.

Int: Do you share that sense, do you think that’s overexaggerated?

Rosalind: I think things will get worse before they get better.

Int: Ya, I share that one as well. I think there going to be a \*pop.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: And then there’s going to be a rebuild.

Rosalind: Yes. And if you want something to change you have to change the system, and for the system to change it need to be completely redone.

Int: Yeah, I mean our government system is – I mean, it’s always been corrupt.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: I mean even during the apartheid, you always have corruption in governments.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: But it’s now, I think it’s blatant-

Rosalind: Accountability.

Int: Accountability, that’s the thing.

Rosalind: Like, you can do it, you’ll be found guilty and it will be a slap on the wrist – ‘lets put you in a different position’.

Int: Ya.

Rosalind: I mean even – what did they call it, I can’t remember the word. When they – when you are in one position, lets say police minister; you’re found guilty of corruption, then you’re fined, you’re suspended, and then you are moved to traffic minister. Then you go from traffic minister-

Int: Oh. I think it’s ‘reshuffling’.

Rosalind: Yeah, something like that. And that’s the issue. Like when you look at Finland, when you look at Sweden, when you look at – there was thing other country, where, umm… even I think it was Britain as well, he went to a party in COVID and he had to resign.

Int: Oh, yeah, Boris.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Boris Johnson.

Rosalind: Even in Finland I think also.

Int: Oh the Finish health minister, I think she was the one who got so much heat, because she is morbidly obese – morbidly obese.

Rosalind: Oh okay.

Int: And she is Finland’s health minister, and they’re like at the World Health, like ‘How can you be a health minister, if you’re so unhealthy?’. And then you had South Africa’s heath minister who was like, “You can sure Aids with beetroot and onions.” I’ll never forget that.

Rosalind: Or ‘Shower’.

Int: Yeah, shower – “Shower off the Aids. You’ll be fine.” Geez, Zuma.

Rosalind: Yeah.

Int: Zuma did many things to this country, none of which I think was good.

Rosalind: None.

Int: What I do think he did which was good was unify the country in the sense of give the country a common enemy and we’ll fight together. I mean I think the ‘Zuma must go was the only’, was probably the only protest that I have seen where black and white people have actively worked together, who are angry but like black people teaching white people how to – not totise, what do you call it? Um… protest songs and stuff like that.

Rosalind: Okay.

Int: Which I thought was quite interesting.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: But ya, so this sense that we are heading towards a societal collapse, like I understand. One of the main things that I think are attached to this, because I did my research on English-speaking white South Africans, is where do the white South African place themselves. So, the English South African has a little bit of a situation which the Afrikaans South African doesn’t share because their language isn’t South African.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: And their culture isn’t really easily defined, however, Afrikaans culture is easily defined.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: And being Afrikaans do you feel a stronger sense of belonging to South Africa because you can speak a South African language?

Rosalind: Yes. And I can understand where you come from as someone that can’t speak Afrikaans, and it’s like – you asked me the question: What is a white South Africans’ heritage? We don’t have a heritage. I think our heritage is Voortrekker Monument, and that’s it.

Int: Ya. And the thing with heritage is that it’s something that we inherit, and if we’re looking at what we inherit as a country it’s violence.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: I mean we have an extremely violent history – this is my issues with schools, like yes we have to learn about apartheid, one thousand percent we have to learn about it.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: And we have to learn about it in-depth, because it’s not something we can forget about and it’s not something we can sweep under the rug.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: However, what we don’t ever really focus on is the Anglo-Boer War.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: Which I find really interesting because the Anglo-Boer War wasn’t white versus black. It wasn’t.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: It was English versus South African – the Boer were farmers, and they had farm workers who were black men and they had families on these farms. It wasn’t – I don’t want to say an ‘unoppressive’ system, because I’m sure there was some oppression involved in the system. But when you’ve got a situation where people of different races are uniting against a much more powerful common enemy.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: I think is something we should be teaching in schools.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: And that’s not what we’re teaching in schools. Yeah, but that’s a different research project – um, you said, you would like to come back to South Africa.

Rosalind: Mm.

Int: Um, would you like to raise – I don’t know, would you like to have kids?

Rosalind: I cannot see having kids in the foreseeable future, no, because of the world that we live in. Honestly, we’re eight billion people, I don’t think we should add to that. And also… for me it’s blurred lines. This whole thing of freedom of speech, freedom of being yourself, of loving everyone, also comes dangers of people abusing the system like for instance having unisex bathrooms. You have transgenders, you have people that identify as lesbian, who identify as – whatever, all the genders.

Int: Yeah, fifty-two, fifty-four.

Rosalind: Fifty genders. Now let’s – and there will always be someone taking advantage of that.

Int: Yes.

Rosalind: So, in schools – I spoke to another guy, he has a young daughter and he said that he’s afraid for his daughter in school, because in bathrooms, they are allowed to go to the same bathrooms. How do you teach at a young age that it is not okay to have someone look at you, touch you, or whatnot and still have that sense that you can be who you want and not forcing someone in a box. And it opens ways to dangers, and I think that’s something that people don’t get. Everyone jumped into the bandwagon with LGBTQ, be who you want to be whatnot – yes, by all means I don’t care. But there’s implications to that.

Int: Yes, like you said there are great people but there are also bad people, and you get bad people everywhere.

Rosalind: Ya. In all different shapes and sizes.

Int: Just because you’re gay doesn’t mean you’re a good person. And I think that’s what a lot of people got swept up with is that, this is an oppressed group, one thousand percent it is a group that has been oppressed, but just because someone has been oppressed does not mean that they cannot become the oppressor.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Which is the truth that I think a lot of people are grappling with. Like you said it’s difficult to have kids in this situation where you’re like ‘you should be who you want, but there are so many things that you need to be aware of’. Um, I mean your parents obviously had a kid, they had to be like, “Hey listen, there are so many things that you need to be aware of.” Do you remember those conversations with your parents?

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: Do you remember them being really sacred or – like you said, you went to Pep with your mom and a situation happened, did there have to be a conversation after like, “Hey \*Rosalind, you need to be careful. What happened today could have gone really badly, because of x, y, and z.”

Rosalind: Yes, I think I was a bit older so it wasn’t necessary for another chat to be had on that, but what I think the conversations that we had, weren’t negative it was in the sense that I’m teaching you something. So, I didn’t have a negative connotation to that. Um, I think my parents are also very – because I’m an only child they were very receptive and very conscious of how my behaviour was. So, if I ever seemed off they would ask me what happened, they would never leave me – I would never go to sleepovers. I only went to sleepovers if my parents knew the parents, and if I was friends with them for a long time, and sometimes that’s not enough, but that’s – it’s not like I was allowed to go to wherever I wanted. Even after school I went straight home, I didn’t have time to walk around.

Int: And be naughty.

Rosalind: Yeah.

Int: So, what’s your biggest fear living in South Africa?

Rosalind: Being raped.

Int: Number one fear. Yeah, let’s get into that for a little bit because rape is never really about sexual gratification, its all about power. And, in my opinion, I think it comes from masculinity’s entitlement to the female body, so like if you look at how the female gender is kind of defined, it’s defined as the ‘other’ of masculinity; so whatever a man is a woman is not. If a man is strong a woman is weak, if a man is rational, a woman is irrational.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: If a man is, well, ration, a woman is emotional.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: And then if we look at sexuality, it’s kind of the same things. The female sexuality is the other of masculinity – if male sexuality is active, female sexuality is passive. So, it’s something to take no – so, you take a woman’s virginity, men’s virginity we don’t really talk about.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: I don’t know, I think it’s a dirty little secret that boys keep beneath their beds, but we’ll get into that. So, this fear is that something that all South African women share or all women share?

Rosalind: I don’t know if all women share it, I think there is always that thought in the back of your head, especially in South Africa. It’s the rape centre of the world.

Int: Yeah, that was a thing – there is an article, um, ‘South Africa: The Republic of Sexual Abuse’. And it makes a lot of sense, we’ve got some of the highest rape rates in the world, some of the highest gender-based violence rates in the world. And you can sit and argue like, ‘Okay, we have better reporting systems, and we can have these kinds of statistics out’, and probably Afghanistan is probably worse, India is probably worse, but you cannot dispute the fact that it is still-

Rosalind: A problem.

Int: That it is still really high. I think it’s one in every three women will be abused by their partner. That’s one in three, we are two here if we had another woman then it would be one of us.

Rosalind: Every minute I think – every minute a woman is assaulted in South Africa.

Int: Yeah, and it’s insane.

Rosalind: It’s insane.

Int: So, we have this situation where – I mean, one of my biggest fears as well is rape. That is something that I fear and that is something that I think about, is like ‘If this happens, I’d die’ – I’d die, I’d die. Cool, we’ll deal with that in the afterlife, I’m sure Jesus will throw down hell fire.

Rosalind: \*Laughs.

Int: But if you’re raped you go on with that.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: And one participant I was talking to, she was like, and that’s what she respects about these victims because she would have ended it, and I understand.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: I understand why people wouldn’t want to live, and they don’t want to live with that burden. Is that something you think as well, is, God forbid, if that were to happen you’d not want to live with it or you would fight and try to push it?

Rosalind: I think it’s both. Like I think you won’t know until you’re in the situation. On one side I think I would wish that I would want to be an advocate and that I would want to show people that you can move on from this because you shouldn’t give the, um… what do you call it – the aggressor? The gratification of taking your life as well. Um, then I think they win more because they didn’t just take your safety, they didn’t just take your body, they took your life as well. And I think that’s worse. But ‘offing’, I can understand, how do you live with that? I mean.

Int: It’s a terrible thing to think about honestly.

Rosalind: I don’t know – I really don’t know if I would be able to. Honestly, if I were ever put into a situation where I knew something like that were to happen, I would rather just get killed before anything could happen. I would rather just get killed.

Int: Just run into oncoming traffic before anything could touch you.

Rosalind: Jump out of a car.

Int: Yeah, do what you have to do. So, we have a situation in Iran. I don’t know if you know what’s going on there?

Rosalind: No.

Int: In Iran a lot of the women – it’s the. There is a compulsory wearing of Hijab, so the head scarf.

Rosalind: Yes, yes.

Int: And an activist was killed for kind of pushing against this.

Rosalind: Oh, ya. Stood on the car and took off the Hajib.

Int: Yes, and that just got pushed further, and further, and now-

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: There was literally a full-on revolt. It wasn’t just the women, men as well. I mean I think there were a group of men that walked out of the university classes because they refused to let women in.

Rosalind: Yeah.

Int: And you do have activisms from both men and women. So, a lot of these activist have unfortunately been imprisoned.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: And the bodies are starting to show up, because I mean you can only torture a body so much for so long before they die. And that is done because they live in an oppressive system. In South Africa, we literally just spoke about the gender-based violence and stuff like that, we are a country that is oppressive towards women because we have these rape fears.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Do you think it’s ever going to get to a point where we kind of mirror Iran’s response – I mean we had the ‘#AmINext?’. I don’t know if you were on campus.

Rosalind: No.

Int: I mean I was on campus, and it was one of the most… I don’t want to say scary, but it was an eye-opening experience.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: I mean everyone was there sitting in class and we got the news about what had happened and from there a lot of the activism came up, and everyone was talking about these – like, ‘Listen, it doesn’t just happen like this, it happens in secret’. And I mean, Tuks had like a memorial service where everyone – anyone whose had an experience with sexual violence would go and speak about that. And then there were protests that followed and it got to that point where the protests got like very, very aggressive, especially in Cape Town, the police had to be called, riot gears were worn, they were shooting students with water guns and rubber bullets, and it just got more violent as time went on, like it did in Iran. So, we do have the capability for it to go in that way, it just wasn’t sustained.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: However, if this happens enough times, do you think we’ll get to a point where we’ll depart from two days of activism and go on to fight, and fight, and fight – or is that just kind of how we deal with things, we scream about it for a few minutes and then we’ve got all our aggression out, ‘let’s move forward’.

Rosalind: I… okay, first question, I don’t think we would end up like Iran, I think there’s - a lot of people, yes, that are willing to fight, but there are also a lot of people willing to keep the peace.

Int: Yea.

Rosalind: And I think that is one thing about South Africa – you always have those groups who want to fight and protest, but you always have that other group that advocate for peace, and peaceful protesting. Um, and… I don’t – I hope it wouldn’t, I don’t think it would. What was the second question?

Int: No, that was basically it. Um, ya that’s basically, ya, I think all that we need to get through today – oh, so you said you would like to come back to South Africa. Push factors is ‘It’s just not a good place to be a scientist’, I mean safety, security, all of that.

Rosalind: Yes, yes.

Int: Pull factors being, actual South Africans – what’s it, the country?

Rosalind: The cultural, the beautiful landscape, whatnot, like the weather.

Int: The weather. So, the things – besides weather – it’s South Africans.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: What is it about South Africans that just make you go, ‘These are my people’?

Rosalind: I think it’s because we all went through – we all know the history, but we all went through the same shit.

Int: Ya, ya.

Rosalind: And like you said, it kind of unites you. If you go to a country that hasn’t been oppressed, that doesn’t have these issues you’re not really… do you feel any relatedness to them. I don’t know if it’s the same.

Int: Ya, you didn’t grow up together

Rosalind: Yes. I don’t know if it’s the same in Germany with the whole, you know, nazis.

Int: World War One, World War Two. Cold War.

Rosalind: I mean I think if you go through shit, I think it makes you stronger as a nation somehow. And I think that’s part of it, the culture. It’s not just people it’s the culture that we have of diversity, of being inclusive, of being kind, of being helpful, being considerate, because if you go to… like Europe, there’s a lot of white people there and I don’t think they have the same culture of being, of being this. They don’t know diversity. We are actually privileged in that sense, we were forced to be, and if we could all – you shouldn’t oppress one because they are less.

Int: Yes of course.

Rosalind: Even if they are a minority. And I think with us, we have that diversity. Even in the office, what I’ve realised and appreciated is that we are such a diverse group. We have people from different tribes, we have people speaking different languages. There’s a girl that speaks – she’s from Joburg, she knows the Joburg cultures. Another girl from Cape Town. Um, white, black, Indian, Asian, whatnot, we have all the people. And that’s what I appreciate because you learn to be open minded because you learn about different cultures, especially different religions. I think as a country we are very Christian.

Int: Yah, the majority of the beliefs are Christian, but within Christianity we have a lot of demonisations.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: I mean specifically South African, I mean ZCC’s you will only find in South Africa.

Rosalind: Yes, ya, ya.

Int: And I mean, Tutu – ahh Desmond Tutu, I miss Tutu. He was a cool archbishop.

Rosalind: \*Laughs.

Int: I think he’s – no, I think he died.

Rosalind: Ya, he did.

Int: Ya, he would have been like a hundred and fifteen now so.

Rosalind: I think he did die. So, that’s what I appreciate the inclusivity.

Int: The inclusivity ya.

Rosalind: Um, the one thing when I first came to university. So, I was obviously in an Afrikaans Christian high school. I was in Waterkloof.

Int: Very diverse.

Rosalind: We literally had two, or three black people – learners in school. And they spoke Afrikaans. So, for me it was, I always grew up with that. I was in a bubble. When I came to university, it was joh, an eye-opener. There were people smoking, there were people wearing hijabs, there were people with tattoos or piercings, there were people who were goths, people who were lesbians. And I mean these were all things that were – I didn’t see before. And something that I really appreciated because it makes you grow as a person. I’m a very curious person, so for me it’s I want to know more. It’s not that – I don’t have to agree with you but I would like to know more about it, and it makes you open to different things and I can relate to people even though I don’t agree with what you do. And I think that’s something that the older generation are lacking. The Afrikaner are very…

Int: Stuck in their ways?

Rosalind: Yes, stuck in their ways, are very strict, they are not open to suggestions – not open minded like with the whole revolution that happened in South Africa, being forced to integrate, I love that.

Int: Yah, ‘you have to get along’.

Rosalind: Yes. And I appreciate that and that’s very are to get somewhere else.

Int: Yeah, I agree with you because a lot of – if we look at countries that were colonised that had a white government in place, India is one, Kenya is another, just choose a colony that had a white government in place. And when that government was pushed out it was violent and what followed was a lot of violence and still violence. What happened with South Africa was a bit weird because we have – it was a lot of violence during the system of apartheid. And when that system fell, yes there was violence but it wasn’t what the world was expecting. I think a lot of people thought there was going to be a Helter Skelter, like a racial war. And still some people are calling for that – Malema. But it’s just, it doesn’t seem that is something that would happen.

Rosalind: The reason for that is that I think, it was not a race thing – I think it was a race thing but the majority, there was a vote, even my parents voted.

Int: The referendum.

Rosalind: Yes. ‘Are we going to abolish apartheid, are we not going to abolish’. I think it was ninety percent that said we’re going to abolish. It was very very high.

Int: Wasn’t it like seventy?

Rosalind: It was very high.

Int: The election of the ANC was huge – that was maybe the ninety percent.

Rosalind: Yes. And that just shows that it was not everyone that wanted this war – no one wanted this war. They were even like, the people that were leading apartheid they were saying, “Let’s abolish this, yes let’s work together.”

Int: We just have to dismantle this system.

Rosalind: Yes. And I think that’s what made it work. Is that we didn’t actually want to have a fight, we wanted to work together because we was what was happening to people wasn’t fair.

Int: Yeah, there’s also a book – an author actually, his name is J.M Cotzee, he wrote ‘Age of Iron’. And it’s literally about this elderly woman living in Cape Town at the fall of apartheid; and it’s about how much was kept from the white people, how much was kept from the minority group.

Rosalind: Yeah.

Int: Because the apartheid government controlled the police, they controlled the newspapers, they controlled all media.

Rosalind: Well, it’s like Russia.

Int: Yeah! Actually, just like Russia. So, there was so much control from the government.

Rosalind: Propaganda.

Int: Ya, propaganda one thousand percent. There’s a fantastic part in the novel where she goes to Gugulethu because she sees it’s on fire. There was a point, I think it was burning for three or four days, I think weeks even. But she goes to Gugulethu because she sees the smoke and she’s got a vagrant, like a homeless man kind of looking after her and slowly becomes her caregiver – it’s really sweet. But he takes her to Gugulethu and that’s the first time that she really sees this place.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: She see a kid being shot or a kid being buried and then there’s this – and it’s such a poignant scene in the book because you sit there and read it and go ‘How did you not know’. Like you don’t know if no one tells you.

Rosalind: Out of sight out of mind.

Int: Yes exactly, exactly. Like before she thinks the smoke’s coming from a burning bus or someone’s protesting, she doesn’t think it’s the burning of houses, or the burning of homes actually. But ya.

Rosalind: And I think it’s both ways actually. Um, with my father, he was in the police force but in the intelligence unit and there’s a lot things even to this day, that he can’t tell me, but there are a lot of things that went on in the backgrounds on both sides. Um, and the ANC was a terrorist group.

Int: Technically.

Rosalind: They bombed places, they killed women.

Int: I think Winnie Mandela was like charged with the murder of two people or something like that. It was insane.

Rosalind: So, both side had that bad part about them. And I think that’s what also brought us together was like, ‘This needs to stop – we can’t live in segregation, there’s no need to live in segregation. This is not working, let’s work together’. And I think the one thing that really held us back was how a lot of people held onto anger and I think – but both sides were…

Int: In the wrong?

Rosalind: In the wrong – both sides were oppressed in the same. Like you said with the Anglo-Boer War, Boer, Boër were also oppressed. They were killed, the English were horrible.

Int: Horrendous.

Rosalind: So, we both went through that. Black South Africans went through it, white South Africans went through it, and I think – that in a sense is why we are able to unite together.

Int: Yah.

Rosalind: Like you – against a common thing. A common enemy.

Int: So, one of the things when we were talking about culture. It has been said that South Africa has a culture of violence. We do things violently, protesting especially, we do that violently.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: And you can say that this is maybe from our history of violence, but there is a greater sense perhaps, of let’s just keep the peace, perhaps why we have managed to keep the peace for so long. And the question is, if we are known to have a culture of violence, why aren’t we known for more of our peaceful acts? Do we listen to violence more than we listen to peace?

Rosalind: I think people are at that point yes. Like if – look at loadshedding, what is being done? Nothing.

Int: Yah.

Rosalind: The only time that officials listen is when you… protest and when you burn down a building. And I’m not saying that you should do it, there are better ways of doing it but unfortunately, we live in a society where they only listen when you make noise.

Int: Yeah, when you burn things.

Rosalind: Yes. And that’s something that keeps holding us back is whatever we build we break down, we burn down. And that is a problem on both sides. If politicians actually listened and didn’t give us empty promises, we would not actually be in a situation like that. If we didn’t have to struggle with corruption, if we actually prosecute people we find guilty. I think it’s just a sense of no belief, we have no trust, we have no confidence in our justice system, or in our politicians.

Int: No, exactly. Our entire system of our governance – like even the protector of our governance, our police force we don’t trust them.

Rosalind: Yeah.

Int: We don’t trust our politicians.

Rosalind: No, we don’t trust them at all.

Int: So, what are we doing as a country – I think we’re just running around in circles.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: South Africans in themselves are incredible people, I think we could – I don’t want to say we could govern ourselves, but if we had to invest more of… I mean completely invest in private health care, I don’t use government health care at all.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: I’ve got medical aid. I don’t trust the police, I have my own security company and everything.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: So that’s two main aspects of the government that we don’t actually need. There’s a lot of South Africans going Solar, so they don’t need Eskom. Um… I’m trying to think what else the government does for us – I mean public sanitation, but you can privatise all of that out, it works. That works, our government does not.

Rosalind: Everything that the state has, does not work. That is the issue.

Int: Yeah, I think so too. I think a lot of the frustration of South Africans comes from. And that’s what I meant, it looks like we’re going towards a societal collapse and everyone’s just saying – because nothing is working.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: It’s two steps forward, three steps back, it’s just we’re on this treadmill this whole entire time, and it’s just not moving. But ya, a slight little tangent. Um, just one more thing, you grew up in Pretoria the whole entire time never left.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: Did you grow up in the exact same house, or did you move houses?

Rosalind: We only moved once.

Int: How old were you when you moved?

Rosalind: Joh, grade one, two.

Int: Do you remember the move at all?

Rosalind: Vaguely.

Int: Vaguely.

Rosalind: Mmm.

Int: And what was it like, the move?

Rosalind: It was exciting.

Int: Exciting, got to have a new house.

Rosalind: Ya.

Int: And that new house – I take it the house you are living in now.

Rosalind: Yes, ya.

Int: Felt like home from the very first day or it took some time.

Rosalind: I think it took some time to get used to everything ya.

Int: Just like getting used to the house, how that house worked.

Rosalind: Mm.

Int: And do you remember the house that you moved from?

Rosalind: Yah.

Int: And was that – do you sometimes think about that as home, or is that just an old house?

Rosalind: No, I think both are home because you have memories in both.

Int: And if you had to choose, like if I had to say, “Ay \*Rosalind, you’re going home”, you would say the home that you’re currently living in now?

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: Right during that time when you were moving can you remember a time when your mom was like, ‘Right we’re going home now \*Rosalind’, and you were like, ‘Right this means this new house’, or was that also just immediate?

Rosalind: No, I think it takes time to get used to, especially when someone asks you “What’s your home address?” And you sometimes give the wrong address, because you just moved. Like for me, when \*fiancé and I are going to move out now, it’s going to happen August. It’s literally six months away and I can promise you the same thing is going to happen – when someone asks, “What’s your address?”, I’m going to give my old house. And it’s going to take some time to settle in and I think you’re just used to your surroundings being comfortable.

Int: So, with this impending move, are you excited, are you apprehensive, are you a little bit sad maybe?

Rosalind: I think it’s all of those things. I am a bit stressed actually because now-

Int: Moving is stressful.

Rosalind: Yes, you have to choose an area that is good for your future. Like a good example for me, like I don’t know where I’m going to work. So, how do I choose a place that is located centrally where \*Fiancé is still close to Joburg because he’s going to work in Joburg, but that’s still close for me if I still need to stay at Tuks. And it’s a lot of uncertainty. We’re looking at Centurion, the problem is – that’s again where the safety thing comes in. You don’t know the area, you don’t know how safe it is. The only time you’ll actually know is if you stay there or ask people that stay there. Um, and that’s concerning for me. That we need to find a place where we will still feel safe, a place that is still close to my parents because I want to see them often still, and a place that is conveniently located. And I think that’s stressful, and I think that when we find a place that actually fits, it will be less stressful.

Int: So, obviously you are looking for this new place, you have a wish list – I want a garden, I want a swimming pool, I want all of these things. How high does safety rank on that wish list?

Rosalind: Very high.

Int: Like number one, number two?

Rosalind: Number one.

Int: The number one thing you are looking for is safety.

Rosalind: Yes always. It needs to be in a complex, it needs to be guarded, it needs to have security twenty-four seven. You can’t have anything less, you can’t.

Int: Well, that’s actually all the questions that I have for you today.

Rosalind: Cool.

Int: Do you have anything that you would like to add? You are more than welcome to add so now.

Rosalind: No.

Int: Well, you have my email address so you are more than welcome to send me emails, like if you see an article and you’re like, ‘Oh Simone would like this, it would help with her research’, please send it through. I will be more than happy. Otherwise, also, if you have any questions, concerns, deep-seated worries you are more than welcome to send me an email, and I’d be happy to help you. But ya, thank you for your time, thank you for your honesty, I know these conversations aren’t very easy to have so, thank you.

Rosalind: Ya, but I enjoy talking about this – we don’t talk about this often enough.

Int: Ya, it’s an issue that we need to talk more about – we need to talk about this.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: We need to talk about uncomfortability.

Rosalind: Yes.

Int: But ya, even with that being said, thank you for sharing your stories, and your thoughts and feelings – like I said, its not always the easiest thing to do. Um, but ya, thank you so much and have a great day.

Rosalind: Thank you.