



Urban Justice Center

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PODCAST SERIES: TIFFANY

TIFFANY: Um, I'm Puerto Rican and Irish, I'm a transsexual, I'm 19.

INTERVIEWER: What is your current living situation, if you feel free to disclose that?

TIFFANY: I live with my parents....

INTERVIEWER: You live with your parents.

TIFFANY: ...But it's not easy....

INTERVIEWER: It's not easy.

TIFFANY: The reason why I'm out here is not because I wanna be out here, it's because I have no way of surviving right now when it comes to money and shit so I need to do what I have to do to get money so I can survive, because I'm human as well and I shed blood, the same amount of blood as you. So, you know, you shouldn't judge me for who—what I'm doing, you should judge me for who I am. And understand why I'm out here, tryin' to, you know, make my money. (Laughs.)

INTERVIEWER: Have you ever been arrested out here? What have you gone through?

TIFFANY: I mean, well, verbally harassing, they harass the girls all the time, but I've never gotten arrested, thank goodness. And um, I try to keep it discreet and do what I gotta do and be out, so... Like, they've drove by and they've made comments, and they've said shit. They've been like, you know, "Get off the stroll, work time ain't now," or like, they've said, you know, they've just verbally said shit that I didn't really like, so...

INTERVIEWER: Have you ever tried any other forms of sex work?

TIFFANY: Um, I've escorted. I was an escort, I used to work on the computer, but I haven't done it recently.

INTERVIEWER: Do you ever feel good about what you do?

TIFFANY: I don't feel good about what I do, but I have to, you know, think about my life and who I wanna be and how hard it is to get a job and if this is the only way I can survive then you know what I have to do it until I get my life more steady and I can change my name and I'm able to get a normal job from 9 to 5.

INTERVIEWER: And how old are you again?

TIFFANY: I'm nineteen years old.

INTERVIEWER: Did you finish school?

TIFFANY: I finished high school, I took my GED. Didn't quite finish, but I have my GED.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, good.

TIFFANY: I attended college for a short time. I had a problem with my financial aid, I got kicked out, but I am planning on going back to college. Like, everything that I've done so far has been well, and I haven't got into any problems, and I'm safe, you know, I've never gotten hurt, I've never gotten beat up, and I've never gotten locked up, so you know, so far I'm good but, you know... The reason why I'm out here is not because I like to be out here, like I said earlier. I have no family. Nobody in my family, you know, really supports me, my mom doesn't buy me nothing. Everything I wear, everything I own is mine. I bought it myself, selling my body, to live, you know, to survive. My hormones, I paid for them myself, you know, nobody does anything for me. And it's not an easy life, that's the reason why I'm out here. But if I could choose to do better for myself, I definitely would. Once I get my name changed, I'm gonna be off the streets and I'm gonna do what I have to do, and go to school and everything. But until then I have to do what I have to do to survive.

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