

I'm [thinking that I'm] going to go back to Europe, but I thought I'd stop through the Bay area, where a lot of my chosen family lives, for a month or so.

When I went there, my friend Sini Anderson was putting on this cool intergenerational series where an older and a younger band of each genre would be playing in the same night. So Sini was like, will you come every night? So I came almost every night and I kept seeing this woman, and there was just something about her. And I could see that she kept seeing me; we kept catching each other's eyes and we had some different little funny exchanges, but when we finally hooked up ... it was just like – I don't know if I can explain it, but I know you probably know. It was just ... like so meant to be, and it still feels like that. It's been three and a half years, and it still feels just like we have so much to share. We're actually really creative together; we're a really good collaborative team with writing and music.

You share that creative spirit?

Exactly. And that traveler spirit. I went on the road pretty soon after with her and Animal, and ... we went to Bulgaria to visit some old

kinds of ego battles. It was more about what was best for all of us in the moment, and I learned a lot from that.

Now, hitchhiking alone, I learned a lot about trusting people. I luckily didn't have very many bad experiences and nothing too tragic, but I know a lot of my friends have, so I wouldn't say to you, "Oh, it's the best thing in the world to do." But for me personally, to just stand on the side of a road and be able to be in a whole other reality within some hours and meet all kinds of people – it just was really freeing. I had no money for years. ... It made me have more faith in people and feel like I belonged in the world, actually, and made me feel proud to be part of the world instead of like when I was younger [and was] this rebellious punk rocker who never felt like I belonged anywhere.

You lived in India for eight months while you were passing as a man.

I was, uh huh.

How do you think that that shaped your experience there?

I think it gave me a lot of access. ... I didn't consciously say ... "I'm going to India as a man." It just kind of morphed into that. When

And also, they could be like, "Hey, let me show you the field we're working," or, "Hey, will you help us push this cart?" – taking part instead of being coddled.

Your life is like this big, fascinating free-form narrative. What do you look forward to in the future?

I made an exerted effort all my life to make my life my art. I wasn't even necessarily going to make much that I could leave behind, you know. But I had this feeling, which reflected my hippie upbringing, which was that the greatest art is actually all around us everyday, and I wanted to just meld into that and tread lightly. And then I realized that I don't know if [I] really want to tread lightly in that way. I feel like I can make a big impact, maybe, in the world. At least I can just share who I am and could be inspiring to somebody or something, and I see in my future just continuing with that.

I would love to make more films 'cause it's something I really love being part of. ... I would love to keep ... exploring the world and bringing back the tales that I learned in other places, and mostly just keep being an open-hearted and free person. I believe that we

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friends of mine, and we like to travel and cook over the fire and whatever; we're kind of hippies in a way.

Do you feel like she's changed your life?

Definitely, definitely. I feel like vice versa, both ways, we've definitely helped each other change. In fact, that was one of the first promises we ever made to each other – that we were going to allow each other to change, and the people we knew now might not be who we would be with some years later, but ... just to leave it open for change. And that's made a big difference because we are both really different from when we met, but we're both really just fulfilling our dreams and helping each other with that.

What did you learn from hitchhiking in Eastern Europe?

Hitchhiking in countries with people who didn't grow up under capitalism, and living outside, and staying in villages and being a guest of people taught me a lot about human nature. It was easy to live communally with people who were brought up that way, because you didn't have the same

I was there, you had to choose, in a way – especially in the traditional areas – if you were going to wear traditional clothes, which when I was in Pakistan we had to. So I actually chose the girls' gender clothing first ... and I watched as my girlfriend at the time was in the boys' gender clothing, and the different kind of access she had.

And then as we passed into India ... I think I just slowly morphed. Then I got my haircut 'cause it was already kind of short, and then one day people thought I was a boy, and I just kind of went with that. So I chose clothes actually more close to what I would wear here. And then I just started referring to myself as "he," and slowly it just started morphing into this thing that I was living as a man. I never corrected anyone. I'd done that in other villages too, 'cause especially in rural places – I love spending time with villagers – I feel like it just makes things easier if in a group there's some men and some women. Because then you're safe in a different way, and people can just relax and be your friend instead of trying to make out with you or do something crazy.

can totally change the world and that social change is all about loving ourselves and our neighbors, and that's why I think a great way to love people is to make your art and to be as big as you can be. You can still make a big difference by being kind or generous or loving. And that can be your art.

OK, one last question. This article is actually going in our annual sex issue, so tell me something sexy. Tell me something about sex every woman should know.

I think ... OK, give me just a minute. [Pauses.]

For me, the sexiest kind of woman is a really outspoken, liberated, feminist woman. And that's what I find really sexy: somebody's mind. Not just their mind, but their expression of themselves. That's what I think is sexy. I mean, there are different physical things, but that all depends on the person.

Great. Super. Which probably explains why you fell in love with Bitch. [Laughs.]

Yes. ■

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