

Interviewee: Kathryn Calo
Interviewers: Jacqueline Flood, Katelin Riley
Date: October 26, 2015
Location: Worcester, MA



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Abstract: Kathryn Anne Calo was born in 1982. She's the second of four children and is extremely close to her family. After graduating from Medfield High School in 2000 Kathryn went on to get her Bachelor's in Psychology from Endicott College, graduating in 2004. Kathryn continued her education at New England School of Law in Boston. In the city of Worcester, Kathryn works as an attorney and partner for Bowditch and Dewey Attorneys and specializes in family and probate law and volunteers at The Bridge of Central Massachusetts and the Worcester County Bar Association. In this interview, Kathryn discusses how much her family and work mean to her. Kathryn truly loves her work because she loves being able to help others. Kathryn also touches upon how taking risks is a part of success. Kathryn's piece of advice to women is that they should not be afraid to speak up for themselves and should proudly discuss their opinions without any fear.

KR: So we have to ask perm... We have to ask you, it is okay that we do record you?

KC: Yes.

KR: Okay.

JF: Great.

KR: So, I guess we can ask you, your first...your first name, your full name is?

KC: Kathryn Anne Calo.

KR: Okay.

KC: And it is K-A-T-H-R-Y-N, Anne with an E, and C-A-L-O.

KR: Alright.

JF: Um, is this your married name?

KC: That is my married name.

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JF: Okay.

KC: Do you want to know my maiden name?

JF: Sure.

KR: Sure.

KC: It was Kerins, (KC: spelling out loud) K-E-R-I-N-S.

JF: When were you born?

KC: 1982.

JF: Have you ever been married?

JF: Yes.

KC: Yes.

KR: Of course.

KC: Currently, Only one.

JF: Only one.

KC: Not bad for a divorce lawyer.

KR: No that is actually.

KC: [Laughs]

KR: Not bad for that.

KC: No, I am a divorce attorney.

JF: Oh.

KR: Oh.

JF: Right.

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KR: Did you have any children?

KC: No children.

JF: What cultures or ethnicities... ethnicities, do you identify with?

KC: Well, I am Irish, but American.

JF: Tell me about your parents.

KC: Oh, my parents. My parents were both born and raised in Boston. My mother is one of ten kids. She's third in line. I don't know how much detail you want. She grew up in West Roxbury, right near Jamaica Plain. And they went to school—so she was born in 1958—during high school—both she and my father were born in 1958—went to high school during busing in Boston. So they actually had a pretty unique experience. My mother ended up going to private high school, because otherwise she would've had to be bused far from her home. My dad, at the time in terms of high school, was living in Mattapan, and he actually got bused to Hyde Park High. So he had to go to a completely different school, with kids he had never known before. My mother, so she is third in line, but the second child, her sister—her is named Jady(?)—she died when she was three. She had a disease. My mother has one other sibling who died, she had a sister that was in car accident, when she was 20, that was in the 80s at some point. My dad, it's just he and his brother. A little bit different than my mom's family. A much smaller family. My mom's family is the typical, kind of loud, Irish family that gets together. I have 22 cousins on that side of the family, and now we have started other generations. Family parties are like 60 people. It is a good time though. My dad is completely opposite, it's a small family. They're still close, just not as big and boisterous as my mom's. My mother and father were married when they were 20 I think, 20 or 21. They had four kids. Do you want me to go into all this or am I jumping ahead?

KR: You can.

JF: Yeah.

KC: Oh okay.

KR: If you want too, it doesn't matter to us.

KC: Four kids, I am second in line. And they had us—so I am an Irish twin twice. My oldest brother was born in April 1981, I came April 1982. My sister came March 1983. So we are all 11 months apart from each other. Not even a full year in between.

KR: Wow!

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JF: I can relate.

KC: Can you?

JF: Yeah, me and my sister are 13 months apart.

KC: Okay! So and then there is my younger brother who is four years younger than me. So he didn't fall into that pattern. My mom right now is still working. She is working for ADT, the security system. She works in the administration department. My dad works for the state. He works for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. He has worked there since he was 17, I think. It's actually where my parents met. At the time it was in M.D.C., Metropolitan District Commission. And my mom was working in an office, my dad was working in some garage. They met and that was the end of it.

JF:[laughs]

KC: Now they're married. They have been married for 30, god 35 years. Yeah, 35 years.

JF: Are you and your siblings close?

KC: Yes. We are extremely close. I have an older brother, he lives in Auburn, he just got married actually in August. So I have my first sister-in-law. And then I live in Hopkinton with my husband. My sister lives in Mattapoisett. And then my younger brother lives in Norfolk. And I would say we either talk or see each other at least once a week. So we are very close. My sister and I were really close growing up, you know were only eleven months apart. So she was always one year younger than me school wise, but we always had the same friends. So...

KR: Now you said your parents grew up in Boston.

KC: Yes.

KR: Did you also grow up in like that area too?

KC: So when I was younger we lived. I'm trying to think. When I was first born I think we lived in Hyde Park or Jamaica Plain, somewhere around there. And then we moved to West Roxbury for a few years, and then when I was in the second grade we moved to Medfield and that's where I went to high school.

KR: hmm, that's not... that's not too far.

JF: What was your neighborhood like growing up?

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KC: So I'll use Medfield because that's really where I grew up. It was small town kind of—I didn't live on a street where you really had the neighborhood kids coming out. We actually had that in West Roxbury. That was kind of nice. All the neighborhood kids would be in the street, playing. That probably sounds terrible when I say it like that. But in Medfield it was your typical small town, you could walk to the downtown area and a pretty close knit community. Everybody knew everybody. In my graduating class there were less than a hundred or just barely a hundred kids. But the neighborhood, you know, there were a few kids that hung around in the neighborhood, but mostly you had your friends through school. And that you ended up meeting—we called it uptown, but it was actually downtown—Medfield.

KR: So you... Did you graduate from Medfield?

KC: Yes, I graduated Medfield High School in 2000. I married my high school boyfriend. We'd been dating since 1999. That's when he graduated. And then we got married a couple of years ago.

KR: Oh. So, did you go off to like college? Or did you like go right into work?

KC: I went right to college. I went to Endicott College up in Beverly. I didn't go far. [laughs] I went to Beverly. My husband, now husband, then boyfriend, went to Bentley. So we were relatively close. I did not want to go to the same school as him though, that was a rule I had. And then I graduated college in 2004 and went right to law school. I went to New England School of Law in Boston.

JF: When you were in law school, did you live on campus or did you commute?

KC: I commuted. I lived at home with my parents, when I was in law school. So at the time, after we graduated high school, they moved from Medfield to Norfolk. Which is the next town over, they literally live 10 miles from where they used to live. So I lived with them. At that point, my grandmother—actually, they had put on an addition so she was living in the house too—and I commuted into Boston. Taking the train from Norfolk, into Back Bay.

KR: Yeah.

JF: So what other places have you lived? You said in Hopkinton... Hopkinton.

KC: Yes, I live in Hopkinton now. I really haven't lived many places. So I have lived, like I said, when I was younger in the Boston area until I was second grade. Then Medfield, then Norfolk with my parents, and now Hopkinton. That's it.

JF: So what is your connection to Worcester? Other than you have your office here. Is there any other connection you have?

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KC: So, five years, five and half, almost six years ago now. I took a job, not this job, another job, in Worcester, with local Worcester people. It was a small firm. And I fell in love with Worcester. Not going to lie. I don't think I would work anywhere else besides Worcester. I had worked in Boston and when I made the transition I was a little nervous because I did like my firm out in Boston, but I just didn't like commuting into the city. And then I came to Worcester, and now you couldn't pay me any amount to go back to Boston. So here I've worked for six years, almost six years. I also am the co-chair of the young lawyers section for the Bar Association here. So the Worcester County Bar Association, I along with my co-chair, run the young lawyers section. We put on events monthly, and keep the young lawyers involved in the Worcester legal community. I also am on the Bridge Central Massachusetts board. It's an organization located off of Chandler Street, right on Main Street. Kind of near Foley Stadium, over there, and I've been on that board for probably as long as I've been in Worcester. They're a local non-profit organization that works a lot with people with mental health issues, traumatic brain injuries. They have a LGBT [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual] section that assists that community, and I have been involved in that capacity for the last six years too.

JF: What do you like most about Worcester?

KC: In terms of the city itself, I like how it's still a city but it's not. It doesn't feel big. What I like is that in the last six years even though I'm not from Worcester and I had never worked here, you become part of the community. Especially in the Bar—the legal community—everyone is very nice, very welcoming. It's a very collegial bar association. It's a great city to work, I think. So I guess, I don't know, that's what I like about it.

JF: What challenges do you think the city still faces and what would you change about Worcester?

KC: Oh, I think the challenge is getting young people to Worcester, Main Street in particular. I think there have been a few places on Main Street that have tried to make a go for it, and I think there is great place like Armsby Abbey is great spot. But in terms of getting people out, especially when you don't live here, but are a work crowd, even going out after work or socializing on the weekends, I think they struggle still with getting people downtown. You have Shrewsbury Street, which is great, you have the Hanover Theater and the DCU Center. If it's an event I think it's different, but on a consistent basis I think they could do better to get people downtown. Off hours, I guess...

KR: What do you think women's experience have been like in Worcester, like generally? How do you think it has been in the city?

KC: Hmm, generally that's a hard question to answer. I would say, I think a young woman coming here—just thinking of my experience and sort of trying to break into the community—it was a little hard. I think people get established in their ways in Worcester. People who are from

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Worcester, and their families from Worcester, and generation after generation and I don't know if it purposeful or not, but you feel like you kind of have to kind of break down that wall to be accepted into the community. And I think that's truer with women, particularly professional women. I think when we try to break into the legal community, I was lucky enough to work at a firm with Worcester people so I think that helped pave the way, but I think that its biggest challenge is sort of breaking into—I don't want to call it the inner circle, I don't know what I want to call it, but kind of becoming involved in a way that I think people who are here, and work here, and grew up here do. I think it's a little challenging.

KR: Hm.

JF: What was your first job? Was it in Boston? Is that what you said? Or.

KC: Like my first job after law school? Or like my first job?

KR: Either one.

JF: Either.

KC: So in college I worked at Norwood Hospital. I was an intern and then it turned into a job my senior year in college. I worked in the Psych Unit. My major in college was psychology, we had to complete a semester-long internship. I ended up working at Norwood Hospital in the social work department. So as a senior in college I was working with patients with chronic mental health issues, meeting with them and assisting them. I was the lead social worker out of all of that place. That was a really interesting job. That actually made me go to law school, because I was debating on whether or not I should become a counselor or the psychology route and then I did that and decided it really wasn't for me. [laughs] I liked helping people and I liked the idea of it, but I was not ready to be a social worker or a counselor full time. That led me to the Probate and Family Court, because we do also a lot of mental help stuff. So like guardianships, when somebody is incompetent, whether it's mental health or some traumatic injury or whatever the case may be. I liked how it still touched upon on the mental health component of it. So from there in law school I worked for a solo practitioner. She worked out of Medfield. I worked for her until, throughout all three years of law school. Actually, after my first year, the second and third year, and then from there I clerked for the Probate and Family Court, Worcester. I was actually first introduced to the city, Worcester County, Norfolk County, and Bristol County. So I would go every four months in Worcester, four months in Canton, four months in Norfolk Probate Court, and then four months between Fall River and New Bedford. And then from there I worked in Boston. I worked for a firm called Barron & Stadfeld, which no longer exists, but it was in Government Center.

JF: What type of law do you specialize in? Is it just family based or?

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KC: Yeah, so my specialty, my focus I would say is family law, probate and family law. So whether it's divorce, custody dispute, child support issues, it kind of runs the gamut, but in terms of family law, that I would say is what my specialty is. And then on the probate side, guardianships, like when I said somebody is incompetent, then you have conservatorship, which is over the person's money or their estate, and then will contests. So really my specialty is in probate and family law.

KR: What has this work meant to you? Like personally?

KC: So for me, I like this work because it's personal. Not that I like when people going through a divorce, but I like that you get to know your client, and they hopefully get to know a little about you, and you're dealing with real people, and real issues, and you see them. I think a lot of times with other areas of law, your clients may be this big company and you don't really have that personal connection that you get in my field. I also like knowing that, or at least I like thinking that, we're helping families move on after a divorce or whatever the issue may have been. I also like that in this field you touch on many other areas of law. So like when you have a home that needs to be sold. Now you have a real estate component to it. If you have one spouse who owns, that is self-employed, now you have business law issues that you have to deal with. So it sort of encompasses a lot more than just the family law. So I think those are the two things I like about it.

JF: What are or what were your primary responsibilities in terms of housework?

KC: Housework? I'm kind of a neat freak. But, I think we have traditional kind of responsibilities. Which now I think about it probably sounds horrible. I do the cleaning, laundry, dishes, for the most part I do the cooking. He does cook though. So I would say that's kind of a shared responsibility. But he does like the trash, he fixes the stuff around the house. So that's pretty typical, or traditional, not typical.

JF: How do you... How do you balance different priorities and responsibilities in your life?

KC: I think that it is hard or harder now that everything—you're so accessible. You have your email on your phone now. Clients have your cellphone and then you've got your home life. And it took me a while to find that right balance, to not always have to look when I hear the email sound come. To not always answer a call when it's after hours or on the weekend. But I think that everybody is different and you need to find out what works for you. My thing is unless it is an emergency, and it's after hours during the week, I will get back to you tomorrow. It took me a long time to be okay with that. In terms of the weekend, I definitely answer emails over the weekend, but I try not to take away from anything that I am doing, but in down time on the weekend. I don't know, between that and my work hours, I just think that you have to make a concerted effort to find that balance, and do whatever works for you.

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KR: What do you think are the pros and cons that you have with the chosen path that you have made in your life? Is there any pros or cons that you have made or have?

KC: In terms of career or what?

KR: Whether it you have something with your career or just life in general.

KC: Hmm, let's see. Pro or con. I'm glad I waited to get married, until I was older. I was 29 when I got married. Even though we had been dating since I was 17, because both he and I really got to live out our 20s. So I liked that. [laughs] In terms of my career, I am definitely happy in the career I chose. I think one of the drawbacks again, you don't have a schedule. I'm not a nine to five. This isn't a nine to five job. It can be early in the morning, late at night, it can be a weekend, it could be a Friday night. I had calls that I have to take for one reason or another, and I don't consider it a complete con. It's part of the job. But I would say that's negative in terms of thinking of having a family down the line. I think it's going to be more difficult to schedule stuff, but fortunately my husband has a job that is pretty much nine to five. So, I would say that's a con. I don't know, what else? Pros, let's see, I should have more pros.

KR: Do you have anything with college, do you regret going to law school?

KC: Oh god no, I loved college. [laughs]

KR: Like in college... Like I know... do you regret going to Endicott? Do you?

KC: One thing I do think about, I love all my college friends. We're still very, very close. I wouldn't trade that for anything. I cried at graduation. I did not want to leave. But in terms of when I was starting to go to college and applying and looking back, my parents paid for my first year at Endicott. I had some loans but they paid for my first year. Then after that I was on my own. Had I gone to a Framingham State [University] or a UMass [University of Massachusetts], I may not have, I wouldn't have the loans that I did when I graduated from Endicott. I did have scholarships and stuff. The not knowing, then going on to law school and have to pay for that education too. I would say one regret I have is not going to a state school or a less expensive school, in terms of thinking about my future. I mean I didn't think about it at 18, what I was going to be doing when I was 25. But financially, it probably would have been better to be going to a state school, and then go to law school.

KR: Hey.

KC: Hey, Yeah, it's fine.

All: [laughs]

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JF: Do you consider yourself active politically?

KC: Not particularly. No. I would say probably not. I have my opinions about issues and politics, but I don't really involve myself too much.

JF: Do you vote in local elections?

KC: Yes.

JF: Or do you just?

KC: I vote in any election. So I am active in that sense, but I am a voter. I think that it's a great right that we have and we should take advantage of it. But in terms of you know campaigning or getting involved and putting myself out there publicly in support of people, I don't do that.

KR: So you said you a co-chair to a community thing like... Let's see, you said... What was that question? Do you volunteer or do other community work? Other than stuff like that?

KC: Yeah, so I am involved with the Bar Association and I am involved with The Bridge. The Bridge also has what you call Bridge Fest. Every fall I volunteer, and have volunteered for that, for the last five years. My husband and I volunteer at Camp Sunshine. It's a camp for families who have children with a chronic illness. So we volunteer—I haven't gone this year, he did go this year—but we go up and I've been a team counsellor, I've worked in the kitchen, up there. It's a great camp in Casco, Maine. If you've never heard of it or never thought about doing it. You should definitely do it. It's for the entire family, fully paid. They bring in all these families and every week has a different—whether it's an illness or that they have different sessions, typically they're weeklong and it's a camp. It's a summer camp for these kids that probably otherwise would be able to go to camp. And their siblings and their parents. And it give everyone a nice break. It's so much fun. It's on Sebago [Sebago Lake in Maine] and you stay there. You do all sorts of activities with the kids that are all different ages. All the way from infants all the way up to teenagers. My husband and I do that in terms of volunteering.

KR: Has religion played a role in your life at all?

KC: Hmm... not very religious. I don't know. Not particularly. I don't go to church regularly. So like organized religion, not really. Do I have faith? Yes. And do I have beliefs in terms of that? Yes. So I would say that I try to fulfill those and—I don't know if that's what you meant but...[laughs]

KR: Umm. How have like health issues impacted your life or those in your family?

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KC: Health issues...My mother's mother, so my grandmother, my maternal grandmother, had something that is called retinitis pigmentosa. She lost her vision. What it does is cut off your peripheral vision and sort of closes until it eventually you're either completely blind or legally blind. So my grandmother had that. I have an uncle who has that. It's hereditary. And I have a cousin who has that. So that as my grandmother got older with her eyesight and everything there's a concern there same as my cousin and my uncle.

Healthwise for my parents they're relatively healthy. Both are relatively healthy. My paternal grandmother had cancer. She first was diagnosed with lung cancer and then went into remission. And then she had breast cancer again went into remission. And then the lung cancer came back and she actually passed away last year, almost a year ago last November. So in terms of that I helped with my aunts and my mother take care of her. She was at home. We didn't put her—she wasn't in a nursing home or anything. So that was a big impact. I was taking time away from work. I was helping out over there which was fine, great. I wouldn't change it for anything. It was something I had never done working with hospice working with someone dying so that's a pretty big impact on my life I would say.

My personal health, let's see I was actually was just diagnosed with arthritis in my hip so I'm not allowed to run anymore. So it's been difficult. My mobility was not the greatest. But other than that I would say most people around me are relatively healthy.

KR: That's good.

KC: Yeah. [laughs]

JF: What are your experiences in accessing quality affordable healthcare?

KC: I've been fortunate enough to always have an employer-provided plan whether it's through my parents when I was younger, through my work or my husband's employer. I have not had—it's always been great healthcare. I honestly have not had, on a personal level, any issues with that. I do see a lot of my clients and I see other people who struggle whether it's maybe they work and but they don't make a lot of money and it's offered through their employer but can't afford it and their sort of stuck in this position where they are trying to get it through the state. So I've seen where it can be difficult for some people.

In terms of healthcare services, I think we are lucky to live in Massachusetts because I think the services available are incredible and you wouldn't get that somewhere else. But personally I've actually had [knocks on table] I've been lucky. [laughs]

JF: How do you get through tough times? What kinds of thoughts keep you going?

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KC: Gosh, how do I get through tough times? I would say my family and friends. Without the support of the people around me, I mean you really need to—I think the most important thing to tell yourself is that it's going to get better. And as hard as it is to think it's going to get better, it may not be right away and it may not be the better you anticipated when you're going through something like that, it's going to get better. I just think it needs time and again I think you need the support of your family and friends to get through it.

JF: How do you define success in your life? Has this definition changed over time?

KC: I'm sure when I was younger I thought success meant being rich and having cool things. [laughs] Now, success, honestly I think if you are happy with what you are doing, then you are successful because if you can be okay with who you are, you're a success. It doesn't matter. No money in the world can change that. If you aren't happy with who you are and you won a million dollars you are still not happy with who you are. So I think being happy with who you are and what you do.

KR: Based on your life experience what advice would you give women today and future generations?

KC: I would probably tell them to not be afraid to speak up whether it's for yourself or someone else about an issue no matter what. And then also not to be afraid to take risks because I think a lot of—at least I feel like a lot of women are—we're not risk takers. And I don't know what it is, whether we are afraid to fail or we are afraid that we are not good enough. I'm not sure. But I don't think you should be afraid to take a risk because even if you don't succeed you're learning something from it. And again, speaking up because I think that unless you can give yourself a voice, nobody else is going to give you one.

KR: What your biggest risk you have taken so far in your life?

KC: Probably going to law school. I don't know. Sounds kind of weird, but I'm the first generation in my family to go to college. I graduated college and law school before anyone else in my family even graduated college. My parents didn't go to college; grandparents didn't go to college. Out of my cousins I was the first to do all of that, even my siblings I'm the only one. So taking on that, not that I think becoming a lawyer was a risk, but I think going to three years of school and committing myself to a profession when nobody in my family had done it before. I don't know, I didn't know if I was actually going to like it, if I was going to be successful at it and here you are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on an education hoping you pass that bar exam, hoping you get a job, and then again hoping you like it. I'd say that's probably one of my biggest risks. I like to think it paid off.

{pause}

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JF: Now that we're working towards telling the fuller story of history, including women in the past, what do you think we should include as in like textbooks? So in textbooks it seems like only the men's point of view is always told and not the women's and the... like especially in the past decade they are working towards having like a woman's voice....

KC: Yep.

JF:.... in history. Is there anything or any point in time that women need a voice in?

KC: I think... So you are talking textbook-wise?

JK: Yeah.

KC: Oh okay. So a few particular periods of time, during the war time I think you learn a lot about how did World War I start? How did World War II start? And you hear less and less about what happened at home while the war was going on overseas because this country continued because of women. And I think a focus could be made a little bit greater on that perspective. Not to take away from the military, but I do think there is a value at home to keep this country going. And I think women played a large part in that.

JF: Do you ever plan on having children or is that something that you don't see in the future?

KC: Yeah I think, you know, I want kids, but that's again a con, I guess, to my career. One of the challenges has been finding the right time and if you ask my mother it's just there is not a right time so just have them.

ALL: [laughs]

KC: I guess that's why she had three in less than three years and why she is one of ten kids. But I think that's the biggest challenge. Timing, career-wise, I think it's harder for women to make that jump in terms of starting a family and career. I think you need to find the right time. I do want to have them [stomps foot], but I don't know when.

KR: I can see you are a very fashionable person. Now did you consider yourself a fashionable person like when you were younger like when you were eighteen like when you went off to college? Or do you feel like you were a fashionable person? [laughs]

KC: No, I don't ever think I've been a fashionable person. I mean God when I look back at some of the pictures and maybe it was like the grunge phase, plaid and ripped jeans and dyed hair. I don't know what we were thinking. And then the eighties, oh gosh. [laughs] Although some of those styles are coming back—the high-waisted pants. [laughs] So I don't know, I guess I've never considered myself a fashionable person but....

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JF: What do you think when you see ads in magazines for makeup, perfume or anything that's geared towards women? How do you feel about seeing those types of images?

KC: Well I think that the images put on those things of women are just ridiculous. I mean you know go ahead airbrush me. Knock fifty pounds off me too. I'll look beautiful. And that, [laughs] I don't think it's realistic. And I can laugh about it and I can dismiss it, but I think growing up it plays a big part when you are a girl. You look at all of these people, these women that are supposed to be cool, sexy and beautiful. And it's just not real. They are not real women. And real people do not look like that. One thing I do like about the internet is that they are catching celebrities without makeup on and it's kind of refreshing to see because I don't think that, I think they are objectified and I think they create this image that is unattainable for everyone, most people unless you are a supermodel or something like that. And I think we shouldn't be trying to get young girls and young women to want to be somebody else. I think we need to figure out a way to advertise, but also to make sure people feel comfortable in their skin at the same time.

JF: How do you define beauty?

KC: Oh gosh, I don't even know. I don't know. I mean I don't think it's just the way that you look. I mean you can be a beautiful person and not look like the typical stereotypical definition of beautiful or gorgeous or whatever. I think that if you're a kind person, you're successful, I really think how you are makes you beautiful. And that may sound corny, but if someone is really nice or really funny or a great person or really good at what they do, their looks start to matter less and less. I don't know.

JK: How old were you when you were allowed to date? And where did you go on dates?

KC: Oh God. I don't have a lot of dating experience considering I married my husband, [laughs] when we started dating I was seventeen. I would say I was in the ninth grade maybe or just maybe between eighth and ninth grade. So however old you are. Fourteen?

KR and JF: Fourteen. Fifteen

KC: Fifteen? Yeah I would say there. You didn't go on dates you went to the mall or you go to the movies. I don't know what they do now, but that's what we did. There was no real dates. I do know that my husband for our first date took me to a pizza shop/sandwich shop. And he actually took me there when he proposed. Yes, so that was kind of nice. It was at the place where we had our first date. It was our—gosh, it was 2011. So it was our twelve year dating anniversary? [laughs] Ordered pizza, waiting for it to come. I thought he was gonna throw up on the table.

ALL: [laughs]

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KC: So nervous. And I didn't know why. The whole way there he was like pale and nervous. And I was like, "Are you okay? We don't really need to go out. It's not that big of a deal. We are just going out for pizza." And he was like, "No no no no no." We get to the place and still he's shaky and I was like, "I don't know. You don't look very well." And then we ordered a cheese pizza. The pizza comes and I look and there's pepperonis on the pizza and I was about to say to the waitress, "That's not our pizza." He gets down on the floor. I look at the pizza again and it says "Marry me." He proposed on a pizza.

ALL: [laughs]

KR: Aw.

KC: Yeah. I was like, "Oh that's why you were so nervous." So that's my dating experience.

KR: Quite cute. [pause] What was your favorite musical group or song?

KC: Oh that's hard to narrow it down.

JF: You can list them all.

ALL: [laughs]

KC: So growing up my parents listened to classic rock so you kind of just—all of us started there I would say. My dad always loved The Doors and my mom always loved The Beatles so all of us kids listened to them. And then when I was in middle school, I want to say, is when I started that grunge—Nirvana. Loved Nirvana, Soundgarden. High school I would say pretty much the same. And then it wasn't until college that I started listening to like current music like pop and the top twenty and that sort of thing. But now I'm into country. So I like country. I don't dislike the old music. You know my Pandora station sometimes has nineties pop or nineties alternative or the Nirvana station. And then also country. So I like all of the music. But mostly with a rock base.

JF: When you were in school how were girls treated?

KC: Like?

JF: At any type of school. High school. Middle school. Elementary school. College.

KC: Okay. I don't know if I was aware of how people were treated until I was older. So I'm trying to think. I guess high school—treated by who?

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KR: I think in general. I know like most girls like I know that you have one spectrum or one... you have the one lonely child or like you have the clique group and everything

KC: Umm.

KR: So how were girls treated? You know like how we have.....

KC: Oh girls were mean to each other mostly. Not so much other people being mean to them. Yeah we had a small town high school. Everyone had a clique. Everyone was in a group. But there were definitely people who were just, you know, mean to each other. I don't know. Yeah girls can be nasty. [laughs] I don't know. Are you looking for an example?

JF: No we are just...

KC: I'm trying to—but I mean sometimes we were nice to each other. I'm not saying we were awful to each other all the time. But I definitely think that it was—whether it was easier for people to pick on people when we were younger. I don't know. Maybe we were bored. I have no idea.

JF: Did you find it harder to make friendships with other girls because of like the cliqueness or...?

KC: Yeah. You know most of my friends have always been guys, even in college. I have a handful of girlfriends, but the group that we hung around with was mostly guys. I also always had my sister so I never felt like I had to make friends with anyone else. [laughs] Not that I didn't have friends. I still have a few high school girlfriends that I talk to, but I think it's harder to be friends with girls. I think we are more judgy. I don't know why. Maybe it's our own insecurities so we feel like well if I can... I don't know.

JF: What are the typical girl or women stereotypes that you think of?

KC: Oh well I mean the old classic one is, you know, barefoot and pregnant. [laughs] A homemaker, which I don't think is bad, but I think it's I guess it's a stereotype. Is that what you meant? What other kinds of stereotypes? I don't know.

JK: How have you seen women break the molds of stereotypes?

KC: Oh well I think now everything has changed. I think in terms of, you know, you have a lot of women who are the financial provider for the family and a lot men who stay home. Or you have two parents who work and they are both successful and they manage their children with the help of family or daycare or whatever it may be. So I do think we are seeing more and more success—I don't want to say successful because I think that's the wrong word. Working outside

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the home is now the norm. I think back to my childhood. My mom stayed at home during the day when we were growing up. She worked part time at night so she got to stay home with us. I think that is less common now. I think people still do it. I think part of that too though is it's expensive to live and you need two incomes. Realistically I think that it had to shift a little bit. But I think again with women working outside of the home more often that definitely changed.

KR: Gonna see how much time we've been talking... Almost an hour. Wow.

JF: When you are not at home where do you usually spend your time?

KC: Besides work?

ALL: [laugh]

KC: It depends. We are kind of homebodies. We'll go to my parents' house. We do a lot of family stuff. We will go out to dinner. We'll travel sometimes. I don't know. I don't have a particular spot where I spend my time.

JF: What places have you traveled?

KC: So... Ireland. I've been a bunch.....

JF: What parts?

KC: So the first time I went was in 2008 I think. Yeah 2008. That time I went with my mom and my little brother and we traveled. We were in Northern Ireland for a few—we were in the Dublin area, we went to Galway. We had a wedding. We drove all over. We were there for just under two weeks I think. And then my husband took a job at EMC and his team is based out of Cork, Ireland. So we've gone over there three or four times when he has traveled for trainings or whatever. So then he and I have gone to Cork, the southern part of Ireland. We've done Dublin together. I think that might be it. But the Cork area. And then... where else have I been? Saint Thomas we went for our honeymoon. I've been to Bermuda. We do the cruise to Bermuda a lot. In the country I have been to Nashville. That's a great city. I was just in Myrtle Beach a couple weeks ago. Florida, kind of the normal stuff after that I think.

KR: What was your favorite place to travel to?

KC: I love Ireland. Although the next time we go we keep saying we are actually going to see the rest of Europe [laughs] because we just stay in Ireland. I would say that's probably my favorite place I've been to, Ireland. In terms of the city, it's Cork, Ireland.

JF: Would you encourage people to travel?

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KC: Yes. Yes I would. I think it's great to learn how people in other parts of the world live, work and see different cultures and have fun too while you're doing it.

KR: Is there anything else you would like to add or anything?

KC: Oh God what do most people? I feel like I am boring.

KR: No it's actually been very interesting.

JF: Yes.

KC: Really?

KR and JF: Yeah

JF: We've refrained from our comments so we can get like most of what you say.

KC: Oh.

JF: That's why we have been quiet. [laughs] It's actually been really.....

KC: Let me see if I can say anything else that might be interesting. Hmm. Yeah I don't know. I guess that's it.

KR: Okay. Sounds good.

KC: Alright

JF: Thank you.

KR: Thank you.

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