

Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness & Phoebe Robinson

JVN [00:00:02] Welcome to "Getting Curious", I'm Jonathan Van Ness. And every week I sit down for a 40 minute conversation with an absolutely brilliant expert to learn all about something that makes me curious. On today's episode, I'm joined by half of the super funny crime fighting power diva couple two dope queens, Phoebe Robinson, where I'm trying to figure out Phoebe, "How did you become so dope"? Welcome to "Getting Curious". I'm really excited. I, I'm just gonna rip the Band-Aid of our guest off because I can't, there's too much of a build up and I'll just freak out.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:00:38] Oh my god.

JVN [00:00:38] I will. Welcome to "Getting Curious", Phoebe Robinson, honey.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:00:42] Hi, how are you?

JVN [00:00:44] I'm really happy to see you.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:00:46] It's good to see you, too.

JVN [00:00:47] It's not on my TV for once. Or actually I watch on Instagram a lot.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:00:51] You do?

JVN [00:00:52] Yes.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:00:52] Oh, thank you. You watch my the Insta-stories?

JVN [00:00:54] Yeah, I love your instant stories. I like, you have great content.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:00:57] Oh thanks. I try. You know, yeah.

JVN [00:00:59] So take me back. You were born. OK. Basically, this is the question they were asking today.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:01:06] Yes.

JVN [00:01:06] Because you know every episode is like Jeopardy and every episode has a question.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:01:10] You're adorable. Yeah.

JVN [00:01:10] So like, how did you get so damn dope?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:01:12] I don't know. I still feel like I'm kind of a dweeb.

JVN [00:01:15] Absolutely not.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:01:17] But I don't know.

JVN [00:01:17] Dweebs would never have the snatch of a hair. Honey.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:01:19] That's true. I do have. Thank you, Sabrina. She hooked it up.

JVN [00:01:23] Triple threat. She's has a triple threat snatch pony going on, that I see. Yes. She got three I think three ponies was the base. Honey.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:01:30] Yes. Yes.

JVN [00:01:31] And we got some braids working up in there, honey. She's looking like a goddamn royal queen, honey. You look like you know what it looks like, honey?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:01:37] What?

JVN [00:01:37] You are Solange who just survived the Battle of Winterfell, honey.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:01:42] Yes.

JVN [00:01:43] You got a promotion because you're alive. And now Christina Aguilera is like, "You know what bitch"? No more of, you know, and I loved your little baby, like your little head band with your little Afro, Miss Solange. But now actually you're gonna be having this Dothraki braid, bitch.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:01:56] Yes.

JVN [00:01:56] Because no one can get the best of you.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:01:58] Yes, I love this.

JVN [00:01:59] You watch, don't you?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:02:00] I love, I'm all caught up on "Game of Thrones".

JVN [00:02:02] You're all caught up?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:02:03] It was very stressful.

JVN [00:02:04] What we're gonna do right now is we're going to put in a marker for if you're not caught up on "Game of Thrones". If you have not seen.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:02:10] Spoiler alert, bitches.

JVN [00:02:10] This is going to be up through Episode 3 of this season of "Game of Thrones". We're going to talk about this for, you know, six or seven minutes.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:02:16] Yes, we have to.

JVN [00:02:17] So for me.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:02:19] Yes.

JVN [00:02:20] I was very surprised with this Episode 3 turn of events because I was of the thought that they were going to go that route of Night King was going to go to King's Landing, transform blonde Cher and all those people, you know, evil with no volume, Carol Brady.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:02:34] Yeah.

JVN [00:02:35] They were going to transform all those people to white walkers. And I thought that they were gonna come on up and get the beleaguered last 20 standing and just I thought that it was going to be that.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:02:43] But that's the thing. That's what's great about GoT is they never give you what you expect. They always switch it up on you, which is, why-.

JVN [00:02:50] But I do think the white walkers are dead. Do we?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:02:52] Yes.

JVN [00:02:53] Really?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:02:53] I think it's done. I think we're moving forward. I mean, we still have we have so much to get through in only three episodes.

JVN [00:02:59] Do you not think that there's like maybe an alive white walker baby somewhere?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:03:04] I don't think so, because once you kill the night king, they're all dead.

JVN [00:03:07] And that's always been the-.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:03:08] That's always been the history of it. I know this isn't real, but I just this is the history of the white walkers. Yes.

JVN [00:03:13] So back in the time when I well, I used to call them tubby lubby, but that was back in the day when it was cool to be, in comedy back in 2013, we were still body shaming.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:03:24] It was a different time.

JVN [00:03:24] We were still body shaming back then. We would not, we do not call that him anymore.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:03:29] Are you talking about Samwell Tarly?

JVN [00:03:30] Yes.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:03:30] I love Sam.

JVN [00:03:31] And I don't, 'cause I used to call him Tubby Lubby. What do we call him now?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:03:35] We're gonna edit in post, you guys. Just letting you know.

JVN [00:03:38] We're editing in post just so you know. But yeah. But remember when he killed that Night Walker or the White Walker that one time in like Season Five.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:03:44] Yes.

JVN [00:03:44] Don't you remember maybe when he killed him.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:03:48] Yes.

JVN [00:03:48] Some other white walkers that he was with also shattered. So was that like maybe a lieutenant that he killed back then or was there a one alone?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:03:54] I think there was one. Well, I don't remember. I know he shattered, but I don't think he was a lieutenant. Because you don't see, he didn't have white hair.

JVN [00:04:02] Oh, the white hairs.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:04:02] Lieutenants have the white hair.

JVN [00:04:04] And now everyone is dead.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:04:05] Yeah. The night king has a crop top from strawberry. So it's a very.

JVN [00:04:10] So we will really, really, they're gone.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:04:12] Yeah. They're done-zo. Which you know what? I think it's great. I'm glad that Arya was the one who did it.

JVN [00:04:18] That bitch.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:04:18] I didn't see that coming. I fucking screamed when he grabbed her throat. I was like, "This is it. We're all done".

JVN [00:04:26] I thought her throat was getting a burn from his hand.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:04:29] Oh.

JVN [00:04:30] 'Cause, you know, Brienne got like that burn on her arm or whatever.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:04:34] Yeah.

JVN [00:04:34] The ice burn.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:04:35] Yeah.

JVN [00:04:36] That mountain skiing face when burned.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:04:38] I know, but it was a great episode. I sobbed. Jorah. That hit me so hard.

JVN [00:04:44] Oh, Jorah.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:04:45] Yeah. White Drake.

JVN [00:04:46] Downton. Yes. Oh yeah. I call him Downton.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:04:48] You call him Downton. I call him-

JVN [00:04:48] Sir Carlyle. Sir Carlyle.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:04:50] Yes. I call a White Drake because he's very thirsty for love and never gonna get it. Yeah, right?

JVN [00:04:55] Oh wow.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:04:58] Like like did.

JVN [00:04:59] Drake gets love. He just doesn't want to settle down.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:05:01] Right. But like-.

JVN [00:05:02] Am I right? Like Drake could settle down if he wanted to. He just doesn't want to.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:05:06] Right.

JVN [00:05:06] He hasn't met me. And he's like, really feeling like he's so heterosexual and I get it.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:05:10] Yeah.

JVN [00:05:11] Wouldn't that be such news if-.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:05:13] Like you two started dating, that'd be great.

JVN [00:05:15] Drake. Are you sure that you're not into, like, the mustaches an like a kind of like a full-figured, like mustache having like collarbone length bob sort of?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:05:23] I think he could be into it. He just hasn't met you yet.

JVN [00:05:26] And also, like, so "Modern Family", like me and like his baby momma just really working together to like-.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:05:31] You're going to, oh my God, the co-parenting.

JVN [00:05:33] Co-parenting.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:05:33] Yeah, I haven't even thought about that aspect yet. But that could be good.

JVN [00:05:38] I honestly could be poly if they wanted to get together, too. It's like honestly like it's maybe it's fine.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:05:44] Yeah. Yeah. I don't think I could do poly.

JVN [00:05:47] I don't know if I'm a thruple person. I think I'm very bipedal. You know, bipedal means?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:05:51] What is that?

JVN [00:05:52] Like two to two together. Like bipedal, like two people.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:05:56] Yeah. Yeah. I'm supes monogs. Like I only want just like one person. And that's it.

JVN [00:06:00] I do think it can be cute though. Like once a year if you guys, like, went to that place in Paris where all the straight people go to swing. There's this apparently this place in Paris.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:06:07] What?

JVN [00:06:07] Yeah. Apparently there's this place in Paris and I'm not going to bust anybody out. But I've heard about it several times. And there's a place for the heterosexuals go to swing in Paris.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:06:14] Ok.

JVN [00:06:15] All everyone who's anyone has been there. I've heard stories.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:06:17] Steven Spielberg? Has he been there? Yes. Ok, that's hot

JVN [00:06:20] Yes. Yeah. My friends hooked up with someone who I just mouthed.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:06:24] Yeah.

JVN [00:06:25] Yeah. Just now they hooked up and but, yeah, major.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:06:28] Yeah. So not Steven Spielberg, guys.

JVN [00:06:29] So I think-. Yeah. Once I think once a year it could be interesting for heterosexuals to have sort of a situation like that. You know, you're in Paris. They're not a threat to your relationship.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:06:37] True.

JVN [00:06:37] Just because we are a people who likes to have fun. Yeah, but in general, I do agree.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:06:41] And you get miles too, so it's like it's worth the trip.

JVN [00:06:44] Oh, yeah. Who even thought of that way? Yes. OK. So back to "Game of Thrones".

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:06:49] Yes.

JVN [00:06:49] So now that's episode three. Predictions for, how do you think it's going to end up?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:06:53] I mean I don't know how it's going to end, I'm fairly certain that Jamie is gonna kill Cersei.

JVN [00:06:58] I would be so into a-.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:07:00] He has to do it.

JVN [00:07:01] Deep love making one last hurrah. And then he just.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:07:04] Yeah, that would be hot.

JVN [00:07:04] But that's messed up to have violence against women like that. Maybe she's going to kill him like that. Maybe she's going to praying mantis him.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:07:09] No, she, no. Cersei is out of control. She has to die.

JVN [00:07:13] She might praying mantis him know and she might kill him. And then someone else is going to have to kill her. You know what I'm saying?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:07:20] Yeah.

JVN [00:07:20] Because she might praying mantis him.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:07:24] I don't know.

JVN [00:07:24] I think they're going to do it. And she's gonna eat his head right off.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:07:28] So you want Cersei to win?

JVN [00:07:30] No.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:07:30] OK.

JVN [00:07:31] Here's the thing, Cer- Cersei did kind of like win me over because she made friends with her shame of being so in love with her brother.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:07:41] Yeah.

JVN [00:07:41] Like she used to be ashamed of it. And now she's screaming it from the rooftops. And I just think it's wow.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:07:48] I mean, I think that that's great. But I think she went too far when she basically, like, threatened to kill Jamie. You remember in, you remember in Season 7 when they like had that, like, fight and the mountain was there?

JVN [00:07:59] Oh, yes.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:07:59] And then Jamie walked away. I was like, you're, you're out of pocket. We got to calm down. And the fact that she didn't take the, she like, didn't, you know, side with Jon and Daenerys and make sure like, I'm like, you're not in this for the right reasons not to use like a bachelor thing, but she's not here for the right reasons. So.

JVN [00:08:15] Oh, yeah, she's not. And I don't want to see her lose.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:08:19] Yeah.

JVN [00:08:19] I do want to see her lose.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:08:20] Yeah.

JVN [00:08:21] So wait, who do you think is ultimately going to win?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:08:25] For a while, I was like I think maybe Tyrion could get on the throne, but I don't know if that's the right ending.

JVN [00:08:31] What in your heart of hearts is the right ending?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:08:33] I feel like Arya being on the throne would be the right ending. I think Jon Snow's got to die. I think like he for real has to die this time. And it'll be like devastating because he's not coming back. I like Sansa, but I don't know if her-. I don't know. I think Arya should take the throne.

JVN [00:08:55] Wow. Where's Christina Aguilera fit into this for you?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:08:59] I don't know, I just I Daenerys is entitled she's an entitled white girl. She's been through a lot. I want to say she has been through a lot. I'm not saying that she hasn't, but the way that she came into Winterfell and was like, why is not everyone like bowing at my feet? It's like-.

JVN [00:09:17] Cause she has drag-, two dragons.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:09:19] Right. But what I'm saying is like what she needs to learn as a leader is that it's not just about saying I'm the leader, like you need people to want to fight for you. And I feel like, for example, when Theon came back to be like, I want to fight for you, Sansa, like, I don't think that Daenerys inspires that in people in Winterfell. And so it's like she still hasn't figured out how to be that leader yet. And-.

JVN [00:09:40] She's still kind of taking a Trump approach.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:09:41] Yes. And when she was just like, you know, Jon, like "Your sister is like not being nice to me", I'm like, why are we having this conversation right now? Like the Night King is fucking walking up here and you're like, "Check your sister", I'm like, your priorities are not together. I don't know.

JVN [00:09:57] I, ok but wait, I have a question.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:09:59] Yes. Let's talk about it.

JVN [00:10:00] If she had been like a woman of color, would she like, would she still be like an entitled white girl, like, no, but, would you be like if she like why does she have "I want to speak to your manager" vibes.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:10:12] Yeah.

JVN [00:10:13] Or something?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:10:14] Yes, I. But I also think a black woman would not be-.

JVN [00:10:16] Would never have done like, she's would've been smarter in the fucking first place.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:10:20] Exactly. She'd be like, "We, we will, we will table this. Your sister's being wild, we will table it. I'm going to him roast everyone right now". But like, you know, like a black woman would have been like, "I can't come in hot like that". You know? But I do. I do think there are-.

JVN [00:10:35] Which, honestly, I'm sick of that. I'm ready for just like fucking take the lamp posts and fucking shove it right up my ass. If I'm being like that, you know what I'm saying? Like, I think, you know, why can't she?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:10:49] Yeah.

JVN [00:10:49] You know.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:10:50] Yeah.

JVN [00:10:51] Maybe it's like. Yeah. I don't even know, but I see what you're saying.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:10:54] Right. Who do you think is going to end up on the throne?

JVN [00:10:58] I've had this long, long idea.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:11:01] Ok.

JVN [00:11:01] You know how in swimming at the like, as the heats go on, they get faster.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:11:06] Yeah.

JVN [00:11:07] And there's this thing called the "outside smoker" because it should be like, you know, the outside lanes are the slowest and then like the middle, lane four and five, are usually the fastest. Like Michael Phelps was usually like, you know, in lane four or five. Like the middle lane.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:11:17] Yeah.

JVN [00:11:17] So there's this phrase called the "outside smoker", like you don't see them coming.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:11:20] Yeah.

JVN [00:11:20] Right? So I call her Lena Dunham.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:11:23] Yeah.

JVN [00:11:24] But she is the Theon's sister.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:11:26] Oh Yara.

JVN [00:11:28] And I think Yara might be out there sailing the Nina Maria and the Santamaría or whatever the Nina, the pinta, the Santamaría. Just have-. And I think everyone might go wild and kill them, kill every, each other.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:11:40] Ok.

JVN [00:11:41] And she might just come home to like a sort of everyone's gone. Well shit.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:11:46] I would not be mad with that.

JVN [00:11:46] And she might have to repopulate with those sailors. Get a train run on her with all these sailors.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:11:52] Oh no.

JVN [00:11:53] No, but a nice one. Like a consensual train.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:11:55] Ok. Ok, great.

JVN [00:11:55] Like such a lovely, consensual kind of poly, poly train.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:11:58] It's like a jitney, it's a jitney to the Hamptons. That's all it is.

JVN [00:12:01] Yes. And everyone is just working really hard to restock our shelves because so many people died.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:12:07] Yeah.

JVN [00:12:07] But I think Yara could be an outside smoker.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:12:09] Ok.

JVN [00:12:09] I've thought that for a while. Just 'cause no one's really looking at her and you know because remember in the red wedding when we said all that time building up all these people, I think he might have spend a lot of time building up a bunch of people who actually.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:12:19] Yeah.

JVN [00:12:19] Won't really be there.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:12:21] Yeah. Ok.

JVN [00:12:22] Do you, what do you think about it?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:12:23] I mean do like Yara. I think it's, I'd think they really have to sort of set that up so it feels earned, but I think that that's a really interesting and smart choice because I do think as a ruler she has a great skill set. Yeah.

JVN [00:12:35] You know you're really focused on like this skillsets of a ruler which I think is really like that really, I think that really speaks to like your personality. Of like how you created this, you know, you're the go co-creator of "Two Dope Queens". You're the creator. You're an author. No wonder you are like this is how you have led your winning empire because you're, got your mind on like, you know, what are the what are the quality leader? And we're gonna go there just after the break. Welcome back to "Getting Curious", this is Jonathan Van Ness. Honey, we have Phoebe Robertson, she is an, she's a comedian, author. She had, you, we do scripted stuff?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:13:23] Yeah.

JVN [00:13:23] Yeah, you do hella scripted shit.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:13:24] I love it. Yeah.

JVN [00:13:26] Have you ever done this scripted drams?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:13:28] I haven't, but I will love to do a drama. I think it could be fun.

JVN [00:13:32] Just.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:13:32] Yeah.

JVN [00:13:32] What about.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:13:33] Like "Big Little Lies". Like if I was in there.

JVN [00:13:37] What about nudity? Would we do nudity?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:13:39] I don't think I want to do nudity.

JVN [00:13:40] I would do upper buttcrack, lower small of my back. Sort of. Really body positive. Really. Body Chelli, like not like "Game of Thrones", you know, but more like Jamie Lee Curtis in that, in that Arnold Schwarzenegger.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:13:54] Oh "True Lies".

JVN [00:13:54] Ooh, when she's on those bedpost, honey, that gave me, when I was 8, I was like, wow. With her slicked back little Natalie Imbruglia haircut.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:14:03] That would be fun. But I don't think I could do nudity. Like, I just wouldn't like want to tell my parents, like, tune in, and then.

JVN [00:14:09] Classic classy?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:14:10] Yeah.

JVN [00:14:11] No.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:14:11] I don't know.

JVN [00:14:12] Backless? Just classy backless?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:14:15] I would do like-.

JVN [00:14:17] Drapey classic backless?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:14:18] I would do like shower, shower scene where it's like there's a lot of mist. There's a lot of water. You see, like my shower cap, I want to be real, like black people having sex. Like I'm wearing a shower cap in this sex scene.

JVN [00:14:30] I also-.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:14:30] I'm not getting my hair wet.

JVN [00:14:32] I also, or, or, or. I also just went to this like sort of a cleansing conditioner campaign. Like a soapless shampoo.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:14:40] Ok.

JVN [00:14:40] Really moisturizing, really hydrating. It's in the shower. You're doing commercials.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:14:44] Yes.

JVN [00:14:44] This is more on the commercial side.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:14:46] Ok.

JVN [00:14:46] Are you CAA, William Mor-, who are you with?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:14:48] I'm with UTA.

JVN [00:14:49] Oh, shit. I need to get over to their endorsements 'cause I really just had, I think I had a very good vision. It's like, it's this hair campaign. It's very it's a cleansing conditioner. You know, it's very, it's no soapy bubbles, for you. And it's very, why am I so until you doing topless scenes? I don't understand. Who would have known when I woke up this morning that I was going to like harass, Phoebe Robinson in "Getting Curious"? Well, I'm just softly pivot away from there, but I do think that a gorgeous cleansing conditioner.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:15:19] Ok.

JVN [00:15:20] It's shower. It's tiles. It's. I want more commercials with you.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:15:26] Ok. Yes, I would, my dream commercial would be my dream campaign would be Fenty Beauty. Rihanna does not need me, but-

JVN [00:15:33] How do you know?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:15:34] She's got it. She's got it. She's got taken care of. It's like her, it's Duckie Thot, Slick Wood. Like that's a trifecta of just like Coco Khaleesis.

JVN [00:15:43] Damn.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:15:43] You know what I mean?

JVN [00:15:43] But are any of them funny?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:15:46] I mean.

JVN [00:15:47] 'Cause you, you got, because you got that texture, honey, you get that pretty textured, but you also got that wit.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:15:52] That's true. If I could just be in the background on one of the campaign's.

JVN [00:15:55] Fuck a background girl. I think I'm feeling more like connect four, hon, you got that. The four. You know what I'm saying?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:00] Yes.

JVN [00:16:02] There's the three, but you're just like. Right there.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:05] Oh my god.

JVN [00:16:05] So but, wait. Take us back.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:05] Yes.

JVN [00:16:05] It's the early 90s.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:08] When I was born.

JVN [00:16:08] Yes.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:08] No, I was just turned 84, but.

JVN [00:16:10] OK. Cute. '87. Right there, we're sisters.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:13] Yes.

JVN [00:16:14] So you were born '84 in?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:16] Cleveland, Ohio.

JVN [00:16:17] Cleveland, home of-

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:19] LeBron James.

JVN [00:16:20] And Halle Berry.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:21] Yes.

JVN [00:16:22] I was just there. I just it some stand up in Cleveland.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:23] Nice.

JVN [00:16:23] Great, gorgeous town. I didn't know how cute she was. Very cute downtown.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:26] Yeah.

JVN [00:16:27] So you're minding your own business?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:28] Yes, minding my business. My parents have been married almost 40 years.

JVN [00:16:33] Still?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:34] Yes.

JVN [00:16:35] Good for them.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:36] They have just been, fell in love. My brother's back there. He actually got into politics.

JVN [00:16:42] Is he a state senator?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:44] He's does a state rep, District 6. And he flipped it.

JVN [00:16:48] Oh, a federal one or the local state?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:50] Local. Yeah.

JVN [00:16:51] Bitch, I love a state legislature.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:53] I know.

JVN [00:16:53] Your brother is a state legislature. And he flipped a red district blue in the 2018 midterms?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:16:58] Yeah, Philip Robinson Junior. What a sweetheart. Yeah.

JVN [00:17:02] I'm literally shook. I talk about state legislatures a fair amount.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:17:05] It's iconic.

JVN [00:17:06] I wish I really would have known that before my Cleveland show. I would have really brought the house down with that piece of information. Wow. How's this first term going?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:17:13] He's excited. I think he's just sort of like, so he still has his-. So he does nonprofit work at City Year. So he still has that job, too. And he has two kids. So it's a lot.

JVN [00:17:23] Have you ever been more proud?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:17:24] I'm so proud of him. He's good, he went after his dreams and he just did it. And he's so smart and so wonderful and so thoughtful. I think he makes, he has a skill set as a leader. L-O-L. But I just think he's so great in the fact that he got in and it was just like, I want to be a part of the change. I love. I love it so much.

JVN [00:17:42] And really like and we talked about this before, too. But like state legislatures are just so much important because when you have like a crazy federal government happening, if your state legislature's cute, it can, you actually can like protect your state and like your actual immediate residents from some of the, like, tyrannical, you know, tendencies of the federal government.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:18:00] Yeah.

JVN [00:18:00] It's on our Constitution, yeah. Who would have known your brother?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:18:05] I know.

JVN [00:18:06] Is it the first person in your family who ever gotten to politics?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:18:08] Yeah.

JVN [00:18:09] Like who knew

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:18:09] So it's so great. Like, he's doing his thing. I'm doing my thing here in New York. So it's just like real little like-.

JVN [00:18:14] Is he funny, too?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:18:15] He is funny. I think he's just sort of like, "Oh, I'm like whatever". But he is really funny.

JVN [00:18:18] Is he your older brother or little brother?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:18:20] Older, four years older.

JVN [00:18:21] So you guys are just a little babies in Ohio. And then you decided to move to?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:18:26] New York.

JVN [00:18:27] When you were?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:18:27] When I was 17.

JVN [00:18:27] 17.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:18:27] Yeah.

JVN [00:18:27] And you got here and you were like, I'm just, you know, doing an open mic nights or something.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:18:34] Yeah, well, I moved here because I always wanted to live in New York and I wanted to work in film as like a producer, screenwriter. And I was like I moved in New York, it's going to be just like "Felicity". Like there's gonna be guys in my dorm fighting over me. That did not happen. I just want to make that clear. I was not making out.

JVN [00:18:53] Did you get a haircut or something? Like an, like with a haircut that no one saw coming. And so it fucked up the dick game or something? 'Cause that messed up her, it messed up her time.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:19:02] I know.

JVN [00:19:02] It messed up that show.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:19:04] It did.

JVN [00:19:04] That's why I'm scared about getting a haircut. Honestly.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:19:06] I didn't get a hair-. I. What I will say is people overreacted to the hair cut. I thought she looked so cute with the short hair.

JVN [00:19:12] She looked adorable.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:19:13] Yeah, people were being mean.

JVN [00:19:14] But it was a hard. It was a slider.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:19:16] Yeah.

JVN [00:19:17] Like a hard curve ball. And they were expecting that fast ball.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:19:19] You wanted those natural curls. There were so long.

JVN [00:19:23] Those curls. Wow. But that wasn't, you just, you just did not, which.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:19:26] I was that cool.

JVN [00:19:27] Maybe you just weren't going to the right parties.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:19:31] I mean maybe. But I just think I have like no game.

JVN [00:19:33] The social anxiety.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:19:35] You know, I was still wearing just like Oshkosh, you know, overalls like.

JVN [00:19:40] That could be cute.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:19:41] I mean, can it?

JVN [00:19:43] Yeah.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:19:44] OK. I feel like that's like I would be a perfect candidate for your show. Like if I was wearing those overalls, you'd be like "Pheebz".

JVN [00:19:51] Maybe. Well, I don't know, Tan loves an overall, and I love overalls too, but I do think like I had several extreme awkward phases.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:19:59] Yeah.

JVN [00:19:59] In my late teens, early 20s, I mean, even up till 20-, like the beginning of "Gay of Thrones", which was like in 2013, like I feel like I was still, 'cause you know what it is? Once you get a checking account, that cures a lot of your awkward phases.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:20:12] That's true.

JVN [00:20:13] It does. Because like before I had money, I was all, that's the best I could do.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:20:18] Yeah.

JVN [00:20:18] Like honey.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:20:19] Yeah.

JVN [00:20:20] Money helps a lot.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:20:21] Yeah.

JVN [00:20:21] With your, right?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:20:22] If you get like a direct deposit, like you can go to Zara, done.

JVN [00:20:25] Get a cute outfit.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:20:26] Yeah.

JVN [00:20:26] I couldn't do that back then.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:20:27] I know.

JVN [00:20:28] But so anyway you go to college.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:20:29] Yeah, I went to college. Great. I study writing and then I, I did like improv on campus which was like super fun.

JVN [00:20:35] You went to college here?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:20:36] Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

JVN [00:20:38] You did?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:20:39] Yeah.

JVN [00:20:40] And you were just like minding your own little baby business going to school?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:20:42] I was, I was like a little "A" student. I did improv. I was dateless. And then I graduated. And I want to say I was 23, so this was 2008. My friend Lindsay, we went to, we were the same major together and she wanted to take a standup class. And I was like, "I don't really watch it. I think it's stupid". Like, like, I knew like Chris Rock and Ellen DeGeneres but like, I didn't really watch stand up. And she's like, "We'll just do it together. You hate your day job", because I was, um, I was an executive assistant at an indie film company. And I just didn't like it, like I thought was going to love it. And I was like, oh, I don't think I like being in office every day. So I took the class with her at Caroline's on Broadway.

JVN [00:21:18] Yeah.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:21:19] Linda Smith was my teacher. And yeah, I just fell in love instantly. And man, so that was July 2008. And then I got laid off from my job, October 2008 and I took that as a sign. I was like, "Oh, that's a universe clearing the path for me to be like you should double down". So I just like did temp job.

JVN [00:21:39] So Barack had just gotten elected.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:21:41] Yeah.

JVN [00:21:41] And because before it was Bush, then Barack gets elected, honey. He and Hillary go head to head.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:21:45] Yeah.

JVN [00:21:45] Then you get laid off right after he gets elected. No, right before, October.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:21:49] Yeah.

JVN [00:21:50] A month before Barack gets elected, you get laid off, and you're like "Fuck it, I'm going to do stand up".

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:21:54] Yup.

JVN [00:21:55] And then what happened?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:21:56] And then I got laid off.

JVN [00:21:58] Barack wins.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:21:59] Barack wins. I got laid off and then I just did temp jobs like a temped at "Mac". Like I temped at any other little places doing like admin stuff. And I got a job at like an internet company being an assistant. And I would just do standup at night, like I would go to Staten Island and do like shows in biker bars like, you know, all that stuff. Where you just do like very unglamorous shows where, like, you're not getting paid. No one's paying attention. But it makes you like stronger. And that was like 11 years ago. And I just like, really committed.

JVN [00:22:25] You're Mrs. Misely-ing it back then.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:22:26] Yes, I was.

JVN [00:22:27] Maisel-ing it or whatever.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:22:29] I was. And then I just sort of was like it's very like hard to, like, make it in stand up because it's like unless you have a following, like no one cares that you're doing it.

JVN [00:22:40] Yeah, I only got into it because I got a following. I had like a really like shitty like spoiled.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:22:44] Were are you doing standup before? Yeah?

JVN [00:22:46] I, well, it's so like I, like I met Margaret Cho in 2014 from "Gay of Thrones", and she was like, "You really need to do stand up". And I was like, "I would have a nervous breakdown. But what I would love to do is just like style your hair before you go do stand up". So I went, so I went to like a bunch of shows with her and I would do her hair before she'd go on, and I would just like listen. And she was like my idol growing up, like I did watch Comedy Central a lot growing up. Like, that's why I got introduced a standup. Those like specials they would have at night. And so like her and Lisa Lampanelli and like Janeane Garofolo and like those are like my like ladies. I was like "Oh my god, these ladies are so funny". And so, but I didn't really try to do it, do it until it was like January of 2017, and it was like right before "Queer Eye" came out.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:23:26] Yeah.

JVN [00:23:26] And I was like I did it like top secretly in New York, like not putting it on my gram, just like trying it. Because I had like friends at UCB and I had friends at like like UCB in L.A. and like other friends, just like other little shows here and there. So I was like, let me just like, try it. And because Margaret had been telling me I needed to do it forever. And then by the time I did it the first time, I was like, "Oh, no, I do love making people laugh even if I suck at it sometimes".

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:23:47] Yeah.

JVN [00:23:47] But I really just kind of like learn kind of like on the job, which is funny because like probably like my 20th show or like 10th, like, muh, probably my 8th, 9th and 10th show was like selling out like, you know, huge shit in like San Francisco and Seattle, 3,000 like place venues and being like you like I can sense my heart in my earlobe. And I also feel like I have diarrhea.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:24:13] Yeah.

JVN [00:24:13] But this is totally normal.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:24:15] Yeah.

JVN [00:24:16] Like you just did like 300 meet and greets. Also totally normal. Don't think too much about it. Just drink the 17 coffees and get out there.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:24:25] Yeah.

JVN [00:24:25] And swing for the fences.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:24:26] Yeah.

JVN [00:24:27] It has been very surreal. It feels like going on like a zipline or something.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:24:32] Yeah, it's crazy. But it's like so fun and I really love it. And so I just really fell in love with doing stand up. And then, you know, Jessica and I met 2014. So I was like 6 years in. And I was just doing background on a thing she was doing on "The Daily Show" about black women's hair in the military. And it was like unpaid. We just sat in a hair salon and we like knew of each other. I just literally sat in the background, I had like no lines. I really just sort of changed the track, trajectory of my career. So that was like really sort, I always say, like, sometimes it sucks to do things that aren't paid, but sometimes you get good stuff out of it. You know what I mean?

JVN [00:25:08] A hundred percent. Yes.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:25:08] Yeah.

JVN [00:25:09] As a hairdresser, I did tons of shit for free for shout-outs or for exchanges or whatever. Just 'cause I think at some point you gotta know like when to draw the line.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:25:17] Exactly.

JVN [00:25:17] But it's sometimes it's good to know like I did so much stuff for free and continue to do stuff for free when I need to.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:25:23] Yeah.

JVN [00:25:24] But so you guys met and then you guys just were like let's do "Two Dope Queens"? Just like had this little baby idea.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:25:29] So we, we had known of each other because she was, I was basically when I graduated college, before I started doing standup I did improv at UCB, I took a class. And I was like, "Oh, this is cool but I really can't keep affording to do this". But she was basically like in L.A. doing UCB and she's like the only black girl and I was the only black girl here. And so we knew of each other. So when we're just, you know, downtime, doing a shoot at "The

Daily Show". I was like, I have a sort of, I have this podcast that I was doing out of my one bedroom apartment that had like a roach problem and like a leaky ceiling. But I was like, it's not ratchet. Like, it's really cool. Like, we've had some awesome people on, she was like, "Ok". So I had her be a guest on the show. And it was like a podcast I was like putting up into SoundCloud, like it was not like professional, but I like taught myself how to edit and all these things and interview. So she came over, she did it and we had so much fun and she said she always want to try stand up. And I was like, "Well, let's just hosted a show together" as a goof. And then she's like, "Ok, great". Then she left, and like 10 minutes of the she left, I accidentally deleted the interview.

JVN [00:26:32] Nightmare.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:26:33] I know. So I texted her. I was like, "Hiiiiii. So I accidentally deleted our interview. But I still see you next month to do our show. Right"? And she was like, "Yes, sure. Fine. Whatever".

JVN [00:26:45] Oh god. .

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:26:45] I know. So I feel like such a piece of shit.

JVN [00:26:48] And then we did the show and it was at UCB East. And it was called "Blaria" because that was the name of my blog, "Black Daria". And we just sort of like had this amazing chemistry like onstage, like we were going to do all this prepared stuff but we didn't have time. So I was like "You say some things, I'll say some things and we'll just sort of riff and do improv together". And it just sort of worked and we were like, "This feels like a really cool first date. We can just like smash right away and you're like, 'Yeah, this is fine'". And so we just were like, "Yeah, let's do this again". And then just sort of snowballed. And we're like, "This is something special. We should sort of like change the name and really like do like a proper podcast", and that really sort of kind of changed everything. It's crazy.

JVN [00:27:27] We're gonna be right back with more "Getting Curious" with Phoebe Robinson right after this. Welcome back to "Getting Curious", this is Jonathan Van Ness. And the next thing I know, I'm in Brentwood. I'm driving my car to work. I look up, I see this huge billboard with you two. It's like "Two Dope Queens". I'm like, "What is that"? And I think that was the HBO special.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:27:52] Yes.

JVN [00:27:52] I think that's where I got really introduced to you because I really didn't, like I knew about "Throwing Shade" and I knew about "Serial" then I knew about "Two Dope Queens", the special on HBO. Then I went back and listened to the pod so I kind of had like a reverse introduction.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:28:04] That's great.

JVN [00:28:04] But those are the only pods that I knew.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:28:06] Yeah.

JVN [00:28:06] Of like before kind of getting into my own. So really like your time in comedy has been really expansive. Like you've seen, you're a young woman, but you've had like like 11 years.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:28:20] Yeah.

JVN [00:28:20] Doing this, at least like part time or full time, like in some amount of your time.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:28:24] Yeah.

JVN [00:28:24] But dedicating like a large amount of your time to like figuring out the crap, figuring out your timing, like getting it together. And obviously there's been so much that's happened in that time in terms of just who gets booked on what shows. There's still like a gross like sub current of, of the drop ins of like, like Louis C.K., for instance. Who, if you go back into "Gay of Thrones" archives. We were literally doing jokes about him from like things he had done to like friends of friends of friends on "Gay of Thrones", like an episode, like literally back in like 2000-, like when we had our finger on that pulse a hot second.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:29:00] Wow.

JVN [00:29:00] Yeah, but, you know, that's one thing I like about your Insta-stories and like on your Instagram is like you'll speak to like, because you just were at a show like, like it was like-.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:29:08] It was at New York Comedy Club. It wasn't Louis. It was a different comedian. But I was just definitely sort of like and I don't want to say everyone has.

JVN [00:29:15] But that was a feed post, girl. I liked it. You went in on it. You're like, this is going to be on my story. I'm putting this on my feed.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:29:21] Well, yeah. Because I feel like, you know, you go to comedy clubs, you do theaters or wherever, there is no sort of H.R. So if someone, a predator can just show up and work and no one's gonna stop them. And I was just sort of like I think comedy clubs kind of have to step it up in a way and be like, "I'm just not going to let you perform here if you're going to be sexually abusive in the workplace or outside the workplace". And so for me, it was just like not a matter of being a hypocrite, but I'm like I think because I am so outspoken about things, that if I don't say, "Well, I just won't perform in this show then", it's like I'm making a stand on social media, but not in real life, and so I just wanted to carry it over into my real life and it just be like "I don't have to be on a show if some unannounced comic is going to come on who has a history, a pattern of sexually abusive behavior. I just don't need-".

JVN [00:30:09] So you just pull out?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:30:10] Yeah, I just was like, I left.

JVN [00:30:12] Love it.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:30:12] I straight up. I called the Lyft and I left. Yeah.

JVN [00:30:15] And then, I absolutely love this. Oh, I have to say, from doing my own shows. I don't love. And also, I think this is from like years of doing hair and I'm kind of like a schedule queen, like just 'cause like I'm a hairdresser. Like I don't want the bleach to sit in for an extra like 15 minutes.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:30:30] Yeah.

JVN [00:30:30] And I kind of, like 'cause like the job is to make it look like it's all fun and games, but really like I'm trying to stick to a schedule. And you know, when like if the show starts at 8:30, obviously it's not really that hard to like 8:40 because everyone is like going to file in and stuff, but I'm not trying to start it like 8:50.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:30:44] Yeah.

JVN [00:30:44] On like an 8:30 show.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:30:45] Yeah.

JVN [00:30:46] Like 8:40 for sure. But that's, but my shows are kind of like you know I'm sure in "Two Dope Queens" is like this, like you have like your four people or your three people and you have your list of like how many people are going and how much time you're gonna do between. So I don't really love it because I've had this happen to me at certain venues where like like a really famous person will come and want to be like, "Oh, can they just do like a 7 minute drop in"? And I'm like-

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:31:03] And they never just do 7 minutes.

JVN [00:31:05] And I'm like, "No". And then 'cause like, that's happened to me like, like 3 times like I can think with 3 different people. And I love the person. But it's I mean, but I'm just like my agita, like my own anxiety, like I will perform badly if you, and I don't want to resent you.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:31:19] Yeah.

JVN [00:31:20] You know? And if you really would have just like asked me a week ago. Yeah, we could have like done a zhush.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:31:25] Yeah.

JVN [00:31:26] But I don't want like an unexpected mome.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:31:28] Yeah.

JVN [00:31:29] Do you? Does that-?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:31:29] I don't mind an unexpected moment, but I think it-.

JVN [00:31:32] I do, I must just be like uptight.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:31:34] I'm surprised that you are.

JVN [00:31:36] I am uptight.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:31:37] Yeah,.

JVN [00:31:38] I am. I am.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:31:40] I don't mind. I think it could be like fun for shows and stuff. But I do think as long as the person is not a creep. Then you can-.

JVN [00:31:48] Yeah, none of these people were even creeps. I was just like, "no, it's really gonna give me like anxiety". Like if-.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:31:51] Yeah.

JVN [00:31:51] Because like there's like another show at 11:00 and I just like, I can't be, I'll have a breakdown.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:31:56] Yeah.

JVN [00:31:57] I think that's like maybe that's like a little bit of like a hairdressing timing PTSD from doing hair color.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:32:03] Yeah.

JVN [00:32:03] Jonathan, you're on a comedy show. You don't have to be such a stickler about it, you know?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:32:06] But you know what? Sometimes it's nice. I say be you.

JVN [00:32:10] Because don't we just want to go home and bed?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:32:11] Yeah, always.

JVN [00:32:13] Yes.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:32:14] Always.

JVN [00:32:14] I'm obsessed with going home and going to bed.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:32:15] Yeah, I'm like, I don't need to go out. I don't need to go to parties. Yeah.

JVN [00:32:18] But how has your, where I was going with that was like how has your observations on like being a comedian and being like a working, you know, comedian and actress and content creator like in this age of like kind of. Because I feel like we're like at an interesting time because I don't feel like I'm at all like when people are like, "Oh, well, you know, if we start like doing Cancel Culture and if we start like", I'm like, "Yeah, but I feel like there's a difference between like subscribing to Cancel Culture and then just like holding people accountable and being like".

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:32:48] Yeah.

JVN [00:32:49] Because it's like Constance Wu was saying about what was that essay she wrote and it was like, really, because she's like, these are like, I don't want to have to. Like when you not own a thing, be honest. It's like when you like when you have to sell it. It's like this is a choice to celebrate these people like awards.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:33:01] Yeah.

JVN [00:33:01] So it's like that's kind of what it's for comedy. Like, I feel like we can just like celebrate like other people.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:33:05] Yeah.

JVN [00:33:05] Like, it's like it's like becoming like chic-er to celebrate people that aren't problematic.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:33:09] Yeah. Or you could just feel like, you can allow, I think you can definitely allow for everyone. We all have to grow like we all have certainly made jokes 10 years ago that we wouldn't make now because we're smarter. So I think there has to be room for that. But if you are being truly a toxic person and really being destructive, then I think it's fair to sort of, I guess, cancel someone. But I do think that a lot of times I think some of the problems that people can have with Cancel Culture is that like you're holding people to standards that you wouldn't even hold yourself to.

JVN [00:33:42] Right.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:33:43] And that's where it can get tricky, where it's like I read that-, what? What article? Oh, I think it was a "USA Today", someone wrote this op ed because Kamala Harris owns a handgun.

JVN [00:33:53] Yeah.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:33:53] And they're like this disqualifies her as being-.

JVN [00:33:55] Yeah.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:33:56] A pres-, like being a good candidate for presidency. And I was like, what?

JVN [00:34:01] And in reality that would make a lot of people in Arkansas like want to vote for her.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:34:04] But it's also like so you don't have a problem with her policies that she owns a gun. Like it just felt very like you're picking this one specific thing that I even know necessarily informs her policy at all. And then now you're being like, well, she's no,. She can't be president.

JVN [00:34:18] Yeah, it's very blanket statement.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:34:19] Right. And that's I think the problem that it could, it can grow into. But I think for the most part, I think we are living in a better time where you sort of can't, you have to be a little bit smarter. I think we're all like a little sloppy before and now were to be a little smarter and like be, clean it up a little bit more, and I think that's always great.

JVN [00:34:37] I'm noticing that I have this really annoying habit as an interviewer where if I'm into the person I'm interviewing or if I'm nervous, I will ask a question and then talk through the entire question and then not even end up like asking the question that I meant to ask because I just get nervous. I do that a lot, especially if I look up to the person I've interviewing so case in point, so really what I was trying to say is like, in your time in comedy, do you feel like, 'cause sometimes I feel like in *Queer Eye*, like we'll get this feedback of like, oh, you know, like like we've come such a far way. Like like, do we really like do we really need a show that celebrates like this diversity 'cause like we've come so far? And then it's like actually we haven't come as far as we think that we have and I think a lot of times we just like to make ourselves feel like we've come farther than we have. But in reality, if you know where to look, there's like a whole bunch of stuff that we really need to work so much harder on and do so much better about as far as like homophobic attacks, like bullying, access to health care for women, like there's all sorts of stuff that like me are are really under a serious threat and like backslide. But then at the same time, you'll be like, oh, but we've come so far, like things are good. But it's like, no, we really need to, like, keep our eyes open.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:35:41] Yeah.

JVN [00:35:41] So in your time in comedy, like in light of "Me Too" and in the in light of, you know, we like to think of ourselves as like becoming more diverse over time. Do you feel like from where you sit, like comedy specifically is becoming more inclusive and more diverse and celebrates like different voices outside of those same view?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:35:58] I think like yes and no. I think what's great now is a lot of the changes being, you know, sort of fueled by technology where there's like "Broad City" start as a web series. You know, "Two Dope Queens" started as a podcast. Issa Rae started as a web series. So you can sort of, you know, create your own thing and build your own audience. And then when networks or the powers that be that come knocking, it's like you either want this package or you don't. And this is not a package that you can change like you're buying this. So I think that that's huge. I think, you know, having someone like Ava DuVernay is like very huge but I think overall, like as long as the gatekeepers remain old white guys, as long as the heads of networks remain old white guys, then I don't know if comedy is gonna have changed as much as long as like, you know, we're not celebrating like women and people in color and queer people in these spaces or they're given as many opportunities to fail as some white guys are. There's some, there's some guys in this industry where it's like they can mess up as much as they want. They can have as many projects not work out, and they'll still be given opportunities.

JVN [00:37:07] Or or or like just straight guys.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:37:11] Yeah. Just straight guys.

JVN [00:37:12] Period.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:37:12] Yeah. Yeah.

JVN [00:37:13] But also straight white guys.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:37:14] Yeah.

JVN [00:37:14] But there's like one in particular who I can think of who is, he's straight but he's not white. But honey, God damn. Like.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:37:22] Yeah. And so it's. Yeah. And so I feel like there are ways in which that like I think would be cool, I think change were really happen when like you and I are allowed to really experiment and try all different kinds of projects and whether they are successful or they fail. We still have a thriving career. That's when I think real change happens.

JVN [00:37:45] Who do you-? Yes. Who do you? Who is your eye on? Is this like, you know, cause you're Phoebe Robinbson, honey, you're very, you know, you've been in a lot of places, honey. You've got your ear to the ground in a very interesting comedic landscape, honey. Who do you think is like the young Phoebe Robinson, the young Michelle Buteau that's real like she's like the Rosa Lea but of the comedic world. Have you heard of this Rosa Lea, this singer girl, this 20 year old Latina, honey?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:38:06] No.

JVN [00:38:06] She is singing her little. She is, I just follow her Instagram. She's killing it so hard. It's just it's just such good music.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:38:12] Ok.

JVN [00:38:12] Who is like the 20 year old, 22 year old. Or maybe she's like a 30 year old or 50 year old. But you just started comedy like a month ago?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:38:18] I really like, I really like Nore Davis. We went to college together, but he's super funny. And his brother's trans, and he has like all this really smart, wonderful, just like beautiful, trans material just about race, about politics. Like, he's so amazing. So love Nore Davis. I love Petey DeAbreu. He's like. I think he's from the Bronx. He's like a really funny guy. We used to do a lot of shows together. I really like Joyelle Nicole Johnson. She's super awesome. I think she gets up a lot at the Cellar. She's done some stuff for Comedy Central. So those three are like just really super duper love.

JVN [00:38:54] And those are all New York people, right?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:38:56] They're all New York people. Yeah.

JVN [00:38:57] Can you think of like a random Chicago or like a West Coast one for people in America that aren't in New York?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:39:02] Marcella Aguello is based in L.A.. I think she's very, very funny. She has an album out called "The Woke Bully". She did "Two Dope Queens". She, I absolutely love her. I'm obsessed. She's great. Yeah.

JVN [00:39:15] Cute. Like off the top of your head recommendations. Ok. So that was like comedy, "Two Dope Queens". And I guess kind of to, you have become a multi hyphenate, which is not your fault that you've been very busy and you have you know, you came in too much success, much touring, much ability to like write books and do these deals. Like, I guess I really want to hear. This is like a eight questions in one.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:39:38] Ok.

JVN [00:39:39] But like what have been because I love the title of your first book. Why I love the title of both, but the, what was the title of the first?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:39:44] "You Can't Touch My Hair and Other Things I Still Have to Explain".

JVN [00:39:48] In a minute and a half because we have like 5ish to 7ish left. What is the like what is like the back cover of the book? Like trailer synopsis.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:39:57] Of "You Can't Touch My Hair"? Ok, so if you, black women are constantly having their hair touched by mostly white people.

JVN [00:40:03] And I also know this, like I'm a hair. But I just need to ask, ok, yeah yeah.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:40:08] And so I like really love essay collections by like Tina Fey. Mindy Kaling. So I thought I would sort of write, you know, essay collection about like growing up and like falling love with my hair and talking about race and family and being an aunt and like, you know, breaking into comedies. So I was sort of like the first book and second book, "Everything's Trash, But It's OK". Sort of was inspired because, you know, number 45 is an office. And I was like, he wasn't suppose, like the villain is not supposed to win, but he won. But then I was really inspired by like, whether it's the Women's March or Black Lives Matter. And like all these people

being like, "Well, we're going to take back things and not just leave up to like the few folks in power". So that sort of inspired the book. So then I talked about, in the second book coming out of \$65,000 dollars worth of debt. How I met my boyfriend, "British Bake Off".

JVN [00:40:53] Your man's from "British Bake Off"?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:40:55] No, no, that's his nickname. But he is from the UK.

JVN [00:40:57] Oh, I was like, oh, my fucking God. I was like who is he? I love that show.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:41:02] It's Paul Hollywood. No, but my my boyfriend's British. So he doesn't his name out there, so I call him "British Bake Off". And so I just really sort of wrote about like feminism and politics and all those things and body positivity. And I really just am proud of both of those books.

JVN [00:41:15] Love.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:41:16] Thanks.

JVN [00:41:16] And you guys can get those. They're so good. And then was there any other gorgeous project that you, that's coming up for you? What's happening?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:41:21] Yes, I have I'm doing like my first, like, solo headlining tour around the cunch. I'm very excited. It's called "Sorry, Harriet Tubman". Basically like the idea of it just came because I'm kind of like a hot mess and I'm trash. I'm like Harriet Tubman did not fight for equality so I could be like a hot mess. So I'm lowkey apologizing for all the ways I'm ignorant, but having fun with it. And so, yeah, I'm traveling. I'm doing you know, Atlanta, doing-.

JVN [00:41:47] I have to say that. I feel like Harriet, I mean, I didn't personally know her. No. I missed her by a few generations but I feel like she'd be much proud.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:41:54] OK. Hope so.

JVN [00:41:55] All you're doing is using your platform like to lift up other artists all the time and then like you're like you literally like like Titanic life-boated your career last. Like you helped everyone else. You got all these other people up. You like all these people smash in. Seriously, you're kind of like being like, really support like this, like, I mean, but obviously, like best supporting actress. But now you're like having your moment to like, and you need that and you're fucking earned it.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:42:17] Thank you.

JVN [00:42:18] You're so god damn talented.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:42:20] Thank you. But people can see me on the road. I'll be performing in Scotland at Edinburgh for the first time.

JVN [00:42:24] Oh, Fringe Fest?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:42:25] Yeah.

JVN [00:42:26] Oh my god, that's epic.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:42:26] Yeah. The final two weeks of August. August 12th through the 25th. But if you go to PhoebeRobinson.com/tour. You can get all the tickets. And I have merch, and I'll hang out, take pictures and, you know, try to be cute.

JVN [00:42:38] OK, love that story. So you guys gotta do that. Ok so this is the final yoga wrap up question.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:42:43] OK.

JVN [00:42:43] This is like my biggest concern for our country. And I love that your brother is in politics. It's not going to be as bad as you think it is, don't worry.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:42:49] OK.

JVN [00:42:50] Well, really do however bad you want to make it. So I'm really fascinated by like people that because I'm from rural Illinois, like I'm from like five hours southwest of Chicago, but my whole family still in my hometown called Quincy. And then like your, is most of your family still in Cleveland.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:43:03] Mmhmm.

JVN [00:43:03] But, you know, move to New York. So it's like I said, it's put on Instagram like stuff to the effect of like, you know, "Y'all you need to talk to your Aunt Lindas about", you know, because there's a lot of Aunt Lindas who I feel like are like the Trump supporters and, you know, they're like ardently pro-life, even though they had like six abortions. And they like are not able to separate, like their own personal views from like.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:43:21] Right.

JVN [00:43:21] Like what women need to be able to do with their doctors and such. So like, what do you think is or how do you, how do you engage with that? Like, what's your ear to the ground on Ohio like? Because, you know, that's such a swing state, she's very, you know, emblematic of like what, who's going to win for President like? So really, I don't exactly know what the question is.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:43:41] Yeah.

JVN [00:43:41] But like, what do we need to do to, like, talk to our families? If you're someone who lives in New York or LA, like, how do you talk to your family? Like, how do we get our brothers to run for local, let's say run for state league?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:43:49] Yeah.

JVN [00:43:50] Was that really his journey that, you didn't want to do that, like he just did that?

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:43:52] Yeah, no, he always kind of wanted to be an, get into politics. But I think he was always like a little nervous and a little afraid. And I was just sort of like life is short and, you know, like for, I've been doing comedy for 11 years. I always say the first eight and a half years, I was insanely broke. Like no one knew who the hell I was. We kind of have to go for it if you want anything you change. And so I feel like the biggest thing that we have to do or one of the biggest things is like I can say as much as I want to say. But like people normally listen to people who look like them or have like the same experience as them. And so I feel like me sort of being like "Ohio, you got to do this, this, this" is not necessarily gonna work. But like you say, like

everyone sort of has like talk to their group and really have conversations like real honest conversations about why they're voting the way that they're voting, because a lot of times, you know, people are really passionate or they might be focused on like one like single issue that directly affects them, that will be something that I am not thinking about, you know, because I like I'm not a parent. I. I don't, you know, live in like a smaller town where's there not like as many job opportunities. So it's like there are a lot of things that like I might miss. I really wanted to have real truthful, honest conversations about like what's going in our lives that's making people want to vote the way they want to vote. And then also we have to not discredit facts. I feel like we are now in a world in which facts don't matter. And I'm make I think we have to return back to facts being the thing that counts the most. Like we really have to take those into account. We really have to be like, you can't say one thing. And be like, "Oh, I didn't say it". And that means you didn't say it's like, yes, you did say so there has to be a level of accountability and I don't think that's happening right now. And that starts from the top down. It's 45, like he just does whatever the fuck he wants. And then like he just goes, "Well, I didn't do it". Moving on. And that's crazy. You can't do that.

JVN [00:45:42] I'm so worried about what he's doing with women's access to healthcare. And like the crazy lies that he's saying at these rallies in Wisconsin and about like, you know, literally with late term abortion and like, you know, inflating the numbers and making it so much worse than it really is, and especially in places like Ohio that just passed that fetal heartbeat bill and really restricting women's access to healthcare and like contraception, which like we gotta have that. Like young women need to be able to determine, like how they have babies and when they have babies.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:46:09] Yeah.

JVN [00:46:09] It's crazy.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:46:10] And we have to do the homework. We can't just rely on officials telling us, like we have to also do the research and be like, I really want to know what the actual truth is.

JVN [00:46:19] Yes, which is just 24 week.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:46:21] Yeah.

JVN [00:46:22] Which is not nine months.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:46:24] Yeah.

JVN [00:46:26] Phoebe Robinson, I love you so much.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:46:27] Jonathan Van Ness, I love you. And thank you for having me on. And your sweater is very cute.

JVN [00:46:32] Much rainbow. Let's go make some content for the gram.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:46:35] Yes.

JVN [00:46:35] And thank you so much. Thanks for coming.

PHOEBE ROBINSON [00:46:42] Thank you.

JVN [00:46:42] It's on Instagram and Twitter @CuriousWithJVN. Our theme music is "Freak" by Quiñ. Thank you so much to her for letting us use it. If you enjoyed our show, introduce a friend, show them how to subscribe, let them know, spread the word, spread the love. Get "Getting Curious" out there to everyone. Thank you so much for listening. And we love you to pieces. "Getting Curious" is produced by Cody Zigler, Emily Bossak, Julie Carrillo, Rae Ellis and Colin Anderson. Special shout out to our gorgeous social media coordinator, Lara Nieman. And shout out to me because I work really fucking hard and I'm exhausted and I'm raising two cats and I wish that I had six cats and I don't have six cats. So bye.