

## Pretty Curious with Jonathan Van Ness & Mei Kawajiri

JVN: Hey, Curious People. Welcome to Pretty Curious, my podcast on all things beauty. I'm Jonathan Van Ness. This week, we're talking to one of the most sought after nail artists in the business and someone who's been doing my nails for years who I literally love so freaking much. Her name is Mei Kawajiri. We'll talk about some of her iconic looks, the amazing work she does, her life, how she got to where she is. She literally is like one of the most sought after, top of the game, people in the beauty industry. I love me so much and her heart is so amazing. Her creative talent is otherworldly. I'm obsessed with her. Um so I'm really excited that she's taking the time to talk to us. Uh sidebar: you may notice this isn't Curious Now, this is, this is, this was meant to be Curious Now. Well, y'all, we have some little gorgeous Curious Universe updates for you. So in September of last year, we launched two new shows. It's Pretty Curious and Curious Now. And those were alternating on Mondays and I am so proud of our team. I love our Curious Universe, but I found over these last few months that in addition to wanting to differentiate, Getting Curious and Curious Now more, I also find that I wasn't getting to do Pretty Curious as much as I wanted to because beauty is everything. It's, it's how do we achieve beauty? How do we see our beauty? So it's not only like external, but it's also internal and it's also health. There's really in my, in my world, there's nothing that beauty doesn't touch. It's how we see the world, it's history, it's gender, it's clothing, it's makeup, it's hair, it's industry, it's economy, it's everything. So I just want us in 2024 to kind of hone and really dial in what we're doing. So from now on here to four, we are going to make Mondays our Pretty Curious podcast and Wednesdays will be Getting Curious as we've always had them. So Curious Now, if you want to get into the news with us, make sure you're following us on socials. Also, I'm going to have Curious Now vibes over there on the Extra Curious subscription option on Apple podcasts. So if you get us on Apple podcasts and you're like, what's this subscription thing? Well, you can listen ad free first of all. And also um I do this other fun podcast which is called Ask JVN and that lives behind the Cextra Curious paywall, Ask JVN, our tagline is, it's the podcast for the coinsy queen who likes to talk about sex and other things too. It's giving *Talk Sex With Sue Johanson*. It's our more adult vibes. Um so now Pretty Curious, always on Mondays, Pretty Curious is every Monday. Thank you so much for listening. We love you from the bottom of my big gay heart. Thank you for listening. And with that being said, let's get into Pretty Curious.

We're going to do one product review today. I'm not ashamed to admit it: I am a Lush fan. I have always loved Lush. Um I mean, it just holds such a special place in my heart and it still does and truthfully—and I think I've actually talked about this on Pretty Curious before—I love that Olive Branch. It is a gorgeous body wash. Um but the Lush people are just going beanie baby crazy fanatic because Grass body wash is back in stock after eight years. This is a, it's, it's not the cheapest body wash, but it's not the most expensive by any means. I really like the results. It doesn't dry your skin out. Um so you guys, they got it back. Lush Grass, get it, get it while it's gone or get it before it's gone. OK. Get it before it's gone.

Moving into our beauty news and hot takes. Oh, so hot! Um Golden Globes; were we thriving? Also too I mean, Creative Arts Emmys. I looked incredible. I'll say it here. I looked gorgeous. I got to say thank you to my glam team Ali B, Patty Maker. Um Alexis. Thank you. I just, I felt so gorgeous and um I just felt great. So thank thank you for to my team. Um but

we noticed a lot of Golden Globes, no makeup makeup looks and I think and also just like with a little bit of touch and I think if you'll remember last year when we had Danessa on Pretty Curious—Danessa Myricks—she said that that was something that she wanted to see more of in 2024. And we are in fact seeing it and I love this continued no makeup makeup trend. We've talked about it on Pretty Curious before and we're still talking about it. But I do think that this is like, however you want to show up in the world, whether that's completely contoured and just full-face girl beat to the gods or you just are giving that no makeup skincare glamour. I do think that that no makeup look is this way of like reclaiming our beauty and seeing our beauty and it, it's a, it's a different way to show up and to kind of like...because beauty is political. And so when we allow ourselves to uh model self acceptance—which honestly like my mission, my mission statement and in my mind, in, in, in anything that I do, it's like I want to promote self acceptance by modeling joy and curiosity—so I think self acceptance is really the ultimate like power move and whether that self acceptance looks like you just giving full glam or no glam, they're all okay. But I just think it's really interesting the way that we're seeing more people show their confidence with this no makeup makeup look and I love it and I want to see more of it.

Product drop: Peter Thomas Roth New Peptides Skinjection line. You guys just like what I was saying before. There is no shame in the injection game. I am 36. I'm going to be 37 this year and I have yet to do Botox or really any injection of any kind. But honey, I'm getting curious. I see, I see things sometimes, you know, on my face where I'm like, oh I didn't really notice that like maybe a little bo, maybe a little refresh. I don't know. I'm curious but and this Peter Thomas Roth Skincare line, the peptides skinjection line is supposed to prolong the life of your injectables and or like even replace the need for injections. Um peptides are going to be big this year but they've always been big. Trinny London loves a peptide in her line, but everyone loves a peptide. We love a skincare peptide. What is a peptide? Why is that giving me moisture in my skin? I need to find out; I also need to find out like how to safely do injections or if I was going to do them. So I'm just giving you an episode teaser. We are going to do a Pretty Curious episode about injections. Um I'm going to ask about the Peter Thomas Roth line to our derm that we're having on. I don't do too many spoilers, but we're going to have a derm on to talk about injections; how to do them if you're a newbie. Um So that's one thing that we're going to be doing. And in the meantime, I'm going to try this Peter Thomas Roth New Peptide Skinjection line and see if it kind of makes me feel like maybe I don't need the bo. Um that's what we had on the docket today for getting ready with me. Beauty news and hot takes. Now we're going to get into our conversation with Mei all about nails, how to achieve the nail looks. We're going to cover nails for beginning, we're talking about everything. We think it's all things nails. Let's get into our convo. Here we go with Mei. Welcome to the show, Mei. How are you?

MEI KAWAJIRI: I'm so happy to see you even through this camera. I'm very happy to see you. I missed you so much, Jonathan.

JVN: I have to come meet the baby when I'm in the city, next. Can we get dinner?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Yes. 100%.

JVN: I've always loved you so much. You're just, your story is incredible. I know a little bit about your story, but will you tell us about how you got here; how you became interested in nails; what like nail culture is like in Japan because it's like, I think it's more major a little bit in Japan than it is here. So just tell us about you and how you became fucking Mei Kawajiri.

MEI KAWAJIRI: Okay, cool. Um I started doing nails 2002 from Japan. I born in Kyoto. So which is not like Tokyo, it's more like a traditional place and I started doing nails and you know, I need a more excited city, not Kyoto, I need to go to Tokyo. So I moved to Tokyo when I was 20 years old and I start doing nails for fashion people in Harajuku. And I opened my own salon when I was 23 years old. And I need more excited. I need to be more bigger. So I decided: let's go to New York and I go to New York. I show my nails on the Fifth Avenue from downtown to uptown. And I want to see how people react and then people are like, "Awesome. Can I see your nails?" And then, "Yeah, I did it. What do you think? Should I move to New York?" And OK, I decided, let's do it, you know, and I moved to New York.

JVN: Wait, so you surveyed people on the street to see if you should move or not?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Yeah

JVN: That's iconic behavior.

MEI KAWAJIRI: I was having like, you know, my portfolio nail uh book, I made a nail book by myself at the print, print out store. So I was holding a book on my left hand and showing my nails and, "What do you think of my nails?" And then, "Oh, oh my God, your nails are so good," and look my nail book. You know, I show my nail book to people.

JVN: So you did nails in Tokyo for 10 years before you come to New York. And how did your um how did your point of view and like your aesthetic evolve in the 10 years of you doing nails in Tokyo? Like, was it ever more simple? And then it got more artistic or was it, did you always kind of have this? Really? Because Mei does incredible, I mean, Mei is like fucking da Vinci. Like Mei can draw anything on nails. She can like sculpt anything. She's like really an incredible artist. Um so did that evolve over time yet? I'll stop asking the question because you know the question. So how did it evolve while you're in Tokyo?

MEI KAWAJIRI: So I was in Tokyo, I was doing nails. You know, Jonathan, when you go to sushi restaurant, it's called Omakase, right? It's whatever a chef want. I was doing that. I was doing Omakase nails. So people come to my salon and then, "Do you want Omakase nails?" And then, "Yes, please." So I was like, OK, I do the Omakase nail, whatever I want. So I was doing nails like that.

JVN: And they were like as cool as they are now?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Yeah, that I think that's more like, um you know, abstract style; not too much theme at the time, but it was really cool. I really like, I wish I had the Instagram at the time.

JVN: Were you doing like the chains and the nails and like, like, like really cool sculptural nails for like your Omakase nails or was it more just like designs?

MEI KAWAJIRI: More like designs. Because I think Japan had crazy chain or sculpture design trend way more before. And then, you know, I started doing the 2002. At the time, I think they had crazy sculpture and then getting more like less, less, more like shorter, crazy detail design but not building sculpture. So I was doing more hand painted Omakase style.

JVN: But so, so that's how and then, and then you just like went to nail school in Japan, right? Is it like cosmetology school here or is it like longer? Is it really hard in Japan? Is it like more strict or something to get your license?

MEI KAWAJIRI: No, it's not. But it's, it's very quick, like six months. But you know, it's funny uh they never teach me how to do nail art. They only teach me manicures, pedicure, you know how to do uh extension nails. That's all. So nail art is basically taught by myself.

JVN: Um well, yeah, because you are always an artist.

MEI KAWAJIRI: Yeah.

JVN: Did you ever like second guess what you wanted to do or did you ever lose faith like that you could accomplish? Because, I mean, you've accomplished so much and we'll get more into like what you've done, you know, since you moved to New York. Because, I mean, your, your career is just legendary. But yes, I guess it's like, how did you know how to do it?

MEI KAWAJIRI: I, I knew, I knew I could do, I was always believing myself: if I see I can draw, if I see I can paint, I can create exactly the same. So I knew I can do nails and, but it's more important after I moved to New York is communication. You know, um communicate with people through the English is very difficult, but somehow I could do that. I don't know why. Maybe people love nail art. I love and people love me, you know?

JVN: And then when you were in Japan from 2000 and, or Tokyo from 2002 to '12, did you start to get like celebrity clientele? Like how did you break into like fashion and celebrities?

MEI KAWAJIRI: It's crazy. So when I was in Japan, I never done fashion and I only did few couple celebrity. Otherwise I was just doing nails for Harajuku fashion, you know, kids. And after moved to New York, oh, it's crazy.

JVN: What was that like? So 2012, you come, you're like surveying people on Fifth Avenue. Did you have to go to Japan to get your stuff to come back or did you just stay or like, like how did you get your first job? And how did it, how did like, how did Mei take off in New York City?

MEI KAWAJIRI: So I bring all my nail stuff with me. So I was like, "Ok, let's just start working at nail salon on the street," because I want to know what American people like first. So I went to, you know, walk to the nail salon in Soho. "And hey, my name is Mei, I want to work here because I'm a nail artist from Japan. I know so many cool stuff, nail supply, uh look, you guys still using acrylic painting, you know, back in Japan, we don't use that acrylic painting anymore. We're using gel. So I wanted to show you and then actually I have nail supply with me. Can I do your nails?" I was doing nails for owners nails. Then she's like, "Oh wow, so fast," you know, and then, "Ok, let me know if you wanted to hire me, I'm here." And then next day she emailed me: "I want to hire you and support your visa." That was the beginning. Then I start working at the nail salon, you know. Um it's obviously my salary was way more lower than what I used to do my own business. But I wanted to see how American people like, what kind of nail they like. I was working and I met so many cool clients over there and then OK, time to leave after I think four or five months. OK, I leave and I start doing nails for my clients directly. That was beginning.

JVN: When does your career, like when do you get like your first, did you get like an agency or like did you start doing Fashion Week or how did, how did this Mei come about?

MEI KAWAJIRI: So Mei was already kind of got focused through the um New York Post. New York Post suddenly reached out to me and, "I want to talk about you that you are so cool move to New York from Japan and then you're doing nails, not nail manicure, you're doing

nail art.” And then I was on the New York Post and after that, I got many magazine offer and TV show offer and you know, celebrity is through the all the magazine. I remember first, the magazine I started doing was um C, CR Fashion Book. Yeah, CR Fashion Book. Karin Lawfield: she found me through Instagram and then I was doing nails and she, you know, asked me, “I know you what you want; you want to do nail art.” And I was so happy! Yes! I want to nail art, not only one color. Then I start doing nail art for the magazine. And then I met first time I met Gigi Hadid through the CR Fashion Book.

JVN: Ah and that was like, what 2016 or something

MEI KAWAJIRI: I think so. Yeah.

JVN: And then was Gigi like your first like major person

MEI KAWAJIRI: Before Gigi I had Heidi Klum. She was my first major customer.

JVN: What have been like your top, your top like pinch me moments in your career

MEI KAWAJIRI: Pinch me moment? What does that mean?

JVN: That's like when you're like, I can't believe—pinch me. Am I dreaming? I can't believe I'm doing this like a huge goal that you accomplished? Was it like doing Madonna's nails or like what have been your top, most memorable moments? I know Bette Midler's one, right?

MEI KAWAJIRI: I think Madonna was my pinch moment. I was really pregnant and then Madonna asked me, I was almost, you know, giving like birth or something. I was really shocked and then just got the email. My hand got sweaty. Oh my God, Madonna. I have to do it. It's my lifetime um idol. So I went to her place and you know, I just uh I I thought giving a birth is the most, most um nervous moment in my life. But actually doing nails for Madonna was my most nervous moment!

JVN: And how'd it go?

MEI KAWAJIRI: It was so amazing. I, I, you know, I remember everything. I think she called my name. “Hi Mei!” You know, she called my name, “Hi Mei.” And then I was like, wow, she called my name like casual. I love that. And then I hold her hand. It's the most beautiful, soft hand. And you know, I think hand, holding hand is very personal things, you know, she living with the hand. So I'm holding her hand, she trusted me. So I felt really, really nervous. But I also OK, I gotta do it, I gotta do it. So I put all my um work I've done in my separate um category in my phone. And I showed her this is my work. And she said, “You know, I want to look and I want to look, I want to pick from your work. I want to do Mei's work,” which is so amazing because a lot of people show me, you know, a picture from Internet or Instagram, random Instagram. But she said I want to do what Mei does. So I was like, wow, so cool.

JVN: I want to do what you do too, but I can't eat.

MEI KAWAJIRI: No, we do. We do Jonathan. Yeah, we do, we do, we need original stuff.

JVN: But remember when you tried to give me my cat nails and then I couldn't pick up a fork when I was the cat for Halloween and I was trying to eat. I do just have so much respect for long interesting nail-having people because I don't know how you guys do it. I literally couldn't pick up forks.

MEI KAWAJIRI: And you know the cat hated it!

JVN: Do you remember? You guys, it was insane. It was Halloween 2019. I was dressed up as a cat. Mei gave me these pointed temporary nails like they weren't permanent because I was afraid that I couldn't, I just was afraid. So they were just like temporary. And when I picked up Larry with them, I picked up Larry like a baby how I always do. And then I scratched him with my nails and Larry has never hissed at me in my life. His eyes grew to like 10 times their normal size and he was [hissing sound] like, like, he didn't know who I was. I was wondering if he thought that that was me trying to start a fight with him. Like, you know, like if he thought because those aren't your normal claws and he hated it!

MEI KAWAJIRI: He hated it. He thought like competition or something

JVN: You're a new mom you mentioned because Itsuki is like, it's, it's January. So she's only like five months old!

MEI KAWAJIRI: Yea, still little!

JVN: How has it been being a new mom? Are you like, are you adjusting? She's so cute and perfect. Like is it different being a working mom? Like how has it been since having Itsuki?

MEI KAWAJIRI: It's being so crazy. Day goes so fast doing Itsuki's taking care and nails are always, always short and clean and I always put the long, long press on nails when I have something fun. But you know, I think nail career is, it's been really fun and I can do so many fun things. But baby and mom is like new my challenge. So combine these two. I'm like super person right now! Super Mei

JVN: You're Super Mei!

MEI KAWAJIRI: Super, Super Mei

JVN: And like did you, did you—because I mean you took a little time off from working, didn't you? When you first had her? Did you find yourself missing it? Were you like, oh I needed a break.

MEI KAWAJIRI: I think I miss, I miss that nail moment because doing nails is actually my own meditation, you know, so makes me feel like, oh, always I get the stress but all disappear, stress is disappear when I do the nails. So I was missing that moment.

JVN: What's going on in the, in the nail world right now? Like what's like the moment? What's everyone want? What's everyone doing? What's like trendy? But I feel like you aren't really like because you like, you're going to do what you're going to do and you know how to do anything no matter what the trend is. But what's like all the basics doing?

MEI KAWAJIRI: I was thinking 2024, people are wearing clear, clean nails but put on press-on nail when they go out, they're going to the party. Let's put us on, they always like sticker like this like Jonathan like this is clear, natural gel and then just press-on nail with sticker. So I think that's going to be 2024.

JVN: Press-on! Less commitment.

MEI KAWAJIRI: Yeah, exactly. It's kind of like a makeup or accessory.

JVN: How do we do them like, how do we make them look nice and not make them look bad? Like when you're putting them on?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Have to be correct size, you have to know exactly the perfect size fit. And then, you know, I just, I just like you have to have a sticker, good sticker. Because this sticker if you wear this, I think you can eat food. You cannot take a shower, but you can do so many things. You can go to the bathroom.

JVN: Can you wash your hands?

MEI KAWAJIRI: You can wash your hands but might be a little bit loose but it's ok when it's getting dry. I also like the people that only two finger nails like Jonathan do. You know only two nail, finger nail art and the left over clear or like one nails, long nails. And after that everything is so short; like mismatch nails. That's what I like this year I think.

JVN: Fuck yes. We're ready for our last segment. Are you ready? This is rapid fire. Do you know what rapid fire is?

MEI KAWAJIRI: No.

JVN: Fast questions. I'm going to ask you the question in fast, fast. First thing that comes to your head. Ok ready. OK. Rapid fire: what's your go to budget beauty recommendation, beauty product that's like under 10 bucks, under five bucks cheap,

MEI KAWAJIRI: Cheap um....Chapstick

JVN: from who?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Lucas Paw Paw ointment

JVN: And you like that one?

MEI KAWAJIRI: I love this one. I buy it all the time and it's really good.

JVN: OK. Who taught you about that one?

MEI KAWAJIRI: My friend Ava.

JVN: OK, because y'all like beauty, like New York City beauty people are the smartest people just so you fucking know if you don't know now you know it's true. OK. Um Splurge recommendation: beauty or otherwise favorite splurge.

MEI KAWAJIRI: What is that mean...splurge?

JVN: Splurge is like expensive thing. It could be a really expensive dinner or maybe it's like a Marc Jacobs bag or maybe it's like a great nail art manicure. Like a great, your perfect splurge.

MEI KAWAJIRI: OK. My, I think, I think shoes.

JVN: Oh, what's your favorite shoe?

MEI KAWAJIRI: I love my shoes. The Miu Miu shoes.

JVN: We love Miu-Miu. You've worked for Miu Miu too.

MEI KAWAJIRI: I do, I do. I spend in Miu Miu and I work Miu Miu.

JVN: Can you name 10 high fashion labels that you've worked with off the top of your head?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Balenciaga, Miu Miu, Gucci, Marc Jacobs, Prada, Bottega Veneta, Vivienne Westwood, Tom Ford, Moschino, Loewe , Mugler, and Burberry.

JVN: When's Chanel going to get you together, Chanel should be working with you. That's outrageous like that you're not doing like perfect little seas or like it's actually highly insane to me that they have not because you could recreate those bags on their nails. Their cool resort bags. You know what you should do? I think you should do a post of recreating Chanel bags on nails to get on their radar. I volunteer as tribute if you want to paint them on my nails.

MEI KAWAJIRI: Yes. Yeah. Can I?

JVN: Or maybe Gigi, if you can get the time because she's like a Chanel girly. I just think, you know, I'm just ready for you to have that Chanel moment. Ok. Um, um, a product you never leave home without?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Eyeliner, long eyeliner!

JVN: Um, favorite stuffed animal, favorite stuffed animal, guinea pig or bear?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Oh, that's so hard. Jonathan.

JVN: Will you tell everyone who guinea pig is?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Jonathan give me a guinea pig and then I put the nails for guinea pig because Jonathan is always sleeping with guinea pig. I love him so much.

JVN: Guinea pig was Peanut. It was my stuffed guinea pig from *Peanut Goes for the Gold* and Mei came over one time and she said, "I love this guinea pig." And I said, "Do you want the guinea pig?" And May said, "Yes, I do and I want to name them guinea pig." And so they named them guinea pig and they gave them nail art. And then guinea pig made best friends with Bear who was Mei's other adopted um stuffed animal through COVID, who you would like take out to coffee. And in the early days of COVID and you used to make instagrams of like, like come with me and bear to go get coffee during COVID, I loved Bear and I miss Bear. And ever since you've had Itsuki, we don't get to see Bear as much. I think people miss Bear a little like, do you still have Bear?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Thank God Jonathan. I was talking with Avery the other day. "Should I get rid of Bear?" And then he's like, "It's up to you." And then, because you know, Itsuki is here, I'm so busy for Itsuki. But then look at Bear's face and then bBear looks so sad. So I cannot get rid of him. He's still there.

JVN: Don't rid of Bear, girl. Your followers love Bear. I just think and Bear needs to hold Itsuki and like they need to become friends.

MEI KAWAJIRI: I have to give a bath for Bear.

JVN: What does Itsuki think about Bear?

MEI KAWAJIRI: I think she still can't see it because Bear is all of it on the back and Itsuki is in the front.

JVN: Why don't you bring them to each other?

MEI KAWAJIRI: True. I would do that session. I would do that.

JVN: And what about guinea pig? Has guinea pig and Itsuki met?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Yeah. No. Itsuki and the guinea pigs still haven't met me. I have to do it. I'm sorry.

JVN: Oh my God. It's not enough that I haven't met Itsuki but for guinea pig not to, as well. That's like I didn't expect our conversation to end like that

MEI KAWAJIRI: True because the guinea pig is small.

JVN: I mean, the nails may not be maybe you need to change guinea pigs, nails, like, take their sharp nails off and do a short square nail. So they don't hurt Itsuki.

MEI KAWAJIRI: True! New Year. New nails.

JVN: Yes, I think, yes. All the stuffed animals need new nails. Um, ok. Ok. Ok. This doesn't have to be rapid. But, um, what's your most inspiring beauty memory?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Ah no, I think, I think my inspired is always, you know, I love anime. I love anime every time when I see an anime, their outfit or makeup or hair color so unique because it's not real, right? But I love that I wanted to wear like that. So that is my biggest inspiration for beauty

JVN: Anime! I love that. Ok. Now it's our last segment. This is meh or major. Meh is like, I don't care about it, gross. Major is I love it. Ok. So this is rapid and it's our last thing. OK. Ready meh or major: glazed donut nails,

MEI KAWAJIRI: Meh

JVN: Short square nails

MEI KAWAJIRI: Major

JVN: Bow accents on nails

MEI KAWAJIRI: Major

JVN: Aura nails.

MEI KAWAJIRI: Meh

JVN: Um charms.

MEI KAWAJIRI: Major

JVN: Chocolate milk nails

MEI KAWAJIRI: Meh

JVN: Um metallic nails,

MEI KAWAJIRI: Major

JVN: Ombre nails.

MEI KAWAJIRI: Meh

JVN: What are you looking forward to most in 2024? And are you going to be posting more about guinea pig/bear and just more on social media in general as you start working more?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Yeah, I think I have to do more. I think my life is always more and more and more and I was stopping those more right now. So I, I need to do more. Especially stuffed animal nails. I have more studded animals now I can introduce everyone and plus baby and, you know, I think 2024 I think I will be more. How do you say? Super Mei Yeah.

JVN: Um will you get on TikTok, Mei?

MEI KAWAJIRI: Yeah.

JVN: OK. Because you're not on TikTok right now really?

MEI KAWAJIRI: I do but not really. I do but not really. Yeah.

JVN: Can you, can you really? Because I just think like doing the nails on guinea pig, bear your clients, you. Just nails like there's a thirst for nail art on TikTok. And I think you would be so popular there. And I would just really like to see you more on TikTok.

MEI KAWAJIRI: I would do it. I think 2024: TikTok.

JVN: OK. I like that for you. Thank you for coming on Pretty Curious. I love you so much.

MEI KAWAJIRI: I love you so much.

JVN: I miss you so much and I can't wait to get my nails done with you in a few weeks when I see you.

MEI KAWAJIRI: I can't wait to see you. I love you.

JVN: You've been listening to Pretty Curious with me, Jonathan Van Ness. You can learn more about this week's guest in the episode description of whatever you're listening to the show on. And follow us on Instagram @curiouswithjvn. Come on, Curious Universe! Still can't get enough? Subscribe to Extra Curious on Apple podcasts for commercial free listening and our subscription only show, Ask JVN where we're talking sex relationships and so much more. Our engineer is Nathanael McClure. Our theme music is also composed by Nathanael McClure. Pretty Curious is produced by me, Chris McClure, Julia Melfi and Allison Weiss. With production support from Julie Carrillo, Anne Curry and Chad Hall.