

## Pretty Curious with Jonathan Van Ness, Jess Matlin & Jenn Sullivan

JVN: Hey, curious people, welcome back to Pretty Curious, our podcast on all things beauty, skin deep, and beyond - I'm Jonathan Van Ness. This week we have two amazing guests. They are the hosts of Fat Mascara podcast. Jess Matlin and Jenn Sullivan. We're going to be talking all about their experience of starting one of the like pioneering trailblazing beauty podcasts, everything that they learned along the way, and really just like how to find our best beauty selves.

But first, it's time to get ready with me. This week, we are going to be doing a listener question- uh oh- my gosh. And this, even though this concerns a heat wave in Oregon, my friends in California are hot as shit. My friends in New York are hot as shit. If you're listening to this from like Australia or like the southern hemisphere, I know it's your winter, but just hold on to this because like it will come back around, I'm sure. But let's get to the question this person asks: "We're having a heat wave here in Oregon and I'm really not used to this hot of a summer. I've never had any makeup run like this what can I do to make it stop setting spray blotting paper, waterproof mascara?" Queen. I know the feeling. And also yesterday, true story, I went and played pickleball and I got to take my makeup off. Uh, before I went and played and I could not, first of all, all the straight men that were, there were like literally hitting on me in a way that they like never have. Like all these guys were like, "you look so pretty today," like and then they were like standing closer to me than normal. And I was like, God, you guys and I like shaved my face. So I just think I was like confusing them. But here's what you need and this is what, so setting spray is really for me a nonnegotiable. I was always and actually I think we will go on to talk about this in this episode, but setting spray is major. You guys, I I never got into it, Michaela Noguiera got me into it as a final, final step and then I take the, I take a beauty blender and I blot it into like onto my skin to like put the setting spray like deeper into my skin. And I have found that that like that makes me actually have to physically wash my makeup off. Like I have to like sweat won't do it like I it may like, you know, like around the eyes like a little bit of, um, like eye shadow may, you know, I may have some fall out even with setting spray. But setting spray really keeps like the skin looking so much better. A waterproof mascara. You know, I don't use waterproof mascara and mine, I, I don't know why it doesn't run because, I mean, I really gotta be like crying wet, like pool wet. But if you're that sweaty in Oregon or in a heat wave, then I think, you know, waterproof mascara can't hurt. But here's, I think the biggest thing like on set of Queer Eye that helps me, uh not look like a sweaty mess. It is one of those battery operated pocket fans like those little mini portable fans. I always have one in my purse. I will whip it out so fast to cool down my face because when your face gets sweaty, the fan is even like more like better because it, it like cools off your face, like wherever you're sweaty, it's going to like cool that part off more because you're kind of like, you know, wet. And so when you put a fan on it, it's like kind of feels cold or like chilling.

I do also like blotting paper. I think with blotting papers, I love the Tatcha ones but a lot of times when people use blotting papers, I see them using them all wrong, which is like very fast frenetic blots like bla bla bla bla bla you really put the blotting paper like over your nose and you press, press, press, like, let it absorbed all the oil and then you like peel it off and

then you move it to a different place, put it down, press, press press, then like lift it up and then once that blotting paper is like fully oil and there's no like paper, like texture left, then you can, you know, switch to your next one. But when people just are putting it like on off, on, off, on off, like on all different parts of their face, it's not really doing the work that it needs to be doing. So yeah, I would say fan is the biggest thing. Setting spray is great. I'm not mad at a waterproof mascara blotting paper. Here's another thing I do try to uh you know, for our Chinese medicine episode. Um I have been into this like no freezing cold drinks thing since then because I do feel like it's better for digestion. But if you are hot as shit, taking like a because like I noticed for me like I'm a hot coffee drinker. If I drink hot coffee when I'm outside, it like instant sun like instant sweat, instant discomfort. So when you drink something that's hotter, it's gonna heat you up. If you drink something that's cooler, it's gonna kind of cool you down. So I do find having some like really cold water when it's just awful outside also does help. More so than like Luke temp water. And then one other trick I would say is if you can get a peppermint oil that you can put on your skin, um, Aveda makes one that they used to call blue oil. I can't remember what I think it might have been, changed the name. But like if you can get a peppermint sort of oil that you can put straight on your skin and put that like on the back of your neck. It will literally give you the chills like it will keep you cool and it like lasts kind of a long time. So um I think those are my tips for sweating in the sun. I'm trying to think if there's anything else, one other thing would be that if I put on all my skincare and then like do my hair and I'm in a really hot room and I just start sweating really bad sometimes, like I just can't stop and then it's like putting makeup on, on top of that is like just uncomfortable because you're just like so sweaty. So make sure that like when you're getting ready that you have enough fans on in the first place wherever you're like doing your glam because nothing is more annoying than like trying to style your hair and do your face when you're just sweating your guts out. And to that end, I know that this is a makeup question but when it is really hot like that, it typically will be more humid unless you're like in Vegas or like Arizona. But if it's hot and humid and you have curly hair or textured hair, try to embrace your hair because if you are straightening it, it's just and then keeping it down, it's like even hotter outside. So like that's really what I'm giving you low slung buns or like curly, half up, half down, like just you're just less hot and sweaty when you're not battling your hair as much. So that would be my advice to stay, to keep it cool, calm and collected during the summer months. Um But in, but if you guys have any tips or tricks that I didn't mention, let us know uh in the DMs or let us know in the comments we'd love to, we'd love to hear it.

But yeah, ok. So we love you guys and also can I just say Jess and Jenn, so cool. I kind of was like a nervous girl interviewing them for some reason. I don't, I just, I really respect them. I look up to them. I look up to their careers. I love how they show up in the world. And I'm really excited that they came on Pretty Curious. So let's get over to our conversation with Jess and Jenn hosts and friends. Jessica Matlin and Jennifer Sullivan are the hosts of the incredible beauty podcast, Fat Mascara. Fat Mascara leads the global beauty conversation with candor, humor, and unparalleled access to the celebrities experts and industry insiders who make the beauty world turn. They are giving you sharp analysis of the news and trends advice and product recommendations on Wednesdays and on Fridays, they interview people involved in the big business of beauty like Victoria Beckham, Kim Kardashian and Jessica Alba. Oh my God, as well as makeup artists, hairstylists and other industry experts. You guys, Jess, Jenn? Welcome to Pretty Curious. How are you doing this morning?

JESS MATLIN: Great. We're good.

JENN SULLIVAN: Hi. Thanks for having us.

JVN: Honey, I feel like we're giving you- like not Destiny's Child but kind of Destiny's Child of like beauty podcasts. Like we're just out here doing our best. I'm clearly Michelle, which I love Michelle. I don't think she gets enough credit out here. Like I'm Michelle Williams, Beyonce. Kelly we're obsessed. I don't know which one. Like-

JESS MATLIN: I don't know if you're pointing at you.

JENN SULLIVAN: We'll duke it out later.

JVN: I was thinking I went like this because I was like, maybe you guys switch depending on who's just feeling. But I also, I songs that Kelly doesn't get the credit she deserves either. I'm sorry. I love Kelly. I'm here for totally. Where do we find you guys? This AM - geographically?

JENN SULLIVAN: I'm in Brooklyn. I'm Jenn.

JESS MATLIN: Hoboken. I'm Jess. We have to identify our voices. I'm Jess. I'm chilling out in Hoboken in the AC. Thank God.

JVN: We love AC and we love Fat Mascara. I kind of like, I'm like, I'm really nervous, but I'm kind of, I feel like I'm in the presence of beauty podcasts. Actually not even beauty podcasts podcast royalty. I'm like, you guys, thanks for coming.

JESS MATLIN: Oh my God. This was so exciting for- I woke up and I was like, oh my God, I'm talking to JVN today. So major. Are you kidding?

JVN: I mean, no, I'm here and we're so for both of you. How did you come into an obsession with beauty? Was it like a classic obsession with beauty? Like what drew you into this industry?

JESS MATLIN: I mean, I feel like we need a therapist's couch. What are we going to? There's no time for this. I actually really feel like if I'm going to just boil it down in a nutshell, I think there's something very, it was not about like, oh, make me beautiful. Like I want to feel it was they are, there's something escapist about little beautiful. I was obsessed abusing a little kid. Little beautiful objects. They're fantastical. You know, the Charles of the Ritz gift with purchase the Sun, Moon and Stars Fragrance, the Todd Oldham Fragrance with the crown on it. Like these were whether it was \$50.10 dollars at CVS or, you know, \$100. These things felt like an escape from my, you know, everyday life. And if I could be in my room playing with them, I felt like I was transported like some kind of children's movie. You open it and it's like a portal to another world. That was fantastical, glamorous, exciting. It was almost like an enchanted garden kind of feeling. And I was interested in fashion too. But fashion to me always had that kind of, it felt less accessible beauty. I could go to the mall and once I started making money, I could have it all at the mall.

JVN: The mall. We love a mall.

JENN SULLIVAN: Jonathan, where did you shop for beauty when you were growing up? Like what was that magical place for you?

JVN: It was this department store in my hometown and my first love was the lip smackers. Like the little I do like a bit in a couple of tours ago. I did a bit about how I couldn't decide if I wanted to put it on my lips or eat it. So I would do both and my mom would get so mad at me

because she would look in the back seat and I would just be back there fucking like putting putting chopsticks on with one hand. But then like eating the other two, like I was partial to eating the grape but using the cherry like on my lips. So I couldn't tell I just loved, I loved it all. And then I think it was and then it was also like salons like going to like, get your hair cut at JC Penney. I was like, what is this biolage? Like, I love this JC Penney salons with their heads shots in the lobby and I'd be like, is Carol here. And I remember like, I would always get my ear cut because I couldn't stop chatting and moving. They'd be like, oh my God. Oh my God. If you could imagine, oh my God. I couldn't stop talking. I was like, what are your client? So I knew very early that like, beauty was a space where I felt included. Like I could be myself in spaces like salon spaces in a way that I couldn't be anywhere else. So it, like, it was less about like wanting to look a certain way and more about just wanting to be included. And so that was -

JENN SULLIVAN: Salons are very welcoming that way. There was a carol at every JC Penney.

JVN: She was like, she had a perm and she loved me. She a really bouncy. Well, not, it looked bouncy but it was probably what you talking about. This is like '93 you know, like six. And you know, in retrospect, do you think that like the perms had worked their way out by then? No, they really hadn't.

JENN SULLIVAN: It wasn't like a purple rod. What's that little teeny tiny rod?

JVN: I think she was giving you purple and white, but I think she was blowing it out with like a small round brush and a lot of back combing. So it was giving like, it was almost giving like a younger, like, like a younger Blanche Devereaux, like with the same hairstyle, you know?

JENN SULLIVAN: Do we think that hairstyle will ever come back?

JVN: I mean, Chunky Chuck guys, the way that like, I was just listening to Kelly Clarkson Breakaway because I was depressed and um the way that these chunky highlights are full like and people are unironically wanting them and using it for Inspo like big panels, big huge chunk chunks.

JENN SULLIVAN: That's so funny. That was my first celebrity interview with Kelly Clarkson like early in my career and she had like the two money pieces we call them, you know, like right around -

JVN: Right around the face and tell us.

JESS MATLIN: Did you ever have a money piece?

JVN: Oh, no. Yeah, Jen. I want to know if you had a money -

JENN SULLIVAN: Of course, and I did it with Jolene Cream, which used on my mustache obviously because I had a beautiful mustache and unibrow as a teen. But then I was like, I wonder if this works on your hair because all the lighter skinned and lighter haired girls could use the sun in and that just was like turning me orange. So I was like, I'm just going to go in with Jolene. So I did the two pieces on either side of my center part. I was hot guys.

JVN: Can I also just say like who really popularized that? To me in retrospect, Anna Paquin as Rogue.

JENN SULLIVAN: Oh my God. Wait, maybe this is why I let my white streak grow in. Maybe that early that informed it because I've gotten rogue when I walk around the streets, people are like, what's up Rogue?

JVN: I think it really was because after that, like everyone was like, I went two pieces right here and I want them bleached and I want them light just can't help it. So, OK, so my ADHD so in the 80s, 90s and probably like early Aughts, it was still giving us like magazines, I feel like Reigned Supreme Malls were still really as a place of uh obtaining products and that now is really totally different. I feel like social media made it so that like everyone is more of an expert, you can get your information and you can get your like cool vibes curated from creators. It doesn't have to be curated from, you know, these seven editors or like these six editors, it's like the beauty industry is just so much bigger and wider. So when we think about like where people shop for beauty products in our heyday and then you compare that now to like the Sephora girls and like, and where people are obtaining their beauty information. Now, how do you think that these two snapshots of time, like, let's say 1994 versus 2004 and then 2024. How is this beauty industry changed for the people that have been coming up in those times?

JENN SULLIVAN: Well, I think the walls have literally come down in that like at Ulta Beauty and Sephora, you can actually try the department store products like kids today don't know, department store counters like that counter was like a blockade behind here is the special world and you need a lady to help you figure it out like you needed a guide and now you can kind of be your own guide, which I think makes people more creative with the way they buy products and and the way they try them on their faces and everything. However, there is something to be said for like, I don't know the person who teaches you about beauty and, and welcomes you into that space in a welcoming way and doesn't make you feel competitive with your friends that you have to have the best fanciest, most expensive one. So there's, there's highs and lows to that I think. But that's for me how it's changed.

JESS MATLIN: What about you, Jess? I think it's just become more democratic and I think brands are getting inspired by each other. So I think you just see that reflective in the assortment. I don't think that there is products that are, you know, I, I think you see, you know, more luxury brands that are trying to look more like kind of youth culture brands that are appealing to, you know, 15 year olds, 25 year olds and then those brands have become, it's really clear, very much more aspirational and they're trying to age up in a way that when I was shopping for, you know, beauty as a younger person, it was very clear what was a teen brand? And I don't think you see many teen brands anymore. I think all of them are trying to be luxury brands.

JVN: That's so true. Is there like a category of product that you just feel that you just roll your eyes at internally? Like is there a category of product that you just feel it's like unnecessary? Like we don't need like what is this like what is this extra or do we feel everything has a space?

JENN SULLIVAN: How much time do you have? I can give you 20.

JVN: Oh my God, I want we want them all.

JENN SULLIVAN: Well, it's just that the speed of the trends like on the speed of the products coming out and the speed of like finding a new way to do it. Like there's so much stuff now I will never use a sheet mask again. Why am I using single use products? Like I thought it was

really fun and then I just thought about the trash and I was just like, I can't. So that's my number.

JVN: So fucking true. And also obsessed with dew skin because I love our forever eye patches.

JENN SULLIVAN: I use the reusable sheet mask that I have experimented with where I'll put the serum on and then I put this silicone thing. That's you rinse it and you do.

JVN: You like that thing because it's like, I think I've seen it. It's like the forehead one.

JENN SULLIVAN: It's a lot of work.

JVN: It is.

JENN SULLIVAN: I did it for the show because I wanted to try it out and tell the listeners how you know, if it worked or not. And yeah, if you like the sheet mask, then you should get a reusable one. That would be my tip there. But in general, that category upsets me.

JVN: It is, it is so much waste. It like it is so much waste. I just got I just like impulse bought some really nice things and then I was unwrapping them in their plastic and I was like, because when it came to JVN hair, I was like, I'm not doing any plastic wrappings like I don't want to, I don't need it. It's like an extra thing. But then when I do it to these other really luxury things, I'm like, oh, it does make it feel like really, it's like it's so important that it's like in a little -

JENN SULLIVAN: So I teach him about luxury codes and how he needs to rethink.

JESS MATLIN: So yeah, this is like a real problem, especially because I am currently immersed in the world of luxury. I think that brands really need to, they're holding tight to their luxury codes, which is plastic wrapping, heavy packaging, even brands that are yeah, heavy five pound weight. Ok. Um They're holding tight to the idea that products need to feel heavy, be wrapped like three times in plastic chiffon and like, you know, silken velvet pouches to be to, to justify the cost. I think there are brands that have done it, Costa Brazil, not a ton of packaging. There are more than I'm thinking about -

JENN SULLIVAN: Like retrain people to think about luxury. Luxury is not plastic around the outside luxury is a reusable or like a recyclable material. It's like a mono material, all glass packaging.

JESS MATLIN: Yeah, there's La Bouche Rouge has done a nice job of like upcycled leather. Even like vegan leather, we need brave souls like yourself to stick their neck out but the amount of time.

JVN: So I was so excited for our aluminum cans and that's part of what took me so long to make JVN Hair was just finding someone who would say and you know, did our former parent company go bankrupt? Yes. Do I think about like was that my fault for choosing such such expensive ingredients? And like, no, but I do like to joke about it even though it's not funny and like a ha ha way more of a like so yeah, exactly. But there's like a lot of like, it's like the dented cans. Like people, like, but these cans are 10, I'm like, yeah, because it's aluminum and we aren't putting it in like foam packaging on the inside to keep it from denting. This is like, it's one of a kind honey. Like that is the only one on that one. So, but it's like people do, I think, and even me as like a consumer and I have a hair care line, like,

when I go and buy like because like I just said, I just bought our little luxury moment. I was like, oh, this is chic like I still even think like this and I have made decisions in the opposite, you know, in creating my own line and yeah.

JENN SULLIVAN: It's hard to get rid of that mindset.

JVN: So, so retraining for luxury, I like that idea. So we got to do that. This is important. OK. So sheet masks for you Jen Jess. I don't think I got, we started, I started to talk too much. No,

JESS MATLIN: No, I'm not a huge fan of sheep masks. Um There are under eye patches that I like. I really do like the 111 skin ones. I love them. I do. Um But I don't go around buying sheet masks the way they make me feel cold. I'm just not just the thing aside, I just don't like feeling like a wet blanket on my skin. Um I think we talked about this before offline lip serums. Basically anything that has two words that you would never really put together and you never put them together before Tik Tok. I'm skeptical if you didn't need this product urgently. And now suddenly you do, I question it. You know what I mean? Yes, I'm not saying it doesn't need to exist. I'm just saying question it.

JVN: And it's like what even like what makes a lip serum different because wouldn't a lip gloss with like skincare ingredients in it then just be a lip serum. Isn't that basically what it is? Or

JENN SULLIVAN: it's marketing? It's just the adjectives.

JESS MATLIN: Put those critical thinking skills to work. I know, I know you've got him. I know you've got 'em.

JVN: I know it's like saying that it's like, it's, it's hard to say it but the critical because what really comes out is like, uh and then I just disengaged like when people like, ask really silly questions over and over that. And I'm also trying to get better at like when people ask me a question that I've been asked 50,000 times, like not to be irritated. Like, like this is an opportunity to like to talk to a new person, like not bring all of like your past irritation into it. But it's so hard.-

JENN SULLIVAN: I talk to us on year eight of pretty curious and we'll see how you feel because yeah, you have to remain curious. Otherwise you get jaded and cynical and then you lose the specialness that is that is, that is podcast.

JVN: So when you think about like beauty ads magazines, like things that is there anything like from your childhood growing up? Like beauty memories that feel just you can't, you don't stop thinking of them for me. There are a lot of like America's next top model photo shoot seasons like one through eight were very formative for me. Like I think about like the snake shoot a lot in episode in season one, I think about Adrian Curry's like burglar purple mask like all the time. Like I just thought her makeup was like so stunning in this. Um And I also think about like Shandy and Naima like cover girl ad like all the time. So I was like, I still just can't get behind that. Shandy's wasn't cute. Like I feel like that was a really pretty picture. And like Janice Dickinson is like just so opinionated, you know, God love her. But Jesus, is there anything that lives in your guys' head? Rent free beauty wise?

JENN SULLIVAN: Oh, yeah. Well, for me, it's, this is going to tell you my age, but it's Sassy magazine. Like I have those pages imprinted on my brain. Like if you and actually my

husband got me the Kurt Cobain Courtney Love cover that issue of Sassy recently um as a gift and it was like looking back through pictures I have in my brain like I remembered every single page. Um because I think those teen formative years our brains are just so malleable and they just suck up music images, smells and that they loom large for the rest of your life. It's just what do you, I know you have a bunch of them. Like what beauty like -

JESS MATLIN: So many. Um I really liked the, it wasn't like a huge one but I loved it. It was um Darryl Hannah and she was like looking up and she was like, it was like the lighting was cool. It was a very celestial bottle, Google Sun Moon and Stars. It's really cool. It's really cool. Of course CK one.

JENN SULLIVAN: I was going to say that too. Those black and white ads,

JESS MATLIN: black and white, so gum. The commercial was cool too. I remember the commercial was rolling a one shot of all the people in the ad um talking black and white.

JVN: Oh, this is so iconic. The

JESS MATLIN: Darryl Hanna one. I loved Gucci Rush the red. It's all saturated red tape.

JENN SULLIVAN: What do you think that bottle was?

JESS MATLIN: It was supposed to be like a cassette tape, a cassette?

JENN SULLIVAN: Ok. Well, that'll tell you,

JVN: Darryl Hannah looks fucking incredible in this. She's gorgeous. She like it was just like her revenge. Like this was her like JFK junior like fuck you, you left me for Carolyn Bessette and I'm and wow,

JESS MATLIN: She looks, it's just such a such so like I don't know, mystical, so beautiful.

JVN: What's on your TikTok algorithm right now? Like, what's like your beauty things that are just like, I got a lot of micro or micro, like the white spray with the little razors. It's kind of like out in the last two weeks. But it's all I could watch for, like the end of June, beginning of July. What about you guys?

JESS MATLIN: Beauty things. I was like, right now it's about cleaning my laundry and mine's all washer dryer. Oh, yeah. Right now I have a laundry cleaning problem.

JVN: I love that. It's also a lot of muk bangs for me. My Tik Tok algorithm is like, I just, I really into like watching people eat. Now.

JENN SULLIVAN: That's like where you stick your face in the cake.

JVN: Any eating anything you could eat anything like a mukbang is just like literally eating anything. It's like a whole thing. I'm so comforted by watching people eat. Now, I like to eat on there.

JESS MATLIN: I get a lot of, I get a lot of fragrance, fragrance talk. That's, that's fragrance talk is where is where -

JVN: I get a lot on fragrance.

JENN SULLIVAN: I go to cologne boy. He's such a sweetheart.



JVN: I'm really into like um fragrance like ingredient transparency and then, but then, but then we have like all of our fragrance, like all of our ingredients like listed for every single formula on our um Yeah, I'm like really passionate about that. But then it's weird because I need to be a better storyteller with fragrance because even if something doesn't, if I hate how it smells, but it works really well on like my hair or on a client's hair, like I will use it because it works really well. Even if I hate the smell, but consumers aren't like that, like they smell is a huge deal and being able to like tell a story about fragrance is a really big deal where it's like, it just wasn't highest on my priority list. And I've really had to learn to like prioritize fragrance storytelling around fragrance. What is the fragrance like cast the whitest net? Um It's been like a hard, the fragrance is like hard for me but um obviously like JV and hair, she's been through it in the last year, like good God. And so many of the things that would happen like when I would see on like beauty tiktok, like hot takes like on like I was like, oh my God, I can't watch this. It's like too intense and I really want to stitch it but I can't what is like and you can be like as tre harsh as you want ta what are like, what like what, what do I need to do? Like what do you think I need to do from the outside looking in? Like, what do you think is like connecting, not connecting? Like any advice for like how to be like more chic and less cringe in the beauty space.

JESS MATLIN: Wait, more chic and less. Is that what you think your problem is? I just feel -

JVN: I do feel like we're chic but I just feel cringe, I just like, feel,

JENN SULLIVAN: You know what we've learned from, like, we've interviewed so many founders and the ones that they say they crowd source, like, what do the people want? It's good to listen to them. But best leaders in my opinion are the ones who like had their vision and stuck with it and then like would make my adjustments for the audience based on like real concerns. But like the more you listen to the noise, like you're going to go crazy because you're going to change things all the time and lose your original vision. So stay true to yourself would be my advice and I know that's corny. I'm sorry.

JVN: No, that's such good advice and that is basically what I do. So that's good.

JESS MATLIN: Yeah. Yeah. Why do you think you're cringe?

JVN: I think I just feel like between like the bankruptcy of our former parent company and then not your fault, which I know it's not my fault but it like, people don't know that. And I've just seen like so many like icky videos about it and then just like icky videos about myself personally that it's like when you realize it just, it hurts like it hurts when you like, when, when people have an idea of you that maybe isn't true or like an idea of like, how things happen. That is not true. And it's like you can't spend the rest of your life trying to, like, correct what someone

JESS MATLIN: thinks, you know, nothing about your industry.

JENN SULLIVAN: You can't spend your life correcting those people.

JESS MATLIN: Like, and these people have not put themselves out there. You're lying.

JENN SULLIVAN: You know, we don't see you making a line and knowing how the business works. Sorry I'll get real mean real quick on this because

JESS MATLIN: they're not paying your bills, they're not paying your rent, they've done nothing.

JENN SULLIVAN: They're making comments in your little sofa and give an opinion and -

JVN: So really it's just like coming back to like where does your validation come from? Which is something that we're working on now and then just staying true to staying true to my vision which I have a vision. I just need to continue doing the vision.

JESS MATLIN: Yeah, I would try to put some blinders on and remember that they don't matter.

JVN: Very lying. Remember who you are? Simba?

JESS MATLIN: Yes.

JVN: The fuck you are diva. Yes I love that. Ok rapid fire. Do you guys want to alternate these answers for the sake of time or do you both want to answer?

JENN SULLIVAN: Yes but give me the budget and give her the splurge? Ok.

JVN: Ok. Ok. Ok. Ok. Ok so uh ok. Ok. Ok. Ok Jenn, what is your budget? Beauty recommendation?

JENN SULLIVAN: Aquafor. Because you can use it for everything. Moisturizer.

JVN: Seal it, burn a

JENN SULLIVAN: A lot and scrape for burns

JVN: Love this story. Now, Jess Splurge recommendation.

JESS MATLIN: Does it have to be a product or can it be a service?

JVN: It can totally be a service.

JESS MATLIN: Honestly, I would say like time, like I would get a big massage to reconnect with. I would relax or I would just buy myself time, take a day off and just connect with myself. I don't think it's a product. I think it's about time and connecting with yourself.

JVN: OK. Wisdom like yes, I'm obsessed with this. No one's also ever said this which I'm even more obsessed with. OK. Both of you. What's a product you never leave home without?

JENN SULLIVAN: Oh, I always have one of those. It's a mirror on one side and a brush on the other and they flip closed. You buy them like on Amazon because they only last a year. But I of a camera will not tell you what you look like. It's an, it's an algorithm software that combines a bunch of different photos. It is, it's true. Depending you will look different on an iphone versus um you know, a droid. So a mirror just to check what I look like and not have to be staring at my phone, not having to pick up my phone. So the little flip brush and mirror love that.

JESS MATLIN: OK. So is this for both of us? OK. I am, I guess in many ways my mother's daughter lipstick.

JVN: It's so good. You can't help it. Have you seen that commercial where they're like the guys trying to prevent the millennials from becoming their parents?

JESS MATLIN: I love those. It's, it's like insurance.

JVN: He's like take the apron off.

JESS MATLIN: It's so funny. They go to Home Depot one time too.

JVN: I feel like we got, It's a look, we got our, it's a look in our last segment so we can pop over that one. So this is Meh or Major. We're going to alternate Jen: low rise jeans.

JENN SULLIVAN: Major because I'm very short torso. So they end up being normaler on me.

JVN: Jess - Jess - Jess skinny jeans major.

JESS MATLIN: So I love them.

JVN: We're not letting go. I like that. I still wear them too. Ankle socks. Jess.

JESS MATLIN: Nah, I got used to not seeing them

JVN: Jenn. Crew socks

JENN SULLIVAN: Major. I like the sock trend.

JESS MATLIN: Oh, wait, no, I thought you meant like, no, I mean, like, I like the ankle socks. I mean, I like the crew socks. I like the crew socks.

JVN: I don't like ankle socks.

JESS MATLIN: The little guys. No, I'm not into them anymore.

JVN: We're over it. I'm kind of curious to see what you're going to say about this and we're going to do this for both of you. Glitter

JESS MATLIN: Meh.

JENN SULLIVAN: Major if it's biodegradable and not a microplastic.

JVN: Yes. Queen. What about tucking in of the shirts? Like, just wearing shirts tucked in

JENN SULLIVAN: Major. I've watched so many videos on fashion Tuck, the crisscross tuck, like all the, all the girlies trying to help me to get, like, one side in one side out. Like, I'll do it all the ways. I love it. All

JVN: My family makes fun of me when I wear things tucked in it anyway. I don't know what that's about. We're going to spend more time on-

JENN SULLIVAN: That part of how you're going to wear it. That's as much as the belt is the

JESS MATLIN: Tuck. Yeah, I need a waistline. Go on.

JVN: No one's like Tuck. Supportive for me. Ok. Uh, claw clips. Jess.

JESS MATLIN: Um, depends on how, what your hair looks like. It needs to be like tight. No,

JVN: I have to have meh or Major. I hate to do binary

JESS MATLIN: Major. Major. Its major.

JVN: Ok, Jess. What about Chokers?

JESS MATLIN: Yeah.

JVN: Um, Jen. What about I'm going to take that as a man, Jenn. What about micro mini skirts? She says. Yeah, full man. What about we're going to stay here, Jenn. Bucket hats,

JENN SULLIVAN: Major.

JVN: And now Jess: dresses over pants.

JESS MATLIN: Nah.

JVN: Ok. Also just for a beauty one setting spray. Can I just say this one thing really quick? And I know

JENN SULLIVAN: There's one I really like, but usually they feel like hairspray. Ok. Go ahead. You say, well -

JVN: I just, I never used to use them and then I had Michaela Noguiera on and she told me if you really want to take your makeup to the next level, like spray yourself with setting spray and then take the beauty blender and like press it into your.

JENN SULLIVAN: You told me I had to be Speedy Meh or Major and I had a full on like, I'm sorry you just gave your explanation is my explanation.

JVN: But I do think I did take my make up to the next level. I feel like it really,

JENN SULLIVAN: let's make it major meta, meta major. It really, really, it was so fun collaborating with you.

JVN: Thank you so much for coming on this. I was like kind of for the whole first two thirds. I don't know why. I just like you guys. I don't know. I just, I wanted to impress you guys,

JESS MATLIN: Jenn and I, I feel like we're very relaxed people.

JVN: I love the vibes.

JENN SULLIVAN: We love the vibes too. Thank 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 and follow us on Instagram and TikTok @CuriousWithJVN. Pretty Curious, drops every Monday. Wherever you get your podcasts and make sure to tune in every Wednesday for Getting Curious. Still can't get enough? Honey! You're insatiable! Subscribe to Extra Curious on Apple Podcasts for commercial free listening and our subscription only show. Ask JVN, we we're talking all about sex, relationships or really just whatever's on my mind that week. Our theme music is composed by Nathanael McClure. Come on. Nathnael, our editor and engineer is also Nathanael McClure. Yes, Getting Curious is produced by me, Chris McClure and Julia Melfi, with production support from Julie Carrillo, Anne Currie and Chad Hall.