

## Pretty Curious with Jonathan Van Ness & Sam McKnight

JVN: Hey, curious people. Welcome back to Pretty Curious, our podcast on all things beauty. I'm Jonathan Van Ness. Happy Monday, Queens. Hope you're happy to be back. I am happy to be back. I'm coming to you hot from our closet recording studio in New York, and this week we're talking with the one that only - if you're driving right now, maybe just pull over, this kind of fucking major. We're talking to hairstylist, extraordinaire icon. This person was Princess Diana's personal hairstylist for seven years. They worked with Lady Gaga, they worked with the Hadid sisters. Good Golly Moses. Today we are literally getting to talk to Sam McKnight his fucking self. This is an iconic conversation, but first, it's time to get ready with me so real quick y'all.

I was in LA last week and I forgot face wash and I ended up having to buy Kylie's skin because that's what they sold at the hotel. I got to say the cleanser is pretty good cleanser wasn't like if we, if I was going to do a face off of Kylie' skin cleanser versus Hyper! cleanser, which I've now been using for a few weeks. I'm gonna have to give it to Hyper! You guys. This, the jelly consistency of the Hyper! Cleanser, the brightening cleanser, is so beautiful. Really? They're kind of different because Hyper! is like, I still would give my final rose to Hyper!, but I was impressed with Kylie's. It's better than I thought it would be. Although when I used it, I did think about that controversy from when she washed her face with it and then like all the makeup came off on the towel and people were like, no Kylie, no, like couldn't you just shoot it one more time? I gotta take my hat off to Desiree the founder of Hyper!. Such good work. I love the cleanser. I love the, the vitamin C serum. It's just stunning. Also quick little update if you're not following JVN Har, follow JVN Har because we are currently creating three new products. We would love your feedback. We'd love your input. We're going to be talking more about it on stories but we got some dry shampoo formulas in the mix. We got some hairspray shim or some hairsprays in the mix. We got some uh some like kind of style stick things in the mix. So we're really excited for some things to come at JVN Hair. But enough about that it's time to get to our story conversation with Sam McKnight. All right, let's go. Sam McKnight MBE is renowned for creating the hair looks that every woman wants from his signature cool girl effortlessly undone textured hair. The poster child of who is long term collaborator and friend Kate Moss, to his fashionably timeless elevated looks that reflect his rebellious spirit to his handmade couture wigs to red carpet sophistication. Sam's unparalleled portfolio of work reads like a who's who of high fashion A list celebrity. His ethos is attracted and like I I hate to say unparalleled twice, but when the shoe fucking fits his ethos attracted an unparalleled list of celebrity clients including Jodie Comer, Cate Blanchett, the Hadid sisters, Kate Moss Kendall Jenner, Amelia Clark, oh my God, Kara Delane Priyanka, Chopra Jonas Lady Gaga Naomi Campbell, Tilda Swinton, and of course, Princess Diana legend icon Sam McKnight. Welcome to Pretty Curious. How are you?

SAM MCKNIGHT: I thought you were talking about yourself then. I'm good. Thank you. How are you?

JVN: Sam- I'm kind of shitting my pants to be perfectly honest with you. I - listeners, I had just said, um or rather listeners who said that? Pretty Curious are curious people. I was just telling Sam before we started recording that I extra flat iron my hair today, I made sure my hair was looking together. And as much as I like, look, your resume is like doctorate level of celebrities. But the person, I mean, Princess Diana is and always will be that woman. To me,

to my mom, my mom and Princess Diana II, I have to do this. I'm sorry, I just have to. My mom and Princess Diana got married the same year. They had their first kid the same year they had their second kid the same year. Then Princess Diana didn't have a third kid, which I'm my mom's third kid, but then they got divorced the same year. So my mom always felt this like very like deep connection to Princess Diana because they're like life trajectories like happened on the same years and she was just like our favorite, favorite, favorite of all time ever. And as an adult, like, you know, living with HIV, I've talked a lot about my status. Like I just my love, that was already a hard co love for Princess Diana just has exploded and blossomed and never stopped exploding as an adult. So I'm just shitting my pants. Like I can't believe that you got that. You literally worked with her for seven fucking years.

SAM MCKNIGHT: I did, I did, I did

JVN: And the icon of what you did. I mean you were so I wasn't gonna start here but I just didn't mean to too late, too late. I know. So what happened? So you were just like walking along one day pre cellphones and, and then you got home and there was an answering machine message and they said we need you to do Lady Diana's Ha, how did it start?

SAM MCKNIGHT: Well, look, I worked a lot with the great photographer Patrick Demarchelier for many years. Patrick is no longer with us, and Patrick had had done some portraits of the Princess for British folk and with the Children. And I think he felt that she was feeling like she wanted change. So he and Anna Harvey who worked at British at the time and was her stylist, got myself and the makeup artist Mary Greenwell in to kind of give her a new look. It was 1990 it was 1990. Um I guess what I didn't know at the time there was a lot of underlying pre divorce things going on, you know, because when you get into something you don't know, of course, and um but, but you know that feeling you get when you know, someone wants a change, you, you, you get that. But before that anyway, we were booked on a shoot and she was one of the, we were booked on a shoot to shoot young Royals for British Vouge and she happened to be the last one. We didn't know it was going to be her. And, but to be honest, I had been living in New York for 10 years before then and I wasn't really, yeah, it was never really that interested in the Royals. I mean, I love the queen and no but I was, it wasn't part of my, um, you know, world really. And, um, and then this sort of tall leggy blonde comes bouncing up the stairs and, and you know what? She completely, she had us at. Hello. She was just so disarming and charming and funny and stuck her hand out with a big smile and I am Diana, what are we going to do and got straight into it? And she was, and that day after the shoot we did, she had big fluffy hair with a perm and I think we were moving away from the big fluffy eighties into the, you know, bit more business like nineties if you like, it was a bit more power, it was Cindy and Linda and Da da, da da. It was all that going into the more sleek vibe. And so I made her hair look short with the tiara. I kind of made it small and, you know, when you fake it to look short, you gotta pin it in and just sort of mess it up a bit. And so, I mean, because she said do whatever you want and she liked it. So at the end of the day, she, after we'd done the shoot and it's now it's a famous iconic shoot. It's the one where she's, she's sitting on the ground in a, in a what looks like a sheet, but it's actually a couture silk gown strapless and she has a tr and she says there's a huge smile on her face. I now have a fridge magnet on my fridge of that, which is kind of very, um, I see that every day. So it's lovely. And um, so she said, what would you do with my hair if I said do anything? I said, do you know what? It's 1990? I would cut it all off and start again, get rid of the perm, make it more sort of streamlined and, and that's what we did. We did that

before she went home. We, we kind of got the kick back out. OK, let's do it. And, and that was it. That was seven years I spent with her after that.

JVN: Wait, OK. My brain, I think you just broke my foot. Gay brain. Like I literally think you just, I think you literally just broke my fucking gay brain. OK. So when you cut her hair short after that shoe, did she have like a lot of regrowth or like of the perm? Like, did she have like her natural texture? Like was it like hard to like or did you basically cut all the perm off? So it was so short that she didn't have a perm anymore or was there still like a little, like -

SAM MCKNIGHT: There was a, there was a little bit of perm on the end. But you know what, with a blow dry, it kind of worked because her hair was poker straight and, uh, she wasn't ready for straight hair yet. It, you know, it, it took a, it took a little while to kind of get into the fall, sort of getting rid of the fro fro, you know, it's, it's never, I think also with someone like that and she was very aware of that, that any huge dramatic change the next day, the headlines would all be about the hair and not about the charity she was trying to promote. So she was very careful not to because I think when I cut her that she went, then went on holiday for a month. So it wasn't quite, it, it, it, it, the public weren't so shocked in talking about her hair, you know,

JVN: Was, was that like the thing that was your working with Princess Diana thing that took your career into the -

SAM MCKNIGHT: It's it's a funny thing Jonathan because I, I had been, I'd been working for Vogue for like since 77. So 13 years before then I was living, I was working with Pen and Bruce Weber and doing American Vogue covers till they were coming out my ears with all the big girls. So I was already quite established, you know, in the, in the industry, you know, but

JVN: just so these hoes know really quick Sam because I was doing that journalist thing where I already kind of when you say doing Vogue covers coming out your ears with all the big girls. We're talking Linda, Cindy,

SAM MCKNIGHT Naomi Christy.

JVN Like one more question, one more question really quick. Did you ever know Gia? Like, did you ever see Gia?

SAM MCKNIGHT: I never met Gia, was before my time Gia was kind of, was a bit of a crossover there.

JVN: But that movie on HBO where she's played by Angelina Jolie. Does it, does, it just, have you seen it?

SAM MCKNIGHT: I never saw it. No, I'm not a big movie goer. I know.

JVN: Well, you didn't have to go because it was on HBO. It would have gone straight into your house. You gotta watch it. Angelina Jolie plays Gia. It is.

SAM MCKNIGHT: I've seen Stills and she did look amazing. You know, I always find, I always feel that, that movies about my industry, they all feel a bit fake. It's never, they never quite get it, you know, they never quite, it never quite does it for me. You know, I will

JVN: say I was 13 when I saw it for the first time. So sometimes when I go back to a movie from that time in my life, I'm like, 0 13 year old. Me just really was like about that. But honestly, Sam, it's kind of good. I have a, I, the romance and the heroine and, and the, and it was just a lot, it was a lot to process, but it was still really good. Ok. But we're going back so you had already really been, you'd already been doing the damn thing for a long time.

SAM MCKNIGHT: That, that, that's how I got the job because I'd been working with Patrick and Vogue for many years so that I was part of the, the team, you know, and, and that's how I was drafted in. And he, here's the thing. I was in New York and I managed to juggle. I, I made the decision on that day that they asked me, I was asked by her office if I would like to, uh, travel with her and accompany her on her tours and things like that. And, and to be honest that when I think back juggling that with my regular work and I managed to keep, I, I mean, I don't know how I managed to keep both going for seven years. You know, it, it was, um, in retrospect, it was no mean feat and I certainly couldn't do that now. But when you were young, you just go. Yeah. Ok. I'll do that, you know. And do you know what? She was a dream? She was? She was just, she was so lovely and easy and funny and we laughed a lot. So, and that's kind of what I, that's what I like. I don't like to be around stress or drama or, or grief. I, I'm not really a, uh, I'm not one of those people who thinks it has to be painful to be good. In fact, I'm the opposite. I want to have fun, you know, and, you know, and, and some people don't like that. So, you know, you can just gravitate to other people. And she was one of those people that, that brought a lot of positivity to my life.

JVN: Have you seen any of the, like, I mean, because she's like, since 20 I mean, there was like those last two crown seasons and then there was that Kristen Stewart one. Did you see any of those?

SAM MCKNIGHT: Do you know what that was, that was on TV, here the other night and I caught a glimpse but I kind of, I, I couldn't watch it. I couldn't watch it.

JVN: Does it make you sad? Does it make you like, angry? Does it, is it indifferent? Like, just like seeing a glimpse of it? Does it like, what does that make you feel?

SAM MCKNIGHT: It's, it's hard to watch in a way that because it's not her. I, I just see, I just see all the mistakes, you know, but, you know, to those people, they're not mistakes because they're only going on what their perception is. But because I knew the real person, it just like, it looks like pantomime to me, you know, although I have to say, I thought, I thought the stills, um, the stills of, I saw the clips that I saw of Elizabeth TBI in the last season of the Crown. I thought she actually was the first one who kind of, I mean, the, the, the previous girl, Emma, you caught a glimpse of her as well. But the wigs weren't so great but the, the Elizabeth TBI, I feel that they kind of got it right. You know, it was. Yes. Yes, it was as close as, but, you know, when, you know the person it's just, it's all pantomime in the end to me. You know, it sort of, it's just, it's weird to watch it. You know,

JVN: Lady Gaga and I have the same birthday. She's March 28th, I'm March 28th. We're both Aries divas. She has what I think is one of the most like prophetic bleach and tones going because like that has been a bleaching tone since just dance, I think. And that was 2009. And, you know, like Gwen Stefani has a bleaching tone but she sometimes does like that like little break base smudge where her roots kind of like orangey. It's like not all the way white, you know, to me, Gaga is giving you bleachy touch every three weeks. Never seen a root on there. And yes, we're leaning into some extensions to fill it out, of course. But like

God damn, what, when, when was the era of, of Gaga that you were working in that bleach and tone is bleach and toning,

SAM MCKNIGHT: right? I, I worked with Gaga in the beginning. I, I worked with her um God, it would have been it was born during the born with. We did a couple of years born this way. Yes, we did the Born Whist Way video and we did, we did the meat dress at the vh1 Awards. We did, we did, we did her first outing as, you know, as the, as the boy, the, the, the, the um, the gender swap. And uh, yeah, I did, it was, it was a couple of years around then. But now she has, she has, she has a hairdresser called Frederick who's incredible who travels with her all the time and he does her hair all the time and he does an absolutely brilliant job.

JVN: I mean, I've never seen her hair not look great. I'm always, and I just think for having that intensive a bleaching tone and being able to make your hair look good all the time. Slow clap for me.

SAM MCKNIGHT: But I think I, but, but I think because she uses a lot of wigs, I think her hair's not getting the, the sort of hardcore treatment that you would get if you were doing it all the time because there's a lot of wigs involved. And what I loved about her at the beginning when I started to work with her, it was, it was so obvious that she was completely changing the way female singers were perceived. You know, she made wigs perfectly acceptable, you know, she made she made change in your wig six times a day. Almost the norm. You know, the, the singers who, the entertainers who came after her really had to up their game because she completely changed the landscape. Um, yeah, she's, and she's another great lady. She's a, she's, she's fantastic. She's, she's such a lovely, lovely person.

JVN: So, we are obsessed with gardening at our house. Like my husband loves gardening. We, my husband's British, he's a big gardening person. We love Monty. Don, we love gardeners. World over here. Your garden is stunning. Any, any garden tips for us, for us. Gardening hose. Listening.

SAM MCKNIGHT: Oh, God. I mean, for me, the garden is my place of solitude. It's my kind of, um, my haven, my peace because there's nobody there because, you know, in our business you're, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. From everywhere. The buzz, the noise, which I love and then until I don't. And it's like, ok. All right. And, and I can content myself all day and I grow vegetables. I'm in the middle of London, but I have a big garden and I grow veg, I grow beautiful roses. Iiii, I love color. So there's tons of color. 10 months out of the year. December and January there's not much. In fact, there's nothing but it's dark. So you never see it anyway. So, I don't know, gardening to, I just, just make it up and do it yourself. I don't like it. Too. I, I like sort of organized chaos. I don't like it too manicured and too, too over designed. I like it when things sort of just kind of explode and surprise me and run over and, and my dog digs big holes in the lawn.

JVN: Our dogs fuck it up too. They are like the bane of our garden. Now, will you intermix veg with, like, decorative plants or do you keep, like, the veg and like things you're going to eat in like a different part of the garden than like the more like pretty things?

SAM MCKNIGHT: They, they are in different part of the garden. But I do have nasturtiums and calendula dotted throughout the veg because it keeps the pests off the vegetables, you know?

JVN: We do that too. And some marigolds, like we put some marigolds around some of them too. That's like a thing. And then do you fuck with Monte Don? Like, do you know about Gers World being like a beautiful British man?

SAM MCKNIGHT: I love Monty Don. I have done a segment on Monty Don. Um Yes, they, they came and filmed my garden a couple of years ago.

JVN: What would you say that Don should do with his hair?

SAM MCKNIGHT: He's got great hair though, hasn't he? He's got amazing hair.

JVN: I know, but I feel like they're just like I'm dying for a little bit of pomade in there like a little bit of like a wave moose. Like I just want like a little -

SAM MCKNIGHT: I think, I think uh Yeah, a bit, a bit of oil wouldn't go amiss. But the thing is, I, I kind of know him from his previous life -

JVN because he was a jewelry designer?

SAM MCKNIGHT Yeah. And we had the same agent back in the early eighties. So I think, I think Monty has completely, um, left the fashion and style side of his, of his world and transferred to, to, to, to the, to the garden.

JVN: If I was gonna recommend a JVN Hair product for him. I would just say like air dry cream, just throw a little air dry cream in that hair. Just a little pee. What about from the Sam mcknight collection? Like? What would you?

SAM MCKNIGHT: I would if I was, if I had Monty sitting in front of me, I would rub a few bits of Dress To Kill Cream, finishing cream through his head. Just just define the curl a little bit.

JVN: Oh my God, that sounds fucking pretty. I love a styling cream so much. I cannot get enough of it. Let's go on another little detour. Do you ever have a situation where like something was still great but didn't turn out or you're just like, oh my God, like Naomi fucking Campbell wants me to like do a tiny pixie. Like has there ever been like a huge transformation where you're like, fuck, I'm nervous.

SAM MCKNIGHT: Tilda Swinton. Tilda Hilda's hair was quite long and she had just done a film and I can't remember and I'd worked with Tilda quite a lot before. And she was, she was just on a movie and she was up for an Oscar and I remember her American publicist. We were in London. Her American publicist was saying, don't cut her hair too short because we need her to be commercial in Hollywood. And when the publicist left the room in the hotel, Tilda looked at me and I looked at her and Tilda went, uh, uh I said, what should we do? And we both looked at each other and let's cut it really short. So I took, I took because we had already, I had already cut it. And, uh, and then so I got the Clippers out and I gave her a buzz. I gave her a buzz right to her scalp all around here. And that must have been 10 years ago and she still has it to this day. And we, we laughed so much about that because Tilda isn't that com she won the Oscar, by the way. Yeah, that, that was fun because Tilda isn't that person, Tilda, isn't that Hollywood commercial? She, she knew her and she, she looked at me, she said, what do you think? And I said, I, I think we should really go for it and cut it short. She said, go on, do whatever you want. And of course, when I'm halfway through, I'm thinking shit, I'm shaving Tilda Swinton's hair above her ears, you know, I hope this looks good. And uh she's amazing. She's just incredible. And I did, the other one I did was I was asked, and it was a long time ago, I was asked to go to a film set to cut someone's hair. And

I got there and it was Jon Bon Jovi and I cut John's hair from the, you know, the Long New Jersey shag into short for a movie. He did. And um that I was kind of terrified doing that because I, I was more terrified doing him than I was doing Princess Diana. You know, because I, I don't know, it was, it was, it was a big thing for him. I know I know Diana kind of was ready but John was doing it for a movie. So it was a, it was all on me and I had like 50 people in the room watching me. So that was traumatic, but he loved it and I went on to cut out quite a lot after that.

JVN: Do you? I like I noticed on Queer Eye, I like if like if I'm doing a big transformation on Queer Eye, I am like because obviously there's like three cameras and there's like, you know, people watching and then there's producers who are like, we need to get to the next place or like, you know, because it's like long busy days doing a makeover show and I just noticed like under pressure, I just make worse decisions. Like, I don't know, what it is like, like, I know what I need to do. But it's like, if I'm alone and don't have all of those people are just not alone. But if it's like me, my client, it's like a hotel or a salon and it's just like, calm, I make way better choices. But when it's really frenetic, I will just look at something and I'll be like, ok, I need to cut this here and then I cut it three inches shorter than that. And then I'm like Jesus Christ or I'm like, OK, this foil needs longer, like, it's not light enough, feel like there's too much orange and then someone's like, we need to go and I'm like, OK, I'll pull it and then I'm like, no, it's fucking orange.

SAM MCKNIGHT: That's, that, that, that sounds like that. That sounds like an absolute nightmare. You know, I, the only thing, the, the, the similar thing I have to that is, is doing a show and if you've got a, but if we've got 100 models, I've got 36. So we, and we're never going to be coloring someone's hair backstage. So it's kind of, you know, it's a bit, it's a bit more controlled. But, but in your thing, I mean, I can't imagine cutting, doing a complete cutting makeover. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

JVN: You've been in this industry for a little bit. What do you think? How do you think? Like celebrity 50? Wait, tell me that again.

SAM MCKNIGHT: 50. 50 years. What actually -

JVN: I mean, honey also sidebar not to sexualize one of our guests, but you look fucking great, honey. Good for you. You look amazing. So how like, how has salon culture and how has celebrity culture changed in your career?

SAM MCKNIGHT: The celebrity she didn't really exist. When I started and magazines were so small, I remember when I started, it was late seventies, the, the industry didn't exist like it does. It was a very small rarified specialized industry and, and kind of before I started, most hairdressers came from a salon and would do photoshoots out of the salon, you know. Uh, uh, but, but, but in the eighties, in the late seventies and early eighties, that kind of changed into people concentrating on just doing, you know, commercials and photoshoots and all that kind of stuff. And there was, it exploded in the eighties with the birth of the supermodels and all those magazines that just started, you know, they went from selling 20,000 copies a month to 203 104 100,000 copies a month. And it was magazines were, I mean, it's hard for kids now to understand how big and important magazines were. Then. It's only the last 55, 10 years that they've kind of, it's gone into something else-

JVN: Through social media celebrities.

SAM MCKNIGHT: Celebrities. Yeah, absolutely. Without a doubt. Yeah. I mean, it's changed but it was always changing. It's always, uh, you know, turning and twisting into something else. But this, um, I guess the last five years since social media has really changed it a lot.

JVN: How do you think people find their glam team? Like, because not every, like, everyone's got to find their hairdresser, you know, not everyone's going to have like a makeup artist like all these people. But how do you suggest for someone to, like, find their hair person?

SAM MCKNIGHT: I think the first thing would be from word of mouth. You, you, you'd, you'd ask people, you know, people whose hair you like, stop someone in the street and say, who did your hair? That, that would be the kind of what I would say or if your friend's got gray hair, I try that. But it is, it's like, you know, it, for me it's like, it's almost like a dentist or something. You have to, you have to find the one that you get along with. You, like their aesthetic. You like what they do, they're affordable to you all that kind of stuff and it's, it's a two way street, isn't it? You kind of, you have to gel and bond with each other and you kind of, you gonna have to get to know them, don't you? I, I'm not sure that kind of um flitting from one to another all the time. Does you any favors? And I think that's where people can go wrong, you know. Yy. You should always have a couple of people that you can rely on. Not, not, maybe not just one, you know. So someone and someone else if they're not there. And so, so you've got a safety net, right?

JVN: Not just randomly jumping from place to place all spur of them all.

SAM MCKNIGHT: No, I think that's why people get in trouble, you know, because you get that whole hairdresser thing was this one wants to outdo that one? And da, da, da, da da and, and, and you know, it's, it's that, that's, that can be tricky -

JVN: Because you do so much work in the UK, but you also do so much work in the US. Do you see like any big differences in how like British people approach their and how American people approach, approach their beauty, like with hair coloring or cutting? Because I feel like I noticed some.

SAM MCKNIGHT: Well, I think Americans are much more into that they're into there in a different way than, than the Brits are. The Brits are much more relaxed about their hair. The Americans are much more, the Americans spend more money on their hair. You know, the Brits are a little more frugal with their hair. But the Brits, I think probably are a bit more adventurous with their hair than the Americans are. I mean, there's just two different cultures really. I mean -

JVN: You know, what do you think allowed you to maintain or to achieve and maintain this level of success. Like what about your personality made this possible for you? So if anyone is listening to this, whether they're in beauty or whatever industry they're in, what was the key to your success?

SAM MCKNIGHT: I think I was always, I always wanted the next challenge. I always, I always accepted a challenge. I always looked for an opportunity in situations. I always like moving on, moving forward, you know, because you, you maybe lose some client because they work with someone else or they died or something. So there's a gap so that, that's room for somebody else, you know, you got, you gotta pivot, don't you? And I think for me, I've always, I've just loved it. I'm a great collaborator because, you know, it's the team, it's the

hair, the makeup, the styling and the photographer and that's where I come from. I come from that and quite often there were only five of us on a shoot, you know, maybe with one photographer's assistant. None of nobody else said Grace Codington ironed the clothes, you know, and I didn't have an assistant for 15 years, you know. But, but I think I come from that world of collaboration, of that real excitement of OK, what are we going to do? What are we going to create today? And is it going to be about the makeup, is it going to be about the hair or is it both? You know, and I find that really exciting. And I find making transforming young models, you know, like the girls, like Naomi Christy Cindy Linda, everyone when they came, when I would see them when they're 15, 16, 17 years old and working with them and watching them grow. And you know what? I had dinner with all of them in Claridges in London a few months ago when they were in London. And I think we all hadn't been in the same room for about 25 years. And it was, I mean, we cried, it was just, it was, it was so emotional because we went through, you know, pivotal pivotal years of uh formative years really in the eighties when they were teenagers, you know, I was a bit older. Um And um so we had that we have that special bond because doing hair and makeup, you're touching people and when they, when they're younger like that, I feel, I feel a kind of, you feel a bit of a responsibility for them in a way because you're kind of, you're, you're their guardian for the day kind of thing. I mean, we had a lot of fun as well. Don't get me wrong. But um it was really emotional now I've lost, what was I talking about you

JVN: With all of them. So it was yo -

SAM MCKNIGHT: Linda, Naomi Christie and Cindy and Mary Greenwell and myself. It was lovely. It was nice.

JVN: I am just fucking awestruck that is in the, when I'm in London. Next can we get dinner?

SAM MCKNIGHT: That would be amazing. I would love that. I love that.

JVN: I'm dying to meet you in real life. This is like too much. And then are you ready for our final segment? Which is our rapid fire round? Ok. What is your, what is your budget beauty recommendation under 10 quid?

SAM MCKNIGHT: I would recommend we have hard water here in London. I'm I'm sure you have in some cities in the States. I would recommend after you've washed and conditioned your hair, do your final rinse in bottled mineral water and that will you will be amazed at the difference because hard water burns your hair.

JVN: I am - mic fucking drop. I can't believe you just gave us that good of an answer on the first goddamn one of the rapid buyers, Sam, you're breaking my gay brain every time I turn around in here. Ok. Splurge recommendation. It can be, it can be like just any luxury thing, whether it's like clothes bag, hair care, skin care fragrance. What's your favorite splurge recommendation?

SAM MCKNIGHT: Oh, I just love it. I love a beautiful candle and my favorites are Diptyque but I love is it Trudeau or true deux, whatever tr tr I I love a beautiful candle and I think your home should always smell beautiful and I would always invest in beautiful candle.

JVN: I'm so into Diptyque right now because of Sam Barry. Who's the editor in chief of Glamour. She came on Pretty Curious a couple weeks ago and told us about 34 which is this fragrance by them. Now, I was single eau de toilette. I have every single eau de toilette that they made. Now I got the whole sampler and I cant the rose one. The draining. I'm

obsessed. Um, ok. What's a product you never leave home without or like? That's always in your kit.

SAM MCKNIGHT: The product that's always in my kit is my modern hairspray. The one I was talking about before, that's the one that's my key product that I, I could, I could do if you gave me a job to do. And that was the only product I could take with me. That would be it and I'll do the job for you.

JVN: OK. This is gonna be this or that. OK. Are you ready? I'm just changing? OK. Hairspray or texture spray, hair photoshoot or runway show?

SAM MCKNIGHT: Oh, that's no, that's Sophie's choice. They're two completely and utterly different things

JVN: That it's a very non binary answer. I love that for you. Um uh glue wig or glue down wig like glue or lace front,

SAM MCKNIGHT Lace front.

JVN Chunky highlights or baby lights.

SAM MCKNIGHT: That's a hard one. That's so hard to generalize. It depends, it de it depends on Gisele Bundchen. I'd say chunky highlights on Kate Moss. I'd say baby highlights. So it depends on the hair, you know?

JVN: fringe or no?

SAM MCKNIGHT: Large forehead fringe small forehead. No fringe.

JVN: I dream of genie or Bewitched.

SAM MCKNIGHT: Oh. Oh, they're both so good, aren't they? I think Bewitched though, I think Bewitched. Bewitched was, I don't know, she was good with that twiddly nose, wasn't she? And that, that, that, that, that, that kind of big seventies hair was really good.

JVN: Emma Raducanu or Torve and Dean

SAM MCKNIGHT: Trove, and Dean. Come on.

JVN: But who's your favorite? Like, who's your favorite music right now? Who are you listening to?

SAM MCKNIGHT: I'm not, I'm not a big, I listen to old music all the time. I listen to old soul dance music. I'm, I'm, I'm going to Ibiza on Saturday. So I'm listening to Ibiza House classics. That's what I'm listening to. Getting in, getting in the mood, getting in the mood. Yeah, I,

JVN: I'm just so grateful that you brought your energy and your time and your incredible work to Pretty Curious say, thank you so much. You guys know where to find Hair By Sam mcknight. You know what to try. I think this is really Sam, if you're willing, I think this may be a part one. I think we're going to have to have you back to talk more about, talk more about here. I would

SAM MCKNIGHT: love that. I have thoroughly enjoyed it. It's been great.

JVN: We have to, we just love you so much, Sam. Thanks for coming. I'm Pretty Curious. Thank you!

SAM MCKNIGHT: Nice to meet 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.