

Lucy Berry Transcript 2026

LB: Yay.

JH: Okay, so I'm here with Lucy. It is so great to see you. The last time we met, I think you were 4.

LB: Yeah, 4.

JH: Amazing. Do you... do you have any memory of that meeting?

LB: No, no memory. Yeah, I've seen, like, little bits and pieces of it, and I've been told about it, but I don't remember anything about it.

JH: Wow, so we'll just, assume we're meeting for the first time. How's that?

LB: Yeah.

JH: Okay. So, how old are you now?

LB: I'm 14.

JH: And what grade are you in? Ninth grade. 9th grade. So, are you in high school now?

LB: Yes, I am.

JH: And how's that going? That's a transition.

LB: It's going really good, yeah.

JH: What do you... what do you really like about it?

LB: The freedom, definitely. I like that, like, I feel like they're treating us like young adults and not, like, little children anymore. They're just giving us more freedom.

JH: And you feel confident with that, it doesn't freak you out a little bit?

LB: No, not at all.

JH: What do you like to study? Do you have anything you're leaning toward?

LB: Not really. I mean, I like all my classes, mostly. So, yeah.

JH: And you're on the cheer team.

LB: I am, yes. Yeah, we did a competition yesterday. We got second place.

JH: Congratulations!

LB: Thank you.

JH: So, when did you start cheering?

LB: I started cheering sideline season, so over... the summer of 2025. So yeah.

JH: Still relatively new.

LB: Yes, definitely.

JH: But it looks... I sort of follow you on social media.

LB: Yeah.

JH: we follow each other, and I can tell you're really into it.

LB: Yes, I'm... I definitely... I love my team, they're great.

JH: So, what would be really nice, if you're up for this, is just tell me about yourself. What do you like to do? What do you do in your spare time?

LB: Yeah, so... Yeah, so where do I start? Yeah, so I started high school, I'm in leadership. You know, I get to plan a lot of... I'm, like, involved in, like, a lot of the events that were planned, like, homecoming, the homecoming dance we were able to set up, and stuff, we were able to decorate. Then I'm doing, like, we have these... in the front lobby, there's, like, a TV, and, like, we put, like, weekly slides on, like, every single day what's going on, and I get to do that and stuff. It's very fun, just, like, what's going on around the school. Then I was, planning, it's called Senior Sweats, where, like, the seniors get to buy, like, hoodies and, like, sweatpants, and, like, it has, like, their graduation year on it. I was planning that with my committee, which was super fun. Now we're... I'm on a different committee, it's called Staff Appreciation, and we're doing, like doors, like, decorating teachers' doors, like, for winter themed, which is super fun, like, I get to be creative with, like, my friends, which is super fun. And cheer, obviously, it... we got, a new coach, so... and she's really great. It's such... such a different vibe, and we're really building up, like he says, it's, like, the foundation of, like building up, so... I'm super pumped for that. And like I said, we got second place, which we've only gotten forth so far in the season, and now to get second place, it's very, very, like, exciting and rewarding. Highly. Yeah, I kind of just, like, in my free time, I just like to relax, spend time with my family and my dogs. Just have fun.

JH: Sounds like you're pretty outgoing. Did you have to kind of, like, run for these committees, or do you...

LB: We get to, like, pick what committees we're on, and since I'm a freshman, like, freshmen gets, like, the last pick, because, like, it goes four-year seniors and stuff, and on. But, I... I would...I didn't really get the pick, especially being, like, a head chair of, like, running senior sweats. I kind of was like, they're like, oh, like, because I... mostly the two other people that were going to run it, they were having their own events, so they were busy with that, so they

were just, like I guess it's Lucy's turn, and I'm like, okay, I'm up for it, so... and it was super fun. I really liked it, the aspect of doing, like, running the whole thing, and, like, I'm always, like, whenever I see, like, some of my, like, people, like, wearing their senior sweats, I'm always, like, just proud of myself. Like, I did that, like, no one else, like, did that, so...

JH: So, did you have to organize this thing pretty much your, you know, on your own? Wow, that's a big project!

LB: I know, yeah, and like, since, you know, I'm a freshman, I didn't really know what was happening, so I'm just like, okay, what do I do first? But yeah.

JH: Is your school a big school, or...

LB: Really short. There's, like, a thousand, like, a thousand, like, 1,200 kids, something like that, so I don't know, like, medium, I don't want to say too large, but not too small either.

JH: Yeah, that's fairly sizable, but not teeny.

LB: Yeah.

JH: A teeny tiny.

LB: No.

JH: Not huge, but sizable enough, I would.

LB: And then...

JH: I would imagine there were a lot of senior sweats to organize.

LB: Yes, and this senior's class was very big. From, like, last year, there was only, like, 350 seniors, and now this year's, like almost 430, so there's definitely a big gap between last year's and this year's senior class.

JH: Wow. And when you kind of hang out with your folks and your dogs, what do you guys like to do?

LB: Well, since it's been super cold outside, my dogs have been so pent up, so we just... they just, like, blow off steam, just playing with our toys, like, huge bin of toys, they just start plucking out a bunch of toys, and my mom's like, oh my goodness, I just cleaned this up. But we... yeah, they fight over one single bone, they have multiple of. We like to watch definitely a lot of series, like, we have a lot of, like, episodes to catch up on today before Monday.

JH: What are you watching?

LB: My mom and I like to watch, Real Housewives. Yeah, we're watching, Beverly Hills. Yeah.

JH: Has there been any table throwing, or... There's usually a really good brawl at some point.

LB: Yeah, no, we're getting to that point, yeah, definitely, and there's, two new cast members on the Beverly Hills, um, one, so it's like, we're trying to see how, like, they fit in.

JH: That's great. I'll have to check that one out. I'm from New York, so I've watched the New York one.

LB: Oh, yeah, they... I don't think they're coming out with another one, yeah, because my mom was telling me how they, from last year, they had a new cast, and, like, people weren't very thrilled about it, so that's why they aren't doing another one. I'm like, oh, dang, I like that one.

JH: Maybe they kind of watch the other ones and think, what's going to happen here if I do this?

LB: I know, yeah.

JH: Wow, so, how many dogs?

LB: Just two.

JH: Two, okay. Yeah, I think I met a dog. I think you had a dog when I... when I came.

LB: Yeah.

JH: First.

LB: Yeah, I'm sure. I think I was 4 at that time? So, I think we maybe had my oldest dog, Mimi, she's... turning 10 in April, and then we got another dog, Vinny, he just turned 5.

JH: Oh, wow. So... and you live in Detroit, or out... right outside of Detroit?

LB: Outside of Detroit, Warren.

JH: In Warren, that's right. So, is there... what's the temperature like right now?

LB: Very cold. Yeah, we had...we've had so many, like, cold days and snow days for school. It was, like, negative, like, 15 degrees one... one week. I'm like, oh my goodness, it's... yeah. I think...today's, like, 20s, which is very high for us. So, yeah.

JH: So, when it's, like, negative 15 degrees, is that a snow day? Do you stay home?

LB: Yeah, that's... yeah, it's like a cold day, because it has to be negative 15, or lower, for... yeah. If it's not snowing, and if it's not negative 15 degrees, then we're probably going to school.

JH: So if it's like 10 degrees you're going to school.

LB: Yes, 10 degrees, definitely.

JH: And do the dogs go out when it's super cold?

LB: Oh, no, my mom won't walk them unless it's at least 25 degrees.

JH: I can imagine that when they're home, they're getting a little stir-crazy.

LB: Yeah, definitely, and my mom's had to fill in for, one of her preschool aides, so she's been with, for, like, the whole day, and my dogs aren't usually used to that, so they're like, why isn't anyone home to feed us, and give us our whimsies, and walk us, and give us our chicken cubes?

JH: Yeah, so they have no... either they're going to sleep a lot, or they're going to zoom around together, I guess.

LB: Yeah. I think they mostly just sleep, and there's, like, a couch, like, right in front of, like, our garage door, and they sit there, they don't go anywhere else. Maybe they're, like, there's something interesting in the backyard, but they mostly just sit there and lay there all day.

JH: So, can we talk a little bit about, sort of being adopted, and being, being a Chinese adoptee, and I'd really be interested in how you and your parents talked about this as you were getting older. Like, at what point did you... did you always know you were adopted?

LB: Yeah, I... my mom and dad, they... they're... they're very, like, blunt people, so they just don't see the point of, like, trying to hide that, like, I'm adopted, like, because we clearly don't look like each other. So, yeah, I've always just kind of known I was adopted. It was never, like, a secretive thing. So, I'm just like, yeah, I'm adopted, but then, like, as I got older, like I'm sure they would have explained to me when I was, like, younger, but, like, I was probably young, so I couldn't, like, fully, like, understand, like, what that meant. So now that, like, I'm older, I, like, understand, like, my full story, and, like, you know, where I'm from and how everything went.

JH: So, what is your story? Can you tell us a little bit about it?

LB: Yes, so... my mom and dad, they... They, were trying to get pregnant, and my mom had, as her third miscarriage, my great-grandfather, he, he, he, he was passed, he passed away before, like, a couple days before my mom found out she had her third miscarriage, and my aunt, well my great-grandfather was, like, gave, my parents money to... adopt a child, and my aunt like, told my mom that the night of when they came home from the hospital. And so, like, that's how, like, the search began, and then I can't remember exactly what night, but in the middle of the night, they're, like, what is it called? Like, someone that, like, you know, that was helping them find, like, a child. They called them in the middle of the night, and they're like, we found a perfect daughter for you, and she sent, them pictures of me, and they, like, knew exactly right away that, like, I was the one. So then, they obviously had to do, like, you know, paperwork, planned trip, like, a trip there, take time off from work. And then...I think a few days before my

birthday, and then I turned, 2 on September 14th, and then two days later, they came and picked me up.

JH: So, you were 2 when you came home?

LB: Yes, yes, I was.

JH: And... do you have any memory at all of that?

LB: No, no. Yeah, we have, like, a little, like, flip camera that, like, I like... there's, like, videos of me, like, of, like, me meeting my mom and dad. But I don't have any memory of that. They tell me, like... they tell me that I love my pudding when I was in the hotel. And then when they ran... when they ran out of that, they had to start giving me little cookies they got, so I wouldn't, like, be crying.

JH: Do you know about, sort of, why you might have been placed for adoption? Have you learned anything about the One-Child policy, or the situation in China?

LB: Honestly, even my... the orphanage didn't really know a bunch about, like, my birth mother or birth father, like, I guess I... well, my mother, I think, like, did... she, like, gave me up because I had cleft lip and palate, and I... my mom thinks that, like, she just couldn't afford, like, you know, to give all those surgeries and... and things like that, so she just...it would be better for me to go in an orphanage and get the proper medical care. So then, while I was in the orphanage, I had I think, I believe, like, two surgeries, one fixing my... my lip, or my cleft... lip and palate, and then one other one, I don't believe. Maybe just one, actually. And then when I was all, like, you know, good to go, then that's when my mom and dad, like, you know, placed to adopt me. So, yeah.

JH: So that when you came home, you had more surgeries. Do you... do you know how... how many have you had?

LB: Oh, gosh, I don't even remember, but... Well, I believe my mom mentioned I just had my [philtral] flaps done, I had my...the roof of my, mouth, there was, like, a hole in it. I had that one fixed, too. I had... multiple ear tube surgeries. I've had, like, ten of those done. Yeah, but that's, like, a piece of cake to me. I've had a few teeth pulled, I've had a bone graft surgery, they had to take a piece of bone from my hip and put it into my mouth, so, like, I had extra bone. In there, that was probably one of my... one of my hardest surgeries, just because of the time of recovery and stuff, I couldn't eat any hard food, I just...could only eat soft food. My mom was just pummeling ramen, because I just wanted real food. Yeah, what else? I've had with... I've had multiple... I've... I've had three sets of braces, and I just got them off.

JH: They look beautiful, by the way.

LB: Thank you. Yeah, I had to have my wisdom teeth pulled in order to get my braces off so there was more room for my teeth, my bottom teeth, to...like, fit all in there, yeah.

JH: Are the... the... so, all of these surgeries are related in some way to the cleft and correcting various things that happened as a result of that.

LB: Yeah, yeah.

JH: Including the ear tubes.

LB: Yes. Yeah, oh, I've had, like, a minor, like, little sinus surgery because, around, like, 7th grade, I just... my... I was just so congested and, like, like, I could not breathe through my nose, like, at, like, any day, so they... my ENT doctor, she was like, we can, like, go in there and, like, push, like, some of, like, the...you know, I don't know the technical terms of it, but there's, like, stuff, like, blocking my nose, like, airway, so she, like, was able to, like, decrease that, so it's definitely helped me. And then in the future, like, when I fully, like, develop, I'm def... I'm most likely going get, like, the full sinus surgery. So that'll be another one, too.

JH: And that one they do when you're completely grown, I guess.

LB: Yeah. Yeah.

JH: So you've spent a lot of time recovering from various and sundry medical procedures. Yes. What has that...How has that affected you? Do you think... has it... has it had an impact in how you kind of look at things, or what you think you can cope with, or...

LB: Yeah, I... yeah, I definitely think so. I feel like...Like, my mom's explained to me, like, not many people have surgeries, so, like, they don't understand, like, you know, like, oh my gosh, getting, like, like, my wisdom... like, most people just get wisdom teeth out, and that was, like, nothing for me, honestly. I feel like it just made me, like, have thicker skin, especially, like, the pain and stuff, like...just, like, some of, like, what people think, like, oh, that's, like, a lot, like, my bone graft surgery. Yeah, it was hard to recover, but in the hospital, I...: I just wanted to get up and walk, and my doctor's like, no, you can't yet. Like, like, a few hours after my surgery, I'm like, I want to go walk around, and he's like, you cannot do that yet, as you're still healing. So whereas I feel like some other people would just be like, no, I'm just going to lay in my bed for eternity. So, I feel like it's definitely, like, shaped me to have, like, thicker skin and, like, you know, the sense of, like, pain, and, like, what I can handle.

JH: Yeah, made you strong.

LB: Yeah.

JH: That must help with cheer, because what I see of cheer now, when I think of cheer when I was your age it was just a walk in the park. I look at cheer teams now, you're throwing each other up in the air, and doing all kinds of stuff

Lucy: Yeah.

JH: Sorry.

LB: No, I'm just going to say, I'm like, yeah, it's definitely a lot. We have cheer practice every single day, we have tumbling... yeah, I mean, it's definitely a big commitment thing, but you know, just to, you know, be able to go out and perform with, like, your teammates for an excuse, just like...very rewarding, and then getting second place was definitely a big reward for us, because we've worked very, very hard from, like, November till now. So, yeah.

JH: And it sounds like you really like your new coach, and she's kind of led you to this in a lot of ways, to this big win.

LB: Oh, definitely, yeah. Yeah, she's coached at, my school for...She's coached past, like, teams, but then she, like, obviously resigned, and then our new coaches came, and it wasn't... I personally don't know a ton, because I've just...because they resigned, like, after sideline season, so I don't know a ton, but from, like, what some of the seniors have, being with them from, like, almost when they started until they quit, it was, it was... it was good, but it just... compared to our new coach, it was just like, it's just... they weren't the greatest. Like, some of the things they would do, it just weren't the greatest, like, they would try to, like trick them, and, like, stuff, like, because apparently during comps, they weren't supposed to be on their phones, and they, like, sent them a text, like, go meet us by, like, the bleachers, and then they obviously did, and, like, then they were like, you guys are all in trouble because you guys shouldn't be on your phones and stuff. So, it was just, like, kind of like, why would you do that? It's, like, pointless.

JH: Yeah, it doesn't exactly establish an atmosphere of trust.

LB: No, no, definitely, yeah.

JH: There's a way to say, you know, no one's supposed to be on their phone.

LB: And we need to figure this out.

JH: Yeah. Rather than... I'm going to lure you to the bleachers and then tell you you're in trouble.

LB: Yeah, no, our coach definitely doesn't do that. That's actually, like, a very strong source of communication, especially when she's, like, out in the [inaudible], and we're, like, in the locker room, and we have to know one time to, like, go out and warm up. So, she's, like, texting us, like, go to the warm-up room now and stuff. So... Yeah, it's a totally different vibe.

JH: Tell me, what's your... what's your high school like in terms of kinds of, like, people and kids. Is it... is it...Is it fairly diverse? Is it...

LB: Yeah, our school's definitely very... a diverse school, and I'm really... I really like that. Yeah, there's a... yeah, there's, you know, Asians, there's, you know, Arabs, there's different, like, Muslim kids, and then there's just, like, you know, regular, like American kids, and people like that. It's... which I really like, and everyone's... for the most part, I've encountered, are very, like, nice. They don't really care about where you come from, as long as you're...you know, your... your heart is good. So, yeah. But, you know, you get some people that, like, aren't so as nice, but you just gotta just kind of, like, you know, like...not let them get to you. Which I haven't encountered so far, which is very nice. And I feel like high school, you mature, so then, like, you know, you go your own different, separate ways, and people just accept, like, oh, you're that person that's okay, we might not get along, but we can still be friendly.

JH: So, it sounds like you... and correct me if I'm wrong, it doesn't sound like you've had a lot of...kind of difficulty in terms of either being Chinese or being adopted? Have you had to answer... you know, I know sometimes there are questions that can be a little intrusive, even if it's not intended.

LB: Yep.

JH: And, I wonder if you've had any of that.

LB: Not really. And if... People don't really, like ask me, oh, are you adopted? Or if they see me and my parents, they just probably assume that I am, and they just... I mean, they're obviously welcome to ask any questions, but they're not, like, rude about it.

JH: Awesome.

LB: Yeah.

JH: So... right now, in the world, I'm asking everyone this, in our country, we're having a big discussion about immigration. Yeah. And people have different views, and I think it's really important to respect everyone's point of view about things. I'm just wondering if... how you are... if you're aware of this, if you may not really be paying much attention to it at all, you've got a lot of things going on, but if you are...Do you think about this as In some way related to you and your life as a person who was born in another country and grew up here, or does it seem kind of not really very connected?

LB: I mean, I'm definitely aware of immigration, I mean, at some points, like, you know, you've heard the stories, like, of even American citizens being born here, they're being, you know, horrible things. So, it's a... it is a concern for me, but, I mean, I can't do anything about it, but our school district has made it, like, aware that, like, no one will be taken, if they don't have

a...like, a reason to, and, like, official reason to. So, I mean, that kind of helps me, but...honestly, I... I just try to stay educated and, like, aware of, like, what's happening. But... sometimes, like, I do worry, but...I just... sometimes... I just can't, obviously, dwell on it, so I just have to...let my life go on, and if there's a point in my life that I need to be worried, then I will, but that hasn't happened so far, so...I'm just going to go on with my life.

JH: Yeah, and you are, your status is U.S. citizen, so it was a naturalized citizen as part of the adoption, so, I think sometimes I talk to some adoptees, it's been interesting in these conversations, and part of what they're learning about is their status. You know, oh, okay, yeah, I am a citizen. I was naturalized as part of the adoption. And so, and it's interesting to hear you say that your school has made known, you know, what its policy is in terms of,

LB: Yeah.

JH: not just opening the door if people come knocking and...

LB: Yeah. Yeah, no, I've... yeah, our superintendent, like, sent out an email to all staff. They haven't made it aware to, like, the students, but they've made it aware to, like, the staff, so I feel like this... they don't have as big of a concern. You know, like, what do I do? So...

JH: Yeah, everyone's clear about... sorry.

LB: No, it's okay. No, it just definitely puts a little more safety, for me as well.

JH: Yes.

LB: Yeah.

JH: Kind of a sense that they've got your back, and they're making clear how they're working with it all.

LB: Yeah. Yes, and all of my teachers I have this semester, I definitely know, like, they wouldn't, like, you know, willingly be like, okay, here,

JH: Yeah, here's this student, take her away.

LB: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, definitely.

JH: So, do you... as you kind of look ahead, I know you're very just involved in your daily life now, but do you think about, like the future? What do you... I know you just started high school, but, you know, do you have big dreams about, or things you think about, you'd like to do or be?

LB: Yeah, definitely. I feel like I've always kind of, like, known from, like, even, like, 7th grade, I've always wanted to be a teacher. I... I've obviously... I haven't, like...thought exactly what I wanted to do. I don't... I do know I don't want to do middle school. So, either elementary or high school,

but that's definitely, like, a solid career I've wanted to do. I just, I also want to, like, now that I've gotten, like, more exposed to, like what the world, like, not just, like, America. Like, I've definitely wanted to, like, travel around, maybe. That's definitely something I want to do. I definitely want to go back to China and, like, where I was born to see...over, like, what's happening over there, and, like, what the culture is.

JH: Have you thought at all about a heritage tour, like going back, visiting your orphanage, or does anything like that appeal to you?

LB: Oh, yeah, definitely, yeah. My mom and dad were... and I were... we always talk about that, like, definitely, like, maybe for, like, my 18th birthday, like, graduation. Yeah, definitely, we want to do that sometime.

JH: That sounds really cool to me.

LB: Yeah, I def... definitely. That's definitely in the books for me.

JH: Do you keep in touch with... do you know anyone from your... from your group, or from your...even in your community, in the Chinese adoption community, I know when my daughter was young, we were involved with, like, Families with Children from China. Did you guys do stuff like that?

LB: My bedmate, my...bedmate's parents that she was being adopted by actually was talking to my... my mom and dad about, like, staying in touch, and I still, like, know, like, some... like, some bits and pieces about her life, and I like, so that's nice, I get to, like, still kind of connect with their, their family, and it seems like she's doing good. I... I really don't know anyone else besides, like, my cousins that have been adopted, like, my friends, so... and they don't really judge me for, like, being adopted, they just, just, like, think, oh, okay, yeah.

JH: Are your cousins adopted?

LB: Yes, they're adapted from Romania.

JH: Oh, how cool! So, within the family, you have other international adoptees.

LB: Yes, yeah.

JH: That's really neat.

LB: Yes.

JH: So, just to go back to something you said previously, why not middle school?

LB: It's just...a lot. That's, it, I mean, I've obviously went through middle school, it's just like, that's all I gotta say, it's just a lot. It's like the... it's very mixed um age groups, I want to say,

because 6th grade's, like, elementary, and then 8th grade down the borderline to high school, and then the 7th grade's, like, in that middle, like, that middle school. So, I think it's just It's just a lot of, like, different ages, age groups, and maturity, definitely. There'll be someone that's, like, acting like a... like, a fourth grader, and then there's someone that's acting like a high schooler, so it's just very...I think it's just a lot. That's all I have to say.

JH: I think, I've never really understood the concept of middle school, because you take people, as you say, at this very challenging developmental stage and stick them all in a building together.

LB: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, like my mom would say, it's just a big hormonal school.

JH: Having just experienced it, it's fresh in your memory, too.

LB: Yes. By eighth grade it was better, but there were still some people that were just lacking on maturity, but now that I'm, like, in high school, I get to mix with, like, more mature people, which I'm... which is more my group of people, which I like.

JH: Do you think that growing up as an only child has in some way, contributed to your...because you're very poised, and you're... and I can tell that you like being with older students, you've... you know, and I just wonder if kind of, when you're an only child, you find ways to spend time on your own, to focus.

LB: Yeah, definitely being an only child has, like is a definitely different, like, aspect than being, like, with, like, your siblings. I feel like you can... you have, like, that time alone to yourself, which is very nice, so you can just, like, decompress and, like. Yeah. It's... it's just sometimes, like, when I was younger, like, be, like, a little lonely, because then, like, my mom and dad would be doing something and then, like, I'd want to play with someone, but I wouldn't have anyone, but, like, now that I've gotten older, I've realized that, like, I feel like it's made me more, like, independent, and not, like, I'm not, like, relying on too many people, you know, to, like entertain me, in a way, so I can, like, do my own thing, like, by myself without having to absolutely have, like, someone, like, do it with me. I feel like I've been able to just, like, accept, like, some days I just want to be by myself. Where, like, some people are like, Lucy, why don't you want to, like, hang out with your friends? And I'm like, sometimes I just need a moment by myself, which I've learned to, like, find things I can do by myself, which is nice, where some people haven't.

JH: I think it can be a real gift, because as we move through life

LB: Yeah.

JH: there isn't always someone to... there isn't always a distraction.

LB: Yeah.

JH: and I think the ability to be with yourself and to be comfortable is just a very profound thing, and of course there are people of siblings who have that feeling, too, but I think in a way, when you grow up without immediate siblings in the home with you, you sort of develop it, because you need to develop it.

LB: Yeah, yeah, like, you're... you're not always going to have your siblings or your parents, so, like, but you're always going to have yourselves, so I feel like it's important that you learn to, like, know yourself well, and just be able to, like, do stuff by yourself and, like, have a good time.

JH: I think that's a great way to end, except that I would like to just ask if there's anything we haven't talked about, or that I haven't asked, that you would like to talk about.

LB: Oh, I remember. I was able to... I... my... I think, I believe on Facebook, there was this mother, her daughter was, like, starting a really public school, and she was, like, Chinese, and I was able to, like, FaceTime and, like help her, like, not be so afraid of... because of her, like, yeah, because of her...ethnicity,

JH: ethnicity.

LB: Yeah, yeah. And I just, like, was able to explain that, like, some people just won't... some people won't like you for who you are, but once you, like, find your people who accept who you are, just, like, you don't have to worry about those people that don't like, who you are, so... I feel like that was, like I remember that, like, forever. Like, I was like, I was just able to, like, help guide someone into being who they truly are, and that... and into, like, a new public school and things like that, because school can be very hard.

JH: Is that something you hope for from participating in this project?

LB: Oh, definitely, yes.

JH: You can kind of... help maybe other... other adoptees? Y

LB: Yeah. Yeah definitely, yeah, because I've always been very, like, open and, like, true to, like, yeah, that, like, I'm adopted and I'm Chinese, like, where I haven't had, like, the experience of, like, being, insecure about that, which, like, I hope if people are, I hope to, like, tell, like, tell them that, like it's okay to be adopted, and it's okay like that you're... that, like, you're not with your biological parents, because sometimes, like, It's like a blessing that you're not, sometimes, with, like, other people. You know...

JH: Do you ever... do you wonder much about your biological parents?

LB: At points, I do, because... yeah, my mom and I have talked about doing, like, a DNA test when I'm, like, older, around, like, my 16th or 18th birthday, just to see, like if they are still around, maybe, you know, I could meet them one day.

JH: So that's something you would be open to, possibly.

LB: Yes, definitely.

JH: Well... Let's leave it there, and then let me ask you, I'm...I'm asking if it's okay if I... if we keep in touch and I check in with you in five years.

LB: Definitely, yes.

JH: And then we can do another one and see where you are then.

LB: How's that? Yeah, it'll be in freshman college, I believe. Yeah.

JH: Perfect milestone.

LB: Yeah, I know, perfect, yeah.

JH: Well, I want to thank you so much. It has been a joy and a delight to get to know you and to see you again ten years later.

LB: Yes, definitely, you as well.

JH: I'm going to stop recording now.

LB: Alright.