

Transcription:  
**Amarillo, Texas**  
File: **Elephant Talk\_EP25\_Transcript\_FINAL**

**Host**

MY NAME IS ANDY HORNING, AND THIS IS ELEPHANT TALK. IT'S ABOUT ALL THINGS RELATIONSHIP - THE SOULFUL, THE STORMY, THE SILLY AND THE SEXY.

**Quote**

*"Normally, when we tell people that I live with my sister, both of our families live together, it's all seven of us at one house, they think we're crazy and kind of give me those bug eyes like, 'You say what?'" --Synclair*

*"I feel like most of the time people don't get along like with their siblings to how well Nishi and I do and people don't get along especially with their in-laws the way that you guys do." --Synclair*

*"I think there's probably been maybe a year and a half since 2012 that we haven't lived together." --Patrick*

**Host**

Over the summer, Elephant Talk took our podcast on the road. We traveled through the Midwest and recorded some conversations along the way. We will share some of these conversations throughout Season Two.

In this first 'on-the-road episode,' one of our producers, talks to two sisters...Nishi and Synclair...and their spouses...Patrick and Jordan. They are all in their early to mid-twenties and they live together under one roof with their three children (whose voices you will hear from time to time in this interview).

---

Speaker

Dialogue

BEGIN CLIP: **Elephant Talk\_20170720\_Nishi Patrick Synclair Jordan\_mixdown\_2**

**Synclair**

So, okay, Nishi and I are sisters. She's four years older. And when I was about 15, I started dating Jordan. So we were in high school. And then about two years later, Nishi and Patrick started dating. And Patrick is my age. We were in high school together. We actually had a class together when Nishi and Patrick started dating. So it was kind of weird for me because all of my friends all throughout my life have always talked about how hot my sister is then they actually started dating and I was like, "Great!" So then I guess right about that time when Nishi and Patrick started dating is when Jordan moved in when I was like 17-ish.

<b>Nishi</b>	Yeah.
<b>Synclair</b>	He moved in to our house of our parents.
<b>Jordan</b>	Yeah. I've been on my own since I was about 17.
<b>Synclair</b>	When we started dating?
<b>Jordan</b>	Yeah.
<b>Nishi</b>	Yeah.
<b>Jordan</b>	My parents divorced, I remember I was in the eighth grade, and then my dad is a truck driver so he doesn't really have a home and my mom didn't want to live in the Colony anymore.
<b>Synclair</b>	Which is where I was from.
<b>Jordan</b>	Yeah, but I was a senior in high school. So I wasn't going to move so I kind of just lived with friends and stuff.
<b>Synclair</b>	We were, yeah, we started dating when I was 15 and he was 17 in high school. And then at the time, he was living with his best friend Bryan and then about two years later is when he moved in.
<b>Jordan</b>	Yeah. I was a senior. I had already gotten a scholarship to go play football. So I was planning on just leaving after that anyways, so I didn't even think much about it. I already had a job with my best friend. He's at an air-conditioning company and his parents just said that I could live with them for the rest of the year so I can finish up the school year. Yeah, I went off to Kansas and I didn't like it. So I moved back home and I moved back with my mom at the time she moved to Irving and I was going to school there for a little bit and then that's when I decided to... or actually me and Synclair started dating again.
<b>Synclair</b>	Again. Yeah, we've broken up for a little bit.
<b>Jordan</b>	Yeah. We had broken up for just some time and then got back together. The way that it worked out was Richard and Toni weren't going to be together, so I was paying to rent out a room there. He had open rooms. So it kind of worked out that way.
<b>Patrick</b>	Me and Nishi actually met at an anything but clothes party.
<b>Nishi</b>	Okay.
<b>Patrick</b>	A very classy way to meet. It's better than Tinder or something [inaudible 00:05:13] that people meet on that.
<b>Synclair</b>	That's true.
<b>Nishi</b>	We met at a party. You could just say that.

<b>Patrick</b>	But I knew who Nishi was just because I knew Synclair and she graduated from the Colony.
<b>Nishi</b>	We started dating May 1st, 2011.
<b>Jordan</b>	So that's six years?
<b>Patrick</b>	Yeah.
<b>Nishi</b>	A little over six years.
<b>Patrick</b>	Yeah, since I was 17. I just turned 17 a couple of months.
<b>Jordan</b>	Synclair and I started dating January 1st, 2010 the first time.
<b>Nishi</b>	It's like a suburb of Dallas.
<b>Synclair</b>	There's one high school, two middle schools, so you grew up and you know everybody your age. You pretty much know their siblings.
<b>Nishi</b>	Then.
<b>Synclair</b>	Then. Yeah. Now, it's bigger. But whenever we grew up there, I mean there were two middle schools and then by the time we got to high school, like I said, you know everybody your age, you pretty much know their family because it's just a small town.
<b>Nishi</b>	Whenever I went to college, people always... they're like, "Are you in some kind of a cult or something?" I was like, "No, that's the name of the city."
<b>Synclair</b>	The Colony, it's a small town. You can get the small town feel, but also you can absorb more into Dallas and it not feel like a small town.
<b>Nishi</b>	Yeah.
<b>Synclair</b>	No.
<b>Jordan</b>	Not at all.
<b>Nishi</b>	We're the only ones and people normally tell us we are batshit crazy.
<b>Nishi</b>	Normally, when we tell people that I live with my sister, both of our families live together, it's all seven of us at one house, they think we're crazy and kind of give me those bug eyes like, "You say what?"
<b>Patrick</b>	I would just say it's funny that we live together, but Jordan and I also work together.
<b>Nishi</b>	Go right into work together and take lunch breaks together.
<b>Patrick</b>	It's we're living parallelized in the same house.
<b>Jordan</b>	Yeah.

<b>Nishi</b>	Yeah. What do people say at work whenever you...?
<b>Jordan</b>	Oh, they just that it's cool.
<b>Patrick</b>	That's cool that it works for you all, but they've never been here. They don't understand like the actual...
<b>Synclair</b>	Well, I feel like most of the time people don't get along like with their siblings to how well Nishi and I do and people don't get along especially with their in-laws the way that you guys do.
<b>Jordan</b>	Yeah. Well, it's an odd situation whereas me and Patrick are really good friends, so it's not like...
<b>Synclair</b>	Yeah, but you're work friends before so you're...
<b>Jordan</b>	And it's not like the brother-in-law where you're dating my sister because that's not cool.
<b>Patrick</b>	Yeah. It's like the good brother-in-law. It's like...
<b>Jordan</b>	We can still be friends and we're brothers so that's nice.
<b>Nishi</b>	For sure help with our kids.
<b>Synclair</b>	Help with the kids is crazy.
<b>Nishi</b>	Because when our kids go to bed at night, if we have to like, "Oh, crap! We forgot milk," or, "Oh, crap! We forgot this." We can say, "Hey, do you all mind stay and care and we go to the store?" Whereas before...
<b>Synclair</b>	And it's a nice like break alone time like...
<b>Nishi</b>	Whereas before, it's like, well...
<b>Patrick</b>	Yeah. It's like either one of us go and the other one stays behind.
<b>Nishi</b>	We just leave the kids at home by themselves.
<b>Jordan</b>	Oh, we'll just go out and just leave them.
<b>Nishi</b>	Laiken is four. She can babysit.
<b>Patrick</b>	You set up a motion cam.
<b>Synclair</b>	Also, I think one of the really cool benefits is just having built-in friends because like we live together before a lot actually.
<b>Nishi</b>	Well, because we grew up together.
<b>Synclair</b>	No. I'm saying like us as couples.

<b>Nishi</b>	Oh, yes.
<b>Synclair</b>	Two years ago, we...
<b>Jordan</b>	Yeah, we lived at the house on Bentley <sup>[Phonetic]</sup> and then we also lived in the duplex.
<b>Synclair</b>	Yeah. I guess three years ago we all rented a house together back in Dallas also.
<b>Patrick</b>	Even before that, we had a three-story apartment and then we moved to the house.
<b>Nishi</b>	Yeah. Before that we lived with dad.
<b>Synclair</b>	All together, yeah. So pretty much we just always lived together being adults.
<b>Patrick</b>	So I think there's probably been maybe a year and a half since 2012 that we haven't lived together.
<b>Jordan</b>	I was off of my own...
<b>Synclair</b>	So for five...
<b>Nishi</b>	I would say...
<b>Patrick</b>	It's maybe two years.
<b>Jordan</b>	I moved to College Station.
<b>Patrick</b>	Maybe two years out of...
<b>Synclair</b>	So out of the past five years, two.
<b>Nishi</b>	Two and a half probably because we lived here for a year and a half before you guys lived here.
<b>Patrick</b>	That's right.
<b>Synclair</b>	So we lived together before and then Jordan and I got our own apartment because Nishi and Patrick were about to move here, so they were living with family just saving up for a little bit and we moved to our own apartment and I was just so depressed because it was like every night I didn't have my girlfriend that I can go talk to. You know I had to actually like leave my house to see friends and it was just my sister who's my only friend pretty much. But it's just so convenient, so nice to have that person to vent to without having to leave.
<b>Patrick</b>	I just like that our kids...
<b>Synclair</b>	Oh my gosh! And our kids entertain each other.
<b>Patrick</b>	Yeah.
<b>Jordan</b>	And then not only that, but I know me and Patrick are always there to talk with each

other if there's anything that we need.

**Nishi** For sure because Patrick will be like, "Well, Jordan also thinks you're being ridiculous."

**Synclair** Oh, yeah. Don't worry. Nishi and I do the same thing. Don't worry. Except it gets a little uncomfortable when Nishi and Patrick fight and Patrick is like, "Synclair, Synclair, right, right, Nishi is being crazy." And then I have to choose. "Well, do I go with my friend? Do I go with my sister?" I don't know because you're both being crazy.

**Patrick** You go with the honest answer.

**Jordan** Honest answer is the right answer.

**Synclair** We're also open. So I don't think we could get uncomfortable with each other.

**Jordan** And if we do, whenever you start stepping on toes, you just say something.

**Synclair** You can tell very clearly pretty much.

**Nishi** Yeah. I just feel like we all fight like siblings to where when you're siblings, you guys would get in like these knockdown drag-out fights and hate each other and five minutes later you're like, "Hey! You want to go to the store with me?" There's no need for like an apology or like, "Let's sit down and talk about our feelings because it's just like..." this is it.

**Synclair** Nishi and I step on each other's toes all the time. I mean we were sisters. So we get under each other's skin all the time and then five minutes later, we're like, "Are you going to make a smoothie? Because if you are, pour me a glass," kind of thing.

**Nishi** And I think that's just kind of how we all are.

**Patrick** That's how they are.

**Nishi** You don't have an argument?

**Jordan** We don't really argue.

**Nishi** Have you ever once gotten into an argument?

**Patrick** I don't think so.

**Jordan** Either one person just concedes to the other or most of the time, we just kind of want to do the same thing. So it doesn't really matter.

**Nishi** We go to the park a lot.

**Synclair** We go on walks to the park almost every day.

**Patrick** No, I mean any time like...

**Nishi** So growing up, I think my parents had a pretty strong relationship. I guess I've been taught, I was in high school really, when my mom got laid off, I think that's kind of when everything shifted just because there's a lot more stress in the house. She didn't find a job immediately. And then when she did it, it wasn't like a super consistent Monday through Friday type of thing. So I mean from what I remember until high school, my parents' relationship was awesome. They love to be together and all of our friends would always comment on like how awesome their relationship was and how they wish... when they get older they hopefully have a marriage like that. So that definitely helped it. My marriage was happy and inspiring like that I guess towards other people, but hopefully it stays like that the whole time. I definitely don't want to recreate what happen in the end.

**Synclair** So my mom got laid off when I was a freshman in high school and then she started traveling a lot for work. She was working for forensic files, basically traveling around the country writing shows and stuff like that. Her drinking problem got a lot worse. So I don't know if she'd always had it or what. I'm not going to ask questions about that kind of thing, but her drinking problem got really, really bad whenever she's traveling because she was always by herself so she didn't have anybody to like answer to or be normal around, I guess. I don't really know. So then after that, their relationship just became very strained and my mom wasn't the same person she used to be and my dad tried to keep everything together as best as he could and he even told me... oh, maybe he told other people that he was waiting to get a divorce and leave my mom until after I graduated high school and stuff. So I mean I knew when I was older that things weren't going well.

**Nishi** She is sober now by the way.

**Synclair** Yes, she is sober now.

**Patrick** Like two years sober.

**Synclair** Three, wait, no, no, no.

**Nishi** Almost three.

**Jordan** Almost three?

**Synclair** Over three, March 1st, same anniversary as dad and Parie.

**Nishi** Yeah.

**Patrick** But I think that probably the divorce was the push she needed to...

**Synclair** Oh, definitely. If it weren't for all of those bad things happening, we wouldn't all be where we are today. So everything happens for a reason. It's just not the path that anybody would have chosen for sure, but we're happy where we are now I think.

**Nishi** I only have one really close friend that's married and so I think most of my other friends are still just dating so casually and it's like, "Oh, well, he does this so we broke up," or, "He does that." So they're not as serious with the relationships I guess. Whereas when you're married and you have kids, it's like, "Yeah, he really pissed me off today, but we're married." So we work through it rather than just, "Okay, whatever." That's for sure

how mine would differ from any of my friends because they're all just still dating.

**Synclair** I mean we've been together for so long that our relationship is just different than most people's our age because we have been together for so long. So I think I have one friend who's in a serious relationship and she's been dating that guy for couple of years. But other than that, like my sister is saying all of my friends are just kind of like dating around or sleeping around or having kids.

**Patrick** Just around.

**Synclair** Yeah, being young 20-year-old girls who are having fun I guess. I don't know. Not for me. So yeah. My relationship is totally different than all of my friends' relationships. I have one friend that has a kid but like I said she's not in a relationship with that person. So our lives are just very different. I would say ours is a lot more stable or consistent, I mean not stable, just consistent than theirs.

**Jordan** I would say stable.

**Synclair** Yeah, I guess.

**Nishi** We're married.

**Synclair** That's true. I think it definitely goes both ways feeling whacky and then feeling like... not jealous, not jealous but maybe a little like... man, I wonder what would it feel like to just be able to go out.

**Nishi** To a grocery store alone?

**Synclair** Not even a grocery store because when I was younger before...

**Patrick** Yeah, and that has nothing to do with being married. That's just because we have kids now.

**Synclair** Well, I mean like going out.

**Patrick** We're talking being married [inaudible 00:19:15] not being married.

**Synclair** Well, okay. For me and Jordan, we were dating when I graduated high school and then I moved away to College Station and he stayed back. He was living with my dad while I was away in college. For me, I was like, "Well, I'm only 18 years old. Why would I just stay with one person for my whole life?" I mean that kind of thing. I mean those things run through your head. It's not like I don't love him anymore. I don't want to be with you. So whenever we were younger Jordan, I broke up for almost a year and then we've been together since then.

**Jordan** Then she came crawling back.

**Synclair** What? Whatever. But we did break up and it was a great opportunity I think for both of us to just kind of see what else out there, figure out what we wanted, who we were. I mean if it weren't for that, we wouldn't be together at all. I don't think.

**Jordan** Yeah. But our situation is a little different and that we were together for so long and we

didn't really get a chance to experience dating other people or you didn't anyways. I had already a little bit before we got together, but I was still in high school so not much.

**Nishi** Yeah. I wouldn't say... like obviously I love my husband. I'm happy that we're married. But before we got married, I was a very independent person and I could be by myself. Like I liked my alone time and I like being just me and then once you get married and you have kids, it's like you don't really have an identity anymore almost because you got to be mom, you got to be wife, you got to be chef.

**Synclair** Well, I was going to say that is your identity as wife...

**Nishi** Yeah, like that's who you are. And so you lose a lot of yourself whenever you commit to another person because you can't just go out and do whatever you want. We'll ask permission, but you have to be respectful and conscious of their feelings.

**Synclair** Well, even just being married, you can't be like, "Hey, I'm going to go have a sleepover at my girlfriend's house," because when you're married, like I cannot tell you the last time I had a sleepover. My girlfriends have sleepovers all the time, like they still hang out with their friends overnight. But for me, that's the weirdest thing in the world. I'm only 23 but it's because I'm married.

**Jordan** That's because you can sleep without me.

**Synclair** No. It's not.

**Jordan** Yes, it is.

**Synclair** You need to just like deflate your head a little bit.

**Jordan** Synclair. Yeah. I've just thrown out the fact that you have told me. I'm not saying anything else.

**Synclair** No. It's weird whenever you're married and even I guess in a committed relationship, you don't really have that time to just hang out with your friends like you used to.

**Nishi** Right or yourself.

**Jordan** But it is important to give yourself that time and I think that that's what helps our situation so much.

**Synclair** Oh, yeah, we get that time away from each other.

**Jordan** Yeah. And we can kind of hang... I mean we have the man cave out there. I mean [inaudible 00:22:06] just got there and just be together and they'll be in here hanging out.

**Nishi** Well, I personally, Nishi, don't really ever get me time because I feel really guilty when I leave my kids. And so I think...

**Patrick** So let's back track real quick. What she's saying is she doesn't ever give herself...

**Nishi** Okay. Well, for example...

<b>Patrick</b>	I bet she never gets the opportunity to have me time.
<b>Jordan</b>	Yes.
<b>Nishi</b>	Yeah. But sometimes you get frustrated if I'm like, "Hey, can you watch the kids by yourself?"
<b>Patrick</b>	That's not true.
<b>Nishi</b>	Yeah, it is.
<b>Synclair</b>	Don't look over here.
<b>Nishi</b>	Yes, that's it.
<b>Synclair</b>	Hey, it's not just Patrick...
<b>Patrick</b>	I was going to say... [Crosstalk]
<b>Nishi</b>	I went to go yoga one night, okay.
<b>Patrick</b>	No. Let's go ahead and back track the past couple of weeks.
<b>Nishi</b>	Whatever.
<b>Nishi</b>	Yeah, I will. I could take some blame for that because I do. I feel guilty and I know that my kids are a lot. Well, my daughter is not. She's literally been sitting in her room. She'll watch 18 hours of TV and not even come out to see if anyone cares.
<b>Synclair</b>	Trisha <sup>[Phonetic]</sup> didn't even eat because she's just been watching TV all day. I felt so bad.
<b>Nishi</b>	<p>She is like I was. She's very independent. She likes her alone time and she will even tell you I want to by myself. And my son is the exact opposite. I think he still wishes he was in my womb. He just wants to be around people. So I know that he's difficult. And so I feel guilty whenever I try and leave him with people because I feel like he's... not a nuisance, but he's a lot to handle and I love being with my kids. I really enjoy their time, but I do need to make time for myself for sure.</p> <p>He trains a lot. Well, he's hurt his knee so he hasn't been to the gym in awhile, but he does MMA fighting. And so typically it's three nights a week for about an hour and a half to two and a half hours typically. And so by that time, it's late. The kids are already in bed. And there's not much I could do by myself at that point. So yeah, I would just be asking for extra help from him and then that's another thing. I feel like he's going to get mad if he is at home with the kids by himself and they're stressing him out.</p>
<b>Patrick</b>	So I am able to give myself that me time that she's talking about. However, there's never been a time where she does not have the opportunity to have the same exact me time. I'm just saying you've never been neglected the opportunity to have any kind of me time that you've wanted to have.
<b>Nishi</b>	Well, I think it would be really hard for me to give myself as much you time as you give

yourself when you go to the gym for like nine hours a week.

**Patrick** Well, I disagree on that.

**Nishi** So when could I go?

**Patrick** You can make time whenever you want to miss out working out in the afternoon. I was going to do the gym in the morning. So I was waking up at five o'clock. I mean those are the same attempts you could do as well.

**Nishi** What do you want me to do by myself? What do you want me to go do at 5 am? I don't want to go to the gym. I just want my time to just be me.

**Patrick** Okay. And I get and there's never been a time where you said, "You know, I need to have this me time," or, "I want to go do this," and I was like, "No, you can't do this because you have to be with the kids."

**Nishi** No, I know. I'm not saying you don't let me. I just feel like there's not a lot of time for me to do that I guess.

**Patrick** Well, I get that. But at the same time, you got to make time just like I do. I mean I've always just made it work for all of us. Do you have anything to say to that?

**Nishi** Sometimes you get... that you run out of patience very quickly with the kids. And so I feel like if I leave, I'm not constantly worrying like, "Is he okay? Is he handling it? When I get home, was he going to be mad at me because the kids were cranky?"

**Patrick** Yeah. I mean I may lose my patience with the kids, but I mean it's nothing different than you losing your patience with the kids. Every time I leave to go have my me time or go to the gym, I come home and you're frustrated at me.

**Nishi** Not every time.

**Patrick** Whenever the tables are turning, like the other night you went out to yoga and you came home, I was happy for you. I wasn't going to be frustrated...

**Nishi** But you went to the gym and the kids stayed with Stacy.

**Patrick** When?

**Nishi** When I went to...

**Patrick** Okay. So let's say whenever you went to the grocery store with Synclair in the past couple of weeks, you went like three different times and were gone for over an hour and a half or two hours and I spent the same amount of time that I'd sit up the gym or work out.

**Nishi** But I was at the grocery store.

**Patrick** No, I get that. No, I get that. I get that. You're at the grocery store, but you also have to admit that to you that is something that you enjoy going and doing and strolling to the grocery store. That's an outlet.

I mean you don't have a sport like I do, like I go and I taught jiu-jitsu for a year and it's something that I'm very passionate about. So it's something that I like to continue doing. You don't necessarily have anything like that. I mean it's just different.

**Nishi** I just feel like I don't have time to have something like that. That is partly my fault because I feel guilty leaving my kids with people because I feel like I'm their mom I should be doing everything, but I do need to make time for myself. I know that. It's just hard.

**Patrick** I just don't even know what you would... like I would love to guide you to doing something that you wanted to do for your own little spare time or just time out of the house, but I literally have no idea what you would want to go and do.

**Nishi** That's the thing. I don't know. I don't even really know myself anymore.

**Patrick** I have offered massages, get your nails done.

**Nishi** When have you offer me a massage? Please tell me this because I don't remember this.

**Patrick** I have. No, definitely and that's definitely something that's been discussed because this is definitely been... we don't have many issues in our relationship, but me going to the gym and spending time investing at the gym has been a problem in our relationship that we've discussed a lot a lot of times. But in my defense, this was something that I was looking at doing professionally and actually looking to make like a good career out of it and had a lot of people behind me, had a huge support system. I was doing everything I was supposed to do, but it was just getting hard on my family and on our marriage life. So since then, I've stopped going to the gym as much and spend a significant amount of time with the kids at home. And so I don't know.

**Nishi** That's true. You've cut back a lot and I do appreciate that.

**Nishi** It is sad to me that I can't even think of something that I would want to do by myself because I don't really have any hobbies anymore. For the past five years, I have just put so much time and attention and focus on my family that I don't really know who I am anymore I guess. That's like your brain just kind of flips and nothing is about you anymore.

**Patrick** It's a little bit easier for dads I guess just because I guess we're not so consumed as the mom would be. Our lives aren't as drastically changed as far as our day-to-day life.

**Nishi** Yeah. So I don't know.

**Jordan** It's kind of weird that you say that because, I don't know, growing up, one of the things that sticks with me that I just remember my parents saying all the time is like, "We put you guys first. We love you all so much. We just want to do so much for you all."  
I've had conversations with my dad like if he has any regrets growing up. I mean I don't want to say that we have like a hard upbringing or anything but I mean like they didn't have a lot of money. My dad was in the army. So I mean not super emotional or

---

---

anything like that, didn't really give us hugs, kisses, stuff like that, that wasn't normal.

But later on in life, I think you kind of realize like that he pushed us away or... I mean they're always there for us. We went to sporting event after sporting event. That's what we did like growing up. So I think that always stuck with me that my parents put us first and then I remember that one time when I was talking to my dad about like what he thought was like the downfall of their marriage and he said to me that he put us first too much, that they put us first too much, they didn't worry about themselves, they didn't give each other enough time, stuff like that.

**Synclair** Yeah, that's for sure one of the biggest problems.

**Jordan** I think that my main thing going into... me and Synclair's marriage was that I was always going to make time for family rather than what my kids are doing or getting to the next sporting event or, "Oh, we have to do this because someone said we need to be there." Like, no, we just need to enjoy like what we're doing. It doesn't really matter about that. I mean...

**Patrick** [inaudible 00:33:47].

**Jordan** Oh, yes. Definitely. I love on him more than I've ever been loved on. So it's just something that's important to me.

**Jordan** Yeah. Like the family as a whole like... I don't know. They would always be focused on working stuff. Me and my brother, my sister is seven years younger than us. So she really wasn't there at all for my childhood, in my opinion. She was, but I mean she was always like so much younger that she wasn't really involved at all. Me and my brother just kind of push her off her own. I mean she was the baby. She got everything she wanted. Yeah, she's the only girl on both sides of the family. So she was like the only girl, granddaughter and everything. So she was spoiled.

**Synclair** Still is spoiled.

**Jordan** Yeah. So we weren't... me and my brother, we'd walk to school. We had to like [inaudible 00:34:46] from school ever since I was in kindergarten.

And so I would be home until my mom would get home from work, my mom would get home from work first right around 6:30 or so. But from there, dinner ready and then... I mean like we would watch a little bit of TV maybe.

But, I mean we never really had like family talks at the dinner, like your normal family or like the movie family would have.

I could probably count on my hand how many times my dad told me that he loved me before I was 17 years old. I mean whenever actually that I kind of move out and voice my opinion as to how I felt about the way that they treated me. I don't know.

**Patrick** That's just a typical marriage argument right there. That's something like we say that we have issues with every day but at the end of the day, we still love each other and we work through it.

**Synclair** Right. Yeah. It's kind of hard when you do get married young because you change so much from the time you're 18. You change really every year. But 18 to 25, you're not even the same person and then from 25 to 30, definitely not the same person. And I

definitely see us changing as individuals but we're learning to change together as a couple as well. So our goals change and our priorities change. But we've always been on the same page for sure that our family comes first, our kids, our family, our marriage, it all comes first.

**Nishi** We really do. But I will tell you when we first got married, when we first started dating. He didn't communicate at all. And so that's something that we've worked on. And it's just because of the way... like he's explaining to me one day. I was like, "Look, if we get in an argument, I want to sit down, I want to talk about it. I want to tell you how I'm feeling. I want to tell you why I'm feeling that way."

And he's like, "The thing is growing up, my mom and I would fight and then we would just forget about it. Nobody would say sorry. Nobody would talk about how we can fix it for next time."

And I'm like, "I'm different than that. I like to talk about it. I want to know what's going on and how we can fix things." We've come a long way with communication for sure.

**Patrick** Yeah, definitely.

**Patrick** No, definitely. I mean I was just very... I wouldn't say bad, it was very hard for me to open up and really like explain how I'm feeling about different situations or circumstances.

I mean my main thing is I would just get mad and just bottle up and not want to talk. I wouldn't want to explain what's wrong with me. I just want to just kind of sit there and just think about it until my steam blew off and then I would just try to just brush it under the rug and move on.

**Nishi** Yeah. We would get in huge arguments and then he would just be like, "Hey, do you want to go get dinner?" And I'm like, "No."

**Patrick** Yeah. And Nishi, she likes making sure that if I'm apologetic, then I'm letting her know that I'm very aware that whatever I did was wrong and I should apologize for it.

**Nishi** Sincere apology. That's all.

**Patrick** Yeah. I don't know. I used to hate saying sorry, but now I'm pretty good at it.

**Patrick** Yeah. I mean, genuine. It's genuine.

**Nishi** It depends on his mood.

**Toni** When their dad and I were married, my sister lived with us. So, she was kinda like a mom to Nishi because Nishi was tiny, tiny. So, when Nishi and Synclair moved into together it was kinda very natural, so that everybody kinda just lived together. And, at one point, my brother and his wife and their two kids lived with Richard and me and Nishi when she was a baby. And, so I mean it's kinda what our family does. It's because we take care of one another.

It's a very unique situation. And, theirs is very unique because now they have two entire families living together. But, they love one another. It's very very sweet. Jordan was Patrick's best man, and Patrick was Jordan's best man. And, Nishi was Synclair's and Synclair was Nishi's.

And, my sister was my bridesmaid. And, I was her bridesmaid also. So, it's kinda what we do. We all just hangout together and everyone gets along very well.

Growing up, my mom has seven brothers and sisters. And, I know that three of them lived at one point with my parents and all of us. I don't know, we weren't really nomadic or vagabonds or whatever but you know ok, it's what you do. Because everybody takes care of everybody. But, we all grew up in Texas. Very small towns. I have six brothers and sisters and we've all at some point all lived with one another. I was with my sister for a while. She had lived with us. Then, my brother and his wife lived with us. And then, I lived with my sister again.

We just kind of pass each other around. It's usually not permanent. But, yeah, we've all taken care of one another.

**END FILE**

---

## Host

I've always wondered what it would be like to live together with my buddies and our wives and our kids. And, that's certainly what's happening here as these two sisters live with their husbands and share parenting and reflect together even with their mom joining in, about marriage and family and shared parenting and you heard there a little tension around self-care and the importance of self-care and how challenging that can be especially in this communal living. The other thing I noticed was, getting married so young and how the identity formation really isn't there. And, in a way they're all growing up together.

THANK YOU TO NISHI AND PATRICK...SYNCLAIR AND JORDAN...FOR AGREEING TO A SPONTANEOUS CONVERSATION ABOUT THEIR MARRIAGES AND LIFE TOGETHER UNDER ONE ROOF.

FIND THE SHOW NOTES AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON OUR WEBSITE, [ELEPHANTTALK.ORG](http://ELEPHANTTALK.ORG).

IF YOU'RE INSPIRED TO SHARE YOUR STORY...OR JUST NEED TO COMMENT ON THIS SHOW, PLEASE VISIT US AT [ELEPHANTTALK.ORG](http://ELEPHANTTALK.ORG). JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

ELEPHANT TALK IS PRODUCED BY LISA GRAY AND KIM POLETTI. OUR THEME MUSIC IS BY ROB BURGER.

AUDIO PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY LESLIE GASTON-BIRD AND JOSH KERN.

YOU'RE LISTENING, SO YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND YOUR PODCASTS...

BUT, IF YOU COULD PLEASE REVIEW THE SHOW ON ITUNES, WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT!...REVIEWING SPREADS THE WORD.

File: **Elephant Talk\_EP25\_Transcript\_FINAL**  
Interviewee: **Nishi, Patrick, Synclair, Jordan**  
Interviewer: Andy Horning [AH]  
Female Team Contributor: [F1]

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING. I'M YOUR HOST ANDY HORNING. THIS IS  
REAL LOVE. THIS IS ELEPHANT TALK.