Adapted Podcast ([00:00:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=5AhagDK8foM2GV8UM31GGmHo2nynh0nizdoT-ITKqhx2lyNch56yjRLG9JCAycx6tCskZmw3Nr5aDS9wX5pNy7Qbe3w&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4.56)):

Welcome to Adapt Podcast, season six. Episode 15

Speaker 2 ([00:00:08](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=75SkJG22Y1wdLrFe8uAqC9ucGndf9XsujwFSDxgsXPnHfeqU1SnwAB1iRvVTJLugUdmiwROvKx4Dr7myH3uvZqSCJGw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=8.94)):

Starts now

Jaejinmusic.com ([00:00:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=4gbNfrUlaLYwDa9yanb3sggQvpStTKRz8bw37p42lhIYZeUmzHQC0c0UVv25lxdRmerN33R93DVs1cTCSI1EbZ3kJ-E&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=18.98)):

Fear rise it from below. I keep running. I keep running to a place where no one knows.

Adapted Podcast ([00:00:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=PgtoAaV11dzSt1pP9Xp-iVC5znswDyZkxrJaDjlrGZqG8PUD1GzJLWLQvDoU-MI9MCe7y0QiUok39kekubigBFnwKYg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=30)):

This is a podcast that centers the voices of Korean intercountry adoptees adopted people are the true experts on adoption. I'm Kay OMI Lee, and I was also adopted from Korea. Our voices have often been silenced by adoption agencies, governments, sometimes even our own adoptive parents and society that wants a feel good story. Our lives are more complicated than that. This is our take back.

Midnite Townsend ([00:00:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=LI-4To7BhWM7f2sFC5GubUU151MAn_szZ6yTg7XHLhOvvZpzpvVtg5o_u2DkXYvvF6uPtt1iSiMMsW_LMjATa_bEbF0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=57.48)):

Oh, if I am in that situation with a man and it feels dangerous, I just need to seduce him and then I'll be safe. And there was this thing of like, they're either going to kill me or want to have sex with me. So if those are the two options, then let's go this route, and this will guarantee me safety.

Adapted Podcast ([00:01:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=cv6C9T1hdzHnfYPjgWVfy6LPIQWJGT4PkaIbUOOxFATbZPYKZdYybaeaycpJ_TCiH9dfDAVlcIBUNM0RzUOACyJLVYk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=77.43)):

MIdnite Townsend grew up in suburban Colorado, like any talented performing arts student pursuing a future in musical theater. But it was only after their interior self became increasingly at odds with that path that they were able to change direction and explore gender identities, feelings about the white male gaze, and to make decisions that let their authentic self shine. And it also forced those around them to make a choice. Now here's MIdnite.

Midnite Townsend ([00:01:53](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=osWsCuKZkJdKt9dg-gy38Ex1I9oFcUpwIEUwTclv35HjIU1uEMA4C-4HTy6H5xlKKdESZp6dsb_cQeDQZfbFcU86QxE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=113.34)):

Hi, my name is MIdnite Townsend. I am 38 years old, living in Boulder, Colorado. Uh, my pronouns are she her, hers, they, them, theirs. I think that's, I think that's it.

Adapted Podcast ([00:02:07](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=DQ1QfQg49yoH-12veFfIkBqF3C2LS6Z0eOgENpJJHP-9tPyh3x4RQEnBs01iilIDxLW4PV_Vn5Wd41y3idgSsY2tnJg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=127.83)):

<laugh>. Okay. So MIdnite, we met a few years back. Do you remember?

Midnite Townsend ([00:02:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Zb4NO9FFBc9pZNSXNIdMxM3cp5L3P5bgQ2Wd12vxO6-LMULGHT43b4RccF6RtIMZBnmgAcWIfOwDrccK8GQBD9P1X5k&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=134.58)):

Was it, I was trying to remember if it was in Chicago.

Adapted Podcast ([00:02:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=rTiWo3nbwyv2zm9aHPrR2DQpr_ikmcamKmpItTUOf_pNAQkxBGdx7JlKpvxpHOTtxObTzddCswpY5NQaN1po9dF_Uz0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=137.97)):

I think it was Chicago, and I think it was at the catch.

Midnite Townsend ([00:02:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=6rqCfINPg8SYD19GyMMGz3lDxzXxWxtqFsDTxWkW3BUEI32nDzzhCvMj0-Ysv2ps7yGRKkT2ASUVfhIxuw7V8XiKkac&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=141.1)):

Yeah,

Adapted Podcast ([00:02:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=I-eGVxzQa5KYZMlB7MSCb0IE7Iws1ahUJ2ubBrBYE54GVut0_bODf06_1fnA0YWIloVCfgXM7eKj6l8uPCCq1DI98v8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=142.08)):

It might have been the catch anniversary.

Midnite Townsend ([00:02:24](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=87zx2xEaDpV1T5Jhz-CGr21ca_DvUkxm7sRPV9WiRkU8ny0pwFpyUNDk3Xzr74qdGkecH_5zyPXkwXErI_MzJ068UNU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=144.54)):

Yeah. Or like a picnic even. I know. It all blurs together. Yeah.

Adapted Podcast ([00:02:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=qdDqj6JL_GxQxcZi46W5JzW-MlszC_DuH7jwIJNgFu0O2xj3mNfrSj0FyZrUQ7g_yau9dGgQbdY4qaOGqpopInqD9OM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=149.25)):

Yeah. And anyway, um, our mutual friend Chris Dietrich had told me, you know, you have to talk to MIdnite. So one of the things that, um, really stood out about you, um, was that you were a burlesque dancer.

Midnite Townsend ([00:02:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=1prZXDKQYb6IAgi3SgMn0uJX_bu4FsIrAt94lYTH9E6ihVNZRI8JZyBS3XyHP1pINj6ligRF9XLzOZM92hHmJsa4MSU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=165.6)):

Hmm.

Adapted Podcast ([00:02:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=o2NIxz-EqhxoZW6kbvrm2weg6MumzcxBNmU_WGgv9-hJghPY5STrVaVh-2knODwsYsIrqipK6rbaphyBwbLKdDtvo54&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=166.35)):

How did you get involved with that?

Midnite Townsend ([00:02:49](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=CiBKp3ak-7rFwPQzQuRAkBjMkRhjjepoqOk97GDG3k_49-vEfLBZ1Y_2xzlHMxiDH4mZrOxgZeONjT2cggDhJkSDArM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=169.44)):

Yeah, I started that when I, so I grew up dancing. I grew up doing studio dancing and jazz and musical theater, community theater. And, um, when I was, well, yeah, I was like, let's get, I'll give, I'll give a full story and then yeah, sure. <laugh>, you edit my long-winded answers, however you <laugh>, however you want. Um, but I went to college for musical theater, and the program I was in were, were very, uh, harsh around, you all need to look a certain way and beware of the freshman 15, and you need the male V and the female hour glass. And really, I mean, I already had a lot of body image issues, identity issues, self-worth issues. So that just really pushed me over the edge. Um, fell into a deep depression my freshman year of college. Started binging, purging, restricting, and had the clarity to get out of that program.

([00:04:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=sPoW9D91IK7SL-I00vgHz2Q0tz3irbDeTlYHwSv9yZdwEPJNUaSjVzo_7VlarO6uf9bpBlV4IvO-gmbzFg0HE8QcMSs&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=241.15)):

After a year, moved to Boulder, uh, did my undergrad at Boulder instead, and studied psychology and was like, I'm never going to dance again. It just, it <laugh>, it scarred me like I never going to be on the stage again. But after a while, I really missed it. So I was trying to find ways to get the arts back in my life, but in a, maybe a sideways like alternative way. And I found circus aerial dance around that time, and I found burlesque around that time. And those were both perfect, sort of like in my mind, renegade rebellious forms of traditional, what I consider traditional dance or art or theater. And it was fortunate enough to have a troop in Boulder, frequent flyers, aerial dance that had classes, had, uh, professional company I became a part of, and then found a burlesque troupe in Denver.

([00:05:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=pl0UQ6zcElo4FqestnwkaDYQKb7bRvT6xbpysZ33Zv6PSMSVhyYfIbiK-CDfTq0uFlnisX_JHiypkCg6AHaTfRtvsoM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=302.89)):

Um, that back then was still pretty underground small, was able just to reach out to the person in charge and be like, Hey, wanna, I wanna do this? She was like, okay, create a couple of acts and come to our next show, <laugh>. It was like, oh, alright, let's, let's go. Uh, yeah. So I just kind of fell into it that way and started when I was 20, my very first gig, they had to sneak me into the, the side door because I wasn't old enough to be in the bar. <laugh>, and performed a couple of acts and mostly loved, loved performing again. And then also just loved the, the different energy that I felt among the dancers and the crowd and the audience. Uh, and kind of got hooked from there. And as I grew my burlesque career, burlesque grew in Denver as well, and was able to make a career out of it until moving to Chicago where I performed and did that full-time.

Adapted Podcast ([00:06:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=fZ3-a7VWtv0FIolGLLc47u-2jHhwBf1cCnC_vvOXSMxQMrbuGky3FwDClGdb8x5KWxKeOzIDGBAdy2QnPkqud3kMq6Y&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=365.63)):

What is the burlesque community like?

Midnite Townsend ([00:06:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=EKirFRp1JKDZM6m9Jq4pT34cvBRWx4L1yBLOzhsTg3iPKpa0dViqz-5IoANjreJ5t1t0SQl5eonPd3mtHVho1sv6A-Q&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=369.2)):

It varies. Uh, <laugh>, I think I've always been searching for community, surprise, surprise, <laugh>, uh, and, and searching for a place where I felt like I belong and could be myself or explore what myself even was. So at that time, for me, the burlesque community was, um, felt much more inclusive. There were different body types. There were, um, this, to me, a radical like self-acceptance of sexuality and sensuality and different bodies and owning your body on stage and exposing it and expressing it in all these different ways. And I felt a very supportive environment with kind of this, the group of people who I did a lot of burlesque with. We really formed this sort of family chosen family where we would cheer for each other and we would help each other out with acts. And it, it was a kind of a sisterhood that got built, um, through burlesque and also through aerial dance that just felt very supportive, was exactly what I needed to combat the, uh, what had happened with my musical theater college program that felt very competitive, dog eat dog. A lot of shame-based <laugh> tactics there.

Adapted Podcast ([00:07:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=BVKPvVH2KDiYqxrzk7mEVIA4SP0-FoURQ_lUzlqBa-RtQnrn5Ohrs3-qNLW_QvxzVo0Y-6hs_-CTBLn2O3etXuZL7Hs&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=459.86)):

Yeah. So your traditional musical theater program, was it basically the training ground for the next, you know, um, Disney or, um, you know, uh, Broadway.

Midnite Townsend ([00:07:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=aro0PAFYuOLS_pi8jWKHzQMdvK6dflsalQSa3gGGtG9eVR6kuX7QileArJUzSCvi_uads3WxQrd-Ma7s1SabrrpFRmo&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=475.04)):

Yeah. That's

Adapted Podcast ([00:07:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=qA9A_RZPq8AA48oCQzKoGxvlUPznqBk6YKMJuwQf7TnH2inCSni-fawZ0CRqkJQ233Ckr2iMIt4KNkorDeCuTvn_60o&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=476.03)):

Type pro uh, type mode mold.

Midnite Townsend ([00:07:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Wbma7pqwvaqdeCbt3WGofKpuNokdQwK-zbGxkNkC8WgfrDWZr1HcWieHBbJAnnIKNIdPbUsiHAdw5q5FT_d1zuUOQK0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=479.3)):

That was the idea. Yes. That was, that was the, the goal of it was to get you to New York, uh, maybe get you to LA instead and audition and get into shows, get into touring companies. Uh, and to be honest, a part of me is grateful because I think that program really reflected what going into that path would have been. And I was able to experience that, um, before I was too far deep into it to kind of realize like, oh, this isn't the path for me. And who knows how much it's like that or not these days too, you know, the entertainment industry is the entertainment industry. You don't fully get away from that with burlesque and with aerial and stuff too. But, uh, it, it felt a lot harsher at, at least in my program.

Adapted Podcast ([00:08:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=btRe08tEt-2vjXBMRFwE3-SyPI0WIBPIjTimwTn6LphRb5kVy3hA3_S8ZTKPEjPWNlW05zrsvSUEYU37Ejkk1ClWc3o&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=532.55)):

So, uh, you're 20 years old, you go with your first act. Uh, what did you perform?

Midnite Townsend ([00:09:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=pw5GYn1A4CbIy395QVZ71GkeGAPArSSgHrUvVaVtTtWFng22eo7lUJrxAsxMWcsoMUqvXgiDJVb_Ckyf4R1plXKZ3JA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=540.81)):

Mm, I'm trying to even remember what I performed. I think I did a number from Cabaret Don't Tell Mama. It was one of my first acts, and then it was maybe another routine to like a pink martini song. I'm trying to even remember, but it was with like a bar stool.

clip from performance ([00:09:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Q9_MV0jPAaUNKjmbhM7Y0q8pNJ8UnZLkw-v9tszXW8hByG9ELOCtfZ9i8za1myCxzF-Hbs96WgBDLyDSIwv24G99bLA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=565.98)):

Thinks I'm living in a convent, a secluded little convent in the southern part of France. Mama.

Midnite Townsend ([00:09:37](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=-N4EsNlPSdU6pddeua4s97x1dscYGrABdUwXiYVlP1IdX2pFfSPDP44fJfDQS3gf85j3G9Ge1BQ6Tr9TGKbMI6e06cQ&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=577.89)):

I, it was very musical theater. I had experience coming up with Jazzy Fossy inspired routines, and that's basically what I did. And, um, you know, it's, I've had an interesting journey with burlesque. Um, I used to tell my students well, and still tell my students that I think some people come to burlesque and they see burlesque and they're like, oh, if I do burlesque, I'll have self-confidence. Like, it'll, it'll make me all of a sudden just have self-esteem.

clip from performance ([00:10:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=iJIjc98q9J4tId67qyesY3UpahErS9ulVOEBKP5qJvkoCSHvLx4qSDChoKtsSxrdGTDnizaDJmO0LVU2-6XeebzqSxU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=612.66)):

Don't tell mama, don't tell Mama whatever you do, if you had a secret.

Midnite Townsend ([00:10:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=htgzRemaju6JyXS_qePKLfKfGgHomQfeBMKxVLfLiyVGm6eTnaydDKU7CZl7G3FoK36isQ7U8M6epqb7aZfD2kY5N9w&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=622.35)):

I don't, it's not that simple. Unfortunately, it doesn't quite work that way, but it's going to force you, uh, good or bad to relate to yourself over and over to face, face, all of the things that, um, come up when you're standing in front of a crowd and literally exposing yourself. It's going to have you work with that stuff over and over again. So it, my journey of burlesque has been a lot of ups and downs and twists and turns, but it gave me really fertile ground to work with myself, to relate to myself, to, um, to, to fall into stereotypes, to then challenge stereotypes to buy into like this external validation that I've always been craving to then, like, challenging that and like, oh, do I need external validation? Or why am I really doing this to being fetishized and actually like, enjoying that and then seeing the problematic things about that. It's, you know, it, it gave me <laugh>, the, the space to come up against all of those different issues that would've happened in my life anyway. But it just wouldn't have been as front and center and as clear to me, I think, without my burlesque career

clip from performance ([00:11:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=7vGuV_9AupoE2Vk1O-gLSeHa-z-4jKhiVUrwhmrW7r9AUP8j1oxgqwe5seKTF7Si9h9qUzEnmCPkEncKW_RW2VDFbns&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=706.54)):

And have a go and cut me off without,

Adapted Podcast ([00:11:51](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=GRwIbvsdbFLKqmypWR25E9RbWa6bAg6pF7OrE7skBqKXftw5tdUpFJGdMtx0JVunQg1_3O4sR676-tewjtsX401ucio&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=711.57)):

You mentioned, um, fetish, being fetishized and playing that up was in a way, were you trying, you know, being Asian and, um, working through your own sexuality, but also exposing the audiences, you know, either bias or their own, you know, or whether fetishization was a, uh, a good thing, a bad thing.

Midnite Townsend ([00:12:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=9papJWbd5ny-LQ9_3ktdhs4v44619L0uHLMb9LTuhZmIcCnSh2WevECWk6ewJa7bRlvMeEmdCUrr2nYDqgYM3_Tpux8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=738.73)):

Yeah, I have done more thinking about this and reflecting on the role of fetishization in my life, in my career. And, uh, I think for me, I realized that when I was younger, fetishization was sort of, uh, mind. It was, it's a mind, fuck it, like, mind fucked me into thinking that was the route to safety in the society. And I remember being really pretty young a kid and watching a movie or something and thinking like, oh, if I am in that situation with a man and it feels dangerous, I just need to seduce him and then I'll be safe. And there was this thing of like, they're either going to kill me or want to have sex with me, so if those are the two options, then let's go this route and this will guarantee me safety. I didn't realize this <laugh>, you know, when I was in my early twenties.

([00:13:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=XhvHnUS4u7p1rV4Ey6n9f08TW5YBrvELtKbFum3zHBM7FJfnQJ__GvV7EFCoQfAEeRPMmPy45M8CqmtQMu9BzoDnGBo&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=807.19)):

And, um, and I still don't realize it sometimes today, but looking back, I can definitely see how I felt a sense of safety to get attention from people, generally white dominant culture. And it was a way to play into this like kind of mysterious, exotic, uh, role in, in a non-threatening way. And, um, and that it served me that people responded to it, people gave me a lot of positive reinforcement for that. And I took, I mean, I, yeah, I, I took that, I played into it. I enjoyed it, you know, I, it brought me a sense of, of belonging even for a while. Um, and then fortunately for me, um, as, as I kept developing <laugh>, and I think too, as I started meeting more adult adopted people and more people, cuz I also was surrounded by mostly white folks, again, surprise, surprise. Uh, so I didn't have anyone else to talk to about this.

([00:14:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=vxOMIYMO0h0PttO-u7wuI8YH1_QjxSUwtNG1bhvaTjn064i2h9VFxFo2O75OrFmNvfj_9370xtT36MdNzFM0I5nmq9E&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=880.87)):

There was no one else experiencing being fetishized the way I was, so I wasn't even aware of it really. And then once I started talking to other people and seeing it and moving to Chicago and just having different diversity and having different people with different experiences in my realm, in my field, that slowly started to kind of take away some of the, some of the veil or as we say, like started to clear some of the fog around not just adoption, but around, yeah, fetishization and body image and sexuality and all of those things that are layered on top

Adapted Podcast ([00:15:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=iFPfc4QlYX72-Hj8QL43iCI_vPyuYE4Mbv-MsLu5g_z-2Cxy7BWIZoJ_WBrya8VjpVQQFqP8FxT7ypFZk5TxshaK0sg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=921.2)):

MIdnite. If people, for people who don't know what burlesque is, can you describe it?

Midnite Townsend ([00:15:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=gHPbSjiqpK-eYIS9RwtWSu8PaKb-V2GqZmaImNtxuhion70aXpA7w4z9oCGF-w_m-pmPOiz6cDi-kadY3GEJvAg0Xy0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=925.79)):

Yeah, it is an umbrella term. Um, I, I could go into the full history of it, but, uh, generally neo burlesque, so the way burlesque is done nowadays is there's a strip tease element to it. So, um, I, there's a lot of different genres, A lot of, there's nerd Luque, there's Gore Luque, there's classic, there's comedy there, yeah. But it's a performing art style where there's typically strip teas involved. Um, I would say that I, the kind of burlesque I did either combined circus, so I would do a circus routine and strip things off, um, or it would be a little bit more kind of classic. So having a like a boa and you work with the boa, it's a lot of crowd interaction, at least in the places that I work, where you are really hammon it up, <laugh> to the audience and the audience is calling back and it's a call and response of this relationship that you're building on stage of a, of a tease and a callback for the teases. And then a little bit more and a callback for that. But there's also a sense of control that I felt as being the one in control of when I take it off of when, uh, what what I expose and how I expose it. And that was also very alluring to me.

Adapted Podcast ([00:16:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=RCTqFeMlyxX28ApHQ36nQcqcmt6DQzwOxYauMBQ5jJH1jgtmvxpYngYmC0aP7SYdys80E3QqA1GMrpUagq6z5xaEsto&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1017.86)):

When you first started out, um, how did you feel about the striptease element and how did you decide how far to go?

Midnite Townsend ([00:17:08](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=lqiRpU5Dr6ltraAuX_FqQJpqBF10_1rEYQX6sVc0qoCL4nFkHLsOrZPZZL2jwT6LXb8x03bsu9mZxNX274W0zNgXnc8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1028.84)):

Yeah, I remember, um, my pasty, so you choose, you can kind of choose where, how far you go down, but I would say in a classic typical way, you would go down to pasty, so like little circles that cover the ariola and you have like a maybe a, a thong on that you strip down to or, but every performer can kind of choose that. I started off my pacey were very big <laugh> to begin with. <laugh>, it was more

Adapted Podcast ([00:17:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=JeyAUOroa_LKLliUZNSzhgcytgcRJ6nIIhts3FM7qx3Eq9uMlQR0Qv-RAES2Se8ZWm5Deg4IugXnii-1u-yr-vwv8J8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1058.7)):

Like, it's like covering, yeah.

Midnite Townsend ([00:17:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=4PpvJ9I01ysRJFWm3EqT75L55ySRYEXQmLZfN7MJ88UD2PjJsvLf4rDgpYciQE8sc87ioDyrN7ILArAruHrnycXYkgI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1060.24)):

<laugh>, it's more like a stick on bra sort of a thing. And as I got more comfortable, you can almost see the development of my burlesque career cuz the like just kept getting smaller and smaller and smaller <laugh> until finally it was just, just covering the ariola. Um, and I remember not being super comfortable with it, but also finding this, um, uh, like, yeah, it felt like power in that moment find this power to kind of do something rebellious to do something that was, that I felt in control of. Um, and again, now looking back too, I think taking that idea of being fetishized and trying to take control of it, trying to feel like I had some agency around that happening.

Adapted Podcast ([00:18:32](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=h-9Xl5Jw1DJLjXMehLSkXrCwTvpoQsFmvI-AFu0XOdd0jQHN_e9A20UthiJz_LTT6ZN172z4EgFOmQk03A9FjI5Pt4U&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1112.4)):

Now you, you said that, you know, people, once they start to perform, they think that it's going to give them a lot of confidence. Um, why doesn't that

Midnite Townsend ([00:18:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=C-gi2dssRXp_ufGte50IEQzF_SVRDBSecW_psj0JQrzzilSmThNgbTBAKe6Z3fwSdR2R4H3WuapwWkEmX6HswvD_OX4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1125.09)):

Yeah, yeah. Um, I mean I can only speak for myself, I guess, and maybe the patterns I saw, but, um, that initial <laugh> external validation of getting cheers, it does for me, felt, felt good. It felt like a high, it, it was again that like validation that I felt that sense of safety or excitement. Uh, and I guess for me, uh, <laugh> then my crutch started to lean heavily still on getting external validation. So it was still this thing of like seeking for other people's approval, seeking for applause, seeking for, and then if I didn't get the applause or I didn't get the, the big chair or whatever, then that really me taking it personally and that tearing me down and me feeling worthless and me feeling it, it, it felt very, I mean, <laugh> all, all of this stuff about like, um, with my adoption of feeling like an unworthy a bad baby, um, not being good enough, always seeking like this validation from other people and family members and being bullied in school, like it, it would take me back to that same place.

([00:20:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=rrW5hBrc1-k_76qakzBsLud5ld9N52TdDOqEFqrTzWDiFZvQzJtNmDaRqw4RO1FiGUZxn456PDIpxJPTVx-wgyELWEU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1203.18)):

So that's where I was like, okay, I haven't really shifted this dynamic then I'm just getting more of the drug to keep me <laugh> to like, to keep me to feed it. Um, but it's not actually shifting the dynamic of me feeling unworthy. And then, yeah, I, I had to, well, I mean I got into therapy <laugh>, so that was a big change for me. And I had to really look at like, why am I going on stage? Who is this for? Is it for, am I, is it just to serve the people in the audience or am I getting something intrinsically? Is there some value for me to do this? And even if I don't get applause or I don't get a reaction, am I still gonna feel good about myself? Will I still feel worthy? Will I still feel like, you know, they didn't cheer, but I am still a good valid person, <laugh>, who can still be seen on stage and I don't have to serve others all the time. Um, I mean, and those are things that I'm still working out. I haven't fully grasped <laugh> that as much as I would have want wanted to, but, um, but again, who knows how much burlesque helped me get to that point by sort of shifting me to one extreme on the end. So then I was able to swing back and, and play with all of this in a very, uh, visceral experimental way through performance.

Adapted Podcast ([00:21:43](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=lx9sgKS4p3CFM2TvowxQDl2oxpQk11iqt0U2Zm_o2ydOWOK0wn4931zdBiebhGyh57-Wr76_-btJRMF8pESWaR3z0N4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1303.45)):

So through therapy and working at your performances and those experiences, you came to a realization that the, the central question should be, you know, who is this for? And am I doing it for me? Or what reasons am I doing it for?

Midnite Townsend ([00:22:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=s9sm1EOI-biaWVEqwDWk4FKXD3ffcqYcZZhAm35GpU_pV0mmTwEYepZDmJhV_htr05aUhHtLvGB7vKhliHa_zcUQJSk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1322.02)):

I would, that's def that's one that came up. Uh, yeah. Is is a, am I still just serving whiteness by being, because

Adapted Podcast ([00:22:11](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=1GFJLbDxqofrzwJWEEbTFVdBNDY8x4HrSalCA7vHLN8v-k8eERQZ3K7ILQubXkDZLVpgptsv5mVWSvj7_NrO-Ij4VaA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1331.06)):

Most of the audience probably were white right in. Yeah, yeah. Yes.

Midnite Townsend ([00:22:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=xtBDuZ3TcR5MBKNdQ6tlY5Bqq9GDcOCkcnlShOeBP3Lg4u1QFpHY4LXigCJThfdW8yMdeldLbNx-e9J3CgVJW1bgM34&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1334.95)):

Yeah. Especially when I was doing in Denver. I mean even in Chicago, yeah, the, the venues there. Um, but yes, I think that that is the thing that I came up against and still come up against. Cause I'm not really performing that much now. I'm, I'm in school, I'm in graduate school, but I, I sometimes I wonder if I'll go back to perform, but I am being very intentional around, yeah, what is this serving? What is the purpose of this performance? And I am very careful, uh, or just onto myself that I know I am so used to serving whiteness. It is so familiar to me. It is so natural for me that I could very easily perform with that being the foundation and me not even realizing it. So I just, I have to be really aware of it.

Adapted Podcast ([00:23:08](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=in0vKdM40G_aLS5Xfm9CRbNoIJ5Tr9Zyn5QbWlzGw2GYlIzUKQ91-hgJ9D61XVvmgm0_rHKxWjv_WBsObbE86q6r8kE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1388.74)):

And do you identify as queer?

Midnite Townsend ([00:23:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=mNluKqZO04nLL4sgionQypf1Vav2K1KLAxCZJ7YSooQ9fdNgv5BAVx-nsvKYjZ9OYLhDeH2zesCQSC2iGDzZPCm0GaY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1390.99)):

I do.

Adapted Podcast ([00:23:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=VjWdNWNcdzqRk-T6Gfl5nbGPYnDWI9vBJP_diLAJ9fczYihkOxdKheD4SeTXSIFS2nAcbgd8ZK0N70C1sWc1cbF7CIE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1392.67)):

How did getting into burlesque, how did you work through your own, uh, sexuality?

Midnite Townsend ([00:23:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=AWKRHvovBSx1c08ZCbthNnNH3F8O4Z5bz74ETy_mAr-kP8hkYg8u2ECgb7yG5ev30avAhm7dfgDm_0OOlAsOLoDljU8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1400.11)):

Yeah. Uh, again, still a work in progress. <laugh> still ongoing <laugh>. Um, I was, again, I was very much seeking male validation. I mean, I was seeking community in general, but, um, the, the sexual energy was se the serving of sexuality in my mind was for the male gays, specifically the cis hat white dominant culture, male gays. And I, I, I think that relates to the fetish fetishization. You know, I, I think that, um, I can see how that directly ties in. I also lost my adopted father when I was in high school. He passed away. And I, I wonder, I get curious about just that seeking of male approval or male safety, um, how that manifests in my life because of, of the different traumas I've experienced. Um, and then my queerness really, I started to get more in touch with in Chicago. And I think, and similarly, my Korean identity, my adult adoptee identity, a lot of these identities that honestly didn't feel like they had space and support, um, to really get into.

([00:24:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=hmfBUcgG8AdyWGI6pTmmRV7Kfkwd_jjiGoWHWRNeKFbndyIuWdQOpUcEeIPqu8VsG8UDSBHwUZcKWT4YWCvV8E4nG6U&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1490.48)):

When I was living in Denver, had more opportunity in Chicago. There were just, there were more people who looked at me. There were more people with similar experiences and with different experiences, and they were all in this space together. Um, living together and knowing how to interact together and knowing how to talk about race and to talk about sexuality and gender and all of these things that, um, again, at least in my experience growing up in Denver, suburbs of Denver at the time I did, people just didn't know how to talk about that stuff. It was mostly white. And I think that's a big reason why, but it's like, people were well-intentioned. I think they would say they, they did want to talk about it, but then they wouldn't know how to, so it'd be a very like frozen reactive. Like, we just don't, we just don't talk about that sort of a, a thing. Um, and being allowed the space to talk about it and have others talk about it and see others and have other models helped me just tap into a bunch of different identities out in Chicago.

Adapted Podcast ([00:26:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=GUfpYDpdeARLR66dt0I536-HhPZjZQvxb2RLRFoPysjVyqJNVWDJA6Xh118p-Zpfww0xocF-Fk71Vo29zToa6g-ldbM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1561.43)):

You know, that's really interesting. Um, and, and I think the more you started to explore what it means to be an adopted person, a transracially adopted, I wondered if what, as you were performing, if that tapped into this, um, these kinds of, um, the adoption experience of, we often hear about adoptees feeling like they have to perform in their families, maybe perform a role, maybe be that daughter that their parents couldn't have, or the child that they couldn't have themselves or be, um, somehow being satisfying some need that their adoptive parents have. And then, um, but often feeling like a mask, like not knowing who we are inside, but that performance aspect. Can you talk about that?

Midnite Townsend ([00:27:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=o7T1MMobxdDbWRj56iod7XsSbGOcsboL1mnq-Vg3VxS10la8Adw50mTfssrPg-xnpjFBkjbwBZ_wAQsuj2S3ba-AUlw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1620.3)):

Yeah. Ooh, yeah. <laugh>. Yeah. I mean, it, I, I do look back at my life and I'm like, yeah, it makes sense. It all makes sense to me. Um, I be, I, that to me also speaks to, again, that like serving whiteness. I think this just this thing in me of feeling unworthy and the way to gain value is to prove myself by being a good daughter, by being a model minority, by being colorblind, by not seeing race. Like not bringing it up, not, it's not a big deal. I'm white, just like you all are. Um, not speaking about my traumas or my emotions or my desire to seek out my first birth culture and family. Um, yeah, a lot of expectations. I, I felt a lot of expectations placed on me by, um, I mean, I think unconsciously by my family, but also just like culture as a whole and society and institutions as a whole.

([00:28:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=NifUtDjE8SaWS_zCDx_eQKh8HkjFOGbPKvIVg7t3G2sW7AqtlSF8PFYplFSpXaiDcgt95ApT1v93fS3L7A1eA7FRXVw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1689.12)):

Uh, this pressure to be great. I know, I know you talk about this along your podcast to be the grateful, just quiet, grateful, happy, adopted person because you're so lucky that you're in this situation. And, and also cuz no one is gonna believe you if you say otherwise, <laugh>. Right? It's kind of like a, again, I actually, it reminds me of that, like, either, either they wanna kill you or they wanna fuck you. Like same thing, like either you gotta play along with this and then you'll get along, otherwise you're gonna be exiled that you're not gonna be believed, you're gonna be tossed aside again. You're gonna be abandoned again in some way. So it's like, well, I guess if those are the two options, then I'll play this game

Adapted Podcast ([00:28:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=sbjra7FbaxdTlANvEH43sSlXJZ5T1OPsofKog3zqezpXfwqc2DhorJ0hOkL_Lvq6eEAFqjjnx5nHTBM78q-mdPvVzTs&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1735.59)):

Like that. Your, your value to the mainstream is as a sexual being.

Midnite Townsend ([00:29:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=K1Ypewhka6_4vttwcLUpkJNuWF9gs9m2Ux70zcgdD_xX0R_0PuK0NNoH07u9vMue0Io6yg-5Ond-y0d0W7BJ1w4-4n4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1742.37)):

Yeah. My value to the, to the greater population is as a fetish symbol. My value to my family is as the grateful perfect adopted child, my value to any place that I walk into is to appease the people there and to serve them.

Adapted Podcast ([00:29:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=vwTfJUURe_IELUr1L8cUzCx9jZejh99ym6xJLLsv2UevTZJUqbNJb84hm0SLWVABaJLNvbecRzxpFBg4pz0ZlZwY-q0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1766.49)):

You said that, um, when you started off, you mostly were performing to a male gay, a white male gaze. Do you, did that shift? And do you recall when that happened?

Midnite Townsend ([00:29:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=TyrgtK6yfF_k7GtuxKG2eU_OKFjP3jyH_zsXO21GQ-zFatSiNvrL1Otao17V-erHaO0RFPwpGct2SsXZUZEQt1n3f8k&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1781.68)):

It's started to shift, uh, in Chicago. And I think because I, there are different venues that have different audiences, and I could energetically feel the difference going into drag spaces or like theater off the wall theater spaces, versus going into a Chicago nightclub that's more expensive and has a different demographic. Um, and, you know, they all have their different things. It, it kept me employed. Like it also was a thing of like, well, this is a job. Like you go in, you do your job, you go out. But, um, I think that is also a thing that is more shifting now. If I were to go back to performing, who would I wanna perform for and why? And I, who knows what will happen in the future. But right now, yeah, I don't feel that interested in performing for sort of mainstream quote unquote mainstream audiences. And I feel much more interested in yeah, performing in queer spaces or in artsy off the wall experimental spaces. Uh, so I mean that, I think that shift is, is still happening and I haven't quite figured out where it's gonna land.

Adapted Podcast ([00:31:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=JstBOOL4s7qSlaq5QcVTJX46CIUXX6-ja0M1aMcub3zwtmdff5W1mXy3PH50kbIrroDzi9SBimsQiQPIYWPoCka2MEM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1870.33)):

How did you approach and, uh, I I, I wanna get to the, um, other aspects too, but how did you approach drag?

Midnite Townsend ([00:31:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=fPuwo8q7TL9DAogl8Ucu32gXI0JAC4Fhi1qg5y8QirT8AAL7BAWuTf8GXyTHRQEOyEfeZM9PLIEDHS4trakiu43TJWU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1878.79)):

Yeah, I, uh, how some great drag king friends and co-pro performers in Chicago and like, shout out to, you'll maybe like this. No, go ahead. Shout out to Dusty Balls. My drag dad <laugh>. So Dusty Balls was doing <laugh> a, a class on like drag king 1 0 1 beginner drag king. And I had always been interested in it. And, you know, it's, it's funny too because I remember growing up thinking I looked like a boy without makeup and being very self-conscious about that. Um, and like Mulan right? Was like the only <laugh>, the only Asian <laugh> in, in media in my world at that time. And it was about her dressing up as a boy and being a boy. I, I felt very like, self-conscious about that. And I remember that being a, like a, a thing of a sh a thing of shame of me, of like, oh, you look like a boy without makeup, you always need to have makeup on.

([00:32:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Rb0b2O-mpC6Rf3yl6cJvkX5eT7IRNaN7GZC9dTIoK4KW9ahg19nD8asKER1G2gwBf7HQZJnvCQFVv1ssyFGJCjnQVfI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1941.07)):

And I was curious to kind of explore that to be like, well, yeah, what's going on there? What, what is my relationship with masculinity? And I took their class. Um, and it was, it was a lot of fun. It was a, I mean, I was awkward as hell <laugh>. It was like, it wasn't, it did not come naturally, but I created a routine and there is a show, um, a show performance opportunity where I got to introduce MIdnite Martini is my burlesque name, midday Manhattan, then became my drag king name. And, um, I got to perform as him and just loved it. And really, uh, was so interested at the space I felt allowed to take up as midday that I did not feel allowed to take up as MIdnite. And that got me very curious because yeah, I felt like I could hold stillness easier as midday.

([00:33:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=HNuFRE5EYQ9nGDcGwkdrS8tV2DEzNK4HAxfZHFED20qar61RNbhjJgeZhIXXkglK0KgsVUeyQrLTyidBGwItJP8Xfw8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2002.16)):

I could, um, take my time. There wasn't as much, as much performative need, like this kind of anxiety around, I need to perform, I need to entertain you, I need to serve you. That felt much more settled in when I kind of tapped into a, a more masculine energy. And I've been really enjoying playing with, tapping into my burlesque persona and my drag king persona. And finding ways where I have internalized what masculinity means and femininity means, and then also kind of challenging those spaces of, well, how can I slow down as MIdnite? Like, how can I sort of ease into that taking up space and where do these overlap, where do they intersect? Um, it's all of that exploration around gender has been, especially gender through these characters and through movement has been really interesting for me.

Adapted Podcast ([00:34:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=WKdw16pOSevztQGnRj2EBJbIWav9JmHAhUo73Y0-SwtidY9MIMUURt9NcbsOMz7pqDxuSJiyDdC8vZeARP1S9Ocz7Io&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2065.52)):

What do you like about Midday Manhattan?

Midnite Townsend ([00:34:28](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=yMTXAuJowg7oFiGivhgQzEM7pbGcd-lD4Mifle0-VpoZ5kyW752SwFIXhsG1T3UWSWpM1P6ohKKesHnWnpXZ7fKlerI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2068.85)):

Uh, I told I <laugh>, my inspiration for midday is like a cross between a Chippendale and a K-pop star that's <laugh>.

Adapted Podcast ([00:34:37](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=PaxEzDV7WjhpzydoL1G_pqKFChkzj4T7l0NtuBdzNBscol6VmEwVl-7lCbz0DWGCXs_lPfJ-_MRMZlLBP6PXrDjAEBk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2077.55)):

Nice.

Midnite Townsend ([00:34:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=euerT2Zz6bJYcQ6Qp2W4pTbAi0lwLkRbFrI3RJ_kX3sFooTIjDEuH6sVjb2GbsiwXhj-Uvn6Ib78DP9ee24KVtZ0d5k&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2081.03)):

So, I mean, so midday is hot <laugh>, uh, but I, I think I did, I like the just kind of quiet confidence that I feel as midday. It's just sort of like, I got this, like, not making a big deal out of it, just this kind of cool, calm, I got this, I'm with you. Um, that is a really fun thing to tap into that I probably have been able to tap into more in my regular life because I had midday to explore it with first.

Adapted Podcast ([00:35:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=3IBaml8Ko4JY_Ztc5e3TAubxVGE8GscS4SO9tx3d3ptZJeTrNz6w2U3PLJYJspQ3TcFgYl8_X1YpWvFkZ3Fk1gWFCL8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2120.69)):

Now you are a dancer, but the moves and the way you carry your body is so different in drag. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, how did you, you know, was that an adjustment?

Midnite Townsend ([00:35:32](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=xG23DoqoH1rujzmnTwmryTDGdFXfkVaH37TE0wye3zggkYQ29cxs7bfWtbHnxiZXryPZ8noc7iXlF1-f764S4lLal3Q&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2132.93)):

Yeah, that's been something a little bit more recently where yeah, unlike and stuff, I've posted choreography of a dance and I'll do one, a version of the choreo as MIdnite and one version as Midday

Speaker 6 ([00:35:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=nA4K7Ai0zZRUyFPztXkcyHQpMmRjqgSvRO-rHu12s0Sq7FcHWMH7peKZ316tgHiOrGs9IO2jGOEb2Z0aarU7oKA2kSU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2146.65)):

Tempo, suck it up tempo.

Midnite Townsend ([00:35:49](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=P9cZydRTyU_PUsmNzpw6ui75M5dC7W7KM_pccQwE6uCQ0FSPdadNRJMTpwbFv1-rUfz1I9uEPvaLCZZeUv9ds4FkJHo&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2149.45)):

And that actually came from my, the burlesque dance class I'm teaching right now. My students were asking for both a more femme version and a more masculine version. So I started developing that for the class. And then I just really enjoyed it. I really found it, um, surprisingly, I guess maybe a little more natural to come up with choreography and then to fem it up and then to mask it up in my body. And being able to do both felt very satisfying.

Adapted Podcast ([00:36:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Z-Dnov5NrQYLRnlJgYxFEnu0FtWeofD2C5TPNIgiSkTt9nMTYmFOTjVcaxijSZ-WaWyL-jMiZdi3MqKoEB5H45ytpvE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2185.5)):

Um, as a whole. Are drag kings having more of a moment right now?

Midnite Townsend ([00:36:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=j72tMbYc9Owgb3g7SPSQYyoIvpITo32_XzAooRl1JMgnKvh3g4Yi7CiTsAlCMEPd2Pnu4ewk4c9auUZ7QTN_-_vFk-Y&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2191.17)):

I think so. I hope so. I, I think it's, I think just drag in general has become more of a thing and now that drag queens have become more mainstream and in our zeitgeist, um, drag kings are being able to come in more too. And with, you know, social media, you just get more exposure to things. Uh, that being said too, I think in, in my area where I am right now and probably in places all around, people probably don't know what a drag king is still. Um, it's still more underground from my understanding. You know, it's still more underground and not as known as, like, I'm pretty sure most people would know what a drag queen is at this point. Uh, but yeah, I think it's, I I am hoping that it continues and I'm hoping that we get more space and I'm hoping that there's that amount of support and love for the drag king performers out there. Like there are the drag queens. Um, because both are fascinating, you know, both are equally fascinating to me. And if they aren't received the same way, uh, I think that is a very interesting reflection on, on society as to like why that is.

Adapted Podcast ([00:37:53](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=AgF50MXD--XTagLqyUROzpqKCZr6SxUl8B-gJvgF-weoFKMtk0e3uwt4WqktOSbdSTFISb-Ybig1tCCQUSurVFf47BU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2273.13)):

So, uh, I've seen you in, uh, you know, at Con and now you've, I I think you're, you, you've are part of a, a group that started in Colorado, an adoptee group, and so you've been around Korean adoptee spaces for I'd say what, for five or six years

Midnite Townsend ([00:38:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=-K79tl8xL0PLVPqLhPjx5_Hl87MIuVvrWzyYilk0Q17xoSKd02EEbKA5-GpgUgsuksZ63Me7StnjPNuZurymyNARBZo&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2290.95)):

Maybe? Yeah, I would say as, as an adult coming out of the fog. Yes.

Adapted Podcast ([00:38:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=5Z3b7nGlXKFwlCbEPe7phsL2ggISidEObxsHwX3Og3N5p3OlKgJgOSATocxj9Mwc2h6Xz2W5ZyYNstoR3aWWfup7VVg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2295.79)):

<laugh>, yes. Post fog or post fog. Yes. Um, as a queer adoptee, a lot of these spaces can feel very heterosis. How do you navigate or how have you found them to be, and have you felt seen?

Midnite Townsend ([00:38:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=XCOvTIZWwDmeI6gM8mIb65_sgAk0Rv3984aueBbcJm_lFrBXJh0jkRlkzJpRXx8osN3SanPLImVBjzItxZvWA7_gR1c&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2315.44)):

Mm, I mean, I, I will fully admit I do have privilege in this area that the relationship I am in right now is probably identified as cis normative. So, and you know, we, I don't wanna say play into that, but it's also like, I think the way I feel about it is like that we have a spectrum of fluidity in our relationship of, um, at least for me, with my identity. And then, yeah, I like, I don't mind necessarily having someone view us that way because that part feels true. There's just other parts as well that feel true <laugh>. So, you know, so I, I do know that I have privilege there that I can still feel, um, not not necessarily mislabeled or, um, totally missed out in those cis head spaces. I have to imagine that feels different than you're totally missing. Like, I don't identify with that at all, and you're just, you're not seeing me at all. You know, it's, it's more like you're seeing a, a piece and I'll take that <laugh>, you are seeing a piece that I identify with. There's other stuff too. And if you don't see that, you know, like that is it, it would be nice to have you see that. Um, I think in the burlesque world, I feel like I get that more seen and I get to relate in that way more in that space. But, um, but for sure it's, it's, I do hold privilege there still.

Adapted Podcast ([00:40:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=E4wnGz9vwrvfmGpLfhZkaP-TIip-Hv5-6upiVEL_x7GPXhgO4fBAg36XI2vOtHpgk20lb-AhzML3DCVcXKSqegBVg-Y&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2418.19)):

Would you like to perform burlesque for Korean adoptees? And how do you think it would be different?

Midnite Townsend ([00:40:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=y4yASjM7nDNzRf2MTvFi-R06j13MswoStBFWY91NGJLIUnqVwZn0onbdogL2B0a6qCr5f8TGZBKqGJEM-KpotsRihuk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2425.83)):

Hmm. Ooh, I don't know. Okay. Well that is <laugh>. Ooh, that feels very vulner. Like, just my, just my body reaction. I'm like, who? That feels very vulnerable to me. Yeah. That feels, um, oh, that is an interesting reaction, <laugh>,

Adapted Podcast ([00:40:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=FFniNNwVL1LRenOovpGYU7J1q_lcovpj8SAhi2aK8JqNvWadu5KRPSa8555a1AwhqW65c0Lee-IRaEIRXWNe3W0z0qU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2452.54)):

Because I, part of it is in all of your identities and your performing identities, there's probably parts of yourselves you, you can hide from the audience or keep to your keep for yourself.

Midnite Townsend ([00:41:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=2WFBWYBwBRUcLmqG1fMhSL-u97aJpUuWPbO_LK9rT_AYVjFawDaIz2HKZl7GpW8LTW9HAZWVH6kuTj9lR4NLhiY5pME&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2465.42)):

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

Adapted Podcast ([00:41:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=zbthuorjGzqjnZH37kFuvfDoetscxAscIZrl5P7m1RM3mdc7exDYZqW53BCIpG-O_VAvqQHVx3ZIiWbarKFILzY5Uf4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2466.89)):

And maybe when you talked about, well, in front of other Korean adoptees, it might be, you know, you might feel more exposed.

Midnite Townsend ([00:41:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=QXJUP6RePD1Lu1xypPKOzrWcSB22MpKNgWy1UmzZsTpIL2B1SkmoIZb9vOZSUAJtBP0eJssydphKi3K6UERuysc5AZE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2474.14)):

Yeah. I almost get this like sense of like, in front of adoptees. Like, I don't, like they wouldn't be, they don't, they wouldn't, they don't wanna see that from me. I don't know. Like, I get this, I get this voice in my head of like, they wouldn't want to see you that way. Which is, that's why I'm like, oh, what an interesting reaction. I don't know why,

Adapted Podcast ([00:41:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=FwJz3_V5ARWa3PH3F9oGlJQlbCPp0zkrFxQ5JNOWBSeJK6i6pNOvp0UvUL6sgMzD1pVRy-7o3WXxQZuk-Kp-TqiISrI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2505.2)):

But why do you think they wouldn't wanna see you that way?

Midnite Townsend ([00:41:47](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=g23PEUkBAVPrwIEQfJzuYgHFRAInfzhm8HzdxrGTs_4N85MQ0ZA3W977UhFtutW9gNWpbVAcDvNjHAZNb-MPZmNH0GI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2507.61)):

Yeah, I guess my,

Adapted Podcast ([00:41:51](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=i7YnuEtzHFH6DOrorGL4hbC4goDL25hi1P8IDYoaqdNrv6WKi0hGd1iQpJlypPt9IqF83QK0re3jhisHIjHTgU0Q1z8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2511.08)):

Is it only as a K-pop instructor, right?

Midnite Townsend ([00:41:53](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=sboQWjNc5qLDc6vUWr7QvHGYKZJCGN4kMr8j1jljZmB-GykxpIyhiUoUmvfN9g2vNk38L_3u-Pw9EhhZcNBCeqg3orY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2513.29)):

Dance instructor. Yeah. I, cuz yeah. Cause I guess like, it doesn't have any, well I it doesn't have a direct relation to adoption maybe that I'm like in these adoptee spaces. It's, it's all about adoption and yeah. And K-pop is like relating us back to our culture at least. And, you know, Korean culture, but burlesque almost feels, oh, I'm getting this like sense of like, oh, you'd be indulgent to do that in front of the adoptee population. Like

Adapted Podcast ([00:42:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=BA-PLj1bLCWDXgElNTOXQiAm9joHevcIidjpGU62vEz_qOPWw3Y5CHZMPBKZmfr-MW0Lxr9A2hlXrvX_FyoXz4nyPzY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2545.55)):

Indulgent how

Midnite Townsend ([00:42:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=5q1CUrUQaZMYxbVc_Hpg9JoD41PTzetQgB5V8Q31R7qZ6_cAro4QLjK9GBWG9TVgugeBJrE-UJBgjfRYiRsBDhyOVzk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2546.45)):

Indulgent house. Yeah. Like, um, like almost like a look at me, uh, look at me. I guess that doesn't feel appropriate in that space, but huh? That this is

Adapted Podcast ([00:42:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=uofuziPHB8XC20Fv0e2c1ChIufQ6QPLGyxTJbEFpLkn-DryWcXhMOtYkEZP5hBKpZ53lOVKoTjeGAA3RkwJl71S5vSA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2566.43)):

Because it is about, it is about power too, right? So is that what would be uncomfortable is

Midnite Townsend ([00:42:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=14RCJ6Zhwiky1WiqT10C_AJQUvtvLTRVXhEZ_myHnWOR3S_E2B9I2hK3mxj7f1mw__SkJJY0GjcQRGuOOwdx0w6rEbs&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2572.91)):

Hmm.

Adapted Podcast ([00:42:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=JROtl0b3YMCm2EY6Vr4aUmGdvqurO7m6XFDrhmetKSw6f-_u7Ctf0KTsyu0_a_oqSuNHmAz3VcisUpTA8x6KcQ0K2XY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2575.16)):

That dynamic in front of others, other adoptees?

Midnite Townsend ([00:43:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Z86weHiqhte0ioHc0HgB1vlTk3hEV-FvXRf1k3JNOcbM1GP_EkNmdjvAqXGz-3orxHCbCCB9BKEFwR_MwHyQNPULpr4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2580.5)):

I mean, this is a, I what my, my sense is, like, we were talking earlier about like the, I hold value in these certain ways. I think, I think I have to earn value in these certain ways at, in certain spaces. And I'm, I think I'm getting clarity around, I have this in adoptee spaces of, oh, well my value is to is to talk about adoptee stuff. <laugh>. Like, my value is not to do burlesque. It's not to like show that side of myself that's not, that's not valuable in that space. So to, to bring that would be like inappropriate or indulgent or, yeah, I don't know. I don't know why though. That is r very, I mean, I'll have to take that to therapy <laugh> a little bit

Adapted Podcast ([00:43:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=l41AMUqM0Nc2V5zwAvTptpN7w6C8l_N9-BpAJS1I6rybuv7en-iHPV4pcWkCE_EWp70y2IYG4S8b3f4cewefw9PaRxY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2639.03)):

Because I would love to see you, um, doles and adoptee space sometime. But, um, but it would have to be if you're comfortable and you know, yeah, if that's something one day, you know

Midnite Townsend ([00:44:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=93_CG9w3ccMrYge6RXYZgqmEpgCok1uPL_p5TJy44XRTTnCi3b_B8378PJMq6x0Mh8NrRHdZKhg0cr4DXjRZ-VNBKDI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2653.49)):

What

Adapted Podcast ([00:44:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=mcCJndWJD8bnN3uDtPbJWbJhWEsG9ZibpjP2hVzwKCVGpwPsdM8r_1gtFhsZUZlwHkafo08p3AsehBHqSR0td98tzmE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2654.81)):

It would be, it would be cool to see.

Midnite Townsend ([00:44:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=S9Beapo6dlBJZixV56-ZRVFPcmIKEHynO77CE4jBfKAQe3NPfJzvS_wCyRTrRkbzaEEoPteJhWMcl5t2fOifdM4vwMw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2657.2)):

Thank, thank you. And you know what I'm like, something that is coming to me is like, I think burlesque also still and performing just in general is still this like proclamation of like, see me, see me, see the parts of me, see the see me the way that you don't see me outside of this. Like, see that I'm Asian, see that I am, can gender fuck, see that I can get naked, see that like, see me be strong, see me be coy, like just see me <laugh>. I think there's something about mm-hmm <affirmative> for me performing that's around this. Like, I will demand you to see me because I never feel seen otherwise. And maybe if there's a thing in the Korean adoptee or just the adoptee spaces where it's like, I feel seen, like we see each other. So the ways that I want to be seen that's already happening without me having to go on stage and perform and demand it from this audience.

Adapted Podcast ([00:45:53](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=j2FvVHR-KkT2EMdUypR5C0WBLJJo-Yrs1jAro6AAOnW479BZn2PWSbklz7K_qagEaIhopFNiJmsbpGDUhAYSaXhxemE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2753.16)):

When did you start to look for your first family

Midnite Townsend ([00:45:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=VKc_K0t2Jhzlx69p5vBuZe1N9K2FvidfgwZsPdKqmjclEGN9LWjH9POq2Ouu26LV-WiJ9zASOA0zUp568Zh-ZaP1Rgg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2756.97)):

That, so, um, they had actually sent me a letter, I believe when I was 18. Um, I just, I don't remember much about it. I, I blocked it out. My, uh, adopted mom at that point, my adopted dad had already passed away. It was just me, my adoptive mom. She told me about the letter. Um, at that time I felt like I was not allowed to have any sort of desire towards my birth family. Um,

Adapted Podcast ([00:46:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=nEwTQf3vTPMn2dsJzmA_xaz6AtC_PWhPD3MFTy6OHL7F_bWCNRjgZHsSwMkyklNEfZPv8a8cL31KesLL8Nfljj3TxKY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2790.6)):

That was coming from your adoptive

Midnite Townsend ([00:46:32](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=3ecMlujNWC-eRqWcjXbY94wW9GncXE1MDX8cQzxKaMgOtYNDQL1Xjd5wOfsxLS8lzhny6pCb0gL3x-agHGtXQutRIHU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2792.02)):

Mom. Yeah, I, I I believe she had a lot of fear. <laugh>. I also recognize it too. We've done a lot of work, her and I in our relationship. Um, she had a lot of fear. She also was not, you know, that I, I would hope things are a little bit different now. Back then my family was given no tools around what it means to adopt, uh, someone who is not the same race as you, is not from the same country as you. Like none of, none of that. Um, I think there was a lot of fear instilled in her around birth families coming back and like snatching back their babies and taking them back. And that lived very deeply then inside of me, of, of this, you have to choose one over the other. Like you. Yeah. One is the enemy and the other one is who you're loyal to.

([00:47:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=FstMgk0sSCTs_QlOubbWQzkC6Y9tD3wNTcywonge57S4xYkiibOUaLcfPCLDEnM5mBwbRdKfeYe-nFQOdvRBoPvESn4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2845.35)):

Um, and at that time I minimized the letter. I dismissed it. Um, my mom was ups, you know, was visibly upset, giving it to me, and I can have empathy for her now after. Okay. Lots of therapy and work and the work we've done together around how hard that must have been. And also not having the tools and not having her partner around to like navigate this with. Um, but for me, my experience of it was this like, oh my God, like my mom's freaking out. I have to, I have to double down on this loyalty to her. So that's what I did. I was like, I don't care about this letter. I don't care about anything like this is this is it. Like we can throw that away. Um, and really didn't give it a second thought. And when I got into pr, I think it was my, like mid, mid or late twenties, uh, I was dating someone who was a counselor for a heritage camp.

([00:48:28](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Uea6mbzWuA_vWJxyj5t6lQbMdbIkj7rqxOC4HaBJRiSMzqmsQL2dlT9YmHn8RxrNsxWyd1DK7b9VnprtuS98MjjoLb4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2908.15)):

And we went back and we, um, I was a counselor one year. I was like, was a presenter another year. And that obviously sparked a lot of adoption, trauma, adoption stuff inside of me. Um, I think I, that maybe was what kind of sparked getting curious, being in therapy, starting to dig up adoption trauma issues around my relationships. And it, it all kind of cultivated <laugh> together to, um, allow the curiosity to come out and allow for me to feel like I had permission to, um, to search and to just, I guess to even just wonder. It started with me just wondering probably in my like mid to late twenties and then being like, well, maybe I'll like reach out. I'll see if if anything comes up. Uh, I was very fortunate that the adoption agency, uh, I went through, had my records and they were complete, they were accurate enough where they had information to get in touch with my birth first mother.

([00:49:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=_Zlk3odaIuZKYGesWNFxkWkTYrLsQrrAxQsIjREH4GiIlxhB4sHrqBMgD-z74FIEo7ZJV83p6xaq3m-N3K_xRrykUcQ&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2980.12)):

Uh, they kind of wrote on my behalf to say, she's searching, do you wanna respond back? And we just did letters for, uh, probably a year, just kind of back and forth doing a few letters here and there. That took a long time because I had to go through like the adoption agency to get translated then to get sent to me and then for me to respond to get trans. So it was a, it was a, not a very efficient way of corresponding, but that's how it started. And then we eventually, um, exchange email addresses and then started to write emails. I had, uh, decided that, well I had ended, gotten a divorce <laugh> ended relationship, um, and decided that it was really important for me to go back to Korea and to reunite. Um, I didn't think that that would ever happen, honestly. Like if you would've asked me even a few years earlier than that, I would've been like, I don't, I'm, I don't care.

([00:50:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=UzNsSTs4EXr7tvOXaoPdH8B5MUBqMsSj5MZPrODsopyyVsQtp58pWsYLE4yU1498CJ69Vv3G6Rh5J4prl5YzCU_bKvQ&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3042.48)):

I don't care about my family, I don't care about Korea. Like I really feel complete. I don't need to do that. And I know everyone's path is very different. And again, I know I have so much privilege around actually having the information and resources to get in connection with my family over there. Um, but going over and meeting them was, it just felt like I was at the right place at the right time. I, I did feel this sort of sense of, um, this is what needed to happen for me, for my growth, for my journey. And it wasn't like a big like movie moment of like, oh, like now I feel so connected to my ancestors and to my culture. <laugh>, there wasn't that sort of a thing, but it did, it made me be like, yeah, this is important too, and this is going to shift things inside of me that I'm going to have to keep working on, but this needed to happen for me. So

Adapted Podcast ([00:51:44](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=e0NLcvisrBNXsKieSnL01CAWb-Oq5dzIP2Oq2R4XANpauDq_lRUXuecmku1k2cOV4KRnyVgImJKmzcShSR2jm_0YFvc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3104.78)):

What was it like getting that first correspondence from your Oma?

Midnite Townsend ([00:51:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=72p3QNZtR74Cq3lWWVazH-UmalQU52Ph0TflSNEM3z26FIDi7cnoLWGT0a6Ll9vnxDtxsKSykffIuObBtYBCEF0h0kU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3110.75)):

It was an interesting time because my romantic relationship was feeling rocky. So then to receive this letter, part of me certainly dissociated <laugh> and like just numbed out. And also I think that's what I needed to do to be able to read the letter. Um, but it just, I have had facts in there around, you know, you have, um, an older birth brother. Um, it's, I'm still foggy on if there's like a half sister or a stepsister or a <laugh>, some sort of sister in there and just kind of gave some basic information about her, about the family. And I, you know, it, it was a weird thing of, I know it overwhelming and I know it meant so much. And also I like couldn't quite grasp onto the gravity of it in that moment. And I really, it almost feels like you're kind of writing to a ghost.

([00:52:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=hYGWWWNznNpdVgqnp4xHdWUN5glLpNr9xtlbBp2nfOIKktl6BwzSuAKDkdsaFocIrOxPWbrjZOJoJwd7YiJ5FBVxHSI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3170.99)):

That's how it felt like for me. Like I was, I knew there was a person on the other end of that, but I didn't really know. And that's, that's where actually reuniting and seeing them and touching them and hugging them, that's the thing that I think I didn't realize until I was there that was like, oh, this is different. Like, they've always been an idea in my mind. So even a letter kind of still felt like Santa Claus or, you know, like an idea that I'm writing to and to actually be with them and to feel them and to spend time with them, that's what sunk down deeper of like, oh, I actually do come from people. Like, this is <laugh> thi this is something more grounded in reality now

Adapted Podcast ([00:53:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=tQlqn9lqSIai1YAIXE-O7iiEsk5V_dqM8VoouRUOD_f525EKRY_rG2NzYL0WIVyenrs8hjPIXEDPSE9iPaOvAozVwiY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3219.21)):

I think because as adoptees, you know, either our adoptive parents maybe don't know themselves what our full story is, or they may have some motivation to keep it in the fog for us or to not explore it. You know, they might not have, um, you know, a desire to find out more. So I think a lot of us just live with this kind of ambiguity about those early days. It's a fog, a fog or a, it's a dream. It's a, there people are ghosts and so it's gotta be just so overwhelming and maybe exhilarating and maybe scary to actually like, reach out and touch flesh and look people in the eye. And did, did meeting your family give you more compassion about over the relinquishment or did it stir up feelings of anger or hurt?

Midnite Townsend ([00:54:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=2GGyyPA9KKSZzgwJaSqyib0Tw7qh6JQ6eyf7hd7i9HHF8gc078AuSp2DPIUQmIgDttyAw9z7ZMP1fwN3xLXF0ydIzCw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3275.79)):

Um, I think overall it gave me more compassion because my, um, my Oma um, so I met my Oma, I met my aunt, her sister, um, my birth brother who's a couple years older, and then I did meet my birth father as well. And, uh, birth mother and father had split and we were all in a room together. And the, I, I mean, I don't know Korean at all. Um, my partner who I'm, uh, Bucky came with me and so it was kind of nice. Like we just talked to each other in English. My family just talked to each other in Korean. Like we didn't have to worry about making conversation. <laugh>,

Adapted Podcast ([00:55:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=M83qc6zDpz5MmECZbJ_C4nhD523uF0Yi5o8AA0nzYSz_G72fnpyLjONfLkwSyZecWXD9RuA5J30UWlKU1nSbhVH3nI8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3315.15)):

You were like, I I think they want us to do this. What are they? I think <laugh> like just talking amongst

Midnite Townsend ([00:55:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ISRvvG0i7eYXc8_pnw0CQ6iFra0jfOnZMaxDysLVW-Ki-z_U6h1x66YrMGe6zB5eLEGP4ZhyFy3HHc0e76iVO_He5i0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3320.67)):

Yourselves. Yes. Yeah, <laugh>. And, um, but I could, when we were all in the room, you know, my oma started to cry. My birth father was talking and like my aunt knew some English and was trying to sort of like translate, um, and was like, oh, that, you know, he's apologizing for not being there back then. And, uh, but I, it just, it made me realize that this reunion was not just me reuniting with them. Like it was about this family unit being together for the first time ever. And there were a lot of other ruptures and a lot of other pain and trauma between all of the pe people sitting in this room that haven't been fully healed or addressed for years. And that did give me more compassion around like, oh man, like everyone has been hurting and splintered and things unsaid and things unknown and been living with this same sort of ambiguity. I think, um, that it, it dispelled this myth in my head of like, the family is just like all together happy and I'm the one who's not there. I'm the one missing now. Yep. They're all together. They're all like, and they like, they sent me away and there's something wrong with me. And I was like, oh no. Like this was traumatic for all of us and everyone is hurting and everyone is feeling, feels lonely in certain ways and everyone feels cast out in certain ways. And there was like a sharedness in that.

Adapted Podcast ([00:57:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=e3AgkdeDRI5iJTxs6K3DLiTu45NBHVu4_xv5F0aDqYwtvgqZGh_q4EmyBflNq83EPtl41-bQnwNDBbctpn9ZsEBgTcI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3439.87)):

Did you feel accepted by them or do you feel accepted?

Midnite Townsend ([00:57:24](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=RuCxN446dv82tMvUOjNra4kKkNu5dkPOFahaimAgf_GrEcSimza6jV6Hc9HaQHLuTUNV0NCBigPbvutRAd9B95KJMA8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3444.97)):

Well, bunny, you ask about this, we'll tie things together because, uh, I, they asked me what I did and I, you know, was doing burlesque, doing aerial. Um, we did have an interpreter for part of the time, like an afternoon. And so she was trying to explain to them what burlesque is and they were trying to wrap their heads around it because as far as I know, burlesque isn't happening in Korea. <laugh>, uh, and I mean they were trying to wrap their head around that. Bucky and I, my partner and I were living together without being married and the interpreter was having to explain like, this is normal over there. Like people do this.

Adapted Podcast ([00:58:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=zUjykwuBR5TEx2dnZj1MYp02HrJxmmugyKlXZMvkun20lUKQHJy0fmzJBpfNf8uU4i4n3q2gzs4GNgQuhp-XCl9vPtM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3485.92)):

So that, that in and of itself might have been scandalous.

Midnite Townsend ([00:58:08](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=UjntR_VIoxr6mrEiq3DMut04GzUngj3N_Hs5UVtHZzoeucaPl-blNXoWNyS8C35hJK7jjgvjtr2P_TJAIbYSICR-HdA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3488.98)):

Yes, exactly. Yes. And in fact, they then the next day took us out to get, um, promise rings together, <laugh>. So they bought us promise rings that we could wear on our fingers that I, at the time it was like, oh, that's sweet. And then now looking back, I'm like, oh, it's probably so they like <laugh> didn't have shame about like <laugh>.

Adapted Podcast ([00:58:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Q74bka4YopODkhsBNNVm6Ptw9f3oxgLrEem418L9pZnSOYQxne4iAUTRhRO-SCDBoWSGSaXX-kJtXIxCn-3l5n4n7oI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3511.03)):

It was, it was probably for them.

Midnite Townsend ([00:58:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=eRFqIWT47Y3m-_fBlYdSX4E4mY5v_wbcDUMNamEkNsTbXxhLlfIuOm_NeoUEk6rMIOMB_k36OYS51g1jEVv_t_SMm-Y&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3513.03)):

<laugh>, yes, absolutely <laugh>. But, um, but so I told 'em about burlesque and then they asked like, oh, well do you have a video? And I was like, here is a decision <laugh>, we have, we have a choice to make here. Do I show them a video of me stripping off down to pasties or not? And I was like, you know what? Like I, I am going to just try and be myself. I'm gonna try and be authentic and me in this space. In a way it was a little bit liberating too cuz it's like, and on one hand it's like, I, I do have a lot to lose, but on the other hand I was like, what do I have to lose? Like I, you know, I haven't had this family in my life. I've grieved this family. Like if they're not going to accept then, you know, it's, it's, it felt a little bit, um, lighter I guess, or I, I just felt more able to be like, well, let's see what happens. And I put on the video and they watched it and it, you know, at the beginning I'm not taking anything off and then I like just take off a glove and I'm doing aerial. And then as I'm like taking more and more off, they're just very quiet. They're very quiet. Watching <laugh>.

Adapted Podcast ([00:59:49](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=6IqNJA-feHE_GtnWSqOrF3mFWVefrqWLf5zQNxlUls1fZkHw9llBRMZ_FEwD8FdmGBVQHMLypjiqh4r-mJeLXAEISME&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3589.46)):

Who is this your, your Oma your F apa? Yes. And your

Midnite Townsend ([00:59:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=xIf6PDBbVzhs8kEm49J6Ld9S0Ul1QOwsqhokt4g1yv7AREMzpberMO5xzYYl7cvmrTI2MiXFJGJWZ7rkXoQ1LbfraJU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3592.96)):

Brother? Brother. I actually, I don't know, I'm trying to think of my APA was there, but it was definitely, yeah, my, my oma my my emo my aunts and my brother. Um, and they're watching and uh, yeah, and I, but it was, there was something kind of cool as it was happening that was like, I have no idea what's going on in their heads right now. They're probably, their heads are exploding and a little bit of like, yep. Like this is, this is what I do though. Like, I am not hiding what I do. I am showing you flat out. And then it is up to you to do with it what you will. Uh, and I mean, who knows what kind of talk they talk <laugh>, you know, that I can't understand. But, um, I maybe if I knew Korean I would say they don't accept me <laugh>, but cause I, I don't know Korean, we spent time the rest of the week together.

([01:00:47](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=bhXw3FDJde3eSwVBGf3gy7k1iNe08boq7KU-U4CQVD_XPPX1bqqq_mJpSClPqT6P6cgxiOdD0VIZKUCxW_PJXicT_vI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3647.54)):

Um, it didn't seem to really affect the way that they were connecting with me. I, I felt really grateful. I was like, you know, I'm glad that I just kind of came in honest. And, and then they had the choice, right? To be like, this is a theme that would we probably would react to. And we also have a choice to let that go so we can connect to this person that this is a very unique opportunity or we can be rigid in maybe our cultural norms and then miss out on this opportunity. So I'm grateful that they seem to choose the, the other one of being like, okay, like, yep, that's, that's what they do. And <laugh>, we're just gonna move on. <laugh>,

Adapted Podcast ([01:01:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=vAvYl_gYIuETOne-usWzxwSJRQ7CAGmfnYLx-iIL7acNd9YzqNsJng_Dxwm6NAksRXeGupp38DSQwyTaqLAG9fGvuM0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3693.29)):

Was it harder to tell your adoptive mother about burlesque?

Midnite Townsend ([01:01:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=7E9ejeeQygsGjRgx_qY51LDYMFfiJmpWfXZV_xCFmZOmI-TPPDBB-eJnusq8ilHSAGFBTa5pKFhvZTT0aj1S34s_YeI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3698.93)):

I, I did it in a, uh, in a sort of sneaky small step sort of a way I <laugh> I sort of framed it as like, oh, I'm doing swing dancing <laugh> first <laugh>, like, yeah, swing dancing, like old timey swing dancing. And then, because burlesque was like, uh, a dance form back in the day, more in like the thirties and forties. And so it has, it has a vintage nest to it, so it's like, yeah, you know, old timey like that. And then it sort of morphed into like, oh, you know, like feather fan dancing, like, like the, the old variety shows. And then it morphed into, okay, it's burlesque <laugh> and she did accept it. She said though that, um, the thing that eased her mind is she came down to see a show and she saw how supportive all of the dancers were to each other. And I think she could see the, the kind of the family, the community that was in there and she was like, okay, like you're being taken care of. You're not being taken advantage of here. Um, it's

Adapted Podcast ([01:02:44](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=6jpDBL-BSp3BeYYUJ-4f55N1ZJKCso9blbHUA611gSZ8GUSUrm9oiszc5lO3jHAcTl0kOGY99nmwayVFkEC9ll9lO3s&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3764.22)):

Not like a strip dance kind of, or you know,

Midnite Townsend ([01:02:47](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=cnpk0NKHlyLNRZO02xPt3NFGAsyHFFYzdu_AV6F01awowgUC798hT8bgMWa3MJ6PPjdJEbvpCZlwGM9txUFnBZSWQbk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3767.19)):

That kind. Yeah. And you're, you're finding yeah, right, you're finding people and friends and, and you know, and not, not to, not to shame the other sex work and sex work, right. Adjacent stuff too. But for, for my mom's palate, <laugh>, I think this was, this was mom palatable enough where she was like, okay, I can get on board with this. And the people that you are around, I suppose, like the other women you are around, um, seemed to be good role models for you.

Adapted Podcast ([01:03:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=E_32UpazipzWhWLadQkHtAsutASA3RqhiqSSWVQIeNdT8GVTfJEpGwFpX7t9lzl1FdNmVoGWA_me_c4vdUiJGZIwrTQ&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3797.13)):

Maybe it was more wracking to introduce the idea to your adoptive mother than to your first family because you didn't have those kind of, the shared that relationship was very new as opposed to, you know, the person who raised you.

Midnite Townsend ([01:03:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=iH6tQDqlghEkMbuYpUDtu6k-ge3rVCNISbk4WP8f3WAXg0tIh1F8YPDVhdidodgNmHef9q02tWcsomvBBkJELHIg_Wg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3814.56)):

Yeah, yeah. It felt riskier. Um, and there was the expectations, there were already so many expectations laid within the relationship between my adoptive mother and I that, you know, with my birth first family, there was really no expectations to me. I wonder how they view me. They probably think of me of just like this crazy wild card American just like busting into their life with <laugh>. Yeah.

Adapted Podcast ([01:04:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=IT3xmYFwo6YekhAGMHUO3cTtdfSkvQGWHgQc9zeijh2oyTllGs8Mj0adcXTckbMAdlzvlpbMecsfTfCs0yoDRjr3o3o&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3843.36)):

I could see them just kind of rationalizing it, like, well that's Americans, they're, they're crazy. So That's

Midnite Townsend ([01:04:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=YPypTrJ2iPZnAh4usgT3-tY9snk6zpgd_DkPkonIDHrGva-Z7_EKVR3-ICTnssQSGiq5qYT_vpYUN4pANBagaIV8Xs8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3849.69)):

Right. <laugh>

Adapted Podcast ([01:04:11](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=rGY6pvZrn9Jj09aKAROPO601b2SxfZRnvG2B7OvrroHxgwY2FueXn9p1OKLt_BsM7vDe-fQ0Cr6b9f_aaAVwAtfxbfo&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3851.85)):

What, and so how long have you been in Reunion now?

Midnite Townsend ([01:04:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Z4-RtpfMKV2acl4LI-uJeLjuFrlkWe1CwXHqy4lrkb2xV13igh7nxeWaCWnJmiKelxAXu-bpvQEFx1QNUvk11G-edco&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3855)):

I, uh, reunited physically in Korea for my 32nd birthday. So it's been six years.

Adapted Podcast ([01:04:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=9yUbIil69dDvhv1GgU3r4Xibu0ePat8OjLzBFi7b9-NfKg48_JRHx9pJm8F8xqrd5ioLQFR2yi7ynmvODOD00luckf4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3865.23)):

How has it been, like over the six years? Has it been difficult over, you know, it's, it's expensive to go visit and has it been difficult over time or over distance?

Midnite Townsend ([01:04:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=NyhC4nJpeUQS27hcLdbNyM6jUI1LpOI81mwY9kuYOt86UxxSwUfw45w0SYVCdvuK0aMbqg0CeMhlCrIjDKeEeGJ5aRI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3875.46)):

Yeah, I mean that's, we haven't gone back. We, we do wanna go back after I graduate, um, but we haven't been back yet. We use Kakao, uh, you know, the, the app to talk, but there's still the translation barrier. So it's a lot of like short sentences and emojis and pictures, but we don't really talk that often. And I am also the one to always initiate, um, which I've just accepted. Again, I think there's cultural things. I know that there's a lot of shame, uh, that my, especially my oma feels, so I understand that it, it's probably harder for her to start a message to me than it is for me to just like send a picture of us, I don't know, in front of a tree somewhere during December or something. Um, so yeah, that's, that's been mostly the extent of the communication is me sending something like a few times every now and again and then getting a response.

Adapted Podcast ([01:05:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=4TULYIrIRkwNISIIhwWhjvK_-gj4UD0lCNdw_UWQby13KPeXrvey9gRJ8YD_HZ--CUzROI_IL3nDmU3prNJRN12x86w&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3939.97)):

How has being united changed you? Have you reflected about that?

Midnite Townsend ([01:05:44](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=eY9A4hMysVfjqUkCU_oIzNNNQSZ-wMy2sW91kmT5pyMKwZIIv4-cSTrS3440A5OX5KQz6owRJ77O_iBbou8WodDP_oQ&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3944.35)):

Yeah, I, I think again, I think it deepened this idea of I came from somewhere, which sound sounds, it's so hard to like make that more concrete <laugh> for people who maybe don't understand or don't know. Um, but just growing up you think, you think that you, you don't know where you come from. It's kind of, it is, it's like a weird thing of like you just sort of appeared or just manifested out of thin air or I, I used to joke like I got hatched from an egg. Like I, you know, it just feels very

Adapted Podcast ([01:06:28](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=G-nRDxujVY3L4YR1t2-LJgBTIzsdlinaIfU3vtnhM8dk010n2pu0GsDdKQMWTHnc73BslmBaWqxv0nJKE79dmgkhojI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3988.3)):

Historic.

Midnite Townsend ([01:06:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=UEGe20lBkujUpcB34ucAXfBiPszx6QFWrZTyfiTpr1zNBkwjCN1cvF3Ocq1smh8GMfodBrCfKb6U6yYDZPvXZ5b2PQU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3989.08)):

Yeah, yeah. Historic uhhuh, <affirmative>, but with no, no ti it's like no history. There's, I just appeared and that's it. There's no history behind it. And all the stories of the history are either demonized or shamed or like, you don't wanna be attached to that because they're not good people or, or again, it's like elusive or mysterious, we're not really sure and ghost-like. So being able to have more of a concrete idea of, oh, I do come from somewhere. I do have history, I do have lineage, I have ancestors, I have a land that I can connect to that has been really important to me. Um, and to like my spirituality more, especially the ancestor piece that I don't think I could have. Me personally, I couldn't have gotten to that point without having that more tactile sense of you, you belong to this and you also have permission to claim this for your own.

Adapted Podcast ([01:07:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=JtrJrUmOsuC6e4KNAeOnReLQ8XRtlgE-S47NGYL6sb2edrKiRtAI2Q7ziiWRZR2x0PnQF_0L0sOfrybBCwOYK10a_T0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4060.42)):

Um, MIdnite, you, you mentioned that you and your mother have worked through a lot of issues through therapy and have come to how have you been able to do that? And um, if you were to, you know, do you have advice for some others who may be in that situation where maybe their parents raised them, kind of with this adoption narrative of being grateful and not being able to adoptees not being able to also acknowledge the

Midnite Townsend ([01:08:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=QGOCgQkAdxBESE0S410pDcgbAQcCaMOYz0mKksVPuBz4zxeORPMbZkp6P_stCzGCpABPI168zIsCVSyqbW5thJCgS3M&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4094.78)):

Loss in adoption. Yeah. Uh, <laugh>, um, I mean, we went through a lot of struggle. Um, we definitely went through a time where I just had to, I had to step away from the relationship for a while, and I know, I don't think she understood why. Um, I definitely know my adoptive family didn't understand why I, I feel like I was really misunderstood. I, I mean, I've felt misunderstood my whole life though, in my adoptive family. But especially then, um, I felt very demonn, very punished, I guess demonized, um, for taking space from my adoptive family and my mom. Um, but that's what I needed to do at the time. And I think for me, there were patterns in our relationship of that, like having me feeling like I had to play this role or to serve in this way, and I wasn't able to shift those patterns while staying in connection and taking some distance for me helped me.

([01:09:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Uc0K1ZvG3DQh2sdBY-k9HPBhzp0817xcba56e34MopLFshPo47Qbn8ZyLTBC-PphmqTHj5R_Jfyp1j2HZAq45LZk7PM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4174.85)):

Um, when I then started to reconnect with my mom and my family, I could do it maybe from like a newer place of, of starting new patterns or trying to, uh, approach and be in the relationship more authentically to myself because I never felt that authentic to myself. Um, at least for, uh, for a good while there as an adult when I would go into relation, uh, with my family a lot of times. So that, that was, I mean, that was helpful for me. And then my mom, um, I think knowing that I was going to reach out to my birth family and my first family, and I think she kind of realized too, like, I have a choice. I can either get on board with this and stay in connection or not be on board and possibly lose, lose 'em forever. So I am, I feel fortunate that she at least has enough capacity to be like, all right, this scares me and I don't like the way it feels, but I'm gonna try and be on board with this.

([01:10:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=4IZOzL6JIUVYWy8HC_xakrT5zgsYl23po_yYWtT1aS5oMPv24kdKwkVK0k70poREUQdBKpjMaRkzk8o-VxKxRy04CAw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4256.33)):

Um, and then, yeah, just, I'm constant therapy. Honestly, I don't know how I could have gotten through a lot of this without therapy cuz just the, the self-awareness, just bringing to light, um, all of the things that I was doing that and all the things I felt that just felt normal. That just felt like it was the way that it was, it always had to be. And then questioning that, and again, gaining some agency around you have a choice if you wanna keep it that way or if you wanna shift it to a different thing. And, um, and then I would say most recently having covid, all the stuff that happened during Covid, so George Floyd and the all of the anti-Asian talk and attacks helped open my mom's eyes and in some weird way, um, brought us closer because a lot of the fear, a lot of the racism, a lot of the oppression that I felt, that I felt like I always had to try and explain to her, or I had to defend or, you know, or got minimized by family or by society, by culture.

([01:12:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=MT6DktR0VjekGVVKRZBg5xJfyabo6tHFnBJLIgkBBkWq3Z-fALl1k0Obmpy2o5ZUd9A6iErDerlz_x_tLWifn-l8CN8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4333.8)):

Finally there was like proof she couldn't deny. And it made her kind of be like, oh, damn, okay. I, yeah, I didn't think this was happening. And it is happening. And to her credit, she has done, she's also in therapy and she, um, has been doing more of her work around anti-racism and trying to learn new things and gain new perspectives. And that has been probably the, the biggest shift I have felt in recent years of like, now I am able to talk to her about these things and I am able to show up more authentically as myself and not have to just constantly explain <laugh>, explain myself or defend myself. I can just be myself and she has a level of understanding where she can meet me where I am and we can talk from that place.

Adapted Podcast ([01:13:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=PTq38fLbziJNT_WZkrmuEcN8aHXNYMO19lfY8aCSt6CyoZTPjRPMPDEV0VmiPsyRmMqEn2sYx34sFzwftzA-Y3-kpXE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4386.69)):

I mean, that's incredible because so many of us who have difficult relationships with our adoptive families, a lot of it is we have aging parents and the just this acceptance that they're not going to seek the therapy that they, that's required, you know, that's needed. And so the fact that your mother through it all has recognized that she needed to grow too, that's incredible. Um, also incredible that both families have ultimately chosen you, you know, chosen. Um, they could have let you go at various, you know, times, but they, they, they both chose you and how, I guess, and you've also chosen them.

Midnite Townsend ([01:14:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=StYFS8DVETWfFbXftz61pu37qcPOULptnWBuX52gfBhis5ImjVUtWc7_xY2UMiWRFPhiIxbXNqScjaAsSBo04-oTNfM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4440.63)):

Yeah. Yeah. I, yeah, I do feel really again, um, I do feel grateful in that way. I do feel grateful that I think I have been allowed more space and that I have cultivated more, demanded even more space to be had in these relationships in order for me to show up. Um, it's not everyone in my family <laugh>, it's not everyone in my circles, but it is with my mom, and that's the most important one to me. And, um, uh, yeah, I mean, I think that I, it's, I think there is so much fear around like, pushing back and I, I wouldn't even be like standing up for myself, but just taking up space. There is so much fear around my needs, taking up space that I think I thought it would like cr crumble the other person or the other person would leave me or abandon me or like, I would be too much for the other person and they would collapse.

([01:15:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=XsgvpfLA-z1Yikd8ADOq9ew-WzA4SED0uJGQCq23M-5TGgHQxI4nEvSyMOm8fh_9S-kfPOCqMxWoSqOuRlVgHzkCBWs&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4506.4)):

And, um, I guess people are more resilient than <laugh>. At least the people that, that I have in my life are more resilient than maybe I, um, I had feared previously and yeah, when, when the need was there, um, though not gracefully and not perfectly, you know, we figured out a way where I could take up more space and have my needs met more. Um, and I, I, yeah, I feel really fortunate, especially with my mom. Uh, I, I wonder, you know, if if my dad were still around, he, he was more conservative. He was more a little more rigid. Um, I don't know. I don't know how it would've been, but, uh, I feel fortunate the way that it's played out now and can see the, the flexibility that we both now give each other, um, is is pretty beautiful and I think is all we can do <laugh> at this point.

Adapted Podcast ([01:16:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=HRspJz6tQU1bnuELe8IpxL0xXrhkbiypNYgvT1zULL0pQHMW3pcuXkL7evi6IkwogXE0lAK-JVTdThSQIUhoBaF_6xM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4563.91)):

Well, MIdnite, thank you so much. Um, how can people follow you, support you, um, reach out to you?

Midnite Townsend ([01:16:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=sCh0OM-dfGkcTtAUgbGLo6sijr9PcJ4msJ2kqjOHomJ9gPT7gIeVJo68MJvP6ywefbiZywoGxJpj9rM9r_ON4pgN1YM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4570.75)):

Yes, you can, uh, find me on social media. Move with MIdnite is most of my handles. Uh, MIdnite is spelled m i d n i t e. Just to confuse you, <laugh>, but move with MIdnite, also MIdnite. There's not a lot of MIdnites on social media, so you, you might be able to just find me by searching that and yeah, please come, come to Khan. Also, Khan is not just for Korean adoptees, they've really opened it up to um, a lot of other intercountry adoptees, which I've loved so, and allies. We need more allies and we need more non-ad adopted folks too to get interested in our, in what's going on in our lives. Because, you know, you're, you're, you may be in our lives, but um, especially those like partners and parents and friends and we need people outside of the adoptee community to care about what's happening with us. Cuz what's so misunderstood in our stories, don't get out there. Um, unless we have amazing people like you trying to <laugh> and like you try trying to do something, trying to get, get it out there and um, have our voices be heard. So more allyship in that.

Adapted Podcast ([01:17:36](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Sik94r7ksBz1d3Brqv0eYoTHJFPNcNCGzka-Q8iXE8t1I26wEjv1rqbzZjfd5S0ZPAwQc9p7UkrTkO3Yqe19mm1rKM0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4656.65)):

Thank you. MIdnite. Thanks. Also goes to Jae Jin for our theme music. For more go to jay gin music.com. I wanna shout out our patron supporters and especially one Korean American adoptive parent who stepped up and gave a large one-time contribution recently. It's really mind blowing the reach this podcast has had, and I'm really full of gratitude for not only the support, but to parents who are doing the work to learn from adult adopted people. Until next time, take care.

([01:17:36](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=57xplYQglshjbQNVsGz1eU1QUT6ZvKo8tcXpTBltwONPMeVLQ-OHV7iVMsRDiaOTAz3TlkRcvGZtObzS5v1sjXg05F0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4656.65)):

clip from performance ([01:18:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=8xrQZocE937X09pGO_4m6ZFGBjl4827QcApzChWlezuEQzJKu0ymPW1pvSX1o8nMPpc0RD-cSDCVDHLHWcJVa5p-P2Q&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4721.21)):

Mama thinks I'm living in a convent, a secluded little convent in the southern part of frogs. Mama doesn't even have an inkling that I am working in a nightclub in a pair of Lacey pants. So please, sir, if you run into my mama, don't reveal my indiscretion. Give a walking. Don't tell mama shop. Don't tell mama don't tell Mama whatever you do. If you had a secret, you bet I would keep it. I.