

**Interview Records of Lizzy Ray
Completed for the Black Lives Matter Oral History
Project**



**Lizzy Ray was interviewed By Kaila Seger
10/28/2023**

Website:

www.blmohp.sewanee.edu

Contact information:

blmohp@gmail.com

Prepared by Andrew Quinonez

Table of Contents

Abstract	3-4
Field Notes	5-6
Transcription	7-48

Abstract- Lizzy Ray

Narrator: Lizzy Ray

Interviewer: Kaila Seger

Interview Date: October 28th, 2023

Location: Sewanee, Tennessee

Length: Approximately thirty-five minutes

Lizzy Ray was born in 2004 in Durham, North Carolina. She moved around a few times while growing up and currently lives in Asheville, North Carolina. The interview starts with a discussion of Lizzy's various places of residence throughout her life and her experiences with her community as well as where she has traveled before. She describes how her travel all over the U.S has gotten her involved and interested in different art cultures from all over the world. She later discussed how she gets her news sources from primarily center or left leaning sources, but reads or watches most news sources to see what people on each side has to say about current events or issues as well. She describes the impact and importance of social media had on how she received word of the Black Lives Matter Movement and how it aided her community to organize and act. She discusses how the Black Lives Matter has changed the way that she interacts with some people in the sense of correcting racist remarks and changing how she interacts with White men in power.

Lizzy speaks on how the Black Lives Matter Movement has succeeded by getting people's voices out there, raising awareness to modern day issues, and being a way that many young people have gained their voices through. She then touches on how every movement has its

failures, discussing violent outbreaks that happened during some of the Black Lives Matter Movement protests that many news media outlets obsess over and highlight. She does note that she wishes that the Black Lives Matter Movement does not need a future because she hopes that we can solve the issues that the Movement is aiming to remedy. She finishes the interview with a few more remarks about the importance of social media for the Black Lives Matter Movement, specifically the use of phone cameras paired with the ability to upload those pictures and videos to social media sites.

Field Notes- Lizzy Ray

Narrator: Lizzy Ray

Interviewer: Kaila Seger

Date interview occurred: October 28th, 2023

Location: ATC Study Room C in the basement of Jessie Ball Dupont Library, Sewanee, Tennessee.

Narrator: Lizzy Ray is a student at Sewanee, The University of the South currently in her Sophomore year. Born on May 21st, 2004 in Durham, North Carolina she has since lived in many cities throughout North Carolina, but currently resides in Asheville, North Carolina. She is a History major interested in specifically the history of art.

Interviewer: Kaila Seger is a student at Sewanee, The University of the South currently in her Junior year. She is working towards completing her final project in her class 'Black Power to Black Lives Matter' aimed towards documenting oral histories concerning the Black Lives

Matter Movement. She is a History major interested in Women's history and history's portrayal in popular media, minoring in Woman and Gender Studies.

Description of the Interview: This interview was conducted in the ATC study room C in the basement of the Jessie Ball Dupont Library located on Sewanee's campus. There were no major interruptions throughout the interview. However, sounds of chairs creaking, clothes rustling, and clinking or clacking sounds of water bottles being picked up or put down. A TV is visible through the window of the study room cycling through various pieces of important news stories or important information for Sewanee students. The interview lasted approximately 35 minutes, and despite the short interview duration, it still went deep into the topics discussed. Lizzy was a wonderful interviewee and offered up answers willingly and without hesitation.

Note on Recording: The interview is broken into two separate videos due to the camcorder recording chopping the interview into two downloadable files. There is no lost footage even though the video is broken into two files.

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Lizzy Ray ([00:02](#)):

Yep. There's a little red dot.

Kaila Seger ([00:03](#)):

We are recording.

([00:07](#)):

You got to sync that sound man.

([00:10](#)):

You got to sync the sound. I promise. I know what I'm doing

Lizzy Ray ([00:16](#)):

More than me. I never did any of this stuff.

Kaila Seger ([00:18](#)):

Alright. What is- what is everything? Alright, so this is Kaila Seger from Sewanee, the University of the South. It is October the 28th. 2023. It is a Saturday, uh, and I am with

Lizzy Ray ([00:38](#)):

Lizzy Ray. Um, does it say where I'm supposed to say I'm from?

Kaila Seger ([00:41](#)):

Yeah,

Lizzy Ray ([00:42](#)):

I'm also in Sewanee, Tennessee right now.

Kaila Seger ([00:44](#)):

Woo. Right. So thank you Lizzy for being here with me today.

Lizzy Ray ([00:50](#)):

Of course.

Kaila Seger ([00:52](#)):

Let's go ahead and start into some general questions and everything. Uhm Let's go ahead and start off with where are you originally from?

Lizzy Ray ([01:03](#)):

Okay, well that's actually a broad question. Um I moved around quite a lot, but um I was originally born in Durham, North Carolina.

Kaila Seger ([01:11](#)):

Mmhmm.

Page 1 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Lizzy Ray ([01:13](#)):

And then I moved to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Then I moved to Asheville, North Carolina.

Kaila Seger ([01:19](#)):

Ok.

Lizzy Ray ([01:21](#)):

And then I partially lived in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, tiny little town. The main um main company there is a chicken farm,

Kaila Seger ([01:30](#)):

Ooh!

Lizzy Ray ([01:30](#)):

Um but I only live there on the weekends and um. Yeah. Um but now I'm full-time, Asheville citizen, and but then live here, so.

Kaila Seger ([01:45](#)):

Nice. So jumping around a lot. Yo- have you been everywhere in North Carolina?

Lizzy Ray ([01:52](#)):

I would say yes, um, during the summer I do live on the coast of North Carolina.

Kaila Seger ([01:56](#)):

Oh my god.

Lizzy Ray ([01:57](#)):

In a tiny little town called Arapahoe. So um yes, I kind of have been all over the state of North Carolina.

Kaila Seger ([02:03](#)):

You just, you live in North Carolina, at this point.

Lizzy Ray ([02:04](#)):

Yeah, I'm North Carolinian

Kaila Seger ([02:06](#)):

In general. Alright, so what traveling have you done?

Lizzy Ray ([02:18](#)):

I like to brag that I've been all over the country. Um, Alaska and Hawaii are two that I've not yet been to,

Kaila Seger ([02:26](#)):

Mmhm

Page 2 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Lizzy Ray ([02:27](#)):

for states, but I've been up and down the East coast, not yet to Maine,

Kaila Seger ([02:31](#)):

Mm

Lizzy Ray ([02:32](#)):

But

([02:32](#)):

All that stuff. So I've been all over the country and I've kind of seen a bunch of different cultures around the country. I've mainly stayed towards the East coast um

Kaila Seger ([02:40](#)):

Mmhm

Lizzy Ray ([02:42](#)):

pre covid. I did go to Toronto, Canada,

Kaila Seger ([02:45](#)):

Mmhm

Lizzy Ray ([02:45](#)):

Um but that's all out of the country that I've ever done.

Kaila Seger ([02:51](#)):

So just mostly within the.. the lower 48.

Lizzy Ray ([02:55](#)):

Yeah,

Kaila Seger ([02:55](#)):

I think is what its called

Lizzy Ray ([02:55](#)):

I think that's what its called, but I don't know.

Kaila Seger ([02:57](#)):

Y'know it's it's called something like that. Alright, um so then how have you experienced international cultures in your life? You said that you've only been to Toronto, but I would imagine traveling the entire US you kind of get a taste of some international cultures as well.

Lizzy Ray ([03:15](#)):

Page 3 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Yeah, um so I spend about like a week or so in New York every year.

Kaila Seger ([03:23](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([03:23](#)):

I mainly go for the museums,

Kaila Seger ([03:24](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([03:26](#)):

also the food um because, well mainly it's hard to find really good um Asian food and Asheville, North Carolina. So it's a great perk of New York. Um but I really involve getting- I really love getting involved in the whole art culture of different cultures around the world.

Kaila Seger ([03:46](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([03:48](#)):

([03:48](#)):

I've done a lot of studies on the different forms of art that are from around the world,

Kaila Seger ([03:53](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([03:54](#)):

so I find that really interesting. That's like my whole thing with history

Kaila Seger ([03:57](#)):

Mm

Lizzy Ray ([03:57](#)):

is with art and how it's kind of been influenced

Kaila Seger ([04:00](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([04:01](#)):

by different cultures. And so um at the Met in January they had, um, they had the tutor um

Kaila Seger ([04:12](#)):

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23) Page 4 of 36

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Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([04:12](#)):

exhibit. It was one of their short-term exhibits that they were renting out from England. And I found it really interesting how posed and all this stuff was. And then they also had a um, I don't remember what the title of this exhibit was, but it was a lot of Asian paintings

Kaila Seger ([04:29](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([04:29](#)):

and I can't remember what exact regions of China they were from, but it was such different works of art and you could tell like what these histories are and what's most important to them when they are doing this art. It's more nature, it's more like beauty in the world. It's not just a ss- white human

Kaila Seger ([04:50](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([04:51](#)):

sitting there and posing for a painting

Kaila Seger ([04:53](#)):

Just- there.

Lizzy Ray ([04:54](#)):

Yeah.

Kaila Seger ([04:55](#)):

So then um what's your major? What's your intended major?

Lizzy Ray ([04:59](#)):

Um I'm a history major.

Kaila Seger ([05:00](#)):

Let's go!

Lizzy Ray ([05:01](#)):

Yeah,

([05:03](#)):

Um we love the history department at Sewanee.

Kaila Seger ([05:05](#)):

For real.

Page 5 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Lizzy Ray ([05:07](#)):

Um yeah, if I could do um like a certain subsection of history, it'd probably be like Middle Eastern studies

Kaila Seger ([05:15](#)):

Ok

Lizzy Ray ([05:17](#)):

or art history,

Kaila Seger ([05:19](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([05:19](#)):

but uh yeah, so

Kaila Seger ([05:25](#)):

Nice, alright umm, so then what's your favorite type of food? You mentioned Asian food in New York. Is that your favorite or?

Lizzy Ray ([05:37](#)):

I love a good soft pretzel.

Kaila Seger ([05:39](#)):

Oh, okay.

Lizzy Ray ([05:40](#)):

Not too much salt. Some nice spicy mustard on the side,

Kaila Seger ([05:43](#)):

Oh!

Lizzy Ray ([05:45](#)):

but I do love Indian food.

Kaila Seger ([05:47](#)):

Oh, okay, okay.

Lizzy Ray ([05:49](#)):

Always good.

Kaila Seger ([05:50](#)):

So it's so hard to choose. It really is.

Page 6 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Lizzy Ray ([05:52](#)):

Yeah. I'll eat anything though so,

Kaila Seger (05:55):

Fair. Um, let's go ahead and do one last one in our- in our general category and do uh where do you find community?

Lizzy Ray (06:11):

Um, that's actually a great question um. I grew up in the Episcopal church um all over North Carolina obviously, um and I feel like that's where a bunch of my community has come from. Um my mom works well, not works, she kind of volunteers. She's the senior warden of Trinity Episcopal Church

Kaila Seger (06:28):

Ooh

Lizzy Ray (06:28):

in Asheville um, so everybody there kind of knows her and then I'm just the mini version of her, (06:36):

So

(06:39):

Um its just- they kind of helped raise me um two special women at Trinity very much helped raise me. Um I would say. I also work at a summer camp

Kaila Seger (06:51):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray (06:51):

that I've been going to since I was six. And all of my best friends are there and it's the best community ever. Um whenever you're feeling a little homesick, you call them, even though they live all over the country.

Kaila Seger (07:07):

yeah

Lizzy Ray (07:07):

I've also got one in Scotland, so completely different time zones, so it's really hard to catch up. But yeah, kind of community is built around just big groups of people

Kaila Seger (07:19):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray (07:20):

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Just

[\(07:20\)](#):

Kind of hanging out together.

Kaila Seger [\(07:24\)](#):

Nice. All right, so then let's go ahead and jump into the big meat of it, the thing that makes everyone anxious.

Lizzy Ray [\(07:31\)](#):

Beautiful.

Kaila Seger [\(07:34\)](#):

And let's go ahead and start off with how do you receive the news?

Lizzy Ray [\(07:41\)](#):

Well, all my friends tell me not to read the news. Cause I will overthink it, but y'know that's our generation kind of.

Kaila Seger [\(07:48\)](#):

Yeah,

Lizzy Ray [\(07:51\)](#):

Um I kind of just scroll through Apple News a lot and whatever I come upon, I will read anything that's on there.

Kaila Seger [\(07:59\)](#):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray [\(07:59\)](#):

Like I want all viewpoints. Now I don't like Fox News or any of this, but sometimes it's just some good entertainment

Kaila Seger [\(08:06\)](#):

Yeah.

Lizzy Ray [\(08:08\)](#):

and it'll get you this other viewpoint that you're like, this is absolutely bonkers, but I want to know why these people feel this way.

Kaila Seger ([08:15](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([08:16](#)):

Page 8 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Why

([08:16](#)):

Do they think this way?

Kaila Seger ([08:17](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([08:18](#)):

It's

([08:18](#)):

Absolutely crazy. I mean obviously they don't think they're crazy, but in my mind um I mainly um will read CNN, NBC, BBC, all that stuff. Um yeah, mainly more left leaning middle ground,

Kaila Seger ([08:39](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([08:39](#)):

news sources. Obviously they all have bias, but I try to go for the ones with the least amount of bias.

Kaila Seger ([08:46](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([08:46](#)):

Um in high school, my teacher found this really cool um document that showed all of the um news sources on kind of a chart to show bias and all that stuff. And so sometimes I'll like peek into a Fox News article and be like, wow, that's an interesting viewpoint. And then I'll go back to my CNN

Kaila Seger ([09:07](#)):

Uh huh

Lizzy Ray ([09:07](#)):

and be like, oh nice

Kaila Seger ([09:10](#)):

I'm safe. Alright, so then what is your experience with social media?

Lizzy Ray ([09:17](#)):

Well, um I have Instagram,

Kaila Seger ([09:19](#)):

Mhmm

Page 9 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Lizzy Ray ([09:20](#)):

Snapchat.

([09:21](#)):

I have TikTok currently. My TikTok is a mix of Palestinian Israeli conflict and funny baby videos.

Kaila Seger ([09:27](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([09:27](#)):

So y'know good mix. Um and um I would say um, I don't know, social media seems very toxic. I remember in middle school it was very toxic.

Kaila Seger ([09:44](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([09:44](#)):

And

([09:45](#)):

Same with high school. Now that we're all kind of grownups,

Kaila Seger ([09:48](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([09:48](#)):

it seems less like that now.

Kaila Seger ([09:51](#)):

Mhmm.

Lizzy Ray ([09:51](#)):

Um there are still people that wil- are like keyboard junkies on there and will just literally be terrible people on social media

Kaila Seger ([10:01](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([10:01](#)):

and that's not really what I'm there for. I'm just kind of there for entertainment.

Kaila Seger ([10:08](#)):

Yeah

Page 10 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Lizzy Ray ([10:08](#)):

But at the same time, it's good seeing other people's viewpoints

([10:12](#)):

On,

([10:12](#)):

Especially TikTok. A lot of people have like are giving a lot of their information on TikTok nowadays.

Kaila Seger ([10:17](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([10:17](#)):

Like they also have reputable news sources and like they will actually cite their sources,

Kaila Seger ([10:22](#)):

Yeah!

Lizzy Ray ([10:23](#)):

Which

([10:24](#)):

I find is absolutely hilarious and amazing.

Kaila Seger ([10:26](#)):

Oh, I love it. I love it every time.

Lizzy Ray ([10:27](#)):

Yeah but no, so it's good to find out like different viewpoints from TikTok and like especially when you see all the stitches which have to do with like the Palestinian Israeli conflict. You see these people that are very much like, if you were doing this, you're antisemitic. And then people are like stitching that and are like, let's go to the term semetic, let's

Kaila Seger ([10:49](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([10:49](#)):

go. And- and then they deep dive. And I find that so intriguing that they feel the need to do this, which

Kaila Seger ([10:55](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([10:55](#)):

is awesome because some people don't read the news.

Page 11 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Kaila Seger ([10:59](#)):

Yeah.

Lizzy Ray ([10:59](#)):

And so this is their one source. Um yeah, I had Twitter for a little bit now

([11:05](#)):

X

([11:08](#)):

Um I got it for a project last semester

Kaila Seger ([11:09](#)):

Oh!

Lizzy Ray ([11:10](#)):

On

([11:10](#)):

Social media.

Kaila Seger ([11:11](#)):

Mhmm.

Lizzy Ray ([11:11](#)):

Um have not used it since.

Kaila Seger ([11:15](#)):

That's fair.

Lizzy Ray ([11:16](#)):

Um it wasn't really intriguing to me as much as the y'know moving pictures on TikTok and Instagram.

Kaila Seger ([11:24](#)):

So then do you- do you like to, I guess, participate in social media or more of just kind of like y'know you lurk, you scroll, do you like post a lot on Snapchat or Instagram, stuff like that?

Lizzy Ray ([11:37](#)):

On Instagram, it's the occasional y'know like cute little posts. Um TikTok, not really, I just scroll

Kaila Seger ([11:43](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([11:43](#)):

Page 12 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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and I like um scrolling through and seeing other people's opinions and obviously looking through the comments and seeing what people are saying on those in response to those videos. Um sometimes I'll comment on those and insert a source

Kaila Seger ([11:57](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([11:58](#)):

And

([11:58](#)):

I'll be like, let's read this before you comment again, please. Um there's something on Instagram like that too um. Somebody said something extremely racist

Kaila Seger ([12:08](#)):

Oh

Lizzy Ray ([12:08](#)):

and I was like, oh, let's- let's not do that. Let's research what we say.

Kaila Seger ([12:13](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([12:13](#)):

Think about it first. And then you can type whatever you want, but as long as you're knowledgeable first,

Kaila Seger ([12:19](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([12:19](#)):

go for it.

Kaila Seger ([12:24](#)):

As- as long as you have some knowledge base

Lizzy Ray ([12:25](#)):

Of what you were saying

Kaila Seger ([12:26](#)):

Y'know

Lizzy Ray ([12:26](#)):

and all that stuff. So yeah, sometimes that's my main thing on social media. I'll add to comments. I'll be like, this is a source that was given to me by a person who has studied this sort of topic.

Page 13 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Kaila Seger ([12:39](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([12:39](#)):

Read it.

Kaila Seger ([12:41](#)):

Yeah, do it please.

Lizzy Ray ([12:46](#)):

Yeah

Kaila Seger ([12:48](#)):

Alright, so then what is your opinion of the Black Lives Matter movement?

Lizzy Ray ([12:54](#)):

I think it- I mean, it's kind of been a died down movement since y'know Covid kind of leaked out. Sorry,

Kaila Seger ([13:06](#)):

You're good

Lizzy Ray ([13:06](#)):

you still see it in the news and all that stuff, but mainly you see current events occurring when it was occurring though I do remember we were in the middle of Covid.

Kaila Seger ([13:16](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([13:17](#)):

I

([13:17](#)):

Remember I was a sophomore in high school when all of this went down, especially with George Floyd.

Kaila Seger ([13:22](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([13:22](#)):

It was right as we entered like the lockdown sort of thing. And I remember all of my friends and I seeing it on social media and YouTube and then reposting it.

Kaila Seger ([13:33](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Lizzy Ray ([13:33](#)):

And it was just a terrifying thing for little 15 year old me to see because I'd never experienced anything like that.

Kaila Seger ([13:41](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([13:41](#)):

I'm an upper middle class white person, and so I was never going to like experience any hatred like that.

Kaila Seger ([13:52](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([13:52](#)):

And I never actually put into mind that my friends at school were going through that sort of thing.

Kaila Seger ([13:57](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([13:57](#)):

But, so it was kind of like a mind boggling thing. And especially when this happened, um North Carolina was going through a thing where teachers weren't supposed to teach um. What's the race thing um?

Kaila Seger ([14:13](#)):

Critical race theory?

Lizzy Ray ([14:14](#)):

Critical race theory. Thank you. And my English teacher who I had sophomore and senior year was like, y'all can report me. I don't give a single flying fuck.

Kaila Seger ([14:25](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([14:25](#)):

I'm going to teach it. And I'm like, this is fantastic. I also loved reading um books by Black- powerful Black women, some of my favorite books ever. Why the Caged Bird Sings The Color Purple, all that stuff.

Kaila Seger ([14:37](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([14:37](#)):

But for Black Lives Matter, um I think it was great. I think, I think it is great. I think there are sides of it that the news decided was going to be negative.

Page 15 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Kaila Seger ([14:56](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([14:56](#)):

And of course there's every movement, they try to nickpick- nitpick what is slightly wrong or what one person in that movement did.

Kaila Seger ([15:07](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([15:07](#)):

And so that kind of forms a lot of people's opinions, cause that's what they read in those certain news articles. But for Black Lives Matter, it was mainly um shaped by my high school being a mainly minority um high school.

Kaila Seger ([15:25](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([15:25](#)):

Um and we had multiple walkouts, Black Lives Matter, and my teachers felt very um- were very into teaching us about that history. Cause a lot of my Black classmates also did not know a lot of that cause it was not part of our curriculum,

Kaila Seger ([15:41](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([15:41](#)):

did not know a lot about Black Power, did not know. We knew the basics of the civil rights movement, y'know

Kaila Seger ([15:47](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([15:47](#)):

what it's taught in every school. But we went into more depth when in like 2019, 2020

Kaila Seger ([15:54](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([15:56](#)):

As

([15:57](#)):

Page 16 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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All of this started stuff started coming about. And so I feel like that really influenced my mind and yeah I think it's a great thing and all that stuff.

Kaila Seger ([16:12](#)):

Great. So then let's see. How has the Black Lives Matter movement impacted your life? You started already touch on this, but

Lizzy Ray ([16:19](#)):

Yeah, um I learned more in my history classes and in my English classes.

Kaila Seger ([16:23](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([16:23](#)):

They touched on that way more than was in the actual curriculum, which was very helpful cause that was a new path of learning for me. Um some of my best friends in high school organized um our walkouts. I can speak. Um organized our walkouts in the middle of the school day. We would walk to downtown Asheville. I'd just sit there.

Kaila Seger ([16:50](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([16:50](#)):

Um there was also the Vance Monument in downtown Asheville. Um it's based off of a previous, he's of course dead now, but um he was a slave owner,

(17:04):

Very

(17:04):

Rich white man in Asheville, North Carolina. And my elementary school was actually named after him.

Kaila Seger (17:09):

Oh?

Lizzy Ray (17:09):

Um and we would sit around um the monument and just kind of be like, why is this still here? Why are we like giving a memorial to this terrible guy

Kaila Seger (17:24):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray (17:24):

who was a racist jerk?

Page 17 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Kaila Seger (17:25):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray (17:28):

And I mean, now it's not there. So it's great.

Kaila Seger (17:33):

Yeah.

Lizzy Ray (17:33):

A bunch of people have put up art sculptures and stuff like that.

Kaila Seger (17:35):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray (17:35):

They also renamed um my elementary school.

Kaila Seger ([17:39](#)):

Oh, that's good.

Lizzy Ray ([17:39](#)):

So a win. Um but no, I think it's just kind of the learning aspect is what influenced my life. Like a lot of it wasn't taught in schools, especially in the North Carolina um school districts, public school districts. Um I've recently learned it was all over the state that like Black power wasn't really taught

Kaila Seger ([18:01](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([18:02](#)):

And

([18:03](#)):

Just- just the top surface level of the civil rights movement was taught. So I found it very interesting that when all this was happening, they were able to teach us all of this more depth

Kaila Seger ([18:13](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([18:14](#)):

And

([18:14](#)):

All that stuff.

Page 18 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

Kaila Seger ([18:23](#)):

Alright, so then let's go ahead and do, how does the Black Lives Matter movement changed how you interact with people of other races, if it has at all?

Lizzy Ray ([18:33](#)):

I don't think it has made like how I interact with the people of other races. I think maybe it's different political parties if they make

Kaila Seger ([18:41](#)):

Ok

Lizzy Ray ([18:41](#)):

that known,

Kaila Seger ([18:42](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([18:42](#)):

because I've always grown up in a very like open and very loving community.

Kaila Seger ([18:51](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([18:51](#)):

And yeah, but when this all came about and you were reading the news and all this stuff and then you saw all these racist people voicing their hateful opinions,

Kaila Seger ([19:04](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([19:05](#)):

You're

([19:05](#)):

Like, how can somebody have this much hate in their world? How much hate in their heart? Like seriously.

Kaila Seger ([19:11](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([19:12](#)):

It

([19:12](#)):

Page 19 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

Just seems like pure evil. And I- in my mind there's no such thing as a pure evil human.

Kaila Seger ([19:17](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([19:17](#)):

People are made that way. They're not born that way. It's a nature verches-vers- versus nurture thing. Ah, good Lord. It's still too early for me.

Kaila Seger ([19:27](#)):

I know.

Lizzy Ray ([19:30](#)):

But no um, I think it's mainly changed how I interact with white men in the government.

Kaila Seger ([19:42](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([19:42](#)):

Like my view on them, especially with the new stuff that we're seeing with the um Speaker of the House,

Kaila Seger ([19:49](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([19:49](#)):

freaking one up mm. Um I got some anger words, um but um no, I think it do- has not changed how I interact with people of other races. Just maybe people of different um political parties

Kaila Seger ([20:04](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([20:05](#)):

And

([20:05](#)):

How they voice their opinions in that political parties, because majority of my family is from Alabama

Kaila Seger ([20:12](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([20:12](#)):

and the South, they're all slightly conservative, more some more than others.

Kaila Seger ([20:19](#)):

Page 20 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

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Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([20:19](#)):

Um and I've had to like correct some things that they have said in the past, some things that were y'know slightly racist.

Kaila Seger ([20:26](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([20:26](#)):

Y'know like it's just, you're old

([20:30](#)):

I know, I know you're set in your ways.

Kaila Seger ([20:32](#)):

Uh huh

Lizzy Ray ([20:32](#)):

But

([20:33](#)):

No. Um and so that's how I like- it's kind of ho- changed how I interact with my own family members too,

Kaila Seger ([20:42](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([20:42](#)):

because I'm like, let's educate ourselves first, but please, I know this is how you were raised. You were raised in the deep South during um race- racial disparity and all of this stuff. You are a rich white family

Kaila Seger ([20:58](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([20:58](#)):

who lived in the south.

Kaila Seger ([21:01](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([21:02](#)):

And

[\(21:04\)](#):

Page 21 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

And so obviously they're set in their ways, but I want to make sure before they make any rash choices with their words,

Kaila Seger [\(21:14\)](#):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray [\(21:14\)](#):

they do sort- they change their words and like research and y'know maybe evolving with the times just as everybody else is, but yeah.

Kaila Seger [\(21:27\)](#):

All right, so then you've kind of you've kind of touched on how both your family's a little bit more conservative, but the environment that you grew up in was a lot more open. So then what was your community's reaction to the Black Lives Matter movement?

Lizzy Ray [\(21:43\)](#):

I remember um having church every Sunday and because it was covid it was all online,

Kaila Seger [\(21:51\)](#):

Oh!

Lizzy Ray [\(21:51\)](#):

it was- and so my mom would put it on the TV through my YouTube

Kaila Seger [\(21:54\)](#):

Uh huh

Lizzy Ray [\(21:54\)](#):

and um would have us watch the church service um online. And I remember um the majority of what we talked about in church was loving everybody.

Kaila Seger [\(22:06\)](#):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray [\(22:07\)](#):

And

[\(22:08\)](#):

The sermons were all about the current political crises

Kaila Seger [\(22:11\)](#):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray [\(22:12\)](#):

Page 22 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

And

[\(22:13\)](#):

What was going on in the news. And um Scott, our pastor, would um touch on all of this stuff. And I found it really interesting how it can connect to y'know a 2000 year old book.

Kaila Seger [\(22:27\)](#):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray [\(22:27\)](#):

Um now, I don't count the Bible as actual history. It is an interesting book, but I don't feel like we should base our current lives off of a 2000 year old book, because that was 2000 years ago. Um so we got to evolve with the time Babe.

Kaila Seger [\(22:45\)](#):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray [\(22:45\)](#):

But um no, my communitiy- community's reaction, we pla- had many walks um and marches. My church organized. Um I talked about my community at um the camp that I work at and that I was a member that I've been going to since I was six. Um I don't remember much of that. Um I- there were the occasional y'know like Instagram posts and emails out to us being like, join us for this if you would like or donate to this org- organization

Kaila Seger [\(23:20\)](#):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray [\(23:20\)](#):

because we are giving away parts of our profits to the Black Lives Matter organization. That's all that I

remember about that one. Um... um so yeah, I remember my high school community really coming together and working well for it. My church community was very loving and open and they tried their best for what they could do.

Kaila Seger ([23:49](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([23:49](#)):

And um yeah, I think that's what my community kind of did.

Kaila Seger ([23:58](#)):

Alright,

([23:59](#)):

I, let's see, what else?

([24:10](#)):

Page 23 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

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How do you think the Black Lives Matter movement has succeeded?

Lizzy Ray ([24:15](#)):

I think it's succeeded by getting people's voices out in the world.

Kaila Seger ([24:18](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([24:18](#)):

Um I think it succeeded by bringing up these past atrocities. Like also bringing up what happened in Black power and civil rights movement

Kaila Seger ([24:32](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([24:32](#)):

That

([24:32](#)):

Wasn't necessarily addressed then because obviously history is repeating itself.

Kaila Seger ([24:36](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([24:36](#)):

And one of my favorite quotes is if you don't read history you're doomed to repeat it,

Kaila Seger ([24:42](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([24:42](#)):

don't know who said it, but it's a good quote.

Kaila Seger ([24:47](#)):

Someone did.

Lizzy Ray ([24:48](#)):

Yeah

Kaila Seger ([24:48](#)):

someone said it. I like it.

Lizzy Ray ([24:50](#)):

Page 24 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

I've reiterated multiple times, so y'know somebody's obviously said it, um but I think it's done a good job of bringing attention and giving like these new voices. You see all these growing people in our generations

Kaila Seger ([25:06](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([25:06](#)):

that have gained their voices from this Black Lives Matter movement where if this hadn't occurred,

Kaila Seger ([25:11](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([25:12](#)):

That

[\(25:12\):](#)

Probably would not have happened. So we've got a whole new generation of activists

Kaila Seger [\(25:16\):](#)

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray [\(25:16\):](#)

and it's beautiful, um some great things. The nonviolent protesting, bringing that back up again because there are protests that aren't violent.

Kaila Seger [\(25:28\):](#)

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray [\(25:28\):](#)

And by being nonviolent, they're able to get their voice across to those that are willing to hear them.

Kaila Seger [\(25:35\):](#)

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray [\(25:35\):](#)

And while a lot of the times the police did make them violent

Kaila Seger [\(25:39\):](#)

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray [\(25:39\):](#)

by y'know doing

Page 25 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

[\(25:44\):](#)

The stuff

[\(25:44\):](#)

Police do, um I think it was great and beautiful how people would take a stand

Kaila Seger [\(25:52\):](#)

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([25:52](#)):

and use their voices in a political and y'know just a human way

Kaila Seger ([25:58](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([25:58](#)):

to make themselves heard all across the world because you especially see during these protests, people in um the United Kingdom were doing them as well. And this also fueled um an imperialist uh uprising in United Kingdom. Because they know the United Kingdom was an imperial superpower,

Kaila Seger ([26:23](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([26:23](#)):

and when we were taking down all of the um Confederate statues here, they were taking down a bunch of imperialist white men statues over in the United Kingdom, which just the influence it had to be like,

Kaila Seger ([26:38](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([26:38](#)):

we are taking back our power too over there to y'know be like, damn, we really messed up Africa when we

Kaila Seger ([26:45](#)):

Uh huh

Lizzy Ray ([26:46](#)):

Took over.

Kaila Seger ([26:46](#)):

Yeah.

Lizzy Ray ([26:47](#)):

Page 26 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

Let's

([26:48](#)):

Not have memorials for these terrible white men

Kaila Seger ([26:51](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([26:51](#)):

who decided that these Africans were savage

Kaila Seger ([26:55](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([26:55](#)):

and did not deserve y'know to live their lives,

Kaila Seger ([27:01](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([27:01](#)):

which I found was really awesome. That's where like a lot of my research went to

Kaila Seger ([27:07](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([27:07](#)):

when I was reading all these ne- all the news during this time was going to like how it influenced these other countries. Cause then you also see a bunch of African countries like being like, this is awesome. We should also be proud of our heritage

Kaila Seger ([27:25](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([27:26](#)):

And

([27:26](#)):

All this stuff um and y'know get rid of the white society, the Western society, kind of out and go back.

Kaila Seger ([27:40](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([27:40](#)):

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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Um yeah so I think just- I think it was great how people were um using their voices to just, I don't know, just speak out

Kaila Seger ([27:51](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([27:51](#)):

and become these activists that ar- were needed and are needed, yeah.

Kaila Seger ([27:58](#)):

So then in that same vein, do you think that there are any like failures that the Black Lives- Black Lives Matter movement ended up having happened?

Lizzy Ray ([28:08](#)):

Every movement has its failures.

Kaila Seger ([28:09](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([28:09](#)):

Obviously there are the occasional y'know violent outbursts

Kaila Seger ([28:13](#)):

Hm

Lizzy Ray ([28:14](#)):

That

([28:15](#)):

Did occur and the news liked to target those

Kaila Seger ([28:19](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([28:19](#)):

because that's what some people would only see.

Kaila Seger ([28:21](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([28:21](#)):

They wouldn't see the whole peaceful march through a downtown city. They would see this one group of people getting violent or, I don't know, just not doing what the whole group was planning on doing,

Page 28 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

Kaila Seger ([28:45](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([28:45](#)):

um which I feel like is a negative towards that thing, but it's also something

Kaila Seger ([28:48](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([28:48](#)):

that happens in every single movement across the world.

Kaila Seger ([28:51](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([28:51](#)):

Um but yeah, no, I don't think ... I- I think that, I wish the movement didn't even have to happen.

Kaila Seger ([29:06](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([29:06](#)):

I wish that our generation was able to y'know be like, we're going to absolutely stop this. And there should always be equality between every single human. And so I think that was a great thing with this movement. But the only negatives were how the news probably reported it

Kaila Seger ([29:28](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([29:28](#)):

and all that stuff.

Kaila Seger ([29:30](#)):

So then what do you think the future of the Black Lives Matter movement is going to be?

Lizzy Ray ([29:38](#)):

Um I would love for it to not need a future, for it to stop right now and be like, we have solved.

Kaila Seger ([29:50](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([29:50](#)):

We have solved equality. Yay.

Page 29 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

Kaila Seger ([29:53](#)):

Woo!

Lizzy Ray ([29:53](#)):

Like lets, like seriously, we're all humans. We literally all have the same skeletons.

Kaila Seger ([30:00](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([30:01](#)):

Our

([30:01](#)):

Skin tones might be slightly different, but what the hell?

Kaila Seger ([30:06](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([30:07](#)):

We're

([30:07](#)):

Humans.

Kaila Seger ([30:08](#)):

Yeah.

Lizzy Ray ([30:08](#)):

We all have love in our hearts. We all have hatred in our hearts. It's all possible for us to have hatred in our hearts,

Kaila Seger ([30:16](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([30:16](#)):

but that's just evil. I ju- ok so I'm kind of an empath sort of human. Um and so I- I hate the word hate um usually I use the word heavily dislike. Um there's some people in this world I heavily dislike but um and there's some opinions in this world I heavily dislike. But I feel like if we were all able to love each other equally,

Kaila Seger ([30:46](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([30:47](#)):

Page 30 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

Which

([30:48](#)):

I know is a long stretch, because there are people that will not do that.

Kaila Seger ([30:52](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([30:52](#)):

There are always people that will not do that. But I feel like if we show this equality, there is hope for this movement to not ever have to exist again.

Kaila Seger ([31:06](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([31:06](#)):

Um and so that's kind of my hope for the whole thing. Another hope that I have is that all school districts will be able to teach the history of Black power

Kaila Seger ([31:17](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([31:17](#)):

and the Black Lives Matter movement as it ages,

Kaila Seger ([31:18](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([31:18](#)):

because I find it absolutely crazy that my schools as growing up only scratch the surface of civil rights movement.

Kaila Seger ([31:31](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([31:31](#)):

And when Black Lives Matter was happening, we were able to dive beneath the surface surface. But I find it absolutely crazy that that's just, you don't dive below there, just in general. Like it doesn't even just have to be during February like all the freaking time.

Kaila Seger ([31:50](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([31:50](#)):

Page 31 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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It's so like America was basically founded on slavery.

Kaila Seger ([31:56](#)):

Mhmm!

Lizzy Ray ([31:56](#)):

Let's get that straight.

Kaila Seger ([31:57](#)):

Mhmm!

Lizzy Ray ([31:58](#)):

It's

[\(31:58\)](#):

The biggest part of our history. America's a fairly new country, but this world has run on slavery since before the Roman Empire um ok? And I feel like it's so important that we address this

Kaila Seger [\(32:13\)](#):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray [\(32:14\)](#):

And

[\(32:15\)](#):

That we bring it to the attention of these young students so they can educate themselves and create their own opinions that aren't formed by necessarily their parents' opinions or the news' opinions

Kaila Seger [\(32:26\)](#):

Yep

Lizzy Ray [\(32:26\)](#):

or those around them so they can read and get the straight facts and form their own opinion so that we have a new generation of these kids that are brilliant and educated on social movements

Kaila Seger [\(32:40\)](#):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray [\(32:40\)](#):

and can be activists in their own ways. So that's kind of my hope for the whole thing. Um yeah, just kind of teach the kids,

Kaila Seger [\(32:52\)](#):

Teach them kids.

Page 32 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

Lizzy Ray [\(32:53\)](#):

Yeah.

Kaila Seger [\(32:55\)](#):

Alright, um are there any closing remarks that you want to make about the Black Lives Matter

movement? Anything else that you were thinking about that you just want to touch on, put out there into the void? Any of that?

Lizzy Ray ([33:09](#)):

Um going back to the whole social media thing,

Kaila Seger ([33:11](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([33:11](#)):

I do remember in 2014 when Trayvon Martin was like killed.

Kaila Seger ([33:16](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([33:16](#)):

I do remember that being a huge thing on social media.

Kaila Seger ([33:20](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([33:20](#)):

Um and then again, you see all these other deaths being a huge thing on social media. We- he brought it up in class, like, the whole cameras on phones and

Kaila Seger ([33:31](#)):

Uh huh

Lizzy Ray ([33:31](#)):

sort of thing, and how that changed um the way people were able to get their information

Kaila Seger ([33:37](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([33:37](#)):

and how people were able to see what was actually going on in their communities, which I found really interesting. Last class, give me some props, Dr. Maginn. Ummmm

Page 33 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

Kaila Seger ([33:47](#)):

Shout out Dr. Maginn.

Lizzy Ray ([33:53](#)):

Um and but no, I found that really interesting because I remember like just then, like, I think I was in, I don't remember 2014, I think I was in fifth grade, sixth grade,

Kaila Seger ([34:06](#)):

Oh God, I don't know

Lizzy Ray ([34:08](#)):

Y'know, that age. 10, 12, age,

Kaila Seger ([34:12](#)):

Uh huh

Lizzy Ray ([34:12](#)):

that range. Um and I just remember everybody was starting to get on social media. Everybody had

Kaila Seger ([34:18](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([34:18](#)):

YouTube around then.

Kaila Seger ([34:20](#)):

Yeah

Lizzy Ray ([34:20](#)):

We all had YouTube. So we all saw this actually go down.

Kaila Seger ([34:23](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([34:23](#)):

I remember one of my teachers like telling us, don't go on YouTube right now. Like I vividly remember this from either elementary or middle school, but I remember somebody telling us not to go on YouTube because there was so much, you could see the violence

Kaila Seger ([34:41](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([34:42](#)):

Page 34 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

On

([34:42](#)):

The screens. And we were such impress- like our minds were still young. And I just find that absolutely crazy, which I-I-I do applaud her for not letting me watch a man die on YouTube.

Kaila Seger ([34:58](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([34:58](#)):

Um but at the same time like, that's just so interesting that that was what was going on at the time. And then I remember in 2020 when George Floyd was me- murdered, everything going off on Instagram,

Kaila Seger ([35:15](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([35:15](#)):

TikTok wasn't as big of a thing then, but Instagram was crazy. I also I remember when everybody would post the black screens

Kaila Seger ([35:24](#)):

Mhmm!

Lizzy Ray ([35:25](#)):

For

([35:25](#)):

Hashtag Black Lives Matter. I vividly remember that day, um, vividly. Um little 15 year old Lizzy remembers that. Um but no, um just social media is such a huge thing after the deaths

Kaila Seger ([35:43](#)):

Mhmm

Lizzy Ray ([35:43](#)):

of all this stuff. And so yeah, that's kinda, kinda all I had.

Kaila Seger ([35:49](#)):

Alright, well once again, thank you so much for participating.

Lizzy Ray ([35:53](#)):

Thank you.

Kaila Seger ([35:54](#)):

And for being one of my people.

Page 35 of 36

Lizzy Ray Interview (Completed 11/10/23)

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This transcript was exported on Nov 21, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

Lizzy Ray ([35:55](#)):

Of course. Thank you for having me.

Kaila Seger ([35:58](#)):

No problem. Alright, we're going to stop the recording. ([36:05](#)):

So long recording.

