

# *Desert Island Dildos Transcripts*

## **EPISODE 1: ELIOTT SIMPSON – ASEXUAL DATING**

### **Quenby**

Hello and welcome to Desert Island Dildos, your friendly neighbourhood podcast about sex and sexuality. On the podcast today we have with fabulous Elliott Simpson. Elliott, tell me a bit about yourself.

### **Elliott**

Ah, hello, I am Elliott with one I two ts, makes an anagram for toilet if that helps. And yeah, I am here, I am queer, and I am full of fear. It's quite funny that I'm on here, especially as your first guest because it's a podcast about sex and sexuality, and your first guest is an asexual. Who has no interest in sex at all. Maybe it's nicer for you now because like there's literally no expectation whatsoever for me to talk about anything about sex in particular. But I thought, hey, maybe I have an interesting perspective on sex and stuff. Because I do have a, I have an allosexual partner. So my partner, you know, does experience sexual attraction and I don't. It's interesting how we kind of navigated our relationship in that aspect. And there's a lot of interesting things about the asexual spectrum which isn't really touched upon, and because there are a lot of asexual people that actually do have sex, or even enjoy sex for a variety of reasons. So I thought this will be a good chance to explore or talk about all those fun fun parts about that wide spectrum.

### **Quenby**

Yeah, absolutely. It's great to have you on because I think it's a really interesting topic which isn't talked about a lot. I'm not asexual myself, but I've had a lot of asexual, demisexual partners and yeah, absolutely. Like, the more you look into this space the more you realise asexuality is just such a broad spectrum. It's almost as broad as the rest of the sexuality spectrum itself. And there's so many different iterations of grey asexual demisexual, sex repulsed vs non sex repulsed and just there's so much complexity within that. So yeah, it's great to have you on

### **Elliott**

Thank you, it's a pleasure to be here. It's very interesting to be talking about this quite honestly. Because I mean, I'm obviously I'm asexual comedian, and a lot of the stand up comedy I do usually it's kind of I will admit it does kind of exaggerate my

asexuality to a point in order to kind of make jokes from it. So I have jokes to say like, "oh, people call me lazy cuz I'm asexual. Like, I'm not lazy, I literally can't be fucked." And uh and I'll do jokes of how my partner asked me to tell them a dirty secret. So I'll lean in and whisper "Tony Blair's a war criminal", lot of things on those lines, but honestly, like, that's certainly part of the character I do. But also, there's actually that's all like, all my stuff I do is actually is based on some degrees based off real life experiences, where I generally am quite oblivious to our sexual terminology and indications because maybe that's because I'm also autistic? And I kind of have trouble reading tones anyway. So I know it's a great combination. I've already got quite the lottery in the gene pool. But projects like this, this is really an interesting opportunity to talk about actually how more nuanced and varied and subtle asexuality is. And I've actually discovered more about myself the more I've I've been dating different people and the more I've been having experiences with people and yeah, although it hasn't really made me question my identity too. I definitely am, I'm very much sure I definitely am still asexual, but it's a really opened up my eyes to like, you know, it's a way I guess I navigate feelings towards sex and how I approach them. And yeah, I've learned new things about about sex about my body. And it's been it's been interesting, interesting, right, and then it's a treat to talk about it more and explore it with you and other people.

### **Quenby**

I think every comedian does that of like, my comedy is based on my life as well. But, you know, it's very much dialled up to turn it into a character and dramatic and, like, you know, I make jokes about pansexuality but I don't talk about the growing sense that I'm marginalised from the community which is supposed to exist to support me because that's really hard to make a joke about on stage.

### **Elliott**

Oh, I should say as well, I am asexual. But I'm actually, I'm also, I'm a panromantic asexual. So, so so so my slogan is always say, you know, I'll snog anyone, but I'll fuck no one.

### **Quenby**

Why don't you tell me a bit about what it's like. Being in a romantic relationship with someone whose relationship to sexuality is very different to yours.

### **Elliott**

Ah, it was quite a struggle to be honest, to kind of find a partner that suited me. I'm very, very grateful and thankful that the partner I have now is so amazing. And I love them very much. And they are so accepting and embracing of me. And that's a big

signifies to me that I knew is going to be a good relationship. Because in the past, I think I struggle and fear going to any relationship without you know, how do I kind of approach the fact that I'm asexual? How do I when do I bring it up? Because I've had experiences in the past where I've been very upfront immediately about it and saying I'm asexual is what I am. I mean, it's not that I can't have sex, it's not that I'm repulsed by it, it's just that I'm different, I don't really have any interest. So I'm not attracted to people in that particular way. And what I thought would happen is, either people wouldn't really understand it, and they get kind of overwhelmed by this, this new information and can get kind of scared off, they wouldn't want to even bother. Or they immediately say that "oh, oh, we will never have sex ever then. And therefore, we can never work." Even though it's not exactly the case, but people might be scared off by it, they were confused by it. Or I did try the other route. And I would like just kind of just not really discuss my sexuality at all at first and just kind of bring it up later. Once I feel like we developed common trust and understanding. And then I bring it up, then I get the opposite problem where I suddenly get accused of like lying like, "Oh, I thought you were straight, or I thought you were gay or I thought you were this and all along you're leading me on, you didn't wanna have sex do you?" Like, it's not exactly that. Like, come on. I feel like I feel like I couldn't really win. Because when I decided to reveal that information. People were kind of put off by it. And I think a lot of that is due to a lack of awareness about asexuality because people immediately when they hear it, or they hear the first definition, they immediately think "Oh, this means that this person can never ever have sex ever. They're repulsed by it, and therefore they're incapable of having it." And that's not the case. Yes, there are people on the spectrum who are generally repulsed, or generally will never, ever want to do it ever. But like I said before, it's a very wide spectrum. And you do get asexual people who will willingly choose to do it, because either they will do it because they want to please their partner, or they just want to do something that's fun to their partner, or they may find that they they move closer demisexual greysexual and that they may occasionally get those feelings or they may do it because they develop a strong emotional bond to their partner first. And there's, there's so many different factors that play into it. And it's really hard to kind of do a blanket statement for the whole asexual community because you can't really. But I get the closest we have is just to say that generally it means that if you're on the spectrum, it means that probably for most of the time, you don't really have that kind of genuine interest or attraction to sex or sexual activity really, that that strongly. That's generally the sense, even though there's a lot of different varying factors. But for me, personally, it's been a case that I still to this day, I've haven't had sex. I've never really had much of an interest to it. But I definitely I know for a fact that I am very heavily romantically and aesthetically attracted to people. So I did. So it was a tricky thing for me, like being with with friends and peers, like in bars or clubs. And so so often, like someone would come in, unless your friends would be like, Oh, look at that person, I want to bang and then and like this, just I don't know that, that that kind of feeling like this never occurred to me. Okay, I can never look at someone for the first time and think, yes, I wished it I see. Well, the sex of a person. I mean, I totally believe people can do that. And good for them is this is a feeling that has never happened to me. I really could look at people think, oh, they look pretty attractive.

already pretty. I like like the way they look or you know, even even as much as "Oh, it would be really nice to I know, to hug them. Or kiss them maybe, but just, that's as far as it would go for me. And I think what I discovered with my current partners, I do enjoy intimacy a lot, like physical intimacy. And I do I do like that. I like that kind of that kind of validation to myself. And to be able to have that physicality that intimacy with someone it is quite important to me. I think it just that the idea of sex isn't isn't something I'm repulsed by. And it's something a bit nervous by I think, mostly because we live in a society where our culture is very kind of sex orientated.

## **Quenby**

Mmm, definitely.

## **Eliott**

And I think when you're young, you're taught at school, like, and during puberty, oh, sex is really important. And especially if you're, I mean, I identify as gender fluid now, but obviously, growing up, being, you know, quite male presenting, and I still am to an extent, and being perceived as cis male, it was definitely a lot of heavy masculinity pressure placed on me, like, oh, man, you have to be really tough and grr and have great sexual prowess, you have to really kind of show your dominance now you have things like you've achieved as a man, because you would know to have sex at an early age, or you've gotten the girl or done whatever this is all about. And it's all. I hated all that I was terrible. And that's what all boys my age. That's how they acted. That's all. That's all that mattered to them. So there's a lot of pressure placed on on someone who is perceived that way to kind of get involved. So I was bullied a lot as a result of that. But so I think to a degree, although I passed it now, and I'm aware, that obviously doesn't matter. But that kind of deep seated pressure from childhood is still kind of rooted in me. I think the idea of sex makes me nervous and like "Oh, no, but what if I do it, but I'm not very good at it. Or I don't know how it all works exactly. Or I can't do it, what's expected of me?" Which is a silly thing to think because, frankly, my partner is absolutely wonderful and lovely. And even though they weren't that very familiar with asexuality, when they first met me on a dating site, they actually took the time to research it and understand it and they immediately they they knew about it, and they told me that you know, that that that they love me for who I am, and yes, they do experience sexual attraction. They said that. I'm never under any pressure to ever to have sex at all ever. It's never a thing that he said that ever has to happen. But you know, we've been together for quite for about half a year now and and I have a point to either I love them very much I love being intimate with them. And I think I would like to, I can see myself in the future, you know, being willing to give it a go. Because, you know, they're my partner, and I love them. And I know that's something that they enjoy. And that's all I'm repulsed by it or just like, again, is indifferent to just like, you know, eh it's kind of, kind of like ... I'm trying to think of a good analogy.

## **Quenby**

So, when I dated, when I was in a relationship with an asexual person, myself, the analogy they used was like, it's like watching a film that you're really into, like, I'm not really getting a huge amount from watching that, but it's really nice seeing you get excited and enjoying watching it.

## **Elliott**

Exactly, exactly that. So I mean, I mean, the analogy I used to say, before I met my partner was that sex is kind of like Love Island, I could watch it, but I probably won't. So I can see myself giving it a go in the future. But I think I need a lot of time to kind of, kind of get used to it and kind of be familiar around it. And even though I know, I have these silly, you know, anxieties about "Oh, what do it but I'm not very good at it but my partner says, I don't need to worry about that. Because they know that they don't care, they'll just be happy just be having any kind of intimate experience with me, and that there's no pressure for me to, you know, be amazing or really good at it. And I know that but this thing about being an anxious brain, it kind of lies to you regardless, and ignores everything everyone's saying to you.

## **Quenby**

Yeah, aha

## **Elliott**

And everyone say oh, it's amazing, this thing. You don't need to worry about that. And like I know, but my brain will tell me the opposite. Anyway, I don't know, it just does that. But that's why it's been interesting, because I've not had sex yet to this day. But because I think ... I would need to know going into it properly, I need to fully know what I'm doing. I need to kind of know the things that my partner likes and what I like and just kind of explore our bodies more. And that's actually been quite an interesting process. Because so gradually, every time we've been together, we have kind of gradually been exploring more of our bodies together. And not you know, having sex itself. We're still doing, you know, sexual things together. And exploring parts of our body that you know, you would only really kind of do in a deeply intimate way. Just to kind of get to know know what kind of things we like and how we like to be touched in certain areas and place. So in a way, it's been a nice kind of like, it sounds weird to say this, but like a good kind of like training grounds, I guess. And now you know, because it was like a whole new ballgame. To me. It's a whole new area. And it's not one I've really, really been fussed about before, but it's still new, all the same. So it's still interesting to kind of guess, you know, learn the rules and learn how it all works and learn what things I like or not. And yeah, it's not something I'd say like, I don't have, like, you know, I'm really into it. But it's interesting, because it's a new thing. In the same way. I'm probably I'm not like the biggest, you know, I don't

know, I'm not really the biggest souffle maker ever. And I doubt I'd be really into it, but still getting- If you're in a situation where you get to learn, ticket course a class in it. Yeah, I guess it's still kind of interesting, because it's just a new thing you're learning, I guess.

### **Quenby**

So I think that's something that's really interesting as well, because like you said earlier, like we live, we live in a very sex centred society in a lot of ways. And like, certainly, I am in a very similar boat to you. In that I was, you know, I grew up thinking I was a guy, I'm now ... I don't know, some kind of chaotic genderless nymph, that was something that was really pushed down my throat is like, that's like sex is sort of almost how you value yourself it's sort of how you prove that you're a man, is how you prove you're a grown up. And like, that's something that's really centred a lot in these cultural narratives. And I mean, you were saying earlier, like, when I say to people, I'm asexual, I expect them to respond in these ways. But I imagine a big response is just what is that?

### **Elliott**

That is probably the most common. Well, I mean, it is like outside. I mean, obviously, I mean, I'm sure many queer people can relate. But as an adult, I tend to only try to interact with people who are kind of similar to me in like in my social circle, similar age or kind of demographical type, just because I get so exhausted having to explain my identity myself to people all the time. Sp if i can I try to be around people who already know who I am. But yes, when I'm having to explain myself to like new colleagues at work, or this or anywhere else. Or just people at gigs or other comics, who are much older than me, different generations is quite an exhausting process. And that's kind of the tricky thing, especially doing comedy because I have to, on the one hand, I have to kind of exaggerate myself a little bit, in order to get jokes out, make them work better. But then as a consequence, I occasionally get people who actually think that the asexual thing is made up, and it's actually just part of the character. It's not actually real. And then I tell him I know I actually am asexual in real life, too. "Like, what is the real thing?" Like yeah it is. Didn't you hear what I was saying? Oh, oh no.

### **Quenby**

Anything else you'd like to talk about? Or say or anything?

### **Elliott**

It was interesting. I guess just to, I mean even though I am learning more and more and more about sex and sexuality and being like that. I still get so confused all the

time because I have no idea what's meant to be sexy or not. Because apparently if you're in bed with someone and they start saying, "Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Oh yes." It's like really sexy. So like it's a Churchill dog sexy? Is that is that what it is? When he's going "Ohhh yes"? Like, I don't know. I have no idea. I don't know if that's sexy or not. And people will say that, you know, you look at someone intensely in their eyes that's sexy as well. But like, I only do that when I'm close to death. I don't know, I get so confused about what's sexy or not. And I'm still I'm still struggling with that.

## **Quenby**

I mean, autism, like staring into someone's eyes is stressful, not sexy. I personally do not find the Churchill dog sexy. But we don't kink shame here on Desert Island Dildos, no judgement here. I don't think he's intended to be a sex symbol. Although, maybe I'm wrong. Maybe. Maybe I don't understand advertising

## **Elliott**

Actually another interesting thing as well, because again, it's interesting. It's really interesting to promote the awareness, not just of asexuality, but also of aromanticism. Because one of the big things asexuality tries to promote is the split attraction module. And that, everyone, so people immediately think that when you say you're asexual, they immediately think, oh, that means you can't love people. Like you don't find anyone attractive in any sense. You just like, being alone, you're solitary, you can't like being with anyone. That's not true at all. And this idea that, you know, we're attracted to people on different levels in different ways. So maybe some people are, maybe are heterosexual that they're only sexually attracted to people of the opposite sex. But then maybe romantically maybe they're panromantic. They actually love being, generally intimate or kissing or cuddling or just being emotionally close to anyone of any gender or sex. And I think I think we need to explore ourselves, we'll find that I think everyone's differs a little bit on each level between platonic, aesthetic, romantic and sexual. I think that you need to explore that, because although I'm somebody who, you know, is romantically could be romantically attracted to basically anyone, but sexually attracted to no one. I know people who are the exact opposite, who are aromantic and they have no interest at all in having any kind of romantic relationship with anybody. But oh, my God, sexually, oh, they are they are a beast, that they just love having sex all the times. It's just a really fun activity for them. This is really interesting. It's amazing kind of polar opposite. But like those people do exist, you get people who just loves, like the act of sex, but not really the romance side. And that's something we should promote more, I think some people, I think obviously i can't really relate to this but i've seen, i know from enough friends that like there are people out there who that like really have the need to have this have sex, just needs to have the activity, just needs to have the sensation of having sex, but don't want to get bogged down in the kind of the romantic connections to the act. And sometimes I think it's fair for people to say I need to have sex with someone, but it don't want to then have to also have the

romantic baggage as well. And I think it's a case of being open about that. We also live in a culture where people think that you can't you can't have sex with someone and then not do anything else. Like we got to treat it like they go hand in hand like sex and romance has to be one of the same in a relationship but that's not the case at all. You can just do whatever you want with someone as long as it's complete honesty and consent on both sides.

### **Quenby**

Yeah, and like I feel it's definitely different gender expectations around that too. Like it's the stereotype of "men just want to have sex, women just want to have romance". So in a way the split attraction model is sort of built into even very reductive, regressive like ideas around relationships. Before you go, I've got the question which is used to justify the name other than just I really like the name Desert Island Dildos. If you are stuck on a desert island, which has adequate electricity supplies and like condoms and lube. What sex toy would you like to be stuck there with?

### **Eliott**

In a way is a frustrating question because now I don't feel like I have the wealth of sex toy knowledge that I should do. And honestly, the idea of me like Google searching sex toys, it scares me purely because I'm worried that one day like it's gonna come as a scandal on Twitter like, ah

### **Quenby**

Ah they weren't asexual at all! Lies!

### **Eliott**

Sex toys in their internet history, ah they're outed! Like, no, I mean, I mean, even if i was, I mean, even though it's perfectly fine for asexual people to Google that and to play with sex toys and have sex I mean, but I I'm just aware I know how the general wider culture would see that and they would cancel me over that But no, okay. From what I do know. I know what I would probably go for one of those like giant inflatable dildos so you can you do like a sword fighting with because I've seen adverts for that. So I'd get I'd get a giant strap on inflatable dildo, for a number of reasons. Well, for one, you know if you like attached like a sharp rock or a knife to the end of it, I can kind of hands free cut through the overgrowth of the islands. There's no swishing through the through the trees and that's one. If i want to escape the island, it's nice kind of a flotation device, I can float on it on the sea, or just have a nice little bathing time. So there we go. It's good sea transportation. It makes for a nice pillow. You know if there aren't any pillows on the island or not any good leaves or rocks, you know, just lay that down rest on it. That's quite nice. I mean, also, I mean, I guess if



you're surrounded by wildlife, I guess it kind of allows you to assume the position of the alpha person on the islands byn "Ah see look, I've got a big thing bigger than your thing! Watch out." And yeah, that's that's probably it .And also if i want to scare off like a wild boar. I could just puncture it and then bang, they're gone.

### **Quenby**

Thank you. So if anyone wants to make fan art for this podcast, your first assignment is Elliott using this is as Bear Grylls basically with a giant dildo. Where can people find you online if they want to follow you?

### **Elliott**

Oh yeah. People can follow me. Follow me online. Follow me home. I'm lonely. But there's a pandemic on don't do that. I am on all the social medias on Twitter, Instagram and tik tok. I am known as @sockfacesimpson so type in sock face Simpson and you'll find me. On Facebook and YouTube. Just type in Elliott Simpson, and I'll come up. But remember, it's Elliott one I two T's anagram of toilets. That's how you remember.

### **Quenby**

Thank you so much. I'm Quenby. You can find me @QuenbyCreatives on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. And you can also find Desert Island Dildos at DIDildos on Twitter. Thank you so much for joining me Elliott. We'll be back in a couple of weeks. Stay safe, everyone.

