

Original Afrikaans excerpts and the English translation of these excerpts

In this document, we provide the original Afrikaans excerpts as well as the English translations that we have used in the article. The excerpts are presented in the order that they appear in the article.

- Gretal: Ek kan doen wat ek wil, wanneer ek wil, soos ek wil, saam met wie ek wil. ... ja ek dink dit is maar die groot vryheid.
- Gretal: I can do what I want, when I want, like I want, with whom I want. ... yes I think that's the big freedom.
- Jane: Want almal is couples, en dan voel jy soos uit as jy single is ... of enige sosiale event waar dit couples couples is... dan is jy soos [funny voice] "Okay [said drawn out], awesome, ek sit op die punt van die tafel en almal is [sic] couple, couple, couple". En jy voel soos 'n idoot
- Jane: Because everyone are couples, and then you feel like out if you are single ... or any social event where it is couples, couples ... then you are like [funny voice]: "Okay [said drawn out], awesome, I'm sitting at the head of the table and everyone are [sic] couple, couple, couple". And you feel like an idiot.
- Ella: ... baie van die goed wat ek doen, doen 'n mens maar op jou eie... Baie keer toer ek maar op my eie. En dit is lekker... jy soek iemand met wie jy daai goeters saam kan doen ... mens gaan nou byvoorbeeld nie alleen gaan sit en eet in 'n nice restaurant nie. Veral nie in Suid-Afrika nie, want mense gaan baie vreemd vir jou kyk ... maar partykeer vat dit guts om iets op jou eie te doen.
- Ella: ... a lot of the things that I do, I do on my own.... a lot of the times I travel on my own. And it is nice, but ...there are other things that you would prefer to share with someone ... a person cannot, for example, go alone and eat at a nice restaurant ... especially not in South Africa, because people will look very weirdly at you. ... sometimes it takes guts to do something on your own.
- Gretal: ... dis juis die alleenheid wat die vryheid bring, maar dis partykeer ook die vryheid wat die alleenheid bring ... hierdie vryheid, waar daar, maar daar is nie struktuur en plan aan nie ... ek mis dit al hoe meer. Om iemand te hê, om nie daai vryheid te hê, om amper nie te weet wat om met jou tyd, jou geld, jou omgee te doen nie.
- Gretal: ... it is precisely the aloneness which brings the freedom, but sometimes it is the freedom that also brings the loneliness... this freedom where there is no structure, no plan to it ... I miss that more and more, to have someone, to not have that freedom, almost not to know what to do with your time, your money, your caring.
- Ella: "...Ag maar dat 'n mens eenvoudig net partykeer alleen is. Ek weet nie noodwendig of ek sal sê lonely lonely nie, ek is nie, ek sien myself nie as lonely [drawn out emphasis] ... partykeer voel 'n mens net: 'Ag dit sal lekker wees om iemand te hê om dit mee te deel.'"
- Ella: "... you are sometimes simply alone. I don't necessarily say lonely, lonely [drawn out emphasis] ... sometimes you just feel: 'Ah, it would be nice to have someone to share this with.'"

- Haley: "...en mense dink jy is sad en eensaam, en mense dink jy is 'n, jy is nie complete nie."
- Haley: "... people think a person is alone, and people think you are sad and lonely, and people think you are not complete".
- Anja: "Ek is 'n slim persoon, ek het 'n goeie werk ... Ek werk baie hard, en ek hou van wat ek doen ... ek het my loopbaan wat ek wil hê."
- Anja: "I am a smart person, I have a good job ... I work very hard... and I like what I do... I have the career that I want to have. ...".
- Anja: "iemand wat ook net kan verstaan dat my werk vir my nogal belangrik is en as ek op 'n dag moet laat werk dat ek laat werk."
- Anja: "someone who will understand that my work is rather important to me and if I have to work late one day, then I work late."
- Haley: ... my verwysingsraamwerk is nou maar my werk. Soos daar is baie suksesvolle vrouens daar wat nie getroud is nie, soos hulle werk het basies, ja hulle het seker nou maar net die energie wat hulle in 'n verhouding sal insit in hulle werk ingesit ... So dit sê vir my van "jy is nie *heeltemal* [emphasis] uhm, hopeloos of hulpeloos as jy nie in 'n man het nie." ... vir my is dit 'n gerusstelling om te sien van jy, "You are not doomed die". As jy nie saam met iemand is nie, beteken dit nie jy gaan nie suksesvol in jou werk wees nie
- Haley: ... my frame of reference is my work now. Like there are very successful women there who are not married, they like their work basically, yes they probably put the energy they would have put in a relationship into their work. ... So to me it is like: "You are not *completely* [emphasis] um, hopeless or helpless if you don't have a man." ... for me it is a comfort to see, like: "You, you are not doomed to die". ... If you are not with someone, it doesn't mean that you can't be successful in your work.
- Bella: "...so ek werk al hoe meer ... dit is 'n escape en 'n outlet."
- Bella: "... so I work more and more ... it is an escape and an outlet."
- Bella: "om nie vir iemand, enige iemand hoef te sê what I'm doing, where I'm going, when I'm going to be back. Daai tipe van goed.... iemand te hoef in ag te neem nie."
- Bella: "I would have to tell what I'm doing, where I'm going, when I'm going to be back, that type of thing. ... someone you have to take into account".
- Jane: "gewoonlik dan is hulle: 'Jy mag nie die mense sien nie, of jy mag nie soontoe gaan nie, of jy kan nie dit doen nie.'"

- Jane: “usually a partner is like: ‘You may not see these people, or you may not go there, or you may not do this.’”
- Haley: “Ek hoef nie vir iemand, enige iemand se toestemming te vra.”
- Haley: “someone whose permission you have to ask before you do something”.
- Anja: almal wil iemand hê, net waar hulle kan vent, of met wie hulle goed kan ... om net te deel met iemand
- Anja: ... everybody wants someone, where they can just vent, or with whom they can ... just to share with someone.
- Bella: ... is dit nou maar mens se default setting to be, om, om in ‘n relationship te wil wees ... dis so half ‘n natuurlike process to pair off ...
- Bella: ... it’s just a person’s default setting to be, to, to want to be in a relationship. ... it’s almost like a natural process to pair off ...
- Haley: “Ek’s baie keer suur as ek hulle sien ... dan sal ek dink hoe lekker dit nou eintlik sal wees om twee [emphasis] mense saam te gaan vakansie hou of ja, twee [emphasis] mense saam vir my pa’le te gaan kuier.”
- Haley: “I am often bitter when I see couples... then I’ll think how nice it would actually be if two [emphasis] people went on holiday together, two [emphasis] people who visit my father.”
- Gretal: So ek dink dit sal lekker wees om ... daai, partner te hê, iemand wat saam met jou, saam met my deur die motions gaan. Ja, ek voel partykeer regtig, dit is asof niemand [emphasis] weet van my doen en late nie ... ek wil amper sê iemand wat elke dag saam met my leef.
- Gretal: So, I think it would be nice to ... have that partner, someone with whom, who goes through the motions with you. Yes, I sometimes really feel as if no one [emphasis] knows about my doings. I think I really just want someone to live with me every day.
- Anja: En as jy slegte dag het, daar’s iemand met wie jy kan deel ... hulle het tenminste iemand daar by die huis in die aand. Waar ek gaan naaaa ‘n kou leë flat toe in die aand by die huis
- Anja: And if you had a bad day, there’s someone with whom you can share ...couples at least have someone at home at night. Whereas I go to [drawn out] a cold, empty flat at home at night.
- Bella: Dis iemand wat jy kan bel as dit sleg gaan, maar dis ook iemand wat happy is saam met jou. dit voel net so half, as daar iemand is wat daai joy met jou deel, dan, it makes it so much

sweeter ... maar die meeste van die tyd kom ek by die huis en dan dink ek 'sjoë dit sou nou lekker gewees het om nou net met iemand ... bietjie te gesels.'

- Bella: It is someone whom you can call when things go badly, but also someone who is happy with you but it just feels like almost, if there is someone who shares that joy with you, then, it makes it so much sweeter... most of the times I come home and think: "Gee, it would have been nice now to talk to someone a bit."
- Haley: ... Ek gaan vanaand huis toe gaan vir niemand kan vertel wat vandag gebeur het en hoe ek daarvoor voel nie ... as ek daaraan dink 'Ag, ek het nou niemand nie.'
- Haley: ...I am going home tonight and I can't tell anyone what happened today and how I feel about it. ... If I think about it 'Ugh, I have no one.'
- Bella: ... Maar 'n mens bereik ook daai punt wat jy voel [sighs], dit, jy raak 'n burden vir jou vriende as jy ... waar van 'n, van 'n partner verwag dit so half ... as jy my partner is dan ... het ek daai ... outomatiese verwagting dat dit ... jy hoef niks eens te sê nie, and it's fine. Waar as dit vriende is, dan is dit so half ek moet dit vir jou kom vertel ... en dit dink ek is die grootste ding waarop 'n mens uitmis as jy single is, is ... daar's definitief 'n verskil in die ... tipe steun wat jy kan verwag ... Want almal wat ons ken, en almal met wie jy goeie verhoudings het, goeie support network en whatever het, hulle het almal een ander persoon. So jy is iewers op 'n ranglys in hulle lewe, you're not number one. So as die tsunamie kom dan [laughs] gaan jy alleen staan
- Bella: ... But a person reaches that point where you feel [sighs] you become a burden to your friends whereas if you have a partner, then you don't have to go and search for the support. ... If you are my partner then I have that automatic expectation ... you don't have to say anything, and it's fine. Whereas if it is a friend, then I sort of *must* [emphasis] go and tell it to you. ... and I think this is the biggest thing a person misses out on when you are single is... there's definitely a difference in the type of support you can expect from friends... it is not something that I feel you can do to phone a friend and say: "I had a bad day at work." It is almost expecting too much. ... Because everyone we know, and everyone with whom I have a good relationship, have a good support network...they already have that one other person. So you are somewhere on a hierarchy in their life, you're not number one. So, when the tsunami strikes then [laughs] you will stand alone...
- Ella: ... as jy in 'n verhouding is is die ander persoon amper half verplig om dit met jou te deel ... verplig is om aan jou kant te wees. Uhm, by uitstek, nog meer as jou familie ... So jou boyfriend/girlfriend is die persoon wat aan jou kant moet wees, dit is jou [emphasis] persoon, dis, dis, die persoon wat daar is vir jou [emphasis].
- Ella: ...if you are in a relationship, the other person is sort of obliged to share it with you...obliged to be on your side. Um, even more so than your family. ... So your boyfriend or girlfriend is the person who must be on your side, it is your [emphasis] person, it's, it's the person who is always there for you [emphasis].

- Greta: Ek dink om 'n partner te hê, of 'n man te hê, sou amper net iets wees soos uhm, amper 'n designated supporter (laughs), iemand wat uhm, wat veronderstel is om, te weet waar deur ek gaan, want nou sif ek die heeltyd... dit voel vir my soveel moeite, om, die vriende wat belangstel in gelik te hou. Uhm [pause] terwyl ek dink, as ek iemand by my gehad het, sou dit amper net meer spontaan gewees het
- Greta: I think to have a partner, or to have a husband, would almost be like, um, almost a designated supporter [laughs]; someone who um, who's supposed to be, to know what I'm going through ... to me it feels like so much effort to keep the friends who are interested up to date. Um [pause], while I think, if had had someone with me, it would almost have been spontaneous.
- Greta: Joe, ek haat die idee, ek entertain hom nie te veel nie., want dit sou seker beteken dat ek nou al goed amper in plek sal moet sit asof ek nooit iemand gaan kry nie ... ons kan hoe stry daarteen, maar op 'n manier wag 'n mens nogsteeds vir 'n ridder op 'n wit perd ... Ek glo ek sal hom kry terwyl ek leef.
- Greta: Gee, I hate the idea of never finding a partner, I don't entertain it too much ... because that would probably mean that I must now get my things in order as if I'm never going to find someone... we can fight against it, but in a way we all still wait for our knight in shining armour ... I believe I will get him while I live.
- Ella: vir 'n lang tyd het ek gedog: "Ag ek hoop nie eers meer nie, ek dink nie rêrig dit bestaan vir my nie". Maar, the hope remains ... Dit, dit, dit, is half, 'n bietjie van 'n, teenspreking teenoor wat ek vroeër gesê het, van die hoop, die closet romantic wat nogsteeds maar so bietjie hoop. Maar dit voel vir my [sighs], soos wat tyd aanstaap verloor ek hoop, en ek het half, vrede daarmee gemaak. En, uhm, ja, so ek dink, op hierdie stadium is ek gelate daaroor, ek voel half, as dit gebeur, fantasies; maar I'm not counting on it
- Ella: For a long time I thought: "Oh, I don't even hope anymore, I don't think it exists for me". ... but, I think hope remains... it's, is almost, a bit of a contradiction to what I said earlier, about the hope, the closet romantic that still hopes a bit. But I feel like [sighs], as time goes by I lose hope, and I have almost made peace with it. And, um, so I think, at this stage I am resigned, I almost feel, if it happens, fantastic, but I'm not counting on it ...