



Rants and Randomness with Luvvie Ajayi

Beyond Ready (Interview with Tai Beauchamp) - Episode 36

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My peoples, welcome to Rants & Randomness. I'm Luvvie Ajayi Jones and this is my show where I'm talking about things that I'm loving, things that I'm side eyeing, and having great conversations with really dope people. I'm here at [Chicago Recording Company](#), bringing y'all the radio voices always, and on this episode my feel good is the fact that the holidays are here. I actually really do love Christmas time. I rant about the glorification of home ownership and spotlight [Humans of New York](#). My guest is the brilliant, incomparable [Tai Beauchamp](#), so let's jump into it.

Feel Good

[00:00:42]

All right, so my feel good is that the holidays are here. I actually am somebody who loves Christmas time. People are nicer, everything is sparkly, kids try to behave because they think Santa is going to bring them some gifts. It's definitely my favorite time of the year. I think there's something special in the air about the holidays and it's mainly because people are more reflective. People seem to be kinder and they realize, okay the year's almost over. It's also a moment for you to recalibrate and say, "What have I done this year? Can I finish the year off on a very positive thing?" I think about the holidays. I'm always drinking hot cocoa. The food is always good. Now here's the thing about the holidays. We'd be doing a lot with food during the holidays, but if we just keep it to the two weeks around the holidays, I think we'd be okay.

Some people be doing a lot for like six weeks. It puts us back. But anyway, I love... And Chicago is a city that really celebrates the holidays. Like our streets are lined with lights and we do parades and every store has Christmas trees. I said I was going to get a Christmas tree this year because I haven't really done one in a long time. I typically travel out of town for Christmas and this year I'm actually going to be spending Christmas in Chicago enjoying my city. So I'm getting a Christmas tree. I might wear corny Christmas pajamas and y'all gonna have to deal. It's just good. I'm glad that holiday is coming, people are winding down. We all gonna get less emails, which is something to be thankful for and yeah it gives us a chance to look into what we want to accomplish moving forward.

I don't necessarily use just the holidays as a trigger to be better, but it is something that compels you to say, all right, let me make sure that I am being positive, that I'm being kinder, that I am waking up a little bit more chipper. So yeah, feeling good about the holidays and I hope wherever you celebrate or if you don't celebrate, I hope you end up finding people that you love around you, that you ended up eating

the foods that bring you joy, that don't necessarily clog your arteries and that you get things and gifts that I see make a difference. And also if you can something to somebody who is in need to use this holidays to give to charity, purge and donate things to Goodwill or wherever is ethical for you. And yeah, let's give more than we're going to take this holiday, too.

Rant

[00:03:19]

So my rant this week is about home ownership and the glorification of home ownership. Just like people glorify entrepreneurship, I'm seeing a lot of glorification of having to own a home. Now here's the thing, I am not saying it is bad to own a home. I own one. What I'm saying that I'm seeing a lot of is people using home ownership as some barometer of adulthood. Here's the thing, home ownership it can be a wealth building tool if owning that home will not bankrupt you or if you won't be sitting in empty 1,500-2,000 square foot space, just be able to say, I own a place. I'm just seeing that some of the posts that are on social media are making people feel bad for renting. Talking about like you're just flushing money down the toilet.

Maybe that person just isn't sure where they're gonna set their roots. Maybe the person isn't sure where they want to live in the next two to three years. Maybe they're doing their best to make sure their student loans and other bills are paid, right? Plus, here's the thing about mortgages, okay? People tend to think that home ownership just means mortgage. No. Also it means homeowners insurance, property taxes, plus money it takes to fix things that break because things always break. So I just want people to be more cognizant of not letting the internet or memes or any one's superiority complex, force them into a 15 or 30 year anchor that they can't afford. And I own my place. I waited 32 years to buy my first place and it was the right choice because before then me buying a place would have probably put me in a bind.

Like renting for a long time was great. I loved renting because whenever something breaks, somebody else's job is to fix it. Now when you are your own landlord and it is becoming winter time and all of a sudden your furnace stops blowing hot air, you can't call nobody and say, "Hey, can you come fix this furnace?" and not worry about how much you gonna have to pay.

Yes, I just had to spend 550 bucks for a 15 minute fix to my furnace. I said, "I don't even want to be my own landlord." In those moments, you really realize that people aren't given the clear idea of what it takes to own a home. We're just meme-ifying what adulthood should look like. I don't want people to think that they're a failure if they're an adult who has not bought property or who's just renting because it might be the best decision for you. And I want to be cognizant of the fact that as we are making people feel bad about the decisions that make the most sense for them, are we also giving them the full story?

So yeah, I talked about this on Facebook and Instagram recently and a lot of people were like, absolutely. It makes no sense for me to buy a house, but some people may try to make me feel bad about it. I actually got a message from somebody who said, "I just wanted to say thank you. I came

across a post you made on Facebook about home ownership and how people make you feel less than for being an adult and owning a house. I'm 32 and I was starting to feel bad. I wasn't doing something right because owning a home just isn't something that I want to do. And with all of my friends buying homes and continuously asking me when I will, it was beginning to be too much. So thank you for that post. It really helps ground me in what I want and what's best for me at this time in my life.”

Yeah. So if you're listening to this, if you're somebody who in certain moments you think you are somehow failing because you don't own property or you're renting and you're fine with it, don't let the internet make you feel bad. Home ownership comes with a lot. It's absolutely the right decision for some people based on how much money you have, what city you live in, what state of affairs, where you are at. Do you have kids? It might be right decision, but a lot of times it's not. And renting is what makes most sense.

So yeah, I want us to stop glorifying these things. Stop telling just half stories and also not over-generalize the fact that we did something in a particular way on a particular timeline means everybody else should do the same. So yeah, let's stop that.

Shout out to the renters. You should call your landlord right now just because you can and just figure out something that you want them to fix because it won't cost you money. Meanwhile, the rest of us who own the place, we got to think through like, “okay, do I want to paint right now? Do I want to replace the microwave that's broken? Do I want to actually get this furnace upgraded even though it's not doing good enough?” Call your landlord, shout out to you for having a landlord that you can call to do these things for you.

Randomness Spotlight

[00:08:20]

So my spotlight this week is [Humans of New York](#). It is a photo platform and it's incredible. It's nothing like I've really ever seen. There's a lot of people who've tried to attempt what Humans of New York is doing, but they really can't. It was started by photographer [Brandon Stanton](#), who set out on a mission to photograph 10,000 New Yorkers on the street and create a photo catalog of New York's people, the flesh and bones that make up that city. And he started with that intention, but it quickly grew. I remember I was following [Humans of New York on Facebook](#) before he had a million followers and now he has like, I think something like 15 million. Oh, 18 million. Yeah.

So even though it started on the streets of New York, it quickly expanded. People invited him to come to their cities and document them and soon it became international. He meets people on the street and I think he just tells them, "So tell me your story." And a lot of things that come out, some of them are really funny, some of them are really tragic, some of them are really romantic, some are gut wrenching, some are the types of stories that you can never forget. His work, I honestly think it should win a Pulitzer Prize because it's brilliant. It's simple but brilliant. But it's really not simple because ultimately it teaches

us that our stories merge us. Our stories unite us. No matter who you are, where you're from, you have a story to tell. It doesn't matter how ordinary or extraordinary you think it is.

He did a series where he went to the continent, he went to Africa and he went to Rwanda. He went to Ghana, he went to Nigeria. The Rwanda portion of his piece, it was heart wrenching because he interviewed people who were survivors of the Rwandan genocide back in 1994 when I believe like a million people died in three months. It just held onto my spirit. And Brandon is now back in New York, documenting, and he recently went ultra super viral because he ended up getting the best subject. A woman named [Stevie Johnson](#) who used to be a stripper back in the day and she told stories about everything she was up to and she instantly caught the eyes of the whole internet. I instantly became obsessed with Lady Tanqueray, (Tanqueray was her stripper name back in the day). Her boldness, her brashness. She has such an amazing story that I instantly went on a, I need to have her on Rants & Randomness. I need to interview her. I need to find this woman. I'm working on it y'all.

If I can get Stevie Johnson, Ms. Stevie Johnson on Rants, I will, and really I want to actually write her memoir. I think my wordsmithing her stories, and my insistence on making sure that her story's done justice. I would love to write her memoir, so I'm putting that out there in the Universe and I'm hoping that happens and I'm also hoping to have on this show. Ultimately, Stevie Johnson's story is one of millions at this point that Brandon has told he has a Patreon, you all can support it, it's patreon.com/humansofnewyork. It's so good. I am inspired by people who tell great stories. I'm inspired by people who start things that might seem simple but end up impacting the world. I'm inspired by people who use their gifts for the greater good. And Brandon Stanton's platform, Humans of New York is everything that epitomizes good storytelling.

And what happens when we are creative? When we get creative and they just do something without expectation, it's blown up for good reason. How you can follow Humans of New York. They're on Facebook, facebook.com/humansofnewyork. On Instagram it's @humansofny and there is a [Patreon](#) that is where you can give something like even five bucks a month and you get even extra stories that are not posted on his social or he'll go deeper on a story that he told. And that's patreon.com/humansofnewyork.

Again, I think storytelling really allows us to humanize other people. People who might be people who we'll never meet who were completely different from us, who live on the other side of the world. And Humans of New York has proven that every single day. That with stories we can change the world. So go follow it. You probably already are, but in case you aren't, you should.

And now my interview with Tai Beauchamp, she's dope.

Interview with Tai Beachamp

[00:13:19]

Luvvie: Tai, what up?

Tai: Luvvie Ajayi! How are you my love?

Luvvie: I'm good. How are you?

Tai: I'm wonderful actually. It's a little chilly here in LA, but chilly in LA is better than cold in Chicago.

Luvvie: I mean, listen, y'all just be disrespecting us and we can't even say nothing to it. We just have to be like, yeah, you're right.

Tai: You're like, yup, that part.

Luvvie: I'm like, you right. Yo, Rant fam join-

Tai: I'm I in the house?

Luvvie: You are in the house Tai, you are in the building, okay? Rants fam, join me in welcoming the every town to the award winning media personality. My girl Tai Beauchamp to the show. Hey girl?

Tai: Hey Luvvie. You know what? I am so happy to be with you right now. I can't even tell you. This has been a long time in the making. So I'm like, yeah, I'm here. I'm here. I'm here.

Luvvie: Turn up, turn up, turn up. Yes, I'm excited. I've been looking forward to having a conversation with you on Rants for a while and I want to start by giving people your bio so they know how epic you are.

Tai: Okay, well thank you.

Luvvie: Yes, yes, yes. You might blush. It's okay. You're just awesome. It's cool. Tai Beauchamp is an award winning producer, TV host and creative consultant. Drawing on her passion and authenticity, Tai delights and helping brands tell meaningful stories that ignite consumer engagement. One of Tai's latest ventures is serving as the host and producer of [Cleo TV's Lens of Culture](#), a 30 minute travel-log that highlights destinations throughout the diaspora and from a uniquely black millennial's perspective. She's a New Jersey native and proud alum of [Spelman College](#), passionate about women's empowerment and mentoring.

This winter Tai is launching [Beyond Ready](#) an online e-learning and live events experience that provides confidence coaching and business development for women and men who seek to move with intention and purpose personally and professionally. Her practical tips and charismatic delivery were honed when she began her career in highly regarded media outlets like [O, The Oprah Magazine](#) and [Seventeen](#). These experiences taught her early on how to tell stories that inspired audiences to think differently about themselves, leaving them feeling empowered and assured. Girl you are EPIC!

Tai: Oh my God, wait a minute. I'm like, who wrote that? I'm like, where did that come from? Thank you, Luvvie. Man-

Luvvie: Yeah. You've been around the block doing amazing stuff. So I usually kick off by asking my guests. So, what did you want to be when you were growing up?

Tai: Girl, certainly not doing what I'm doing. I grew up outside of Newark in the Oranges, East Orange. And I thought I wanted to be a doctor when I was younger, but I will tell you, I mean it's like the typical black... My parents and my family are educators, that was like, you're either going to be a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher. And that was really it. I did not know that I could actually write for the magazines that I love to read. And that all came later. I will tell you though, I had this very early experience when I was probably about four, so because I started in church, speaking in church and singing in the choir and those solos, I did have a early feeling that I would speak in front of people, but I didn't really know how to actualize that until later. And so I love fashion. I love storytelling. I had an imaginary friend until I was 10. So a little delayed and getting rid of Penelope. Penelope was with me for a long, long time.

And so I think like having an imagination and then being in front of people, speaking from church and performing, it just was in me and I loved fashion. And so later my mentor helped me to understand that I could actually not just necessarily be a model or be a designer in front, but I could actually tell the story of fashion and beauty. And so that lets my journalism career.

Luvvie: Did your parents support the imagination in you? The little artist in you?

Tai: Yeah, that's a good question. My mother and my biological father were very young when I was born and my mom always supported it, but my grandmother Mary, really got it. My other grandmother, Sarah really got it, too. I think my grandmother Mary, interestingly enough who just passed, she was a creative, too. She produced all the church plays. At her funeral someone was like, "There wasn't a church play of Tai wasn't in it." And I was like, "Wow. You're right. You're right about that." Because she produced on everything. From the wedding, she wrote the plays, she wrote poems. So my grandmother always appreciated it and really valued it. And she just also let me be my quirky, interesting random self and she celebrated it.

So yeah, I think some of them got it. But I don't think that being creative is for everyone to get. I think you have to have one person, especially during your formative years who sees it and gets it and celebrates it. But it's not going to be for everyone to get. I mean Luvvie I'm sure, like for you, did everyone get it?

Luvvie: No. I didn't even get it.

Tai: Yeah, exactly.

Luvvie: So when you were, let's say 10, how were you, what was little Tai like?

Tai: Oh, that's a good question. I was very opinionated. I thought about everything because I grew up as an only child, so I was around adults, including my grandparents and my mom a lot. So I had an opinion about everything. Ten-year-old Tai was curious, she was rambunctious, she also could be very reserved at times because I like to observe people and I think I got that from being around my grandparents.

So I would probably say there was like a real dichotomy about who I was. But interestingly enough, I had a conversation with one of my big cousins who I like adore, and she was just like, "you were just like the kindest little kid, like you were just loving." And so I don't think I've changed too much. I think I've gotten more opinionated the more I know, but at the same time, as you get older you have your opinions, but you're also learn to be a little bit more open to other people's opinions. So little Tai is not so different from big Tai, but I will say I'm six feet tall now. Wait, actually though at 10 I was five-two, so I'm only...

Luvvie: Wait you were five-two at 10 years old.

Tai: Yeah, I was five-two.

Luvvie: How was that at school?

Tai: Not easy at all. I mean, I had a size 10 shoe by the time I was in the fifth grade. No, it wasn't easy. It was not, it wasn't easy. I mean, luckily I went to small schools and so I didn't really get bullied so much, but it was awkward. I mean, no one wants to be the tall, gangly girl at the end of the line. It would've been much cuter to be little Luvvie at the front of the line. You know what I'm saying? That would have been cute.

Luvvie: So basically you were already taken up space at that age?

Tai: Yeah.

Luvvie: Oh wow.

Tai: That's a really good way to put it. I don't think I thought that way because it was hard. It wasn't always like super comforting and I will say I was awkward until about age 14, 13 then I was cool. I became a little bit cooler, but there were definitely some...

Luvvie: What changed?

Tai: My eighth grade year I went to public school that helped, real talk though that seriously did help. Because I think it just opened my world to different environments. I think sometimes when you're sequestered and you're kept in very formed environments, it limits your perception.

Luvvie: Right.

Tai: I mean really, it limits your perception. And so I think going to public school, I was able to like extend myself outside of the boxes and the parameters that I had known, that had been really confining and strict and very specific. And I think I found a little bit more of myself because I was able to identify outside of the way that I had always been taught or shown to identify.

Luvvie: So how did you-

Tai: Does that make sense?

Luvvie: It does make sense. Because basically your world expanded and you were able to step outside of that quirky piece and just become Tai. So how did you maintain your confidence in the moments when you were like, oh, I'm the tallest person here. And it's weird when... It's not easy being different when you're young.

Tai: No, it's not. It's so funny. I just did a [TED Talk](#) and I talked about always feeling other and not in a way that when people are like other... I wasn't the awkward kid that was off in the corner, fortunately because I was reaffirmed a lot at home, like my grandmother and my grandparents and my mom literally poured into me and they put me in spaces at church and in dance class and ballet and piano and all that other stuff where I was really reaffirmed. So that helped. So I wasn't like awkward in the sense of like over in the corner reading my book, like all day. Like it wasn't like that, but I didn't become the cooler kid until I had that more robust experience.

But I always felt some sense of other, mostly because I grew up in multiple home environments. I had my paternal grandparents house, I had my maternal grandmother's house and then I have my mother's house. And so I grew up going between worlds regularly as a kid and I didn't know anything was different about it. And then to go to Spelman, and I went to an all girls small high school as well. So then again, you see how those environments are really controlled in some ways. And then to go from Spelman, an historically all black college where there are nothing but dynamic black women, smart black woman running the stuff, and then to go into what is predominantly a white privilege world of magazine publishing, I was yet an other again, right?

So I think being comfortable with recognizing that I didn't always align, but finding my voice in those spaces and then growing into a person that realizes that there are different spaces that necessarily weren't created for you, but you going to show up in them and when you show up in them, you've got to decide who you're going to show up as, right? And having the opportunity to do that consistently, I think just really nurtured me and helped me to build out that confidence. And now, I mean I'm going to show up as my full self everywhere I go. You're going to get smart Tai. You're going to get stylish Tai, you're going to get business-minded Tai, you're going to get foolery, you're going to get -- You're going to get all of it.

Luvvie: I get the prayers that you... even though I might not always respond to it, they always come on time, but we'll get to that part later. So when you decided to go to Spelman, what was the choice? What made you say, Spelman is a place I want to spend the next four years?

Tai: Well, Spelman, I mean, [A Different World](#) was obviously a huge part of the inspiration growing up in the 90s. So a couple of things, I had an older cousin that went to Spelman many years before me and I just thought she was like amazing, and she was like a distant cousin, but I just thought she was like a baddie. I was like, she's a badass. And then watching *A Different World* and honestly, every Spelman woman I met while I was in high school and then I went on a college tour eighth grade year too, but every Spelman woman that I met while I was in high school, I was just like enamoured. I just thought that they were amazing, but crazy enough. And this is random, but this is also goes back to that spiritual piece. God showed up and showed out because I had been in private school all my life. My mom was a single parent until she married my stepfather later with the support of my grandparents.

And so when it was time for me to go to college, I was like, I'm going to stay in state and go to [Rutgers](#). And I had been recruited for basketball, because I was a basketball player. I got accepted to top schools, but they all wanted me to play basketball and they all wanted... I would've needed some additional financial support. So I was like, I'm going to go to Rutgers. Luvvie when I tell you on high school graduation day, I had already taken the entrance exam and the placement test to go to Rutgers University in New Brunswick, also where my grandmother went. And on high school graduation day, the man who later became my mentor, a wealthy philanthropist also from Newark by the name of [Ray Chambers](#), happened to at my high school graduation, seeing a student who he had supported as a part of a larger program that he had created many years before me, who was also in my class. He happened to be there to see her graduate because she was a part of an early cohort, heard me speak, asked about me and gave me a full scholarship to Spelman. So when I tell you ...

Luvvie: What?

Tai: Yes girl, yes.

Luvvie: What?

Tai: Yes, I kid you not. So I went to Spelman College and no loans. I took out one loan first semester. I paid that off four months after I graduated. I had very little loan grants and a full scholarship from-

Luvvie: You got to look at God.

Tai: Girl, all up in it. All up in the sauce. And I didn't even get a chance to meet him until a year and a half later I stayed in touch with him, wrote him, kept him updated about my development and what was happening at school. And he really supported both with scholarships and in other ways through the programs that he created many, many young people. And I was able to develop a close relationship with him. He still is very much in my life. I ended up working with him and working for his family foundation and starting a program at his high school alma mater in Newark, but God, so that's how I ended up at Spelman. But God.

Luvvie: Wow, that's amazing. That's right place, right time. Your helper was in the room and found you.

Tai: Amen.

Luvvie: Girl, so when you started Spelman-

Tai: But also Luvvie, that's the other thing about showing up consistently as who you are and doing the work.

Luvvie: Facts.

Tai: You know what I mean? Because we never know is watching. I mean honestly I think about the first time we met live and in person in Chicago. What was that like nine or 10 years ago?

Luvvie: Easily. Yeah.

Tai: And your blog was just beginning to take off.

Luvvie: Yeah. Yeah.

Tai: And you never know how these connections happen...

Luvvie: And then we connected as fellow Capricorns who have birthdays like a day apart.

Tai: Exactly. Then I'm like, Oh my Capricorn sister. I love you.

Luvvie: And we've been BAEs ever since.

Tai: Ever since.

Luvvie: So you also went to be a doctor. You're looking at a failed doctor here. Okay. I was supposed to be a doctor. That clearly didn't happen. When did your doctor dream end? Was it at Spelman or beforehand?

Tai: No, it ended at Spelman. When I was about to get a F in biology. I was like, "The doctor track might not be Tai Beauchamp's calling."

Luvvie: Listen, listen, our stories are too similar because mine was a chemistry 101 when I got that young D.

Tai: Yeah. Wait, you said is a C or a B?

Luvvie: A D girl, solid D, I got the D.

Tai: You earned the D.

Luvvie: I earned that D.

Tai: See I withdrew before I got the F. I said, "I'm going to take the W as in the loss and get my tail out of here." Because you know what? That was the other thing I just kept thinking to myself like here I was fortunate to benefit from this full scholarship and the terms and conditions weren't, you have to have a 4.0 or 3.5 to keep it. You just have to perform. And I was like, "There's no way in this world I could mess up and get an F in biology."

And then the other thing Luvvie, I don't know if you experienced this, I mean because you're a talker. I'm a talker. I told you I had an imaginary friend until I was 10. When I was in that lab, like when I had to do makeup lab and it was only me in the lab with the Petri dish, I was like, this conversation ain't going to go too well, I was like, I don't know how this going to work. And so the combination of that, that almost F and the Petri dish and that white lab coat, I was like, "I'm out."

Luvvie: You was like, I'm out, I can't do this. I can't... No.

Tai: I can't do it.

Luvvie: Mine was, I actually made effort and I still got a D. I'm like, uh-uh. I'm not used to this. And I realize-

Tai: You were a A student and everything else.

Luvvie: Yes, yes.

Tai: Yeah.

Luvvie: I was like, mm-mmm (negative). I definitely had to come to Jesus moment with myself where I'm like, you know what? You don't even like hospitals just let this go.

Tai: You're like, those walls are too white, they're too sterile.

Luvvie: Yes.

Tai: Yeah, I feel you.

Luvvie: And doctors make me nervous. So it's, no.

Tai: So what made you want to be a doctor? Was it just the Nigeria... Was it just, that's what I got to be?

Luvvie: Yes, a lot of it was probably the Nigerian-ness of it all. And also just because they've been calling me, "Dude, you're really smart." So I was like four because I was the bookish kid and I was like, I want to help people. So I'm thinking the way to help people is by making sure they're not sick. Now, nope. That's was not it.

Tai: Yeah.

Luvvie: So when you dropped the doctor dream, what was your next move?

Tai: So I dropped the doctor dream, I went and actually spoke to my mentor. I went and had a meeting with Ray. And I had also... I should also say while I was in high school, I was doing some modeling. Nothing major, I mean commercial, but I was close enough to New York that I had some gigs that I had there and I always loved fashion. I mean, I think fashion was always a part of the way that I self expressed in addition to speaking. And I was a writer. Like I used to write like crazy, everything from poetry to short stories. I was just like really into it. And so I went and met with Ray. He was like, "Well, have you ever thought about combining your love of writing with fashion?" And I was like, "No."

He was like, "Well, do you read magazines?" I was like, "My wall is plastered with [Harper's Bazaar](#). I love magazines." And I made a list of the magazines I was interested in working for and

he reached out to people that he knew at those places. And that's how I got my first internship the summer of my sophomore year. I interned at [Good Housekeeping](#) magazine at [Hearst](#) and that's when the bug bit me. I mean, it was crazy because I had grown up going to the city. I mean, growing up in the Oranges is so close and outside of Newark is so close to the city. So I went to the city every weekend with my mom or with my grand mom or with my aunt.

But by the time I started interning there, I just thought I was grown. I was taking the train to work. I was hailing my own cabs. I was so excited and I just loved the energy and the pace of it. And I was also able to learn how to be creative but in the business environment. And that's hard as a creative, most creative people only think about the creative process and don't think about how you make it into a monetizeable business.

And I was fortunate with this internship to sit in business meetings as well as brainstorming meetings. I was fortunate to write and work directly under an editor in chief and I was sold. I was like, this is where I want to be. And so that summer I was like, I'm going to be an editor in chief of a magazine. And this was at the height of publishing, Luvvie. This is when magazines, I can honestly say this as an intern, when you were invited to an event, you got a car, you went into in a car. It was amazing. So that was it for me. That was it.

Luvvie: So then what was your major? What did you change your major to?

Tai: I changed my major to English, so I went from biology to English. Spelman is a traditional liberal arts college, so they don't have like a journalism or communications major. But the other beautiful thing about being in the [Atlanta University Center](#) or the AUC is that you can take classes at [Morehouse](#) and Clark. And at the time Morris Brown was around as well, so you could cross register and take classes. So I took a lot of classes on Clark's campus, for newspaper writing outside of creative writing and storytelling. But I really loved language and I just love communication. So it ended up working out.

Luvvie: So when you graduated, what was your first job out of college?

Tai: Oh, my first job out of college was for this little magazine called [O, The Oprah Magazine](#).

Luvvie: Stop. You came out the gate, I can't deal with you.

Tai: Yeah, man. I can't even tell you, Luvvie. I've just been so blessed. Still by far. I didn't stay in corporate very long, I started at Oprah at the magazine, the magazine launched May, 2000 and I started there, I want to say June 26, 2005. I worked on the third issue of the magazine. Yeah. It was insane. Yeah, that was a whole moment. And you want to know what's so crazy, Luvvie? I tell people this all the time. I did not realize how big it was, because for me at this point, and also you know you're the person that's like working hard just to get the work done. Now. I was grateful to be there. I was happy to be there. I was happy to have a job. My salary was \$28,500 a year by the time I earned over time. But my first year of working I probably made like \$54,000, and I thought I was balling.

Luvvie: You were balling, fresh out of college?

Tai: I was balling.

Luvvie: Yes.

Tai: Yeah, I was doing it right. I was doing all right in 2000 for sure. But I was putting in the hours, too. But I didn't realize, I tell people like, when you're 22 and fresh out of school, you ain't trying to live your best life. So I loved Auntie Oprah, right? And obviously admired her from afar and with so... I mean, at that time Luvvie, it was just a very specific time in the industry, and for that magazine in particular where Oprah used to call us. She used to call the editors and I was an assistant, but I used to be able to speak to her on the phone and she was in the office once a month. Yeah, it was crazy. And I worked very closely with Gayle... Yeah. I saw Gayle in the office every single day.

It was an amazing place to be, to learn about not only journalism, but learn about women and how to empower women. And I tell people all the time, I'm very clear that had I started my career at another magazine title, by that time I had interned at *Good Housekeeping* and *Harper's Bazaar*, but had I started my career just hypothetically at a [Vogue](#) magazine versus at a *Oprah* magazine, I think my lens and my perspective on how to engage and empower women would be very different, right? I would have done it at *Vogue* with the lens of what was just high fashion, right? What the garment was about, what that piece was about opposed to who was the heart and the spirit of a woman?

And I think being able to work on the startup and the launch which I was able to do again and again, really enabled me to understand not only the creative process, but how you build a business, right? Because when you're at that early stage, you're trying to figure out not only what is exciting and interesting to you, but you have to figure out how that's going to connect with the audiences.

The other thing is, at a title like *Oprah* and at this time in 2000, she was just getting off of television, everybody really saw *Oprah* and they still do, but they saw her at that time as their friend, so women would call the magazine and they would send in pictures like, "I'm trying to figure out how to deal with my hammertoe. I'm trying to figure out how to..." And you had to call and have conversations with these women because you were ultimately a representative of *Oprah*. It wasn't like being at this random entity. And so it taught me a lot, not only how to write and how to tell stories, but how to make it meaningful for women. How to make sure that every woman that read that magazine felt seen, heard and understood, and then obviously how to show up as yourself, but recognizing that you're a representative of something in someone bigger.

Luvvie: I love the idea that your lens was able to be solidified because of *O Magazine*, at that time, did you have other friends at other magazines, did you have to interact with other magazine staffers? How was the difference in the moments when you were in those different spaces?

Tai: Oh my God, girl. Fortunately coming from Spelman a lot of my friends went into other creative spaces so I have friends who went into music. My best friend went into education, so that was very different. And she was back home in Jersey. There were not many black people in magazine publishing at that time. I mean I started in '97 in magazines, there were a few of us, most of us

that were black and of color women were like at [Essence](#) or, and then [Honey](#) came around later. But they were at [Ebony](#), titles that were for people of color. There weren't a lot of us and that was hard. What I will tell you, I remember distinctly feeling, not necessarily at Oprah, I didn't feel this at Oprah, but later when I went to [Seventeen](#), realizing that sometimes when you're in those spaces, you feel the crazy pressure of having to be the voice of all black women and you're like, well, we're not a monolith.

And I don't know if I was able to communicate it then the way that I am now because I was so young, right? And I did say it and I remember saying it like all black women aren't the same. All black girls are not the same, the same way that all others aren't the same. So there wasn't as much interaction. I mean there was Tasha at [Vibe](#), there was Tia Williams.

Luvvie: Tia!

Tai: Yeah, I mean we were... and she was amazing. Tia was amazing to me because Tia was a few years older than I was or am and Tasha, but there wasn't a large community to be very plain. There wasn't a lot-

Luvvie: How long were at *O Magazine*?

Tai: I was at Oprah almost three years. So I stayed there for three years. I was fortunate, I got promoted a ton, I bust my ass worked really hard. And it was recognized. I mean, so that's the other piece. Sometimes you just don't know who was watching, and my editor in chief at the time, Amy Gross and Gayle, who I will always consider a mentor of mine because she mentored me so much, even when I decided to leave to go work on the prototypes that became *Suede* magazine a couple years later, Gayle was the one that I went to and said, "Look I'm being offered this amount. And she's like, Beauchamp, well, we can't match." And she was just amazing, really supportive of my journey always. Yeah. But it was a time, and I just feel so grateful now to have had that as my first job, but not even just my first job, but just as an opportunity to learn.

Luvvie: So what made you realize it was time to move? How do you know when something that feels like home still is somewhere that you need to leave?

Tai: That's a really good question. I think at that point, I'll be honest, I knew it was time to leave because I knew that the type of work that I wanted to do, I couldn't fully do at that time at Oprah. By this time I think I started to get really clear that I was super passionate about not only women's stories, but especially black women's stories. And so I also was very passionate about fashion, at this point I had moved over from fashion and beauty. I started out as fashion and beauty assistant and when I left, that was beauty editor, so I moved over to the beauty department where you write a lot more than in the fashion department. It's a lot more styling usually. And when *Essence* was working on launching what they called, what would be like a *Vogue* for black women, I was like, "Oh my God, I to be a part of this."

And I met with Susan Taylor. I met with [Elayne Fluker](#) who was the interim editor in chief before *Suede* actually became *Suede*. And it was an opportunity to launch something new. And so I don't know if I would say I got everything I could have out of *Oprah Magazine* in terms of an experience, but I knew that there was a calling that couldn't necessarily be fully actualized and

realized at *O* at that time. And I also will say I was young and dumb too, but in the best possible way, when you're 24 and now you're offered the opportunity to start what you know will be another legendary opportunity. I think some of it was ego, and then the other part of it was a recognition. I mean, because it feels great to be wanted. Another part of it was like, what could I do in a new space? I had absolutely the most amazing spirit experience at *O*, *The Oprah Magazine* though. I can't say-

Luvvie: Yeah. And I respect that because I think sometimes we'll get comfortable and then we'll stop growing. So you took a risk. So you started *O Magazine* when it was two months old. Then you start at *Suede* where it's basically starting from scratch, you've been at the-

Tai: Yeah, it wasn't even *Suede*, it didn't even have a name. I worked on three prototypes of what became *Suede*, so I never even worked at the full title of *Suede* because by the time they launched I had left.

Luvvie: Wow.

Tai: Yup. Yup.

Luvvie: Girl, you're like... You know how Forrest Gump was in all these historical pieces, I always think about people who in real life are the real Gs who moved in silence behind the scenes of a lot of things we love.

Tai: Yeah, thank you.

Luvvie: I'll think of myself as Forrest Gump, so trust me, it's a compliment to me.

Tai: Wait, wait, wait, Luvvie in true Capricorn fashion.

Luvvie: In true Capricorn fashion. I'm like, listen, I feel like I'm Forrest Gump at times where I'm just like, how did I get here? So-

Tai: Girl. Yeah, ma'am.

Luvvie: Go ahead.

Tai: No, I mean if I have those moments and I just feel... What I will say, I think because we're all chosen, we're all chosen and I believe that. But I also believe when your actions and your intentions and your work ethic rise up to the level of being chosen, that's when people see. And so that was when Ray Chambers saw something in me in high school. That's when Ellen Levine and Michelle Huck, who I'm still in touch with, the human resource recruiter at Hearst who hired me to be a part of the internship program at Hearst, who didn't have to take me because the internship program actually had been closed already. And it was a small internship of 20 people who saw me then and then developing the relationship with Ellen and then Gayle and Amy Gross at Oprah who saw me and Oprah who herself saw me.

I remember the first time I met Oprah when she came into the magazine while I was there, all the people, my beauty director who hired me, my fashion director. And then when Susan Taylor saw me and Elayne Fluker and asked me to come over to what became *Suede*. And then when I went back to Hearst at *Seventeen* when they bought *Seventeen* magazine and relaunched that magazine with Atoosa Rubenstein and the team at *Seventeen*. I do believe that when you know you're chosen, you do the work, you do it with integrity, intention and purpose, you will be seen and called into a place and a space. Who you are Luvvie is not by accident, not who you are on the daily basis. Who you are in the world is not by accident. Your voice has been being honed all these years. The people that you poured into the people that that you've studied and understood and all of that, this is not by accident.

Luvvie: God is good. And you and I talk about faith. We talk about religion. We're both Christian. We understand the role of God in our lives. To me it sounds like your story similar to mine is God ordering your steps.

Tai: Girl, every single day, and I could even go back even further. I mean, I share this very openly but for the grace of God and my grandparents loving my mother and my father the way that they did and choosing to love me so that my mother and my father could go on to college, live their lives, you know before, so I'm very clear. But that's why I always try and walk with a level of humility and grace. Because in addition to the work that I do, I know it's not all me.

Luvvie: You also walk with the space... So I think humility and gratitude go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other. How do you basically think about your life when you are in the quiet moments? What do you do as you're reflecting?

Tai: Well, let me just tell you this. Let me talk about the times when it's not easy.

Luvvie: Come on. Let's do it.

Tai: Because that's the other thing. I can talk about all of the blessings and amazingness that I've been grateful to experience. But you can't talk about the blessing and not talk about the grace you're shown when things are not feeling as blessed.

Luvvie: Come on, let's do it.

Tai: Okay. So in my quiet times right now... In the quiet times that I've had over the course of the years when I was transitioning from being an editor, when I left *Seventeen* magazine, after being there only a year after being the first African American and the youngest beauty director in history appointed at the magazine when I was 25 years old. This was before Instagram. So this is before the story could be told in this way, right? And then that quiet moment when I was like, stop me right here. Something's not working for me here. And I didn't have the confidence about what was going to happen next, right?

Luvvie: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Tai: So those quiet moments sometimes are "Teach me, Oh God, place me where I need to be placed. And give me the clarity of mind about how I need to move because I don't always have

the answer.” I knew that that wasn't it. So you asked about how did I know it was time to move on from, O? how did I know it was time to move on from *Seventeen*? I knew that my spirit was not being filled. I knew that I was filled and I knew that I wasn't being used to the utmost and to the highest ability. And it was like, all right, where do I go from here? I didn't have... It was unpopular. I left *Seventeen* magazine and this heralded title and actually was told by a mentor of mine, you're on your way to being editor in chief. Don't leave. But I knew it wasn't serving me.

And so I think those moments when no one is watching, it's about you being real honest with yourself. I'm going to tell you, girl. One quality that that irks the living daylights out of me and in people or in circumstances when there is not self awareness. And those quiet moments for me are when I have to be intentionally and deliberately and painfully self-aware. So that means I'm not going to just tell myself how great I am. I'm gonna tell myself what it is that I need to develop and grow in, in order to get to the next level and to the next place. So that's what happens in those quiet moments, it's being positively and intentionally self-aware in order to grow and to evolve.

Luvvie: That's real. And how do you use your sisterhood and your community to hold you up, to hold you accountable? You're really big about sisterhood. Let the people know about how your friends, what role they play in your life.

Tai: Oh, my Gosh. It's so funny. I was with one of our girls last night. I had dinner with Justina last night.

Luvvie: That's my boo.

Tai: Oh yeah. I love her so much. Well, first of all, you have to have spaces where you can be authentically you and fully you without the lights, the camera, the action without any pretense. You have to have those spaces. My sisterhood is so important to me because the days when I don't have it, I reach out and say I don't have it and I get confidence there. I also find that my sisterhood is so important to me because I'm fortunate, my sisterhood are the baddies of the world, and so I can look to them and draw inspiration, but I also can be very honest and vulnerable and say, look, this is where I need help.

That has been critical for me, especially over the last... I will say the last four years have been my leverage up time and me growing and evolving and I've had to lean on people, I've had to say, here's what I need. And the sisterhood for me allows me the space to be honest and vulnerable and transparent. And they also allow me to be fully me. It's like what I said earlier, it's like sometimes it's the cheeky, sometimes it's the crackup. Then when I'm like, Oh, we got to pray. For real. Add color.

Luvvie: Oh, my gosh, yes. Let's talk about Add Color.

Tai: Amazing, right? Add color. Amazing. Luvvie gave an amazing talk at Add Color. And I had the opportunity to host the conference. Luvvie also hosted the gala and our girl Jovi was there and I hadn't seen Jovi at the time she's expecting, and I knew she was pregnant. She had told me sometime ago. So I was so excited to see her for the first time, see her and George for the first

time. And she had just gotten off a plane. And my immediate reaction was like, girl, let's go into prayer. That's what the sisterhood is about.

Luvvie: Yes.

Tai: That's what the sisterhood is about. Who's gonna lift you up and support you. And that's why also let me just tell you I don't tolerate fake friends either.

Luvvie: Amen, who has time for it?

Tai: Girl, guess what? Mm-hmm (negative).

Luvvie: Who has time?

Tai: Girl, listen, your fakeness will not affect my realness. So-

Luvvie: Oh, come on. Yes.

Tai: Your fakeness will not affect my realness. And so that's when you got to move people very nicely and gently over to the side because life is too short.

Luvvie: So three years ago when the day that my book hit the New York Times Best Seller list was also the day of the add color awards. On that day I was nominated for the Rockstar award.

Tai: I remember I was there.

Luvvie: And you were the one who actually announced my name and I have the pictures of me, you hugging crazy. There is so much joy being able to experience some of the best moments of my professional life with some of the best people I know. And I think about how fortunate I am. In the moments when I'm saying prayers, I'm thanking God for the opportunity and the favor to be able to experience this joy with folks who I love. And if y'all listening to this, Tai is literally one of the best people I know. I will get a random text message prayer from Tai and I might be running myself ragged on that day and going from one place to another. So I don't reply. Trust me, I read it and I said Amen. And I'm like, "How does she know when I needed to hear it?"

Tai: Well, thank you. Here's the thing though, Luvvie, the other thing is when I connect, I connect deeply. And I think that's because I've never wanted to be of the world that we live in. I'm going to be in it, but I'm not going to be of it. And so when I connect deeply, like I don't send those to every single person every single day. It's the day that you come to me. It's the day that I feel your energy and your spirit. It's the day is when I'm like, Oh my gosh, Luvvie has this going on and I just want you to know, so I appreciate that it's received and I don't ever expect responses, I tell people that all the time. I also do that so that you can have the space that you need to sit in whatever you're sitting with, but just to know that you're being thought of in love.

Luvvie: And that's real. I think about friendship and I think a lot of times people think about, people get to talk to each other every day. Everybody's too busy for that. People too busy to... I think friendship is standing in those gaps. The gaps that you don't even realize are there, and...

Tai: And girl, you got a husband now anyway.

Luvvie: Girl. Okay, I'm trying to get my whole life together. I'm over here trying to adult on all types of levels, okay? So I always appreciate that, I always am like, "Tai is a real one."

Tai: But I'm like, look, I want you to... And you and your husband are so... Oh my God. And he is a Morehouse brother, right?

Luvvie: Yeah. He a Morehouse brother.

Tai: You done find yourself a man of Morehouse?

Luvvie: Justin, he's a Morehouse brother through and through.

Tai: I love it. How are you adjusting to married life? What's the adjustment phase for you?

Luvvie: Girl, you know what? I thought it would be jarring. For some reason I thought I'd wake up one and be like, "Oh my God, I've suffered." I mean I still have moments where I'm just like, I can't believe I'm actually somebody's wife. I can't believe I am grown enough to be called somebody's wife. But overall though it's cool. I think we'd already taken each other very seriously and we'd already been looking at each other as like lifelong partner. So it wasn't like an automatic like switch of, oh my God. And now I realized that I had already been in this space in my head and he had, too. So honestly, and that's why I decided to... that's part of the reason why I was like, "Okay, I want to slow down." I spent so much of my, the last seven, eight years building my career, I focused mostly on my career, now I'm switching like okay, what does it look like to actually focus mostly on my friends and my family and my husband and just be not missing the moments that matter. You will know that.

Tai: You want to know what? Man listen, that is so that is so powerful and so important. I've actually been talking to after I froze my eggs and people know that I was a caregiver to my grandmother. I've been talking a lot to younger women about the importance of being clear and intentional about looking at your life holistically and fully. Because I know for me, and I hear you, you were intentional. You're like the last seven years I was focused on work and business and building, but you also were not saying no to relationships, right?

Luvvie: Right.

Tai: And not inviting it in. It may have been the majority of what you were spending your time and your energy on, but you were not saying, okay, I don't need a partner or what have you. So many of us as career-focused women, especially as career focused black women. We lean all the way in to one area and don't spread out enough into those other areas and then wonder why like for me you get to a certain point in your life where I'll be 42 in January and it's like, where he at now? Oh, but girl, you have not been planting the seeds the way that you should have been. You know what I mean?

Luvvie: Yeah.

Tai: And so I think I celebrate you also for recognizing the season, but as you recognize the seasons, sometimes in the winter you still need your rain coat, right?

Luvvie: Yes.

Tai: You know what I'm saying?

Luvvie: Yes.

Tai: So you're taking all of those moments with you, and just having clarity about that. So I want you to take some time off and take it easy and have all the fun for all of us.

Luvvie: Yes, indeed. Yes ma'am. Listen, look, and you and I aint even talked about, we talked about like the whole idea of, we've been traveling like crazy. All the stuff that's going on. I think one thing I did in the middle of all my busy in terms of trying to maintain my relationships is to actually be honest about my capacity with my friends. So I didn't just disappear and I was unavailable to them. I'd be like, yo, for the next six weeks I'm traveling like crazy. I'll be back this weekend, let's go to brunch. So in between my crazy busy jumping on planes, I also try to make sure that people who are my day ones and people who I love knew that when I finally do have some pause, me and you, let's do it.

Tai: Yeah, and I think, but you also granted yourself real grace and the space to recognize that you don't need to do it all the time.

Luvvie: Yes, yes.

Tai: Because that's the gotcha gotcha. So many of us be like, okay all things to all people all the time. That's not realistic.

Luvvie: It's not.

Tai: And I think that that's a narrative that we have to stop telling ourselves and grant ourselves grace to be like, no, here's how I'm going to... everything can't be a priority at the same time, everything is not a priority, right? And so just being honest and real with yourself about what those priorities are and creating your top three at any given moment and being like you said, communicating what that is. So I'm communicating very openly and honestly that love is a priority for me. Not in 2020 love is a priority for partnership and life and in business is a priority for Tai Beauchamp as of today, yesterday, day before yesterday, last week, the week before that.

Luvvie: I love it, look, speak it. Speak that for real. I'm glad I actually know that because listen, I'm gonna keep my eye out. If you get a text message from me? And I'm like, "Tai, I think I might know somebody who might be good for you." Go ahead and reply back and I'm gonna keep my eye off of that.

Tai: Yeah, exactly that. And I'm clear, like the priorities are that and the priorities are also having stability and time and travel because as you said, being on planes every week, it is such a

blessing and I thank God for like the opportunity to go and connect and meet people and share and exchange and grow and learn and earn at the same time. But it's not easy.

Luvvie: No, no, it's not easy.

Tai: Yeah, it's not easy.

Luvvie: What project are you working on now that you're most passionate about?

Tai: So there are a couple, I mean I'm really excited about Beyond Ready because I've informally mentored and coached so many over the course of the last almost 20 years of my life and career. That I think this will really provide a space and opportunity for me to reach more people and connect with more people about building confidence on how to pivot into your career, how to pivot in your life. I mean, because when you think about my career trajectory, I've made quite a few pivots, and I think a lot of people look to me for that. And I have done so with confidence. That doesn't mean it was easy, but I've done so with confidence. I try and motivate people to overcome fear, and so I'm excited to share those principles and how you do that.

And then I've been on this crazy wellness journey, too, so a lot of people have asked me about the journey to wellness, and so Beyond Ready will be a platform for me to share insights and wisdom on helping people to do an actual lives for their lives in that way. So I'm excited about that. There are a couple other projects I can't exactly share, but I've been in talks with networks and platforms about... So because when you go in front of the camera, people don't realize that you're behind the scenes creating. So there are three projects that I've created myself and that we've been pitching and we're getting some amazing feedback now. And then who knows there are... I work with brands pretty consistently, both as an ambassador and a consultant, but there might be some movement with a particular brand that I might work with more closely, so we'll see.

Luvvie: And then you co-host a Cleo TV travel log show with my boy Elton, who fun fact, the graphic for Rants & Randomness. That photo of me, Elton did that photo and he's just-

Tai: No way.

Luvvie: Yeah, absolutely.

Tai: I love it. Oh yeah. Cleo, Lens of Culture. And then, I'm sorry that I didn't mention it, is because you know what's so crazy with Lens of Culture?

Luvvie: What?

Tai: We shot that from April through August.

Luvvie: Oh my gosh.

Tai: And so when you're shooting, you're all the way in it, we shot 12 episodes and so hopefully we'll get a season two. And then so that would be starting to work on that sometime in the spring. But Elton, girl, Elton is boo for life.

Luvvie: I love Elton.

Tai: That show honestly is amazing because it afforded me the opportunity to travel and now I'm to share my love of travel with the world. But Elton was one of my greatest blessings this year. And I knew Elton for years, but we had never really deeply connected. But now when you travel with somebody and you'd be all up in the mix with somebody, you really get to know them. And Elton is a special egg and he's just been such a blessing. And I like to say that Lens of Culture is like Anthony Bourdain, Parts Unknown, meets girls trip with your favorite guy friend.

Luvvie: I love that.

Tai: Yeah. He's a kiki. So we have a moment.

Luvvie: He's a good time. He's just brilliant. He's a brilliant creative.

Tai: He is.

Luvvie: Yeah. So I always love to ask people as you are doing all of these things and trying to be the best person you can be. What are you doing for self care?

Tai: Oh, well the wellness journey has been real for me and the fitness journey has been real for me. I was an athlete in high school and I've always been super athletic, but I had fell off and I think transitioning from New York to LA and being a caregiver, my self care is hiking and working out. I do that almost daily. I probably workout five to six times a week. Today I did, before I got on with you, I hiked Runyon and I went to the gym.

Luvvie: Girl, I just came from the gym. I think it's trash, but continue.

Tai: I do it. Girl, this is my home. It really seeds my entire energy. When I don't work out, I'm a different person. I really am. So I realized that that's just a part of my mental wellbeing to do it. The other self care thing for me is I started therapy not too long ago.

Luvvie: Amen.

Tai: And that's an expensive self care moment.

Luvvie: Yes, it is. Therapy is not cheap.

Tai: I'm like, Dang, really, I got to write this check. So yeah, that is it. And I spent intimate time and great time with my girls. Oh my God, I went to this amazing place Luvvie. Do you like the outdoors?

Luvvie: Depends on what you mean by like.

Tai: Okay.

Luvvie: If it's warm outside, I don't mind the outdoors.

Tai: Okay. All right. So you prefer the beach.

Luvvie: Yeah.

Tai: You're not like a woods girl.

Luvvie: So where'd you end up going?

Tai: I went to this place called Blackberry Mountain. It's in Tennessee. There's Blackberry Farms and Blackberry Mountain. So one girlfriend and I she had like made this reservation a year and a half ago. It's outside of Knoxville and when I tell you we were there for three days. We went to the spa. We walked in the woods, we worked out. We just sat down and relax. So those are my real self care moments. Yeah, it was amazing. I'm trying to figure out how to plan a retreat there. So you'll get an invitation for that.

Luvvie: You know what?

Tai: But yeah.

Luvvie: I can be peer pressured into doing stuff like that. I can totally be peer pressured to doing it.

Tai: But I've got a peer pressure you really?

Luvvie: If I know my girls is going, I don't like to have FOMO, which is fear of missing out. So if I know all y'all going, I'd be like, "Fine, I'ma come."

Tai: And then you get there then you become the ringleader. But I can't even tell you. It was just so amazing just being there. And I also went to... Have you ever been to Joshua Tree or Tom Desert?

Luvvie: No, but I've heard of it. I was supposed to go last year. Ain't end up making it.

Tai: You have to make your way out there. Sometimes self care is doing nothing.

Luvvie: Yes.

Tai: Everyone's on this big self care thing. Like go get a manicure, go get a pedicure. Sometimes self care is sitting your ass down and doing absolutely nothing and being cool with it.

Luvvie: And being fine with it.

Tai: Being fine with it. So I don't know if it's the wisdom in me, but I'm like, do you know that song, Turn Down for What? I'd be like turned down for everything.

Luvvie: For everything, I be like turned down for-

Tai: But every single thing under the sun.

Luvvie: Yes, turn down. I am in a turn down mode, me and my Auntie Robe. We'd be living our best lives.

Tai: I know. That's right. Turned down for everything.

Luvvie: Everybody needs a Auntie Robe. Do you have Auntie Robe by the way?

Tai: I don't.

Luvvie: Tai, you don't have an Auntie Robe?

Tai: I don't.

Luvvie: I got to get you a Auntie Robe then, I'ma text you so I can get your address because I'm gonna send you a Auntie Robe. I feel like every woman needs a Auntie Robe that she just put-

Tai: And tell me what makes it so special.

Luvvie: You know what? It don't even matter what robe it is. It's just a Robe that you put on once you were in the house that just automatically makes you feel at peace. You put it on, you feel warm, plus you take whatever. If it's wine, if it's coffee, if it's hot chocolate, if it's tea and you just sit on the couch and this Robe just wraps you up in love.

Tai: You like, this is my snuggle bunny.

Luvvie: Yes.

Tai: Send me the Robe and also package that with some eligible person.

Luvvie: You know what? Because then, you all can have matching auntie and uncle robes one day.

Tai: Exactly.

Luvvie: Yes.

Tai: What I need is a couples auntie and uncle robes.

Luvvie: You know what? We don't get the auntie robe first and the we're going to get the uncle and then the uncle robe.

Tai: Okay, perfect. Look, listen. We're putting it out there.

Luvvie: We're putting it out there. This time next year I'll be like, I can't get in touch with Tai, because Tai is wrapped up under her boo and I'll be like, I don't mind. I'll see her in three months. I'll talk to her in three months. I don't mind.

Tai: Listen, I am here for it. See that's what you call a real friend.

Luvvie: Look, we speak life. We speak what will be.

Tai: Exactly.

Luvvie: Okay we will speak what will be, because look, Tai is a hot babe and look, I'm gonna act like this is your this is your... What did they call those things? Because millennials will know it. Well, young millennials. The classified.

Tai: You're doing my profile.

Luvvie: Your profile. Yes, Tai is tall, gorgeous, stunning, okay? Noir pixie dust. Full of light, intelligent, caring, thoughtful, funny as shit, and just like again, fine a lot. The lady is a just hot babe, just team scatter them, that's Tai. Listen.

Tai: All of it.

Luvvie: Listen.

Tai: All of it. So-

Luvvie: And how do people... what's up?

Tai: So we got to work on that profile. I'm a take the auntie robe and then we're also... Actually no, I think we need both the auntie and the uncle robe because then you put the uncle rope in place...

Luvvie: Yes.

Tai: Look, that's what you call manifesting. So that's the other thing that I'm real clear about, that self care is, I spend time in meditation and visualization because I realize none of this is going to happen by accident.

Luvvie: That's real.

Tai: None of it is going to happen by accident. So thank you for the auntie robe and uncle robe in advance.

Luvvie: In advance. I got you. I even know the right brand for it. Don't worry. You're going to put it on you and be like, Oh, okay. When is going to be a different color. I got you. I'm excited about this, okay?

Tai: Yeah.

Luvvie: This is so good. So how do people find you Tai?

Tai: You can find me at Taibeauchamp.com, T-A-I B-E-A-U-C-H-A-M-P.com, and on Insta and Twitter and all the things @taibeau T-A-I-B-E-A-U. Yeah and I'm easy to find and I'm also one of those people that respond to people, too. So yeah.

Luvvie: I'm so glad you came on Rants & Randomness.

Tai: I'm so happy you brought me on. Thank you Luvvie. Luvvie, let me just tell you this, you energize me. So you are also the sister friend who, we don't speak as often, but our text messages are legit and real and just seeing your movement makes me happy and it's inspiring. So you keep going.

Luvvie: Oh, thank you. That means a lot.

Tai: And whatever that looks like for you, whatever that looks like for you.

Luvvie: I appreciate you for that. Thank you.

Tai: I love you.

Luvvie: Love you so much.

Tai: Thank you.

Luvvie: Bye boo.

Tai: Have a great day. Ciao ciao.

Luvvie: Bye.

Tai: Bye.

Luvvie: Yo, shout out to Tai Beauchamp for joining me. Y'all follow her on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). She's @taibeau, T-A-I-B-E-A-U. Yo, make sure you go on her platform, comment, let her know you loved her interview. When people come on Rants and they get your feedback, they love it and I love it. So thank you for doing that in advance. And subscribe to Rants & Randomness on [Apple Podcast](#), [Spotify](#), [SoundCloud](#), wherever you prefer to get it. And please rate it if you leave a review, you never know. It just might be featured on the show. Also, much love to [Chicago Recording Company](#) where I record this podcast, and as always you can follow me on social media. I am @luvvie everywhere. See you on the next episode.

