

19. When moving away from home how did you handle it? How long did you handle it? How long did it take for you to feel settled in? Did you manage to keep in good contact with the close friends you had back home?

Moving away from home was both good and hard for me. When I moved it made it a lot easier for me to leave behind my families expectations of me and just be my true self I wanted to be. I also didn't feel I belonged in southern California and desperately wanted to be in the Pacific Northwest as my soul and spirit is very connected to trees and mountains and water. I don't know if I've settled quite yet because after I left home I moved like every three months to new places and was always moving into a place that already had established living ways so I haven't gotten to fully nest yet. Someday soon I'm hoping that I'll get to move into my own place and I think then I'll finally feel settled. And as for friends I only really stay connected with my best friend who is still my best friend but otherwise I lost connection with others after a few years. I'd still love to see them again but I don't make an effort to talk with them anymore as I'm a very different person I was in high school.

20. What has been the most difficult part of this road you are in? How did you overcome those obstacles?

I think one of the most difficult things for me is getting over my need for my mom's approval. She's a lot of the reason why I'm an artist and why I cosplay but at the same time she has even more anxiety than I and is scared of social media and doesn't understand what I'm doing. A lot of the time she still mentions that I should finish college and it's hard. I think slowly she's beginning to understand what I do but it's been hard for me. My mom is extremely important to me but I'm also my own person and I have my own life to live.

21. Do you have a song that you feel a deep connection with or have a song tied strongly to a memory (good or bad) what song would it be and what is it tied to?

I think for me a lot of Alt-J songs or songs by Sleeping at Last means a lot of me because I instantly get ASMR from them and instantly disassociate they help me express emotions that are feral and primitive and too crazy to be felt otherwise. They make me feel raw and alive. Alt-J makes me feel base animalistic and Sleeping at Last makes me feel like my heart is beating at one with the universe.

22. At what point was it that you stopped paying attention to what people said and started focusing on yourself entirely?

I think for most of my life I've been somewhat unconcerned with what people thought of me? Or at least even if I did get massively depressed or stressed sometimes or even bullied by not adhering to society standards I still didn't see the point in changing myself to be someone I wasn't. Like most people I think the biggest point in which I was REALLY able to let go of others opinions was in college. You know when you're finally on your own. But really even more so than that was when I left college after two years because I knew it was right for me. And that was a big shock to a lot of people, and still is. My biggest goal in life has always been to be content no matter what I'm doing so I've just stopped paying attention to other people because a large

part of my alpinism is making others happy. But I now know I'm not responsible for other people's happiness as hard as it might be to remember.

23. What's your earliest memory? Or at what point did the light turn on and you were fully aware and began retaining memories?

Oof so personally this is really hard for me and I don't think I'll be able to give you a good answer as my memory has always been highly selective and sort of bad. I can remember stuff from living in Georgia from ages 3-5 I would imagine but I couldn't tell you what sequence they are in.... it bothers me sometimes actually

24. If I find a way to request you for a convention would you be happy and can you come to France even if it's a tiny con?

Yes yes yes yes yes yes PLEASEEEEEEE

25. What's your middle name?

Maurine. I used to think it was Marine as in marine life and I told EVERYONE that. I was a little obsessed with wanting to be a marine biologist at the time

26. What is your ultimate cosplay? Like is money and difficulty didn't apply and a perfect costume just appeared, who would you want it to be?

Ohhhhhh I'm not entirely sure but it'd probably be something intricately sewn with beautiful embroidery and fabrics with so many details and elements and slight armor pieces. Something that would be like a spiritual being cosplay probably.

27. What's your diet and exercise like?

So I intend to answer this question more fully later on because there's a long story behind it. But mainly my diet is what I feel like but everything in moderation, ya know? I've been through many an eating disorder on either side of the weight scale and know that trying to diet or count calories hurts me more than it helps. I don't eat a lot of processed foods, I don't buy snacking food so I don't have the temptation and same goes for sweets. But that doesn't mean I don't eat them. I just avoid having them in my house. I just really genuinely like vegetables and fruits. And ahhh I'll answer more later, but I also don't drink alcohol really, maybe like once a month or something when out with friends. And as for exercise I used to be really good or what my body wanted but everyone is so so so different in what works for them. But oof I haven't worked out in three months due to medical issues and I hate it. I use working out as a release of anxiety and a boost of endorphins

28. What are your thoughts on developing body confidence?

It's a tough journey, it really really....most of the time I still don't have it. But I've gotten in the habit of instead thinking about how my body could be better I thank my body for what it has. And while it doesn't fix my body confidence issues it does help me be nicer to myself.

29. How do you personally nurture your positivity and take care of your mental wellbeing?

Oof man I'd really take this question into like a whole essay of its own CAUSE WOW IT DOZEY. That is a lot to unpack there I don't even...know where to start???? I think something that ill just start with is I'm somewhat a nihilist in nothing matters but further than that...i am a nihilist BUT if nothing really matters in the whole grand scheme of things you can focus on what you believe to really matter, like family, nature, or fun! It's sort of a weird philosophy i suppose but it like takes anxiety and stress away from me?? Helps me to focus on what makes ME happy and not what society tells me should make me happy. I also personally just maybe am lazy? Idk but I don't see a point in holding grudges or being hateful or judgements as it just exhausts too much of my mental energy i could be Using to instead enjoy the cat that's climbing on the fence in my backyard right now. I just have the belief that everyone has such different and unique lives and if you're living your life without hurting others I don't care at all how you live if its making you happy. It may not always be my flavor of living but if that's the case then i just don't have to interact with it. Whew man I don't know there is A LOT i could talk about.

30. What's one of your favorite parts of conventions?

Seeing all the people dressed up! I really love conventions for the people watching actually more than anything else! It's just really nice to see people being themselves and being confident and watching others get excited about it too. It always just feels so positive.

31. What are some good stores or online stores to find vintage things? Like clothing, shoes, accessories, etc.

hmmm to be truthful i really don't have experience in this department.... oof the only place i can think of is Etsy and that feels like a lame answer

32. What's your favorite part of cosplaying.

Interacting with people especially kids who fully believe that you are their most beloved character and look up at you with stars in their eyes. It's the fucking cutest thing ever dear lord. And i love being able to give those kids a positive experience.