Relationship Issues and Values

A) “Girls should wear a lot of tight clothes that show their body parts. Maybe some cleavage or maybe a belly button ring.”

A) “I dress sporty. I wear basketball clothes every day. You can’t play football in heels, you can’t play football in some tight jeans, you can’t play basketball in either of that, either. If I’m dressed all in tight clothes, I feel like I have to present myself different—like a young lady would. But like this, I can be just kick-back like, ‘Whatsup?’ ‘Cause I don’t have to set up a certain image with what I’m wearing.”

B) “When girls run things, it’s kind of like a turn-off when they do it all the time. It’s like, ‘Why are you trying to control me, you freak?’”

B) “My boyfriend made the weirdest comment the other day. We were holding hands and my hand was in front, and he switched it, and he was like, ‘No, my hand should be in front, because I’m the man.’ Like it even comes down to something as silly as that. It’s so weird, it’s like guys have to be in control of everything when it comes to women.”

C) “Emotions guys are allowed to show are anger and happiness in certain situations, but you can’t go too far with it, and that’s about it. You can’t be sad in front of nobody. You can’t do that. People would go, ‘You a punk.’”

C) “Around their friends guys put on a show. They think that they need to be hard or need to disrespect women or need to disrespect other guys, but then when a girl talks to him, his personality, his whole view on everything changes. It’s so honest. Underneath that hard person, there is somebody who you can talk to.”

D) “You have to lose your virginity by the end of high school. I mean you see it in movies, and all those teen movies, like that’s what the plot’s about. If I am a virgin, then it means that I’m weak-willed. Or, you know, I just don’t have game.”

D) “I’m not [sexually] active at all. I mean I’ll flirt with people and I’ll be, like, kissing people, but having sex is a whole different level.”
E) “I try to attract as little attention as possible. I try to keep my movements very straight and rigid. I feel like I’m always on the defense. I always have to be putting up fronts.”

E) “I like to play with gender roles because it confuses people. Everybody thinks, you know, a guy is supposed to be a guy, he’s supposed to be straight. A girl is supposed to be a girl, she’s supposed to be straight. And not a lot of people talk about gender roles and how the envelope is pushed half the time and how other people do other things.”

F) “I’m taught to see women as nothing but an object. And taught to see them as this thing that is only there for their outward beauty. And I’m trying to talk about being open-minded, but yet I’ll go back to school 30 minutes from now and I might grab someone’s ass or I might say, ‘Oh you look really nice in them jeans,’ and not in a flattering way, in a fully sexual way.”

F) “Whenever I dress like a typical girl, I feel that people are judging me all the time, and I’m just, you know, paranoid, like, what are they thinking? Do they think my boobs are big? Do they think they are small? Do they think my butt’s big? But when I dress the way that I do, I am comfortable because I know I’m not showing anything. I know they’re not going to be thinking that. They’re just, ‘Oh, there’s a chick. Cool. Whatever.’”

G) “Nobody knows that I’m gay. A friend of mine, who’s straight, asks me about this girl and that girl. And I’ll just say, ‘Yeah, you know, she’s hot,’ or whatever. I guess I’m a pretty good actor. I don’t have any interest in girls, period. And yet, to stay safe, I still play it off quite a bit.”

G) “When my senior year began, I wanted kids to see me for who I was. So, the first day of school, I brought my shoelaces of different colors. And, I brought this shirt that expressed [that I’m gay]. I went around, said hi to people. I realized that what I am doesn’t really make a difference. It’s who you are inside.”

H) “I like building things, I like putting up drywall, I like painting. I think a lot of people portray me as a really girly girl, and I like dressing up and stuff, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that I can’t do that.”

H) “Why does a girl need to learn how to jump a car? That’s for guys. Why does a girl need to learn how to mow a lawn? That’s a guy thing.”