

# 3.25 Your Loving Day Stories

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## SPEAKERS

Charles Russell, Laura Schnell, Faith, Michael Schnell, Samantha Briggs, Darci Alston, Blake Briles, Preethi, Tory Fleurimond, Jalynne Geddes, Leslie Telfer, Michelle, Anna Russell, Nina, Aleja Briles, Jasmine Bradshaw, Alyssa, Pilar Runyan, Randy Briggs, Carter Bradshaw, Ken Clark, Michael Runyan, Catelyn, Michael Runyon

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**J** Jasmine Bradshaw 00:00  
You're listening to the First Name Basis podcast, Season Three, Episode 25: "Your Loving Day Stories."

**J** Jasmine Bradshaw 00:15  
Teaching our children to be inclusive and anti-racist starts with us within the sacred walls of our home. First Name Basis is designed to empower you with the confidence you need to be a leader in your family and a change maker in your community. Together, we will wrestle with hard questions and use the answers to create the world we want: a world that reflects our values of inclusion, compassion, and courage. I'm your host, Jasmine Bradshaw, and I am so excited to be on this journey with you.

**J** Jasmine Bradshaw 00:51  
Hello, First Name Basis fam. I am so glad you are here. Happy Loving Day. Oh my goodness, happy Loving Day. I feel like we have been waiting so long to say that. Happy Loving Day, my friends. If you're not sure what I'm talking about, and you don't quite know what Loving Day is, just go back one episode. The episode before this one is called "The Loving Story," and I tell the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, and all about the history of Loving Day. But I feel like you're probably here because you already know exactly what Loving Day is, and you have been waiting on the edge of your seat for this episode. If you guys have been following me on Instagram, you know that I have been crying my way through this entire process, because you have submitted your Loving Day stories. So this entire episode is going to be stories from our First Name Basis family, people within our family who are in interracial relationships. So I asked you all to submit a voice memo to me sharing what Loving Day means to you, and I'm going to

tell you that you should probably break out your tissues, because this episode is so beautiful. I cried. You know I cried listening to each of these. But I also laughed my pants off. Oh my goodness, I can hear your kids in the background. I can hear the emotion in your voice. I just love you all so much. I'm so grateful that we get to do this together. And I'm so grateful to know that there are so many other interracial families out there who are figuring this out alongside us.

**J** Jasmine Bradshaw 02:46

Before we jump into the stories, I have to remind you that our signature program, Bite-Sized Black History is 10% off from now until June 27. We are having a Bite-Sized Black History summer sale. I created Bite-Sized Black History so that you and your family could celebrate the joy, the magic, the ingenuity of 12 Black American icons that were overlooked by our history books. So Bite-Sized Black History is 12 bite-sized podcast episodes made just for kiddos. All the episodes are 10 minutes or less, because I know what a kid's attention span is, believe me. I used to be a second grade teacher. So you listen to these bite-sized podcast episodes and you break out your Bite-Sized Black History booklet. The booklet that comes along with your podcast episodes is full of coloring pages, one illustration for each Black American icon. So you listen to the episode about them. Your students or your kiddos color the pages while you're listening, and then you have really rich, deep, reflection questions. And these questions are meant to be an opportunity for you to have these really important conversations in your home or in your classroom where you're able to dig deep and open up that line of communication maybe about things that you haven't talked about before, or continuing the conversation that you've already started with your kiddos. So you can find Bite-Sized Black History on our website at [firstnamebasis.org](http://firstnamebasis.org). I will also put the link in the show notes. And just a reminder, we are having a summer sale. So it will be 10% off until June 27.

**J** Jasmine Bradshaw 04:37

All right. Let's get into your Loving Day stories. These first two stories are really near and dear to me because they're my family. Everyone in my family is in an interracial relationship. It's kind of funny. So as you know, I am Black-biracial. My mom is white and my dad is Black and of course my sister is black-biracial as well. She prefers to go by mixed. And my sister's girlfriend, Faith, is also mixed. She is Korean and white. So everybody in our little family is in an interracial relationship. And I think it's so magical that we get to celebrate Loving Day together. So these first two are my family. And then after that, it's all you my friends. Everyone from the First Name Basis family is sharing what Loving Day means to them.

**K** Ken Clark 05:29

My name is Ken Clark.

**L** Leslie Telfer 05:30

And I'm Leslie Telfer. We're from Phoenix, Arizona.

K**Ken Clark 05:35**

And Loving Day means to us or to me, the freedom to love whoever I want, or that person that makes me feel loved and continues to make me happy. And it's been going that way for the last 36 years. And I know that because it was a struggle for the Lovings, I, and Lesley, we, like many cases, stand on the shoulders of the people who show the courage, show the courage to fight for the right, and the freedom to love and be with whoever they want to be with, regardless of obstacles.

L**Leslie Telfer 06:19**

So the Lovings, Mildred and Richard, they really paved the way for those of us who have come after them. I know that it was so much easier for us because of what they did, standing up for themselves and having the courage to be together, despite the laws and rules that said that they shouldn't. And I remember for our wedding, being very selective in the family members that I invited, because I just didn't want anyone there who wouldn't support our union. And our marriage has been the bedrock of my life.

K**Ken Clark 07:10**


And another point was Mildred and her husband, they did these things to protect their children. And we all know that children are so sacred, they're so protected, they're such a prize. And so it was there, they were able to deal with some of the adversities. But really, they wanted to protect their children, they wanted to make sure that their children had the opportunity to be whoever they wanted to be and weren't in danger. And I think that's one of the other motivating factors, facts that pushed her to do the things that she did, and she explained to her husband, we need to do these things, and they did them on a national level. So that was extraordinary, especially back then. Extraordinary.

N**Nina 08:00**

Hi, my name is Nina. And I'm from Phoenix, Arizona.

F**Faith 08:04**

And I'm Faith, and I'm from Phoenix, Arizona. And to us Loving Day represents restructuring what a family should look like. It means that we're no longer bound by a cookie cutter idea what a family is supposed to be. And we're less afraid of any assumptions that are made about us. Nina's my family, and I wouldn't change that for the world. I'm grateful that this foundation was set for us because that means, for the most part, we're lucky enough to surround ourselves with people that don't acknowledge our race in regards to our relationship. It also means that there's more representation and media of couples who look like us. We're hopeful that an interracial relationship like ours will no longer be a political statement in the near future.



N

Nina 08:40

Loving Day means that we can simply exist like every other couple. I think we definitely have the privilege of both having accepting families, but we can also be grateful of those who paved the path for this acceptance. Loving Day means also being able to share and understand different aspects of our culture. Not just the good parts like the Korean food your mom makes, but the uncomfortable parts that help equip me to be more anti-racist. In general, we both have learned a lot from each other and we wouldn't have these opportunities without couples like the Lovings

R

Randy Briggs 09:15

Hi, we are Randy and Samantha Briggs, and currently live in Saratoga Springs, Utah. We were married 47 years after the Lovings won their Supreme Court case.

S

Samantha Briggs 09:28

We are so grateful to Richard and Mildred Loving for their courage. One thing I love about their story is that they were not civil rights activists. They were just two people fighting for their right to be a family, and it made a huge and lasting impact. It's an inspiration for me to have that same courage to continue pushing for the changes needed for our children to live in a more just and loving society as well.

T

Tory Fleurimond 09:56

Hi, Jasmine, my name is Tory Fleurimond, and my husband is Ferry Fleurimond. Yes, you heard that right. His name is Ferry. Think more like the ferry boat, not like Tinkerbell. I grew up in Nampa, Idaho and Ferry was born in Haiti. We, he, moved to Florida when he was 12-years-old. And we actually met playing rec volleyball in college. He invited my sister and I over for lunch, and we soon began dating exclusively after that. We continued our relationship through the summer months that year while we were living in different cities, and then we visited each other as often as we could. I remember the longest we went without seeing each other was three weeks, and that was like the worst time of my life. It was a long time. But later that year, on my birthday, Ferry proposed to me, and then we were married in the Brigham City temple in Utah. We have now been married for eight-and-a-half years, and we have three beautiful girls, our comical five-year-old, our sweet angel baby who we can't wait to hold again, and our energetic two-year-old. My family might not have been possible if it weren't for the Lovings who fought for each other and their love. I have married the kindest, most thoughtful man who helps me to grow and be my best self every day. My life has radically changed since I met Ferry. I was introduced to a whole other culture and a group of amazing people that I probably would never have discovered on my own. I have had the opportunity to learn another language and help my husband teaches our girls both English and Haitian Creole. Every time I pray, I thank God for blessing me with Ferry and our three girls. Ferry is the perfect man for me. He knows how to calm me down when I'm upset, how to soothe my troubled thoughts, and he guides me to look towards a brighter future when all I can see is the doom and gloom. I can't imagine a world where he is not mine. Thank you, Jasmine, for providing a safe place for everyone who listens to your podcast to learn how to love and understand one another. I think that you are amazing. And I'm grateful to have the opportunity to learn from you.

C Catelyn 12:16

I'm Catelyn and my husband is Komson. And we live in Austin, Texas. We've been together for 15 years. We met in college. We got married eight years ago, and we had our daughter two-and-a-half years ago. I think we took for granted the the existence of our relationship before the birth of our daughter. It felt like an individual choice. It didn't have much context. We both are the first people in our families to be in an interracial relationship, so we didn't have any kind of context really. And once our daughter was born, I think, you know, Loving Day is significant because it situates our family in the historical context of our country. And it is just a sobering reminder that, you know, the mere existence of our daughter would be impossible had we been together just a few decades prior. Or well, it would have been illegal, not impossible. And on the, on the positive side, it's a day to celebrate the existence of our family and be grateful for those relationships and couples that have that have gone before us.

P Pilar Runyan 13:39

Hi, my name is Pilar Runyan.

M Michael Runyan 13:41

And I'm Michael Runyan

P Pilar Runyan 13:43

And I am from Cartagena, Colombia

M Michael Runyon 13:46

and I'm from Denver, Colorado.


P Pilar Runyan 13:49


Loving Day means that my love for Mike is acceptable and recognized as legitimate.


M Michael Runyon 13:57


And Loving Day for me means so very much because I would not have had an opportunity to learn about a new culture and to come to love people that I never would have had an opportunity to do so without it.


L Laura Schnell 14:16

 Laura Schnell 14:18  
My name is Laura Schnell.

 Michael Schnell 14:19  
My name is Michael Schnell.


 Laura Schnell 14:21  
And I'm Colombian American.


 Michael Schnell 14:23  
I'm from Portland, Oregon.

 Laura Schnell 14:25  
We are an interracial couple, and Loving Day is significant for us because it means that there's true equality with love.

 Aleja Briles 14:40  
Hi, my name is Aleja Briles. I am from Colombia and currently live in the United States.

 Blake Briles 14:49  
And I'm Blake Briles, and I grew up in Portland, Oregon and currently live in Dallas, Texas.

 Aleja Briles 14:55  
We've been married for six years, and as an interracial couple, Loving Day is really important to us, because without it, we wouldn't be able to share the love that we have for each other. And for me, most importantly, we wouldn't have been able to have our beautiful son, which is one of the happiest moments of our marriage.

 Blake Briles 15:18  
And for me, it really wasn't until a year or two ago, you know, we were four years married, that I even learned what Loving Day was. And I thought that was kind of cool in a way that years now removed from the Loving couple that we're at a place where it's, it's not recognized to be nearly as different or nearly as faux pas or standing out than it used to be. And I look forward to

seeing you know, 20 years from now, how normal and how beautiful it is that that couples of cultures all over the world are seeing it normal to to fall in love in and start their own family culture.

**A** Aleja Briles 16:00  
Happy Loving Day!

**J** Jalyne Geddes 16:05  
My name is Jalyne Geddes, and I am married to Dustin Geddes, and we live in Portland, Oregon. Loving Day to me means that we get to create our own joy. I am a Cree woman, that's my tribe, and I am indigenous to this land, and my husband is white. Our children will exist in two worlds. And they might have challenges as a result of their beautiful multiple heritages. But they will always be rooted in total love and happiness. They will know that they belong to their communities because my husband and I have been empowered to create that kind of home. We don't have to worry if our family is even legal. All we have to do is create joy and create a better future. And the hard work of the Lovings made that possible. All they want it to do was to create their own joy and because of them, we get to do that, too.

**A** Alyssa 17:06  
Hola, me llamo Alyssa, my name is Alyssa. My partner's name is Chris. We live in St. Louis, Missouri. We got married on June 12 eleven years ago. Loving Day for us means the freedom to be together, bringing our legacies, our cultural backgrounds and our beautifully unique families into one partnership. It makes me so happy that our daughters are being raised in an environment where we are all free to love who we choose. And they see that in us every day. Unfortunately, we still encounter racism from people who think that an ethnically blended family isn't right. But we know that love is stronger than hate. And we're grateful for the events of Loving Day proving that to be true.

**A** Anna Russell 17:51  
Hello, this is Anna Russell,

**C** Charles Russell 17:54  
Charles Russell.

**A** Anna Russell 17:55  
And we are celebrating our five years of marriage on June 11. I am from Colombia,

**C** Charles Russell 18:07  
Little Rock, Arkansas.

**A** Anna Russell 18:08  
And we are just really excited. Oh, that's hard. Three-year-old's poking in the back. So we're just road-tripping and going to Georgia, and just having fun as a family. We have two wonderful boys. And we're just so blessed to be able to have our family and be together and learn from each other. And yeah, anything else you want to add?

**C** Charles Russell 18:39  
About Loving Day?

**A** Anna Russell 18:40  
Yeah

**C** Charles Russell 18:41  
Loving Day just means finding peace with the one that you love. And marrying that person regardless of anything that's placed on the many characters placed on by everyone else.

**D** Darci Alston 19:04  
Hi, my name is Darci Alston. And I am currently in Tooele, Utah. My husband is Dijon Alston, and he is originally from North Carolina. But we've moved back to Utah a couple of years ago. So for me, I just wanted to talk about Loving Day and what it represents for me. I have two views on this. The first is historical, where I honor those that are brave enough to go against what was the norm of the time and against the laws to be able to fight for that justice and equality. So I think that that's a really brave characteristic, traits and, and just knowing the the Lovings and their story, I think it's so touching that way. The other thing that comes to mind is just the idea and principle of families. Without Loving Day, and without the "Loving v. Virginia" case, my family really wouldn't be here. We wouldn't have a chance to survive, we wouldn't...we really wouldn't. We would be stacked up against more odds than we already have. And, you know, we have we have an adorable son, and so to me, the first thing that just comes to my mind is family and the fact that we are able to have a family that we that we love, and we can go out and public and not be afraid of that.

**M** Michelle 20:28  
To me, Loving Day means feeling incredibly grateful to those before me, and acknowledging my privilege because being in an interracial marriage really isn't something that I even think



about all that much. And I know there have been many before me, and many currently in some parts of the world, who don't have that luxury. The thought of knowing the man that I call my husband and not being allowed to be with him brings tears to my eyes. He is my rock. He's been with me through some of my biggest heartbreaks and through my highest highs. We've lived abroad and traveled like nomads and we've quarantined together. He's literally my favorite person. I wish everyone could feel what I feel being with him. And on Loving Day, I appreciate him. And I also try to take a moment to empathize with those who could or could have had this happiness but have been forbidden from it.

M

Michelle 21:26

Hi, my name is Michelle. My husband's name is Herber. I am from California, and he is from Guatemala. And Loving Day means to us the privilege and freedom to create a beautiful bilingual, bicultural, biracial family.

P

Preethi 21:52

My name is Preethi, and my husband is Daniel. And we live in the San Francisco Bay area in California. And to me Loving Day means that I can create a family with my best friends since I was 16.

J

Jasmine Bradshaw 22:11

Of course, we couldn't end the episode without telling our Loving Day story. So I am Jasmine Bradshaw. And I'm black biracial.

C

Carter Bradshaw 22:22

And I'm Carter Bradshaw, and I'm white.

J

Jasmine Bradshaw 22:25

We are from Mesa, Arizona.

C

Carter Bradshaw 22:29

When I think about Loving Day, I think about pioneers. And when I was young, when I was in first grade, we had to do a presentation. The teacher asked us to all think of something we were grateful for. And there was a little song and dance and we all took turns standing up in front of our parents and doing this presentation saying what we were thankful for. My mom encouraged me to say I was thankful for the pioneers, meaning the Mormon pioneers, because that's the church that we belong to. And I didn't like that idea. As a first grader, I didn't appreciate their sacrifices, or I didn't really ...it didn't mean a lot to me, so I did what my mom asked me to do, but when it was time for the presentation, everyone was taking their turn and

saying what they're grateful for. It was my turn, I stood up and I said "The pioneers," and I made a face. I think I stuck my tongue out or something to show that "I said it because you wanted me to, but I don't like it." Over the years though, as I've learned about the pioneers and their stories, I've grown to appreciate that they went through some really difficult things, trying to escape their oppressors and go and make a way for themselves and make a way for those that would come after them, make it easier for those who would come after them so they didn't have to suffer through the same things that they did. Unfortunately, those pioneers, for all of their hard work and all their sacrifices and all the good things they did, they did not make a way for families like ours. They did not allow interracial couples to get married. So they left that work to other people to do. And so I think of Richard and Mildred Loving when I think of pioneers who blazed the trail for families like ours. They were the ones who sacrificed and who endured hardships so that I could marry Jasmine without the threat of going to jail. When the Lovings' case went to the Supreme Court, Richard Loving's attorney asked him if he had anything that he wanted to be relayed to the judges. And his reply was, simply, "I love my wife." And I feel that Richard and Mildred endured the things that they went through because of love, because they loved each other and they loved their kids. And I feel the same way here. When we speak up about racism. We talk about race, it can be confrontational, and it can be hard. It feels like all we're trying to do is make it easier for the next generation for our kids. It's because I love my wife, and I love my kids. And I'm so thankful for them. I'm so thankful for the Lovings for making the way easier for us. We hope to make the way easier for those that come next.

J

Jasmine Bradshaw 25:19

To me, Loving Day is so special because it gives us an opportunity to celebrate interracial families. When I was growing up, I grew up in a predominantly white community, where interracial families were definitely not the norm. And I often felt like I was being pulled into different directions. Kids were always asking me stuff like, "Why are you brown and your mom is white?" Or people would say things like, "You're black on the outside, but you're white on the inside." And it felt like I had to choose. It felt like I had to choose between my Blackness, and my European ancestry. And I feel like Loving Day is the day where we celebrate being mixed, being biracial, being in an interracial relationship and an interracial family and being every part of ourselves. And I'm so happy. I'm so grateful for everyone who has shared on this episode because it reminds me that there are so many of us and that we all get to celebrate together. And I'm so hopeful that as we continue to celebrate Loving Day, our children will be able to look around and see so many other children who are like them who come from mixed race families, and who can be so excited and proud of who they are and embrace every single piece of themselves and really live out the truth of "Yes, I am biracial." Or, "I am mixed race. I am Black, and I'm white," or "I am Colombian and I am Tongan," or "I'm Asian, and I am Indigenous, and we are beautiful." All these things together. And I love Loving Day because I love my babies. I can't imagine my life without my girls, we have two girls: one is almost four, and one is almost 10 months old. And life without them would be so dark and so dreary. So I love Loving Day because it made my family possible, both the family that I come from, and the family that we are creating.

J

Jasmine Bradshaw 27:39

What an amazing episode. I feel so blessed that you have entrusted me with your sacred stories of your families and your love. It has been so fun and uplifting for me. And if you're new

around here, if this is your first episode of First Name Basis, I want to say, "Welcome." I'm so excited that you've joined the First Name Basis family and I encourage you to go back through the archives and listen to past episodes. We've talked about everything from talking to your children about race and skin tone, to tone policing, and gaslighting and cancel culture. We've had a lot of really good conversations on this show. So I hope you'll go back and listen to some other episodes as well.

J Jasmine Bradshaw 28:25

And of course, before we go, I have to remind you that Bite-Sized Black History is on sale from now until June 27 to celebrate Loving Day and of course Juneteenth. Alright, y'all love you. Happy Loving Day.

J Jasmine Bradshaw 28:46

My friends, thank you for being here. I hope you can feel how much I believe in you, and how deeply I know that when we work together, we can make real change in our communities. Any of the books, podcasts, or articles that I reference will be linked in the show notes. If you are looking for more detailed notes, be sure to head over to our Patreon community. On our Patreon site. I provide all of the outlines that I use to make the episodes and everything is linked there. So you don't have to take furious notes while you are listening. And don't forget to join us over on Instagram at [firstname.basis](https://www.instagram.com/firstname.basis). If you're interested in partnering with First Name Basis or doing some kind of collaboration, please email us at [hello@firstnamebasis.org](mailto:hello@firstnamebasis.org). All right, have a great week my friends, and I will talk to you again soon.