

## 6.5 Your Loving Day Stories 2

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### SPEAKERS

Komson Silapachai, Emily Green, Faith, Jen Bloomer, Carter Bradshaw, Robert Holden, Ken Clark, Anne Cambridge, Leslie Telfer, Jasmine Bradshaw, Nina, Monica Doshi Becker

**J** Jasmine Bradshaw 00:00

You're listening to the First Name Basis podcast, Season Six, Episode Five: "Your Loving Day Stories 2." 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. Hello First Name Basis fam! I am so glad you are here. And happy Loving Day! We are here with a special bonus episode of First Name Basis to celebrate Loving Day with you. And you probably heard in the title, I said, "Your Loving Day Stories 2," because this is the second year that we are making a very special Loving Day episode, including all of your love stories. I can't wait to share these stories with you. They are so beautiful breakout your tissues for real. For real! I was listening to them and looking at your photos and thinking of your beautiful families and just so stinking grateful for the celebration that we get to have today. So if you're sitting there thinking, Wait a minute, what is Loving Day? Let me fill you in. So Richard and Mildred Loving were civil rights leaders almost by happenstance. Like they did not necessarily want to be front and center of the movement, but they had to in order to protect their family. So Mildred was black and Richard was white. And they met when they were very young — Mildred was 11, and Richard was 17. They went on to be high school sweethearts, and they got married because they were absolutely obsessed with each other. But they lived in Virginia, and in Virginia, they had a law that was called the "Racial Integrity Act." And even though it has the word "integrity" in it, it is very racist. It was a super racist law that said that Black people and white people were not allowed to get married to each other. So because they couldn't get married in Virginia, they ended up traveling all the way to Washington, DC to get married. It was a beautiful day, and they went back to Virginia to carry on with their lives. But their home was raided by the police in the middle of the night. They were taken to jail, and they were told that they either had to leave Virginia or get divorced, like not be together anymore. So they left Virginia. But they were so heartbroken because their entire lives were in Virginia — their families, everything they knew, everything they grew up with. They wanted to be there with their families. So that's when they decided that things could not stay the way they were, and they partnered with the ACLU and brought their case all the

way to the Supreme Court. Then finally on June 12 of 1967, the Supreme Court unanimously agreed that the Lovings and other interracial couples across the country deserved to be married to one another. And they made it so that states could not make laws against interracial marriage. So that is why we celebrate Loving Day on June 12, because that is the day that Richard and Mildred Loving were able to secure rights, human rights, for all of us. And it really is poetic that their last name is Loving. Like it could not be any more perfect for this day in the celebration of love. Now, one thing that I do have to point out is that not all interracial couples were given this human right on that June 12 of 1967 LGBTQ couples were not able to get married to one another until June 26 of 2015 with the Obergefell versus Hodges decision. That was also a Supreme Court case. So thank goodness this Loving Day we get to celebrate all interracial couples. And I want to tell you that this story about Richard and Mildred Loving is included in our Bite-sized black history program, which is specifically for kiddos where we highlight different black Americans throughout history. And I will link the episode in the show notes where I share all about the Lovings and you can listen to it with your kiddos. So today for this Loving Day celebration, you are going to hear from other members of the First Name Basis community. What I did was I asked anyone who is in an interracial relationship to record themselves talking about what Loving Day means to them and sharing about their love and their families. And they emailed them to us, and we put them together in this special episode for you to hear and to celebrate. Before I let you hear from those amazing, beautiful couples, I have to remind you that our Juneteenth Jubilee program is on sale right now. And we have a coupon code that actually expires tomorrow. And the coupon code is appropriately LOVING15, because I wanted you to be able to remember that it expires right after Loving Day. It's kind of like our Final Celebration is that Juneteenth Jubilee is on sale. And I will put that coupon code in the show notes, so don't worry about having to remember it. But Juneteenth Jubilee is everything you need to plan your Juneteenth Celebration dinner. So we have created a recipe book so that you can have the recipes that you need for your beautiful dinner. We've created a cooking show, my dad and I " we'll actually hear from him at the end of this episode, him and my mom " my dad and I got together and made a cooking show. It was so fun. He taught me how to make these family recipes. And we have a meal planner, we've got a shopping list, we have reflection questions for your table. So Juneteenth is really going to look different for you whether you're a white family or non-Black people of color, or if you are a black family. If you're a Black family, you are celebrating. You are eating your ribs and enjoying yourself and celebrating your strength and embracing our divine creation that is Blackness and Black culture. If you are a white family or non-Black people of color, you are reflecting. You are recommitting yourself to being the anti-racist ally that our communities need to create a safer space for Black people so that our Black culture can thrive. So it's going to look different based on who you are. But we've taken that into account when we made the program. And it's really really special. I want to encourage you to celebrate Juneteenth throughout the month of June, if you miss June 19, that is a-okay, you can still celebrate along with us. So go to [firstnamebasis.org/juneteenth](http://firstnamebasis.org/juneteenth). That link will be in the show notes along with the coupon code that expires tomorrow. All right, are you ready to hear these Loving Day stories? They are so good. You're going to hear their story of a Loving Day anniversary. You're going to hear the story of Catelyn and Komson. I love their story because last year Catelyn was able to submit their loving the story and this year Komson submitted their Loving Day story, and I really liked hearing the difference between this power couple, and how they work so well together, and why Loving Day is so special to them. You're going to hear from Emily and Mike Green who are fellow anti-racist educators. Emily is white and Mike is Black and they work together to educate the community on how we can be anti-racist. You will hear from some other amazing couples who have gone through ridiculous trials to be together. And at the end, you'll hear from my very own family. Every single person in my family is in an interracial relationship. So Carter and I share about what it's like for me being Black-biracial and him being white. My parents share

about what it's like for my dad to be Black and my mom to be white way back when they've been married for so long. And my sister and her girlfriend, Faith, share about what it is like to be two multiracial people. My sister is Black-biracial like me, and Faith is Korean and European American. So it is so exciting for us as a family to be able to celebrate because literally every single person is celebrating this day together. I had one submission that was not recorded. It was someone who sent it in they typed it and shared it with us and so I am going to read their submission. This is a story of Angela and Dave Stevenson, and they are from Washington DC. And they said Loving Day means our children can thrive in a world that recognizes their potential. I love how beautifully simple that is. Okay, my friends, enjoy these Loving Day stories and happy, happy, happy Loving Day.

R

Robert Holden 09:24

We are Robert and Alexis Holden. We are from Ogden, Utah, and Loving Day to me means thriving with my family, especially my kids that would not have been around 50 years ago, and having them experience the world without as many hardships as they would have experienced.

A

Anne Cambridge 09:59

Hi Jasmine, my name is Anne and my husband's name is Norman. We both grew up in Roosevelt, Utah surrounded by the beautiful Uintah mountains and the Uintah-Ouray Northern Ute reservation. My husband is Dine-Ute and I am white. On July 10, 1998, 24 years ago, we received much support from both of our families and from so many in our community. We currently live in Page, Arizona, next to the Din. And I'm so grateful to the Lovings for paving the way for us. My worldview has definitely changed so much since I married this man, he's incredibly strong and supportive, and we have four beautiful children that we are working hard to raise together. And our children are often asked about being traditional, meaning traditional Dine or traditional Ute, and this is often confused them. But when we talk about it as a family, we often talk about that we often say, "Of course we're traditional! We are traditional Cambridges." And we are so happy that we can love who we want, and our hope is that we can continue to be free to love who we want. Happy Loving Day.

👤

11:35

Hi, First Name Basis. My name is Clare, and I'm calling in to share my partner and I's Loving Day story. We live in the occupied lands and waters of the Duwamish and Coast Salish People, also known as Seattle, Washington, which is where I was born and raised. And my partner, Haji, is from Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa. We met there in 2010, and then chose to move to the US together in 2014 when we got married. We are a family of four, soon to be five, our oldest kiddo is six, our youngest kiddo is three, and we are expecting our third this August. Loving Day for us is actually a really special day, because it's Haji's and my wedding anniversary. We got married on June 12, 2014 in Washington, DC, just a few days after we arrived to the US together. And it wasn't until a couple years later, when we watched a movie about the Lovings that we've realized that that was actually our anniversary, but it made it really special for us. Loving Day for us, is a really beautiful representation and way to celebrate, that love of all kinds is valid, and beautiful and meaningful. And that despite differences of all types, love really truly does transcend and creates such a powerful force in the world. And so

far our family Loving Day really represents what love can look like and what more needs to happen to fight for all types of love. And also just the power of truly connecting with people, despite our differences to overcome barriers or challenges or judgments to demonstrate really what is possible and how meaningful love can be to create families and connections everywhere. So happy Loving Day, First Name Basis community, and happy June.

K

Komson Silapachai 13:43

My name is Komson. And I'm married to Catelyn and we're devoted listeners of the podcast. I'm originally from Bangkok, Thailand. I currently live in Texas with Caitlin, and we've been married for about nine years. We have a beautiful three-year-old daughter, and Loving Day is a really special day for us, because it is a huge part of in kind of an illustration and representation of the world that we want to raise our daughter in, a world where all people, you know, who are in love, can marry, which we think is a fundamental human right. And we're really grateful for those that fought to bring it, you know, to make it legal, which is crazy to think about, but that's what happened and we're really grateful for it. And so we're really going to celebrate today and June 12th is a really special day for our family.

J

Jen Bloomer 14:39

Hi, my name is Jen Bloomer, and I'm in Berkeley, California. And I want to share with you what Loving Day means to us. So my husband and I are in an interracial relationship. I identify as white American "something like 10 generations back, my ancestors came over from Europe to the US" and my husband is Eritrean Italian, though I think most people here in the US assume he's American, Black American. So Loving Day is really powerful to us not only because we've had to navigate so many things as an interracial couple, but also because the international aspect, a cultural multi-nationality aspect of our relationship has really caused us to have to fight so hard to be together. And especially when we first were trying to navigate the system of immigration, to be able to even get married, we had to fight so hard to be able to make that happen. And the systems felt like they were so set up to keep us from being together. We met in Italy when I was in art school there and continued a long distance relationship, which in itself had so many challenges to it. But eventually, after three years of being together in Italy, and three years being apart and trying to do long distance, my husband, now husband, moved to the US and had to get a student visa in order to be able to come here for an extended amount of time. And then we, you know, decided we wanted to get married and start a family. But navigating that process was so filled with challenges, you know, whereas a lot of my friends in their late 20s, early 30s, were, you know, planning these fun weddings and just getting excited about a future together. We were, you know, meeting with lawyers and trying to navigate how to even be together, I remember, we had, right after we got engaged, we had decided to go tell his parents in person. They were living part of the year in Eritrea at that point. And so we got really excited about this idea and actually went to meet with a lawyer right before going just to kind of understand what the process ahead looked like. And this was a really well respected lawyer who told us not to leave the country. And if we did to be really careful, because we technically were supposed to get a fiancée visa, which means that you need to be out. My partner would have had to go back to his home country of Italy and wait nine months apart from each other in order to do that. He also advised us if I, if we did go to tell his parents that we were going to get married, and we actually had to fly back separately, because I had to be back at work, the lawyer advised me not to hug or kiss or to

show any sort of affection when I went to pick him up. Because he said that there were lots of cameras in the airports. And this is you know, back in 2010, this is not very long ago, and told us that because of the Patriot Act there they would be able to search any of our things. So to be really careful about what we brought with us and to show no indication that we were together. And he also told us that many of the folks who worked in Homeland Security were really racist and would target us specifically for questioning. And it was really terrifying. It was really a scary experience. I, you know, we did end up going to share this news with his parents and took the risk. And it was amazing and so powerful to be able to, you know, do something that I think everyone should be able to do. And I didn't hug and kiss him when he came back to the airport. And we pretended we hardly even knew each other and did end up getting married. And, you know, we were a legitimately in love couple who wanted to just be together and build a life together. And the system felt very stacked against us and just want to recognize we were also in a really privileged situation where I had a job and we had the finances to hire a lawyer, and because he was from Italy, that's a country where you really can travel to and fro. And I have a lot of friends who, depending on what country you're from, were not even able to choose that as an option. So Loving Day to me means fighting for love, you know, and just recognizing how much the system legitimately almost broke us up so many times because it puts this layer of stress on the relationship that feels at times just like a tip tipping point. So I feel incredibly proud of my marriage. I feel incredibly proud of how hard we've had to work to be together and stay together and keep staying together. We now have two little kids who are eight and four and I've learned so much from the process of raising them as well. Thanks for letting me share my story.

E

Emily Green 19:52

Hi, my name is Emily Green. My husband is Mike, and we live in Southern Oregon. Loving Day is so incredibly meaningful. And for me, and for us, it means that we can be joined together in marriage and in partnership to really live out what we know we've been invited to do in this life and the work that we've been invited to do together. As husband and wife, we can we can do because we are able to be married. And I can't even fathom, journeying this life without my life partner, without my beloved, without my Mike.

M

Monica Doshi Becker 20:41

Hi, this is Monica in San Francisco. When I was about 13 years old, I visited a childhood friend of mine in North Carolina. And she had told me that a new couple had moved in across the street. It was a Black and white couple, mixed racial couple. And she told me that while she felt that that was their choice as adults to get married, she thought it would be really unfair and terrible for them to have children together. So Loving Day for me means that that sentiment, that I think more people share than I'd like to admit, does not get to decide who I love. And Loving Day to me means that I got to marry who I wanted to. And we have a beautiful mixed race child who will one day also be able to marry who he wants to

K

Ken Clark 21:52

My name is Ken Clark.

L

Leslie Telfer 21:54

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

K

Ken Clark 21:59

And Loving Day means to us a lot 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 Leslie, we like many cases, stand on the shoulders of the people who showed the courage, showed 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 22:43

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 23:33

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 such a prize. And so it was, 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 the other motivating 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 it on a national level. So that was extraordinary, especially back then. Extraordinary.

N

Nina 24:24

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

F

Faith 24:28

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 a race in regards to relationships. It also means that there's more representation in media of couples who look like us. We're hopeful that an interview racial relationships like ours will no longer be a political statement in the near future.

N

Nina 25:05

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.

J

Jasmine Bradshaw 25:41

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 25:52

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

J

Jasmine Bradshaw 25:55

We are from Mesa, Arizona.

C

Carter Bradshaw 25:59

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 28:49

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, "Bou'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 Tonganm," 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. What an amazing episode, I feel so blessed that you have entrusted me with your sacred stories of your families and your love. And it's 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 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 canceled 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. All right, y'all love you. Happy Loving Day. 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. 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.