Interviewer #2 – “L” Interview #12 with Senior Female “K”

L: What phone do you have? K: I phone 4g

L: What apps and your fav?

K: um I don’t pay for apps so I have a lot of free ones...I don’t have a lot of games, I have a couple I downloaded like right off the bat when I first got my phone, but I will say that I have words with friends which I use a LOT

L: Fav app?

K: I use the weather one every day, like weather channel one, I use uh words with friends is my favorite no reason one, and I definitely use facebook and twitter all the time much to my own like chagrin because I end up using them when I’m out which is stupid

L: Really?

K: Oh my god yeah.

L: So your favorite?

K: Facebook. Except I was talking to this kid last night and I got on facebook from the party and friended him

L: At the party?

K: At the party, we were pulled apart because his ex is a sister of mine

L: No, in the sorority?!?

K: Yes in the sorority that we are in.

L: (GASP!)

K: Yes I know but she broke up with him so I don’t feel so badly but I mean I was told it wasn’t a good idea
L: By the girl?

K: By the girl, which was awkward, but not by THE girl but by the girl’s friend and other sisters who were looking out for my best interest, I will say that

L: Where were you? At pumptown?

K: At the cabins. Yeah no I imbibed too much early on, I made myself a very strong cocktail which um

L: love

K: Which kind of screwed me over

L: Fucked you over?

K: Yes it was a fuck-you-over drink...so I friended him on facebook and sent him message that said “ask me to the dance, I already have a ticket!”

L: Oh MY GOD, really? And what did he say?

K: I got no response but he just an hour ago accepted my friend request, awkward?

L: Yeah a little

K: So um that happened. I mean I get on there all the time and send people messages...like I’ll come home, if I get on facebook it’s like the worst idea ever.

L: but on your phone? K: it’s on my phone as well which I only recently started L: Oh so you’re not always doing this on your phone? K: No I do it on my laptop. L: Oh. K: I’ll come home and get on and be destructive to my social reputation. L: What is your ultimate favorite thing about your phone? K: I love how...I recently updated it so I got the new iMessage thing which L:
What’s that?

K: It’s kind of like the iphone version of um blackberry which I never had a blackberry, I don’t feel held back because I never had a blackberry and the bbm madness, but um it is interesting sometimes seeing when people are typing etc etc when someone has read it, when it’s been delivered, which I mean...

L: Do they have to have this program for you to be able to

K: Usually yeah you have to have the update but like it’s not like you need the 4gs or anything...

L: Ok so you love that, why?

K: Because like I said I never had a blackberry so I never understood the real point of bbm and why it was so special because texting was still like ok with me, I mean I’m not like obsessed with it, it’s not like the greatest thing ever to see if someone is typing

L: but you can see?

K: It’s exactly bbm in the sense that you can see when your message has been delivered, you can see when it has been read, and you can see when someone is typing, so it’s nice because it’s like, a few of my friends don’t have it yet, or haven’t updated it, or don’t have iphones, I don’t get that with everyone so it’s nice because I will sometimes put off replying to someone on purpose like if it’s a guy because I don’t want them to know god forbid that I’m putting him off or whatever or something stupid like that

L: How important is your phone 1-5? Why?

K: I’m not one of those people who is completely dependent on their phone and is unhappy when they left their phone at home
but it is an important part of me so I would say closer to a 4... a lot of times I don’t call home very often, I don’t call people if I don’t have the time or whatever, so if I can text that’s great, and I am a big texter, I send really long text messages

L: What do you do the most on your phone? K: Texting is probably #1. L: Why texting over others? K: I still get nervous about um calling people L: What do you mean you still get nervous? When you were younger...?

K: When I was younger I ran lines and things like that, you know I just preferred not to have to call people which is weird because I don’t mind talking to people, I don’t mind conversation with people just calling people freaks me out, it’s weird...and you know my biggest fear is that...calling boys freaks me, if they call me it freaks me out...like you know I always feel like, I always feel like I get on a bad rhythm, so it’s like we’ll start talking at the same time or like it’s just, I dunno why it’s weird

L: Can you think of how a male would use his cell in a hook up?

K: To text a girl to come over. I recently hooked up with someone who um we hooked up once, randomly, didn’t get his number, he didn’t get mine, but um I sent him something on facebook that I saw, something stupid, some like youtube video or something, and um just casually, and he responded and we started talking about the party coming up that Saturday and you know were you going to be there? Was I going to be there?

L: So kind of that text conversation you would have but over facebook?

K: This was over facebook...not necessarily...it was more like a conversation that could happen through text or in person but usually it you know, boys don’t usually send very long texts,
there are not a lot of guys who send very lengthy text messages

so um this was more you know like conversational facebooky whatever...when he was saying you know I hope to see you at Dirty South I was like yeah I’ll be there I’m going someplace first and at the end of it I gave him my phone number and said these things tend to get crowded...so I was being kind of flirtatious, not asking for his but putting it out there and so he texted me that night, it’s whatever his name was, I mean I know his name, so he text me saying he was probably going to the party around ten and I was like ok that’s fine and then um I used texting to find him at the party

L: How about a female?

K: Usually...and I’m discouraged by this because I always break every quote on quote social convention because I don’t necessarily shy away from texting someone first, in fact it’s usually my inclination to want to text someone first and I have to hold back and I have to confess I’m a BIG drunk texter because I’m...for some reason I never get to a point where I misspell and it’s totally hard to discern

L: You’re more lucid in your inebriation?

K: Oh my god, it’s terrible because I can be so direct and so clear and whatever. So when it’s someone I genuinely like or don’t just want to hook up with I think I do have to sit on my hands, figuratively speaking, and avoid texting them in a hook up situation because there are sometimes when I will drunkenly text some guy and be like where are you? Lets me up blah blah blah. But I feel like that necessarily isn’t the norm.

L: What do you think the norm is for girls in a hook up?

K: It’s normal for a girl to respond to texts from guys
L: And not initiate?

K: I feel like that’s what is the social expectation I feel like, that’s part of the playing hard to get that I still struggle with.

L: What about a male in a dating relationship?

K: Um having never dated anyone I guess the rules are a little more relaxed in terms of who can initiate whatever conversation I think I dunno judging by roommate whose in a relationship her boyfriend texts her frequently just any run of the mill old thing that pops into his head, how his day is going, anything he’s up to, etc... I feel like the rules are relaxed in a dating relationship as opposed to a hook up relationship

L: And with females in a dating relationship? K: I feel like it’s the same essentially, any old thing that pops in their head. L: How would a male restart something that is over?

K: Lets see...I think they would try and play it cool and just be like hey what are you up to you know? Play it more subtle at first, not kidn of lay it all out there, maybe to avoid rejection or avoid kind of I dunno, I think there will be a little more of trying to be casual about the whole thing so as not to make her pull back...so it would be very much casual, the only think I can compare to this, there’s this guy who I hooked up with a couple years ago who has a girlfriend and who I’m no longer attracted to anyway, so he has 2 things stacked against him, and um when he was having problems with his girlfriend he would frequently facebook chat me and texted me too but not as frequently as the facebook chatting and it was just like you know hey what’s up? EVERY DAY or you know multiple times a day and it was like you know, what do you want? It was so frustrating. So frustrating.

L: What about a female? Reverse it
K: I feel like that would be a mistake on the girls part because that looks desperate, I feel like when a guy says something is over

L: it’s different than when a girl says something is over?

K: I feel like yes, I don’t know how I can fully back that up but I feel like, just like it’s not as common for a girl to ask a guy out on a date and lord knows that would make me want to throw up in my mouth that’s like so terrifying, but um I feel like there’s more leeway, like the guy can woo the girl back more easily than the girl wooing the guy again...in college, at least in college, I feel like those lines are drawn differently...so to answer your question a girl trying to get back a guy? I don’t even know

L: Is it okay for college students to text racy messages? Why?

K: Do I think it’s ok? Yeah it’s up to them. I definitely do not support dirty photos. Absolutely not. No. I don’t think it’s right for anyone of any age because you know how many phones get, look at celebrities who get their phones hacked, not that that happens in a normal college situation but that the picture inevitably gets sent around, I mean at my own high school there were little girls who um thought it was okay to send that to the guy they were kind of dating or whatever and you know it got around the entire boy school, because I went to a high school that was separated into a boy and girl school, you know brother sister campuses, and you know that ruins a reputation, especially at a college this size, the same thing could happen if it hasn’t already...I tend to not really pay attention to dirty photos that get sent around but I just feel that’s so wrong.

L: Who is more hurt by it? K: A girls naked photos? L: On either part. A guy or a girl...their reputation or emotionally?
K: Probably this is gender bias, being a girl, but I always feel like the girl ends up getting more hurt because I feel like you know girls turn their back to her you know as oh my god she’s so stupid, such a slutty move, and guys are like that’s so slutty blah blah blah, laughing about it, whereas if it was a guy’s pictures it would get around the girls, they’d have good laugh about how big or small or weird looking he is and move on, I feel like it wouldn’t be something that would get around the guys, maybe they’d play grab ass with each other and be like gahh dude whatever, I feel like it would get dropped ,it would blow over more readily than the girl’s nude photos...messages? I don’t know what to say about those...I don’t feel like those necessarily make their way around as readily as something visual...I feel like dirty messages, sexting, I don’t see what’s so terrible about suggestive whatever...I mean cus there was a guy who I was involved with for more or less 6 or 9 months...a long time and you know he and I are both, you know, creative minded people and would have these fun little situation, like develop stories, it sounded like a frickin romance novel, but it was fun, it wasn’t like I was showing them to anyone or like he was showing them to anyone because you know...what benefit does he get from saying what words I’m saying? So I feel that’s not necessarily as serious as something visual.

L: How would you respond if you received a sext from someone you weren’t necessarily involved with?

K: If it came out of the blue I would be really turned off by it, especially if I wasn’t attracted to them or involved with them or whatever, it would be a big turn off, and I find it’s more, it’s not an awkward situation, but it could be, where you have to build up to level of suggestiveness, you can’t just go right into it with you know like oh I want you dick, that just doesn’t...again I’m probably not the norm but I try to be creative about it, you know I like puns, I like word play, I like making it sexy, because
sexting can be sexy just like, it can be a sexy thing, it doesn’t have to be crude and that’s where...because I’ve sexted a lot of people I guess, not like a lot of people, and it’s not like a whole, I dunno I feel like a lot of people associate it with touching yourself which I never do I just like the whole word play, which like you know whatever is their thing, but you know I’ve talked to a lot of people in a suggestive manner and you know the times when it’s a big turn are where it’s not realistic, where it verges on ridiculous, when you can’t picture that so it’s either too aggressive or too crude, gross, using words that are just gross

L: Well certain words create certain images and...it’s a craft.

K: It’s a craft it is. And I said to this one guy who I met him, it sounds so weird, I met him on my birthday at a bar, and we kissed and that as it and you know in a flash we were gone but I gave him my number and we started talking almost like, it’s weird, he’s not from where I live, he was only there for the night, and I ended up picking him out of the crowd, and you know he’s 2 or 3 years older than me, and you know we had a lot of text conversations before anything got suggestive, and it would get flirty but that would be it, and we’re not friends on facebook, because I don’t know if he has a facebook, so texting is the only communication we have because he doesn’t like to call people, only his family, he comes from a big family, he’s from Idaho originally

L: What?!

K: He’s from Idaho originally, I know, which ironically my best friend’s boyfriend is from Idaho, and he’s a 3rd year dental student at Michigan, totally

L: Oh my god GREAT dental school
K: I know right? Well that’s what he told me. So we talked for some time before it got to the point where it was suggestive and you know it was fun, the build up was fun, but then it got to that point where it was getting ridiculous and turning me off, like it was weird, and I said to him

L: So he was going to a point where you were like this is not...?

K: It was kind of aggressive, and I don’t mind an aggressive hook up situation, I’m a very confident person, a very bold person, I’m a very forward person but in that situation I like when the boy’s in charge, if that makes sense, but it was still like turning me off, like you know...?

L: What’s an example of something he would say that’s too far?

K: I’ll just find one because it’s easier that way, it was fairly recently (searching through phone)

L: Have you seen him since?

K: No, I mean I saw him in August.

L: This is so interesting.

K: Ok the situation was that like if I were his study buddy at the library what would he do and it was just like, what was it, I hate reading this aloud

L: You’re anonymous, you don’t have to read it out loud if you don’t want to

K: uh... okay...(searching for the text)...you know just like oh my god, so like okay um (has re-read the sext and I’m waiting to hear it)...and it takes a lot for me to get weirded out but I was just like—“I intentionally push my rock hard cock up against your body and rip my shirt off to show you I don’t care if someone finds us in the library...” blah blah blah you know um
“I keep massaging your shoulders and slowly make my curious hands down between your bra, I start to lightly twist your nipples and make them rock, you finally pull your attention away from your books and turn to kiss me”

L: oh my god! He’s like creating this whole K: It was soooo like I dunno

L: Was it too descriptive? Was it too?

K: Then he said something about, ok he had to go do something “to be continued” and I was like okay and he was like just as a preview for next time just imagine a huge throbbing rock hard cock slowing spreading your tight wet pussy” and I was like O. K.

L: Oh my gosh...

K: I wrote back that was graphic and he said too much? And I was like boy, um I like screwing around, I enjoy a good f- word, but I don’t like being penetrated if you get what I mean, sorry I’m a writer and I’ll wax poetic on this but and he said well doesn’t a fucking start with a penetration and I said yes but it’s the way that you describe it, it’s the words you use, it’s word choice, don’t make it sound so clinical doctor...

L: Wow. So how would you say male and females have different texting styles or ways of writing texts?

K: I tend to write a novel. I always send long text messages because um I think... L: Would you say that’s typical of girls?

K: Um no because I’ve been told I just tend to send really long text messages so it might be a little a-typical but um I just find with the ease of typing on the screen that I can type so much more quickly that it doesn’t matter, I think that boys at least as a whole differ in that they are shorter, they say what they need
to say and no dalliance around it, and i think that’s the difference...girls can have a conversation about nothing but boys just don’t

L: do they favor certain content?

K: There’s a boy that I’m interested in and he doesn’t go here and um he’s the first person in a while...this is true of most people I’m interested in and it’s how I know if I like someone, um and I want to know everything about them, I want to know absolutely everything, I want to know what makes them tick, I want to know their favorite flavor of ice cream, I want to know the most embarrassing thing that happened to them in their childhood, I just want to know every single thing about them and the hooking up is secondary and it freaks me out a little bit when I realize that about someone, it means I do genuinely like them, so that on top of the fact that I’m a bold person, a confident person, you know whatever, when someone makes me nervous, when I genuinely care about what they think, it makes it more stressful for me because I do care about what I text him more, which means leaving out emoticons, which means leaving out, trying not to abrev so much, trying to put less in my messages, so I do feel like there’s a difference in the way that people, there’s a difference in a least the way I text certain people...like Emily ann hates emoticons and so I don’t send her emoticons, I try to space it out so it’s not like every sentence

ends in a smiley face, you know I try to be suggestive I do put a winky face, it depends on the situation and who I’m talking to

L: What about the content of a text from a guy—what would you expect? What would you be surprised to see?

K: Like emoticons? I would expect it to be very to the point, I find it a big turn off when guys use lol a lot. I think it’s silly...
L: silly and what? K: Like if they're saying LOL all the time, everything other text L: is it feminine?

K: I think it’s feminine but also a little juvenile, and I, there was a guy who I was friendly with and (interruption)...you’re not actually laughing out loud so like I’ll point out if I’m actually laughing out loud like that made me physically laugh because I do think it became so overused, like bling bling became such a white person term for black people jewelry, you know that sounds really racist forgive me, but it became that sort of like people who are tech saavy say lol instead of laugh out loud, it just I dunno...

L: Have you ever consulted about texts?

K: Oh my god when don’t I? dear god all the time...does this sound good? An example...when I was texting the boy who I was interested in, I asked him to my formal, I had Lauren my roommate scrutinize, like literally scrutinize, take out some of this take out some of that

L: Really? K: Don’t abbreviate, don’t... L: Why would you say you do this?

K: I just...I want to make sure things sound right, there are sometimes people I want to impress, or I'm trying to get my point across and I want to make sure my point gets across so yeah... oh my god all the time

L: How do you feel when you are without your phone?

K:Fine...because you know nothing is more depressing than when you come back to your phone after three hours and you don’t have any messages or any notifications or anything whatsoever... I can get by with checking it once between classes you know whatever but um I dunno, I do feel a little naked
L: Do you ever turn your phone off? K: If it’s malfunctioning, I don't usually turn it off

L: How long could you go without your phone? K: Oh god...on this campus I dunno like 5/6 hours, something silly? L: No I mean I’ve heard all different responses, so 5-6 hours?

K: 5-6s before I get antsy, not like I’m dependent on it, not that I need to check it, just that if I’m being honest it's a personal feeling, not like a if I don’t check it I’m going to die but at the same time you know say if I’m like working the library and someone is trying to get a hold of me, like my mom text me earlier and said that our cat came home from the hospital, so like he had surgery, so it’s one of those things where stuff like that...