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Tightrope Routines:

A Feminist Artist Interviews The Internet's Most Infamous Misogynist

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the
requirements for the degree Master of Fine Arts

in

Visual Arts

by

Angela Washko

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2015

The Thesis of Angela Washko is approved and is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically.

Co-Chair

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University of California, San Diego

2015

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ABSTRACT OF THESIS

Tightrope Routines:

A Feminist Artist Interviews The Internet's Most Infamous Misogynist

by

Angela Washko

Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts

University of California, San Diego, 2015

Amy Alexander, Co-Chair

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Tightrope Routines is a storytelling performance based on seven months of exchanges between feminist artist Angela Washko and pick-up artist, author, blogger and notorious manosphere leader Roosh V. The performance began with a provocation called *BANGED*.

BANGED was a project initially proposed as a platform through which I intended to interview women who have had sexual encounters with Roosh V (a former industrial microbiologist who now writes textbooks including *BANG*, *Day Bang*, *Bang Iceland* and ten more printed guides on “picking up girls and getting laid” across geographic and cultural boundaries). Ultimately these accounts would amass into a text-based compilation of parallel accounts to his conquest narratives. I intended to distribute calls

to find these women through mainstream media articles, Craigslist, physical posters in selected cities and more. This project became much more complicated when Roosh V voiced his awareness of it online. From that point forward, I decided to shift focus onto the author's underlying motivations, moving away from feminist artistic activism and toward a more empathetic digital ethnography of his self-titled manosphere community, making attempts to facilitate conversations with him across our extremely polarized online communities.

The performance outlines the story of this process from planning the original project to inadvertently interviewing the international playboy himself to gathering responses from a variety of publics to reassessing of my own initial intentions. Ultimately *Tightrope Routines* serves as a testament to my experience shifting from activism to ethnography in spaces of extreme hostility toward women and feminists and is furthermore a story of what tactical media could shift into in today's increasingly stratified media landscape.

PART I: Tightrope Routines

An explanation of process, theory, and related practices

Tightrope Routines is a storytelling performance based on seven months of exchanges between feminist artist Angela Washko and pick-up artist, author, blogger and notorious manosphere leader Roosh V. The performance outlines the process from creating a platform to present parallel narratives to Roosh V's conquest stories by interviewing women who have had sexual exchanges with him...to interviewing the international "love tourist" himself...to becoming a subject of the work myself...to ultimately reassessing the original plan for the project. Initially operating within the vein of tactical media, socially engaged art and artistic activism – the performance presents the story of an artist's shift from goal-oriented activism to a more complicated and embodied ethnography of an online community extremely hostile toward and easily mobilized against women who self-identify as feminists. If feminists hope for feminism to have any relevancy in American publics broader than the art world, Tumblr and academia, they must adopt a model which is both empathetic to even the perspectives they disagree with and emblematic of the futures they aspire toward.

These are seemingly insurmountable aims for one artist, but I pursued this as a methodology anyway. My correspondence with the infamous self-published pick-up artist Roosh V began on September 22nd, 2014. However, I became acquainted with the man formerly known as Daryush Valizadeh and his work more than a year before after reading *Cockblocked by Redistribution: A Pick-up Artist in Denmark* by Katie J.M. Baker, an essay outlining Roosh V's self-described unsuccessful sex tour of Denmark and the reception of his novel *Don't Bang Denmark* in that country (2). In Katie JM Baker's article

I learned that the pick-up artist deduced through personal experiential research that his failure to seduce women in Denmark was in direct relation to the country's exceptional social welfare system. In Baker's article Roosh V is quoted in *Don't Bang Denmark*:

"A Danish person has no idea what it feels like to not have medical care or free access to university education. They have no fear of becoming homeless or permanently jobless. The government's soothing hand will catch everyone as they fall. To an American like myself, brainwashed to believe that you need to earn things like basic health care or education by working your ass off, it was quite a shock...(2)"

As I read through *Don't Bang Denmark* myself I became increasingly interested in Roosh's rationalizations – particularly his assessment that the safety net produced by his approximation of the Danish welfare system breeds a culture of women who are not seeking their value from physical appearance or the approval of men. He says "Denmark takes top prize for having the most unfeminine and androgynous robotic women (he's) met in the world(30, pg 20)." He arrives at the conclusion that the Danish women he wrote about in his book *Don't Bang Denmark* don't rely on men the same way that women do in other countries where he has practiced his methodologies "because the government will take care of her and her cats, whether she is successful at dating or not(30, pg 19)."

Although I'm not typically inclined to agree with most statements coming from the perspective of someone who has written 14 books on how to have sex with women across cultural barriers as quickly as possible and without accountability (with titles like *BANG*, *Day Bang*, *Bang Iceland*, *Bang Estonia*, *Bang Poland*, and *Don't Bang Latvia*[3]), I thought this assessment of the cultural and behavioral impacts caused by Denmark's social support system in comparison with the other places in which Roosh has operated was worth investigating further. After proceeding to read *BANG*, *Don't Bang Denmark*, *Bang Iceland*, *Roosh's Brazil Compendium* and his personal blog rooshv.com and its

predecessor dcbachelor.com, I noticed a recurring pattern and a hole in his narratives. Much of his writing includes detailed stories about his sexual exploits with women assigned anonymized names like “The British Virgin” or “Anna”, but their experiences and perspectives are never accounted for (1, 6). This perceived gap in his storytelling led me to start thinking about a project in which I would solicit stories from and conduct interviews with women who have had sexual exchanges with Roosh V to create a parallel compilation of texts to his one-sided conquest narratives.

This desire to present the perspectives of the unrepresented and implicitly silenced came initially out of my propensity for feminist activism as well as research I was doing for another project around the construction of “the real” in reality television. In Paul Mason’s essay “The Thin Blurred Line: Reality Television and Policing,” Mason discusses the construction of law enforcement reality television shows which take the perspective of police officers – never giving any context for the arrests they are making, placing the viewer in the position of passenger in the cop car – creating a sense of familiarity and collaboration with the officer, and always making sure that the overarching narrative paints a portrait of law enforcement as inherently good and unquestionably making the right decisions (20). The 27-season-running reality television show COPS is particularly well documented in this strategy. The officers on COPS are often shown exhibiting a great deal of violence against perpetrators before fully surveying the scene they are called to and the narrative of the show reinforces that however they end up deciding to act, they ultimately made the “right call(18).” Giving those who had been accounted for in Roosh V’s erotic tales a space to make alternative perspectives visible was an activist impulse, a gesture of resistance toward a contemporary media climate which seeks to present a black and white “objective viewpoint” on matters which are incapable of being objective (as we understand objectivity now). The impulse also

stemmed from a desire to break down his performance of absolute certainty on the Internet and challenge the myth of objectivity that much of his community clings to, destabilizing his carefully crafted narratives by introducing other complicating voices. Roosh's framing of the women he has sex with using his methodologies makes it clear that he believes he is manipulating them to some degree with his game (26), however I imagined that their experiences are much more complex, autonomous and interesting than the one-sided stories of conquering victims armed with biological determinism, "logic and reason" presented in Roosh's blogs, books and forum posts suggest (5). Most of Roosh and his community's rhetoric is saturated with the idea that those who have taken the red pill ("alpha male" participants in the manosphere) are living rational, scientific, logical and objective lives while those who have taken the blue pill ("beta males," feminists, "cultural Marxists" and "social justice warriors") live in a selfish and delusional fantasy world. In his recent essay outlining these worldview distinctions, "What is Neomascularity?," Roosh V writes (33):

"While "red pill" has many definitions, it's consistently used as a way or means to view the world in an objective, truthful, and factual manner, no matter how inconvenient or painful. It may seem redundant to need a method of seeking truth of the world, since it should be a default technique for all educated persons in a society, but identity politics and special interests deliberately conceal and distort truths to further utopian ideals or to consolidate their own selfish need for power. For example, today's left-leaning establishment deliberately conceals differences in sex and race in order to promote an ideal of equality that is meant to severely handicap men."

Furthermore, Roosh V's *Community Beliefs* section of his blog outlines seven indisputable rules for participation in his sphere (5):

- "1. Men and women are genetically different, both physically and mentally. Sex roles evolved in all mammals. Humans are not exempt.
2. Men will opt out of monogamy and reproduction if there are no

incentives to engage in them.

3. Past traditions and rituals that evolved alongside humanity served a net benefit to the family unit.

4. Testosterone is the biological cause for masculinity. Environmental changes that reduce the hormone's concentration in men will cause them to be weaker and more feminine.

5. A woman's value significantly depends on her fertility and beauty. A man's value significantly depends on his resources, intellect, and character.

6. Elimination of traditional sex roles and the promotion of unlimited mating choice in women unleashes their promiscuity and other negative behaviors that block family formation.

7. Socialism, feminism, cultural Marxism, and social justice warriorism aim to destroy the family unit, decrease the fertility rate, and impoverish the state through large welfare entitlements."

My initial proposal to interview women who have had sexual encounters with Roosh V to ultimately produce a web-based compilation of alternatives to Roosh's stories would be completely unattainable without massive, global distribution of a call for these women. I called this phase of the project *BANGED* and submitted a proposal to Rhizome at the New Museum's Internet Art Microgrant competition, hoping that in the event it were to be awarded the grant, it would help propel mainstream media interest in the work and create leverage for opportunities to distribute my call more broadly. This strategic distribution process was influenced by many of my favorite tactical media artists and artworks, especially Igor Vamos' 1993 project *Barbie Liberation Organization* which involved the manipulation of national print and TV news sources to spread the rumor that hundreds of Barbie and G.I. Joe dolls had had their voice boxes switched in a radical intervention on the marketing of traditional gender roles to children (8). Like the *BLO*, my project needed to sound radical enough to be similarly distributed via mainstream news. *BANGED* was ultimately awarded one of five Rhizome Internet Art Microgrants, and this did indeed begin a modest chain of media attention around it. The unanticipated side

effect of the strategically instituted broader visibility of the project was the inevitability of Roosh's awareness of it.

Roosh V's acknowledgement of the project came in the form of an announcement to his community over Twitter. I knew that from that point forward, the project would have to occur in conversation with Roosh himself. This presented itself as an opportunity to return to an approach to socially engaged work that is more familiar to me. I decided to additionally reach out to Roosh to try to interview him as well as the women he'd had relationships with, hoping to add another layer of nuance to the project – as it occurred to me that my initial approach was equally as black-and-white as the methodology I was critical of (his) and the gray areas of both pick-up art and feminism are often ignored throughout both clickbait articles and the stratified spheres of the internet. By conducting an interview with Roosh himself, I would be able to not only learn more about his motivation – but I would also be in a position to symbolically represent a feminist who was willing to listen and engage in a civil discussion with someone from outside my own community (something that Roosh and his community do not think feminists are capable of) (27). This approach likely developed out of an ongoing project I'd been working on inside World of Warcraft concurrently.

In 2012 I founded *The Council on Gender Sensitivity and Behavioral Awareness in World of Warcraft*, a performative intervention inside the most popular massively multiplayer online role playing game of all time(7). I started the project as a platform to discuss issues within the community's public communication channels which had been quite misogynic, homophobic and racist on the servers I had been playing on. As The Council, I facilitate conversations about inclusivity, entitlement, who gets to ask questions about the community's actions, how players are held accountable for harassment and other forms of online abuse, why women are treated so poorly in the

space, and why the politics of everyday life end up so embedded in exchanges in the fantasy game landscape. With as many as 10 million subscribers accessing WoW, the project also served as an opportunity to poll a diverse, geographically disparate population (much broader than I have access to within my on-and-offline art communities and physical proximity) about public opinion regarding women's roles in contemporary American culture and feminism. This practice of participating in a dialogue about the conditions of a space in the space itself and providing platforms for empathy toward a variety of subjectivities that I may or may not agree with also became a way to show to a large community that the public connotation of what a feminist is – is horribly one-dimensional (many discussion participants have admitted to never communicating with feminists before our talks). Both of these projects also at their core address a larger impulse toward facilitating conversations across increasingly disparate online spheres. How can we as artists be in conversation with those who are not already inclined to agree with us? This question is not a new one.

In 1979 the Supreme Court ruled to enforce the presence of public access television channels on all cable networks in an effort to support local community-oriented TV programming not dominated by commercial interests (17, 22). Paper Tiger Television, a collective of artists, activists and filmmakers founded by DeeDee Halleck in 1981, took advantage of this opportunity by creating an episodic alternative television show which critiqued TV while inhabiting the same consumer-oriented media space. The collective sought to communicate to broad viewerships who may not typically be critical of how the media operates (11). Even before Paper Tiger Television's 33 year-long ongoing occupation of public access airwaves, surrealist artist Salvador Dali made numerous appearances on television - including a standout episode of *What's My Line?* in 1952 (13). In the 1970s, performance artist Chris Burden also managed to insert

himself in conversations with television by purchasing advertising commercial slots on major networks (15). Burden's four short ads ranged from a performance of the artist dragging his body over shattered glass fragments, to poetry, to blatant self-promotion, to *Full Financial Disclosure* – a breakdown of his earnings and expenses as an artist in 1976. In his explanation of intent, Burden states:

“During the early seventies I conceived a way to break the omnipotent stranglehold of the airwaves that broadcast television had. The solution was to simply purchase commercial advertising time and have the stations play my tapes along with their other commercials. (28)”

Throughout the 90s and into the 2000s, artists continued to aspire to have their work presented in the television sphere and reach out to TV-watching audiences (a population much larger and more diverse than typical art audiences) – from talk show interventions like Nao Bustamante's 1992 performance as “Rosa the exhibitionist” on the Joan Rivers Show (9, 24) to The Yes Men and their impersonations of leaders of large corporations on television news programs and other public venues in order to “smuggle out the stories of their undercover escapades to provide a public glimpse at the behind-the-scenes world of big business...in order to demonstrate some of the mechanisms that keep bad people and ideas in power (29).” As television becomes more and more obsolete and news media is decentralized and distributed through a seemingly infinite number of niche sources, artists have to turn to internet-based platforms to produce and distribute their critical socially-engaged works if they want them to communicate with broader audiences. At *Being the Media: Designing a New Rrradical Media*, the 30th anniversary event for Paper Tiger Television held at The New School in New York City, a conference announcement text asked:

“Thirty years later, how can we harness collaborative culture, critical

analysis, participatory technologies, and aesthetics to incite social change? What content and platforms can we create that respond to the limits and possibilities of the ever-shifting contemporary media landscape? (4)”

Artists interested in continuing the tactical legacy of Paper Tiger Television and others must look at how media is disseminated now and consider those sources as territories to intervene on: YouTube, online video games, social media platforms, news websites, Netflix, reality television etc. As media sources shift, artists and activists who hope to engage with their issues and audiences must adapt and shift with them- studying, critiquing, and creating alternatives. That’s where I come in, tumbling headfirst into a manosphere rabbit hole.

Thinking about these questions around what constitutes media activism today, I proceeded to reach out to Roosh V to request an interview with him for *BANGED*. After reading the discouraging disclaimer on his website regarding his complete lack of interest in responding to emails from women (5), I took great efforts to neutralize my position and to construct a sensible argument for its benefits to him. Roosh is quite sensitive to how he has been portrayed by the media and prefers to self-publish, maintaining control over the way that his statements are edited (14). Keeping this in mind, I sent him the following email:

“Hey Roosh,
I know you saw my project (which got the grant btw) online. I also know you probably have no interest in talking with me but- to keep this as brief as possible:

1. I’m not looking to make a project about how you’re a shitty anti feminist. Every feminist media person has already done that. And it’s simple and boring.
2. I am legitimately interested in your books, methods, and the women you bang. This is why I am trying to find them + talk to them. You could help me by connecting me to them - but this seems highly unlikely.

3. If you look at my actual projects (and not what's written about them by press from Vice, Dazed, Neural, The Guardian etc...), you'd notice that I tend to take a neutral stance when discussing these (gender) issues with my interviewees. Especially with The Council on Gender Sensitivity and Behavioral Awareness in World of Warcraft.

4. I am actually interested in creating a more nuanced discussion of why feminism is such a polarizing topic and why it needs to change in order to have any relevance in American public life.

So with all that said - I would love to interview you as part of my *BANGED* project. I understand if you're not interested + you're busy + my project from it's harsh phrasing sounds like it's out to condemn you or something. But tbh it's not. Like I said, plenty of ppl have already done that. Lemme know if you would be up for doing an interview via email or on skype. I've attached a face and body photo as per your guidelines for women who want to email you.

Best,
Angela"

When staging an intervention it has always been important for me to gain access by learning and following protocols of spaces first before subverting them – so I additionally attached a full body and face photo as per the rules for female correspondence clearly stated in the Frequently Asked Questions section of his bio on his blog(5). Roosh responded right away, asking what the benefit would be for him. I offered him the entirety of my grant money from Rhizome as well as the opportunity to be exhibited in museum and gallery contexts through the interview, suggesting that this would consequently increase his potential for cultural capital bangs. The money did not interest him, but the prospect of art world fame and sex propelled by cultural capital did. After over a month of emailing him a question or two every day or so (a format of engagement which he requested), I was finally able to convince him to do a digitally mediated interview over Skype. The full transcript of the interview is available to read at the end of this text.

Throughout the unintentionally two hour long discussion, I maintained the outward appearance of an open and neutral interviewer despite nervousness and his condescending and disrespectful treatment of me, as I was aware of how sensitive he is to being misrepresented or misconstrued. Regardless of the fact that I disagree with just about everything he said and the way he operates, I felt a commitment to represent him fairly. I went into the interview hoping to understand how Roosh V and his increasingly visible and mobilized community have constructed their worldview in opposition to feminism and the growing independence of women, and, in turn, ask him to have empathy for those whose experiences he does not identify with. This was an unrealistic goal. One of the recurring themes throughout our conversation was Roosh's professed commitment to his objective worldview (or at least according to him - more objective than feminists because he has traveled more) dedicated to science, logic, and reason over emotion and experience. When I pressed him to explain how he was employing science in his practice, Roosh offered up his own experiential data and lived insights — which appear to have emotional overtones. The interaction led me to wonder who is allowed to claim that his or her worldviews are founded on logic, reason and science even if he or she is only using anecdotal evidence, and what it means to claim that as one's fallback mechanism. One hour and thirty five minutes into our interview Roosh states:

“[Roosh]: No, no, no. I'm not getting this from the news! I'm not getting this from the news. I'm getting this from careful thinking from available science that is proven to be right. That's it. I mean, the thing is, to be on the left now there are so many contradictions they think of that I can only think of the mental gymnastics that these people have to go through to ignore, like you have been doing, the contradictions. I mean, I'm just saying let's be consistent. If you're logically consistent, your belief system is in a lot of problems.

[Angela]: Can you tell me more about your use of logic and science for your arguments? Can you tell me about the logic and science behind sort of your worldview?

[Roosh]: Yeah. I use logic and science.

[Angela]: I mean, but can you elaborate? Because I mean, it's easy to just say...I mean I could sit here and say 'I know science! Science! Science! Science!'

[Roosh]: Ok. Ok. Sure. The only thing is this: I believe that the only way to really use logic is to ignore the feelings that you have for one outcome or the other. If you have an emotional investment into a lifestyle and to a way of life that you've been taught for four years in school, getting a contradictory piece of information will cause your brain to either accept or reject. And what people do to accept something that goes against what they've learned for a long time, it's really hard because that means for thousands of days they believed in the wrong thing. But me, I don't know. I have a filter. I'd rather be right than feel good. I don't need to feel good. I don't need to feel warm and fuzzy on the inside that my belief system is ok. I don't care. If I've been believing in something wrong for 35 years and new evidence tells me that, so be it. You know, many times in human history scientists they believed one thing but a new experiment has shown: holy shit we were wrong. But people nowadays, they go crazy if you show them a fact that goes against what they've been fed for years and years. So that's all.

[Angela]: So you're not emotionally invested in the arguments that you're making?

[Roosh]: No."

This obsession with identifying as rational, logical, scientific and objective in one's mindset exhibited by Roosh throughout our interview led me toward an inquiry into the myth of objectivity and the idea that someone might singularly **know** and dictate to others how everyone should operate. This has felt like an obvious fallacy to me, but as I continue to work in socially engaged modalities online, I know that this is a frequently-held belief by many Americans. How can this be the case when history itself has been constructed to only include the perspectives, stakes, values and individuals deemed worthy by those in power? Like the aforementioned analysis of COPS, history has always been constructed to present the preferred account of the State. As an artist, in my practice I want to challenge the myth of objectivity by facilitating civil conversations between those who come from completely different backgrounds, have radically different conceptions of how the world operates and have increasingly stratified sources of information and communities – particularly online. In Jürgen Habermas' description of

the development of objectivity in conjunction with the evolution of the eighteenth century construction of “public opinion” he states: “The public sphere served only to integrate subjective opinions into the objectivity assumed by the spirit in the form of the state. (10, pg 120)” Objectivity is inextricably linked to authority. To be in a position to claim absolute objectivity is to be in a position of power and privilege in which one feels exonerated from question and criticism. In my most hopeful (and admittedly unrealistic) thinking about my artistic practice, I aim to work toward a public idea of objectivity that is radically inclusive of viewpoints and experiences that have been ignored or intentionally dismissed by those in positions of power and to recognize the lived experiences, positions, and perspectives of individuals coming from varied contexts often kept out of legitimized canons. In Donna Haraway’s “Situated Knowledges” she describes a potential future feminist objectivity that resonates with the aims of my current work:

“I am arguing for politics and epistemologies of location, positioning, and situating, where partiality and not universality is the condition of being heard to make rational knowledge claims... There is no single feminist standpoint because our maps require too many dimensions for that metaphor to ground our visions. But from the feminist standpoint, theorists' goal of an epistemology and politics of engaged, accountable positioning remains eminently potent. The goal is better accounts of the world, that is, "science." Above all, rational knowledge does not pretend to disengagement: to be from everywhere and so nowhere, to be free from interpretation, from being represented, to be fully self-contained or fully formalizable. Rational knowledge is a process of ongoing critical interpretation among "fields" of interpreters and decoders. Rational knowledge is power-sensitive conversation. (12, pg 589-590)”

Despite challenging Roosh in the interview in regards to his lack of acknowledgement of his subjective position, his deeply held belief that his perspective is objectively accurate has translated into placing himself in the authoritative position to distribute these supposed rational, logical, scientific truths that women are inherently intellectually inferior and bound by their biological build to care for the pursuits of men and the

development of children. Though mostly polite and extremely generous with his time throughout our interview, Roosh appeared convinced that due to my biological birth assignment (woman), I was unable to think autonomously and absolutely could not be well-regarded in my field, so much so that his community is still certain that the GIFs I produced for this project were made by a man (23). It was clear that Roosh (and subsequently: his community) perceived me as existing in a bubble removed from most of society. Consistent with his outspoken views on feminists, he assumed that I was a naive, inexperienced, and easily-led person who let some feminist propaganda I picked up in undergraduate school and on BuzzFeed shape my worldview, as opposed to experience and my own research. Ultimately, our roles reflected Roosh's defensive engagement with the world at large – everything from my hair (too short) to my taste in men (too feminine) to my education (too much of it) was up for criticism even though the interview was intended to highlight his work, how he ended up in his field and how he ended up framing his experiences the way he has. During the interview, Roosh responds to my question regarding his objective authority:

“[Angela]: This is another question that I was planning to ask and it's a very huge question, but how can anybody claim to have an objective reality? I mean your reality is obviously constructed from the many different places that you've lived and the experiences that you've had and the people that you've met and all of these things. Obviously somebody who has only lived, like most of my family has lived, in one town in Pennsylvania for most of their lives - their sort of reality is constructed very differently. But can't you say that yours is also constructed based on your experiences?

[Roosh]: But it is more objective than 99.9% of the people who hate on me. I have seen and done more. I have read more. I have been exposed to more. I have been exposed to different ideas, belief systems than other people. I'm not saying I'm smarter. I'm not. I've just seen it all, done it all, read it all. I have more data and background in my mind that allows me to reach conclusions are more accurate. No, I'm serious!

[Angela]: Are you saying feminists don't travel?!

[Roosh]: They.....Where do they go? They go to France, Spain, England, Ireland, the Caribbean...

[Angela]: We may be more diverse than you imagine!

[Roosh]: They go for a short time. You know, do they learn the language? Do they really interact with the locals for years and years? If they do, I would like to meet that girl because I would have a lot in common with her.

Angela laughs and waves

[Roosh]: Ok. But you know one thing is that people in the U.S., they think they go to a college and they graduate and they're qualified. They think they're qualified to talk about the problems facing cultures. They're not. They're just kids! So you have a bunch of kids holding their signs 'consent this' and 'consent that'. They're just kids who think they are smart and think they understand how the world is. But they don't because they haven't even lived yet. And they're not old like me...and they're not experienced."

After the interview was distributed initially via mainstream news website ANIMAL New York, this seemingly Sisyphusian attempt to create a conversation across disparate online echo chambers and to create a more complex image of what a feminist might be like in mainstream media actually initially appeared to be working. By default, many members of Roosh's community were quick to dismiss me as a "feminist bitch" and a "whore on a herd mission," but a number of other comments from his community indicated that there was an appreciation of my process and commitment to presenting the interview in its entirety- unedited (23). Roosh V Forum member "dads" stated in a 200+ post forum topic titled "Roosh V Interviewed by a Feminist":

"I'm going to give this woman a lot of credit because she put up the video of the interview and the transcript, and let it speak for itself, outside of a few editorials at the beginning. Hey, she said herself "I'm into bridging separate echo chambers", and that's the most positive step I've seen in a long time, outside of these "WINS FOR THE MANOSPHERE" and "WINS FOR FEMINISTS" that seem to dominate the conversation."

Many forum members initially concluded in agreement with this statement from Roosh V Forum participant "ChrisPitts": "despite both Roosh and Angela being on opposite ends of the spectrum, you were at least able to have a civilized conversation with each other."

This in itself felt like a pretty significant achievement from a community who produce and support Roosh's neomascularity-focused blog *Return of Kings*, well known for its militantly anti-feminist articles like "The 9 Ugliest Feminists in America," "How to Defeat Feminism," and "The Anti-Feminism Wisdom of the Bible (32)." Roosh also confirmed in both personal email and over Twitter that he was happy with the interview and did not feel exploited by the process. However, the interview with Roosh was never meant to be the entirety of the project. As I mentioned to Roosh in my interview with him, I still intended to find women who had been on the receiving end of his seduction tactics. Roosh was not willing to introduce me to these women but was at this point was amused by the project.

[Angela]: ...And you're not going to connect me to anyone that has had sex with you, are you?

[Roosh]: I mean that's kind of –

[Angela]: It might give you more favorable reviews!

[Roosh]: Ok listen. Listen. I could see girls in the U.S. being like 'Oh that's cool!' but Eastern Europe is very different. That's where I've been for like three years. And girls here...to have some girl from the U.S. saying she's doing an art project on this guy...I don't know. I don't know.

[Angela]: I mean, I've lived in Finland and in Denmark - so I will be asking there. I know that you didn't have such a great time in Denmark, so maybe I'll be getting a lot of people responding in Denmark. I don't know.

[Roosh]: See ok. The U.S. is like the only place where girls don't mind to kiss and tell. They just don't care. But in Eastern Europe they don't really do that and I don't want to put a girl on the spot by sharing these intimate details of what we did. So unfortunately I don't think I can help you out there, sorry.

[Angela]: That's fair. No, I didn't assume that you would. You were pretty generous with your response."

Roosh never anticipated that I would be in a position to distribute my call for women widely enough for anyone in the areas he had most frequently practicing his craft (i.e. Washington DC, South America or Eastern Europe) to get wind of my project and come forward for an interview. In addition to incorporating more complicated points of

view and symbolically providing a platform for potentially conflicting and nuanced perspectives, the interview itself became quite effective as leverage for distributing my calls for women on the receiving end of Roosh's conquest methodologies. Many mainstream news publications and individuals with large audiences began to write about the project and my call traveled widely, ending up on websites like The Hairpin, Jezebel, The New Republic, Hyperallergic and more. It was at this point that sentiments toward me within Roosh's community shifted. I did not anticipate that I would be subjected to the aggressive scrutiny of Roosh's community as part of my investigation. I had forgotten my own position in the work and while digging into the personal life of this seemingly public figure, it became apparent to me that although he identifies as a celebrity – this identification is part of a façade that he has constructed, supported by an accumulation of committed men similarly disenfranchised by the progressive interests of contemporary women. My project's departure point to interview women he'd had exchanges with was not originally meant to happen in-conversation with Roosh himself. Due to his self-aggrandized "public figure" status, it did not initially occur to me that he would engage with me or my project itself. As the project got more attention, Roosh and his community began to frame my project as obsessive and called me a stalker who was desperately trying to have sex with Roosh. After I was interviewed by The Hairpin to distribute the call, Roosh began to defensively address my project over Twitter. An early conversation proceeded like this (31):

"[@rooshv]: Remember that feminist who interviewed me? I'm getting concerned with her fixation on me <http://thehairpin.com/2015/02/the-battle-of-the-sexes-an-interview-with-angela-washko/>

[@thesledgetobias]: @rooshv @angelawashko The only way for her to truly experience the essence of Roosh is to be seduced by him and make love to him a few times

[@JohnFlynt]: @thesledgetobias @angelawashko @rooshv Too risky. She might get him to fuck her and then call the police and say he raped her.

[@thesledgetobias]: @angelawashko @rooshv That is a good point. It's quite a risk to put any trust in a feminist.

[@rooshv]: @thesledgetobias Sleeping with a girl like @angelawashko would require a consent form with a witness signature

[@DeePeeTaco]: @angelawashko I live near you. We should do lunch and talk about @rooshv. His writing has helped improve my quality of life significantly.

[@rooshv]: @DeePeeTaco @angelawashko Sly dog trying to steal my groupie.

[@DeePeeTaco]: @rooshv @angelawashko woah I'm not putting out until her hair is longer than mine. Until then, me and her can just be friends"

The conversation continued in a 253 post thread (and still going) on the Roosh V Forum, most interesting in the members' discussion of my intentions. Was I being sincere? Was I trying to exploit Roosh's infamy for my own career goals? Was I qualified to call myself an artist? Was I trolling Roosh for fun and feminist misandry? Was I just obsessed with Roosh and had orchestrated this as an attention-seeking stunt to facilitate my own sexual encounter with him? Many responses echoed Forum member Lizard King suggestion "she should cut to the chase and let Roosh bang her for her 'art'." Though forum member AnonymousBosch countered "If you can pop a chub for a masculine, short-haired woman with an annoying voice like that, you're a stronger player than I am." AnonymousBosch continued by attempting to mobilize the Roosh V Forum toward digging up my personal information, stating: "Don't underestimate her...I'd strongly-suggest the fire team start investigating her background, the way she is investigating Roosh's girlfriends - she's set the bar at that level. It might uncover something interesting(23)."

I don't know why I didn't anticipate this type of response. As I became a subject of my own project to the largest audience of the work (Roosh V's manosphere), my email inbox, social media accounts, website, comment sections of articles I'd written or been interviewed for, and online forums were flooded with criticisms, questions, threats and insults at my personal appearance, intentions and mental stability. I felt silenced publicly as my socially engaged tactical media experiment spiraled and backfired into my face. The more I thought about it, the more I empathized with Roosh's position. Who was I to attempt to unearth the details of his personal sexual exchanges, regardless of whether or not it was an elaborate mythology or a dedicated practice of deception (or most likely something in-between)? My activist intentions which appealed to many (including the public voters who secured my place as a finalist for the Rhizome Internet Art Microgrant) were not appropriate for this terrain and not true to my own approaches and aspirations for my practice. As I began doubting my own initial impulses, I also started feeling concerned for the handful of women who started to come forward to be interviewed (21). If I were to publish their accounts, undoubtedly despite my promises of anonymity – Roosh would know who they were and they would be outed and harassed by his community. Having been on the receiving end of that attention, I felt uncomfortable subjecting anyone else to it.

Throughout the project I'd been reading *I Love Dick* by Chris Kraus. The book diaristically chronicles Kraus' practice of compulsively writing letters to her one-sided love interest Dick, blurring the line between fictional storytelling and first person documentary. In this process, Dick becomes a somewhat fixed character for Kraus to project her imagination of their collaboration and relationship onto. However, Dick is having a completely different relationship to her behavior – revealing at the end how disturbed he is by Kraus' project and fixation on him. In Kraus' account, Dick ultimately

ends the willfully delusional exchange by sending a letter to her ex-husband, along with a Xeroxed copy for her as well. Part of the letter which struck me in relation to my own shifts in thinking about *BANGED*:

“In retrospect I feel I should have been absolutely unambiguous in my response to the letters you and Kris sent over the following months instead of opting for bemused silence. I can only say that being taken as the object of such obsessive attention on the basis of two genial but not particularly intimate or remarkable meetings spread out over a period of years was, indeed still is, utterly incomprehensible to me. I found the situation initially perplexing, then disturbing and my major regret now is that I didn’t find the courage at the time to communicate to you and Kris how uncomfortable I felt being the unwitting object of...some bizarre game. I still have immense respect for your work...I can only reiterate what I have said before: that I do not share your conviction that my right to privacy has to be sacrificed for the sake of that talent. (19, pg 260)”

Although Roosh is certainly not the charming British media theorist and sociologist that Kraus’ Dick was, I started to understand Roosh’s reframing of my project as borne out of the obsessions of a mentally disturbed stalker. This public explanation was coming from a place of concern regarding the maintenance of his legacy within his community and the discomfort at being examined in such a probing manner. When he did see the call distributed so widely and the possibility that I might gain access to some of the women he’s had relationships with, he reacted quite publicly and defensively. By framing me as crazy or obsessive or stalker-like, he attempted to discredit any potential future interviews with these women. After this analysis, I became caught between wanting to be respectful of someone I had been trying to empathetically understand and interview fairly by creating a scenario in which we had a conversation across polarized positions and online communities (digifeminists and manosphere participants) ... however at the same time, I still sought some form of justice — some form of visibility — for those who are accounted for as receptacles for Roosh’s actions but never given a voice.

Tightrope Routines is a storytelling performance about admitting I was wrong despite art world validation stating otherwise and the importance of reassessing activist impulses, regardless of how righteous they may seem. As an artist and feminist prying into the private life of someone frequently publicly diagnosed as a psychopath (25), despite how mediagenic and “feel-good” my idea to solicit testimonials from women who had been accounted for in Roosh V’s conquest narratives – a situated feminist engagement with this matter should not employ the same lack of empathy of that of its oppressors. *Tightrope Routines* is a performance about the necessity to recalibrate approaches and expectations when operating in the social and the process of embracing complexity over a clear, well-packaged deliverable in a grant-driven research-based art context. *Tightrope Routines* is story about knowing when to step back and maintain space for privacy despite an inclination toward radical transparency (which is of course another mythology). The performance embraces the fact that the conditions of the field are more complicated than one tactical media artist’s aggressive approach to interacting with it (which was the least interesting, but most popular aspect of a much longer story about two far flung human-scale snow globes, an olive branch [or a trap] extended between them, and an artist stuck outside burrowing deeper and deeper into a rabbit hole).

PART II: Interview Transcript

BANGED: An Interview with Roosh V by Angela Washko

[Angela]: Hello!

[Roosh V]: Hold on one second...

Roosh adjusts the camera angle

[Angela]: (laughing) Oh yeah, you wanna tilt down a bit? Thank you.

[Roosh V]: Ohhh my hair doesn't---oh man I shoulda looked at it....

Roosh grooms hair and sculpts it upward

[Angela]: Oh yeah? Mine's not so great either!

[Roosh V]: I wanna make sure I look, you know, handsome 'cause maybe like a million people will see this

[Angela]: (laughing) Well that shouldn't be a problem. You look alright to me.

[Roosh]: And I have like a light...like a really hot light because if I don't have it, it looks bad I think.

[Angela]: Like in shadow?

Roosh adjusts very bright light

[Roosh]: Hold on. Lemme-- (mumbles)

[Angela]: What does your shirt say?

Roosh adjusts camera again

[Roosh]: Ok I think that's good. So how are you?

[Angela]: Oh good. How are you? What does your shirt say?

[Roosh]: Brazil.

[Angela]: Oh cool. Just curious.

[Roosh]: I lived there for 6 months...but this was back in 2008. A lot of time has passed

[Angela]: Mmhmm.

[Roosh]: So you can hear me fine?

[Angela]: Yeah - you sound great! How are you today? What time is it where you are?

[Roosh]: Right now I am in a secret location in Eastern Europe. It is 8pm.

[Angela]: Ok well that can narrow it down a little bit maybe. I'll check later.

[Roosh]: So that's why it's dark. So...you know...I'm sure you know a lot about me, but I really don't know a lot about you, you know? I don't know much about your work and

background, but from the interactions we've had through email you seem like a nice person-

[Angela]: (laughing) Thank you.

[Roosh]: ...who is not out to you know, hurt me or do anything bad so....

[Angela]: No, I was interested in sort of crossing over....In our online email conversations we've talked quite a bit about echo chambers and I'm interested in sort of bridging separate echo chambers and trying to have conversations between groups that often don't get to communicate with each other without language that sort of stops communication basically. I'm interested in trying to create bridges between communities that don't talk with each other. You seem to be the figurehead of one type of community that I wouldn't normally have the opportunity to talk to so-

[Roosh]: Sure. And have you made such a bridge in the past?

[Angela]: Well I've tried to. I started a project a few years ago called The Council on Gender Sensitivity and Behavioral Awareness in World of Warcraft-

Roosh raises an eyebrow

[Roosh]: Ok...

[Angela]: which is a really long very unnecessarily official title but you know, the importance of naming things or whatever...but I was trying to talk with players- trying to get the players' perspective because there's a lot of people who say "games are bad, games are 'this way', this is what needs to change" so I wanted to have more of a conversation with the people who play those games, including myself because I am a gamer. To sort of have conversations with gamers on what the climate is rather than a more top-down approach that other people take.

[Roosh]: So you may like the fact that yesterday I just announced on a private list that I am opening a video game site.

[Angela]: Oh?

[Roosh]: #gamergate has created this opportunity for a video game site for guys that are more in line with the type of views that I share.

[Angela]: Mmhmm.

[Roosh]: Because right now #gamergate has created a lot of guys who are mad at the media for not covering the corruption they feel has infected sites like Kotaku and the other site....Polygon. So I'm trying to think, you know this is a chance to maybe spread the values that I think are right and that I think will help a lot of men.

[Angela]: Do you play games?

[Roosh]: (Laughing) No.

[Angela]: (Laughing) I'm like - maybe you're the wrong figurehead for that movement!

[Roosh]: I play no games! Zero games. Nothing!

[Angela]: So why are you so interested in #gamergate then?

[Roosh]: You know, it's because they're up against the same people that I know and really hate. They're up against the same social justice people, the same people in the media who work at Gawker, BuzzFeed, Huffington Post...

[Angela]: Mmhmm.

[Roosh]: I mean all of the people they're up against right now - I already know them because they have attacked me...such as the Southern Poverty Law Center which put me on a bullshit list...

[Angela]: The hate group list, yeah.

[Roosh]: And I'm thinking: I know them! And it tells me that these people, the social justice crowd, they're just trying to infect every category, every topic, subject, institution. I think for me at least, can I open a safe space for men who play video games? And maybe they wanna do other things on the side that I like to do such as go to the gym...meet women who are thin, you know? So if it works, it works. If not, it doesn't. But while I don't know how to play games or know anything about the gamer field, a lot of guys who read me do. So I have assembled a team of guys who are going to write and we'll see how it works.

[Angela]: So you're working with other people who play games. You're sort of creating the framework?

[Roosh]: Yeah.

[Angela]: Ok.

[Roosh]: I hire the server, write the checks, and manage everything - make sure everything is working.

[Angela]: How did you end up so involved in #gamergate? I'm curious. Just from seeing the same people involved that sort of attack you?

[Roosh]: I wanted to kind of help them. Even though gamers I have nothing against them, it's kind of like the enemy of my enemy is my friend. Even though gamers, I don't hate them. They're up against people I really hate and their cause sounds good. Their cause is what? To eliminate corruption and bias in journalism? Hey, I'm down for that.

So that's how I got involved even though I don't play any games. I'm not gonna even fake it like "Oh yeah I play mobile games!" No, I don't play anything. So...

[Angela]: Wow, we really got into it already I didn't even get the chance...I wanted to give a little bit of an introduction to what we've been doing just to sort of start off if that's ok.

[Roosh]: Yeah.

[Angela]: (Laughing) You could also take that role if you want to. I don't know how comfortable you feel...before I give an introduction to you-

[Roosh]: Actually I would feel most comfortable if I take my shirt off. Is that ok?

[Angela]: (Laughing) You can do that if you want. I don't know though, it looks like you have a lavalier clip though so you might have to clip that to your beard or something.

[Roosh]: That's fine. My beard is very thick.

[Angela]: If you want to take your shirt off I'm totally comfortable with that.

[Roosh]: (Laughing) I'm joking; I'm joking.

[Angela]: (Laughing) Ok. Good to know. Fair enough, alright. Just here to make you comfortable.

[Roosh]: Thank you.

[Angela]: So I wanted to thank you for doing this interview with me. Like I said, I understand that you get a lot of heat from feminist media members, however I do self-identify as a feminist but I'm much more interested in expanding and rethinking-

Roosh's eyes get very large and a semi menacing face is made

[Angela]: I know, I see your eyes getting really big! But you know, sort of rethinking what that could be less polarizing and more inclusive. If you want to get into that later we can. But I know that you acknowledged in your emails with me that my audience is potentially already kind of aligned to not agree with some of your views so I thought that this was an opportunity to again bridge that connection maybe create some kind of common ground or a more generous rethinking of what you're doing, what other sides are doing et cetera. So - we have been emailing back and forth and I again really appreciate that you've gone through with the Skype. Any questions that I ask, please feel free if any of them make you feel uncomfortable or you don't want to answer or whatever...most of them you've already seen anyway...

[Roosh]: Ok.

[Angela]: Based on something that you say I might you know, make a direct question based on that -

[Roosh]: Which is fine.

[Angela]: Ok cool. So if anything is too whatever, too personal, too shitty just say 'that's a bad question or you know whatever'

[Roosh]: K.

[Angela]: Cool. I guess it would make sense to start with: I accidentally mis-labeled you as a pick up artist in our emails and I apologize for that. So I want for the audience that I will have which may or may not be familiar with what you do- can you describe what you do? What is The Roosh Program? What makes you unique from the more common term that people might know which is 'pick up artist'?

[Roosh]: You know I guess the easiest way to classify myself is a writer. Though I do lots of things, but it's really hard. The thing is I don't think a person should be able to self-label what they are or who they are. And I think it's easy to create a bias about who you think you are, but it really should be based on what you do every day. And what do I do every day? I write; I help a lot of men; I teach; I share my experiences and stories; I maintain websites; I try to meet women who are thin and beautiful....I mean is there a word for that? Is there a word for a guy who travels and maintains an internet business while trying to have a normal sex life? I don't know. And if there is a word that you think exists, please feel free to use it. But I think 'pick up artist'...I don't identify with that because it seems like your whole existence is 'this.' Your whole existence is going out every day to pick up girls...and while for a couple of years when I was first into that I was around 22/23 you know?

[Angela]: Oh ok.

[Roosh]: And now I'm 35. I was probably going out 4 or 5 times each week to learn this. But now you get old and your energy goes down and your hormone goes down. If I can go two nights a week to go out and flirt with good looking girls, that's fine. So I just wanna call myself a man. A masculine man who is straight. I'm a heterosexual normal man without an alternative lifestyle leanings. I'm just an average guy. And I feel like-

[Angela]: (laughing) But you write these books!

[Roosh]: Yeah!

[Angela]: Can you just for the audience that may not be familiar with the books that you've written, can you just describe a little bit about *Bang*, *Day Bang*, *Bang Iceland*, *Don't Bang Denmark* and so on?

Roosh laughs and looks into the camera

[Angela]: (laughing) I love Denmark!

[Roosh]: Each book is basically trying to help men learn how to meet women and initiate sexual relationships. How to start a conversation with a woman...how to build attraction with a woman...how to get her into bed in a way that doesn't make her feel weird...that doesn't make her feel awkward....that doesn't make her feel like a slut the next day. And just - basically the books that I write have ended up satisfying thousands if not millions of girls with the guys who use these tips...and you can read them there isn't anything that says 'insult a girl'...that make them feel good. And why I get attacked for this I don't know, but it's just that most of the books are just trying to help guys who maybe are shy or who maybe didn't have a masculine role model when they were young to teach them this...because I guess maybe a generation ago fathers or brothers would teach us how to flirt with a girl. But now we live in a time where flirting is "harassment." Now you can't do that - I mean if you ask someone in school 'Hey I like that girl over there; how do I go and talk to her?' OH YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT! YOU'RE INTERRUPTING HER! YOU ARE A BAD PERSON! I mean now I think as you know there is a push lately against street harassment.

[Angela]: Mmhmm.

[Roosh]: And this is basically just saying hello to someone else or saying 'smile' and now they want to make this against the law. So being social and being outgoing in 1985...in 2015 maybe that will put you in jail! So who knows? Maybe the books that I write...in five years they're going to be teaching an illegal act! Because that's how the culture is going - in the direction where anything a man does to meet a woman...anything a straight man does is bad. But anything a girl does...any sexual thing she wants to do...she can flirt...it's empowering! But anything a guy does is sexist.

[Angela]: I mean I think that it is complicated and politically correct culture has definitely made a lot of awkward sort of social exchanges and has created a sort of policing of social conduct that makes it really complicated to understand consent and non-consent...If you don't mind I do want to read a section from *BANG* that maybe you could sort of respond to because I think based on what you're saying some of the things then in *BANG* are maybe a little bit more extreme version of what you're practicing now? Is this true? Like maybe you've become a little bit less extreme?

[Roosh]: Ok *BANG* was written in 2007.

[Angela]: Mmhmm.

[Roosh]: Actually I wrote it in 2006 but it was put out in 2007. So we're talking seven years ago. And you may be trying to play this out of context type of game where you quote something-

[Angela]: Oh no! I'm sorry! I don't wanna-

[Roosh]: But let's see-

[Angela]: You can tell me to stop if you want!

[Roosh]: No, let's see because I know that's what people have done on me is to pull a quote and misquote me.

[Angela]: I'll let you respond to it because I don't want you to get upset with me or -

[Roosh]: Please, sure. Look, hey that's what I wrote. It's there.

[Angela]: I did want to ask you because it is from the back...which I think is the appendix. Was that changed in 2010? 'Cause it says that there's 2007 and 2010-

[Roosh]: No, the appendix stayed.

[Angela]: Oh ok.

[Roosh]: The changes I made in 2010 were to add a texting guide and add a guide for how to go solo...for a man alone to go out.

[Angela]: This passage is called 'If You Don't Feel Like A Creep You're Not Pushing Hard Enough.'

[Roosh]: Oh god.

Roosh laughs heartily

[Angela]: (laughing) Yeah. You're like 'this is a great start.'

[Roosh]: Ok. Go ahead.

Roosh motions to continue

[Angela]: And again you know, I'm not trying to exploit you or-

[Roosh]: It's my own work! It's my own words.

*Angela reads from page 155 of *BANG**

[Angela]: 'She's not going to invite you upstairs like in the movies. She's not going to tell you she wants to have sex with you. She's not going to grab your dick and put it in. You must always be making the first move and always be pushing. If you're scared she'll think of you as a creep, that means you're on the right path. Remember that girls who like you are flattered that you want to have sex with them, so moving quickly is an indirect way of showing interest that can be helpful for new relationships. Get her to your place or hers the same night you meet her. Get her into the bedroom. Take off her

clothes and keep going. If she resists, take a break and start over again. Break her down and bang her, and then take her out and bang her again.'

Roosh nods repeatedly

[Angela]: And then on page 90 something...sorry...shit I lost it. Aghhhhh!

Angela flips through book pages

[Angela]: 'Pound away like a jackhammer until she gets tired and gives in. This isn't an elegant approach, but it works. Any human resistance can be broken down with enough pressure.' I just feel like that was a little more extreme than what you were explaining earlier!

[Roosh]: How did I not win the Nobel Prize for that? You know?

[Angela]: (Laughing) It's nice writing!

[Roosh]: Ok. You know, there is a balance between just not even going for the gold and really going for it when the girl doesn't want it. In the book back then I didn't have the elegance to what the balance is-

[Angela]: The difference between the two-

[Roosh]: The bottom line is this: when you pursue a girl, they're never gonna say yes the first time anywhere. I mean I've been to thirty countries now. They never say 'yes' the first time. They're gonna say no. All of them. Even if they want sex. So then no is no. So then you stop. Then you wait...then you try again. You start from the very top. You know? So kiss...touch...and you see. Will she allow you to go farther? If she does, that's great. Then you're gonna hit another point where she says no. Then no means no. Then you stop. Then you take a break. Is she still here? Does she still look at you? Does she still lay on your bed? Does she still stroke your hairy arms? If she does then ok, start again! Kiss. Touch. I mean-

[Angela]: Over how much time? You're talking about in the same day?

[Roosh]: It could take one hour. It could take eight hours.

[Angela]: Yeah.

[Roosh]: Every girl is different.

[Angela]: Yeah. But you respect those differences? What you're saying is you respect those differences and you do sort of do a temperature check of what's going on?

[Roosh]: And that's why there was a part in the book where I compare this to a video game. Where if she says no, you start all over again.

[Angela]: Yeah - the reset.

[Roosh]: I mean if a girl no longer wants to kiss you, then it's done right? Then she's going to leave or ask you to leave. But if a girl wants to have sex she's not going to say yes right away. I mean- anyone who says that is a girl or is a guy who hasn't had sex with more than two or three girls in his entire lifetime. But a woman's natural instinct is to play hard to get. How can a man tell the difference between a no that means 'wait and try later' or 'no means you have to leave'? I mean it's pretty obvious. It's very obvious when a girl just doesn't want to kiss you or touch you then the night is done. But if it's a no that's soft and then you stop and then you snuggle and then you start up again and she allows that...is that a no? Or is that a 'I need some more time'?

[Angela]: Yeah.

[Roosh]: So what I don't like that the left is trying to do is trying to codify what sexual instinct is. They're trying to make a rule for every girl out there. But every girl is different when it comes to the amount of time it takes her. Some girls are fast. Some girls they go to the club they're looking for a guy. They'll take a guy in the bathroom! I mean there's not gonna be a 'no' there. But some girls it takes time - maybe a couple dates. Five dates even! And if a man just blindly follows the feminists who say 'no if she says no at any times you must cease and desist and that's it'...is that realistic?

[Angela]: Well I don't know if it says that exactly, but it does say that a yes has to be acknowledged.

[Roosh]: But no girl does that. No girl does that. No girl does that. No girl, and I've been with a lot of girls, no girl says 'yes at this point in time I am ready to engage in sex'. No girl does that. Zero.

[Angela]: Well they might say-

[Roosh]: Do you do that?

[Angela]: I'm like 'yeah, let's fuckin do it.'

Angela laughs heartily

[Roosh]: I mean you have to be in a bubble that's very small if you think girls do that. No girl does that. And I've been everywhere. No girl says that.

[Angela]: How many countries have you been in at this point? Just to add a stat.

[Roosh]: What? How many what?

Roosh places pen in mouth

[Angela]: How many countries has that been? Approximately if you don't have an exact number.

[Roosh]: I've been in I think 28 now. And I've slept with girls from about 25 of them. So I have a wide range of behavior from human beings. Not from east coast liberals born between 1983 - 1988 who all read the same sites. I have a wider- I mean- human beings don't act like the way that a lot of these people want them to act. It's just - they just create it! They're just creating this new human instinct that doesn't apply! It just doesn't. So listen, if a girl says 'no' and then you stop and you try again and it's still a no, it's done. If a girl says 'no' and you stop and then you try again to touch and kiss and she's down...what does that mean? Is it really a no or is it just 'I need a little bit of extra time'? I mean I think we just have to use common sense. But using laws now to try to- I mean it's just gonna get to the point where we have to pull out a legal sheet to you know - that's what they want to do.

[Angela]: (Laughing) Sign this form we're about to fuck.

[Roosh]: I'm sure you know of the California-

[Angela]: Yes Means Yes

[Roosh]: Yes Means Yes law. All that's gonna do is make men fear this...fear sex. And what the left is doing is trying to disrupt the bonds between mother and son, between woman and man to make everyone dependent on the government. And this is what's happening now you know? So maybe what I wrote some people say 'ohhh he's a rapist blah blah blah'..but hey the way we are going now, in ten years maybe you're not allowed to do that. I don't know. But I'll say this: as of right now you can. You know? If a girl says no, that's no. But if she's still there and she allows you to touch her again and kiss her again that's not rape. That is not.

[Angela]: I feel like we got a little derailed on this and I'm sorry. But I did want to go back to one specific thing that you said-

[Roosh]: You asked me!

[Angela]: I know I know I know!

[Roosh]: Your fault.

[Angela]: I appreciate your really elaborate response. But I feel like your explanation of what you do was maybe not clear enough for an audience who doesn't know you yet. Like you talked about being a writer but the focus of your writing and the sort of travel guide for men...you gave me a really really long and really amazing response over email and I was wondering if you could just elaborate a little bit more on that aspect of what you do because a lot of the other things I want to ask are related to that. So sort of your

practice of traveling - or even maybe if it's a past practice - I'm not sure where you are and what you're doing exactly right now. Your practice of going to different countries and sort of figuring out how to have relationships across cultural and geographic borders and whatnot and the books that you write consequently.

[Roosh]: So what I did after I started to travel...and this was in 2004 or 2005...and I used these guidebooks that you can buy at the Barnes and Noble like the Frommers or the Rough Guide and I used these guides to go into a city with the goal obviously to meet women. But these guides were useless! Useless! You know? So then I came back home-

[Angela]: So you were looking at other guides first?

[Roosh]: Yeah.

[Angela]: Ok.

[Roosh]: For where to go out, where to meet girls. You know? And maybe can they can tell me what the girls are like? And then I went back home and then I thought, man that would be cool if I could do that! If I could write a guidebook that's for guys. And I looked - there really wasn't much out there. I mean there was something for guys who want to pay for hookers. Right? But I don't do that. So I'm thinking there isn't! I can be the first guy! So I said ok how many guides should I write? And a number in my head - ten - popped up. Ten is a round number, so I wrote ten.

Roosh and Angela laugh

[Roosh]: And then I stopped. But the one thing I do is that each culture breeds a certain kind of woman, a certain kind of man. They are receptive to certain things; they act in a certain way; they have certain kinds of habits. I wanted to describe these types of cultural things that would help a foreign man such as me go to the country and as efficiently as possible make love with a foreign girl.

[Angela]: Awesome.

Angela laughs

[Angela]: How many in total sort of *BANG* series books have you written including *BANG* and *Day Bang*?

[Roosh]: Like 13?

[Angela]: So you've exceeded your number?

[Roosh]: No but 10 is for the travel.

[Angela]: The countries. Ah.

[Roosh]: Three is like normal I guess.

[Angela]: I see...So as you've been writing these books you no longer live in America.

[Roosh]: Right.

[Angela]: So what led you to....well I should clarify. So there are parts of your book....I think one of the things that distinguishes you from other people that are writing these sorts of game guides or other pick up artists who do seminars and stuff like that, is that you have also a philosophy around how women and men operate.

[Roosh]: True.

[Angela]: So this has led you away from America toward a more, as you've written, more traditional...a woman who is more interested in the needs of the men that she has in her life etc. And so you've left America seemingly because of this realization. So why did you leave? And what are some of the places that you've found resonate more with the women that you're interested in and their values?

[Roosh]: The main reason I left or the main reason I started to leave was because the women in Eastern Europe and South America were so much better-

[Angela]: How so?

[Roosh]: I could get not only hotter, but thinner with attitudes that are nice! I mean the first time that I had a girl clean up I think I was 28 or 27! Like can you imagine a girl in the U.S. after sex you go in to the bathroom and you come back and the bed is made? I mean I didn't even know a woman was actually capable of that! And look, I don't need a girl to clean 'cause I can do it or just hire a maid. But the point is that I started to learn that women in the U.S. are very specific. And I don't know if you heard in psychological circles there's an acronym WEIRD, which stands for, oh Jesus Christ, western something - whatever. It was where they have found out that doing psychological tests on western college students has distorted the psychological canon. Because western people are so different and western people especially in the U.S.A. So what got me out was that girls were better. New and improved. And then what kept me out is that what I see as the culture in the U.S. is sick. It's a sick, deranged culture! I mean up is down and black is white-

[Angela]: How so?

[Roosh]: To where now who are the people getting all of the - what is the word I'm looking for? In the news now no one cares if a man and a wife have three or four kids. Now it's if a man and a man get married. They are pushing through all the alternative

lifestyles that to me is not natural. It's not natural for two men to get married. And to promote this! To promote a fringe...it is fringe, it is a very alternative way of life...and now they are pushing transexuality upon us! I saw this article on Salon featuring kids, very young kids, doing a stage play saying how transgender something something is good! So why is the culture teaching kids about this way of life? And to me this is wrong. I think heterosexual lifestyles are normal and more normal than the alternative stuff that for whatever reason in the media is being seen as being a superior way to live. And that is wrong-

[Angela]: Can I ask you a quick question about that specifically?

[Roosh]: Yeah. Sure.

[Angela]: So in your view, are you saying that because of media sort of acceptance or media let's say visibility of transgender people or gay couples and whatnot, you feel like because of that visibility it's actually promoting that lifestyle?

[Roosh]: Yeah.

[Angela]: And that in your opinion, that it should remain fringe?

[Roosh]: I think you should not teach kids who have yet to develop a sexual identity an alternative lifestyle that is not normal or natural.

[Angela]: Well what happens to all of the people who get married- like all of the people who think that they're supposed to sort of like... if they just stick to being straight they can be straight...and then they get married and they have kids and it goes horribly wrong and they have to get divorced and then they end up getting married to-

[Roosh]: How often does that actually happen?

[Angela]: It happens pretty often.

[Roosh]: I mean I would have to see numbers. I would have to see....Look I'm not saying ban being gay!

[Angela]: Yeah.

[Roosh]: I'm not saying that. But stop telling kids to be gay! That's pretty much- and we're going after who? Straight men. Saying whatever they do is misogynist, sexist. Men can't even have sexy babes in games anymore! I mean that is sexist? They're going after forms of entertainment, they're telling guys that you can't talk to a girl you don't know! I mean if you're a straight guy you're basically scum of the earth now. You're basically scum because you're a man - you're a straight man. But if you're gay? Oooo that's great! Let's invite you to the party! But if you're straight, no no no. You're sexist,

you need to check your privilege because you're a bad person because thousands of years ago a white man controlled England or something.

[Angela]: Homosexuality is banned in Russia, right?

[Roosh]: No it's not.

[Angela]: Oh it's not?

[Roosh]: I lived there. See ok. That's a-

[Angela]: That's why I wanted to ask you, because I know you lived in Russia.

[Roosh]: What you read...what you read in the news, and you seem like a smart girl, is lies. A lot of lies. You probably think that if you're gay in Russia that mobs of men come and beat you and take you to jail. That's not the case-

[Angela]: I know some people that fled Russia because of persecution-

[Roosh]: It's propaganda. It's propaganda. At the same time the US is allied with who? Saudi Arabia who stones gays. But Saudi is our ally 'cause they sell us what? Oil.

[Angela]: What I meant to ask you specifically because you lived in Russia, was more about your experience. Did you see a lot of sort of homosexual pride while you were in Russia?

[Roosh]: Homosexual pride? No. But I did see in Moscow men who were obviously gay and they seemed to be going out and living life just like anyone else.

[Angela] Ok that's more of what I was asking I guess. Did you end up in Russia also because those sorts of more traditional values are still present?

[Roosh]: I went there because I heard the women there are the most beautiful! So I went. But the language problems there, the way of life...people there are really dour and stiff. For the short term, it's fine. You know I'm from the US, I need people who say "How are you doing today? Are you fine?" you know? I still need that. So I need to come back a little more toward the middle.

[Angela]: So where are some places that you find are a good balance of women who share some of the values that are important to you and the level of attraction and accessibility, affordability - all of these things that you're sort of balancing to find the right place?

[Roosh]: We're looking at Colombia, Brazil, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Croatia and for some guys it could also be Estonia and Lithuania. I would say there's some other countries I haven't been to such as Hungary, which I hear is great. I mean anywhere in Eastern Europe, anywhere in South America...and a lot of guys go to Southeast Asia to

the Philippines, Cambodia and Thailand. Now a lot of young guys go there, but Southeast Asia is more for the older man. Because there you can be a sixty year old guy and still get 20 year old girls.

[Angela]: The money thing appears to be an issue there.

[Roosh]: You know what? Look, if I have the money and I can share that with a girl that I like by giving her a good home, is that bad? I mean I'm not saying I want her to only like me for the money. I want her to like me because I'm sexy and all that and my jokes are good.

Angela laughs

[Roosh]: But it's ok if a girl looks up to a man to provide her with a stable life. There's nothing wrong with that. I mean you don't want a woman who tries to steal money from you or a gold digger and goes on to the next one. But my worth as a man includes what my income is and I don't want to be a bum. I'm not a bum. I do work, so I don't have a problem if a girl as part of assessing the value that I have as a man uses my own job to do that. In addition to my personality, my jokes, my vibe and so on.

[Angela]: Yeah I mean, I think it's also about being able to acknowledge those things and sort of where each of you are at and stuff like that.

[Angela]: Some of the things that you bring up - you bring up sort of biological predisposition a lot. Your former career involved being, from what I've read, being an industrial microbiologist.

[Roosh]: Yes.

[Angela]: So I'm interested in how your sort of biology background impacts what you're doing and also what led you to write *BANG* and devote your time to traveling the world and writing about women and how to bang them and strategy guides for men to do the same thing?

[Roosh]: I can't really say that my science background really applies to discussing cultural issues.

[Angela]: Oh ok.

[Roosh]: But it has taught me to know what is a lie. When people are lying, when they're not using logic and so that's what has helped me there. When someone is full of shit I can tell because they're just using what? Emotion. They're using many argumentative fallacies. So I want to see, you know, where are you getting that from? Just because in

your mind you think this is true, doesn't mean it applies. And why did I write *BANG*? Well why does anyone-

[Angela]: Or what started...like what was the moment where you were like 'this is what my calling is, this is what I'm gonna do. I have to stop working for this corporate microbiology pharmaceutical...I'm not sure exactly where you were working, but what led to the transition from your former career to realizing that this was the thing you were supposed to do or that you wanted to do?

[Roosh]: So on one corner I had to work a 9-5 job and had a boss and on the other is potentially write books, be free, wake up when you want to and travel. So if it's a calling, I don't know or if it's just I wanted to do that other stuff...I can't say. Even now I can't say it's a calling because how do you not know that what you're doing now in life is just a phase? You know because life ...how old are you now?

[Angela]: 29.

[Roosh]: So I mean, what I was doing when I was 25 let's say...now 35 I'm kind of not. So we always want to think 'oh what I'm doing right now, this is it.' But I don't. You know? Because I know things could change. I just take it one month at a time and I wanted just to not to work there, so I quit. And I was like shit, I need to have an alternative source of income...I like to write...uhh I could write something...and what could I write a book about? What do I know enough about? And that's how it all happened.

[Angela]: And you were formerly doing a blog called DC Bachelor when you were in DC.

[Roosh]: Yeah.

[Angela]: So this was already something that you were sort of working on that seemed to get quite a following as well, right?

[Roosh]: Yeah it was just when I graduated from college in 2001, I started a blog. I remember it was getting like 300 hits each day and I thought ooooooh that was a lot. And then it was building, it was building and by the time the book was done, I already had an audience of thousands of guys. So it was kind of like 'here's the book I wrote' and guys...they bought it. So now it's obviously larger. It's weird how if you just blog- you know if you blog every day for 13 days, you will have a large audience too! It's basically drop by drop and the bucket, it fills! And the house-is now...I mean there's a lot of guys who read me. As a matter of fact, a guy today he saw me and he recognized me. It's weird because I don't say where I am. I don't say I'm in 'this' city. So when you get recognized without saying it...it's cool.

[Angela]: But it does seem like your work is quite, at least for your audience, it seems quite autobiographical. And that's one of the things that your audience really relates to is that they can relate to you personally and what you're going through. So could you talk a little bit about the sort of autobiographical aspects of the books?

[Roosh]: I mean no one wants to read a robot, you know? People want to identify with the person and also no one wants to read a guy who says 'oh yeah every night I have sex with a model wooo! I never get turned down at all and I'm the man and I'm great! Every woman loves me, I'm so smooth!' You know? Guys don't want that either. They want someone they can see as themselves. And me, I am every man. I'm just a- I go through problems like any other guy. Girls don't like me and I have to try on a different girl. I go through the same things that normal guys go through so I can understand them. I understand what their issues are, their problems. I understand what they want and what they don't want. And so I think that's why. I never try to sugarcoat to make myself good. I mean I look in the mirror I don't see anyone. I don't see a good man or a bad man or a cool man or a loser or whatever. I just see a guy who has tried things in life and shared them. You know? I don't have any self-judgment. I just am.

[Angela]: I think that's one of the things that's really appealing to me about your writing is that you sort of allow the triumphs and the failures to have sort of equal presence and that you're sort of working through a process with your audience which lends itself to a potential believability. Like people invest in what you're doing. It doesn't seem abstract. It seems very referential to specific experiences. So you have some haters.

[Roosh]: Some?! Some?!

[Angela]: You have quite a lot of haters. Some haters who hate you because they think you're a misogynist pig, some haters that hate you because they don't believe in what you're writing and doubt the success of your sort of seduction pursuits. So my questions are: How can you sort of prove that these bangs are happening? Would you tell me my notch count (which I already know that you're not going to)? Or your notch count, sorry. And would you be up for connecting me to any of the women who've had sex with you for the purpose of interviewing them?

[Roosh]: You know, there is no way...I'm trying to think...How can I show guys that I slept with x amount of girls? You'd have to be I think in the x-rated porn business.

[Angela]: (laughing) Yeah.

[Roosh]: And the way I see it is this: If you read my stuff and my articles and you read that and you think 'man, this doesn't make sense...this isn't right' then don't read anymore. Don't buy. Don't check out a book. I mean people have so many options-

[Angela]: True.

[Roosh]: Unless you read an article of mine and right away get it and think 'Yes! This guy is explaining an experience of mine!' Unless you get that, move on. You know? Don't even invest an extra minute in me. But to prove...I mean guys have actually tried that. They shoot all these in-fields. In-field videos of them kissing a girl on the street, hidden camera. I mean then I'm just like another actor. I'm like a clown. Who am I shooting that video for? To convince anonymous people that I am who I say I am? If you don't think I'm real, then that's fine. You know? I'm not going to convince anyone.

[Angela]: Mmhmm.

[Roosh]: You'll have to go find someone else.

[Angela]: Yeah.

[Roosh]: But as for my notch count, no. I will not say it. I am more than a number!

[Angela]: Not even a rough rough estimate? Is it over a thousand?

[Roosh]: No! It's not!

[Angela]: No? It's not over a thousand?

[Roosh]: You know, I think a lot of people don't understand. I don't only have sex with a girl one time and that's it. Sometimes yes. But many times...now most of the time if I meet a girl and have sex it's not gonna be a one-time thing. We're going to engage in intimacy for a while and this has a way of lowering your yearly counts. You know? Now I'm a stable man. I'm stable.

[Angela]: So you're slowing down the rate? Quality over quantity? Yeah? Or quality of engagement over sort of thrill?

[Roosh]: I'll just say this. I'll say that it used to be if I saw a girl and she was sort of cute I would still put the time in to sleep with her only one night. But now I won't. I mean I won't sleep with a girl...I won't try to unless she'd be someone I'd want to sleep with more than once. So that kind of limits the range of girls because now she has to be pretty good.

[Angela]: So with this longer engagement, longer sort of multiple times of encounter and investing more time...do the women already know about your career and online...let's just say persona for now? And you can correct me if this is not the proper term. And if

they don't know at what point do you disclose? Do they find out? I mean I have tons of questions around this. And if they find out is that sort of like the end?

[Roosh]: Most of them don't know, but the girl I'm seeing right now she actually knew before. Like she knew before I came up to her. And she didn't tell me though until the third date or so. So obviously it's fine for her. But most girls don't know. Usually if I date a girl...it takes them about a month. That seems to be the magic time when a girl on her own puts puzzle pieces AB and C and AH!

[Angela]: Does some Googling...

[Roosh]: And look, by a month she already knows me. She knows I'm a pretty decent guy. And so what she finds out on the site may cause like an hour conversation that's a little bit strange and awkward. But if I've been seeing a girl for a while and she finds out, it actually helps me because she thought she was dating like some normal dude and then she finds out she's dating this famous worldwide famous dude. So it kinda actually helps. But if she finds out only after a date, let's say...then it's sort of weird because she doesn't know me yet. And then she was just dumped with this huge thing. So usually I like them to find out after a month. I don't actually try to hide it. I give them...by each date I give them a piece that's gonna help her when she goes online Googling me-

[Angela]: So you give them a puzzle?

[Roosh]: Yeah. Because I mean I don't like to hide it and it's such a big part of who I am that whenever a girl finds out I'm like 'oh, phew I can actually talk about the things that I do every day.'

[Angela]: Do they run sometimes though when they find out?

[Roosh]: It has happened a couple times, yeah. I would say 8 times out of 10 when they find out it's cool as long as I already had sex. If I haven't had sex with this girl and she finds out then that's usually bad, because then she's like 'Do I wanna have sex with a guy who does this a lot?.'

[Angela]: Who has a mysterious notch count that could be hundreds or thousands...

[Roosh]: But usually as long as she knows me, it's fine. Or feels that she knows me...

Angela laughs

[Angela]: I had another question about that. Oh! And you're not going to connect me to anyone that has had sex with you, are you?

[Roosh]: I mean that's kind of -

[Angela]: It might give you more favorable reviews!

[Roosh]: Ok listen. Listen. I could see girls in the U.S. being like 'Oh that's cool!' but Eastern Europe is very different. That's where I've been for like three years. And girls here...to have some girl from the U.S. saying she's doing an art project on this guy...I don't know. I don't know.

Roosh laughs

[Angela]: I mean, I've lived in Finland and in Denmark - so I will be asking there. I know that you didn't have such a great time in Denmark, so maybe I'll be getting a lot of people responding in Denmark. I don't know.

[Roosh]: See ok. The U.S. is like the only place where girls don't mind to kiss and tell. They just don't care. But in Eastern Europe they don't really do that and I don't want to put a girl on the spot by sharing these intimate details of what we did. So unfortunately I don't think I can help you out there, sorry.

[Angela]: That's fair. No, I didn't assume that you would. You were pretty generous with your response.

[Roosh]: If I were in the U.S.A and dating girls there... I haven't dated a girl from the U.S. in a long, long, long time. I can probably know like a girl that's really outgoing and bubbly and she likes to overshare...I can probably get that girl. But over here, there isn't that kind of girl.

[Angela]: I did find a post...I think it was from DC Bachelor in maybe 2004 or 2005 that you posted of a kind of hate email that you got from a woman that you were seeing...so I have that. Whether that's staged or not-

Roosh snickers

[Roosh]: 2004? 10 years ago?!

[Angela]: Yeah I'm going back! I'm serious about this!

[Roosh]: I would have to see it. I would have to see it.

[Angela]: I'll send it to you.

[Roosh]: 'Cause I don't know. 2004?

[Angela]: I think it was '05. It was DC Bachelor. You can still...I found it online. Like you had posted it. It was like 'The Most Epic Email Ever' or some title like that. I don't have it in front of me but-

[Roosh]: Oh! Was that the girl who came to visit me in Colombia?

[Angela]: Yeaaaahhh

Angela laughs

[Roosh]: That was so bad. Ooof! She ended up stalking me for months after that. But then she found some other guy and then it stopped.

[Angela]: Well I have that testimonial so far so-

[Roosh]: Which is I think good because it shows how I got her emotions engaged. You know? But we'll see. You know, ok. The thing about me is that I have been with many girls. But besides that, you will not find any girl who went on her blog to say how she had a bad experience with me, how I abused her, how I hurt her...I mean I think I'm a great guy now. I really do because by now you would think that if I really hated women and I was a rapist one girl would just come forward. Only one! But you can't find that. So I'm thinking man, I am a good, good catch!

[Angela]: VICE and Paper Magazine are ready. When I find somebody, they're ready to publish!

Angela laughs

[Roosh]: I treat girls well. I mean, by well I mean I make sure their attraction for me is high. I'm not too nice but not too much of a jerk. You know? Somewhere in the middle. I'm funny but not a clown. You know? So I kind of tread the middle. And I'm a great person.

A brief silence

[Angela]: About that.

Roosh laughs

Angela laughs

[Angela]: Getting to my next question. So a lot of your writing especially over the last couple of years seems to have focused on - and you've talked a little bit about this with social justice warriors and #gamergate in the beginning ...But you've been focusing a lot on sort of a counter attack to feminism and other what you've deemed so-called progressive or politically correct movements especially online. That's where you're sort of talking about this. So what does feminism mean to you personally and what in your estimation has it contributed to, let's just say, the American cultural landscape?

[Roosh]: Feminism to me is female superiority. Trying to make women on a privileged class above men while absolving them of any responsibility. I mean that's pretty much it. Anything that a woman can do no matter how bad is fine. You can - now let's see if you know who this is...You can molest your younger sister and no mainstream outlet will say

anything. That's what feminism is. If I did that, and I'm sure you know who you're talking about, if I did that-

[Angela]: I don't think so-

[Roosh]: Lena Dunham?

[Angela]: Oh I did not know that she molested her-

[Roosh]: Yeah! When she was 7 or 8 she went up to her sister who was 1, and you don't know this 'cause the media doesn't share this, she physically opened her private parts. If I did that when I was 8, I would be in jail right now! In jail! But she did that 'ohh she's quirky.' What?! I had a sister at that same age - or age gap - if I did that holy shit, I would be killed! I would be banned from whatever country I'm in! But if a woman does that, she's quirky and different...it's ok. It's wrong. It's wrong how women are just being held now to a completely different standard of the law now.

Roosh raises his hand palm up and shrugs his shoulder

[Angela]: Why do you think this happened?

[Roosh]: Why? I mean, you know...that's kind of hard.

[Angela]: I know I'm not asking you to be a historian or anything-

[Roosh]: The reasoning for that probably started before I was born. But I'm pretty sure giving women the right to vote was the start.

Roosh laughs

[Angela]: Well I was going to ask you - actually, it's funny you say that 'cause my next question was going to be: So if you were to sort of put in place a more ideal American Roosh utopia in which maybe you would even want to move back to the United States because it was so great, what would have to change? Would women still be able to vote? What would you expect from women in your sort of ideal America imagining a reversal of whatever you imagine might be going wrong? What does that look like?

[Roosh]: The problem with the culture is that you can't turn back the clock to an earlier time.

[Angela]: Let's just pretend! For my purposes, let's just pretend.

[Roosh]: But it's not true! But there's no way! I know what you are saying, but even if I were to say let's prevent women from voting...I mean maybe 30 or 40 years from now that may change something but, I am honestly not qualified to say how to solve all of these problems.

[Angela]: But you are qualified to write about them at long length?

[Roosh]: I'm qualified to describe it. I'm qualified to describe the problem. But any one man or woman who thinks they know how to solve the cultural problems that involve 300 million people are full of shit. They're just completely. And that's what they're trying to do! They're like: 'I feel bad when women are approached on the street so I'm gonna pass a law. I want to change this!' I mean for every law that you pass there are these unintended consequences that you just can't expect. You don't know. And I don't think that thinking about how to solve the problem is going to help much since I'm not going to run for senate or congress. I really don't.

[Angela]: You aren't?

[Roosh]: No. I think of what the problem is and who are the active participants today in creating it. But to solve it? I don't know.

[Angela]: Well ok. So let's take the sort of logistics of turning back time and all those sorts of things aside.

[Roosh]: Ok.

[Angela]: And let's just imagine the perfect cultural landscape for you. What does sort of women's...let's just say role in a contemporary culture that's ideal for you look like?

[Roosh]: First thing would be a girl who cares more about finding and pleasing her husband with the intention of raising a family than focusing on her job. So a man has to come first. But that doesn't happen anymore. From that I think a lot of good things would probably happen. By removing the dependency of women on men you've unleashed a can of worms where women no longer have to try. You know? They don't have to be good, virtuous, noble, elegant, feminine. They can be...So what is actually happening by giving women an independent source of income, you have allowed them to aim for their most base degenerate instincts. The fact that she doesn't have to get the approval of a man who is taking care of her means that she will get tattoos on her arms and her neck, she will get the gauge earrings and piercings, she will shave half of her head, she will burp, she will curse, she will gain a lot of weight, she won't have any style, she won't look good, she'll be loud and violent. And that's what we see now.

[Angela]: So two direct questions in response to that.

Roosh motions to proceed

[Angela]: One is: I guess it feels like the economy is also partly responsible for forcing women to also have to take up a career role even in relationships where they were previously the sort of home keeper/mother sort of relationship.

Roosh nods his head

[Angela]: Like they've had to take on roles that otherwise before they would have been happy being a caretaker as their primary role. The role of the economy seems to have something to do with this evolution. So I guess I'm wondering if the economy continues to be the way that it is and also if women are sort of developing interest - and I would put myself in this category as well, career is very important to me - why does there need to be a dichotomy between being a career woman and a family woman? Is there some way for them to meet? Or how can we imagine-

Roosh shakes his head

[Angela]: No. You say no.

[Roosh]: You can't do both.

[Angela]: It's one or the other? You can't do both?

[Roosh]: You have to pick. You cannot do both. I mean-

[Angela]: What about men who want to be caretakers? I mean that's no good?

Roosh makes a disapproving face

[Angela]: No?

[Roosh]: Are men....Ok I'll ask you. Do you really think that men have this instinct to take care of young ones? Do you really think a man knows how to burp a baby? Settle a baby that's crying? Change clothes? Is this a man's natural instinct?

[Angela]: I only have one good example for this and this is my younger sister, who is a district manager for a chain of restaurants.

[Roosh]: Ok.

[Angela]: And they recently had a child and her income was higher. So her husband, who is...he's like very sweet-

Roosh makes a very disapproving face

[Angela]: You're like 'ugh, I don't know about this guy'!

[Angela]: He takes care of the kid...

[Roosh]: (laughing) Sweet man? That's not what I (inaudible)

[Angela]: You're like 'what the fuck is that? I don't understand.' But in their situation it was more practical...and he is quite a nurturing person. It may not be intuitive in the same way that you imagine but it seems to be working-

[Roosh]: So she's the man then. So she wears the pants.

[Angela]: Working means 'being the man'?!

Angela laughs

[Roosh]: So she has the dominant role in the relationship and he has the submissive role. Ok. For some people that's fine. But let's not kid ourselves, she's running that household. She has the upper hand, the power. As soon as she feels that she's bringing more than he's bringing, she's going to dump him and move on to someone else.

[Angela]: I hope not!

[Roosh]: It's as simple as that. I mean, he's a man in gender....but you know...to me you're switching the natural sex roles that nature gave us. That's not a natural state. I mean if you ever see me pushing a stroller or changing a diaper, something is wrong. I must be on drugs. My job if I ever have a kid is to bring home money so my wife and my kid has a great home, food, shelter and a good education. It's not to raise the kid! Yeah, I'll play with him! That's it! I'm not his mom.

[Angela]: You're not going to feed them...yeah I see. I mean species evolve? Things change-

[Roosh]: So the human species has evolved in the last 50 years? That's the fastest evolution I've ever seen!

[Angela]: Yeah - I guess I'm not thinking in geopolitical time-

[Roosh]: All of a sudden 50 years and we've changed?! No, this is a purely environmental change and cultural change that is being forced upon us. But why? Have you stopped and thought about why is this happening?

[Angela]: For me I think I do agree that there have been great cultural shifts...and by great I mean huge...that have forced this. But it does seem to me to also be in relation to the economy. That the economy has impacted that. And that is an external force. But species do evolve in relation to environmental factors.

[Roosh]: Over thousands of years! Yes.

[Angela]: Sure.

[Roosh]: But what you said is actually right. It's because the real masters of this world. The men. The top 1000 men and their families have determined that equality and feminism will help them. How? What has happened since women entered the workforce? Since the time when one man can work and buy a house and a car? What has happened is that wages, real terms are coming down and coming down. And the people at the top, the wages they pay are less. There's an economic interest in getting women enslaved in the corporate world. Economics! It's the price of labor, supply and

demand. The more people you force into the workforce, the cheaper labor is. So now, just like you said, both a man and a woman have to work when in the past only a man did. Where is that money going? Where is that savings going? To the very top. That's why feminism is enabled by the people at the top 'cause it lowers the price of labor. It makes them rich! They don't care about your gender equality and sexism. They care about money. And the people who have the real power want you to fight for equality. They want you to convince a woman not to be dependent on a man, but to be dependent on a boss in the corporate world. So basically you traded one master who loves you for another who can fire you whenever he wants.

[Angela]: To some degree I agree with you. I guess then my question, and again neither of us are probably experts in politics but just speculative chat here, so these people at the top who are potentially enslaving women and keeping them in your view from their more biologically predisposed position are at the same time attempting to maintain control over reproduction by resisting sort of widespread access to birth control and making it more difficult to get abortions. So at the same time that they're, you're saying letting women just-

[Roosh]: Is that what we're seeing now? Is it hard for a woman in the U.S. to abort?!

[Angela]: It is now, it's gotten really difficult.

[Roosh]: Compared to where? Compared to where?! In Eastern Europe, a girl can't here! I mean, I've lived in countries where girls cannot at all. At all! And you're telling me in the U.S. it's hard?

[Angela]: It depends on proximity to different urban environments, but yes.

[Roosh]: If a girl lives in the middle of nowhere in North Dakota where there's not an abortion clinic within 100 miles, yeah. But in New York City, Washington, Los Angeles? Holy shit!

[Angela]: But not everybody lives there!

[Roosh]: Most of the population does! Over 50% of the U.S. population lives in these huge cities. I can throw a stone in Washington D.C. and it's going to hit a doctor who can give you pills. Look I mean see this is what's bad about being trapped in this echo chamber of not understanding how other countries are. In the U.S. you can go anywhere and get the morning after pill. Anywhere now! You know? And it's cheap! And it's super easy! Super easy! And now the government will pay for it! I mean women in the U.S.

don't have any clue how spoiled they are; how entitled they are. They have the most privileges out of any women on earth and they still complain.

A brief silence

Roosh grins

[Angela]: Well we can all hope in every realm that things will be better, relative to-

[Roosh]: (laughing) This is why...I mean-

[Angela]: Well that why things are always relative! In different countries, your subjectivity changes and your world is different, right?

[Roosh]: No. Ok, it's not subjectivity. It's understanding reality. I understand now from my experiences traveling years and years how human beings really are. How humanity is. What you think is real is not. You live in the U.S...I don't know what city you live in-

[Angela]: I've lived in many different countries! I'm like-

[Roosh]: Oh ok. I don't mean to single you out.

[Angela]: You mean 'you' as like a broad sort of middle class American?

[Roosh]: Your peers. The people who are going to watch this think that they have access to all the information of the world and kindle, ebooks, internet...But they're all reading the same sites! They're all getting their information from the same propaganda sources! They don't know anything! I think we have the most uneducated educated people in the world who have Master's degrees in this or that but they don't know shit! They don't know how the world is! And I'm not saying *you*. Not trying to insult you. I'm saying some of the information that adults in the U.S. who went to college...I think they have less scientific information in their brains than people who lived 100 years ago. It's like we're going backwards in terms of knowledge. But this is another topic.

[Angela]: This is another question that I was planning to ask and it's a very huge question, but how can anybody claim to have an objective reality? I mean your reality is obviously constructed from the many different places that you've lived and the experiences that you've had and the people that you've met and all of these things. Obviously somebody who has only lived, like most of my family has lived, in one town in Pennsylvania for most of their lives - so their sort of reality is constructed very differently. But can't you say that yours is also constructed based on your experiences?

[Roosh]: But it is more objective than 99.9% of the people who hate on me. I have seen and done more. I have read more. I have been exposed to more. I have been exposed to different ideas, belief systems than other people. I'm not saying I'm smarter. I'm not.

I've just seen it all, done it all, read it all. I have more data and background in my mind that allows me to reach conclusions are more accurate. That was kind of being (*inaudible*). No, I'm serious!

[Angela]: Are you saying feminists don't travel?!

[Roosh]: They.....Where do they go?

Angela laughs heartily

[Roosh]: They go to France, Spain, England, Ireland, the Caribbean...

[Angela]: We may be more diverse than you imagine!

[Roosh]: They go for a short time. You know, do they learn the language? Do they really interact with the locals for years and years? If they do, I would like to meet that girl because I would have a lot in common with her.

Angela laughs and waves

[Roosh]: Ok. But you know one thing is that people in the U.S., they think they go to a college and they graduate and they're qualified. They think they're qualified to talk about the problems facing cultures. They're not. They're just kids! So you have a bunch of kids holding their signs 'consent this' and 'consent that'. They're just kids who think they are smart and think they understand how the world is. But they don't because they haven't even lived yet. And they're not old like me...and they're not experienced.

[Angela]: That's why artists are so great because they always go to the source.

[Roosh]: Sure. I mean I'm just...I'm sure you know of the social justice movement. And most of those people are kids. They're like 16-

[Angela]: Wait! Wait! Sorry, when you say the 'social justice movement' do you mean what is being called 'social justice warriors' or do you mean people involved in very specific social justice movements?

[Roosh]: Yeah, 'warriors'. Tumblr. People on Tumblr and Reddit who blog everyday about equal treatment and misogyny. They are literally kids! They're like 16 or 17 and they've taken on this movement. They're gonna change the world. They're just kids, you know? They should be outside playing with a...I dunno...a hula hoop or something. But instead they're on the internet for hours, they're addicted to their phones, they're outraged at this article. They have sites like BuzzFeed giving them this fuel to be angry at men. Be angry at men! And so you have a lot of people who just hate men now, especially if you're a white man. I mean, Jesus! Every year the hate against men is just

building and building. And now, I don't know if you heard, the Washington Post they put in a (*inaudible*) that said that we should stop sending women to jail. For anything.

[Angela]: I did not see that.

[Roosh]: This was there. I read it. Yeah. This is what equality looks like, when women don't have to go to jail but men do.

[Angela]: Yeah, I will have to look at that.

[Roosh]: I mean if you want I could... You know what, I'm find it now. 'Cause I couldn't- I was thinking: is this a joke? Let's see...

Roosh scans his computer for the article

[Roosh]: Yep, here it is. 'We should stop putting women in jail for anything.' It says. And I'm going to send this to you.

[Angela]: Thank you. I will definitely look at it.

[Roosh]: So I'm thinking 'that's what equality is!' It's when women are what? The superior gender. Just like I said, the plan is to absolve them of all responsibility. To treat them like a three year old kid. Now this has reached the Washington Post. You know the Washington Post!

[Angela]: Mmhmm.

[Roosh]: They are pushing a viewpoint where if a woman kills someone...*kills someone*...she doesn't go to jail. I mean that's insanity! I feel like I'm going nuts over here. Like how is this happening? Anyway.

[Angela]: Well it's interesting to hear you talk about the internet, because it seems like a lot of your audience and the people who are most devoted to you are seeing you on the internet...and you have an amazing and very extensive YouTube channel and you run two blogs - your own sort of personal blog as well as Return of Kings...and probably others that I don't know about-

Roosh makes a disapproving face, shrugs his shoulders and raises his hands

[Roosh]: (laughing) what?

[Angela]: You talked about this #gamergate one I was like, you must have more then-

[Roosh]: Oh yeah, the third one.

[Angela]: (laughing) Yeah, the new one. So you know, you have a lot going on on the internet and I hear this sort of criticality about the reliance on the internet as a news source and also for a younger generation who are using it as their entertainment and

kind of whole world. So can you talk a little bit about how the internet plays into what you're doing and also some of the things that you're critical of?

[Roosh]: I mean the internet is a way that I can reach a lot of people who don't live in the same city as me or town. So it's a great way to get your message out there. On the other hand, it's a great way to push propaganda upon millions of people. The most efficient way. What used to be the most efficient way to push that kind of stuff?

[Angela]: TV.

[Roosh]: Radio, TV. Everyone used to watch the same shows. Right? Now they don't. But people now...if you look at the top ten websites, they're getting tons of hits and traffic. So people are reading the same sites just like how in the past people used to watch channel whatever...you know, the eight o'clock show. So I think what they've done, 'they', is find out how we can use or regain the propaganda power that we used to have when everyone used to watch TV at eight o'clock. So you have all of these sites, these huge sites, they're all pushing the same message. It's weird how every mainstream site is pushing the same story! Is that an accident? You know? I mean when you have really five guys who own 80% of the media operations, right? If you keep going up. That's not an accident. You know? So at least on one good side, a guy like me can build an audience. I mean, I get maybe one million guys or girls that read one of my sites every month. But the U.S. has 310 million. I think half of the people who do read me actually read me as part of their daily outrage. Instead of...you know...

Roosh laughs

[Angela]: As a sort of a response to let's just say mainstream media? Their response to that is to read your commentary you think?

[Roosh]: Right. Could be.

[Angela]: Yeah.

[Roosh]: So I mean, you know what? I am not going to say and think 'oh, one day I'm going to take on the Washington Post.' No way. But I guess my main goal right now is to help straight men.

[Angela]: Mmhmm.

[Roosh]: Just to help straight men.

[Angela]: Do what? Just cope? Or what?

[Roosh]: To reach their goals in life! Whether that's goals meaning getting a girlfriend, getting sex, making his body stronger, having style, confidence. Could be anything!

[Angela]: Mmhmm.

[Roosh]: But I mean right now...give me the name of a male role model.

[Angela]: You're asking somebody who is an artist which is-

[Roosh]: Exactly-

[Angela]: I liked Billy Corgan but you know, not everybody likes Billy Corgan!

[Roosh]: What?! The Smashing Pumpkins? No. A role model! Name a role model for a 17 year old kid.

[Angela]: Oh - like somebody-

[Roosh]: Who?

[Angela]: The artist Harun Farocki....but you probably don't know how that is. Very specific.

[Roosh]: Musicians and artists...they're not role models! I'm talking a role model that a man, a young man, can look up to for how to live. Not a celebrity!

[Angela]: Yeah, but that's who kids look up to! Even imagine yourself as a kid! Who did you look up to?

[Roosh]: But they're not role models. Yeah, they look up to them because they don't have a role model.

[Angela]: Who did you look up to?!

A brief silence

[Roosh]: Arnold Schwarzenegger.

[Angela]: He's a celebrity!

Angela laughs

[Roosh]: But.....

[Angela]: But why does he get to be a role model?

[Roosh]: He's the best that we have. He was the first body builder, he was a famous Hollywood actor, he married a Kennedy and he became governor! That's amazing! That guy is a super man!

[Angela]: But he's also a celebrity and that's why he got to that status.

[Roosh]: But if you read his stuff, he really is going mind over matter. Set a goal and do it. Work hard, you can do it! You can do it! And he's right, you know? And for me, some guys they look up to me because I'm telling them to work hard. Don't give up. Here's the information you need to go onto the next stage. I mean, you are evidence that men nowadays they don't have role model. Yeah they have-

[Angela]: I like the role models I listed!

Angela laughs

[Roosh]: I mean your role models, I don't even know...Billy Corgan?!

[Angela]: My world is art and music and you know...it's different I guess maybe.

[Roosh]: Ok sure. But what I'm trying to say is that right now there is not a strong masculine man helping young boys get what they want out of life.

[Angela]: There's still wrestling!

[Roosh]: There isn't!

[Angela]: Oh.

[Roosh]: But there's female role models! Sheryl Sandberg oooh she's great. Lena Dunham, she's a feminist who molests her sister. I mean women have a long list. Maya Angelou! I don't know...I'm sure you have some role models, you know. The point I'm trying to make is that killing men, killing the idea of masculine men has opened the window for a guy like me to say 'hey, it's ok to be a straight man who likes thin girls'. That statement is someday going to put me in some kind of jail! I don't know! But right now there is no role model! There's no masculine man in the U.S. saying it's ok to like beautiful girls who are thin and sweet. There is none because you can't say that! You cannot say that now! It's crazy! You can't say it. I can say it.

[Angela]: Well I'm interested in, and sorry this is another question in response to that, is that - I feel like some, and of course it's different in movement to movement and speaker to speaker...But in some queer movements there's an interest in appreciating the fluidity of gender.

[Roosh]: (laughing) Whoa whoa whoa! Wait! Hold on!

[Angela]: So the most masculine of the masculine and the most feminine of feminine on any pole is acceptable. And you just have to acknowledge that what works for you, doesn't work for everyone else! What's wrong with that?

[Roosh]: Then they should seek professional help.

[Angela]: Why?

[Roosh]: If you are genetically a man, but you all of a sudden have this need to dress up like a girl...you should seek help. Just because you feel one day you get up...

[Angela]: Why?

[Roosh]: Because it's not right. It's not natural. Nature gave us woman and man. A or B. Pick one. Or actually you don't pick one. Nature does. I was born a man. That's it. End of

story! I don't get to choose. I mean you have people making up things now! Just making them up! There is a new one actually called trigender. Trigender! That means three! Mammals only have 2. You can't make it up! It's like people are waking up: 'I wanna be called a cucumber today and if you don't call me a cucumber, you are a homophobic, transphobic, cucumberphobic...' It's insanity! You can't have these 18 year old kids determine their biological sex. You can't do that. It's just not right. It's not science. It's just you're born a woman or a man. If you reject what you have, you should seek help. It's as simple as that. I'm not saying you're a bad, bad, bad person. I'm not saying you should go to jail. I'm just saying you should seek help to resolve the mental conflict.

[Angela]: I mean a lot of people I think do end up seeking help about that. But I do agree with you about naming because I think that naming becomes really complicated. Everybody's expected to know all of these variety of names when they're in a context that this name is unknown to them and they're getting sort of punished for not knowing. I think that is a really frustrating territory-

[Roosh]: It's silly.

[Angela]: And a lot of even gay activists like Dan Savage will go off for long amounts of time about the problem of introducing new names constantly. But I guess I wonder...you have a lot of stake in what people who identify as let's just say non normative, other types of names. Why are you so worried about men who don't identify as super masculine and find other sorts of things that make sense to them and women who are career oriented? You sent me a link to a pdf called *The Cultural Collapse Theory*. So could you talk a little bit about how you see all of these things coming together to create a full cultural collapse?

[Roosh]: It used to be that gays would do their own things in their gay clubs and go home and have gay sex. Hey, that's fine. But now you're having these people with the most alternative and degenerate lifestyles forcing it upon us normal people. They're shaming us. They're aiming to change laws. They're attempting to change how we think and what we say to...what's the word I'm looking for...to accommodate them! So now we have to change! Us, we're the normal ones! But now we have to change the words we use, the language that we use. At work we have to be extra careful. We have to provide a trigger warning, whatever that is. I mean so they're forcing...they're jamming their lifestyle down our throats. That's a problem. If they were doing their own thing in their spheres - their gay clubs...their gender queer clubs -I don't care. But now on the internet,

they're attacking normal guys like me for being sexist because we believe a man should be a man! I mean that's why. That's why I've had to make statements about that.

Because they're trying to encroach on what normal humanity is.

[Angela]: So it's interesting that you feel like it's being forced down people's throats and that this visibility in itself is like an attack in a way on the way that things are...but there's a sort of separate but equal sort of thing that you're talking about where (you're saying) 'they have their clubs, they have their things, we're separate, it was fine that way.' I guess I just wonder - do you really think that people are becoming gay because gay is acceptable now? More socially acceptable now. Do you really think that people are more inclined, or do you think that maybe they can come out of the closet more comfortably now?

[Roosh]: Mmhmm. Well let me ask you. Do you think homosexuality is genetic or not? Are you born gay? Can you learn it?

[Angela]: I do not think that it's learned. I think that it's something that inherently somebody realizes that this is their preference and that's what happens. But I'm not so I can't explain/claim that.

[Roosh]: Now can I ask you one more thing?

[Angela]: Yeah.

[Roosh]: Is gender a social construct?

[Angela]: (laughing) In my opinion, just to make it clear...I think that it can be fluid. I think that society does influence it-

[Roosh]: OK! STOP! STOP! You can't learn to be gay, it's not social. But gender is a social construct. That is a contradictory. That doesn't make any sense. So what they're saying is homosexuality is 100% based on what your genes are, but gender is 100% in the environment. That doesn't make any sense!

[Angela]: I didn't say that. I said you're born fluid, I'm saying-

[Roosh]: What you said, and you are smart, made zero sense. You contradicted completely. So you can't have it one way or the other. Either homosexuality and gender, AND GENDER because it's the same thing, is a social construct or it's not. Pick one.

[Angela]: (Laughing) I'm saying in both cases it can be influenced by both.

Roosh makes an annoyed and confused face

[Angela]: Which is not like definitive answer.

[Roosh]: Ok so we'll go with that then. So we'll say it's 50/50 then?

[Angela]: No! I don't think it's that clear-cut-

[Roosh]: So you're saying homosexuality can be influenced by the environment, then you just admitted that we can teach people to be gay!

[Angela]: Do you really think anybody is telling their kids like 'Yes it would be great if you went out there and were gay because so many-'

[Roosh]: The culture is, yes. The culture is. Yes.

Roosh shrugs his shoulders and raises his hands

[Roosh]: You just proved it!!!

[Angela]: (laughing) I disagree!

[Roosh]: You just...I mean this is why people...I mean...I'm very careful with logic. Like we have to be very selective about the logic that we use.

[Angela]: I'll say.

Angela laughs

Roosh puts his fingers against his temples very intently

[Roosh]: But if you're gonna use logic, you have to go all the way. You can't go half way. What you just said implies that we can teach kids to be gay by showing them how being gay is great. Let's dance! Everyone is, you know, happy! That's what this culture is doing right now. More people are becoming gay right now because our culture is saying it's great. Why? Because homosexuality is not 100% based on your genes. Just like how you just said 'gender is a social construct.' So there you have it. Thank you very much.

Angela laughs

[Angela]: Not entirely! What I'm saying is-

Roosh laughs

[Roosh]: You are-

[Angela]: In an ideal world-

[Roosh]: Listen!

[Angela]: You're not letting me-

[Roosh]: Listen! TIME OUT! I know that this conflicts with what you have been raised in school. But now I know you are a smart girl. You have-

Angela laughs heartily

[Roosh]: It's ok to accept that what you've been taught for a long time is not right. It's ok. We've all been there. I've been there. I went to a school where I was given this stuff too. And then I was thinking 'wait a second, how can they say to be gay you're either gay or

not...but gender is a social construct?'. Just stop and think about it. What they're saying doesn't make sense! It doesn't make sense! It's not logical. It's not based on science. So what I'm telling you, is that you just have to go through those thoughts. You already agree with me but you don't see that yet. Me and you we're like on the same team!

[Angela]: Well you won't allow me to clarify the complexity of what I was trying to say, because I feel like a lot of what you're doing is reducing it down to this sort of black and white like: 'It's either this or this - you said that or that! You're so mixed up in this gray area'-

[Roosh]: I'm just using a logical argument-

[Angela]: Just let me finish!

[Roosh]: I'm using a logical argument to prove what I'm trying to say. You can't have it both ways. Which is it? Is gender a social construct?

[Angela]: What I'm trying to say-

[Roosh]: Stop. Stop-

[Angela]: What I'm trying to say is, that there should be actually no pressure from any sort of propaganda angle, let's say, from any sort of social agenda to decide what people end up becoming.

[Roosh]: I agree!

[Angela]: And if that were the case, then people would evolve into whatever made sense for them biologically. Because we have, like you're saying, a conflict of interests sort of promoting different types of gendered worldviews, that is what impacts what people end up subscribing to. And-

Roosh laughs and motions for Angela to wrap up what she's saying

[Angela]: In an ideal world, in my mind, we would be able to be a little bit more fluid about what we end up becoming without the interests of other people sort of impacting that.

[Roosh]: But that doesn't defeat the argument that I just said. The culture right now is encouraging gayness. That it is encouraging people to be gay. It's making it seem like being gay is...I mean how many times do I have to see a news article showing two photos of gays and how happy they are and how great and wonderful...and the interview is positive? I mean that is encouraging it. BuzzFeed, ok, they had a story...and I can show you this...or it was a photo caption that showed a picture of two gay men getting married...and the caption said 'two grooms are better than one.' I mean that's now

saying that gay marriage is better! I mean this is stuff that is going on and I think because you've been seeing it a lot, you don't understand, but there's none of this here where I'm at. They don't talk about 'let's encourage gays!' I mean why is the media all of a sudden in the business of shaping the sexuality of human beings? Why? I don't know.

[Angela]: So I'm getting the sense that you sort of view your point of view as more objective because of the amount of experiences that you've had and stuff but-

[Roosh]: And the science and the logic, yeah!

Roosh laughs

[Angela]: So my question is I guess , I mean you're looking for something. You have sort of a point to prove. And so the way that you-

Roosh moves his light distractingly close to his face, blowing out the contrast severely.

[Angela]: (laughing) Wow your light is getting really close to your face. The way that you defend the things that you say, is that you're looking at broader news sources. But when you're looking for something, you're always looking for something so-

[Roosh]: But no, no, no. I'm not getting this from the news! I'm not getting this from the news. I'm getting this from careful thinking from available science that is proven to be right. That's it. I mean, the thing is, to be on the left now there are so many contradictions they think of that I can only think of the mental gymnastics that these people have to go through to ignore, like you have been doing, the contradictions. I mean, I'm just saying let's be consistent. If you're logically consistent, your belief system is in a lot of problems.

[Angela]: Can you tell me more about your use of logic and science for your arguments? Can you tell me about the logic and science behind sort of your worldview?

[Roosh]: Yeah. I use logic and science.

[Angela]: I mean, but can you elaborate? Because I mean, it's easy to just say...I mean I could sit here and say 'I know science! Science! Science! Science!'

[Roosh]: Ok. Ok. Sure. The only thing is this: I believe that the only way to really use logic is to ignore the feelings that you have for one outcome or the other. If you have an emotional investment into a lifestyle and to a way of life that you've been taught for four years in school, getting a contradictory piece of information will cause your brain to either accept or reject. And what people do to accept something that goes against what they've learned for a long time, it's really hard because that means for thousands of days they believed in the wrong thing. But me, I don't know. I have a filter. I'd rather be right

than feel good. I don't need to feel good. I don't need to feel warm and fuzzy on the inside that my belief system is ok. I don't care. If I've been believing in something wrong for 35 years and new evidence tells me that, so be it. You know, many times in human history scientists they believed one thing but a new experiment has shown: holy shit we were wrong. But people nowadays, they go crazy if you show them a fact that goes against what they've been fed for years and years. So that's all.

[Angela]: So you're not emotionally invested in the arguments that you're making?

[Roosh]: No.

[Angela]: Ok!

[Roosh]: I am...you know if you can right now tell me that science really has introduced a gender number three and you can show me that, something in-between a woman and a man...like ok I guess then there really is a third gender! But as of right now, I don't think that data will be forthcoming.

[Angela]: Alright, I know that I've kept you a really long time and I know you're really busy. I have like three more questions if that's ok. Is that cool?

[Roosh]: That's fine.

Roosh drinks a sip of water from a clear jar

[Angela]: (laughing) Ok. Sweet. So this is a little bit unrelated to what we were just saying and goes back to maybe a previous thread. But let's imagine that I do somehow find twenty women that have slept with you. What do you think these women might say about the seduction process and your sexual performance? I know it's personal but your essays are really descriptive and you usually use sort of pseudonyms for the women in your stories and so if you wouldn't mind telling me that....

[Roosh]: I would say that they would probably say that I approached them with good energy. I didn't scare them. I made them feel comfortable. I didn't come on really strong, but at the same time I didn't come in with such low energy that they weren't interested. I am really good at keeping a conversation going even if the girl is not giving me a lot back. So even though maybe she was shy and didn't know how to respond to this new guy talking, I don't really need for her to say much for a period of time until she finally gets to that point where she feels like she can start to open up.

[Angela]: Yeah.

[Roosh]: I make everything feel natural from how I touch and kiss. I mean it's rarely to the point where a girl will have to stop me and say 'I don't like it when you touch me

there' because I can read them. I know based on how they act, how they talk, how they move when they want me to do the next step. So I put a lot of...most of my experience is from the approach to sex and after sex I get lazy because I already got most of what I wanted. So she will notice after sex that my energy and my excitement to keep the conversation super-duper entertaining...it starts to go down because I already did the hardest part.

[Angela]: Hmmm.

[Roosh]: And sex, I mean...I don't think that a man has to be good in bed. I mean if a woman sees your value as being that guy in bed who is great, you're basically- she's gonna see you as like a dildo now! She's just gonna see you as the guy who can 'Ok I can't wait to see him because in bed he's gonna do that little move and trick!' I don't want a girl to expect that. I want a girl to just expect me to be me. If I'm lazy, I'm lazy. If I don't wanna talk a lot and I just wanna sit and watch music videos and we go out and eat a pizza with a joke here and there...I just want a girl to have the lowest possible expectations so if I'm having a day where I don't want to try-

Angela laughs heartily

[Roosh]: But the minute you start doing these fancy things in bed where she's like 'oh my god, that was so great,' oh, no. She's gonna expect that again and again. It's like it's a job now. The best and worst thing is to give a girl an easy orgasm because once you give her that, she expects it.

Angela laughs

[Roosh]: Look, look. I know this sounds weird but it's not like I don't try. I do hope that they get it. But if she doesn't get one but still feels that the overall experience is good, then that is very good because that means I don't have to try. But I've had it where for whatever reason this girl was very easy to give an orgasm. It would be a rush to get into bed for her to go into this specific spot and do it this way..and I felt like a monkey now. You know? A monkey. So it's actually a blessing and a curse to be good in bed. But I'm not.

[Angela]: You mentioned in our email that your orgasm is of primary importance-

[Roosh]: Damn straight.

[Angela]: And that you don't go down on women. Is this true?

[Roosh]: Right.

[Angela]: Can I ask why?

[Roosh]: Because nature has deemed the male orgasm to be more important. If right now a magic cloud of gas surrounds the earth and infected girls and prevented them from ever having a female orgasm again, the human species would go on. But if this cloud of gas only effected men and prevented the male orgasm, what would happen? The human species is done. It's freaking done. Therefore nature, not me, nature has declared that the male orgasm is essential to life! To life! But the female orgasm is like cherry on top. You know? If she gets it, hey that's great! Mmm yummy. But if not, it doesn't matter. So I'm just...I believe in what nature has said about it. And they said the male orgasm is super-duper important.

[Angela]: (laughing) Fair enough. Since this may go to a room through of feminist artists, writers and cultural producers...if you could give a sort of direct message to them, what would it be?

[Roosh]: If you're a girl, grow your hair out. There is nothing more beautiful than a woman with long, long hair. That's smooth and smells nice. I mean that just gets me every time. And yours is...a little short.

Angela laughs heartily

[Roosh]: I would just tell them to stop shaming men for being men. You know? Stop trying to eliminate the male gender and the female gender for your androgynous sex in the middle where everyone is a freak! They're just confused about who they are. It's ok for a woman to be a woman...for her to want to raise kids to want to stay at home. It's ok for a man to want to feel strong. I don't get it! Why that's such a bad thing now-

[Angela]: I don't think it is! I think it's ok for people to want those things and I think that a lot of people who want the alternative also think that it's ok for the people who want to preserve their own interests that are different to preserve those. I don't have any problem with people who want to be stay at home moms or have long hair! It just means that it's not right for me.

[Roosh]: You know a lot of people do think that's wrong. I mean you don't, but from the messages I see from your friends you know? But anyway I would just say you know, I'm not trying to convince them – 'cause I'm not - I'm not trying to change how they live...But I would just say the one thing they can do is just because you see a man who wants to be a man, don't shame him. Don't try to change a law to prevent him from doing what men have been doing for thousands of years. Men don't really want to hurt women. We don't want to assault them. Yeah, you're always going to find a man who is violent, but

most men like me just want sexual interactions that are fun and are good and we just want to pursue our male hobbies like going to the gym and playing games and I don't understand where all this male hatred comes from but I believe if men are allowed to do what they want and they are happy with their hobbies then they will treat the women in their lives fair. That's it. I'm not trying to change them. If someone is gay, hey man that's great. I'm not gonna try to change you. Just don't push your lifestyle, which let's admit is on the extreme end of something, onto everyone. The way that you live may not be normal for the 7 billion people on the earth. It may only be normal for a tiny percentage of the western world and I think if we look inside of us ourselves to improve our own lives instead of trying to change everyone else's lives, we'd all be better off.

[Angela]: What's your problem with short hair?

[Roosh]: I think women...I've never seen a girl who looked better with short hair than longer hair. Unless you have like a pumpkin face or something like a really oval-y face, I think you would look better with longer hair. You would just look more attractive. That's all I'm saying. More attractive than you are now.

[Angela]: You wrote an essay about this right? I remember an essay you wrote on women with short hair and like dick castration or something like that?

[Roosh]: I don't know.

[Angela]: Maybe that wasn't the same one...but you wrote an essay about-

[Roosh]: Like ok. The way that your hair is now, it makes your face look more round!

[Angela]: Well I do have a very round face!

Angela laughs

[Roosh]: Yeah but it looks like you want it to be super round now!

[Angela]: Well that's not the case.

[Roosh]: Because the way that your hair it curves, right?

[Angela]: Mmmhmm.

[Roosh]: So it curves down. So it's just making it wider actually! I mean-

[Angela]: So what would you suggest for my future haircut?

[Roosh]: Don't! Don't cut! This up here is good actually.

Roosh motions towards the bangs area of his forehead

[Roosh]: The bangs are good! Just don't cut it! Stop! Do not cut!

[Angela]: Yeah but it gets really awkward when it gets to like this length. That's like the worst!

Angela motions toward her shoulders

[Roosh]: Don't! Go through. That's fine it's only gonna be weird for like a month or two and then you're fine. I mean I dunno if you're single or not or if you like it when men look at you, but I guarantee-

[Angela]: I actually don't have a problem in that department to be honest.

[Roosh]: Ok I mean, I think girls say I 'oh don't want long hair because it takes extra time'. Ok well I don't want big muscles because at the gym it takes time too. I don't want to shave because that takes time! I mean is that what it's about now? I mean we're going to sacrifice looking good, to looking the best that we can, because it takes an extra ten minutes a day? I mean is your life on the internet that busy that you can't take ten minutes to just cut off and just groom yourself to look nice?

[Angela]: I mean that stuff is also subjective! Like I'm not into muscle dudes, so like when you say you're working hard to do that...it's not necessarily my preference!

[Roosh]: I'm not big! Even to have a bit of what I have it still takes time. I'm not huge-

Roosh flexes his arm muscles

[Angela]: Oh wow. I'm very impressed but I'm acknowledging that your hard work is awesome but isn't necessarily...you know...it's just not that important to me somehow.

[Roosh]: Because you're not surrounded by masculine guys who value that! You're surrounded by androgynous men who act like girls! I have a feeling that you don't want that type of man that you're like 'why do I feel like I'm dating a girl?'. You know?

Angela laughs heartily

[Roosh]: 'Cause I've gotten some emails from girls who say this type of thing. And I know you don't....you want the benefits of dating a masculine guy who makes you feel good and makes you feel attractive, but you don't want to put the time in and the work and you don't want to submit. You don't want to not challenge him on everything and not push your ideology onto him. So we can't have our cake and eat it too. Like me! I'm ready to lead! I'm ready to be the man! You know, I'm ready to do most of the work to get these women! They don't pay, ever.

[Angela]: (laughing) I think this is why I'm not looking for someone like you to be honest.

[Roosh]: That's fine!

[Angela]: I don't need necessarily to be led I guess...and that's where I'm sort of wondering- so the women that you're sort looking for, what sorts of traits do they exhibit? Like what sorts-

[Roosh]: Beauty.

[Angela]: Beauty. And?

[Roosh]: That's the main thing!

[Angela]: I mean it also sounds like they also have to be somewhat submissive.

[Roosh]: Yeah. They really don't get to say....I never ask them 'so where do you wanna go tonight?'. Never. I mean they don't really have a choice. I mean they may have an A/B option. But I never say 'so what do you want to do?'. They want to let me lead them all the time. A woman doesn't want to have to think about what to do, where to go, what the plan is, and where we're going next. If she does, she is a domineering person.

[Angela]: Ahhh! So you're saying that it's biological for men to dominate in all aspects.

[Roosh]: (laughing) That's what being masculine is! I mean a man leads! He leads. You know? He calls first. He approaches first. He kisses first. He pays without any expectation that the girl is gonna be like a man! I mean if a woman grabs me first, I'm thinking that's weird. That's like a masculine thing. I'm supposed to grab her first let's say.

[Angela]: So you're saying like paying for dinner, a guy paying for dinner, is like a biological trait and not like a socially enforced code? It's rather a part of biology.

[Roosh]: It is a biological thing for a man to show that he has resources that can help raise any future spawn.

[Angela]: Ok. Fair enough.

[Roosh]: That shows, if I can pay for this, that means I have enough so the baby we raise isn't going to starve.

[Angela]: Right - so for you it is a cultural behavior that came out of a biological sort of tendency?

[Roosh]: Sure. Sure. Yeah.

[Angela]: So, other questions. So I don't know where you are right now and you're not disclosing that, but we do know roughly the timezone...but-

[Roosh]: Sure.

[Angela]: What does your future look like? Do you plan on continuing going from country to country to find the right balance of women and social conditions and to continuing to write books and continuing to bang women? Or do you imagine finding this so-called "right one" and getting married and stuff like that in a particular country?

[Roosh]: You know one thing about me is that I never have a plan. You know? If you told me when I was 23 that I'd be where I am now, I'd be like 'what?!'. You know? There's no way! So I'm just taking it one day at a time. Every day I wake up and do what I like to do. I like to write, to make these websites, to connect with guys. I like to go to the coffee shop and read, to go the gym, go to the club every now and then. Where is that going to take me in five years or so? Well, I think my hormone level is coming down to where I don't have to have sex with a new girl each week or so.

[Angela]: Mmmhmm.

[Roosh]: So if there's a girl I find that I like, and this has happened in the past year, I do hold onto her. I'm not thinking of marriage or kids... but when you get older there is that...now I feel it. It's like, do I wanna have kids? 'Cause I'm getting old. I know a man can have kids when he's 60, but I want to be there when the kid is you know...I want to spend time with him when he gets older. So I don't know. I really don't know. I'm just taking it one day at a time. But I do know that the stuff on the internet I do, I have been doing that for a while and I think that I will continue that. But I don't have a plan for a book. I already wrote a lot of them. I wrote like 16 books!

[Angela]: Yeah. You're a very prolific writer.

[Roosh]: It's time to figure out something else. I told you I'm opening a new site, so let's see. Maybe I will want to open a site for women!

Angela laughs

[Roosh]: Women who don't accept the left wing stuff that 'oh there's ten genders!'. Women who want hair that's long and they want to be saved by a strong man. Maybe that would be next. I dunno.

[Angela]: Would women help you run that site? Or you would run the site for them?

[Roosh]: They would pretty much have to. Yeah? You know?

[Angela]: Yeah, I think so.

[Roosh]: And if you wanted to write some articles...

[Angela]: I might be interested in that. I was gonna close up but I did wanna ask-

[Roosh]: Ugh...

[Angela]: Sorry. You talked about that you're having sort of longer relationships now...less of a chase situation going on as you're getting older. Are you monogamous in your relationships or do you continue to have multiple relationships?

[Roosh]: No, no, no. No I mean, when I mean longer term - I mean seeing the same girl.

[Angela]: Seeing the same person more than once.

[Roosh]: It's still a little bit on the casual side. I'm not there. One step at a time, you know? One step at a time. Is it like she's my girlfriend who I call every day? No, I'm not there yet. But I mean that...I still need a lot of space. I need to focus on my own stuff. I'm a solitary guy so I can't have every day calling or seeing someone.

[Angela]: Yeah. Do you disclose to your partners that you are, you know, having multiple partners?

Roosh shakes his head

[Roosh]: No. I usually don't. If I'm dating one girl it's not exclusive, but it's usually only her.

[Angela]: But it's been made clear between the two of you?

[Roosh]: I just don't like to write it down: 'we are exclusive'...I don't like that. It's like a burden I guess.

[Angela]: Ok. But both of you are free to see other people and stuff?

[Roosh]: She is free, but I don't see why should would want to see any other man. I kind of give her a lot of what she needs in life.

[Angela]: (laughing) But she doesn't give you what you need?

[Roosh]: She does. But you know, a man is always on the lookout for younger more beautiful girls. It's sickening! You know? A man can never be happy!

[Angela]: I imagine your argument for this is biological...but I'll wait.

[Roosh]: (laughing) Maybe it is.

[Angela]: Care to elaborate?

[Roosh]: But I mean, you know. I think some men, not all, they always want to conquer, conquer, conquer. They want new...I think women too though. I mean people now...it's even worse I think for people who are younger, because they were raised when the internet was already there-

[Angela]: Lots of options!

[Roosh]: Some people that are young, you can't have a conversation with them anymore. Their attention spans are just shot. They can't talk without looking at their phone. Not because they have to look at it, just it's just like this impulsive need now just to click their phones and I don't know what's going to happen with the young ones, but they are losing the ability to talk like a normal person.

[Angela]: This is a big question. So you've produced so many books like we've talked about, you have these blogs, a huge following, you make YouTube videos all the time...Out of all of this, what are you most proud of? I know that's a big question.

[Roosh]: I'd say...what's going to last hundreds of years from now? The books. I would probably think. I don't know if you've written a book but the amount of focus it takes and the commitment it takes is huge. You know? You have to stop everything else to focus. To write a blog article or start a website you can do one hour here while you're watching TV in the background. But to write a book, that takes 100% of your energy so I would say the books.

[Angela]: Well thanks so much for talking to me. I hope you feel satisfied with the questions and don't feel like I was being difficult.

[Roosh]: I'm very satisfied. 10 yeah? But thank you for, you know, asking questions that were...I don't feel like you asked me anything that was like a gotcha type of thing.

[Angela]: Yeah. I wasn't baiting you.

[Roosh]: I hope your art project turns out well. I hope you win...I don't know if it's like a contest, but I hope you win and I hope-

[Angela]: I already got a grant for it so that's about the extent of that.

[Roosh]: Well I hope this helps you out.

[Angela]: Thank you. Well, have a great day.

[Roosh]: Thank you. If there's anything else that comes up or you can just send me like an email or something.

[Angela]: Of course! And I'll let you know...If I grow my hair out, you'll be the first one to know.

[Roosh]: Please do. Please do.

[Angela]: Well have a good day or evening 'cause it's evening there... have a good night.

[Roosh]: Now I will shower and go out so...

[Angela]: Good luck with that.

[Roosh]: Thank you very much.

[Angela]: Ok. Bye!

[Roosh]: Bye.

Angela and Roosh wave at eachother

Angela disconnects Skype

[Angela]: Whoa. It's over!

[Kyle]: Yeah....

Angela puts her head down on her keyboard

[Kyle]: I wanna beat the shit out of that fuckin' guy.

Angela puts her face in her hands

[Angela]: That was two hours! Oh my god!

[Kyle]: I'm gonna stop recording now.

[Angela]: I'm gonna stop my recording too.

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