

**Interview mit Brian, Couchsurfing-Host, persönlich, 31.05.2017**  
**Interviewerin: LS, Transkription: GS, Korrektur der Transkription: LS**

Brian: 'Cause just at the beginning of the month I turned that I'm accepting hosts, pssh, I'm fucking booked throughout August. (laughter) #00:00:07-2#

Luise: Yeah, I can think so. When I came here to San Francisco I, I tried to find a place but all Couchsurfers were like, "Ooh, I'm super sorry, but I can't". #00:00:19-3#

Brian: Yeah. #00:00:19-0#

Luise: That's crazy. So, to start, in general what would you see it with Couchsurfing? Like in broad terms. #00:00:28-5#

Brian: Oh, the potential to, to learn. I mean it's all ... excuse me. #00:00:42-0#

Luise: No worries. #00:00:44-5#

Brian: Cultural, ... cultural exchange. You know, especially if you meet people who are honest with themselves, then they can be honest with other people. 'Cause I for instance, I had a couple of Belgium girls come by and stay. And they left and actually came back today 'cause they got caught in an unpleasant stay. So, no big deal. #00:01:01-1#

Luise: Wow. #00:01:01-7#

Brian: But they didn't seem very communicative because ... right after that I got another girl from Peru, she stayed for the weekend. The first night she came we talked all night. #00:01:11-5#

Luise: Nice. #00:01:12-4#

Brian: You, you know what I mean? And so for some people you have an opportunity to really have conversations about where they are from and what they are all about, what their culture is about and how they view and also ... I already know how – well, I don't 'cause I have to meet them and find out – but people around the world have a view of like people in America, you know what I mean? We are not ((alone in this)), everyone's different. So I give them a taste, "Hey, you come, you stay at my warehouse and kick it and you can talk and you see, hey, that shit you see on TV is not real". #00:01:43-7#

Luise: Yeah. Yeah. #00:01:45-3#

Brian: And the only way that we are gonna become together as a world and get rid of all his crazy crack and oppression of every kind is for us to know ((one)). #00:01:56-2#

Luise: So it's a nice way to get rid of stereotypes? #00:01:57-7#

Brian: Of course. Well that – or you might generate some more. #00:02:00-8#

Luise: (laughter) #00:02:02-4#

Brian: But at the, but at the same, you know what I'm saying? (mimicking voice) "Cause all he did was smoke weed and listen to rap. I knew that's what they are ((would do))", you know, whatever. #00:02:07-9#

Luise: (laughter) #00:02:09-2#

Brian: But the thing is it's just an opportunity for cultural exchange. And that's, that's ... the world is boot camp. #00:02:16-9#

Luise: Yeah. #00:02:17-8#

Brian: That's what we are here for. For people to learn about one another. #00:02:20-1#

Luise: Yeah. #00:02:20-6#

Brian: And if you know, I feel that if you don't take that opportunity you're wasting your life. #00:02:24-4#

Luise: Yeah, that's right. So can you remember the initial moment when you signed up for Couchsurfing? #00:02:30-1#

Brian: Hm, not the day, but I do remember ... Wow, it was, they had the old website, this must have been about fifteen-some years ago. And I was so excited because I wanted to see the world, you know? And I thought to myself, "What a dope way! Instead of going to some hotel and I go into a hotel room and close the door – who's there?" #00:02:54-7#

Luise: Yeah. #00:02:55-2#

Brian: Thank you. #00:02:55-5#

Luise: Yeah. #00:02:56-3#

Brian: But you go to someone's house and you sleep on their couch or in a guest room, it's incumbent upon you to interact with this. #00:03:02-8#

Luise: Yeah. #00:03:03-7#

Brian: You know? It's awesome. #00:03:05-9#

Luise: It's cool. And can you remember like a specific moment or situation where you would say, "Well, this is awesome and without Couchsurfing that wouldn't be possible"? #00:03:18-0#

Brian: Oh, yeah, every goddamn time someone comes to my place. #00:03:20-8#

Luise: Yeah? #00:03:21-4#

Brian: Yeah. #00:03:21-2#

Luise: That's awesome. #00:03:23-4#

Brian: Yeah. Yeah. Most definitely. And, you know, you just meet some awesome people. #00:03:28-3#

Luise: Yeah. #00:03:29-1#

Brian: And sometimes you form connections and it's like – ah, there's this Japanese girl, she travels around the world harvesting and she, she trims weed during the season here, so she always comes and stays, you know what I mean? #00:03:42-3#

Luise: Ah, that's nice. Yeah. #00:03:43-6#

Brian: And she, the money she made, she buy for, a farm in Peru, a mango farm.  
#00:03:48-0#

Luise: What? #00:03:48-8#

Brian: Yeah! #00:03:48-5#

Luise: (laughter) #00:03:48-9#

Brian: You see, that's, all these interesting stories. #00:03:49-9#

Luise: Yeah. #00:03:50-5#

Brian: But if you work in a nine-to-five job you are already dead. #00:03:54-0#

Luise: That's right. #00:03:53-8#

Brian: I would never fucking work in that, you know, in an office for somebody else, are you kidding me? Argh! #00:03:58-7#

Luise: (laughter) But you are an artist, right? #00:04:00-7#

Brian: Yeah. #00:04:01-6#

Luise: I could see that in your profile. #00:04:01-9#

Brian: Yeah. #00:04:02-6#

Luise: So is it easy for you to combine your hosting activities with your everyday life?  
#00:04:07-9#

Brian: Oh, easy, yeah. It took me a while to ((draft)) things in, but I mean when, I hope – I'm not there to entertain you, you know what I mean? #00:04:15-5#

Luise: Yeah, #00:04:16-4#

Brian: You come here the place to crash and I don't bother people. If you wanna engage, we'll talk. If not? Do your thing, have a good vacation, have fun, you know what I mean? It's not like we gotta go out and go everywhere and so. #00:04:29-1#

Luise: So you're not like responsible for the whole// #00:04:31-8#

Brian: Oh no, they are responsible for themselves. You got a place to crash, the rest is on you. #00:04:34-8#

Luise: Okay. But you wouldn't mind if someone is like really looking for like a companion or? Okay. #00:04:40-9#

Brian: Oh no. But at the same token if they were, I would have to let them know, "Hm, we gave, maybe go out somewhere here or there", but I mean I got my things to do.  
#00:04:50-4#

Luise: Yeah, sure. Okay. And did you ever experienced a moment that was, that felt like unsafe or where you were insecure? #00:05:00-5#

Brian: I'm six three [inches – 1.90m]. #00:05:02-3#

Luise: Nevertheless. No? #00:05:05-1#

Brian: Yeah, I no, never. #00:05:05-8#

Luise: Or where you felt like someone treated your place like not in the right way. #00:05:10-8#

Brian: Oh yeah, that! Yeah, that happens. But ... people are people and ... I think you, once you allow to be, I mean there's, yeah – I mean if someone's comes to your house and they are stealing or they just make a mess and they don't clean up after themselves, that's a different story. But we come from different cultures and we have different norms. And that's one of the things, I think, is beautiful because there are people that have come and they done things certain ways and I was like, "Oh, please explain that to me. How does that develop for you in your culture? This is how we do it here", you know what I mean? So, and, and like people will write, "Hey, I'd like to stay at your place", and they are all super nice and sweet on ((it)). #00:05:50-6#

Luise: Yeah. #00:05:52-0#

Brian: I get it. You try, you know what I mean? But at the same token, I wanna know who you are. Be real with me. #00:05:56-8#

Luise: Yeah. #00:05:57-8#

Brian: You know? Because everybody looks the same when they write. 'Cause they want a place to stay. I get it. But hopefully they – I just don't want to have people that have regard of it because that keeps us having an exchange, you know? #00:06:13-8#

Luise: Yeah. Yeah, that's true. And, so, what would you say, how would you describe the ideal couch surfer? #00:06:24-0#

Brian: Someone who needs a place to stay. #00:06:24-9#

Luise: Okay. #00:06:26-2#

Brian: That's it. #00:06:26-5#

Luise: Yeah, that's nice. #00:06:28-5#

Brian: You know? (laughter) Yeah, that's what it's all about (laughter). So I think, I don't wanna have preconceived notions. And it's like, my buddy was like, "Oh, dude, just only host chicks", and it's like, "No, (*name of friend*)! That is being dishonest". #00:06:39-4#

Luise: (laughter) Yeah. Yeah, that's right. #00:06:41-5#

Brian: You gotta be real. Well ... if you are honest with yourself and that's what you want and you let them know? Okay, that's cool. But, yeah, ... I try not to have preconceived notions. I try to (laughter). #00:06:56-6#

Luise: Yeah, yeah, of course. And do you meet other Couchsurfers like with the hang-outs function or participate in like Couchsurfing meet-ups or stuff like that? #00:07:06-5#

Brian: No. #00:07:07-5#

Luise: No? Okay. #00:07:08-8#

Brian: I tell myself to, I should, I'd like to every once in a while. But whenever I did like see it or whatever, I'm always doing something else. #00:07:16-8#

Luise: But you do keep in touch with some Couchsurfers you hosted? #00:07:19-7#

Brian: Oh yeah. #00:07:21-0#

Luise: So you would say that there, would you say that you had some friendships that developed? #00:07:27-1#

Brian: For sure. I had a couple from ... what country is the old – see how ignorant Americans are – Odessa! Where is Odessa? No, no, no, no, no, no. #00:07:37-3#

Luise: Odessa? #00:07:37-9#

Brian: No, no, no, no. I'm intimidated to say the Ukraine. They were beefing with, with – when they were here, Russia went into their northern borders and then they were here, they were like, "Oh my god!" #00:07:49-6#

Luise: Oh, oh I don't know the English word, but is it – the, in German it would be "Ukraine". #00:07:56-1#

Brian: What was it? #00:07:56-8#

Luise: Ukraine. [German pronunciation] #00:07:58-3#

Brian: Yes! So, Ukraine.[English pronunciation] #00:07:58-2#

Luise: Ukraine [English pronunciation], alright! Okay. #00:08:00-3#

Brian: It was Ukraine. And, so anyway, with the couple – oh my god, they were so awesome. They were so dope and they cooked me some of their meals and I cooked meals, I cooked them a hardcore black soul food meal. #00:08:14-8#

Luise: Yeah. #00:08:15-6#

Brian: And they loved it. And she cooked me some traditional meals. And now their whole family, they have two adorable daughters, they live in Florida now. And, you know, we exchange cards and, yes, it's been a few years and we always talk. So yeah. #00:08:32-2#

Luise: But did they find out about this whole Russian thing when they were staying with you? Wow, that must be like// #00:08:37-7#

Brian: Yeah, they were// #00:08:38-7#

Luise: Terrified. #00:08:39-1#

Brian: Yeah, they were like, "Oh my god, our kids are back home with relatives". And ... she was a lieutenant in the, the medical field in the armed forces of the Ukraine.  
#00:08:51-6#

Luise: Oh no. #00:08:52-6#

Brian: So there was a chance that she might be recalled. But it never happened, so it was okay, so everything turned out alright. Yeah, you see what I mean? It's just interesting.  
#00:09:00-6#

Luise: Yeah. #00:09:02-2#

Brian: That's what our brains, our brains thirst for stories. #00:09:05-0#

Luise: Yeah. Yeah, that's right. Yeah. ... What would you consider or what do you consider before you accept a hosting request? #00:09:18-5#

Brian: Oh, if, if I have space available. That's it. #00:09:21-0#

Luise: Yeah? So you wouldn't mind if someone just writes you, "Hey, I need a place to crash"? #00:09:27-3#

Brian: No. #00:09:28-1#

Luise: So that's all? #00:09:29-1#

Brian: Yeah. #00:09:29-1#

Luise: Okay. #00:09:31-0#

Brian: 'Cause that's what it's about. #00:09:31-2#

Luise: Yeah. #00:09:31-2#

Brian: (laughter). #00:09:31-1#

Luise: Yeah, but that's cool. #00:09:32-5#

Brian: You know what I mean, you don't need more (laughter). Or – but the back end is, "Okay, you need a place, place to crash. For how long?" #00:09:41-4#

Luise: Yeah. Okay. Yeah, sure. And do you prepare yourself or your home for the arrival of the guests? #00:09:49-0#

Brian: Yeah. Just recently, you know we live in big warehouse, so we made a guest room now. So now we got a guest room, so people stay in a room for themselves. #00:09:59-1#

Luise: That's super convenient. Yeah. #00:10:01-4#

Brian: Yeah, I mean come on. Yes, stay on someone's couch is okay, but if you have your own room, especially if you are a couple. #00:10:05-5#

Luise: Yeah, that's right. #00:10:06-4#

Brian: You're on vacation! #00:10:08-4#

Luise: Yeah. And the others that are living with you don't, they don't mind at all that you like// #00:10:13-7#

Brian: They love it. #00:10:15-3#

Luise: Yeah? #00:10:15-3#

Brian: Yeah. #00:10:16-2#

Luise: Are they on Couchsurfing, too? #00:10:17-2#

Brian: No. Yeah, a couple are, yah. #00:10:19-7#

Luise: Cool, okay. That's nice. So you can like share the experience and the people you are hosting. #00:10:29-3#

Brian: And my roommates are all loving travel like crazy. So they're like, "Oh, we have someone else over there?" #00:10:36-1#

Luise: Ah, nice. #00:10:36-7#

Brian: Network. #00:10:38-0#

Luise: Yeah. Okay, that's, yeah, cool. ... What are the aspects you pay special attention to, when hosting? #00:10:50-9#

Brian: Hm ... Respect. #00:10:54-3#

Luise: Yeah. #00:10:53-9#

Brian: Yeah, pretty much. And ... I try to tune in to their comfort zone, you know what I mean? 'Cause if it's, especially when it is, there's a female and she is by herself. Like the Peruvian girl who came. Her, she had a choice, she could stay on the couch, she could sleep in my room with me, whatever. I tell her, "Wherever you're comfortable"// #00:11:19-9#

Luise: Yeah. #00:11:21-0#

Brian: But she felt comfortable sleeping in my room with me and it was okay, you know what I mean? She had her little ((pack)) and we talked and had a good time. But I try to ((go)) and see how – people's comfort zones, you know what I mean? #00:11:34-8#

Luise: Like respecting personal boundaries. #00:11:37-1#

Brian: Yeah, exactly, you know? #00:11:38-7#

Luise: And how would you expect people to treat your place? Could they like move around total freely or would you say, "This one here is off limits, please don't"? #00:11:49-4#

Brian: Well, other than other people's rooms, yeah, they can do whatever. It's like, we have a music room, I tell them – we have a cello, guitars, whatever –, "Go play, you don't need my permission. You're here as my guest. Act, treat this as your home". #00:12:03-2#

Luise: That's nice. #00:12:04-9#

Brian: And everyfuckingbody is curious, so like if you go to my shit? Ey, that's your business. But if you have a question, ask me! #00:12:15-6#

Luise: Wow, but yeah, that's very cool that you are like so laid-back and so like down with everything. #00:12:20-1#

Brian: I stopped giving a fuck a long time ago. #00:12:23-0#

Luise: (laughter) So, the last part is about the reference system because Couchsurfing, the platform itself like puts a lot of emphasis on their reference system. What do you think about it? Do you think it's like helpful? #00:12:39-6#

Brian: Almost definitely because ... I mean, you don't know. Some might say, "Hey, yeah, I'm a Couchsurfer and I need ((a place to)) stay", and you check their profile and there's no references. Some people are like, "Ah, this is an evil person". Of course. You know, you don't wanna put that – why bring trouble? You don't have to, but at the same token ... I would, I would imagine, too, like I wouldn't give someone a bad review. ... Either I'm gonna give you a good reference or none at all. #00:13:15-1#

Luise: Okay. #00:13:15-7#

Brian: Which at the same token I need to go back and write some. 'Cause I've noticed another thing. ((If they)) go like, "Oh my god, they were great", I didn't say anything about them, you know what I mean. I mean 'cause when someone, 'cause people may wonder, "Well, if they stayed there so long, how come they didn't respond in a certain positive way?" Because we help one another out that way, you know? 'Cause on my next spot someone may be, "Hey, you better have three glowing references" in their mindset, you know what I mean? So you never know who you gonna deal with. So I think it's a good system. #00:13:50-3#

Luise: But you wouldn't write a bad reference? #00:13:52-2#

Brian: No. #00:13:52-7#

Luise: Why not? #00:13:54-1#

Brian: Because I think karma is real. I don't need to tell on you, you gonna tell on yourself. #00:13:59-1#

Luise: Okay. So you would try to reach out to someone and be like, "Hey, sorry, this was like I got a bad feeling about this, I didn't ((feel this))", yeah. #00:14:09-9#

Brian: No, 'cause you know why? ... We may not groove, but that next person they'll meet may be like this. Why would I poison their mind? And then they develop stereotypes or barriers before they even get there, or would not even – that blows a whole opportunity. #00:14:30-4#

Luise: Yeah, that's right. Especially even one little negative review// #00:14:34-7#

Brian: Yeah! And the person that I may not got along with may have said "Oh, I shouldn't do that anymore". #00:14:42-2#

Luise: Yeah, that's right. #00:14:43-7#



Brian: So they go to, so they improve. Who knows, you know what I mean? #00:14:46-5#

Luise: Yeah. #00:14:47-4#

Brian: I mean of course, if it's like, "Hey, I was asleep and this guy tried to stab me", that's a whole different ball game. #00:14:53-9#

Luise: (laughter) Yeah. #00:14:54-1#

Brian: You know what I mean? #00:14:54-8#

Luise: Yeah (laughter). So would you say has a reference affected your Couchsurfing activity once? Like in any way? #00:15:06-2#

Brian: No. #00:15:07-3#

Luise: Okay. #00:15:08-0#

Brian: I, I never, I don't read people's references, actually. #00:15:10-1#

Luise: Why is that? #00:15:11-7#

Brian: I don't worry about it 'cause I have a very good sense of character, you know what I mean? And I need you to, ((if we have)) a bad vibe, I'd be like, "There's the door", you know what I mean? #00:15:27-9#

Luise: Yeah, okay. Oh, but that's interesting. Yeah, okay. #00:15:35-1#

Brian: People, you know, ... this is why our world is so fucked up: fear. #00:15:39-1#

Luise: Yeah, yeah. Okay. ... That's right. But I never saw it this way. #00:15:45-1#

Brian: The thing is, the thing about America, it's based on what? Capitalism. Capitalism is based on fear. #00:15:51-9#

Luise: Yeah. #00:15:53-1#

Brian: Shortage? There is no fucking such thing. #00:15:54-4#

Luise: Yeah. Yeah. #00:15:56-3#

Brian: No such thing. #00:15:57-6#

Luise: Yeah. And even if there is, it's just like in your mind. #00:16:00-8#

Brian: Exactly. #00:16:01-4#

Luise: Yeah, it's just, yeah, like man-made. That's right. #00:16:06-0#

Brian: Yeah, you see a guy with a red hat that says "Trump", I'm supposed to fear him now? He's supposed to fear me? No. Have a dialogue with him. Talk to that person. That's what it's about. #00:16:14-7#

Luise: Oh that reminds me, have you seen the Netflix documentary called – oh what was it? Called "Accidental" ... Shit! Like there's, there's this guy who always tries to befriend members of the Ku-Klux Klan to like talk to them? #00:16:31-8#

Brian: Oh, yes. Someone just turned me on to that. I wanna start watching it. #00:16:35-1#

Luise: Yeah, you should. #00:16:36-6#

Brian: Yeah. #00:16:37-2#

Luise: That is like a very interesting way because he says all the stereotypes in this world are only there because people don't talk to each other. And, yeah, he really tries to engage them// #00:16:45-8#

Brian: No, we were taught that. #00:16:47-3#

Luise: Yeah. #00:16:48-1#

Brian: It's taught. Let me tell you, darling, I was in the Marines for two years. #00:16:54-3#

Luise: Oh. Wow. #00:16:54-3#

Brian: Right after high school. Let me tell you what they teach. #00:16:56-3#

Luise: Yeah. #00:16:57-3#

Brian: Just that: divide and conquer. #00:17:00-6#

Luise: Wow. #00:17:01-7#

Brian: Plain and simple. As long as we are fighting, the person who is in control and shit, they have nothing to worry about. #00:17:08-8#

Luise: Yeah, that's right, yeah. You should watch that documentary. #00:17:13-5#

Brian: Yeah, ((I'll do that)), thank you. #00:17:13-5#

Luise: Yey (laughter). At the, it's really awesome, especially at the end because there were some people who say, "You are not allowed, you shouldn't talk to people like this", but he's like, "Hey, of course I should do that, otherwise, yeah, there would be so much hate and fear going on". #00:17:31-0#

Brian: Exactly. Right. And if no one reaches out then what? #00:17:35-2#

Luise: Yeah. Yeah. Cool. Hmm. We are nearly done. ... So what would you consider or what do you consider when writing a reference for someone? #00:17:51-8#

Brian: What do I consider? #00:17:52-8#

Luise: Yeah. What would you like typically, what would you include? #00:17:57-5#

Brian: Oh, just the vibe that I felt and what, and like the kind of activities we may have done or whatever to give people out there a sense of how that person was with me. #00:18:08-4#

Luise: Yeah. Sure. #00:18:10-6#

Brian: You know, so. Pretty much, yeah. 'Cause I'm very intuitive, like more emotional than rational. #00:18:20-6#

Luise: (laughter) yeah. #00:18:21-7#

Brian: You know what I mean? #00:18:22-8#

Luise: Yeah. #00:18:23-5#

Brian: And, so ... I don't know, I kind of think that, that's Couchsurfing is all about. It's really irrational from the broader scope of things, people are like, "What? You just have a stranger come into your house and you don't charge your money?" #00:18:37-9#

Luise: Yeah. #00:18:38-3#

Brian: See what I mean? Because Airbnb ((got)), disposed the – it's not about commerce. #00:18:43-0#

Luise: Yeah. That's right. But I'm glad that you brought Airbnb up. Do you use Airbnb? #00:18:50-2#

Brian: No, but my roommate used to. We're thinking about doing it. #00:18:52-7#

Luise: Yeah? #00:18:53-5#

Brian: At the warehouse. Because we, I mean our rent is hell as cheap hell anyway, but at the same token, we know if we Airbnb just like a couple of weekends that money will pay the entire warehouse. #00:19:03-7#

Luise: Yeah, yeah, that's right. Especially here in San Francisco. #00:19:06-6#

Brian: Exactly. These people are so stupid. They pay this high rent and they can control the market. You know, make an ad or whatever that says, "Don't rent from this motherfucker 'cause he charges too much". Everybody get on the same page, you can control this! They're stupid. #00:19:19-7#

Luise: That's right. That's the same like// #00:19:21-1#

Brian: Like ((Lyft)).com. Stupid. #00:19:22-0#

Luise: Yeah. And this is the same with these companies. #00:19:25-0#

Brian: Yes. Oh my god, oh my god. #00:19:27-1#

Luise: (laughter) #00:19:27-3#

Brian: You know, people get in a bidding war. Outside, oh I was – you already know. #00:19:32-7#

Luise: Mh, but when I came to (*city in California*) I found out that there are a lot of attempts from the city to regulate Airbnb or short-term rentals in general. How do you feel about that? #00:19:46-4#

Brian: Fuck the city! They want their money, they trying to get that cash. But you know what? The city has not been taken care of its people for decades ... you know what I mean? I think it's gotten ugly here. It's like there used to be this beautiful fucking fountain out of Civic Center, right in front of city hall. They tore it up and what's there now? A patch of dirt. Why? 'Cause they don't wanna pay for it. You want my money? But you are not taking care of the city? Come on, now, screw you! But they told us, they told us back in the nineties, "Look, we gonna rip out over thirty thousand parking spaces, we're gonna be doing this", you know, they got a thirty-year program to rip up all the, they gonna put all the cables underground. And it's like, "Okay, that's, that's great. But at the same token, you're not taking care of the people". ... And we've had like, this guy Ed Lee [Edwin Mah „Ed“ Lee, mayor of San Francisco from 2011–2017]? He's a parasite. He's a fucking parasite. But he's ((got)) the, all this money – the same thing. Like Gap [Gap Inc., fashion brand]. I remember decades ago, Gap threatened to leave the city, so they gave them a building. Nothing. They didn't have to pay tax, nothing, *nada*. So they could stay, see? They're begging. You don't have to beg anybody to come here. This place could be so super beautiful. #00:21:01-5#

Luise: Yeah. But ... like this, apart of the city, what would you, what do you think about Airbnb? #00:21:09-1#

Brian: I think it's awesome. I think it's a dope way. I know of a guy that will become soon owner of a cafe, he and his wife bought a house ... about fourteen years ago? Payed for with Airbnb. #00:21:26-5#

Luise: Wow. #00:21:27-3#

Brian: They planned it. They planned it that way. #00:21:30-6#

Luise: And it actually worked out? #00:21:31-4#

Brian: Payed for. Yeah. #00:21:34-0#

Luise: Wow. Okay. #00:21:34-7#

Brian: So why not? #00:21:35-1#

Luise: Yeah. #00:21:36-0#

Brian: The city, and the city is mad 'cause they are not getting their cut. #00:21:39-0#

Luise: Yeah. Yeah because, you know, I talked to some Couchsurfers who would say that they feel like a little bit betrayed because it felt like it was like their idea to share a place with another people and now ... Airbnb took this idea and monetizes, so. #00:21:58-7#

Brian: Yeah, but that's – no, no, no! See, a person who's doing Airbnb may or may not do Couchsurfing. A person that does Airbnb, let's talk about commerce, Couchsurfing is totally different. It's just like, the other apartment I stayed in and my roommate was just like that. I got into Couchsurfing, and dragged him and kicking and screaming, he was like – 'cause he did Airbnb, too –, but he was like, "Why do you gonna have these people come in, they gonna use up our stuff!" And I was like, "Stop being fucking selfish! This is not about commerce. This is about people!" And you know what? He met his wife through Couchsurfing. This Polish girl. #00:22:32-0#

Luise: No way! #00:22:34-5#

Brian: See, what I'm saying? #00:22:34-7#

Luise: Yeah. #00:22:35-5#

Brian: So. #00:22:36-7#

Luise: Ah, that's nice. There are a lot of love stories evolving around Couchsurfing.  
#00:22:41-6#

Brian: Yeah. Now, now he's working three jobs so he can afford a lawyer to pay to get here over here. (Amused) Suckers! #00:22:47-0#

Luise: Oh, really? (laughter) Yeah, but that's nice. Yeah, I'm, I'm, I'm out of questions. But if you feel like there's anything you need to share or anything we haven't touched upon you need to like, now it's your// #00:23:01-2#

Brian: I think it's awesome. And it'll be really awesome if they had like a national campaign, ad campaign, so more people can learn about it. #00:23:09-8#

Luise: That would, yeah, that would be great. #00:23:10-7#

Brian: You know what I mean? #00:23:10-8#

Luise: Yeah. #00:23:11-8#

Brian: 'Cause I kind of look at it like this ... Before you graduate from high school it should be mandatory that you spend a semester in another country. #00:23:23-3#

Luise: Yeah, yeah I totally agree. Yeah. #00:23:25-5#

Brian: Yeah, this, we're far away from everybody. You know, someone goes to Canada or Mexico and is like, "Oh, I am an international traveler". No, you're not! #00:23:31-6#

Luise: Yeah, that's right. Yeah. #00:23:34-8#

Brian: So. #00:23:35-4#

Luise: So right. #00:23:37-1#

Brian: But I think that would be dope if there was more exposure and more people got involved. I mean 'cause like Elon Musk's space program, that kind of thing, that kind of popularity. That would be awesome. #00:23:48-5#

Luise: Yeah. #00:23:49-3#

Brian: You know? #00:23:50-7#

Luise: And even if like it's about like individual encounters, I think it would change so much like on the macro-dimension. #00:23:57-2#

Brian: Yeah. Because you can't change the macro without changing the micro. Impossible.  
#00:24:03-5#

Luise: Yeah. Yeah, that's right. #00:24:04-4#

Brian: You know? #00:24:05-8#

Luise: Yeah, cool. Unfortunately, you were right about the coffee, by the way. #00:24:11-9#

Brian: Oh, see what I'm saying? #00:24:12-6#

Luise: Yeah, sorry. #00:24:13-1#

Brian: Yeah, the coffee is nasty. And especially, you are used to good coffee. #00:24:21-1#