

COUNTRY QUEERS in collaboration with OUT IN THE OPEN

SEASON 2 EPISODE 7 : Dana Kaplan

DESCRIPTION: KD Randle (they/them) is a Black, southern, queer, genderfluid person currently living in Jackson, Mississippi. They're a lifelong learner, visionary, creator, their mother's youngest seed, a friend, partner, dog parent, and arm apprentice at [Sipp Culture](#). This episode weaves together audio diaries recorded on KD's commutes to and from the farm, and an interview with their mother: Reverend Sandras Anderson. They reflect on the legacy of Black farmers, returning home and falling back in love with rural MS, divine androgyny, spirituality, abundance, and more.

For this episode, we're asking you to please donate to KD as they continue the beginning investments and building of their farming journey. You can do so via cash app: \$kellsrandle or Venmo: kells_randle

CREDITS: Created and produced by KD Randle with support from HB Lozito from Out in the Open, and Rae Garringer of [Country Queers](#). Sound Design by Hideo Tokui. Audio editing by Rae Garringer. Editorial advisory dream team: [Hermelinda Cortés](#), [Lewis Raven Wallace](#), and [Sharon P. Holland](#). Our featured song on this episode is "Black Myself" by [Amythyst Kiah!!!](#) Additional music is by Podington Bear and Tommy Anderson.

[ambient sounds of rain]

[Intro Recording]

Suzanne Pharr: "Hi, this is Suzanne Pharr, an old SONGster from Arkansas. And you're listening to Country Queers, the podcast"

KD: "Something about just enjoying just, the sound of the rain, the smell of the rain. The distant trees. The color of fall in the country, in the rural parts, in the rural landscape, you know?"

[fade out sounds of rain]

[Amythyst Kiah's song "Black Myself fades up"]

KD Audio Diary Intro:

Peace. My name is KD Randle. I'm a Black, southern, queer, genderfluid person currently living in Jackson, Mississippi. I'm a lifelong learner, a visionary, a creator, my mother's youngest seed, the baby cousin and sibling, a friend, a partner, and a dog parent. I currently moved back home this past year from New Orleans. What you'll be listening to in this podcast will be a combination of audio diaries that I recorded on my drive to and from the community farm at which I work, and an interview recorded over the phone. The interview included my mother. She's one of my best friends, and she's currently finishing her studies in seminary. She's a minister - which makes me a pastor's kid - a person that has been dedicated to the service of her community, from young all the way to the elderly, and continues to do *amazing* work. She's also my farm manager as well. So, I hope you all enjoy. Thank you for listening.

[INTERVIEW]

KD

Alright. We are currently being recorded. You there?

Reverend Sandras Anderson

Yes, I'm here.

KD

Alright cool. Um, yeah. You know, just a little bit about, you know, your experience, you know, growing up on a farm and some of the joys that came from the farm, like in the stories you shared with me about joyful moments you remember growing up on the farm?

Reverend Sandras Anderson

Okay, yeah. My entire family grew up on a small farm in central Mississippi. My parents were one of the few Black families who were fortunate enough to own their own property. Holmes County, Mississippi is —most of is hilly, and the other half of the county is the Delta. And the Delta has a rich history of farming, but also have a rich history of

plantation owners where Black people owned little or no land at all. So, my father was fortunate enough due to the support of my grandmother, to have a down payment for the property. My mother was an only child. So after my grandfather died, my grandmother, who owned a small home, and I think maybe two or three acres of land, and a couple head of cattle, sold everything, and moved up north. And she took half of her resources and gave it to my father for the downpayment on the eight acre farm and house. So as a result of that, they became land owners. And so, we were all raised on that farm. It's the only life I know. I was born in the house that was located on that farm. Most of my siblings were born on that property. My mother, as I said, was an only child, but she was a mother of twelve. Two of those babies died-- one at birth, and one later on, I think, maybe several months later. So ten kids were raised at that house, along with my parents.

It's the only life I knew, a life of being self-sustaining and self-supporting. Neither one of my parents were very educated folks, because higher education wasn't afforded to African Americans at that time, and in the area in which they lived. My dad, I think, completed the fifth grade, my mom eighth grade, which was the highest that you could go back in the day unless she went somewhere to a high school that was available for Black people. But nevertheless, it was a good life. We had gardens year-round, we had animals. Everything we consumed, from the vegetables to the meat, we consumed-- everything was raised there. So it was like a full cycle. Things in the garden fed the animals, things in the field, after we harvested, you know, whatever we gleaned from the field also fed animals. My dad would slaughter the animals and as a result we would have meat. We had a smokehouse, so we had, you know, cured beef, bacon, ham-- things of this nature. So it was something we did.

KD Audio Diary:

I'm just thinking about some of the things, you know. I'm working in a very very small town. Rural place. Places that I'm falling deeply in love with. That I grew up, you know-- didn't grow up here, but I grew up in a very rural place myself. And just... been thinking about the idea of like, always wanting to get out of there and to make it was to leave the place that you're from, the place that you was raised. And you know, I feel like every small town, you know, got they different energy and rhythm, but you know there's a lot of common themes, as well. And so - I feel like being a Black, queer, fluid person, you know, you make your own lanes and your own roles and, you know, you engage with who you want to engage with....Yeah, that's what I do.

I was also about to reflect on just like, you know, the re-spark and the reclaiming of the love of the land and small town. And you know, seeing people that you know, pretty everyday and ritually and, you know, building those relationships and culture with each other. You know. That's been-- that's been a beautiful thing I feel like I've been doing recently.

[fade in soft instrumental music]

[Interview]

Reverend Sandras Anderson

I'm very pleased that Kelly has been selected by our ancestors to carry on this great task of being an earthkeeper. Our Creator God, the Spirit of God gave us the land, and the source for us to be able to take care of ourselves. I think we've failed that in many ways, even from the water that we drink, and yes, even the air that we breathe. We have polluted it in many ways.

Overall, as I said before, it was the only life I knew. I was active in 4-H. I brought my older children up being active in 4-H. And so again, it's really a blessing to see that Kelly has been inspired and nudged to do this. And I believe that if she sticks with it, it will answer a lot of questions that she may have about a lot of different things in life. Because Mother Nature, the Spirit of God, has a way of bringing things to your understanding. We have to learn to listen to the Spirit of God. Animals listen-- if you're walking in a pasture or something, you will see animals constantly listening, paying attention to their environment. That's something, as humans, I think we have failed to do, is listen and be able to hear the voice of the Spirit leading us in the direction that we should be going. You know, we will be lovers of humanity. We will be lovers in a sense that we will be doing the things that God would have for us to do for each other.

KD

Word. Um, yeah, as your youngest and just witnessing you right now in your life, I feel like it's been a very healing component even in our dynamic throughout the years and even more recently in the past couple of years of me sharing this desire. Not only desire, but it really feels like a calling, to do this work in this time and space in my life. And also just like a calling that has brought us to a space where we can deeply bond over something. And I feel like just hearing all that you just said gives me a lot of historical context of like, you know, the work that I'm doing is is literally just, you know, how we talk about a lot of the principles like Sankofa, and my actions of like trying to reach back, and listen, and remember my roots through the oral history that you share

with me, through what I learned from your siblings, and I learn from my father's side, and my aunties and uncles on that side. You know, me being the youngest of you and my father, who are the youngest of, you know, big families, I have so many elders in my family. But it reminds me that I am reaching back and I am fetching what was good, and what worked, and bringing it, you know, to this present and to the future.

And some things I heard you say, like, you know, the blessing of my grandmother to be able to have access to that land. Also, just like the power, and also just the fortune that we had, in being able to do that. And, you know, you told me a lot of stories of how our family lived in like community with other families and like, helped each other down, and like, you know, lived in this very collective way of holding each other up and supporting each other. And even if my grandparents didn't have the highest formal education, they were both brilliant folks. And even with the disabilities that grandmother had, you know, she, she raised a family and you told me about her gardening skills, as well.

Yeah, and you've also mentioned how grandfather was kind of like this unofficial lawyer of the community. And how he would have to, you know, negotiate and be a protector of the things that he owned, and his community owned, and to advise even people in the community when, like people was trying to, like, get over on them. So all the brilliance and all the abundance that the land has given y'all, even though I know you've also shared, like...y'all also lived in poverty. But still had everything you needed from the land. You know, when I think about the way we live in the world in this society now in a very capitalistic way. We're living in these times where we've seen a lot of systems in our world, like, not work and not be sufficient to hold us and to hold people. Like, that also pushes me in this urgency to return to the land because I'm like, you know, you talked about how poor y'all were, but like, I'm also hearing you right now and being like, you know y'all lived in harmony with the land. And so everything returned back to itself. You learned so much, and y'all always had everything that y'all needed. That is what we need. You know, that's what we need to take from our ancestors. And, you know, not only how y'all survived, but how y'all thrived off that land. So yeah, I am thinking of like, you know, what are some joys of that life? And like also, what made you decide to return back to that?

Reverend Sandras Anderson

There were memorable times. Sunday was definitely--we looked forward to that Sabbath day for many reasons. My folks were very spiritual people. So there was always church. I feel like the spirit of God has always beckoned me to go to be a spiritual leader. Of course, as a child, I didn't really understand it. I know people would often tell me that there was something different about me, you know. I didn't really know what that meant-- I didn't really care what that meant, actually.

[soft instrumental music]

But I spent numerous hours alone with my mother because I was the youngest of all my siblings, and at one point in time- I was in junior high to high school, until I left for college--I was the only child at home with my parents. And so, I spent numerous hours with my mother. And my mother was an excellent cook. And then we would spend time in the kitchen together and I think that's where I got my passion to cook. I love to cook and to cook for people so that they can enjoy it. My mom would always say, "Cook it with love, never give anything or cook anything and give somebody something that you would not eat. And so a lot of times when I'm cooking and I'm not sure about it, I'm like "Lord, just let your spirit of love you know, be in this meal," and whenever -- it always seemed to come out. And so I enjoyed that time, reflect upon it quite a bit when I'm cooking something or... You know, I know my mom didn't have the best of cooking utensils. It was pretty much cast iron skillets and old pots. And I think that's-- you know how I love pots and pans.

KD

Mmmhmm.

Reverend Sandras Anderson

I have new pots and pans I've never opened. But I just love it, and I buy them wherever I see them, and I want to bless somebody with them.

[KD laughs]

[fade out instrumental music]

KD Audio Diary: [Deep inhale] In different moments of my time in New Orleans, and my time being away from my home state, the place where I was raised... I made the decision to move back when I started to realize the great value in my family, and also the great value in their labor on the land. And thinking about both the ways that my parents' families grew up on the land and lived off the land. And that's how they survived, and it's also how they had their own collective power. I come from a legacy of black rural farmers that I know at least on my father's side. His family had some Civil Rights Movement folks during the time when they were in Mississippi. In Holmes County. Out in the country in the house that my grandfather built for his family.

Also thinking about how my grandfather on my mother's side was able to purchase land, through the gift of my great-grandmother who gave him the funds to purchase that land. And for me, in this time of my life, shortly before the pandemic, but also like, in the beginning of the pandemic, it felt even more just like, just grabbing at my spirit, that abundance that I had at home, that I had, that I had left....

Reverend Sandras Anderson

you know, those times when my mom was cooking, she also sewed. She quilted. I never really just took up quilting, because it took a long time to do it. I was always somebody who wanted to see the results pretty quickly. But quilting, she would do that. She could make some of the biggest quilts that you've ever seen. She had a, you know, love for doing different patterns. And back in the day, when I was coming up, you had a huge Sears catalog. So she would use the catalog to look at different quilts and things in that catalog, and she could duplicate them on her own.

KD

Mmmmm

Reverend Sandras Anderson

And so, you know, she was very creative. Her yard always had beautiful flowers in it: roses. Many different flowers, she just had a love for that and had a green thumb for that. Everything she touched, you know, ended up being something of beauty. She was really an amazing woman, in every sense. She had the gift of touching. I write often about, you know, her-- you know, she was always touching you, rubbing you, touching your heart, touching your hands. So, you know, the beauty of-- and you see animals sometimes, on the farm - animals often touch their little babies. Whether it's colts, you know, calves with their moms or whatever. So, there's a lot of human behavior that is associated with things that occur on the farm.

On Sundays, we had some neighbors, it was a big family of them. We would often play softball over in the pasture with them on Sunday evening. I developed a love for teamwork, you know, teamwork living in a big family's teamwork any way. But you know, it was our family against their family. One of my brothers was a really good player. And so um, often, he would hit the ball and I would run... So I developed a love for you know, softball. Taught me how to slide into the bases and stuff like that. And so... And then just, you know, we always had - even though my dad had work animals, like horses and mules or whatever, but we always had a horse that was like for the kids. And I always wanted to really learn how to ride real fast, the way I would see my brothers do that, but I just never had the courage to do that.

But there were joyful moments of seeing, you know, little calves running in the pasture, just things like that. And you learn to respect the Earth, because there are some things out there that could be very dangerous. And so just like in life, you learn to respect those things that are creatures of the Earth, but they are also dangerous things. And so, you know, I paraphrase that with people. People are all created and result humanity as a whole, but there are some who perhaps are not um -- their relationship with you may not be beneficial, or their relationship with you may be dangerous, their relationship with you may not be in the space that it needs to be at that given time.

So, there are some joys, there are some fears, there are some challenges, just like in life. And so, there's blood, sweat and tears. Sometimes it's tears of fear, tears of failures, but there are a lot of tears of rejoicing. And so for that, I am extremely grateful, how living on a farm, how impactful it has been and continues to be in my life.

KD

Mmmm. Thank you.

Reverend Sandras Anderson

You're welcome.

KD

Yeah, I took so much away from that. What's coming up for me is just like the-- I feel like it took me a while to understand like, you know, culture. And even beyond culture, like to understand it outside of, like, popular culture. And even outside of popular culture, to understand it as, you know, even beyond like popular Black culture. And I think even in my recent experience, working with Sipp Culture in my small farmer apprenticeship we've had a lot of conversations - along with my experience of being in some movement spaces, here in Mississippi and in New Orleans - like I've learned more around like what has been a culture of like, Black southern folks? And what has been the culture of Black southern country and rural folks? And I feel like I've heard you speak on that a lot. And I think, you know, the culture of Black southern rural folks is my history. It's my very direct and immediate history, and it's such a huge umbrella of black history, of black southern history in ways that now in my recent life, I haven't realized. And you know, I haven't been in that practice, been in that ritual. Because I believe in, you know, as I learn more, like it's deeply connected to our spiritual health and our communal health, as well. And I feel like that's been part of my experience, as I'm getting more into this work. And you know, moving away from this very romanticized vision of being a farmer, and living on a farm. And realizing, you know, like you said, it's a lot of blood, sweat and tears that comes into the work. And it's long term work. I think some of it, you know, as you spoke

to for yourself, it's like, it's some instant gratification in it, but a lot of is, is very, you know, delayed gratification very, just like, you know, it's gonna come later. You know, you plant some seeds, and, you know, sometimes it'd be the next generation that sees the fruit from that.

[soft instrumental music fades in]

KD Audio Diary: I deeply felt moved by every little thing as soon as I came to Mississippi: by the vast trees and the fresh air. And, you know, seeing my mother. Seeing the land that you know, both my parents come from. The food. The peace of it all. I yearned it so much and I didn't realize it -- for some reason, you know, right before I moved to the city, I thought that it meant to move away from my home. And so that's what I did.

But here I am, back in Mississippi, still learning so much about what it means to acknowledge this land and the folks that have first lived on this land, which I believe are the Choctaw people, indigenous folks. And I'm just so in love, like you know, so in love. So thankful for the land for holding my family and my ancestors for so many years, and the knowledge and skills that I learned from my mother and from my aunties, from my older cousin--it's just invaluable.

I think deeply about the work of Fannie Lou Hamer in the Mississippi Delta, and Freedom Farms. I think deeply about, you know, my mother, you know, growing up on the farm and working with her father on the farm, being the youngest of his children and my grandmother's children. And the stories that she recalls on the farm. I think deeply about my cousin who, you know, commits his life to caring for our family land. Yeah, just a lot of a lot of folks, and labor, and prayers, and just, you know, will, that I have to honor in coming back home.

[fade in music - "Black Myself" by Amythyst Kiah]

[EPISODE BREAK]

HB LOZITO [Host]

Hey, friends, I'm HB Lozito with Out in the Open. Because we know the impact of colonization on people, land, and resources, we're encouraging our white listeners with access to wealth to engage in an ongoing process of reparations. So, during each episode break, we're asking our white listeners who have extra funds to donate to projects founded and led by, queer & trans, Black and Indigenous folks, and people of color.

For today's episode, please donate to KD as they continue the beginning investments and building of their farming journey. You can do so via cash app: \$kellsrandle or Venmo: kells_randle

The links to KD's handles and an encouragement to donate so is in the episode notes, and over on our websites at www.countryqueers.com and www.weareoutintheopen.org.

Now, back to KD's interview with their mom, Reverend Sandras Anderson.

[END BREAK]

KD Interview

But I'm getting a lot of that healing by working with the land, which is such a powerful thing for me. Because I think one thing about me moving back from New Orleans and being in the space that I've been and coming back home, is... you know, Realizing that I grew up in a space where the narrative was usually like, you know, "Get out," you know what I'm saying? You know, "Get a good education and get out. Don't be here, ain't nothing for you here. This and this and that."

And I feel like, you know, coming home has been like a breath of fresh air for me, you know? Not to say there hasn't been any challenges. But you know, being able to be blessed with with your help and, you know, the things that you've instilled in me. So, you know, now to be a young, you know, Black land owner, land steward, and to see all the value of land, in that, you know, even where I grew up, it is value. And it doesn't mean that I got to get out to see myself be of value or to see something that I have a project or vision for, to not have any value if I want to do it right where I was raised and right where my, you know, my ancestors were raised.

And so that's been a new narrative that I've been really like, holding onto. And very grateful for. Because I feel like another part of my work is to share with, you know, young folks, my peers, you know, even my elders of like, you know... Yeah, the land that we come from and that are raised in, survive on, is like, it's some power in that. And there's something to be said about that. You know? Because I do feel like, as I learn, especially as Black folks and Indigenous folks, we're usually you know, pushed out of our homes and pushed out of our neighborhoods and, you know, stolen from land - things of that nature. So, it's been, you know, I'm getting even emotional right now thinking about it. Like just, you know, how-- what it means to come back and like stand your ground and, like, really, really invest in where you grew up, in your home. Because I know you made a lot of sacrifice to even bring us to where we grew up at. And a lot of sacrifices, in being a single parent and, you know, making a home and making it safe. So, [tears up] whew, excuse me. But yeah, it's just--

Reverend Sandras Anderson

Well, it's good that it is emotional for you because, we are built to be emotional. And emotion is not an indication of weakness. I think it's an indication of strength. Because then we acknowledge the presence of the Spirit of God doing its work within us. And so I'm always wary of people who do not allow that Spirit to fill them in a way where there's an overflow of joy. And so, there's a song that we sing, "This Joy I have, the world didn't give it to me, and the world can't take it away." And so, you know, with the work that you are aspiring to do and the work that you've been called to do is definitely a joy given to you by the Spirit, God. And so my encouragement to you and any other individual who is led to do this, and nourished to do this, is that the spirit of God will enable you to go through these challenging times. And that this joy we do have, this world that God gave to us, truly we won't allow the world to take it away.

KD

Mmm. Ase. That makes me think about a lot of like, how I grew up and understood spirituality, like with religion, also, in like, you know, our everyday life growing up. And just how, like, you know, I understood our religion through such a whitewashed lens. And I feel like even you know, in your journey developing as a spiritual--how do we call it--a spiritual facilitator director, you know what I'm saying, of going to an Afrocentric school in this, you know-- even just hearing you, like, speak on just spiritual guidance and the faith of our ancestors. And like how much of our Christianity is, or our belief in our Spirit, you know, it's not like that, you know what I'm saying?

Like, you know, I have a spirit, you know, and that I'm led by Spirit, and that, you know, my ancestors have always been led by Spirit. And finding this new way to embrace my

spirituality in this time of my life, which in turn has helped, you know, in turn has helped me do a lot of healing. Because I think, you know, that spiritual health is a big component of your holistic wellness. And even as I get into my farming journey and like you know, trying to figure out how—so many different ways and avenues you can go to farming. And just thinking about how the space I want to create, how I want it to be a healing space for people to do some spiritual healing or whatever healing they need to do. And that I have the, you know, the ability to curate something like that.

KD Audio Diary:

Mmmm,mmm!. [singing] *On the road again. I can't wait to get to the land again, bada bada bada bada* [laughs] Um yeah, I kinda wanna speak more to just where I am at in my personhood and I guess my healing, too. I think, for me, when I think a lot about coming home and being from a small town, even more of being from a country community. I feel like folks can resonate with me, you know? Just like, you know, living in a small area, a small town, and having this idea about making it out. And what that meant for me, and what that meant for the community that had raised me. Yeah, and I think, you know, a lot of my feelings were that, you know, I did kind of want to get out. Feeling like, you know, at a very young age there were really no, like, places in my town to really hold space for me, as young Black gender fluid person who... yeah, who had, who was very outspoken and also, you know, really shy. Also, you know, was asking a lot of questions trying to understand not only myself, but like the ways that the institutions, and the family structures, and the structures you know I saw in religious spaces and in schools. The way like, you know, I just existed in all of them.

And I don't know, for a person that works with youth, I feel like, you know, at times you know, I'm still in my younger years..... that's important, you know what I'm saying? That's important to be seen, and to be heard, and to be called by your name, you know what I'm saying? By the name that you want folks to call you by. Just to be free to express yourself. It's just important. And also what's coming up for me is that, like, these past, like, I want to say like two to three years, like I really just been embracing like more of the fluidness I have in my gender. I feel like, you know, when folks first meet me, they think I'm hella masc. And I feel like that's true, you know what I'm saying? To a certain extent. And like you know, I feel like I'm still wondering like what does, you know-- not wondering, cause I feel like when I talk about masc and femme energy it's just like femininity and masculinity is more of an energy thing for me. Not, you know, what I'm putting on my body. I mean, I guess that can be the look and the vibes right? But yeah, just the energy. But I've been, you know, just embracing more of like, leaning into the androgyny of myself. And.....What a peace! What a liberation, for real!

Cause [laughs]....One thing that I always laugh at is, you know, folks see me or come to a party or something, and you know, and I be dancing and shit. Your boi, like after the first song, is like bustin out twerkin, right? I'm just a fly boi that likes to twerk, to be honest. It's always a surprise to people, to be honest. It's not something I look at too deep but I do like, you know, think about it. And love just like pushing people's expectations of like who I am by how I may present myself. With the clothes I wear, you know what I'm saying? And I guess with my mannerisms and whatnot....

Divine androgyny, you know?

Wow, look at all that cotton! Whew!

KD Interview:

Teah, wondering, do you have any questions for me? I wonder, you know, if you can speak more about, you know, how you're witnessing me as I develop and gain skills and different ways to do this. And I'm not doing this by myself, you know? I think that's one thing that I constantly realize, that, you know, I get power from - is realizing that I come from a family of farmers and builders. I think a lot of Black folks come from families and farmers and builders, or just country folks. And I think country folks are some of the most creative people that we have. Yeah, just what do you affirm on me? Like, what do you have, as I continue this, and grow, and coming home, you know what I'm saying? How does it feel to see your baby come home, and do this work?

Reverend Sandras Anderson

Well, first of all, hopefully you already know, and I often try to affirm my proudness of what you're doing. Because what you're doing is - some people will say, "Well, it's not traditional." It's very traditional. If we look back even to a mother country of great tribes of Africa, where women were great farmers in various tribes.

To answer your question I see a sense of clarity and calmness in your life as you have become - answering this calling as a land steward, a keeper of the land, and farming. And the land tends to do that. It seems to calm your spirits. Because prior to that you were kind of like all over the place. There's still some evidence of that wandering, of that nomad wandering. But overall, I see you being much calmer. And so, you know, when we are calm, when we are not listening to all kinds of things that are coming our way,

even if we do hear those things, the calmness allows us to be able to filter that. We are able to filter it and use that which is good and that which is not beneficial to us, to discard that, and, you know, disarm that and remove it away from our space. So, I have seen you become much calmer. I've seen you become much more realistic. And I contribute those things to this work that you've been called to, this calling that you've answered to. And you will need those characteristics and those things as you go farther. Because there will be the naysayers who will tell you, this is not for you. And so you have to be assured that this is what you have been called to do, and that nothing will block you from that. And so, there are many lessons to be learned in what you are doing. And as you learn each one, you will grow and become stronger and stronger. And the opportunity will come where you will have opportunities to share this knowledge and pass this torch along to others. And that's the way I feel like our forefathers, our ancestors, our Mother Earth, intended for it to be.

KD Audio Diary:

Yo! Checking in. Fresh off from work, fresh from the farm. Got some greens down today and it felt really good. Yeah, great energy out in the farm today. But yeah, just reflecting on the past week and weekend. Got to see my family, got to see my mother,. And got to spend the weekend with my boo...

Whew! Just been on the road, hitting the road, getting things done. I see that, you know, the work-- the work doesn't stop. So you really have to, you know, hold yourself accountable to take breaks and rest. Cause the work don't stop. It's always something to do. And I feel like when it comes to land and working with folks and helping out family, [horn honks] always something to do. But it's a beautiful thing to have abundance and to have resources. And have each other too. [horn honks]

Yeah, just so many moments. So many things to be thankful for. Riding by my good folks that I work with, their houses, seeing them outside, enjoying each other, enjoying the cool evening. It's just these simple things that really ground me. The rural landscape, seeing trees, you know, seeing trees, seeing open pasture... seeing sunsets. It's just these simple things and scenery that really just make me love, love the country. I'm so glad that I chose it and that, you know, it chose me. And that my folks is country folks, is rural folks. Agrarian folks--however you want to put it. But yeah. Blessed.

[song "Black Myself" by Amythyst Kiah comes in]

KD Interview:

Love Minister. Mama. Just overall great human. Thank you for your time, love, just, you know, so much gratefulness for you being my parent, and being my farm manager. And that's all I have for you today. I love you. Can't wait to see you soon. And I appreciate you for taking the time to have this conversation with me.

Reverend Sandras Anderson

Ase.

KD

Ase, baby. Well, I'll talk to you later, okay?

Reverend Sandras Anderson

Sure. Bye.

KD

Love you. Bye.

[song "Black Myself" by Amythyst Kiah continues]

RAE GARRINGER [Host Outro]

Hey there, I'm Rae Garringer. Next time on Country Queers you'll hear our season 2 finale! Featuring my 2018 interview with Dorothy Allison. Dorothy is a 73 Year old, white, feminist, working class story teller, who was raised in the South and now calls California home. She is the author of many books including novels, short story collections, and a memoir. We spoke at her home in CA on August 2, 2018, here's a clip from our conversation:

DOROTHY ALLISON: *"So we moved up here - one to raise our son. I don't know how the fuck that happened. I married a woman who wanted a baby. And I'm like, "I can always leave." [laughter] Didn't realize that I would fall in love with the baby. I knew I was in love with her. When you find a dangerous looking acting, but intensely...loving butch, it's kind of amazing. You know, it's like, "hold me down honey, but not too hard." [laughter] And I had never known that you could say "not too hard!"*

This episode was created and produced by KD Randle with support from HB Lozito from Out in the Open, and myself. Our fabulous sound designer for Season 2 is Hideo Tokui. Audio editing on this episode by myself.

Endless thanks to our brilliant editorial advisory dream team: Hermelinda Cortés, Lewis Raven Wallace, and Sharon P. Holland. Hermelinda was the editorial advisor for this episode, thank you so much. And thanks most of all to KD and Reverend Sandras Anderson for sharing your stories and wisdom and all this beautiful history and legacy with all of us!

Special shout out to Southerners On New Ground, aka SONG, in this episode. Hermelinda Cortés who edited this episode worked at SONG for many years and co-wrote a stunning rural and small town report back in the day. KD and I met through the rural and small town working group. And Suzanne Pharr who recorded the intro for this episode was a founding member of SONG.

Our featured song in this episode is “Black Myself” by Amythyst Kiah. Amythyst hails from Johnson City, TN. She’s a total badass, go follow her online and find her music wherever you listen! Additional music in this episode is by Podington Bear and Tommy Anderson.

If you liked what you heard, please subscribe, rate, and review the Country Queers podcast. You can find all of our episodes and more about the project at www.countryqueers.com. While you’re there please consider signing up to be a sustaining supporter of Country Queers on our Patreon page.

You can also find this episode over on the website of our co-facilitators of this collaborative Season 2 adventure at www.weareoutintheopen.org. While you’re there, check out their important work with rural LGBTQ+ folks in the northeast and find ways to connect.

Until next time...stay queer out there, friends!

["Black Myself" by Amythyst Kiah fades up and then ends]

[END]