

Interviewee: Megan Druss (has two mothers; took her birth mother's last name)

Interviewer: Laura DiRusso

[Introduction] *So tell me about your last name, its significance?* Ok, so my last name is Druss which is my mother's last name, uh my birth mother's last name. So, my middle name is Howard which is my other mother's last name so they decided to do it that way. I think my last name is Druss because my birth mother kind of just cared about that more than my other mother did. So having it as a last name instead of middle name was kind of her way of passing it on to me. It's the same thing with my brother, he also has Howard as a middle name and Druss as a last name. I think also what had to do with it was my, my mother [birth mother, Jane] is the last, well she has 2 siblings, Jane.

Her brother, Michael passed away when he was in his thirties so when he died it was kind of the only person who would've carried the name on and I think that was probably something that affected my mom, really wanting us to have the name to carry on. *Have you ever thought about if you want to get married, what name you'd use?* I haven't really thought about it before, I really like my name. Megan Druss has a good ring to it. I think as somebody who wants to pursue a career that leads somewhat with fame I think having a nice-sounding name has a lot to do with it. I really like my name and I like the connection to my family and I don't really feel like I want to become somebody famous or important without like, my past connected to it. You know, I want people to know Megan Druss of the Druss family not as like, whoever I'm marrying into. But I guess it depends on like once I've actually gotten married to somebody, you know it's a conversation I'd want to have with them. *Do you ever go by Megan Howard Druss?* I would just say my name's Megan Druss if I'm introducing myself to somebody but all my legal documents say Megan Howard Druss. But like I will publically tell people my middle name is Howard and tell them why but you know, I will just usually say my name. *Do you think your moms think this was the right decision?* I don't think they have any regrets. Allyson was hesitant to have children in the first place so I think it was really all Jane's influence when they were deciding the legality of it. And Jane just cared more about it than Allyson did. And I think that's why they arranged it that way.

Any other reason you like the name Druss? I don't know, I love my family and being connected to them with the same name. It's a pretty unique name too like I haven't ever met anybody else with the last name Druss *How effective do you think your moms' choice has been in making women visible?* I think just the fact that you know, having two women raise a family is you know, [laughs] and giving the kids their name just really makes the statement that we're a family. Like you'll respect our love but you'll also respect us under the law. This is our family. I think that's the statement it makes.