

Cory Brown

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Professor Elisabeth von Uhl

Taylor Watson, who is a stranger to 'The Grange', was the subject of my interview. Walking into the bar, I chose to interview Taylor because she seemed approachable. On the night of November 14, at 8 o'clock, she was sitting on the last seat of the row near the bar table area. The music was loud, and I could tell she was secretly dancing to the music. It was like she was moving along to the beat, but also trying to restrain herself from actually dancing. The table she was at was full of guys and girls who were talking over each other about various topics. Everyone around her was on the verge of becoming intoxicated, and she was still on her first sip. She sat comfortably despite all the noise that was going on at the table. Her body language gave off a novice vibe. Just by looking at her I could tell she had never been in a bar before. I saw her take a sip of whatever she was drinking and she made a sour face. She seems like a very down to earth person. She was there for a friend, to celebrate her birthday.

I walked up to Taylor, while she was sitting at the bar table to ask if she wanted to partake in a 10-minute interview. I could tell by her attitude and face expression she thought it was the beginning of some corny pickup line. Then once I start to explain myself, she knew I wasn't here to get some digits. She had a very soft voice with a nonchalant face and attitude. Her eyes were very bland; it was hard for me to tell what she was actually feeling. I told myself to be more of an open book, to get better answers from her. The way Taylor answered these questions I could absolutely tell that she is not very open when it comes to strangers. Most of her answers

were vague. When I asked the first question, she wasn't being too verbal, she seemed closed off. Leaning towards the end of the interview, her responses were more full and detailed. It was challenging because of the fact that the interview took place in a noisy room. Although I got used to the noise and she started to speak a little bit louder with every question I asked her. It got awkward at times because when I looked her in the eyes, her entire facial expression would change. I presume not everyone likes to make eye contact with a random person. From the data gathered by interviewing Taylor, she was there to have fun and wanted to experience what being drunk would feel like. The dilemma was that it was her first time at a bar, so she did not know what to get or how much to drink.

I came to the decision of choosing to study 'The Grange' because for a while I have always wanted to know what exactly goes down in a bar. My initial thought was that people ordinarily visit to get drunk and alleviate stress. It was my simple-minded thinking that fooled me. Entering the bar, right away it surprised me. The atmosphere was so animated and energetic that a smile appeared on my face. The significance at that moment is that my understanding of what a bar should be like, got in the way of seeing all the good opportunities that were present at the moment. Some people came to the bar to bond and socialize. I did not see it then but now I understand that most people who come to the bar are willing to create new friendships. There all sorts of people who visit and they did more than just drink liquor. Friends and family gathered for special events and even the guys bonded by watching sports together. Some customers had a strong relationship with the bartenders. I did not expect these activities would take place in an average bar. My issue was that how could anyone view a bar as a place of entertainment. Soon, I could clearly see how a bar could be a place of entertainment. There is so much to do, and the

opportunities are everywhere. Interview this woman at the bar; I expected to find all the things I realize within her answers.

Taylor Watson: A Night at The Grange

[Beginning of Recorded Material]

Cory: Hi, my name is Cory and I'm here to conduct an interview for my social science class. I was wondering if you would want to be a part of it?

Taylor: Oh, really?

Cory: Yes, it will only take ten minutes of your time.

Taylor: Alright, well, I'm Taylor.

Cory: Ok, are you ok with it being recorded?

Taylor: Yeah, I don't care.

Cory: Ok, so what are you doing here tonight?

Taylor: I just came here to have a drink with my friends. It's her birthday, and she plans to get wasted, so we here to have fun.

Cory: Ok and do you normally come here?

Taylor: No, this is my first time in a bar; I'm kind of excited.

Cory: How do you feel entering your first bar?

Taylor: Well, being that it's my first time, I'm an amateur so I don't know what's going on. So I have my friends guide me. It was not what I expected it to be like. Again I'm kind of nervous and excited. I want to see how it feels to be drunk.

Cory: What do you think you'll be like, as a drunk?

Taylor: I think I would be more expressive, less shy and quiet kind of person. I hate that I can be so shy sometimes because it stops me from saying how I truly feel when speaking to people.

Cory: What are your reasons you think someone or yourself would go to a bar?

Taylor: Well sometimes they might have a bad day, so they come to the bar to get drunk and vent. Also, on a Friday everyone goes out to bars, clubs, have a good time. As for me, I probably would go out to a bar because I need some people skills. My communication skills suck. It because I'm shy If I could go to a bar and loosen up, eventually I end up meeting new people. So I would go to a bar to of course drink, and to get some experience in communication skills, and to mingle.

Cory: How do you feel about the area of this place?

Taylor: Well, being that its New York City, you have to be aware of your surroundings. There are creeps everywhere. So that's why whenever my friends and I go out, one of us carries pepper spray. The old men here creep me out because they stare way to hard.

Cory: Have you ever experienced any unwanted attention from a man?

Taylor: Yeah, you know they will not take "no" for an answer. So you got to let them off kindly. Thank you, but no thank you.

Cory: What do you mean to let them off kindly?

Taylor: I try not to be heartless to them because some men retaliate. A lot of women go missing just because they rejected a pervert. So sometimes I end up giving them a fake phone number and a fake name. It is annoying because you know, I came here to have a nice night with my friends. If I wanted their attention, I would actually flirt back with them.

Cory: Was your first visit to this bar everything you expected it to be?

Taylor: Yeah and no. I knew that people would come here to drink, and it would be loud, and I knew that the bartender would be great at her job. What I didn't expect was how social and engaging people were here. Everyone, including you, came up to me trying to make conversation. It's different from when you're outside. Outside the people are just trying to get where they need to be. They keep their mouth shut. Hell, if they bump you, you're lucky to get a "sorry." In here people are more social, and it is very likely that you'll meet a good friend in here.

Cory: Do you think the people around you tonight could tell this is your first time visiting a bar?

Taylor: Yes, of course. I'm here asking the bartender a bunch of questions, taking this shot is the ultimate challenge for me; I'm asking what's the best liquor to drink. I'm sure it's obvious to everyone.

Cory: What kind of energy should a bar have?

Taylor: A fun energy. People should not come here with negative vibes because that's not what anyone or I came here to experience. Everyone should be happy and social. No beef, no drama. Just be there, be in the moment and make happy and unforgettable memories.

Cory: At this very moment, what are you thinking?

Taylor: Well, right now I wish I were as lit as my friend over there. She had like four shots, and I'm still on my first one. I want to be lit right now, but the taste is yucky. I'm gonna need something to mix it with.

Cory: If you could change one thing right now, what would it be?

Taylor: The music, it is trash.

Cory: Do you think a woman's experience at a bar is different from a male's experience?

Taylor: Yes, because a man sees a woman at a bar and automatically assumes she's there for a good time, probably searching for a new boyfriend. He would probably try so hard to get a woman's number. Maybe he would even buy her a drink, flirt a little. So you know I feel like woman definitely has a different experience at a bar compared to a man.

Cory: Would you say that you're a heavyweight or lightweight?

Taylor: Definitely a lightweight. I don't drink often to consider myself a heavyweight. So, for now, I will stick to the light stuff.

Cory: Do you generally feel safe at a bar?

Taylor: I don't feel safe if I'm by myself, I would want to go with a friend that I could trust. I have no experience at bars, so I feel like she knows the ins and outs of this kind of environment better than I do. Then often you hear the news of woman getting taken advantage of cause they get extremely wasted, then the guy sees them and does God knows what with them.

Cory: Now I should have asked this in the beginning, but what is your occupation?

Taylor: I work in the post office, for UPS.

Cory: Ok, being a mail lady is a time-consuming job. How did you find time to come here?

Taylor: It is busy and tiring, but I made time for my friend in advance. I would never miss this girl's birthday because it's always a good laugh and memory after.

Cory: Okay, and that was the last question. Thank you so much for your time.

Taylor: You're welcome. It was nice meeting you.

[End of Recording Material]

With this interview, I was hoping to find the same concepts and understandings of this field site in someone else. I did find connections to Taylor's answers. When I asked her "Ok, since it is your first time entering this bar. Was it everything you thought it to be?" we both came into the bar environment with a set mindset of what it would be like. Both realizing that our predictions were wrong, we looked at the bar with a completely different perspective. I connected with majority of her responses. The central idea of our responses was that we were blinded by our initial understanding of what the atmosphere of a bar should entail. By letting go of our previous understandings, we concluded new understandings about what a bar should be like.