

7.2.5 'Kate Prince', BMUA, June 2008

Pseudonym	Dialect Zone	Provenance	Sex	Age	Educational Level	Religion	Ch.7 Text No.
Kate Prince (KP)	MUE	BMUA, Cos. Antrim/Down	F	21	Secondary school qualification	P	7.2.5

Kate Prince It was in, was it Castle Street there was a big fight and someone got their throat cut or something? So just when I read that I was, you think, you don't realise how bad it is until, you know, you read that and...

KPC And what about like your parents? Do you think when they were growing up, do you think it was as bad, or it really has changed, or do you think it is the media kind of hyping things up?

Kate Prince Yeah, I think the media do hype things up a bit more like. My mum, though, did say, you know, when she was young a lot of the time you couldn't go out with the, you know, all the troubles on then. Em, there was times you'd go to the cinema and, you know, there'd be like a bomb scare, you know, just because all the troubles, and then you'd just have to go home, forget about it, so...

KPC Mm-mm. And were you ever in a bomb scare?

Kate Prince No, I was never, no.

KPC So it was kind of, had all sort of quietened down a little bit...

Kate Prince Yeah, it seems...

KPC ... by the time you were...?

Kate Prince ... it seems better that way, so...

KPC Mm. And do they talk to you much about that period of time, your parents?

Kate Prince Not, not that much. Just a bit. Like my mum just says, like she says that it, like probably if I was, you know, living back then, I probably would have wanted to move away now, you know, to England or something. She says just, she doesn't think, you know, because I'm used to, you know, going out and stuff and I don't think really about how bad it could have been, but she thinks I probably would have wanted to get out of the country, so...

KPC And, you know, were any of your, her family kind of bothered by it? I mean, did, did it impact upon her in other ways?

Kate Prince Em, her uncle, that's my Granny's brother, em, he, him and his wife, they were a mixed marriage so they had to move away because they were getting, you know, people throwing stuff at their windows and...

KPC Oh, God.

Kate Prince ... everything like that. So they moved to Liverpool, and they're still there now. So... But they won't even come back here at all, you know, even to visit. So, em, like sort of my mum and Granny would go and stay with them, but they just won't come here. They just...

KPC So their whole lives have been really changed by it in a way?

Kate Prince Yeah, mm-mm. And they really love it out there now, but, yeah, they, they just, they had to get away really. So... But they don't actually miss it here because even though if you say to them, you know, it's changed now, and it's not so bad, they still... all they think of when they think of here is just, you know, what they went through, so...

KPC What it was like then.

Kate Prince Mm-mm. So whenever I think of that, then I think maybe it's, you know, it's not so bad now as...

KPC And I mean, in terms of, you know, do you think now that it would be acceptable for you to have a, a boyfriend, for instance...

Kate Prince Yeah.

KPC ... who was not your religion?

Kate Prince Uh-huh. I think it, it's more accepted like. I mean, most of my friends, it's all mixed like, so...

KPC Oh, right.

Kate Prince So it's just, no one really cares, I don't think.

KPC And did you, is that the kind of school you went to? Did you go to an integrated school?

Kate Prince No, it wasn't an integrated school. I don't know. I just think whenever I was at high school, em, if we were out sometimes and we'd just come in, you know, to town or something, then you'd, you know, just meet

people, you know, if you're just sort of chilling or whatever, you'd meet people and they were from different schools and all.

KPC Mm-mm.

Kate Prince And like no one was ever really bothered, you know, where anyone was from or anything, so...

KPC Whereas, I suppose, with your mum and dad, it would have been much more segregated...

Kate Prince Yeah, mm-mm, yeah.

KPC ... in a way.

Kate Prince Much more of a divide, yeah.

KPC Mm-mm. And does your dad ever talk about the troubles at all, or...

Kate Prince Em...

KPC ... did his family ever have any issues with it, or...?

Kate Prince Yeah, he never mentions anything, you know. There mustn't have been anything big, because he would never say about anything really bad that happened. So I don't know if it was living in Omagh was it maybe different, not as bad as Belfast. I'm not sure, but he never talks about anything, you know, major that happened, so, so it mustn't have been that bad for him. *[laughs]*, yeah.

KPC He must have had a more enjoyable experience of the troubles than your mother.

Kate Prince Mm-mm. I think the way, he even says that at the time, it was like a thing more in Omagh, more people, you know, all sort of, if it was farms and stuff, they all did.... No one really cared, you know, where anyone was from, or what they were. No one really cared. So even then they were sort of mixed together, so maybe it was just Belfast was more like that.

KPC Kind of, yes, more of an urban phenomenon...

Kate Prince Mm, it must have been.

KPC ... because people were more segregated in general anyway.

Kate Prince Yeah. Mm-mm.

KPC And do you still feel now, for instance, that if you go into a, er, you know, an area that you kind of think, 'Whoa, you know, this is a Protestant...' or 'This is Catholic...' or, do you have a sense of that, or do you not?

Kate Prince Sometimes I think you still do, because you're just aware that there are still people, you know, who would, you know, maybe if they knew where you were from or whatever, they would, you know, they wouldn't be too happy. But I think like most people, that's sort of passed, but I think there's people are always going to, you know, hold it back like that, and there's nothing you can do, really.

KPC Mm-mm. Mm. And in terms of, you know, when you, for instance, on the news heard events, you know, as you were growing up about Belfast, for instance...

Kate Prince Mm-mm.

KPC ... how did you feel about it? Did you kind of almost feel like that's not really where I live?

Kate Prince Yeah. Sometimes you, you know, if you seen bomb scares and stuff, and stuff like that, you just think, if you hadn't seen it yourself, you think, 'That's not what I seen'. I remember I had a pen pal once from Germany, and this was years ago, and she would say, you know, 'Oh, em, I heard about all the bomb scares and all in Belfast...', you know, and she would, she would ask you and all, 'Are you still alive?' and all. 'Are you okay?' And you'd be like, you'd have to tell her, you know, that like even though it happens, it's not... I think people think, outside the country, maybe thought it was just everywhere. It was just people, you know, rioting and fighting and hating each other, but no. *[laughs]*

KPC It doesn't work like that...

Kate Prince I know.

KPC ... in that kind of way.

Kate Prince Mm-mm.

KPC And, em, just kind of, I suppose, getting a, a, sort of, similar kind of thing to the troubles, you know, when you were growing up, em, you know, forgetting about the sort of violent end of it...

Kate Prince Mm-mm.

KPC ... you know, did you find that, em, you know, your mum and dad thought you were a good wee girl, or did you always get into trouble yourself, or...?

Kate Prince No, no. I was more the one... it was my brother was, not getting into trouble, but he would be out, you know, with his friends, you know, like, just like climbing on roofs and stuff, just messing about. But the police would always maybe be bringing him back or... not like because he'd done anything wrong, but just saying, you know, he's, like he'll get himself like hurt or something, falling off a roof or something. So... But I was the one, I was more, you know, sitting there and reading books and stuff when I was young, so I think they thought I was the good one. *[laughs]*

KPC And were you really?

Kate Prince Och, yeah. Well at the time I was.

KPC *[laughs]* So you're not now? *[laughs]*