

# AD transcript 2

**Claire Clotley:** Welcome back to American dreamers an Aurra Studios original production. My name is Claire Clotley and for insightful and honest conversations with black Brits, black Americans and their families. I'm exploring whether life is better for black people in the U s or the UK.

On this episode of American dream as our guest Jane Somuah is a first generation American born to Ghanaian immigrant parents while she spent her early childhood living in London, Jane was raised in Miami and has a strong fit in, in New York where she works as a management consultant, advise in mergers and acquisitions.

No stranger to mergers in both a professional and personal life. Jane has clearly experienced of murdering her black American Ghanaian with a healthy dose of British cultural identity. Hi JD, you're going to help me peel back the layers right about now. Aren't you? How are you doing? I'm good. How are you?

So weird to hear you so nervous after I told you, you're just having a conversation with me and Hey, I'm your big, because I know isn't it does it, does it feel weird? Me interviewing you?

**Jane Somuah:** Yes, because we have conversations obviously all the time. Family and that's comfortable, but the interview setting and the recording element is new.

**Claire Clotley:** Don't worry about it. I'm not going to embarrass you. I am going to be your big bossy cousin though, and say, we're going to get this right? Yeah. Okay. We're going to do this. Uh, where were you

**Jane Somuah:** born and raised? I was born in Hollywood, Florida, and shortly after mommy and I moved back to London and she needed help raising a child because childcare, as I'm sure you know, is rather difficult, especially when it's your first one and you're new.

And because a lot of our family is based in London. That's what she could get the most help from your mom. Um, but from what I hear, yes. So I spent my early childhood years in London and then returned back to Hollywood, Florida, and then was raised in Hollywood, Florida.

**Claire Clotney:** It was really annoying about this bit already.

I would need you to help me set the concepts. And you were just like, oh, mommy had helped raise in me as a child. I believe you helped raise me too. So you've really made me feel really old in like 30 seconds.

**Jane Somuah:** Pretty standard, not just an integral part of my life.

**Claire Clotney:** Oh, I love that you redeemed yourself. So we are cousins, but we are really relatives when people say cousins, you know, they assume that your mom's assisters, but you can help explain that when we talk about our cultural identity.

So you were raised in Hollywood, Miami, but you frequented London. Yeah. All parents, our family are gone in. Yes, they are. Okay. So we are relatives because our mothers are,

**Jane Somuah:** um, I can't actually know. Oh, wow. You know, and this is a feat because our family is jive. Ghent is huge. It's pretty

**Claire Clotney:** huge.

**Jane Somuah:** It is huge, good luck to my kids trying to navigate all of this.

But our parents were related. Our mom, my mom and your mom were really. Because your grandmother and my grandmother are cousins and mouth, my mother and your mother are cousins. And now me and you, yes. We just blame

**Claire Clotney:** in the title. Culturally, there's been a lot of influences for yourself and myself, but it's different because I'm a black, British Ghanaian London, a, you are a black.

American Ghanaian, New York, where all you,

**Jane Somuah:** what are you? There's actually a lot of debate about this and it could go either way because the term black American in south Florida, monks, Caribbean immigrants, like black, Caribbean immigrants and African immigrants, we refer to black Americans. As those whose ancestors were former American slaves.

Yeah. And then the rest of us, whether right or wrong. And there's, again, a lot of debate around that as well are more so African-American but recently I've actually learned from some of my black American friends that, that terminology is. Not necessarily universal and some see us, right? Those who are the children of immigrants, but are still black, still of African descent as black Americans and they're considered African-Americans.

So there's a lot more debate about that. And the nomenclature here in the United States, it's not universal now, personally speaking, I do not refer to myself as black American, just because. I grew up not doing so, not necessarily because I think it's so dead wrong or anything. It's just, I'm not used to that.

I refer to myself as African-American. I was referred to myself as African-American more specifically Ghanaian American, but if people ask me what my background is, excluding the American, I say, I am British. Okay. Talk to me about

**Claire Clotney:** you claiming this Britishness.

**Jane Somuah:** I think a large part of it is sort of honoring the experiences of my mother who left, gone as a teenager and arguably lived in the UK longer than she ever didn't live in Ghana.

Yeah, definitely. And all of the British elements that. War incorporated in my life growing up. And what's funny is I actually didn't notice a lot of these things until I got older. So maybe when I watched certain movies or certain British film or television, and they had particular sayings that I never heard an American TV television, but I did hear from my mom, I started putting two and two together.

I never understood what the deal was with all these PG tips and why I never saw anybody else. I never understood why so many people in our family lived in London. Like why, why are there so many people there? I didn't understand that. I didn't understand just a number of like my new thing. You know, until I got older and pieced together that my mom did not immigrate to the United States from Ghana.

Like my father did. That's not my swamp story. That's on my mom's experience. My mom immigrated to the United States from the United Kingdom, and that is

a different lived experience. A lot of that culture I grew up with, and I honor that in the way I culturally identify.

**Claire Clotney:** So other than, um, you know, the, the, the T, and I tell you one thing that your mom used to always ask for us to pack when we were going to America or that she needed to ship in, she was obsessed with marks and Spencers chocolate covered Brazil, nuts.

**Jane Somuah:** She would always get those, my God always.

**Claire Clotney:** And then she would get. Tell me to get, or my mom to send her, um, w what was it? It was deodorant. It was like a short deodorant or something

**Jane Somuah:** like that. It's sure. Deodorant that they only have in the UK, that they don't sell in the U S the way that it's like user. I will never, that's another one.

There's like so many little things

**Claire Clotney:** and they don't actually sell that deodorant anymore. But I do remember her wanted it. It was, I think it had alcohol

**Jane Somuah:** in it. It was in a glass bottle and

**Claire Clotney:** it weighed a lot because I remember my mom having to go to the post office a good eight and not need to get a box.

That's strong enough

**Jane Somuah:** to carry this

**Claire Clotney:** kid. Why are you spending X amount of pounds sending. To the United States of America have everything. Right. But you frequently traveled to the UK. I mean, I remember you being a baby in the UK, where mum would, your mum would visit my auntie. I also remember you coming over as a young child and spending extended periods of time.

Do you remember that?

**Jane Somuah:** Yeah. Three months. A month, like yeah. Extended periods of time coming to London over the summer holidays when I could get away from

school. Obviously those experiences are also very integral to my life as well. I think a lot of children of immigrants can relate to, oh, like over the summer, you don't usually go on a vacation to like a foreign country.

You usually go to the country that like your parents are from, like, that's something, that's something that a lot of experiences. That's your holiday. It's to make

**Claire Clotney:** you go to make your own. That is the

**Jane Somuah:** difference. Not quite on a day. Exactly, exactly. Like that's usually like where they traveled. So for me, when I was growing up, my travel was either to London or to Ghana.

It was one of the two. Obviously we took vacations elsewhere. We didn't never travel, but those are the two primary locations. If I were going to travel anywhere for an X, especially for an extended period of time, that's where I would go because that's when. My family is what was your

**Claire Clotney:** most memorable trip to London as a child

**Jane Somuah:** by far summer of 2004.

When I came and lived with you, this is going bad. This is when you, I still lived at home with your mom and your dad. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Summer 2004. When I lived with you guys for a three.

Remember that did it, did it feel long for, you know, it didn't, it did not feel long. I'll tell you what though. The reason why it's most memorable is because it's the first, it is the first memory I have of London because sure. I was there plenty of times before that, but in terms of, in my adulthood, the furthest memory I could recall it was that summer.

And during the summer, it didn't feel. Long at first it felt different. And then later it felt normal. It just felt like this was my life. Like, that's just how it felt. And then when it was time to leave, I was crying because I got used to my new, my new normal, and that's actually something that. It sounds very, you know, like lofty and oh, maybe overly emotional, but that's something that I carried with me in my subsequent visits and the sense that when I'm just on the tube,

walking around, going from place to place, when I'm just hopping on the bus, hopping off the bus anywhere I'm going, I just feel like.

Uh, part of me was supposed to be in London and then something happened and changed the trajectory. Does that make sense? I just feel like I belong. I don't feel like I'm on vacation, visiting somewhere. Do I feel like I've just always been here. It's so strange. I just feel like I belong. This is hard to explain.

**Claire Clotney:** Do you know? What's so funny about that. I remember you were so confused because you were young and you were, so you were so confused at how much we mobilized because you were used to getting in the car everywhere. And I remember you being, oh, I'm so tired. We have to get another bus again. We're getting on the train again.

**Jane Somuah:** Yeah, that was, that was, well, you want to know? What's funny. After getting yelled at by you, Priscilla and Danielle for not walking fast enough because you guys are true London girls. After a summer of that, and me like picking up the paste, I came back to the United States and I never lost the pace. And everyone in south Florida who used to getting in their cars, always made fun of me for how fast I walked this day.

Like a key characteristics, people point out when they think about, oh, like what Jane was like, she always walks over. She always wants so fast to whatever she's going. I kid you not the origin story of that was that summer and needing to be globally.

**Claire Clotney:** Yep. And actually I came to visit you in New York earlier this year, and I could not believe how quickly you were walking.

I was like, go tonight. You're not in London, you know? And now I know why you walk so fast. That's so interesting because you came back to London. A bit older and you stayed with me separate to parents house. So when you came to London in 2004, you came alone. Yes, I did. You came alone as a child

**Jane Somuah:** alone. All by myself, came alone.

On the plane. I was still remember that plane ride nine hours. I just watched movies the whole time. And then we got off. And I remember because I'm a child, they give you like a flight attendant for like, as care, like a carer. And I

got off and we were in Heathrow and I was walking like with the carer and she was like, oh, like, do you know what your aunt looks like?

I had no clue, no clue. And then your mom. Dependable lady who saw me and she spotted me and she was like, and I believe you guys were there at the airport as well. Yes, I remember it was you because of the port as well. And your dad and you guys took me and I gone this car and I was just in this car, in this strange land with all these strangers, like that's all.

That's literally all like that.

**Claire Clotney:** Must've been so overwhelming. It w I

**Jane Somuah:** cried that first night, you know, I just, I came home and your mom was like, oh, you have to go to bed. And also going to want to go to bed. She was like, you got off a long flight, you have to go to bed classic auntie. And I was like, okay.

And then I went to sleep and I was like crying in my sleep because I just did not know. I didn't know what was going on. And I remember that. Why did my mom's sent me here, like, what am I doing? What's going on? I was, it was actually quite overwhelming in the beginning. What did she pick up

**Claire Clotney:** first? The British culture or the Ghanaian culture?

**Jane Somuah:** Ooh, I picked up on the British, because I think whether you're in the United States or you're in the UK, I think Nan culture is pretty universal. Like as a foundation, the similarities run across the. So the Ghanaian culture was standard. Something. I was used to the other elements of British culture. I may have had exposure to via my mom, but then I was becoming fully immersed in.

And I think that's what I picked up on more so, so when I that's what I mean when I say like, I felt like very overwhelmed and I felt very. Lost as to like what I was doing, where I was, because I think maybe only a few years earlier, I had gone to Ghana and sure. I did go with my, I didn't go alone on that trip, but I went with my, I want my mom and my sister, but I was just around a bunch of Ghanaians and sure.

I was in Ghana like a foreign country, but I didn't find it anywhere nearly yet. Strange because I was just so used to the way people were acting because I just

how my parents act. But then when I went to the UK, it was different and I was like, where am I? And why am I here?

**Claire Clotney:** What were your first impressions of British.

And outside the household outside of, you know, us at home as a family.

**Jane Somuah:** So I think my first impressions of British people is not necessarily applicable to all the UK, although maybe you can correct me if I'm wrong, but more so it was the element of city life versus suburb life. Because we have to remember at that age, I'd never been to a big city, or I had at least a recollection of it.

I was living in a suburb versus living in a city like I do now in New York. And I think I was picking up. More, so on those differences, especially in terms of mobilization, everyone being in a rush to go everywhere, the way you guys would like run into friends, like out and about like in the city. I think that's a lot more likely than when you're more like secluded and in the suburbs where you would just run into friends casually, have a little chinwag and then like move on.

And I just like, like you said, with the mobilization, like how rapid everything was first, we're going to do this and now we're going to hear it. Now we're going to get on the bus and we're going to, we never got in the car. I think I was picking up more so on city elements than I was on actual British culture.

I think as time went on, I think I noticed a rather, like, I want to say. W more polite and more put together. And I use those terms loosely, right? Cause I don't want to generalize than Americans. I think Americans are criticizes more brash, more loud, more energetic, so to speak, you know, just got to have a lot more going on.

And I noticed that British people. We're not the same in that regard. I also remember picking up on that. I think those are like the first elements that I

**Claire Clotney:** noticed. So I was in my late teens when I first visited the U S and I remember visiting your house and the family in Miami. And all I could think was, wow.

**Jane Somuah:** My cousin has a swimming pool in her house.

**Claire Clotney:** Everything was so big. The roads, the malls, the man, everything was huge. What did you think when you came to London? I

**Jane Somuah:** thought it was cute. Like, I don't want to use that word in like an offensive way, but like, you're right. Like it's not, everything's so big and gargantuan, et cetera, et cetera.

I thought. Cute like, oh, everything just seemed a lot more economical. So to speak, tinier cars definitely noticed that tinier houses definitely noticed that tinier road space. Definitely noticed that definitely knows more, just more compartmentalization than what we had as particularly in the suburbs.

Now I grew up in Brooklyn and then moved to London. If I'm being honest, I don't think I noticed that much difference in terms of like living a good lifestyle, but. Large swaths of the United States compared to legit a particular that those would be some of the first things that you kind of pick up on

**Claire Clotney:** at 18 years old, you moved from Miami to New York to attend school.

So New York. London more or less the same, but for as long as I can remember, you've expressed wanting to come and live in the UK. Other than family. What's the pool from

**Jane Somuah:** me growing up in, gotta keep it specific to south Florida. Right? So growing up in south Florida, like Miami, Florida suburbs, et cetera, et cetera, is.

A really unique experience in terms of the blend of cultures that you have, that you have a lot of Latin Americans, a lot of west Indians, just a lot, a lot, a lot of immigrants or first-generation Americans. And what that means is a blend and a coming together of cultures. That is really nice because it helped me.

And I think it helps anyone growing up there to really broaden their horizons, broaden their mind, like gives them more perspective on life, on people and gives them greater exposure to people outside of themselves. And that's something that is really like an integral part of who I am today, but we have to caveat that with the majority populations, there were west Indian and Latin American, at least what I grew up around.

And when I moved to New York, New York, again, also super diverse, but you have to remember, I was in lower Manhattan, lower Manhattan is. White. And the students I went to school with were also white, but the black students I went to school with were either African, like international students, or they were first-generation American students born to African parents like me.

And that was. First exposure to other people who were like me, it's when I got to university. And I thought that that was a cool experience. I actually really liked it and being able to relate to people on that level. And it's something that. Really appreciated, but only have really gotten to know in New York, in small doses.

And I want to caveat that if you grew up in Washington, DC in the United States, you'd have a completely different experience. If you grew up in the Bronx and crown Heights and other parts of Queens and other parts of New York, you would have a completely different experience. And you'd probably have more of that exposure, but where I'm from personally, I didn't have that exposure.

I didn't grow up around a lot of people like me. And then when I moved to New York, I got marks. Doses of that being centered around Manhattan, specifically lower Manhattan. And the draw for me to London outside of family, like you said, is I have lived my life around a bunch of people that don't necessarily share the same culture as me.

And while I appreciate that, it's really helped me grow, been an integral part of my life. Something I, I really want to say like a genuine, genuinely value and want for anyone else. I think it'd be nice. For a change just to get some time, some period of time in my life where I can be around people of my own culture when I could be around other Ghanaians, other west Africans, and just really be able to relate to people.

On that front. That's

**Claire Clotney:** so funny. Cause you could just go to garner an experience that you want to go to the UK to experience Ghana,

**Jane Somuah:** to be fair. If you go to Ghana, you experiencing Grenadians you're right. But there is something different about being British. Or Ghanaian

American and having the layer of having parents or grandparents who are immigrants.

And that is something that someone in Ghana cannot born, raised and gone, et cetera, cannot relate to. And I do not relate to them. And I do find that actually a lot of like just straight Ghanaians my age, I actually have find difficulty relating to more so than my British counterparts or my other American counter.

So that's sort of another important element as well.

**Claire Clotney:** It's one I definitely understand. And it's the Ghanaian British American fusion is a very big part of your identity and you've blended it well outside culture. What opportunities do you think the UK will present?

**Jane Somuah:** Yeah, to be honest, when I compare London and New York take my field in particular like the industries that I work in, they're pretty comparable in terms of.

The terms of the jobs available to me and the professional opportunities that are available to me. I think another element that I also look forward to is access to continental Europe because I, in my past, used to live in China. A lot of the travel I've done has actually been around. And I haven't been able to do a lot of travel around continental Europe.

I mainly go to Paris from London and I'm excited to have greater access because of the way it's set up in terms of being able to get flights and trains. It's actually a lot more economically feasible. Over in Europe than it is to like travel around the United States. Like I know that's one big comparison traveling around the states is actually quite expensive, but traveling around continental Europe is actually quite feasible.

And that's actually another element I'm looking forward to. I love to travel, expand my mind, gain perspective, meet new people. When monocultures, I mean,

**Claire Clotney:** you've lived in another country before you've lived in China. You lived in different states, moving. Wouldn't be such a big deal for you, but what do you imagine it's going to be like when you're the only black American Ghanaian in the room amongst lots of black British people, or month's lots of British people full stop.

**Jane Somuah:** So I think that. Uh, chameleon, to be honest. And there is no one particular Jane, this sounds like I'm fake, but I'm really not. And I think that one thing I can't anticipate is what that would feel like. I imagine that I would have maybe a certain perspective that wouldn't be shared with other Brits or black Brits, you know, w what are maybe, and that's understandable, but there's also plenty of.

Here in the us, in which I've had certain experiences perspective as such, etc. That were unlike anyone else I've been around. That's like not a feeling I'm not used to. That's not a feeling I'm not accustomed to. So while I do anticipate that it's not something. Deters me or makes me anxious as any way.

It's just something I recognize, but I'm quite used to, at this point in my life to be the only person in the room with a particular perspective or with a particular lived experience. And quite frankly, sometimes I'm the only person in the room with a particular opinion. And that's.

**Claire Clotney:** Do you know what that's yeah.

I mean, that should be life in general, but yes, you do have very strong opinions and you've voiced them wherever you go. Do you think that's the American in you or do you think that's the da it's definitely not the British because we're quite polite and quite reserved. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. Is that the American a Ghanaian?

What, what is that? Or is that just your personality

**Jane Somuah:** type? That's not my personality type because I get countless Americans asking me. How are you like that? Don't change. I love that about you. Oh my gosh. Like you always tell it like it is honestly it's my personality and you want it to, I get it from, I don't get it from my British side.

I don't get it from my Canadian side. I'll get it from American side. That's right period. And a story. That's just my personality type.

**Claire Clotney:** Is there anything challenging about having multiple cultural identities that you've experienced?

**Jane Somuah:** What's at the forefront of my mind? And the biggest thing that comes to mind is maybe American society will value certain principles, morals that are at odds with how I was raised by virtue of.

The fact that the two people that were raising me did not grow up American. It could be political, it could be social, it could be professional, just certain values that are deemed acceptable by American society. I'm not jiving with. And that's like not only American certain values deemed acceptable by Ghanaian culture.

I am not. Going with I disagree. I vehemently disagree, certain values or certain ideals morals. I find difficult to really adopt as my own by virtue of. The different perspective I may have in terms of how it was raised. I'll give you a professional example. Actually, previously I was working as an investment banker out of school before I went to business school.

And you can probably speak to this much better than I can. My mother, when raising me in a certain way and preparing me to enter the workforce to enter corporate America ha. Certain ideals about what you should and shouldn't do what you can and cannot say and how you should conduct yourself in the workplace.

And I quickly found that these ideas were at odd with what was deemed acceptable and appropriate for the workplace in corporate America. Americans love. Talking about themselves, you know what? Not even just incorporated in life in general, Americans love talking on social. They waffle on all my God. So like, they just love, they loved the sound of their own voice and they love to tell their personal business in the open, all on the open of the office and the workplace.

And I almost felt uncomfortable when people would ask me, oh, so what did you get up to this weekend? Like, I'm not going to tell you. I was at the rap concert in Brooklyn. Like, I don't know how you're gonna judge me, but like, I just never. I was raised or told that it's okay to put your personal business out there the same way I knew people would in the workplace.

And also that you were never at work to make friends you there at work to work. And that's something, obviously you want to be nice. You want to be cordial. You want to get along with everyone, right? You don't want to like, just completely isolate yourself, but that's something that wasn't at the forefront of my mind.

And what ended up happening is that my performance evaluation. They were like, oh, she doesn't mingle with the team. She doesn't talk with the rest of us and like ended up being like adversely affecting and impacting me. And I'm kind of at odds with that. Like, I don't agree. You know, like that's just one

**Claire Clotney:** example.

I think that example resonates really well with me. And I will say that I can't speak for all of my peers or every black British person, but that is a way in which I was raised. Are the black pairs of mine. Friends were raised. You don't go to work and talk your business. You are in the minority and they will use it against you.

You keep yourself to yourself. Yeah. How was your weekend? It was fine. You don't go. And you get drunk on a Friday night in the pub. It's just not what we do. But unfortunately I found that that's where you miss some of those job opportunities. People. You know, negotiating things at the pub on a Friday or after work drinks.

I don't, I don't know whether it's black females or black males as well, but definitely my black female friends, females. Yeah. Wouldn't entertain that socialization at work unless they worked in a predominantly female heavy industry. Yeah. It just didn't

**Jane Somuah:** happen. So that's why I get that. And I would say that's an example of maybe my more.

Good day in culture, as opposed to British, British, maybe a bit, you could speak to that more so, but like Mike Indian culture, and it could be black culture across the board playing a role in the way I conducted myself in the workplace and being very much so at odds at the way, my counterparts, my peers and my colleagues conducted themselves.

And it's not necessarily something that I agree with and it's deemed acceptable by American society. But as long as it's not necessarily something I'm jumping on board with no.

**Claire Clotney:** What's your favorite thing to do in the UK? I

**Jane Somuah:** love to sight-see and I know you and your sisters make fun of me for it because I go to see all the same buildings that I've seen 10 times before all over again, but something about me.

This is me in particular. I love aesthetic. I love aesthetic. I love design. I love architecture. I love beautiful. Things, I love beautiful, intricate, preserved design and something. I, the reason why I love to go sightseeing around London is because inland. As much of Europe and other countries in the world, this is something that a lot of Americans notice when they go abroad is so we are actually a very young country, a very young country, about 200 years old, England UK been around since the beginning of time, the beginning of time, the architecture, there is a beautiful blend of the old.

And a lot of the new, right. The new skyscrapers, the class towers right next to some of the oldest buildings in the world that have been preserved. And I just think there's so much beauty in all of it. And I'm just like a kid in the candy store. I'm just fascinated by everything I see. And that's just because I'm someone who genuinely appreciates architecture, design beauty.

So that's honest to God. Favorite thing. I just think it's the most beautiful city, the most beautiful city

**Claire Clotney:** you're actually going to do it. Aren't you one day, you're going to call me and say, yeah, I'm

**Jane Somuah:** moving. Yeah, of course. Hello.

**Claire Clotney:** Have you started making any plans or are you just

**Jane Somuah:** buying time? I'm buying time.

No immediate plans buying time and envisioning and anticipating because I know that I think immigrating anywhere can be difficult. Like no matter where it is you're going. And I think that I certainly do not do not forget that I'm a Yankee, who's trying to go to the UK and there's going to be some friction.

There's going to be certain things that. Don't anticipate certain things that I don't foresee come up that I may have difficulty with, same as both of my parents when they immigrated to the United States. And so I try to mentally prepare

myself for that just because I'm very much so aware of the toll that could take and a large part of that is my own lived experience.

Having moved abroad to another country, like when I lived in China. So I know. What that looks like, what that initial shock could be. I think going to Leno's city, I'm very familiar with should help diminish some of that shock, right? Like I'm not in a completely new place. Like I was when I was living in China, but again, I'm buying time and I'm mentally and emotionally preparing.

I love that.

**Claire Clotney:** Uh, I was checking up on, you were telling me all about your new job and I, and you were like, oh yeah, I'm working on a project. Oh, it's London time zone. Yeah, she she's figuring things out for her, so she's not talking on it. She's visualizing it, but I know you'll figure

**Jane Somuah:** something out. Yes.

Visualizing,

**Claire Clotney:** what do you think he'd miss the most about

**Jane Somuah:** the U S Ooh, I think that I'd probably mess. I don't think it's necessarily. The U S like, this is something like us specific, to be honest. But like, one thing that does scare me is like leaving behind, like my network and my friends, and an element of that is I know American culture.

I know how you can conduct yourself, how you can act, and I can be myself here. I don't know how I'm going to come across there. And the difficulties I may face. One thing I do appreciate about being here in the country where I was born and raised right. Is already being assimilated with the culture. And I think that there's going to be an assimilation portion in the UK that I'm going to have to get used to, or I'm going to have to navigate rather.

And I'm going to miss not having to. Sensor, so to speak as much. Right. I feel like that's going to be the elements. So that's not a specific, like, I'm not going to be like, oh, I'm going to really miss I hop. I'm going to really miss Popeye's like, no, like I'm going to be no, like char, like I have it when I come back.

I'll be able to pick up other foods over there. I love a good sausage roll. I am so ready for Nando's every weekend. Bring it on. Like I like, I'm not gonna like

pick like little things like that. I'm not going to be like, oh, big houses. I. I live in New York city where it's small living anyway. And I think that will aid me as well in terms of moving from one city to another.

So it's really more so like the censoring I'm going to miss, like just being a Yankee and obnoxious Yankee and knowing like, that's just how we are here. And knowing that I need a sensor that when I go over there, take it step

**Claire Clotney:** back and like bird's-eye view. Do you think you'll have a better lifestyle in the UK or in the U S.

**Jane Somuah:** My mom actually describes this really well as someone who's been there, done that she explained, but like I adopt this because I anticipate this for myself in the UK, you can have a better lifestyle in terms of having time for yourself. In terms of vacation in terms of some of the benefits that you get, especially with regards to maternity leave some of the benefits that you get, especially with regards to like sick days, and you can have a better overall like lifestyle.

**Claire Clotney:** Do you mean work-life

**Jane Somuah:** balance? There we go, like work life balance in the UK, but the sacrifice of that will be your compensation. Whereas in the United States, the sky's the limit, how much money? You can make. And that's something that she notices that is not necessarily across the United States. There are people who are struggling, right?

The wages are not cute for everyone. They really, really aren't, but there's a difference. There there's a difference in terms of earnings UK versus us. Those earnings do come at certain costs. Do I anticipate my lifestyle will be better in the UK? I never said. UK versus us. One is better than the other.

It's different. And it's about what you want out of life. And it's about what you value. Where do I want to spend my life? Am I, am I British or am I American? I knew I used to have colleagues who they lived in London for a long time working for a company. And then eventually they had to sit down and ask themselves, are we going to be Britain?

Or are we going back to America? Are we going to say Americans a day is going to come in which I'm going to sit down and I'm going to have to think

about that for myself. And that'll depend on the experience that I had over the previous five years.

**Claire Clotley:** Jane, I'm so excited for you. I'm so proud of you as your big cousin.

You are definitely a, multi-skilled a multicultural American who has big dreams for the future. In the UK. I just want other people to connect with you and you can have this conversation with them, whether they're gone and Brits, whether they're American gardens or wherever it's in a professional capacity, how can people stay connected with you?

**Jane Somuah:** You can follow me on Instagram, where I always play, watch my stories and my pictures. You'll see me trying to live with. When I'm not working here in New York and you can also catch me when I do make it back abroad to see my family, you catch me. And what I like to get up to and London as well, Instagram handle would be Jane.

Underscore Jane spelled J A N E Chinuch C H I N O C K.

**Claire Clotley:** Share your experience of being black in the UK versus the USA. Email us directly at [americandreamers@gmail.com](mailto:americandreamers@gmail.com) and please rate and review American Dreamers on Apple podcasts. It's the best place for people to find this podcast special. Thanks to Aurra Studios, our production team, AP Brianna Jovan.

And editor David Devereaux stay in touch with me on the socials at Claire Clotley.