

*Interviewer:* "So it sounds like after you got your graduate degree, there was a little bit more ease but you said you were still living paycheck to paycheck. Is that what you expected?"

*Taina:* Um, [pause] no. I thought I was gonna have some more... breathing room, some more space to enjoy my life [laughs]... to be able to say to my coworkers: 'Yeah, I'll join you for happy hour and not stress about the bill when it came.' And that still was not the case."

*Interviewer:* "Were you open about that?"

*Taina:* "No."

*Interviewer:* "Why not?"

*Taina:* "I... I was... I've always said to myself, like I suffered in silence with financial insecurity. You know, I had a... I had a good role like I was an assistant director of an outpatient program. I did supplemental work with mobile therapy. You know, so, people... according to my resume, I should be making good money. I should be comfortable, at least. But I was also single at the time, with my own responsibilities and a mortgage and a car payment. And debt that I had accumulated from many years before. A lot of my co-workers were white woman with wealthy husbands. I... It was imposter syndrome."