When I was pregnant with my first daughter when I was 35, and obviously you go for lots of blood tests and I've always filled out any forms when it comes to, you know, your background, as White Afro-Caribbean because that's my background, that's that's who I am. So obviously unbeknownst to me, one of the tests that they test when you put that down is for sickle cell, for the trait. I'd never heard of it really up until then. Then four days later. I got a phone call from Whiston Hospital asking me to come in. They'd found something, not to worry, but they were, Doctor Nwasu who was a consultant at Whiston in the Gynecology, was very interested to speak to me, so I went in and he explained that I was a carrier of the sickle cell trait. He gave me, he then asked my background and information, and why I put on my form, in his words and these were his words, you're very very white, very English Rose type, you're not somebody we would generally associate with sickle cell. So I explained my family and he said it, you know that it makes sense. So his advice then was to go back to Mum and my gran was still alive then, and see if we could arrange for the family to be tested, to see if we could find out where you know, how you know, how I became a carrier of the trait. That's what we did. And then when they tested my gran, it came back that my gran had sickle cell, she didn't have the trait, she had sickle cell, and she was 83 at the time. She was born in 1925, obviously back then you know, I think the life prognosis was very short, and what they then discovered as to why she had never suffered any, any pain, any, any symptoms or anything was cos she carried the F gene which apparently had protected her all the way through her life.

My great grandfather grew up in Bridgetown in Barbados, but his father was very very cruel. So he stowed away on a ship and landed in Liverpool and when he landed there as a Seafarer looking for accommodation, he ended up boarding at my great grandmother's house. And my great-grandmother is, was white Jewish but her father was black and her mother was white. So that's how he met my great-grandma, and they got married, but because he wasn't allowed to legally live in England, in Liverpool, he always went to sea and came back and then would stay and then go back to sea again, and they had seven seven children, seven daughters. It kind of seems, Liverpool is known because of the docks. So, I'm guessing somewhere along the line my great-grandma's family must have also travelled over and settled in Liverpool, but again the information there's really really hazy. So that's, that's like the background that I've got on that I'd say it's a bit, I know it seems a bit vague but my gran was very, about talking about. Yeah. Yeah, she's suffered, she suffered a lot of racial abuse when she was a child as did her sisters.