


This Is What a Lesbian Looks Like

Bad Girls Club lesbian star turned human and animal rights activist Shelly Hickman talks about being a “bad girl” and the ongoing fight for equal rights.

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- ▶ **ON WHAT MAKES A BAD GIRL:** If it was about who started fights or who yelled, who bitched and complained, every girl would be considered a bad girl because every girl can scream and yell, but it really comes from the inside more than it does the outside. It's [about] sticking up for what you believe in. Having the strength to do that these days, I think, is what makes somebody badass.
 - ▶ **ON FINDING HER VOICE:** When [marriage equality] passed in California and then they retracted and banned it, I went to a big rally and to see the thousands of people who came up to stand at our capital building and fight for that. I thought that was such a beautiful and powerful thing that something came over me and from that moment on I knew I would fight for who I was until I died.
 - ▶ **ON THE REPEAL OF DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL:** It's a great achievement. However, if anybody was to truly read up on it, you're really not given that many more rights. Basically all it's saying is that you can't be kicked out for being who you are. But you don't get their insurance benefits, when they pass away, you don't get any money from that for your family. You're still going to be judged. It's just like gay marriages. Yeah, it's great, we can get married, but at the end of the day, we still don't have the same rights. It's kind of like a bow on a brown box. [Emelina Minero]