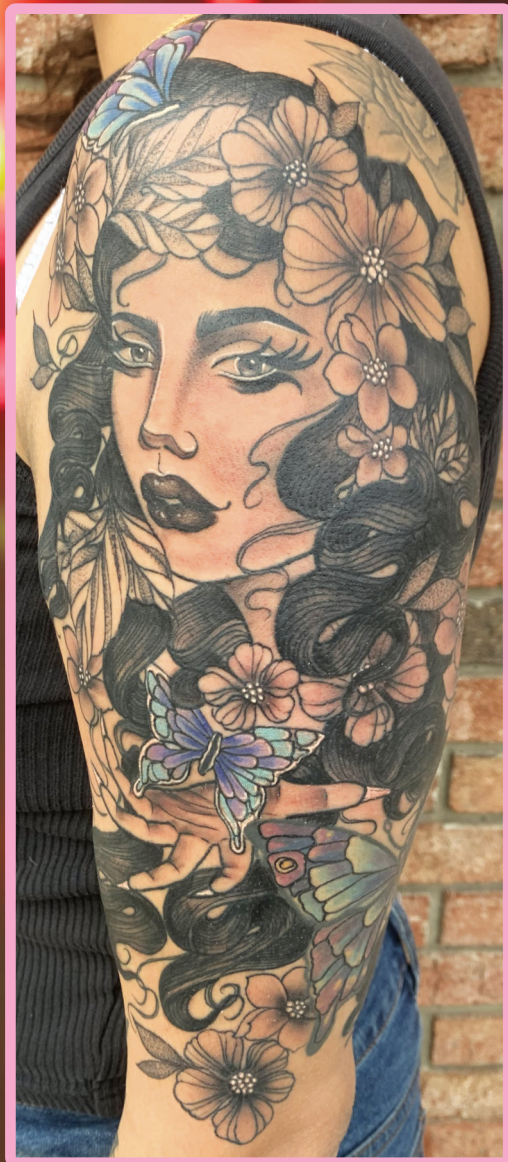


Jessa Bigelow

Interview by Dan Lorenzo
Layout by dannyrome



Dan Lorenzo: What was your reaction when you found out you were chosen to be on Ink Master 13?

Jessa Bigelow: You know what Dan? I didn't believe it! When I was younger with aspirations of being a tattooer, I would watch it with my friends gathered around one of our bedrooms and they would jokingly say "you could go on there someday!" But I would always laugh it off like they weren't serious. I stopped watching for a while because life got busy and a few years later I got the call! I found out shortly before filming and couldn't really tell anyone, so the morning I found out I whispered it to my fiancé and we just hugged for a while, almost like the calm before the storm. Soon after I had to start rescheduling my appointments for the following few months, and I jam packed my schedule full of as many people I could take before I left. I worked from 10am to 10pm and fit as much family time in as I could. I packed my bags and I was off. It happened super quickly.

I know where they hole you up for Ink Master. You were SO close to home, yet so far. How was it being in "lock down"?

I will say I thought being closer to home would be better, but I think it made it harder for me! I am huge on family, I love spending time with them, being around them, and just talking to them. "Lockdown" sounds so scary (laughs), it was more like "I'm away on business", but the roughest part is sometimes you just want that two minutes of a hug from your fiancé, or you want to hear in person about your kids week, or you just want to vent face-to-face with your mom or grandma about work being frustrating sometimes. It's hard to keep your head in the game and know that they support you and want you to kick ass there, while you're feeling almost selfish for putting yourself first to be there. I will say though, through any rough patches I had, any time I was really missing family or friends, the staff were really sweet and had huge hearts and were there if you needed. Also, a big thing I love to do is have family dinners on Sundays and they got me groceries one day and let me cook a big Sunday dinner on one of our days off! It was definitely much needed and made me feel comfortable and happy!

Any artists you met who will become lifelong friends?

I think an experience as different as living and working with Inkmaster is definitely an experience that bonds you. I can positively say I learned a lot from so many of the artists on Season 13 and I definitely built some long lasting bonds! Keep an eye out for Team East this season and definitely some collabs with my ladies!

Anything else you want our readers to know?

Definitely be sure to check out all our hard work and cheer for me this upcoming season! Tune into Paramount network Tuesdays at 10 starting January 7th! Also, I'll be having a big premiere party at Lit 21 on January 7th at 9 pm to watch the premiere! You're all invited! Feel free to keep in touch and hear more about this season from me via [Instagram @jessabigelowtattoo](#)