

EGSM 17: We are all The Watcher (Marvel TV)

Content Warnings

- Explicit language
- Spoilers for: What If...?, Daredevil, American Horror Story, Loki, WandaVision, The Falcon and The Winter Soldier, Avengers: Infinity War, Avengers: Endgame
- Discussions of: physical violence & death (inc. murder), poverty, oppression
- Mentions of: food, zombies, immolation, COVID-19 pandemic

HELEN

Which on our previous Patreon-only episode about Marvel we all sang the theme tune.

ALEX

Presumably you're talking about [hums 90s X-Men cartoon theme tune].

HELEN

Yes.

ALEX

Yeah, of course.

HELEN

That's the one.

ALEX

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

The best. The best soundtrack.

[Show Theme - Intro]

HELEN

Hello friends and fans and welcome to Enthusiasm, the show where we talk about a few of our favourite things. I am your host, Helen Gould, one of the best Rusty Quillers, and today we're talking about Marvel's TV shows. And I am absolutely overjoyed to be joined by Alex, Hannah and Lowri. We are going to do our usual round of introductions alphabetically, so Alex, can you give us your pronouns and tell us what you do?

ALEX

So my pronouns are he/him, and I'm the founder and CEO of Rusty Quill, and I have voiced a few things. That should do! There you go! That's me!

HELEN

(laughs) No details needed!

ALEX

No details needed!

HELEN

And Hannah, who are you and what are your pronouns?

HANNAH

Hello, my pronouns are she/her and I am the COO of Rusty Quill which is effectively problem solver, solution finder, WD40 person across every department that we have.

(Helen laughs)

And yes, I sometimes occasionally leave the home but generally I am here working.

HELEN

Oh...

HANNAH

But I have a puppy now so it's genuinely lovely to be home working, so...

HELEN

That's true, you've got a puppy and a whole garden!

LOWRI

I really like the description of you as a WD40 person, I really like that!

(Helen laughs)

Just fixes everything!

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HELEN

There's a problem, squirt it!

HANNAH

“What do you do?” “Er, fix things and makes 'em smoooves.” That's - yeah.

LOWRI

Yeah!

(Helen and Alex giggling)

It's what it says on the tin!

HELEN

Last, Lowri can you give us your pronouns and tell us what you do.

LOWRI

Hello! I'm Lowri, she/her, and I produce Enthusigasm.

ALEX

Yeah!

LOWRI

And I produced the Magnus Archives and I edit and my voice is also on some things. If it's Welsh it's me or Fay, I think is currently a correct statement!

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(group laughter)

HELEN

Lovely, lovely. Okay, let's jump right into it. Now as we know there's been a load of new shows come out on Disney Plus but before then there were other Marvel TV shows, we may touch on those as well. I would like to know what people's favourites are out of the ones that have come out so far. Mm, I'm going to have to think about this, there was Jessica Jones, there was Luke Cage, oh, Lowri -

LOWRI

I'm so sorry, we're talking about like the Netflix ones as well?

ALEX

Yeah, course! Marvel!

HELEN

We can do!

LOWRI

Oh my god, I'm so much more excited immediately!

(Helen and Lowri laugh)

ALEX

I'm gonna do everything in my power to steer this into the 90s for Marvel TV, so don't mind me!

LOWRI

(gasps) Oh my gosh!

HANNAH

And I'm gonna be bringing it right back to Tom Hiddleston, so between us we'll hit a middle ground!

(group laughter)

LOWRI

Oh my gosh, amazing!

HELEN

The perfect combination! (laughs) There was - is Daredevil Marvel?

ALEX

Yeah, Daredevil's Marvel because it's got, er, it's got Kingpin, it's got the overlaps, yeah. I mean if you go into the 90s, Marvel Agents of SHIELD.

LOWRI

Yeah, Agents of SHIELD.

HELEN

Oooh...

LOWRI

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Peggy Carter as well.

ALEX

Oh yeah, that's another one.

LOWRI

Oh my lord, the world has expanded.

ALEX

You've got the original Incredible Hulk, where it was just the Hulk was just a really big guy painted green.

(group laughter)

HELEN & LOWRI

Oh yeah!

(Helen laughs)

HELEN

With silly hair!

ALEX

With the sad music [hums "The Lonely Man"] at the end of every episode.
You've got the whole gamut.

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LOWRI

I used to watch that at my great-grandparents' house, I remember no details.

(Alex laughs)

HELEN

Oh, and I guess there's the old, the X-Men series.

LOWRI

Yeah!

ALEX

Oh, classic!

HELEN

Which on our previous Patreon-only episode about Marvel we all sang the theme tune.

(Hannah laughs)

ALEX

Presumably you're talking about [hums 90s X-Men cartoon theme tune].

HELEN

Yes.

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ALEX

Yeah, of course.

HELEN

That's the one.

ALEX

The best. The best soundtrack.

(Helen laughs)

The merger has happened!

LOWRI

They're coming!

HELEN

Ooh it has.

ALEX

It's weirdly buried, but it's happened.

HANNAH

Are we allowed to discuss X-Men in the Marvel Universe, is that a taboo at the moment?

ALEX

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Oh yeah I'm, I'm ready for deep dive stuff here, don't you fret about that.

LOWRI

All right, I'm, I'm excited!

HANNAH

Hmm.

HELEN

Well now that we've mentioned lots of TV shows, does anyone have a pitch for which one is their favourite?

ALEX

It's either "Spectacular" or "Amazing" Spiderman, which is the one in the 90s with the rock guitar, at the same period as the X-Men [hums 90s X-Men cartoon theme tune again].

LOWRI

I didn't see that at all, my favourite one is Daredevil - but seasons 1 and 3. Not so hot on season 2 if I recall correctly.

HELEN

What happened in season 2?

LOWRI

I can't remember. I just, I think-

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(Helen laughs)

I think it just got--

HELEN

That's the problem!

LOWRI

Like it's really violent all the way through and I think maybe Punisher had come out around about that time and I was just-

ALEX

Yes, yeah yeah, it's Punisher in-

LOWRI

There's just SO MUCH violence, which normally I'm not that fussed about, but I was like "I'm kind of done seeing him get hit."

ALEX

So are you on board then with season 3 which if I remember correctly is like ninjas all the way down?

LOWRI

Yeah, look! (laughs) I'd had a rest!

ALEX

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It's just - it's just all ninjas. What's the problem? Ninjas. Too many, not enough. Ninjas. Ninjas, ninjas, ninjas.

LOWRI

I'd had a break from the violence, I was back in!

HELEN

(laughs) Hannah, what about you?

HANNAH

Yeah, I was - I loved the idea of Jessica Jones, but actually I think, I think it's WandaVision for me. It was the first time I'd really seen that - I mean I know we'll be talking about it a little bit later anyways, but like, having such a clear-cut episode-by-episode changing scene and um, and aesthetic was something that I hadn't seen done before and I thought "ooh, that's the sort of thing I would want to make one day." So that's always good. But yeah, I think WandaVision for me.

HELEN

My favourite so far has been What If...? which is also the most recent one. But What If...? is just basically a series of fanfictions and - and I love it! I love it!

(group laughter)

LOWRI

Yeah!

ALEX

But, but - because you picked the anthology one, WHICH What If...? is your favourite?

HELEN

I do have, I think it might be the Doctor Strange one.

ALEX

Yeah!

HELEN

Because I am an angst monster.

(group laughter)

And someone trapping themselves in a pocket dimension of their own misery, I'm like - mmm, nom nom nom!

ALEX

And it was for love, Helen, it was for love!

HELEN

I know! I know! Turning yourself into a monster because you love someone so much?! Ooh! Ooh!

ALEX

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I love you so much I'll squidify myself! Like that's - that's love.

HELEN

Yes! That is prime Helen bait there.

(Alex laughs)

HANNAH

I just, I don't agree with having that depth of feeling on anything.

(group laughter)

HANNAH

Like if you've gone that far down the rabbit hole, like, it's done for you, like it's too much! Have a cup of tea and a break, just-

LOWRI

Have a Kit-Kat!

HANNAH

Just think about your life choices!

ALEX

You would feel quite bad wouldn't you, going to those lengths and then when you finally get together it's like - oh, but they do have an annoying laugh.

(group laughter)

Like that's, that's a big-!

HANNAH

Oh, the sounds when they chew!

ALEX

Like eternity level commitment, to then go...oh, actually...

HANNAH

Oh my favourite, my favourite bit of What If...? though was like that's, that's a huge zombie, that's gonna be a problem later, why have they decided a huge zombie was the right call?

(Alex giggles)

LOWRI

Take the helmet off her!

HANNAH

Yeah, pretty much.

LOWRI

Why would you not take her helmet off so she - make her small and take her helmet off!

(Alex and Helen laugh)

HANNAH

Oh Lowri. Lowri. The discussions and arguments I've had around that.

(group laughter)

ALEX

Oh Hannah's fascinating to see anything Marvel with, mostly she just, she assesses and criticises the tactics of the people involved!

(Helen and Hannah laugh)

LOWRI

I think we should watch some of these together!

ALEX

“Well that's not - that's not a solution, like the Sokovia Accords, logistically you're not gonna be able to, you know, you're not gonna be able to see that through, no one's considered the long tail red tape on this.” [laughs]

HANNAH

They've won the battle but they've lost the war, am I right?

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LOWRI

Oh gosh.

ALEX

Heyyy!

HANNAH

Yeah, it's er, come to our house, it's fantastic...

(group laughter)

HELEN

I would like to talk about the Zombies episode though a little bit, because...even though it's got my favourite, how shall I put this? My favourite visuals of Bucky Barnes in it-

(Alex laughs)

LOWRI

Nicely put.

HELEN

There are several people who feel out of character in that particular episode.

ALEX

Vision, the poorly thought through murderer?

HELEN

Yeah, like yeah! Like, Vision's 180 is astonishingly fast in that. I can't even remember the details, I just remember being like...

ALEX

He's very pro-murder.

LOWRI

You've gone to all this trouble to lure people here and then suddenly just - nope.

HANNAH

But he's not held back by silly human emotions, of course you would.

LOWRI

True.

HANNAH

If the thing that you want needs help then that's what, that's what you do. And if you're - if you're robot-brain then even better, surely? You're just applying your own loveliness to the situation Lowri, that's the trouble! You're like "I'd have thought this through!"

HELEN

Yeah, but Vision's meant to be lovely!

HANNAH

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Ohh...

ALEX

Maybe that's what lovely looks like in a zombie apocalypse.

HANNAH

Oh I have missed the point. (laughs)

ALEX

No I really liked, I really liked Spiderman in that What If...? specifically.

HELEN

Yes.

LOWRI

Oh yeah.

ALEX

Like that's a really good portrayal of Peter Parker. Like that is digging right down into the bit of the character that actually people like, and only showing that. It's great. Love it.

HANNAH

Does Into the Spideverse count as...?

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HELEN

That's a film.

ALEX

Film not TV.

LOWRI

Yeah that's a film, that's a shame.

HANNAH

Because that would make a fantastic TV series wouldn't it?

HELEN

I would very happily watch like a dimension-hopping, you know, TV show.

HANNAH & LOWRI

Mmm!

ALEX

Ah, well! This is where you're bouncing into the Spiderman one that I was referencing, which was the first TV rendition of Madame Web and all of that, which is the first iteration of all of the interdimensional stuff, so it has been on TV. It was excellent! Thoroughly recommend it!

HELEN

Alex, who's Madame Web?

ALEX

How do you not know who Madame Web is? Come on!

LOWRI

I don't know who Madame Web is, and my knowledge is quite-!

ALEX

God, right! So. Madame Web, okay honestly, Madame Web is basically - The Web from Magnus, now I think about it.

(Helen and Lowri laugh)

Madame Web is a, a woman who, her super-power I guess is all to do with like inter-dimensionality. So when there's like a threat, think multiverse but less like “argh, all of reality's gonna die”, but it's a lot - she, she does this thing especially in the TV version which is kind of what I'm referencing where like – “oh no, we have a problem, I'm just gonna borrow Spiderman from various dimensions to help with this situation.” So it's like - this is one where he, you know, he's Manspider. This is one where he killed Dr Octopus and took his arms, this - like, blah, blah, blah.

HELEN

Ooh.

ALEX

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So it's very Spiderverse ideas, but yeah, Madame Web is, in that iteration, the person who plucks various Spidermen together to fix a bigger problem, I guess.

LOWRI

I like it. That IS very Into the Spiderverse slash What If...? actually.

HELEN

Yeah.

ALEX

Arrogant Pete Parker's great, there's a version where it's Peter Parker where his life just went really well, like his uncle never died so he just got really rich as a tech genius, and he's just a dick! That's his whole thing!

(group laughter)

Everyone's like: with great power comes great money! Yes, yes it does. Yes. Great, love it.

HELEN

Lowri, can you talk to me about Daredevil a little bit? Because I will confess, I did not watch, I watched Luke Cage and I don't think I watched many of the other shows at all.

LOWRI

So I watched all of - I have watched all of them multiple times, not for a few years actually, and I think I would say Daredevil is the best of the bunch, of the

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Netflix bunch. So much so that actually they're probably going to be bringing Charlie Cox into the MCU, which I am really, really excited about.

ALEX

Really?! Didn't know that!

LOWRI

This is all like a theory, but I'm pretty, I think it's true. (laughs)

ALEX

Ah, okay. I'd believe it.

HELEN

Love a theory.

ALEX

Like you're right, it is the best of the Netflix versions.

LOWRI

Yeah because he's - he's the best. Though I have to say I do love, oh what's her name? Um, is it Kirst- no, what's the woman who plays Jessica Jones? Oh I can't remember her name. I also really like her as Jessica Jones. I think Jessica Jones is my second favourite one. What was your question Helen sorry, just talk a bit about Daredevil?

HELEN

Yeah, just tell me why you liked it, because I haven't seen it.

LOWRI

Do you know, I really liked the fighting. And I'm not like an expert in it at all, which is kind of funny that that is then why I got tired of it in season 2, or maybe that does make sense, I don't know. I think for me it was something that, it was very visceral. Like you really feel all the punches that he gets.

ALEX AND HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

It has a really great corridor fight scene where it's all like one shot.

ALEX

Yes!

LOWRI

That I just remember watching over and over again and being like: they must have cut somewhere here, but it's just really, really well choreographed and pulled off and, like, well rehearsed.

ALEX

And it's like 10 minutes long isn't it?

LOWRI

I don't know if it's 10 minutes long but it is really long and it's just, and it's like really narrow, like they're fighting in a corridor and there are doors coming in and out of the corridor. And like, I wasn't very aware of audio back then but my memory of it is that like, they really take time over the moments in the fight where everyone's just exhausted and you'd be like [imitates panting] okay...and then someone gets up and then you just start fighting again. And do you know, I can't even remember what the plot is, like who were the big - oh it must be Kingpin! It must be Kingpin!

(Helen laughs)

ALEX

Oh yeah, season 1's Kingpin, like best, best T-, like SO good.

LOWRI

Like just the acting, the performers, I, it's just great, I highly recommend it and Helen, I think you should watch it.

ALEX

Oh I think you specifically Helen will, will like adore it. It's so good in season 1, it's like an investigation of Kingpin who is really into like gentrification as a solution to like a downtrodden neighbourhood. And then you have Daredevil who's like grassroots, no we, like, the people involved have to fix the thing. And it's a good villain - you know the problem with half the villains are kind of urgh, but Kingpin's a great villain, really well thought through.

LOWRI

And such a good performance as well.

ALEX

Amazing performance.

LOWRI

I remember loving Vanessa in it too who is like Kingpin's love interest.

ALEX

Yeah!

LOWRI

And it's just, she's just - she's not evil, but she's a woman who is just not, she doesn't have to be redeemed, she just is who she is, and she falls in love with this guy who is arguably quite evil. I don't - well maybe not evil, not a good person. And there's no apology for it, and I love that.

ALEX

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I'd include him amongst like all of the Marvel villains as one of the best Marvel villains, including films.

HELEN

Ooh...

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

Strong claim!

ALEX

He's really good. Really good.

LOWRI

And let's hope that if they do bring Charlie Cox into the MCU, Vincent is it - I don't know to pronounce his surname, is it, it's a d-apostrophe-and-O something. d'On...I'm gonna have to look this up! Anyway, let's hope that they bring him in as well!

(group laughter)

ALEX

Oh yeah, you've got to bring both.

HANNAH

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I never saw it, it sounds like I've been missing a trick.

LOWRI

It's what got me - I think that actually might be what got, like really got me back into Marvel were those shows.

HELEN

Ooh!

LOWRI

I guess I would have been late 20s when they came out, I can't remember actually.

HELEN

Gosh it is quite a long time now isn't it?

ALEX

No, let's not play that game, that's a sad game! Noooo!

(group laughter)

HELEN

That way madness lies!

(group laughter)

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So Hannah, you said that one of the things you liked about WandaVision was that it sort of skipped genres and time periods in each episode, did you have like a favourite one of those?

HANNAH

Oh yeah, so I really, really enjoyed the first one or two episodes, that sort of I Love Lucy, sort of Sabrina the Teenage Witch type, and then there's the, you can see the strings coming on to take things away and like-

(Alex laughs)

I just, I'm very aware how much time and money it will have cost to make it look so low-grade value, sort of towards what it used to be. I just think it's such a wonderful thing that it was like a love letter to each decade of iconic television, and that it didn't really show that that was what it was doing, it didn't let the audience in on that until you sort of watch two or three episodes and you sort of go "oh, I see what they're doing now, they're going up in sort of 10 year bouts."

HELEN

Mm.

HANNAH

And I just hadn't seen that done before, so it was a real feat of I think creativity with a new medium. Well not that new actually now that we're talking about Daredevil and Jessica Jones and stuff like that, I kind of like, new for the sort of Disney time of the Marvel universe anyway. It was a really clever I think way of

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moving away from expectation of sort of, the Marvel film stuff in a way that Winter Soldier didn't do, but that was the point. Yeah, I just think it was a, it was such a wonderful show that you'd be, I think you'd be proud of to have been a part of, I'd have loved to have made something like that.

ALEX

Especially costuming. They did a really good job on the costuming.

HANNAH

Oh stunning!

HELEN

I was gonna say, yeah.

LOWRI

I mean the research on everything, props, costume, set was amazing. And I think I agree with you Hannah actually, like it, for me I really enjoyed the earlier episodes and then the more that traditional Marvel came in I was like - I, look obviously I love this but I could do without the traditional Marvel stuff. In fact I could have done without the whole Vision/White Vision plotline. I was like: what is this?

HELEN

I mean that was like half a plotline really, wasn't it?

ALEX

But, to quote Paul Bettany, okay, it's not - it is Paul Bettany, right?

ALL

[confirming that it is Paul Bettany] Yeah, yeah.

ALEX

It's not often that you get to act opposite one of the greats.

(group laughter)

That was his wording, right?

LOWRI

That, fine. If it's all to build up just for that-

HANNAH

He got in so much shit for that.

ALEX

He got in so much flak!

(group laughter)

HELEN

I bet he doesn't give a fuck.

(group laughter)

HANNAH

Yeah, I agree. Because you would, wouldn't you? You absolutely would and go home sort of tittering to yourself that you've just set the world ablaze knowing that it's just you again.

(group laughter)

That's a you move Alex, honestly!

ALEX

Yeah, it is!

(group laughter)

HELEN

Speaking of the greats though, I really enjoyed the actress who played Agatha, let me see if I can-

ALEX

Yeah!

HANNAH

Oh, I love her in everything!

LOWRI

She's amazing!

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HANNAH

Oh what's her name?

HELEN

Kathryn Hahn.

LOWRI

Kathryn Hahn. It's like I'm so upset that it didn't come to me immediately, she's amazing!

ALEX

What I loved with her is hearing the theory about who her character was, and then me genuinely going...nah! Nah!

(group laughter)

And then, and then as it continued progressing going: nah! Nah!

LOWRI

Really?

ALEX

No, it's nonsense! It was so good. Loved the performance.

HANNAH

Oh, she's who I want to be when I grow up.

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(group laughter)

LOWRI

Absolutely! Oh hang on, do you mean Agatha or Kathryn Hahn?

HANNAH

Oh both. I would interchange, I think one is like a daytime look and one is a evening and weekend affair I think.

(group laughter)

Interchangeably fantastic, nom nom, definitely in.

(group laughter)

HELEN

While we're talking about costumes, I'd just like to give a shout out to Vision's little jumpers.

EVERYONE

Awww!

HELEN

His little business casual look.

ALEX

Exactly! They were great!

HELEN

That was very cute.

ALEX

He feels like a jumper kinda guy.

HELEN

He does, he does.

LOWRI

Yeah, they nailed that.

HELEN

Although I will say one of the things that I liked at first then was a bit disappointed by was they brought in Quicksilver from the-

ALEX

Oh the fakeout, yeah.

HELEN

Oh!

LOWRI

Yeah, I hated that.

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HELEN

That was, that felt cheap, I was, I was-

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

Because I really like the X-Men Quicksilver actually.

LOWRI

Same.

ALEX

I prefer that Quicksilver!

HELEN

Me too!

ALEX

I think it's a better Quicksilver portrayal.

HANNAH

But yeah, the Quicksilver bit wasn't particularly necessary I don't think. And I agree with you Lowri, I think I'd have loved to have seen a sort of Marvel universe thing like WandaVision that just didn't deal with any of the superhero shit.

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LOWRI

Mm.

HELEN

Yes.

HANNAH

Just a - just a look at a drama that was within the universe, I'd have loved that.

ALEX

I mean Daredevil came close to that. Daredevil did come close to that.

HANNAH

Oh.

ALEX

Because as much as he has like the whole superhuman hearing thing, it's mostly about a lawyer who goes out and then beats up the people that he can't catch legitimately. Like that's it. Like that's it for-

HANNAH

Like rich Robin Hood?

ALEX

Honestly yeah.

HANNAH

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(laughs) Okay.

ALEX

Like that's sort of the - that's sort of the premise until it gets very ninja-y.

LOWRI

There are a lot of ninjas. (laughs)

HELEN

So why are there a lot of ninjas?

ALEX

Because - okay. Because they're the cause of and the solution to all problems apparently!

(group laughter)

LOWRI

So one of the big villains is The Hand, which is like an ancient ninja-

ALEX

A ninja hand.

LOWRI

Yeah, organisation. And also like the whole thing about Daredevil is that he is, I can't remember how he - how was he trained? He's trained by a ninja. Like you know-

ALEX

Yeah, he's trained by another ninja!

LOWRI

It's a hand to hand combat fight with the sticks-

(Helen and Hannah giggling quietly)

ALEX

He's an urban ninja, trained by ninjas, fighting ninjas who are also at war with a different type of ninja, and all of this is after like a really gritty examination of the nature of urban sprawl.

(Helen and Hannah giggle louder)

And poverty within dense macroeconomic environments. And then someone goes: also ninjas? Ninjas! Yes, ninjas. More ninjas.

LOWRI

Defenders is very good as well and also quite ninja-y. But there's just some really good, there's some great team-ups in Defenders, you just get past Ironfist being there and then it's great.

HELEN

Can we talk a bit about Falcon and the Winter Soldier in terms of how...to me that feels like it was a TV show that was a Marvel movie split up into six or eight episodes.

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

Rather than a TV show of itself if that makes sense.

LOWRI

I think, was it - Alex, I can't remember actually if it might have been you who I was having this chat with, ages ago.

ALEX

We, we've discussed this, yeah.

LOWRI

Yeah, because that was the one that was supposed to come out first, right? But because of COVID, WandaVision came out first. So I, this I think actually was your theory Alex.

ALEX

Well yeah, no I, it's, so it's a thing I've spoken to a couple of people about which is it's so contextual driven where if you, if you take the TV order that we have which is WandaVision, Falcon and the Winter Soldier, and then Loki, the

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original order the first two were swapped. But the reason for that from like a strategic planning point of view was to ease people into the idea of watching high budget Marvel TV instead of sort of lower budget Marvel TV like Daredevil and so on, but you know like real like cinematic quality but just sequential. So they were like: right, we'll make something that feels like an MCU movie but chopped up, and then we'll get the weird stuff to get into, because effectively it goes: Marvel Winter Soldier are meant to get you used to Marvel TV, then WandaVision was meant to be: look at the crazy things we can do if you just let us! And then Loki was meant to be a set-up for multiverse stuff so that people are used to weirdness via WandaVision and the conceit via Loki, but when you invert them you end up with them having to take a massive gamble at the time, like a huge gamble going: are people gonna be okay with WandaVision? Everyone loved it, and then you know that some poor producer's sat in a room going: people are gonna be really bored by what we've made next.

(group laughter)

Like, this is just a film - and it's good, but it's not I Love Lucy plus, you know, space wizards.

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

Yeah.

ALEX

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

And I think it must have been a very, a set of very awkward conversations where they - they saw it through and I think they executed well, but I think it's a very different world if you swap those back round and it makes a lot more sense as a sort of thematic through-line I guess.

LOWRI

Training your audience!

ALEX

Yeah, exactly, yeah!

LOWRI

Basically is what it is, right?

ALEX

Ring the bell and you get more Marvel!

(Helen laughs)

LOWRI

You know I will ring that bell every time! Thing is it came out at a time as well with the whole COVID thing where people really wanted new and exciting stuff.

HELEN

Yeah, a bit more escapism.

ALEX

I think if you had no COVID and it was in the original order it would have worked and it would have guided people in. I think with pandemic, it's actually better in the order that they did it in, because like Lowri says, people were so craving: I need something new to occupy me, like properly new, not just stuff I sort of, I feel like I've seen before. So people, and I sound like I'm dunking on it, I did like it, but people are more willing to sort of accept the return to norm via Winter Soldier having seen: okay, I know you've got some big, bananas stuff in the works, you know?

HELEN

And I think on that note we're gonna take a break and when we come back we've got to talk about Loki, because we haven't talked about Loki yet.

ALEX

And ninjas. We haven't talked about ninjas.

(Helen laughs)

LOWRI

Oh yeah, there are ninjas in some of them!

(group laughter)

-BREAK-

HELEN

And welcome back! So as promised, really really would love to talk about the Loki TV show as well, because it's a weird one! It's a really weird one. I've got such mixed feelings about it.

ALEX

At the risk of being the like, cinema nerd for a second.

(Helen laughs)

Amazing *mise-en-scène*. Really, really strong visuals that blended really well with the soundtrack, it had such a strong-

LOWRI

Feel, yeah.

ALEX

-feel to it. Like you, you can look at a still or any of the soundtrack or anything and you immediately know what it is. It is so deliberately A Clockwork Orange does massive space bureaucracy, but it works! Directorially, it's a very strong play, I think.

HANNAH

Beautifully crafted thing.

LOWRI

Mm.

HELEN

To stick with the positives, I was not expecting to enjoy...what's-his-face-that-says-wow so much.

ALL

Owen Wilson!

HANNAH

Oh, what a revelation!

ALEX

Oh he-

LOWRI

He was the best thing!

ALEX

How pleasant was that character to be around?

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

(laughs) Yeah!

ALEX

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

Just every moment you were like - ooh yes, more of you, whatever you're doing, it's just fun!

HANNAH

I saw, I saw a tiny little snippet of Owen Wilson talking about Tom Hiddleston as part of the sort of circuit of this and he said: "Oh yeah, Tom Hiddleston was really sweet and we were talking about like previous stuff that we'd done" and he said: "Oh and of course you know I did Hamlet at such-and-such-a-place in this theatre" and then he said - and then there was the most British pause of all time, and he says: "Have, er, have you ever played Hamlet?" And he said: "And I just laughed and I couldn't do much more with that! No, no I've, no Tom Hiddleston, I haven't. I haven't played Hamlet." But he was so good! He was so good! We never got to see him on a jet-ski-

LOWRI

No...

ALEX

Yeah I, I-

HANNAH

But I'm hopeful for-

ALEX

I loved how into jet-skis he was, and it wasn't a thing, it wasn't a plot point, it didn't come up, it's just: this character just really likes jet-skis.

LOWRI

It kind of is a thing though right, because I think that was a little clever thing that they did as well is like, before you know the TVA employees are all from Earth and all - what do they call them? Variants.

HELEN

Yeah.

ALEX

Yeah yeah yeah.

HANNAH

Yeah yeah.

LOWRI

Like it's putting things from their previous life in. And I was like-

ALEX

Yeah, like absolutely, it fits! Just, it's a fun, completely divorced from the world around him point that I was like: I love you so much now, I love that you like jet-skis. I don't know why, but I'm just in. I'm now very in with you as a character.

HANNAH

But them as a pairing I thought worked really well.

ALEX

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

Shouldn't have.

HANNAH

As well. Like that - no!

ALEX

Absolutely did.

HANNAH

But their chemistry, I was -

LOWRI

Yeah.

HANNAH

I, I believed in it. I have to admit, more than I did with Falcon and Winter Soldier.

ALL

Mm!

HANNAH

I felt like they had a better, more sincere chemistry as a twosies.

ALEX

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

And that beatdown in episode one where it's just like: cool, here's your life on the screen, blah-blah-blah. Like it's - it's a good chunk of episode- it is episode one I'm thinking of?

HELEN

Yes.

ALEX

Where yeah it's, Owen Wilson's just like: cool, I'm gonna deconstruct your entire character in five minutes and then we're gonna move the series on from there. Oh, ooh, oh I see!

ALL

Mm.

HANNAH

Ooh, ooh, and the clock, and the animated clock -

LOWRI

Miss Minutes.

HANNAH

-who comes in and just like: hey, I'm gonna do da-da-da-da-da. And I'm like: you're fucking evil then aren't you?

(group laughter)

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

ALEX

Like three words in!

HANNAH

Immediately!

ALEX

There's your big bad.

(group laughter)

HANNAH

Yeah. It's the clock innit? It's the fucking clock, yeah.

(group laughter)

HELEN

Never trust a cheery animation!

HANNAH

Never!

(group laughter)

ALEX

You're helpful...begone! I know what you are!

HELEN

Yeah, that first episode really packed a punch. It really did, like it's an excellent set up.

ALEX

And it crushed so - like what it needed to do was take Loki from like Avengers 1 into basically where the audience are at with Loki post-Endgame.

HELEN

Mm.

ALEX

And it's like: cool, how do we do that in about 5 minutes, maybe 10 of episode time? When you actually think like how far they had to cheat it, this isn't the writer in me talking for a sec, like, they compressed a massive amount by just going: cool, we'll just shatter the character into a thousand pieces and then pick out the bits that we want after it.

LOWRI

Yeah.

ALEX

And it worked! And that's really hard to do.

ALL

Mm.

ALEX

Like incredibly hard to do that and you actually to care and not feel like you've been cheated by the, by the compressed arc? I was amazed by the pilot.

LOWRI

Yeah, it's a huge achievement.

HELEN

I will say that lessened as time went on with that.

ALEX

Yes. Yeah.

LOWRI

Mm.

HELEN

Because the decisions that Loki was making started to become decisions that I did not recognise as being Loki decisions.

ALEX

Did they feel imposed by a writer do you think?

HELEN

Well I mean they were.

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

(group laughter)

ALEX

No but what I mean though is that like, did it feel like that was somebody trying to deliberately steer a character to a certain point as opposed to following what the character wanted to do organically?

HELEN

Yes. Yes. He - and also this is really petty, right, but there's, I think it's the third episode-

ALEX

Get petty, go on, do it!

HELEN

It's the third episode where they get to like, they're in like the middle of an apocalypse and there's a building falling and Loki stops it with his powers and like, you know, they're able to get away from that collapse, right? And that is like the most powerful that we see him. The rest of the time he's getting beaten up quite easily by almost everyone. And I'm kind of like, in a show that's called "Loki", he doesn't feel as powerful as he has in previous-

ALEX

This is the issue and this is like inbuilt tension in the conceit of Loki as a series-

HELEN

Mm.

ALEX

Which is: it only works if Loki is absolutely humbled by what's happening to him and the world, the new layer of world that he's being engaged with, but at the same time Loki's meant to be a big deal.

HELEN

Yeah.

ALEX

And so there's this hard tension between how do you have Loki as the, you know the shattered protagonist in a Kafkaesque nightmare, also high-status sexpot mischief-maker. Like there was - there's a quite-

HANNAH

I can tell you exactly how you do that, and instead of having a female counterpart as part of the story arc, you just put Richard E. Grant in side by side from the first episode-

ALEX

[gasps] Oh! How good was he?

HANNAH

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

That's how you have sexpot and also completely humbled individual in one go. You just need two, you just need Richard E. Grant in a yellow suit and you'll be set.

LOWRI

I normally hate like a cameo, well not normally hate, but like, cameos can be so bad. But Richard E. Grant I'm like: yeah, I'm in! Love it! Yes! Yes, yes, yes.

ALEX

I genuinely wanna see more of old Loki.

LOWRI & HELEN

Yeah!

ALEX

Via Richard E. Grant. Like, like-

HANNAH

Yeah!

ALEX

I would love, I would genuinely love to see: I'm a Loki that made it long enough to actually get some perspective, and so all of my actions are way more, like, considered and measured, like I would love-

HANNAH

Old Man Loki like um, Wolverine-

ALEX

Yeah!

HANNAH

Logan wasn't it?

ALEX

Absolutely, I would love to see, I would love to see more of old Loki.

LOWRI

Going back a bit, I think part of what sold the st- so I'm not a huge Tom Hiddleston fan, which sometimes I've found is controversial, I don't know!

(Helen laughs)

So I really wasn't looking forward to Loki - well not that I wasn't looking forward to it, but when I saw the trailer I was like: oh, I actually think I might enjoy this.

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

And then I was so surprised at how much I enjoyed the first few episodes. And I have to say that him watching his life, he did that so well.

ALEX

Mm.

LOWRI

Like I felt that - when he saw, like I didn't get, in Endgame, no is it Infinity?

HELEN

Er, Loki dies in Infinity War, yeah.

LOWRI

I didn't feel emotional at that in the film. Watching him watch it on TV I was like: "oh! That got me. That was real good acting, well done."

HELEN

Mm.

ALEX

Yeah. When I was watching it, I kept thinking of - if you've seen Interstellar, the bit where main character, I've forgotten his name, is watching how many years have passed while they were messing around on the planet.

HELEN

Yeah.

ALEX

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

And don't get me wrong, I'd argue that's the more potent performance of the two.

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

Yeah.

ALEX

But at the same time that, that's what kept coming up in my head is it hits that same: "Hi actor, I'd like you to do some acting." "How much?" "All of it!"

(group laughter)

And you've got two minutes! Go!

(group laughter)

LOWRI

And go! Yeah.

ALEX

Yeah it, it stuck with me and it bought a lot of faith from me.

LOWRI

Mm.

HELEN

Same.

ALEX

Like that opener was so strong, I was like: you could give me like three terrible episodes and I'm still gonna be on board because that was such a strong opener. And I don't think they underserved either after that, it's just, it has an angle to it and it isn't up all the way.

HELEN

Do we wanna talk a little bit about the finale?

ALEX

Of Loki specifically?

HELEN

Yes. The fact that Loki and What If...? and WandaVision are all exploring the multiverse and I suspect will all be drawn into Doctor Strange in the Multi- is it Multiverse of Madness?

LOWRI

Yeah.

ALEX

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasgasm – Marvel TV

Yeah, it's Doctor Strange is Multiverse of Madness and then you've got Spiderman: No Way Home.

HELEN

Is it not the other way round?

LOWRI

I think Spiderman's coming out first.

HELEN

Spiderman's coming out first.

ALEX

Oh yeah, sorry, I didn't put those in order, I meant those are the - those are the two cinema films that are explicitly like: MULTIVERSE!

HELEN

Yeah. Which I am SO excited for. I am SO stoked. Especially because some of the press about the Doctor Strange film has been like: yeah, it's kind of more like a horror film. And I'm like: ooh!

ALEX

Good! That's what Doctor Strange needs to be.

HELEN

Mm.

HANNAH

And I like the fact that the Marvel universe is exploring different genres.

ALL

Yeah.

HANNAH

I think that's really interesting, I think it does need to come away from that superhero pew-pew stuff.

LOWRI

It has for a long time and that's why it works I think? Really - yeah, them leaning into that is a very "yes please!" thing.

HELEN

Yes. But the reason I bring it up is because I wanna talk about Kang the Conqueror.

HANNAH

Yes.

ALEX

Yeah yeah.

HELEN

Who I absolutely love as a character, an incredible backstory, and I really liked the performance.

LOWRI

He's f... effing amazing! I love him!

HELEN

And he, it's just an excellent performance of someone who truly does not give a shit anymore, like he's seen literally everything.

HANNAH

You're talking timekeeper.

HELEN

Yes.

LOWRI

Yeah.

ALEX

Yeah yeah.

HANNAH

Yeah yeah, you know right-

HELEN

The guy right at the end in his little-

LOWRI

Because that, that scene is literally Jonathan Majors just being like: I am just monologuing and monologuing and monologuing and we just fall in lo- well I did. I just fell in love with him. He is amazing.

(Helen laughs)

HANNAH

Oh dear. I, I liked the actor but I didn't buy it.

HELEN

Ooh...

HANNAH

Ooh!

LOWRI

That's okay!

ALEX

So yeah, even hotter take, I didn't mind the performance and I thought it had a lot going for it. I don't actually like Kang the Conqueror as a character.

ALL

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasgasm – Marvel TV

Yeah.

ALEX

I'm talking outside of like the TV, like I know, I used to collect like the comics for various things and blah blah blah back in the day so I know a little bit more of certain elements, and I always struggle with Kang the Conqueror as being a: cool, you've saved the universe! Now save MORE universes!

LOWRI

Yeah, yeah, sure.

ALEX

It feels, it always feels like jumping the shark in terms of stakes.

HELEN

I see.

ALEX

So it's a weird one where I have a bit of an odd divorce where like the portrayal, I'm like - okay yeah, I see where you're going with that, I'm interested. But what role Kang the Conqueror is filling, it's gonna need to be handled really well, because Kang the Conqueror can just turn into: I'M BIG AND POWERFUL! What's your thing? I HATE YOU! Anything else? NO! AHAHAHA!

ALL

Mm, yeah.

ALEX

Because what we saw for the timekeeper was a Kang the Conqueror variant, specifically the only one that wasn't a Conqueror.

HELEN

Yeah, the only one who was a little bit chill.

ALEX

So you're not going to see that portrayal again.

LOWRI

Mm.

ALEX

You're not.

HELEN

Mm.

ALEX

And that - that worries me a little bit because then I'm thinking - right, if that's the one that I'm never gonna see again, does that mean that all of the others are gonna be what I'm afraid of, which is: RARGH, I'M GONNA GET YOU, GRR!

ALL

Mm, yeah.

LOWRI

Hopefully they'll have one that's like that and they'll kill him immediately and then they'll have much more interesting, nuanced ones.

(group laughter)

ALEX

This is my hope! This is my hope.

HANNAH

It doesn't leave an awful lot of space for development as a character if you're already at the very top, top tip of, of the mountain I guess?

LOWRI

Yeah.

HANNAH

But again that's not a Loki-specific thing, I think that's just a character when you, when you're in charge of universes I don't think that gives you much wiggle.

HELEN

To bring it back round to What If...? then - The Watcher is in a similar kind of position.

LOWRI

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

Yeah...

HELEN

And he also fascinates me as a character.

HANNAH

But as a narrator, you couldn't ask for a more perfect thread through the series.

ALEX

Oh yeah, great, great casting!

HELEN & LOWRI

Mm.

HANNAH

Really good plot device if absolutely nothing else.

HELEN

Yeah. And I like how he gradually turns up more in like the backgrounds of the episodes.

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

Trying to like spot him, I'm like: ooh, ooh, where is he?

LOWRI

There he is, there's an eye!

(group laughter)

HELEN

There's my lad!

HANNAH

I'm more of a fan of the What If...? Watcher than I am of the Loki equivalent.

ALEX

The What If...? portrayal of the Watcher's interesting as well because like historically in the comics, deliberately (and this is kind of the point of the character) the Watcher's very rarely humanised. Like very rarely, like the Watcher is meant to be like this, it's almost like the Marvel equivalent of the Holy Ghost, it's like this ineffable, ephemeral being that's occasionally there and if you really wanna raise the stakes, someone notices the Watcher and you're like: "ooh. Ooh, hello. No one notices the Watcher." But for this one you actually, and again I'm not gonna spoil the final episodes because I haven't seen them!

(Helen laughs)

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasgasm – Marvel TV

But the idea that there is any kind of motive for the Watcher is interesting to see, I haven't seen much of that outside of like, the What If...? TV series specifically, and it's quite - it must be very hard to write.

LOWRI

That's interesting, I haven't noticed a motivation for the Watcher, have I not been paying attention?

ALEX

It's that, it's that little hints that he wants to...like the implication of "I'd love to help".

ALL

Yeah.

LOWRI

Oh okay, yeah.

HELEN

He clearly cares about what's happening.

ALEX

He gives a shit, yeah? And that's, that's the thing that's interesting is very often the Watcher can feel beyond cold, like almost like, you know - because the Watcher is SO removed from events, the idea of a Watcher who's like: "oh I wish I could."

LOWRI

Who's feeling it.

ALEX

"I won't, but I wish I could." Like yeah, it, I wasn't expecting it. I really wasn't expecting it at all.

LOWRI

What I'm wondering about What If...? is how much of it they are, if it is just to prep the audience for, to really get behind multiverses or if they are planning on bringing any of it over, and that's making me think of the Eternals, which I know is a film, but like-

ALL

Mm.

ALEX

Yeah yeah.

LOWRI

The fact that you know, they're gonna have to justify so hard that they've done nothing.

(group laughter)

And they're suddenly like - well you know what - let's er, let's interfere!

HANNAH

There's a lot of admin and filing that needs to be done in the superhero-dom!

ALEX

Do you have any idea how many risk assessments you have to file before you save the world?

HANNAH

The health & safety on this stuff, honestly...

HELEN

Because Captain Marvel could get away with it because like she's just, she's just the one superpowered person and Earth was basically fine until people started meddling around with things and drawing attention to themselves. But yeah, there's like seven Eternals or something.

ALEX

To be really, really cynical in a way that even, even for me I'm like: I'm not that cynical. What If...? has historically for Marvel been really useful, because it is a wall that you can throw ideas at and see what latches.

HELEN

Mm.

HANNAH

It's a sandbox.

ALEX

There is an entire comic run of Marvel Zombies because there was, if I remember correctly, there was like one nod to it once, everyone loved it and they went: right, off we go!

(group laughter)

It feels a little bit like that. In fairness they haven't used in What If...?, they haven't deliberately just dug through a bunch of fanfic, this is stuff that has like some kind of history within the comics, but it does feel a little bit like if every single person said that Marvel Zombies was the best thing they'd ever seen, you can bet your bottom dollar that someone is gonna be starting to write Marvel Zombies as its own series. But that's me being incredibly cynical.

HELEN

I mean they may not have deliberately dug through fanfiction, but I've seen - I've seen those scenarios!

(group laughter)

LOWRI

Do you know what?

ALEX

Have you seen things? Have you?

HELEN

I've seen them all!

LOWRI

I want to take us right back to WandaVision a little bit because - and we don't have to stay there, but Darcy is such a small character but in fanfic such a popular character.

HELEN

Mm, yes!

LOWRI

And when she came back to WandaVision I was like: oh, Darcy! And I just found I had all of these feelings about her that were not from the films! They were all from fanfic!

(group laughter)

Because it did seem odd that she was there. Like such a random person to be in WandaVision.

ALEX

You see, I see what you're s- I don't know the fanfic side at all, I have to admit.

HELEN

Darcy is often like a stand-in for-

LOWRI

Yeah, for the audience I'd say.

HELEN

The reader or the writer.

ALEX

She is the gift that keeps on giving, both as a performer and as like a character.

HELEN

Yeah, she's great.

ALEX

But she is a bizarrely compatible character where, take a moment. There's not really any chunk of Marvel that you can't sort of slot her into and she'll find a niche for the character.

HELEN

Yeah!

ALEX

Which is interesting. Like, I get why people would be writing about Darcy.

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

Yeah.

ALEX

Although it's interesting to hear, I didn't know that.

HELEN

No, no, she's very popular. She's got a very strong personality without much screen time.

LOWRI

Mm.

ALEX

Yeah. Yeah yeah.

HELEN

And so you don't really know that much about her so you can make up a lot about her, but you can write her easily.

ALEX

Sure, that scans.

HANNAH

The actress as well does a lot of heavy lifting there, like she's such a charismatic presence on screen isn't she? Like she draws attention.

LOWRI

Yeah. Her and Jimmy together as well, I loved it. I was like: yes, I love this double act! He's great!

ALEX

Yes!

LOWRI

I loved that he learnt the magic trick!

ALEX

Yeah, that worked really well! I would love to see a Marvel TV series, no superheroes, no powers, just the characters like that. Like, we assemble a roster of like seven or eight of the just, people. Not major characters, you know, your Darcys and things like that, and then do an ensemble series about that. I - I would love to see that.

LOWRI

I want all of the superhero stuff going on off-camera and they're just like-

HELEN

Yeah! (laughs)

LOWRI

-dealing with the fallout of it or, or ignoring it!

ALEX

Absolutely!

LOWRI

Or being like: "For god's sake, I can't believe they've got to go and do this again, when I just want them to come and do this thing with me!"

ALEX

"Sorry I can't get to dinner, my flight's been cancelled." "Oh no, what happened?" "Sokovia's flying again, it's just one of those things."

LOWRI

[sighs] Ah!

HANNAH

Alex, what you're pitching is effectively Marvel: Lower Decks.

ALEX

Yeah! Yeah! That!

HELEN

I would absolutely watch Jimmy Woo's bad day at the office.

(group laughter)

ALEX

Yes!

HELEN

Or Pepper Potts's endless meeting. Or -

ALEX AND LOWRI

Yes!

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

ALEX

Practising magic tricks when he's bored in the corner.

(group laughter)

LOWRI

Yes!

HELEN

I think we are almost coming to time, let me... ooh we are, we are. Oh no!

HANNAH

Nooooo!

LOWRI

But there's so many things!

HELEN

I know! There are so many-

ALEX

So many ninjas yet to meet!

(group laughter)

LOWRI

I just-!

HANNAH

I haven't even mentioned Daniel Brühl's coat!

LOWRI

Oh my god, we haven't even talked about Zemo!

(Alex and Helen laughing)

I also need to say that Sebastian Stan's acting as well with, is it Ayo, the Dora Milaje?

HELEN

Mm!

LOWRI

When he's going through the getting rid of the Winter Soldier training?

HELEN

Yes!

LOWRI

Beautiful. Chef's kiss. I just wanted to say that, because I love him.

HANNAH

I love him.

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

HELEN

No you're right, the-

ALEX

Absolutely.

LOWRI

I cried.

HELEN

The interactions between Bucky and the Dore Milaje were truly a thing of beauty, like all of them. I really liked that dynamic.

LOWRI

Yep.

HELEN

The bit where his arm just pops off!

LOWRI

[gasps] Yeahhh.

ALEX

Ohh!

HELEN

That's so impactful!

LOWRI

I'm sorry Helen, you're trying to wrap it up and I'm just like-

ALEX

No, no, the episode can't end if we all just keep coming up with new things-

(Helen laughs)

-that Helen's like: "Ooh, yeah!"

LOWRI

The plane won't leave without us!

(group laughter)

HELEN

What I originally had written down as like a nice little round-off question was you know, what do we want to see in future from Marvel TV shows. But we've just talked about it!

(group laughter)

We've just said we want to see the mundane characters just trying to be normal while someone's jumping off skyscrapers and stuff.

HANNAH

I'd love it if it were made in a similar style to the British Office as well.

HELEN

Oh my god, yes! Just-

ALEX

Yes!

HELEN

Looking into the camera like - oh right, so-

ALEX & HANNAH

Yeah!

LOWRI

And Thor flying past in the background.

HANNAH

Pepper Potts giving a side-eye to the camera when someone says something ridiculous and - oh! Wouldn't that be fantastic?

LOWRI

Yes. Yes, it would be.

(Helen laughs)

ALEX

Oh then okay, okay - who are your B characters you'd want in it then? I've given, I've started you off with your Darcy. I think Darcy's a strong contender. Is there any other like characters you're like - oh, I want this one in there?

HELEN

We've said Darcy, Jimmy Woo and Pepper Potts so far.

LOWRI

I really loved, is it Hunter B15 from Loki?

HELEN

Yes! Excellent!

LOWRI

She was brilliant.

ALEX

Oh yes yes yes. Yeah yeah yeah.

LOWRI

She would take n- she's just such a no-nonsense character.

HELEN

Yes.

LOWRI

Like she would fit very well in that I think.

HANNAH

I don't want any of the children that Wanda has. They were rubbish.

(hysterical group laughter)

LOWRI

Awww!

HELEN

Hot take coming in at the end!

(group laughter)

ALEX

Harsh! Harsh and cold from Brankin!

(group laughter)

HANNAH

No, I don't want them as interns, I don't want them turning up at the office space in any capacity at all!

(group laughter)

LOWRI

Oh my gosh, I want um - I don't, I only know her as Anya from Buffy, but I thought she was gonna have a really big part in WandaVision because she's an actor people know.

HELEN

Who was she?

LOWRI

You know Anya from Buffy, the blonde woman in-

HELEN

Emma Caulfield?

ALEX

Is she the one who like cuts her hand in the early episode and then it's all-

LOWRI

Yeah, yeah.

ALEX

-it's all a bit weird, and then...

HELEN

Oh yes!

LOWRI

I just like - just because of who she is. She wouldn't be good in our TV show actually.

HANNAH

I'd put Valentina in as like a Head of HR type person.

(group laughter)

LOWRI

Who's Valentina?

HANNAH

She's the one that comes in at the end going: "Oh boo hoo, that was bad, take my card, I'll make you rich, just don't worry. Morals? No, you don't need them."

LOWRI

Ahhh!

ALEX

Yeah.

HELEN

She's the one who takes John Whatshisface under her wing.

ALEX

Lowri you'll know this one - Daredevil's law partner, I've forgotten his name.

LOWRI

Is it Foggy?

ALEX

Foggy, yeah. I'd put Foggy in there as well.

LOWRI

Yeah, I like him too.

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

I guess that's kind of his role in Daredevil actually is to be that person.

ALEX

Little bit.

HELEN

The one looking into the camera.

ALEX

Well: Disney, hit us up! We've found the, probably in terms of casting the cheapest show that someone's gonna pitch you, but I like it, I'd watch it.

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

(group laughter)

LOWRI

Yeah, you've got four viewers here!

(group laughter)

ALEX

Cut! Print! We'll make millions!

(group laughter)

LOWRI

Cut the cheque!

HANNAH

What's the name of the lead bodyguard from the Wakandan guard?

HELEN

Okoye's the general and then Ayo is the one who was in Falcon and the Winter Soldier.

HANNAH

Ohhh, I realise that, realise that she hasn't been in any of the television yet but I just want her in everything that I ever see ever again.

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

HELEN

Yeah. (laughs)

LOWRI

I think that's a valid take, frankly.

HELEN

She's very good. Yeah, I'd like to see her just sorting out something small scale-

ALEX

Yeah.

HANNAH

Yeah.

HELEN

And just go - this is so below my pay grade but like, she's stuck there for some reason.

HANNAH

Like the birthday party for like one of the directors.

HELEN

Oh my gosh!

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

ALEX

Quietly simmering.

HANNAH

Seething.

ALEX

Quietly seething but still getting on with it, yet.

HELEN

Yeah, something like that! I'd love a bottle episode.

HANNAH

Popping balloons when no-one's looking with a spear!

(group laughter)

HELEN

Yeah, I'd love a bottle episode because I like bottle episodes anyway but just - something where someone is in a silly situation, stuck in the same room. But yeah, okay, we're definitely, we're definitely at the end of the episode now.

LOWRI

No!

(Helen laughs)

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Marvel TV

No, Helen, what about this other great thing?

HELEN

I'm sorry!

ALEX

Yeah, what else Helen-

LOWRI

[laughs] You can-

HELEN

NO! No, no. I am taking a stand, I am putting my foot down with a firm hand.

(Alex laughs quietly)

LOWRI

Aww!

HELEN

And I am gonna say: thank you for listening everybody, this has been "we talk about Marvel TV a lot and have lots of feelings" hour. Thank you so much.

Thank you all of you for coming on and talking about it with me.

HANNAH

Thank you for letting us near you on this wonderful occasion!

LOWRI

Yay!

HANNAH

I've loved every single moment of it!

(Helen laughs)

ALEX

Thank you for continuing to enable my chaos.

HELEN

(laughing) That is basically my role.

LOWRI

I was just so happy to get to talk in this episode because usually I'm watching-

HELEN

Yes!

LOWRI

-you all talk and being like: I wanna join in!

HELEN

I'm so happy that you got to join in on this one Lowri! But for now, it's goodbye from me: goodbye. And it's goodbye from them - do you want to say goodbye everyone?

EVERYONE EXCEPT ALEX

Bye!

ALEX

Goodbye everyone!

LOWRI

Of course you did...

[Show Theme - Outro]

HELEN

Enthusigasm is a podcast distributed by Rusty Quill and licensed under a creative commons attribution, non-commercial share alike 4.0 international license. It is directed by Helen Gould, produced by Lowri Ann Davies with executive producers Alexander J Newall and April Sumner, and edited by Marisa Ewing, Tessa Vroom, Maddy Searle, Jeffrey Nils Gardner and Catherine Rinella. Thanks for listening.

[Show Theme – Outro Ends]

Rusty Quill - Enthusigasm – Marvel TV

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