

EGSM – Lowri's Hot Takes

Content Warnings

- Innuendo
- Occasional beeping
- Discussions of: death & murder, classism
- Mentions of: injury, blood, hostage situations

[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 have an extra special piece of break content for you. It is Lowri's Hot Takes on all of the episodes that she wanted to talk about but couldn't because she was just sitting in the call being the producer! Hey, Lowri!

LOWRI

Hello!

(Both laughing)

HELEN

What are your pronouns and what do you do?

Rusty Quill Enthusigasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

LOWRI

Hello! I am Lowri Ann Davies, she/her and I produce Enthusigasm and I sit quietly in the recordings just desperately trying to - or wanting to join in with the conversations, but not being able to.

HELEN

Ah, F, but today - today is your time! [laughs]

LOWRI

Today is my time! I don't know how hot my takes are actually gonna be!
[laughs]

HELEN

Er, you did forget something, you are also in Chapter and Multiverse aren't you?

LOWRI

[gasps] I am! Yes!

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

Yeah, it's really exciting and we've got fan art!

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

HELEN

Yes, you have fan art already!

LOWRI

It's so exciting!

HELEN

Hee hee!

LOWRI

Yep! And so are you in fact - Vampire Cowboys.

HELEN

Oh yes, yes. For a minute, for a minute there I was like: no no no, I'm not in the main campaign for ages [laughs] - I was like: oh god, did I forget a recording?

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

You just haven't been turning up!

(Both laughing)

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

HELEN

All right, so. What I have here is a list of all of the season 2 episodes.

LOWRI

Yes.

HELEN

I'm gonna fire them at you and you tell me your opinions on them, OK?

LOWRI

Good, yeah!

HELEN

OK? Here we go. First one: Rom Coms. Tell me about your thoughts?

LOWRI

Oh, I love the music from "Love Actually". Love it!

HELEN

Oh!

LOWRI

Great soundtrack! And because of Enthusiasm watched "His Girl Friday".

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

HELEN

Oh, how was that?

LOWRI

Really, really good. Highly recommend. Really fun. And it's, yeah, is it black and white? I can't even remember if it's black and white, that's how much it didn't bother me if it *is* black and white.

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

Yeah! Next topic! That's my hot take!

HELEN

Oh my gosh! OK, we're speeding!

LOWRI

Coming at you real hot!

HELEN

[laughs] Er - Crafting.

LOWRI

Ohh, people are so talented and creative.

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

HELEN

[laughs] They are, they really are

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

Do you not knit or anything?

LOWRI

Nothing, I did - oh actually I did, once upon a time I used to knit but I don't think I ever progressed past scarves which, you know, it's pretty basic isn't it?

HELEN

I wouldn't know, I haven't even dared to try. [laughs]

LOWRI

Yeah. I'm not sure I've even completed a scarf actually.

HELEN

Aw! [laughs]

LOWRI

But yeah, I just don't have the patience for things like that which is sad, as I have a lot of admiration for people who do, and who practise their crafts and

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get good at them. Like the things that Rhys and Jess were showing us were amazing.

HELEN

Yes, yes, it was great.

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

Like the - [laughs] I still can't get over that hat!

LOWRI

Oh my gosh it was beautiful! Beautiful!

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

Chef's kiss! The, things like fan art as well.

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

Just - ah. I do sometimes like colour in abstract shapes, I draw abstract shapes and then colour them in just as like a, a calming activity. So I guess maybe that's-

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

That's the closest I get to crafting.

HELEN

I've got one of those, like, like those therapeutic colouring books for adults.

LOWRI

Mm, yeah.

HELEN

Yes, I've got some of those.

LOWRI

But I quite like drawing, like with a Sharpie, like a thick outline of different shapes and then I just colour them in. I've got one on my fridge that I was really proud of.

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HELEN

Aww!

LOWRI

It's just adorable. [laughs]

HELEN

That's really nice! [laughs] Ah. Stage Magic.

LOWRI

This was an episode that I did not think - I was like: what are you gonna talk about? Like-

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

But then the more I was listening to people talk about it I was like: oh yeah, I guess I have watched a lot. Like I'd kind of forgotten that you know, Paul Daniels was a thing.

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

And I remember, I'm pretty sure it was The Paul Daniels Show or a show that he did, watching it on TV and it, this particular trick is the reason that I still have trouble sleeping on my back even to this day. I think I must have been, like under 8, I'm going to venture I was about 6. And there's a trick where Debbie McGee, or I assume it was Debbie McGee, was lying on her back on a table and there was this huge saw swinging above her, like cutting her in half?

HELEN

Oh my god! Oh my god!

LOWRI

And that traumatised me and I was too afraid to sleep on my back for years and I still don't really feel comfortable doing it, like I feel quite vulnerable.

HELEN

Wow!

LOWRI

So - is that a hot take or is that just a story, I dunno!

HELEN

I mean they don't, they don't have to be, they don't all have to be hot takes, this is, it's just a-

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LOWRI

They don't have to be piping and fresh!

HELEN

[laughs] Yeah! I mean this is just, this is just like to give the vibe of what this episode is gonna be like.

LOWRI

Yeah, true. True.

HELEN

[laughs] Ooh, Mythology!

LOWRI

Ohh... this was one that I really wanted to talk in actually.

HELEN

Oh really?

LOWRI

Yeah. So I always - like who isn't fascinated by like Greek and Roman mythology and gods and things like that? But what I really wanted to talk about were the Welsh mythology - The Mabinogion?

HELEN

Tell me about that, I've never heard of it.

LOWRI

Oh my gosh! So I think, I'm 99% sure that The Mabinogion, the book that was found of them is the oldest written, it can't be the oldest written text of Britain ever, but I think it's like the oldest written like stories, basically, like fiction books, something like that.

HELEN

Ohh.

LOWRI

It's like 12th century that they found the earliest version of it. And obviously there were oral tales before that. Yeah, we grew up learning about them in school and like we'd go and see theatre versions of them and like, TV shows and like Welsh language TV shows and it's all - it's got quite an Arthurian feel to it.

HELEN

Mm. Will you tell me one?

LOWRI

Yeah! So my favourite one, so the way they work there's like four branches, and it's, they're following lots of, kind of a similar people overlap through them all. And there's a magic king called Math, who isn't necessarily a good person

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and then there's another magician who I've always kind of thought of as Merlin, though that might just be me-

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

-called Gwydion. There's a man called Lleu and his mum is like - I don't wanna say evil, like she's, you know, she's not treated well!

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

But she's also magic, and she curses her son so that he will never have a name, and she's-

HELEN

Oh no!

LOWRI

-so Gwydion is her brother, I'm pretty sure it's Gwydion who's her brother, and he tricks her into naming him, so then she curses him to say: "You will never bear arms", and Gwydion tricks her into giving Lleu arms, not - not the er-

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HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

-appendages! [laughs] Not the limbs, like a sword!

(Both laughing)

HELEN

A sword!

LOWRI

And then the third one she curses him that he will never have a human wife, and this is where my favourite story begins.

HELEN

Oh!

LOWRI

Er, it's Blodeuwedd, which actually is the name of my character in Chapter and Multiverse.

HELEN

Yes it is!

LOWRI

Yeah! Not that I'm trying to draw a parallel between that Blodeuwedd and Blodeuwedd in Chapter, genuinely I'm not.

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

But Gwydion and Math I think make Lleu a wife out of flowers, like three different types of flowers.

HELEN

Aww!

LOWRI

And she's called Blodeuwedd, and Blodeuwedd means like - I don't know if it's flower-woman but "blodau" is Welsh for "flowers".

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

Yeah, and it's kind of, this kind of reminds me of a bit of an Arthurian feel because it's like the whole Guinevere thing. So like she's Lleu's wife but she

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falls in love with someone else, Gronw I think - Groneu? I dunno. But basically Lleu can only be killed in a certain way, like it's a really specific-

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

Like I think the spear has to be made every day for a hundred- er, for a year or something, and he has to be standing with one foot on a-

HELEN

Uh huh.

LOWRI

-water thing and one foot on a goat or something like that!

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

And she basically like convinces him to tell her exactly how he can be killed, and then they kill him.

HELEN

Oh no!

LOWRI

And then as punishment, Gwydion the magician turns her into an owl and she flies off. I dunno why it's my favourite because it doesn't end great for her!
[laughs]

HELEN

I really like it when myths end in such a weird way.

LOWRI

Yeah!

HELEN

It's just like - oh, you get turned into an owl or a tree-

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

-or you fly away in a chariot pulled by dragons.

LOWRI

I dunno if it's just the one that maybe I knew best as a child?

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

And like my mum as part of her - she studied Welsh in university and as part of that she translated it into English so I remember like reading it in English in my mum's handwriting so maybe it had like some-

HELEN

Aww!

LOWRI

Like a connection there as well.

HELEN

That's a lovely connection!

LOWRI

Yeah. Yeah! So that's, that's my favourite. That's the one that I was like - I wanna talk about this so much!

(Both laughing)

HELEN

Right, the next one was Musicals which you were in.

LOWRI

I was in. Did we mention Hadestown, if not - go see Hadestown, it's fantastic, and that's all I have to say about that, otherwise I'll talk for an hour! [laughs]

HELEN

OK! Style! [laughs]

LOWRI

Oh gosh, I wish I had some!

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

I think my style is very much 90s. I never left the 90s.

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

But apparently that's coming back round again so...

HELEN

It is, it is. All of it's like - as we know, fashion is just a circle.

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LOWRI

Or - or a spiral maybe, I dunno.

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

That implies going in - what's the name of one that just keeps going-

HELEN

A wheel.

LOWRI

Yeah, I guess, all right, yes. A wheel.

HELEN

Fashion is a wheel! [laughs] Period Drama.

LOWRI

So first of all that makes me think of Poirot, which I adore.

HELEN

Oh that's interesting!

LOWRI

Yeah. I love - and I guess, does that count as a period drama? I mean it's very, it's 20s, so I guess it-

HELEN

It's from a particular period but I think you would prob- it's one of those things where it would be tagged with "Period Drama" and "Murder Mysteries" and like "Crime Thriller" probably.

LOWRI

Yeah, yeah. Like I love Jane Austen as well, and I did watch some of Downton Abbey and enjoyed it and actually one of my favourite films is Gosford Park, I don't know if you've seen that?

HELEN

Ohh, that's the one where there's - no, wait. Yeah, there is a murder.

LOWRI

Yes, yes.

HELEN

Yes, I love that film.

LOWRI

Yeah, it's fantastic.

HELEN

I think that's great.

LOWRI

The, the lifestyle that the rich people in those shows lead, that is so... enticing isn't quite right but like so seductive, right?

HELEN

Mm!

LOWRI

Where you're like - oh! Wouldn't it be nice to just ride my horse all day and then like get home and dinner's there and I can have whatever I like! I mean and in reality it's horrible right, because someone else is doing all of that and it's not OK!

HELEN

[laughs] Yeah!

LOWRI

So I have that troubling feeling but there is something very seductive about it.

HELEN

I don't think there's anything wrong with like, enjoying the idea of luxury.

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LOWRI

Mm, yeah.

HELEN

It's just in our, in our world that comes at the expense of lots of other people-

LOWRI

A lot of other people, yeah.

HELEN

And it's like, just intrinsically tied to oppression.

LOWRI

Yeah. Yeah.

HELEN

So that's why it feels weird! [laughs]

LOWRI

Yeah, for sure! So...

HELEN

But inherently I think we should all be able to access luxuries if we want them.

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LOWRI

Yeah, yeah.

HELEN

And I don't think there's anything wrong with that.

LOWRI

No. We should all be able to just ride our horses all day!

HELEN

Yes. A horse for everyone!

LOWRI

Yes!

HELEN

That's my political stance! [laughs]

LOWRI

And lots of free time. I love it, yes! Next topic!

(Both laughing)

HELEN

Graphic Novels.

LOWRI

Oh no, I have no notes for this one.

HELEN

Oh!

LOWRI

I - what do I think about graphic novels? I think graphic novels just seem really cool.

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

And I did agree with the take of: what's the difference between a graphic novel and a comic? And like, one of the takes was it's almost like a snobbery of: yeah, but this is a graphic novel.

HELEN

Yeah, I think Ben said that. Yeah.

LOWRI

Yeah. Graphic novel, not a comic.

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HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

And I can see that. Yeah, I don't know that I've read any.

HELEN

Did you never read The Crow?

LOWRI

No.

HELEN

Or The Sandman?

LOWRI

Got close to reading Sandman but never did.

HELEN

Watchmen?

LOWRI

Oh, same with Watchmen. It's like - because I've got quite a lot of comics like, but it's always something, I think I've always like low key not felt cool enough for them?

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HELEN

Aww! [laughs]

LOWRI

I mean I'm over that, I'm like - anyone can read them, right? It's fine!

HELEN

Yes! And you're absolutely very cool.

LOWRI

Thank you. In my 90s gear, watching Poirot.

HELEN

Yes!

(Both laughing)

HELEN

These are all extremely cool things!

LOWRI

Yes they are!

(Both laughing)

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HELEN

OK - The Witcher.

LOWRI

Ah yeah, OK.

HELEN

I know you've got opinions on The Witcher. [laughs]

LOWRI

Yeah, yeah. Hot, hot takes. Er, it's not that a hot a take really. I mean first I'll start with the not horny bit where-

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

Listening to the episode really made me want to play the game. Actually I found that a lot with Enthusiasm. I guess it's listening to people talk enthusiastically about things they love, right? It makes you go: oh! I wanna do that! Or I wanna partake in that, that sounds really fun!

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

My only interaction with The Witcher has been the TV show. First time I watched it through, my friend basically she was like: "You're watching this because of Henry Cavill aren't you?"

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

And I hand on heart, genuinely was like, believed that I wasn't!

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

I was like: no, I'm really not! Like and I am into fantasy, like, really, really am not. And then on my second watch through I was like: oh no I, yeah I am absolutely here for HC.

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

Like: gosh.

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

He looks very good in a blond wig and a little bit dirty doesn't he?

HELEN

What's that phrase someone invented, that he "he dirties up well" instead of cleans up.

LOWRI

He dirties up well. He really does. Like-

HELEN

Yeah, yeah. Like Viggo Mortensen in Lord of the Rings.

LOWRI

Mm. Yeah - and then at the end when he's the King and he's had like a haircut and he's got a beard I'm like: no, Viggo!

HELEN

Yeah.

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LOWRI

We want you dirty!

HELEN

I want you slathered in mud! [laughs] With terrible hair and-

LOWRI

Yeah! I want the stubble not a neat beard, come on!

HELEN

And blood all over you!

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

Yeah, and that is exactly how you could describe Henry Cavill in The Witcher, right?

HELEN

Yes!

LOWRI

Rugged with blood all over him.

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HELEN

Yes, perfect.

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

And he's got cool eyes.

LOWRI

He does have cool eyes.

HELEN

Which is always a bonus.

LOWRI

They're very striking looking.

HELEN

Yes, yeah. My thing always with these, with these kind of shows is that I'm, I'm not generally attracted to the actor unless I find out something about the personality and I think that they're, like, a cool person. I'm always attracted to the character.

LOWRI

Yeah, that's interesting.

HELEN

So like, Henry Cavill actually doesn't do that much to me but Geralt really does!

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

I mean you can hear the difference in the way you say the names!

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

Yeah, yeah, I see that. Interesting. I think I agree with you.

HELEN

It's because personality is so important to me I think.

LOWRI

Mm. That's very true. I do like Henry Cavill as - I haven't seen "Mission: Impossible" but I have seen the trailer where he does that punch-punch thing and I was like: oh gosh!

(Both laughing)

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LOWRI

That's genuinely making me want to watch the movie and I've never watched a Mission: Impossible movie in my life - like, all right!

(Both laughing)

HELEN

Oh that bit where he reloads his arms! [laughs]

LOWRI

Yes, that's exactly what he's doing isn't it?

HELEN

Yeah! [laughs]

LOWRI

I love it!

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

But yeah, maybe you're right. No, I fall for the act... Like Florence Pugh in, er Hawkeye-

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HELEN

Ooh.

LOWRI

And I was like: oh, I'm in. Oh god.

HELEN

I still haven't seen Hawkeye.

LOWRI

[gasps]

HELEN

I should. And I'm behind on Moon Knight.

LOWRI

Oh wait-

HELEN

Oh I'm such a bad Marvel fan.

LOWRI

Oh same here.

(Both laughing)

HELEN

Right - Singing and Vocal- oh! Ooh! You do a lot of singing!

LOWRI

I do!

HELEN

Give me your takes on singing!

LOWRI

I do! Definitely really wanted, just desperate to join in with this one. But it was just lovely listening to everyone be so knowledgeable and generally agreed with everything people were saying, like I think it was Beth who said, when you asked, was it: "what makes a good singer?" I think was the question? And how, how you can really enjoy listening to someone be technically perfect and you know, arguably technically perfect -

HELEN

Mm, yes.

LOWRI

And just be really precise and really skilled, but also someone who gets the emotion across without all that technique is equally powerful. So like, I was trying to think of two examples and I went to see Lucia di Lammermoor, I never know how to pronounce that-

HELEN

Yes.

LOWRI

-with my gran, which is an opera. There's a famous scene, aria which I - I don't know how long, is it like nine minutes long or something ridiculous? But the woman, I tried to look up her name, the person who we saw and I couldn't find her anywhere. But I remember looking her up at the time and she had like a PhD in singing-

HELEN

Oh wow.

LOWRI

-like genuinely had a PhD in singing. She was like astonishing, like so beautiful, like I was in tears watching her, like absolutely she had me. But one of my other favourite renditions of a song is Sinéad O'Connor singing "My Man's Gone Now", have you heard her sing that?

HELEN

No.

LOWRI

Oh my god. I - I was a teenager when I heard it and it was like, you know when you get exposed to something and you just, you can't believe how good it is.

HELEN

Mm hm.

LOWRI

And you just want to keep experiencing it, like - oh!

HELEN

Yes, yeah.

LOWRI

Because that song is, it's from a Gershwin opera, so it's usually sung very like operatically, and she just, you can hear the pain in her voice through the whole thing, like she doesn't sing it operatically at all. I highly recommend going to listen to it, it's- oh!

HELEN

I will! [laughs]

LOWRI

So good! I'm gonna have to go and listen to it after this again actually I think, I haven't heard it for a while.

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

Yeah, so that's my, my take on that.

(Both laughing)

HELEN

One of my interesting, like one of my similar things is um, "Wild is the Wind"

LOWRI

Ooh.

HELEN

Which is done by Nina Simone and David Bowie.

LOWRI

Mm.

HELEN

As in - as in like they both had their separate versions, not they sung it together.

LOWRI

I was gonna say, that's a powerful combo!

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HELEN

I know, can you imagine? [laughs] But like so Nina Simone's came first and then Bowie did one I think.

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

And they're just so good and in such different ways, like-

LOWRI

Yeah!

HELEN

Yeah, I just. Yeah, it's cool. Singing is cool.

LOWRI

Ooh, I'll look that up. I love a bit of Nina Simone.

HELEN

Sci-fi Films!

LOWRI

Oh my gosh I watched Alien the other night because of Enthusiasm!

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HELEN

You did! [laughs]

LOWRI

Yeah! Oh it's great! It's absolutely great!

HELEN

It is isn't it?

LOWRI

Yes!

HELEN

I'm really glad that it stands up.

LOWRI

Yeah, SO good actually. And - am I right that Alien 2 is good?

HELEN

Yes.

LOWRI

Awesome. Well I'm gonna watch Alien 2 as well. What about the other ones, are they, are they worth watching?

HELEN

They start to go downhill and then the recent ones, Prometheus and Covenant
- I respect them for what they're trying to do-

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

-but I'm not sure they succeed.

LOWRI

Maybe I should watch all of those and then watch Alien 2. Oh I guess if there's
spoilers, yeah. Maybe I'll just stop at Alien 2.

HELEN

That's what I would recommend.

LOWRI

Yeah, yeah. Great, there we are! That's my hot take. That's - that's the only
sci-fi film that exists for me, Alien!

HELEN

[laughs] Fantasy Books.

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LOWRI

Yeah, that's so my genre.

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

Those are the only kinds of books that I find I can consistently finish.

HELEN

Really?

LOWRI

I've got quite a short attention span, yeah. It makes me really sad because when I was a child I read - like I would be walking around with a book in my hand constantly.

HELEN

Yeah, same.

LOWRI

Yeah. And especially through lockdown I've found like I've just started so many books and then just couldn't, just couldn't finish them. But - and I was trying to be like, read, expand my horizons I guess and read different kinds of books.

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And in the end just so that I could finish one I was like, right I'm just gonna go back to fantasy and finish a book so that I've kind of got over that.

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

Yeah, I love Terry Pratchett, Jasper Fforde is someone I really like, I don't know if you've ever read any of his.

HELEN

No.

LOWRI

Um, ooh it's really good. He writes about the book world, as in you - people can go into books?

HELEN

Ooh!

LOWRI

But the reason I read "Jane Eyre" is because of a lot happens in Jane Eyre in some of Jasper Fforde's novels, or the first one.

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

HELEN

I see.

LOWRI

Yeah, I don't know if I've got much else to add to that!

HELEN

[laughs] Cool. In which case: Star Wars.

LOWRI

Right. I don't like it.

HELEN

[laughs] Just don't like it?

LOWRI

I think this is gonna be the hottest take. I don't like it! I've tried twice. One of my best, one of my dearest friends loves Star Wars and I've sat down with her. I just, I don't know - I am willing to try again. I think one of the reasons, actually the main reason I didn't like it is that I f[bleep]ing hate Han Solo.

HELEN

[laughs]

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

LOWRI

But that's Harrison Ford's character, right?

HELEN

Han Solo is Harrison Ford's character, yes.

LOWRI

I hate him.

HELEN

And he is annoying, yeah.

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

[laughs] I agree.

LOWRI

When she says "I love you" and he says like, is it: "I know"? I was like: f[bleep] off. I'm sorry, I'm so sorry.

HELEN

[helpless with laughter]

LOWRI

I'm not, I'm not taking it again. That needs to be bleeped because that's the level of hatred I have. Just get - get in the sea.

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

And that - I think he's quite a central character, right? So...

HELEN

Yes!

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

I just couldn't get on board with him. I'd be interested to try the new new ones. I wonder if I'd enjoy them more.

HELEN

I mean...

LOWRI

The look on your face tells me maybe not.

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HELEN

Did you not see the reaction to Rise of Skywalker, the last of the new new ones?

LOWRI

Yeah that was awful wasn't it?

HELEN

Yeah. That was-

LOWRI

Sorry.

HELEN

I think as - as Sasha put it, it united the Star Wars fandom. [laughs]

LOWRI

Yeah. OK so by the "new new" - but wasn't Rogue One good?

HELEN

Rogue One, absolutely. You should absolutely watch that.

LOWRI

Yeah.

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

HELEN

I think you will like that.

LOWRI

And also isn't there a really, really good TV series as well? Mandalorian?

HELEN

Yes, The Mandalorian is apparently really good.

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

I haven't heard anyone say that, that it's bad.

LOWRI

Oh there's enough content out there for me to watch other things. Like maybe I'll try it a third time and if it sticks, great, and if not, that's OK! I don't have to love all the things.

HELEN

That's true. Like I was in an interesting place in that episode because I really like the concept of Star Wars-

LOWRI

Mm.

HELEN

-and I like the fact that there's so much different lore and the, it's just like a complete tangled mess of different kinds of canons and stories and stuff.

LOWRI

Mm, yeah.

HELEN

So I, I'm really interested and fascinated by that, but the films, the main films themselves I can give or take. [laughs]

LOWRI

Yeah, yeah.

HELEN

Like they don't really speak to me.

LOWRI

And, and I wonder if it is like one of those things that if you see when you're young and you, you love it - I guess if nostalgia hooks you into it.

HELEN

Because the thing is, I saw, I saw Lord of the Rings before I saw the Star Wars things-

LOWRI

Mm.

HELEN

-and I've always said that was the trilogy that, that claimed me.

LOWRI

Yeah, yeah.

HELEN

I feel like I just, I didn't have room for Star Wars after Lord of the Rings!

[laughs]

LOWRI

Same actually, yeah. Yeah. And I'm - and sci-fi's never been one of my favourite genres anyway.

HELEN

Fair enough.

LOWRI

Which I know is potentially a controversial thing to say because there are so many different types of sci-fi, as was discussed in the sci-fi and like-

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

-but, yeah.

HELEN

It's fine, don't worry! Instruments. I don't know if you play any instruments actually?

LOWRI

I do, but I haven't practised for SO long-

HELEN

What do you play?

LOWRI

-that I can't really. So I play piano, I got to like Grade 5 piano but when I was about 13 and then never practised. So like I think there are like two pieces I can still play because I'll go back to them now and then. I wonder if it's because I had to play all the classical things and there were, like I remember

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there was like one piece in I think it was my Grade 4 that I loved, so I liked practising that, that was great. But the other ones I was like: I don't really care about these, like I don't like these as pieces of music.

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

And actually something that I asked for for Christmas just gone was a piece from the Love Actually soundtrack.

HELEN

Oh I see!

LOWRI

Because there's a - the Glasgow Theme I think it's called, which is just so pretty and I think it sounds quite simple, and I was like: that might be quite a nice way to get back into it. So we'll see,

HELEN

I wonder if it's one of those things where like, if you've done like specifically like jazz piano or something like that you would have kept it up?

LOWRI

Yeah. Like actually thinking about it, I did have a Disney book.

HELEN

Aww!

LOWRI

Piano book that I loved. So I used to, I just, instead of practising my pieces I would just play "Part Of Your World" from The Little Mermaid over and over again and sing that and-

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

Like, I got quite good at playing that! And my mum probably, I mean obviously she could hear what I was playing when I was supposed to be practising but she was probably like: well, you know, she's having fun!

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

And I was!

HELEN

Aww.

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

LOWRI

Hm...

HELEN

Ooh, the next one! Er, Collectibles and Miniatures episode.

LOWRI

Yeah!

HELEN

I don't know if you have any little figurines or anything like that?

LOWRI

No I don't. I collected coins briefly as a child.

HELEN

Really?

LOWRI

And I - I actually don't think I can claim that because actually what happened I think is I just found a jar of old coins in my grandparents' house.

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

And I was like: I collect coins! And then did nothing about it. So actually I just had a jar of coins I think is what I'm saying.

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

And until I told you that then that has always been something I believed about myself is that I collected coins when I was younger but no I, I don't think I did. [laughs] Um, something that struck me listening to Chris and Grant talking and that I've always thought really, again the patience.

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

The patience required to - like the detail that Chris was talking about, like oh my gosh!

HELEN

Yes, it's incredible. And I don't know if this will be like on the Patreon or something but he did hold up one of his models up to the camera and we all went ooh and ahh!

LOWRI

Yeah, yeah! I remember the eye was so detailed.

HELEN

Yes.

LOWRI

And I love that for them, that they find like peace and tranquillity and calm and that in doing that, I just cannot imagine. Oh! It makes me sad for myself that I don't have that level of-

HELEN

Aww!

LOWRI

-I mean, you know I'm fine!

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

But like, it's like: oh, I wish I had that, well yeah, that level of dedication and patience to something small that I loved.

HELEN

Well look, if we were all the same the world would be very boring.

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

LOWRI

This is true.

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

I'm, I like, I do more big physical things, so that's fine. [laughs]

HELEN

Yeah, you can do that instead!

LOWRI

Yeah.

(Both laughing)

HELEN

Ooh - Anime.

LOWRI

I haven't watched any anime I don't think. And it's always something that's been on my periphery, that I've thought: I'd probably enjoy that, but I've never got round to reading or watching. I might - I think I'm gonna have to go back

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and listen to the anime episode and check out some of the recommendations, because-

HELEN

Yeah. I mean the er, incredibly hot take that Alex left us with I think was that if you've never seen any anime before ever you should watch "Avatar: the Last Airbender".

LOWRI

Oh yeah!

HELEN

And I would recommend that actually for you Lowri, because the episodes, they're not very long at all, they're roughly 20 minutes, but they go really fast.

LOWRI

Yeah, that's quite short.

HELEN

Yes it is, and it's a really well-crafted story.

LOWRI

Yeah. Maybe I should try that then.

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

HELEN

Give it a go, give it a go.

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

I think it's just because it's technically not Japanese, that's why it's like heresy.

[laughs] To say start there.

LOWRI

Mm, yeah. Yeah.

HELEN

Ooh, X-Files.

LOWRI

Yeah! I think another one that I started watching, a combination of because I got Disney Plus and it's on there and it's been on my radar for so long, and I was like: let me check this out. And I really loved it, I really, really got into it. And then I hit an episode, I think I may have said this to you before, where I was like: I'm, I just can't get, I can't push past this. Where I think Mulder is like sent into a hostage situation as the hostage negotiation man.

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

And I was like: no! What?! He's got no - no training!

HELEN

[still laughing] It's such a bad decision!

LOWRI

I dunno why that is where I was like - I cannot, fine there's a man who can like slide through drains and like sleeps for 30 years and comes out and eats your liver. Yeah, I can take that. No! So I dunno, maybe I'll just - I'm trying to not be a completionist to the point that it's detrimental to me.

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

And I think me not watching the rest of X-Files just because I don't like that episode and can't push through that would be silly. So I'm just going to assume it all turned out OK and move onto the next one I think!

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

Because I'm really enjoying it, I was really sad to hear that they never get together. [laughs]

HELEN

Well I don't think that's what we said, I think what we said was: "It's complicated." [laughs]

LOWRI

Mm. OK, OK. That is interesting I guess, yeah.

HELEN

I think it's sort of canon that they're together but it's also sort of not. Yeah, just - it's complicated I think was the conclusion.

LOWRI

That kind of show isn't particularly - like I'm not a massive horror fan, not a massive sci-fi fan, like you know I wouldn't typically describe myself as those things, obviously it's more nuanced as we have discussed at length.

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

But I think it must be their, their characters and their relationship that keeps me hooked I suppose.

HELEN

Yeah, it's a very good dynamic.

LOWRI

Mm. And actually thinking about it that is an episode where they're not together and it's just Mulder being something he is completely not qualified to do.

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

So...

HELEN

Maybe you were just missing Scully. Maybe you should just watch the next episode and see how you go.

LOWRI

Yeah, I mean she is the best. She's the best. She's awesome.

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

HELEN

Yeah. [laughs] Shakespeare.

LOWRI

My microphone is currently sitting on a book of Shakespeare speeches.

HELEN

Oh!

LOWRI

I like Shakespeare very much, I enjoy performing it, I enjoy watching it. I am not going to have anything anywhere near as insightful or academic to say like compared to our guests!

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

And I'm not like trying to put myself down, like I'm just not!

HELEN

It's always astonishing isn't it? [laughs]

LOWRI

Yeah! But like that was an episode in particular where I was like: oh, these people are so good.

HELEN

Mm hm.

LOWRI

Like so wonderful, wonderfully insightful and knowledgeable, I really enjoyed listening and didn't necessarily feel the need to join in apart from agreeing emphatically when someone made a point and I was like: ooh I haven't thought of that before, yeah, that's great!

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

Which I probably did, out loud in my kitchen, I don't know.

HELEN

Yeah, that was absolutely one of the episodes where I was like: I feel like everyone here is so much smarter than me and like - and that's a really good place for me to-

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

LOWRI

Yeah. And they're not!

HELEN

It's - maybe more articulate, but um.

LOWRI

Mmm - I have to disagree with that as well.

HELEN

[laughs] Aww!

LOWRI

But maybe, just maybe just on that topic, I don't know.

HELEN

Maybe, maybe. But it's, it's, it's OK. It's not a negative feeling for me.

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

It just means that I'm really impressed by them! [laughs]

LOWRI

Yeah. And enjoying - enjoying sitting and listening to the lovely conversation they're having, yeah.

HELEN

Yes, it makes - like it's like I'm, I'm sitting on the floor at the fireplace while some people who are very wise talk to me about things. [laughs]

LOWRI

Yeah! Yeah, that's a nice image!

HELEN

Yeah!

LOWRI

I get that vibe as well.

HELEN

Ooh - Board Games, which at time of recording we haven't actually done yet.

LOWRI

No, we haven't recorded it yet.

HELEN

What is your take on board games?

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

LOWRI

I love board games.

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

I really would actually quite like to be in this episode but I don't think I can be!

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

So it's definitely gonna be one where I'm sitting going: Nnnnggghh! I wanna... talk!

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

Oh my gosh. I love social deduction games-

HELEN

Ooh, yeah.

LOWRI

I love collaborative games. I adore One Night Ultimate Werewolf, which I haven't played for so long. Like I will, I will happily sit and play it all night just over and over, go again, again, again, again.

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

I love it so much. And I think it's because it kind of, it has elements of improv in it, right, in a way where it's like-

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

It's kind of between a board game and RPG in a way almost. Like you don't have to be the character-

HELEN

It's a really good like gateway.

LOWRI

Yeah, for sure.

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

And also there's logic there, right, which I also really enjoy and I love just that puzzle, and it's short. Like you're like-

HELEN

Yes.

LOWRI

Ah! This is just like a 10, 15 minute game which I will play for six hours, it's fine. But there's like that lack of commitment as well which I really enjoy.

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

Things like "Avalon" as well and "Codenames".

HELEN

Oh those are really fun.

LOWRI

I think again I feel like I would like to talk about this topic at length but I actually think what it would end up being is me just listing all the games I like which isn't really interesting, right?

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

Me just being like - I love that game!

HELEN

But it does give you a lot of recommendations.

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

Though actually like, things like "Dixit", I love games that give you an insight into other people.

HELEN

Yes, me too.

LOWRI

And like your friends - so like something that's really lovely about Dixit is seeing - have you played Dixit?

HELEN

I have, yes.

LOWRI

I guess for the audience just in case you haven't, ooh gosh, I have to remember how you play it now. You get these beautiful cards which are just like beautiful pieces of art basically, and you have to write a line of what that inspires in you.

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

And then everyone else has to guess - you all put a card in from your hand and then you read out what you were inspired to write and then everyone has to guess which card they think it was that inspired you.

HELEN

Yes.

LOWRI

So it's kind of, it's like an insight into how your friends' brains work really, like and: oh you look at that and you see this? Like I look at that and I feel this!

HELEN

Yes.

LOWRI

It's, yeah, it's really, really nice. I played another game like that recently. It's called "Wavelength" and it has a really nice, like little tool that you have where you spin this dial, and I can't remember if there are numbers but for example say there's a line that will go between - oh it's from "strongly agree" to "disagree", something like that. And then you get a topic, it almost gives you an axis. And you have to try and, with one sentence or one word even convey to the other people where the line has fallen. So they have to know you-

HELEN

Oh, I know this one!

LOWRI

So one that - yeah, it's great! One that we got was um, so my axis was from "unsexy Pokémon" to "sexy Pokémon".

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

And I had to like get to my, over to my friends that it had landed on like an 8 or something.

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

And my friend - it was Grace actually who was in the Shakespeare episode, she got immediately - she was like, OK there, that's where Lowri thinks, that's how sexy Lowri thinks Blastoise is. Which was-

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

You know as far as Pokémon go!

HELEN

Yeah, that's an all right one! That's an all right one to pick!

LOWRI

Like obviously Incineroar is the hottest, but...

HELEN

[laughs]

LOWRI

I was so upset when my cute little kitten turned into that giant man cat, but then I was like - all right, I'll take it!

(Both laughing)

HELEN

Incredible. One of my favourite ones to play is "Concept".

LOWRI

Ooh, what's that?

HELEN

So you have all these cards and it's different, it's like people or things or concepts, like it's in the title!

LOWRI

Hey!

HELEN

Or words basically. And you have this massive board with drawings that symbolise different things, so it's like you know a little, like a pink figure in a skirt for woman and blue figure in trousers for man.

LOWRI

Mm.

HELEN

And all the different colours as like paint splotches and an arrow going up for like tall or high, and an arrow going down for low or underground or stuff like that.

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

So if on your card you have, say, Beyoncé-

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

-you might put, and you have all these tokens, you might put a token on woman, real, singing.

LOWRI

Yeah. Oh that's great!

HELEN

Stuff like that, and then the other person has to guess who it is.

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

LOWRI

Yeah. That's almost like 20 guesses but you just - yeah, like it's 20 or however many vague concepts to get to a thing. Oh I like that!

HELEN

Yeah, it's kind of like 20 Questions but like with indicators on like a little, a little board. [laughs]

LOWRI

Oh I really like that, that sounds awesome.

HELEN

It's really fun and it's a great game to play with a new date. [laughs]

LOWRI

Yeah - ahh! You can really get to their - into their psyche early on!

HELEN

Yeah!

(Both laughing)

HELEN

Oh OK, so last-

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

LOWRI

Mm hm.

HELEN

Mass Effect.

LOWRI

I've never played it.

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

Having listened to the episode I wanted to play it.

HELEN

Mm hm.

LOWRI

I hear there are hot monsters.

HELEN

There are hot aliens. The line between alien and monster is very much "your mileage may vary".

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

LOWRI

Mm... I enjoyed the gravity that you gave to that sentence! [laughs]

HELEN

It's an important distinction! [laughs]

LOWRI

Yes!

HELEN

But like - because obviously for me like both categories can be hot but like, where's - where an alien becomes a monster is different for everyone I think.

LOWRI

Yeah. Yeah, that is an interesting distinction actually the more you think about.

HELEN

I think, I think for me the vast majority of the people in Mass Effect are aliens rather than monsters.

LOWRI

But yeah there's a really huge difference there really isn't there?

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

HELEN

Yeah. Yeah.

LOWRI

Yeah. [laughs]

HELEN

But yeah, almost all of them are sentient.

LOWRI

Mm.

HELEN

And some of them are sentient in really interesting ways like the Geth have a hivemind for example.

LOWRI

Ooh...

HELEN

And that's really cool. Um yes, I do think you should at least try to play it-

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

But I don't know if shooter games is your thing, but I feel like the mechanics is worth the story because they're usually not my thing either.

LOWRI

Yeah. Because we had this conversation at the end didn't we? Like the things that I have trouble with is I love world - like huge, open world games but I'm not allowed to play them because I play them for too long, I hyper-fixate and then... yeah. But from what I understand Mass Effect is actually more linear than that, but you can go off-

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

But it feels like it might be an open world.

HELEN

There are lots of side quests, but you can't just go anywhere, it isn't limitless.

LOWRI

Yeah.

HELEN

You have your own universe and you have different solar systems that you can go between and look at all the different planets.

LOWRI

I just realised that I've been thinking of like, I can't remember which one it is but like Spiderman, there's a Spiderman game, I think the one before the Miles Morales one.

HELEN

Mm.

LOWRI

And that's not actually open world and I've been thinking of that as open world. So actually yeah, that's very much my kind of game.

HELEN

Yeah.

LOWRI

Because it's side quests within a limited map but you can go anywhere within the map, but you have little quests and-

HELEN

Yes. And there's always a point and a purpose and you can-

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

LOWRI

Mm.

HELEN

-collect things and um-

LOWRI

Oh that's very my kind of game actually, yeah.

HELEN

Honestly, give it a go. I think you'll like it.

LOWRI

Yeah, OK!

HELEN

And er, that's all the season 2 stuff.

LOWRI

Gosh.

HELEN

And this is, this is actually, like this is as long as a normal episode. [laughs]

Rusty Quill Enthusiasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

LOWRI

Yeah I was, I was trying to go fast and then I had opinions on things. [laughs]

HELEN

Well! Thanks for all your hot takes.

LOWRI

Thank you for having me.

(Both laughing)

LOWRI

I feel like I talked a lot, I'm sorry!

HELEN

Well this is, this is your episode.

LOWRI

Oh yeah it's mine, me!

HELEN

In many ways, like- [laughs]

LOWRI

The things I've been bursting to say! [laughs]

HELEN

Yes. And of course in my opinion you are also one of the best Rusty Quillers.

[laughs]

LOWRI

Yay! Thank you! I liked it when, I can't remember which episode you said that the secret is we are all the best Rusty Quiller.

HELEN

We are. We are.

LOWRI

And I, I like that, I've taken that to heart.

HELEN

[laughs] And I do mean it. I'm not sure where this is gonna land in the break content so I may or may not see you in the next episode, but I hope you enjoy it. Season 3 is on its way and I'll see you in that for sure. [laughs]

LOWRI

Yay! I dunno why I did that silently, I did a thumbs up instead of being like: yay!

(Both laughing)

Rusty Quill Enthusigasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

HELEN

I, I appreciated your thumbs up.

LOWRI

Huzzah!

HELEN

All right then, shall we say goodbye?

LOWRI

Yes, let's.

HELEN & LOWRI

Bye!

[Show Theme - Outro]

HELEN

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[Show Theme – Outro Ends]

Rusty Quill Enthusiasgasm – Lowri's Hot Takes

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