

EGSM023 – Crafting

Content Warnings

- Explicit language
- Discussions of: COVID-19 pandemic, food
- Mentions of: classism & sexism, alcohol

RHYS

If you look at the back...like you see, if you see my embroidery projects they look very pretty and then you look at the back and you're just like oh ok, this is sin.

(laughing)

This is what sin looks like, and you just try to turn away from it.

[Show Theme - Intro]

HELEN

Hello friends and fans and welcome to Enthusigasm. 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 crafting. And, I am bedazzled to be joined by Jess and Rhys. So as always we are going to introduce ourselves alphabetically so that means, Jess, you are going first. Can you tell me your pronouns and what you do?

JESS

Hello. My pronouns are she/her. I'm Jessica Law and I'm a writer and singer/songwriter and I was also the voice of Nicola Orsinov in the Magnus Archives.

HELEN

Yeah you were. Ah lot of fan enthusiasm for that one.

JESS

It was great. It's weird. It was just two afternoons in a very busy year and I've been living off it ever since.

(laughing)

HELEN

Fantastic. And Rhys, what are your pronouns and what do you do?

RHYS

I go with they/them pronouns and I'm the tech assistant at Rusty Quill, the writer at Mnemosyne Podcast and, gosh, I do way too many things in my personal life. I'll just leave it at that.

HELEN

That's fair. That's fair. I often have a similar problem. Alright so we're going to start off with the obvious question, can each of you tell me about your

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specific crafting hobby and let's hear about how you got into them. Does anyone wanna go first?

JESS

I don't mind going first since we're alphabetical. My hobby in craft is almost exclusively hand sewing historical costumes and cute critters

HELEN

Oh!

JESS

Yeah. It's not as glamorous as it sounds. I mean it is literally glamorous. Some of the costumes are quite literally glamorous but they're horribly made. I got into cute critters first when I was about seven or eight and it's because my mum wanted me to stop nagging her to buy me toys because I always wanted the latest toy and she couldn't afford it and she was just like, just make your own and she taught me how to make cuddly toys and I went wild with power and I proceeded to...I proceeded to sew 50 pigs in a row.

HELEN

Oh my god! A little pig army!

JESS

Yeah. 50 pigs because I just felt omnipotent. It was amazing. Like...I was drunk with power

(laughing)

And I kept them in a little sty. I made a little sty with a little fence and I made a furbie. It was like a beanie furbie. I used lentils for the beans and I made it out of these beautiful grey merle woollen socks so it looked like a tabby pattern. And I made a Pikachu out of a yellow towel, even though I didn't know what a Pikachu was. Yeah

(laughing)

I wasn't in to Pokémon at all, I just wanted a Pikachu and I took them to school and it was really interesting because my friends were really divided and...well, I say friends, my classmates were really divided and half of them were like "urgh, saddo, you've got to make your own toys because you're so poor"

HELEN

Aw

JESS

And then the other half were like "you're so talented. I think this is really cool". And it was...it was just really divisive. And then I got into historical costumes because really the way that you construct clothes, they're a teddy bear without the stuffing so you just make a giant teddy bear and don't bother to stuff it and we're basically all just wearing the empty husks of unfilled teddy bears...just the skins of cuddly toys on us all the time. So it was...it was quite a simple transition really.

HELEN

I see. You are rapidly climbing the ranks of my favourite guest I've had on.

(laughing)

JESS

Ooh you say that now.

HELEN

This is amazing! That's incredible. So Rhys, what do you craft and/or make and how did you start doing it?

RHYS

Errr...That is...I...mm...ok, it's kind of like a long story the fact that I even started crafting.

HELEN

We've got time. We've only got the two guests. You can go wild.

RHYS

(Laughing) Ok! So ok, so when I was in middle school I don't remember which one of my friends it was but I remember walking...it was lunch time or whatever so I was walking down the hall and I see...I peek into one of the classrooms and it's just my one friend sitting there and the teacher is also sitting there, eating her lunch, like whatever and my friend was literally knitting and I was just like word. This is something we can just do. No one's

going to call the cops or...I dunno. For some reason things...they were like...things that you could do for lunch and then things people didn't do during lunch and I didn't know if it's because we weren't allowed to do it or if it's because we just didn't think to do it. So I see my friend knitting and I was like we can just do that. So I started, you know, I started knitting with her. She let me borrow some of her knitting needles and I got some yarn and then I would go home to my mum and was like "mum, I want to start knitting. I need knitting needles and yarn". And she just looked at me and she's like "who is this weird ass kid". And so I just started knitting. I didn't do anything but knit scarves because that's the most basic thing you could ever knit but it's the only thing that I started knitting and then literally the year that the panoramic started...you know the panini

HELEN

Yup.

RHYS

All the other p words

HELEN

All paddy pants, yep

RHYS

Yeah. The year that happened I was being home all the time and I was like do you know what would be fun to pick up. Embroidery. And so I picked up embroidery and also because I guess I wanted to know what it's like to live in

the 1920s, I was like let me listen to a podcast while doing embroidery. I will be the 1920s old maid who's just listening to the radio etc. just going hard at this embroidery thing. I asked my friends, what should I listen to and they were like you need to listen to The Magnus Archives and I was like sure whatever. And then I listened to it and I was like I wanna work here now and I applied and I got here. So that's the story of how I came to Rusty Quill, because I just, embroider...

(laughing)

HELEN

Via embroidery!

RHYS

And then the year after that, so last Christmas, I...actually, no it was the same year. I remember this because my parents were very upset with me. We do this thing where we trade Christmas lists just to make it easier on ourselves because sometimes we're just really difficult to shop for. So I was just like oh get me a sewing machine. I would really love a sewing machine. And they're like what do you need a sewing machine for and me, in my mind, I was just like I want to be the best nerd I can be and just make cosplay but I can't tell them that because then they won't buy it for me. So I told them...

JESS

Aw

RHYS

...it's a good thing to learn to sew and to fix clothing and they bought it and I was like [laughing] psych

(laughing)

I'm just gonna make cosplay. So now I have a sewing machine and currently I am...I have linen yarn...not yarn, fabric stuffed away in my closet because I am planning on making...so I wanna go to a renaissance fair.

HELEN

Ooh

RHYS

Some time in this lifetime so I want to make a specific dress and skirt because there's this one shop on Etsy that has this really cute corset I want to wear with it so I'm just like I need...I have the fabric, I can sew this together and then I'll just buy the corset and then that'll be it. That'll be my renaissance fair outfit. So that's what I'm attempting to work on whenever I actually get to it. I have the fabric, I have the sewing machine. I just need the time to sit down and work on it.

HELEN

Wow

JESS

I could send you the pattern that I made mine with.

RHYS

Please do. Oh my god. Please do.

JESS

Yeah I'll have a look at it. I'll see whether it...I might have completely destroyed it by cutting it out all wrong but...

RHYS

I need patterns.

JESS

...I'll have a look and I'll see whether I can salvage something

RHYS

Please do. So if anyone listening to this hasn't picked up on it yet, I probably have ADHD because I just kind of run around deciding, you know what, this will be nice to learn and then I learn it and then I move on to something...it's never one thing. It's always just at some point in my life I decide this would be cool to learn and then I pick it up and I'm obsessed with it for three weeks and then I move on to the next thing.

JESS

That's the glory of it though

RHYS

Yeah I know. I still like embroidery and knitting. It's just currently my thing is I need to create this renaissance fair outfit because I've never been to a renaissance fair and I really badly want to.

HELEN

Do you know, I don't really know if we have renaissance fairs here in the same way that you do in the states

RHYS

Really?

HELEN

Because like...well like...

RHYS

I feel like y'all are the OGs about it

HELEN

We have medieval re-enactments but it's not really a fair as such.

RHYS

Huh

JESS

Oh there's an amazing medieval fair in Ludlow

HELEN

Really?

JESS

Yeah. My cousin once drank too much mead and went up to a stallholder and asked if they sold runcible spoons and then ran away giggling so that's sort of indicative of the level of jollity that there was going on there.

(laughing)

HELEN

I had no idea. I thought we just did battle re-enactments and castle tours and things

JESS

No there are medieval fairs and I think they are actually the same thing as renaissance fairs, they're just called something different.

RHYS

Ah interesting

JESS

Well it's a slightly different era but they're really good. They are, I think, the same thing. There's acts on, like jugglers and music and all that sort of thing.

HELEN

Giant turkey legs?

JESS

I'm not sure about that.

HELEN

Never seen one walking around with a giant turkey leg

RHYS

Is it a renaissance fair if there isn't a giant turkey leg

JESS

Yeah I'd love to just take a bite out of a giant turkey leg and then throw it over my shoulder and have greyhounds eat it off the floor

(laughing)

RHYS

Oh my god

HELEN

Love to be a Disney English king.

RHYS

Oh god

JESS

Yeah

HELEN

Fantastic. Ok. So we've got knitting and embroidery and we've got cuddly toy making and dress making it sounds like

JESS

Well all sorts of things really.

HELEN

Costume making

JESS

Trousers. Even a shirt and I once made a hat don't you know

RHYS

I was able to create a few cosplays sewing wise. So one of them...

HELEN

Oh

RHYS

So I really like the Owl House so I sewed the crop top that...what's her name?
oh my god. I know her name because I've cosplayed her so many times.

HELEN

I've never seen the Owl House. I wish I could help.

RHYS

Luz that's her name. Because she has this crop top hoodie that's half purple and then like half white on the bottom and then she has a hood that has these cat ears on it. So I had to make that myself and I was...so I made it myself out of fleece for a very specific reason. I made it out of fleece because when I go to Comic Cons I get cold very easily. Fleece is very good for trapping body heat and stuff so I was like I'm going to make it. I'm going to go to Comic Con, it's going to be great and I was right about that because I was cold. It helped very much to keep me warm at Comic Con but I was also upset because the reason why I made it was because I couldn't find anyone online who just made it themselves and was selling it so I was like, ok I guess I'll have to make this. And then I go to Comic Con and I see like five other Luzs' with generic shirt...and I

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was like “where did you even get that” and they’re like “oh they’re selling it on Amazon” and I was like “so I made this for no reason”

(laughing)

I went out of my way. I had...I was so upset.

JESS

No. It’s better.

RHYS

Is it?

JESS

It’s better that you made it. You can be proud of it. Yeah. It’s...you’ve got the added kudos

RHYS

No because I made it wrong the first time.

JESS

Oh

HELEN

Can I ask how you made the cat ears because that seems hard.

RHYS

That wasn't actually too difficult. So that was another pattern that I just got off the internet. So there's a strip on top of the hood that you just cut off first and then you have the cat ears and then you sew it like kind of flat on the head and then you bring back the strip that you cut off and just fold it over. Because when you make a hood you actually use...I'm going to say between two and four pieces depending on how you make the hood. Two or four pieces of fabric. Usually I like to cut the hood in half from right and left side. So you need to actually double that for the inside of the hood because you're sewing the inside and, yeah

HELEN

Of course

RHYS

Once you've pretty much sewed on that strip then you can just sew it to the inside of the hood and it stands up when you actually put it on

HELEN

Wow

RHYS

Yeah. Fleece is very thick and if you have four layers of fleece to sew through it becomes very difficult which is why I upset that I expended so much energy to make this hoodie and when I went to Comic Con I was just like I could've just gotten this at Amazon. I could've....why did I put in all this work? Why did I

suffer trying to get the little knots out of my sewing machine. I love sewing though.

HELEN

This is genuinely like...this is like listening to people talk about magic or something to me because I am terrible at doing anything with my hands. I can just about hit a nail with a hammer and even then I will not have measured it correct.... There is a particular picture up above my TV that I am just lucky that the direction I got it wrong in is the direction that is covered by the picture. There is eight different holes in the wall.

(laughing)

Because I did not measure it correctly and I was like, that looks like it'll be about level and it wasn't. It wasn't at all.

JESS

Well you could just use the holes in the wall to do some cross stitch

RHYS

I really don't think that's how cross stitching works

HELEN

And I would be bad at that too

(laughing)

JESS

I dunno, I've heard that holes are involved but it is wonderful. It is like being omnipotent. It's just like you see something and you either can't get hold of it or it's expensive or something and then you just think, I shall make this and it, I mean, I think that especially with clothes, the clothing industry should make clothes for everyone

HELEN

Yes

JESS

But it does democratise clothing somewhat because you can just...if it doesn't exist you can just make it yourself and it's really freeing in that way and you can adjust things as well. I don't think I own a single item of clothing that I haven't adjusted in some way which means I can buy stuff I wouldn't normally buy. I just buy a load of stuff from charity shops and then dismantle it and remake it. The area I'm from is just really good for fabric but I also just ...I know a lot of people with loads of old fabric laying around from curtains or bedspreads or you can just go into a charity shop and buy an old table cloth or something. I make some horrible, checked golfing trousers out of a sort of plaid table cloth and dismaded the world with them. I felt quite proud.

HELEN

Ok well on that note, I want to ask a question about do either of you have a favourite thing that you've made? Like a thing that you look at and you're like, yes, this is the epitome of my creativities in this!

RHYS

For me it would definitely be another bit of cosplay that I made because I finally...I made it the perfect size for myself. Because, ok, I love oversized hoodies so much because it's easy to put on, take off. It's just very good. So one of my friends is, he's a comic book creator. The comic book he writes is...he draws actually and writes is Sweetie and I think it's published through Action Labs. And Sweetie is this...I wanna say she's in middle school, she gives off middle school vibes and she's this little black girl with this white and purple hoodie that has some glow in the dark features to it and these pink wings on the back. And I was like oh I'm gonna cosplay her and my friend was like...he's like tears streaking down his face. He was like if you do I need you to come with me to cosplays...to Comic Cons dressed as her while I'm selling the comic books and I did that. So the first year I didn't do so well at creating it. It was a bad one but it was my first cosplay. And then when I got my sewing machine it was like I levelled up. All I needed was the fabric. Maybe I needed some paint and then getting the ribbing...so I had never used ribbed fabric before and so I was very nervous about it. It's like the edge...the cuffs of your hoodies or the edges on bottoms

HELEN

Yeah

RHYS

So I was always very nervous and was like oh my god I have to make sure that this gets sewed in properly. So I would be looking at so many different tutorials and I was like I need to get this done right because if it's not done right I'm gonna cry and I will never sew again. But it came out fine so I was like, ok great and it was so...it was oversized which made it even better. I could put the hood on with no problem. The character also has a massive afro so I was worried about the hood not fitting over my specific afro but it was great and so it is...for right now it is my favourite piece of cosplay that I've ever made.

HELEN

Aw. I think that's lovely. Jess what was yours? You said you had one but you changed it

JESS

I had one but I've changed my mind.

HELEN

Oh?

JESS

Because there's one where I sort of realised I'd levelled up but then there's one that I just like more.

HELEN

Tell us about both of them, why not.

JESS

The one I realised I'd levelled up was this shirt

HELEN

Wow

JESS

Because it's like...it's a proper shirt and it's got buttons, buttonholes, it's got a collar, it's got cuffs, it's got buttons on the cuffs and I just thought that, things with buttonholes and collars and things like...it was some secret magical technique that was beyond me but when you actually just very slowly and ploddingly follow the instructions it's just fine. There's no secret formula and I really enjoyed making this because I sew exclusively by hand because I feel like I have a lot more control over what happens. It doesn't just run away with me.

HELEN

Let the record show that Rhys is astonished and awed.

RHYS

I can't sew by hand at all! if I need something sewed by hand I take it to my grandma.

JESS

I can't sew on a machine at all, it's too...I can't control it. It doesn't obey. So I actually did...you probably can't see this but I did hand sewn buttonholes...

RHYS

What?!

JESS

...using historical techniques.

HELEN

Can you describe the shirt for the listeners who cannot see your webcam at the moment?

JESS

Yes so it's an Edwardian style paisley shirt with stripes and paisley patterns, got a rounded collar and long sleeves. It's got a proper...not gonna use too much jargon. I did handsewn buttonholes so there's lot of really tiny little stitches around the buttonhole and it's done in such a way that it's ...there's little knots on the inside of the holes so it's really strong so when the button goes in and out it doesn't get worn out. It's using...I think it's since the Tudor times and the collar has got all the layers that a collar's meant to have, I dunno. I was just proud of it.

HELEN

You should be.

RHYS

That is so cool

JESS

Yeah I was quite surprised actually and you know what, sometimes it's the simple things that you've got to look out for because you get complacent and then you don't pay attention and then it turns out dreadful. It's got slightly puffed sleeves with little darts at the top in the Edwardian style which hardly anything does nowadays. I once bought a velvet jacket and just chopped the whole thing up and made it have puffed sleeves because it didn't have them

(laughing)

HELEN

You demanded puffed sleeves.

JESS

Yes I demand puffed sleeves. As a citizen it is my right to have puffed sleeves

(laughing)

HELEN

Then what was the other thing that you really like that you're proud of?

JESS

Oh yeah, I'll have to get it out of the wardrobe very briefly. This is a 1960s Mary Quant style mini dress

HELEN

Oh wow

JESS

That I made from a pattern that was available for free on the Victoria and Albert Museum website. You should definitely look it up because they do fashion exhibits and they often do free patterns inspired by the designer that's being exhibited at the time. And then the fabric that it's made out of is actually...it's meant to be some crocodile cushions for...I imagine for a children's nursery but instead I just...it's got these huge crocodiles on it that you're probably meant to cut out.

HELEN

I see

JESS

Yeah see there's its head...there's the front of its head and there's the back of its head and you're probably meant to cut them out and sew them into a crocodile but I just used...I just love it. It's so psychedelic and outrageous and I think it's more like the time than people think it was. It's hard to explain. It's more...it's not like the stereotype but it's more like how they actually were. That really random weirdness

HELEN

Yeah it looks really authentic to me. So it's like green and orange...two massive green and orange crocodiles and a blue background with a pink collar and it's a sleeveless little mini dress.

JESS

Yeah. I'm so proud of it. And I actually managed to look quite good in it which is quite difficult with the lurid...

(laughing)

...pattern but...

HELEN

That's so cool. You're both so cool.

RHYS

I am not. I just like nerdy stuff. Jessica's over here like I do everything properly by the 1700s whatever and I'm just like, I wish I were you right now. I wish I knew things.

JESS

No, no it's...if you look on the insides of the clothes they're an absolute horror show. Honestly.

RHYS

Isn't that how it is all the time though because if you look at the back...like you see, if you see my embroidery projects they look very pretty and then you look at the back and you're just like oh ok, this is sin.

(laughing)

This is what sin looks like and you just try and turn away from it. It's always the inside that you're just like I don't want to look at this. Let me look at the very pretty outside. It's fine from the outside.

JESS

Well I think all crafters all cool because it's cool to do craft because it gives you power to create things and to be creative and being creative is by definition cool

HELEN

Agreed. Agreed. And on that we're going to take a little break and we'll be back in a second.

BREAK

HELEN

And welcome back. Ok so the first half of this episode was all about what amazing, talented, creative people you are. So now I wanna hear about the

worst thing you've ever made. Tell me about when you absolutely failed to make something because I bet there's some really funny stories in here. Tell me about the scarf you made that would only fit a giant or something.

JESS

I have a failed specimen here.

HELEN

A failed specimen!

JESS

Yeah. It's a Tudor hat and there's something about it.

HELEN

Oh, it's so round

JESS

It might be...it's too round and there's something about it that's just not right and I think it's because I've got a small flat head and when I wear it, it's too big, it's too floppy and it looks like a dinner plate

(laughing)

HELEN

Jess I'm so sorry, I don't mean to be laughing at you but the way you just put it on.

JESS

No you're meant to because this is a failure. This...it just...do you see what mean? I'm glad you see what I mean. I'm glad you're laughing because it doesn't work. Like it doesn't...

RHYS

I feel ok, that could very easily be on one of the costumes for any of the Alice in Wonderland characters.

HELEN

Mmm

RHYS

It could very easily work in those situations though.

JESS

Yes it could. The problem is it's meant to be an authentic Tudor hat

(laughing)

And it looks like a deranged giant novelty hat because I've got a minuscule head and I got some iron on interfacing and was really excited about this interfacing and then it was too thick and it's just like a dinnerplate and it's dreadful and I hate it. And I just made it and then I didn't even post a picture of it on social media because people would just say, like oh it looks like this, it

looks like that, the thing that it isn't. I'm really insecure about the things I make and like....

HELEN

Aw Jess

JESS

...once I made a dress I thought looked like a regency ballgown and I put some pictures online and then everyone was saying oh it looks more like an Edwardian ballgown and I was furious and I was like I spent days on this. It doesn't look like an Edwardian ballgown because it's different and I just...and I know people would say that this looked like a Georgian mob cap if I posted it and I just can't take that hit to my ego so I'm just...

HELEN

What's a Georgian mob cap?

JESS

A lot of women in the 18th century instead of wearing a hard hat, they'd wear...it was a bit like a frilly bonnet.

HELEN

Ok

JESS

And it was quite large and sort of...it's almost what you would imagine a stereotypical maid to be wearing in an old fashioned sort of play.

HELEN

Yeah

JESS

Where they've got white frilly cap

HELEN

Over the apron

JESS

Yeah and I just know it would destroy me if anyone said that so I'm keeping quiet about it.

HELEN

God bless you. That is so...aw. The thing is, it's still good, it's just not what you wanted it to be. Forgive it. Forgive the hat for its sins

RHYS

It's still a functional hat

JESS

Yeah it'll be good for something. It's just...so I worry that I'm quite an undignified person as it is and there's a line, if I wear something that looks too undignified and too cartoonish and too wacky then I just feel like that's too much...I can't stand it.

RHYS

I'm sorry, hold on, this entire time I've had to pretend like I understood what Edwardian, Georgian, and Tudor style things are. You are able to talk about them flawlessly and you're worried that you're undignified. I feel like a clown that has walked into some sort of...some sort of lecture by someone who's just like oh yes, I am Fancy Miss Fancy Pants and I know all the things that...I sew by hand and I drink dignified tea with crumpets or whatever the fuck crumpets are supposed to be. I don't know. I still don't know what crumpets are.

JESS

Oh no I really do. I really do.

RHYS

You are the most dignified person I have ever met. *The* most dignified. I am here with my clown shoes on

(laughing)

HELEN

Ok. So a crumpet is a bread product

RHYS

Ok

HELEN

It's like a round...

JESS

It's not a bread product. It's...

RHYS

See only a dignified person can say no you got it wrong. It's not a bread product. Here's what it actually is.

HELEN

What is it if it's not bread?

JESS

It's a rubbery sort of pancake with holes in it

(laughing)

RHYS

Ok. Alright. I'm gonna pretend like that makes sense to me. I'm going to pretend like that's not the most British thing I've ever heard.

HELEN

It's a round piece of dough with like little pockmarks in it and you make it with lots of butter

JESS

Yeah

RHYS

Ok. We can move on, it's ok! The crumpet is not the point of the podcast right now

JESS

It is now

HELEN

I'm very sorry Rhys. This is now crafting and crumpets. Welcome. However crumpet is also old timey slang for like, a hot girl.

RHYS

What?

HELEN

Like a nice bit of crumpet over there.

RHYS

Ok, no actually that does sound about right. I can sort of see that. That does make sense.

HELEN

Yeah so if you're like a creepy man from the 70s you will look at a pretty woman and say she's a nice bit of crumpet or you'll say I want a bit of crumpet on the side or something like that

(laughing)

Anyway...what about you Rhys?

RHYS

Oh god, ok

HELEN

What's the worst thing you've made?

RHYS

God, yeah we're sliding right back to circus mode over here.

HELEN

Oh no, please!

RHYS

Because the worst things I've ever made have been all like cosplay related. I mean that's what I sew for. I sew for cosplay. That's my thing. So it was definitely supposed to be another crop top piece but the way I was trying to do it was I had a regular pattern shirt that I was gonna work off of but also kind of mix it in with this crop hoodie but where I fucked up at though was I forgot that the cropped hoodie included the ribbed piece and so I didn't lengthen the fabric all the way and so this thing ended up barely fitting over my boobs. It was terrible. I like...I was so excited, I was like I'm going to post pictures and everything and I looked at myself in the mirror and I was just like, we never speak of this again. And here I am, on a podcast, speaking of it so there's that.

HELEN

If you want you can choose something else and we can pretend you never spoke of it

RHYS

No it's fine

HELEN

Ok.

RHYS

It was terrible

JESS

Do you destroy your failures?

RHYS

Actually no. So I had...I have one of those little, I dunno, sewing things, you can take apart. So what I did was I literally unstitched the whole thing and I only took, I only kept the parts that are still good for something. So the parts that were obviously not fitting me, I was like you're going in the trash. I'm not even gonna look at you but I kept the sleeves because the sleeves are still fine, I kept the collar, that was still fine. It was more like, you know, the actual body area

HELEN

The torso, yeah

RHYS

And I was like we gotta throw you out, you're not...this is not what I thought was going to happen. So that's what I do. I at least try to keep the things that are working and I just throw away the things that aren't.

HELEN

You know what, that's a decent philosophy I think

JESS

Yeah

HELEN

Keep the things that work, ditch the things that won't.

JESS

Yeah because some of my real failures I just haven't spoken of them because they no longer exist.

HELEN

Ah. I see.

RHYS

That's fair.

HELEN

You know what, I will also expose myself. Now again, I don't craft. This is another example of why I should never do anything with my hands apart from maybe cooking, right. When I had a different laptop, maybe five or six years ago now, so I read about how, oh, laptops can get a lot of dust in them and it can cause lots of problems but what you can do it you can get some pressurised air and blow it in the inside of the laptop and that'll help clear the dust out. And I was like huh, maybe I should do that because I've had this laptop for a really long time and then I was...but I shouldn't just put the air straight into it because it won't have anywhere to go so what I should do is kind of see if I can get the top of the laptop off, take all the keyboard bit off and so maybe if I just unscrew it here and unscrew it there. Actually no, that seems to be going badly, let me watch a YouTube video on how to do this. Oh

ok, that looks easy so if I just unscrew it. Oh the hinges, oh the whole screen has come off. Oh I see. Oh this seems to...oh, I have to take this to a computer doctor now. By the way, just as an extra bit of spice I attempted to do this at my boyfriend at the time's house. I started doing it at 7pm and we were meant to be at a comedy night at 8pm and I was like this will just be an easy quick fix. Everyone on the internet says it's fine.

(laughter)

RHYS

Everyone on the internet says it's fine. See that's when you shouldn't listen.

HELEN

I know! So I took it to a computer doctor and spent at least a hundred quid on getting them to reattach the laptop screen and rescrew in everything and I just was like, I don't know what to tell you.

(laughing)

We are starting to come to the end of the episode so I've got one more thing to round us off on. Big, big question this. So as you mentioned earlier Jess crafting is extremely expensive and labour intensive but if you had infinite time and infinite money what would you make?

JESS

I think I would make an 18th century riding habit and there's a particular style which is really beautiful which is a lot of women's clothes throughout history have actually been modelled on men's clothes but they just have a different silhouette and there's a particular style of 18th century riding habit and it's got the long flowing skirt but the jacket is like a men's military jacket but very tailored and it's got sort of the forging and the brass buttons and the embroidered bits and it's just...I just find it so stylish and I'd have a matching hat

HELEN

Of course

JESS

The only thing I can't make is shoes which is very upsetting to me but yeah....and I think I'd probably make it in a russet. Yeah russet, an orangey russet yeah.

HELEN

Lovely. Do you know what I was imagining something orangey russet in my head as you were talking. Synergy

JESS

Yes

HELEN

Rhys, if you had infinite time and infinite money what would you make?

RHYS

I would get into pottery. Pottery is something that I've always wanted to get into. Again this is like undiagnosed ADHD happening again. It's just...it would be my newest obsession. It's something that I think about a lot. I've even tried going online to see how much does a kiln cost and ooh what if I could swing money that way, could I really do some pottery stuff. I don't know if I will but it's always been something that's been on my bucket list.

HELEN

Wow

JESS

Oh you can get really good kilns and wheels and things second hand because they're so clunky that people are just begging to get rid of them if they don't need them anymore

RHYS

Oh I need to look for those, yeah!

JESS

My mum used to be a professional potter. She's a proper artist which is probably where I learnt everything I know

HELEN

Wow

JESS

But we had a potter's wheel and a kiln in our garden and when I was a teenager she taught me how to make pots. It's surprisingly...well it's not surprisingly easy but it's...again there's no magic formula, it's just...

HELEN

Repetition

JESS

...anyone can do it. Yeah.

HELEN

Repetition and pressing with your thumbs

JESS

Yeah I made a couple of Ancient Greek style kraters, which is an Ancient Greek drinking cup...well a kylix with a sort of red figure images around the outside

Rusty Quill Enthusigasm – [Episode] – Crafting

but it was really good fun. So I'd recommend it basically. It's really mesmerising just staring at the spiralling wheel.

HELEN

Well on that note as we stare into the spiralling wheel of our time on this episode, it stops and it finishes and it is time to go. Thank you both so much for coming on this episode. This has been so much fun. I was worried that it might not be because I don't know anything about crafting but it was actually really good! Oh it's amazing and you are both incredibly talented people. Thank you so much. Listener, thank you for listening along and I'll see you on the next episode. You've both been wonderful guests and we shall see you anon.

[Show Theme - Outro]

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[Show Theme – Outro Ends]

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Editing by Tessa Vroom and Cathy Rinella

Music by Samuel D.F. Jones

Art by Anika Khan