

Hi - We're trying an auto transcript of the finished episode - and then editing - this below is the auto transcript - and while it's close, it's not perfect - Dr J

Certainly! Here's the text with timestamps removed:

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Hello and welcome once again to It Is Complicated the podcast where we answer every single question with it is complicated including what is the title of this podcast.

Which is it is complicated. Now I'll talk to today and. Hello Laura. It's lovely to be in.

Thank you for inviting me. I'm with thrill. This is wonderful. I'm so excited to have this conversation with you.

To that end, to those people who don't know who you might be, would you mind introducing yourself?

Sure. So my name is Laura Kate Dale. I am a writer. Of varying types.

I do a lot of writing on the internet about video games and video game excessive. And things like that.

I've been doing that for about a decade. And I also write books, which is sort of why I'm here today.

A little background of some of the books I've written in the past. I wrote a memoir called Uncomfortable Labels that was about living at the intersection of being autistic and trans.

I put out a book called Gender Euphoria, which was a collection of trans non binary intersex people's stories of joy related to gender.

At least a children's book called Me and My Dysphoria Monster. Which is a children's book about gender dysphoria, sort of approaching it in in approachable language.

A novel called Who Hunts the Whale, which is about the video game industry and the terrible business practices they're in.

And I have a new book coming out that Josephine is also in, which is called Stories of Autistic Joy, which is another anthology and it is a book of a lot of different autistic people from around the world sharing stories of joy that are related to their autism be that sort of directly in terms of stories of like here's a thing I have a hyperfixation in and what it feels like to

have such a strong obsession with something you love. Through to, more tangentially related stories of the autistic experience and the joys that can come from it.

So that's me. I put that book together and also Josephine's in it. Yeah, I'm really excited to be in it, which neatly goes into me.

I'll introduce myself and Jay normally goes first and I'm just going to usurp your position today.

It's fine. But I was gonna ask one question Which pronoun should we use for you? Thank you very much.

Yes, hi, my name is Josephine Baird. As you just heard, I'm a writer of occasional occasion.

I, I write sometimes academically because I'm a academic, I teach and research on game design at the University of Uppsala.

Department of Game Design, only enough. When I'm not doing that, I have been doing an awful lot of writing.

One of which is a story that appears in this anthology, which I'm very proud of and I would like to talk a little bit about later on, no doubt.

And the rest of it is at the moment I'm writing or Nearly finished a novel which surprised me is it just came out and I'm really excited to release that in some more fashion very soon.

Otherwise I've been a performer at some point in my life and I like to think of myself as a femme of international mystery.

Because Because, Jay, I don't go to ask you as well, my lovely pronouns.

And I do forget yes my pronouns are she her Thank you. Although Jake Hastily calls me there and I don't mind.

Also, as a side note before you do your introductions, Jay, I know this is an audio only medium, but I'm just noticed by children's work on your shelf and that might be very excited.

Oh, oh good. Cause I was gonna say, I thought I had it. Oh, amazing. I will tell you about your other book in a moment.

So, hey, I'm Dr. Jay, you days a pronoun. I have a job total that is Habinger of Change because I work at a software consultancy that allowed you to write your own job title and why not be fabulous when you do that.

I also got to write my own gender via the New Zealand government. So my gender is transgressive non-binary gender queer, there is on a statutory declaration.

I will soon have a birth certificate from the New Zealand government as well with the right name on it that will say that I am non-binary from birth.

So when anyone says, but what's on your birth certificate? I can go voila, eat this.

What else am I? I'm a troublemaker as if you couldn't tell and a hashtag queer nuisance because we were to one queer theory lecture once understood almost nothing of it but took away this notion of being a queen nuisance queers up the space that you're in and decided that was really good branding.

For me. So that's me. And I got uncomfortable labels as a gift from an autistic trans friend for my fiftieth birthday and when I finished reading it I put it into the Thoughtworks library.

We have a library at work where we have a collection of books on trans and on binary experiences. And they're in a technical software consultancy along with all books on how to write code and things like that because it means that people can just go and pick up a book and look at it and one of the things that I also did which is why I love children's books.

I got a lot of children's books on gender and put them in the library as well because Just bring out a pick up a children's book for 5 min and read it and people often had kids coming in to the office.

And they give them a stack of children's books and the kids would come out going, I have it to spur a monster or I've read about this this experience and everyone be like what and I would publish around all the different books that I've bought into the library that were around gender and difference and sexuality and that and everyone loved it because it's just a resource that allows people to kind of understand more of other

people's lives so I will be getting a copy of your book to put in there as well. Oh, thank you.

That's so lovely. I'm so happy. I'm so joyful. In fact, actually, I think that's part of what we're going to talk about stage.

I'm really excited to discuss because this particular book and I think it will be really cool to have that library take and I think that's a wonderful way to do it.

Really explores this notion of joy. And I would love to hear more about How you feeling about that Laura you mentioned that you feel like you've shifted towards writing about joy a bit more.

Yeah, so. A lot of my early writing both in the video game space and in books that I wrote and writing about gender and disability.

Focused on negativity for varying reasons. When it came to the video game work I was doing, there was a lot of really poor treatment of workers happening in the video game industry that the industry at large didn't seem willing to talk about.

There was a lot of like, oh, it's terrible that the workers being mistreated by their bosses.

Anyway, the new, game from the studio is out. Let's get excited for it.

And I felt sort of an obligation. To be, you know, to not let these stories. Die because they were being so quickly forgotten

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I feel pretty miserable about it. So it's a raising my experience if you sent a joy for a moment and realizing that there is such a degree of like societal expectation you not sent a joy in talking about 2 aspects of myself that are really cool to how I am.

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Really hammered home this idea of why it felt necessary to write these kind of books. I want to focus on talking about joy even if society says No, you shouldn't be centering joy for these communities.

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I'm like, why not? We get to be the happiest who we are. And that means talking about joy sometimes.

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This is why we wanted to talk about it because it's complicated, right? This is complicated by the fact that We are expected to have one story and that's something that I had a wonderful interview with a trans artist called Danielle Braithwaite Shirley who is sort of Game designer slash artist who produces amazing work around black trans narratives.

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And she was saying, you know, we are. Aust to produce one story. That's our value.

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As trans people we are asked to produce this story and therefore we are recognizable as such but what is dangerous is to produce a different story, especially one that might be positive, the one that might show joy or laughter or a reverence or just going, yes, I know, I know, it's terrible, but there's also beauty here and I can't think of anything more dangerous, queer, but

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to be joyful in the opposition of that because it is the reaction? I think like this show being called it's complicated.

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I think it's like you made a really good point there about like it being expected to have like one consistent narrative.

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Like one thing I experienced both as working on gender euphoria and also stories of autistic joy was A lot of people's stories shared in both those anthologies.

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Do touch quite a lot on negativity and that was a back and forth I have with editors on it.

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Was finding that line because so often like Stories aren't cleanly, this is just a good positive and sometimes positivity comes out of negativity, sometimes the 2.

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I intertwine sometimes you need that contrast of This is such a positive because of how it contrasts with the negative.

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Stories like this aren't clean and people's experiences with joy aren't always Neat cookie cutter narratives, but they're still just as valid as places to find joy.

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As a non-binary person who doesn't fit that transformative narrative of I'm going from this side of the binary to the side of the binary and I didn't like it here and I'm going to like it more here and I've been doing that.

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None of that fits with me and I was thinking of something because somebody said I don't get my gender euphoria from wearing a pair of gym shorts and there was part of me going, actually I do.

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I love the fate that I can wear like a pair of Jim shorts, that a baggy that come to my knees that give me that real skater vibe and I can just kind of amble around like that.

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I got a high-fived by kid in the street the other day for how I looked. I have no idea what this kid was thinking, but honestly I just had this kid come up to me just give me a high 5 and then walk off chatting to their mates like oh my god that was the most awesome person I'm like I have no idea of what just happened but that was just kind of one of those moments and I

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was just in a baggy pair of skate shorts admittedly they brightly colored and a whole part of things and the rest of me was brightly colored but still I think that's the important thing about joy though is it doesn't have to be these big moments.

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It can just be really simple things that like You know, maybe it was important to you for a specific reason.

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Maybe you have no idea why it's stuck with you and was so positive, but like it's one of the things I've really loved about doing anthologies about joy is that joy can take so many shapes for so many different reasons and means so many different things for different people.

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It's a big part of why I've tried to be very widespread with the people I've involved in these anthologies I've wanted to be like Make sure that there is a range of ages, locations around the world, experiences of transness or disability because What finding that joy means is so different for everyone's story and I love that variation.

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I love that someone's moment of joy can be a big grand thing and that someone else's moment of joy can be like.

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I got given a piece of clothing for Christmas and it's only important because of something for me and that.

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Is like a life changing moment that other people might not get. And that whole range of what can be someone's like joyful moment is beautiful and the thing we should embrace.

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I think it's always the little things. When I was trying desperate to be an academic the first time round and realize that you can't really do that when you don't have an income.

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That was this struggle with what is transgressive, what is going to fight back against this normativity and there was so much writing about grand gestures or being really, really out there.

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Be really, really powerful. And I'm amazed by that and it always. I admired tremendously people who have been able to do that.

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But it always felt a slightly disempowering idea that somebody who doesn't have that opportunity or doesn't have that moment.

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Can't also be transgressive and It occurs that it's actually only the little things. Those things are that are really, really transgressed so that your moment of joy stolen from a community that tells you you cannot be joyous because of course you must be miserable because you're so different and so excluded and we've excluded you how dare you be happy about anything you know a shade of

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lipstick. Somebody high 5 being in the street whenever. I was just thinking about those moments of joy that I get at work when people introduce themselves and say the pronouns and it's that normalizing it that happens now.

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In all of the meetings. Difference says, I'm so and so and my pronouns are that.

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And off they go and this is huge because it just quietly changes the norm of what is an introduction and every time it makes my little heart sing of like, oh, there's a moment somebody used the right name for me, somebody used the right pronouns for me and your heart just goes I had a lot of conversations with people around the time I was working on both of these anthologies in terms of like I haven't

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conversations people, they were like, I don't think I have any moments of joy related to my transness or my being autistic and I felt kind of sad hearing that and like I had conversations with some of these people about like Maybe there are things that are joyful that you're overlooking because like I think for a lot of people it's easy to take for granted those little moments and It's something that I've found has really helped in

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my life, but my mental health is remembering to cherish the insignificant. Like for me, I think about recent things that have made me joyful.

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I go swimming once a week and gendered changing rooms have always been like always a very stressful thing as a trans person there is an old lady that goes swimming on the same day of the week as me who was always in the changing room at the same time and we get on really well.

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And something about just having a friendly face that I see every week who's always happy to see me in a space that I might otherwise be nervous about being gate captain.

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He's reading reassuring. It's having that moment of I know that you're a friendly face that if someone like tries to hassle me, you will be there to be positive because like you're just a friendly face in this space.

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It's little things like that that It's so easy to take them for granted if you don't stop and acknowledge them in the moment and go, that's really nice that I have that.

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It's reminds me we did a wonderful interview with Rosie Garland who's an author and a musician she's currently touring with the March violets and she said that one of the things that really helped her keep going because we were talking about this keep going in the face of all of the things that were happening and still are.

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She said the thing that she liked to do was get up in the morning. Very early and the first thing she does go for a walk no matter how cold or miserable it was it was like this and she

would see the milkman and then a person walking the dog every time walking the dog and they had this interaction it was this.

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Morning. And it was the morning that did it. It was like these 2 people just go and leave in the most British way possible.

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And she talked about the energy that gives because I think that's the other aspect of joy is it gives back it's not taking away I think it is generative and that moment of experiencing something.

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Small can be magnificent. Indeed. While we're on this sort of topic, do you want to talk about your your essay, which for anyone who doesn't know, yours is the last one in the book.

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It was the last thing anyone reads at the end of the book. You are, you are the, that finishing little essay on the book.

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Don't want to talk about it a bit. That makes me so proud. I'm so excited.

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Oh yes, okay. This was the first time I got to write about this, actually. I was, I don't like diagnosed but.

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I had an assessment for autism a couple of years ago and it was actually as a result of our daughter.

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Being autistic and the funny thing that apparently happens with parents of autistic children is that when they have autistic children they start to realize that oh yeah.

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Me too. I gotta, I gotta read about my kids symptoms. Oh wait, these are just me.

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Oh yeah. No, no, no, what like she was a learning language and the way she learned language was ecologically, which is unusual way to learn language.

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She just learned how to make the sound and she realized that the sound and the meaning were related somehow. So I make this sound, it must mean this thing.

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And that's how she learned language. And for other people around us that was very confusing and she's spoken metaphorically, she still does.

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I understood it implicitly. I was like, no, I get it. This is what she means.

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Or this is what she means and that's how it is and oh she's having this really strong feeling and this really difficult reaction.

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I know how that is. And then realize no one else, the same connection. And like,

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That's, that's me as well. And For a long time there was not I tried not to have shame.

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I implicitly believed. That being autistic wasn't shameful when I had a daughter and I wanted to encourage her to feel proud of who she is in every aspect including being autistic.

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And it challenged me to do the same thing. And one thing I hadn't done was come out as autistic.

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I'd come out with trans and we always come out every day to everybody. But I came out as autistic in these little moments, but this was the first opportunity to really write about it.

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I want to really loved about this opportunity. I'm so grateful. Thank you. And get me this task right this is because I get to be joyful about it because I did struggle and I wish I hadn't, you know, this part of me is, oh, I wish I was strong and great and immediately happy but I Found this.

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Special time to consider and reflect by writing this, not just my own joy, but the connection I had with my daughter.

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And how we found the joy of being metaphorical and having this slightly a skew view of the world.

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That we can share. And it led me to a bunch of things like being really happy and joyful about stimming which I now do regularly and joyfully in lots of different ways.

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And yeah, it was. Deeply. No, I'm getting a bit rational. It, it was very, profoundly moving to be able to write that.

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I don't know. If you didn't publish it, if it wasn't in the book, it would have been special anyway.

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And to then be in this anthology and then to be told this the last story I was absolutely thrilled.

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It is an absolutely lovely story. I feel really proud to be able to share it. It's one that When you pitch that story to me It made me think that an experience I had, which was far less profound, but like very similar reasoning.

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And it made me think of I had a really, I, okay, story time. There is an episode of Star Trek about an alien species called the Star Trek about an alien species called the Darmok and their whole thing is speaking in metaphor and their whole thing is speaking in metaphor and reference.

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And I remember that episode very vividly from childhood of like Not understanding what was so hard to understand about this species that spoke in like colloquial metaphor and it's sort of repeating things you've heard elsewhere that fit context.

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And I remember that being really significant to me like when I saw that as a kid and not really knowing why and then reading your story I was like, I know you have you've done a much better job of articulating a thing that I experienced and didn't really have words for at the time.

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And that experience of like connecting with the idea of slightly more metaphorical repeated patterns of speech as a valid way of communicating was Really lovely and you told the story in a really beautiful way.

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Thank you. Part of the story is about the way Miranda speaks and recognizing that I had learned to speak that way too, but I'd kind of in socialized out of it, whereas I had this opportunity to only give, give, what a thing I could do is give her the space, give it to myself as well.

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Because she would say And she still does. She she describes things in her own way. So one of the things that Always felt truly magical is that she came one day to me and said mommy I

want I want a balloon with And I said, and then she's gesturing, you know, balloon and I was like a helium balloon.

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Yeah, it floats up in the sky like close. Same thing and so there's lots of these things that she says it just feels joyful and not just that magical and and still entirely accurate like yeah I know what you mean Yeah, I think with stories of autistic toys and anthology, one theme that really comes through in a lot of the stories in there is Coming to a place of it's okay to do the things that bring

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me joy. Because I know for a lot of autistic people, and particularly those who are diagnosed a bit, you know, a bit later in life.

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You do have a lot of, there's often a lot of guilt and shame wrapped around. Things that are not hurting or harming anyone but are not normal, are not the way that other people are supposed to behave and the sort of drilled out of you and I know for me that was a big part of my journey with finding joy as an autistic person was learning to give myself permission to do the things that worked for

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me. And finding that sort of There's a requirement of like taking space and care for yourself to carve that kind of joy out.

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And I think there is a joy in that in and of its own is reaching a point in life where you feel safe enough to go.

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It's okay for me to unpack. Why was I made feel bad about certain behaviors of mine?

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Would doing that bring me joy and rebuilding those parts for yourself you've had to kind of swash down is.

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As much as it is a shared source of trauma for a lot of autistic people, it's a space that a lot of joy grows out of later.

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And it's okay to celebrate that joy even if it is because of a contrast of it sucks that I I wasn't supported earlier but I am discovering how to support myself now.

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I think that experience is across all kind, I'm gonna use the word neuro spice because I'm the non autistic or the non-diagnosed autistic person because my So I have similar behaviors but from a very different route and different background and It's the way forward

from there is the same thing of taking that time for self-care, for finding yourself in a space that safe enough to unpack stuff and to

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build a way forward and to reinterpret things and to look at what are the good bits in there.

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I think of that because I walk with a step because I smashed my leg. I smashed my league skateboarding.

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So wait that I break my leg is a hugely significant week and I never mourn the fact that I now walk differently because it really reconnected me with my dad.

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When he was going through a serious operation. In that last 18 months of his life, heaven I got a real chance to connect on our recoveries.

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So it means that I never mourn. The loss of my mobility and people don't seem to get that because they're like, oh my god, you went from this person who could do all of the stuff to somebody who now has to walk with a stick and has trouble with steps and there's a bit slow if there's a slope and things like this and it's like yeah but I never kiss that I because I think about the joy that came out

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of my dad and I recovering together. I think there is a real experience like across the board from people who are not people who are of the the average of where they live people who are you know cis people people who aren't disabled, looking in on other people's experiences and going.

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I wouldn't want it like if you gave me the choice today I wouldn't want to be like you so I can't imagine how you would be happy being you.

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I think that's what a lot of it boils down to is a lack of imagination that joy might look different for someone else than it looks for you and that if you can see even one potential negative downside to being someone else, that person's life must objectively be worse than if they weren't the way they are.

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And like looking at autism is the thing I'm not going to pretend that there are Lots of incidents in my life that were made considerably harder by being autistic and I can see how someone from the outside would look in and go.

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So being autistic is objectively a bad thing. And I'm like, well. No, it's bad in those moments where it is having negative impacts.

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But it is good in the moments where it is giving me unique forms of joy that other people don't really get to experience.

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Like sure, I might eat a piece of cake in the fridge and be like it's been too near other smells and now it tastes different when I can't eat it.

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But I also get to be like, I was so excited about trains that a train company let me get married on a train because I fucking love trains.

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And tell that story. Oh yeah, so, there is a train company in the UK of anti West Coast who put a tweet up that was something to the effect of would you like to get married on one of our one of our trains will pay for everything to do with the wedding?

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You've got like one sentence to tell us why you should win a free wedding. And we're not really thinking about it.

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I sent them a message that was something to the effect of I love trains, I'm a little obsessed with trains.

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I've got a thing on my desk right now that is, it's a notice board that does real-time updates of any UK train station you select and it has a real-time updates of the trains coming in and delays to the trains.

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You can have it do the voice of the train announcer. So it makes the train announcements come out of the little thing on my desk.

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And I also was like, I wanted to get married for a while and being delayed because as a trans person, that's kind of tricky to get the legal stuff done.

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And they responded really positively and were like We've got availability in 2 weeks. Do you want to get married in 2 weeks and we'll pay for everything and you get married on the train?

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So we had a first-class train carriage on a train that was done up all fancy and at like a hundred plus miles an hour between Houston and Birmingham New Street, we got married in a custom little wedding outfitted train car.

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So somewhere in the background of this shot I have a first-class headrest that is like monogrammed for our wedding.

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That everyone got to take home as like wedding favours. And that was a thing that was. Like, I love trains, not mechanically.

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I know it's a bit of an autism stereotype to love trains. I'm not like obsessed with the mechanical properties of them.

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I love them as a societal function. I love that they are this predictable regular on schedule on time goes the same way the same place the same time all the time and gets people where they're going and it's just this very dependable.

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Function that exists in society. And being able to have my wedding day. Be this very gender-affirming day as a trans person getting to be the regal, beautiful, feminine center of attention, but also I want to train and I'm on a special character on trade.

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I've given such trade characters. Was like. That's a joy that is specific to being autistic that like other people won't experience and I try and look at like I have my rough days.

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But I also get to have like an obsessive level interest in a weird niche little thing that I get like bubbly with excitement about.

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You might enjoy hearing about my day job currently. I'm working on the data set that manages all of the access points to public transport in the UK, which includes every single train, train platform, metro station, metro platform, bus, taxi, etc.

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And I work with a bunch of people who will love that story. Because they are just as obsessed about trains and data and some of them are neuro spicy and some of them are diagnosed neuro spicy and some of them are just really lovely people who really enjoy trying to make this stuff work and That's why I was creasing up with laughter because it's like only I could be on a

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conversation about trains because I get to run 2 h workshops discussing the finer nuances of how we put a trained state.

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What is the difference between a trainer tram and a light rail? And how we describe that difference in data in such a way that consumers of the data can understand whether at this place they're going to catch a train to trample light rail.

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That is wonderful and thank you for helping in some way in the system that lets me have a little box on my phone. On my desk.

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That occasionally just makes sounds and tells me that the train from my local station has been delayed by 5 min.

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I'm not catching that train but I want to know that it's delayed. Yeah, that's the thing.

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Like, Joey, Joey can take any shape and it's learning to not be ashamed of what make your joy happens to be is the thing I think.

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One of my favorite things to discuss with other autistic people is our special interests. Cause somebody said this to me, how did they put it? Or I think this is a common expression.

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It's like, I may not be interested in the thing that you're interested in but I love the passion you have for and I just want to hear all about, tell me everything.

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I could listen to any autistic person go on at length about that thing they know everything about. Because like, I I've been the person who's recognized I'm starting to like info dump about the topic I love and cut myself off and go, oh, I'm really sorry I recognize this is not like the amount of talking I meant to be doing in a conversation.

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It wasn't until I met other autistic people who I had that conversation with the like No, no, no, keep talking. You're clearly enthused.

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I want to hear about the thing you're enthused about and my going, oh yeah, of course I would feel the same if you did that to me because I just, I love passion.

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I love when people care enough about a thing. Cause like if someone cares that much about a thing they can make you understand why they care about it.

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And I'm like, if I don't care about it now, I will by the time you're done.

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Just tell me why you love it. At the joint of experiencing someone else's joy. So infectious and I feel the same way and my special interest has often Sounds around the place.

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It's, you know, for a little while I had this inadequacy. I'm like am I inadequate as an autistic person not having one?

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Oh I know it just but it just I can hear a moment I felt that way but I was like oh no I've I've had a special interest in skates at 1 point like what trucks what bearings to use what combination of wheel size and density and height what's the peak set of boots to treacherous here that I'm going to need to do what I want to do but then also everybody else is

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I'm really interested in exactly what's the diameter of your wheel right now because the odds are interesting.

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How are you? Oh, okay. I got. No, no, no, no, no, no, this like the, if you have.

13:20:22

2 different sets of wheels of 2 different materials, 2 different diameters, but you put them in a sort of diagonal sort of like cross diagonal.

13:20:31

A setup on your skates, you can actually create different curves and abilities to be particularly dexterous with your as someone who did roll it over for a while I know exactly about this in like the doing them on diagonals so you have a better easier time of doing turns in certain directions.

13:20:46

But yeah, this is the thing and on that topic of like flitting around obsessions I do the same and I think like a way of explaining that like I've used with people before is like my hyperfixations are often there are often external factors that bump me around them like The last time I went through a really, really heavy fixation period of with trains was during COVID and a lot of the reason for that was I used to be someone

13:21:14

that did a lot of train travel regularly and almost took it for granted and then couldn't train travel anywhere for like a year and I started really missing it and that got me back into that period of like watching videos of train journeys in other countries or playing train simulator



with my fancy train controller, you know, maybe I'll flip over to Pokemon when a new Pokemon comes out and for like 6 months

13:21:35

I will be soaking in every bit of information I can about that. I think it's totally understandable to be like an external factor isn't it?

13:21:45

I'm swapping over to this thing for now and that's what's given the dopamine.

13:21:48

Oh, I feel I feel like my current situation is a product of that as well because for many, many years as long as I can remember I wrote a story about this for another book video games were a space that I could exist in that was not.

13:22:04

Judgmental wasn't scary I could explore and express and even embody myself in these environments and I was fascinated not just about that opportunity but how they worked.

13:22:16

Like why does it do this and how can you do this and what would happen if you did that and what would this do if you change this and what would the knock on effect would be this and if your rule said is that can you change it and then make this happen.

13:22:26

And I've been doing that for all my life. That's been one that's actually been consistent.

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And when I was feeling particularly rough, cause I have a diagnosis for PTSD as well and unfortunately What is and PTSD and being different and anyway and PTSD, together.

13:22:43

When I was in a rough period my wife reminded me of the joy that I found in games and I was like oh listen that This, is that really something I can claim and she's like, yeah.

13:22:56

Through a series of different events realizing my passion for what they can do even in the face of what they sometimes shouldn't do.

13:23:05

What they can do has led me to this island where I'm teaching about this now. And I got to write this because of realizing the joy.

13:23:16

Of a hyperfixation that has brought me a sense of security. And wonder. And art. And also just the minutiae of everything.

13:23:27

Because it's I love that. Technicalities, and how you can tell a story that way. Okay.

13:23:35

Oh, okay. I was joking earlier when Justine was doing the whole the intersection between queer and autistic and and trauma and I'm like it's a circle.

13:23:51

The Vim diagram is just a circle. It's just become a standard. This is a circle.

13:23:55

Everyone has it. Like so many things that are great. It feels to me that we kind of come to really nice circle around for this conversation.

13:24:06

It feels like. We've explored join in lots of different ways and then she wanted to express something else.

13:24:12

There is something that we do joyously at the end of every episode. I'm okay with jumping to the joyously done thing at the end of the episode if you would like.

13:24:21

Excellent. Every episode day and I talk about the breathtaking quality of canneries. Many different guises at opportunities and on this occasion when J and I were talking about How breath-taking Canaries was, we both realized that neither of us had paid much attention to canneries recently because we both been hyperfixated on Boulders Gate 3.

13:24:48

And not just that, but how breathtaking certain characters are in it. And I thought perhaps just as a little change and a moment of joy, perhaps we could all talk about how breathtaking certain characters are at that game because I can't help myself.

13:25:04

I'm in love. Yeah, that was really good. So Look, and someone who is primarily, attracted to women, Carllak instantly, caught my attention.

13:25:18

I'm a real sucker for like, you've got your tall and have horns?

13:25:23

Yes, I'm on board. You know, instantly on board. We, the romance option I've been like, I didn't expect myself to be as into as I was.

13:25:32

A starion. A starion's energy is fantastic, like Like the way I want to talk about a star in is like a star in seems like the most fun a terrible choice will ever be.

13:25:43

Like the best terrible mistake I could make and I really like that

13:25:50

I am slightly weirded out by a star because the way that he's voiced and the way that he acts is so like a friend of mine.

13:26:00

Dusty limits who's a performer who performs that kind of almost and honestly I he is vampiric and he does have a picture in the attic because he hasn't changed in the 18 years that I've known and one iota but he does have that same kind of style and his performance and things like that and I'm just like I like you, but I'm freaked out because you feel like

13:26:21

this other person who I know and is a good friend and they would be very weird. And it's just kind of so it's got an added layer of of but yes the best the most fun bad choice whereas Oh, green skin.

13:26:37

Oh, yes. Thank you. Yes, yes, yes. Mind you, my characters are really big, so I finally got to see my character naked.

13:26:49

And my god, my character has a great ass. I'm just like, oh, I want to take screenshots of this gorgeous, gorgeous beast that I've managed to build and play as, which is just so much fun.

13:27:03

I'm dragon, dragon born. And, yeah, yeah, have just crafted a gorgeous non binary based.

13:27:11

I've just realized there is a worse mistake you can make. I've just realized there is a gorgeous non binary beast.

13:27:18

I've just realised there is a worse mistake you can make that is not a romance option for say.

13:27:20

I've just realized there is a worse mistake you can make that is, not, a romance option for say.

13:27:23

You can make out with a mind flyer in this and I wouldn't recommend it unless you're going to save scum but I'm so glad this gave lets you just make out with the face of that should you decide like couldn't say no to it you know there's only so many opportunities you get in this life.

13:27:36

I am still playing act one and have only just discovered the underground underdog under Thingy. You might note that I don't remember the names of anything.

13:27:47

I have also played Skyroom solidly since it came out. And now my only other game that I do own other games because Josephine keeps on buying and giving me games occasionally.

13:27:57

It's like I think you would like this if you were the finished Skyroom and somehow Boulders Gate got me away from playing Skyroom for a bit.

13:28:04

Possibly for a while, but I will probably end up being drawn back to Skyroom just for wandering around picking flowers.

13:28:12

But it's that I don't remember the names of anything, but there's an underground.

13:28:15

That's got pretty crystals that I'm wondering around and getting killed by the environment because I didn't remember to shut the door.

13:28:23

There's, Jay, I'll ask and Laura, How do you feel about being spoiled a little bit about certain things?

13:28:32

Okay. It's my memory. Do you do you honestly think that I would recognize who you're talking about or anything like that.

13:28:40

Okay, so do listen for 30 s, Lord, do you mind if I? Go ahead. I'm pretty deep in.

13:28:47

I'm good. There's an amazing scene where you can go to the house of a demon who's been trying to basically entice you for the whole time.

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And you you can kind of many choices depending on what you decide to do in this house you can choose to engage with one of those choices is you happen to meet a devil.

13:29:06

One of those choices is you happen to meet the devil who is lying in a bed. Just languidly just sort of like oh hello there you are and then oh you need some information do you need to unlock this safe well I happen to know the combination you know it's like and I also find you very attractive would you mind having wonderful sex together and you of course you can and then after it says oh by the way I have

13:29:30

now. Done a bit of magic so that every time someone thinks about me or thinks about you, you'll experience this orgasmically whenever I'm having sex with someone else.

13:29:41

Just how you know. It's like. Well, didn't know that was an option but no idea.

13:29:52

That game was wild. It's so queer. Yeah, anyone in anything seems to be able to get together.

13:30:00

Which I discovered what Gail looked like just in his pants and was like, oh, hello.

13:30:06

Maybe we should have a conversation at some point in time. But all of those things aside, Okay, because she was all those leather stress and I just And she said, sweet.

13:30:19

Kyle likes like the the obvious one. I was like, this you've you've created this character just because I'm gonna full I'm gonna fall into that trap I know I know Yeah, I have several friends who are just like, and she's northern.

13:30:32

It's like the editing like Kalak and she's northern is just like the ultimate of like

13:30:40

Oh, okay. Well, it seems that we could definitely carry on and I'm not discouraging.

13:30:48

Every character and yes, a star. And I am resolutely gay as gay can be every character and yes, a star. And I am resolutely gay as gay can be, but he has turned my head.

13:30:59

Kate can be, but he has turned my head. Kate is like, occasionally there's a there's a guy every now and then in the star I know it's a mistake that I wish to make it over and over and but yes, we could talk about this endlessly and I have every desire to do that, but perhaps to list you might want to actually go do something else.

13:31:18

To that and I wanted to thank or go play ball just care yourself. Okay, or read, read, stories of artistic joy.

13:31:29

. Dale and to the end Laura is there anywhere else that people might be able to find you and what you do yeah whatever social media you happen to be using I'm at Laura K.

13:31:41

Buzz on basically all of them are no matter where you have landed in the Great Exodus or and Twitter, I'll be there at Laura K.

13:31:47

Buzz. I do weekly videos about video game accessibility over on YouTube again at Laura K.

13:31:53

Buzz. You searched Laura Kate Dale, Laura K. Bells, you'll find the places I am on the internet and the books I have done.

13:31:59

Wonderful. And you also have a page show and I know that. I do, Laura, a patron to come support slash Laura K.

13:32:06

Buz if you go and find those things that I do and then go, oh I quite enjoyed these things I would like to support them, that is how you can do so.

13:32:11

And we also have a Patreon which is so good Laura and then afterwards come to us. Which is patreon.

13:32:19

Com slash it is complicated on word and the money that we gather from there we pay our guests because everybody who comes on is Deserving of money in this ridiculous system we call capitalism so that's where your money goes but even if you can't you are very welcome every single episode and I hope you are very welcome every single episode and I hope you'll come back and find us wherever we happen to be on the internet and find us wherever we happen to be on the internet because

13:32:45

we certainly aren't on Twitter anymore. I still linger. I'm still there, we happen to be on the internet because we certainly aren't on Twitter anymore.

13:32:55

I still linger. I'm still there, but it's only because it is by far the place that the most people follow me.

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And as someone that is like, I never gonna have 60,000 people following me on another platform again in future.

13:33:05

It's hard to like go with that. Yeah, I hate that I'm still there, but yeah.

13:33:07

Well, hopefully it'll bring some moments of joy and it actually does because lots of lovely trans and non-binary people are on there that I love making fabulous art.

13:33:16

So anyway, find this where you can and do come back and join us again next time. Bye. And

13:33:27

You and