

# The Moon Crown Interview

**Lisette:** [00:00:00] Hello listeners, this is Lisa Alvarez with Tales From the Hearth, and. Interview with a storyteller. The storyteller that we have, uh, this evening, which is evening at least for me. But, um, what is it, five o'clock somewhere? That's the, that's the phrase. It's five o'clock somewhere. I am joined with m Molder, who is the crater of the moon crown, which is a horror podcast that really def, defines, defies explanation.

It is. Really beautifully sound designed and, uh, I am just starting to get into it. I highly recommend you if you like horror and interesting sound design with your horror that you go check it out. But I'll also let, [00:01:00] um, introduce their work as a creator and as a storyteller. In your own words, what is the type of storytelling that you do?

**M:** Hmm, I think I do write a lot of horror and it's not like I. Went out of my way to kind of be like, oh, I'm gonna be a horror writer. It's just kind of a, like, I'll start with sort of a vague concept of, oh, I'd like to do a fantasy story, or I'd like to do, um, something sci-fi cyberpunk, and then it kind of always drifts towards psychological horror.

So that's something that I. Can tap into pretty easily. It's especially because I kind of have these specific themes of writing that sort of go through everything I write. So yeah,

**Lisette:** no, then that's one of the things I really enjoy hearing from people is. What are those themes? You know, what are the types of tropes?

Because on the one hand, I wanna say M's. Really, really big now, but I saw those themes that M was working on from the very beginning and we talked about it, and I wanna have [00:02:00] that kind of experience once, once you get big, right? No. Um, and yes, absolutely. All right. Well, um, the first thing that I, and you, you mentioned that you listened to the other interviews so you kind of know what's coming and it's a bit of a challenge, bit of a storyteller challenge, but I think you got this, and again, this is meant to just be a, an exercise in.

We are all storytelling animals. Even if you weren't a storyteller, you would have a story to tell. I believe that. So I will do is I'm gonna set a timer for 30 seconds and if you wanna just think or jot down what kind of story you wanna tell, I'm gonna ask you to tell a story in five minutes. It can be any kind of story, it could be fiction, it could be semi autobiographical, it could be a comedy.

Sketch, I don't, I don't care any, like, just tell us a story in five [00:03:00] minutes.

**M:** So when I was a a kid, I would see stuff when I was falling asleep and I remember the first kind of sort of ghostly figure that I saw, and it was just a hand. On a doorknob, and that freaked me out a lot as it should. Like as I was growing up, I would kind of see more and more of these things, and there was a particular one that really freaked me out.

So for a while I slept on a bunk bed. I was a full grown adult. So that's, that's its own thing. But I, um, I had a bunk bed like in my twenties and one night I woke up and there was a little boy standing at the edge of the bed. I was super confused. He was kind of dressed like in 1920s clothes. It was very strange, like a little paper boy.

And normally when I would see these things, I'm kind of strange in that I will roll over and kind of stare at the wall instead, like I'll know [00:04:00] that I feel like I've seen something in the room, but instead of kind of having a flight or fight response, I'm sort of the fawn sort of subtype. So I just kind of turn away when I'm scared of something in the dark.

It's very, it's not gonna help me. There's gonna be one day where this is not a great thing to do. But this time I actually saw him walk out of the room and so I got out of bed and followed him. As I was going out into the hallway, my friend's friend was coming out of her bedroom. Uh, they, she was sleeping the night and she just stopped in the hallway while I was in the hallway, and we just looked at each other and I asked her if she was okay.

She didn't say anything. She just went into the bathroom. And then I was like, okay, this is too weird for me. So I went back. Went to sleep. Um, and ever since then I've kind of had more and more kind of frightening, unusual experiences. And every once in a while I'll see something that will be kind of like spiders, [00:05:00] swarms in the corner of the room on the ceiling.

Or there was one time where I saw like two shadow figures and one was very tall, kind of slender, manish, um, and the other one was kind of normal. And these were shadowy creatures. So this kind of, this freaked me out for a while. And then there was one day I, I sort of had this strange feeling about it where this happened so frequently.

I was like, okay, maybe, maybe ghosts. Like maybe something like this is, there's truth to it. And one day I was listening to a podcast and this woman was

talking about how she had. Somebody who would come into her apartment and just kind of sit in the corner when she was sleeping, which is very terrifying to think of.

And it went on for months where she didn't know what to do. And then eventually they figured out that she had this issue called hypnopompic hallucinations. Eventually for [00:06:00] me, I was like, maybe that's what's happening. So I believed this for most of my life, that I had some sort of connection to something kind of.

Mythological, something like that. But maybe a few years ago I asked a psychiatrist about it and they were like, yeah, this is totally a possibility for you. And so since then I've kind of taken steps to try and mitigate it. Since then, I don't really get them anymore. But these hypnopompic or hypnogogic hallucinations, when other people talk about their experiences, like I'm totally open to the idea, but for me it was an interesting journey to kind of figure out what I felt about my experiences and how to kind of reduce those because they would happen.

Kind of frequently compared to sort of how I would see it spoken about, especially because I think like people get sleep paralysis and I don't know if this is Oh yeah, [00:07:00] yeah. I don't know if this is super common, but I would get it a lot like at least like once every few months. And it was like extremely just, it really messed up my sleep, which makes sense.

So when I was a kid, I would get it all the time and then I was still getting it into my adulthood. I'm not sure if it's, I feel like it's more common than people think it is, but I know that for me it was like very frequent from the kinds of things I would see people talk about online. So that's kind of my.

Journey through figuring out sort of how my perception of kind of ghostly figures has sort of influenced me, influenced me throughout my life. And this isn't to say that I dismiss anybody else's experiences because you never know like what, what other people experience could be entirely, have entirely different reasons from for what they.[00:08:00]

Are seeing or just their experiences, their perceptions. I just know for me, I've found a way to kind of reduce the amount of these spooky things that have happened for me throughout my life. That

**Lisette:** is really interesting. I have heard of those types of hallucinations before. Mm-hmm. I, I, I mean, I've heard a lot of people on.

Also kind of both sides of like, they believe that what they're seeing is some kind of supernatural event versus they think that it is just their biology, it's their, it's their psychology. And I think it, both concepts are incredibly interesting to me. Again, because I believe we are storytelling animals, we.

You know, especially it, we even make stories in our dreams or when we're half asleep, our brain does not turn off stories for us, and that is very interesting to me. I treat it personally, a [00:09:00] way in which I provide meaning in my life, and also how I kind of interact with the world. And I feel like the more we understand about ourselves, and I would assume you've seen this too, it influences how we tell

**M:** stories too.

Yeah. What. People's kind of perceptions and understandings of their experiences are, it's not like I always try to keep an open mind because I don't know like how they've experienced these things and I think hearing from other people and how those things affect them, how hearing kind of their own sort of perception of these things.

I'm gonna say perception about it's. It's very, I think it creates a lot of empathy just in general to keep an open mind. And with something like this, it's like both sides are fascinating and I just kind of wanna hear all of it, especially as a horror writer and somebody who likes to go into psychological horror.

Like it's, it's something that I'm. Totally excited about talking about and it's

**Lisette:** a good, it's a good, it's ripe for playing around with Absolutely that line too. So [00:10:00] now comes like the big question, which is why do you tell

**M:** stories? Probably I'd say to be heard just because throughout my life it's kind of been hard to have my voice sort of just.

Heard over all of the noise. I love hearing from other people, but it's easy. Especially I have a lot of trauma in my life and I feel like it, it feels a little like reductive or or silly or something, but I do feel like it has affected my ability to speak to people about my experiences and then also speak to them just.

The sort of ideas that I'm really proud of and sort of just continue inspiring myself because I, I feel like validation is really nice now that I have sort of found a community that I can actually find that in. But it's sort of a balance. I do like being hurt. I [00:11:00] don't know how to, how to phrase it, but I, I do feel

like a lot of my reason for writing is because I feel like, Voices like mine do deserve to be heard.

And I feel like there isn't as much of that as I would like to hear or see or read. So I think that it's, it's really worthwhile when you're able to speak about these experience, these experiences. Yeah. That other people have that same. Might not feel like, well, not for speaking for other people. How do

**Lisette:** I, well, it sounds like what you're talking about, and I, I'd wanna hear more is the gaps in which we live in the world, the, these gaps and experiences.

Mm-hmm. We can only hear from the other side in order to further per. Perceive, using your word to perception to further perceive what's happening in ours. And it seems [00:12:00] like you're trying to kind of both be heard and hear to hear more and

**M:** be heard more. Yeah, absolutely. It's. Especially when you kind of go through your life feeling like you haven't been able to sort of speak for yourself and like give people your ideas or like they haven't listened.

It makes you very empathetic to other people who've experienced those things. But it also, it's hard to. Kind of dredge up the confidence that you need to speak about those things. So one of the things with my writing has always been like, I just feel like I haven't had anybody to listen. Even though like I have friends, I have my community with some of the things I talk about, it's easier for me to explain it through art, right?

So it's. Yeah.

**Lisette:** So can you give me an example of something that you were able to explain through your art that you found was hard to explain in any other [00:13:00] context?

**M:** Yeah, so some of the stuff that I'm gonna talk about is, is definitely, cuz the show is about kind of trust and trauma and how those things interact with each other, like for, for better or for worse.

So I have, mm-hmm. I have a section where I kind of delve into something that sounds very frightening and it's a little bit of a metaphor or an allegory. It's something that seems very horror. Derived very derived by derived from horror. I don't know one of those will sound right. I started writing it after I had listened

to an audio drama that actually made me cry cuz it was about parents and this relationship between a woman and her mother.

And it was, it was really hard to listen to cuz I was like, at the end I was like, oh, I should have, should have read the content warnings, but, Because of that, it kind of, I ended up processing, my dad had a heart attack last year. [00:14:00] He, he, he's fine. I don't know how to, how to, how, how phrase it.

**Lisette:** I'm glad to hear that.

Yeah. He, yeah. Yeah. But that's hard to, to, that's frightening. Yeah, it's frightening.

**M:** So it was kind of this sort of interwoven thing where she was talking about her. The character was talking about her mother and how she didn't have her around and how she didn't have like the chance to kind of be grateful for her and, and apologize to her.

And I was like, man, this is, this is too relevant for me right now. I've put it on pause for like when I'm eventually able to continue because it was really hard. But because of it, I went in and wrote a section that is kind of about. Like a person without spoiling it too much. This Yeah. Character talks about their parental figure sort of changing.

And so I went into it already feeling very like heartbroken in a way, and I [00:15:00] started off kind of working through this small amount of grief that I hadn't touched on. Like it was just the beginning. That's why it was a small amount, but it was this grief that I hadn't. Kind of opened the door to, to kind of actually process.

And when I was going over that, I started kind of digging into some things that I knew I hadn't. I have sort of these issues with memory, which is another thing I write about very frequently, but it's kind of easy for me to put these sort of traumatic experiences I've had in the back of my head, which is how trauma generally, like a lot of people process trauma.

Um, Right, and I'm bipolar and I have trauma and all these various things that make it very difficult and try to channel those into my writing. One of my parents is, I, she hasn't gotten diagnosed, but I'm very sure that she is bipolar. Has bipolar. Yeah. And I kind [00:16:00] of wrote a scene that was, seems very metaphorical in that the character experiences.

Their parent changing over a very short period of time and kind of talks about just. The loss of feeling safe, basically. Not that it's a mix of things like bipolar does not mean that somebody is going to be a bad parent or anything like that. I'm, I would assume that I'm, hopefully, if I ever wanted to have kids, that I would be a good person to care for somebody else.

But for me, in my experience, which this is kind of how I do a lot of my writing, is I just channel what I know and try to be very. Careful about being too, like letting anybody take it too literally. Yeah,

**Lisette:** no, that's a really good way to put it because that's something I, I also relate to in my writing is writing from experience and trying to [00:17:00] pulling out the emotions within.

The framework of metaphor. Mm-hmm. Or allegory. Mm-hmm. And very pain, often very painful things. And you know, to all, all this to say too, that it sounds like this, this particular metaphor and framework was. A way in which you could explain this very difficult emotion. Very complex. Mm-hmm. Relationship. And a way that even if it is horror, even if it has frightening aspects to it, it's less about the frightening aspects and more about the emotional mm-hmm.

Catharsis

**M:** for you. It's a very, every time I re-listened to it, I'm like, man, I still, I still relate to this, which it's my writing. Of course I do, but it's like, I forget how much, kind of, how many different things I put into it because there's, there's a lot of different aspects to trauma and for me, that scene was also, it was about kind [00:18:00] of realization for that character, but it was also about mourning a little bit and.

At the same time sort of acceptance and forgiveness, because having a parent that struggles with mental health is, it's very different for every, everyone, and it's something that, I, it took me a long time to kind of get to the point where I have the feelings that I do, and everybody's kind of, they have their own nuanced experiences and I, I feel like I still kind of am working through it, which means it's gonna be in the show.

Yeah. Oh, it is.

**Lisette:** Like, I've, one, one of the things that I've always, I've experienced actually in my writing, and also I feel like this happens just in life, that even if



you have that catharsis, Life is like a spiral. You kind of just, you go to a deeper level eventually you circle back around to it and get, get at it from a deeper yeah.

Level. So that's what I'm hearing, that's what I'm hearing at least. And, and, you know, to get to this idea too, of, [00:19:00] of being able to have the confidence to say, To be able to reach into those places to be able to even use an allegory, even though you can't say it with words Exactly. And transman it.

Exactly. The scene one for one, and try to explain what your experience was like. You can use this allegory. Mm-hmm. To feel heard. Where, where did you learn that? Do you feel, where did you learn how to do that and how did you come, did you have a mentor? Was it with your, your writing group? Like what are ways in which.

Helped you become a better storyteller? More confident

**M:** storyteller? This is a really good question cuz I have no idea. It's probably like consuming other media and being like, wow, I see things in this. I see myself in this and things that I've experienced in this. Even though they're not saying this exact thing, they're not like being outright with the actual meaning of their stories and maybe they didn't intend to.

[00:20:00] Sometimes that's great stories. That you can relate to aren't necessarily written for that purpose of like being a catharsis for the creator, but you can find like your own meaning in things that media that you consume. So I, I feel like. It happens naturally. I don't know that it happens naturally, like I would assume.

I'm gonna repeat myself. I feel like it is something that everybody kind of learns how to do, and for me, I was not somebody who wrote very much in school. I, I took a long time to actually make my way to writing. Like actual stories. I, I would spend time when I was a kid kind of imagining things. I was very kinda lost in my own world all the time.

Big. Big daydreamer. Yeah, and it's, it's kind of a problem because I listen to music and I'm like, oh God, I can't listen to this playlist or I'm gonna get distracted. But [00:21:00] it took me a really long time till I got to the point where I was like, okay, I need to put this down. I want people to read it. But I don't know if I'm ever going to like, be confident enough for that.

I have kind of a weird history when it comes to writing, but it might not be very uncommon. To say



**Lisette:** what was one of the surprising lessons that you got in making that jump to, you know, someone who didn't write a lot to, now you are here. Yeah. What, what has been a surprising lesson that you've learned over this

**M:** journey so far?

So, I've gone through this phase twice cuz I started writing, like I, I wrote a novel God like in my twenties and it. I kind of like the best thing that came out of that was having community that kind of helped me develop, uh, my confidence and then sort of, I stopped writing for a very long time and [00:22:00] most recently with the show, I feel like I found community again, and that's kind of revived my confidence.

I didn't realize that I was a perfectionist until I. Started this show, which is it's, I know that this has been discussed before, but like every time I hear another creator talk about perfectionism, I'm like, damn, we can't escape

**Lisette:** it. Right. So we can't. No, we can't. Oh no, that's so real though. So it's interesting that, that, you know what, have you gotten any feedback from your community that has.

Helped address the perfectionism issue. Yeah, absolutely. And what has that, what has that advice and feedback been that helps break that

**M:** for you? Oh, I've gotten a lot of feedback about this. I have eight episodes up, but over the course of, it's been [00:23:00] a while. I've been releasing since June last year, and I've, I've rerecorded episodes.

And spent very, very much time sort of refining each episode. And it's gotten to the point where I will stream in my Discord channel and my community, like my friends within the audio drama community will come and they'll be like, you need to stop. Like, have you, have you had your water? Have you gotten up and walked around?

When? When did you start like working today? And I'm like, I, I, I've had a full like 48 ounces of water and then they're like, no, you haven't, like, go get a drink right now. So it's very like consuming, especially when you have this perfectionism kind of becoming this obsessive thing. It's easy to get to a point where it's very unhealthy and sometimes, like I.

Didn't realize how much [00:24:00] of a kick in the butt I needed to just like, chill out and like be okay with like, with just giving myself room to breathe and

that not like I'll get there. Basically like, it's like I do like the. Idea that, that it's okay to kind of put out what you have. Yeah. One thing that I've kind of learned over this is you can only get to a level of perfection equivalent to the skill that you have at that moment.

So you're not gonna be able to make like the most perfect, amazing thing that you're gonna love in like a year. Like a year from now, you're gonna have learned things that make you look back and maybe you're like, oh, I would've done that differently. So you can only push yourself. Gently, hopefully toward using the skills that you have and what you're proud of to the level that's healthy for you to actually get that.

Be comfortable to put [00:25:00] a piece of, piece of art out, any kind of media. That's really,

**Lisette:** thank you. I needed to

**M:** hear that too. Oh, I have to keep telling myself, so

**Lisette:** yeah. Well that and the drinking water thing, that's a thing for, for like, for years I was like, on, on Twitter, I was, I literally put in my bio, tell me to drink water and every once in a while I'll, like, it'll be like a random tweet that I, I would put out completely separate.

Like it, not talking about drinking water or self-care or anything. And some random smart ass would just comment underneath, have you drunk water today, Lisa? Set, like, fuck you. But also, thank you. You're right. I

**M:** have not, yeah, I, I feel like I have kind of a, a closer knit group with within my server that we have, like the things that we know.

The other people need to be doing. So it's like, yes, I think everybody kind, especially creatives, like they need to be told sometimes to like go [00:26:00] like, get some fresh air. I'm not gonna do that, but you please do that. Please, please go get

**Lisette:** it. Do as I say, not as

**M:** I do exactly like I, I feel like I am. Huge on hyping people up to take care of themselves and just hyping them up in general.

But I reserve that for them when, like, I should save a little bit of that for me, but it's okay. We're, we're all hyping each other up and like telling each other to take care of ourselves, so it works out.

**Lisette:** I think, I think, you know, and I, I do believe this, that even, I know there's, there's a, there's a one of the truisms that you can't love unless you love yourself.

I think actually, I, I don't quite believe that because I think in some ways when you genuinely. Care about other people and you practice using the types of language and empathy to other [00:27:00] people, it does reverberate back to you. You start to, cuz you start to hear that positive self enforcement echoed around, right?

So you start to, even if you have a difficult time consuming those messages yourself. Something, it starts to absorb. It's a, it's, it's like a way, a pathway to start to do that. And that's why I think about stories. Stories help prime the pump of the type of world, the type of messages, themes, whatever we want to work on.

And so my next question is actually related to this and it's about what you're, you are seeing and the culture around you regarding storytelling. That you don't think people are talking about enough and that you particularly wanna do something

**M:** about? Ooh, that's hard. I, so something that I really love, so this is kind of a reversal of this, is there's a, there's a thing [00:28:00] called audio drama lab.

And one thing that I find with shows, so in the past, it's been a while since I've come across this, in the past, I've seen shows that. Kind of, they go on hiatus and they, they just kind of fade away, and that's something that. I was very afraid of in the start. There is this, yeah, there is this quote that kind of makes me laugh in sort of a not morbid way, but it's that like, once you're past your third episode, you've, you've made it to the point where you don't feel like quitting, but then it's like every episode after that is still like, you're like, ah, am I gonna make it through this one?

But, um, I. I do feel like every, everyone in the audio drama community knows that this is a thing, but it's, I don't know, it's a hard thing to broach. I don't know how, how I would even like approach that topic. Yeah. And

**Lisette:** no, that's a [00:29:00] really interesting to like, no, I wanna hear more. This is something I actually, I ha I have also observed.

Mm-hmm. But I also haven't heard people talk about. So tell me, tell me more. What are your thoughts around, like, why do you think this is a thing, especially with the audio

**M:** drama community? Oh, so it's so difficult to continue pushing yourself, especially if you don't end up finding community. Like it's, it's hard to be super active on social media, uh, especially if you're not somebody who goes into the community having already been in the sort of circle of, of.

Any kind of social media. I was not a big social media user when I joined, but I can see how it would be very difficult. And I experienced this myself, so I, I'm talking like I haven't, but I have experienced that. Yeah. If you feel very alone and you feel like you're creating this art, even if you're making it because you [00:30:00] love it, some people that's not enough and that's, that's okay.

Like I have felt that I feel that way and it's. It's hard to kind of get past that hurdle when you know, like every episode you put out you're, especially if you're like looking at the numbers of like listeners. Mm-hmm. And looking at like, oh, how many interactions have I gotten this week? Or, or something like that.

There is a point where I was like, I can't do this. I can't look at this anymore because I'm going to stop like making my show. And that was, it got really bad in October, which is surprising cuz I did. Collaboration with a lot of other audio drama creators, uh, called Kill fm. And the second one actually came out very recently.

Mm-hmm. But I was very excited to do it. But throughout October I was just like, man, I don't know if I can keep doing collaborations like this. And at the end of October I was a telling one of my friends, I was like, I don't even know if I [00:31:00] wanna keep making this show. And I was only on episode. Like five.

It's, it's, it's been a while, so it just hard to remember. Yeah. Yeah. But, uh, I was also in phonic Fiction Fest, so there were, there were only like three things I was working on in October, but they felt like that's a

**Lisette:** lot of things. I'm

**M:** not gonna, I'm not gonna let, that's a lot of things, especially to someone who's like super new to the, to the community.

So I got to a point where I was like, I don't know if I can do this. Like, it was, it was to the point where I sent. The voice actors on the show messages and I was like, you know, I really appreciate you being on the show. I would understand if you're not super comfortable continuing on with the show. I don't know how long this is going to be.

And it was like how long it was going to continue. I didn't know if it would go past season one. I wasn't sure like how, how long I'd be creating. And it feels very different from other times. Like I, I stopped. [00:32:00] Writing my novel. Like I finished my novel that I wrote in like 2017, and I didn't write again for like five years, um, which is when I started the show.

But one of the things that, there's a lot of things I've, I've gained from continuing on. I even the other day I was looking at the Discord and I have a message pinned where I was like, I. I don't know how long the show is going to go on for. And this was back in October. Right. And since then, I've kind of found the confidence again to just, just make whatever I want.

Like I, nobody's holding me to anything. Like, at least for now, I'm, I'm just like smooth sailing. I can do whatever I want and that's gonna be true, like the whole time. Just make what you want, but it's hard to get through. Those points where, where you're very sort of, where you feel like you can't continue and you kind of wanna just like let your [00:33:00] show fade or let your art kind of just drift away and like not worry about it, but.

Since October, I've put out and worked on things that I'm extremely happy about, extremely excited about, and like I love learning. And just having something that kind of gives me that push to continue learning is, that's worked out for me. It's, it's not something that is easy for everyone to do, and for some people it's like super easy, like, They, they just wanna learn a thing.

I don't know. I'm sure people, people exist that, that have those feelings and I'm very jealous seeing shows that have gone on hiatus and not come back is really. Heartbreaking. But at the same time, like, if that's what they needed, then that's what they needed now. So

**Lisette:** I, I kind of wanna, I kind of wanna go down this rabbit hole a little bit because this is something that's really, that I also wrestle with, and I say this having been in a point of privilege where I was able to finish my show.

I did only three seasons, but I did finish a show. Mm-hmm. And [00:34:00] I have not seen a lot of audio drama folks who have had series finales. Mm. Like, Like actually planned out series finales and it's, it's interesting to me and I I, I'm curious if, if you think there might be, is there something specific about audio or is this just another challenge for any artist to let go of their art if they feel like it's no longer serving them or storyline?

Is this, is this just kind of part of the ecosystem, part of the, part of the journey or educate or the learning as you put it? What do you think? Is the nature of this, I think

**M:** it is, of this, yeah. I think it's very difficult to create something and then be like, okay, I'm, I'm going to stop this eventually, like I'm gonna tie this up.

Especially cuz. Creators just, they create, like, they, they get inspired by stuff and they're like, oh, I can work this into this thing that I'm making. [00:35:00] And it, it's hard to kind of be like, oh, this is my child. This is my child, and I want to, I want to continue taking care of it and letting it grow and, and like when it's okay, I'm sure I don't know this, it's okay to just let.

Let your audio drama, let your creative endeavor go and live its life and like gain listeners or, or people who, who want to experience your art and not can of baby it. Mm-hmm. But I, that's something I struggle with for sure. Like every, every kind of thing that I go into, I'm really. Not, I'm not somebody who can write short stories.

I try to, but then I'm like, I get going and I'm like, oh, but what if, what if I made another chapter of this? It's, it's something that I don't wanna do with thing that I'm creating right now, but it is a very tempting because you've, you fall in love with the world. You fall in love with your [00:36:00] characters and.

You want to keep those alive and keep those going and changing and sort of exploring all the different things that can come out of a specific project, but Right. It's, it's something that, I think it gets very tiring for people consuming something if it's not, if it goes past the point where it makes sense, it's, it's like there is a point where, What is it?

Jumping the shark there? Oh yeah. There's, there's a point where you have to kind of figure out where, where it's an appropriate place to, to be like, okay, we're getting near the end. And for me that, that is very difficult. Like I. I've thought about the end of this show. Like I know what needs to happen by the

end of it, but it's like I've, I've talked with people about, oh, a lot of shows do five seasons.

Like why doesn't anybody do three seasons? And there, there have been some recent shows mm-hmm. That have ended [00:37:00] on the three seasons and I think about it and I'm like, man, I don't, three seasons like that makes me so like, I'm preemptively. Morning the series when like, I'm not even the first season, but I'm like, I don't wanna let it go.

But it's like, I know, like I don't wanna get to get to the point where it's tedious to listen to. No, I,

**Lisette:** I, I, well, as someone who, who has done preseasons three seasons, Joe, I, I have, I'm always happy to tell you about my experience, but it. It is. It's something that happened at the end of Kaila, and it was a little bit a while after where I truly felt like I, I had a grief.

Mm-hmm. Like it was, it was, it, it like the way that you use the term like a child, it feels like an empty nest. Yeah. Right. Like that's, and, and, you know, I, I don't want to have biological children. Mm-hmm. But like, that I think is the closest that, like, it was, it was a, it was hard. And I think that whether or not it's a.

[00:38:00] It's a, it's a story that you started that only has a couple episodes that you decide to let go of, or four, five seasons. Mm-hmm. Or seven seasons, or 15 seasons. Thank you, supernatural. Get me started. I will get started on that. Jumping the shark, right. Um. But yeah, it's, it's, it's really difficult and I think, you know, to your point around like the question of where this is gonna end and looking at and, and kind of the responsibility of the creator to really wonder like, when does this need to end?

Or what needs to happen? Mm-hmm. What do you think makes you feel like you've done your job as a storyteller?

**M:** I, so something that I'm trying to focus more on, especially as I come. Near to the end of the season and think about the second season is I want people to really connect with the characters and everybody has their strengths and things that they need to kind of, not that they need to work on them because they're [00:39:00] like not great at them or something, but like there's always room for improvement.



So what makes me feel like I've gotten, gotten something out enough to be. Consumable to be proud of it is feeling like I've answered any questions that people have and feeling like they're gonna be satisfied, which is really hard to kind of predict. It's, I don't know if it's, maybe, I just don't think, I feel like I'm a little mean sometimes to people who, who listen to my stories.

Cause I'm like, I had a. A thing one time where I was saying, I don't spoonfeed people, I just take the spoon away and it's very mean. But, but I, I want people to feel satisfied at the end. And so if I can answer as many questions as I can and do it in a way where people feel everything coming together soon enough before the end of it, because there's a point where people are gonna get.

Very [00:40:00] exhausted on, on questions that they've been waiting for. That is the thing that I worry about the most. Like I, if I make something that sounds cool, if I do, if I'm satisfied with my writing, cuz I, I've been kind of lucky with this one because I, this was a novella first and I had to transcribe it into, or translate it into a, a script, which is its own form of writing.

It's something where I, I feel. Fairly happy, fairly proud of, of things. I, I have that whole curse of, of being a creator. Like what, what are the right words? There's, there's some kind of idiom or something that describes Yeah, yeah, yeah. But I feel, I feel like I, I have to get to a point where I'm trying to think of the audience and are they going to feel like they have all the answers for the questions that have been posed throughout the.

The series or the season and also, Have I done this well enough to make somebody [00:41:00] cry?

**Lisette:** Yes. That's the, that's the thing. So, so your metaphor brought to mind a visual for me, which is, cuz you used the term like spoonfeeding. Mm-hmm. What I got was like, instead of spoonfeeding someone you're giving them, Like a crawfish foil.

Like, like, right. Like where you get, they have to get their hands in and break open. Like get tear the head off suck, suck out the, like they, they have to, they have the, have the bib and the, and the

**M:** and the gloves. Yeah. They, they have to put in, that's a very core

**Lisette:** oriented. They have to put in some effort, some, some mental effort.

That's, that's the, the mental thing that you got. And that's hard because you're, because the idea of creating a really good crawfish, but you have to, you have to, you know, you need to know how to cook. You need to know how to bounce

**M:** flavors, use great seasonings.

**Lisette:** Yes, exactly. So I'm gonna, going to wrap this up with the most important question.

I say this facetiously cuz I've said it [00:42:00] facetiously in all the rest of the interviews, which is the most important question, which is considering all this, you know, the, the crawfish boil that you're trying to make, why do you tell stories? Hmm.

**M:** Because. I'm trying not to like, tell a joke based up. You can say it, please tell me a joke.

I want a joke. I want my voice to be heard and I want people to, to have a good meal. To, to cook. Cook some, cook some good food, cook some good stories. I love that. I

think

**Lisette:** that's a great way to end this interview. We all want some, a good meal. That's, that's exactly how I feel about storytelling. I want good meals and just like healthy, like hearty, like you're surrounded with other, like other people around you and we're all just having a great time and we're just being fed and.[00:43:00]

Yeah. No, that's, that's, that is a great metaphor

**M:** for good storytelling. Yeah. Every, every time I listen to an episode of a show and I have, like, I, I actually like, am close enough with the creator to where I can like, make jokes with them. I'm like, feed me like I need, I need the next episode. Give me, gimme some beans.

Spill the beans. Feed me.

**Lisette:** Feed me. Cool. Well, thank you so much for, for joining me. This has been an awesome interview. I am really glad that I have come across the moon crown. All of you listening should add that to your, to your story feed. And do

you wanna make a recommendation of where they can find you on social media?

Obviously you have a discord. Oh yeah. Right. Let me, but. Where can people find you out

**M:** in the, the moon? crown.com is the best place to find all the information cuz it has everything aggregated on the on that site. I will make sure to link

**Lisette:** that in the show [00:44:00] notes. All right. Unless you have anything else to add, a final sign off.

I think

**M:** we're good here. Thank you so much.