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Welcome to We Are the People, a podcast that speaks to people like you about your lives.

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Every day we make decisions and a huge number of those decisions are based on knowing the

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likely outcome. So, eating oranges is healthy, studying a certain subject will most likely

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lead to a certain job and buying a house will have a certain impact on our finances.

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But how often do we use instinct in our decisions? And if we did, what impact could that have?

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Saoirse Fitzgerald studied business in German in UCC, represented Germany in the Rose of Tralee,

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became LinkedIn's first German-speaking employee and now owns one of Ireland's most famous

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lighthouse keepers' houses. She made choices along the way and through it all she put her

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trust in one place, her gut. Her story brings us through huge highs and tragic lows. It teaches

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us the importance of community and resilience and how failure is only failure if you fail to learn

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from it. This is Saoirse Fitzgerald.

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Hi, Cheer. Welcome. Thank you very much for taking the time to have a quick chat.

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So, thanks for having me.

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It's my pleasure. What did you want to be when you grew up?

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I think there's kind of two, like, totally different angles I took on this. So, one was that I

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wanted to be a judge or a lawyer and the other was that I wanted to be a hairdresser of mutation.

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Why did you want to be a lawyer?

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I think there must have been some show on at the time of a judge sitting up through with her hammer

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and I just liked the idea of it. The hairdressing mutation was I just loved giving people makeovers,

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doing people's hair and make up and dressing them up and anything I could really.

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Who was your first victim or your most regular victims?

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My sister. So, there's six years between us. So, when she was a baby, like, I honestly thought I had

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my own little doll. So, I used to make clothes for her all the time, like little hats and dresses

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and everything. And she actually isn't someone who liked, you know, as a kid she didn't like dresses.

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She wasn't a girly girl at all but I was like insisting she wore all these dresses and stuff.

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So, yeah, she was my first victim.

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Was she happy enough with that or?

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She wasn't able to talk so I was getting away with a lot, you know.

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And then through school to those dreams continue.

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They actually did really, to be honest, like, well, the judge thing, I think, I don't know,

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I was always interested in law and cases and investigations and all that but still am.

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And then the hair dressing beautician, I actually, when I was doing my leave and start,

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I wanted to do a beautician's course. My mum said go and do like a business degree and you can do

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beautician by night if you want. If you still want to do it, you can go and do that by night.

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So, yeah, I took her advice and I ended up, you know, doing the business course, which I'm happy I did.

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Yeah, I guess they did continue. I always, and I would have liked to be a fashion designer too.

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I just loved art and creative things and colors and yeah, I just was always

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really into colors. Did you do art in school? Yeah, and in school, I don't know if you remember

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Mosney too. So we used to do clay modeling. So, you know, making little figurines out of mola.

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So me and my brother, we went to Mosney. I don't have any times, maybe three or four times.

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Like for clay modeling, I know how you'd wonder how we would even get into clay modeling but

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I haven't used that skill actually. Maybe I should tap into it. No, no, we only got out of

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water and that was as far as we ever got. What are your artistic memories? What are my artistic

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memories? Your other artistic memories? I guess I was always painting. Like again,

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going back to like when my little sister was a baby, like she was in her Moses basket and I had

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like my sketchpad across her Moses basket drawing and painting. I like, I remember that, you know,

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I would have been six or seven. I was just always drawing or painting and like, I think, you know,

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growing up in the country and maybe in the city, I don't know. But like, you really had to make

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your own fun, you know, because like running outside or like, like playing GI, GI Jane and GI Joe,

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that's what we used to do in awful art and then painting was the other thing. Who else is in your

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family? I've been older brother Jamie and he's in Australia now and then my younger sister,

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Trina and then a little brother Ronan, which is four of us. One hundred parents. I'm like, oh my

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great. Yeah, okay. What's your parents do? My dad is self-employed. So when he was a farmer,

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a truck driver to begin with and then a farmer, my granddad had a farm and he got six, so dad was

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in London and moved home to take over the farm as kind of was typical. I think of those days,

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you know, you kind of did the job that your dad did and then he started, he tried lots of different

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businesses. So he had the first video rental business in the area. By business, I mean van.

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So he used to go around renting out videos and yeah, he used to drive around renting them.

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So that was his first foray and then he started going Christmas trees and he set up a truck stop,

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which 28 years later still, you know, that is his main job now. But I guess I saw him through the

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years like start and try his, try his look at so many different businesses that yeah, I guess

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you couldn't but learn from him or let it rub off on you. And then I suppose it was maybe more

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the steady part of the relationship, which allowed him to take risks. So she's a psychiatric nurse,

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so she just retired three years ago, four years ago. But yeah, she was in, in Dr. Inzamolford City,

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so she worked always when we were growing up. So I just remember she was always like working

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nights, like she'd leave, put us a bed, leave, and she'd be back before we got up in the morning.

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So it kind of worked that way. And then yeah, she she did for like 40 years. Yeah, her stories

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were always fascinating as well, like just hearing about like what the how the mind works and what

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can happen and how you treat it. And she was also like a suicide breathing counselor, like for

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addiction counseling. So like she's done that, so of course, so we learned an awful lot about

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mental health. And it was always like kind of a topic, I guess, in our house growing up.

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Well, so like it's become something that people talk about now. Was it odd to be talking about

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that 15 years ago? I don't know if it was like it was the norm. And the thing is that like she

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then went to work in like high support units. And we all got to know her patients, you know, like so

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while I think, you know, like 20, 30 years ago, you heard about mental homes and mental hospitals

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and the big walls around them and everything. Maybe we got to peak, peak behind those maybe 20

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or the four others and see the people that actually were, you know, masked behind these like stone

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walls and what their life stories were and who their families were. And you know, we met their

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families and stuff because they'd be in visiting. Yeah, I suppose it destigmatized a lot of maybe

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mental health that, you know, conditions. Yeah, maybe it did. Sorry, you were so you began

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to visit your mother at work and you'd be just playing G.I.A. Jane around the hospital.

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No, but she was working in a town, you know, so we wouldn't be playing G.I.A. Jane, but no,

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they'd often have parties. They'd have like summer parties, Christmas parties, they'd

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lots of like social events and then the nurses and their kids and stuff will be invited. So we'd

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always go. Brilliant. Yeah. Incredible way to destigmatize mental health. Yeah, I guess so.

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It's probably the first time I've even talked about it like that. I didn't even realize that

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maybe it did open open like our minds to it all and be maybe less afraid. I remember it like a few

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years ago, I trained as a mental health ambassador and we put up like a white board and we had to,

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you know, use words that would describe mental health. And most of the words you come up with

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are like negative words because we haven't yet come up with like the positive words that

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we are getting there. But like, aren't that many positive words that sit beside the term mental

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health? So were you coming up with positive words on the board or were you similar enough to everybody

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else? Um, see, there was a lot of terms that you would, you know, you hear most frequently. So they're

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the ones that come to mind when you're asked to like brainstorm something. Um, but yeah, I guess

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maybe I was, you know, like they're normal people. It's you and I. And like, that's what I saw, like

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first hand at a young age was like a lot of the people that were in mams care were living a really

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normal life until something happened or until they were the breakdown in their mental health. So it

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wasn't like they were born with this condition like you might be with a physical ailment. They weren't

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like born with it always, but it would happen based on something that happened in their lives or in

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fact, a lot of the time like with drug use, if there is a psychiatric problem that may present itself,

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it will be sped up by taking recreational drugs. That was actually that is a fact, you know. Yeah.

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So yeah, so I think ma'am, ma'am like driving that message home like about, you know, your mental

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health and if you if there is something that's going to happen, drugs will speed it up. So that

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always kind of like steered us away from the thing. Yeah. Do you think then as you as you kind of grew

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up and lived lived your life that you were more capable of dealing with setbacks or things going

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wrong? I think you build up your own resilience over time, you know, as to how you deal with

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things going wrong and how you react. And I would say like how I reacted when I was 18 versus how

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I react now is totally different. But yeah, I think I'm up in a busy house. You know,

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a good few siblings helps you be resilient too. You know, things are always going wrong and like

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you come from a big family too. Like it helps, you know, you kind of learn how to react quickly and

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deal with things or not, you know. So you left school and went to do a business course?

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Yeah, I did. Yeah. So in while I was in school, maybe part of like my dad's

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entrepreneurialism rubbed off. So I set up a couple of companies, you know, while I was in

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fourth and fifth year. Like a couple of companies. Yeah. So one was a beach cafe.

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So yeah, I took a lease on that for summer when I was in fifth year and hired two staff and

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ran it for the summer. And then I had there was a market called Kappa Market. So I used to, I took

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a lease on that as well. I think I was in transition year and I'd two staff there as well. So every

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Sunday I'd open up a cafe there, get all the supplies, order all the supplies, everything. I loved it.

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Like, and I think I loved earning my own money and like being able to buy stuff. And you know, while

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yeah, I was envious of my friends staying in bed at the weekend when I was like, oh,

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working or whatever. But I don't know, it just, it's in our house, it seemed like the obvious

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thing to do, like set up a business, go do your own thing. So that kind of led maybe to me then

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choosing business as the degree that I would end up doing. Yeah. Yeah. Did you break money from your

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cafe? Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. There's a great markup on food, like more so than like anything at

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and still to this day, I'm like, food is like the highest markup kind of a business that you

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could have really well outside of internet products. Yeah, I did. I did make money. Yeah, it was great.

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Did you ever think of just packing in school and packing college and just doing it full time?

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Not really because I think maybe you want to carve out your own identity to, you know, like

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people always said to me, you'll be a nurse won't you? Like your mom's an you'll be a nurse. So like,

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I knew I was never going to be a nurse, although maybe I would have liked to be. You know, I never

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let my head go there and same wish like dad's business, like obviously he's built up a great

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business now. But at that time, I was just so wanted to build my own identity that no, it was

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never really an option. But college don't, you know, I didn't think I would be able for it or I know

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what to do. Like the school I went to, my primary school was absolutely tiny. You know, there's only

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five people in my class. There's only 40 people in the school and like even going from dad's

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school to a town secondary school was a like a massive adjustment, you know, and I would say

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the same happened going from like a town school to university. It was like, I wasn't really prepared.

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What kind of child are you shy or?

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Um, a shy, no, I would think like very inquisitive is that I've been told like always

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like my dad never like bringing me anywhere because I was just always mortifying him, asking questions

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like that I shouldn't, you know, someone had braces and I was asking like, why do you

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wire in your teeth? Like I'm out of the big nose and I was like, why is your nose so big? Like,

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you know, I've heard all these stories back that like I was an absolute nightmare to bring. So I was

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just so interested in like people and asking them questions that yeah. And then I know for a fact

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that I just get overexcited about everything like if man was going to town or anything, I would

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just be ready out of my outfit, pick the night before like she just began shopping in the supermarket,

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you know, but I couldn't, it was just so like, I just got an unwestern magic assignment out

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of the smallest things. And that probably is still the same now, you know, more than big events. Like,

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I love the little things like the little bits and bobs in your day are making a big event of

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something small like lighting candle at dinner or, you know, yeah, I'd say just a girly girl. Like,

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I, I don't know, it's always brushing my hair and changing my clothes and trying on my mother's

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outfits and yeah, where did you go? I went to ECC and did commerce in German. Where did the

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German come from? The German came from I had a great teacher in first year in secondary school,

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and she had just a wonderful way of describing, you know, people who describe food and they make

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it just sound so nice. So she was telling us one day about the ice cafes, which are like ice cream

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parlours that are everywhere in Germany, not every new scota. And she was telling us about like,

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this knot ice cream. She was like, it's like a blend of cream and then lots of different knots.

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And then, and I don't know, this is what sticks out to me, what I chose German. I was like, oh,

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my God, the food. And yeah, so I loved German from like then. I don't know, was I any good at

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00:14:32,420 --> 00:14:38,340

it? And then a friend of mine in school was said she was going to do commerce in German. So I

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should put it down. So I said, if I could show, I'd put it down. Like, honestly, that is the amount

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of thought that went into it. And my other, the other thing that I'd actually put down was psychology

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in Queens. So when the results came out, I didn't really know which one to go for, you know,

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but I just thought that maybe the move to Cork would be a little bit easier. I guess, you know,

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I probably was a real home bird at heart and was afraid of moving. And that summer before,

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when my when the results came out, our house burned down. So like, I had just finished my

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leaving cert. And yeah, our house burned down. So that probably was like a deciding factor in

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maybe wanting to stay closer to home, then go to Belfast.

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How did the house burned down? Well, like, you know, I think they don't really know exactly what

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they say that maybe a mouse, you know, to the wires and the attics of the attic went on fire.

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Me and dad were working with the chipper and mom and we'd loads of cousins staying because

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there were swimming lessons on and I had more that night. But it was 9 a.m. and someone rang us

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and they were like, are you burning a fire down there? Because our, you know, our family home is

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in a valley. Like it's not there's nothing around it. And we were like, no, and drove home. And as

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me and dad drove home, we opened the windows and you could just smell smoke like for, you know,

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from three, four kilometers away. And we knew like we knew then it was gone and we arrived there,

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drove down outside the house and it was all just gone. Yeah, it was all on fire. Like,

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you could just hear explosions like the toilet was exploding. You know, everything porcelain

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00:16:06,340 --> 00:16:11,860

exploded and the roof had caved in on top of the house. But no one was in there except a goldfish.

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So yeah, no, we were just so thrilled that like none of us were in it. It's like the

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look is the scape ever. But you know, I don't know, like it's amazing what you everything we had

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went like, oh, all we all we had, any of us was what was on us, you know, but

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she's the accumulate clutter so quickly after and like where we're actually from is a place

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called Clashmore. And I think we saw firsthand like the power of a community then like it's,

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it's we've been shown it's so many more times since, but that was like maybe the first time.

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I appreciated like the relationships of people in the small community and what others will do

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00:16:50,020 --> 00:16:56,660

to help you get back in your feet. Yeah. Where did you sleep that night? A few families offered us

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00:16:56,660 --> 00:17:02,580

houses then, you know, someone their grandparents had died. So their house was free. So we actually

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00:17:02,580 --> 00:17:08,180

went and stayed in their house. And I remember like the next day waking up and ma'am was like,

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00:17:08,180 --> 00:17:11,780

we better get some bits. But she was like, where do you start? Because normally you're getting

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00:17:11,780 --> 00:17:20,900

shoes to match an outfit or a jumper to match your jeans. Like it was like, oh, and so we went

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00:17:20,900 --> 00:17:25,540

off trying to get a few bits like ma'am act the lads, ma'am and train and roll only had their swimming

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00:17:25,540 --> 00:17:30,100

tags because they were going to the beach swimming. They were an even worse scenario. I had like

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00:17:30,100 --> 00:17:34,820

the chipper t-shirt and so did dad like we were at like, you know, and then we came back every time

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00:17:34,820 --> 00:17:38,900

every day we come back to the house, there'd be bags and bags and stuff left outside. Like people

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00:17:38,900 --> 00:17:44,740

were just unbelievable, you know, like, yeah, I think maybe it maybe brought us closer together as

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00:17:44,740 --> 00:17:50,900

a family than, you know, we were before that just realizing the materials of you don't really need.

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00:17:50,900 --> 00:17:55,060

And you don't miss all that much. It's only when someone says to you like, have you a picture of you

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00:17:55,060 --> 00:18:00,420

and you're a baby or and you don't. It's only things like that. And like my mom and dad, they

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00:18:00,420 --> 00:18:04,900

met in London and they, you know, dad moved home and they used to write to each other. So those

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00:18:04,900 --> 00:18:10,180

letters were gone. Ma'am's engagement ring, you know, there was some sentimental thing that went,

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00:18:10,180 --> 00:18:15,140

but like on the whole, it made me realize that you can't be too attached to anything material. And I

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00:18:15,140 --> 00:18:21,380

think that's probably stayed true. Early lessons to learn, isn't it? Yeah, yeah, it is. Yeah. But I

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00:18:21,380 --> 00:18:26,260

have a fear of firing out in candles. So any candles I have in the house, I double and triple

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00:18:26,260 --> 00:18:32,500

check the tableau. So you head off to college then? After college then in Cork. Yeah. And is that

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00:18:32,500 --> 00:18:39,060

a big city type thing? Massive city. Oh my god. I don't mean I don't mean this Cork, a big city.

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00:18:39,060 --> 00:18:44,660

I mean, do you think you're in a big city now? Cork to me, I was scared. I was so scared of Cork.

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00:18:44,660 --> 00:18:48,580

I was like, Oh my god, like it's huge. I don't even got up there shopping at Christmas stuff.

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00:18:48,580 --> 00:18:52,740

The bright lights. Yeah. So moved up and like we don't need eight hours, you know, at university,

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00:18:52,740 --> 00:18:57,300

it's different to an IT. So like we don't need eight hours college a week, which I only did the

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00:18:57,300 --> 00:19:01,620

eight hours. I didn't realize you to do other bits and bobs. Like I didn't realize you had to.

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00:19:01,620 --> 00:19:08,660

I don't know what I just I don't know. I probably wasn't prepared for like I should have been, you

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00:19:08,660 --> 00:19:14,820

know, I didn't really know anybody who'd been to university before, you know, it was close to me.

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00:19:15,700 --> 00:19:20,420

Um, my, I guess my brother was away. I didn't ask him. Anyway, so first year was,

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00:19:22,020 --> 00:19:28,340

it was great fun. Um, and definitely felt like I was a big grown up, you know, living away,

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00:19:28,340 --> 00:19:33,620

you know, all of that. But then the exams came round and back then, like there was just,

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00:19:33,620 --> 00:19:40,660

you got a montage and then you had all your exams in like me. Um, and with languages, like I know

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00:19:40,660 --> 00:19:46,660

you've studied French and Spanish, like you can't quickly learn them within a month. So if you

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00:19:46,660 --> 00:19:51,140

don't have the work done, you're a ghost, which is what happened to me. And I remember the results

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00:19:51,140 --> 00:19:57,220

came out and they came home. And in one of my exams, I got an 8%. And ma'am was like, this

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00:19:57,220 --> 00:20:02,020

month, there must be an issue with their photocopier. Like you, you, how would you've gotten eight

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00:20:03,540 --> 00:20:09,380

but it actually found a head only got an 8%. Like it was just so first year for me was a

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00:20:09,380 --> 00:20:16,340

relearning like, and probably like a scary one because I had failed a few of my German exams

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00:20:16,340 --> 00:20:21,620

and a few of the business subjects. And then you had like the guilt of, you know, being sent,

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00:20:21,620 --> 00:20:26,740

like there's, you know, more kids at home beyond me. And I was, you know, it's on your parents.

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00:20:27,620 --> 00:20:34,500

They're footing the bill. So yeah, I did the repeats, but then I still failed two of my German

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00:20:34,580 --> 00:20:40,260

exams. So it meant I needed to take a year out to repeat, which at the time, I didn't know really

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00:20:40,260 --> 00:20:44,420

anybody who had that had happened to them. You know, everyone else seemed to just go through

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00:20:44,420 --> 00:20:50,260

college swimmingly and come out and have their picture in the paper and all that. So I guess that

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00:20:50,260 --> 00:20:59,940

was like a dent to my ego and maybe it just instilled like fear in me around exams and achieving. So

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00:20:59,940 --> 00:21:04,900

I actually went and moved to Germany then for like six weeks to try and out of friend living

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00:21:04,900 --> 00:21:09,780

there. She was a hairdresser in Heidelberg. So me and another friend moved there. And the hope

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00:21:09,780 --> 00:21:13,780

that we would learn German. So I bought loads of German music CDs, listened to them and

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00:21:14,900 --> 00:21:19,940

tried to get a job. And I remember going into my dannels and asking for a job. Could I, you know,

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00:21:19,940 --> 00:21:24,740

could I start working there? Because I'd worked in the chipper. My dad struck stuff. So I went

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00:21:24,740 --> 00:21:28,500

into my dannels thinking I would be a shoeing for the job because I'd all years experience

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00:21:28,580 --> 00:21:33,700

and my dad struck stuff and didn't get the job. And for me, that was a real turning point. Like,

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00:21:33,700 --> 00:21:37,300

you know, going for a job, my dannels and I kidding it. Why didn't you get it? Was it because you're

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00:21:37,300 --> 00:21:43,060

German or? Yeah, I could barely string a sentence together. It was really, you know, my German was

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00:21:43,060 --> 00:21:47,860

bad. I don't know, probably a multitude of things while I didn't get it. But in the meantime, then I

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00:21:47,860 --> 00:21:52,660

was like the hair model for my friend who was like, starting to be a hairdresser there,

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00:21:52,660 --> 00:21:57,140

which obviously ticked lots of bucks for me. Things I loved hairdressing and all that and beauty.

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00:21:57,220 --> 00:22:01,620

It was the combined course she was doing. So I was like helping her with that. So yeah, that year

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00:22:01,620 --> 00:22:07,300

out, and then obviously I worked loads. I worked in a sports shop. I worked at dad's at the weekends.

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00:22:07,300 --> 00:22:12,020

And yeah, I guess at that time, my parents were rebuilding the house that had burnt down and

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00:22:12,020 --> 00:22:18,020

stuff. So I guess I was really looking inward a lot that year because I had let myself everybody

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00:22:18,020 --> 00:22:25,540

down by not just maybe growing up a bit like in that first year of college. So yeah, I guess I

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00:22:25,700 --> 00:22:33,940

that too. Nobody really did. But I guess I was just really ashamed of myself for, you know,

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00:22:33,940 --> 00:22:39,300

because I had made some friends in that first year and then they had obviously gone on

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00:22:40,020 --> 00:22:45,060

second year. And I didn't know anybody else who was repeating. And you know, you meet people and

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00:22:45,060 --> 00:22:49,780

they're asking you like, how's college going? And you're having to admit that you failed and you're

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00:22:49,780 --> 00:22:55,220

out for a year. And if you don't pass these, then you're out. And the next time, if you go back to

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00:22:55,220 --> 00:23:00,020

another course, you have to pay full fees and everything. So yeah, I guess I spent a lot of that

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00:23:00,020 --> 00:23:07,380

year worrying and yeah, trying to get grinds and better my German and yeah, it was a good

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00:23:07,380 --> 00:23:14,260

term of becoming really good then. No, absolutely not. I don't know like I speak German now, like I

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00:23:14,260 --> 00:23:19,140

went on to get my degree and go and live in Germany and everything. But like I would say I was never

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00:23:19,140 --> 00:23:23,700

really great at languages. Although yeah, I now can speak them and all that. But you know,

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00:23:23,700 --> 00:23:27,780

they say some of those brains are wired up for languages like yours is like your great languages.

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00:23:27,780 --> 00:23:32,660

I still don't understand the grammar of German like properly, you know, but I can speak it. I just

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00:23:32,660 --> 00:23:37,460

found the written side of things tricky. And like my first job out of college ended up being

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00:23:37,460 --> 00:23:42,260

working for the German market. Like without that teacher telling me about the ice cream parlour,

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00:23:42,260 --> 00:23:47,860

is my life would have been entirely different, you know, if I had it's true, like one little,

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00:23:48,660 --> 00:23:54,180

story someone told me about ice cream totally changed the direction of my whole life. Do you

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00:23:54,180 --> 00:23:59,700

wish you hadn't? No, I mean, I'm thankful. And I think like the lesson in failing and like I

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00:23:59,700 --> 00:24:05,460

think failure has been something that I've learned from throughout life, you know, like I think you

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00:24:05,460 --> 00:24:10,500

look at people a lot and particularly on Instagram and you just see like the end product and you know,

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00:24:10,500 --> 00:24:15,860

how well they've done or what they've achieved, but you don't know the failures behind it or how

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00:24:15,940 --> 00:24:21,540

many times they fall and down. And I've had it in every like every big chapter of my life, I've

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00:24:21,540 --> 00:24:26,980

failed like apallingly at some point and had to learn in this how I this is how I progress.

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00:24:26,980 --> 00:24:31,300

I totally fall flat in my face and then like deal with the consequences and then you turn them

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00:24:31,300 --> 00:24:36,260

again, you know, instead of just like being a bit prepared and like going in nicely like no.

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00:24:36,260 --> 00:24:41,060

So there is there is merit to failure too, I think. What are your most proud failures?

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00:24:41,940 --> 00:24:48,980

Well, the German on us like that was pretty bad. I was like, you know, but there was a

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00:24:48,980 --> 00:24:55,940

truly like I was always really into us and went for it but didn't get it in when I lived in Germany,

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00:24:55,940 --> 00:25:00,100

but went for it again, you know, like learn from it and realize that's really what I want. I think

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00:25:00,100 --> 00:25:04,260

that sometimes is that too, you don't really know what you want until you can't have it. And then

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00:25:04,260 --> 00:25:08,980

you're like, I really wanted that, you know, so that that's also learning. The failure though,

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00:25:08,980 --> 00:25:14,500

is it to go for something and not get it? You're making failure sound like, you know,

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00:25:14,500 --> 00:25:19,860

I've really messed up here, but you just didn't get it. Maybe not, you know, maybe it's not like

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00:25:19,860 --> 00:25:25,780

you know, that wouldn't be like a big failure in nice, but it wouldn't be a success, we'll say.

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00:25:25,780 --> 00:25:32,580

Why did you go for the world's journey? My nanny lives just, you know, we grew up on a farm,

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00:25:32,580 --> 00:25:38,340

I'm kind of talking about that, but my nanny lives just down down the yard. So like when I was

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00:25:38,340 --> 00:25:42,900

small, I used to run away to her all the time, like I was constantly running away from home,

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00:25:42,900 --> 00:25:49,300

and I'd run down to her and she's probably part of the reason why like I loved all like

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00:25:49,300 --> 00:25:53,380

clothes and things like that. Like we were always, she always brushed my hair and dressed me up and

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00:25:53,380 --> 00:26:00,340

all that. And then she's from Kerry, so Rose Shlee for us was like a monumental event, obviously

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00:26:00,340 --> 00:26:04,420

every summer. And even though she died when I was six, like it's actually sometimes it's

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00:26:04,420 --> 00:26:09,380

hard to believe what a big impact she had on my life. Even out like I'm 35 now, you know,

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00:26:10,260 --> 00:26:16,260

I don't know if I know anyone else who in six years impacted my life as much as she did. But

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00:26:16,260 --> 00:26:22,900

yeah, so with Rose Shlee, I guess I just always had a thing about it then and loved it. And so

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00:26:22,900 --> 00:26:26,900

when I moved to Germany then, yeah, decided that was the time to go for it.

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00:26:26,900 --> 00:26:32,020

You obviously, what kind of, what interests me is that you, or so like we all have ideas of

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00:26:32,740 --> 00:26:38,580

wouldn't it be great to do this, but then something else comes along and you don't do what you had

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00:26:38,580 --> 00:26:44,100

passed, wouldn't that be a great idea to do? When did you have that moment in Germany where you're like,

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00:26:44,100 --> 00:26:48,820

right there's my application it's in. Maybe I had it as I was heading to Germany, you know,

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00:26:49,700 --> 00:26:54,180

I guess maybe like I always disliked the international roses, like obviously I liked the

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00:26:55,140 --> 00:26:59,140

local roses too, but the international ones were just always fascinating for some reasons. They

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00:26:59,140 --> 00:27:03,860

always had like really interesting stories. So then when I was moving to Germany, I was 23 or

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00:27:03,860 --> 00:27:08,660

4. And I guess it just dawned on me then that maybe like this would be the year to go for it.

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00:27:08,660 --> 00:27:15,940

So yeah, I went for it and it was like in a castle in Frankfurt and I learned sign language. So,

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00:27:15,940 --> 00:27:20,500

you know, I really felt like I had to do a talent and I truly don't have like I'd love to say I have

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00:27:20,500 --> 00:27:25,700

talents in that sense like entertainment wise, I just don't. So I learned off a song and sign

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00:27:25,780 --> 00:27:31,700

language, you know, signed it. And then one of our friends, Colin, tried to help me learn shoe

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00:27:31,700 --> 00:27:35,620

platinum, which is a German dance. You know, if you picture like Oktoberfest, the guys are like

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00:27:35,620 --> 00:27:41,780

sewing the timber on the stage, you know, with the with the later holes and they do a dance. So,

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00:27:41,780 --> 00:27:46,580

we spent hours in his apartment trying to learn off that dance, which was a disaster. But like,

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00:27:47,220 --> 00:27:52,660

we did loads of prep for it. And yeah, it was on, yeah, I was brilliant, brilliant.

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00:27:53,140 --> 00:27:57,540

So that was the one you didn't get in, is it? Yeah, I signed the one I didn't get in. Yeah,

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00:27:57,540 --> 00:28:03,540

and did the tried to do the dance, but didn't get in. And then the next year, I said, I'd go for it

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00:28:03,540 --> 00:28:08,100

again and then got got through that year. What was that whole experience like?

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00:28:08,100 --> 00:28:15,140

Amazing. Like when I think of, like, I remember one of my friends a few years ago asked me like

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00:28:15,140 --> 00:28:20,100

what was the happiest moment in my life? And my parents actually came all, they must have been

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00:28:20,100 --> 00:28:25,940

over around that time when I was going for the second time for the German Rose. And we were in

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00:28:25,940 --> 00:28:30,980

this castle in the basement of a castle in Frankfurt. And I had just won the German Rose and was going

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00:28:30,980 --> 00:28:35,620

to go on to Ireland and the Rose, the song came on. And I was just dancing with Dad, you know,

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00:28:35,620 --> 00:28:40,580

date like a wall or whatever. And for me, that was like, I don't know why, but at that time in my

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00:28:40,580 --> 00:28:45,380

life, that was my happiest moment. It just was like, you know, when your dream comes true or something,

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00:28:45,380 --> 00:28:51,860

like, it's so rare that your dream does come true, I think. So yeah, that was it. And then you

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00:28:51,860 --> 00:28:58,740

you back then you went back to Port Lish and there was like a selection process. There was like 72

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00:28:58,740 --> 00:29:03,940

of us flew to Port Lish Rose is from around the world. And then they selected 32 to go to Tralee.

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00:29:03,940 --> 00:29:08,900

Yeah, and then walking out on stage. I remember like, or you were like, right, you stand in front

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00:29:08,900 --> 00:29:14,020

of this camera, there'll be a red light flashing and when it flashes green, walk and wave. And I was

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00:29:14,100 --> 00:29:20,500

like, gosh, gosh, I can do it. I can do it. And I've still light flashed green. My eyes welled up.

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00:29:20,500 --> 00:29:24,340

And like, I remember having to hold my head back. Like, if I watched back the video from

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00:29:24,340 --> 00:29:30,100

Rose, I had to hold my head back walking out because I was going to cry. Like, in that moment of like,

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00:29:30,100 --> 00:29:34,900

I can't believe what I've dreamed of all these years is actually happening. I just couldn't hold

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00:29:34,900 --> 00:29:39,540

it together, you know. But yeah, it was an amazing experience. And like, still to say,

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00:29:40,020 --> 00:29:44,580

I've loads of friends like it's 10 years this year since since we were in it. But

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00:29:45,620 --> 00:29:50,820

one of the best things I ever did. And like, that was representing Germany, even though I told

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00:29:50,820 --> 00:29:56,020

you about like, how bad I was at German and college and the trouble I had with it, it ended up being

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00:29:56,020 --> 00:30:01,060

like, first of all, the hate relationship and then like, learn to love Germany and German.

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00:30:02,020 --> 00:30:08,020

Sounds like you just, you're very stubborn and you just grab something and just won't let it go

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00:30:08,020 --> 00:30:13,460

until you've come to it. Well, maybe it is that thing of not realizing what you want until you can't

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00:30:14,020 --> 00:30:19,460

on until it's not yours or you can't have it. Maybe not trusting my God enough initially,

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00:30:20,020 --> 00:30:24,020

you know, thinking, oh, sure, it's been nice if I went for it and if I got it and then not getting

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00:30:24,020 --> 00:30:29,060

realizing actually, I did really want it. And saying like, my degree, like, being like, oh,

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00:30:29,060 --> 00:30:34,740

look, I'm not having enough confidence in myself or facing myself in my ability, you know,

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00:30:35,300 --> 00:30:39,860

you learned that as you get older, but I think there was definitely a pattern throughout my

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00:30:39,860 --> 00:30:46,100

life. What did you do after Germany? After Germany, well, I went to Smurfit, which is where I met

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00:30:46,100 --> 00:30:54,420

you after UCC and did marketing. And then the crash happened. So we were all doing this like,

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00:30:54,420 --> 00:31:00,900

wonderful masters, and then all the grad programs closed. I was like, oh, no, here I am gonna, again,

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00:31:00,900 --> 00:31:07,780

I'm a parent's like paying for all of them. Then I got a job in Germany, like speaking German,

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00:31:07,780 --> 00:31:12,980

using my German. But in Spres Arlen did that for two years. I loved living in Germany,

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00:31:12,980 --> 00:31:17,380

absolutely adored it, lived with Germans and just, I don't know, that just really like

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00:31:17,380 --> 00:31:21,860

reinstilled my confidence in the language. And that's where I became fluent, you know, like,

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00:31:21,860 --> 00:31:26,740

you realize you don't need that many words to be fluent in a language, you know, like, in this

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00:31:26,820 --> 00:31:31,700

conversation, I'm having you, I'm reusing the same words over and over, all basic language.

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00:31:31,700 --> 00:31:34,660

And it's the same, like, I wish I had known that in first year in college.

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00:31:35,380 --> 00:31:38,980

But, yeah, so then- What was the ice cream like in Germany?

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00:31:38,980 --> 00:31:44,820

You know what? It wasn't bloody as nice. I thought like, like, it's hard to believe.

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00:31:46,020 --> 00:31:49,940

One of the first things I did was go out and find an ice cafe. And like, you know, do you remember

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00:31:50,500 --> 00:31:55,780

Playdough? There used to be this toy that you put the Playdough into and it comes out like,

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00:31:55,780 --> 00:32:00,420

hair spaghetti? So there's some push spaghetti ice. So like, we learned about that too. So I was

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00:32:00,420 --> 00:32:05,540

like, I'll get the spaghetti ice with the knots and the cream, you know, from like 10 years ago.

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00:32:05,540 --> 00:32:11,620

It was fine. Like, it wasn't worth building your whole life on. But yeah, no, I absolutely love

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00:32:11,620 --> 00:32:16,900

Germany, like, it's brilliant. It was just, it opened my eyes so much from like, coming from such a small

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00:32:16,900 --> 00:32:22,340

place, like, and having very limited amount of people at Umish, you know, growing up and then like

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00:32:22,340 --> 00:32:25,940

living in Germany, different languages, different cultures, such different ways of doing things.

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00:32:25,940 --> 00:32:29,780

It was like, fascinating. Like a sensory overload, you know? Yeah.

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00:32:29,780 --> 00:32:33,780

So you're quite business focused then, obviously, in Germany, working for

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00:32:33,780 --> 00:32:38,340

Antipies Ireland? Yeah, I was. But I was actually working in the media sector, which was like,

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00:32:38,980 --> 00:32:48,260

Irish TV shows, TV production houses and cartoon production companies. So like, it actually tapped

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00:32:48,260 --> 00:32:53,620

into that creative side that I loved, you know, like it was all cartoons. And my job was really

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00:32:53,620 --> 00:32:59,860

to get those companies meetings with German TV stations. So like, so what we would do is the

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00:32:59,860 --> 00:33:04,740

companies come to Germany and we'd go around to production or like production, either production

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00:33:04,820 --> 00:33:11,220

houses or TV stations and try and sell the TV shows, so format. So let's say you want three

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00:33:11,220 --> 00:33:15,620

millionaire, that would be a format, you know, so the concept of the show, and then you try and

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00:33:15,620 --> 00:33:20,100

sell it into the, it was Germany, Austria and Switzerland we were selling to. So like, you're

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00:33:20,100 --> 00:33:25,780

going around putting in DVDs at the time, in and sitting back watching shows, and then going through

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00:33:25,780 --> 00:33:30,580

how to sell them and how to fund them. So it was really, really interesting. Is there, is there a

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00:33:30,660 --> 00:33:35,780

big market in Germany for Irish TV production? Yeah, the cartoons in particular, they did really,

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00:33:35,780 --> 00:33:43,060

really well in Germany. And there was Fast Food Jewel, which was like a food cooking show. And then

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00:33:43,060 --> 00:33:49,460

there was the absolutely the Germans love that romantic notion of Ireland. So there was this show

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00:33:49,460 --> 00:33:55,060

about, which was a drama about a German girl going to work in an Irish farm and carrying

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00:33:55,060 --> 00:34:00,340

falling in love with the local farmer, which was a massive hit by. And at the time there was a show

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00:34:00,340 --> 00:34:06,020

that was called Bower Soup Frow, Farmer Seeks a Wife. It was, you know, those were really big,

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00:34:06,020 --> 00:34:12,020

like these love stories and farms cooking shows and cartoons. Very wholesome. Very wholesome.

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00:34:12,020 --> 00:34:17,220

Yeah. And you stayed there for two years, and then where did you go? For two years, and then

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00:34:18,260 --> 00:34:27,860

I got a job. I didn't mention you for LinkedIn. And I remember doing the interview, like,

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00:34:27,860 --> 00:34:32,180

obviously I had two years experience by this point, right? Was not working at the, you know,

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00:34:32,180 --> 00:34:36,100

you're still in an open plan office. But for the interview, I went into someone like the boss was

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00:34:36,100 --> 00:34:40,580

out, went into her office and did the interview. And I remember doing the interview with the

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00:34:40,580 --> 00:34:45,140

boss that LinkedIn, he was like, my God, if you're on office and everything. And like I showed him

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00:34:45,140 --> 00:34:50,180

the whole office and everything. Like, I don't know, but that really started. Sorry, you, you were,

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00:34:50,660 --> 00:34:56,020

is this on a video call or? On a video call. Yeah. Yeah. So you went into your boss's office in

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00:34:56,020 --> 00:34:59,380

Antepois Ireland and pretended you were on office. Yes, exactly.

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00:35:01,060 --> 00:35:06,020

He was like, wow, God, you must be big deal. I was like, yeah, yeah. And he knows this now, you know,

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00:35:06,020 --> 00:35:11,860

but, and then he needed a German speaking rep. Like they were hiring their first German speaking

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00:35:12,420 --> 00:35:18,100

employee for LinkedIn, Europe. And that ended up being me. Like, when you think of like,

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00:35:18,100 --> 00:35:24,500

how terrible I was to German, like, it just, it was always surprising how that one lesson I learned,

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00:35:24,500 --> 00:35:29,460

like ended up like, you know, just helping me along my way. So I remember at the time, I really

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00:35:29,460 --> 00:35:33,380

didn't want to leave Germany. And he said, look, come back, work for six months, and we'll get you

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00:35:33,380 --> 00:35:39,540

moved again. And so I moved back, moved to Dublin and started at LinkedIn. And my job then was

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00:35:39,540 --> 00:35:46,740

cold calling the German market, which was tricky at best. Because, you know, a lot of time when I'd

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00:35:46,740 --> 00:35:51,380

ring up, they'd say like, so I'm curious for both. And like, it's forbidden. Social media is not

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00:35:51,380 --> 00:35:57,300
allowed in companies at all. So trying to get meetings for a social media company in the German

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00:35:57,300 --> 00:36:04,100
speaking region was like next year. And I would have named like, it was like, it was a good conversation

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00:36:04,100 --> 00:36:12,820
opener, you know, my name, but after the 100 call in a day, I was like, you know, my, the jokes I had

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00:36:12,820 --> 00:36:19,620
to go alongside my name. What was your favorite joke? I used to say, S.S.V. Kirschat, album at S.

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00:36:20,260 --> 00:36:24,420
It's not a joke, though. It's like, it's like, it's like cherries, but with an S, I used to just say

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00:36:24,420 --> 00:36:29,860
that on repeat all the time. But no one could say it, these call me FrauFitz grind. That was really

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00:36:29,860 --> 00:36:37,140
what I was called on phone calls. What does that mean? Like Mrs. Miss Fitzgerald. All right.

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00:36:38,900 --> 00:36:44,340
My German isn't great either. He just took out the six months in Dublin. It turned into eight years.

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00:36:44,340 --> 00:36:49,380
Dublin? Well, no, with that company at LinkedIn. Yeah, I stuck it out. I stayed in

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00:36:49,620 --> 00:36:54,420
Dublin for four years. Didn't like the idea of sales. So it was like a really dirty word.

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00:36:54,420 --> 00:36:59,780
Didn't like the idea of that being my role. But I had a really good mentor at the time. And he said

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00:36:59,780 --> 00:37:05,700
to me that like, whatever job you do in life, you know, you'll always be like asking questions,

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00:37:05,700 --> 00:37:10,980

giving information, influencing people, trying to get your point across, which is exactly what

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00:37:10,980 --> 00:37:16,500

sales is. So I changed my mindset on what sales is and realized that it's in absolutely every single

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00:37:16,500 --> 00:37:22,980

job anyone does now. Like a teacher, a nurse, anybody, we're all asking questions, trying to

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00:37:22,980 --> 00:37:28,420

solve problems, and maybe trying to lead and influence, you know, decisions. So I started

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00:37:28,420 --> 00:37:36,020

creating sales and did like, again, I used my strategy of like failing badly at the start.

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00:37:36,820 --> 00:37:42,660

For that start in my career. I didn't really know what I was, you know, for those first few

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00:37:42,660 --> 00:37:48,420

months, I found it hard. And I thought I should be the best kind of rep to all companies, which

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00:37:48,420 --> 00:37:54,820

really wasn't a good approach, wasn't good use of my time. And I pretty much almost got fired within,

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00:37:54,820 --> 00:38:00,740

you know, six months of doing that job. Yeah, it came very close to like me not being in a

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00:38:00,740 --> 00:38:06,740

blow there anymore. What was the turning point? The turning point was at the time, I actually had

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00:38:06,740 --> 00:38:10,660

a lot of things happened around that time. Like, you know, the way sometimes in life,

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00:38:10,660 --> 00:38:15,940

a lot of things go wrong all at once. It's as if the world is forcing you to make a change in

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00:38:15,940 --> 00:38:20,580

your life. And you just can't understand why everything keeps going wrong, like everything you touch.

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00:38:20,580 --> 00:38:26,500

So like my dad had a heart attack. I broke up, I was going out with somebody for like six years,

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00:38:26,500 --> 00:38:32,660

we broke up. And I was out running to try and get some headspace with my friend, Genjo, and I

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00:38:32,660 --> 00:38:38,820

fell and like broke my knee cap. And then my job was really on the line. And it was just for Christmas.

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00:38:38,820 --> 00:38:43,860

And I remember going to the HR director at the time and just seeing what was happening. And she

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00:38:43,860 --> 00:38:47,620

just said, look, go home and join Christmas with your family and come back and we'll figure it out.

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00:38:47,620 --> 00:38:52,660

So I said, I'd come back for a month and just try and hit my targets. And then I would leave.

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00:38:52,660 --> 00:38:56,740

That was my decision. I just wanted to prove I could do it. And I'd show I could do it. And then

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00:38:56,740 --> 00:39:05,220

I would leave. But I came back with gusto and hit my targets and hit every target then like every,

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00:39:06,180 --> 00:39:11,460

every quarter after that after like what happened with the German like the fear I got of like

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00:39:11,460 --> 00:39:16,660

failure, the same happened to me at LinkedIn in those early years. And like the shame, I know I

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00:39:16,660 --> 00:39:21,460

keep using the word shame, but like, I guess that's how I fenced me. My ego came into play. So I guess

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00:39:21,460 --> 00:39:26,820

I never let that happen again. And when I was leaving LinkedIn, I think I'd hit like 19 quarters in a

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00:39:26,820 --> 00:39:32,580

row or something like that. It just fear just drove me to never let that happen ever again, you know.

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00:39:33,380 --> 00:39:41,220

And so it was a great learning that that that really, really low point in my life. And yeah,

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00:39:41,220 --> 00:39:46,980

I went then to move with them to London, working with bigger companies. And yeah, again, couldn't

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00:39:46,980 --> 00:39:51,140

believe my look, the kind of companies I was getting to work with like huge British brands.

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00:39:51,140 --> 00:39:56,740

And like I always always think like I'm just like this person who came from growing up on a farm in

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00:39:57,300 --> 00:40:02,340

the middle of nowhere. And here I am sitting in like Rolls Royce's head office helping them with

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00:40:02,420 --> 00:40:06,500

their social media stress, you know, you're just it was always just amazing, like the kind of

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00:40:06,500 --> 00:40:11,620

the things represented themselves. Yeah, had had had great times there. And I think like a lot of

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00:40:11,620 --> 00:40:18,180

learning was that even, you know, I spent whatever 14 years working my dad's truck stuff. And I went

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00:40:18,180 --> 00:40:24,020

down to work with like footsie 100 companies. And this thing that is in common between working in

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00:40:24,020 --> 00:40:28,500

a ship, we're and working in like with those big companies is that everyone is just a person at

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00:40:28,580 --> 00:40:35,780

the end of the day, you know, everyone is trying to make the best of the time they have and progress

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00:40:35,780 --> 00:40:41,380

like in life in their careers, they have terrible days to so like all of it just came out to like

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00:40:41,380 --> 00:40:46,500

listening to people talking to people and did you turn into a bit of a superstar and LinkedIn?

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00:40:47,620 --> 00:40:53,220

No, definitely not. No, your name wasn't known across the LinkedIn world.

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00:40:54,180 --> 00:41:00,900

Well, people would have known me because I was one of the first employees in Dublin. But no,

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00:41:00,900 --> 00:41:07,380

I had I had an absolute oil of a time working at LinkedIn, you know, there is, yeah, some really

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00:41:07,380 --> 00:41:13,140

good times and definitely achievements that I didn't think I could have ever done, you know,

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00:41:13,140 --> 00:41:18,260

yeah, like with the London thing that's like how I got to move was they saw they could see this

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00:41:18,340 --> 00:41:24,340

person in Dublin was selling, you know, how whatever amounts. They're like, who is this and how are

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00:41:24,340 --> 00:41:29,060

they selling, you know, as much as our enterprise reps are in other parts of the world, but I was

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00:41:29,060 --> 00:41:34,580
working with small companies. So I guess it just put a spotlight on
things and opened up doors for

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00:41:34,580 --> 00:41:41,380
me that I didn't even know were there. So yeah, my life for kind of eight
years was led a last by

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00:41:41,460 --> 00:41:47,220
my career at LinkedIn. And then what happened? And then I left.

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00:41:48,820 --> 00:41:57,540
Why? I know it like it's hard to say why, but I guess it's like a feeling
that you have and

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00:41:58,340 --> 00:42:04,500
I got feeling that there's something else that you should be doing. You
know, I had, I had, you know,

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00:42:04,500 --> 00:42:09,380
built a really good, I suppose you like brand is what we would have used
at LinkedIn, you know,

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00:42:09,380 --> 00:42:16,420
a good brand. For yourself, for myself at LinkedIn. And you know, there
was opportunities appearing,

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00:42:16,420 --> 00:42:21,620
I could have moved again to another country with them. You know, you're
earning, you're like,

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00:42:21,620 --> 00:42:26,100
there was lots that I know a lot of people probably wouldn't have walked
away from, but

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00:42:26,100 --> 00:42:33,300
something inside me was just telling me that there was something else out
there or that maybe

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00:42:33,300 --> 00:42:39,220
carrying a target on your back for eight years. You needed to put down
the backpack for a little

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00:42:39,220 --> 00:42:44,820
while and just see what you should be doing at your time. Because in
sales quarter rolls into

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00:42:44,820 --> 00:42:53,300

quarter years or into years. And I think I was almost 34. And I just thought that if I keep this

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00:42:53,300 --> 00:42:58,420

going, I'll wake up at 40. And when I'll have hit all of these targets, but where will my life

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00:42:59,460 --> 00:43:05,860

be going? You know, I had focused so much on career that was I not focusing on other parts of my life

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00:43:05,860 --> 00:43:12,260

that are maybe just important, like living away for so many years. You miss lots of conversations

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00:43:12,260 --> 00:43:21,380

and time with people that you may never have, that may never happen again. And I think I learned it

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00:43:21,380 --> 00:43:28,420

and we learned it really in 2015 when we lost someone very close to us. Donal. And I think it just

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00:43:29,380 --> 00:43:36,420

really made me wake up to the fact that life is short. And if you're not doing what you want to do,

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00:43:36,420 --> 00:43:43,940

make it faint. And because when I think of him, I think that he, I remember him, I only remember

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00:43:43,940 --> 00:43:48,020

when we were smiling on his face, you know, he was only ever smiling. And he only ever enjoyed

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00:43:48,020 --> 00:43:54,900

every day that he has. And you know, when I taught to myself, you know, would it be the same for me?

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00:43:54,900 --> 00:44:00,100

I couldn't have said yes. I couldn't have said every day I lived to the max I did what I wanted

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00:44:00,100 --> 00:44:06,660

to do. I had a smile on my face. So I guess then I knew I wasn't being true to myself and equally,

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00:44:06,660 --> 00:44:11,940

like when not to get too morbid, but you know, when when any of our time is up and we're lying on

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00:44:11,940 --> 00:44:16,580

that bed, there's only going to be a handful of people around the bed, you know, with you. And if

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00:44:16,580 --> 00:44:20,820

you're not spending time with them, then I don't think you're spending your time in, in the right

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00:44:20,900 --> 00:44:25,700

place, whoever those people are. But I'm sure they would come to mind when you think of it. So that

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00:44:25,700 --> 00:44:30,500

kind of floats around my head too. So I guess I just maybe wanted to be home for a while and spend

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00:44:30,500 --> 00:44:37,220

time at my family and friends and people I'd last connections with. Yeah, so that's kind of how I

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00:44:37,220 --> 00:44:43,860

ended up leaving. And how, how much of a wrench was it to leave? Oh, it was really hard. Like,

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00:44:43,860 --> 00:44:48,020

because it's like going from like, let's say primary school, secondary school, you're like,

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00:44:48,100 --> 00:44:53,540

you realize you're going to go back down to like no, knowing you, knowing what you're capable of,

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00:44:53,540 --> 00:44:59,300

like any of those things. But I knew I was leaving something very special, like LinkedIn is a bubble.

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00:44:59,300 --> 00:45:05,540

And like so many of my friends now are from those years that LinkedIn, but I knew there must be a

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00:45:05,540 --> 00:45:10,660

world outside LinkedIn too. I was just ready for an adventure. How did you handle your notice?

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00:45:11,300 --> 00:45:17,700

Um, I had a boss at the time, Dave Wallace, he was really good. But he knew that like, he kept on,

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00:45:17,700 --> 00:45:22,100

like extending it by a month and a month. And like, he kind of knew we were on borrowed time.

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00:45:22,100 --> 00:45:26,500

But I wanted to go like I was ready to go. I was ready to leave. Yeah, he was really great. And I

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00:45:26,500 --> 00:45:30,660

even knew like the leaving do I had like, they made lots of videos and everything. And like,

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00:45:30,660 --> 00:45:35,300

it was so emotional. It was like a breakup. It really was because eight years, it's the longest

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00:45:35,300 --> 00:45:39,780

I'd committed to anything in my life, you know, everything else is much shorter. Eight years,

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00:45:39,780 --> 00:45:44,100

like, I had grown up there, you know, I had, so I couldn't make a speech or anything. I was way

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00:45:44,180 --> 00:45:49,220

too emotional for for all of that. But I was excited for what was coming next.

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00:45:49,220 --> 00:45:57,220

Did you know what was coming next? Not really, but um, I had done up um, a property, you know,

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00:45:57,220 --> 00:46:01,780

two years before. And I just, maybe that had given me confidence in myself that, look,

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00:46:01,780 --> 00:46:08,100

you have something that is a safety net. You know, you've achieved something, you have a property,

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00:46:08,100 --> 00:46:13,380

you have eight years, um, of a career behind you. I guess what I kind of thought was the worst

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00:46:13,380 --> 00:46:18,820

thing can happen. How spent that property? Uh, yeah, you've been there plenty of times.

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00:46:19,380 --> 00:46:26,020

Um, but yeah, it's a lighthouse keeper's house that I bought in 2016. Where did you come across

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00:46:26,020 --> 00:46:31,620

the first? It was on an article in the Irish Times of the Independent, like the most spectacular

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00:46:31,620 --> 00:46:37,700

views on the Irish market was the, the Taiki. And there was like a lighthouse on an island

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00:46:37,700 --> 00:46:42,180

of West Cork. And then there was a lighthouse keeper's house in Yol. And while I knew I wanted

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00:46:42,180 --> 00:46:48,020

to buy something somewhere, I didn't know where. Um, but this just seemed like, yeah, do you know

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00:46:48,020 --> 00:46:52,820

what, Beckett? So I'll just buy home viewers and see, see, could it be mine? Yeah.

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00:46:52,820 --> 00:46:59,620

Hey, what did you have to go through in those two years? Oh my god, Almighty. Like, I know you

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00:46:59,620 --> 00:47:06,020

know very well, like what I went, what it was like, but it was like, um, it was a listed property.

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00:47:06,100 --> 00:47:11,620

The deeds were missing because the Irish built it. The British robbed it off the Irish. Then

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00:47:12,420 --> 00:47:17,380

the Irish robbed it back, you know, and then it, the deeds weren't missing. So it took us 18

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00:47:17,380 --> 00:47:21,860

months to find the deed. So for those 18 months, I didn't know why is it mine? Wasn't it mine?

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00:47:21,860 --> 00:47:26,740

You know, did I need the mortgage? My deposit was got like, it was all just over and back. So,

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00:47:26,740 --> 00:47:32,020

I was on 10 drugs for a while. And then the renovation took about six months. So it was all

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00:47:32,020 --> 00:47:37,140

gearing up to renovation and getting planning approved. And like, just every hour was accounted

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00:47:37,140 --> 00:47:41,780

for, you know, I was working full time. I was, and again, like after fear was like, oh my god,

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00:47:41,780 --> 00:47:46,100

there's going to be some amount of bills coming in. So like, I was performing better than I had

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00:47:46,100 --> 00:47:51,700

ever performed. Like, I was using numbers that like, I didn't even know I could, like, just with

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00:47:51,700 --> 00:47:57,060

the notion of like this, this big project that lay ahead. Um, yeah, and it was brilliant. It

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00:47:57,060 --> 00:48:02,820

was amazing. Like, it uncovered a love for interiors and a love that I always had for

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00:48:02,820 --> 00:48:07,700

to see, but it like, re-ignized it for me. And maybe a part of growing up too, you know, like,

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00:48:07,700 --> 00:48:12,820

this is one of the first things that I had, you know, done for myself,
like that I had, you know,

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00:48:12,820 --> 00:48:18,100

decided I want this, I want to peace the world and I want it to be mine.
And it's, you know,

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00:48:18,100 --> 00:48:22,100

it's not going to be what maybe other people would buy, but it just feels
ripe for me.

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00:48:22,100 --> 00:48:27,460

And for the first time in my life, when I walked in the door of the
keepers, I just knew it just

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00:48:27,460 --> 00:48:33,620

felt right. You know, it just felt like, it just felt like this is where
I should be. This is,

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00:48:34,500 --> 00:48:39,700

I don't know. Like, I refer to it like my mom says about when she fell
for dad, like, when you know,

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00:48:39,700 --> 00:48:46,020

you know, and I had that feeling about a property. So yeah, it just felt
right. And I just went with

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00:48:46,020 --> 00:48:52,260

it and thankfully now for almost five years on, I can't believe, I still
can't believe it's fine.

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00:48:53,140 --> 00:48:57,140

And it still just gives me like, so much happiness even thinking about
it.

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00:48:57,140 --> 00:49:04,980

Two years is a long time to be doing anything. Yeah. How often during
those two years as you're

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00:49:04,980 --> 00:49:10,980

building it and rebuilding it, did you think this is brilliant? This is
what I want to be doing.

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00:49:10,980 --> 00:49:16,260

And, you know, I'm so glad I'm spending money and time pouring into this.

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00:49:16,260 --> 00:49:21,700

I think loads like it really allowed me to dream, you know, to dream again. I think like when you're

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00:49:21,700 --> 00:49:29,300

in the corporate world, you don't dream as much or at least I didn't. I was very much, it was more

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00:49:29,300 --> 00:49:34,740

about like using assertive skills and being efficient and communicating well. Whereas once this came

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00:49:34,740 --> 00:49:41,860

on my radar, like, I was able to daydream like so much about what a life could be like with that

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00:49:41,860 --> 00:49:49,140

property, what I could turn it into. It just, it just, it just fascinated me. So maybe it gave me

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00:49:49,140 --> 00:49:55,140

back a part of like the childhood me that I had covered up and forgotten about what, yeah, like

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00:49:55,140 --> 00:50:00,020

it obviously it is, it is, it is, I don't want to like paint a picture like it's, it was all easy

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00:50:00,020 --> 00:50:04,180

going. It is very stressful. And lots of people, lots of my friends are buying houses now. It's

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00:50:04,180 --> 00:50:09,140

really stressful. But again, think of what the worst case scenario is. If you get a mortgage,

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00:50:09,140 --> 00:50:12,820

you get a house, you can't make the repayments worst case scenario is you've to buy,

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00:50:13,380 --> 00:50:17,540

are you to sell the house? So I just kept thinking like, what's the worst that can happen here? If

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00:50:17,540 --> 00:50:22,820

I go for this, I know everyone thought I was mad buying this old property because it really wasn't

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00:50:22,820 --> 00:50:28,340

nice looking or in any way habitable. But I just kept thinking of like, what's the worst that can

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00:50:28,340 --> 00:50:33,940

happen? Did people say things like that to you? Oh, all the time, all the time. Yes. Yeah.

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00:50:33,940 --> 00:50:37,700

Like, why wouldn't you just buy a turnkey or why wouldn't you buy an apartment in London?

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00:50:38,500 --> 00:50:43,620

But specifically about, do you know, do they say mean things almost about the lighthouse

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00:50:43,620 --> 00:50:49,380

keeper's house? People just thought I was mad going, you know, for this house, they just couldn't

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00:50:49,380 --> 00:50:53,860

really see. And like, I mean, I can see where they're coming from. You know, you walked in there,

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00:50:53,860 --> 00:50:59,620

your nose would run when you're inside, Jex was so cold. It wasn't in any way, aesthetically,

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00:50:59,620 --> 00:51:07,460

pleasing like at all. And yeah, I guess it wasn't like a bargain, but either, you know,

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00:51:08,180 --> 00:51:14,420

like a lot of opinions on it too. They're like, you're absolutely mad. I'm so glad I didn't listen.

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00:51:14,980 --> 00:51:20,500

I'm so glad I went with my gosh. And one thing, one thing in life that is one thing I'm really

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00:51:20,500 --> 00:51:25,060

proud of that I just stuck to my gosh. And I guess like my parents really backed me on it.

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00:51:26,020 --> 00:51:32,420

From the get go and my dad, like, I guess, like when I was having wavos,
like, should I,

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00:51:32,420 --> 00:51:36,580

should I, maybe I shouldn't go for this, maybe I am. Like, he always just
backed me up, which I'm

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00:51:36,580 --> 00:51:41,620

so thankful for, because, you know, in a moment of madness, you could
just pull out of something

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00:51:41,620 --> 00:51:48,020

or stop trusting your gosh. Like so many of us just don't listen to our
intuition or, yeah,

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00:51:48,020 --> 00:51:53,940

what a heart is telling us to do. After two years, you refurbished the
lighthouse keeper's house,

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00:51:54,020 --> 00:52:02,100

and you went in and you lived there on your own. No, I, I started.

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00:52:02,100 --> 00:52:05,300

So after spending all this time and all this money, creating your dream.

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00:52:05,860 --> 00:52:11,300

Yeah, but then it turned itself into something else. So like, I started
Airbnb it while I was

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00:52:11,300 --> 00:52:15,300

in London while I was still working. And then when I was leaving
LinkedIn, I decided I would go

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00:52:15,300 --> 00:52:21,380

traveling. So I was able to Airbnb it. It just, it turned itself into a
business. So yeah, I did,

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00:52:21,380 --> 00:52:29,300

I have lived in it, and then Airbnb did as well. Yeah, so it's both a
business and a property that

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00:52:29,860 --> 00:52:38,980

I have. And you've become quite famous as well. So you've appeared on
already numerous times

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00:52:38,980 --> 00:52:45,220

at this stage. I wouldn't say numerous times. But like, yeah, the rose tree for like three minutes

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00:52:45,220 --> 00:52:53,460

of fame. And then yeah, home of the year last March, which was brilliant. So yeah, they came

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00:52:53,460 --> 00:52:58,660

down filming for like two days. Yeah, it was just a fascinating experience. And it was the sunniest

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00:52:58,660 --> 00:53:03,780

day I'd say we've had in New York. So the whole sea was glistening. It just looked magical. And

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00:53:04,980 --> 00:53:09,140

yeah, I got to the final of home of the year. It was amazing. That was it. Those two days were

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00:53:09,140 --> 00:53:13,060

like pinch me moments is that where I was like, I don't know, you know, in life there aren't many

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00:53:13,140 --> 00:53:18,260

days you can look back on and be like that day was just a brilliant day. And I think those,

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00:53:18,820 --> 00:53:21,620

well, the day filming was just like one of those eight hours like I just

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00:53:22,420 --> 00:53:30,580

shopped like it's just. I just replay a lot in my mind. Who was there your dad? Because he

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00:53:30,580 --> 00:53:35,700

project managed it for me when I was in London when we were renovating or he wanted him to be

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00:53:35,700 --> 00:53:41,300

part of the story as well. So yeah, he was there. And then it was just a production crew. And I think

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00:53:41,300 --> 00:53:45,140

what was interesting for the production crew as well is that like a lot of his stories on these

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00:53:45,140 --> 00:53:52,340

TV shows are, you know, families or people that are married and like they hadn't really had somebody

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00:53:53,140 --> 00:53:59,380

maybe a woman who had bought her own from abroad and an old listed property. And I think with that

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00:53:59,380 --> 00:54:03,780

shoulder trying to give a true reflection of the kind of people that are buying homes and doing

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00:54:03,780 --> 00:54:09,460

up homes in Ireland at that time like 2020. So yeah, I was kind of telling maybe two stories. And

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00:54:09,460 --> 00:54:16,100

if anything, what I wanted to do was highlight to other people that old homes can be brought back

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00:54:16,100 --> 00:54:22,260

to life and that they have so much to offer so much character. And ideally, what it didn't happen,

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00:54:22,260 --> 00:54:26,340

but that the government will get behind incentivizing people to do up all these old buildings that

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00:54:26,340 --> 00:54:32,500

are tumbling down around us instead of incentivizing people to buy, you know, just off plan and there's

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00:54:32,500 --> 00:54:37,140

a shortage, you know, and there's loads of old houses. So yeah, but yeah, if the government is

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00:54:37,140 --> 00:54:40,580

listening, you should come up with some grants for people to buy old houses.

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00:54:41,300 --> 00:54:47,300

They're always listening. Do you mention there as a woman buying a property? Did you feel like

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00:54:47,300 --> 00:54:52,180

that was a thing that was something that was holding you back or working against you through the process?

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00:54:52,820 --> 00:54:59,220

Definitely when it came to the renovation, there aren't many females in any of the construction

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00:54:59,220 --> 00:55:04,980

roles that you need to bring on board. So like, yeah, it's a male dominated industry, you know,

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00:55:05,060 --> 00:55:12,740

like builders, electricians, carpenters. And a lot of the time, I think people are doing this in

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00:55:12,740 --> 00:55:16,660

couples, so that, you know, there's a man in a woman approaching negotiations and everything.

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00:55:16,660 --> 00:55:21,860

So it was a learning curve, definitely, you know, dealing with, you know, I had never done

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00:55:21,860 --> 00:55:28,420

up a house before, so you were dealing with all new phrases and terms and yeah, dealing with men.

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00:55:28,420 --> 00:55:34,180

But I guess maybe I had a lot of experience with that from LinkedIn and from like, boardrooms,

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00:55:34,180 --> 00:55:35,940

like which are male dominated.

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00:55:35,940 --> 00:55:39,460

For people trying to pull the wall over your eyes because they knew you were young,

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00:55:39,460 --> 00:55:42,180

they knew you were inexperienced and they knew you were a woman.

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00:55:43,060 --> 00:55:47,620

Maybe, like definitely with some of the quotes I was getting, they were just after the wall, you know.

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00:55:48,340 --> 00:55:53,620

So yeah, I had to, yeah, I definitely had to have some very different conversations

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00:55:54,260 --> 00:56:00,100

with like, with some providers during the renovation. And I know like,

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00:56:01,060 --> 00:56:05,380

like I wanted, I turned the coal shed into like a mainly glass bathroom with a bathtub.

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00:56:05,380 --> 00:56:10,340

And I, you know, so many of the, you know, people working on the project were like,

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00:56:10,340 --> 00:56:13,540

why are you doing that? No one used the bathroom. It's such a girly thing to do.

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00:56:13,540 --> 00:56:17,620

And I hung a swinging chair in the conservatory and was sold. It was very childish.

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00:56:17,620 --> 00:56:22,100

So, you know, there's a lot of comments I adapted word being shown that I was just like,

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00:56:22,100 --> 00:56:26,500

nah, stick to my gut now. It's not your house, it's mine. Like, you just have to become very

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00:56:26,580 --> 00:56:32,100

assertive without being like mean in any way, but it is your house, it is your money or spending.

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00:56:32,100 --> 00:56:37,700

So, you know, you're not really asking for an opinion on what they think of your design.

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00:56:38,420 --> 00:56:43,380

So again, so glad I stuck to my gut with a lot of those things that I wanted in the house.

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00:56:43,380 --> 00:56:49,380

Yeah, it's an incredible house. Going side by side with all this, you started on an Instagram account.

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00:56:50,180 --> 00:56:56,900

I did. Yeah. So while all the unknowns were happening around the deeds and could the property

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00:56:56,900 --> 00:57:02,740

actually be sold, my sister told me that like, wouldn't it be great if you could just keep the

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00:57:02,740 --> 00:57:08,340

hope alive if you set up an Instagram account and maybe just documented it and started putting up

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00:57:08,340 --> 00:57:14,020

interiors. And we were in Canada at the time and things were really falling through with the house.

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00:57:14,020 --> 00:57:17,220

And we were cycling along and she was like, and you know what you should call it? You should call

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00:57:17,220 --> 00:57:23,060

it a lighthouse keeps her. And then like it kept me in the process. Yeah, the Instagram account was

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00:57:23,060 --> 00:57:30,900

born then. And I guess that that's probably three years ago. And I, it was wonderful because it

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00:57:30,900 --> 00:57:37,700

allowed me to learn so much from people that knew about buildings and heat systems and things I

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00:57:37,700 --> 00:57:44,660

knew nothing about. So it was a way of crowdsourcing information and answers and decisions. So I would

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00:57:44,740 --> 00:57:49,140

put up a question, a poll and ask people this letter that and they would help me decide this

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00:57:49,140 --> 00:57:57,060

color of that. So while I was learning, you know, and didn't trust my own decisions, I was asking

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00:57:57,060 --> 00:58:02,500

an audience of people I didn't know, but then got to know to help me make my decisions. And it worked.

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00:58:02,500 --> 00:58:08,420

And I just shared everything, you know, everything that was happening on it and all the travel over

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00:58:08,420 --> 00:58:13,540

and back and my family and how involved everyone was. So like, you know, everyone close to me, all

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00:58:13,540 --> 00:58:18,020

of their fingerprints are all over that house. You know, all my family, my aunts, my friends.

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00:58:19,460 --> 00:58:25,940

And yes, I documented all that. And to be honest, the Instagram account has brought so much to my door

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00:58:25,940 --> 00:58:32,580

in return. Like, you know, articles, the TV show, just loads and loads and loads of interesting people.

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00:58:32,580 --> 00:58:38,740

And yeah, it's been brilliant. So it's grown. Yeah, quite a lot over the three years. Like, I

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00:58:38,740 --> 00:58:43,460

remember hoping that I could get to 1000 followers, like what would that feel like? And then hitting

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00:58:43,460 --> 00:58:48,660

it and being so happy. Yeah, each milestone after that too. And when we hit 10K last New Year's Day,

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00:58:48,660 --> 00:58:54,340

you were down and Pippa and everyone, which was a huge milestone. And then within three months,

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00:58:54,340 --> 00:58:59,780

it had hit like 15K and now it's over 20. So once you get to a certain number, it does start to

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00:58:59,780 --> 00:59:06,660

accumulate quicker. But those first little milestones are huge. What's it like kind of building relationships

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00:59:06,660 --> 00:59:13,540

with people on Instagram where you're sharing so much of your life and they're helping you.

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00:59:14,340 --> 00:59:17,540

But they have a lot more control over the information you have of them.

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00:59:18,180 --> 00:59:22,660

I know. Yeah, that's the thing. Like, you don't know an awful lot about who's on the other side.

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00:59:22,660 --> 00:59:27,620

Like, it is daunting. And I'd say I probably am a fairly private person overall.

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00:59:29,300 --> 00:59:34,660

And probably, although, you know, my family might argue, you know, quite introverted, you know,

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00:59:34,660 --> 00:59:39,300

I wouldn't be the person who walks into a room and would tell a story to a whole room with people

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00:59:39,300 --> 00:59:46,100

like that isn't a depth, wouldn't be where I get my energy from. I like it because I can share

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00:59:46,100 --> 00:59:52,100

the bits that I want to share. And then lots of people write me and tell me about themselves too,

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00:59:52,100 --> 00:59:57,460

you know, so that's how I get to know people a little bit. But it is a good question. I don't

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00:59:57,460 --> 01:00:01,460

overly think about it, to be honest, how little I know about people that are on the other side

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01:00:01,540 --> 01:00:06,020

of the screen, you know. But I am that person for lots of other accounts. And I feel like I know

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01:00:06,020 --> 01:00:12,420

people. Like, I saw Trisha's transformation as a market in court over Christmas. And like,

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01:00:12,420 --> 01:00:16,020

I had this really awkward eye contact with her. Like, she didn't know me, but I was like,

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01:00:16,020 --> 01:00:19,300

there's shit, there's shit. And like, I went up and introduced myself as a client,

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01:00:19,300 --> 01:00:24,580

Sir chef, as if she knew me, she doesn't, you know, like, so I know what it feels like,

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01:00:24,580 --> 01:00:28,900

to feel like, you know, someone to an Instagram, but you don't really do people call up to you and

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01:00:29,460 --> 01:00:35,060

call you the lightest, the lightest keeps her. No, no, they don't. But people pop and chat

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01:00:35,060 --> 01:00:40,020

definitely. Yeah. Lots of people like his support is being unbelievable. I would say

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01:00:40,020 --> 01:00:45,780

the good certainly outweighs the bad for me and social media. There's very little negatives on

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01:00:45,780 --> 01:00:52,260

my account that so far and you can't God. Understandably, like, it's such a lovely story.

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01:00:52,260 --> 01:00:57,460

What negative things are people saying? Not much, you know, like, there wouldn't be,

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01:00:57,460 --> 01:01:01,140

I'd say I could count on one hand and the amount of negative messages that I've gotten,

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01:01:01,140 --> 01:01:06,100

you know, thankfully, whereas like you see lots of accounts that are getting really awful messages

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01:01:06,100 --> 01:01:12,500

and terrible things that to them. You've renovated your house, you've got it out to Airbnb and

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01:01:12,500 --> 01:01:23,780

obviously it needs to be maintained. And floorboards. Yeah. You need to be kept up to spec.

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01:01:24,420 --> 01:01:30,420

That's true. Yeah. Yeah, exactly. So someone walked in the door of the keepers

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01:01:31,220 --> 01:01:39,140

a year and a half ago. His name is Michael. And yeah, I guess I wasn't expecting to meet him in

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01:01:39,140 --> 01:01:45,860

the keepers. I didn't know that he was arriving that day, but yeah, he did. And I don't know,

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01:01:45,860 --> 01:01:51,300

our paths had never crossed in the past, even though we're from like, you know, he's from y'all

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01:01:51,860 --> 01:01:57,140

from that far from y'all. And they probably would have never crossed, you know, but yeah,

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01:01:57,140 --> 01:02:01,620

the lady who does the Airbnb turnovers, I don't know whether she arranged it or what, but

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01:02:02,980 --> 01:02:10,180

yeah, he arrived in that day and we've been together ever since. I don't really know what to say, but

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01:02:10,980 --> 01:02:16,260

neither of us were looking for something or someone. I was just back. I just left LinkedIn. I was

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01:02:16,340 --> 01:02:24,900

traveling, you know, and just didn't expect to meet somebody at home or in my house. But I guess

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01:02:24,900 --> 01:02:29,940

like that my eyes are maybe a bit more open to the world now that I had, you know, dropped the

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01:02:29,940 --> 01:02:35,380

drop this backpack of a target that was on my back. Like, you know, sometimes when you're under

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01:02:35,380 --> 01:02:40,820

pressure and you're achieving and you're striving, you fail to see what's around you. And I guess

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01:02:40,820 --> 01:02:45,460

thankfully that day my eyes were open. He's been a great addition ever since. And he's really into

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01:02:45,460 --> 01:02:49,140

old buildings too. So that's kind of how things kicked off, you know.

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01:02:49,140 --> 01:02:52,980

Yeah, something's talked about. Yeah, Airbnb, he does Airbnb's,

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01:02:55,860 --> 01:03:01,220

and lower boards. And you've got a little baby on the way very soon.

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01:03:01,220 --> 01:03:09,780

Yeah, yeah, we do. Another thing I think that the universe had in mind for both of us that we

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01:03:09,860 --> 01:03:15,540

didn't know. But yeah, so there is a little lighthouse keeper due to arrive in the next

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01:03:15,540 --> 01:03:21,380

month or so. And I'm sure life is about to open up a brand new chapter. And hopefully all these

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01:03:21,380 --> 01:03:27,940

learnings that I've shared through my life with you will help us with learning how to be parents.

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01:03:27,940 --> 01:03:32,980

It's exciting and equally scary all at once. I don't want to use my failure strategy.

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01:03:32,980 --> 01:03:42,820

And I'm hoping I can trust my gut with this. People are like, you know, go to your gut when

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01:03:42,820 --> 01:03:47,140

you're a man, like you just have to trust it. So I'm hoping something kicks in.

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01:03:47,140 --> 01:03:52,580

Thank you, Saoirse. What an inspiring story. Imagine being able to look back at your life and laugh

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01:03:52,580 --> 01:03:58,580

about the direction your life has taken based on German ice cream. There must be plenty of happy

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01:03:58,580 --> 01:04:03,220

thoughts that we can all now enjoy as we think back on decisions we have made as a result of

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01:04:03,220 --> 01:04:09,300

quirky incidents that still resonating our lives today. Thankfully, we now live in a time where

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01:04:09,300 --> 01:04:14,980

mental health is part of everyday conversation. But there is plenty of room for improvement.

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01:04:15,700 --> 01:04:20,580

Growing up, Saoirse had the chance to go past the high walls of the hospital and see the people who

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01:04:20,580 --> 01:04:25,460

were suffering severe mental health issues. She walked away from them having seen them as people

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01:04:25,460 --> 01:04:31,140

rather than patients. What a great way to develop empathy as a child and take it through life.

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01:04:32,340 --> 01:04:37,540

Saoirse mentioned how the lighthouse keeper's house gave her the chance to dream again and brought

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01:04:37,540 --> 01:04:43,140

out the child within that she may have pushed to one side. What a brilliantly happy thought

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01:04:43,140 --> 01:04:48,260

that artistic child that had disappeared in the corporate world was now back and helping to go

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01:04:48,260 --> 01:04:53,140

out Saoirse to create something magical. One of the things you wanted to do as a child that you

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01:04:53,140 --> 01:04:59,300

haven't yet done, that would be a fun bucket list. You know when someone doesn't like your idea,

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01:05:00,020 --> 01:05:04,100

they may not say directly but you know by the words they are choosing that they think your

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01:05:04,100 --> 01:05:09,620

idea is stupid. And it may be a stupid idea but it is your idea and you want the other person to

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01:05:09,620 --> 01:05:14,660

acknowledge it rather than just shut it down. Think of the physical feelings that brings.

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01:05:15,300 --> 01:05:22,020

I bristle, I become tense, my brain becomes sweaty and I probably go a bit red. But then it passes

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01:05:22,100 --> 01:05:29,220

as I take on board the usually sensible feedback. It's such a girly thing to do. If the feedback

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01:05:29,220 --> 01:05:34,420

was based on my gender and solely on my gender, part of me thinks I would give in and forget it.

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01:05:35,540 --> 01:05:41,620

Well done to Saoirse for sticking with her gut. That bathroom is incredible and that swinging chair

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01:05:41,620 --> 01:05:49,060

brilliant idea. Long live your girly childish ideas. That's it for today. I'll be back soon and

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01:05:49,060 --> 01:05:52,420

hopefully you will too.

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01:05:52,420 --> 01:06:13,780

We are the people. It is presented and produced by myself from a FERC and our team journey is

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01:06:13,780 --> 01:06:20,580
the people by today.