

Who Are You Wearing – Siobhan Murphy

[Upbeat electronic music]

KIRI PRITCHARD-MCLEAN: Hello and welcome to Who Are You Wearing, a podcast where I, Kiri Pritchard-McLean, chat to some of the most stylish people I know. And this week I am speaking to the human rainbow that is Siobhan Murphy. Now like many of you, I fell in love with Siobhan on Interior Design Masters. Of course I love a programme about interior design, I'm a middle class white lady.

Now I immediately followed Siobhan on Insta because when I was watching the show we just had too many outfits in common not to be kindred spirits. Her account, InteriorCurve, go and follow her. It is a celebration of all things maximalist. Now maximalism is a more is more approach to interiors and a great excuse for me to buy yet another cushion. As an interior designer, Siobhan has an incredible eye for colour and styling and I think that skill passes over into her outfits too.

This interview was recorded in April 2021, still in the third lockdown. Siobhan was working from home. Fun fact, her husband, Nick, nearly walked in wearing just a towel just as we started recording.

Oh, and at the start we talk about the best toy in the world, the fashion wheel. If you're not familiar with the fashion wheel, give it a google. It's amazing. Um, I'll jog your memory. It had like sort of a series of revolving disk and you'd turn the wheel to choose your heads and your hairstyles. And then your torsos were sort of like blouses and shirts, and then the legs section were jeans or skirts, dresses. And then with a crayon you sort of rub a stencil of the

outfit on the paper. Then you turn the wheel again and you pick your patterns and your textures and then you get to colour in your outfit. Absolutely genius. Anyway, I've rambled on long enough. Let's ask Siobhan Murphy, 'who are you wearing?'

SIOBHAN MURPHY: My memory's absolutely terrible. So like I was talking to my brother the other day, um, and he was like – he could remember stuff from when he was like four or five. And I was like, 'oh my gosh, that just kind of blows my mind a bit.' But I remember, um, my first love of fashion was getting a fashion wheel. So I got a fashion wheel. Does it – I mean I'm guessing you know what that is.

KIRI: Yes.

SIOBHAN: You're a – you're a bit younger than me, aren't you? Um, so – so yeah. So I used to – literally I was just obsessed with this fashion wheel. I wasn't interested in any dolls or toys, really. I mean Barbies, yeah. Because you could – because I used to just dress them up and cut their hair. But I absolutely loved this fashion wheel. And I'd just get – I can remember just like getting all my colouring pencils out and all my, um, all my felt tip pens and I'd be doing my fashion wheel and then colouring them all in.

And then I actually introduced to doing fashions at school. So literally me and my pals, who are still friends now, um, we would draw fashions. Like so I'd say, 'right, okay. The, uh, the theme –' so we were about six, maybe seven at the time. I'd be like – and I'd be like – I'd always lead it. I'd be like, 'right, the theme is, uh, cocktail wear.' We'd all have to draw like a fashion and then we'd get the boys that we fancied to mark them out of ten.

[Both laugh]

SIOBHAN: So, um, yeah. And – and do you know what? We've actually still – all my friends, we've all – we've kept – because we used to like just like write each other notes and drawings and everything. We've all still got these boxes. I said, 'we're going to have to have a day where we literally just go to somebody's house, bring all our boxes of notes and fashions and – and just literally just go through them.

Because it's like a bit of a time capsule and I guess it just – people don't – just don't have those paper like paper, physical, um, physical notes nowadays, do they? Because everything's – everything's digital. Everything's on our phones. So yeah We're going to have to do that one day and bring out – bring out all our cringe fashions where the – the boys we've fancied have marked them out of ten.

KIRI: You'll be able to tell which ones were gay and that ended up being gay because of how well they marked them.

SIOBHAN: Absolutely. Yeah, absolutely. I think – no, I think the, um, I think the thing that the boys liked is if you did something a bit skimpy. That would always get you like, you know, like more – it'd always get you more points. We learnt that. We learnt that as we were going along. Oh, dear.

KIRI: I love that. I can just imagine these little six year old girls in like – in Yorkshire, being like, 'okay, cocktail wear.' I just love that that was like a category.

SIOBHAN: Oh my god, yeah. And the category – to be honest that was one of our favourite categories. There was a lot of fishtails. You know like the whole like cocktail like – you know like

sweetheart tops with a fishtail. Like a big pump, um, a bit fishtail skirt. That was – that was kind of the signature cocktail dress look.

KIRI: Love it. I'd wear it.

SIOBHAN: I think we must have been inspired in them days by Dallas and Dynasty. I think that was the, uh, you know, Cristal Carrington I think must've been our – our style icon at the time. In the 80s.

KIRI: So what about dressing yourself, then? Do you remember putting on an item of clothing to make you feel a certain way? Did you have like a strong sense – because obviously you've got so much style now. It's coming out of – like anyway where you can express yourself with style you absolutely do. But has that always been there?

SIOBHAN: Yeah. I think so. So, um, I can remember when I was, um, when I was a kid. I was absolutely obsessed with Dash tracksuits. I don't know if anyone can ever remember those. But they – I can remember my gran. And my gran was always really – she'd always would spoil me and like buy me clothes and everything. And we – we had like such a good bond um, from, you know, from being really young.

Um, and I can remember going in one day and, um, and there was this jumpsuit. And I can remember it being even – like even as a kid I can remember thinking, 'oh god, it's quite expensive.' And my – anyway, my gran treated me to this jumpsuit and it's like anything, isn't it? You know, if you buy something that you absolutely love, you know, your costs per wear probably of that jumpsuit were – because it was never off my back, literally. It was like I had to get it surgically removed almost.

But I can just remember absolutely, I – I wish I still had it. I mean I must say I would never be able to get into it now, but um, it was – it was green and it had like purple. It was quite bright. So it was green all – all in one. You know like kind of – kind of like a sweatshirt material but it had like purple, um, purple stripes like on the sleeve. And I think it had like a purple waistband. And it was just really cool. Like in the 80s it was like – I was like, ‘yeah.’ You know when you just put something on? And I can remember just wearing that and feeling really, really good. Feeling really good. And, um, yeah. That’s what – that’s what clothes should do, isn’t it?

KIRI: Absolutely. I – also it sounds like it’s something that if it was in my size I would absolutely wear now.

SIOBHAN: Yeah. Me too. Me too, for definite.

KIRI: If there’s anyone listening who can do it, get Siobhan – get her reunited with her jumpsuit.

SIOBHAN: Oh my god, absolutely. I, um, love jumpsuits. I love the look of them. I just sometimes find them a bit of a faff. And I think with my age as well, like if I need to go for a wee, I need to go for a wee like now, do you know what I mean? Like I ain’t got like five minutes to get my arms out of a jumpsuit. So, um, so yeah. I – I actually wore – I actually wore quite a lot of jumpsuits on the, um, on the show, um, quite a lot of like overally type things and like all in ones. And, um, yeah. And I – I absolutely love the look of them but also like, you know, like we – we’d have like such – such short timescales to like do stuff. And I’d be like, you know, I’d be there in the toilet, you know? Like trying to like get my arms out like in – in, you know, as – as quick as – as quick as I can.

Um, but yeah. Jump – jumpsuits are great, though, because again it's a whole outfit with one choice, isn't it? That's what's great about it. You're not thinking, you know, 'put this top with this skirt or this dress with these tights.' Literally you put a jumpsuit on and you – you're pretty much good to go, aren't you?

KIRI: Yeah, love it.

SIOBHAN: Um, so they are a – they are a good staple.

KIRI: You're so right, though, about going to the toilet. There's just something like – especially I remember being like drunk on nights out and I'd worn like a playsuit or a jumpsuit. And – and you're sat there, like one foot against the door because it's got no lock on it in a nightclub.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: Basically naked because you've chosen to wear like a jumpsuit.

SIOBHAN: And it's – and it's – it's all trailing in, you know, somebody else's piss, probably. It's like, 'this is not good.' But to be honest after a few drinks, who cares? You just get it in the wash when you get home.

KIRI: I did – I've got this gorgeous, gorgeous, um, jumpsuit. Um, that I had made by a really brilliant company. And, um, I – I filmed in it the other day and I went for a wee and I – I weed on the sleeve of it.

SIOBHAN: No.

KIRI: So I was like, 'for fucks sake.' Because as in like I'd – you know, I'd taken it down and not looked. And so I was like, you know, like washing it in the sink and being like, 'please –' like anyone going near my arm I'd be like, 'please don't smell of piss.' And it didn't, but it's just that thing of being like, 'no one in here knows that I've got a urine soaked sleeve but that's my reality right now.'

SIOBHAN: We all do it. We all do it, don't we? Oh, dear.

[Both laugh]

[Upbeat electronic music]

SIOBHAN: Me and my, um, me and my friend, my – my best friend Christina or Tina, we, um, we've actually been getting together. Because she's, um, she's like an account manager for this like fashion firm. But in our spare time we've been, um, designing or I've been designing some like some sweatshirts and some nightwear and – and stuff like that, so that's quite – that's quite exciting to, um, that's kind of like – to us that's kind of the dream, really. To, you know, because I mean I used to do fashion at, um, at college. So back in the 90s I did a fashion course and then I kind of went into an NHS job. But that's kind of always been, you know, like bubbling away. Like that – that creativeness. And I just think now it's the kind of time to, um, time to explore that, isn't it?

KIRI: Absolutely.

SIOBHAN: So how cool would that be, you know, like to see like one of your designs on paper and then it's actually a product that,

you know, that you can – that you can wear. So yeah, really excited about that. So there will be a lot of, uh, a lot of colour. A lot of colour going on.

KIRI: Oh, I love it. It's the – the fashion wheel has finally come to fruition. All the work on the fashion wheel is paying off.

SIOBHAN: Exactly. Exactly. And do you know what? I might actually go back to some of it – some of those designs and see, uh, you know, the – the 80s kid, you know? Bringing – bringing that back to life.

KIRI: So when you were – so you've got your – your great jumpsuit, um, which shows to me that your style of like strong colours but also like comfortable, not making yourself feel uncomfortable. Like, you know, it's a nice fabric to wear. That's already there. So who – who dressed you? Was it you or was it someone else and were you ever made to wear anything that you weren't that keen on?

SIOBHAN: We had, um, it was – it was always like a combination, really. Like when I was really young and, you know, my mum, um, because I'm like the first, uh, first born and a girl. So my mum, um, she always says now, um, that she used to just – she didn't used to buy hardly anything for herself but she'd always like go into M&S and it was like, you know, like quite a treat. To like to do that. To go into M&S and she'd buy me, you know, all the really like cute like frilly – frilly outfits.

And she said, you know, she said, 'oh, you were just like a little dolly. I just wanted to like dress you like really, really beautiful.' And – and if that meant like not buying stuff for herself, she'd just buy stuff for me. And I was like, 'aw, that's really really cute.'

But yeah, I absolutely hated my – I loved school, don't get me wrong. I absolutely loved school. I had a lot of friends and school was really good. Really good memories. But I absolutely hated the school uniform. And I think that was because it was, you know, like you've got to wear this. And it just – I don't know, I just thought – because we went so from – when we were in junior school, I know like a lot of junior school kids now wear uniforms but at our school we didn't wear a uniform. So every day we were just, you know, just wore – wore what we want. And I kind of feel that's – that's your identity, isn't it?

And then from – so from going from that to then wearing a uniform which was awful. Like our school – I mean they've changed it now in – in the school, but it was, um, a bright yellow blouse. So it wasn't even like a white blouse. It was a bright yellow – bright yellow blouse which was just totally unflattering. Um, an orange and blue striped tie, um, a grey jumper with the, um, blue and yellow like round the – the v-neck and a black blazer, grey skirt. So it was absolutely rancid.

Like the colours were just absolutely gross. Um, and to be honest even if you were an absolute supermodel, you couldn't have made this uniform look good. So – so yeah. So I was kind of always trying to customise, you know? So I had, um, I'd like put a little bit of bleach when – when my mum was washing the shirt, you know, to try and like bleach out that yellow to try and make it like a paler yellow.

I'd always like wear my tie like really, really skinny. Roll up the, um, you know, roll up the skirt as short as I could, um, and then you know, like even just customising like tights. You know like I'd like put rips in my tights and, you know, like I'd wear, um, I'd

always be getting done for shoes. That was like the – the one thing. So I think they said like you could have like a little tiny weeny like chunky heel and I'd always be like, you know, coming in with my like four inch platforms and things like that. So, um, I was always, always pushing it.

And I just, um, yeah. I think the whole thing about being told what to wear I just found real restrictive. Because, you know, for me, what – what you wear is you're showing people who you are. You're showing your – your personality, isn't it? That's – that's kind of like your window to the world, isn't it? Like how, you know, how you kind of – how you come across and, you know, and – and people do judge you like a little bit, don't they? On – on what you wear, you know.

If people see me coming down the street and I'm wearing all bright colours, I think they automatically think, 'oh, she is going to be a bit of fun.' You know? She is going to be a good laugh. And, um, it's probably like the same with you, isn't it? You know when you – when you rock up and you've got your glitter on and your sequins and your bit Pat Butcher earrings that I absolutely love. I'm exactly the same as you with them. You know people have this expectation or idea that you're not going to be boring. I think that's the, um, that's the kind of thing, isn't it? That you – that you kind of portray.

So I found – I found, yeah, I found wearing a uniform really, really restrictive. I'd never really want to do that again. Although I did, when I was 18, I did apply to be an air hostess, um, but that was with Virgin and I think, um, I don't know if it was at the time but I know that Vivienne Westwood actually, um, designed some of the Virgin uniforms at one point. So yeah. So that – you know, if Vivienne Westwood was designing it I'd wear it. But nothing else.

[Both laugh]

KIRI: I, um, what you're saying, it speaks to me so much. And I had like a gorse yellow polo shirt to wear in high school. And polo shirts, like especially with like big knockers, they're just like so unflattering.

SIOBHAN: Oh, yeah.

KIRI: And it's just horrible and it makes you hate your body and, you know, you're at a very self-conscious point anyway.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: And I also totally agree with what you say about when people see you in bright colours and things. They're like, 'ooh, this is fun.' But also I think the message I try and send out as well is that I'm not apologetic about myself or my size.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: Or – or any space I'm taking up metaphorically or literally. And you can show the world that you're like, 'oh, I'm not apologising for being a woman or being plus size or any of those things.'

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: And I think fashion can do that for you.

SIOBHAN: Oh my god, yeah. Without a doubt. And also the amount of messages, um, and DMs and everything that I get from

people saying, 'do you know what? Like I'm, you know, similar size to you or, you know, whatever.' And they're like, 'you've actually given me the confidence to, you know, to experiment with it. Like with – with clothing. Because I can kind of see – see you. You're rocking it. You're confident. You're looking – you look great.' And they're like, 'well, why can't I be like that?'

And, you know, I think – I think it's nice for people to have these – not that – not that I'm saying that I'm a role model or anything like that, but to have people that are like, you know, similar body – body shapes and sizes, you know, all – all different sizes but I think that's nice and I think that's maybe something that we – I didn't definitely have when I was younger.

Because, you know, literally it was just – just 'Seventeen' magazine or 'Smash Hits' or whatever. Or you'd get some of the fashion magazines. And there would be nobody plus size in – in those magazines. They would all be models. It would all be fully airbrushed and – and, you know, that – that's great and that looks nice, but I can't relate to that. Because that – you know, if I bought that dress it's not going to look like that on me. Whereas, you know, if people think, 'oh, actually Siobhan's wearing that and she's like size 20 or a 22, but actually she looks really good. I'm a similar size so I know that that's going to look alright on me as well.'

So I think it's nice – I think it's nice and I, you know, I'm always looking on Instagram at other like plus size like influencers. And, you know, I've been influenced loads of times when I've seen somebody wearing, you know, wearing something that I'm just like, 'oh my god, I'm getting straight on because that looks absolutely – I'm getting straight on the, uh, on the Internet and –

and ordering that.’ Because yeah, um, but I think – I think that’s really important, isn’t it? To see – to see that.

And do you know what I really like to see? Where brands have the same outfit but then they – like they show it, you know? Like it – have you seen that? Where they show it like with different sizes and, um, yeah. And you’re kind of like, ‘oh, right, okay. Like yeah, she looks like – that’s about a similar body shape to me. Oh, right. Okay, that looks good. Yeah, I can – I can look like that.’ So yeah.

And I think it’s just – I think as well with lock – with lockdown as well I think, you know, and I – I’m guilty of that, you know? There’s been days where I’ve just been so busy that I’ve kind of like got out of bed and I’m straight on my computer. I’ve not had a shower or a bath or got dressed. I’m still in my PJs. I might just like put something over the top. And – but actually when I get – when I get up and actually get ready, put – put my makeup on, put something nice on, I – I kind of can tackle the day in – in a better way sometimes. And I know we all – we all have days where we don’t want to get dressed or we don’t want to, you know, do anything else. But the days where I do, I definitely feel a bit more productive sometimes. So I think it’s just a bit – it’s sometimes a bit of a mindset, isn’t it?

KIRI: It is that. It’s exactly that.

SIOBHAN: And when you’re walking around like you do get stopped, don’t you? Like people are just like, ‘oh my god, I love your outfit today.’ And it just kind of brings – it’s kind of like spreading a little bit of joy, isn’t it? You know, when people are just like walk – you know, going around the, you know, and, you know, there’s a lot of – people wear a lot of dark colours, don’t they? And then the – you know, somebody sees you and they’re

like, 'oh, you know, that's a bit different. That's really nice.' So it just – it kind of cheers up. I've actually had people saying that, like, 'oh, you've brightened up my day just by seeing you today.' And it's really nice, that, isn't it? It's really sweet.

KIRI: It's lovely. Well you – because you're all about colours.

SIOBHAN: I always think like with – with interiors and fashion and – and especially like being like a plus size person, we've had years and years and years of rules, haven't we? You know, like, 'oh you've got to wear black or navy blue, you know, because they're like slimming – slimming colours or, you know, we can't wear like rainbows. Or horizontal stripes are a no go.' There's just like all these rules that I just think, 'why are we listening to all these rules? We need to break these rules.'

And if you like something, so, you know, whether it's neon yellow or bright pink with a rainbow stripe, if you really like it, then you should – you should wear it, you know? Because that's what's going to make you – make you feel good.

And I think I had years where I was a lot slimmer. I was probably about a size 12, but I would always buy clothes because they made me look smaller than I was. Rather than actually like buying something that I thought, 'oh my god, I really love that dress or I really love that suit.' I would think, 'that's going to make me look slim.' And I would buy it for that – for that reason. And now I absolutely could not care less about that. Because I just think, 'if I like it I'm going to wear it.' And regardless if it makes me look ten – ten times bigger than I am. If I love it, I don't care. I'm going to – I'm still going to wear it. So yeah, I think it's a bit of a mindset change as well, isn't it? With being brave with – with fashion. Definitely.

KIRI: And that's a word that like as – because I'm a bigger girl as well, that people are like, 'ooh, I wish I was as brave as you.' And it's like I know that they're being nice when they're saying that, but it's a bit like, 'is brave the right word to use? Not putting a jumper on, do you know what I mean?'

SIOBHAN: Yeah, no, I know exactly. No, when like there's all these people like, you know, risking their lives day in and day out. But, um, but yeah, you're – you're absolutely right. And sometimes it's kind of like, 'oh, you know, yeah,' when people say give you a compliment but really they're saying, 'oh, you know, you're a – you're a bit of a big lass and, you know, you're wearing something that's quite bright.'

But like, you know, a lot – I've always been so in my group of friends, so I'm really, really lucky that I've got, um, a group of friends that we've all known each other since we were five. So like 37 years together. All together. So we've been best friends throughout our entire lives. But I've always been the fat one and that's absolutely fine. But like even them, even they will say to me, 'oh, Siobhan, like you look ace today. Like I really love that skirt.'

Or I'll be there, you know, like wearing – because again I wear bodycon, I wear like things that, you know, not just, you know, things that are – that are big – are big and, um, you know, I wear things that are, you know, can be body conscious as well. And they'll be like, 'oh, well I could never – I could never get away with that.' I'm like, 'you're probably like five sizes smaller than me and you've got, you know, like –' but it doesn't matter, does it?

And I'm just like, 'you can wear what you want.' If you really like something, just get it on and, you know, why are we always so bothered about what other people think? Because nine times out of ten no one's even going to notice or even be bothered how anything makes you feel good. Then I think it's definitely confidence, though, and I think it's definitely – I think for me that comes with – with being a bit older and kind of just not really worrying about what people – what people think, really.

KIRI: No, totally. Totally. And it's a shame, isn't it? Because when you look back at yourself when you're a teenager and yeah, I was like beating myself up being fat, and I wasn't at all.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: And I'm like, 'you wasted that "fatness" in inverted commas by hating yourself and hiding everything when you should've had everything hanging out like you are now.'

SIOBHAN: Yeah. Oh my god, absolutely. Like, you know, and you – you're absolutely right. There's – so the times that I was probably more conscious of my body and, you know, like I can remember just, you know, like going out like on a Friday night and thinking, so I was – I'd be at work on a Friday and I'd think, 'I'd better not eat anything all day because this dress is going to be tight and I want like more of a flatter stomach.' And like how dangerous is that? Like just – and then going out and having loads to drink, probably.

And, um, so I was – I was like miles more conscious of my – of my figure, of my body, then when I was like so much – like, you know, like maybe five – five dress sizes smaller than – than I am now. Like I think the only thing now is that I think it's great that we've

got a bit more choice, you know? If you – like for plus size, uh, for plus size people.

Whereas, you know, back in the day that was always a – that was always a struggle being, you know, being a bit bigger and, you know, all your friends are going, you know, like going into Topshop and, you know, all those. It was like Bay Trading, Topshop, River Island, all those. And you'd get – I'd always just literally like just look to the back of all, you know, all of the racks to see if there was like a size 16 or a size 18. And, you know, chances are they finished at a size 14 back in those days.

So – so that was always a real struggle as a – as a teenager, being like a size 16, 18. Because you just want – I just wanted to go out on a Saturday with my mates, hanging out in – in, you know, in Leeds city centre, buying a few bits and pieces. And it was always like I had to go to like the, you know, different – different shops. And it was always these shops catered for more of an older, um, like an older clientele. So, you know. But just because you're bigger, like why would you not want to wear clothes that are the same as everybody else? That's, you know, that's kind of what – what I think.

But I think now like with the internet and everything, it's just so much easier, isn't it? To – to get clothes and to, you know, to, you know, to actually like – I – what I tend to do quite a lot of the time is I'll order quite a lot because I just think – sometimes it's nice, isn't it? Just to try things on with what you've already got in your wardrobe as well and kind of mix and match and see what goes. And I think that's really something that's quite good about, you know, shop – shopping online definitely. But I definitely love going into actual shops and trying things on and, you know, walking away with loads of nice things. Bags.

[Upbeat electronic music]

KIRI: So when you were a teenager, was there an item of clothing that you put on that made you feel great and you just never wanted to take off?

SIOBHAN: Yeah. When I was – so when I was 18 I worked, um, at worked at Harvey Nichols as a Saturday girl. So, um, Harvey Nichols came to Leeds and it was like the biggest thing like in the world. We were just like, ‘oh my gosh, we’re putting Leeds on the map. We’re getting a Harvey Nichols. Like we’re like London, you know? Like this is amazing.’

And then so I applied for a Saturday job, um, as a Saturday girl there. And, um, yeah. Couldn’t believe it when I got the job. I was like, ‘oh my god, this is like so –’ and my friends were just like, ‘oh my god.’ Like they were all like working in like the local fish and chips shops or pet shops and I’m like there in like Harvey Nic’s.

But anyway, um, so there was actually a Karen Millen I can remember, um, in the – in the Victoria quarters in that arcade and I was just obsessed with Karen Millen. I loved like everything, um, everything that – that they did at that time. And I can remember buying a bright orange quilted skirt. And it was like a mini skirt. It was kind of like a bit of a sports style. So it was like orange quilted kind of like a cottony, um, fabric. And then it had like go faster stripes like on the side with a matching jacket.

And like literally I was at college at the time, I was doing my fashion thing. And I can remember like wearing that with some like black tights and some like high-top trainers. And I just like – I was walking through town thinking, ‘oh my god, check me out.’

Like this is like – you know, like I can just remember it. Um, and I was thinking the other day because like they – they've started doing like a curve range and I'd got some stuff from them.

And, um, yeah. And I can just remember thinking, yeah. That like literally – and I just wish I still had the jacket and the skirt because they were absolutely amazing. And then I loved – I loved it so much that I bought the skirt in white. Um, and I think that's what I – that's – I kind of tend to do that quite a lot. Do you? Where you, um, if you really love something I'm like, 'yeah, I just want it in like every colour because I know this works.'

KIRI: Yeah. Absolutely. Yeah. The jumpsuit that you wore on – on one of the episodes, um, from Love Ur Look, I've got it in green.

SIOBHAN: Yes.

KIRI: You wore a pink one with a big parrot on. And then I was like – I loved it. So I was like, 'I'm going to get the red one with the star on.' And then I went on the website this morning because I was like look – I was like, 'oh, the pink is really good.' And then I saw you in a sequin dress on there. And I was like, 'she's everywhere.' Everywhere I go to buy clothes you're there.

SIOBHAN: Yeah. I love it. Somebody else said that the other day. They were like, 'uh, do you know that you're on the Snag website?' And I was like, 'oh, yeah, yeah.' And they were just like, 'oh my god, you just can't get enough of you, really.' Um, but that – yeah, I absolutely love that, Love Ur Look, um, the pink, um, the pink jumpsuit with the – with the sequined parrot on. Um, so good and so comfy as well. Like that cotton.

KIRI: It's great.

SIOBHAN: Um, and she's really nice, the lady that owns that company, Ronke, she is just such a super babe, isn't she? So – and she does really really cool stuff.

KIRI: She's great. And it's – yeah, and really ethical as well because it's like end of line fabrics and like vintage patterns.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: So it's all my favourite things coming together as well. Yeah. Love her.

SIOBHAN: Yeah, and I think as well with being, um, plus size, there's not a lot of kind of like vintage options, is there? So, you know, I love vintage clothing and probably so do you, and it's just like because, you know, you're getting like a one off piece or, you know, there's something that's, you know, like quite unusual. But the sizing is just always so small in vintage so it's kind of nice that she's doing that and reinventing some of these like vintage patterns but doing it in a more inclusive like size range as well. So yeah. I really love that.

KIRI: I'm going to send you another small business after this. The people who made my jumpsuit, I've got loads of stuff from them. And what she does is – she's brilliant. She's called Woo Woo Boutique. And she takes vintage patterns and end –

SIOBHAN: Oh, I'm talking to her.

KIRI: Yes. Yes. Yeah. She's great.

SIOBHAN: She is fab. We actually had a – we actually had a Zoom call the other day. Um, because I messaged her saying, ‘can you make me some bespoke pieces?’ Because I absolutely love like her prairie dresses. Like, you know, in the – did you see the prairie dress with the, um, red and white stripe? I was like, ‘oh my gosh. I need – I need that in my life ASAP.’ So um, yes. Oh my god, we are like the same person when it comes to fashion, aren’t we?

KIRI: Yeah. Yeah, I brought – honestly I bet most of my stuff – yeah, would fit you or you’ve got it. Like definitely.

SIOBHAN: I’m coming round.

KIRI: Woo Woo Boutique as well. Yeah. Donald Stanley. It’s all the same stuff, honestly.

SIOBHAN: Oh my god, I love their sequin stuff.

KIRI: They’re so gorgeous.

SIOBHAN: I love the sequin capes. And the thing about those capes is like even if you just like wear something quite plain, you put that on and you – you kind of feel like you’ve got super powers, really, don’t you? With those glittery capes on.

KIRI: It is that. It’s exactly that. Anyway, um, when you were a teenager growing up, what were the big trends that were going on and did you – like did you go for any of them?

SIOBHAN: Yeah, unfortunately I have to say that, um, shell suits were a big thing at one point. I’m really – I’m really, really showing my age now. So I had, um, a supreme collection of shell suits, um,

that I used to, uh, wear to the youth club on, um, on a Tuesday night and think I was the, you know, absolute bees' knees.

Um, oh, and I'll tell you what, um, there was also, um, a thing where there was a lot of like linen. I can remember this, um, I can remember for a year I wore like loads of like linen. Loads of, um, there was quite a lot of like hippie type shops in Leeds at the time. You know, like selling all the incense and all these kind of like flowy – like flowy dresses with kickers. Can you remember kickers? I used to wear like – I had like – so I'd have like lime green kickers and then like a floaty – like a floaty like gypsy skirt and, you know, like the gypsy tops that were like off the shoulder. Um, absolutely loved it. Yeah, loved those.

Um, I guess in them days and when you're – when you're a kid or a teenager, you don't want to – well for me, it was – it wasn't about standing out then. It was about fitting in. Um, so it was about, you know, trend – you know, wearing whatever was trendy at the time or, you know, what – what, you know, exactly what your friends were wearing. So – and I guess that becomes a bit of a uniform, doesn't it? Because, you know, and I see girls now that are, you know, like 18 or whatever, and I'm like, 'you all look very, very similar.' You know like with what, you know, with what you're – what you're wearing.

And it's – it is that kind of fitting in whereas I think as you get older it's like, 'sod that. Sod the whole fitting in.' You want to – you want to stand out and make impression. So, um, but yeah. The, uh, the shell suits are, uh, yeah. There's – there's quite a lot of photos of me in various neon – neon brightly coloured shell suits.

KIRI: And I will be asking for pictures of those.

[Both laugh]

SIOBHAN: Oh, dear.

KIRI: What about – did you have a rebellious phase as a teenager? And if so, did it come out in your style? Like I went through a – not necessarily rebellious, but I was definitely like, ‘I’m a skater and I’m going to wear baggy stuff.’

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: And, you know, that kind of thing.

SIOBHAN: Um, do you know what? Like I – I think I kind of missed that whole – I don’t – I don’t know if it’s because I went into like a job like straight away like after college. I was obviously at, um, art college as well, but I kind of missed the whole – I – like the whole like gothic thing was quite a big thing like at the time, you know?

Which like now I think if it was me probably like doing it all again, I probably would’ve really like gone for that, you know? Like that whole, you know, the black lips and, you know, like the dark hair and like loads of like you know like cool – cool clothes. So I think if I had my time again, I probably – I probably would’ve gone down – I probably would’ve gone down that route. But I think I was actually quite more mainstream, really. When I was, um, when I was younger. Definitely than – than I am now. Um, definitely more – definitely more experimental now, I would say. Because I’m just more comfortable in my own skin, I guess.

KIRI: Yeah. Well what – so when did we start – the Siobhan that we know now, which I think – when I think of you, I think of

someone who takes what someone – one thing that people would consider a statement piece and everything you wear is a statement piece. But – and it all works together and it – it's obviously like your – you know, you're a maximalist interior designer, but I think you're a maximalist dresser as well. Like everything is – is more and – and still that might make it sound, if people haven't see you or are familiar with you, that's it's like chaotic. But it's also pulled together and also focused. Because you've got such a good eye. So when did that style start appearing?

KIRI: I – I'd probably say like in the last – in the last few years, really, um, mainly. Um, and I think I did – I think with fashion it's been a bit of a rollercoaster ride for me over the years. So going from, you know, being a kid, absolutely loving fashion throughout – doing my fashion wheel, and then you kind of go into like your teenage years and, you know, things are all like a bit hormonal and, you know, you're kind of just wanting to fit in and be like everybody else.

And then I was in a relationship in my 20s which was quite a bad relationship. Toxic relationship. And I kind of lost me. I lost my whole like sense of who I was, um, you know, like how – just me, really. And I think, you know, if you are in that kind of, you know, controlling relationship, I just kind of lost my whole identity. So it was like I didn't really know what I wanted to do as a career, didn't really know – yeah, just kind of didn't know who – who I was as a person, really.

So coming out of that and then, um, being single and me and my, um, my best friend Christina were single then at the same time. So this was like 2007 and I can remember thinking, 'right, okay, I'm back to being me and I feel like I'm Siobhan Murphy again.'

And I can remember just like getting this like re – re-energised wardrobe. Because obviously then we were single and we were out on the pull, me and – me and my bezzie. And, you know, we wanted to look good. And that was kind of like a change then, you know? Like going – you know, like going up again in – in fashion.

So I was kind of interested in – because really, in that – in that – in the relationship in my 20s from like 21 to like what, 27, 28, I also kind of lost, um, lost that whole like thing about looking good, fashion, you know, and it's kind of, you know, I think when your self-esteem's so low you – you're not really that bothered. And then, you know, I was kind of like, you know, finding – finding me again, being me, hanging out loads with my best friend. And we were just giving each other loads of confidence.

So the confidence was through the roof and then that kind of manifested itself in, you know, what I was wearing and how I was presenting myself to the world. Because I felt good. It was like I want to look good, you know? I want to wear nice things and – and all that kind of stuff.

And then, um, and then two years later I met Nick, my husband now. And he is total opposite to me but he is like so supportive. So I don't know, like, you know, like maybe like with some people you kind of think, 'oh, I can't wear that or I can't do this.' Like literally I'd be like, 'Nick, do you think this is too much?' He'd be like, 'no, stick another headband on, oh, no, you need more jewellery.' Like's he's just like – he's like, you know, he just kind of gets me and he's just like, yeah. He just is totally on board with the whole more is more look and – but yeah, I think it's just about, um, yeah.

So it's – so it's been – it has just been like totally like up and – up and down, really, this rollercoaster of life and, you know, the fashion kind of reflects every – every stage of that. And I think when I'm – when I'm happy and when I'm like living my best life, that kind of shows with the – with my fashion choices and, you know, times when it's not been as happy, um, as, you know, that's – that's kind of been reflected in that, too. It's funny, isn't it? How that works out.

KIRI: I had exactly the same thing. There's been a couple of times where I felt like I've – especially in my 20s as well, I had a really similar thing to you and that was a really toxic relationship. And although on stage I was like – had my sparkles. But it would – again it would only ever be like one sparkly thing, whereas now it's like I – I'm more overdressed than ever – I've ever been before. Because my partner's like – it's totally like yours where he's like, 'yes please, more on. More on. Like go for it.' Yeah, yeah.

SIOBHAN: Yes. Absolutely. I think as well because, um, my husband's quite, um, he's – he's quite shy, really, and he's quite, um, you know, fairly reserved. So I think he thinks, 'if she's just going over the top and she's, you know, looking at – like a peacock, you know, with all these sequins, I can just like fade into the background, you know? Like all eyes on Siobhan.' And, you know, it kind of works, uh, it kind of works out well.

KIRI: That's so lovely. That's so great. Um, pressure's off him because everyone's looking at you.

SIOBHAN: Exactly. He can just – he can just, you know, prop himself up at the bar and, uh, let me get on with it.

KIRI: So you must think of your – you must think of makeup and jewellery as part of the outfit. But also with your wigs, right? Do you feel like the wigs have different personalities?

SIOBHAN: Oh my god, absolutely. I can remember somebody saying – somebody messaging me saying, ‘have you been watching Schitt’s Creek? Because you just remind me of Moira. And she has got this wig wall.’ And I was like, ‘no, I’ve not watched it.’ And I was like, ‘I’m going to have to watch it now.’ So yeah, I’ve seen – I’ve seen the wig wall. Um, yeah. Oh my god.

Like literally I feel like a totally different person depending on – on the wig. So, you know, if I’m putting on like a short – a short crop or, you know, something like quite fun and bat – a bouncy like curly bob, um, or I’ve got like ones that are like really, really long and rainbow. And, um, I just really love, you know, whether it’s interiors or fashion, I absolutely love that whole transformation, you know, like taking a blank canvas or taking you as a canvas and creating something – yeah, something totally different. And I always like pick my outfit first and then decide on what wig’s going to look good.

But yeah, I think it’s that whole transformation. And things like, you know, like Drag Race, stuff like that, I just kind of watch them because I want to see, ‘right, okay. This is that person. Oh my gosh, a bit of makeup and a wig and a fancy outfit can just change your whole – your whole persona kind of. And sometimes I think that is the thing you do actually take on certainly with wearing wigs, once I’ve got a wig on and, you know, makeup on and – and a cool outfit, I’m like, ‘yeah, I feel different. I’m ready to – to take on the world, you know?’ It’s kind of my armour I guess, in a way.

KIRI: I love it.

SIOBHAN: That's kind of how I feel. You know like when you're walking down the street and you've got a wig on. I mean because I mean my wigs, they're – they look quite obviously like a wig. They're very, very bright. And, um, you know, people will be like, 'oh, who's she? That's a bit different.' You know? It's kind of a bit like, 'ooh, you know, what's – what's all this?' And I get so many questions and people, you know, saying, um, well first a few people like on the show, like, 'how are you dyeing your hair like every week?' And I'm like, 'oh, it's not – it's not my own hair. It's actually a wig.'

And, um, but I've had so many questions from people that are like, 'oh, you know, we're in the kind of the same boat, we've, um, you know, our hair's just been damaged over the years,' or, you know, I've had a few people that have been, you know, undergoing treatment and they're like wearing a wig for the first time. And they've actually said, 'look, you know, just – just by doing that,' you know, obviously they ask for like wig recommendations, which I'll give obviously, and, um, but they've been like, you know, 'you've given us the confidence now just to – it's kind of a bit more – you've made it a bit more acceptable and a bit more like normal, you know?'

Like rather than just like, 'oh god, she's – she must be a weirdo if she's, you know, if she's putting a wig on.' It's kind of – to be honest you look at celebrities now and loads and loads wear wigs. Loads. You know and you think, 'oh god, she – look, like her hair looks amazing.' Like nine times out of ten it'll be – it'll be a wig or a weave.

KIRI: Yeah. So did you start wearing it – because I've got this big blonde streak in my hair, which has got so knackered over the last few years.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: It used to be fine when I was younger and I was chucking anything on it, and it's just got so – it must be when you get older my hair's just like, 'don't you dare otherwise I will snap off.'

SIOBHAN: Yeah. Yeah.

KIRI: So did it – did it come out of necessity, then? Was it breakage then you were like, 'I'm – I can do more with wigs'?

SIOBHAN: Yeah, it was – it was a little bit of both. So, um, so one of my pals, um, he bought me my first wig two Christmases ago. Um, and he didn't tell me he was buying me this. So I just opened this present and it was like, 'oh, a wig.' I literally – I tried it on and he – he was with me. And, um, I tried it on and I went into the bathroom and I was like, 'ooh, ooh.' And, you know, like looking at myself like from every angle. I was like, 'oh my god,' like this is – like this is amazing. And he was like, 'told you so.'

And he were like, 'right, you're going to have a, you know, you're going to be obsessed with wigs from now on.' And I think I've got like 24 now. I've got like a ridiculous amount of wigs. But I always think, don't you? Like, you know, if you really like something, I think, 'well it's like a collection, isn't it? It's like a hobby.' You know? I don't see it as like a totally like ridiculous spending habit that's got totally out of hand. I'm like, 'no, it's actually a collection, you know.' I'm like, 'that's – that's my hobby. Collecting wigs.'

So, um, so yeah. So it's only been like a couple of years. Um, but yeah. I absolutely love it. The – the only thing is in summer, um, I don't wear – I don't wear them as much in summer, um, just because it's just hot, you know? It feels like you're – you're in a – wearing, um, a hat, really. You're like over the top.

But yeah, I'm just trying to give my hair a bit of a – a bit of a break because, you know, years and years of bleach, years and years of – of dyes and colours, um, extensions, you know, it doesn't really – it doesn't really do it any good, does it? So I think if I'm, you know, just kind of keeping it the same colour, not doing all that as much, and then, um, just stick a – stick a wig on for a different – for a different colour and a different look.

[Upbeat electronic music]

KIRI: Is there a trend that you tried to pull off and it's just not happening for you?

SIOBHAN: Um, I don't know, really. I mean I don't know about you, but I've – I don't really – I don't know. I mean maybe subconsciously I do, but I don't know if I really follow any kind of trends because I just kind of see something and I just like it. And, um, so I don't really follow anything that – that I think is like mega – like mega trendy or – or anything like that.

I'm not really, um, a trouser person. So I've got some trousers and I've got some suits, but I'd – I'd say that trousers – yeah, I'd say that, um, I'm more like dresses. Dresses, tights, and – and a nice like mule, um, with a little bit of a heel and a bow is kind of my signature – like my signature look, really.

Um, I did buy some like PVC – like PVC trousers, um, and when they came – and I did actually wear them once like when we – when we were filming. Um, but they did feel like bin bags, really. Like and when I've looked in the photos it's like, 'what – what are you actually doing, Siobhan? Like are you having like some kind of mid-life crisis in your camo jacket and your like PVC trousers?' But do you know what the problem was with them? It's because the thighs rub together. But because they were like PVC like plastic, literally I was squeaking as I was walking along. So yeah, so that wasn't my, um, that definitely wasn't my finest hour fashion-wise. You've got to try these things, though. Don't you?

[Both laugh]

SIOBHAN: I think I probably only own two pairs of jeans. So I own two pairs of jeans. Like a dark denim jean and like a black denim jean. And I've got like a pale blue, um, denim jacket with like a big like puff, um, like puffy shoulders. Like puffy sleeves. So that's quite cool. But I don't actually – I can't remember the last time I wore jeans. I think it must be – definitely over a year ago. Um, you know, like some people, like jeans are like a proper staple in their wardrobe, aren't they? And they just like kind of wear them like everyday with everything, dressed up, dressed down.

Um, and I'm just not really – I've just never – I've never found jeans very comfortable, if I'm honest. And, um, and yeah. And I just think, you know, obviously you're kind of restricted with the colours and things like that, so I'd rather like wear a dress or a skirt and like a brightly coloured pair of tights. Or like, you know, some really bright funky leggings and things like that. Um, yeah, I'm just not a jeans – I'm just not a jeans girl, really. Do – are you?

KIRI: I – I tend to wear them a lot but as a – like a base.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: So I've got black jeans that I go through – and by go through I mean I literally chafe through the thighs on them.

SIOBHAN: Love it.

KIRI: But it's because – it's because I'll wear them instead of leggings.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: Like because what I'll often do is go for like something really big and loads of big earrings as well.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: Big hair, big makeup. So I – I try and – I know with you, you're like statement upon statement upon statement, whereas I usually have a plain base and then whack everything on top.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: And so that's where the black jeans come in handy. But you're right, fit is a nightmare.

SIOBHAN: Yeah. That's right, isn't it? Like so do you always wear like – have you got like a brand of jeans, like a black skinny jean, that you will just always go to and as soon as you've worn them out literally you just go and – and get the same ones again?

KIRI: No, I'm forever on the hunt for the – the perfect pair of jeans. Like literally the ones I've got on now, I'm just trying them. They're – they're Primark ones that I found in a charity shop for like a quid so I was like, 'okay, try them.'

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: And these aren't too bad.

SIOBHAN: Try them for a quid, yeah.

KIRI: Yeah, exactly. And – and I – but I'm forever trying and I'll be like – and it doesn't matter sometimes. You'll spend like loads of money on a pair of jeans and they'll fit worse than a Primark one. So it's just trying to find, you know, like something that fits you. Because I'm – I'm short with a big bum as well, so it's like – I'm quite hard to dress with jeans.

SIOBHAN: Yeah, sounds – sounds perfect. I, um, so when I have bought jeans in the past, I've always gone for the River Island Molly. Um, Molly jean. And I found that they were good and they do like the – all – all the size range. But a good stretch and quite a high waist. So my pet hate with anything, whether it's tights, leggings, gym stuff or whatever, or jeans, is, you know, when they're like – they're low, and I don't know, I just feel like I'm always like trying to like hoist them up, you know? Like when you're walking. So I like anything – literally if it's not coming just right under my bust, then, you know, you can just forget it.

KIRI: Yeah. That's – honestly with tights, I want one continuous line from my bra down to my tights like I've stepped into the whole thing.

SIOBHAN: Yeah. Absolutely.

KIRI: That's when I feel safe.

SIOBHAN: Absolutely. Me too. And actually then, it does actually give you, um, a nicer silhouette as well, doesn't it?

KIRI: Yeah, the shape. Yeah.

SIOBHAN: You kind of feel like, yeah. I – do you know what as well? And I don't know if you're going to ask me about this, but I literally had – so I'm 42 and I had my first ever bra fitting on – on Zoom two weeks ago. So I actually had this Zoom with a lady that was in New York. It was so random. And I was doing that whole like thing like, 'what time is it there, you know? What's the weather like?' But anyways, so we got down to business and she was like, 'put your favourite bra on. The one that you think fits you the best.'

And, you know, this is important, isn't it? When we're putting clothes on. And I've always just thought, 'right, I'm quite big around, um, around the – around the, um, circumference,' um, but I always thought, 'actually my actual boobs are as big as I, you know, as I thought.' So I'd always got – I think I'd always gone for something like a 44C. Something like that. And when she – she was like, 'oh, no, you – you're just wearing totally the wrong bra.' And she was like, 'you know, the – the side of it,' she was like, 'the side of your bra where the wire is should be like kind of under your armpits. And it should – yeah. And mine was just like right like right near the front.

And anyway, so they sent me some bras and I tried on this bra and I think it was something like a 40FF. And I was like – I

would've never ever gone for that size. Like ever. And do you know what? I put it on and when – then when I put a top on I was like, 'oh my god, I feel so different.' You know, because I'm wearing the actual right bra. And then when I tried on some clothes and some dresses, it's like I feel like I've got a whole new wardrobe now. Because it's kind of like – that is just the – the shape that I should – I should be. And it's kind of – yeah, it's kind of just changed everything, really. So I can't believe after 42 years I've actually finally, you know, finally done it. And I'm just like, 'why didn't I do this like 20 years ago?'

KIRI: Totally. Totally.

SIOBHAN: Really. Really, really good.

KIRI: I, um, I did a routine on television about having big boobs and then I got a DM from a great girl, um, she's on Instagram called Weir Wonderful. She's a – she calls herself the bra whisperer. Her name's Katie. She's amazing. She works for Curvy Kate. And she messaged me and she was like, 'I've just seen your routine.' Um, because I talked about how much I hated bra shopping.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: Um, and the – the awful names if you've got big boobs. They're called like Belinda and stuff like that when the – the little boobs have got sexy names, right? So that's what like the routine's about.

SIOBHAN: Belinda, I love it.

KIRI: And – and then she was like, ‘can I give you a bra fitting?’ So I was like, ‘okay.’ But I was like, ‘I’m pretty sure I’m wearing the right size.’ And she – she was like – so she was like, ‘well, I can see straight away you’re not in the right size.’ And so I was wearing like a 36E and I’m actually a 34H.

SIOBHAN: Oh my gosh.

KIRI: And your whole – when you’re in the right bra, like you don’t get those digging marks on your shoulders.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: Like your whole – your waist comes back because everything’s sitting where it should be.

SIOBHAN: Yeah, absolutely.

KIRI: Like my shoulders don’t hurt anymore. My back doesn’t hurt. I stand differently. And it’s such a big thing. And she’s so gorgeous and passionate. And she was like – she was like, ‘mainly,’ she was like, ‘young girls, especially young girls with big boobs are in school hating their bodies.’

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: Feeling like it’s wrong. And she was like, ‘they’re all in the wrong size bra and crap bras as well.’

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: So their boobs are painful at the end of the day because it’s not doing its job. So yeah, I’m a huge proponent of, um, and sexy.

I'll show you – I'll – I know we don't really know each other, but like this is the bra that I've got and it's so like –

SIOBHAN: Oh my god, that's so nice.

KIRI: It's sexy, right?

SIOBHAN: Yeah, I love that.

KIRI: And yeah, and there's all sorts of – you can add all sorts of like straps to go on it. So it looks great under a top. And so Curvy Kate are amazing at doing like sexy stuff for big boobs. Because also the stuff like – it's that whole thing of just like plus size wear. If you've got big boobs, they're like – and you'll never be having sex.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: And it's like, 'what's the point in having big tits then?' Like –

[Both laugh]

SIOBHAN: Exactly. Oh my god, yeah. I totally – yeah, I totally agree with that. And I think, to be honest, if you've got big boobs you kind of want to have them where they should be and, you know, get them out, don't you?

KIRI: Yeah.

SIOBHAN: For the lads or lasses.

KIRI: Yeah.

[Upbeat electronic music]

KIRI: You talk about – it seems like you – you’ll have like a purge and you’ll get rid of stuff, you know. But is there anything you hold onto for a long time that you’ve – that you’ve had for years and years?

SIOBHAN: Do you know what? No. But, um, I – I do – I do get rids of loads and loads of stuff. And then sometimes I have like regrets. And then sometimes I think, ‘oh god, I just need to just keep everything.’ And then I’m like, ‘no, no. You need to –’ you know, because sometimes you just can’t see the wood for the trees, can’t you? And so yeah. It is nice to – to have a clear out.

I don’t think I’ve got – have I got anything that I’ve really, um, I’ve got some – I’ll tell you what I’ve got. I’ve got some old, um, like vintage silk, um, kimonos that I’ve had for a long time. And they’re really, really beautiful. Um, so yeah. So I’d never – I’d never get rid of those.

Um, but I think everything else, like I – I love stuff and I love like jewellery and clothes and – and everything. But I like to kind of just mix things up and change things around. Like I’ll get – like I’ll get – will get bored of like stuff after a while. And, you know, especially things that you’ve – you’ve loved and you’ve really like worn to death, I’m just like, ‘right, okay. Now I need to just – I need to just move on.’ So yeah. Just kind of make way for, um, make way for some new stuff.

So yeah, so like before, like I’ve like sold some stuff on Instagram or, you know, a lot of the stuff like I’ll donate to friends or to my mum. So usually my mum gets first dibs. So she’ll be coming around and she’s like, ‘are you getting rid of that? Are you getting

rid of that?' And I'm like, 'yeah, do you want it, Mum?' So she's, uh, so she's lucky. She gets a lot of, uh, she gets a lot of cast offs. Um, and then yeah. Straight to, you know, straight to the charity shop.

And – and I do that with décor as well. You know, like in the house, you know, like when I'm like switching stuff around and, you know, get a lot of like new like, you know, stuff gifted and – and things like that. And it's like, 'right, okay. Let's – you know, let's – let's get rid of that.' So my decorator that was here last week, um, she – she got like four boxes. In fact I've – I had so much stuff I said, 'oh, I hope you don't feel like I'm palming this off on you.' She was like, 'no, I absolutely love it.' And, um, she actually had like a van full. She was like – she had to come back the next day to get more because she was just like, 'it didn't even all fit in the van.'

So it's kind of nice. And then she was like, 'oh, you know, I, um, whatever I didn't want I was like giving to my flatmates and they're like absolutely made up.' And I just thought, 'oh, well that's nice, isn't it? That's kind of spread a bit of joy to, um, to them.' And, you know, what do they say? Like somebody's trash is somebody else's treasure. So yeah.

KIRI: Yeah. Oh, I love it. That's so sweet. And I – yeah, I love – with my clothes as well, I'll – I feel weird – like I'm sort of sentimental about clothes.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: And sometimes I'll be like, 'oh, I've not got the most out of that.' So I'll charity shop a load of stuff, but also sometimes I'll be like – I give it to a friend so then it's not like too far removed.

SIOBHAN: Yes. Yeah.

KIRI: It's still in my life.

SIOBHAN: Yeah, exactly. Exactly. And you kind of think, 'oh god, you know, if it – if the crunch came to the crunch and you thought, "I really, really want it back," you could be like, you know, just sneak into her wardrobe and get it, can't you? You know where it is.'

KIRI: Exactly.

SIOBHAN: You know where it lives.

KIRI: That is definitely a thought in my head. That's how pathetic I am.

SIOBHAN: I recently, so, um, because I'd done so well on the show and I got to the final, um, Nick said, 'oh, I want to buy you a treat.' So he bought me, um, so he bought me this Vivienne Westwood handbag. Anyway, when it arrived, so it was beautiful, like this green and white striped, so a bit like the – like my bedroom. A bit like Beverley Hills vibe. But when it came it was absolutely minute that it wouldn't even fit my phone in. So you know like when you buy something online and you – and you just don't get any idea of what size it is at all.

And I was like, 'oh, babes,' I said, 'I absolutely love it, but it's just not practical.' Like it'll look nice just like on a shelf in my – in my dressing room but, um, you know, practically I'm not – I'm not actually going to use it. Anyway, so I sent it back and I said, 'actually, I've seen these shoes.' So he actually bought me, um,

the red patent, um, three straps. Uh, Vivienne Westwood with the animal toe.

KIRI: Love it.

SIOBHAN: Oh my god, so literally I just – I just need to go out now. I just need to get some dates in the diary so that I can go and wear them with some – some crazy like crazy coloured tights and, uh, and a nice – a nice outfit. Yeah, so, um, anything like that that's like a gift, um, that would be something that I will definitely keep forever. Yeah.

KIRI: Yeah, I've got a few – I've got – where's my – I've got a really good Vivienne Westwood leopard print dress that I got from Ebay secondhand so it wasn't a fortune.

SIOBHAN: Oh my god.

KIRI: And it's that big leopard print. And just the cut of her dresses –

SIOBHAN: Yes.

KIRI: I probably can't fit in it now. Bit – bit too lockdown heavy at the moment, but they are like, you know, when you've got big boobs and a big bum they still look great.

SIOBHAN: Yes.

KIRI: Whereas so much fashion, especially designer fashion, doesn't give a shit if you're not a sample size.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: So I love that Vivienne Westwood makes clothes for that – that are flattering.

SIOBHAN: Yes.

KIRI: And like for – for pretty much any size.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: I just wish they went higher in sizes.

SIOBHAN: Yeah, me too. Because I've seen something online the other day, um, by her and I thought, 'right, I'm going to treat myself.' Went into the shop in Leeds and, um, and it fit on the body because it was like – like an oversized like dress top, you know, that you can kind of belt, but the arms – because my – the top of my arms are quite big, and, um, the arms were just nippy, you know, like really tight. And I was like, 'well I can get it on but it's – it's going to – it's going to stop the circulation I think.' So it's probably not going to be the best thing to get.

Um, yeah. So – so yeah, it is a shame. And I think designers still need to think, you know, just because you're over a size 16 doesn't mean that you don't want to treat yourself to a designer piece every now and again and, you know, I don't always want to just be thinking, 'oh, well I can – I can get the handbag or I can get the shoes.' And – but I can't get any other clothes. It's just like, 'come on, guys. Come on guys, sort it out.'

KIRI: So much. Yes, every stylish big girl I know has got an incredible shoe collection, great handbags, and great jewellery.

SIOBHAN: Yeah. Yeah, exactly. Because like when you go into town it's like, 'I want to buy something, I want to buy something, but nothing fits.' Right, just buy loads of bags. Buy loads of handbags. But do you know what? Ebay is great, isn't it? Like I look on Ebay for, um, oh, I'm always – I'm always searching for like Vivienne Westwood like oversized stuff and – and even like Asos. Like I'll put in like Asos 20 and see what, you know, see what comes up because it's kind of like, you know, I'm – I'm looking on the site as well, but it's kind of nice – I like – I love getting secondhand stuff.

I love, um, I love going to the car boot sale. We've got some really great car boot sales in Yorkshire. And you can pick up some ace stuff, can't you, you know? And – and even if it's like you're picking up some fabric that you're going to get – get, you know, like some deadstock fabric that you can get like made into something, you know? It's just – it's just having something that's a bit different, isn't it? That, you know, having something that's a bit unique and yeah, love – I love charity shops.

KIRI: Totally.

SIOBHAN: So I'm glad that they're all starting to reopen again. Because I once got from a charity shop, and it unfortunately didn't fit me because it was about a size 14, but I just bought it because I just thought, 'I just love it.' And it was a – it was a 1980s Laura Ashley dress but it was kind of made in like, um, like a gold brocade. And it was just the most insane dress ever.

And then I actually customised it because I used to – I used to make millinery and I used to do a lot of like fastenators and headbands and stuff. And I got these beautiful like velvet, really beautiful velvet flowers that were quite expensive. Like millinery

flowers. And I just literally like covered like the whole front of the, um, of this dress in all these like beautiful, um, velvet flowers. And I think I actually sold that on Etsy at the time. Um, but yeah. Um, you know, sometimes when you just see something you think, 'oh, no, it's not going to fit me. But I just have to have it. I just have to do something with it. It's amazing.'

KIRI: I did the exact – all my teenage years I was going around charity shops and buying vintage clothes and would sell them at vintage fairs and, you know, on Ebay and stuff like that.

SIOBHAN: Oh, cool.

KIRI: And now I just don't have the time. I have boxes and boxes so – and also I'd pick up loads of stuff for my friends as well so I – there's this brilliant charity that – that raises money for refugees where I've – I'm reluctantly going through it all and being like, 'okay, I – I'm never going to fit in that.' Because it's a vintage size eight.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: So that can go.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: But it's quite hard.

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: Because I – it's a feeling of knowing, 'oh, you paid a quid for that.'

SIOBHAN: Yeah.

KIRI: And how good it felt. And, 'oh, you're going to do something exciting with it.' I'm exactly the same. Exactly the same.

SIOBHAN: Yeah, I absolutely love a bargain. So I'm – I'm total like – sometimes total splurge and sometimes total like skinflint. So literally I – I love both, you know? And I think that's the same in – in the house as well. Like I've got some really nice designer pieces that I've coveted and saved up, and then I've got some pieces that were like, 'oh, yeah, like I got that from like the car boot and it was like 20p.' I love it.

KIRI: Oh my god, we are so similar. I – I literally – I do the same. I go on Ebay and I put on Topshop and Asos, a sequin, and then a 14 and a 16. And I look at everything.

SIOBHAN: Yeah. Yeah.

KIRI: Because also those shops aren't great ethically. So if I'm buying it secondhand I'm already in the win.

SIOBHAN: Yes. Yeah.

KIRI: And my whole wardrobe is either charity shop or something I've spent loads of money on and there's nothing in between.

SIOBHAN: Yeah. Yeah. Me too.

KIRI: There's nothing in between. Well next time you have a clear out, can you please run in past me and I can go and buy all your old stuff, please? Um –

SIOBHAN: I will do, yeah. And same. We'll – we'll crack a –

KIRI: Yeah, of course.

[Both laugh]

SIOBHAN: The thing is, though, I guess when you, um, you know like when you're doing stuff as well, so like say like if you've, you know, been on stage, or you've had like, you know, you've been to an event and, you know, I guess clothes do kind of bring back memories as well, don't they? So, um, and the same with jewellery.

Like Nick – when we were on, um, honeymoon he bought me this ring. And it's not like an expensive ring, I think it was like \$200 or something like that. But it means more to me than any other real piece of jewellery that I've got because I can remember like the exact day, I can remember what I was wearing, I can remember that we just went into this shop and it wasn't, you know, and he was just like, 'Oh, I want to buy you that.' And I was like, 'oh.' And it was just such a treat and such a shock, um, and it was just really nice.

And I just remember that day like, you know, like looking like – I kept like looking down at this like new ring that I'd got. And – and it just evokes that whole, you know, it just brings back – when I look at that ring now, it just brings back that whole – that whole holiday, you know? The, um, so it's – it's nice, isn't it? How – and I think clothes – clothes definitely do that.

I know one of my, um, one of my other best friends, Cat, she, um, she's a little bit of a hoarder. She won't mind me saying, but she, um, so she's got stuff – she's got like clothes, um, shoes, from

back when she was like 17, 18. And I'm just like, 'I wish. I actually wish that I had kept a few of my bits and pieces.' But yeah. And then, um, but she's like, 'yeah but it's just in the attic, it's just – you know, I never get them out. It just – they're just gathering dust.' I'm like, 'yeah, but you – you know you've got them, though, don't you? You know? For a – for a rainy day.'

And she's got – she's got two girls as well. And I kind of like that, you know, when you hear that, um, you know, like somebody will be like, 'oh, I'm wearing this like vintage dress and it was my mum's from the like 1970s.' I'm like, 'oh my god, could you actually imagine that? How cool.' I know my mum, um, she's still got her like wedding dress from the – from the 70s. And it was like a real, you know, one of these, um, real like high – high neck collars and like a bit of a puff sleeve. So actually probably like really, really trendy now. But I think it's about a size ten so there's no chance. I could get it adjusted. I'd have – I could take it to the dressmaker and get it adjusted maybe.

KIRI: Is there an era that you wish you were about in fashion wise?

SIOBHAN: Um, do you know what? Like every single – every single era has got – has got something, hasn't it? So like, you know, if I look back, you know, obviously I live in an art deco house so I love everything that's like, you know, the roaring 20s. And, you know, even just like watching things like, um, Peaky Blinders and Poirot and – and stuff like that, I'm always like mega, mega inspired and just think, 'oh my god, imagine like how –' you know, when you look at like vintage stuff like 20s, 30s, 40s, it just had such a – like a glamorous – that glamorous look, you know? I love like that Hollywood look.

But then, you know, like everything – so like even like in the 70s I kind of love those like whole like big, you know, the big like orange and, um, and red, you know, and brown like – like crazy like psychedelic prints and the flares.

80s power dressing, you know? I was brought up on Dallas and Dynasty so anything with, you know, the shoulder pads and, you know, a cinched-in waist and a peplum and a – and a court shoe and big hair is going to – is going to do it for me.

Um, but yeah. I think – I think you can take bits of inspiration, can't you, from – from all – all eras. But I think definitely living in this house, this is built in like 1936, I think if I could – if I could go back in time for a day or for a few days, I'd probably go back to – go back to that period to kind of see what, you know, what – what people were wearing and all that kind of stuff. And yeah, I should actually recreate that on a photoshoot here, shouldn't I? That should be my next, uh, my next thing. Get some like vintage like 1930s inspired clothing. Um, some like faux fur stoles and, uh, loads of sequins and beads. Yeah, that would be good.

KIRI: Oh, I'd love that. You should borrow – this is, um – this Donald Stanley I've got, is this gorgeous like very like art deco-y, the way – the cut of it as well. I'll post it to you for your photoshoot.

SIOBHAN: Oh my god, I love that.

KIRI: And it's great.

SIOBHAN: And it's like an electric blue, isn't it? That's just like so amazing.

KIRI: Yeah, with like a coppery – yeah, it's really beautiful.

SIOBHAN: Yeah, I love that.

KIRI: Um, so we know your style now and it feels like you've really settled on who you are, um, clothes wise, interior wise, which of course is fashion as well, but do you see your style changing as you get older? Or do you think you're always going to be whacking on a wig, loads of statement pieces, loads of jewellery?

SIOBHAN: I – yeah, I – I can't see me toning down. I think I'll – I think it'll even go the other way. You know, like a bit of an Iris Apfel kind of – kind of character. I think she is just such an icon. Like how amazing. Um, in fact me and Nick have had this conversation before. I'm a massive fan of Vivienne Westwood and I think her kind of style, um, can be worn at any age, you know? Like she's just – like the – the pieces and the cuts and – and the colours and everything and the patterns.

But yeah, Nick, we – me and Nick had this conversation, my husband, the other day, and I was like, 'do you think I'm actually getting like more eccentric as I'm going along?' And he's like, 'yeah, you're just turning into such a crazy cat lady. You're literally going to have like, you know, like wigs on wigs, you know, like 20 necklaces, you know? Like all these – all these bright colours. Probably like 20 cats running – running riot around, um, around the house.' And I was like, 'that sounds perfect to me. Yeah, it – that sounds alright if that's – if that's what retirement's going to look like, then yeah, bring it on.'

So yeah. So yeah, I'm definitely, um, I'm definitely not toning down. Probably just – yeah, probably just amping up. Um, so yeah, you'll see me on the, uh, on the mean streets of Castleford

where I live and it'll be like, 'oh god, yeah, it's her. It's that crazy one from the, uh, from that big white house on the corner. She's a bit weird.'

KIRI: I love it. Is there an item of clothing you could always see yourself wearing?

SIOBHAN: Um, dresses I absolutely love but I think – I think kimonos and caftans are kind of my thing as well because, you know, you – they're so versatile. So you know like you were saying before that, you know, you can just wear something that's quite plain or basic, your jeans, leggings, whatever, and suddenly you throw like a beautiful like vintage silk caftan or a sequin caftan, and suddenly you feel like – oh, you feel like, 'this is the –' you've got superpowers and, you know, you can take on the world. But also, you know, I can – you can wear them over dresses, over, um, over jeans, over trousers and yeah.

So I think caftans are – are my – definitely my thing. And the good thing about them is, again, they're so versatile that you can wear them in the summer or winter, so I even sometimes wear like a nice caftan over a jumper, you know, or like something, you know, just like extra and then belt it. Um, again like in summer they're lovely because you can just float around in them and let – let air get to your, um, get to your skin. And I think you just feel glamorous, don't you? You know, you just feel glamorous when you put something like that on because you kind – it's kind of just a bit free flowing and of a – of a different time I think sometimes. So yeah. I think – I think a caftan or a kimono would be my – my go-to. My go-to piece.

KIRI: Great choice. Absolutely timeless. Um, question that might feel sad now but I think you'll be excited by it. What would you wear to be buried in?

SIOBHAN: Oh my god. Well I wouldn't get buried. I would get – definitely get cremated. But for the purpose of the question, um, I think it would have to be something quite – maybe quite – I don't know. I think it'd have to be quite colourful, really.

And I – I always like these, you know, these, um, funerals nowadays, um, where they say, 'don't wear black. Wear something bright.' Um, we went – we went to one the other day, um, it was Nick's uncle had passed away and, you know, they were giving you a – a beautiful like spring bunch of flowers, you know, to like to – to bring back. And, you know, people wearing like a bit more brighter colours rather than just like black from – black from head to toe, which I do actually love that look, though, can you – you know? Can you imagine like, you know, like some – like a real Sofia haircut, you know? And, you know, the whole like black veil and, you know –

KIRI: Yeah. Veil, yeah.

SIOBHAN: All like – yeah. I absolutely love that look as well, don't get me wrong. But yeah, I think – I think I'd just have to be – yeah, I think I'd have to just be buried in – in my favourite – my favourite caftan, something really bright. Get – stick a wig on there and some, you know, a bright pink lipstick, um, and some – some crazy – some crazy heels. That'll – that'll do for me. Loads of jewellery.

KIRI: I love it. The – the heels that you’ve got that are so high that actually walking in them isn’t that practical, is the perfect thing to be buried in.

SIOBHAN: Doesn’t matter if you’re dead, does it?

[Upbeat electronic music]

KIRI: Oh, Siobhan. What a mega star. I just love her. You know since we chatted and I recorded this episode, I have been sort of actively trying to dress more colourfully. And I’ve had loads of compliments about it. She’s right. People will tell you that you’ve cheered them up. Speaking of lovely compliments, you guys are so lush when it comes to getting in touch and we’ve had some really lovely reviews too. Nice reviews make a big difference as they help people find us.

So thanks to Ali who wrote this review. And they said, ‘a fashion podcast that reminisces about the best and worst fashion trends, that discusses sustainability, that celebrates people rather than unattainable expectations, yes please. For me it’s the stories behind the fashion that make it interesting. The history, the discovery, the shame, the pride. And this podcast delivers that with love and laughter. Thank you, Kiri.’

Well thank you, Ali. What a lovely thing to say. And that’s exactly what I wanted it to be. I was talking about, um, the podcast with a friend the other day who was listening to the edit of the next one while we were working together. And she was like, ‘oh, I don’t really like clothes but this is really interesting.’ She was like, ‘oh, I’ve never thought fashion’s for me.’

I was like, 'it's not that. It's not like a snobby podcast about fashion. It's clothes and we all wear clothes and we all have style and that's what I wanted to celebrate and I wanted to talk about.' Um, there's enough podcasts out there from very, very rich people who have everything and very white talking about fashion. That is not what this is. There's no shade to them, you know. There's people who want to listen to that, I'm just not one of them. Um, if you want to get in contact with us, don't forget you can email whoyouwearingpod@gmail.com.

Now then every week I like to give a shout-out to a small business that I adore. And seeing as we chatted about them on the podcast, let us sing the praises of Love Ur Look. Now you spell the 'your' in that 'ur', so Love Ur Look. Love Ur Look is an online clothing company that uses retro designs and vintage patterns to make the most gorgeous clothes. They are really, really beautiful. And just really fun as well.

So Ronke, the owner, sources end of roll fabric and deadstock material that would often go to landfill sites instead and makes these beautiful, beautiful items of clothing. So the clothes on Love Ur Look, which go up to a 6XL, are also made to order so there's nothing being made just for the sake of it. It's always heading to a specific home. So go and have a nose and see where Siobhan and I have lots of bits and pieces from Ronke over the years. Um, and don't forget the 'your' is spelled 'ur.' I think you'll really love it and you'll definitely see Siobhan on the website.

Next week I am joined by one of my favourite people and favourite comedians, Sara Pascoe, for another great chat. I hope you have a really good week, guys. Bye.

[Upbeat electronic music]

Who Are You Wearing is produced by Jo Southerd, the artwork is by Mari Phillips, and the music is by Ani Glass. This has been a Little Wander production.