Transcript: 21 Revolutions Podcast

Podcast: Heather Middleton's Jigsaw of Doom.

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**Laura Dolan:**

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**Heather Middleton:**

uh I'm Heather Middleton and uh I'm a graphic artist illustrator and a cartoonist growing up kind of 70s and 80s I was reading things like Ginty, Misty, Spellbound um Tammy um and I think everyone always thinks their era was the sort of golden era of girls comics but I I think this really was a really um the the sort of 80s and the DC Thompson IPC stuff was was really good and a bit of a sort of final flourish of girls comics before they just pretty much disappeared um so that's the area I was drawn to and um I'd had a kind of idea in my head for a while um as well to do a comic that was a kind of parody of a typical girls comic um and the the title I had in my head was "Jigsaw of Doom" because it just seemed this it seemed to sum up the sort of ludicrousness of a lot of the uh stories you get in these kind of comics of um you know a serial that runs for six episodes based on some ludicrous premise such as um a girl has a badge making machine and she uses it to solve crime, which is a real comic. um or another one that uh I was aware of was uh a girl whose uh kitchen um is next door to a a sort of cavern that uh local people go into the cavern and tell their problems and somehow amplifies and she can hear all the problems through her kitchen range and she can therefore solve them um so uh I I was always very taken by that those you know the idea of all these sort of adult hacks sitting around in girls uh comic premises trying to think up yet another uh ludicrous story that they could then string out for sort of six episodes um and that was just the kind of thing that appealed to me and I thought it might be fun and quite a sort of light-hearted response to the brief um just to do a kind of fake comic like that so it's a single episode it's like the first episode of Jigsaw of Doom um it's got a kind of two tone uh kind of look to it um I used old dip pens and India ink um for doing the drawings um and even the type face and so on is kind of based on uh the sort of um slightly naff looking DC Thompson uh kind of um type face um from the' 70s and ' 80s um and indeed in the sort of girls and school friend annuals um so it was really good fun to do and it was basically um quite indulgent for me as well because I always kind of regretted that I couldn't um you know when I was reading these things as a kid I couldn't grow up and actually just work for one of these um publishing houses because all those kind of comics had folded by the time I came of age to be able to earn a wage there um so it was really good fun um for me to do and uh I had a a bit of a whale of a time doing it and really enjoying the absurdity and the the the cruelty indeed um that was often in these uh girls comics.

**Laura Dolan**

Heather Middleton's Jigsaw of Doom can be viewed on the Glasgow Women's Library website at Womenslibrary.org.uk just visit the 21 Revolutions podcast page you can also purchase a copy of our 21 Revolutions book which includes Jigsaw of Doom alongside the creative responses by 41 other artists and writers to Glasgow Women's Library archive and collection the book is available from Saturday the 8th of March 2014 at womenslibrary.org.uk

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