Transcript: 21 Revolutions Podcast

Podcast: Kirsty Logan's This is Liberty.

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**Laura Dolan:**

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**Kirsty Logan**

My piece is called "This is Liberty" and I was inspired by a few things. I saw a record cover from this band called Lung Leg which had this badass lady uh wrestler or boxer on the front and I really liked that I wasn't quite sure what I was going to do with it but I knew that I really liked the picture um and then I started to have a look through the archives and I noticed that there were all these old fashion magazines from the 30s to the 50s and there's a writer/artist who I really love called Graham Rawle who used to do the Lost Consonants in the paper and he's also written a few novel length works which are made entirely out of cutout words from magazines which apparently took him seven years or something like that so quite an ambitious project perhaps I didn't really think it through but I thought okay that's what I want to do so I photocopied loads of these 1950s fashion magazines and started to cut words out and put them all together to make a four-page story about a badass lady boxer.

This is "Liberty" by Kirsty Logan

where are your brains dear lady? Satin and Lace are wrong for making a hulking sweaty troublesome man into 2 and half pounds of pickled pork. You are a hell for leather girl now. Forget your charming little frock with the clouded flowers of lace counterpointed by the smallest puff of feathers throw away your princess line corselet with lovely bed jacket to match. Tear up your ultra sheer nylons with the accent on glamour in this season's favoured cognac brown and burn your gayest smallest hat

oh happy lady don't lose sight of the obscure inner working of yourself. The real test is your mother.

"oh suzette" she will say, or Anne or Hazel or Claire "why can't you be a loveable bird a creme puff a dainty handkerchief?"

"you are better at adventures in homemaking and the elegant battery of beauty, fighting is for the working classes and Vogue costs less than a penny a day or a penny half penny by post."

"why beat a highly eligible bachelor when you are designed to knit for him. These civilised men cannot live without cooks."

STOP mother. A hell for leather girl is a daughter always, but there are better ways of doing things. Women everywhere need not kneel at the altar of crepe-mist 'mystic' fancy wool, prize-winning knitting pins and Kellogg's Rice Krispies.

Here’s how Boadicea in all her glory is made.

First things first hurl off your matrons frock, square your shoulders, brush your hair upward, pencil the slant of your eyes up towards the temples, tilt your mouth high at the corners and do not forget that an intelligent woman's face itself is fatal, a jewelled double barrelled mask. Shooting the right look will floor 10 men with a low whine and then a thud as if someone had struck a thick carpet with an old-fashioned cane carpet beater simple speedy and above all successful. When he's lying sprawled and defeated at your feet, Don't Stop. Throw off the shackles of the regular all purpose woman. So comfort giving, so correct, so subtly designed in such soft flexible leather you can avoid being made up tried on criticised and finally approved by everyone.

Dare To Dance a pas de deux of the thuds, shouts, a wild commotion. Not baby knitting and a more digestible pastry but are you still thinking in terms of tiaras? Ask the women of the world how many made to measure baby blue real silk Strawberry Shortcake flower corner mink soft heyday party face dreams come true do not give up Liberty for a stiletto heel and tapered toe.

One problem that I soon discovered was that I had to use quite big text so that it would be readable so I couldn't use the articles I had to just use the headlines or the uh adverts the text from the adverts and the problem that I soon came up against is that there weren't any verbs so there weren't any doing words in the adverts or in the headlines so that was quite hard to put a coherent narrative together with with no verbs you know you can't just just have nouns and adjectives and things like that so so that was quite tricky um so I had to go back to girls annuals so things like the equivalent of Bunty I used to read Bunty when I was a kid but you know the 1950s version of Bunty um and also recipe books and cook books they had lots of verbs in them um by which I concluded that the ideal 1950s female is allowed to do things as a child or as a housewife but then there's this weird in between period where you don't do anything you just are something or you look a particular way but you know there's no action involved which was quite a strange experience but um an enjoyable one and I think I've been thinking a lot lately about my grandmother I'm not quite sure why um but obviously she was around in the '50s that's when she had her sons was in the '50s and so I think when I look at these magazines obviously they're historical documents but I feel I can connect them to my own life and my own history through my grandmother and I often think what what would she have thought of these things did she think that she needed to live by them or did she think that they were all nonsense like hopefully she would now if she saw a fashion magazine so I found that really interesting there was a certain personal journey to it as well because it made me think about my grandmother and how she would feel about it um it's always a pleasure to be involved in the women who work for the Women's Library and the other artists and writers that they got involved I actually can't believe that I'm listed among such huge names it's really an honour so I'm really really proud to be a part of the project and to be included among such brilliant writers and artists whose work I've read I've seen their work in galleries I just think it's amazing um I'm really really proud

**Laura Dolan**

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