

Human Rights – Conversations Across Generations
Episode: A Tribute to Sir Nigel Rodley – Conversation with Lyn Rodley
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Transcript of audio conversation

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 0:04

Hi, welcome to our podcast, Human Rights, Conversations Across Generations. I'm Meredith Lockwood, founder of Lockwood Creative, a purpose-driven creative agency. And I'm here with my dad.

BERT LOCKWOOD 0:16

And I'm Professor Bert Lockwood, the director of the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights at the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 0:27

Together, we are your father-daughter co-hosts.

BERT LOCKWOOD 0:29

For over 50 years, I've had a front-row seat to the evolution of international human rights.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 0:35

And now, we're sharing that expertise with you by connecting to the powerful stories and insights of human rights voices from around the world.

BERT LOCKWOOD 0:43

We bridge the past and the present, making complex human rights issues more approachable and understandable.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 0:50

So, pull up a chair and join our table as we speak with Nobel Peace Prize recipients, political leaders and the world's leading human rights scholars and activists.

Today's episode is deeply personal, as we pay tribute to the life and legacy of our dear friend, and a true titan of international law, the late, the great, Sir Nigel Rodley. It is our privilege to be joined by his wife, our close friend, Lyn Rodley. Nigel's remarkable journey began at New York University in the International Studies Department alongside both my parents. Nigel went on to become a foundational figure at Amnesty International, where he led their legal office for nearly two decades, helping to shape their global campaign against torture. decades, distinguished academic and professor, Nigel co-founded the Human Rights Center at the University of Essex, and dedicated his life to teaching and mentoring students. We welcome

Lyn to our podcast to reflect on Nigel's profound impact not just on the world of human rights, but on all of those who knew him. We miss him dearly.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 2:05

So, of get started, Lyn, we would love to go back in time. love to talk about Nigel, from the

LYN RODLEY 2:12

1970s

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 2:14

in New Um, and, know, talking about, when Nigel went to New York. I believe it was 1971, took off from Canada to New York, where he was the Associate Economic Affairs Officer at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations.

LYN RODLEY 2:32

I think that was an internship at the he had an internship at the UN, and I think that was probably it. Yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 2:39

Okay.

LYN RODLEY 2:40

because we, we had been in Canada. We had been in Halifax, Nova Scotia, because Nigel's first academic job um, an assistant professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. And, he was, gosh, it, it's going, it's such a long time ago, it's hard to remember, but I'm pretty certain that that was when the, the UN, thing.

BERT LOCKWOOD 3:02

I don't think I've ever heard how you and Nigel met.

LYN RODLEY 3:04

Uh, we, we met at a, at a university ball.

BERT LOCKWOOD 3:08

University ball.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 3:09

Wow.

LYN RODLEY 3:10

Yeah, we, we were both at the University of Leeds when, when we were incredibly young,

BERT LOCKWOOD 3:14

Oh, my

LYN RODLEY 3:15

yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 3:15

gosh. Okay.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 3:20

How old were you?

LYN RODLEY 3:21

18.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 3:22

Wow. Wow. How old was Nigel?

LYN RODLEY 3:24

21.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 3:25

Did he ask you to dance?

LYN RODLEY 3:27

Um... It wasn't quite like that. I'm afraid, afraid, I'm afraid what happened doesn't cast a very good light on Nigel. He, he had a car, very few students in Leeds had in those days. And, uh, he offered, I was, I was there with somebody else. I had a date with somebody else and he was there with somebody else. And he invited, uh, my date and me to come back to his, his house. He used to live with his uncle in a rather nice house in Leeds, which is again, something rather different from most, uh, students. And he invited us all to come back for coffee at his house after the ball, uh, as in the early hours of the morning. And, uh, and so we did and we had coffee at, at the, uh, the residence And then, because he was the only one with a car, he took us all home, but he dropped my date first. He dropped his date and my date and, and that just left the two of us.

BERT LOCKWOOD 4:21

his, uh,

LYN RODLEY 4:23

Which is behaviour that I thought was wildly, uh, romantic at the time. I'm not sure if I approve of it now, but we were very young and we didn't have very good manners.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 4:33

I think it's romantic. I think it was meant to be, obviously. Wow.

BERT LOCKWOOD 4:36

Clearly,

LYN RODLEY 4:37

yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 4:38

Clearly.

And, you know for our listeners, we um, Nigel in 2017. Lyn, at that point, how many you, had you been married?

LYN RODLEY 4:48

Uh, actually married. Let's see. We got married in 1967. but we've been living together since 1964. I think it was about 52 years. It was a long time.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 5:00

Wow. And then, so, in the 1960s, you went from England to Canada for the position, at the university.

LYN RODLEY 5:08

Not quite. No, no, we went to New York this is before we were married, we went to New York because Nigel wanted to do a degree at Columbia. uh, In fact, I've got a feeling that it was after he'd done the degree at Columbia that he got an internship at the UN. Then he went to, we went to, um, Halifax, Nova Scotia, um, and then he came back and probably had an actual job at the UN. But I, I just can't remember the details anymore.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 5:34

I think that, I think that makes sense. Cause I know when I was doing my research on Nigel from the seventies into the eighties and nineties, it did say that he was a of political science and a research fellow up until 1972 with New York University. And then that's where and my dad met and

LYN RODLEY 5:53

yeah.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 5:53

then obviously the wonderful friendships with Mohammed, Doug and Tuan

LYN RODLEY 5:57

Mm-hmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 5:57

took off.

BERT LOCKWOOD 5:58

Yeah.

LYN RODLEY 5:58

That sounds right. Yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 6:00

Okay.

LYN RODLEY 6:00

I would actually have to get Nigel's CV out to check all the details, but yeah, that sounds pretty much right.

BERT LOCKWOOD 6:07

But then, then he went straight from, uh, NYU to, Amnesty right.

LYN RODLEY 6:13

Well, he, uh, it wasn't just NYU. He was teaching at the New School for Social Research for some time.

BERT LOCKWOOD 6:18

Oh yes.

LYN RODLEY 6:20

all, all of this is while we're in Manhattan. Um, then we went back to the United Kingdom. Largely I must say, because I wanted to go back. I didn't like life in Manhattan and my parents were getting older and I'm an only child. And I didn't want to, um, you know, be that far away from them. And, and it was incredibly generous of Nigel, in fact, to agree that we would go back because he didn't have anything lined up at He didn't have a job to go to. But the Amnesty job turned up, I think three or four weeks after he, uh, he arrived back. So, you know, it all worked out very well in the end, but it was, was quite a generous gesture on his part uh, be prepared to go back, to the UK without anything lined up beforehand.

BERT LOCKWOOD 7:05

I see. Now, Amnesty must've been very small then.

LYN RODLEY 7:10

It was, it was, it was, I can't remember. I think there were less than 50 people working there uh, that time when Nigel joined and, and he established the legal office. So he was there first. He was actually, I think, originally hired, to be the researcher or whatever the term was for the United States and somewhere else. but, but he very quickly sort of moved in and, and, and, and, and started. And he became their legal officer and set up a legal office. But yes, it was very small. I mean, an awful lot of decisions were made at the Italian restaurant next door to

the Amnesty offices, because it was small enough that the people who made decisions, you know, could, could all go there for dinner and sit around a table and, uh, make Amnesty policy there.

BERT LOCKWOOD 7:58

Very interesting.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 7:59

For our Nigel was a huge part in the development and legacy of Amnesty International today,

LYN RODLEY 8:06

as

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 8:06

which as we know is one of the most well-esteemed global nonprofits, um, that has done so much incredible work and what an honor to be able to remember Nigel and talk about his legacy, um, at International and to know that the early days, and they were sitting in an Italian restaurant, you know, plotting how to be, you know, agents of change to make the world a better place and to see the outcome now.

LYN RODLEY 8:31

Yeah, I mean, it was, it was very good for Nigel in a sense, because I, again, I can't remember the chronology. He was with Amnesty for 17 years. And at some stage, Amnesty had consultative status with the UN. So, as, as the legal officer, Nigel used to attend, uh, meetings in, in, largely in Geneva, I think of the UN. and he, and he, and he could sort of contribute opinion to, things that were being decided about, you know, the wording of treaties and so Um, so, you was, it was Amnesty was, I mean, as well as doing good work in the sense of, uh, raising awareness about political prisoners, it was also a very good base from which to influence, the formation, really, of, um, international human rights.

BERT LOCKWOOD 9:17

Well, and, and frankly, one of, Lyn, one of absolutely essential contributions that Nigel made to the whole development, I think of human rights NGOs, was that, your power emanated from the credibility of your fact-finding,

LYN RODLEY 9:36

Mm-hmm

BERT LOCKWOOD 9:36

that... that there could be nothing that would be more fatal than to be reacting to a situation and put out sloppy work... ...and

LYN RODLEY 9:46

Yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 9:47

then, you know, have... to be corrected, because, you would lose your credibility. and I can remember, at the, uh, memorial conference that we had, uhm, in Cincinnati that... ...Chris Avery, uh, related, an interview... that he had Nigel when he was interviewing for a position in the legal office at Amnesty, Nigel was heading it up, and... and Nigel said to him, there were, uh... three requirements, uh, essential requirements for a human rights lawyer, and they were accuracy, accuracy, and accuracy,

LYN RODLEY 10:30

Yes, yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 10:32

...and, yes. And, you know, that that... that really was something that I think uh, Nigel represented, symbolized, but... but... but really, uhm, an... an... immense contribution, because it's... ...so easy with... with many of these emotional situations that ...are the nature of human rights violations to, uhm,

LYN RODLEY 10:50

And, well, it was important because, I until they had a legal office, I mean, the... the main function of Amnesty was, organizing people to write letters, about particular, uh, political prisoners, you know, urging for... for... for their release... or for their better treatment, and... and... and so on. And so, you know, having a legal office... really brought a new element... ...in Amnesty, um, into Amnesty, and that... that, of course, is... is what gave rise to the... to... to Nigel's, uh, principles of... of... of... being accurate, because, you know, it... it... it... it was important, as... as you say, Bert, you know, to... to get things right, otherwise... your credibility goes down the drain and... and... and... and certainly in those days, Amnesty did have a very high reputation for credibility.

BERT LOCKWOOD 11:32

and... and... and they won the

LYN RODLEY 11:33

it...

BERT LOCKWOOD 11:33

Nobel Peace Prize, right?

LYN RODLEY 11:35

they... they... they won the prize, yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 11:37

Did Nigel go to receive it?

LYN RODLEY 11:38

I... you know, I can't remember. I think... think he did, uhm... and I... I... I think more... more than one person from Amnesty went... ..to get the prize, I...

BERT LOCKWOOD 11:47

Yeah,

LYN RODLEY 11:47

I... can't remember clearly whether he... whether he went.

BERT LOCKWOOD 11:50

okay.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 11:50

And Lyn, during his time with Amnesty, uhm... the... because... I went on to the Amnesty International website... in preparation

LYN RODLEY 11:56

Mm-hmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 11:57

for our... episode and they had just an amazing tribute

LYN RODLEY 12:01

Mm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 12:02

online to... Nigel's role and all that he did... from 1972 to 1990... legal... as head of the legal office... I was curious if you remember any of Nigel's stories, when he went to Guatemala, which would have been in

LYN RODLEY 12:16

... . yeah...

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 12:16

1985...

LYN RODLEY 12:17

I... I... I certainly remember the Guatemala story, uhm... I... because you probably know, or maybe your listeners don't know, but... ..uh... Amnesty used to send out missions to gather information, you know, if they... if they heard... ..about some... something bad happening somewhere, you know, they would... they would send fact-finding... ..uh... missions. And usually the people who went... ..on these missions were the... ..researchers assigned to that particular area ... and it happened that... that the South America... the head of the South

America... .. research department... .. I... I think he was epileptic, or I mean he had... he had some sort of... .. problem that made it very difficult for him to... .. travel by... long distance by... .. plane. Uhm... so... Nigel had very good Spanish... .. uh... so... they sent Nigel instead, and he went with... .. this... .. fact-finding mission... to Guatemala. And there was apparently some... .. incident, they went to visit a prison, and they'd been tipped ... that... .. there... there was some dreadful pit in the ground where... .. prisoners were being kept... uh, they were in the office of the governor of this prison, and Nigel was asking him about this pit where prisoners were kept. And he was saying that it didn't exist and it was all, y know, vicious rumor and all of that. And apparently there were four or five people in the Amnesty team in this room and they were all seasoned fact-finding mission people. and they were getting more and more anxious because they, they could see the body language of, of the, the guards, the armed guards who were in the room with them. And Nigel was apparently completely, just not noticing that this was happening. Nigel just kept on, uh, talk to the, the prison governor in a very sort of diplomatic and, you friendly manner, expressing concern that his job, th prisoner governor's job must be really awfully difficult and, you know, that kind of thing. Until he, he eventually won the guy over and he admitted that this pit did exist. And he took them to see it. Uh, there weren't any prisoners in it at the but anyway, I mean, I was told by other people who were part of this fact-finding, uh, mission, you know, they were all sort of thinking. their past They were flashing before their eyes. And they

BERT LOCKWOOD 14:44
life.

LYN RODLEY 14:44
thought that they thought that they, that this was the end. They'd had it. Um, and, and like,

BERT LOCKWOOD 14:49
they may end up in the

LYN RODLEY 14:50
just

BERT LOCKWOOD 14:50
pit,

LYN RODLEY 14:51
carries on chatting. and I think that was, that was Nigel's method. He was a born diplomat. He was very, very good at being charming, utterly charming to, sometimes to some really dreadful people. and, and as often as not, it worked, you know? So. That's, that's the Guatemala story.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 15:10
Which is a true gift. And, you know, I have an inside look into human rights lawyers and, you know, these incredible persons. And one of our former guests we recently had on, uh, Terry Coonan, who is a leading human rights lawyer. who specializes in trafficking from child

trafficking, sex trafficking, human trafficking. And he, is at Florida State University. And there's many times that he sits across from the Florida governor, and certain Republicans and ultra politicians. And

LYN RODLEY 15:42

Yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 15:42

he says, you just have to be diplomatic.

LYN RODLEY 15:45

Mm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 15:45

You have stay on task, you know, the, they focus. Mm. What they have in common, which is to end trafficking of minors and women and others. Um, and that, that is when he sits across the table and they can agree on everything. And then he just has to diplomatically not think of all the other things that they

LYN RODLEY 16:02

Mm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 16:02

don't have in common. or they will get nothing accomplished. so, and having known Nigel personally, I think the words charming and diplomatic came to mind when I was listening to that story. And I could just picture him talking to that guard. and to give a little more context to our listeners is when Nigel went to Guatemala in 1985 for Amnesty. Guatemala at the time was a military government

LYN RODLEY 16:27

So, um

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 16:28

and they were responsible for large scale disappearances, as well as the executions of suspected subversives, which included killings of entire populations of many indigenous villages. and it's quite sad to think in 2024 that, you know, in certain Latin American countries, there are still huge threats to indigenous communities that are being wiped out for a multitude of reasons. Um, you know, to date, some are for climate and forestry.

LYN RODLEY 16:56

hmm,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 16:57

so amazing that Nigel was part of that, um, to seek justice back then

LYN RODLEY 17:02

Yep.

BERT LOCKWOOD 17:02

uh, Lyn, I, uh, am curious, about when, uh, is the proper way saying it that he was knighted when he became Sir Nigel?

LYN RODLEY 17:11

Yes. he has a knighthood, yes. And, and, and therefore you get called "Sir".

BERT LOCKWOOD 17:15

is there a process that's involved in that or does it come out of the blue?

LYN RODLEY 17:20

Well, somebody has to recommend you to, to the palace,

BERT LOCKWOOD 17:24

And would they seek his approval beforehand? Uh,

LYN RODLEY 17:27

Yes. Yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 17:28

yeah. Okay.

LYN RODLEY 17:29

It was actually the foreign office, the British foreign office that recommended him. so that was a fairly straightforward recommendation. And, um, yes, they, they, I, I believe they always do this. They get in touch with you to find out whether you will accept the knighthood because it's embarrassing for them to publish it and then have somebody say, "I don't want it."

BERT LOCKWOOD 17:53

OK. what I'm, thinking about was that it seemed to me that it could, positively affect, his influence once he became Sir Nigel, that there's a certain prestige or credibility

LYN RODLEY 18:10

Possibly. Yes, possibly. I, I, I don't know. I don't know. Um, it came, the knighthood was in, what, 1998, and I can't remember whether he was still Special Rapporteur on Torture then. I think he was, actually. I don't know whether, you know, having a title impresses prison governors and other people that he had to, uh, rub up against. I don't know.

BERT LOCKWOOD 18:34

Well, I, I, I can, I can relate what occurred in Cincinnati, it was when, Bush was running for, I think re-election against Gore. And I invited, uh, Nigel to come to Cincinnati um,

LYN RODLEY 18:50

uh, u, mm-hmm,

BERT LOCKWOOD 18:51

in, in,

LYN RODLEY 18:51

yeah,

BERT LOCKWOOD 18:51

in the fall, and he responded that he couldn't possibly in the fall, but he'd be happy to come in the spring. because of his schedule And I responded to him I regretted it because, we had this presidential election coming up and, uh, torture had become, uh, an

LYN RODLEY 19:08

Oh,

BERT LOCKWOOD 19:09

issue

LYN RODLEY 19:09

y.

BERT LOCKWOOD 19:09

and that,that the state of Ohio was going to decide the election it was the key state that decided. and I, I really wanted him to speak and he, emailed me and that he didn't know if I was serious or not. But if I thought that he could affect the election, he would redo his schedule, which he did. And he came over in October. And so I had him on uh, television. Um, it was a, broadcast it was very popular in the Cincinnati area on Sunday mornings. and it was an hour long program, but we had half an hour and I can

LYN RODLEY 19:51

um,

BERT LOCKWOOD 19:51

remember going in, and the other half hour, people were from like, a local school board election, on. uh, so when as we were waiting before we were interviewed, um, you know, I introduced him Sir Nigel Rodley and you could just sort of see the awe on these people. And what it was that said, oh, I've never met a knight before. You know, uh, and so we did that you know, and he did a presentation at the law school and stuff. And then on election night, as it became clear that,Ohio was going to decide the election. I emailed Nigel and I said to him, uh,

just in case he, doubted my credibility that, you know, it was coming down and Ohio was going to decide it. And a number of hours later after, the results, were indicating that it was going to where Bush, emailed me and he that he guessed he had failed and I responded and said, yes, he was responsible for Bush being president.

well,

LYN RODLEY 20:59

I mean, presumably this was, this was around about the time when there was very great concern about the way that the prisoners were treated in Guantanamo Bay. You know, the whole business of special measures or special techniques or something like that, yes, I remember he, Nigel, and a lot of other people were extremely concerned about that.

BERT LOCKWOOD 21:21

yeah, it was the post 9/11, and

LYN RODLEY 21:23

Yes,

BERT LOCKWOOD 21:24

there were a number

LYN RODLEY 21:24

y

BERT LOCKWOOD 21:24

of the detention centers. And they these lawyers in the Bush thing that were trying to suggest that the reason for some of these things is that the definition of torture was fuzzy, and you know, there wasn't

LYN RODLEY 21:38

Yes,

BERT LOCKWOOD 21:38

really a context

LYN RODLEY 21:39

yeah.

BERT LOCKWOOD 21:39

that, you know. Enhanced techniques.

LYN RODLEY 21:42

Enhanced, yes that's right,

BERT LOCKWOOD 21:44

yeah, and so that's what I wanted Nigel to come and basically, refute

LYN RODLEY 21:49

yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 21:50

that it was not a problem determining what constituted torture.

LYN RODLEY 21:54

yeah.

BERT LOCKWOOD 21:54

So,

LYN RODLEY 21:55

I think that issue wasn't really settled until the Obama administration, wasn't it?

BERT LOCKWOOD 22:01

Yeah, is it? I don't know if it's still settled.

LYN RODLEY 22:04

Oh, you think it, you think it's still going, yes, yeah.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 22:09

just to, to fact check, because we know how important it is for accuracy these days. The Bush re-election was Kerry, not Gore. So that was Bush's first election.

BERT LOCKWOOD 22:18

Oh, okay. thank you.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 22:20

no problem, Dad. No problem. Just don't want people to call us out. Got to make sure we got our facts right. We know people really like to do that. We know people really like to do that, and our podcast is

LYN RODLEY 22:28

good

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 22:28

going to have a comments section.

LYN RODLEY 22:30

good for you. Oh, good for you, Meredith.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 22:32

Thanks, Lyn. I'm trying.

And then, Dad. I'd be remiss if I don't take a quick second tell our listeners about your first memory of meeting Sir Nigel. Sir Nigel. Actually, wait, I'm going to pause that question. Lyn, if you bear with us Americans for a second, I have to ask an American question, as we don't have a monarch, and I only know a lot about the monarch from Bridgerton.

LYN RODLEY 22:57

Oh,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 22:58

right.

LYN RODLEY 22:58

no.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 22:58

I know. And also, you know, like I've seen the amazing ceremonies where the royalty of actors, you know, get knighted and, you know, from Sir Ian McClellan, or

LYN RODLEY 23:08

Yes,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 23:08

Dame Judi Dench or Maggie Smith. in my eyes, when I'm picturing Nigel get knighted, I'm imagining him at Buckingham Palace meeting the queen and, you know, in a beautiful suit and dress. Did you guys get to go to Buckingham Palace with the

LYN RODLEY 23:24

Well,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 23:24

queen?

LYN RODLEY 23:28

oh, dear me. Oh, dear me. Yes, I was very, very proud of Nigel for getting his knighthood, but I was not very impressed with Buckingham Palace. So, for a start, when we got the letter saying what day he was going to be invested with his honour, it was on a horrible little piece of paper that was obviously a sort of form letter that was sent out, but it was very scruffy. it said in bold type, under no circumstances may you bring more than three guests, you know, it was really a very, I thought it was not very polite. But anyway, three guests and Nigel, four of us, went. they

put the guests the room where it all happens, two hours before anything happened, with no refreshments of any kind. We were there, we were there all morning. But we

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 24:16

No

LYN RODLEY 24:16

were there all morning

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 24:17

tea?

LYN RODLEY 24:17

and nobody offered so much as a glass of water to any of the guests who there to see their loved ones knighted. And I'm afraid as I left Buckingham Palace, I thought, I hope that nobody who comes to my house ever feels as unwelcome as I feel here. So you can hear I'm not a monarchist.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 24:38

Oh, well, likewise over here on the American side. I mean, that's why we left, right? Well, and I can attest that Lord Nelson House,

LYN RODLEY 24:51

House,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 24:51

you will...

LYN RODLEY 24:51

yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 24:52

never... arrive at the house without an offer of a cup of tea, some... biscuits and scones. So, I feel better treated at Fingering Ho than... I've only seen Buckingham Palace probably from the gates at this point,

LYN RODLEY 25:05

Yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 25:05

but I had to ask because on television, it looks like a very posh ceremony and celebration.

LYN RODLEY 25:12

It is. Oh, it is. I mean, there's nothing wrong with the building, I'm afraid. It's the people in it that I was not very pleased with.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 25:20

May I ask who the other two guests were?

LYN RODLEY 25:22

Uh, Nigel has a cousin, actually she now lives in Australia. Nigel's father as you know was killed in the, in the war, and Nigel was more or less raised by his uncle Maurice, and it was uncle Maurice's widow and her daughter who came with me, so we were the three guests.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 25:41

Oh, wonderful.

BERT LOCKWOOD 25:41

I'm, I'm remembering, um, as you, as you were talking Meredith, uh, about the, uh, difference England and, uh, the, the U. S. I can remember, during that, television interview in Cincinnati, that the interviewer, read to Nigel some statement from the Bush administration. Again, it was sort of dealing with the question of the definition of torture being vague. Nigel responded, oh, that's rubbish.

not a term that we, you know, in England, that probably, gone in and out. But because it's not a term that we're familiar with here, it had a particular I think effect, that was colorful and memorable.

LYN RODLEY 26:27

Yes. You don't say rubbish, do you? You say garbage.

BERT LOCKWOOD 26:33

Yeah.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 26:33

Garbage. Trash. Yeah.

Yeah, well, when I first moved, I always found it really confusing for our car. The back of our car is the trunk.

LYN RODLEY 26:44

Yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 26:44

And people would say, oh, can you please put that in the boot?

LYN RODLEY 26:46

The

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 26:46

And I'm

LYN RODLEY 26:46

boot,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 26:46

like,

LYN RODLEY 26:47

yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 26:47

what? What

LYN RODLEY 26:48

use?

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 26:49

shoe do they Forgot my boots? Yeah, that was tricky. Yes. And, you know, Lyn, a memory I when we were over in England for Christmas one

LYN RODLEY 26:59

Oh,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 26:59

year, as you know, we came

LYN RODLEY 27:00

yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 27:00

over to Christmas. And got to celebrate Christmas with you, Nigel. My brother got us tickets to see Hamilton. So my dad, my mom, Lyn, Courtney, my sister, and I got to go to the West End and see which was just phenomenal. You know, Lyn, Manuel, Miranda is so talented.

LYN RODLEY 27:19

I've still not seen that. I've still not seen it.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 27:22

Lyn, you should see it. I mean, my dad and I have different reviews. We'll talk about how Bert didn't really follow the rapping. But what was so unique is, you know, Lin-Manuel wrote it for an American audience for

LYN RODLEY 27:36

Mm-hmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 27:36

Broadway. And then it became an international So they brought it over to the West End.

LYN RODLEY 27:41

Mm-hmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 27:42

And being an American in the audience on the West End, and it was a British cast. Well, Lin-Manuel thought it would be funny to make the king a bigger role for the West

LYN RODLEY 27:54

Mm-hmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 27:54

End. With him a bit more and make him quite comical. And so a lot of the jokes that they're making about the king and how, you know, we left because of the monarch and the government, separation of church and state. Many of the jokes landed with the American audience members. And I could look around and tell you that some monarch loyalists were not happy with how they were making the king out to be. So and then I came back and told my friends. I have some friends who are actors and on Broadway. And I told them what it was like seeing Hamilton in London. And they just thought it was fascinating. And they're like, oh, we didn't even think about that juxtaposition.

LYN RODLEY 28:32

Mm-hmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 28:33

Yeah. Dad, I don't think it was your favorite show we've seen on Broadway or the West End.

BERT LOCKWOOD 28:38

I think that was true, Meredith.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 28:41

We did see Motown and Motown was

BERT LOCKWOOD 28:44

Yeah.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 28:44

more

BERT LOCKWOOD 28:44

Yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 28:44

up to your speed, Dad. You really enjoyed that one. Yeah. But to circle back, I would love to, to hear a story from the NYU days and how you remember meeting Nigel.

BERT LOCKWOOD 28:58

I don't know if I have a story, Meredith, from the NYU days. I suspect that Nigel had a similar thing, and Lyn may know this. I think probably the most brilliant person that I've ever dealt with was Tom Franck,

LYN RODLEY 29:15

Oh, yes. Tom was a great friend.

BERT LOCKWOOD 29:18

who was a Canadian buddy was a law professor at NYU and the head of the center. the center was a very special place , having its own townhouse at 6 Washington Square, and, it was a small group of probably a total of 20 people. Some were senior fellows in research, and others were PhD and graduate students. Mm-hmm . . . and, we, we became very, very close, during that time, but there were just, they were just wonderful people, uh, associated with it. I know I have said over time that probably if I had to identify three years of my life where I thought I had the most, personal growth, that was, um, going to that NYU center when I basically was a country kid in New York City, seemed to be

LYN RODLEY 30:15

Yeah.

BERT LOCKWOOD 30:15

. . . . dirty, big, intimidating, and, uh, actually started going there and doing, doing well. But it was clearly, partly because of the, the people that were, uh, the people that were there and, in, in, including Nigel, i made it a very, uh, special place.

LYN RODLEY 30:30

Yeah. No, Tom, Tom Franck was, was a remarkable person.

BERT LOCKWOOD 30:34

and, uh, years later, Lyn, and I don't know if you know this I, I discovered it, I think a number of years after it actually happened, but he ended up getting married to a guy.

LYN RODLEY 30:46

Yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 30:48

Well, I think, and I don't think they were in New York. I think they lived California or someplace, u, I believe.

LYN RODLEY 30:54

Oh, really? I don't. Well, I don't remember that because we saw Tom and his partner, very shortly before Tom died.

BERT LOCKWOOD 31:02

Oh, okay. Well, your, your memory I think is, is better than mine because I, I never met,

LYN RODLEY 31:08

Martin, Martin, it was his partner's name, Martin. I can't remember his second name, but, uh, but yeah, I mean, Tom was already very seriously ill and, and, uh, w managed to have dinner in a restaurant. Martin drove him there. but, uh, you know, he, he died very, oh, a matter of weeks, I think, after we saw him.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 31:30

Well, speaking of friendships, I think it's pretty incredible that. Dad, you and Nigel, um, until we lost Nigel in 2017, stayed very good friends with the NYU

LYN RODLEY 31:41

Yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 31:42

crew of Mohammed and Doug Muzo. Um, and then we had Tuan as well. And we, you know, lost Tuan in recent years. but on the friendship theme, the next topic we'd love to talk about Kevin Boyle.

LYN RODLEY 31:56

Mm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 31:56

And we will, um, be interviewing Joan,

LYN RODLEY 32:00

Kevin. Uh-huh.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 32:01

coming up. She's been

LYN RODLEY 32:02

very.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 32:02

also

LYN RODLEY 32:03

Mm-hmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 32:03

grace us

LYN RODLEY 32:03

To

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 32:03

with her presence, um, to honor the legacy of Kevin.

LYN RODLEY 32:07

Mm-hmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 32:07

and for our listeners, Kevin Boyle, was really the legal, I think a great comparison is the Martin Luther King Jr. of Northern Ireland civil rights.

LYN RODLEY 32:16

Mm-hmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 32:16

He also worked at the NGO Article 19, which focused on freedom of speech.

LYN RODLEY 32:20

Mm-hmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 32:21

And then after that, he went to Essex University. and Lyn, my dad and I were curious if you could tell us how Nigel and Kevin, came to the University of Essex and also helped establish the Human Rights Law Center there, which was founded by Malcom Shaw.

LYN RODLEY 32:38

Yeah, it was, it was really Kevin. Kevin was at the University of Galway. And, and he, I understand, I, I mean, Joan can, corroborate or, or, or correct this. But Kevin came to the University of Essex, uh, really in order to establish the Human Rights Center there. And once he was there, um, he wanted Nigel to come. and so Nigel did, essentially. I mean, it was not, not

quite as simple as that, but, um, but, but, but Nigel went to the Human Rights Center in Essex because Kevin was there.

BERT LOCKWOOD 33:11

do you remember how they met?

LYN RODLEY 33:14

How Kevin and Nigel met? Well, no, no, I don't. I don't know. I mean, Kevin was not really on the international scene the way Nigel was.

BERT LOCKWOOD 33:23

Well, he went from, uh, Galway, and he became the head of a new NGO called Article 19 in London,

LYN RODLEY 33:32

Yes,

BERT LOCKWOOD 33:33

and, and-

LYN RODLEY 33:33

yeah.

BERT LOCKWOOD 33:34

And Salman Rushdie was one of his, uh, clients.

LYN RODLEY 33:36

That's right.

BERT LOCKWOOD 33:37

And so I think- ... gave him, uh, a greater visibility, if you will,

LYN RODLEY 33:42

Yes,

BERT LOCKWOOD 33:42

uh,

LYN RODLEY 33:43

yes,

BERT LOCKWOOD 33:43

internationally. they were both in London. I thought that might have been when they, they met

LYN RODLEY 33:48

No, I- I really, I- I must ask Joan, I must ask Joan how they met. I, I- I, um, I don't remember

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 33:55

And then, Dad, you joined University of Essex when we moved over there as a family in- the first time was 1994.

BERT LOCKWOOD 34:02

Yeah.

LYN RODLEY 34:03

Yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 34:04

I- I did a sabbatical, I- I believe.

LYN RODLEY 34:06

That's right. Well, I- I- I sort of- I- I- yeah, I- uh, uh, Nigel came to Essex in 1990, but we didn't actually move there until '95 because, um, you know, our home was in London, and my mother, my widowed mother was in London, and I didn't feel that I could leave London.

BERT LOCKWOOD 34:25

I Well, and- and- and weren't you working in a museum?

LYN RODLEY 34:29

Uh, no, I was, uh, running a thing called the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, which is attached to London University, at the time. my- my mother died, and then- and then we decided, you know, that we could move- uh, my- my main, job was teaching. I was- I was working for the Open University. Uh, and, uh, that's a portable, thing, because even in those days, a lot of it was done on computer. so once my mother was no longer an issue, we decided that we have our home in Colchester so that's what we did. so- so I- I arrived, to live in Colchester in '95. That's when we bought a house there. But before that, you know, I was- I was coming down most weekends.

BERT LOCKWOOD 35:13

Do I not recall, Lyn you- you had an expertise in- is it medieval art, Turkey?

LYN RODLEY 35:20

No, but Byzantine

BERT LOCKWOOD 35:21

art. Byzantine art. Okay, okay,

LYN RODLEY 35:23

Byzantine art.

BERT LOCKWOOD 35:25

okay.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 35:25

And Lyn, where in Colchester was your house?

LYN RODLEY 35:28

We had a house pretty much next door to the garrison, actually. Um,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 35:32

Okay.

LYN RODLEY 35:32

uh, just- just- it was 12 minutes walk from the High Street

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 35:35

Okay. So, that was near Kevin and Joan's

LYN RODLEY 35:39

No, no, Kevin and Joan lived in Wivenhoe which is across the.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 35:43

Oh, okay.

LYN RODLEY 35:44

River, you know, where the university is. And- and then, I- I can't remember when, but they um, to, uh, house- Actually, in Colchester.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 35:53

Yeah, 'cause that's the house we moved into in 2002 when we came back and Kevin went to work with Mary Robinson.

LYN RODLEY 36:00

Yes. Oh, right. That was the one on

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 36:02

Yeah.

LYN RODLEY 36:02

Creffield Road.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 36:03

Yes. Yes. Y, very special to us.

LYN RODLEY 36:06

Yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 36:06

We- I mean, what a beautiful home we were welcome to

LYN RODLEY 36:10

Yeah, it was

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 36:10

when-

LYN RODLEY 36:10

a nice house. It was a nice A beautiful

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 36:11

house, better cool. Yeah. It's so easy to walk to and from, um, town,

LYN RODLEY 36:17

Yeah.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 36:17

and- Courtney and I went to St. Benedict's, um, which, you know, we didn't know much about and once I acclimated more and got to know the student body, looking back now as an adult, I realized that St. Benedict's was more of a commuter school.

LYN RODLEY 36:33

And

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 36:35

so when I, when we would have friends, you know, walk from St. Benedict's into town to hang out after school, I was year 11. I guess there had been a rumor mill that my sister and I were not aware of, um, that our, like, close friends ended up telling us is, I guess, the Creffield Road house, everyone thought we were such posh Americans because it was posh

LYN RODLEY 36:55

such

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 36:55

house.

LYN RODLEY 36:55

a

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 36:56

And everyone thought we were so fancy. And Courtney and I had no idea, you know, it wasn't our house. It was the Boyles' house and it was absolutely beautiful. But yes.

LYN RODLEY 37:05

He

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 37:05

Lovely

LYN RODLEY 37:05

was a

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 37:06

house.

LYN RODLEY 37:06

nice

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 37:06

So, yes,

LYN RODLEY 37:06

house.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 37:06

we had a reputation that we were fancy Americans at St. Benedict's. And I was like, sure, we'll, we'll take it. Why not?

LYN RODLEY 37:13

I keep, I keep forgetting how young you are, Meredith. Yeah. Children at the time. Amazing.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 37:18

Yeah. I was 15, um, and Courtney was 16, when we went to St. Benedict's.

LYN RODLEY 37:22

Benedict's

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 37:22

St. And it was an thing because we don't look anything alike. Um, but we were in the same year. So my classmates could not think we were twins. Happened to be ... Well, Dad, it was something ... I was year 11. That was correct for me. But Courtney couldn't go to six ... Because

it just didn't work with our high school credits and transferring back home at the end of the school year. So we ended up being the same year at St. Benedict's, and people were quite perplexed for a little bit, but it ended up being really nice to have my sister and, you know, an ally in school. Because it was a bigger culture shock than I thought, because we'd already had done it when I was in second grade, Courtney was in

LYN RODLEY 38:01

Hmmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 38:01

third grade. But I think just being, you know, a teenager was just a bit different. But it was so embarrassing, because I remember the first week of school, the only questions we got asked Lyn were about the Simpsons, that cartoon. Friends, and if we ate hot dogs all the time. Is that really what you think of America? Granted, Bush was our president. At the time, so ... You know, he was choking on pretzels and whatnot, so we didn't have a lot to go for us.

LYN RODLEY 38:29

Mm-hmm.

BERT LOCKWOOD 38:29

good ... If I sort of add to the humor of the, uh, situation is, Nigel and Kevin contacted me, and, Mary

LYN RODLEY 38:40

...

BERT LOCKWOOD 38:40

Robinson

LYN RODLEY 38:40

Mm-hmm.

BERT LOCKWOOD 38:40

had I wanted Kevin to be her senior assistant for her last year ...

LYN RODLEY 38:48

That's right, yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 38:48

That's the High Commissioner for Human Rights. And Nigel was scheduled to go on sabbatical.

And, for some reason they decided that the only way that that could happen is if they could persuade me to come and take both their places for the year at ...here Essex and ...

LYN RODLEY 39:06

Both, both whose

BERT LOCKWOOD 39:07

...

LYN RODLEY 39:07

places, Kevin's and... who's

BERT LOCKWOOD 39:08

And, and, and, and, an Nigel's, 'cause Nigel was going to be on sabbatical. so, so I responded that there was no that I could take the whole year but that.

LYN RODLEY 39:17

Mm-hmm.

BERT LOCKWOOD 39:19

I could do the spring semester plus the summer. So, you know, would work out that way.

LYN RODLEY 39:27

Mm-hmm.

BERT LOCKWOOD 39:29

So, Nigel re-did whatever he,

LYN RODLEY 39:31

...

BERT LOCKWOOD 39:32

his part ... the sabbatical that, that was going to work out. And I was trying to find a place, ... from Cincinnati to get the, girls in school. And, uh, I can remember we were so frustrated because the ... Colchester schools were telling us that had to apply on this particular green cover paper that's all they would accept. I mean, it was, it was, it was such a bureaucratic thing. And I was at this, international meeting ...

LYN RODLEY 40:04

...

BERT LOCKWOOD 40:06

that

Bill Butler, my, my mentor, uh, had convened and ... Mm-hmm. . before the meeting began, there was a representative from, uh, Ireland that was there. And, uh, I just making, small talk and I said to her, you know, by any chance do know Kevin Boyle, and she said, uh, no, but I'm

going to meet him. Uh, I'm having lunch with him in Geneva next week. And I said, oh, you know, I'm going to be, uh, taking his place, for the know, but I'm at the moment, I'm having trouble, uh, finding a school for, my kids. And she said, oh, my brother's a principal in Colchester.

LYN RODLEY 40:48

...

BERT LOCKWOOD 40:49

at this, you know, Catholic, uh, school. And, that's how it came an Courtney and Meredith were sort of, uh, treated as royalty, uh, when they, when they, they first went. But,

LYN RODLEY 41:01

uh,

BERT LOCKWOOD 41:01

that was just a wonderful, experience. I fell in love with Colchester.

LYN RODLEY 41:06

Yeah. Well, that's small-town life for you.

BERT LOCKWOOD 41:08

Yes.

LYN RODLEY 41:09

Yes. Everybody, everybody knows everybody.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 41:11

It's

LYN RODLEY 41:12

not quite, but, but it, it can help.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 41:14

Yeah. It

LYN RODLEY 41:14

Yeah

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 41:15

was very interesting to, head, head master Whelan, I think is what the,

BERT LOCKWOOD 41:18

That's his

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 41:18

the

BERT LOCKWOOD 41:18

name.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 41:19

title. Al, well, Alan Whelan, but head master was new to us. You know, we say principal in the Um, but

LYN RODLEY 41:25

Yes, headmaster.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 41:25

he could not have been a more gracious, you know,

LYN RODLEY 41:27

uh,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 41:28

headmaster, um, and, It was very kind of him is Courtney and I learning Spanish at the time and- they only had French and German at St. Benedict's and he allowed us to find a Spanish tutor to come in, um, just for Courtney and I and have private Spanish tutoring sessions. Um,

LYN RODLEY 41:47

Mm-hmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 41:47

I wish I could say that helped us become bilingual.

BERT LOCKWOOD 41:49

Yeah, I was gonna say it. It sure worked.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 41:52

Hey, I, I'm very good at reading and writing, it's just when the speed of Spanish gets a little ahead of me.

LYN RODLEY 42:01

a little- I think, I think it's extremely difficult to be, you know, truly bilingual unless you start very early in life, you know, as a

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 42:08

Absolutely.

LYN RODLEY 42:08

child. And I have, I share your problem. I can, I can read, uh, about five languages fairly well, but I, I can't really have a decent conversation, you know, a serious intellectual conversation in any of them.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 42:22

I mean, but that alone, I mean, five languages. Absolutely incredible. Um, we were, we were talking to Cees Flinterman. in Maastricht, Netherlands, for our listeners, You know,

LYN RODLEY 42:32

Mm-hmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 42:33

Cees, so humble and modest, you know, as a Dutch person, he speaks five to six languages. and my dad and him met at University of Virginia back in the sixties. and yeah, it is, you know, it's just so different too, when you're in a different culture and the emphasis is on language, um, here in the States, you know, it's really, you just learn one language.

LYN RODLEY 42:50

Well, but that's the same in Britain. I mean, you know, we, we are, we are very, very insular, you know, uh, we, we, we don't generally have a second language at all. you know, if go onto the continent, you know, it's, uh, it' quite normal for people to have one or two or three languages. we, we don't really do it.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 43:07

It's a shame because, you know, um, unfortunately I can't say you're in the EU anymore. a, we'll have you back on for that, Lyn. Let's have a Brexit conversation one day.

LYN RODLEY 43:16

Well, you know, you know, we've just had an election. I mean, I think this is one of the few bits of really good news that has come out of the United Kingdom for, for some time. You know, we, we've now got a Labour government, u, and I'm incredibly relieved about that. And I hope that they um, they probably won't sort of announce next week that we're going to reapply for, for membership of the European Union. But I think that Keir Starmer is extremely good at, he's rather like Nigel. He's very good at doing things diplomatically. And I think he will work out ways of linking us more closely to Europe. Um, and, and who knows, you know, in a few years, maybe we will actually rejoin.

BERT LOCKWOOD 43:55

did Nigel know him? I, the, the

LYN RODLEY 43:56

Yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 43:56

reason I ask is I, I saw he was identified as a former Lawyer.

LYN RODLEY 44:03

uh, they were both, um, there's a, you probably know, Bert, there's a chambers, uh,

BERT LOCKWOOD 44:07

Yeah.

LYN RODLEY 44:07

which means, uh, you know, a place where barristers work, um, called Doughty Street Chambers. and Doughty Street Chambers is a famous human rights. Law center, really. You they do a lot of human rights work. And Nigel had, uh, I, I don't know exactly what his status was with them, but he was part of the chambers and so was Keir Starmer.

BERT LOCKWOOD 44:29

Oh,

LYN RODLEY 44:29

So they did know each other, uh, probably not very well, but they did know each other. Yeah.

BERT LOCKWOOD 44:33

interesting

LYN RODLEY 44:34

Nigel thought he was extremely good. he was, he very keen on, on having Keir Starmer leading the Labour Party

BERT LOCKWOOD 44:41

Well, great. Well, they, it was quite a landslide victory.

LYN RODLEY 44:44

Oh, it was wonderful. It

BERT LOCKWOOD 44:46

yeah.

LYN RODLEY 44:46

was absolutely wonderful. Yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 44:49

It gives us a little hope for our US November election.

LYN RODLEY 44:53

Oh, well, yes. I mean, you know, I'm afraid in recent years, you know, we have seen sort of political collapse from the point of view of the left wing or from liberals or anything. And it was just wonderful to see the labor party doing so well, you know, they've wiped out the Scottish nationalists in Scotland. So they are back in the fold. Um, I mean, the Scots are back in the fold. So yeah, it was good.

BERT LOCKWOOD 45:15

Lyn,

LYN RODLEY 45:15

good.

BERT LOCKWOOD 45:15

I miss you

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 45:17

Likewise. And Lyn, I, my, I was boasting to my dad that I was excited that the Green Party got four seats.

LYN RODLEY 45:23

Yes. No, I'm, I'm all for, I'm all for the green party having, having a bigger presence.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 45:28

I was, yes. I mean, and a lot of my, you know, the, the millennials, that I'm friends with and, you know, follow in the news, the green party, um, it was a big victory. You know, people are like, well, it's only four. And I was like, but if you knew the history, that's a, that's a pretty big victory for the green.

LYN RODLEY 45:45

yes, They did

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 45:45

and Lyn, I wanted to ask you

LYN RODLEY 45:47

well.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 45:47

because You and Nigel on a personal you know, your cats, are very beloved for you and had, you've had cats throughout the years. there's been a cat that's gone viral in America.

LYN RODLEY 45:57

Oh really?

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 45:58

We're trying to follow and understand who Larry the Cat is on

LYN RODLEY 46:01

Uhm,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 46:01

Dowling street. Downing Street, so I, I believe, if, if, if I'm correct, his, his official title is Chief Mouser

LYN RODLEY 46:10

Yes,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 46:10

to

LYN RODLEY 46:11

probably.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 46:11

the Cabinet Office?

LYN RODLEY 46:12

Probably, probably, yes, yes. I expect

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 46:15

So.

LYN RODLEY 46:15

so.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 46:16

So, Downing Street just um, a, a cat that comes to, um, help keep the, the rodents away,

LYN RODLEY 46:21

Yes,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 46:21

that, this is totally true?

LYN RODLEY 46:22

yes, yes, I'm, I'm sure that's right.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 46:25

Okay. Like, it's gone totally viral here in America, where you're, oh, like, there' Larry, and I was like, I need to ask Lyn, she'll know.

And so, one story I did want to mention on a personal note, also with Nigel, and Lyn, I'm curious if you'll remember this, I think, you know, because went, went through the pandemic, my memory just has been hazier than normal. Um, but, uh, years of but, when we had Christmas at your house with you and Nigel, it was such a wonderful evening

LYN RODLEY 46:56

Mm-hmm.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 46:56

and celebration. You guys are just truly the best hosts. I remember there was a guest who had hurt his back. He like, a displaced disc, and

LYN RODLEY 47:06

Oh.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 47:06

his back had been... And he had been sitting up for some time, and he had realized how much his back was hurting, and had asked Nigel if it would be wildly impolite for him to lay on the floor

LYN RODLEY 47:19

Oh, no, you're thinking of, you're thinking of Chris Avery, and that... In Colchester. No, that was a long time ago in London.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 47:26

So, that was a story that we heard, I heard, when we did the Urban

LYN RODLEY 47:30

No,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 47:30

Morgan

LYN RODLEY 47:30

that, that was, that was Chris Avery, uh, who, of course, was Nigel's assistant

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 47:34

okay.

LYN RODLEY 47:34

at the Amnesty Legal Office. And, and, and, and, and, yes, we fed him, we fed him dinner lying on the floor, yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 47:44

And I did, like, Chris Avery just told that story so well, so that was at the Urban Morgan we had the conference to honor Nigel in Cincinnati.

LYN RODLEY 47:52

That's right, yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 47:53

Oh, my gosh, but he was such a good storyteller, because it's just so Nigel.

LYN RODLEY 47:57

That was a wonderful occasion, by the way. The Cincinnati conference was a brilliant occasion. That was really fantastic.

BERT LOCKWOOD 48:05

Well, Lyn, I was in Beijing,

LYN RODLEY 48:07

Mm-hmm.

BERT LOCKWOOD 48:08

when... And, um,

LYN RODLEY 48:11

But you came to visit him, you know,

BERT LOCKWOOD 48:12

Yes.

LYN RODLEY 48:12

that meant such a lot, Bert, Bert. It really did. it was an amazing visit.

BERT LOCKWOOD 48:17

And, frankly, that's why I was uh, Beijing, because

LYN RODLEY 48:20

Uh-huh.

BERT LOCKWOOD 48:21

Nigel said to me... I, I had told him that I had gotten this invitation to

LYN RODLEY 48:26

Yeah.

BERT LOCKWOOD 48:27

teach at the China University Science and Law, but that I really didn't have time to do it. He had just come back from there,

LYN RODLEY 48:35

Yeah, that's right, yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 48:37

and... ..and said to you know, it really was important, please, uh, please do it. So, I, that, that was the reason I was there.

LYN RODLEY 48:45

Mm-hmm

BERT LOCKWOOD 48:45

But, um ...when I learned that he had passed, I, from the hotel contacted, Paul Hoffman, um, and suggested that we do a conference in Cincinnati in honor of, uh,

LYN RODLEY 48:58

A huh,

BERT LOCKWOOD 48:59

Nigel.

LYN RODLEY 48:59

mm,

BERT LOCKWOOD 49:01

I basically, like in two days, from emailing people from, Beijing about the conference, it all came together. I mean,

LYN RODLEY 49:13

Yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 49:14

...and, and what was remarkable is people paid their own way. and, uh... ..I said I'd be glad to host it. I, I didn't have the, uh, funds, to, you know, pay for everyone's coming, but it was the, the response. I mean, everyone wanted to recognize.

LYN RODLEY 49:33

Yeah. Oh, that was wonderful. I didn't, I didn't know that. That was a detail I didn't know, that they paid their own way.

BERT LOCKWOOD 49:39

Yeah. It was, it was very special.

LYN RODLEY 49:42

Yes, it was, it was wonderful. I, I, I can, I can still remember the last session, Tom Farer, uh, talki about being, a human rights warrior.

Have you heard anything from Tom Farer lately, by the way?

BERT LOCKWOOD 49:56

Well, I I was going to say strange. it, it sounded to me like, I mean, he's basically was saying that he was getting old and he was retiring.

LYN RODLEY 50:08

Yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 50:08

But it sounded as if, some of his faculties may be, uh,

LYN RODLEY 50:12

Yes, well, I was afraid of something like that because usually, you know, we usually have an exchange of emails and things around Christmas time. And, this year he communicate with me. His daughter did and said that her parents were getting older or something like that. But, uh, I did wonder.

BERT LOCKWOOD 50:32

yes, I suspect that's what it is, cuz he more or less sort of signaled that, uh, he wasn't available to do anything.

LYN RODLEY 50:40

Yes, yeah.

BERT LOCKWOOD 50:41

So.

LYN RODLEY 50:42

Well, he, I think he is older than we are. He's quite a bit older than we are, I think.

BERT LOCKWOOD 50:47

I think so yeah. What, what I remember most about him was he had the reputation of not, uh, suffering fools gladly. I mean,

LYN RODLEY 50:57

Yes,

BERT LOCKWOOD 50:57

he had very nice things to say about very few people

LYN RODLEY 51:00

I've, I've never understood the expression of, of not suffering fools gladly. I think we should all suffer fools gladly, because a fool can't help what they do. It's the intelligent people who behave badly. They're the ones that we should not suffer from.

BERT LOCKWOOD 51:14

yeah. Well, he and Tom Buerghenthal, uh, were, sort of, uh, near the same age, I think um,

LYN RODLEY 51:21

Hmm.

BERT LOCKWOOD 51:22

But Farer absolutely hated Buerghenthal. Um, and, I can remember back in 1979 in Costa Rica, it was, it was embarrassing. I was there for a meeting when they were establishing the international court. As soon as Buerghenthal, who was a judge, he had been a,

LYN RODLEY 51:40

Hmm.

BERT LOCKWOOD 51:41

uh, a judge and the court got up to speak Farer made a, I mean, I'm talking about a small meeting Farer got up and walked out. I mean, it was just, you know, totally, totally rude. Uh,

LYN RODLEY 51:54

Well, that, that, that, I, I think, um, not, that's not the way to get things Nigel always knew that.

BERT LOCKWOOD 52:00

Yes. Well, and it goes back to the, the beginning of this conversation of, Nigel knowing that diplomacy gets you, uh, much farther, yeah.

Lynn, this was, um, my last- when I went out to visit Nigel as he was passing, um, you- you may recall that we had like, I think a half hour that he could do, so I- when I went and talked with him, and I had been, been- in Maastricht, shortly before that. Um, and um, and I had, I had dinner at the Flintermans and Cees' wife, related to me, that there is a tradition in, in Dutch families where they go and they visit, the graves of, British U. S. troops,

LYN RODLEY 52:55

That's

BERT LOCKWOOD 52:55

um,

LYN RODLEY 52:56

right. Yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 52:57

that gave their lives in.

LYN RODLEY 52:58

Mm-hmm.

BERT LOCKWOOD 52:59

In, in, in World War II. And that she had, on a number of occasions, visited Nigel's father's

LYN RODLEY 53:07

Mm-hmm.

BERT LOCKWOOD 53:08

grave.

LYN RODLEY 53:08

Mm-hmm.

BERT LOCKWOOD 53:09

And. Always felt this deep sadness when she did that his father didn't have the opportunity to see what a great son, uh, Nigel had become.

LYN RODLEY 53:22

Yes.

BERT LOCKWOOD 53:22

And

LYN RODLEY 53:23

Yeah.

BERT LOCKWOOD 53:24

I related this, to Nigel, uh, the last, time I saw him, and I could see it brought tears to his eyes but, and this is probably, my interpretation. It wasn't anything said, uhm, but I sorta had a

feeling that he was taking some solace in thinking that his memory will live on, that people may visit his grave in sort of a

LYN RODLEY 53:51
similar

BERT LOCKWOOD 53:51
kind of, kind of fashion, but it was, uh,

LYN RODLEY 53:54
yes,

BERT LOCKWOOD 53:54
he was quite moved by that.

LYN RODLEY 53:56
yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 53:57
And, if I could, I'm gonna, use the words of Amnesty International for a full circle moment on that of Nigel's memory, because I can speak for my dad and I, there are no truer words than how Amnesty dedicated, this to Nigel and it is Amnesty says, "To the world he was known as Professor Sir Nigel Rodley, to Amnesty he remained simply Nigel. Those of us who worked with him and learned from him in any capacity remember him with respect, warmth, and affection and have a heartfelt sense of loss today." Uhm, And, you know, Nigel was absolutely brilliant and his international human rights legacy will forever be remembered. But, you know, for the Lockwoods here, he was a dear, dear personal family friend who we loved and admired so much. And, um, as my dad said, Lyn, we miss you. We wish we were doing this podcast recording. recording in Fingringhoe, and could go take a walk.

LYN RODLEY 54:49
Well, you ought to come again.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 54:50
Oh,

LYN RODLEY 54:50
again.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 54:50
we will. And we must have dinner at the lovely Whale Bone. that is probably one of my favorite pubs I've ever been to, the lovely Whale Bone near your home. and to end the session, we do a last word,

LYN RODLEY 55:03

Well, alright. I- I can- I can give you a last

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 55:06

Yes

LYN RODLEY 55:06

word. The- the- the phrase I put on Nigel's tombstone, which is here in Colchester, was "Peace Through Reason". because I thought that was- that was a good way of summing his entire life and his career, you know, working towards peace through the use of the law, through, uh, reasonable , uh, behavior and, and thought, was- was what did so that's what I put on the tombstone Peace Through Reason.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 55:35

That's beautiful. And, you know, on our bio for the podcast, I'm going to use that as a pull quote for that because that's absolutely beautiful. And that is the perfect end to this episode. So Lyn, thank you so much for joining us. We are so honored.

LYN RODLEY 55:50

well, thank- thank you. Thank you. It's been- it's been wonderful talking to you two.

BERT LOCKWOOD 55:53

Thank you.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 55:54

So lovely to catch up

LYN RODLEY 55:55

Well, this has been absolutely wonderful.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 55:57

yeah, we just could not be more thankful for you carving out the time, um, and to share these wonderful stories and memories

LYN RODLEY 56:03

No problem. No problem. It was a pleasure.

BERT LOCKWOOD 56:06

Much- much love.

LYN RODLEY 56:07

Okay. And to you too, to all of you.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 56:13

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