

00:00 Connie:

Hi, everyone. Welcome to Armchair Adventures, an interactive podcast for imaginative older people and children hosted by me, Connie. We have loads of new adventurers listening on Castbox, including people listening from India and the USA. How are you guys? It's so cool to have you with us. Let us know where you're listening to this today by tweeting us @MadeByMortals or posting on our Facebook page Made by Mortals CIC. We'd love to hear from you. Now, guys, before we get started, hit that subscribe button to get the latest episode in your feed as soon as it's released. And if you're listening on Apple podcasts, please rate and review. It really helps us spread the word. Thank you. Love you guys.

SONG:

[intro song]

01:00 Connie:

On this episode. We're going on an armchair adventure with... Drum roll, please... Jean. Say hello, Jean.

Jean:

Hi everyone. I'm Jean.

Connie:

How have the last few months been for you, Jean?

Jean:

They've been okay. Thanks Connie. The hardest thing has been missing my family, especially my granddaughter.

Connie:

I miss my family too. Especially my cousin Sura. We haven't been able to visit and couldn't go on our family summer holiday together? Like we usually do. We whatsapp and FaceTime and zoom, but it's not the same.

Jean:

No, it isn't. But what helps me is drawing.

Connie:

Drawing?

Jean:

Yes. I've been trying lots of pictures of my granddaughter. I've just finished a new one of her in the garden.

Connie:

Have you always liked doing art and drawing Jean?

Jean:

Yes, but it's been a long time since I've done any. This has really helped me rediscover how much I love it.

02:00 Connie:

That's brilliant.

Jean:

Maybe drawing could be today's armchair adventure.

Connie:

I'm not sure. I'm not very good at drawing.

Jean:

That doesn't matter. It's not about how good you are. It's about expressing yourself and having fun. Why don't we give it a try?

Connie:

Yeah. Okay. I'll get the rest of the customers on the phone now so they can join in too.

SONG:

[intro song]

Connie:

I have all my lovely customers on a conference call now ready to take part. Say hi everyone.

03:00 Everyone:

[Chorus of Hellos].

Connie:

So, we're going to do some drawing with Jean. How does that sound?

EVERYONE:

[ALL IN AGREEMENT]

Connie:

You too listener. Hi, by the way. Yes. You who is listening right now. I want you to join in with me and my customers as well. We're going to be engaged in our imaginations. Move in, acting, singing all from the safety of where we are. We can't see each other and we might be miles apart, but this is still something we can do together.

Barrie:

If Ronnie and Me can do it, anyone can have a go.

Connie:

That's right, Barrie. And it's going to be brilliant. You start us off Jean, you're the artist.

Jean:

Okay. Let's just use our imagination to pretend we've got a big blank piece of paper in front of us.

Connie:

Yeah. Brilliant. A massive sheet of paper and we've got paints and loads of colors.

Jean:

In every color we can think of.

Connie:

Let's choose a paint brush and pick it up. Think of the weight of it. How you have to hold it, how it feels in your hand.

04:00 Customer 1:

Mine's a big fat paintbrush.

Customer 2:

Mine's a fine brush for little details.

Customer 3:

Mine's a roller.

Connie:

A roller?

Customer 3:

Yes. For painting walls.

Connie:

That's brilliant. You can use any kind of brush you like now. We're going to imagine dipping our brushes in our paint and then flicking it onto the paper. Flick some high, flick some low. Think about how the colors land and look on the paper as you splatter them. Use different colors if you like, ready?

EVERYONE:

[enthusiastic agreement]

Connie:

Okay. Now we're going to dip our brushes again and draw a squiggly line across the middle of our paper really fast. Go!

Connie:

Brilliant. Now why don't we draw a huge circle. Dip our paints and draw a really big circle, stretching as high and wide as we can on our massive sheet of paper. Go!

05:00 EVERYONE:

[fascinated drawing sounds and excitement]

Customer 4:

My neighbors are giggling at me. They can see me through the window. Listen, I'll give them a little wave. Hello everybody I'm doing an ArmchairAdventure. An armchair adventure. Oh, forget it.

Connie:

So Jean's been drawing her granddaughter, who she misses. Who would you lot draw?

Customer 5:

My big brother. I'd draw him in his cricket gear wearing a red cap.

Customer 4:

My wife Shirley with bright colors, yellows and white. Just to show her positive outlook.

Customer 1:

I draw my nephew as a cartoon with a big smile and cheeky eyes.

06:00 Customer 2:

I'd make a collage of my dogs jumping up and running all over. They're real Billy whizzes.

Connie:

That's excellent Ann, because you don't have to use paints. Collage, pencils, chalk, crayons felt tip pens. You can draw and make with whatever you'd like to .

Customer 3:

I'd sew a tapestry of me and all my grandchildren playing hide and seek on the field.

Connie:

That sounds loads of fun Rita. Your turn listener. Who would you draw or make?

Jean:

What about you Connie, who would you draw?

Connie:

Me and Sura are at the seaside.

Jean:

Go on then.

Connie:

What do you mean?

07:00 Jean:

You've use your imagination to paint patterns on a massive piece of paper. Now use it to draw you and Sura at the seaside.

Connie:

Yeah. Okay. I'm using neon yellow for the sun and lighter, softer yellows for the sand.

Customer 1:

I love feeling the sand between my toes.

Connie:

Me too Cyril. Now I'm using loads of blues and white for the sky and the sea.

Jean:

There's nothing better than taking my shoes and socks off, and the water lapping across your feet.

Customer 2:

It'd smell like fresh air and salt.

Jean:

And fish and chips. Lovely.

Customer 3:

And the air would be full of seagulls, swooping and squawking.

Jean:

That's the seaside I'd love to visit.

Connie:

Me too.

Jean:

So let's go there for our Armchair Adventure.

Connie:

To the seaside?

Jean:

To our seaside, which we can draw and make to be whatever we want. We can think about how it looks, the smells, the textures, and sounds. You started us off Connie. Now the only limits are our imaginations.

Connie:

That sounds brilliant. Shall we do it?

EVERYONE:

[enthusiastic agreement].

08:00 Jean:

Right then everybody, you too listener, grab your buckets and spades and off we go.

Connie:

Hi guys. Before this adventure really gets going. I wanted to ask you a very important question. Would you like the feature in an episode of armchair adventures? And would you like to show off some of your amazing drawing skills? Is that a yes. Yes. Yes. Well, me and the team at Made by Mortals are launching a drawing competition with loads of awesome prizes for our favorites. Basically I'm setting you a challenge. I want you to draw where you'd send me, my customers and all our listeners on an armchair adventure. It could be to the jungle [animal sounds] to the moon [rocket sound] or even a ride on a roller coaster. [screams]

Jean:

It's up to you, myself and the gang will choose our favorites. And boy, do we have some prizes for you. For our most favourite we'll invite the drawer to star in a future episode of armchair adventures with me and my lovely customers. Runners up will have their drawings blown up big and displayed in shopping centers, across the North of England (09:00) for loads of people to see your amazing drawing talent. Plus, everyone that enters will be showcased on an online gallery on our website. How good's that? So let's get those imaginations whirling. Where would you send me, my customers and all our listeners on an armchair adventure. Draw it and then ask your grownups to send it to me by tweeting it to @madebymortals, by posting it on our Facebook page or emailing it over to admin@madebymortals.org. The drawing competition closes on April the 30th, 2021. For full terms and conditions please see the news and blogs page of our website, www.madebymortals.org. I can't wait to see your doodles.

10:00 Jean:

Wow. This is a fantastic seaside.

Customer 1:

That really is a lovely, bright yellow sun you've drawn Connie. Do you mind if I get my paints out and add a few more rays?

Connie:

Of course not Pat. [tune] What was that?

Customer 1:

I don't know but I liked it. How lovely to know that the sun's going to stay out.

Jean:

We should put out sunscreen on though everyone.

Connie:

Yes. Let's all rub our sunscreen on. You too listener. And let's imagine, feeling the hot sun on our faces.

MUSIC:

[sunscreen squelching]

Customer 4:

I'm going to draw some blue waves in the sea. Ideal for surfing.

11:00 MUSIC:

[tune continues]

Connie:

There it is again.

Jean:

It's the sound of us drawing Connie. Do another wave Keith!

Customer 4:

Okay. I'll draw this one higher.

Jean:

You're right Jean, it is! Amazing! Do that one even higher! What do you think the wave looks like listener? Let's use our imaginations. Dip our brushes in our paint and draw it on a massive sheet of paper while we listen.

MUSIC:

[MUSIC GETTING HIGHER AND QUICKER]

Connie:

Whoa all of these waves are perfect for surfing. Let's all balance on our surfboard and ride the huge waves.

12:00 EVERYONE:

[WOAHS]

Customer 4:

My wave is so high it's taken me right up through the clouds and into space.

Connie:

That's amazing John.

Customer 2:

I've redrawn my wave into a big white horse for me to ride on.

Connie:

Wow, Linda. Incredible. What else are you all adding into the drawing for the perfect day at the seaside?

Customer 4:

A giant comfy deckchair with a waiter who brings me snacks.

Customer 3:

A magic bucket and spade, which really does dig holes to Australia.

Customer 6:

Sand castles that come to life. You can go inside and explore.

Customer 7:

Glittering singers and whirling dancers at the end of the pier.

Connie:

Would you join in Cyril.

Customer 1:

Try and stop him.

13:00 Customer 2:

I'm using pencil to finely draw rock pools of crabs and lobsters and starfish.

Customer 4:

A magical towel, that gets all the sand off.

Customer 3:

Oh yeh, so you can get your socks on without getting them full of sand. I hate that.

Customer 6:

I'm using pastels to draw a never ending ice cream.

Connie:

Oh, yummy. Mine's chocolate chip.



Customer 4:

Pistachio, mint and orange.

Customer 3:

Caramel. Oh, and Knickerbocker glory with strawberries.

Connie:

What flavors have you got listener? That's all imagine licking our neverending ice creams.

Customer 6:

I think fish and chips at the seaside are best. Loads of vinegar, mushy peas, and tartar sauce. Oh delicious.

Customer 3:

I'm using fat felt tips to draw a bright fairground with a Waltzer that spins so fast when you come off your clothes are on inside out.

14:00 Connie:

Whoa. That is fast. Let's spin on the waltzer everyone

EVERYONE:

[WOAH]

Connie:

Oh, I'm dizzy now. Well done you lot. Those are all excellent suggestions. Listener, is there anything else you would draw at your perfect seaside?

Jean:

Are you okay Connie?

Connie:

This is really fun, Jean, but I'm still a bit sad about Sura.

Jean:

Why?

Connie:

I've drawn her here with me so we can have fun at the seaside, but she's just a drawing. It's not really her.

Jean:

Tell me about her.

Connie:

She's got curly hair and brown eyes.

Jean:

Tell me about how she makes you feel.

Connie:

What do you mean?

Customer 5:

My brother has always looked after me for him being small. I feel safe when I'm with him. So I thought about that when I drew him.

Customer 2:

And I thought of giving my nephew a big hug as I drew him. About how it feels, putting my arms around him and squeezing him tight.

15:00 Customer 1:

My grandchildren made me feel young, running around with them.

Connie:

Being with Sura makes me happy. She makes me laugh loads.

Jean:

That's great.

Connie:

She's a really good listener. She always helps me talk through any problems. She makes me feel capable and clever and gets the best ideas out of me.

Jean:

So imagine all of that as you draw her.

Connie:

Okay. I'll try.

Jean:

Because a person isn't just about how they look. And feeling connected can take lots of different forms.

[JUST IMAGINE SONG]

Connie:

Oh wow. You're right Jean. It's Sura. Her big smile and eyes shining with mischief and fun. She's running off, down the beach, straight into the sea. She loves the water.

Customer 4:

I think she's got the right idea Connie. That sun is really hot.

Customer 1:

I'm boiling.

Customer 5:

Me too.

19:00 Customer 2:

Why don't we all cool off in the sea like Sura?

Connie:

Yeh! Come on, everyone. I'll race ya.

Customer 1:

I'm hopping down the pebbly beach.

Customer 4:

I tried to pull my socks off as I run.

Customer 2:

I don't want to plunge straight in, what if the water's really cold.

Customer 3:

I'm going to dip a toe in to check.

Connie:

Good idea. You too listener. Let's dip our toes in to check.

Customer 3:

I'm going to poke and elbow in.

Connie:

How's the water, Is it cold?

Customer 4:

I'm going for it. I've drawn myself a wetsuit. I'm going to snorkel.

Customer 6:

I'm rowing out in a little boat.

Customer 7:

Can we make it a glass bottom boat so that we can see all the colourful fish and coral underneath?

20:00 Customer 6:

Of course! Good idea

Customer 5:

Me and Lily are sailing out on a super duper yacht.

Customer 1:

I'm bobbing along on a lilo. I love the peace and quiet.

Customer 3:

I am on a jet ski.

Customer 8:

I'm kite surfing.

Connie:

This is lovely. And I'm much cooler. How you take into the water listener? Are you swimming? Let's all swim. breaststroke, backcrawl, doggy paddle. Or maybe kayaking? Pushing our oars through the water. One side than the other.

EVERYONE:

[rowing sounds]

Connie:

Or water skiing. Let's all speed along on our water skis.

EVERYONE:

[WOAHS]

Connie:

And, what can you see in the sea?

Customer 3:

Shimmery fish. All the colors of the rainbow.

Customer 4:

I'm drawing a fin coming out of the water.

Customer 1:

Don't do that, John. Is it a shark?

Customer 4:

No, it's a smiling dolphin. It's going to give me a ride on it's back.

Customer 5:

There's an octopus.

Customer 3:

Huge whales, breaching and spraying. After that blow hole.

21:00 Customer 8:

Beautiful mermaids with shimmering tails.

Connie:

Hang on. Which one of you has coloured the sky in darker?

EVERYONE:

[NOT ME]

Connie:

The waves too! And they're getting bigger.

Jean:

Much bigger

Customer 1:

Everything is turning grays and greens. Purples and blues.

Customer 3:

I can taste salt in my mouth and hear the seagulls screaming.

Customer 2:

My ears are filled with howling winds so everything else is muffled.

Customer 6:

The spray feels sharp. Battering my skin.

Customer 4:

I can't see. Trying to peer through the phone.

Customer 5:

Gritting my teeth.

Customer 7:

The waves are crashing over us. Like a panther, pouncing.

22:00 Customer 5:

I'm confused.

Customer 8:

I feel like I'm being dragged away.

Customer 3:

I'm going to disappear forever into the waves.

Connie:

Listener, can you describe the storm?

Jean:

I'm all tangled up in seaweed. Help!

Connie:

What can we do?

Customer 4:

Could we draw ourselves life jackets?

Connie:

Great idea. Come on everyone. You too listener. Let's draw ourselves life jackets and then put them on.

Jean:

It's not working. The waves are too high and the wind is too strong.

Customer 1:

I could draw a big albatross who comes and swoops up. Look, here he comes.

Customer 3:

There's too many of us. We're too heavy.

Connie:

Have you got any ideas listener about what we can draw to help us?

Customer 5:

The main thing is to try not to panic.

23:00 Jean:

John's right. We need to keep calm. Remember what you said about Sura. And how she makes you feel.

Connie:

She makes me laugh. She makes me happy. I'm not feeling too happy right now, Jean. She gets the best ideas out of me. I know Jean, can you help me?

Jean:

Of course.

Connie:

Hang on everyone.

Customer 1:

Where are you going?

Customer 4:

They're diving under the water.

Customer 5:

Be careful.

Customer 4:

Look there they are.

Jean:

We need your help everyone. We need all of you to pull on this chain.

Connie:

Trust us. Come on. We need your help too listener. Help us pull the chain. Nearly there.

EVERYONE:

[PULLING NOISES AND GRUNTS]

Jean:

Got it. Well done everyone.

Customer 5:

Hang on, what's happening now?

Customer 6:

There's a whirlpool. It's pulling us towards it.

Customer 4:

We're getting sucked towards it.

24:00 EVERYONE:

[CHAOS]

Connie:

Oh, wow. Is everyone okay?

Customer 3:

I think so.

Customer 4:

I'm still in one piece.

Customer 2:

Everything's where it should be.

Customer 1:

What happened??

Customer 5:

Where's Jean?

Jean:

I'm here. I'm glad you're all okay.

Customer 5:

What did you do?

Jean:

We drew a plug.

Customer 1:

A plug?

Jean:

We drew a huge plug on the seabed. You all helped us pull it up. It drained all of the stormy sea away and we all spiraled out to, then popped up back on dry land.

Customer 2:

You saved us!



Jean:

We all pulled the plug together. Teamwork. How are you feeling now Connie?

Connie:

I think my head is still spinning with our adventure and everything that happened.

Jean:

Do you miss Sura any less now?

25:00 Connie:

I do. It was lovely to think about her like you said. Not just how she looks, but how she makes me feel when I'm with her. It's not the same as being together in real life, but I definitely feel closer to her than I have in ages.

Jean:

That's good. I'm glad because there are lots of different ways to feel close to people. Drawing is my way. And I'm so glad you've all enjoyed it too.

Connie:

I really have what a fantastic armchair adventure, Jean

Jean:

And our memories of people and the places we've been together. They're important too aren't they? How they feel, smell and talk? Shared experiences help us feel connected too.

Connie:

Like our shared experience today, with all of you guys.

Jean:

Exactly. We all shared today's armchair adventure and I feel closer and connected to all of you. And that's such a special thing. Thank you Connie. I'll definitely be booking again.

Customer 4:

I can't wait for mine.

26:00 Customer 5:

Too right!

Customer 7:

Here here

Connie:

Well you're the best customer's a travel agent could ask for. Thank you. Next time listener. Another one of my lovely customers gets to take us on another armchair adventure inspired by their passions and interests. But for now it's time to say goodbye. Goodbye.

EVERYONE:

[goodbye chorus]

Connie:

End call now. Lovely. That was amazing. Thanks so much for joining it. I can't wait to go on another armchair adventure with you all next time. And I'm really looking forward to seeing all your amazing drawings as part of our competition. Love you guys.

27:00 Speaker 2:

Armchair Adventures is a Made By Mortals production, created in collaboration with Hearts and Minds, a theatre company for over 55s. And with support from Arts Council England, the National Lottery, United We Stream and action together.