

Armchair Adventures: A Join-in Story Podcast For Kids

A Pride Adventure!

Connie: Welcome to the Armchair Adventures Travel Agency, journeys of the imagination. I'm Head Travel Agent and Host, Connie!

Music: Armchair Adventure Theme Song

*On an Armchair Adventure you can go anywhere you like,
On an Armchair Adventure imaginations fly.*

Connie: Good morning, good afternoon or guten abend, wherever you're listening from adventurers! The voices of today's join in at home adventurers are...

Adventurers: ...*saying their names*

Connie: Hi Everyone!

Children: Hi Connie!

Connie: Welcome to another exciting bonus episode based on our adventures in reducing, reusing and recycling! This summer we are having our own float in the pride parade, how cool is that!

Gay Pride is a celebration of people being proud of who they are. Isn't that right Uncle Chris?

Unc. Chris: It sure is Connie, gay people are men and women who fall in love with people who are the same gender as them. And Pride is all about fighting negative attitudes and behaviour towards gay people. Even if you're not gay yourself!

Connie: It's a great way of celebrating all our differences!

Unc. Chris: Absolutely! Me and my siblings have two mums that love each other and us very much! Some families have two dads, a mum and a dad, one of each, or are looked after by grandparents or foster carers...

And whatever your family looks like, Pride is about coming together, to help make sure people who identify as gay or have gay parents, feel safe, supported and equal to everybody else!

Connie: Wow I didn't think about it like that before! Nanna, Debs and Grandma Jane were always just my cool grandparents!

Unc. Chris: I suppose they are pretty cool Connie, they did raise me after all!

Connie: Haha yeah, and I definitely take after them too! Actually, that reminds me! My neighbour Rohan and his parents always celebrate pride too! Rohan was born a girl but always felt like a boy. He told his mum and dad how he was feeling and they supported him to live as the person he always felt like on the inside! He says going to the Pride parade with his family always makes him feel proud of who he is!

Unc. Chris: That's great Connie! That's also part of the reason pride uses a rainbow flag too! It represents all the different people in the world and celebrates our differences! Like we are all colours of a wonderful rainbow!

Connie: Well rainbow colours will definitely have to feature on the float then!

Unc. Chris: I'd say so!

Connie: Me and dad are going to make this float amazing using some recycled materials from his work! Can you and the gang sort some costumes out of recycled materials too? There's loads of stuff at the Armchair Adventures store cupboard, there must be something you can re-use!

Unc. Chris: Oh ok, I'll do my best Connie! There's a lot of pressure to get it right though! I don't want to let my mums down!

Connie: You'll be fine Uncle Chris! I believe in you! Why don't you go and give him a hand too adventurers?

SFX Ding

*Adventurers' responses: Of course! I'd love to! I'm really good at arts and crafts!
Etc.*

Music: Armchair Adventure's Theme (Instrumental only)

Unc. Chris: Well here goes nothing! Let's get the gang on a group telephone chat to sort out this costume conundrum! Because with an Armchair Adventure, adventurers, we can go anywhere we like from the comfort of where we are right now, so they're perfect for everyone, no matter what age you are. Start. Call. Now.

SFX phone call sound

Unc. Chris: Hello everyone

Customers say various hello's

Unc. Chris: So gang, I need your help! We have our own float in the Pride parade and Connie has asked us to design some outfits using recycled materials!

Pauline: Oh, I love Pride. The atmosphere, the music, but most of all the message that everyone is equal and can love as they please!

Pat: Absolutely!

Linda: I'm really proud of my family and I love that the message of Pride means if you have two mums or two dads it doesn't matter!

Hazel: We're all different and that's what makes us great!

John O'G: I love that it's a chance for us all to stand together united, side by side!

Keith: Spreading kindness and being proud of who you are!

Linda: Getting the message of equality, pride, hope and love out there!

Ronnie: I can't wait to get on that float!

The customers agree excitedly

Anne: But I'm not too sure on the recycled materials part...

Hazel: I guess we could have a go!

Lilly: But where do we start!

Unc. Chris: Well Connie said we should dig in the store cupboard and use anything we like, so come on gang get rummaging! You too adventurers! Pretend to dig around in the Armchair Adventures store cupboard with us!

SFX Ding

SFX Rummaging through boxes, things being thrown and clanging, lots of silly noises

Children's responses- there's some sand in here from the beach! Watch out its blowing in my eyes! Pass me that paint down!

SFX of rummaging still happening under next Unc. Chris dialogue...

Unc. Chris: (huffing and puffing) Any luck adventurers? I'm not having much...hmmmm nope, not this, what even is that?!

SFX loads of bubbles escaping (harp from bubble episode too)

Cyril: How about all these bubbles from the bubble adventure in series 1!

Unc. Chris: Erm Not much we can do with bubbles! Too poppable!

SFX Bubbles popping everywhere

Walter: Oh, what about the time travelling barge from series 2's local history adventure?

SFX barge horn

Unc. Chris: Not the best for an outfit! A bit too bargy! but I'd like to go back in time and start this earlier!

Linda: Oooh the sorting helmet from series 3's cycling adventure! Have a go Uncle Chris!

SFX Uncle Chris putting the sorting helmet on, then a magical twinkling sound

SFX of Uncle Chris riding an old Penny Farthing style bike through the countryside

Unc. Chris: My perfect bike is a penny farthing! Well, I didn't see that coming. It's not quite right for this though, sorry helmet!

SFX throwing the helmet and it crashing down

... ughhh what am I going to do! I'm really struggling to find anything useful here at the Armchair Adventures store cupboard! Can you help me with some ideas adventurers? What things would you re-use to design a costume?

SFX Ding

Adventurers: I'd use my nan's curtains...

You can cut up old clothes or material...

We always make fun costumes out of cereal boxes...

We could use some paper...

We could use plastic bags.

Unc. Chris: Nice answers everyone! So good in fact they have given me an idea.... I'm going to take you on a tv show style bonus episode called 'The Great British Make off!'- because we need to make these outfits fabulous and fast!

Music: 'Make Off' Theme

SFX sewing, people chatting, cutting material etc.

Unc. Chris: Hello everyone and welcome to the sewing tent!

Walter: Oh, it's so fancy in here...

Pat: ...and look at the wooden tables laid out with all the sewing gear!

John OG: And piles and piles of recyclable material!

Hazel: Buttons, bells, fabric scraps, loads of cardboard!

Pauline: Not to mention yoghurt pots, old fairy lights, wrapping paper ribbon!
There's so much to choose from it's a bit overwhelming! What can you see in the sewing tent adventurers?

SFX Ding

Children: There's piles and piles of buttons...
The sewing machines look amazing...
There's even a rainbow unicorn one!
Look at the pom poms!
There's so much stuff to re-use...
It's amazing!

Christine: Uh oh, I've already gotten myself into a pickle! I went to unravel some of this lovely bright fabric and I seem to have wound myself up in it!

Ronnie: Not to worry I'll have you free in a jiffy!

SFX wrapping and unwrapping sounds, material being ripped etc.

Hazel: Oh no you've made it worse Ronnie!

Ronnie: I know, Now I'm stuck too!

Hazel: Let me have a go!

SFX wrapping and unwrapping sounds, material being ripped etc.

Hazel: Oh no! now I'm tangled up in it! Quickly adventurers, can you help to set us free?

SFX Ding

Adventurers: On our way!

Of course, Hazel...

Adventures to the rescue!

Hazel: Brilliant! Now just pull this fabric and let us out!

SFX Ding

Adventurers: Are you sure it's going to work?

Let's find out - PULL!!

SFX of fabric being pulled quick and twirling sounds as if they have been spun free in a cartoon

Christine/Ronnie/Hazel: woooooahh waaahhhh, woooooow

Ronnie: (as if dizzy) Woooh thanks for your help adventurers!

Music: 'Make Off' Theme

Unc. Chris: Well, that was an exciting welcome to the tent! Now everyone, we only have ONE hour to craft as many costumes as we can...

SFX Dun dun dunnnnnn....

Unc. Chris: That's right everyone! No time to dilly dally, First up we have team 1, led by Anne!

SFX studio audience applause

Anne: Oh no not me! It took me 5 years to make an underskirt at school!

Unc. Chris: Heading up team two is Ronnie!

SFX studio audience applause

Ronnie: Oh dear, the last thing I made for someone they ended up using it as a mop!

Unc. Chris: ...and last but not least, leading team 3 is Pauline!

SFX studio audience applause

Pauline: I'll do my best but the last thing I made had one leg longer than the other!

Unc. Chris: Try not to worry! To help you along we have some very special guest experts here on 'The Great British Make Off!' Let me introduce you to Maddie and Lee from Stars & Stitches!

SFX fanfare

Maddie/Lee: Hello everyone!

Customers: Hello Maddie and Lee, (various versions)

Christine: We're so glad you're here to help.

- Cyril: What sort of things do you do at 'Stars and Stitches?'
- Lee: We help build people's confidence through community arts and creative projects - including woodwork, upcycling and sports-based activities.
- Maddie: We're passionate about celebrating people being who they are in a safe space.
- Linda: That sounds amazing!
- Lee: Thanks, we recently did a Pride fashion show using recycled materials, so we can't wait to get stuck in today.
- Customers: Thank you, So happy to have you... etc
- Unc. Chris: ...and in celebration of Pride the theme of today's show is... RAINBOW!
- Maddie: Based on the Rainbow flag that uses its bright colours to celebrate the unique people who use it as their symbol! What do you love about rainbows adventurers?

SFX Ding

- Adventurers: They make me happy...
...because they're colourful,
...because they're shiny,
...because they're pretty,
...because they're glimmering and sparkly.
They're full of hope.

- Unc. Chris: Thanks adventurers! So, teams, you have one hour to create a rainbow themed costume using the materials provided! Get behind your tables, on your marks, get set, MAKE!

Music: 'Make Off' Theme fading out into...

...SFX of sewing machines and general workshop noises

- Unc. Chris: Here in the tent everyone is beavering away! There are recyclables flying everywhere, Ronnie and team appear to be trying to load a huge roll of fabric into a sewing machine....

SFX machine struggling

- Ronnie: Look out! The machine's out of control!
- Cyril: It's going to fire that roll of fabric like a rocket!!

SFX an explosion then a whoosh sound of a bolt of fabric sailing through the air and crashing into the wall

Maddie/Lee: Duck!!!!

Unc. Chris: That was a close one.

Ronnie/Walter/Cyril: Sorry!

Cyril: We could do with a bit of help Maddie and Lee...

Maddie: No problem at all, what's happening?

Walter: Oh, we've been trying to make some big, bright fairy wings.

Ronnie: We've used lovely gold fabric,

Cyril: ...and bottle tops,

Walter: ...tin foil, a bit of lace on the trim...

Kenny: ...even some old pearl buttons,

Ronnie: But every time I go to put them on...

Walter: They flop down, like a soggy lettuce leaf!

Cyril: Look!

SFX of a sad wah wah wah sound to describe the saggy wings

Lee: Don't worry, we can help sort that. All the extras are too heavy for just the fabric alone.

Maddie: Try threading some wire coat hangers around the edges to give it some shape.

Lee: Or you can draw out your wings on some card to give it some strength, then stick the other bits on to those.

Ronnie: Great idea!

Team Ronnie: Thank you!!

Maddie: Our pleasure, what would your fairy wings look like adventurer?

SFX Ding

Adventurers: Mine would be a rainbow dragon.

Loads and loads and loads of glitter!

I'd want mine to be huge.

Mine would be black faded into white.

I'd put loads of skittles on mine!

Unc. Chris: (bellowing) This is your first-time call stitchers, you have 45 minutes left!!

Music: 'Make Off' Theme

Customers: Arrgh we better hurry, quick, oooh helppp me etc.

Cyril: 45 minutes!!

Hazel: We've barely started!!

Pat: Even the theme music has speeded up!

Music fades out as...

...SFX of sewing machines and general workshop noises

Unc. Chris: That's the spirit teams! Oh dear, it looks like trouble over at team Pauline, I can hear a lot of shouting but not much sewing!

Pauline: (big wail) Ohhhhhh no, it's happening again!

Lee: What's happened Pauline, are you ok?

Pauline: Not really! Christine has just put on the trousers we were making and look...

Christine: One leg shorter than the other!

Pauline: I can't believe I've done it again! After we really thought it out.

Christine: We have used up all our bright green satin scraps...

Pauline: All our sequins...

John O'G: Not to mention the gold bottle tops down the sides.

Maddie: Not to worry this is an easy fix! Let's just cut the longer leg to make a pair of shorts.

Lee: And because we are reusing and recycling the extra off cut can make a fabulous head band or accessory.

Pauline: Great advice! It's the pressure I can't think!

Maddie: All good Pauline. You can always try drawing out a pattern too as a guide next time.

Christine: Of course, good idea! What fabulous shorts would you create adventurers?

SFX Ding

Adventurers: Mine would glimmer...

Loads of pom-poms...

I'd have loads of rainbow flags...

Pink sparkly shorts...

I'd have bright green footy ones...

Rainbow stripe mermaid definitely!

Christine: What recycled materials would you use to make them?

SFX Ding

Adventurers: I would use cotton wool...

I would use loads of fabric scraps...

Mine would be loads of yoghurt pots...

You could paint them different colours!

Music: 'Make Off' Theme

Unc. Chris: Time call, time! You have 30 darn minutes to darn those costumes darners!

Sound of the customers panicking

Ronnie: Oh no the pressures really on!

Christine: I don't think I'm going to make it!

Linda: We've only got half an outfit...

Anne: ...and that music! It's faster again!!!

Music fades out as...

...SFX of sewing machines and general workshop noises

SFX buttons spilling, feather cushions popping, commotion, crashing into things sounds

Unc. Chris: Something's going wrong over at team Anne's station. It looks like a headless mummy on the run, crashing into everything!

Anne: That's not a mummy, it's Keith!

Unc. Chris: No way! It looks like you've sewn him into the t- shirt, the neck hole's sewn up and the arm holes too! Are you alright in there Keith?

Keith: (muffled) Help! I can't see!

Unc. Chris: Keith can you hear me?

Keith: *muffled replies! *

Unc. Chris: Oh, I think he's panicking Anne! He's gone on the run!

SFX running

Unc. Chris: Keith stop running! Come back!

SFX more running and crashing and chaos of Keith on the run!

Anne: Keith come back you're making a mess!

SFX Crashing and feathers and glue exploding everywhere

Linda: He's just knocked the feathers and glue all over me, I look like a rainbow chicken!

SFX chickens clucking

Keith: Heeellpp meeeee!

SFX worse crashing , sequins flying everywhere

Pat: Arrrgh now I've just been attacked by the sequins! I look like a disco ball!

SFX disco

John OG: Stop Keith come back!

Lee: Oh no! What's happened!!?

Anne: Well, I got Keith to try on the top we made...

Hazel: But she forgot to cut the arms and head holes!

Linda: He panicked and ran off, now he's on the loose.

Lilly: Caaaatch him!

Hazel: Quick adventurers, pretend to catch Keith...but watch out for the flying buttons and fabric!

SFX Ding

SFX crashing around, commotion

Adventurers: Watch out for those buttons!

Keith come back!

I'm covered in feathers!

Heellpp!

Anne: There's only one thing for it, I'm going to have to jump on him like a wrestle, here we gooooo!

SFX Anne running and jumping then whistling through the air and a big crash as she lands on Keith with a bang

Keith: *more muffled angry grumbles*

Anne: Thanks for your help adventurers I've got him!

Linda: Any ideas on what to do, Maddie and Lee??!

Maddie: We can sort this in no time...

Lee: Let's just snip the seams!

SFX cutting then Keith's head popping out

Keith: Phew what a relief!

Anne: Oh no but look at the top, it's still plain!

Linda: Because we got covered in all the sequins and feathers in the commotion, that's why.

S/S: Well, a blank canvas is a great place to start...

Music: 'Make Off' Theme

Unc. Chris: It's your final time call you've got just FIVE minutes to complete your costumes!

SFX of panic, crashing sounds, general mayhem...

Customers: No way/We will never finish/ We've only done the wings! Pass the glue! Pass me anything!

Unc. Chris: 3 minutes...

Lee: Wow! Hang on!

Maddie: Wait! Stop!

SFX screeching to a halt

Lee: I don't think this competition element is working Uncle Chris, do you adventurers?

SFX Ding

Adventurers: No way!

You're stressing everyone out Uncle Chris...

Yeah you are!

It's not working!

Pauline: You're right adventurers! It's definitely not helping!

Hazel: All we've got between us is a plain top...

Pat: A pair of shorts,

Ronnie: Half up half down fairy wings!

Christine: And look at the state of this place! It's a right old mess!

Linda: We can't even find Cyril.

Lilly: Cyril where are you!?

Cyril: Aaaaghhhhh!!!!

Customers: Wahhhhhh! It's a fabric monster!!!

Cyril: No, no it's just me! Keith spilt the glue on me and I fell into this pile of fabric scraps! They're all over my face, I can't get up!

Keith: Oh dear! Come on adventurers let's pull Cyril up and out!

SFX Ding

Adventurers: Right, you get that arm...
 ...and I'll get this arm.
 Ready everyone...
 Heaaavvvee!

SFX Cyril emerging, squelches of glue, fabric being ripped off etc.

Cyril: Phew thanks everyone, I was scared I'd turn into a piece of carpet!

Maddie: Aw, I'm glad you're ok Cyril.

Lee: I think the gang's right Uncle Chris. At Stars & Stitches we create a safe space for people to create in, and all this pressure and competition isn't helping anyone.

Maddie: Don't you think we'd be better off working as a team?

Pauline: And that's more in-keeping with the theme of Pride...

Hazel: ...coming together and supporting each other.

Lee: If we all work together, we can have some amazing recycled outfits in no time!

Unc. Chris: You're absolutely right gang. I just got so worried about having it finished and doing a good job that I didn't stop to think. I'm sorry for putting the pressure on like that. I never wanted you to feel separate from each other and certainly not feeling worried! I should have been focusing on kindness like Keith said at the start!

Keith: Not to worry Uncle Chris! We know it's just because you care!

Customers: Yes of course, don't feel bad etc.

Unc. Chris: But all that pressures left the tent a right old mess! Where would we even start? There's stuff everywhere!

Kenny: I know, why don't we just rewind and start the adventure again!

Maddie: Wow! You can do that?

Christine: On an Armchair Adventure anything is possible!

Hazel: We just put our imagination to it!

Linda: Ok everyone it's time to rewind! You too adventurers!

SFX rewinding sounds to underscore...

SFX Ding

Adventurers: I'm rewinding!

It's so fun going backwards wwaahhhhooooo!

Unc. Chris: Wow great job everyone! It looks as good as new in here! Ok then, let's try this again...

Music: 'Make Off' Theme

Hello everyone and welcome to the new, the improved, the rainbow edition of.... The Great British Make Off!

Cyril: Oh, that music isn't going to start speeding up again is it!!

Customers: Oh no not that music again, get it off! Etc.

Unc. Chris: Do you know what gang I've got a better idea, let's scrap this show all together!

SFX Record scratch that kills the theme

Customers all cheer

Lee: Great idea Uncle Chris!

Maddie: Ok everyone, let's all work together and create some wonderful outfits.

Customers: Go team/sounds great/teamwork makes the dream work etc.

Unc. Chris: Let's start with me, I'll be a human dummy!

Pauline: Ok , I'm going to use a pattern to make some rainbow shorts.

Ronnie: I'm going to make some fabulous fairy wings.

Walter: I'll cut out some card supports to hold them up.

Anne: Pass me some sequins, let's start decorating your top Keith.

SFX of the customers sewing, workshop sounds, cutting material etc.

The customers are all chatting positively to one another.

Cyril: I've cut out some star shapes with this card, will you help me paint them gold Lilly?

Lilly: Will I!! Let's do it!

Pat: Come on Keith let's make feather boas for everyone.

Keith: Don't have to ask me twice, I do love me some feathers!

Hazel: Hey, there's fairy lights here!

John O'G: They would look perfect on this dress.

Lee: It's so great seeing everyone working together. There are tons of outfits made already!

Maddie: Maybe we should have a more friendly time check in to see how everyone's getting on, Uncle Chris?

Unc. Chris: I think you're right! Hello sewers, how's everyone getting on?

Pauline: I think we're almost done!

Christine: It's so much faster when you take your time and support each other!

SFX horn blast and engine running with disco music faintly behind

Unc. Chris: Woah, what's that noise?

We hear the above SFX getting closer

Unc. Chris: Wow its Connie...on the float with her dad!

Linda: Wow it's amazing! It looks like a rainbow unicorn!

Pat: That's made out of lights.

Ronnie: I think they're old Christmas tree lights.

Walter: I think you're right!

Hazel: And look, the rainbow fur is made out of loads of different fabric scraps...

Pauline: And look at the unicorn's horn...

Christine: It's lots of toilet roll tubes stuck together and painted gold.

Customers: What a great job! Wowwee! We are parading in style! Etc.

Cyril: What would your float look like adventurers?

SFX Ding

Adventurers: Mine has confetti on it the shape of an ice cream

Mine's like a T-Rex
 I'd call mine the decoration float
 A rainbow race-car, vroom vroom!

SFX of the float pulling to a stop

Connie: Hi everyone! I hope you like the float, I've been so excited to show you! Wow, you all look amazing! Is there a costume for me?!

Pauline: Of course! We call it DIVA LAS VEGAS!

Connie: Wow, it's got a feather crown, rainbow-coloured gloves, a bubble wrap collar painted bright for all to see, old Christmas bells on the shoes...and look at the bright patch work dress! Amazing! I can't believe this is all recycled!

Keith: Absolutely!

Connie: I can't wait to show my neighbour Rohan!! But wait a minute, where's Uncle Chris?

John OG: I'm sure I saw him working on something...

Walter: Where could he have got to?

Ronnie: He can't have gotten far...

Hazel: Hang on, what's that sound...

SFX a drum roll into some fabulous disco music, fog machine

Unc. Chris: Taaaadaaaa!

Connie: Wow! Uncle Chris you look amazing!

Unc. Chris: Do you like my golden cape? My satin shorts? Check out my rainbow papier-Mache head gear...

Customers: Oooh Uncle Chris you look fab etc.

Connie: Nana Debs and grandma Jane are going to be so proud of you! Thanks so much for sorting all this Uncle Chris!

Unc. Chris: I can't take all the credit! This was most definitely a team effort, and we couldn't have done it without the help of our super special guests from Stars & Stitches.

Kenny: Here, here!

Hazel: Who knew recycling could look so fabulous!

Linda: Thanks so much for helping us.

Lee: It's been a blast everyone!

Maddie: Thanks for having us!

Unc. Chris: Why don't you come with us on the float?

Customers: Oh yes there's plenty of room/Come on/wouldn't do it without you...etc.

Keith: Feather boas all round!

Lee: Oh yes, thank you!

Maddie: We'd love to!

SFX of the float starting its engine and driving off into a carnival atmosphere

Connie: Happy Pride everyone! I hope you have a great time supporting your friends and family to be proud of who they are! Until next time adventurers, goodbye!

Adventurers: Bye Connie!

Music: Armchair Adventures theme fading in

Unc. Chris: Well, that's all we have time for. Thanks so much for all your help today adventurers! Why don't you try making some of your own costumes from recycled materials at home?

But for now, let's say goodbye to our journey of the imagination and get back to reality. See you all in Series 4!

The customers say their goodbyes

Unc. Chris: End. Call. Now.

SFX phone down.

Unc. Chris: Lovely.

Music: Armchair Adventure Theme Song

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On an Armchair Adventure imaginations fly.*

Credits: This episode of Armchair Adventures was funded by Suez Recycle 4 Greater Manchester Community Fund.