

JO: You don't understand, Chrissie.

CHRISSIE: Talk to me. Help me to understand.

JO: I., I don't know if I can.

CHRISSIE: Start at the beginning, Jo.

JO: I..

CHRISSIE: What was it made you want to be a surgeon? You know, in the first place?

JO: It's a difficult question... I've thought about that recently. When I was trying to figure out: *What on earth am I doing here?* ""

*(I don't know...  
I., I suppose—)* ""

ERICSSON: *When I was at school,  
I went to watch an operation,  
I watched a knee operation,  
and it was pretty gruesome actually.*

*But what struck me by it,  
and I probably missed the whole subtlety of it—  
I mean, it probably wasn't that subtle.,  
'cause it was Orthopaedics—*

JO: *(It's very difficult to sort of.,  
pin it down, actually)* ""

ERICSSON: *—but I just went away and thought:  
"It's basically this bit of carpentry."*

*It just looked really fun.  
And I thought: "Well I could do that"*

JO: *(It was just something inside me.  
That floated my boat)* ""

ERICSSON: *And some people, I thought:  
"I think I can probably do that better than you"*

JO: *(There's a mystery, with surgery)* ""

ERICSSON: *And I remember seeing, early on,  
I saw some bowels come out -  
I thought that looked really interesting*

JO: (I remember in A&E,  
you'd send them off.  
They'd go off to this mysterious place  
and come back having had their surgery.  
  
It sort of, drew me in really.) ""

ERICSSON: It just looked really fun.  
  
As you go further down the surgical training thing,  
the idea that it's all going to be about  
lifestyle, or money  
certainly goes out of the window.  
  
But underlying it all,  
you enjoy the surgery, don't you?

JO: (I think I felt admiration.,  
for my consultants.  
Even when I was in med school.  
For my trainers.  
  
And that motivated me to become a surgeon.) ""

ERICSSON: It's big boys' toys really.  
  
I must say, even now,  
if there's a big abscess  
you've got to fight for that knife to drain it.  
Because of a certain satisfaction:  
about draining it

JO: (There was this guy.  
  
I was in third year of medical school,  
and he said:  
"You look like you're interested in surgery...  
You can come and do some on-calls with us."  
  
We saw him dealing with four, five traumas  
at the same time.  
  
We thought: "Wow, he is just incredible."  
  
That was definitely one of things I remember,  
that made me think:  
"I want to be a surgeon") ""

ERICSSON: Medicine's become more cynical during my years in it.  
It's very much a Burger King society now,  
You know, it's: "Have it Your Way".

VEE: The 'culture' has changed somewhat towards medicine

ERICSSON: It's: "I want to see this doctor,  
on this date,  
and I don't want to pay to park."  
  
And, you know, if you're going to organise an investigation:  
"Isn't it going to be this afternoon?"

VEE: There is still scope there  
to want to do the right thing for people.

JO: *(There was always...*  
  
*There was always an aspect of*  
*wanting to heal people.*  
*And making people feel better.*  
  
*I don't know whether...*  
  
*I would say that's...*  
  
*That's faded slightly.*  
*Compared to maybe my first couple of years*  
*of being a doctor.*  
  
*When you kind of had this feeling.*  
*That you were going to be the person*  
*to cure cancer,*  
*and heal the world, but...*  
  
*It was my fault.*  
  
*It was all my fault.*  
  
*It was—) ""*

JEAN: **It was an accident. That no-one wanted to have happen**

JO: *(I'd just got to the point where I thought I could do them.*  
*Completely unsupervised.*  
*Completely alone.*  
  
*And it had gone pretty well. And... And... ... ) ""*

VEE: These kind of experiences,  
they demand  
that we relive them,  
over and over again.

JO: *(I felt really, really bad that day.)* “”

VEE: And those memories become dense  
and strong  
like thick, black coffee

JEAN: We wonder  
if things could have been different.

Maybe we place blame  
where it doesn't belong.

VEE: And just like too much caffeine  
that reliving keeps us up at night

JEAN: We feel guilty.

VEE: And can make us  
a bit sick

JO: *(I don't want to do this any more...)* “”