

**Bridgerton, Downton, and The Crown: Why  
Period Dramas Are the Escape We All Need |  
TIS Ep. 33**



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Sharon: Hi, I'm Sharon

Lisa: and I'm Lisa

Sharon and Lisa: and together we're the introvert sisters. is.

Sharon: And delighted to say that we are recording together once again. And you know, we're really loving this and we hope you're enjoying it too. And before we get into what we want to talk about today, we just want to say that you'll notice in this season that there are a few regular episodes that have no video. And the, one of the reasons for that is that we prioritize self care and that there are days when it's just not happening. And Lisa can say a little bit more about this.

Lisa: Yeah, for me personally, you know, I do suffer from migraines and, I'm kind of like going through a migraine phase right now. And, you know, there are some days, frankly, when you can barely hold yourself together, you know, it's hard to, to, to see light as too much sound is too much. Life can't feel like too much. And so in terms of how that affects doing something like the podcast is getting yourself together on camera ready. And I don't know, it just is sort of, a little bit too much effort when, when you're in the midst of struggling with a migraine, at least, at least for me. And I don't know if any of you are our listeners, if you guys, have migraines or things of that nature or any kind of like chronic pain issues, but, you know, they can really make it difficult to, sort of put one foot in front of the other, do everyday things and function at your max. You know, and Sean and I are introvert introverts, as you clearly know. And so being on camera even on our best days is really not our thing. You know, we're doing it because we're professionals,

Sharon: We feel like this is what we need to do.

Lisa: We're marketers that we feel like we need to do it. But, you know, here we are, this is 2021. The theme of the year for me at least is grace. So I'm giving myself some grace. And so we're not on camera, but we're still doing something we're doing what we can do.

Sharon: We're doing what we can do. And, you know, I think that that following on from 2020, 20, 21 is going to be another year where we have to do what we can do. You know, things are not going back to the way they were no, anytime soon. And so we have to be kind to ourselves. And so we're being kind to ourselves, we're being kind to each other, each other, we're being kind to Lisa with her migraines currently. And that is why you may see a little less video from us this season, you know, we will do what we can do and we can do it. And I'm sure that you will understand, but anyway, on to what we want to talk about today, British period dramas, yes, we love them.

Lisa: We love them. We love them. We love them. You know, we just want to keep it light because, you know, we delve into some deep, serious topics sometimes, but part of what we've enjoyed over the past several weeks, you know, it's been a little bit, a little bit of relaxation and we've taken up a lot of period dramas. And not just in the past few weeks, obviously, you know, over the past while, because we've always loved period drama,

Sharon: Always loved period drama. No, of course

Lisa: The latest juiciest one is the one out of Shonda land Richardson, which child, whoo. We love it. We love it. We love it.

Sharon: Yes. This was, this was, a favorite that we delved into in the pre and post, Christmas period. And it was just, it was just wonderful to see the costumes, the settings, you know, all the things that we normally love about period dramas because, you know, before we get delve into Britain itself, you know, it's very interesting to me. I mean, I used to read a lot of Regency novels, right Jordan Hare and other people. And so in a way, some of these period dramas and Bridget and in particular sort of brings that to life. it's escapism, you know, we love looking at the costumes and the pretty dresses. Now I am not a dresser up myself, but you know, I can, I can appreciate a good period costume. You know, I find it very interesting and I don't know about uses, but one of the things I do with this is I'm always Googling to see if it is accurate. So in the process, I learn a lot about history. What about,

Lisa: yes. I learned a lot about history. I, like you, I do Google to see what's been accurate. What, you know, what has presented accurately, what they've taken some creative license with and so on. And you know, it's always, it's always interesting. So it's like entertainment is education. I love. And of course there's, you know, I love fashion. So I even Google from that perspective to see, okay, are the fashions being represented accurately Or, you know, like what

Sharon: Exactly exactly did visit a fashion museum at some point did really did. And, you know, they had costumes through the ages and some of the same kinds of costumes you're seeing on shows like Britain we're in this museum. I can't remember exactly where it is, but I'm sure we can drop a link to it. It was in New York somewhere. Right. And, you know, office, obviously the homes, the stately homes and gardens. I have visited a couple of stately homes, you know, when I lived in England. And so it's very interesting to see, you know, the, on it ceilings, the furniture, the decoration, the

Lisa: Dorsey gardens, the formality, the stateliness of it all. I love it. I love it. It's just beautiful. It's beautiful. And it's it's, as you said, it's escapism, you know, 20, 20 of all years, seemed inescapable. It just followed us into 2020 of course. And also watching something like that, just, you know, it just relaxes the mind, you know, and okay. So do you have any favorite characters in Britain In Britain Oh, or are you like all of them I mean, I'm Mrs. Oh my gosh. What's her name Well, if I've got no, hold on. Let's give, a little context. No, let's give, you know, the, the chocolate characters, characters of color there. Do let's just start with Simon Basset, Juco. Pacings cause we all know, Ooh, child. Yes.

Sharon: Clearly we're watching it for the costumes, but you know, what did you,

Lisa: The juice that you, the Duke he's amazing, but yeah. So who were you going to say I know who you're going to see. Drama, eye candy, eye candy. Okay. And I had met him. I don't remember met scene, is I in my imagination I hadn't met him. but I had seen him, he had been in a very short-lived legal. Oh. In a very short-lived legal drama in a very short legal drama. I don't remember what, what network it was on. Yeah. Well, you know, it wasn't set in modern day, but even from then it was like, Oh, he has charisma. But somehow in this period, drama in the Britons is in sorry in Britain. It, it all, all the charisma and the, the amazingness comes light and you know, they do delve into some on there's a little bit of nudity. There is a little bit of steam, a little bit of seediness passing between the sheets and at elsewhere, you know, in truth. Right. And he delivers, okay.

Sharon: Can I just say I'm a big fan of strong female character Yes. And lady Diana,

Lisa: Is that done Burry Danbury. Danbury lady Danbury. Yes. She's amazing. She is amazing.

Sharon: She is absolutely amazing.

Lisa: I think she's my favorite cat. I mean, in all seriousness, she's probably my favorite character because she is, and I do believe that she is a short and smallest stature. Yes. Presence her presence. Oh my gosh. Is that literally ever of a Royal

Sharon: Yes, she is amazing. Yes. So the, the, the, the Britain, the Brazilian series is based on a series of romance novels following the romantic entanglements of eight brutal, siblings. I believe that this one is the first novel, which was titled that you can I, yeah. Which is incidentally the title of one of the episodes. And it shows how, the Duke gets together with his, his, his, his lady. Right.

Lisa: Who is, what's her name Is it Phoebe Why am I, why am I listen Honestly, you know, the reason that we definitely use her name there's so many of them are so many,

Sharon: you know, there are several families. There's the, there's the Bridget terns. There's the Duke, there's the feathering turn.

Lisa: Yeah. A lot of families, but in this one, it's, Daphne Daphne Richardson is the sort of the main character and Simon Bassett. Yes. He sings is the male is a male lead. Right. And it comes out of Sean Deland. Right No, some people have had, you know, there've been reactions about, you know, it's not historically accurate because, you know, black people were not a member of high society members of high society, you know, whatever. I say, first of all, you don't actually know that because there are records, to the contrary. So there's that. So, you know, learn your history. But anyway, but that, but that aside, even if that were not the case, I'm like, can we just relax and live Yes. And just have some mindless entertainment, entertainment,



Sharon: You know, I, I always go back to the fact that we have had centuries, well, not centuries since we've had television. Okay. We've had decades where people have appeared who have played roles of all hues. So I, you know, in this, the restful thing about Britain is that in most cases, you know, race was hardly ever mentioned. The characters were who they were, some of them were black. Some of them, some of them, some of them were white. It has also been slated because it didn't represent other ethnicities, which I guess is fair comment.

Lisa: You know, but, but, but again, you know, you know, everybody knows it's a pain, isn't it

Sharon: It is. First of all, it is fiction. Yes. Let's start there. It is fiction. It is fiction. Okay.

Lisa: Oh, these are the people who complained when, you know, Ariel, the cartoon Murphy

Sharon: Was played by black girls.

Lisa: Some people have zero sense. Okay.

Sharon: Yeah. So it is fiction. So I'm kind of not buying that. No, I mean, I found it a great visual romp and I enjoyed it for that.

Lisa: And I'm a fan that you know of queen Charlotte. Yeah. And she she's also black

Sharon: Is actually historically accurate. Yes. Yes.

Lisa: This is quite to what some of you might think. Yes. Right. We were there we've been everywhere. Okay. I know it know it, learn it, accept it. Exactly. Yes. So we're a big Richardson fans. And, so we though, cause I of course binge watched it. I I'm ashamed it might've been in a day. If not, not in a date was in two. How are you done done with it done,

Sharon: Done, done. It has wonderful,

Lisa: Amazing. Right. And the thing is, is I saw immensely. I could actually rewatch it. The thing is, is that it's so layered and multidimensional. I know that there are things I missed. Speaking of rewatching. Yes.

Sharon: Go on to tutors. Oh yeah. Which I was several years and I am now I've just started rewatching. Yes. And this is Jonathan recently,

Lisa: Myer Myers. I know

Sharon: Clearly people, we should have done a little more prep in advance for the names of the actors, but that's his name I mean, we're just, we just don't don't know how to pronounce it. Yes. Right. And he is excellent as, Henry the eighth. Yeah. And, and, you know, th the, the way that the series covers his, his rise and fall, his physical and mental decline, and, you know, it's played, he's played, but you know, he plays him all the way through it. Yeah.

Lisa: Yes. He's fully done. It's beautifully done. You know, he's, he's an Irish actor and I don't believe that he actually started out even wanting to be an actor. I think he kind of like fell into it. I have a boy. He fell into what he is meant to do his family.

Sharon: Fantastic. He is excellent. He's excellent. Of course, we all know the story of Henry the eighth and his six wives, which would make good theater or television anyway. And so this, this, this series is, is just amazing. The costumes, the settings, all the things that we love about you really love about Bridget. And we also love about the tutors. you know, you have a few steamy scenes, you have lots of intrigue. I mean, you know, the court is a snake pit, basically. Yes. Yeah.

Lisa: You know, I better keep your enemies close on. They're all close. Okay.

Sharon: I have been very amused in rewatching it and seeing how Henry himself, I be, it starts at the top, you know, he signing a peace treaty with France one day with spend the next day and then bought with France. And next thing you know, people are signing these treaties, having no intention of keeping them, never, never. So, you know, it was very interesting to see the, you know, the, the art of diplomacy and the art of betrayal. Yes. Shall we just see, you know, so another, another recommendation from us, I thoroughly, thoroughly enjoyed it. It was very well acted as one of my all-time favorites for sure. Right. Yeah. Okay. So what should we talk about,

Lisa: another one, actually, one of the ones I kind of started with was rain, which I love because, you know, what was it about queen of Americana queen, queen of Scots, right. Mary queen of Scots, you know, and what I liked about one of the things in many things I liked about with that is it was this sort of interplay between yes, it's a period drama, but a lot of the music, for example, that they use, it's like modern re interpretations, classical interpretations,

Sharon: Modern songs, which is a very interesting thing. And something they also did in Britain. Yes. It's actually, yeah. So very, very interesting from that

Lisa: Point of view. Yes. And also reinterpretations in terms of the costuming. So you could tell that they weren't, exact replicas, but they spoke to the period

Sharon: They did. They did. And it was very interesting seeing the, you know, how, a woman moved to try to chart her own destiny in, in, in that, in that time period, you know, it was, yeah, it was, it was a difficult time,

Lisa: You know, which one I just remembered Merlin.

Speaker 3: I forgot about Merlin,

Lisa: Mommy. And I sat down one time she was visiting and binge watched the entire thing, had an absolute blast. That one Merlin Merlin was a great one. Merlin was a great one. I think actually it might be about time to rewatch Merlin. Is it still on Netflix I have no idea. I will have to check. I'd have to check. Okay. Yeah. So let's not, let's not, digress

Sharon: Getting back to the crown.

Speaker 3: No, there's been a

Sharon: Lot of criticism of this series. It appears that some people have said that it should have a fiction warning on it. It appears that people have, may have taken some more creative liberties with this season, but I still, it made it, it still makes for very good television. The interesting thing on that, the, the, the, the slightly difficult thing is that the closer you get to the period that we are aware of. So the first couple of seasons, this was history to us. Yes, yes, yes, yes. Now we're getting into the period, you know, the period, right. We lived through the princess di period. We watched the wedding on television. We were watching Dick. We saw the decline in the papers. You know, we saw the documentaries, we saw all of that. So it has a different feel to it. Now it's like, we know it's period, but it doesn't feel period because it feels more modern. Yeah.

Lisa: Yes. So we still, we still feel like Charles was a honed. We do feel like charges.

Speaker 3: There you go. So, you

Lisa: Know, call it fiction all you want, but Charles did what he did. Right. He had an outside one before he was even married and continued do y'all know, said woman, and he's not married the outside woman. So y'all can say what you want, but let the record show that that happened for real.

Sharon: I wanted, I want to say that I love, Olivia Coleman as the court.

Lisa: She's amazing. I mean, I've loved all of them. Third one, right. Third, second, second. She's a second one second one. Yeah. I love it. I love both of them, but yeah, she is amazing as a queen. I also love, Oh my gosh. Why am I forgetting her name Helena Bonham Carter.

Speaker 3: Oh, she's so good. She's so

Lisa: Just constantly on the edge of collapse. I know. And despair, she's so chaotic, problematic.

Speaker 3: It's an entire mess.

Sharon: Proves that even at the higher echelons, the highest echelons of society, you're not immune from, from problems from despair, from, you know, it's, it's, you know, it's like, it's like you go through this phase where, you know, you almost feel sorry for them, and then you realize there's Richards creases. And you're saying, well, maybe I shouldn't feel that. Sorry for them. But you know, they're human beings. They're human beings.

Lisa: I feel for her wedding, you know, every time, because every time she wants to do something with her life, basically, you know, Elizabeth, knocks her down. Yes. And even even worse. Well, I don't want to give away too much, but in one of the, in the current season, one of the most painful scenes was when, you know, once again, you know, Margaret wanted to XYZ and Elizabeth kind of smiled and nodded, you know, that vacant spots, she gives her out and she's like, Oh dear, there's no way this is going to happen. But then she brought in a member of staff to tell Margaret, yes, cold, cold, you know, and sort of created some distance between, you know, us as the Chrome. Yes. Created some distance between herself and her sister. and had somebody do her dirty work for her. And it was like, I, I felt Margaret's pain.

Sharon: Yes, yes, yes, yes. Okay. So there are a couple, just a couple more to mention. Can we just pay homage to downturn Downton Abbey

Lisa: Oh my gosh. So we wait. Cause it's been a while since I watched that, is it the, what's the, what's the, what's the name of the character The older lady who just, slays everybody. Is she,

Sharon: Did I forget played by I think so. Yeah. Yeah. She is. She has the best line. She is so delightfully a cervic. Yes. Right. It is just,



Lisa: She was, she was lady Danbury before lane Danbury and it's way worse, to be honest,

Sharon: Just wonderful, wonderful, wonderful, wonderful. Yes. Again, no. So, you know, this is what, I mean, it starts out in the, the early 20th century, I want to say and goes into just post world war one, two. Yes. And so things are changing in society and, you know, it's really a good illustration of how we moved from the stately home, you know, parentage era into the modern era. And, and you know, if you haven't caught it, you should also catch the movie.

Lisa: Yes. That one, what I like about that, because each of each series has its emphasis. Yeah. Right. This one, I like the interplay between, you know, basically the help. Yeah. Essentially, right. The, you know, these, these servant class or, you know, servant and working class and the aristocrats and the aristocrats it's like upstairs, downstairs, upstairs, downstairs. Exactly. Re-imagined yes. And so you learn a lot about, you know, how, how these things function, the relationships between the two classes, the difficulty in sort of traveling essentially between the two classes, like, you know, whatever class you're born into, for the most part, you stay in that class. And it takes a lot to, I mean, there is some trouble, yes. There is a movement, right.

Sharon: Moves from being the chauffeur to the husband of one of the daughters of the aristocrats never fully accepted. And, and, and so that, that actually shows, illustrates those difficulties. Yes. Yes. You know so yes, definitely a must watch if you have not seen it and then let us just, I just wanted to hop back to one original pride and prejudice. Now we've had movies and so on, but there was a six part series in the nineties starring Colin Firth, which is the best adaptation of pride and prejudice I have seen.

Lisa: Oh, yes, yes. I love pride and prejudice. Yeah.

Sharon: you know, it's one of those stories that I, you know, I always go back to, I keep watching keep enjoying.

Lisa: Yeah. Cause there's a, there's a, is there a new, there's a more reasonable at least one more recent one that might even be two, but you, you like the original,

Sharon: I think the original, I haven't seen it for a while and it's something that I minded to rewatch. Right. Right. And so I,

Lisa: What, what is your, what is it about it for you

Sharon: You know, I've always, I've always loved that story. I, you know, I first read it when I was about 15 and it's something I re-read it several times. And I loved seeing it brought to life. You know, it felt like they used a lot of the dialogue from the book. It felt, it felt true to the original novel,

Lisa: Which a lot of, you know, a lot of adaptations don't so it's good when they, when they are as accurate as it can be.

Sharon: So I just think, you know, it's, you know, I have enjoyed the films, but that allowed you to give the story more weight because it was six episodes. I think it was six episodes. And, and so you got more of the full story and then it had all the things we love, it had the costumes, it had the stately homes, it had the gardens. And, you know, it's always interesting to, to see how people lived then. Yeah. You know, and you know, there is a scene with Colin Firth and a Lake. If you have not seen it, you would want to see it.

Lisa: Hmm. I may have to, I might have to seek that out and go and go watch. I don't think I ever called it actually. Yes. I say no more. Yes, no more. I say no more. Are there any, that you know of on Netflix that are coming up or Netflix, Hulu, whatever, or you haven't seen any, have you been reshaped period drama limit

Sharon: I haven't seen any recently. I haven't seen any recently, but you know, I, you know, there there've been others that I've watched. I mean, you know, we talked sometime back, you and I about Borgia and the borders. Oh my gosh. Right. Intriguing, intriguing as the two of them intrigue in the papacy intrigue in, in, in, in the upper echelons of Italy, Italian society, you know, very, very interesting.

Lisa: Is that a board Yeah. anyway, point being, we love,

Sharon: We love period dramas in total. It is total, total escapism and totally, totally necessary. If you need escapism, you like history, then period, dramas are a great place to start. Okay. So yes, that is

Lisa: All right. That's all I have to say. Enjoy, enjoy a little light entertainment, you know,

Sharon: Be sure to tell us if you have watched any of these that we've mentioned. If there are others that you would recommend, you know, connect with us on social media and let us know. We definitely want some more recommendation. We want more, we want more recommendations and yeah, I think that's it. Thank you for listening, where the introvert sisters catch up with us on social media and we will see you on the next episode. Bye.