

**#SoAatHome | How we translate children's literature – in conversation with Thomas Clark and Johanna McCalmont**  
Thursday 2 July 2026



00:00:01.000--> 00:00:03.268

-Good afternoon, everybody.

00:00:06.000--> 00:00:11.000

And welcome to this  
Society of Authors event,

00:00:11.000--> 00:00:13.668

How we translate  
children's literature

00:00:13.692--> 00:00:18.068

– in conversation with Thomas  
Clark and Johanna McCalmont.

00:00:18.117--> 00:00:21.117

I'm just going to  
give a few minutes

00:00:21.117--> 00:00:24.948

for people to arrive.

00:00:26.117--> 00:00:28.748

We're getting hellos

00:00:28.772--> 00:00:30.718

in the chat

00:00:30.743--> 00:00:32.510

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from where people are.

00:00:34.700--> 00:00:37.700

All right, I think  
we should be...

00:00:37.725--> 00:00:40.988

If the chat's anything to  
go by, people are here.

00:00:41.012--> 00:00:45.700

Thank you ever so much  
for joining us this afternoon.

00:00:45.700--> 00:00:47.788

So I'll introduce myself.

00:00:47.812--> 00:00:49.308

I'm Josephine Murray.

00:00:49.332--> 00:00:53.700

I'm a translator from French  
to English and a journalist.

00:00:53.700--> 00:00:59.700

And I'm also a committee member  
of the Translators Association.

00:00:59.700--> 00:01:01.700

For my audio description,

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00:01:01.700--> 00:01:03.828

I'm a white woman

00:01:03.852--> 00:01:07.548

with hair that I would like to  
think is still the red of my youth,

00:01:07.572--> 00:01:10.908

but most people would say  
is brown with a hint of red.

00:01:10.932--> 00:01:13.700

And I'm wearing my  
reading glasses today as well.

00:01:13.700--> 00:01:15.708

So this event

00:01:15.732--> 00:01:21.700

is part of our Society of Authors at  
Home Spring/Summer 2026 programme

00:01:21.700--> 00:01:25.700

and is in conjunction with  
the Translators Association.

00:01:25.700--> 00:01:27.700

It's a free event, as you know,

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00:01:27.700--> 00:01:29.428

but if you can afford to,

00:01:29.452--> 00:01:33.700

please consider donating to the  
Society of Authors Access Fund

00:01:33.700--> 00:01:36.268

Which provides grants to authors

00:01:36.292--> 00:01:39.708

so that travel, subsistence,  
childcare costs and access needs

00:01:39.732--> 00:01:41.948

aren't barriers to  
authors taking part

00:01:41.972--> 00:01:44.668

in events, residencies  
and retreats.

00:01:44.692--> 00:01:46.228

And if you are able to do that,

00:01:46.252--> 00:01:48.700

we suggest a minimum donation of

00:01:48.700--> 00:01:50.700

£5.

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00:01:50.700--> 00:01:54.828

You can also help the  
Society of Authors Access Fund

00:01:54.852--> 00:01:57.068

by making a purchase  
on our virtual bookstore,

00:01:57.092--> 00:01:59.268

which is [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org).

00:01:59.292--> 00:02:03.700

And there you will find books  
by Thomas and Johanna,

00:02:03.700--> 00:02:06.908

and books translated  
by me as well.

00:02:06.932--> 00:02:10.190

And that link is in the chat.

00:02:10.215--> 00:02:13.188

So the chat, as  
people are doing,

00:02:13.212--> 00:02:16.548

is for chat and the Q&A function

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00:02:16.572--> 00:02:21.700

is where we would like you  
to post your questions, please.

00:02:21.700--> 00:02:25.468

The session will be 45 minutes

00:02:25.492--> 00:02:29.308

and the questions, Q&A,  
we're going to put at the end

00:02:29.332--> 00:02:31.700

for 10 minutes..

00:02:31.700--> 00:02:33.700

So do

00:02:33.700--> 00:02:36.068

write your questions  
in the Q&A box

00:02:36.092--> 00:02:39.068

and save them for that moment.

00:02:39.092--> 00:02:44.628

Please do turn on closed  
captions if you'd like live subtitles.

00:02:44.652--> 00:02:46.828

And the recording of the event

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00:02:46.852--> 00:02:50.273

will be available on  
the SoA's website

00:02:50.298--> 00:02:53.373

on the resources page  
and Vimeo channel.

00:02:53.398--> 00:02:57.228

And it will be emailed to  
attendees who registered

00:02:57.252--> 00:03:01.076

shortly after along  
with the captions.

00:03:02.530--> 00:03:07.668

So I will now introduce you  
to our fantastic translators

00:03:07.692--> 00:03:12.268

and guests today, Thomas  
Clark and Johanna McCalmont.

00:03:12.292--> 00:03:15.148

So, Thomas Clark is  
a writer and translator

00:03:15.172--> 00:03:17.700

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who lives in

Lanarkshire, Scotland

00:03:17.700--> 00:03:20.468

and works mainly in

the Scots language.

00:03:20.492--> 00:03:24.988

His work for children

includes Scots translations

00:03:25.012--> 00:03:28.508

of Jeff Kinney's Diary

of a Wimpy Kid series,

00:03:28.532--> 00:03:32.028

Lemony Snicket's A Series

of Unfortunate Events,

00:03:32.052--> 00:03:34.078

and Peppa's Bonnie Unicorn.

00:03:34.103--> 00:03:36.948

He won Scots Book

of the Year 2023

00:03:36.972--> 00:03:40.317

for his translation of

George Orwell's Animal Farm

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00:03:40.342--> 00:03:45.468

and he also runs, alongside  
fellow translator Matthew Fitt,

00:03:45.492--> 00:03:48.700

the Scots Language  
School's resource provider,

00:03:48.700--> 00:03:51.700

Scots Hoose Yaldi.

00:03:51.700--> 00:03:55.148

Johanna McCalmont was  
born in Northern Ireland

00:03:55.172--> 00:03:57.228

and now lives in  
Brussels, Belgium.

00:03:57.252--> 00:04:00.588

She translates from French,  
German, Dutch, and Italian,

00:04:00.612--> 00:04:02.588

and her translations  
for children

00:04:02.612--> 00:04:06.700

have been published by Blue  
Dot Kids Press & North South.

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00:04:06.700--> 00:04:10.093

As a co-editor at  
the World Kid Lit blog,

00:04:10.117--> 00:04:13.868

she helps champion global  
literature for younger readers.

00:04:13.892--> 00:04:16.428

She also works as a  
conference interpreter

00:04:16.452--> 00:04:22.117

at a wide range of events,  
including literary festivals.

00:04:22.117--> 00:04:26.117

So I will start with Johanna

00:04:26.117--> 00:04:28.908

and ask you

00:04:28.932--> 00:04:31.348

where you are today, and

00:04:31.372--> 00:04:36.117

is this where you do your  
translation work usually?

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00:04:36.117--> 00:04:40.108

-Hi. Thanks for the invitation.

00:04:40.132--> 00:04:43.108

Before I start, for  
the audio description,

00:04:43.132--> 00:04:46.708

I'm a white woman with  
shoulder length blonde hair

00:04:46.732--> 00:04:49.625

and I am wearing glasses  
that I wear all the time.

00:04:49.650--> 00:04:52.548

Good question, yep, today,

00:04:52.572--> 00:04:56.548

even though the background's blurred,  
you can probably see it's a kitchen.

00:04:56.572--> 00:04:59.268

And it is one of the places  
that I have been translating.

00:04:59.292--> 00:05:01.011

I translate all over the place.

00:05:01.035--> 00:05:04.748

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Kitchens, my  
living room, trains,

00:05:04.772--> 00:05:06.428

airport lounges

00:05:06.452--> 00:05:10.066

and, yeah, it's...

it's quite varied.

00:05:10.091--> 00:05:11.091

-Right.

00:05:11.116--> 00:05:15.117

Okay. And Thomas, where...

Are you at home today?

00:05:15.117--> 00:05:19.388

-I'm Thomas Clark, and for  
audio description purposes,

00:05:19.412--> 00:05:22.868

I'm a white man with a  
very, very, very high hairline

00:05:22.892--> 00:05:25.484

and a black Battlestar  
Galactica shirt.

00:05:25.508--> 00:05:29.468

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And I'm at home today, this is  
where I do most of my translating,

00:05:29.492--> 00:05:32.108

although like Johanna, I  
have translated everywhere

00:05:32.132--> 00:05:35.468

at airports, libraries is one of  
my favourite places to translate.

00:05:35.492--> 00:05:38.308

This is... We moved  
here a few years ago

00:05:38.332--> 00:05:40.708

and I used to have a  
really lovely writing desk,

00:05:40.732--> 00:05:42.508

which unfortunately,  
this is a mezzanine,

00:05:42.532--> 00:05:46.108

so it wasn't able to make  
its way up the spiral staircase.

00:05:46.132--> 00:05:48.668

And also because it's a  
mezzanine, I don't have a door to shut.

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00:05:48.692--> 00:05:51.148

And I find those two things to be a bit obstructive

00:05:51.172--> 00:05:53.978

to telling people that I am now writing and don't want to be disturbed.

00:05:54.002--> 00:05:55.382

But otherwise, it's a lot of space.

00:05:55.406--> 00:05:59.788

-Yeah, I can sympathise, empathize with the lack of door.

00:05:59.812--> 00:06:01.668

I am in

00:06:01.692--> 00:06:05.948

a similar setup with a staircase right into the office and no door.

00:06:05.972--> 00:06:07.132

Um...

00:06:07.132--> 00:06:11.068

So I wanted to start by asking you

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00:06:11.092--> 00:06:12.508

how you got into...

00:06:12.532--> 00:06:16.132

how you both got into literary  
translation in the first place.

00:06:16.132--> 00:06:17.468

Big question.

00:06:17.492--> 00:06:19.132

[laughs]

00:06:19.132--> 00:06:22.132

Well, sorry, I'll  
start with Johanna.

00:06:22.132--> 00:06:23.708

-Um...

00:06:23.732--> 00:06:25.628

I studied languages

00:06:25.652--> 00:06:27.588

and I did a traditional degree

00:06:27.612--> 00:06:30.948

and I even did a Translation  
and Interpreting Master's.

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00:06:30.972--> 00:06:34.708

So a bit of practical training.

00:06:34.732--> 00:06:37.868

But no literary work  
throughout that,

00:06:37.892--> 00:06:41.748

and it was maybe 10 years  
ago I read a book in French,

00:06:41.772--> 00:06:43.508

and I thought, hmm,  
I wonder what...

00:06:43.532--> 00:06:46.788

if this is available in English  
to give to other people.

00:06:46.812--> 00:06:48.308

And I was intrigued by the title

00:06:48.332--> 00:06:51.132

and intrigued by a few  
things in English, and I thought

00:06:51.132--> 00:06:53.148

"Oh, this is all  
very interesting.

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00:06:53.172--> 00:06:57.348

Maybe there are  
some sort of openings to...

00:06:57.372--> 00:06:58.948

look into this myself",

00:06:58.972--> 00:07:02.308

so I, discovered the BCLT,

00:07:02.332--> 00:07:05.308

the British Center for Digital  
Translation summer school,

00:07:05.332--> 00:07:09.228

and various different workshops  
and that was really how I started

00:07:09.252--> 00:07:12.948

on my more literary path.

00:07:12.972--> 00:07:14.508

-Right.

00:07:14.532--> 00:07:17.028

And Thomas, how did you get into

00:07:17.052--> 00:07:19.132

literary translation?

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00:07:19.132--> 00:07:23.151

-Well, I grew up speaking  
Scots, like many Scots speakers,

00:07:23.175--> 00:07:24.828

without knowing  
that it was a language

00:07:24.852--> 00:07:26.698

or anything other  
than really bad English.

00:07:26.723--> 00:07:28.028

And then

00:07:28.052--> 00:07:32.308

for work purposes, I moved down  
to the Scottish borders in about 2005.

00:07:32.332--> 00:07:35.148

And I found out that there, there  
was no stigma attached to Scots

00:07:35.172--> 00:07:38.988

and that Scots was the lingua franca on  
most of the community, and there was...

00:07:39.012--> 00:07:41.028

everybody used it

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in all circumstances.

00:07:41.052--> 00:07:42.788

So I started writing  
in it, seeing, well,

00:07:42.812--> 00:07:45.588

if this isn't just a couthy  
wee tongue for music halls,

00:07:45.612--> 00:07:47.388

are there other things  
we can do with Scots?

00:07:47.412--> 00:07:50.428

And I started translating  
poetry into Scots.

00:07:50.452--> 00:07:53.132

I wrote a poetry collection  
called Into the Snow

00:07:53.132--> 00:07:56.108

and I sent it out to various  
people to get blurbs.

00:07:56.132--> 00:07:59.188

And Matthew Fett, whose  
names come up already,

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00:07:59.212--> 00:08:01.132

who is a transl--

00:08:01.132--> 00:08:04.748

Basically inaugurated Scots

language translation for kids books

00:08:04.772--> 00:08:08.708

said to me, well, this is great, do you

want to have a go at kids translating?

00:08:08.732--> 00:08:11.468

And I thought, yeah,

yes I do. I absolutely do.

00:08:11.492--> 00:08:13.692

If anybody asked me to do

anything, I will give it a go.

00:08:13.716--> 00:08:17.746

And I've done a lot more of that now

than I have done with poetry translating.

00:08:17.771--> 00:08:18.771

-Right.

00:08:18.796--> 00:08:20.148

And...

00:08:20.173--> 00:08:22.745

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-For... For you,

00:08:22.769--> 00:08:25.228

what's important about,

00:08:25.252--> 00:08:26.468

um...

00:08:26.492--> 00:08:31.331

young people being able

to read books in Scots?

00:08:31.355--> 00:08:34.988

Because you translate from English books,

from English to Scots, is that right? Yes.

00:08:35.012--> 00:08:36.188

So,

00:08:36.212--> 00:08:39.132

what's important about

about young people

00:08:39.132--> 00:08:42.132

having access to

literature in Scots,

00:08:42.132--> 00:08:43.756

do you think?

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00:08:43.781--> 00:08:46.228

-There's always been  
a stigma against Scots

00:08:46.252--> 00:08:48.548

in the central belt of  
Scotland in particular,

00:08:48.572--> 00:08:50.148

but all over Scotland.

00:08:50.172--> 00:08:53.028

Anybody a wee bit older  
than me will remember

00:08:53.052--> 00:08:55.708

probably getting the belt  
for speaking Scots at school,

00:08:55.732--> 00:08:58.948

for saying doon instead of  
down or hoose instead of house,

00:08:58.972--> 00:09:00.548

outside of Burns  
Night, obviously.

00:09:00.572--> 00:09:03.508

That if you use Scots,  
then you were in trouble.

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00:09:03.532--> 00:09:05.924

And even at my age,

00:09:05.948--> 00:09:08.348

you didn't get the belt,

but there's other ways that

00:09:08.372--> 00:09:11.388

teachers and people

around you have ways

00:09:11.412--> 00:09:13.308

they have of punishing

you for using Scots.

00:09:13.332--> 00:09:14.628

And that still... that goes on.

00:09:14.652--> 00:09:16.108

I think things have improved,

00:09:16.132--> 00:09:18.268

but there's still loads of

kids in schools nowadays

00:09:18.292--> 00:09:20.508

who speak Scots and

use Scots all the time

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00:09:20.532--> 00:09:23.388

and are discouraged from  
doing it and are encouraged

00:09:23.412--> 00:09:25.098

to think of themselves  
as being illiterate

00:09:25.123--> 00:09:26.948

because they do it,  
rather than bilingual.

00:09:26.948--> 00:09:29.948

And so being able to write  
and translate into Scots

00:09:29.972--> 00:09:34.548

and being able to validate the way  
that these kids speak and think and write

00:09:34.572--> 00:09:37.908

is just a hugely rewarding  
and important thing to do.

00:09:38.948--> 00:09:42.428

-Yeah, definitely. I think  
there's a lot of similarities with

00:09:42.452--> 00:09:45.668

the other indigenous

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UK languages.

00:09:45.692--> 00:09:47.951

For example, Welsh.

We had an event about

00:09:47.975--> 00:09:50.948

Welsh with the SoA recently.

00:09:50.948--> 00:09:52.948

In fact, I think it's today.

00:09:52.948--> 00:09:54.948

Thank you. And Johanna,

00:09:54.972--> 00:09:58.868

you translate from four  
different languages, which

00:09:58.892--> 00:10:01.228

is quite unusual, I think.

00:10:01.252--> 00:10:02.948

Is there

00:10:02.948--> 00:10:04.745

any difference about

00:10:04.769--> 00:10:08.148

what type of book you

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translate in each language

00:10:08.172--> 00:10:11.948

or have you got a preferred  
language to work with?

00:10:11.948--> 00:10:13.756

-Um...

00:10:13.781--> 00:10:15.176

I'm just thinking of the books.

00:10:15.201--> 00:10:17.628

I've actually worked mostly  
from French, strangely enough,

00:10:17.652--> 00:10:19.308

because, um...

00:10:19.332--> 00:10:21.908

I would just imagine there's so  
many more translators out there,

00:10:21.932--> 00:10:25.628

but perhaps that's what  
the editors pick up most.

00:10:25.652--> 00:10:26.828

Um...

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00:10:26.852--> 00:10:29.428

And the difference

between the languages, I...

00:10:29.452--> 00:10:31.042

It's more the difference between

00:10:31.066--> 00:10:33.908

what the editor who's going

to publish it is looking for,

00:10:33.932--> 00:10:37.948

perhaps, than the difference

in... in how I translate it.

00:10:37.948--> 00:10:38.948

-Right.

00:10:38.948--> 00:10:41.585

-But I love all my

languages. I love,

00:10:41.609--> 00:10:44.348

you know, I've got four

times as many reasons

00:10:44.372--> 00:10:47.588

to go to different bookshops and

different places, because I've got

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00:10:47.612--> 00:10:49.348

the four languages, so it's...

00:10:49.372--> 00:10:52.348

it's just an excuse for me to buy  
even more books, I'd say, you know.

00:10:52.372--> 00:10:54.228

You have to keep  
up every language,

00:10:54.253--> 00:10:55.831

which is great fun.

00:10:55.856--> 00:10:58.028

-Yeah. And in terms  
of children's literature,

00:10:58.052--> 00:11:00.548

are you working  
across the languages?

00:11:00.572--> 00:11:02.572

There isn't a particular...?

00:11:02.572--> 00:11:04.948

-So far it's been

00:11:04.972--> 00:11:07.308

mostly French, then German,

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00:11:07.332--> 00:11:10.572

and I've done one  
children's book from Italian.

00:11:10.572--> 00:11:14.508

I'd love to work on  
some Dutch republication.

00:11:14.532--> 00:11:16.028

I've worked for an agent

00:11:16.052--> 00:11:19.148

who is trying to sell books,

00:11:19.172--> 00:11:22.428

particularly from German,  
sometimes from Dutch.

00:11:22.452--> 00:11:25.388

But yeah, nothing  
published yet from Dutch,

00:11:25.412--> 00:11:28.188

so I think that's...  
that's my next

00:11:28.212--> 00:11:30.572

aim for a kids book.

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00:11:30.572--> 00:11:35.228

And what do you both  
particularly enjoy about

00:11:35.252--> 00:11:38.308

translating  
children's literature?

00:11:38.332--> 00:11:40.410

I'll ask you that first, Thomas.

00:11:41.547--> 00:11:43.668

-Well, I've worked  
with children...

00:11:43.692--> 00:11:46.108

Prior to translating, I  
worked with children a lot.

00:11:46.132--> 00:11:48.868

I was a school librarian  
for a good 15 years

00:11:48.892--> 00:11:52.188

and I still do work in libraries,  
but not school libraries any more.

00:11:52.212--> 00:11:53.348

So I love working with kids.

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00:11:53.372--> 00:11:55.547

I've always loved  
working with kids.

00:11:55.572--> 00:11:59.988

What's particularly rewarding about  
working in children's literature in Scots

00:12:00.012--> 00:12:02.228

is that Scots  
translation for kids

00:12:02.252--> 00:12:05.508

is really only been around  
for maybe 20, 25 years.

00:12:05.532--> 00:12:07.150

You know, Scots translation

00:12:07.174--> 00:12:09.708

for adults, it's been  
around for 400 or 500 years,

00:12:09.732--> 00:12:12.191

but for kids, it's a  
very recent thing.

00:12:12.216--> 00:12:14.948

And it has been a real lifeline

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00:12:14.972--> 00:12:16.468

for the language

in a lot of ways.

00:12:16.492--> 00:12:19.572

The last quarter of a

century maybe have been

00:12:19.572--> 00:12:22.388

seen as some sort of a

Scots renaissance in Scotland.

00:12:22.412--> 00:12:24.216

And for me that traces

back to... You can...

00:12:24.241--> 00:12:26.121

There's loads of different

things you could say.

00:12:26.145--> 00:12:28.305

Oh, it was that, it was

this, this was the first thing.

00:12:28.329--> 00:12:30.729

For me, the very first thing

was that Matthew Fitt translated

00:12:30.753--> 00:12:34.708

The Twits by Roald Dahl

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into The Eejits in Scots,

00:12:34.732--> 00:12:37.708

and that was the first time I...

You know, I was 22, 23 at the time.

00:12:37.732--> 00:12:40.108

That was the first time

I had ever seen Scots

00:12:40.132--> 00:12:43.508

validated as a written thing that

wasn't just for holding up and laughing at.

00:12:43.532--> 00:12:45.908

That was literally, like,

as a 23-year-old who'd

00:12:45.932--> 00:12:48.572

lived in a... You know,

been to university and lived

00:12:48.572--> 00:12:49.988

in all sorts of places.

00:12:50.012--> 00:12:53.068

That was the first time I'd

seen Scots as a real living thing

00:12:53.092--> 00:12:55.572

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that was valid  
and was important.

00:12:55.572--> 00:12:58.908

And so I can never  
really get away from that.

00:12:58.932--> 00:13:01.268

There's something very,  
very, very special about

00:13:01.292--> 00:13:02.745

being able to go into a school

00:13:02.769--> 00:13:05.508

and work with kids who've been  
told or been encouraged to think

00:13:05.532--> 00:13:07.068

that they're not very bright,

00:13:07.092--> 00:13:08.668

and to be able to tell them,

00:13:08.692--> 00:13:11.068

not only are you bright,  
but you're bilingual.

00:13:11.092--> 00:13:12.268

Not only are you...

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00:13:12.292--> 00:13:15.308

Not only is your Scots okay,

00:13:15.332--> 00:13:18.296

it's a special, really

special, important thing.

00:13:18.320--> 00:13:19.650

And it's an extra skill you have.

00:13:19.674--> 00:13:21.874

It's not something you can't

do, it's something you can.

00:13:21.898--> 00:13:23.963

So it's lovely to

be able to do that.

00:13:23.987--> 00:13:27.868

-Yeah, it sounds very

rewarding and inspiring.

00:13:27.892--> 00:13:29.988

And I'll ask you, Johanna,

00:13:30.012--> 00:13:34.668

what is it you like about translating

children's literature in particular?

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00:13:35.572--> 00:13:38.108

-I think it's, um...

00:13:38.132--> 00:13:39.628

the very oral nature.

00:13:39.652--> 00:13:42.188

So picture books

are to be read aloud.

00:13:42.212--> 00:13:44.828

And even the middle grade

books that I've worked on,

00:13:44.852--> 00:13:47.268

they're also quite often a book

00:13:47.292--> 00:13:49.572

that can be read

to a class or read

00:13:49.572--> 00:13:52.028

together as a child's

learning to read.

00:13:52.052--> 00:13:54.788

And I really, I really like

00:13:54.812--> 00:13:57.268

the sense that

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it's live interaction,

00:13:57.292--> 00:13:59.828

which also pairs with  
my work as an interpreter.

00:13:59.852--> 00:14:01.868

So,

00:14:01.892--> 00:14:06.148

yeah, it's very much about  
bringing a story alive through

00:14:06.172--> 00:14:08.218

oral storytelling that I like

00:14:08.243--> 00:14:10.948

-Yeah. Now, you've  
both mentioned

00:14:10.972--> 00:14:12.308

other things that you do.

00:14:12.332--> 00:14:15.628

Conference interpreting  
and going into schools and the

00:14:15.652--> 00:14:18.988

Scots resources  
organisation. So,

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00:14:19.012--> 00:14:20.988

I wanted to ask you about

00:14:21.012--> 00:14:25.548

the translation

adjacent activities

00:14:25.572--> 00:14:28.668

that work, rather, that

you both... you both do.

00:14:28.692--> 00:14:30.348

I'll start with you, Thomas. So,

00:14:30.372--> 00:14:34.028

what do you do, apart from sitting

down, actually translating a book

00:14:34.052--> 00:14:35.348

from one language to another?

00:14:35.372--> 00:14:36.468

What else do you do

00:14:36.492--> 00:14:38.628

within translation?

00:14:39.547--> 00:14:41.327

I do lots of

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corporate translation.

00:14:41.351--> 00:14:44.388

I do translation for various  
cultural organisations

00:14:44.412--> 00:14:45.847

when they have  
particular reason...

00:14:45.871--> 00:14:49.228

Usually have to have a particular reason  
to want to translate something into Scots.

00:14:49.252--> 00:14:52.708

But when they do, I do  
translation for the National Library,

00:14:52.732--> 00:14:54.378

the National Trust,  
Historic Scotland.

00:14:54.402--> 00:14:56.547

I do a lot of translation for  
the Scottish Government.

00:14:56.572--> 00:14:57.572

-Right.

00:14:57.572--> 00:15:00.468

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-I translated, a  
couple of years ago,

00:15:00.492--> 00:15:03.908

a browser called  
Firefox into Scots,

00:15:03.932--> 00:15:06.308

which was a really interesting  
and awesome thing to do,

00:15:06.332--> 00:15:08.988

and really challenged  
my ideas about Scots

00:15:09.012--> 00:15:12.628

and expanded my ideas about  
what Scots could be and could do.

00:15:12.652--> 00:15:15.548

Primarily-- And I also,  
as you mentioned, I run a

00:15:15.572--> 00:15:19.708

language resource network called  
Scots Hoose Yaldi, along with Matthew Fitt,

00:15:19.732--> 00:15:21.828

and we provide free  
resources in Scots

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00:15:21.852--> 00:15:25.572

to schools all over Scotland,  
primary and secondary schools.

00:15:25.572--> 00:15:27.788

I think the main thing I  
get out of my other work

00:15:27.812--> 00:15:31.508

is I get to connect with other  
Scotch writers because, as you know,

00:15:31.532--> 00:15:34.708

no doubt, writing and translating  
can be quite a lonely business.

00:15:34.732--> 00:15:37.988

And when I'm translating  
a book, I can go

00:15:38.012--> 00:15:41.308

days, weeks without seeing  
anybody other than my wife. So,

00:15:41.332--> 00:15:43.348

being connected to  
other Scotch writers,

00:15:43.372--> 00:15:45.572

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means being connected to  
the same struggles as them.

00:15:45.572--> 00:15:48.572

That's important to me, and that's  
something I get out of my other work.

00:15:48.572--> 00:15:49.572

-Yeah.

00:15:49.572--> 00:15:51.748

Right, thank you.

00:15:51.772--> 00:15:54.148

And Johanna can  
you tell us about your

00:15:54.172--> 00:15:58.572

translation adjacent  
activities, work, please?

00:15:58.572--> 00:16:02.948

Yeah, I suppose translation  
makes up about 10%

00:16:02.972--> 00:16:05.308

of my kind of  
professional activity.

00:16:05.332--> 00:16:10.268

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And the most of my  
work is interpreting.

00:16:10.292--> 00:16:11.668

So I'm out and about a lot,

00:16:11.692--> 00:16:14.308

hence the translating  
in different places.

00:16:14.332--> 00:16:18.828

And then the other very exciting  
thing that you mentioned, Josephine,

00:16:18.852--> 00:16:20.348

was the World Kid Lit.

00:16:20.372--> 00:16:23.148

So that's a project  
where we're all volunteers

00:16:23.172--> 00:16:25.572

and the aim of the non-profit is

00:16:25.572--> 00:16:27.572

to

00:16:27.572--> 00:16:29.068

bring diverse...

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00:16:29.092--> 00:16:32.188

I'm just looking at the little official  
blurb here in case Ruth is listening.

00:16:32.212--> 00:16:35.148

We've got Lawrence in the  
chat, who's one of the founders.

00:16:35.172--> 00:16:37.668

To bring a diverse,  
inclusive, you know,

00:16:37.692--> 00:16:40.188

and global literature into  
the hands of young people.

00:16:40.212--> 00:16:43.988

And at the very start, it was  
very much translated books,

00:16:44.012--> 00:16:46.308

but now we're sort  
of broadening it to

00:16:46.332--> 00:16:51.188

books written maybe in English from other  
areas that aren't just the UK or America,

00:16:51.212--> 00:16:53.388

so different kinds

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of English as well.

00:16:53.412--> 00:16:57.308

And that's another great  
chance just to connect with

00:16:57.332--> 00:17:02.572

readers, with fellow translators,  
with publishers, publicists

00:17:02.572--> 00:17:05.588

to get ahead of  
what's coming out

00:17:05.612--> 00:17:07.748

and to maybe make suggestions.

00:17:07.772--> 00:17:10.388

But the idea is that schools  
and librarians and parents

00:17:10.412--> 00:17:13.188

could find books from  
various different countries

00:17:13.212--> 00:17:16.148

that they might not  
otherwise see in their local,

00:17:16.172--> 00:17:19.572

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sort of, Waterstones on  
the main bestseller list.

00:17:19.572--> 00:17:20.788

-Right.

00:17:20.812--> 00:17:22.948

Well, so we've gone right out

00:17:22.972--> 00:17:25.588

and I wanted to come  
right back into your...

00:17:25.612--> 00:17:28.572

your translation process.

00:17:28.572--> 00:17:31.572

So you're sitting  
there, you've got...

00:17:31.572--> 00:17:34.233

got your book in  
the other language,

00:17:34.257--> 00:17:36.900

in English for Thomas,

00:17:36.924--> 00:17:38.948

in one of those four  
languages for Johanna,

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00:17:38.972--> 00:17:42.572

and I wanted to ask about...

00:17:42.572--> 00:17:44.588

about your process. Do you do

00:17:44.612--> 00:17:47.388

a rough first draft

with gaps for anything

00:17:47.412--> 00:17:49.572

that you need to go and look up?

00:17:49.572--> 00:17:50.708

Um...

00:17:50.732--> 00:17:54.572

Can you describe how

what your process is like?

00:17:54.572--> 00:17:57.572

Oh, I'll go to Thomas first.

00:17:57.572--> 00:18:00.308

-I'm a perfectionist.

00:18:00.332--> 00:18:02.548

I find it really hard to

walk away from things

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00:18:02.572--> 00:18:04.788

that are half finished  
or almost done,

00:18:04.812--> 00:18:06.748

but I've had to  
struggle against that

00:18:06.772--> 00:18:08.828

and fight against that  
because otherwise

00:18:08.852--> 00:18:12.108

I'll just get to a particular idiom that  
I need to translate and that'll be me.

00:18:12.132--> 00:18:13.872

I'll be stuck there  
for weeks on end.

00:18:13.896--> 00:18:17.388

So I have got myself into a place  
where I can do first and second drafts

00:18:17.412--> 00:18:19.748

because I have to because  
otherwise you'll just get stuck

00:18:19.772--> 00:18:21.868

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for days on a particular phrase.

00:18:21.892--> 00:18:25.068

Also, the first few times

I was doing writing...

00:18:25.092--> 00:18:26.908

or writing translations

of Scots books,

00:18:26.932--> 00:18:28.572

I would invariably spend

00:18:28.572--> 00:18:29.828

ages

00:18:29.852--> 00:18:33.108

focusing on this one phrase,

this one word, this one paragraph,

00:18:33.132--> 00:18:35.748

and then find out

once I'd done it that

00:18:35.772--> 00:18:37.668

six pages later there

was another place

00:18:37.692--> 00:18:41.018

where the idiom that I'd

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used in that first paragraph

00:18:41.043--> 00:18:44.148

was the exact right thing for  
this other paragraph, and now...

00:18:44.172--> 00:18:45.548

So all that work was undone.

00:18:45.572--> 00:18:47.130

I had to take all  
that and scrap it.

00:18:47.155--> 00:18:49.911

I had to forget it all and try and  
basically do it all from scratch.

00:18:49.935--> 00:18:53.148

And I find, and I'm sure that most  
translators find the same thing,

00:18:53.172--> 00:18:55.668

that as you go along, your

00:18:55.692--> 00:18:59.508

earlier translation in the book is  
informed by the later translation.

00:18:59.532--> 00:19:02.428

And you find all sorts of things,

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lucky, serendipitous things

00:19:02.452--> 00:19:04.308

sometimes that work earlier on

00:19:04.332--> 00:19:07.788

that you wouldn't have thought about  
if you just sat staring at the blank page

00:19:07.812--> 00:19:10.572

for two weeks, like  
I'm tempted to do.

00:19:10.572--> 00:19:14.708

So I am by nature, not a first  
draft, second draft, third draft person,

00:19:14.732--> 00:19:15.978

but I've had to become one.

00:19:16.003--> 00:19:17.868

Yeah, so it's been a...

00:19:17.892--> 00:19:19.028

Um...

00:19:19.052--> 00:19:22.417

You've sort of refined the  
process over the years?

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00:19:22.442--> 00:19:23.442

Yeah, yeah.

00:19:23.467--> 00:19:24.468

-By the sounds of things.

00:19:24.492--> 00:19:26.628

And Johanna, what about you?

00:19:26.652--> 00:19:30.188

Do you do first drafts with gaps

00:19:30.212--> 00:19:32.708

or do you leave things

for a bit and come back?

00:19:32.732--> 00:19:34.572

How do you do it?

00:19:34.572--> 00:19:36.468

-Um...

00:19:36.492--> 00:19:39.383

Yeah, first off, I like

to try to read the book.

00:19:39.407--> 00:19:42.028

I mean with a picture book,

that's quite straightforward.

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00:19:42.052--> 00:19:45.988

And even with a middle grade,  
it's fairly achievable to read.

00:19:46.012--> 00:19:49.548

And sometimes actually,  
Blue Dot, for example,

00:19:49.572--> 00:19:51.948

she quite often asked  
me to read the book first.

00:19:51.972--> 00:19:55.428

If she's considering buying it, so I will  
have read it, I'll have written a summary,

00:19:55.452--> 00:19:57.405

so I know...

00:19:57.429--> 00:19:59.708

I know the book  
before I'll start

00:19:59.732--> 00:20:02.572

and yeah, then I  
definitely have drafts.

00:20:02.572--> 00:20:06.028

And I think especially  
with the middle grade,

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00:20:06.052--> 00:20:09.268

there can be a lot of  
work with the editor.

00:20:09.292--> 00:20:12.388

So it can even be  
slightly developmental

00:20:12.412--> 00:20:15.668

if they want to maybe  
change the location,

00:20:15.692--> 00:20:18.868

which is not something that  
will happen with the, you know,

00:20:18.892--> 00:20:20.965

literature that adults  
will be reading.

00:20:20.990--> 00:20:25.572

So I think, I guess  
quite early on I'm... I'm...

00:20:25.572--> 00:20:28.308

I never feel it's  
the final thing yet,

00:20:28.332--> 00:20:31.188

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because I know that  
the editor is going to

00:20:31.212--> 00:20:33.268

come back with lots  
of questions. And,

00:20:33.292--> 00:20:36.668

over the course of a few books  
now, I can sort of spot things.

00:20:36.692--> 00:20:38.588

It's like, well, you might  
want to explain this

00:20:38.612--> 00:20:42.572

or I'll explain it before I think,  
maybe, she'll ask me a question.

00:20:42.572--> 00:20:45.028

So it's a very collaborative  
process, actually,

00:20:45.052--> 00:20:47.588

which I don't know, it's maybe  
not the same for you, Thomas,

00:20:47.612--> 00:20:49.668

if you're working  
into Scots, and...

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00:20:49.692--> 00:20:51.908

I don't know how  
involved your publisher is,

00:20:51.932--> 00:20:54.268

but certainly with the editor,

00:20:54.292--> 00:20:56.148

um...

00:20:56.172--> 00:20:59.068

There's a lot of  
to-ing and fro-ing. So...

00:20:59.092--> 00:21:02.988

I'll maybe do two drafts, but then  
there's another three, four rounds

00:21:03.012--> 00:21:05.508

and things will be changed that,

00:21:05.532--> 00:21:07.748

you know, it's up to  
the author to decide on

00:21:07.772--> 00:21:09.868

or it goes way beyond me.

00:21:09.892--> 00:21:13.018

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So I feel I have to let go  
of it quite quickly actually.

00:21:13.043--> 00:21:14.268

-Right.

00:21:14.292--> 00:21:17.268

I did want to ask  
you both about that,

00:21:17.292--> 00:21:20.548

if you do anything collaborative  
and ask people for feedback.

00:21:20.572--> 00:21:23.388

But talking of reading the  
book before you start translating,

00:21:23.412--> 00:21:25.868

we should go to the readings.

00:21:25.892--> 00:21:27.572

Um...

00:21:27.572--> 00:21:30.948

So, Thomas, could...  
could you tell us what...

00:21:30.972--> 00:21:35.064

what book you've decided

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to read from, please?

00:21:35.089--> 00:21:36.366

-Sure, I absolutely can.

00:21:36.390--> 00:21:37.948

So this is

00:21:37.972--> 00:21:42.148

A Series of Scunnersome

Events: The Boggin Beginnin,

00:21:42.172--> 00:21:44.148

which is the Scots

language translation

00:21:44.172--> 00:21:46.028

of A Series of

Unfortunate Events

00:21:46.052--> 00:21:48.508

by Lemony Snicket,

The Bad Beginning.

00:21:48.532--> 00:21:51.188

And the reason I'm

reading this one is because

00:21:51.212--> 00:21:54.468

this is my precious little

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book that was my idea.

00:21:54.492--> 00:21:57.868

I see somebody in the Q&A has asked  
if we sometimes see a book and think,

00:21:57.892--> 00:21:59.148

"I'd like to translate that".

00:21:59.172--> 00:22:01.068

And very rarely  
does that happen,

00:22:01.092--> 00:22:04.172

but this one was my... This one was  
me going to the publisher and saying,

00:22:04.196--> 00:22:07.508

"There's going to be a  
Netflix TV series based on this.

00:22:07.532--> 00:22:08.668

"Do you think we could do...

00:22:08.692--> 00:22:10.508

or I could do a  
translation of it?"

00:22:10.532--> 00:22:13.508

So, it's particularly precious

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to me because of that,

00:22:13.532--> 00:22:16.308

and also because it's my  
wee wounded orphan book,

00:22:16.332--> 00:22:20.308

because I hoped that the TV  
series was going to really take off

00:22:20.332--> 00:22:21.572

and it'd be a huge...

00:22:21.572--> 00:22:24.828

you know, revitalization of  
interest in Lemony Snicket.

00:22:24.852--> 00:22:26.668

And that didn't quite happen.

00:22:26.692--> 00:22:28.908

So whenever I get asked  
to do books or book events,

00:22:28.932--> 00:22:31.572

it's almost invariably  
Wimpy Wean rather than

00:22:31.572--> 00:22:33.108

A Series of Unfortunate Events.

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00:22:33.132--> 00:22:35.228

So, I'm going to read just  
the first couple of pages

00:22:35.252--> 00:22:37.950

from A Series of  
Scunnersome Events.

00:22:38.572--> 00:22:39.672

Chapter Yin.

00:22:40.572--> 00:22:43.068

If it's stories with happy  
endings you're into,

00:22:43.092--> 00:22:45.708

you'd be better off reading  
a different book altogether.

00:22:45.732--> 00:22:48.868

See, in this book, it's not just  
that there's nae happy ending,

00:22:48.892--> 00:22:50.572

but there's not even  
a happy beginnin.

00:22:50.572--> 00:22:53.572

And hardly ony happy

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hings in atween forbye.

00:22:53.572--> 00:22:56.748

The reason for that is  
that no many happy things

00:22:56.772--> 00:22:59.428

went on in the lives of  
the three Baudelaire bairns.

00:22:59.452--> 00:23:03.388

Violet, Klaus and Sunny  
Baudelaire were richt brainy bairns,

00:23:03.412--> 00:23:07.572

and they were gallus and  
gleg and bonnie and braw.

00:23:07.572--> 00:23:09.708

But they were awfully unlucky.

00:23:09.732--> 00:23:12.308

And just about awthing that  
happened to them was teemin wi

00:23:12.332--> 00:23:15.572

hertscaud, mischief and dule.

00:23:15.572--> 00:23:17.468

I dinnae like tae

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tell ye aw thon, but

00:23:17.492--> 00:23:20.572

that's just the way  
this story gangs.

00:23:20.572--> 00:23:22.788

But bad luck started one day

00:23:22.812--> 00:23:24.572

at Bracky Beach.

00:23:24.572--> 00:23:27.908

The three Baudelaire bairns bided wi  
their maw and da in a muckle mansion

00:23:27.932--> 00:23:30.188

at the hert of a  
thrang and grimy city,

00:23:30.212--> 00:23:33.828

and noo and then their parents  
would let them take the rickly auld tram.

00:23:33.852--> 00:23:38.572

The word rickly, you'll maybe ken, here  
means shoogly or liable to fall to bits

00:23:38.572--> 00:23:41.028

by theirsels to the seashore.

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00:23:41.052--> 00:23:43.108

where they could hae a  
wee holiday for the day

00:23:43.132--> 00:23:44.820

as long as they  
were hame for dinner.

00:23:44.845--> 00:23:47.660

The same morning it  
was dreich and cloudy,

00:23:47.684--> 00:23:51.228

but that didnae fash the  
Baudelaire bairns one wee bit.

00:23:51.252--> 00:23:52.868

When it was warm and sunny,

00:23:52.892--> 00:23:55.268

Bracky Beach was  
aye hoachin wi tourists

00:23:55.292--> 00:23:59.108

and it wis a fair strauchle findin a  
guid spot tae plank yer towel doon.

00:23:59.132--> 00:24:01.450

On dreich and cloudy days,

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00:24:01.474--> 00:24:04.572

but, the Baudelaires had  
the beach all to themselves

00:24:04.572--> 00:24:06.348

and they had the  
run of the place.

00:24:07.572--> 00:24:08.908

-Thank you.

00:24:08.932--> 00:24:10.572

[laughter]

00:24:10.572--> 00:24:12.148

Um...

00:24:12.172--> 00:24:15.548

I will ask you a follow-up  
question to this actually,

00:24:15.572--> 00:24:18.588

because I've worked  
a bit with Scots

00:24:18.612--> 00:24:21.268

and was there anything,

00:24:21.292--> 00:24:25.378

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without going too much into  
the history for reasons of time,

00:24:25.402--> 00:24:26.572

I know there are some

00:24:26.572--> 00:24:28.628

words that just  
don't exist in Scots

00:24:28.652--> 00:24:32.028

because of the development  
and the Halton development of it.

00:24:32.052--> 00:24:36.308

Modern inventions and  
abstracts, I think, are among them.

00:24:36.332--> 00:24:39.388

So was there anything  
in that book that...

00:24:39.412--> 00:24:43.015

that didn't exist in Scots, and  
how did you deal with that?

00:24:43.040--> 00:24:45.108

-Not really.

00:24:45.132--> 00:24:46.132

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Um...

00:24:46.156--> 00:24:48.163

A lot of the place names,

00:24:48.212--> 00:24:52.268

like, because place names are one of the things that's hard to translate into Scots,

00:24:52.292--> 00:24:55.428

but the place names in A Series of Unfortunate events are so evocative

00:24:55.452--> 00:24:58.228

that they are actually relatively easy to translate into Scots.

00:24:58.252--> 00:25:02.212

I think the challenge with coinages and such like in Scots is that

00:25:02.212--> 00:25:04.588

because most young people

00:25:04.612--> 00:25:06.628

don't have great literacy skills in Scots...

00:25:06.652--> 00:25:07.948

Most old people don't either.

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00:25:07.972--> 00:25:10.468

Very few people were  
taught Scots at schools,

00:25:10.492--> 00:25:12.828

which is one of the things  
we're trying to change.

00:25:12.852--> 00:25:16.148

Because most young people  
don't have great literacy skills,

00:25:16.172--> 00:25:19.028

you do have to watch the  
level of vocabulary you use.

00:25:19.052--> 00:25:20.618

So if you coin something

00:25:20.642--> 00:25:22.108

that alienates a child,

00:25:22.132--> 00:25:24.868

if you coin something that  
doesn't make any sense to a child,

00:25:24.892--> 00:25:27.711

unless it uses really basic  
Scots words stuck together,

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00:25:27.736--> 00:25:29.212

then

00:25:29.212--> 00:25:32.308

a young person or an older person  
reading this book is going to think,

00:25:32.332--> 00:25:34.628

if this is Scots, this  
is not what I speak.

00:25:34.652--> 00:25:37.028

This is not what... this is not  
what I understand to be Scots.

00:25:37.052--> 00:25:38.708

I must not be a Scots speaker.

00:25:38.732--> 00:25:40.428

So coinages are hard,

00:25:40.452--> 00:25:41.948

in the kids' books are...

00:25:41.972--> 00:25:44.383

I've been very careful  
about coinages.

00:25:44.408--> 00:25:46.788

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And if I have to use the  
English word for something,

00:25:46.812--> 00:25:49.851  
rather than isolate or alienate  
a reader, then that's what I'll do.

00:25:49.876--> 00:25:52.212  
-Yeah, that's  
really interesting.

00:25:52.212--> 00:25:54.348  
And Johanna,

00:25:54.372--> 00:25:56.908  
can we move on to  
your reading, please?

00:25:56.932--> 00:25:59.428  
-Yeah, I mean, that's...  
that's a hard one to follow.

00:25:59.452--> 00:26:00.708  
I just loved listening to that.

00:26:00.732--> 00:26:02.678  
It reminded me of my  
days studying in Scotland,

00:26:02.703--> 00:26:05.263

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and it would just, you know sort  
of the local people around here,

00:26:05.287--> 00:26:06.548

the country people would say.

00:26:06.572--> 00:26:10.212

So... but that's  
great, but my book is

00:26:10.212--> 00:26:12.308

Kaleidoscope...

Sorry, it's blurry.

00:26:12.332--> 00:26:14.988

The Kaleidoscope  
Club Garden Surprise.

00:26:15.012--> 00:26:17.908

Middle Grade. It's for  
an American publisher,

00:26:17.932--> 00:26:20.348

so there are some  
American words in here.

00:26:20.372--> 00:26:22.868

We'll see how convincingly  
I can read them.

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00:26:22.892--> 00:26:24.108

Um...

00:26:24.132--> 00:26:27.268

And yeah, it's kids and  
they find a secret garden,

00:26:27.292--> 00:26:29.908

but they don't know  
that yet at this point.

00:26:30.852--> 00:26:34.628

The sun has been shining  
on my bedroom window all day

00:26:34.652--> 00:26:36.585

and even though the  
shutters have been closed,

00:26:36.609--> 00:26:39.268

it's still like a  
pizza oven in here.

00:26:39.292--> 00:26:40.868

I'm lying on the bed,

00:26:40.892--> 00:26:44.212

or rather sticking to it,  
because I'm sweating so much.

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00:26:44.212--> 00:26:49.148

It's not easy trying to avoid  
wiggling a toe or even blinking an eye,

00:26:49.172--> 00:26:51.988

especially when you're always  
running on sizzling high speed,

00:26:52.012--> 00:26:53.212

like me.

00:26:53.212--> 00:26:55.748

What I need is a coolant system,

00:26:55.772--> 00:26:57.948

like the ones in  
nuclear power stations

00:26:57.972--> 00:27:00.908

that cool the steam used  
to generate electricity.

00:27:00.932--> 00:27:02.668

I close my eyes.

00:27:02.692--> 00:27:08.212

Dad's great, great,  
great grandparents, I think,

00:27:08.212--> 00:27:09.508

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were from North Africa

00:27:09.532--> 00:27:13.028

and they wore long, dark  
clothes and drank hot tea

00:27:13.052--> 00:27:14.845

as a way of coping  
with the heat.

00:27:14.870--> 00:27:17.771

How on earth they  
did that, I don't know.

00:27:17.796--> 00:27:19.788

Just picturing their necks,

00:27:19.812--> 00:27:22.212

huge beads of sweat  
run down my neck.

00:27:22.212--> 00:27:25.228

The desert makes  
me think of sand

00:27:25.252--> 00:27:29.371

and sand makes me think of  
all my friends away on vacation.

00:27:29.395--> 00:27:32.508

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They must have had a wonderful  
day sunbathing at the beach,

00:27:32.532--> 00:27:36.212

stuffing themselves with  
deliciously cold ice cream.

00:27:36.212--> 00:27:40.468

"Ugh. It's not fairrr", I moan,

00:27:40.492--> 00:27:43.708

before remembering, I mustn't  
wake my little sister, Layla.

00:27:43.732--> 00:27:45.078

She's only four

00:27:45.102--> 00:27:48.212

and she's already asleep on the  
bed on the other side of the room.

00:27:48.212--> 00:27:52.212

She snores sometimes,  
but she's pretty cute really.

00:27:52.212--> 00:27:54.868

I look at the clock on my  
brother Nassim's cell phone

00:27:54.892--> 00:27:57.212

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for the third time

in five minutes.

00:27:57.212--> 00:28:01.212

It's 9:49pm.

00:28:01.212--> 00:28:05.708

I told him I needed to send an important message to a friend, so he'd lend me it.

00:28:05.732--> 00:28:07.708

That's basically true.

00:28:07.732--> 00:28:09.588

I'm waiting for a message.

00:28:09.612--> 00:28:13.212

A message from my friend August.

00:28:13.212--> 00:28:14.212

-Thank you.

00:28:14.212--> 00:28:16.212

-I'll leave it there.

00:28:16.212--> 00:28:19.788

-So, I mean, I think  
the Americanisms

00:28:19.812--> 00:28:24.628

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were words that we've all  
heard. Vacation I spotted as well.

00:28:24.652--> 00:28:26.468

But that's interesting

00:28:26.492--> 00:28:27.828

working for...

00:28:27.852--> 00:28:30.950

Because are both the  
publishers you work for American?

00:28:30.975--> 00:28:32.943

Am I right?

-No.

00:28:32.967--> 00:28:35.212

-No. Johanna, sorry? Yeah.

00:28:35.212--> 00:28:37.516

-Yes.

-Yes. So is that...

00:28:37.540--> 00:28:38.828

-Yes, so we had...

00:28:38.852--> 00:28:40.188

We had one thing.

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00:28:40.212--> 00:28:42.508

I'll just give you one  
example if you're curious.

00:28:42.532--> 00:28:44.308

The kids go to a museum

00:28:44.332--> 00:28:47.212

and the guy working in the  
museum has been having a nap.

00:28:47.212--> 00:28:49.348

It's the middle of  
the day, it's very hot.

00:28:49.372--> 00:28:51.358

And the American publisher said,

00:28:51.382--> 00:28:53.428

"My goodness, why  
is he having a nap?"

00:28:53.452--> 00:28:56.388

"Isn't everybody in the museum  
enjoying air conditioning?"

00:28:56.412--> 00:28:59.268

And I sort of explained,  
well, it's France.

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00:28:59.292--> 00:29:00.628

Um...

00:29:00.652--> 00:29:03.228

You know, they're probably  
at home having lunch

00:29:03.252--> 00:29:05.388

and having a nap at home and

00:29:05.412--> 00:29:08.192

they don't have air conditioning,  
as you saw at the start of the book.

00:29:08.216--> 00:29:09.308

Um...

00:29:09.332--> 00:29:12.485

But yeah, just things like that or  
oh, they can't be eating their dinner.

00:29:12.509--> 00:29:15.188

It's 7 o'clock at night.

No, that's too late.

00:29:15.212--> 00:29:19.228

So just... that was kind of where  
we had the fun discussions.

00:29:19.252--> 00:29:20.732

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-Mmm...

-So...

00:29:20.756--> 00:29:22.828

-And what were the outcomes?

00:29:22.852--> 00:29:25.626

That's going to take too long.

We've only got a minute, but do you...?

00:29:25.651--> 00:29:28.131

-The outcomes, yeah, you'll have to buy the book and read them.

00:29:28.155--> 00:29:29.312

There's three in the series.

00:29:29.336--> 00:29:30.336

[laughter]

00:29:30.360--> 00:29:33.388

-Okay. Well, it's... yeah, as...

00:29:33.412--> 00:29:35.588

I think we've learned in just a

00:29:35.612--> 00:29:38.228

very short time this

afternoon, quite how

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00:29:38.252--> 00:29:41.428

involved children's  
translation is, and...

00:29:41.452--> 00:29:43.931

and so many  
challenges and different

00:29:43.955--> 00:29:46.212

aspects to it that I hope people

00:29:46.212--> 00:29:49.212

will be very inspired by.

00:29:49.212--> 00:29:52.212

So, we should move to Q&A.

00:29:52.212--> 00:29:54.148

And we have got...

00:29:54.172--> 00:29:55.545

three...

00:29:55.570--> 00:29:56.971

Uh...

00:29:56.995--> 00:29:58.710

Yes, three questions,  
because one of them...

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00:29:58.735--> 00:29:59.948

Oh, no, a few more than that.

00:29:59.972--> 00:30:01.171

I'm just scrolling down.

00:30:01.195--> 00:30:03.668

Heck, quite a few  
more than three.

00:30:03.692--> 00:30:04.748

Um...

00:30:04.772--> 00:30:06.798

One of them, Thomas  
answered earlier,

00:30:06.823--> 00:30:11.212

so I will pick some out.

00:30:11.212--> 00:30:12.828

Um...

00:30:12.852--> 00:30:15.011

We've answered that one.

00:30:15.852--> 00:30:17.868

Uh... Da, da, da...

00:30:22.435--> 00:30:23.828

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So...

00:30:23.852--> 00:30:25.748

Um...

00:30:27.382--> 00:30:29.828

There's one here about

00:30:29.852--> 00:30:33.212

pressure from

publishers to adapt texts

00:30:33.212--> 00:30:35.588

based on moral judgement

00:30:35.612--> 00:30:39.508

or on perception of what

children can and cannot read.

00:30:39.532--> 00:30:41.668

So you were talking

about that earlier, Thomas,

00:30:41.692--> 00:30:44.428

the level of literacy in Scots,

00:30:44.452--> 00:30:47.148

but also moral judgement.

00:30:47.172--> 00:30:48.548

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Um...

00:30:49.452--> 00:30:51.212

Uh...

00:30:51.212--> 00:30:54.188

So just changes to do with...

00:30:54.212--> 00:30:57.988

Or the example given

here is about Enid Blyton.

00:30:58.012--> 00:30:59.388

Um...

00:30:59.412--> 00:31:02.212

I don't know if you've got  
any thoughts about that?

00:31:02.212--> 00:31:05.588

Publishers pressuring  
you to adapt the text

00:31:05.612--> 00:31:07.188

because of moral judgements.

00:31:07.212--> 00:31:08.868

Oh, goodness, that's too...

00:31:08.892--> 00:31:10.428

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um...

00:31:10.452--> 00:31:13.788

crude for our  
readership in America.

00:31:13.812--> 00:31:16.212

I think things like

00:31:16.212--> 00:31:20.228

bodily functions is one of the  
examples that spring to mind.

00:31:20.252--> 00:31:22.788

Have you got any  
examples of things like that

00:31:22.812--> 00:31:24.628

that you've been  
asked to change?

00:31:26.652--> 00:31:28.228

-No, not... Never.

00:31:28.252--> 00:31:29.772

If anything, it's the  
other way around,

00:31:29.796--> 00:31:32.228

you know, because Scots

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is an earthy language.

00:31:32.252--> 00:31:34.188

People do want to read  
words like, you know,

00:31:34.212--> 00:31:39.268

evocative words like snot or  
bahookie and stuff like that. So...

00:31:39.292--> 00:31:41.388

So I would say in the  
general run of things,

00:31:41.412--> 00:31:42.668

my books are a wee...

00:31:42.692--> 00:31:45.108

tend to be a wee bit  
earthier than the originals are.

00:31:45.132--> 00:31:47.148

And I've certainly never  
been put under pressure

00:31:47.172--> 00:31:49.138

to change that either way.

00:31:49.163--> 00:31:50.263

-That's really interesting.

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00:31:50.287--> 00:31:51.751

What does bahookie mean?

00:31:51.776--> 00:31:53.212

-Bahookie means bum.

00:31:53.212--> 00:31:54.418

-Right, thank you.

00:31:54.443--> 00:31:55.443

[laughter]

00:31:55.468--> 00:31:58.868

-You get one of those per book. If you use it a second time, then it doesn't resonate.

00:31:58.892--> 00:32:00.908

but you get one of those and kids love it.

00:32:00.932--> 00:32:03.693

It's one of those books that, like...

It's one of those words like poo

00:32:03.717--> 00:32:06.212

that kids just love.

00:32:06.212--> 00:32:09.298

-Okay, so that's not the

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response I was expecting actually.

00:32:09.322--> 00:32:10.708

What about you, Johanna?

00:32:10.732--> 00:32:12.788

Do you have to sanitize?

I think that's the word.

00:32:12.812--> 00:32:14.548

Is there any sanitation going on

00:32:14.572--> 00:32:16.212

with your translation?

00:32:16.212--> 00:32:18.668

-No, um,

00:32:18.692--> 00:32:22.268

because I think we've been  
involved in discussions upstream.

00:32:22.292--> 00:32:24.393

So before the book  
would be acquired, and

00:32:24.417--> 00:32:27.068

I did read a book  
once for a publisher

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00:32:27.092--> 00:32:30.551

and there were some  
problematic sort of...

00:32:30.576--> 00:32:32.065

Um...

00:32:32.089--> 00:32:36.212

Basically racist stereotype  
characters, and...

00:32:36.212--> 00:32:39.908

even though sometimes  
the publisher will adapt things,

00:32:39.932--> 00:32:41.145

it just...

00:32:41.169--> 00:32:43.068

So I didn't have  
to change anything.

00:32:43.092--> 00:32:47.708

It was just she then became made  
aware of the problems with the book

00:32:47.732--> 00:32:50.483

that didn't sort of seem  
so obvious at the start.

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00:32:50.508--> 00:32:53.068

It sounded like a really good book for various different reasons,

00:32:53.092--> 00:32:55.708

but I said, well, when we look at these little details...

00:32:55.732--> 00:32:57.548

So we didn't even start that one.

00:32:57.572--> 00:33:00.268

She didn't acquire it.

So I haven't had anything

00:33:00.292--> 00:33:02.308

where we've been asked to change it.

00:33:02.332--> 00:33:05.868

It's just a lot of thought goes into which books are acquired

00:33:05.892--> 00:33:08.212

beforehand.

00:33:08.212--> 00:33:10.588

And if there's anything very problematic,

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00:33:10.612--> 00:33:15.108

like perhaps an adult has inappropriate  
behaviour towards someone younger,

00:33:15.132--> 00:33:18.628

they just won't be acquired  
in the first place, I think.

00:33:18.652--> 00:33:21.268

So we as a  
translators don't have to

00:33:21.292--> 00:33:23.212

get involved in any  
moral judgements,

00:33:23.212--> 00:33:24.212

as it were, I'd say.

00:33:24.212--> 00:33:25.212

-Right.

00:33:25.212--> 00:33:26.708

That's interesting.

00:33:26.732--> 00:33:27.732

Um...

00:33:27.756--> 00:33:31.948

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And I can't recall if  
we've touched on this.

00:33:31.972--> 00:33:33.748

We've talked about pitching

00:33:33.772--> 00:33:37.212

something that you  
want to translate, but

00:33:37.212--> 00:33:40.708

have you... do you  
ever get involved in

00:33:40.732--> 00:33:42.212

um...

00:33:43.052--> 00:33:45.212

Uh... In...

00:33:45.212--> 00:33:48.468

the kind of the  
agent side of it, and...

00:33:48.492--> 00:33:50.548

and finding and  
helping an author

00:33:50.572--> 00:33:54.548

with getting a book

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into a publisher's hands?

00:33:56.212--> 00:33:59.668

Or anything along

the self-publishing line?

00:33:59.692--> 00:34:02.268

That... The question's

specifically about self-publishing.

00:34:04.212--> 00:34:08.308

As in the author

wanted... wanted help with

00:34:08.332--> 00:34:11.028

self-publishing a book.

Have you ever done that?

00:34:11.052--> 00:34:13.668

Or have you always worked

with commercial publishers?

00:34:14.572--> 00:34:16.508

I've always worked with

commercial publishers,

00:34:16.532--> 00:34:20.068

and because one of the most

important things about the Scots books

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00:34:20.092--> 00:34:23.228

is that kids recognize the book

00:34:23.252--> 00:34:25.508

already has a brand  
that they know about.

00:34:25.532--> 00:34:27.908

We wouldn't tend  
to publish books

00:34:27.932--> 00:34:30.588

that don't already have  
huge followings and

00:34:30.612--> 00:34:32.467

are already well  
established in English.

00:34:32.492--> 00:34:35.212

So the answer to that,  
for me, is no, not really.

00:34:35.212--> 00:34:38.212

-Okay, what about you, Johanna?

00:34:38.212--> 00:34:43.788

-No, I haven't had any  
success in pitching a kid's book.

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00:34:43.812--> 00:34:44.828

Um...

00:34:44.852--> 00:34:48.188

We have had sort of articles on

00:34:48.212--> 00:34:51.228

the World Kid Lit blog where  
we've got translators saying

00:34:51.252--> 00:34:54.049

this is a great book and I think a  
few of those have been picked up.

00:34:54.074--> 00:34:55.108

So...

00:34:55.132--> 00:34:56.948

It's always

00:34:56.972--> 00:34:59.628

good as a translator to  
be reading some books

00:34:59.652--> 00:35:01.508

and to know what's out there.

00:35:01.532--> 00:35:05.228

And once you've worked with  
an editor or a publisher for a while,

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00:35:05.252--> 00:35:07.571

they might say, "Oh yes,  
let me know", you know.

00:35:07.595--> 00:35:10.212

I've been to some of the kids'  
book fairs, and I've... I've just

00:35:10.212--> 00:35:13.468

said, I've got a few ideas, and  
then the publisher's been happy to

00:35:13.492--> 00:35:16.908

kind of consider them because  
I already know maybe what...

00:35:16.932--> 00:35:18.428

what they're interested in.

00:35:18.452--> 00:35:20.788

But we'll see. But we've had a...

00:35:20.812--> 00:35:23.965

We've had a couple picked up who were  
pitched on the World Kid Lit website,

00:35:23.989--> 00:35:28.212

so it's not impossible, and it's  
all about just sort of showing

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00:35:28.212--> 00:35:29.788

that you're interested, perhaps,

00:35:29.812--> 00:35:33.212

in reading and you know  
a bit about what's out there.

00:35:33.212--> 00:35:35.212

-Right. And

00:35:35.212--> 00:35:39.212

in terms of finding  
the books... So...

00:35:39.212--> 00:35:43.908

Are you employed sort  
of permanently by the

00:35:43.932--> 00:35:45.868

publishers, Johanna?

00:35:45.892--> 00:35:47.668

-No, I'm not.

00:35:47.692--> 00:35:49.988

And I would say, um...

00:35:50.012--> 00:35:53.908

the work I've got has come through

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other colleagues recommending me

00:35:53.932--> 00:35:57.468

who don't have the language  
that the publisher was looking for.

00:35:57.492--> 00:35:59.188

So that's the great thing.

00:35:59.212--> 00:36:02.024

I think somebody was looking  
out... looking for some tips.

00:36:02.049--> 00:36:04.311

And one of the great things of

00:36:04.335--> 00:36:06.668

sort of getting into  
a network or going

00:36:06.692--> 00:36:08.348

to a summer school or workshop

00:36:08.372--> 00:36:11.148

is that you get to meet the  
translators from all different languages.

00:36:11.172--> 00:36:15.108

And I've been asked as well, did I  
know somebody who translates Korean?

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00:36:15.132--> 00:36:18.828

And maybe I'll know someone  
or I can ask a few other people.

00:36:18.852--> 00:36:22.548

And that was for an agent,  
and that was also for a publisher.

00:36:22.572--> 00:36:26.708

So, yeah, just connecting  
with people, in general.

00:36:26.732--> 00:36:29.428

And, if they know that you're

00:36:29.452--> 00:36:31.268

keen and available  
and interested,

00:36:31.292--> 00:36:34.372

then they'll, you know, they can recommend  
you if someone looks for a language

00:36:34.400--> 00:36:35.900

that you've got  
that they don't have.

00:36:35.924--> 00:36:41.028

-Yes. And with Thomas, so you

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pitched the Lemony Snicket book.

00:36:41.052--> 00:36:42.708

Were you commissioned

00:36:42.732--> 00:36:44.708

to translate the other

books you've done?

00:36:44.732--> 00:36:47.365

-Yeah, everything else is

something I've been asked to do.

00:36:47.389--> 00:36:49.156

And although they're

all books that I love

00:36:49.180--> 00:36:50.948

and would have wanted

to do in any instance,

00:36:50.972--> 00:36:54.108

the Lemony Snicket is the only

one that I actually pitched myself.

00:36:54.132--> 00:36:56.868

Everything else is the

publisher or somebody else has

00:36:56.892--> 00:36:58.628

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suggested or approached me.

00:36:58.652--> 00:36:59.988

-Right.

00:37:00.012--> 00:37:02.468

And then something  
really specific here

00:37:02.492--> 00:37:05.212

is a question about onomatopoeia

00:37:05.212--> 00:37:07.668

being a really big challenge

00:37:07.692--> 00:37:09.468

and how do you deal with that?

00:37:09.492--> 00:37:10.588

[laughs]

00:37:10.612--> 00:37:11.908

Um...

00:37:11.932--> 00:37:14.108

Shall I ask you, Johanna?

00:37:14.132--> 00:37:15.748

-Um...

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00:37:15.772--> 00:37:17.308

Onomatopoeia...

00:37:17.332--> 00:37:19.668

I don't have a quick

example of that,

00:37:19.692--> 00:37:21.908

but I do have one where

00:37:21.932--> 00:37:23.268

there was little counting rhyme

00:37:23.292--> 00:37:25.748

and it was the animals and

they're all being counted.

00:37:25.772--> 00:37:29.188

And I kind of came up

with a bit of a draft myself.

00:37:29.212--> 00:37:31.528

So the numbers, and you

really had to play around with it,

00:37:31.552--> 00:37:33.708

and I just asked

some other friends

00:37:33.732--> 00:37:35.228

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who are translators, who love...

00:37:35.252--> 00:37:37.628

And sort of together

we tweaked it

00:37:37.652--> 00:37:40.228

to maybe keep some of the ideas,

00:37:40.252--> 00:37:42.628

but we had to move them

because the numbers in German

00:37:42.652--> 00:37:45.108

don't rhyme the same way

as the numbers in English.

00:37:45.132--> 00:37:48.028

But that did take

a lot more effort

00:37:48.052--> 00:37:50.388

than just sort of

translating the,

00:37:50.412--> 00:37:53.212

you know, the rest of the book.

00:37:53.212--> 00:37:56.878

-But yeah, what I'm

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getting from this discussion

00:37:56.902--> 00:37:59.948

is the amount of collaboration  
and networking and

00:37:59.972--> 00:38:04.308

working with other people. The  
act of the translation itself might be

00:38:04.332--> 00:38:06.788

quite solitary, but  
there is so much

00:38:06.812--> 00:38:09.212

working with other  
people around it.

00:38:09.212--> 00:38:11.228

Um...

00:38:11.252--> 00:38:12.788

I'm just going to  
pull out some...

00:38:12.812--> 00:38:15.428

Oh, sorry, I didn't ask you,  
Thomas, about onomatopoeia.

00:38:15.452--> 00:38:18.212

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Or if you don't have an example  
of that, is there anything similar?

00:38:18.212--> 00:38:21.308

-No, [inaudible]

onomatopoeia, because,

00:38:21.332--> 00:38:25.333

as I've said, it's hard pitching  
the Scots vocabulary to the kids

00:38:25.357--> 00:38:27.247

who you don't know are  
going to be reading this,

00:38:27.271--> 00:38:28.959

but you haven't seen  
them, you don't know

00:38:28.984--> 00:38:30.628

what level they're  
going to be at.

00:38:30.652--> 00:38:32.588

But an onomatopoeic word,

00:38:32.612--> 00:38:34.708

where the meaning is  
conveyed by the sound,

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00:38:34.732--> 00:38:36.948

is something that you know  
you can get away with it,

00:38:36.972--> 00:38:39.212

even if the kid doesn't  
know the particular

00:38:39.212--> 00:38:41.268

word itself, so...

00:38:41.292--> 00:38:42.628

In...

00:38:42.652--> 00:38:44.908

the Peppa Pig  
books, for instance,

00:38:44.932--> 00:38:46.788

the word dunt appears a lot

00:38:46.812--> 00:38:48.348

and it's the Scots  
word for a thud.

00:38:48.372--> 00:38:50.348

And it's because it  
sounds like a thud,

00:38:50.372--> 00:38:51.657

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kids instantly  
know what it means

00:38:51.681--> 00:38:53.962

even if they've  
never heard the word before in their life.

00:38:53.986--> 00:38:57.212

So onomatopoeia is  
actually a really useful

00:38:57.212--> 00:39:00.228

weapon for Scottish translators.

00:39:00.252--> 00:39:01.252

-Yeah.

00:39:01.276--> 00:39:02.548

And...

00:39:02.572--> 00:39:05.188

talking about the  
level of language,

00:39:05.212--> 00:39:07.308

there's a question about

00:39:07.332--> 00:39:10.868

whether you get feedback  
from the children in your lives.

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00:39:10.892--> 00:39:13.548

You were talking about  
reading aloud, Johanna, and

00:39:13.572--> 00:39:17.308

do you read your  
translation drafts

00:39:17.332--> 00:39:20.212

to children to see  
what they think?

00:39:20.212--> 00:39:21.788

-Um...

00:39:21.812--> 00:39:23.548

First, I read them myself

00:39:23.572--> 00:39:28.348

and then I am aware  
that I have my own accent

00:39:28.372--> 00:39:30.348

and my own sounds in my head,

00:39:30.372--> 00:39:32.428

and I've been told before, um...

00:39:32.452--> 00:39:35.828

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that they thought my translations  
were more convincing when I read them.

00:39:35.852--> 00:39:37.028

But I haven't...

00:39:37.052--> 00:39:38.828

I haven't really directly read,

00:39:38.852--> 00:39:41.988

but I did send the  
books to other friends

00:39:42.012--> 00:39:43.308

to check with their kids.

00:39:43.332--> 00:39:46.948

So then I guess they read them  
in a different way, and then...

00:39:46.972--> 00:39:49.211

they also help me come  
up with different names for...

00:39:49.235--> 00:39:52.228

It was... We were picking a kind of  
cheese that the mice were going to eat.

00:39:52.252--> 00:39:55.068

And I was testing on

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them what sounded better.

00:39:55.092--> 00:39:56.098

Um...

00:39:56.122--> 00:39:58.668

And I think it was good that it was done separate from me,

00:39:58.692--> 00:40:01.129

because if I'm there, I influence it too much,

00:40:01.154--> 00:40:02.154

I think.

00:40:02.178--> 00:40:03.318

-That's a really good point.

00:40:03.342--> 00:40:05.264

-But they'd already come up with their discussion

00:40:05.288--> 00:40:06.703

before I asked them for the answer.

00:40:06.727--> 00:40:08.948

-Yeah, yeah. And

Thomas, do you

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00:40:08.972--> 00:40:12.468

read to children or send  
the translations to children?

00:40:12.492--> 00:40:14.468

-Not so much for drafts,

00:40:14.492--> 00:40:17.388

but I do a lot of  
school visits, and

00:40:17.412--> 00:40:20.028

that's a great opportunity  
to retrospectively find out

00:40:20.052--> 00:40:21.788

whether something  
that you've written

00:40:21.812--> 00:40:24.268

is pitched at the right  
level, or to find out if some

00:40:24.292--> 00:40:28.308

vocabulary you think is still  
current, is dead in the water.

00:40:28.332--> 00:40:32.028

And alternatively to find out what  
new words kids are coining themselves,

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00:40:32.052--> 00:40:33.868

and what new  
words they're gonna...

00:40:33.892--> 00:40:36.708

or regional dialectal words  
that you don't happen to know

00:40:36.732--> 00:40:38.382

because you've never  
lived in this region.

00:40:38.406--> 00:40:40.888

What words that are out there  
that you could have used instead.

00:40:40.912--> 00:40:43.468

So, yeah, I would find it  
very hard to do the work

00:40:43.492--> 00:40:45.852

if I didn't have the opportunity  
to go to schools afterwards

00:40:45.876--> 00:40:47.212

and talk about it to kids.

00:40:47.212--> 00:40:52.380

-Yes, that answers another of the

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questions actually about the school visits.

00:40:52.404--> 00:40:53.453

Um...

00:40:53.478--> 00:40:56.708

There are a few questions from

00:40:56.732--> 00:41:00.212

aspiring literary translators.

00:41:00.212--> 00:41:03.388

So I think we've

touched on a few...

00:41:03.412--> 00:41:06.348

a few ways in to the profession.

00:41:06.372--> 00:41:08.788

Somebody's asked about books.

00:41:08.812--> 00:41:11.108

Would you recommend

any books for

00:41:11.132--> 00:41:14.212

aspiring literary translators?

00:41:14.212--> 00:41:17.212

Or resources?

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00:41:17.212--> 00:41:19.628

Shall I ask Johanna?

00:41:19.652--> 00:41:21.228

00:41:21.252--> 00:41:22.871

-Um...

00:41:22.895--> 00:41:24.468

-Or forums?

-Resources...

00:41:24.492--> 00:41:27.748

I think, if I remember  
back from when I was

00:41:27.772--> 00:41:30.828

volunteering with the  
Emerging Translators Network,

00:41:30.852--> 00:41:32.308

we were collecting

00:41:32.332--> 00:41:36.708

a list of links where you  
have other people's blogs.

00:41:36.732--> 00:41:39.628

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And I think there might be

00:41:39.652--> 00:41:41.668

one or two books  
mentioned there,

00:41:41.692--> 00:41:45.068

but I think it's a lot about...

00:41:45.092--> 00:41:49.148

Yeah, just trying to read  
different people's articles,

00:41:49.172--> 00:41:50.843

but yeah, I don't  
have any title,

00:41:50.868--> 00:41:51.988

any books or anything,

00:41:52.012--> 00:41:54.588

because I didn't study it  
sort of professionally that way.

00:41:54.612--> 00:41:55.668

I studied it more,

00:41:55.692--> 00:41:57.348

the general translation theory,

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00:41:57.372--> 00:41:58.788

which can apply across

00:41:58.812--> 00:42:01.212

the types of translation.

00:42:01.212--> 00:42:02.288

But, that was...

00:42:02.312--> 00:42:04.068

more years ago than

I'm going to admit,

00:42:04.092--> 00:42:05.788

so I'm sure there's

more up-to-date stuff.

00:42:05.812--> 00:42:07.188

[laughs]

00:42:07.212--> 00:42:09.028

And what about... what

about you, Thomas?

00:42:09.052--> 00:42:10.828

Any recommendations for

00:42:10.852--> 00:42:13.788

things that aspiring

literacy translators can...

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00:42:13.812--> 00:42:16.228

can read or look at?

00:42:16.252--> 00:42:18.468

-In Scotch translation,  
because it is quite nascent,

00:42:18.492--> 00:42:21.212

because it's really only a  
quarter of a century old, really,

00:42:21.212--> 00:42:24.108

we don't have much  
in the way of resources.

00:42:24.132--> 00:42:26.908

The way that I learned  
to translate into Scots

00:42:26.932--> 00:42:29.188

was to read other  
Scotch translations,

00:42:29.212--> 00:42:32.028

and I can't really think of a better  
way of learning how to translate

00:42:32.052--> 00:42:36.988

than to read books which have been

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translated into your target language

00:42:37.012--> 00:42:40.148

and from your other  
target language.

00:42:40.172--> 00:42:43.228

As a school librarian,  
I love kids' books.

00:42:43.252--> 00:42:46.588

You know, I don't just do it for the  
money, although obviously the money helps,

00:42:46.612--> 00:42:49.468

but I am really genuinely  
passionate about kids' books

00:42:49.492--> 00:42:52.791

and I do love reading kids' books,  
and I think that's the main thing that

00:42:52.816--> 00:42:54.188

makes me...

00:42:54.212--> 00:42:57.510

You know, makes me my skills  
as a translator viable.

00:42:57.535--> 00:42:58.856

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Anyway...

00:42:58.881--> 00:42:59.881

-Yes.

00:42:59.905--> 00:43:02.228

Thank you. And we...

00:43:02.252--> 00:43:06.268

We've got in the chat the link to  
the Emerging Translators Network.

00:43:06.292--> 00:43:07.868

Thank you for that.

00:43:08.652--> 00:43:10.108

Um...

00:43:10.132--> 00:43:12.668

Right, there are  
still more questions.

00:43:12.692--> 00:43:15.988

I cannot recall what happens  
with unanswered questions.

00:43:16.012--> 00:43:17.988

Would either of you be...?

00:43:18.012--> 00:43:20.668

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Is there a way that  
we could contact you

00:43:20.692--> 00:43:24.212

to... to get the unanswered  
questions answered?

00:43:24.212--> 00:43:27.212

-Yeah, absolutely.

00:43:27.212--> 00:43:31.748

Yeah, I'll speak to  
Catherine afterwards

00:43:31.772--> 00:43:33.868

and see if... what  
we can do about that

00:43:33.892--> 00:43:36.212

because we've had loads,  
which is absolutely lovely.

00:43:36.212--> 00:43:37.828

So, it is

00:43:37.852--> 00:43:40.212

nearly quarter past three.

00:43:40.212--> 00:43:44.212

So we had better wrap things up

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00:43:44.212--> 00:43:46.212

for the afternoon.

00:43:46.212--> 00:43:49.068

So thank you very  
much, everybody,

00:43:49.092--> 00:43:51.068

for coming along today.

00:43:51.092--> 00:43:53.548

I have certainly learnt a lot

00:43:53.572--> 00:43:55.212

from our translators and I hope

00:43:55.212--> 00:43:57.588

you have too. I can see from the

00:43:57.612--> 00:44:00.828

chat and all the questions  
that it's been really inspiring.

00:44:00.852--> 00:44:03.468

So thank you very much  
to Johanna and to Thomas

00:44:03.492--> 00:44:05.212

and to Catherine for

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00:44:05.212--> 00:44:08.748

doing all the work  
behind the scenes,

00:44:08.772--> 00:44:11.428

Catherine Fuller.

00:44:11.452--> 00:44:14.228

And if you've enjoyed this event

00:44:14.252--> 00:44:17.468

and aren't yet a member  
of the Society of Authors,

00:44:17.492--> 00:44:19.212

do consider joining.

00:44:19.212--> 00:44:23.708

There is a 20% off  
offer, SOAATHOME20.

00:44:23.732--> 00:44:26.988

Catherine's put the  
code into the chat.

00:44:27.012--> 00:44:29.068

20% off your first  
year membership

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00:44:29.092--> 00:44:31.308

because you attended an event.

00:44:31.332--> 00:44:35.108

The next Society of  
Authors at Home event

00:44:35.132--> 00:44:37.588

takes place tomorrow  
morning, and that's called

00:44:37.612--> 00:44:40.908

Feel Good Friday – Build  
your writing-friendly morning.

00:44:40.932--> 00:44:43.468

You can find out  
more about that on the

00:44:43.492--> 00:44:46.212

[SocietyofAuthors.org/events](https://SocietyofAuthors.org/events).

00:44:46.212--> 00:44:47.748

Um...

00:44:47.772--> 00:44:51.868

I think Catherine's going to post  
a link to that in the chat as well.

00:44:51.892--> 00:44:53.708

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And then just a reminder that,

00:44:53.732--> 00:44:56.468

as I mentioned at the beginning, this event is free.

00:44:56.492--> 00:44:59.708

But if you can afford to, please do consider donating

00:44:59.732--> 00:45:02.738

to the Society of Authors Access Fund.

00:45:02.763--> 00:45:05.868

Oh, and do also check out

00:45:05.892--> 00:45:10.548

the books, Johanna and Thomas's books that they've translated

00:45:10.572--> 00:45:12.908

and books that I've translated, which are in...

00:45:12.932--> 00:45:14.212

Um...

00:45:14.212--> 00:45:15.948

I'm trying to find the link...

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00:45:15.972--> 00:45:18.828

Bookshop.org lists.

00:45:18.852--> 00:45:20.868

I think Catherine will  
post the the link to it.

00:45:20.892--> 00:45:23.212

Spring/Summer 2026.

00:45:23.212--> 00:45:26.212

I think that's it

00:45:26.212--> 00:45:28.868

Thank you again,  
everybody, for joining.

00:45:28.892--> 00:45:31.948

Thank you so much  
to our speakers

00:45:31.972--> 00:45:35.212

and have a great  
rest of the afternoon.

00:45:35.212--> 00:45:36.212

Thank you.