

Table Linens, Late Morning, May (Janet) Interview Transcript

This has been transcribed from an audio interview exactly as it was voiced.

Since we moved out of the caves and the mud hut and in Scotland, button Ben in the Highlands, there's always housework, it's always with us and somebody's got to do it. And, erm, I think if you don't do it yourself, you're most likely to be paying another woman to do it, and I just like clearing up my own mess.

[Sound of folding bedsheets]

My mum used to clean other people's houses and during the school holidays I would go with her. Sometimes we'd visit three different houses in a morning and they were what my mother would call 'Toffs' houses and I wanted to have a house like that.

I made up my mind, I wanted a big house.

Some of them probably weren't that big.

But they seemed big to me.

I can remember judging these people really in a way, thinking 'This isn't how my mother does this or that', and 'Oh, look at the mess in here', you know, I think that's what happens when cleaners come in. They definitely judge you.

Women are still the the main ones who do the housework as part of their psychology, I suppose they just, maybe they're just conceited and think that they're better at it and they probably are. And men... Can't be bothered.

I love my house, almost everything has been, even if it is linen, it's been passed down through the family and it's the same with almost everything in the house.

[Sound of birds chirping]

Looking after the house is an act of love.

It's a way of nurturing it and looking after it. And, you know, we're just one of many people who've lived in that house and we're just doing our bit to keep it going, and hope that the next inhabitants of the house will look after it too.

[Birdsong continues and fades out]

