

**2009**

**TRANSCRIPT 'MOVING ON' AUDIO SLIDESHOW**

PETER: "We were drinking tea in bed one Sunday morning, and you said 'someone's just got on'. And then you banged open the door, really loudly, and there was a middle-aged woman just standing there going 'oh you've got a lovely boat haven't you, I'm just having a look.'

Would you want me, standing in your conservatory going 'oh this is a lovely house'? No, you'd be going 'f\*\*k off, you're breaking and entering, I'm calling the cops.' You know, and there's this real sense that people don't have, and it's that kind of sense that society just doesn't see it that way..."

LEAH: "...it doesn't recognise it as a home."

....

PETER: "So I'm just going to operate a lock paddle here..."

[CLATTERING SOUNDS]

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LEAH: "We're moving from Hebden Bridge to Leeds and that's probably going to take us a couple of weeks I imagine overall and there's a lot of locks, I have no idea how many all in all, but today we've done about five locks so far."

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[SOUND OF LOCK GATE OPENING]

LEAH: "So you get two different extremes. Either people think you're stealing gypsies, you know..."

PETER: "...who eat children..."

LEAH: "Yeah, so you get that response OR you get a kind of 'oh, you live on a boat' and you get this whole 'oh I'd love to live on a boat' and you get this whole romantic sense of being different, being other, being..."

PETER: "'Oh it's so biodegradable....' And it's like, well actually, if we had some more money we'd be living in a bloody house."

[LAUGHTER]

PETER: "You know, for me, very much the reason I live on a boat is because I can't afford a house. I mean it's nice, but, it's actually partly necessity. Because there isn't actually a gene in me that says 'ooh, boat, that'd be nice...'"

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PETER: "It does seem that I have been allocated Royal Emptier of the Shitter. That seems to be my job. And a couple of weeks ago I did it for I think the first time ever on an empty stomach. And it's about two, three-weeks worth coming out in a big continuous flow. I think I even got some on my shoes. And you know, it's just absolutely horrible..."

LEAH: "And emptying your rubbish....we've been places where we haven't had anywhere to empty our rubbish. So Peter, bless him, would go out at night with binbags, to just a bin, and would have to just shove it into the bin. But you get some right funny looks then...I don't know what people thought we were doing, in a dark night in winter, going to the local bin and shoving your rubbish in..."

[LAUGHTER]

LEAH: "So...it's....it's...you end up doing things you'd never normally do."

...

[WATER SOUNDS]

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PETER: "Yeah, it's filling up really, really nicely. And um...yeah...just waiting. There's a lot of running around, scrambling and screaming, and then just waiting..."

...

PETER: "Pretty much the first year was without lights or hot water or electricity. So we'd have to do these oil lamps, then getting the fire going, then cooking dinner on the fire, and then having to wash up. The romance died quite quickly for me."

LEAH: "But there is obviously lots of really nice things about the boat as well. I love the ducks...[GIGGLES]...and the ducklings..."

"You do get quite close to the nature and the wildlife, and that's really nice. And you become really in tune with the seasons...when it's dark and when you've got to start lugging your coal on, and when the nights are drawing in.

"It feels like your whole world expands in the summer because suddenly you can move around more...you just feel like your world suddenly gets bigger. And in winter it suddenly gets a lot smaller."

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PETER: "...so can I just check, when we're coming through are we going left or right?"

LEAH: "Battyford Lock's there...so it looks like it's slightly to the right, doesn't it."

PETER: "So I think we're not that far from Mirfield are we?"

LEAH: "Not far at all...we've only got one more lock after this one and then we're in Mirfield."

...

PETER: "You know, essentially I see it as Leah's the captain and I'm the first mate. And I certainly think Relate should probably do a canal boat thing as part of their courses. Because it really is....I mean, we have to work together...."