

Worlds Beyond Number

A County Affair: Prologue

Final Version

Erika Ishii

Hello, everybody. This is your humble GM, Erika Ishi, and today I'm going to bring you a little story from the farmyard. We're going to be using the system Roll for Shoes, which is quite simple, but I have added a couple of twists and turns in there.

Erika Ishii

There are about seven rules. Number one, you say what you do and you roll a number of D6s determined by the level of relevant skill that you have. And at the start, you have only one skill, "Do anything: 1". If the sum of your roll is higher than the opposing roll, the thing that you wanted to happen happens. If you roll all sixes, you get a new skill specific to the action, one level higher than the one you used. So say you say, I would like to roll to put on my shoes, and you roll 1D6 and say, you ace it. You get a six, you put on your shoes. And you also get to roll two dice for tying shoelaces.

Erika Ishii

For every roll that you fail, you get one experience point. Experience Points can normally be used to change a die into a six for advancement purposes only. So you can learn a new skill, but not make it a success. However, the little twist in the rules is that experience points can also be saved up and used to flash back to a prior scene and change something. Two XP flashes back a brief time ago. Oh, but I actually picked his pocket five minutes ago. Five Experience Points flashes you back to before the events that you have heard. So I picked his pocket back before we started the job.

Erika Ishii

Eight Experience Points flashes you back to the beginning and changes the whole nature of the game. But what you didn't realize all along that we had this plot, ha ha! And others can help their fellow players by adding plus one pip for each skill level that is helping. For instance, if Brennan needs help tying his shoes, and Aabria has +2 to tying shoes, Brennan will roll the D6 with plus two, at the end.

Lou Wilson

We're all in the room, by the way, just in case you're wondering.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, we're here.

Aabria Iyengar

They're not here.

Erika Ishii

But you don't have any questions about this system?

Lou Wilson

No, I understand it completely. And that Brennan needs help tying his shoes.

Aabria Iyengar

Well, he gets confused where the bunny rabbit goes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, the bunny rabbit thing just makes me feel like, oh, this is exciting. There's a rabbit, but it's like, here's the rabbit, here's the tree. And you're like, well, they look identical.

Erika Ishii

That's the problem, is that the bunny ears, right. But the tree is part of the bunny. The tree that has the hole is part of the bunny.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Erika Ishii

All right.

Aabria Iyengar

I don't know how this is difficult to people.

Erika Ishii

All right, maybe I don't understand animals, and this was the wrong thing to pick for a game.

Aabria Iyengar

I'm going to play a bunny that's also a tree. And a hole? You gotta edit this out. He's not gonna.

Erika Ishii

[Slowly, while typing] I just... add this all in... last minute.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Bunny ears, bunny ears playing by a tree, crisscrossed the tree, trying to catch me. Bunny ears, bunny ears, jumped into the hole, popped out the other side, beautiful and bold. Now, this website wants me to believe that this is how people were taught this.

Aabria Iyengar

I've never heard that before. Have people heard that before?

Erika Ishii

[Yelling] No. That's a much more difficult way to tie your shoes.

Lou Wilson

That's only in the countryside where people are like "You need a song to tie your shoes." Anyway, I'm sorry for derailing us. It was funny to be talking about us, and we're just all sitting here going, "Mhm, Brennan needs help tying his shoes, and Aabria helps, and he gets two pips."

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Listen, I'm great at tying my shoes. Perhaps the best in the world. But—

Lou Wilson

Perhaps.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Perhaps!

Lou Wilson

It has not been tested.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It has not been tested, it's not competitive, to my knowledge, but I will say this, but I will say this. Aabria fully snarfed. Aabria just like spit.

Aabria Iyengar

That's my coffee everywhere.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The coffee everywhere.

Aabria Iyengar

No!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'll say this for free. I'll say this.

Lou Wilson

You don't have to pay for this, guys.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You don't have to pay for this.

Lou Wilson

We're going to release this on Twitter. This will go out on the public feed. This part, and this part only.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'll tell you this for free. I don't know who made the call that at some age or size, they stop making Velcro shoes. That's bullshit. There should be velcro shoes. There should be beautiful Velcro shoes for adults. I want some black leather wing tips that, unbeknownst to the casual viewer, are velcro.

Erika Ishii

Worlds Beyond Number Branded.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, my God.

Erika Ishii
Wing tip Velcro.

Aabria Iyengar
Writing it down for the merch.

Erika Ishii
Yes. [Long pause] All right.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I'm so excited for this game, Erika.

Erika Ishii
Oh, me too, I'm very excited!

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah let's go!

Erika Ishii
I didn't even pretend to be dead before we did this so I wouldn't have to run it for you.

Aabria Iyengar
It was really funny. They pretended to be dead and all of us were too polite to check on them.

Erika Ishii
Yeah, I was in Lou's bathroom for like, 20 minutes.

Lou Wilson
You were in my bathroom for so long. And it felt like the weirdest kind of, like, limbo of like, "Is Erika doing business that we don't want to shame them for? Is Erika stressed and so we need to leave them?" I was like I just was like, we'll let it ride. We'll let it ride.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Everyone say your bathroom time before you check in on a person. How much time for a loved one to be in a bathroom before you're like, "I gotta go"

Aabria Iyengar
shoot... 50.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Minutes?

Aabria Iyengar
Okay.

Erika Ishii
Aabria is on the respectful side,

Aabria Iyengar
I come from a "the bathroom is the library" family, where a lot of us got, like, big reading done in there. So you just let them be in there.

Erika Ishii
Lou.

Lou Wilson
It's like six minutes.

Erika Ishii
Really?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
SIX MINUTES?

Lou Wilson
If I'm in the bathroom for more than six minutes.

Aabria Iyengar
[Yelling] Then why didn't you go in for Erica?

Lou Wilson
I wanted to! But I understand that mine is pretty tight. I like to do it and ride. And my big thing is it's also socially. So it's like, if there is a person in my house, well, I won't go fucking luxuriate in my fucking bathroom, if there are people in my house. I'm like, get this shit out of me. I have to go.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Lou is throwing an absolute rager. I knock on the bathroom like, I can't tell if anyone's in here. And I open and you're taking a full bath.

Lou Wilson
Full bath.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Full bath.

Lou Wilson
Two more minutes. Two more fucking minutes.

Erika Ishii

Well we all did shower together, so ya know.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I know three quarters of the podcast did shower together.

Aabria Iyengar

It is so fucked up I didn't get to go to that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Literally, the only reason you were not in that shower with us Aabria, is that you lived closer to the venue.

Erika Ishii

Yep.

Lou Wilson

You fool. You fool.

Aabria Iyengar

That's fucked up.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Brennan what's your time track, then?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

No amount of time. Infinite. Infinite time. When you go to the bathroom when you go to the bathroom, I assume you know what you're doing. And if I never hear from you again, I'm going to weep bitter tears and say goodbye and then put big red tape over that door and say, "This isn't a bathroom anymore. This is a mausoleum. This is now a burial site."

Lou Wilson

We're gonna get a bust for this.

Aabria Iyengar

Intern me in Lou's bathroom.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I think the most toxic trait in the world was when you're like a kid or a teenager, especially you get to be a teenager and your body starts to produce new odors as you're like, "Oh, people are asking me to shower now because I don't smell good." And then you suddenly discover the joy of a nice hot shower when you're in that point of adolescence. People that would like, bang on a door, especially if, like, you're in a vacation home or you're with family and be like, "What's the hold up, bud? Huh?" This guy's taking like, I swear to God, this is like an eight minute shower. And everyone's like, "Well, it looks like the Queen of Sheba guy."

Lou Wilson

Ok, One: problematic. Two: okay, so wait, I thought we were talking about just using the bathroom. I didn't know we were incorporating showers. I would never put a—if you were showering.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. What's your second time?

Lou Wilson

Oh, shower. Shower is infinite. I agree. I think if I'm like, showering, it's like, leave me the fuck alone.

Aabria Iyengar

I'm glad you guys respect the everything shower.

Lou Wilson

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

It's the most stressful time. You come out and you're like, I'm exhausted and dehydrated, but I've done everything I have to do to my body.

Erika Ishii

That's why, number one, you bring in shower LaCroix. And number two, I have no sense of time. I have time blindness, thanks to ADHD. And so I could be two minutes after you get in there, I'd be like, what's the hold up? Or I could never check on you because I have forgotten that you're not in my field of vision.

Aabria Iyengar

I respect that. I want to be on either end of that.

Erika Ishii

Yes.

Lou Wilson

I'm assuming this came up because of the amount of time that Erika was spending in the bathroom.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Lou Wilson

Okay. Got it.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Stalling before I had to run a game, which, ya know.

Lou Wilson

They did stick their head out the door and go, do we have to leave yet? We had all been standing outside for about 15 minutes.

Aabria Iyengar
Yes. Truly.

Lou Wilson
I had loaded the car. The family van was packed.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
This is going to be so much fun. I can't wait. You're gonna do a great job!

Erika Ishii
Well, here we go. Without further stalling—

Lou Wilson
Are you sure we got any more questions? Do we need to check in? Brennan, do you have any more public statements?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
If I... Here's another thing, I think. If you're in a bathroom and someone is brushing their teeth, you should have court vision of when they need to spit. Okay. And that's the mark of a good partnership, Izzy and I, great court awareness. Great court awareness.

Aabria Iyengar
Why don't you just not be in the bathroom together?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Because we're brushing our teeth at the same time.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, okay. Got it, got it.

Erika Ishii
Also, automatic toothbrushes do a little buzz when it's time to change, like, rows.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And if a friend—

Aabria Iyengar
But you could spit whenever your mouth tells you it's time.

Lou Wilson
No, no you may not.

Erika Ishii
No, sir!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Do you guys do spitting throughout or do you just spit at the end?

Lou Wilson

I could do maybe two big spits.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, I'm a two spitter.

Erika Ishii

I swallow.

Lou Wilson

It's going to be a fun day. It's going to be a fun day on the fucking farm, let me tell you that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Abruptly] My character is Ruthie the Hen!

[Everyone laughs]

Lou Wilson

And I swallow.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[In an old lady voice] And I love to swallow. Gulp gulp!

Erika Ishii

Here we go.

[Jaunty bluegrass tune kicks in]

Taylor Moore

Feeling teased? Good, because that was a little tease of A County Affair. Our new one shot from first time game master Erika Ishii. Episode one debuts on the Worlds Beyond Number Patreon on June 29th, and the thrilling conclusion on July 13th. It's Animal Farm meets Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol. It's Babe meets Le Cirque Rouge. And if that don't get your cock a-crowin', I don't know what will. See ya at the trough, comrades! Su-ey!

[Bluegrass tune fades out]