

Worlds Beyond Number

Fireside Chat: Episode 016 - Episode 16 "Everything"

Final Version

[Crickets chirp, and a campfire crackles. A bright and sweet song is plucked on an acoustic guitar.]

Craig Sumgee

I'm on SeaDooForum.com.

[Aabria cracks up]

Craig Sumgee

I'm making friends. People are very encouraging. but also telling me not to invest my life savings.

Erika Ishii

Hello, everybody, and welcome to the Fireside chat for Episode 16: Everything. I'm your host, Erika Ishii, and I'm here with Aabria Iyengar.

Aabria Iyengar

Ahoohoo. Crackle, crackle. Hello!

Erika Ishii

And our special guest...?

Craig Sumgee

Hi, I'm Craig Sumgee. Uhh -

Aabria Iyengar

[quietly] Craig...?

Craig Sumgee

And while Lou is running around the jungles of Panama looking for Brennan, I'm here.

Erika Ishii

Thank you so much for joining us. And it's nice that you got a full week's notice this time because, as we discussed in the last episode, Brennan has gone missing. He was going to go Romancing the Stone Lou, but then they were ships passing in the night, and Lou came back, and no Brennan. So now Lou is retrieving Brennan. And thank you so much for -

Aabria Iyengar

We were told we would be getting a Craig and I didn't think it would be this Craig and that's ... It's fine. It's fine. We'll be fine.

Craig Sumgee

Hey, this is - you know, this is the Craig you got.

[Aabria laughs]

Craig Sumgee

But no, my cousin Tomahawk told me that you guys are real nice folks.

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God. Wait, you're -

Craig Sumgee

I'm just happy to be on here, chatting with you guys.

Erika Ishii

Tomahawk's your cousin? Is that how you know Lou?

Craig Sumgee

Yes, Tomahawk is my cousin. That's how - I met Lou at Tomahawk's birthday party this year.

Erika Ishii

Ohh...

Craig Sumgee

And we hit it off, and he said Lou often asks friends to come on this podcast, and kind of chat it out and talk about this awesome show that we all - a lot of people in my family really love it, and so I'm excited to get into it.

Erika Ishii

Oh, thank you so much!

Aabria Iyengar

That's so nice!

Erika Ishii

Well, you came - yeah, you came for a fantastic episode.

Craig Sumgee

Oh, God, tell me about it! Lore dump for the ages.

Aabria Iyengar

And just so joyful.

Craig Sumgee

Oh!

Aabria Iyengar

God.

Craig Sumgee

There's nothing better, right? Because I feel like sometimes lore dumps can be a little ominous. It's a little like, what's up? It's time that you learned the secrets of this world. And this one's like, your parents were so sick.

[Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii
They were!

Craig Sumgee
And were awesome.

Erika Ishii
Your parents were -

Craig Sumgee
And let us unfold the pages of their lives before you.

Erika Ishii
Ugh. They were double agents?

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah. It is very fun to learn that your parents were Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

Erika Ishii
Yeah, that's so hot!

Craig Sumgee
Yes.

[Aabria laughs]

Aabria Iyengar
Like, oh, that's very hot of them. Interesting.

Erika Ishii
Yeah. Uh huh.

Craig Sumgee
The moment where, I feel like it's - when Brennan is talking about how your parents have accolades in other countries where they are like, championed as heroes because that's like, oh, they really are, like - they come home and just eat soup and hang out with you, young you, and then go off and are like, my name is - I don't know if they have some other name or whatever, but they go somewhere else and they live an entirely different life.

Aabria Iyengar
But isn't that, like, the interesting thing about learning about who your parents were outside of you, where you're like, wow, you were like a full, complete person, and I didn't really get a lot of that, and maybe I'm responsible for why you're not that anymore. But it was a very cool... This whole episode was a really weird thing of, like, being of the Citadel and whatever, my parents children, Suvi's parents children - child. It is very strange to be like, but you're learning all of this for the first time because of the nature of the podcast and the story. So it felt very much like - yeah, I felt very in Suvi's place of like, you're learning who your parents were. You're learning what your home environment is in real time right now, which is very cool.

Erika Ishii

It's really interesting that somehow that ginger kid who's running around in the Panamanian jungles made it so that we were told some of our backstory or kind of helped contribute to the backstory, but a lot of the lore in it, our characters wouldn't know. Right? Because it's like, a lot of times in a game, it's like you have to do a lot of the exposition, or you have to figure it out as you go. But for us, it was like, oh, well, Ame had her memories stolen, and so that's why I, Erika, and Ame, the character, did not know a lot of the things of my past and didn't know all this lore. So I get to learn it as the listeners do. But same with Suvi. Suvi also had this revealed for a plot reason, and all of us got to find that out as it was happening.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Yeah! It's really interesting that somehoBut it is really funny. The difference is that's your backstory and what you experience and you get to remember it, versus, like - all of that is like a different story inside of Umora that Suvi is learning about. It's just fun. It just feels like storytelling nested inside of storytelling.

Craig Sumgee

But I do think, to Erika's point, it is, like - Brennan does it so elegantly that there's this part of me that almost is like, glad, because it saves us that moment you've had at your own home game table where you're like, okay, I'm playing David Roth the barbarian. His dad was in the army, and his mom was a criminal. It's just you reading a word document you wrote at home for 25 minutes as the rest of the PCs go, uh huh, yeah, okay, great. I'll try and remember a third of that.

Instead, this it's like, I think I know, Suvi. And then it's like, smack. Idiot! [Erika and Aabria laugh throughout] Wrong! Here's some more sick shit. Here's a bunch of provinces of Gaothmai you've never heard of. There's just a richness that it brings to not only the storytelling, but also the experience as a player that is just like... It's awesome that we get to find out information this way and not by, like, a weird history check on our part that then you get to tell us something you wrote 14 weeks ago.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. And then also -

Aabria Iyengar

God, that's so real.

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God. Yeah. Look, I love Tolkien, but Brendan's not here to say nay. And Aabria doesn't know anything about Lord of the Rings -

Craig Sumgee

Quick, say it quickly!

Erika Ishii

Okay, so -

Aabria Iyengar

If you keep talking, it might draw him back.

Erika Ishii

So here's the thing -

Craig Sumgee

Yeah, Brennan just appears in the chat.

[Cast laughs]

Erika Ishii

Like, I had Wi-Fi in the Panamanian jungle for two minutes, and I'm using it to tell you that I -

Craig Sumgee

Is it weird that I feel like that could actually happen? Like, there's something about this moment that is actually - I actually feel like he could have that power. It feels like it could happen.

[Erika laughs]

Aabria Iyengar

It does.

Craig Sumgee

You just get a text tonight that's like, watch it.

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. The chances are low, but never zero. Yeah. Just a threat.

Erika Ishii

I feel like a lot of the lore isn't personalized in Middle-earth. Literally, he wrote a whole creation myth, and he wrote a Bible, essentially, in The Silmarillion to give you a backstory. And he wrote all of this stuff into the appendices after the fact that are like, wow, that would have been very interesting to know, and given things, stakes. There's a lore dump. Right? I think a lot of writers do that -

Aabria Iyengar

Tolkien was the first Tumblr girlie.

Erika Ishii

Well, to be honest he created the story -

Aabria Iyengar

He was putting it all in the tags, baby.

Erika Ishii

He - oh, yeah. [laughs] He wrote the story to accommodate his world building. And linguistic - like, these languages he created, those happened first. Then he's like, I guess I need somebody to speak these because he was linguist.

Aabria Iyengar

Dang. For real? That's the order?

Erika Ishii
Yeah. Yeah!

Aabria Iyengar
That's wild. That's wild.

Erika Ishii
Yup!

Craig Sumgee
Mm mm!

Aabria Iyengar
All right. Not going to say anything.

Erika Ishii
Right, so. But basically, I think the thing I really appreciate about this campaign is that all of the lore we learn about the world and the war and the provinces because of their connection to the characters' backstories and the plot.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
Like, what the hell!

Aabria Iyengar
And that was always the dream when we were talking about the characters we wanted to build, going back to early days. I know we talked about it when we first began this, but having a witch and everything that's strange and new about a witch and all the mechanical things we're going to do, and having someone from the spirit world, like, having a wild one. Suvi was always built to be a reflection of the world, so it feels nice to be like, yeah. All of the lore dumps for Suvi are like, here's what's - it's just the CNN News ticker is her backstory. [Craig and Erika laugh] Just like, this is what's happening in current events. That's who I built. Human bullshit.

Erika Ishii
Oh, man! That's so cool, though.

Aabria Iyengar
That's very funny.

Craig Sumgee
No, but it's - and I mentioned it when we were chatting before we started. Now I'll say it on the actual podcast, but this is the first time listening to our show that I listen to the entire kind of interaction, and then the kind of way that Taylor beautifully brings us back, to like - us back in Suvi's quarters and fully looked down at the timestamp and could not believe it had only been, like, 20 to 30 minutes.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah!

Craig Sumgee

I was convinced it had been two and a half hours. Like, for the amount of lore that had been shoveled onto my brain, I was like, well, we must be approaching the end of the episode. And it's like no... [Aabria and Erika laugh] no, they still have a bunch of fun treats...

Erika Ishii

Processing!

Craig Sumgee

Exactly. My brain has been working at - it has hit what it feels like is the processing of an entire episode. But, baby, we still got treats to eat.

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God. Treats. Snackums?

Aabria Iyengar

Snackums. We got to talk about it.

Erika Ishii

One last thing about the lore that I'm so excited to talk about, the implications of that we got dropped. I think this is the first time that it got dropped, the knowledge that several hundred years ago, there was an age of exploration and trade because of all the teleportation. Teleportation was free and easy, and anybody could teleport anywhere. And that was why we have the Brandy Cinderella world. We said, remember?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, exactly.

Erika Ishii

That was because we established early on, we were like, okay, we want to have the world be diverse, but there are actual logistical - even if we divorce it from our world's actual social and political structures, how do we make it, like, there's still, you know - how do we still make culture significant and meaningful and people have different phenotypes? So you might go to different barbers or it makes sense that a certain region would have certain kind of teas, and we were like, oh. Because it's just been so long. Centuries of the world being diverse, like, truly of free travel.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, no, I love that. And it feels very good to - it makes location so important in a way that ethnicity doesn't have to be.

Erika Ishii

Yes!

Craig Sumgee

Mhmm.

Aabria Iyengar

You can be sort of - your lineage can be from anywhere. It's about where you choose to be, because you can go anywhere. And I think that's something that's very cool and very important and makes for a very diverse world with

pretty progressive values. Because when you're just around a bunch of people that are different from you, you cannot help but shift your Overton window for acceptability and the things that you know and encompass. And I also feel like it's a very stealth way to talk about the ways in which magic can be very good. Yeah, I don't know, man.

Little point for wizardry there. Just that - the idea of constantly pushing. Here's the good things that magic can do. And, of course, we will see more later and learn more in the future about the ways in which politics and human striving will put systems on top of all of that. But the potential for magic, the thing that like... The spark that you see in all of our - because we're all casters, that little spark of, like, here's the things that can be possible in this world. Like, it's really nice to see the tangible result of that feeling centuries back is very cool, and it makes Umora feel so rich and so good.

[Beat of silence]

Aabria Iyengar

And the last thing I want to say is, [Craig and Erika laugh] my favorite little gift in the conversation between Steel and Suvi was Brennan saying Eioghorain would kill you as you are now.

Erika Ishii

Yes!

Aabria Iyengar

And then forcing Suvi to be like, I heard you, but we both know what just happened right now. Great. Time to level up. I got to go kill a guy about a parent.

Craig Sumgee

Let's fucking goooo.

Aabria Iyengar

Anyway. Task acquired!

Erika Ishii

I remember exactly where I was when I heard that line, and I just stopped walking, and I went, oh, I missed that the first time around, but, oh, God, it's so good.

Craig Sumgee

I really do like that we get to listen back to our episodes because there is so much I miss when I'm in performer brain that's just like,

Erika Ishii

Same.

Craig Sumgee

Yeah. A moment like that goes, like, completely - even you talking about the age of exploration, I'm like, oh, that did - that's where it happened. These things that's like, yeah, I never thought about that once when we were in the room because I'm just fully in, like, all right. When we get back, I'm a bear masquerading as a man about to take his friend to get some bites.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. And that's - I mean, truly.

Aabria Iyengar

I want that on a shirt.

Erika Ishii

Just a man masquerading as a bear about to take his friend to get some bites.

Aabria Iyengar

Some bites.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. I don't know. It's just one of my favorite things that I have seen in world building. I'm a huge fan because we talk a lot about how I grew up loving fantasy and speculative fiction, and a lot of times, you're locked in to a lot of things because you make the mistake of coding certain cultures as other things, and then you're like, well, now, how do I have different new ideas and make it diverse and interesting? Or am I just, like, telling the same story? And to have the justification for that, make it make sense, as opposed to, we said Brandy Cinderella, because we love - I love that movie so much, but you're like, how... And that's in plays when that happens, that's fine, definitely. And I wish there were more things like that, but then you're like, I can't think too hard about how this Filipino prince came from Alias' dad and Whoopi Goldberg. I can't think too hard about it, right? [Aabria laughs] Because that doesn't make sense on a long enough timeline, right?

Aabria Iyengar

I did in fact ask my parents a very awkward question about genetics [Erika laughs] because of that movie. And they were like, it's casting. You have to stop. We got to send you to a different school. You have to learn about a Punnett Square right now.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. So I don't know. I love that, and I would love to see more of that, because I think the trap that a lot of fantasy falls into is like, yeah, it's just diverse, and there's no explanation for it. There is a reason why we have different cultures. And then it makes the in group different. So you don't have to worry about coded racism and stuff.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

That was the thing. We definitely said we don't want to code any one group a specific way.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes, 100%.

Erika Ishii

So now can we talk about Losario?

Craig Sumgee

So now that we've covered racism...

Erika Ishii
Oh, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah, we - Losario...

[Craig laughs]

Aabria Iyengar
Can we start by talking - I just want to give a really big compliment to Lou, even though he's not here to receive it.

Craig Sumgee
Of course.

Aabria Iyengar
So there's pressure when they're like, cool, they're going to your house soon. And there's that weird sense of, like, okay, how much lore are we going to have to learn to show Ame once we get there? There is nothing cooler than the handoff to Lou and to Eursulon, where we got to see the fun that Eursulon found in this place. Because, of course, he's the one that found all the fun things. Of course, he loves Haverward. Of course he found the coolest places to eat, and has preference on bites, and a sort of map of where to go and what to be. And it was just so cool and - it was both a relief and very cool and fun to watch and be like, oh, yeah, what if you did feel like a little bit of a stranger to the fun in your own home? That's very cool and interesting. And he just did such a great job of proffering sort of sensory experiences. I'm like, I want to eat everything you've said today.

Erika Ishii
It was so colorful and exciting and, yeah, Lou did an incredible job. I loved having Eursulon be the surrogate because, as you said, it's like, you know, we all live in LA, right? And so you don't really notice it or hang out because I'm from here. And so - oh, wait! Wait, are -?

Aabria Iyengar
Orange County. Oh, wait, LA contingent?

Erika Ishii
Yeah! Yeah!

Aabria Iyengar
You're both from LA and I'm from farther south.

Erika Ishii
Yeah, but that's okay. We forgive you.

Aabria Iyengar
I'm sorry. I'm from the OC. We had a whole TV show about it. Don't worry about it.

[Erika hums The OC theme]

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah!

[Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii
Oh, God.

Aabria Iyengar
Taylor, just play that in the background.

Craig Sumgee
Yeah, just fade us out and play that song entirety. In its entirety.

[Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii
Yeah. And, yeah, it's like you don't realize certain things or visit certain things unless somebody is new there. And then you sort of discover, rediscover your city, and it was a sensory feast, just all of it. The new locations and the tamori - the tamori are so cool.

Aabria Iyengar
Mr. Callum.

Erika Ishii
All the Mr. Callums!

Craig Sumgee
Sweet old Mr. Callum.

Aabria Iyengar
Shout out to Ame just immediately being like, here's an existential fucking question. Free will? That's got to be worse than my question.

Erika Ishii
[laughing] Got to be worse than my question.

Aabria Iyengar
Shout out to the Fox.

Erika Ishii
I love the Fox. Oh, God. But, yeah, just like, the collaboration in creating the world, and the fun, and the treats was - oh! Okay, I just. Taylor, get the hell out of here with your little Parisian cafe, Animal Crossing music.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, my God!

Craig Sumgee
It was huge Animal Crossing, but it was so perfectly pleasant. I use Animal Crossing as the comp because it just is music that is meant to play when everything's good. It was the perfect music of, like, wow, everyone has enough to

eat and there is good work ahead of us. It's the perfect music to be spending way too much time in front of a menu just being like, what will we eat? Being aware that we will be eating more later.

Aabria Iyengar

It was so sweet. And the description of Candle Street Bakery was just 100 years of candles. Stop! A vibe!

Erika Ishii

Oh, my gosh. And the descriptions of all the food, it was so beautiful. And just hearing how excited Eursulon was -

Aabria Iyengar

Bro, the zucchini fritter sandwich? Ohhh! I want that so bad.

Craig Sumgee

That's inspired by a restaurant called Greekman's in Los Feliz that sells little fried zucchinis -

Erika Ishii

Shut up.

Craig Sumgee

That are, like, perfectly decadent. Or it's in Silverlake, but they're, like, perfectly, like - they're fried, which makes you go, this is a little unhealthy, but it's a zucchini, so it's squash, and it's served with, like, an herb aioli. And so it's very light while being - while having the light kind of density and texture to it of the fry. And so I was like, oh, that's the sandwich. Light, but you want it. You know? It's not too healthy.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Who's this Silver fellow?

Aabria Iyengar

Excuse me? Silver appears in the first episode when Suvi sees the soldiers coming back, and she's like, that one, that little hottie in the corner. And then she runs away and comes back, and her hair is messy. Taylor, release the slut cut.

Erika Ishii

Slut cut. Slut cut. Slut cut!

Lou Wilson

The people demand the slut cut!

Aabria Iyengar

So yeah, we're just - it's really nice to follow up on a little throwaway joke from when we first set off. What is it? Booty call? It's been a month. Suvi couldn't maintain 'I'm scared for my friend' for a whole month. At some point, horny kind of just worked its way back into there. So sorry.

Lou Wilson

It's so real.

Erika Ishii

People process grief in their own unique ways.

Aabria Iyengar

You're not dead, you're taking a nap!

Erika Ishii

Who amongst us has not dealt with tragedy by chasing the serotonin that a good bone down brings?

Aabria Iyengar

Bless you, Erika.

Lou Wilson

Sometimes you just need a good bone down, which I've never heard before as a way to describe it, but it's the only way I'll be describing - a grief sex call is officially known as a bone down.

Erika Ishii

Who amongst us has not dealt with tragedy by chasing the serotonin that a good bone down brings?

Erika Ishii

A bone down.

Aabria Iyengar

A bone down. It feels like there should be a fiddle playing in the background.

Lou Wilson

[laughing] Exactly.

Aabria Iyengar

And a xylophone. Those two instruments, specifically.

[Erika laughing]

Lou Wilson

Yeah, exactly.

Aabria Iyengar

Because of bones. Because xylophones. Bones.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, I was about to say that's clearly, like, the skeleton instrument.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Spooky, sexy skeletons.

Lou Wilson

Playing their music as you're sad as hell. But getting it on.

Aabria Iyengar

But getting it on!

Erika Ishii

Yeah. A bone done. So we get to see also Suvi's surroundings and how she outwardly has, like -it's all opulent and casual and flowy. But then in the inside, she is a conspiracy board academia girl. Right?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. I mean, yes. It's very much like - oh, yeah. I love that idea of the affectation you have for when people are over and then who you are inside your own brain. And if you can externalize what you think the inside of your own brain looks like. It's messy and ridiculous. It's so good. Wait, hold on. I don't want to talk about me anymore. By the time this drops, our official art for Arc Two will be out, right?

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God, yes.

Lou Wilson

Hachi-machi.

Aabria Iyengar

Can we talk about Eursulon's glamour?

Erika Ishii

What the *fuck*?

Aabria Iyengar

So sorry, Lou. I'm so sorry you have to be here for this. I'm sorry Craig couldn't tank this, but, like, why is Eursulon so hot? What's up?

Lou Wilson

Well, that was always - you have to be scary hot. Right?

Aabria Iyengar

I didn't say scary!

Lou Wilson

I'm - scary hot. Well, I feel like he has to be so hot because he's a fairy. Or, like, a spirit.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. That's very fair.

Lou Wilson

It was really important to me that the character read as the person in a crowd who maybe you don't go talk to, right? It's not the inherent, like, I want to go get your business. But it was like, he has to be a distinct and just, like, straight up attractive enough person that you would be like, if that person walked through a crowd, heads would turn, but then turn back.

Erika Ishii

There's something about him, yeah..

Aabria Iyengar
Truly.

Lou Wilson

Exactly. It's exactly that. There's something about him. That's what the vibe is supposed to be. And then I think Aabria and I had talked before about - I mean, we're really carrying over that moment from the Children's Adventure where Eursulon chooses to look somewhat like, or chooses to look like Suvi's brother as his kind of physical manifestation. So it's meant to be the aged up version of that with the Sir Curran red hair, the same eye color as his -

Erika Ishii
Sir Curran as Brennan, yes.

Lou Wilson

Exactly, the same eye color as his spirit form and the fucking chiseled jaw -

Aabria Iyengar
My God.

Lou Wilson

Of someone who could be a model but is working in taverns and fighting for his life in the woods.

Aabria Iyengar
Roselyn, we get it, girl.

Lou Wilson
Roselyn, exactly.

Erika Ishii
I would also absolutely risk it all for Eursulon, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
True. It was one of those things where like, when we were getting the art back and - shout out to Lorena. What is Lorena's last name?

Erika Ishii
Lammer.

Aabria Iyengar
Yes. She's incredible. When we got the first round of art back, I think that was the moment where I was, like, in my head, I had the, like, yes, Eursulon is hot, and they kind of look like siblings. And that's interesting. It was seeing the art that was. Oh, oh! I almost sent Lou a text just to be like, bud, good luck. It's going to get real horny real fast, and I will lead the girlies on Tumblr in it. I'm not better than this. I'm not better than this energy.

Erika Ishii
No, that is our energy.

Lou Wilson

We're ready for it. We had to lead the charge. We got one masc character in the group, and he needs to come through dripping.

Erika Ishii

Correct. Yes, that's true

Lou Wilson

Exactly.

Aabria Iyengar

You are carrying hard for your gender, and I appreciate that.

Lou Wilson

For campaign two, I'll be like a little gremlin.

Aabria Iyengar

A little guy.

Erika Ishii

Just a little guy.

Lou Wilson

Campaign one is - I feel like that's also a thing I do in general, where it's like, campaign one - campaign two will get like, I'll play like an old man or someone who's kind of been through it or whatever, or has some signs of some life scars on them. Campaign one, character is always just sexy as hell. Can do a backflip, that kind of shit.

[Erika and Aabria agreeing and laughing throughout]

Erika Ishii

Yeah. We always start with, like, this is the idealized version of us.

Aabria Iyengar

100%!

Lou Wilson

Exactly!

Erika Ishii

And by campaign two, you're just like, I'm a little toadstool.

Lou Wilson

Yeah. Campaign two, I embrace my flaws. Campaign one, I run from them.

[Erika and Aabria laughing]

Aabria Iyengar

Speaking of embracing your flaws, I'm noticing a little bit of a pat - like, I feel like maybe this is going to be an intervention arc for Eursulon. Those bottles, bud. What's going on?

Lou Wilson

Those bottles, bud.

Aabria Iyengar

You're in that sort of zone.

Lou Wilson

My man likes to drink, okay? What, my character can't party?

[Erika and Aabria laughing]

Aabria Iyengar

That is actually a very funny thing, that the moment you mention Eursulon drinking, it's like, oh, no, a character flaw. But if you think about it for, like, 12 seconds, you're like, all of these people, like, our whole group is college aged. If this was based in the real world, no one would say fucking anything.

Lou Wilson

Everyone would be like, wow, Eursulon's kind of fun.

Aabria Iyengar

[laughing] YEAH!

Erika Ishii

That's another thing, too, is that I think there was that he was turning to alcohol for really unhealthy reasons in the first arc, and we showed that there were consequences to that. But, like -

Aabria Iyengar

What consequences?? It went well!

Erika Ishii

That large hangover, and with the - Will Gallows, that did work out well for that. But -

Aabria Iyengar

That worked out super well!

Erika Ishii

Yeah, but like -

Aabria Iyengar

Bro got a friendship bracelet from a bad guy.

Lou Wilson

I mean, I did get a friendship bracelet from a bad guy.

[Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii

That Will Gallows, man. Um - I've definitely read some Will Gallows, uh -

Aabria Iyengar

[gasps] DOG!

Erika Ishii

Did you - ? Are you - ?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, I also read it. Did you enjoy your chapter?

Erika Ishii

I did. I did...

Lou Wilson

Is it out there? How many chapters are there?

Aabria Iyengar

One for each of us. Lou, do you want yours?

Lou Wilson

I have one???

Erika Ishii

Yes. It's good. It's very good. Shout out to the author. I'm so sorry. We should - I have a rule generally of not mentioning that I do - because I don't want people to - you know. But again, we're from there. We're from there, you know? So it's like, even if we weren't making this thing, we would be on there reading it and writing it. So... you know... thanks. Anyway -

Lou Wilson

Wow.

Aabria Iyengar

I'll send you a cursed link in a second.

Lou Wilson

Don't you dare. Don't tempt me. Don't tempt me.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, it's chapter one for sure. Problem drinking. Chapter two, fun celebration drinking, right?

Lou Wilson
Well, it is like -

Erika Ishii
We're at Wizard College!

Lou Wilson

I do think you're right. There's a big setting element to it of, like, drinking in a calm did feel like trying to push something down, but drinking in the Citadel feels like we made it. Let's have a drink to celebrate! Now, is it going to catch up with us? Maybe. But, yeah, I think Eursulon and consumption, I think, is definitely something - it's like a string that, in a way, that is the beauty of improvised storytelling, is like, we're plucking and we're tuning, and it's like, what is it? What is it? And I know it's there, and I know that there are moments of it, but when will we find the chord that is the song? We shall see. But I think it's definitely something I want. It's a string I'm pulling at and trying to find the right sound for. Because I think even personally, it's one of the easiest things to grab onto when you don't feel good is, eat a little something, drink a little something. Fall asleep, wake up.

Aabria Iyengar
A little ginger ale.

Lou Wilson
Exactly. Little ginger ale. I'm personally addicted to ginger ale,

Aabria Iyengar
[gasps] Same.

Lou Wilson
But everyone's got their own demons.

Aabria Iyengar
Well, I just want to say that every time it's popped up, knowing that contextual connection between Eursulon and consumption and the legacy of the Great Bear. You say it is easy, but it is so brilliant. And every time I see it, I do, definitely do the, like, oh, yeah, shit, that's so good, like, this was a big episode for me, getting to sit and look at my friends and be like, oh, fuck, fuck. They're really good at this. Okay.

Lou Wilson
There it is.

Aabria Iyengar
Okay. Get better immediately before they call on you again.

[Lou and Aabria laugh]

Erika Ishii
I know that feeling, though. Oh, man, it was great seeing everybody come back and... God, the Fox. Little interactions with the Fox.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, my God.

Lou Wilson
That sweet, tired boy.

Aabria Iyengar
That sweet, tired boy. I love that he only slept when Eursulon was around. Like, protector, go off.

Erika Ishii
But then he bit Suvi twice.

Aabria Iyengar
But then he bit Twice. Suvi earned it. Let's be very cccar. It wasn't because the Fox is mean. It's because Suvi said some stupid shit. And the Fox was like, you know what? No filter. Go fuck yourself. And she was like, all right, I'm going to go.

[Erika laughing]

Aabria Iyengar
That's on me. I'm going to tell the story my way when Ame's up.

Erika Ishii
Oh, my God. That's very good.

Aabria Iyengar
Okay, we do have some questions.

Erika Ishii
Oh, yes, questions!

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah. First one, just a little warm up one for the group.

Lou Wilson
Warm up?

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah, warm up. We're only, like, half an hour into this. Everyone's got to get loose. From Nairi, this is a question for everyone. Diva off: Mirara versus Orima. Who's winning? And why?

Erika Ishii
Oh, shit.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Lou Wilson

I feel like I have my answer.

Aabria Iyengar

Get in there.

Lou Wilson

But I - it's interesting. I won't explain. I'll just say I think it's Mirara. I think Orima is quite powerful, but I think Mirara - you know, Mirara is out here on some, you know - hey, we've been told not to fuck with spirits or witches.

[Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Lou Wilson

And honestly, as a spirit, I feel like I'm way more afraid of witches at this point.

[Aabria laughs]

Lou Wilson

Personally, personally.

Aabria Iyengar

That's fair. That's honestly fair.

Erika Ishii

There's something about mortals, right? Because witches at the end are mortal. Or at least they're more mortal than they are anything else. There's just like a cunning and a guile - because spirits are just sort of inexorable forces, right? They're not -

Aabria Iyengar

Okay, spirits can be killed.

Erika Ishii

They can be killed, but it's just they're inexorable forces. They're not like going to scheme, and they don't have ambition in that way.

Aabria Iyengar

That's fair.

Erika Ishii

You know, there's just sort of a rawness to that, and it's like raw power and fury is something that makes Orima terrifying. But I think Mirara, and like scheming and duplicitousness and wordplay, there is something to be said about that. I think that scares me more.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, that's fair. Well, shit. I was originally pulling very loudly for Orima, because I think if you have a whole thing where you're like, when I am a little hangry because my husband's not around, I invent plants that are like

masochists that love growing too fast and want to choke people to death. And for me, that's diva behavior. But you know what? Mirara's turning a corner.

Lou Wilson

Oh, was it a diva-off?

Aabria Iyengar

Yes!

Lou Wilson

I thought they were going to fight to the death. Then it's definitely Orima.

Erika Ishii

Oh, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Thank you!

Lou Wilson

Though, I do think there's a pettiness to Mirara. Like, there is something to that Grandmother Wren line that's like, oh, bitch, I know you only take fights you can win.

[Aabria laughs]

Aabria Iyengar

That's my problem! Like - Mirara got her ass handed to her by Grandma Wren.

Lou Wilson

Yeah...

Aabria Iyengar

I'm struggling.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, I see that.

Aabria Iyengar

She didn't make it out of the first bracket, baby. That's all I'm saying.

Lou Wilson

It is funny that Grandmother Wren has held both of them down. Both of them have been put in their place by Grandmother Wren.

Erika Ishii

I think that's an important distinction, too. Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay! Next bracket, then. Grandmother Wren versus The Stranger. Because Grandma Wren was giving us a little bit of tea about The Stranger, and seems to have had some concerns. And I do feel like maybe this is just in my heart, going back and remembering how The Stranger sounded when we first met him back in the first arc. I do feel like he could duck walk. And I just want to say, he probably serves. Like, he curdles milk.

[Erika laughs]

Aabria Iyengar

I think he's bringing a lot more to the table than we're expecting.

Lou Wilson

And his dead drop literally brings the night with him. Right?

[Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Lou Wilson

He comes down, and it's just all the lights go out. It's like, shit.

Erika Ishii

I feel like, yeah, ballroom culture. Like, he's part of a big into ballroom culture, for sure.

Aabria Iyengar

Why is The Stranger played by Honey Balenciaga? And I can't stop thinking about that.

[Erika and Lou laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

Thank you. Thank you for indulging me.

Erika Ishii

Yes, good. Good, good, good, good.

Lou Wilson

This is good. It's good to plant these seeds - we plant these seeds in the world.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Is this good for everybody? We're good. That's a very good question. Thank you. Thank you for that.

Aabria Iyengar

Nice. Okay, I've got another one that's a little more focused. And this one's from Emma Bee. And she writes - thank you, Emma. How does it feel when you get to play your younger selves in flashbacks, especially after finishing Arc One? Has anything changed in how you play yourselves?

Erika Ishii

Oh, man, it's so funny.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

I feel like it's easier to play young Ame. I don't know why that is. I can definitely tell - I don't know if it's because I'm so deep inside her head that things that are easy for Ame are easier for me to play, and things that are harder are harder for me to play. Being very diplomatic and the conversation with Orima and all of that is difficult and feels very fraught, but then, like, being a kid and being excited about stuff and being like, I can just give- I'm making tea and here's a mug, and don't poke your eyes out with the cat ears,

[Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii

Is so fun and easy to do, that like - yeah. I think going back to the kids, it's always like, oh, yeah, this is fun and easy. And, like, I don't know how. There's a playfulness about it. Yeah. How about you guys?

Aabria Iyengar

I mean, we haven't really encountered as much of this yet, post Arc One.

Erika Ishii

Lou got to be baby!

Aabria Iyengar

That is true! You got to be baby!

Lou Wilson

I got to play baby. Which, thank God, because I do think it was nice to be like, this is Eursulon, just pre-verbal Eursulon. Because I definitely feel like playing child Eursulon was a very interesting experience. Now, playing Teen Eursulon would almost be a little intimidating at this point. It would feel like- because that's, like, as we've established, because I guess supposedly it wasn't funny, my first scene, you know. I guess we'd have to play the darkest version. Like, Eursulon was already close to rock bottom when we met him, and so it would be like, okay, so Eursulon's absolute rock bottom is somewhere between leaving Grandmother Wren's house and when you meet him at the circus. So it would be like, to play that, I think it's like, oh, God. All right, we have to go back to that? Oh, please no. Please, no. I already - I already think it's funny, and you all -

[Aabria and Erika laughing and agreeing throughout]

Aabria Iyengar

I didn't think about that, like, oh, no.

Lou Wilson

It's more opportunities for me to go - it's kind of funny that Eursulon's picking at these chicken bones and then realizes they're rotten. Right? That's hilarious.

Aabria Iyengar

Erika and I just weeping over our pencils.

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God, that's so funny. I just have this memory of Lou going, it's *funny*!

Lou Wilson

Everyone thought the bird thing was so funny. I was part of the bird thing until my parents started screaming at me from the audience. How are we rehashing this? This is going to be the thing we fight about until the end of this podcast. I will go to the mat for that moment 20 out of 20 times. This never ends, everyone, just so you know.

[Erika and Aabria laughing throughout]

Aabria Iyengar

I think there's also some part of that was even better because we were sitting farther away because we were in a different recording setup, and there was just enough physical distance between Lou and then me and Erika were like, who are both on the other side, that we kind of gave each other a little look, like it felt spatially a little close to what I was imagining.

Erika Ishii

It did, yeah. Especially because also Lou would not look at us for a long time.

Lou Wilson

Please don't. Please. Brennan. Brennan, I know you're in a Panamanian jungle right now looking for me. What Brennan's experiencing right now is probably what Eursulon's time is like, being in a thick forest, being like, I think I know the way out of here. And then having to fight off - I mean, well, I guess we did kind of - see, there is a moment, it is with Rosalyn, that is like a little kind of shot of the in between. So it's just a lot more of -

Erika Ishii

God, that's great.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Well, now I'm terrified at the prospect of seeing Eursulon's like, adolescent decay.

Lou Wilson

Of course not, of course not.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. God.

Aabria Iyengar

Poor girl. I get it now.

Erika Ishii

Shout out to Rosalyn.

Aabria Iyengar

Justice!

Lou Wilson

I would like Erika to answer this question from Steve. Thanks, Steve. Good Stevening. [Erika and Aabria laugh] If the Fox was a human and Ame the familiar, what animal would Ame be?

Erika Ishii

I had originally thought fox. Right? Because she's like, all chuffy. That's why I chose fox. That's the whole thing about a familiar is it's like supposed to be this sort of externalized animal version of yourself. But I don't know. Now that we've kind of decided that the fox is - that witch's familiars are the things that they need to put away or the things - well, we said the things they need to work on. Like, what would Ame be if she was like, herself now? Mean, I still - I still think it would be a fox.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah! I just love the idea that you're like, if we're just seeing this as, like a magical girl transformation, you're like, oh, the fox becoming human. What could that look like? Oh, Ame becoming animal. What could it be? Oh, it's the same thing, but opposite.

Lou Wilson

Oh, it's just they reversed. Oh, weird.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay.

Lou Wilson

Would you be the same fox, or would you be some kind of different fox?

Erika Ishii

Probably a different fox. Probably. I think Ame would be some sort of, like, they're all those kinds of weird foxes, like that are -

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, the ones that look like a medieval - that look like a medieval drawing of a fox because their eyes are too human.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Fuck those ones.

Erika Ishii

But I think if the fox were human, the fox would be this sort of, like, dirtbag guy, you know?

Lou Wilson

Like a truly awful dude.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, like really shitty. Not even fuckboy, because fuckboy, denotes like, sort of, like a disingenuousness, but just like, a person who has no filter and does what he wants and is living a trash bag life. But very attractive and charming, though.

Aabria Iyengar

Is it just Jeff Bridges as the Dude?

Erika Ishii

A little bit, but, like...

Lou Wilson

Yeah, it feels like a younger Dude. He's got a little bit more energy.

Erika Ishii

Younger? Yeah...

Lou Wilson

But it's that same kind of philosophical, kind of constantly being like, well, why, man?

Aabria Iyengar

YEAH!

Lou Wilson

And you're like, um, I don't know. I've never asked these questions, Fox relax. Also, have you guys ever looked at a picture of a fox yawning?

Erika Ishii

Yeah!

Aabria Iyengar

No???

Lou Wilson

It's pretty intense. Fox mouths, there's a lot going on in there.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, like geese. Geese mouths and geese -

Aabria Iyengar

Geese are - ugh, those are bad.

Erika Ishii

Those are a lot. Those are a lot.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, that's really cute. It's like a 90 degree hinge.

Lou Wilson

It feels like a snake. I Googled human eyed fox because you guys said that thing about medieval foxes like it was normal, and I've never heard that in my entire life. I was trying to find a picture, and I found two very disturbing things. A fox yawning, which does look like a snake unhinging its jaw, and an article titled, 'I Got the Viral Fox Eye Lift, and I Wanted to Die From the Pain'. And it's a woman just with blood dripping down her face.

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God. NO!

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, my God!

Erika Ishii

That's the thing, the fox eyes - that's, I think, the way of saying Asian monolids. Right? Isn't that what the trend was? Right?

Aabria Iyengar

I know fox eye in anime is, like, when you draw them with their eyes essentially shut with the implication that they can still see.

Erika Ishii

Yeah...

Lou Wilson

It does feel - wow, this is crazy, Erika, it does feel a little bit - I'm looking at one photo that feels very much like that, and it's like, oh!

Erika Ishii

Isn't that what it is?

Lou Wilson

This one is.

Erika Ishii

It was like a makeup trend for a while, and then there's like, what is it called? Asian-fishing. Asian catfishing. I don't know.

Lou Wilson

People be wild.

Aabria Iyengar

We're all thinking about Arigato Grande right now. We know it. We got it.

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God. Oh, God. Is that what -

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, yeah. When she hit her K-pop era because she was done being vaguely Black. We love it.

Erika Ishii

Oh, no... when she got, like, the hibachi grill. That's, like the absolute -

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah! Tattooed on her body.

Lou Wilson

She got hibachi grill tattooed on her???

Erika Ishii

Yeah, she said it was supposed to be something Japanese. Everybody's like, no, that's not what it means. And she's like, look, shut up.

Lou Wilson

Damn. Is this podcast just going to be you guys catching me up to speed on what's going on in the world?

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Lou Wilson

Ariana Grande has a hibachi tattoo. Foxes have eyes that look like people.

Aabria Iyengar

They're called Tibetan Foxes. If you look up Tibetan Fox. Yeah, they're the ones that - it looks like a kid that's drawing a fox but doesn't understand predator eye placement.

Lou Wilson

Oh, yes. This is -

Aabria Iyengar

Like, it just looks wrong. You didn't draw that good.

Erika Ishii

I think they were the ones that we were talking about when we were saying surviving in the jungle versus surviving on the tundra.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah... that's right.

Erika Ishii

We were talking about them. This is a conversation, an ongoing discussion.

Lou Wilson

Yeah, this is an ongoing discussion.

[Lou and Aabria laugh]

Erika Ishii

Is it more impressive? Do you give more props to - you got to hand it to a creature that lives in the jungle and is surviving an apex predator and surviving amongst quite a lot of competition. Or the scrappy survivors from, like, a tundra environment where there's, like, they're the only megafauna around, I think was the question, right?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, basically. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Erika Ishii

I think we all landed on -

Aabria Iyengar

Sorry, I'm lost looking at fox eye surgery, so I have to close this tab.

Lou Wilson

Yeah, we got to get back to the episode.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay, Eursulon! What would your familiar be?

Erika Ishii

That's what I was gonna ask!!

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, I'm sorry, Erika. You ask.

Erika Ishii

Eursulon? What would your familiar be?

Lou Wilson

What would my familiar be? I think we all know, right? We all know.

Erika Ishii

... A bear?

Lou Wilson

[sarcastically] Yeah, a big bear. NO! NO, you idiot.

[Erika laughing]

Aabria Iyengar

Uhh, a bottle of wine? What's happening?

Lou Wilson

Okay, WOW. Wow, okay. Yeah. It's an anthropomorphic bottle of wine. It's a Sausage Party-esque bottle of wine with just, like, mickey-manned hands and gloves and little feet that runs around and it's, like, really very bottom heavy and just swings back and forth wildly.

Erika Ishii

The fact that you mentioned Sausage Party. That is the movie that I am the maddest that I was forced to go see with somebody. Because if somebody had a birthday, I had to see it. And I wish I had those 2 hours of my life back.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, you did make me think of that for the first time in a really long time.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. And now I'm very angry. You made me think of that again. Normally I don't speak negatively about films and things about media, but just. I can't. Unconscionable.

[Aabria laughing]

Erika Ishii

Okay, so what would it be?

Lou Wilson

A hawk. Or a falcon.

Erika Ishii

Oh, shit. Why didn't - well, of course it. God damn it.

Lou Wilson

You know I'm on my Sir Curran cosplay fucking tip.

Aabria Iyengar

Let's go!

Lou Wilson

It is pretty nice to just have a full, aspirational character that I meet in my second episode that I'm like, cool, this is kind of what I'm chasing the whole time. I'm doing my version of Sir Curran. Yeah, I definitely have something with wings.

Erika Ishii

Oh, you're so right.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, yeah.

Lou Wilson

Something with wings and talons. I don't know. Who knows? Maybe we'll find a cool spirit bird that Brennan makes up. But we shall see.

[Erika and Aabria laugh]

Erika Ishii

What would Suvi's be?

Aabria Iyengar

So I think this is really fun because there's a difference between what Suvi would think is the coolest animal. And it would be, like, cool, some sort of, like, desert snake. But I think Suvi's actual, like, if it was some part of her that had to be put away or worked on, I think it would be something fundamentally gentle, and I think it would be something like a rabbit.

Erika Ishii

[gasps] Oh, my God.

Aabria Iyengar

Which is, again, a shout out. I had, like, a big bunny. When I was - that was, like, my first pet growing up.

Erika Ishii

This is truly illuminating.

Aabria Iyengar

Hold on. There's a very specific photo that I think has all of our - oh, no, it's an eagle, not a hawk.

Erika Ishii

What is this?

Aabria Iyengar

There's, like, a famous photo of an eagle and a fox and -

Erika Ishii

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Oh, my God.

Lou Wilson

This could be us, guys. This could be us.

Aabria Iyengar

This could be us. I mean, I don't like that I'm kind of just the MacGuffin. But I'm okay with it because it's really funny. This fox does not let it go.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, the fox is like, that's mine, that's mine!

Lou Wilson

I also am now having a hard time letting go of the idea of Eursulon's familiar being a straight-up bald eagle.

[Aabria cackles]

Lou Wilson

Who just speaks in single word phrases. He's like, yes. No. Yes. No. And that's it. I'm like, can we be playful like Ame and the Fox? No. Okay. All right. Well, um -

[Erika and Aabria laughing throughout]

Aabria Iyengar

The yes no eagle is my favorite.

Lou Wilson

Yeah. Eursulon's familiar is a yes no bald eagle. Hey, can you figure out something crazy for us to do? No. All right, man. No.

[Erika and Aabria laughing throughout]

Aabria Iyengar

The dissertations that would be written about, like - okay, what are we trying to say about Eursulon?

Lou Wilson

Exactly. Familiars are a part of yourself that you have to squirrel away, and Eursulon is squirreling away his - I don't know. He's a pretty kind of stoic guy at times.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, like is he really -

Lou Wilson

[slowly and stoically] Yes. No.

Aabria Iyengar

[laughing] I think as funny as it is to get the answer, no, I think the worst one is yes, because he will not explain further.

Lou Wilson

Exactly. Yes.

Aabria Iyengar

[laughing] Can you think of something fun for us to do? Yes.

Lou Wilson

Wait, what did - shit, guys. I don't know what we did. I don't know what I asked him to do. Watch it out, everyone. Be careful. Keep your eyes to the skies.

[Erika and Aabria laughing]

Aabria Iyengar

The popotential on the yes no eagle.

Erika Ishii

Yes no is so fucking funny.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, that's very good.

Erika Ishii

So fucking funny to me. Oh, my God, Suvi's being a rabbit is so sad.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah!

Lou Wilson
So sweet.

Aabria Iyengar
Just like, yeah, that's the - yeah. You put away being gentle. Yeah. I think it would be very weird to go back and flash back to sort of the black box of how Suvi grew up. I don't know what she would be in other than just the needle, like, moving towards the person we see at the beginning of episode one. I don't know if that's very interesting, but it is just weird to be, like, cool, you're going to watch how much of a child she isn't anymore, but she already called other kids children when we met her in the Children's Adventure, so she was already fucking weird. I don't know.

Lou Wilson
I'm about it. She's been calling people kids since she was a kid.

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
You know, children are wrong. You're like, you're six. Oh, God.

Erika Ishii
Oh, God. Tiny Suvi is so cute too.

Aabria Iyengar
All of them are so cute. God, do you remember when our biggest problem was, like, we got to go figure out the goat pen?

Erika Ishii
Yeah...

Aabria Iyengar
I do miss those days a little bit.

Erika Ishii
Yeah, I miss those days. I mean, I remember when I was a kid, and it's like, well, I got to do my homework, boo!

Aabria Iyengar
Boo.

Erika Ishii
Nothing will ever be worse than this.

Lou Wilson
It's like a fun moment also with kind of the end of the episode, which is - I feel like I can especially speak to Eursulon of, like, we've been in kind of, like, a moment of just pleasure as Erika, or as Ame comes back to - wakes up, and it is

a little bit like, wait, that's right. There's stuff we have to do. Ah, that's right. And Steel can't hear it. We're playing that game again. Steel, stay out. We got to talk.

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God. It's like Flicker and the - Flicker of opening up the door, like, no!

Lou Wilson

Not yet, not yet.

Aabria Iyengar

Responsibility, please wait outside. Shout out to my favorite line in this, which was Ame realizing she woke up in the Citadel and going, oh, fuck.

Erika Ishii

Oh, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Gotcha, gotcha. You're in my house now. Fuck off.

Lou Wilson

What's up?

Erika Ishii

It took me a moment to be like, oh, yeah, that's right. Ame they didn't know she was going to the Citadel.

Aabria Iyengar

Oops! Whoops! Gotcha. Sometimes you get a sword waggled at you and then you wake up in the bad place.

Erika Ishii

But I'm so excited to explore the Citadel!

Lou Wilson

Without giving too much away, I mean, you all ain't ready.

Aabria Iyengar

It's so good.

Lou Wilson

I'm really excited for the next ep. I don't feel like - we've never said anything. I'm excited to talk. I'm excited to come back in a week. Circle back.

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God. Will you even be here?

Aabria Iyengar

It depends on how long it takes to find Brennan.

Lou Wilson

Oh, yeah. Okay, well, hopefully I find Brennan immediately, and we'll come back for the first time for a second episode and Craig, some guy named Craig can fucking stay home. And I'll be here. I hope. I hope.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Okay, well, we'll see.

Aabria Iyengar

I have a dream.

Lou Wilson

We all have a dream. And it's that I'll be here next week to talk about the next episode, which I can't wait, but we shall see, because Brennan is somewhere in a Panamanian jungle looking for me, trying to romance the stone. And I'm going to go and, I guess, do a romance the stone squared to come back around and try and romance his stone while he's romancing my stone.

Aabria Iyengar

Aurora Boromance the stone.

Erika Ishii

That's a big portmanteau.

Lou Wilson

Aurora Boromance the stone.

[Aabria cackling]

Erika Ishii

I love that. I love a portmanteau.

Aabria Iyengar

Love to see it.

Erika Ishii

Oh, man. So is that - is that- I have no idea what time -

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, it's been an hour.

Lou Wilson

Me neither. I have no idea how long we've been talking.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, this is good because also, your jet ski. Or, I'm sorry, Ski-Doo.

Lou Wilson

Oh, that's right. Do we want to...?

Erika Ishii
You gotta go...?

Lou Wilson
Yeah, I have to go - I drank a Celsius. If I seemed erratic this episode, it's because I had to drink a Celsius because I spent all morning reclaiming a Ski-Doo that I found for free. Excuse me, two Ski-Doos that I found for free on Craigslist. And I drove across - no, I didn't drive across county lines. I stayed within Los Angeles county to pick up a Ski-Doo that I have yet to figure out what I'm going to do with, but I have a Ski-Doo, and I spent all morning taking it. It was on the second floor of a storage facility.

Erika Ishii
Oh, my God. How did they get -

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, God.

Lou Wilson
It was crazy. The only way we could - and they're huge. Also, when I found them, I was like, I'll rent a UHaul and go get it. And very quickly did some Googling and was like, these things are massive. You can't carry them. I don't know how big - I feel like that Waverunner game for Nintendo 64 fucked me up. And I was like, these things are tiny, dude, but they're huge. Ski-Doos are huge.

Aabria Iyengar
I think it's the water of it all where you're like, oh, I'm missing half of it because it's under the water.

Lou Wilson
Yes, exactly. I'm kind of seeing that top. On land? Ski-Doos are a real beast.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, my goodness.

Lou Wilson
So I'm actually, as soon as we wrap, I'm going to go take a nap because I'm tired from carting Ski-Doos all over LA. But who knows? Maybe in the future, you guys will see me on a Ski-Doo just kind of cruising around somewhere.

Aabria Iyengar
Are you going to take the Ski-Doos down to Panama? Like, you can take them through the canal!

Lou Wilson
That's - I got these Ski-Doos to save Brennan. So if everything goes according to plan, in one week's time, me and Brennan will be surfing along the Panamanian canal with a bunch of ragamuffins on our tail saying, close it! Close the canal, and we'll thread the needle right through it as they close it. And all of those Ragamuffins hit the wall.

[Aabria and Erika laughing]

Aabria Iyengar
That's so good.

Lou Wilson

So I don't know. Dreams. Dreams, money can buy.

Aabria Iyengar

It was free!

Lou Wilson

It was free. Two Ski-Doos for free is just too good a deal. I thought I was only going to take one, but I took both.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. What would you do with just one? You're like, well, I can go to a water area...

Lou Wilson

I could do this alone.

Aabria Iyengar

[laughing] Just one person on a Ski-Doo by themselves. Is sad.

Lou Wilson

I did that with - it is sad. I did it with Clippers tickets. When I booked my first big movie job, I wanted to buy something, and so I bought half season tickets to the Clippers basketball team. But I was too scared to buy - it was too expensive to buy two, so I just bought one. And so for just one NBA season, I would go to Clippers games by myself and cheer. But that was good, because I ended up going through a breakup just at the right time.

[Aabria and Erika aww-ing]

Lou Wilson

So it became this, like, you're going to go do an activity. You're not going to be sad in your house. You're going to go do an activity, you're going to go cheer for your team. It became a nice thing to do by myself.

Aabria Iyengar

That's nice.

Lou Wilson

But that was the past. And now I have a Ski-Doo.

Aabria Iyengar

You have a C2!

Lou Wilson

I have a C2.

Erika Ishii.

Ohhhh!

Aabria Iyengar

Sorry. I'm sorry I said it.

Lou Wilson

If anybody knows ultimate rebuilds or rebuilders guys, two different -

Erika Ishii

So are you going to be doing it yourself, or?

Lou Wilson

Yeah, I'm gonna figure it out.

Erika Ishii

Okay.

Aabria Iyengar

That's so dope.

Lou Wilson

I'm going to figure it out. I'm going to turn it into my hobby for the next couple of years, or a year, hopefully, and try to get them back up to snuff. And I don't know. If I ride these Ski-Doos one time, it's the greatest thing I've done with my entire life.

[Aabria cackles]

Lou Wilson

If I take these Ski-Doos from being in the second floor of a storage facility and do one DJ Khaled-style Snapchat post on one in the Long Beach Harbor, I'm a master of the universe. I'm going to go trade stocks in New York because I've figured it all out, which is what you do when you figure out life. I don't know. Anyway.

Aabria Iyengar

You become limitless. That's your limitless trajectorial breaker.

Lou Wilson

I'm about to become the Black Bradley Cooper out here.

[Erika and Aabria laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

I want to make a hanging with Bradley Cooper joke very badly, but I don't even know who that Venn diagram catches.

Lou Wilson

Who's it for?

Aabria Iyengar

The worst thing you can do is tell me in the next calendar year that you've done it and you've restored them, because I will make it my mission to send Erika every Craigslist booking thingy of other Ski-Doos and show up at your house and be like, do more. Make a fleet. Keep going.

Erika Ishii

Let's go. Let's go! A fleet! Admiral of your own Ski-Doo fleet.

[Aabria laughing throughout]

Lou Wilson

CHARGE!!!

Aabria Iyengar

Just take off down the river. Sorry. Go.

Lou Wilson

Yes, close it.

Erika Ishii

Good luck with retrieving Brennan with the Ski-Doos. Cannot wait to see you both triumphantly riding back into the LA Harbor.

Lou Wilson

We're going to do it beautifully.

Erika Ishii

Okay. Thank you so much, everybody, for joining us for the fireside chat for Episode. It's very good to be back in Umora with you all. I'm here with Aabria Iyengar.

Aabria Iyengar

Ahoohoo, crackle, crackle. Welcome to my house.

Erika Ishii

And Lou Wilson.

Lou Wilson

Ahoohoo, crackle, crackle. Mi casa es tu casa.

[Aabria cackling]

Aabria Iyengar

We speak Spanish at the Citadel.

Lou Wilson

I truly thought you were saying, welcome to my house just as some fun bit. And then I realized it's part of the show. Sorry, guys. I have been up since 06:00 a.m. trying to get Ski-Doos.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh my God, go take a nap!

Lou Wilson

I'm going to go take a nap.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Erika Ishii

All right. Good night, Lou. Goodbye everybody!!!

[Lilting pipe flute flutters above drum beats and choral tones as the song of the Spirit Realm from the Children's Adventure starts]

Lou Wilson & Aabria Iyengar

Bye!!!

[The music fades]