

Worlds Beyond Number

Fireside Chat: Episode 005 - Ep 5 "Water, Water Everywhere"

Final Version

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

Erika Ishii

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Fireside Chat for Episode 5, Water Water Everywhere. I am your host, Erika Ishii. I'm here with Aabria! Aabria?

Aabria Iyengar

Hello!

Erika Ishii

And Brennan Lee Mulligan.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Hi! That's me, I'm Brennan Lee Mulligan.

Erika Ishii

And Lou Wilson.

Lou Wilson

Mmm. Sadly, unavailable today.

Aabria Iyengar

Ah!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Sitting in, is Martha Cocoa.

Aabria Iyengar

[Sputtering laugh]

Erika Ishii

Martha Cocoa?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Mouth full] Oh my God.

Erika Ishii

Well! Uh—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Thrilled to be on the talk back today.

Aabria Iyengar

Martha, I'm a huge fan.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

[Bashfully] You all, stop. Stop! I just want to talk about the pod, that's all I'm here to do today, we don't have to talk about my incredibly famous, and prolific product.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs]

Erika Ishii

Well, thank you so much for being here with us, Martha. And you were saying that you wanted to give the little summary about what happened in Episode 5!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

I did! Of course, Episode 5 begins with all of our heroes, in Finley's shop, over Finley's grotesque and dead body. And it's not until a little bit of curious work from Suvi, that it's discovered that what we thought was dead, was truly alive! We also describe—find a giant candle man in a closet, who's easily defeated by a gentle breeze.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

We then, of course, had fun interactions with Finley, and Ghost, who took us to this place where they communicate with the one, the terrible, the Mr. Will Gallows.

Erika Ishii

Mm.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

And then we had some hot, hot tension! Between two of our characters, that I'm sure we'll get into later, of course, all kind of moving toward us meeting at the—getting to the fountain, where Ame, trying to do a very nice thing through the fox, got—who's to say if she was punished—but violently thrown back, and was wrenching seawater, and from where she was touched, vines emerged and we all left, feeling really tense, and with our shoulders close to our ear lobes. That's what happened, I believe.

Erika Ishii

Yes, that is exactly what happened. Thank you so much, Missus—Miss? Miss—Mrs. Cocoa?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

You know. Whatever.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

We're fluid over here.

Erika Ishii

Ohh, okay.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Much like my liquid, ya know, I'm fluid.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughs] "Much like—"

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I guess it's a powder, I guess I make a powder.

Aabria Iyengar
[Awestruck whisper] "—my liquid..."

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Sorry— [coughs]

Erika Ishii
Cocoa—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Sorry, Martha.

Erika Ishii
Please.

Aabria Iyengar
No, Brennan.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Yes, of course, yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
No no, I just have some questions, I have some follow-up.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Oh you—oh do you?

Aabria Iyengar
Bad Man Brennan.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
About the episode?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Sorry, I'm a bad man? Why am I bad man?

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, yeah. Because you weren't here last time.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
That's true.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Yeah, you got a nickname.

Erika Ishii
Bad Man. Brennan Mulligan.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Everyone said such nice things last time, it was very touching. It was actually quite touching for me, to hear all the nice things everyone said.

Erika Ishii
[Stunned] You listened to the episode?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah, I work here.

Aabria Iyengar
[Sudden laugh] "Yeah I work here!"

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Wait, did you listen to it—

Aabria Iyengar
How are you guys listening to this, I don't follow the Patreon, so, I'm not getting these.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Wait. What??

Brennan Lee Mulligan
[Incredulously] We all specifically signed up for the Patreon—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
We had a whole MOMENT—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
—on the initial Instagram Live!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
—in the live, where we all signed up. Did you not!?

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah! No, that was for the first month, and then I unsubscribed.

[Sputtering laughter]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I feel betrayed. This is straight up a betrayal.

Erika Ishii

Martha, it's not always like this here. But! That being said, I was under the impression that Brennan would not listen to that last episode, since he was not there for that last episode. So anything that we said was strictly confidential. And that none of our lovely listeners would EVER get word back to him.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Well, listen—

Aabria Iyengar

A bunch of snitches.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I happen to have found the best deal on the damn internet, and it is the subscription to the World Beyond Number Patreon, where I can listen to all of this bonus content. So I didn't even rely on the audience!

Aabria Iyengar

Wait—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I paid my 5 American United States dollars, and I get to listen—

Aabria Iyengar

Wait, it's still only \$5?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Still only \$5!

Aabria Iyengar

What a bargain! I'm going to re-sign up right now.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Wow is this—did we do product placement in our own product, for our product?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Ys gotta advertise to the people that are already your customers, okay?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Can you imagine—it's like biting into a Hershey's bar, and just pulling out like, a piece of paper that said, buy more Hershey's bar. You guys already have me.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

There's actually a great point though, I remember there was something someone said, about preaching to the choir, and someone was like, yeah, you do preach to them. That does happen.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

They're there.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You are supposed to, somewhat, preach to them as well. You can't just be like, "Alright, we got you bozos locked in. Next!"

Erika Ishii

Maybe it is one of those sayings that's actually the opposite of what we think it is, where it's like, "Yeah, it's useless to preach to the choir," is what we think it is, but maybe it is, maybe you just got to constantly reindoctrinate people. So listen to Worlds Beyond Number, the Patreon.

Aabria Iyengar

So blunt.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Big "Join the Navy" vibes. "Hey you. Join the Navy."

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Is that the Simpsons bit? The superliminal—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Erika Ishii

[Laughing] Superliminal messaging, yeah.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

I'd like to think of our fans as a proto-military kind of force, that, ya know—

Erika Ishii

Don't—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

—can go out and do battle in the name of good.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Hey guys—

Erika Ishii

Speaking of which—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Just like the military—United States Military Industrial Complex.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing]

Erika Ishii

Just like Suvi and her Imperial—

Aabria Iyengar
Okay—

Erika Ishii
—recruitment strategy!

Aabria Iyengar
—now we're doing a lot of assuming Suvi's things again, and now I'm on the other side of it.

[Cackling]

Yeah this ep—

Aabria Iyengar
You have no idea what the Citadel is like, and you're making a lot of assumptions, and, I don't know, I got some cantrips about it. If you have something to say, come say it to my face.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah, this energy is definitely the best ambassador for what the Citadel is like.

Aabria Iyengar
[Cackle]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah, for sure. Oh, there's NOTHING we can infer from Suvi's behavior about the Citadel, For Sure! I agree!

Aabria Iyengar
For sure.

Erika Ishii
Hoo hoo hoo hoo!

Aabria Iyengar
Let her cook!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Let her cook!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Let her cook.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Please, will someone let her cook!?

Erika Ishii

We did get—we're going to jump into some questions, because we GOTTA cover these. JJ asks—JJ says, "You all do such an amazing job bringing real emotion to your PCs. That said, do you promise that you aren't IRL mad at each other when your characters argue? UwU face."

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs]

Erika Ishii

Yes. And I would just like to establish, right up top, that absolutely, everything is either pre-negotiated, or kind of in our case, we just know—we are so on the same page about—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

—what our characters want, and how that's different than what we as players want, and how we're just—it's truly, truly, truly telling a story. Like, I get no—anytime our characters argue, or have a bad moment, the second afterwards, we're like— [Squeals]

Aabria Iyengar

I think the thing that gets—that we lose in podcast form, is that you don't see, right before a fight breaks out, Erika and I looking at each other like, "Yeah dude, we're gonna do this?"

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

It's like that—right before you jump into a jump rope like, "Okay. Okay. Ready? We're goin', we're goin', Yeah!! Let's fight!"

Erika Ishii

Double Dutch! Double Dutch!

Aabria Iyengar

Yaaaay!

Erika Ishii

And Kate also asked, "How can I get in the mindset of playing a character who can be rude and selfish, a bit of a asshole, when I, myself, am a raw, empathetic, hyper-vigilant, guilt beast?" And honestly, yeah, it's this, it's that it's all pre-negotiated, we all know that we're having a good time. We all know that we're emotionally, and mentally ready, to tell this story together.

Aabria Iyengar

I don't think Suvi's a asshole. That's how I do it. There's something—I think there's something to be said, for when you are trying to get into the mindset of playing someone that is maybe not your personal value set, or personality. That you have to be bought in on what they're doing or it will ring false—

Erika Ishii

Yes.

Aabria Iyengar

—and you will come off, like a bit of a douchebag. So I think, if you're kind of playing the game in your own head of like, how far—how much of this could I explain away? I think you'll sort of reach the limit to what you will argue, and what you will say, and be comfortable in. And it kind of works as a self limiter, like, "How much of your own crap can you buy," is usually like a good little limiter for not going too far with a mean character

Erika Ishii

"What is the Lie that this character tells themselves."

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, look, the capital L lie, like that's—I think that's really huge for anyone that's trying to build character arcs into the things that they're playing, and not trying to say, like, "From the top of my 21st century intelligence, I'm therapized, moisturized, and ready to go!" Like, no!

Erika Ishii

Yup.

Aabria Iyengar

What's the lie that like, your character's personality turns around, and how many ways can you poke at it? How many ways can you like, cue your table in to also poke at it? It becomes part of the game too, where everyone at the table now knows Suvi is a bit of a status dork.

Erika Ishii

[Laughs]

Aabria Iyengar

So now everyone can play that game with me, so it doesn't feel like I'm the only one walking around going like, "Fuck that hedge mage!"

Erika Ishii

[Cackling]

Aabria Iyengar

We're all doing it a little bit, and in different ways.

Erika Ishii

We're all doing it, yeah, definitely. And there are—Ame has some flaws and shortcomings, too, that are just—but she's just very nice, and kind, and, ya know. It's not as readily apparent as other people sometimes, so that's always interesting, and everybody understands that, too! Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Eursulon IS perfect, though.

Erika Ishii

He's perfect.

Aabria Iyengar

We do have to be very clear.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

No, my character—I just want to be clear, my character's perfect—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

—and only a sweetie, and has no problems.

Erika Ishii

[Laughs] Mhm. Mhm.

Aabria Iyengar

A sweetie with no problems: Eursulon.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Other than, that he can't be sweet to everyone, everywhere in the world—

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

—all at one time! If only there were 17 Eursulons, who could spread out across the land! No. Hey, just wait, ya know?

Erika Ishii

Ooh, yeah. Cannot wait.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I think that there's something really special about, playing through character anger, and conflict, right? You see it really quickly, in teaching improv classes, how many people—I would say, people fight, when they're learning improv. They get into scenes and they fight, and they fight in those scenes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And yeah, like, one out of every five people that do that is like, someone itching for conflict, and an outlet to yell at people. I'd say four out of five people, are getting into fights all the time, because it's the first outlet that allows them to express rage, in a way without consequence, and in a way that's healthy and good.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And like, anger is a full part of the spectrum of human emotion. And if you are never, ever, ever, ever allowed to express conflict, animosity, disappointment—and again, conflict—the idea, even, that conflict is like, always—the idea that there is never inevitable conflict, the idea that there is never like, "Oh, two things have come into being at the same time, that can't go together," and conflict just means the momentary friction of them needing to resolve.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's not the promise of eternal conflict, it's saying, "Oh, two value systems, two points of view, two emotions have come into being, and they're raw right now." And I think that it's—especially if you find

yourself in real life like, never giving yourself a voice for anger, then roleplaying is a really attractive way to explore that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And for me, it's like, using storytelling and performance as a way to, more deeply, understand the world, to like, test, and experiment, and be like, "What would it be like, to be like this?" I think it's very deeply satisfying, to watch these amazing performers like, dig into these conflicts, and see them manifest in this very real way, because you pay a really high cost in real life sometimes, for digging into anger.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And I think stories, and performance gives us a way to see it, up close, in a much safer way, and it gives us a deeper understanding about the world. I really love it. I think Suvi and Ame's conflict in this episode, is really beautiful and well done, and I think it's cool. I was glad to be there in the room.

Aabria Iyengar

Yay!

Erika Ishii

[Squeaking] Oh it was so good.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It didn't feel awkward or upsetting, it felt awesome, to go "Wow, that's people. Wow, look at those people people."

Erika Ishii

It is very authentic to have those interactions, but as you said, it's safe. And that's honestly because all of us really trust each other, and I think that's an important distinction at a lot of tables.

Erika Ishii

I 100% agree that tabletop, and games, and play, and performance, is an incredible way to explore the kinds of emotions, and stories that you don't get to examine in everyday life, because it's negotiated, and it has to be negotiated, because, yeah, there's always the joke, "Ha ha, D&D is therapy," Yes, and no, but also make sure that the rest of your table is up for that, and is bought in on that, and is on the same wavelength, because otherwise you're just kind of trauma dumping on people.

Erika Ishii

And I probably have done that before in past, like home games, but, yeah, I just feel very safe here and it's very nice.

Aabria Iyengar

Hell yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

No one should listen to me when I talk about how games work.

Erika Ishii

[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Every time Erika reminds me that there are tables that do not have, like, the deepest, best friends that you trust with your whole life—

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'm like, "Oh, yeah, absolutely don't do that with people you don't super trust, that's a good point!" So once again, everyone should put an asterisk next to everything I say that is, I have played exclusively—like, my brother and childhood friends growing up were like, the sweetest people in the world.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I got very lucky in terms of the people that I played with, so as long as there's trust at the table, I think it's a nice thing to explore those aspects of the human experience that sometimes we can't explore for free in our day to day lives.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

[Whispered] Heck yeah.

Erika Ishii

I think that there was a lot in this episode, where you see everybody's, very distinct, viewpoints around certain events like, for instance, the fox. Wanging the fox up to the window—

Aabria Iyengar

The desire to wang a fox, is valorous.

Erika Ishii

[Breathless laughing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Valorous!?

Erika Ishii

Look you're not wrong! [Breaks down laughing] You're not wrong! You have to have a heart made of stone, to not look at one of those little foxes—you know, you see the video of them like, face diving, face planting into snow.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, they're so cute.

Erika Ishii

They're so cute and satisfying.

Aabria Iyengar

That was literally just a shout out, like a very subtle shout out, to the fact that wizards also have the spell find familiar. But those are like, little constructs that don't mean anything, that get poofed out of existence all the time. So it's like "Yeah, just throw your fox. Well you can make another one later, I don't understand."

Erika Ishii

[Laughing]

Aabria Iyengar

So it was literally just, a very low-key cut to how much wizards don't care about their familiars because they're like, "Yeah, it's made out of magic. You can just—"

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

I got copper brazier right here.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, dude!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

I'll make a new one right now.

Aabria Iyengar

What do you need, you need like, 20 minutes? Yeah, I got you, hold on. Just throw that one. Huck that boy.

Erika Ishii

And Ame being like, "Do you want to be thrown? Do you want to be thrown?" And like Eursulon and being like "Fox, you're going to do what I say. Animal rules."

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

There's a lot of ways to approach a fox, guys.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

It's not even skinnin' 'em. It's even just, in the approach.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah. We saw a little moment with the fox there, where we saw HIS point of view—

Aabria Iyengar

[Gasp] Yes.

Erika Ishii

[Whispers something cutely]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—in the world, which was, he assumed that Ame had lied to him about going to the trash.

Aabria Iyengar

Ame broke a promise!

Erika Ishii

[Sadly] I know!

Aabria Iyengar

Nooooo!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

He assumed—but also, I think there's something very sweet in that, which is that the Fox would NEVER assume that Ame just forgot, he has so much respect for Ame, that's the boss, so he was like—

Erika Ishii

[Heartbroken] Aww!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—she must have lied to me, which is a good trick."

Erika Ishii

Oh nooooo.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

There you go. There you go.

Erika Ishii

Horrible.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Horrible!

Erika Ishii

Horrible.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

What, you think this familiar is here just to give you the help action? No no no, no no no, it comes with baggage.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing]

Erika Ishii

Oh no, it's so true. But it's like we see it—

Aabria Iyengar

I wanna like, jump— No, you go.

Erika Ishii

We see it as a kid, where Ame is like, "Oh, yes, important thing happening, and the horses." [Laughing] and then completely forgets the horses. It's all there. Anyway, go ahead, what were you saying.

Aabria Iyengar

She's perfect! Oh, I just want to jump to the other fox moment. That really kind of freaked my bean. The fox climbing the fountain statue?

Erika Ishii

[Gasps]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yes.

Aabria Iyengar

Where he kinda just disappeared and popped up like, what? Hey, Brennan. What happened? What is that?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That's a direct shout-out—just in terms of adding more love, for the influences for the setting. That's a direct shout-out to the way the cat moves in Coraline, the Keith David cat—

Aabria Iyengar

[Gasp]

Erika Ishii

[Gasping] Augh!!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—that would, like, walk behind a tree, and just come out from behind another tree—

Aabria Iyengar

Aaahh!!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—so it's like a little bit of magic there. The fox just moves around [pew noise] and pops his head up on top of the statue. A little bit of magic.

Erika Ishii

[Awed whisper] I love him so much.

Aabria Iyengar

That's a really cool shout-out.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Mm!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Love it.

Aabria Iyengar
And then saying "It was hard, actually." So fun.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
"It was hard, actually."

Erika Ishii
"You gotta believe in yourself."

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You gotta believe in yourself. You do.

[Aabria and Erika collapse into laughter]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
It's the only way it happens, you gotta believe in yourself.

Erika Ishii
[Crying] He's so honest. He's so honest and good.

Aabria Iyengar
I can't.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
[Laughs] Let's talk about Finley for a second, and that first scene.

Aabria Iyengar
Finley!

Aabria Iyengar
Finley.

Erika Ishii
[Mimicking Eursulon] FINLEY!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
What was that—when did it dawn, for you guys, that Finley was not dead and was, in fact, a little trickster hedge mage piece of shit.

Aabria Iyengar
Body temp.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
When I wanted to kick him.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah, yeah yeah yeah.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
That was after body temp, right?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yes, yes.

Erika Ishii

It was as I was checking—as Ame was checking him, and you're like, "No, Ame will know." For me, I was suspicious when you made a point of saying—you said that the window was too high for anybody to jump.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yes.

Erika Ishii

And then I was like, "Oh, is somebody still in here? Or—what's going on?" And I figured it out. But I think I only rolled, like, a 16, in terms of—when examining the body, and I don't think that that's necessarily enough. Ame would never imagine that somebody wasn't dead, if they—why would somebody pretend to be dead, right?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughs]

Erika Ishii

So it's just naivete, of assuming the best of intentions, right? But, yeah, I knew earlier, but it was so fun, the reveal was so fun. I knew earlier, but it would have been really fun if we hadn't figured it out, and Ame had started to do the funeral rites.

Aabria Iyengar
Yes. [Cackle]

Erika Ishii

Like, that would really—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah. Oh god, you saying that I think Finley would have revealed himself, because I think that he would have gotten frightened seeing a witch perform funeral rites and be like, well this could kill me.

Erika Ishii

It would! It would like absolutely disintegrate the body.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

If she—what happens if she's like, "We send his soul peacefully to the afterlife." [As Finley] "Stop! Stop stop stop!"

Aabria Iyengar

Nah, I want Ame to fully incinerate the hedge mage and be like, congratulations, body count. Scoreboard. Put it on the board.

Erika Ishii
[Squealing laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Put it on the board! We have a question here from M Gwen. Thanks, M Gwen. Who says "What inspired Finley's faked death as intro, and mechanically maybe, how he did it as a lower level mage. Thanks for the idea, already using it in a game." Fun fact about this. This is a spell that maybe is not in 5e? Maybe it's only in earlier editions, but it's called Feign Death. Is that in 5e?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, it exists. I think it's a level 3 cleric—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Is it called false life? Is that what it is?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

No—

Aabria Iyengar

No, there's a spell called Feign Death.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Let me see here. [Typing] Feign Death.

Erika Ishii

Ohhhh.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Let's take a look, oh there it is, hell yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Yep. Third level spell. Bards, Clerics, Druids and Wizards have it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yes, There you go. So, what I love about it is, it's such a bad spell, right? It's so—and when I say it's such a bad spell, I don't mean that it's not useful. I just mean, think about it compared to the fly spell. Think about it compared to Fireball. This spell makes you look dead. And it sort of is like—that's a high level spell, for an effect that is like—it just makes you play possum, so think about all the things that that spell is doing—

Erika Ishii

I was gonna say, that's like, possums and little like, prey animals do that. [Laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Well, first of all, if something is chasing you to eat you, and you just suddenly die, it's just going to eat you. And if someone's coming to kill you, then it's like, you've really gotta bank on, like, "Okay, they're going to find me, see that I'm dead—"

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

"—not investigate it too much, give up, and go home."

Aabria Iyengar

Eursulon's name is Bear. He did what you're supposed to do with bears!

Erika Ishii

Nooo!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

It almost worked, too!

Erika Ishii

You're not supposed to play dead with bears! You're supposed to get big and sing Christmas carols!

Aabria Iyengar

Christmas carols?

Erika Ishii

We did this for Misfits and Magic!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Just me getting charged at, by a full grown Kodiak grizzly bear and just being like [Singing "O, Holy Night"] "O, holy night, the stars are bright—" and just [Bear noise] BAM! Get hit by a fuckin' bear. [Singing "Jingle Bell Rock"] "Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell—"

Aabria Iyengar

I will say Feign Death to me is like, if you don't have cleric availability for... What is it? Spare the dying. Feign death—there's some stuff in its last sentence or two that, if someone's about to drop, it negates damage that they're—if you know someone's about to drop, it keeps disease and poison effects from happening.

Aabria Iyengar

It gives you resistance to every damage except for psychic, so if you're getting, like, absolutely someone's getting absolutely jacked up by AOE things, feign death is usually a little like, "We don't have a cleric who can help. Just lay down until we finish this, thank you."

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Unbelievable.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

No better part of The Lord of the Rings—

Aabria Iyengar

[Cackling]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

—than in the heat of the Helm's Deep battle, when one of the heroes yells to the other hero, "Lay down. Just lay down, and wait."

[Aabria and Erika laughing]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

I can't imagine being in a 5e battle, and having to be like, "Hey man. You just gotta lay down, alright?"

Erika Ishii

"Just pretend to be dead!"

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

"I know. I know, you have power, I know, I know. Hey, I know it took us six months to schedule this session. Lay the fuck down, alright?"

Aabria Iyengar

Hey guys, I'm going to let you know right now, as soon as we get third level spells. Feign death.

Erika Ishii

Oh my god!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

To me—to me—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

On the regular, it's our main strategy. It's our number one strategy.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

To me, feign death was the perfect description of like, the first time Suvi was gonna come up close and personal, other than Professor Adelaide, with a hedge mage and see like, what does it mean to be a wizard off of scraps?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And it's like, what you get is spells that aren't that great. It's magic, you can do it. But it's like, what did the Citadel throw away? What is the stuff that you put together, not exactly knowing altogether that much, and weird old funky spells like feign death are the example to me of like, I can do this pretty—what I can do is incredible. I will seem to all the world to be dead.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

But to me, the thing about hedge mages is like, the hammer and nail problem—

Aabria Iyengar

Mm.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—of like, feign death is your most powerful spell. So you're like, well when shit hits the fan, I'm going to feign death. And it makes you choose to do bad magic, rather than like, run out the fuckin' door. Ya know, like—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah! [Whispering] Oh, that's so good.

Erika Ishii

Friar Lawrence is a hedge mage.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

There you go. There you go. There you go.

Erika Ishii

He was like—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

That was just a sentence, what?

Aabria Iyengar

What?! Ok it wasn't just me? I thought it was a Lord of the Rings thing I didn't get.

Lou Wilson

People's reactions were like "That made ANY sense."

Erika Ishii

Okay. In Romeo and Juliet—

Aabria Iyengar

Oh. God.

Erika Ishii

—Juliet's like, "I married the son of a rival house, and he killed my cousin—" Spoiler alert, everybody—"What do I do?" And he's like, "Play dead!"

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Absolutely throwing us.

Erika Ishii

"Just pretend to be dead!"

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

"Spoiler alert for Shakespeare" is very funny!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

You gotta throw it down, dude.

Aabria Iyengar

That's so good.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Well, nobody knows how Hamlet ends, alright?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Some HUGE long tumblr post of like, "Don't go into the World's Beyond Number tag if you haven't consumed Shakespeare's oeuvre yet!"

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Exactly.

Erika Ishii
#hamletspoilers.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Hamlet spoilers. I had—yeah.

Erika Ishii
Yeah, so wow. Yeah, Finley is a piece of garbage, but I have a question about Ghost, who is perfect, and pure, and good, and nothing bad WILL ever happen to her, ever ever ever EVER.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah, because we sent her to the Citadel!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
[Halfheartedly] Yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Woo!

Aabria Iyengar
[Singing "You're Still The One" by Shania Twain] "Looks like we made it!"

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Citadel!

Erika Ishii
[Laughing] See, here's the thing, you didn't send her to the Cita—Suvi didn't send her to the Citadel, she was like, "Go to the—"

Aabria Iyengar
"Go to the cops, the cops will take you to the Citadel."

[Aabria and Erika cackling]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Find a police officer, get in their car. They will take you to safety.

Aabria Iyengar
Find a cop. A cop will take you to Quantico.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
This is—

Aabria Iyengar
You're gonna be great.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
This is literally—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
We rolled a Nat 20 persuasion check. Get in the back of the cop car. Get in the back.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah. This is like—Jenna Bush found a street urchin and said, my dad's the president. Go find any police officer, and tell him I sent you.

Erika Ishii
[Breaking down laughing]

Aabria Iyengar
I bet—I bet in Texas that would absolutely work.

Erika Ishii
It would, it absolutely would.

Aabria Iyengar
[Unconvinced, strained confidence] So I think, Suvi nailed it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I think Suvi nailed it!

[Aabria and Erika dissolve into laughter]

Erika Ishii
Aabria, I love you, so so much, I love you so much.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I remember in the moment, really feeling like you did. I feel like I remember, in that moment, really being, like, "Sick! Fuckin' sick!"

Erika Ishii
Right!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Hey, number one person saved today.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

That's our first on the Scoreboard of Heroes. Number one, first points, Ghost.

Aabria Iyengar

Put it on the board!

Erika Ishii

We have a tally, body count for both—for three different vectors in this campaign.

Aabria Iyengar

In the studio, we definitely bought and paid for—we put up a scoreboard like a regulation—

Erika Ishii

Oh my god.

Lou Wilson

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

—we bought it from the crypto.com arena, and it's in the back, and we keep a lotta stats on the board.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

We had to buy—our studio takes up a very, very small portion of our office. Most of the office IS scoreboard, but—

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] It's true!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

—it's worth it. It's worth it.

Erika Ishii

Oh, it looks rad as hell. I'm not sure about the buzzer, though. But, uh—

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah wait, Erika, what's your question?

Erika Ishii

Yeah, the question is, is Ghost just your cat?

Aabria Iyengar

[Gasp] That's such a good point.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Wait, is—

Erika Ishii
Is Ghost—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
—is that you asking that or is that an audience—

Aabria Iyengar
Yes!

Erika Ishii
Yes, that's me.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Oh!

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah, we had this discussion the other day.

Erika Ishii
She's white with little calico—orange and black.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yes, yes yes yes.

Erika Ishii
Oh my god.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
There's probably—

Aabria Iyengar
Does she have extra finger?

Erika Ishii
Does she have extra fingers and toes?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I did not make her as a stand—Ghost's personality is really different from Digit's personality.

Erika Ishii
Oh, very much so.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
So if I had made an homage to Digit, she would have smacked all of you in the face really quickly, and had a bunch of extra thumbs on—and toes—and then also, at the crack of dawn would have been sitting on your head making the strangest noise you've ever heard—

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—and swatting at the blinds next to your bed. Just like, you wake up every morning with almost being dark outside hearing. Tap tap tap tap tap tap. Ek ek ek ek ek. It's like a weird little cough she does to yell at early morning dogs. She sees the dogs being walked in the morning—

Aabria Iyengar

Oh is it the little predator sound, the like—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah the little—

Aabria Iyengar

—click—yeah!

Erika Ishii

[Making a low groaning noise, trying to sound like The Predator from the 1987 film The Predator.]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's a little clicky— [clicking noises] —kinda noise

Aabria Iyengar

Aw, my old cat used to do that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Awww.

Aabria Iyengar

It was really cute.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Digit is very, very sweet, but I keep forgetting that she's a baby. She's like a little teenage cat.

Aabria Iyengar

A child.

Erika Ishii

I love her.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

She's like a year old.

Erika Ishii

So aesthetically, like Digit, but personality-wise, not.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Well, I wasn't thinking of Digit, but probably there's a correlation there. Right?

Erika Ishii

Fun.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

When we recorded this, digit was only like a couple of months old, so I think in my head—that wasn't conscious, but I think there's probably like, having calico cats on the mind for sure.

Erika Ishii

Mhm, mhm.

Aabria Iyengar

Can we talk about one of my favorite moments in any game ever being allowed to use a [Laughing] cantrip to end an encounter?

Erika Ishii

That was incredible.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] Blowing out Flicker's candles.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I love it—because I think that there's a—I love that moment so much, and I loved you asking to do that, because I think that there's parts of this world, where I want—there's like, things that—this is a weird thing to say, because I love traditional TTRPG, there's nothing that I don't like about dungeon crawling, and fighting monsters and stuff.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

But there are certain things I really love about like, here's a giant monster that's impossible for you to beat. If you wade in, to start trying to kick its ass, it will kill all of you, and the fact that the party's wizard went, I blow out the candles on it, and I was like [snaps fingers] great! It's exactly—because that's my favorite—

Erika Ishii

[Giggling]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—I thought it was a move of Aabria being like, here's how wizards think and what they're like. And far be it for me as a DM to be like, yeah, and the world responds in kind. You were clever. You went, this thing's being animated by the fire in its candles. I'm not going to attempt to hurt it. I'm just going to blow the fire out. And it was really comedic moment, but I was like, great, yeah, it was perfect. Exactly what I wanted to have happen.

Aabria Iyengar

Screaming. Crying. I remember just screaming at the end of that moment, like so delightful. Thank you, Taylor, for cutting that out. Truly delightful.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Laughing]

Erika Ishii

So good. "Don't go in there! It's bad!" You like literally went, "Nope!"

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah, it's bad in there!

Erika Ishii
Nope!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
True looney tunes, like opening the door to see approaching train—

[Aabria and Erika cackle]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
—and closing the door.

Erika Ishii
[Cackling, out of breath]

Aabria Iyengar
It just felt extra good, especially on the heels of Ame's very dope command, that halt, with the sound design too—

Erika Ishii
[Gasp] Oh yeah the sound design for it, that was so cool.

Aabria Iyengar
—that made it extra good and scary?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Taylor killed on that sound design, yes.

Erika Ishii
Taylor!!

Aabria Iyengar
Sweet.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah, I just really wanted to reward that, yeah.

Erika Ishii
I was about to say, I feel like, it's such a video game thing specifically, to have something programmed in, right? Like a boss battle, where you have to wail on somebody until they're dead, or there is some—sometimes you can talk your way out of a fight.

Erika Ishii
But I feel like despite the fact that tabletop games have—allow for literally anything—the sky is the limit—there are certain cues that people fall into, this certain rut where people are like, well, there's a big bad, I HAVE to just hit it until it's dead, it has to be a sack of HP, as opposed to—yeah, rewarding any sort of thing like, oh, I strike the chain and free the beast. It's not gonna stick around! And I love that the world is so interactive for us.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Hell yeah.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

I remember—that reminds me of the first time I ever played D&D. I remember I was like, nine years old, and we were fighting a chimera. And I remember our session ended with us fighting—with us, like, you know, chimera rears up, whatever initiative was in 2007, and I had a real good friend named Will at the time who loved Greek mythology.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

And I was like, "Will, how do I fight a chimera?" And he was like, "Lead. You need lead." And so I definitely started the next session by being like, is there any lead around?

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Do I see any bits of lead? And my Brennan, aka DM—that's right, they're synonymous in my head.

Erika Ishii

It's like Kleenex. He's become like Kleenex, or Jello.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Aww, my heart!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Exactly.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I am like a Bandaid! Aw!

Erika Ishii

[Cackling, out of control]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

My Kleenex, my Brennan at the time—

Aabria Iyengar

"My Brennan at the time!"

Erika Ishii

[Screaming with laughter] Oh my god!!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

—my Brennan at the time was not as cool, and was like, "No, there is no lead!" And I remember—I actually think I actually did it in reverse because I think there's a Greek mythological story where somebody runs underneath a chimera, and stabs it in the belly with a piece of lead, and I—

Erika Ishii

Well, actually, Belepheeron uses the Pegasus, and he shoves like—there's a spear, and some molten lead on the tip of it, and he shoves it down a throat, and the fire melts the lead, goes into the belly, kills the beast.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

I think I was trying to do it in reverse, so I ran underneath the beast, asked if there was any lead, with the hope of finding some, and then stabbing into it—

Aabria Iyengar

Ooh!

Erika Ishii

Ohh!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

—and it was very—my seven year old self was very disappointed that there wasn't a bunch of loose lead—

[Aabria and Erika cackle]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

—just underneath where we were fighting this chimera. But, yeah, it's nice when your Brennans, aka DMs, are open in that way.

Aabria Iyengar

That's very cool.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I want to give a shout out to a moment as well—because I do want to get into the meat of Suvi and Ame's worldviews clashing here, which started with the desire to buy the lining of Stone's cloak—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—back from the shop. That's where it started, right?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And Suvi was like, I'll be damned if we are gonna line the pockets—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

[Chuckle]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—of the person who exploited our fucking friend and who is clearly a nasty, abusive, belligerent, bad for the city, doing, like—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Yes. Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—stealing war engines, all this shit. And then Ame—I think the thing here, is that Ame, of course, steps in and is like, hey, this is about getting this thing back, and there's a price that Ghost will have to pay, if we take all this stuff. We can't just come in and throw all this thing around willy nilly. We have to make concessions to the real fuckin' world.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Now, we're going to get into Suvi and Ame in a second—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

[Laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—but I want to talk about a moment here, which is Eursulon, which is another point of view—

Erika Ishii

Oh my god! [Gasps]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—and it's one that totally skirts the conflict, where Eursulon says, Suvi, will you lend me five gold pieces?

Erika Ishii

[Squealing]

Aabria Iyengar

Ah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Lou, just talk to me about that choice, because it's actually the third point of view that's present in this episode, and it doesn't come into conflict like Suvi and Ame, but just talk about what—like what went through your head when you made that choice and what do you think it says about Eursulon?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

These people have to stop fighting.

[Everyone laughs]

Erika Ishii

Mommy and Daddy are fighting!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

I mean, I think a lot of it, in the moment I remember playing out as being like, a discomfort with the tension in the room, not between the two people, but between two friends. Like, it's like, why—why do we

have to fight? Can't we find—can't we find solutions that—that give—that find—why can't we find common ground somewhere?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

And I think, looking back to that moment, I think the goal was just to create a space in which we are getting the five gold pieces, but Suvi doesn't have to give up her status. YOU don't have to give five gold to them, but you can give five gold to me, and I can make the exchange for you. So, yeah, just trying to create that space, in between those two, where everyone—gold gets given. But it's not from the Citadel or the—yeah, it's not the Citadel financing this asshole.

Aabria Iyengar

Ah! Such a good moment.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I think it's quite deep. I think it's actually quite profound, because it's acknowledging that the Witch's insight into the world is accurate, right? Of being like, yeah, the child will pay a heavy price if we don't pay for this. It's acknowledging that the Wizard's point is right and cannot be—it's seeing this, like, there's an immovable conflict here.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Everything Suvi is saying is correct, everything that Ame is saying is correct, so I will go into debt, and lower myself in this moment and take the weight of this on me. If you're looking at Wizard, Witch and then the Wild One as that knight concept, it's a very—

Aabria Iyengar

Ah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—powerful thing, of being like, I don't have a worldview I'm trying to advance, but I will take action to lower myself in deference to what everybody else is saying.

Erika Ishii

[Crying] It's not just danger—taking on danger so that others need not experience it, it's also lowering status so that others do not have to compromise in that way.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, it's a great moment.

Aabria Iyengar

I think it also just shows the relative maturity of all three of us, and in that moment, Ame and Suvi feel incredibly young, and Eursulon is the one that's actually got real world experience, and is like, yeah, cool, it's so nice to have a really strong conviction, but this is how the world works, let's just find the path to get it done.

Aabria Iyengar

And, like, having Eursulon move, and truly be the bridge between these personalities in the way that you would expect. I don't know, all three of us have interesting mental stats that we lead with, and it was very interesting to have Eursulon, specifically, have this moment of, I understand people in this way, and find this wise path through. It was very cool.

Erika Ishii
Ugh!

Aabria Iyengar
So charismatic!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Anything to get us all moving forward together, alright?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
What did that like—to dive into the big meaty, like—you meet Ghost, see a little sort of window into her life, and then—

Erika Ishii
[Crying] The orphanage!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
—the orphanage.

Aabria Iyengar
Poor baby.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And then Ame and Suvi both make these very kind offers that are very different, and where did like, just—that scene in the awning under the rain, when you step away from Eursulon and the Fox to like, talk about the conflict there. Did you have—I'm trying to think of—I just want you to talk about that scene, if I'm being honest.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
But I guess the thing I do wonder is, like, if you saw the iceberg coming. If you saw that conflict coming ahead of time, or if it surprised you with how it manifested, because it's had echoes, right? There was on the boat, where Suvi was like, don't contradict me—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
It's her first kiss, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
—in front of strangers, but how much of it did you see coming? And were you surprised by the resolution or lack thereof, of that conflict?

Aabria Iyengar
I'm going to defer to the Honorable Erika.

Erika Ishii
What, you're making me go first?! Okay. Fine.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah, sure!

Erika Ishii
I love—ah god, it's just so fun to play with you, and I just get so lost in the moments, that afterwards I'm like, who won? Who won that? And it turns out no one did—

Aabria Iyengar
Check the scoreboard, that's why we have a scoreboard.

Erika Ishii
Check the score—ah, that's—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
That's why we keep the scoreboard.

Erika Ishii
But just—I think that—Aabria and I knew that—

Aabria Iyengar
Oh yeah.

Erika Ishii
—we knew that conflict was a-brewing between the two of them, in terms of—and, I had no idea what form it would take, because I don't think it would be just an ideological debate. I think we saw a little bit of that as kids.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
But seeing the practical application of that, has been soooo interesting, building towards it, and I still feel like, of course, there's so much that's unresolved, and now Suvi's questioning if she was hangry, which is such a good—

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Aabria Iyengar
Shout out to the Fox.

Erika Ishii
—it went badly. "Ah, yahungry?" "Am I?"

Aabria Iyengar
"Ah, shit. Oh no, I'm hungry!"

Erika Ishii
But I think that—I just remember thinking in that moment like, Ame absolutely feels like she will lose to Suvi every time, like Suvi knows more, so to speak. Went away to fancy Wizard College, ya know. And even though neither of them have as much world experience, and wisdom, of the real world as Eursulon, Ame

very much still, I think, looks up to Suvi, and respects that she would know more, about how the world works.

Erika Ishii

So I—she's so bad at articulate—it manifested in Ame being so awkward, and bad at communicating, why she thought it might be a bad idea. And then Suvi just seized on that and ran with it. To be like "Oh, you're putting words in my mouth!"

Aabria Iyengar

But I will say though—yeah! But I will say, though, there is an interesting streak of like, even if Ame, sort of, looks up to Suvi, there is a prejudice against the Citadel that is leaking out more and more.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

And that was the thing that I personally latched onto, like—yeah, you can kind of feel the storm brewing, and then of course, Erika and I are like, passing little looks whenever we say something a little tense, but not quite there.

Aabria Iyengar

And maybe at some point I will post in the discord—or not the discord, sorry—post on the Patreon what my notes looked like for that episode, because I was spinning myself up for a fight, by writing out the things that Suvi was dwelling on, and then starting to twist them, to build the argument in your head.

Erika Ishii

Ah!

Aabria Iyengar

Like you know when you have fights in the shower, and you're like "And then Ame is going to say this, and then I'm going to say this" and you start to twist the thing that was said. Which is why it was a lot of Suvi putting words in Ame's mouth about like, "Oh, so you think this."

Erika Ishii

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Because she's an overthinker, and Suvi had already been starting to run through the fight that they were having—

Erika Ishii

I think there's a—

Aabria Iyengar

—so when it finally came to a head, it was one of those, "I no longer remember what you actually said. You're now the straw man I've built that doesn't respect where I've been."

Erika Ishii

Right.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Hooh.

Aabria Iyengar
Hooooo!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
God Damn!

Erika Ishii
And I think there's a for that where you're, like, coming up with the argument and playing out the argument in your head called jouska? Youska? Jouska? Jouska? I think? There's a Scandinavian term for that, where it's like yeah, where you come up with that argument in your head, and you play it all out, it's that shower argument, I think about.

Erika Ishii
Yeah and I think Ame had zero—sort of, was not thinking about this at all. Like, head empty, ya know?

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughs]

Erika Ishii
And then so, just, completely had no idea how to communicate what she was—her misgivings. Ugh. Ugh. It felt so good.

Aabria Iyengar
So fun.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Who calls for it?

Aabria Iyengar
Hm?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Who calls for it?

Aabria Iyengar
Calls for what?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
The fight.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Ame—Ame's like—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Who goes like, let's step aside.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I think Ame says, let's step aside, right?

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Ame's like, "Hey, I'm worried about—"

Erika Ishii
What just happened.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
"—what just happened?" It's such a great scene, and it's so, fuckin', brutal.

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
It's just brutal. Because it's exactly—because nothing Suvi says is wrong, it's just watching someone who's, like, coming into an interaction with like, "I've thought of every attack you could make, and I've built a defense for it—"

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
"—and I've thought of every—" it's literally like the episode of, like it's like something like "And I've thought of everything—every possible move you could make, I've anticipated, and all these criticisms I have of you, that are all based in something that's ACTUALLY true and observable," and then here comes Ame, like a lamb wandering into a field.

[Aabria and Erika cackle]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You know, it's not—it's—but the thing is that, like, all of Suvi's points are genuine, like, hey, Toma is much more humble than the Citadel. Toma and the Citadel have one thing in common, which is that Ame and Suvi grew up near the top of the social order—

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
—of those places, right? So, like, Toma's a little village—like everything Suvi says is correct!

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah!

Erika Ishii
[Giggles]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Ame had status! Ame was Grandmother Wren's apprentice! And there's it's—and Toma—

Erika Ishii

No wait, I think Aabria said that. Aabria said that.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Oh, Aabria said that? Did Suvi not say that in the episode?

Erika Ishii

Aabria said that, recently, I don't think we actually said that—Suvi didn't say that in the episode, did she?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Oh, Suvi didn't say it in the episode. I could be getting that mixed up.

Erika Ishii

Aabria is that—is that correct?

Aabria Iyengar

Uh—

Erika Ishii

Because I know you said that, and I was like, ooh, that's an interesting thing that you said, I'm excited to play that out.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, I mean yeah, that idea of the sort of relative status—

Erika Ishii

Mhm mhm.

Aabria Iyengar

—is a thing that I mentioned in our last talkback. But that was absolutely underpinning Suvi kind of balking, at the way Ame was like, poking holes in—it was like, just because you haven't seen the structure of the Citadel, doesn't mean you're not deeply familiar with what's going on here. You just don't like a system that you don't know anything about. But that was like—that's absolutely the underpinning of everything Suvi was saying and—yeah, oh gosh.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

But it was great—but even within that, of all the things Suvi was saying being correct, it was still—the thing that was so painful about it, was that Suvi was like, "you're going to have an interaction with me, and I'm GONNA WIN this argument." And Ame's INTENTION coming into that, was not to win an argument, right?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
It was judgmental!

[Aabria and Erika laugh.]

Aabria Iyengar
Oh yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
But it was very much like, "Hey, I think we gotta get to the bottom of something together." And it's like "The thing we have to get to the bottom of is your face getting to the bottom—"

[Aabria and Erika roar with laughter]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
"—of this fuckin' path of dirt. We're gonna shut this down." You know like, "I'm not going to interrogate shit with you, fuckin' BAM BOOM BOOM BOOM!" It was great! It was a perfect scene, it was perfect. Ah! I loved it. It was so good.

Aabria Iyengar
So fun.

Erika Ishii
Ah!

Aabria Iyengar
Also, shout out to the moment—I think the thing that like, really made me very excited as a player, was Eursulon's move to clock that Suvi was super pissed, and then just sort of sit with that, and move on. What an interesting like—okay, I understand the emotional wavelength that's happening here, but the desire, or impetus to intervene, or do anything further with that, wasn't there—for me, Eursulon is just so deeply fucking interesting, and I love it because—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Well, you guys are the Harlem Globetrotters, and it's like, I'm the Washington Generals in that scene.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughing] What! No!

Erika Ishii
I don't know what those things mean!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I'm not going to run in there and be like, and now it's my turn to spin move dunk, and be like, "Suvi! Here's the answer!" I dunno, I think there was something to—similar to what Brennan was remarking on earlier, I think if there's—the insightfulness of Eursulon is, on the kind of just human interaction level, is such that it's like, great.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Lots of seeing, lots of understanding. I don't think often has the words for it, but I think yeah. Sees a friend in pain, but knows that like, he is not—he doesn't have the answer, that kind of pulls—that gets the group together. Like, I can't borrow five gold on this one.

[Aabria and Erika both go Aww]

Aabria Iyengar

This is sweet.

Erika Ishii

God. [Sniffs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Can we talk a little bit about Ame, and that vision?

Aabria Iyengar

Ah! Yes!

Erika Ishii

[Cryptically] What could it mean?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

What. Could it. Mean.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Yeah! Let's talk about it, Brennan. What?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Now for context, a stat—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Why don't you go first? Let's talk about it. Brennan, why don't you go first?

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I just love Ame so much, I just love her seeing this statue—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—that had the face smashed off, and sending her little familiar up to lick the stone back into place.

Erika Ishii

I love the description of that! Of mending, with the Fox is like licking it, and then revealing more stone, of repairing it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Like the opposite of licking a lolli—like every time I lick this, there's more on it. Yeah, exactly.

Erika Ishii

Yeah! Ah, so cool.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Ah! It was so so lovely. And finding the little sort of like—did we say the name of the place? We said [Clown Horn honks censoriously] right?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

I don't think so, I think we say that there's a golden placard that you—it's a very specific description that you give, that I feel like is so inviting, where I believe you say, like, there is a golden placard, that one could read to know the name of the establishment. I think it's like—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And everyone's like Fuck. That.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

It's that specific, as like, you can't see it, but if you chose to see it, you could!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Well then Taylor—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

I don't think they know what it's called.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—I'm so sorry. If we can—get rid of it! No spoilers! You don't know the name of that place!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Can you just bleep it? Can you just gave it like—

Erika Ishii

Just bleep it out.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

All right, just replace it, "Name Redacted" yeah.

[Clown Horn honks mischievously]

Erika Ishii

What—And David asks, "What would have happened, had Ame failed on the wisdom saving throw against the statue in Episode 5?"

Aabria Iyengar

I also want to know this.

Erika Ishii

Are we going to just have to... Wait and see?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Say permadeath.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
[Ominously] The world, may never know.

Aabria Iyengar
No, stop!

Erika Ishii
That's... A Tootsie Pop!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I actually—I'll actually say this right now. I actually cannot say.

[Aabria and Erika gasp]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Because even though we are some episodes ahead in recording, so that we have a nice little safety buffer, the thing that happened to Ame, might still happen.

Aabria Iyengar
What?!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Mm!

Erika Ishii
Uhhh.

Aabria Iyengar
Ame! Don't lick statues anymore?

Erika Ishii
[Shocked moan]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Ame succeeded, correct?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Succeeded, yes. Succeeded on the roll.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Intriguing.

Aabria Iyengar
What a Pyhrric victory! That's the good outcome?? Blehlaleleleh??

Erika Ishii
Blehleleleleh.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Leh lah leh lah Indeed.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Hey, baby. There's a lot of folklore going into this world, alright? The Sight, the capital S sight, S-I-G-H-T doesn't come for free, baby. You don't get to see the hidden workings of the world, without having a fuckin' rough time doing it, okay?

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughs] Hey, with every new detail about Ame's lot in life as a Witch, I feel better and better about being a Wizard.

Erika Ishii
[Cackles] Seriously?

Aabria Iyengar
That went well? So you did your job and that went well?

Erika Ishii
Yep!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
That's what it looks like.

Aabria Iyengar
Do you want to come to the Citadel? You me and Ghost, let's go talk to a cop.

[Aabria and Erika cackling]

Erika Ishii
I love you!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Yes. We'd be sipping espresso at the Citadel.

Erika Ishii
Oh my god. It's so true! Ame's dropped twice! And it's Episode 5!!

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
[Insincerely] Sorry! I'm so sorry.

Erika Ishii
Sad!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
You got a big, beautiful hat, how about that?

Erika Ishii
I do have a beautiful hat.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Come on.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You got a big beautiful hat.

Aabria Iyengar
Can I say, anytime I remember Ame's adorable little outfit, I'm like, how could Suvi argue?

Erika Ishii
HA!

Aabria Iyengar
How are you going to get in the face of someone dressed like a magical girl? That's ridiculous.

Erika Ishii
[Hooting laughter]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Listen, it's true that Ame has dropped twice in five episodes, but let's talk—yes. The things she has going for her. Amazing hat.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Amazing!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Cute little animal.

Aabria Iyengar
Mhm!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
She's the only member of the party that's a homeowner!

[Everyone bursts into laughter. Someone starts clapping or slapping their knee]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
That's true!

Erika Ishii
Oh, man! And in this economy?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
This economy?

Erika Ishii
Damn!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
What are the rates like in the Khemsarazan Empire? What's going on right now?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Ohh, I'll tell ya dude.

Aabria Iyengar
Oofah. It's not good.

Erika Ishii
That cottage has gotta be paid off by now.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Ever since they opened that portal, they've been jacking the rates up non-stop!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Exactly. I swear.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I swear.

Aabria Iyengar
That's why we put that little teleportation sigil in Toma, so we can go gentrify it.

Erika Ishii
[Laughing] Oh my god!

Aabria Iyengar
Because no one can afford to buy in the tower.

Erika Ishii
Noo!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Yeah, I'll tell you, they used to drink tea. Now they drink that weird coffee drink, that they drink in the espress—that's it.

Erika Ishii
Ohhh!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
We wiped that family off, I'll tell ya.

Erika Ishii
[Shrieking] Oh my GOD!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
They don't live here no more. They can't afford it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You literally gotta figure, the first day that the group of Citadel mages are putting the traveling door in Silbry, some business owner opens the shutters and goes, "Ugh, there goes the neighborhood!"

[Everyone laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
"Goddamn, alright."

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Travel doors are this world's Whole Foods.

[Everyone laughs]

Erika Ishii
Oh, no.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
You see a bunch of Citadel Wizards, slowly putting one up, you're like. Come on.

Erika Ishii
No, it's an Erewhon.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
That's an Erewhon.

Aabria Iyengar
It's an Erewhon.

Erika Ishii
That's an Erewhon if I've ever seen one.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
It's Erewhon, oh my god. Ugh, Jesus.

Aabria Iyengar
I just want all of the Wizards of the Citadel to be walking around with \$30 smoothies from now on, Brennan make it HAPPEN!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Yes-uh! Filled with—

Erika Ishii
Now all of the Toma village fences are those little sideways, reclaimed wood slats.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
[Wizardly voice] "For everyone here that wishes to learn the secrets of the Lingua Arcana, help yourself to an acai bowl!"

[Aabria and Erika cackle]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I can't lie, I've—

Aabria Iyengar
Every address in Toma has the flipper font, for the number.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Yes-uh! I've started eating a lot of acai bowls, guys, and it's a good life. I can't lie.

Aabria Iyengar
Is it true?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Yes, so true. Also, is it dark enough here yet?

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughing so hard she can't breathe]

Erika Ishii
It's so creepy, I feel like we're going to see Lou Wilson get—

Aabria Iyengar
Lou, you're in black and white!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You got to know for everyone listening at home, we do a little zoom call so we can see each other's faces. Myself, Aabria, Erika. You know, Aabria, Erika? Crisp. Beautiful. Professional. Me, I kind of look like the Lord is directly behind me and to the left, but that's okay.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Yes.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughing] "Back and to the left!"

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Lou, truly vanishing into—you look like—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
It's full horror movie shit, like this is the scene—

Erika Ishii

I was about to say, I don't like it. I don't like this at ALL. This is—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Right about here, something comes out of this darkness—

Erika Ishii

NO!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

—and jumps out like that. It's just that!

Erika Ishii

No! No!

Aabria Iyengar

Lou is currently starring in Unfriended 3, and it's stressing me out! [Laughing]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

[Laughing] Yes, you guys—I'm shooting it right now, just so you guys know!

Erika Ishii

Gotta not. Gotta not!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

I'm doing pickups for Unfriended 3 right now.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

This is like The Blair Witch Project directed by Jim Jarmusch. It's like a very black and white—

[Everyone breaks down laughing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—It's like, yeah. It's very artsy, but also frightening.

Erika Ishii

Slow, and sensual. [Laughs]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Yeah, someone could—someone's face could pop up—Adam Driver pops up right here. Him and John Malkovich are both looking in, to my window.

Erika Ishii

Please no. Please, I don't like it!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]

Who else is in Jim Jarmusch movies? Uh, Tilda Swinton—

Erika Ishii
Tilda Swinton.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
—swings—

Aabria Iyengar
Ooh!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah, there you go.

Erika Ishii
Wait. Did you mean Adam Driver or Tom Hiddleston?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Well, Adam Driver is in the zombie one.

Erika Ishii
There's a zombie one?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
And then who's in the vampire one?

Erika Ishii
Tom Hiddleston.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
With Tilda?

Erika Ishii
With Tilda.

Aabria Iyengar
Ugh! I need to watch that.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
The zombie one is him, Bill Murray, and Selena Gomez? I think?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Was it Emma Stone?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
No—what is it called?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Woody Harrelson and what's it—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Dead Don't Die.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Dead Don't Die.

Aabria Iyengar
Dead Don't Die?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I'm thinking of Zombieland.

[A beat passes and everyone starts laughing]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
You are 100% thinking of Zombieland!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
But you said Bill Murray! And he's in Zombieland, so I got confused.

Erika Ishii
Buh!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Hey, that's okay.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, that's so fun!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
But yeah, I'm eating a lot of acai bowls these days, and it's good eatin', man. Granola is just top notch, and really, it's just a reason to eat granola.

Erika Ishii
I—

Aabria Iyengar
I love granola so much.

Erika Ishii
You know what? I have a fridge full of kombucha now, so I'm not allowed to say anything, to nobody.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I mean, hey, I used to make kombucha on the regular.

Erika Ishii
[Gasp]

Aabria Iyengar
I wanna get kombucha so badly.

Erika Ishii
Do you still got a SCOBY?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I have several SCOBYs in my fridge.

Erika Ishii
I'd really like to make some kombucha.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
That I, uh—yeah, I really—I don't take care of anymore.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
[Laughs]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I'm a bad SCOBY dad.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughs]

Erika Ishii
Ya gotta feed it!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
That's why I got kind of wistful and quiet there at the end.

Erika Ishii
[Laughing] Ya gotta feed your SCOBYs dude!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
That's what—and I'll tell ya. That's what's gonna pop out of the black behind me.

Erika Ishii
[Screaming] No!!

Aabria Iyengar
The SCOBY!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Voiced by Tilde Swinton, is one of my SCOBYs.

Erika Ishii
Oh, no!

Aabria Iyengar
It'll team up with the sourdough starter that I keep leaving to die, over and over.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Yes-uh!

Aabria Iyengar
Played by Adam Driver.

Erika Ishii
[Shuddering sigh]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Played by THE Adam Driver. Um—

Erika Ishii
Who would—

Aabria Iyengar
Did you name your SCOBY?

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
No.

Aabria Iyengar
Okay.

Erika Ishii
Who would we have played—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I'm sorry I just—

Erika Ishii
—some of the NPCS, in like—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
—I just treated—

Erika Ishii
—in like a Worlds Beyond Number like—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Just spiked the energy deep into the core of the fuckin' earth.

Aabria Iyengar
[Cackling]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I felt awf—well because I was like—

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughing] So sorry!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
—do I make it up? Do I lie? Do I lie? I can't lie.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And tell me something, Martha Cocoa, what do you do with your SCOBYS?

[Everyone laughs]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I don't name them. I use them. I use them, and then I put them back in the nasty jar from which they came.

[Aabria and Erika are having a giggle fit]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I love it.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I wish—I wish I could have thought of a name.

Aabria Iyengar
Aw.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
What did you say, Erika? You had a lovely question.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I was asking about—I was asking about who would play certain NPCs, in a Worlds Beyond Number—

Aabria Iyengar
Ooh!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
—like 15 episode movie.

Aabria Iyengar
Who plays Finley?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Oh, I—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
My first thought—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Sorry, go for it.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I don't know how comedy we want to go, I feel like my first comedy thought is—

Erika Ishii
Taika Waititi.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
—Bobby Moynihan.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh!

Erika Ishii
That's fun.

Aabria Iyengar
That's pretty good.

Erika Ishii
Bobby Moynihan would be fun.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I think Bobby Moynihan would hold a really great face, in terms of being an interesting person to look at, as they are dead.

Aabria Iyengar
Shoot, that's a good answer. I don't think I have a better one than that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
He passed away many years ago—

[Someone stifles a laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
—but I do think in my head, he kind of looks like Pete Postlethwaite.

Erika Ishii
Ohhhhhh! God!

Aabria Iyengar
What a name. Googling.

Erika Ishii
I imagine Pete Postlethwaite as the hedge mage from the from the opening, from Toma—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Oooh!

Aabria Iyengar
Oh!

Erika Ishii
—or—the one with—

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, Adelaide?

Erika Ishii
—because he like has this—yeah—no, no no no. Adelaide would be

Aabria Iyengar
Oh you mean the bard that literally opened us up. At the very beginning.

Erika Ishii
Yes, that one.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
"That opened us up."

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughs]

Erika Ishii
Because had—Pete Postlethwaite had this intensity, in addition to being fun, and just like character-y, he had this intensity, you know, that I think would really have played well with that opening monologue. Unless we have like, Brennan do that, though.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I like the idea that all of our hedge mages are all played by Pete Postlethwaite wearing different—up like—

Aabria Iyengar
Yes!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
—it's like we're doing a Cloud Atlas thing—

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughing]

Erika Ishii
Oh my god.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
—where he's just wearing a bunch of weird prosthetics, but it's ALWAYS him.

Aabria Iyengar
We are gonna race bend him, it WILL be problematic.

Erika Ishii
[Stifled laugh]

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Wait you're gonna—

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
What can we say? What can we say?

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, that's fun.

Erika Ishii
Well, I think—

Aabria Iyengar
I saw someone—someone, somewhere—fancasted Professor Adelaide as Sam Reich—

Erika Ishii
God dammit! God dammit!

Aabria Iyengar
—and that made me very happy.

Erika Ishii
That's exactly it!

Aabria Iyengar
I did go back—I went back—

Erika Ishii
God dammit!

Aabria Iyengar
—and listened to the episode and went, that's very funny to imagine. And that's very good.

Erika Ishii
[Wailing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
He'd kill it. He'd kill it. He would.

Erika Ishii
I can't!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
He absolutely would.

Erika Ishii
Oh, man. I feel like—I don't know—Oscar had big Carlos Luna vibes for me?

Aabria Iyengar
Aww!

Erika Ishii
Truly a stand up, handsome dude who like, you know, would be like "Oh my god! Magic is real!"

Aabria Iyengar
Aw! That's really good!

Erika Ishii
Right? That's all I can think of for now.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I like that a lot.

Erika Ishii
Anyway, I want to adopt one of the SCOBYS.

Aabria Iyengar
Ew!

Erika Ishii
And I think that's it? I think we have already—I think that's time, I was not timing this.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I think that's time, and I have a piping hot chicken parm on my doorstep, getting colder and colder.

Aabria Iyengar
[Gasp] Chicken parm!

Erika Ishii
Again? Oh no, not your chicken parm!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
My chicken parm.

Erika Ishii
Alright. Well, thank you so much to Brennan Lee Mulligan, Aabria Iyengar, and to Martha Cocoa. You go, Martha Cocoa.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Thank you for having me.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Thank you Martha Cocoa.

Erika Ishii
And, thank you all for listening to our Fireside Chat.

Aabria Iyengar
Crackle crackle!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Goodbye!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Crackle crackle, baby!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Crackle, crack—I love that! Oh are we—

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

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Thank god we found it, we found the sign off.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughing]

Erika Ishii
This is the sound of the Fireside. Crackle crackle.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
I didn't know we were trying out catchphrases! Crackle crackle? Alright!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Crackle crackle baby!

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
Crackle crackle!

Aabria Iyengar
Let us know in the comments! How'd we do? Crackle crackle.

Martha Cocoa [Lou]
How'd we do?