

Worlds Beyond Number

Fireside Chat: A County Affair Ep 2 - "FAIRmagedon"

Final Version

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

Erika Ishii

Hello everybody, and welcome to Fireside Chat number 2 for A County Affair!

Aabria Iyengar

Woo!

Lou Wilson

Erika, you have to stop, because I made a promise.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Erika Ishii

Oh?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Who made a promise?

Lou Wilson

Well, not me.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Long, dramatically] Noooo!

[Aabria and Erika cackle]

Lou Wilson

But I carry the promise of another one.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Laughing] Nooo!

Lou Wilson

And I have to say: Aabria, Brennan, one of you has to host—

[Everyone laughs]

Lou Wilson

—this Fireside. Lou's not here, he would—

Aabria Iyengar
Nose goes!

Lou Wilson
Wow, it looks like Brennan's gotta host the Fireside.

Erika Ishii
This man who just rolled up in a jeep and jumped out—

Lou Wilson
Yes.

Erika Ishii
—doing a tuck and roll.

Lou Wilson
Put it in neutral and just hopped out.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You left your Jeep in neutral?

Lou Wilson
I let it ride, baby!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
We're on a hill right now!

Aabria Iyengar
It'll come back around!

Lou Wilson
Yeah, it'll come back around. Aabria understands Jeep logic.

Aabria Iyengar
Hell yeah!

Erika Ishii
You got it!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
We're coming to you live from the M.C. Escher Hills.

[Everyone laughs]

Lou Wilson
[Laughing] Exactly!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
The car is going to roll downhill until it's back down outside again.

Aabria Iyengar
All Jeep are like people, and they walk with a little bit of a—on a long enough thing—

Lou Wilson
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
—they'll eventually do a big circle.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I walk perfectly straight.

Erika Ishii
[Gasp]

Aabria Iyengar
I believe that.

Lou Wilson
Now you've GOT to host this.

Aabria Iyengar
Deep Lore Mulligan.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Hello, everyone! Crackle crackle and welcome to the Fireside! Thank you so much for joining us. If you're here listening, it means that you're by the Fireside, which means you're on our Patreon. Thank you so much! We work super hard on it, and we're hugely grateful for your support in allowing us to do this podcast, and all of the fun bonus content, or as we like to call it, bone cone, that comes with it. We're coming to you actually from the same physical room together.

Aabria Iyengar
[Gasp]

Erika Ishii
[Squees]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I'll be your host here. This is one of our camp—our production camps.

Aabria Iyengar
Ooh. A campfire!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
A campfire!

Erika Ishii
Oh my god, why did we never—

Aabria Iyengar
I don't know.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Break out the s'mores. Sweep the bunks for dirty socks. Make that one kid shower. It's Camp Time.

Aabria Iyengar
Sorry, I'm lost in the socks thing?

Erika Ishii
[Quietly, perturbed] "Sweep the bunks for dirty socks?"

Lou Wilson
Yeah, I'm also lost in the socks thing.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
If you think that—if you're in a two week advanced camp, and it's laundry day, and there are kids who are passing over into the next specialty week afterwards, and you sweep for laundry, ONE dirty sock, if it is dirty enough—and if you're working with teens, it will be—

Aabria Iyengar
[Shudders]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
—is enough to sourdough start the funk, of a whole other week. You got to get Every. Last.

Lou Wilson
So it's like you have to hunt them down.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah, it's like—you know the end of the fucking Ultron Avengers one, where they're like, not even one can get out.

Lou Wilson
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Right? Except instead of robots, it's dirty socks.

Lou Wilson

Can I ask how you guys take off your socks?

Aabria Iyengar

Ooh!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

From the ankle. I grab the hem, pull off.

Lou Wilson

You grab—you grab it?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

How else—?

Lou Wilson

With your hands.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Hands? Yeah, hands.

Lou Wilson

Okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You do toesies?

Lou Wilson

I almost exclusively take off my socks with my other feet.

Erika Ishii

Ohh!

Aabria Iyengar

You know what? Uh—

Lou Wilson

I don't get in there.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, if I'm wearing my little no show—Costco socks till the day I die—

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
I step on it, in between toe and just pull back.

Lou Wilson
Oooh!

Erika Ishii
Yeah, yeah yeah. I see that.

Lou Wilson
Wow. I like that.

Erika Ishii
But if it's, like, higher or roll up stock—socks then ya gotta—

Aabria Iyengar
Then I gotta get in there with a hand!

Erika Ishii
Yeah, you got to go in there.

Lou Wilson
I think only for dress socks do I use my hands.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Lou Wilson
But for anything else, it's all feet.

Aabria Iyengar
What do you do? Do you like get a toe in—

Erika Ishii
Is it slip one toe in?

Lou Wilson
I slip one toe in. Gently. Quietly, so that the foot doesn't know—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Quietly??

Lou Wilson
[Laughing] Shhh...

Erika Ishii
It's like pulling back the covers on it. "Wake up!!"

Lou Wilson
Exactly, yes. So I slide one toe in, bring it all the way down.

Erika Ishii
Well, wait, okay. Do you grip with the toe? Do you grip it then—

Lou Wilson
No, I just. Here, you know, I'll just—

Erika Ishii
Demonstrate. Okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Ok. I'm providing verbal description so that our podcast listeners can see. Alright. Right now, our guest—our as yet un-introduced guest—is pushing from the Achilles tendon over the hump of the heel, along the—

Aabria Iyengar
Calcaneus, if we're getting bones in there.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Woo!

Erika Ishii
Oh! Oh!! But then at the end, he grabs it—

Aabria Iyengar
It's the grab at the end!

Erika Ishii
He grabs it with the toes.

Aabria Iyengar
And a toss. That was great!

[Applause.]

Lou Wilson
[Out of breath, laugh] I'm exhausted.

Aabria Iyengar

I could not have held my legs up. I need you to know I've never done this myself.

Lou Wilson

I needed—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That's an incredible amount of podiatral dexterity?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah

Erika Ishii

Yeah! Like opposable toes.

Lou Wilson

Here's the thing. I hate bending over, so.

Erika Ishii

[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Okay.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah! Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I hear that.

Aabria Iyengar

Down's too far.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

My name's Brennan Lee Mulligan!

[Everyone laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'll be your host for this, our second talkback, our second Fireside Chat, for A County Affair 2. With me today is none other than Aabria Iyengar!

Erika Ishii

Yay!

Aabria Iyengar

Yay! Hey—no, we'll do it—on yours—when you introduce yourself, oh GM of this delightful game, I need to know how you take off your socks.

Lou Wilson

Oh, yeah, we didn't get to you.

Erika Ishii

Oh!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, introducing our wonderful GM—first time GMing—Erika Ishii!

[Aabria and Erika both cheer]

Erika Ishii

It's so good to be here! I think—like most of the time, because I have to go down there anyway, to take off—ya know, to pull off the shoes.

[Aabria and Lou "Hmm" in unison]

Erika Ishii

So while I'm down there, I'll just pull them off with my hands. Pretty normal, just like at the ankle—grab them at the ankle, and pull off.

Aabria Iyengar

No one's yanking with their hand from the toe. And I think that's very interesting.

Erika Ishii

No—well, because it suctions off—it's harder that way most of the time, unless you have looser socks.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Damage the sock.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That can damage the sock.

Lou Wilson

That also feels full Looney Tunes, like full outstretched leg, reach to the end. [Cartoonishly] Eeyup!

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I realized, we were heading towards a level of specificity that I was unprepared for.

Aabria Iyengar

Uh.

Lou Wilson

Mm.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

So, I hook a thumb into the gap in between the sort of ankle bone and the Achilles tendon—

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—you know there's that little dip. I'll hook a thumb in there and push the sock off, because I don't want to stretch the sock, but I also don't want to turn it inside out because that just creates more work when it comes out of the dryer later.

Lou Wilson

I like this man. I like the way this man thinks.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And finally, our guest for our second episode of A County Affair—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Absolute pleasure to meet you guys. My name is Pace Gilligan, and I'm thrilled to be here.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Now Pace Gilligan is meeting us for the first time, which made recording the episode really challenging.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Pace, you did all your lines ADR.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

I did, yes. From my—I live in The Mountains.

Aabria Iyengar

Aw nice! Which mountains?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Which ones?

Aabria Iyengar

Mhm!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

THE Mountains. The one and only. Ya know?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The Mountains is a gated community in Malibu.

Aabria Iyengar

[Cackle]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yes, exactly. It's me, my best friend, Jared Leto.

[Everyone laughs]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Oh my god!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yep.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Wow.

Aabria Iyengar

You have named a cohort, though, I'm like, yeah, they would hang out.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yeah. I mean, occasionally. Robert's a little, uhh—or as I like to call him, Bobby. Bobby can be a little, uhh—he likes to do his own thing. But the rest of us.

Erika Ishii

[To the tune of "Rock Me Amadeus" by Falco] Bob De Niro, Bob De Niro. Bob De Niro.

[Everyone joins in and says "Bob De Niro" to the beat]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

What is this? What is that? Why are we singing Amadeus?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's a reference to—

Erika Ishii

It's a bit we did last time.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Oh!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Your completely candid mentioning of Jared Leto happens to tap—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yes.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—into an inside joke.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Really! That's so fun, the way that happens sometimes!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah!

Aabria Iyengar

Did we not get you a line cut, so you would have a sense of continuity coming in? Sorry.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

I mean, I heard you guys recorded the other episode at Camp recently—

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

—so I don't think Lou was able to get me—it to me, before he had to get on the helicopter—

Erika Ishii

That's fair.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
—to go back to Panama.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah, absolutely.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
I live in THE Mountains.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah, you live in The Mountains. Beautiful community.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Gorgeous community.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Gorgeous community. Well, Pace, so lovely to have you, and thanks again, everyone, for being here. We return to the grand, thrilling finale, the conclusion of A County Affair. Erika, I'm going to skip the audience questions for a second and just ask you a question.

Erika Ishii
Mhm.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
What was it like wrapping up your first game? Because I feel like the hardest parts of GMing are starting and ending.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
So, we covered the leaping into the thing. What did it feel like wrapping up a game and concluding a story?

Erika Ishii
I feel like you all wrote it yourselves, and I just kind of followed it along. And Yes And'd it, because—

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah

Erika Ishii
—Our guest here, Pace, had Itsa Winnerbaby betray the group. He saved up all of his flashback tokens in order to double cross them, and having ratted them out, and then escaping to Arizona—

Aabria Iyengar
[Reverent Whisper] Sedona...

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yes.

Erika Ishii

Sedona...

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

—I remember there being a moment where Brennan just looked across the table at me and went, that's a lot of tokens.

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I could smell it on the wind.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

You could tell!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I could smell it on the wind. Which actually brings us to our first audience question, which is from Spencer. Thank you, Spencer. We almost did this one last week.

Aabria Iyengar

Almost.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

We almost.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It was a spoiler, so we finally got to your question. Thank you, Spencer. "Lou (or to whichever guest was invited to be there in his stead)" aka Pace.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Thank you, Pace. "When did you decide that Itsa Winnerbaby was going to turn on his team? Second question. Why?"

Lou Wilson

Ah.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Is there some sort of punctuation that suggests that it is that light and airy of a why?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Sometimes I put a little mustard on the questions. It's a line reading.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Going by text it sort of— if I'm doing it flat.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

"Lou (or to whichever guest was invited to be there in his stead.)" That's in parentheses. "When did you decide that Itsa Winnerbaby was going to turn on his team? Why?"

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Mhm.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

But—

Aabria Iyengar

Can I get one more for safety?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Okay, you'll get one more for safety. [Series of exaggerated cartoonish accents] "LOU. (Or to whichever guest was invited to be there in his stead.) When did you decide that Itsa Winnerbaby... Was going to turn on his team? Why...?"

Aabria Iyengar

I liked that one!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

That was fun. I felt like—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
—four or five different people—

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughing] Yeah!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
[Laughing] —took turns reading the question. It was like a popcorn situation.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
There's a lot—you know, it's—one of the things you should always do in voice acting is, every 2 seconds do something wildly different.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
Oooh! Yeah!

Aabria Iyengar
Erika, write that down.

Erika Ishii
Ooh! Takin' notes here!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Hey, ya know, without a visual, which sometimes you don't have, you really got to keep them on their toes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You really got to keep them on their toes. That's actually—funny thing, that is actually, I performed in a group called Story Pirates, which friend of the podcast, Lou Wilson, who couldn't be here today, also is a fellow Story Pirate, and they actually do tell you that, like, basically in every phrase of a sentence, new body position, new energy. So that—because that's about keeping the attention of very young kids. So you go like [High energy] "Hi, my name's Dexter. I LOVE cookies, and I HATE broccoli!" And it's like everything is a big shift.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Yes.

Erika Ishii
Mmmmm.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You're underlining every beat.

Erika Ishii
Mmmmm!

Aabria Iyengar
No! Erika is learning.

Erika Ishii
The Dwayne Johnson School of Voice Acting.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laugh] Yes!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Yes-uh!

Aabria Iyengar
Yes. Good.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
But when did I decide? I think, honestly, if I'm being honest, I just started rackin' 'em up. I was like—

[Everyone laughs]

Aabria Iyengar
Really It's one of those things. I mean, I'll give it to Roll for Shoes. You need a certain amount of points to create a, like, full flip in the story, and I think I was—

Erika Ishii
I made that up.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Oh, really!

Aabria Iyengar
That's all Erika

Erika Ishii
That was the mechanic I added.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Wow! How do we not talk about the fact that you created mechanics for your first game?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
That's fuckin' awesome!

Erika Ishii
Well, I didn't want to brag about it!

Aabria Iyengar
Hey, bitch, this is where you do that!

Erika Ishii
Ooh!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
That's really fuckin' cool.

Erika Ishii
Yeah, so I set the bar high, but I knew that somebody would make it.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Yes.

Erika Ishii
And you all perfectly timed everything out, because up top, it was just collecting the tokens. And then by number two, it was like, redeeming them for little flashbacks, or full flashbacks, and it was just the perfect, like—like a heist movie. There's a sort of a slow start with gathering intel, and then at the end is when you figure out there was this whole other undercurrent.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Yeah. But, yeah, so I had just been eating shit, and knew that we had this fun mechanic that was like a massive curveball you could add to the story. And I think it came, and at some point I was—it flipped from being like, can—I was like, it's one of those things where you start asking to try and do a few more things because you're like, I just need a few more tokens.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laugh]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
And then once I got there, I was like, well there's only one massive turn that fits, when you've gotten away with the goods, and it's that you double crossed all the motherfuckers—

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
—so that you could get to Sedona.

Aabria Iyengar
Sedona...

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Big Italian Job energy.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah, oh yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Yeah, exactly. It's when we all think—it's when we're all smiling. That's when it comes. That's when the hammer falls.

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Wow, wow wow wow. There's a very interesting thing, I feel like, in games like this, in game systems like this, that you have a currency—like, it's the arcade thing, right? You're getting tickets at the skeeball or whatever, and you look and you're like, "Ooh, I got a bunch of tickets!" And you're ending your day, your mom's come back from JCPenney and is like, let's get out of here. And so you go, okay. Do I take my tickets, and hold on to them? Because I know I'm coming back here in a couple of weeks.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
She's gonna return those Pokemon shirts. You knew they don't fit.

Erika Ishii
Yeah, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You KNOW they don't fit! And, do I save my tickets to get the big thing? But as you're walking out, you see, well, there's the little army men, or the weird little rubber fingertip monsters.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
Yeah, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And you're like, do—

Erika Ishii
Sticky hands!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Sticky hands. Did you, like—when you're playing a game, do you struggle with currencies and systems that ask you to hold on to them? I think the one that's the worst for me, is experience points in the world of darkness, in old Vampire the Masquerade—

Erika Ishii

Mm. Yeah, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—of, like, you get to the end of a session and it's like you got 3 XP, and buying a new magical ability takes 12 or 15 or something. And you're like, "Am I going to do five sessions in a row and not get a new ability? Or am I going to, like, I could get one point better at... Smelling!"

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

[Laugh]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Wait, now, which person are you? Are you the person who takes one point in smelling or who is like, "I suck until I'm AMAZING!"

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I actually really struggle with it, which feels weird, I feel like, in terms of my own appraisal of my sensibilities, I feel like it should be easier for me to delay gratification.

Erika Ishii

Yeah! Because you optimize.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, it's optimizing! But it's one of those things—but here's the thing. My optimizer brain breaks a little bit when I'm considering it, because I'll go like, "Now, you know, like, nothing's as good as these very expensive magical abilities, so you should hold on and wait and do them." And then another optimizer part of my brain logs on and says, "Motherfucker, how many DMs actually run five sessions?"

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

"Very few. Take one point in smell, because you might get one other session, and you probably won't get five."

Erika Ishii

So—

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah. Yeah.

Erika Ishii
So the study that they did—

Aabria Iyengar
With children.

Erika Ishii
With children!

Aabria Iyengar
Marshmallow.

Erika Ishii
And eating the marshmallow, and delayed gratification, they realized they did not correct for children that came from lower income families, and had food shortages—

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
—in their lives because of course those fucking kids are going to want to—

Aabria Iyengar
The rich child's like, I don't care.

Erika Ishii
Yeah! I don't care. They said too, sure, I'll wait. But kids that are like, I don't know when I'll get a treat again, are going to eat it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
There was literally like a correlation in that study between whether children believe adults or not.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
Yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Do you believe that when an adults like, I'm going to bring you another one later. Do you believe it? Or no?

Aabria Iyengar
That's the DM problem! I don't believe I'll be here in five sessions.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah!

Aabria Iyengar

I need to have the one point now!

Erika Ishii

Well, and that's the thing is, I'm used to one shots and short ones, so I want to blow all my spell slots early. I'm going to blow—I'm going to do all my beats, I'm going to dump all my character story when I see that moment, and if it's a slim window, I'll just jump through it, because I don't know when I'll be back here again.

Aabria Iyengar

I definitely think I'm of the like—closer to Brennan—but it's the optimizer brain versus performer brain. Like, if I'm in a home game, I'll wait forever.

Erika Ishii

Oh, same.

Aabria Iyengar

I'll suck till I'm too good.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

But if we're playing publicly, I'm like, it's going to be boring if I'm just sitting here quietly—

Erika Ishii

Exactly.

Aabria Iyengar

—not changing, so I'd rather—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You know what eats me out from the inside?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

What??

Erika Ishii

[Cackle]

Aabria Iyengar

I was gonna let it go. I was gonna let it go.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
What the fuck??

Aabria Iyengar
I got myself like, Cobra.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Whoa. Whoa. Hold on.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I said, do you know what EATS ME OUT from the inside.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
How?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Now—

Erika Ishii
[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
—People think that sex demons aren't real, but— [Laugh]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
[Laugh]

Erika Ishii
But we're not people!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
We're not people. The funny thing is that you should say up instead of out.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughing] Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
The thing that eats me up inside!

Aabria Iyengar
Taylor will fix it.

Taylor Moore
[Off in the distance] No!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Taylor just yelled no from the other room. The element where you're playing the game, and you're saving onto your XP or you're saving your currency for a later thing, and you HAD something that was easier to improve, or something to spend those resources on, and it comes up while you're hoarding—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Ugh.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—and you're bad at it, where it's like, "Okay, I could have made my drive skill better, but I'm waiting to get super magic," and someone's like, "Oh, you're entered into a drag race!"

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you're like, "AGH! Fuck!"

Aabria Iyengar

"Fuck!" Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

"I have 20 XP sitting in a tank waiting to get fireball! And now I suck at driving!"

[Aabria and Pace chuckle]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That kills me.

Aabria Iyengar

Damn, that's real.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, I think all of us—[Sigh] Yeah, for as much as, ya know, my Gremlin energy, blow it all at once, like, live life to its fullest—

Aabria Iyengar

Drive it like it's stolen.

Erika Ishii

Right. I agree that performer brain will take over, and I'm like, "Oh, if there's a beat that I am saving up for—" and I especially love it in Wizard, the Witch, and Wild One, how we level—

Aabria Iyengar

The side game.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, the other game that we do sometimes—is when you level up, or when you learn things, like even from the kids adventure it was, you level up when it is narratively appropriate.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

And that feels SOOO good because I don't HAVE to make that call, I'm like, "Oh, well of course I would learn this spell right now," or "Of course I would want to expend this spell slot now, or use this spell." It just—the story tells me what to do with it, just the way that, uh—Mr. Pace? What was your—I'm sorry, what was your last name?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Gilligan.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yeah, Pace Gilligan.

Erika Ishii

Pace Gilligan. Mr. Gilligan was saying that, "Oh, well there's only one thing you do when you have that much banked."

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The only way I ever made that currency hoarding thing feel good, was I made a checking and savings account.

Lou Wilson

Mm!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Where, it was like, every—you end up getting like 2, or 2 to 5 XP per session or whatever, and I would be like, half of it goes to a thing where I'm saving for the most expensive ability, and the other half I spend, and I would always just choose to spend it on whatever I rolled the most that session.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Mm.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Narratively that also makes sense.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, it's like, what did I practice?

Erika Ishii

Yeah, I did that for when we were doing Vampire the Masquerade, where I had this completely different idea of how I wanted to spec my character later, but then I was like, "Well, I do this the most often—"

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

"—so I guess I'd better just put it into there," and then realized, "Oh, I was specializing myself, and it narratively made sense."

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yep. Yeah yeah yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Fun fact, I forgot to level up when I was playing Vampire.

Erika Ishii

[Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

That first season I was like, "Wait, XP? Oh shit!"

Erika Ishii

Yeah, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Whoops.

Erika Ishii

Whoops. Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Have you played Vampire the Masquerade, Pace?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

No! I have not. Bobby's talked about it before—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

—but I, uh—he's a big fan.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Sorry, Robert De Niro plays a lot of Vampire the Masquerade?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Oh, he's a big fan!

Aabria Iyengar

Loves v5.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Bobby's all about v5. [Laughing] Bobby's always trying to get me to play—

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

He's always like, Jared, Leo—

Erika Ishii

[Groan]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Pace, come through.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I saw there was that—they did a season of New York by Night that never got released, where he played that Malkavian who kept saying, "You talkin' to me, you talkin to me?"

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yes, yes! Exactly!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, for sure, yeah yeah yeah, absolutely.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
Jared Leto insisted—I heard that. He insisted on being Tremere?

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
But that, like, he just kept doing absolutely unhinged things that, it's like, you can't do that.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Yeah, exactly.

Erika Ishii
That breaks the Masquerade.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Exactly, so we just kind of—we fell apart pretty quickly.

Aabria Iyengar
I'm sorry about that.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
So now we just do kind of Eyes Wide Shut type things.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
You know.

Aabria Iyengar
Okay. That's a different—but, cool.

Erika Ishii
Now, I—is that a One Sheet ruleset, or—

Aabria Iyengar
No, I think he means the real thing. I think he means he goes places, and—

Erika Ishii
Is that like One Sheet Ruleset?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yeah. All the rules fit on one piece of paper, yeah.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

A business card tucked beneath or betwixt the bosom of a woman in a mask.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

This next question comes to us from—

[Aabria and Erika cackle]

Aabria Iyengar

All right, Brennan. Who let Brennan run this?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

This next question comes to us from Jennifer Prickett! Thank you, Jennifer. Jennifer asks.

Jennifer—[laughing]

Aabria Iyengar

Got him again!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

There it is.

Erika Ishii

[Cackle]

Aabria Iyengar

I just love it! I just love it, there's something—everyone by the Fireside, you are all so funny and cool and just—

Erika Ishii

Brennan is a lot—okay, I want to just say, Brennan is a lot nicer as a host than I am.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Hey—

Erika Ishii

The niceties up top, the thanks, and the—

Aabria Iyengar

He does thank a lot.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

What I love is, the form that was created to submit these questions has a little drop down to select, like, what's the topic? Are you asking a question about the Wizard, the Witch, and the Wild One? Are you asking a question about Cram Daniel, or about A County Affair? And so Jennifer selected A County Affair, parentheses, (No Loose Ends) and then in the body of text, Jennifer's question begins with A County Affair; semicolon—so they have—

Erika Ishii

They don't know what shows up on an excel sheet!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Correct. Correct. They don't. But I do just love the called shot of—because the way the question—I'm going to do another line read.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Flat, or is this with some sauce?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's the—this is—

Erika Ishii

Just give us an A, a B, a C. I'll stop if you need direction.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Because if you were doing this verbally, this is the—when you write it out, it's the verbal equivalent of like a newscaster going, "A County Affair; how did everyone choose which animals they wanted to play as? Were there any other animal choices you almost went with?" Now that's a great, awesome question, but it's just very funny to write out the newscast—it'd be like you're talking to someone and you're like, "The Royal Wedding; how did you decide—"

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You know it's like you say the topic out loud.

Aabria Iyengar

Do you not do that? I title most of my conversations.

Erika Ishii

Yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Laugh, chokes] Well, I guess you do do it, but it's just I've never seen it written?

Erika Ishii

[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's like, a waiter comes up and you're like, "So, the Specials; what is it that you're offering—"

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Erika Ishii

Yeah, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You do your subject heading, I just haven't seen it written, because again, there's no world, with the drop down menu, where we wouldn't know what the topic was? So I just—I love—it's just—I hope I'm not investigating these too much.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

I feel like we're asking for a future in which the grammar in our questions is INSANE.

Erika Ishii

[Cackle]

Aabria Iyengar

I was just about to say!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Like this is about to begin a thing of people being like—

Aabria Iyengar

Like, MLA—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yes, exactly.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah—

Erika Ishii
Citation—

Aabria Iyengar
Chicago fucking format.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Date. Last name.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Everybody better look up the difference between a dash and a hyphen, yeah.

Erika Ishii
Do you italicize or underline?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Just full paren—

Aabria Iyengar
Parenthetical, but I don't remember if the comma goes inside or outside the things.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I'm sure that she probably was just, knowing there were multiple topics—

Erika Ishii
Yes, yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
—just wanted to make it very clear.

Erika Ishii
So what was the question?

Aabria Iyengar
[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Question from Jennifer.

Aabria Iyengar
Animals.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Thank you, Jennifer. "A County Affair; how did everyone choose which animals they wanted to play as? Were there any animal choices you almost went with?"

Aabria Iyengar

Oooh.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

I tried really hard to be a human. But Erika wasn't about it.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Erika Ishii

Noooo.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Damn.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

I kept saying, let me be A Guy.

Erika Ishii

But—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Crying laughing] Wait. Wait.

Erika Ishii

—he did make a compelling argument that—

Aabria Iyengar

Wait, did you actually?? I thought this was a bit.

Erika Ishii

—humans are part of the animal kingdom.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yeah. Let me be a naked guy.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Laugh] No no. Wait a minute. You want to be a naked guy, like you're—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah! It Got Worse.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
—one of the farm animals?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
[Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar
It got worse!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
So there's the farmers—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Walking around on all four—truly horror film shit, you know?

Erika Ishii
That's some folk horror.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh my god, we're coming back. We're coming back and doing the A24 redux.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Exactly.

Erika Ishii
[Cackle]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
It's like being John Malkovich where one of the cows is John Malkovich—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
— and you're just seeing him run around out there in the field.

Aabria Iyengar
Yes.

Erika Ishii
Oh my god...

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Exactly. Having to roll for Speak English.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laugh]

Erika Ishii
It's like northern Norwegian film Lamb.

Aabria Iyengar
Yep!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Yes. I'm on my Lamb shit. No I think I was—

Erika Ishii
[Shrieking laugh]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
—I was pretty sure I was going to play a horse. I feel like I, maybe, had a second animal, but I was trying to think of fun heist animals. Animals that have a role in a heist. And I think I landed on a horse because I like the idea of the world in which the horse was also the getaway vehicle.

Erika Ishii
[Laughing] Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
That people could get on the horse, and it would be the getaway driver AND the car.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
That's very good.

Erika Ishii
I think Aabria came up with goat first, when I sent out the email—

Aabria Iyengar
Yes.

Erika Ishii
—Aabria was like a little baby black goat.

Aabria Iyengar
Be a little guy.

Erika Ishii

Be a little guy, but then—

Aabria Iyengar

Goats are my favorite normal animal.

Erika Ishii

And then it wasn't until I think we showed up on the day, and you're like, "I'm Philip, and I'm magic!"

Aabria Iyengar

And you were like, no!

Erika Ishii

"Now wait a minute. Now, wait a minute!"

Aabria Iyengar

I went, great. Don't worry about it. Just roll the tape. I'm sure it will be normal.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Just roll the tape.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I don't think I had any other—I think Ruthie was my first concept, right? Did I pitch any other animals to you?

Erika Ishii

I think. And you were the last person to reply, I think it might have been day of or something, where you're like, oh, yeah, I'm going to be a little chicken.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'm gonna be a little chicken.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The only other thought I had, was to be a rat.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh!

Erika Ishii

Oh god yeah, because like, Templeton, ya know.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Templeton!

Aabria Iyengar
My backup would have been being one of the geese, like those silly geese? And would have been like, the face that's just like, I'm a Silly Goose in the corner!

Erika Ishii
Oh my god Silly Goose!!

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
What are you guys talking about?

Aabria Iyengar
In a little, like, bonnet?

Erika Ishii
[Shriek]

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, sorry, no, it's not from Charlotte's Web, the Silly Geese are from—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Aristocats.

Aabria Iyengar
—Aristocats, yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Okay.

Erika Ishii
And they [musical noises]

Aabria Iyengar
There's these very silly geese. [Joins in the musical noises] Yeah!

Erika Ishii
Yeah! They're so cute.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah. Just some silly geese in a bonnet.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
That's great. Man, Aristocats.

Aabria Iyengar
That's really good.

Erika Ishii
Yeah!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
A classic.

Aabria Iyengar
You know what? Thomas O'Malley. Big Eursulon Energy.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Mm!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Okay! Okay!

Erika Ishii
Yeah. That O'Malley cat.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Phil Harris, the voice actor, also, of Baloo and Little John!

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
Yep. Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And Little John, the bear from Robin Hood, and that was one of the songs on the Fox Playlist.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah! Oo De Lally!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Wow, look at that trickle down. How about it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Just connections, just connections, you know?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
In the Aristocats? He's like a player, right?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Oh yeah.

Erika Ishii
Oh yeah, he's an alley cat.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Like, he like, gets around, and then is like, "alright, let me—let me get my shit together for this one beautiful cat?"

Aabria Iyengar
Yes.

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
It's Thomas O'Malley and then Zsa Zsa Gabor—or is it Eva Gabor, or Zsa—

Aabria Iyengar
Eva.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
It's Eva Gabor, is Duchess, is the mom, and it's this—there's a powerful sexual, kind of—

Aabria Iyengar
It's fun that Disney went there!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
I feel like it was my favorite movie as a kid, and I, like—even now, I haven't watched it in years, but when I think about it, I'm like, these cats be fuckin'!

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Like, it's really—this motherfucker is like, "Ey, what's up? Lil ma. Lil ma. Let me holler at you!"

Aabria Iyengar
[Claps] Yes!

Erika Ishii

Like, people—in Disney, and all the things that it owns now—people used to fuck!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yes.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

But now nobody has FUCK energy!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Lady and the Tramp: romance.

Erika Ishii

They have a fade to—

Aabria Iyengar

Fuckin', Aristocats? Be FUCKIN'.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, no! Lady and the Tramp, first fade to black!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You can tell—

Aabria Iyengar

Lady and the Tramp, there's a whole song about how big of a slut the Tramp is.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Wooo!

Aabria Iyengar

It's a dope song!

Erika Ishii

And then she's like, "Hey, who's Mitzi?!" Or whatever!

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Yeah! Damn. Got that dog in him.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

There's literally a scene—it's funny because it's never verbalized, because it's a movie for kids, but it is clear as crystal, bright as day, that when the kids show up, you watch Thomas O'Malley's face in the movie where he's like, "Well, I'm not going to be able to easily fuck this woman anymore!"

Erika Ishii

Yeah, yeah!

Aabria Iyengar

Truly!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's very—it's a wild thing where you're like and this is a cartoon for children!

Aabria Iyengar

For children!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And he's like, a good guy, he wants to help the kids, but you watch his whole energy shift, as he's like, "Oh, I really thought I had just found a hot cat, and we were about to get busy here in these bushes."

Erika Ishii

Yeah. He was like, "Hey, baby," and then, yeah, I remember, then she's like "And these are my children," he's like, "Ohhh!"

Aabria Iyengar

"Oh that's so great!"

Erika Ishii

But, oh my god. Yeah, this all brings back. He was an early version of the "scoundrel that you can change."

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Oh no.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Hell yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Look, shout out to—oh god, what was the name of the barmaid that was absolutely in love with Eursulon at the very beginning?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Oh.

Erika Ishii
Ohhh! Rosalind!

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah. Rosalind was—

Erika Ishii
Justice!

Aabria Iyengar
—I could—yeah, justice for Rosalind.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
She's going to come back, right?

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughing] Hold on, we're in a different game.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Oh, sorry.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
No, but that's—

Erika Ishii
[Cackle]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Yeah, we should talk about the Ferris wheel, and—

Erika Ishii
Oh, well Ruthie fucked.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Oh! Ruthie fucked a lot of people.

Aabria Iyengar
Yo! Ruthie's rizz is TRULY hilarious.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Oh, yeah. That's great. The chicken got real sexual, very quickly.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah, let me be clear, Philip was ready to risk it all.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Didn't she say that she was going to fuck her husband on the pumpkin?

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

I believe so.

Erika Ishii

On top of the pumpkin.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

There's like a—you have it with the pig, you have it with Philip, and then you have it with your ex husband.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Damn

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Well, that's a wild—

Erika Ishii

[Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Alright Brennan.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

What's up? What's up, Brennan?

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

What are you going to say about this chicken who fucks everybody?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's this very funny thing that, I think people look at older people characters, and you just forget that like, they have a whole life behind—every little grandma and Grandpa out there you desex—the elderly are desexualized in a way that is ahistorical.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh] Sure.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You know what I'm saying?

Erika Ishii

Yeah! When it's—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

If anyone wants to support, Brennan's starting a GoFundmMe to sexualize—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Re-sexualize the elderly! I want you to run through the nursing home, grabbing people's hands and saying, "I see you—"

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

"—and I know that you were fuckin' back in the day."

Erika Ishii

I mean, no, no—

Aabria Iyengar

They're fucking each other.

Erika Ishii

—nursing homes actually have a high incidence of STDs!

Aabria Iyengar

[In unison] STDs!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I think—

Erika Ishii
Because they're all fuckin'—

Aabria Iyengar
They're not gettin' pregnant, let's go!

Erika Ishii
Yeah, they're not—they're all post menopausal, and like, they're like, I got—

Aabria Iyengar
I'm gonna shoot up the club with this fuckin' Nerf Gun of cum I have.

Erika Ishii
Yeah!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Hold on, Aabria. Just say that one more time.

Aabria Iyengar
No I absolutely will not.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Just say that one more time.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
[Wheezing laughter]

Aabria Iyengar
I absolutely—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Honestly, let me get it one more time. "I'm gonna shoot up the club, with this" what?!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Nerf Gun?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Of cum?

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Okay.

Aabria Iyengar
Because it—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
I'm gonna shoot up the club with this Nerf Gun of cum. I'm gonna run through the nursing home—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Truly you can—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
—and I'm gonna shoot up the club with this Nerf Gun. Of cum.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Go to any Broadway audition, and you will hear people doing that vocal warm up.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
[Rhythmically] I am going to shoot up the club with a Nerf Gun full of cum.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
[Staccato] Shoot up the club with a Nerf Gun of cum. Shoot up the club with a Nerf Gun of cum.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
[Staccato, in unison.] Shoot up the club with a Nerf Gun of cum.

Aabria Iyengar
[Staccato, in unison.] Shoot up the club with a Nerf Gun of cum. [Laugh] I'm in hell. But I did it!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Do we have the widest split of the tone of our shows versus our Fireside?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
This is unbelievable.

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
Yes.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
We killed a bunch of people with a fucking Ferris wheel in this episode.

Erika Ishii
Aw, Fergie, yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
And of course—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
We're being tonally consistent, because this is the type of—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Yes, that's what I think—I think it's that we're right on with the show.

Erika Ishii
I think it might be that because we don't have this energy for Wizard, Witch, and the Wild One, even when we're in the same room together.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Yeah, well, because old people don't be fuckin', ya know?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
That's true!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
In this show, old people be fuckin'.

Aabria Iyengar
Yes.

Erika Ishii
Yeah. See and that's the thing, I think, that I really enjoy about creating our own content. Hey, if you're listening to us, you're helping us make content that fucks.

Aabria Iyengar
This is on you.

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

This nonsense was brought to us by viewers like you.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That is a very interesting thing, though, I feel like in actual play and storytelling more broadly—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Not enough Nerf Guns full of cum?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah. Honestly? And, well—

Erika Ishii

Everyone is hot and horny, but nobody FUCKS.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

We've talked about this a lot.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Where there—I feel like at some point the internet had some kind of impact on storytelling and media, where things got really horny? While also being desexualized—

Aabria Iyengar

Puritanic?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Puritanic—like—

Erika Ishii

There's a couple of reasons that that is. Well, number one is, the large media corporations wanted everything to be very safe for the most amount of people, and so they have removed it a lot, like, you see, I talked about it in Marvel and Star Wars and all that, like nobody fucks in that, right? But then also, yeah, there is this puritanical culture, too? Coming out of even sort of leftists and sort of really progressive circles. There's this feeling that sex, for younger people, younger people are saying sex is not cool—sex is not good. Sex is amoral for things because—it's a whole thing.

Erika Ishii

It's a whole thing that's happening on Tumblr, I read a really good article about it, about like, how the fandom wars, and the shipping, and then a lot of—especially a couple of years back, there were call outs, like a lot of artists that were making lewd content, got sort of hounded off of Twitter and Tumblr by people who were supposedly progressive.

Aabria Iyengar
That's interesting.

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh my god.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah, there's a—

Erika Ishii
There's a lot of internalized—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Well, I think that there's probably, there's a larger trend, I think, especially in spaces that are dedicated to pursuing ethics, either through—pursuing political, ethical, social objectives and aims, that has—and we've talked a little bit about this before, I feel like on Fireside chats. But specifically, there's that concept of the vanguard, of like, when you have an ideology that you're promoting, it's always the best thing to advance your cause by staking out—I had an old professor that talked about this—by the time you're defending the core of your philosophy, you've ceded a really dangerous amount of ground.

Aabria Iyengar
Mhm.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Like it's the Overton window. If you're defending the very core of your philosophy, you're in extreme jeopardy. You're close to being culturally checkmated. So weirdly, you know, you go online and you see, you find an argument like a wild, hot take on Twitter and you're like, "Wow, that person's way out there!" What's actually happening is that sort of—you know I don't know the actual term for it, this is like beyond what I've read back in the day— but I heard a term for it which it's the vanguard. You're as far away from your "capital city" of your philosophy.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You're out on the frontier of whatever ideology you're trying to promote. And so those hot takes are actually the most kind of forward defense line for the thing you're actually trying to defend. So there's an interesting thing, I think, that happens, where if you're trying to—when you're like, "Oh, people don't want—people understand that exploitation is a thing." So they're like, "Well, it's really hard to defend against exploitation. Let's get rid of sex scenes."

Aabria Iyengar
Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you go, like. You understand what the moral impulse is, and I think that what the Internet has done is it's created a lot of vanguards. It's created a lot of places where people don't want to fight where their heart is, so they go to the farthest point of the ideological spectrum, to keep it as safe as possible.

Erika Ishii

And also the tech companies have built social media platforms, and the way we communicate, into you get engagement if people disagree with you, or if it's like—if it is, hot takes get clicks and likes and rally people around. And so you're incentivized to have those hot takes, so that it can reach the most people, and you feel like you have a larger community, and people are going back to your "capital city" and being like "yeah!"

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, yeah yeah yeah. Absolutely.

Erika Ishii

And so I totally understand that. It's funny, because I don't really have as much of a philosophy background, I come from mass media communications, and also just from—Aabria and I have been in these streets.

Aabria Iyengar

[Hardcore] These streets...

Erika Ishii

Back in the day when they were Harry Potter fan fiction forums.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes. [Laugh]

Erika Ishii

And so yeah, it's been interesting to see the evolution of that, where I think our generation—I don't even want to break it down generation wise. There's just different people with different levels of online-ness?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. And like, cohorts.

Erika Ishii

And different levels of life experience—yeah—of people that were exploring sexuality in ways—and the thing that you can totally tease people about in sort of OUR cohort is like, you didn't know how sex worked—

Aabria Iyengar

Yep!

Erika Ishii

—but damn it if you didn't do your darndest to describe it in vivid detail.

Aabria Iyengar

God, I—it is a stated known fact that I had a purity ring till 23, so V card wasn't dropped for a very long time. And all of the smut I wrote was before that, so—

Erika Ishii
Right? Yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Was it true like, 40 Year Old Virgin, like, bags of sand level description of like—

Erika Ishii
Oh, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
Where it's like—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
I'm sorry, what?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
That's the joke in 40 Year Old Virgin, is he's at the poker table, and someone's like—he's talking about touching breasts, and he's like, "Oh, I love touching breasts. Like a big bag of sand."

Erika Ishii
And they go, "What? A bag of sand?"

Brennan Lee Mulligan
"A bag of sand?"

Erika Ishii
"Wait, have you ever touched a boob?" And he's like, "Yeah, I've touched boob!"

Aabria Iyengar
[Laugh]

Erika Ishii
And it's like that, where it was like, "That's not where a wand would feel good."

Aabria Iyengar
Dog, yeah. But we were all purple monkey dishwashing off of like, another virgin that wrote something.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Wait, what's that reference?

Aabria Iyengar
The Simpsons—

Erika Ishii
Telephone.

Aabria Iyengar
—playing telephone. And you're like a whisper goes through a crowd—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
But what's a purple monkey dishwasher?

Aabria Iyengar
It's a whisper that began at the back of a crowd, got to the front of the crowd, and was like, "Something's happening. Also, purple monkey dishwasher!" Because it's always getting things added.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Got it.

Erika Ishii
It's a Simpsons joke. Yeah and—I don't know, I feel very strongly about storytelling encompassing all of the parts of the human experience—

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah!

Erika Ishii
—that we want to share and highlight, and it can be messy, and that's one thing I REALLY love about this show, too. Both A County Affair, and Wizard, Witch, Wild One, just like, all the stuff we do, is that we're allowed to be a lot messier than people who are trying to make something for a public consumption, or to have the widest possible audience.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
In some ways, there are some things that we don't want to say, or do, or some things that we wouldn't even have the desire to talk about or share. But like, on the whole, we are telling this story for each other?

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah. And if I want Ruthie to feel like a real and whole person, then, yeah, she's got to talk about wanting to fuck in or on a pumpkin.

Erika Ishii
She fucks, yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, I think it's one of those. This is a very interesting thing, because I think there are more rules and discussions around romance, affection, sexuality, in role playing games than violence by an order of magnitude.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh my god, yes.

Erika Ishii

[In unison] Oh my god, yes.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And it's very interesting to me because I think I've seen some of the discussion online—and I want to be very clear that like, I have no judgment to anyone's vantage point on this discussion. I think it's whatever your tastes are, I Hope you find the art and stories that speak to you.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Also it—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

A million percent. But what's interesting is, there are some people that will make the argument that they're like, "Well, sex scenes don't add anything to the plot or, like, I don't know what sex is doing in this story." And I'll always go like, "Well, I guess fair. But you could say that about 80% of fight scenes" that are, like, you could cut to the end, like, we're going to watch a fight for 20 minutes, and then someone will be dead or not. Or car chases or whatever.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

There's an element of, if the point of a story is to say things about life, this is a pretty huge section of life to leave out, and like, perhaps the story you're telling doesn't warrant it. Maybe you're doing like, a rom—I don't expect every romantic comedy to meditate on the nature of violence, you know, like—

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

it's like, you can leave elements of life out of a story based on genre, but it's just interesting to me that people would really pointedly say "THIS sphere of life and of being a human being doesn't matter and is not interesting to me—"

Erika Ishii

Or is immoral, is the thing that really gets me. It's like, we all agree, people have sex, yes?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I—yeah.

Erika Ishii

Good.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Or not—you know—

Aabria Iyengar

Most.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, not everybody.

Erika Ishii

Or, yeah—well—I said people, not all people. But we agree that sex is a thing that exists, and happens, and was in the human spectrum of experience. But we don't like, even in contexts in which, like this is an adult, this is not necessarily for kids, where we can talk about it, but we don't, and it is seen—it is sort of like finger wagged at?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah. It's just one of those—I think it's an interesting thing where it's like—it would never occur to me to silo that element of experiences, where it's like—in terms of romance and sexuality and flirtation—it's like, it feels good to roleplay being scared.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It feels good to roleplay having an evil enemy. It feels good to roleplay having a friend. Feels good to roleplay exploring a cool thing and figuring out a puzzle. And I just don't—it would never occur to me to take that slice and go, this is wholly different—like, this is more different from being afraid or being angry or being happy. And it's like, no, they're all equally different from each other. It's like taking that slice of the pie out, it would not occur to me that that was, like, an intuitive thing to do.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

We did this so that we could warm you guys up for what's coming in Arc 2 of The Wizard, the Witch, and the Wild One.

[Aabria and Brennan laugh]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

We just want everyone to be ready.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Erika Ishii

Yeah!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

When Brennan just starts—When all the zipper noises, we've planned.

Aabria Iyengar

Taylor, more zippers, and louder.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Exactly, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, it's—

Erika Ishii

Do they have zippers in the citadel? They gotta.

Aabria Iyengar

Bro. Do we have zippers?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

God, do you have zippers? We know that we have buttons and clasps.

Erika Ishii

It was something like 1910s? 1920s? 18, 18, late 18 hundreds, early 19?

Aabria Iyengar

Everyone pick exactly one date.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

I think it was January.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, shit.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
14th.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
1904.

Aabria Iyengar
Okay, okay! I'm going to go. October 16, 1870... 9.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
1879.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
January 14, '01. Or I think I said '03.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
1903.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
1903.

Erika Ishii
I'm going to say it's August 14, 1911.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Can I throw one more out there just for fun?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
750 BC.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Are we doing closest, or closest without going over?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
I think just closest.

Aabria Iyengar
Just closest.

Erika Ishii
Closest.

Aabria Iyengar
Wait, what's yours? Oh, no, you looked it up. [Laugh]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Brennan, what's yours.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Am I allowed to—am I allowed to guess?

Erika Ishii
What would it have been?

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah! Guess!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Knowing the—I guess your guess is the answer.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You just let me know if I'm allowed.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
You're not allowed to guess.

Aabria Iyengar
You're allowed—ope! Okay!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Okay, we have one for not allowed, one for allowed

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Now we're voting?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah. Erika, am I allowed or not allowed?

Erika Ishii
Allowed, allowed.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Okay. Two allowed, alloweds have it—

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Taylor, Taylor! Quick! Taylor!

Taylor Moore
[Distantly] Allowed!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
FUCK!!

[Aabria and Erika cackle]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Alright three alloweds to one not allowed, the alloweds have it. My guess is 1851 I win.

Aabria Iyengar
Yay!

[Clapping]

Erika Ishii
Ahh, nice, nice.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
[Hoarse screaming] I fucking win!! I FUCKIN' WIN!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
You fool. What have you done, what have you done?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I fucking win dude YES!! YES!!!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
You've created a monster!

Aabria Iyengar
[Matter of factly] This was a mistake.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
You all have to understand, the MC Escher Hills. They're spinning faster and faster.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

We've seen the Jeep go by the window three times, and it is exponentially—it is fucking flying.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

I don't know HOW I'm going to jump back in there.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Reading from the Wikipedia Page for Zipper] "In 1851, Elias Howe received a patent for an "Improvement in Fastenings for Garments". He did not try seriously to market it, thus missing the recognition that he might otherwise have received. Howe's device was more like an elaborate drawstring, than a true slide fastener. 42 years later, in 1893, Whitcomb L. Judson, who invented a pneumatic street railway, patented a "Shoe-Fastening". The device served as a (more complicated) hook-and-eye shoe fastener."

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Hook-and-eye. It is funny to think—

Erika Ishii

Whitcomb what?!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

There's just a full time in our history where people—their main job is inventor?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

They just sit in a room all day and just go, "How can we do better?" And it's just one guy. It's one man. It's not like a company with a department. It's like one dude in New Jersey just going, "How about this?"

Erika Ishii

It's because things sucked, and you could literally improve upon EVERYTHING.

Aabria Iyengar

Bro. The best flavor of a treat was licorice.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

[Wavering panic] Ahh! Ahh!

Aabria Iyengar

You can only move up if that's your candy flavor.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Reading Wikipedia] "The popular North American term zipper . . . came from the B.F. Goodrich Company in 1923."

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, nice.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

God, another thing to thank B.F. Goodrich for.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Today's podcast has been brought to you by the B.F. Goodrich Company. Goodrich! The first name in naming things that are on clothes.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. There was nothing to follow that with.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

They also came up with toggle, button, clasp, and brooch!

Aabria Iyengar

Wait, seriously?!

Erika Ishii

WHAT!?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

B.F. Goodrich came up with all those—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

No, I made that up, that's not true.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Oh my god.

Aabria Iyengar

GOD DAMMIT!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Dude!

Aabria Iyengar

[Betrayed] I trust you so MUCH.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

If they came up with the word "toggle?" Respect, dude.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Button?

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Who came up with—

Aabria Iyengar
They're like, no one thought of the word button. But I also believe everyone in the past is an absolute dullard, so—

Erika Ishii
Right, it's true, it's true.

Aabria Iyengar
—that speaks to me.

Erika Ishii
I feel like before that, when they're writing scripts, they were like, "Hey, put a little round thing at the end of that."

[Aabria and Erika chuckle]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Wow. [Paraphrasing Wikipedia] The Indus Valley Civilization are credited with the invention of the button. The earliest one we have in existence today dates from around 2000 Before Common Era.

Aabria Iyengar
Aw, nice!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Mm, mm, mm. Well, we've reached the part of the podcast where—

Aabria Iyengar
I was just thinking—[laugh]

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
—we just kind of list facts.

Aabria Iyengar
Brennan's GOTTA get off Wikipedia.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Does that mean we're close to the end?

Aabria Iyengar
No, we've talked about not any of this very good—

Erika Ishii

Not even a little bit.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Paraphrasing Wikipedia] Different styles of attachment: Flat or sew-through. Shank buttons. Stud buttons. Snap fasteners, toggles, and magnetic buttons!

Erika Ishii

Anxious.

Aabria Iyengar

I have a question, do you think the inventor in the Indus Valley that made buttons was like, "Someday there will be a woman, beautiful, talented, and she will sing a song about exactly this, her and her fellow Pussycat Dolls."

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Mmm. About pushing said buttons up?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Loosening up, actually.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Oh, yeah.

Erika Ishii

Huh.

Aabria Iyengar

Which you can't really loosen. So I don't understand the chorus of that song.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

The lyrics are "loosen up my buttons, babe?"

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Wow. I have my entire life thought it was "pushing up my buttons, babe. (Uh-huh)." Now, I've never—

Erika Ishii

That's called a mondegreen!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yeah, I've never once thought to examine why, or what it would mean, to push up one's buttons but—

Aabria Iyengar

But you—like, the phrase push button, makes sense.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Yes. Sexual buttons.

Aabria Iyengar

Y-yeah.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

You're pushing up her sexual buttons, babe.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

[Laughing] Just like you're eating out from the inside.

Aabria Iyengar

[To the tune of "Closer" by Nine Inch Nails] I wanna eat you from the inside.

Erika Ishii

[Cackle]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Reading Wikipedia] "A mondegreen is a mishearing—"

Aabria Iyengar

[Screaming] Brennan!!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Wheezing laughter] "—or misinterpretation of a phrase—"

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Get this man—

Taylor Moore

[Yells something]

Erika Ishii

That's what I just said!

Aabria Iyengar

Lady Mondegreen!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

I think Taylor—did Taylor just scream, "wrap it up?"

Taylor Moore

[Distantly] No, that's a great out!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Okay!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Oh, "that's a great out."

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Great! Let's end it there! That's all for this episode of Fireside Chat. I'm your host, Brennan Lee Mulligan.

Saying goodbye, farewell, ahoohoo, crackle crackle. Aabria Iyengar.

Aabria Iyengar

[Caught off guard] Uh—man—pigs are the closest to man flesh, crackle crackle ahoohoo.

Erika Ishii

[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Erika Ishii, our wonderful GM?

Erika Ishii

Buh-GLOCK!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And, Pace Gilligan!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Alright, I'm gonna try and time the jump.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

[Psyching up] Okay, here we go.

Erika Ishii

Alright.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)

Alright.

Aabria Iyengar
You got this. You got this!

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
[Under his breath] Two.

Aabria Iyengar
Yep. Yep.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Three. Alright. [Grunt as he jumps.] Oof. AUGH! [A thud followed by agonized screaming]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Oh Jesus! Oh Jesus!!

[Everyone screams in panic. The synth drum from "Closer" by Nine Inch Nails starts.]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Okay. Okay. Everyone run up the hill we'll catch him on the way down.

Pace Gilligan (Lou)
Help! Help, I'm rolling!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Oh my god, he's up that staircase.

Aabria Iyengar
We should call someone!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Which side of the staircase is he on??

Aabria Iyengar
Should we call someone? [Furtively] Should we not call someone?

Erika Ishii
Someone cut the feed!!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Alright I'm on—I'm on the phone. There's a private ambulance service in The Mountains, hopefully Jared Leto or Robert De Niro, somebody—

Aabria Iyengar
Bobby never picks up!

[The drums from "Closer" stop.]

Robert De Niro (Brennan)

[Answering machine] Hello, this is Bobby De Niro.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, no!

Robert De Niro (Brennan)

I'm playing my Tremere warlock. I'll be in this session for another 3 hours. Could you milk me, Greg?

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

[The second pre-chorus and chorus from "Closer" by Nine Inch Nails plays and then fades out.]