

Worlds Beyond Number

Fireside Chat: Episode 18 - Between the Lines

Draft

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

Erika Ishii

Hello everybody, and welcome to the Fireside Chat. I'm your host, Erika Ishii, and I'm here with Aabria Iyengar.

Aabria Iyengar

Ahoohoo. Crackle, crackle. G'day.

Erika Ishii

Good day. Unfortunately, we are once again missing both Lou and Brennan, but we brought in a ringer.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Lou Wilson

Hey, it's—I'm back. It's Craig Sumgee.

Aabria Iyengar

Yay!

Erika Ishii

Craig!

Lou Wilson

Good to see you guys. What's up?

Erika Ishii

Thank you.

Lou Wilson

I took another night off of working at the Met to come in. [Laughs] To talk about my favorite podcast in the goddamn world.

Erika Ishii

Aw!

Aabria Iyengar

It's so nice of you to have flown in for this. It's lovely.

Lou Wilson

Hey. You guys are worth it.

Aabria Iyengar

And you came prepared, I'm assuming?

Lou Wilson

If you guys want to play a little bit more bag-it-or-tag-it at the end of the ep, you let me know.

Erika Ishii
We do.

Aabria Iyengar
Delightful!

Erika Ishii
We very, very much do.

Lou Wilson
Let me tell you, I can generate. I can generate.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughs] That's what they say about Craig.

Lou Wilson
What's up? Count on Craig to generate.

Erika Ishii
Well, in addition to our little minigame that we shall have at the end, we are also talking about episode 18, Between the Lines, in which Suvi is dealing with the aftermath of finding out her sweetie is going to war.

And there's a moving day, and we meet the cutest little ink bottle goblins in the world.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, my little demons.

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
They're so cute.

Lou Wilson
It's—It's fascinating to do a campaign that has, like, not like—you can't call it, like, downtime, but it's, like, just kind of life stuff. And it's so dynamic, the kind of like, “Well, these are just parts of life for your character.” But they're so extraordinary and exciting, and each one feels like turning a corner in a magical bookshop, and you're like, “Wait, they have those?”

But it's all just like, we just moved you in. But part of that means that an ink demon comes out and writes, you know, cock-ass or whatever on the side of a tower.

[Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii
Listen, I love Vandal so much, and his friendship with Ame is my favorite thing. My favorite, favorite thing. I love him, and I love coming up with—you get to see Ame being a little bit of a demon herself, and you're like, “Oh, this is what she'd be doing if she wasn't on a quest. She'd be coming up with new cusses with some little spirit.”

Aabria Iyengar
A hundred percent.

Erika Ishii

[Laughs] Oh, what a life.

Aabria Iyengar

Ame generates cusses. It's very good.

Lou Wilson

It was funny how clean and confident Ame was in cussing. Like, I realized as Eursulon, I was like, I don't know, a lot—like, I just said the one I'd heard back to him.

Erika Ishii

That's true! Shitass!

Lou Wilson

It's like, Eursulon isn't a vulgar person, and Ame's out here just like... Both me and... Eursulon and me, Craig, listening, were just like, "Holy shit."

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

Truly same. In that moment, like, even Suvi was like, "I've got nothing for Vandal."

Lou Wilson

Exactly, I'm like—

Aabria Iyengar

I know so many words, and they're not profane.

Erika Ishii

[Bursts into guffaws] See, that's the kind of learning that you do on the streets.

Aabria Iyengar

Ah, it's so good.

Erika Ishii

The streets of a calm, I suppose, is what that is.

Aabria Iyengar

I mean, speaking of which, we did deal with, like, the beginning of Ame feeling that urge, that pull, back to the streets where she belongs.

Lou Wilson

Mm...

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Aw.

Lou Wilson

Lil' fox asking, "What are we doing here?"

Erika Ishii

He literally said, "I need to touch grass, and so do you." [Aabria laughs] And it's—ah, man, it's so funny because this is truly the first time that Ame is—we see Ame kind of getting to relax and kind of not pay attention to her duties and put others first, because she's having a great time in the Citadel.

And, yeah, of course, now it's like, in the episode in which we meet the little ice fairies. There are, of course, terrifying consequences for the couple of days she spends having fun for the first time. Oh, Ame.

Lou Wilson

But it feels so fitting, right, that you're just like—you wake up and have all of these visions of the shit you have to take care of, and someone's like, "Well, what if we went to a carnival, ate clams, and moved your friend into a big tower?" And you're like, "I'll get to it! I'll get to it. Relax. I know there are people I'm supposed to say hi to here. I'll get to it."

And, of course, the consequences are, you know, enormous.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. I'm sure it'll be fine. We're still waiting on the message from [crosstalk] Indri, the Witch of the Wind and Stars. It'll be...

Aabria Iyengar

Again, she seems lovely.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, that must be—must be nice.

Lou Wilson

We're all, like, 90 percent sure that Silver's already dead, right?

Aabria Iyengar

Okay. Okay.

Lou Wilson

Silver is already gone.

Aabria Iyengar

We can't do this.

Lou Wilson

I mean, you rolled that nat one.

Erika Ishii

It's true. Oh shit.

Lou Wilson

You rolled that nat one and then [crosstalk]. It just straight into the...

Aabria Iyengar

That... I... It hurts hearing how much I have been fucked by my dice.

Lou Wilson

It's great. In this episode, it was funny. You have all these beautiful emotional moments, and it's just like, dice don't want to play.

Aabria Iyengar

Nope.

Lou Wilson

They just don't want to let Suvi out. No insight checks for Suvi. No arcana checks for Suvi.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, you know.

Aabria Iyengar

Hey, when we roll poorly, what do we do? We spiral. So now Suvi's in her codependent era, like, "Does everyone want to move into my—what if we all stay together forever?"

Erika Ishii

I... That was... That broke my heart, both in the moment of playing and listening back to it, of Suvi being like, "Well, but you don't have to go. What if you just stayed here for a while? Do you want to have a little room so we can all kind of live together, be roommates?"

Lou Wilson

Oh, gosh.

Erika Ishii

And it's like, "Yes!"

Aabria Iyengar

We are all college age.

Lou Wilson

That's like one of those moments where you remember our age, is like—is your friend just being like, "What if we all live together?" [Aabria laughs] And Ame has to come in and be like, "I have responsibilities, alright? Because I know what you want. I know you want days at the Bloody Carnival, just hanging out."

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Erika Ishii

Man...

Aabria Iyengar

So good.

Erika Ishii

I mean, I want that. Mr. Racamanti.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, and we got to meet Sonder.

Erika Ishii

[Gasps] I love Sonder. Sonder, like, the most witchy house husband ever. And then [laughs] we got—we got advantage on the roll because Eursulon asks about yoga, brings up yoga.

Aabria Iyengar

That was everything. [Laughs]

Erika Ishii

Listen, you don't know the first thing about stretching.

Lou Wilson

We had to give you one, so.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs] Thank you.

Lou Wilson

But I really appreciate Brennan giving me just, like, a legitimate challenge, which, of course, is not... This man is—his whole heart is on his sleeve, but it was just, like, so fun for him to be like, “Well, what's the thing you actually say that gets him to not—to give Suvi time?”

And it's like, “Well, I ask him...” Sonder feels like the guy that you're like, “I've thought about yoga.” And he goes like, “Shirts off. Let's fucking go.”

Erika Ishii

Let's go!

Lou Wilson

Shirts off, mat's out, let's get into it.

Aabria Iyengar

Truly, like, he's the dude to like, to my core. What a guy.

Also, I have to say, it's one of my favorite things in this game, when just a buckwild NPC squares off with you, Lou—squares off with you, Craig, I'm so sorry.

Lou Wilson

No, hey, I can—I can sit in for Lou. I want this to be—you guys work so hard. I want this to be a seamless experience for you. I'll respond to Lou any day of the week.

Aabria Iyengar

You're so sweet.

Erika Ishii

Thank you.

Lou Wilson

Happily.

Erika Ishii

Thank you. I appreciate that.

Aabria Iyengar

This is why we got Craig back. He's so good.

Erika Ishii

But. But, I...

Lou Wilson

It means a lot to be the first returner in the kind of the series of cycling guests.

Erika Ishii

Well, I think we were also just very lucky, too, that you didn't go off with the rest of our guests to Panama.

Lou Wilson

Yes. Everyone else on the chartered plane to Panama.

Aabria Iyengar

Gosh.

Erika Ishii

Yeah...

Aabria Iyengar

The news has been dire.

Lou Wilson

Yes.

Aabria Iyengar

Inclement weather? Oh, gosh.

Lou Wilson

There's a lot going on.

Aabria Iyengar

There's a lot going on.

Lou Wilson

But I believe. I believe.

Aabria Iyengar

You have to keep hope.

Lou Wilson

Yes.

Aabria Iyengar

That's the most important thing. They'll find their way through it.

Lou Wilson

They will.

Erika Ishii

Oh, absolutely. Like, armed with jet skis and their charm and wit. [Aabria laughs]

Lou Wilson

They've got everything they need, you know? They are enough.

Erika Ishii

I think Adonis also is quite accomplished in terms of being an outdoorsman.

Lou Wilson

Yes, and I think he's leading because I know one of the other ones, like Richard Goose or somebody, is like, chartered the plane, but I believe Adonis Guns is leading the ground force.

Aabria Iyengar

That makes sense. I think that does track.

Erika Ishii

Oh, right.

Lou Wilson

The kind of specialized team that's meant to go into the jungle and find Brennan and Lou, and I know they will.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Spare no expense to bring our boys home.

Aabria Iyengar

Our thoughts and prayers remain for them.

Lou Wilson

Always. Always. But how about those tamori? [Laughs] Come on.

Erika Ishii

Oh! I loved the processing of the voices.

Lou Wilson

I forgot the fact that—I forgot you had a whole interaction over a kiss with a living ninth-level spell.

Erika Ishii

He's like, "Nice."

Aabria Iyengar

I was going to risk it all because I got absolutely dunked on by an upcast fireball, like...

Lou Wilson

Oh, God, yes.

Aabria Iyengar

That's so good. Oh, what do you think their deal is?

Oh, we got a lot of lore across this episode, too. So we know about the fact that these upcast tamori are new, possibly, like, prototypes that are being sent out to Fort Kieran. We have more geography for the world, too, because now we know that Fort Kieran is... Oh, I have it in my notes. Let me see, let me see if I can read my notes..

Erika Ishii

It was overrun by the shapeshifters. Gaothmai shapeshifters? Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Shambal.

Lou Wilson

Shambal...

Aabria Iyengar

The region. The region.

Erika Ishii

Oh, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Sha-blam. Yeah. But, yeah, so the great beasts were like, the vanguard, and then our little sorcerers of Gaothmai.

[Whispers] Oh, God.

Erika Ishii

[Whispers] Oh yeah.

Lou Wilson

Gotcha. It feels crazy to just be learning and just meeting things that you're like, "I feel like we might fight this one day." One day I feel like I'm going to have to come up against the stat block of all of these things. We were like, "Brennan's describing a hyena with opposable thumbs."

Erika Ishii

Oh God.

Lou Wilson

And I'm like, "Yeah, one day..."

Erika Ishii

Oh, the garran, yeah!

Lou Wilson

One day we'll have to take it to him.

Yes, garran. Eioghorain, son of garran.

Erika Ishii

Eioghorain, sorry, ah... Damn, that was...

Aabria Iyengar

So much good lore.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, that was really good. It's true. In, I think, almost any other game or TV show, this would be filler episodes of us just knocking around in the Citadel. But, like, there's just still so much lore and things move forward at such a pace

that it doesn't feel like we're relaxing. It feels like, you know, the gang is still on the adventure. They just happen to be in one spot for a while.

Aabria Iyengar

A hundred percent. It also feels very... I guess, just sort of my impression, especially going back and listening to it, it felt like this was the first episode in this arc where I was like, "Oof, the good times that we're having are starting to feel bad." Like we're becoming more aware of the world and things being put into motion and your place within all of it. I was just like, oh, this has gone from being, like, fun filler episodes, to like, it feels like procrastination in that low level anxiety way. I want to keep having fun, but the world is continuing to world.

Lou Wilson

World ain't going to stop worlding, you know.

Erika Ishii

Damn. It's true.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Because there is a balance between living your life and finding the joy where you can, and also just burying your head in the sand. And... aw.

I just wanted Ame to have a good time. I just want her to have one good time. [Aabria and Lou laugh] It's the whole gang. The whole gang goes through a lot.

Aabria Iyengar

We'll all stay together.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

It could be good.

Okay, I want to kick us off with some fan questions, and this first one's from Graham, and he has a question specifically for Erika. Alright.

If Ame had an apprentice, who would it be, and why would it be the wizard Sonder? [Erika bursts out laughing]

Erika Ishii

I mean, yeah!

Aabria Iyengar

Be specific, I want Schafer paragraphs.

Erika Ishii

Okay, so here's the thing, is that Ame would not feel that she was in a position to take on an apprentice yet, because the whole thing is, you don't want to take an apprentice too early, or they spend most of their life waiting for hundreds of years for their mentor to die. But then also, you need to take it earlier on.

Aabria Iyengar

Hold on.

Erika Ishii

So that's a point against Sonder. But that being said, I feel like just in terms of—he would totally be of the Coven of the Green, right?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, no, 100 percent. 100 percent.

Lou Wilson

Without a doubt.

Aabria Iyengar

But this raises a fun question: At what point in your apprenticeship do you get that good juice that makes you able to live hundreds of years?

Erika Ishii

Yeah, that's what I'm wondering.

Aabria Iyengar

What is the deal with witches, Erika? Why are they like that?

Erika Ishii

I don't know.

Lou Wilson

Have you gotten the juice yet?

Aabria Iyengar

Did you get the juice?

Erika Ishii

No.

Lou Wilson

Have you taken the weird, like, mushroom shot with just a shit ton of ashwagandha?

Erika Ishii

The reishi mushroom.

Lou Wilson

That just gives—your bones never dry up or something.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, it's got that lion's mane.

Lou Wilson

You know it's got that lion's mane. You know, it's got all the mushrooms. Shit. There's some oyster in there, a little button. Fuck it.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughs] A little button.

Lou Wilson
A little button.

Erika Ishii
Mushrooms rule. Mushrooms rule.

Aabria Iyengar
It's for the funk.

Erika Ishii
Man. Yeah, I think that's a good question, because the question remains. It's like people are born with aptitude for witchiness, but as Grandma Wren had said, like, wizards can become witches. Suvi could have studied to become a witch.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
So, I don't know. Is it a genetic thing? What is it? What are witches even? We don't know.

Aabria Iyengar
I think it just makes for an interesting question because Ame, once she gets that good juice and those good mushrooms in her, she will live for hundreds of years. Eursulon is a great spirit. You're, like, functionally immortal, too, also?

Lou Wilson
I think a lot of it has to do with the spirit world versus the mortal world. I do think if Eursulon had never left, there's a world in which Eursulon is still very young.

Aabria Iyengar
Wait, you would still be like, a little baby?

Lou Wilson
I think so. I think I would still be closer—I would be much closer to the age I was when I left than the age that I currently am.

Erika Ishii
Wait, what wait?

Aabria Iyengar
That's...

Erika Ishii
Wait, you would regress?

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, shoot.

Erika Ishii

Is this a Narnia deal?

Lou Wilson

No, not regress. If I had never come through and the timelines were the same, like, I guess if we're looking on a weird timeline and we're, like, this moment versus if Eursulon never left versus Eursulon leaving, I believe my appearance and body structure would be much closer to little baby Eursulon than it would be to the current kind of grown-ass man Eursulon that everyone is having to deal with.

Aabria Iyengar

Wait, so for Eursulon, is Umora the beach that makes you old?

Lou Wilson

Yeah, I'm on...

Aabria Iyengar

Like the M. Night Shyamalan movie?

Lou Wilson

Yeah, you brought me into an M. Night Shyamalan movie.

Erika Ishii

What?

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs] Oh no!

Lou Wilson

God damn you, Suvi. You gave me a bath.

Aabria Iyengar

I'm sorry!

Lou Wilson

And now I have to play alongside Diego Luna in this fucking...

Erika Ishii

Oh my God!

Lou Wilson

M. Night Shyamalan movie.

Erika Ishii

Diego Luna was in an M. Night Shyamalan movie? I didn't see the beach.

Aabria Iyengar

That's so funny.

Erika Ishii

Or old beach. Whatever it is.

Lou Wilson

I believe, God, I think Diego Luna, and I was also going to say that kid from Hereditary. And I'm right on...

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, yeah yeah yeah. What is his...

Lou Wilson

Oh, no, I'm wrong. It's not Diego Luna. It's Gael Garcia Bernal

Aabria Iyengar

Ohh...

Erika Ishii

Oh!

Lou Wilson

The dude from Mozart in the Jungle.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah. They're besties, but...

Lou Wilson

He's done way cooler stuff than that, but for some reason, that's what I always think about.

Aabria Iyengar

[Whispering, almost inaudibly] That is interesting.

[At a normal volume] But it is the kid from Hereditary.

Lou Wilson

Yeah. I should have gone with him. God damn it.

Aabria Iyengar

No, you're good. You're perfect. It just occurred to me now, how much of a actual nightmare Umora could be for Eursulon when you consider everything that he's lost and like what's happening. I'm going to live in that for a while.

Erika Ishii

It's just—you just...

Lou Wilson

Uh, okay. Alright. Okay. Um...

Aabria Iyengar

What if you were stuck on the beach that makes you old?

Lou Wilson

Well, I mean, I think you'd have to know you were stuck on the beach that makes you old. Which I guess I don't, especially in this episode.

Aabria Iyengar

Don't you?

Lou Wilson

I think we really touch on how little Eursulon understands of his kind of situation, which is true of both Lou and the character. [Aabria laughs]

There's just a general kind of, like—in a way that I like, and it feels fitting. It's just like, I don't know, I did a thing, and there hasn't been some kind of person who came and tapped me on the shoulder outside of Orima who was like, “Here's kind of what's going on with you.”

So I think there's, like, Eursulon doesn't really know kind of what could have been or what could be.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh gosh.

Lou Wilson

He only knows what is. And I think it's tough for him to even have to deal with the idea of what could be. I think that's very... He's not good at planning. He's not good at weighing options. He's good at charging forward, so I don't know.

Aabria Iyengar

Shoot, I'm just, I'm, like, spiraling from the depth of what Eursulon's going through, having to be in the present instead of that being the thing you're shooting for. Oh, God. Dang. Craig, you're doing some cool—you're really cooking with Eursulon. That's so cool.

Lou Wilson

Hey, you know, we're just eating oysters and getting by, you know? Every day with an oyster is a good damn day.

Aabria Iyengar

Oysters in the desert. What could go wrong?

Erika Ishii

I love oysters. Oysters in the desert. Yeah.

Lou Wilson

Guys, I've never seen—

Erika Ishii

How do they fly them in? Do you think they just like, go through dimension doors?

Lou Wilson

Sorry, real quick, I'm looking at the cast for Old, and there's so many people in this movie, supposedly.

Erika Ishii

What?

Aabria Iyengar

It's... does it? Honestly, does it? I haven't seen Old, but it feels like everyone was in it.

Lou Wilson

That's what this is claiming.

Aabria Iyengar

Were you in this movie?

Lou Wilson

This is claiming that, like, guys, are any of you an old? Be honest. You have to tell me.

Aabria Iyengar

You have to tell us.

Erika Ishii

Not that I recall.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Is it good? Do I...

Aabria Iyengar

I feel like it's just like five people on the beach.

Lou Wilson

Me too.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Yeah, a hundred thousand people.

Erika Ishii

I mean, I think you might be thinking of White Lotus.

Lou Wilson

Oh.

Aabria Iyengar

That's all the same.

Lou Wilson

I get my beaches mixed up, just like my talented Mexican—Mexican-American? Mexican actors.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

I heard that—because those two are besties, Gael Garcia Bernal and Diego Luna. And that when Diego Luna got asked to do Star Wars, he's like, "Are you sure that it's not, you're not thinking of my friend Gael Garcia Bernal, who is more famous than me?"

Aabria Iyengar

Oh that's—that is pretty funny.

Erika Ishii

Which I'm like...

Aabria Iyengar
That's so sad and very funny.

Erika Ishii
I know! Oh, it's just so real.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh no, that's so real.

Erika Ishii
Um, returning—

Lou Wilson
I just have to check before I get my hopes up.

Erika Ishii
Oh my God, yeah, I know, right?

Aabria Iyengar
Why was Jaden Smith in this?

Erika Ishii
What? Why?

Aabria Iyengar
I'm stuck. I'm spiraling.

Erika Ishii
We've got to not.

Aabria Iyengar
I'm old right now.

Erika Ishii
So anyway, returning to the whole—

Lou Wilson
I went and checked the IMDb. Oh, that's right. Do you want to talk about the thing we all... yeah.

Erika Ishii
The thing. The thing about fae time fuckery. The thing is that, I don't know, do we know that it's for sure that time moves faster in Umora than it does in the spirit realm? Because, according to fae rules and Narnia rules, it's not necessarily always the case. It's just like, it's weird. Time moves differently and weirdly. Right?

Lou Wilson
Right.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Lou Wilson
Hey, I'll tell you, it may sound cheeky, but only time will tell.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs] It was cheeky, but I liked it.

Lou Wilson

Okay, cool.

Erika Ishii

It was an appropriate [crosstalk]

Lou Wilson

That's my best guess, but, you know, we shall see.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, that's fascinating. Cool. Well, the struggle of being the short-lived race between the three of us.

Lou Wilson

No, don't worry, dude, we're all going to get TPK'd together as a family, you know.

Erika Ishii

Ah!

Aabria Iyengar

It's like The Notebook.

Lou Wilson

Hey, don't spoil it.

Erika Ishii

Oh, God. [Laughs]

Lou Wilson

I just know if you're a bird, I'm a bird. And we got to stop talking about movies.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

IMDb, you are leading me astray.

Erika Ishii

Oh.

Aabria Iyengar

Sorry, but I did cut you off in the middle of answering your question, Erika.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. So I don't know. I feel like Sonder would probably be Coven of the Green, as opposed to Coven of the Heart.

Aabria Iyengar

Fair.

Erika Ishii

Right? I mean, maybe because he's just very homey. He has that cottagecore vibe. I think. So, I think Ame would do that. Except that, yeah, he's older than she is, and Grandma Wren said you don't want to take an apprentice too early, too, because then it's like, yeah, right, but I don't know.

Lou Wilson

You want to weigh your options, you know.

Aabria Iyengar

Glass ceiling.

Erika Ishii

The idea of Ame taking an apprentice makes me, Erika, uncomfortable for some reason. I don't know why.

Aabria Iyengar

Hm, why?

Erika Ishii

Maybe it's the extra responsibility? I don't know. I really, truly—I'll bring it up in therapy. Anyway, here's a question for you, actually, from Maxine from Long Beach. Aabria.

Aabria Iyengar

Long Beach represent.

Erika Ishii

She says, "I love you all, but my question is for Aabria. What's the deal with Suvi and Silver? Has this been a thing for a while?"

Aabria Iyengar

How fun.

Lou Wilson

[Laughs] How fun.

Erika Ishii

How fun!

Aabria Iyengar

So, Silver was the hookup at the very beginning of the campaign and the way I—

Erika Ishii

#ReleaseTheSlutCut.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, Taylor, get your shit together. Give the people what they want: The most truly cringe inducing—I can't believe we recorded just hardcore pornography with other people in the room.

Erika Ishii

You say cringe, but I say very... What is it? Earnest? Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Earnest?

Erika Ishii
Earnest

Aabria Iyengar

Feels like the wrong word. [Erika laughs] I think they've been in hookup mode for a while, especially because he's been deployed a bunch, and this was the sort of turning of a corner now that they're being a little more affectionate with each other around their friends.

Yeah. What a cool little moment to be like, "Oh, I'm going to have this nice sort of grounding thing for Suvi where she gets to be emotionally vulnerable with someone outside of the group. Oh, he's leaving? Oh, he's leaving. I'm going to roll badly? Great. I'm going to do exactly what baby Suvi did in *The Wizard: Then & Now*, and she's not going to tell a man she likes her true feelings, and hopefully he won't die like her dad did."

Dad issues have entered the chat.

Erika Ishii
Jesus Christ.

Lou Wilson
Yikes!

Erika Ishii
Hachi machi!

Aabria Iyengar
Things I've brought up in therapy.

Erika Ishii
Yike.

Lou Wilson
Damn.

Aabria Iyengar
So, you know, pretty cash. We'll see how it goes.

Erika Ishii
Wow. Wowee wow.

Lou Wilson
Hey. Nice try. Nice try, trying to be emotionally open and vulnerable.

Erika Ishii
Dang.

Aabria Iyengar
Never again. Only with you guys.

And I think that's why Suvi's real frantic about any sort of signs that you guys might want to continue with your lives outside of the Citadel.

Erika Ishii

Aww...

Lou Wilson

Mm.

Aabria Iyengar

I'm sure it'll be fine, though. I'm sure that's not going to come up in toxic ways.

Lou Wilson

No, definitely not.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Yeah.

Lou Wilson

Could never be toxic.

Aabria Iyengar

Never. Never. Want to do another question?

Erika Ishii

Yeah, there are some actually really good ones about wizards.

Lou Wilson

Can I ask one?

Erika Ishii

Yeah. You ask. You ask.

Lou Wilson

I wanted to ask this one from Rover. Thanks, Rover. He says, "What opinion or take on wizardry would you argue at the beer garden and get cauliflower thrown at you?" [Erika bursts out laughing]

Erika Ishii

That's so—

Aabria Iyengar

That's cute.

Lou Wilson

And I have one that I was thinking about. I think, you know—hey, I get it. I get that maybe this isn't a popular opinion. That's why the cauliflower is getting thrown at me. I think staffs are boring. [Aabria gasps] I think wizards got to get past staffs. [Erika laughs]

Aabria Iyengar

What do you mean? Hold on.

Lou Wilson

We got to get past staffs. Staffs are holding us back.

Aabria Iyengar

Wait, okay.

Erika Ishii

Aesthetically, or?

Aabria Iyengar

Okay, explain yourself, because a staff is sort of, like, useful. It's useful in the world.

Lou Wilson

Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

You're on a hike, and it's your focus. What's not to like?

Lou Wilson

Yeah, exactly. See, I feel like staffs are holdovers from old man Gandalf and all the old wizardry—

Aabria Iyengar

Okay. Okay.

Lou Wilson

We associate wizardry with—

Erika Ishii

Old people, yeah.

Lou Wilson

People who need a staff.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay. Okay.

Lou Wilson

And I'm saying people, we're wizards, God damn it. Let's fucking—let's get crazy out here, alright? Like, you guys seen Yu-Gi-Oh? Any of you wizards been watching Yu-Gi-Oh? [Aabria and Erika burst out laughing] You know those insane fucking card things they have?

Aabria Iyengar

[Incredulously] You want the cards?

Lou Wilson

Yeah! I want that.

Erika Ishii

Oh shit.

Lou Wilson

I want to be fucking laying scrolls into the fucking slots.

Erika Ishii

Oh my God.

Lou Wilson

I want to be conjuring monsters. I just feel like we should push the form. Am I crazy?

Erika Ishii

I feel like we did see that one hedge mage in the beginning who had the cool spells on a card sort of a deal.

Lou Wilson

Yes!

Erika Ishii

And saw nobody else do that ever since.

Lou Wilson

I'm with that. That guy is the future of wizardry.

Aabria Iyengar

What guy who tried to—okay.

Lou Wilson

[Laughing breathlessly] The guy who tried to murder Eursulon for 50 gold pieces? That's the guy who I think wizardry should look to, in terms of moving forward.

Aabria Iyengar

I can't believe you're caping for fantasy Gambit right now, like why? [Everyone laughs]

Erika Ishii

Hey! Hey! Hey!

Lou Wilson

I think that fantasy Gambit has a point.

Aabria Iyengar

Let me be clear, fantasy Gambit can get it, but I don't know if I want to walk around feeling like a fucking Planeswalker from Magic: The Gathering.

Erika Ishii

Oh my God.

Lou Wilson

That's my shit!

Erika Ishii

A card!

Aabria Iyengar

Now I fucking need to rebuild. We got to get Brennan back from the jungle. I've got to respect.

Lou Wilson

Suvi now just has a bunch of figurines that she cracks open inside of the spells. You know, I'm just saying, we don't all need to be—matchsticks are for everybody else.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay.

Lou Wilson

The best of the best?

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Lou Wilson

They got—

Aabria Iyengar

How do we feel about other traditional foci. Like, are you an orb guy? A wand guy? A rod...

Lou Wilson

I'm open to an orb if it's like, if you're doing, like, contact juggling type shit. [Aabria laughs] I don't want to just be holding it. You've got to be rolling it around your shoulders and shit.

Erika Ishii

Oh, so like Jared, uh...

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing so hard she can't catch her breath] Please don't turn wizards into the worst kind of magicians.

Erika Ishii

Jareth.

Lou Wilson

Is that David Bowie in the Labyrinth?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Lou Wilson

Exactly.

Erika Ishii

Contact juggling!

Lou Wilson

That's what I want. That's what I want from wizardry. This is why people are belting me with cauliflower. And that's okay.

Erika Ishii

I love the idea.

Aabria Iyengar

I'm in Hell because you turned wizards into people that just walk around performing at Burning Man. [Erika explodes into laughter]

Lou Wilson

You know, those fucking gloves? You know those gloves with LEDs in the tips? Let's get a few of those going, how about that? How about that?

Erika Ishii

Oh my fucking God. That's illusions, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

You know those whips with all the fiber?

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God. Yeah. Oh my God, so the different—what would be the... God, yeah, the illusions? School of illusions, you know? I don't know much about wizard stuff. I haven't been a wizard in, like a decade, I think.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, that's funny.

Lou Wilson

Yeah. What about somebody just holding a big mirror, you know? [Aabria wheezes]

Erika Ishii

Just turning it?

Lou Wilson

Yeah, just, like, flipping it around.

Erika Ishii

Oh my God.

Aabria Iyengar

Flipping it like a sign? [Everyone laughs uncontrollably]

Lou Wilson

Exactly. Exactly. Oh, my God.

Aabria Iyengar

What is happening to wizards?

Lou Wilson

They're getting really cool, if you ask me.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, this rules. Okay.

Lou Wilson

Why'd you study all those years to learn magic? So that you could do this.

Alright, sorry, go ahead Erika.

Erika

I wish you could see Aabria just spinning.

Lou Wilson

I'm done. I'm done. Enough people have thrown cauliflower at me.

Erika Ishii

I need a little, like, a meme of, "What opinion is going to get people like this?" Right? And it's like, just a bunch of people throwing cauliflower at you that you can retweet and stuff, and then people can, quote, tweet it with all of their unpopular opinions.

I feel like wizards know they're nerds. Right?

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs indignantly] Okay.

Erika Ishii

Right? Come on.

Aabria Iyengar

What do you mean? We fuck. Look how cool our house is.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, but like you're book smart magicians.

Aabria Iyengar

Our mom lets us drink whole sodas every day. [Erika and Lou laugh] It's not a waterhouse.

Erika Ishii

You're, like, book-learning magicians as opposed to, like, sugar babies or nepo kids, you know? You know, warlocks and sorcerers.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay, I want to know where you're going with this.

Erika Ishii

So if those are sort of the breakdown of how you achieve magic, then for wizards, it's just being a nerd. There's been a lot of talk made about how wizards are cops or whatever, but I would submit that they're more like the MIT tech bros, right?

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, yeah, infinitely worse. A hundred percent. A hundred percent.

Erika Ishii

They don't go and enforce things themselves as much, maybe steal, like, as the sort of Citadel, but it's not like they, I mean, they're creating—

Aabria Iyengar

Hey, hey, hey. This is my boyfriend's erasure. Stop it.

Erika Ishii

That's... He's... No, I think he's a soldier.

Aabria Iyengar

We're going to get married when he gets back.

Erika Ishii

He's a—oh, my God.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Lou Wilson

What?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. No. 100 percent. I gave him a little bracelet.

Erika Ishii

You're 20 years old! Yeah, well Ame gave you a bracelet!

Lou Wilson

Suvi out here getting divorced over the course of the campaign, just straight up. [Erika cackles]

Aabria Iyengar

Wait, hold on, that's actually—

Lou Wilson

Just 20 set in and he's just like—

Erika Ishii

You want to be an army wife? Is that her? Is that Suvi's ambition? Being an army wife?

Aabria Iyengar

My parents married so young and they were both in the military.

Lou Wilson

Wow. Wow.

Aabria Iyengar

Art imitates life.

Lou Wilson

And we all thought we were doing a fantasy campaign. No. No.

Aabria Iyengar

Nope. Oh, my God. Now I want that very badly. God, he has to live. He has to live. It's so funny.

Lou Wilson

Honestly, I'm going to call Taylor. We're going to switch up the next few episodes. I'm going to have us just leave the Citadel right now. [Aabria laughs] Just somehow we got to get out of here before you become an army wife.

Erika Ishii

We got to go. We got to go.

Aabria Iyengar

No, I think it would be so good. I just go around arguing for my military wife discount.

Erika Ishii

Oh.

Aabria Iyengar

I'm built for this.

Erika Ishii

Oh my God.

Aabria Iyengar

I am built for this.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, and then, like, what?

Aabria Iyengar

I wear camo. It doesn't make any sense.

Erika Ishii

Then Suvi has sexual relations anytime he's just back from the front? Hmm?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Yes. What? That sounds great. Hold on. You did lose me. Because I'm like, "Yeah, get—"

Lou Wilson

Wow, can you imagine—

Aabria Iyengar

Wait, hold on. Has Eursulon been banging while we're at the Citadel?

Erika Ishii

No, no, no, I mean, anytime he's back from war.

Aabria Iyengar

War while we're at the Citadel.

Erika Ishii

Oh, yeah, got to be.

Lou Wilson

No. No, I had a—

Erika Ishii

Walking around looking like that?

Lou Wilson

Brennan had asked because, Brennan told us when we got there that we were, or like, when we started this campaign that he was going to ask us where we hung out at the Citadel and stuff. And I remember he asked and we ended up going in the food kind of aspect.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Lou Wilson

But there was a—I had a second option cooked up that Eursulon had been reading picture books in a children's library. [Erika lets out a horrified gasp]

Aabria Iyengar

Oh my God.

Lou Wilson

That was something he was doing to fill the days when he wasn't with Ame, or was checking out the books to read with Ame. And I was going to have perhaps a flirtationship with the librarian of the children's library where I, a full-grown man, went to read every day. Just the most handsome man in the world walks—a magically handsome man walks into a children's library once a day, sits down in a too-small plastic chair and just, like, fucking a GQ cover in a beanbag just reading fucking Hop On Pop.

Aabria Iyengar

Incredible. The himbofication. We really haven't talked about how much of a himbo Eursulon is. Hot, strong, and dumb.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, that's true.

Aabria Iyengar

That's incredible.

Lou Wilson

Hot, strong, and dumb. Yes. What can I say?

Well, I don't think I read the books. I could read a full fucking long book. I just don't want to.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs] Okay.

Lou Wilson

When you're setting the tone, we read long books, and when it's for pleasure, we read as short a book as possible.

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God.

Aabria Iyengar

That's so good.

Erika Ishii

Oh, Aabria, we didn't get your unpopular wizard opinion.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, mine is probably something stupid and a little, like, mechanical around the fact that wizards should have developed arcane abilities to allow them to cast multiple concentration spells simultaneously.

Lou Wilson

Mm.

Aabria Iyengar

It doesn't feel like a stretch to the supposed prowess of a wizard. We should be able to hold multiple con spells.

Erika Ishii

Hmm...

Lou Wilson.

Respect.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Cast a little differently. I don't think that should be a sorcerer thing. That's not innate. That's a thing you learn to do. Cognitive load.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

My answer was boring and not very fun to play in.

Lou Wilson

No, no.

Aabria Iyengar

I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Erika Ishii

Well, no, I think you're right, though. I don't think that's a controversial opinion. I feel like, yeah, cognitive load, especially for a wizard, is something that you can learn. That could be a learned thing or a thing that is developed, which is something that, again, because they are magic nerds, would be in the purview of wizards specifically. Yeah. Right?

Aabria Iyengar

Magic nerds. Okay, then what's a witch? If a wizard is a magic nerd and a sorcerer is a magic nepo baby, and a warlock's a magical sugar baby, the fuck is a witch?

Erika Ishii

Yeah, I was wondering that, too.

Lou Wilson

The fuck is a witch?

Erika Ishii

The fuck is a witch? I feel like—but that's the thing, as we were talking about, is, like, do you have to be born with an aptitude for magic or be magical?

I think a witch is like, you can be born with magical ability and then you hone that into witchcraft. I think there, we're talking about craft. We said—

Aabria Iyengar
So could Eursulon be a witch?

Erika Ishii
Yeah, I think so is what it is.

Lou Wilson
Okay, multiclass.

Erika Ishii
I think the thing that makes you a witch is the craft of it all. So it needs to be like... I think it's like witches are the sort of makers. They're the crafters. They're the arts and crafters. Magical arts and crafters. Yeah, I think, right?

Aabria Iyengar
Okay.

Erika Ishii
You have to be born with a capacity to do arts and crafts, but then you hone that and study it and dedicate yourself to it. Right?

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Lou Wilson
So, like a magical sip-and-paint instructor kind of vibe?

Erika Ishii
Oh my God. I need to make a new character now. [Lou laughs]

Aabria Iyengar
Wait, what if we do that for our next arc's art?

Lou Wilson
Yeah. It's just us doing a sip-and-paint.

Aabria Iyengar
We'll do sip-and-paint and whatever we end up with, that's the character art, baby.

Lou Wilson
Oh, you mean we draw at a sip-and-paint our characters?

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Lou Wilson
Okay. I'd be down. Yeah, we all draw the same triptych, and whose ever is the worst, we make the art for that.

Aabria Iyengar
Perfect. I think that's a great idea.

Erika Ishii
I want to leave enough time for our minigame, but I think we have time for one more question.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, yeah.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, I'm trying to decide between Allison's and Argyle Socks' because I'm curious about that, too.

Aabria Iyengar

I think we could do both.

Erika Ishii

Okay, so let's start with Argyle Socks', or Argyle Socks. Who asks the Aeris, Aerith depository. 90s translation. Am I right? Yes. You got that. Thank you very much.

Aabria Iyengar

I didn't get that at the time.

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God. Yes. It was absolutely a Final Fantasy VII joke.

Aabria Iyengar

Nerd!

Erika Ishii

How do wizards defend the Citadel at night if attacked, since they had to deposit their leftover slots? Do you know this, Aabria?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. The timing for when the ariths are fully dispensed and away, there are big reserves and reservoirs and turbines in the center of the city. The idea is that you put them in there, but you can draw them out whenever.

So in the event of a big old night attack, Suvi would just run over to her arith and pull out everything that she and Yulia dumped in for the day. And whatever she can take from the bigger stores, so. You just—it's like armor. You take it off.

Lou Wilson

So you just go drink the juice.

Aabria Iyengar

You just go drink that juice.

Lou Wilson

You just drink more juice. Do a few shots of juice.

Aabria Iyengar

That Baja Blast.

Erika Ishii

I fucking, listen, I love Silence. I love him.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, he's such a guy.

Erika Ishii

He's so funny that, "Be quiet."

Aabria Iyengar

"Be quiet."

Lou Wilson

"Be quiet."

Erika Ishii

And then suddenly thrown into contemplative Silence. Oh, I love it so much. It's like the juice. He's like, "Stop calling it that."

Aabria Iyengar

"Don't call it that."

Erika Ishii

"You can't call it that."

Lou Wilson

It's a funny moment of Brennan being like, "Take my world seriously. Take it seriously. I know that it looks like juice, and it's fun to call it juice. Take it seriously." [Erika and Aabria laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

That's real as hell. Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Oh my God. Never. We will never. We will never.

Aabria Iyengar

Never.

Lou Wilson

Never.

Aabria Iyengar

Could never.

Erika Ishii

Okay, and then Allison's question is, what would each of you take as your wizard name? I already know mine. I think, it's because—

Lou Wilson

Oh, I know mine as well.

Erika Ishii

My bestie's nickname for me is Sparky, which somehow makes sense. The wizard Sparky.

Lou Wilson

The wizard Sparky.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

The wizard Sparky. What an 80s movie of a name.

Erika Ishii

I know, right? Right? Exactly.

Aabria Iyengar

That's very good.

Erika Ishii

Aabria.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay, I'll go because I want to end, because I'm curious about Craig's. Mine would be Saccade, which is the rapid eye movement eyes make to scan for information.

Erika Ishii

Jesus Christ.

Lou Wilson

Wow. Damn.

Aabria Iyengar

You knew I had a real deep cut nerd word on standby.

Lou Wilson

Absolutely.

Erika Ishii

That's crazy

Lou Wilson

I had no idea, that was a full—what a snipe.

Erika Ishii

What? How did you have that just—

Lou Wilson

A word I've never heard before.

Erika Ishii

Loaded up. My God.

Lou Wilson

Agreed.

Aabria Iyengar

I used to be biopremed, and also I'm the one playing a wizard. That's just in the event that Brennan looks at me and says, name eight 's' words, I got to be ready.

Erika Ishii
Oh my God.

Lou Wilson
Fair.

Aabria Iyengar
I live in that fear every day.

Erika Ishii
Okay, well, Craig.

Aabria Iyengar
Alright Craig. Lay it on us.

Lou Wilson
There's two options that I kind of go back and forth between. I personally like the wizard Simple.

Aabria Iyengar
Ooh!

Lou Wilson
Like, there's just something to it, that I think is fun in terms of what it takes to be a wizard. But then to be like, "No, no, no. Everybody chill. I ain't like that. I'm the wizard Simple." [Aabria laughs]

It just feels like it sets such a tone that you're like, "No, I ain't like those other guys. I ain't like Silence to say, 'Bro, I'm Simple, alright.'" But I'm clearly a wizard, so I'm not simple, but I'm Simple, you know?

Aabria Iyengar
Simple, yeah!

Erika Ishii
You're not a simpleton, but you are Simple.

Lou Wilson
I'm not a simpleton. No. Now he's dumb. The wizard Simpleton is an idiot.

Aabria Iyengar
He made it all the way through the Citadel. Kind of a dumb-dumb though.

Erika Ishii
Well, he's really good at taking tests. That's the whole thing.

Lou Wilson
It's just exams.

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Lou Wilson
But I like the wizard Simple. And I like the wizard Savory.

Aabria Iyengar
Savory!

Erika Ishii
Oh!

Lou Wilson
I'm the wizard Savory.

Aabria Iyengar
Wait, that's so cute.

Lou Wilson
I'd like to believe that the wizard Savory created Mr. Callum, you know. [Aabria gasps]

Erika Ishii
Oh!

Aabria Iyengar
Aw, I want that to be true. What if there's a little brand in the Citadel that's like Chef Boyardee?

Lou Wilson
Oh, without a doubt. You know, the ready-made meals that you just heat up at home with a firebolt?

Erika Ishii
Oh my God.

Lou Wilson
The wizard Savory meals. One firebolt and dinner's ready. That's the commercial, right? It's just like a tired wizard dad. And all the kids are running around. He's like, "What do I do?" And it's like, well, there's always the wizard Savory. One firebolt, and it just appears.

Erika Ishii
Oh my God. Jesus.

Aabria Iyengar
That's so funny. I love that so much. You know, Steel was like one of those, like, too busy of a mom. So when it's her night to cook dinner dinner, it's a wizard Savory night.

Lou Wilson
[Laughing] It's a wizard Savory.

Erika Ishii
[Laughing] Oh, my goodness.

Aabria Iyengar
All the kids complaining, being like, "We want Sonder to cook again."

Lou Wilson
Exactly.

Aabria Iyengar

“You make yogurt from scratch.”

Lou Wilson

Yes. “I want more of pure honeycomb. I don't want any more Salisbury steak from the wizard Savory.”

Aabria Iyengar

You hit my in my actual childhood, Lou, I mean, dang it, Craig, how dare you?

Lou Wilson

We all knew. We were all eating Hungry Man meals.

Erika Ishii

Hungry Man. Boy. Like, premade meals got so much better as we got older.

Lou Wilson

So much. It's crazy what we were eating as young people is insane. You remember that one with the penguin?

Erika Ishii

Yes!

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, my God. A Kid's Cuisine. Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, Kid's Cuisine!

Lou Wilson

How dare they call that cuisine?

Aabria Iyengar

Hurtful. That gnarly brownie.

Erika Ishii

Like Lunchables?

Lou Wilson

Oh, Lunchables. Oh, God.

Aabria Iyengar

My parents never got me a Lunchable.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, I was never allowed to have a Lunchable.

Lou Wilson

Let me tell you. You didn't miss anything. You wanted a Lunchable. And I think that there was one with—that was cheese and salami and crackers.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Lou Wilson

That one was okay. The rest were all crazy to eat. [Aabria and Erika start cracking up] They were clearly meant to be heated up. But I don't know what child at that time had access to a microwave at school. So we were just eating cold hot dogs, cold hamburgers, and nasty cold pizza.

Aabria Iyengar

Cold pizza. God, that pizza was criminal.

Erika Ishii

Oh, the pizza.

Lou Wilson

It was criminal. The crust thing was just like a weird, stale saltine.

Erika Ishii

Yup.

Lou Wilson

We got to put them in the oven one time at school, and I remember being like, is this about to change everything? No, of course. Of course not.

Aabria Iyengar

I had hope until the last second.

Lou Wilson

But in the moment, you're like—I remember it was, like, raining, and Jeff was like, "We can cook the pizzas if you want." And I was like, "Oh, fuck. What's about to happen? You're about to open my world up, Jeff."

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, no.

Erika Ishii

Jeff.

Aabria Iyengar

That's so funny. Shout out to Jeff. Hope he's doing good.

Lou Wilson

Shout out to Jeff. I think he's doing alright.

Erika Ishii

Okay, I think we have time for one Bag It and Tag It? Maybe two. We'll see if we can do it.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, yeah.

Lou Wilson

Okay, who wants to be bagging or tagging?

Aabria Iyengar

It's got to be Erika.

Erika Ishii

Oh, okay.

Lou Wilson

And Erika, would you like NPCs? I've grown my collection. Would you like NPCs from a D&D-type game or from a Vampire: The Masquerade-type game?

Erika Ishii

[Excitedly] Vampire: The Masquerade! Vampire: The Masquerade! Oh, my God. Oh, my God.

Aabria Iyengar

Craig, you're officially invited back.

Erika Ishii

You are so in.

Aabria Iyengar

What an escalation of the form.

Lou Wilson

And I won't lie, I work at the Met. I don't know how Vampire: The Masquerade works. So, there are things that I'm going to read that I think are interesting, but I don't actually know if they have real in-world implication or if they're just a fun thing that generator is trying to create.

Erika Ishii

Oh, I can translate. I can translate.

Lou Wilson

So you can let us know.

Aabria Iyengar

Amazing.

Erika Ishii

Also, I heard one of our guests also was familiar with Vampire: The Masquerade and I believe had a game with Bobby DeNiro?

Aabria Iyengar

And played with Bobby. Yes. Yes, yes, yes.

Lou Wilson

Yes.

Aabria Iyengar

Good friend of Bobby.

Lou Wilson

That's not me. Anyway, here we go. It's time to play Bag It or Tag It. And now I'm assuming Taylor's going to insert some theme music here. [Crazy Frog begins to play]

Taylor

Generating characters. Making choices. Bag It or Tag It!

Lou Wilson

We're all listening to this theme music that Taylor created, it was amazing. Taylor found the time to write and score a whole other theme song that ends right here. [The volume on Crazy Frog increases, and then ends]

Alright, Erika. And so the way I'm going to switch things up just a little bit for convenience. So, the way it's going to work, I'm going to describe a candidate, an NPC that you could take home tonight. Of course, I'm going to present you with three NPCs, and at the end, you will have to choose if you want to take one of the NPCs home. Or tag it, and bag one of our NPCs. Or tag it, and take home an uncommon magical item. I don't know what that is. I haven't figured out what that is for Vampire: The Masquerade yet. I'll get there.

Erika Ishii

Sure. Sure. Sure.

Lou Wilson

In between, we'll be going to Aabria for commentary. So after each person, we'll hear from Aabria, and then after we revealed all three candidates, we'll come to Erika for a full debrief on what they're thinking. So, first up, we have Corey Jeong. Corey is short and stocky. They're cis. They are in their 40s.

Erika Ishii

Cis what?

Lou Wilson

They have—what?

Erika Ishii

Cis what?

Lou Wilson

Honey, it just says cis.

Erika Ishii

[Laughing] Alright. Okay, okay, okay.

Lou Wilson

Honey, I wish—this generator does not—we can go either way, but it says—

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] That's great.

Lou Wilson

Okay?

Erika Ishii

Okay.

Lou Wilson

Moderate brown skin.

Aabria Iyengar

Moderate?

Lou Wilson
Moderate brown skin.

Erika Ishii
Moderate. Okay.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughing] What is moderate?

Erika Ishii
Go ahead.

Lou Wilson
My name is Craig and I generate, alright? That is what I do. [Aabria and Erika continue laughing] Moderate brown skin, long and brittle red hair—

Erika Ishii
Brittle?!

Lou Wilson
Glittery dark brown eyes, a fleshy nose.

Erika Ishii
Fleshy?

Lou Wilson
Very fleshy. Now, the first thing you notice. This is what it tells me. It says, first notice. Is that a Vampire: The Masquerade thing?

Aabria Iyengar
Nope.

Erika Ishii
No?

Lou Wilson
Okay, great. The first thing you notice about them is their freckles.

Erika Ishii
On the moderate brown skin.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Lou Wilson
On the moderate brown skin, you notice their freckles. Their expression. They have a gazing expression on their face.

Aabria Iyengar
Hold on. What does that mean?

Lou Wilson

They have a gazing expression on their face? All I can do is say it again with different emphasis.

Erika Ishii

[Laughing] Sure.

Lou Wilson

Their clothes. They're dressed in bohemian, luxurious clothing, mostly silver in color. The impression you get from them is they're stubborn. And a quirk of theirs is wannabe. Does that mean anything?

Erika Ishii

A wannabe?

Lou Wilson

A quirk of theirs is wannabe.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay.

Erika Ishii

Nothing specifically of that nature in the rules as written. But perhaps it is saying that they are a wannabe.

Lou Wilson

They are a wannabe. They seem to be, or are employed as an entrepreneur. I'm going to say that they are kindred.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay.

Lou Wilson

Does that mean that they're a vampire?

Erika Ishii

Yeah, that means they're a vampire.

Aabria Iyengar

We finally get some vampire things.

Lou Wilson

Here it is. They are of the bruja?

Aabria Iyengar

They're a bruja!

Erika Ishii

Oh, a bruja! Sure. Those are like the punks. They're like anti-authoritarian.

Aabria Iyengar

They're anarchists.

Lou Wilson

So, they are of the bruja. Ancilier? Ancilier?

Aabria Iyengar
Ancilier. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Erika Ishii
Oh, oh, okay. Yeah.

Lou Wilson
Bruja Ancilier.

Alright, Aabria, come to you for your first, just off-the-bat thought off the top of your head. What do you think of Corey Jeong?

Aabria Iyengar
Cannot stand it if you know that this person was turned without any forethought because they died and came back with brittle hair. Like, if you know you're going to be a kindred, you're conditioning. It's a deep condition the week before you get that bite.

Lou Wilson
Got it.

Erika Ishii
Yeah, because then you're stuck with that hair the entire rest of your eternity.

Aabria Iyengar
I don't like it. I don't like that.

Lou Wilson
Tell 'em.

Aabria Iyengar
And I don't trust a bruja. Never have.

Lou Wilson
Well, we're going on to our next candidate. Okay, thank you for your thoughts. This is Alessandro Ionescu.

Aabria Iyengar
Okay.

Erika Ishii
Okay.

Lou Wilson
They are very short and sturdy. They are binary trans.

Erika Ishii
Okay.

Lou Wilson
They are in their 20s.

Aabria Iyengar
Okay.

Lou Wilson

Brown skin, long and luxurious, soft black hair.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay.

Lou Wilson

Red-rimmed, icy blue eyes.

Erika Ishii

What?

Lou Wilson

A thin nose. The first thing you notice about them is their fingers.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh!

Lou Wilson

Their expression. They have a radiant expression on their face. Dressed in punk business casual clothing, mostly silver in color, the impression you get from them is wild.

Erika Ishii

Ooh!

Lou Wilson

A quirk of theirs is speaks nonsense. [Erika laughs] Their job, they seem to be, or are employed as a cultural outcast. [Aabria bursts out laughing]

Erika Ishii

A what? That can be a job?

Lou Wilson

Seemingly. If Alessandro has perhaps figured it out.

Erika Ishii

Okay.

Lou Wilson

They are tremere neonate?

Erika Ishii

Oh, a tremere neonate.

Aabria Iyengar

A tremere neonate

Lou Wilson

Tremere.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, so like a new tremere.

Aabria Iyengar

That means they're a baby. Yeah.

Lou Wilson

Okay, maybe he speaks to some of the speaking nonsense and wild.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Lou Wilson

Aabria, let's come to you for your first thoughts. Just right off the top.

Aabria Iyengar

Getting really confused why everyone's dressed like they're auditioning for Hermes from Hadestown. [Erika laughs]

Lou Wilson

Okay. Alright. And we'll bring it home with our last candidate. This is Yon Creamer. Creamer. I honestly like Creamer, better. Yon Creamer.

Aabria Iyengar

Creamer.

Erika Ishii

Yon Creamer.

Lou Wilson

Very tall, stocky.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs] Perfect.

Lou Wilson

Gender is cis.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs] Cis what?

Lou Wilson

They are in their 60s. Moderate brown skin, long, untamed, wheat blonde hair. Close-set, murky green eyes. This is what it says. I swear to God: a Greek nose.

Erika Ishii

Oh my God.

Lou Wilson

The first thing you notice about them is their hair. They have a veiled expression on their face.

Aabria Iyengar

That's cute.

Lou Wilson

Dressed in ratty workwear clothing, mostly gray in color.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughs] Okay.

Lou Wilson

The impression you get from them is remorseful. A quirk of theirs is intimidating size. And they seem to be, or are employed, as a child. [Aabria explodes into cackles]

Erika Ishii

What? But they're 60.

Aabria Iyengar

A very tall, stocky child

Lou Wilson

I swear to God. It says job. Colon. They seem to be, or are employed, as a child. And they are—

Erika Ishii

Okay, here's my theory is that they got turned when they were a child, but are, in fact, 60 years old. Like, in actual years.

Lou Wilson

Got it. Got it.

Erika Ishii

That's my take on it.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay. Okay, you're making it make sense.

Lou Wilson

We need that. Let's pray that that is the case. And they are a toriador childe.

Erika Ishii

Oh, a child.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, amazing. A child.

Erika Ishii

A toriador. Yeah, okay.

Aabria Iyengar

That's cute.

Lou Wilson

Okay, Aabria, any quick thoughts on Yon before we switch over to Erika?

Aabria Iyengar

Risk it all. I love Yon

Lou Wilson

Okay, you love Yon.

Aabria Iyengar

Risk it all.

Erika Ishii

Oh my.

Lou Wilson

Risk it all. Fantastic. Erika, we now come to you. You have met three fantastic candidates. Jan Cremer, the Greek-nosed child with intimidating size. Who's employed as a child. We've met Corey Jeong, the short, stocky cis with long and brittle red hair, who's a wannabe, but working as an entrepreneur and dressed in bohemian luxurious clothing. And of course, Alessandro, the wild, nonsense-speaking outcast who's a tremer neonate. So what are you thinking as you look over these?

Erika Ishii

My first—on first blush, I was very impressed by Alessandro. Tremere are sort of like the magician kindred, which is—that's exciting and good. Yon, I think I would have to get past the fact that Yon looks like a child despite being in fact 60 years old.

Lou Wilson

[Laughs] Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Does he just look like a child, or simply try hard to work as a child?

Lou Wilson

I'd like to think—you know, I won't lie, another alternative is that Yon every day spends about 15 minutes putting on or not 15 minutes, like two hours putting on makeup.

Erika Ishii

Right. To appear to be a child. Oh, that's true.

Aabria Iyengar

A giant child. Incredible.

Lou Wilson

And then of course, there's Corey, the bruja with the fleshy nose and the wannabe entrepreneur lifestyle.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Hmm.

Aabria Iyengar

Thoughts, feelings?

Lou Wilson

Erika, deep in thought, as they make a choice.

Erika Ishii

I would assume at this point that I'm not—well, because I myself am not kindred, but I would want to be, I think, turned by a toriador.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Yeah.

Erika Ishii

And so I think I have to go with Yon. Yep.

Lou Wilson

Wow. I'll tell you.

Aabria Iyengar

Perfect!

Lou Wilson

Perfect. You are bagging Yon Creamer, the very tall, cis 60s, Greek-nosed, veiled expression, workwear wearing, remorseful, intimidatingly sized child. We absolutely love to see it and I hope you guys are very happy together. This has been Bag It or Tag It.

Erika Ishii

Thank you.

Aabria Iyengar

Perfect.

Lou Wilson

Wow.

Erika Ishii

Aw, I'm sorry. I don't know if we have time for Aabria to do—to bag or tag.

Aabria Iyengar

No, it's all good. I am full.

Erika Ishii

But I think that next time we have to do—

Lou Wilson

Hey, I'm around, anytime.

Erika Ishii

We have to have you back to do this again because it's just such a popular segment. And perhaps even if we have somebody else rotate in to do the podcast, we can still have you back as well, in addition to them in one episode.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, that was so lovely.

Lou Wilson

You know, I made a little Google Drive with an explainer and everything, so I can just send it to the different people who come on.

Erika Ishii

Oh, incredible. Oh, okay!

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, that's so sweet.

Lou Wilson
They'll be ready to roll.

Erika Ishii
But we just had a great time with you as well, Craig.

Aabria Iyengar
100 percent.

Lou Wilson
Thanks guys.

Aabria Iyengar
And you know what? If we ever end up playing Vampire, I think we should invite Craig to come be at the table.

Lou Wilson
Wow, I mean that would mean a lot.

Erika Ishii
Oh, yes, you're right. I think you would enjoy it. I think you would enjoy it.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Lou Wilson
It seems like there's some really interesting characters you might run into while playing the game.

Aabria Iyengar
All of them moderately brown.

Lou Wilson
[Laughs] All of them moderately brown.

Erika Ishii
Well, thank you so much, everybody. It has been an absolute delight. Craig, thank you so much for joining us again.

Lou Wilson
Hey, thrilled to be here. Crackle, crackle, ahoohoo

Erika Ishii
Aabria, thank you.

Aabria Iyengar
Crackle, crackle. Always a pleasure. And please don't call it juice.

Erika Ishii
[Laughs] That's the new one. That's the juice. Alright, everybody, I have been your host, Erika Ishii, and we will see you next week.

Lou Wilson

Happy holidays and Happy New Year.

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