# Worlds Beyond Number

Fireside Chat: Episode 17 - Episode 17 "Say My Name" Final Version

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

Erika Ishii

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Fireside. I'm your host, Erika Ishii. I apologize for the audio quality at the moment, I have been working so hard to make it, together, but here we are. We're making it work. Ahoohoo. Aabria?

Aabria Iyengar Ahoohoo! Hey, I'm thankful that you are here inside your tuna can, that you live in.

Erika Ishii Awww... my tiny little tuna can.

Aabria Iyengar Your tiny little tuna can!

Lou Wilson Aww.

Aabria Iyengar It's charming.

Erika Ishii With a little cricket, that is my best friend.

Aabria Iyengar Aw, it's you and a little cricket. I'd watch that.

Erika Ishii And we have a special guest with us here today.

C Drifth (Lou) Hi, I'm C Drifth.

Aabria Iyengar Seadress?

C Drifth (Lou) C Drifth. Erika Ishii Oh, C Drifths.

C Drifth (Lou) The letter C, Drifth.

Aabria Iyengar Okay!

C Drifth (Lou) Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar So lovely to meet you.

C Drifth (Lou) So nice to meet you guys.

Erika Ishii Yeah, welcome. Welcome

C Drifth (Lou) I feel like—I'm a big fan, listened a lot, to a lot of the pod, and I feel like that—I remember the last time that Erika was in their tuna can.

Aabria Iyengar Aw ha ha. Yeah.

C Drifth (Lou) It's I think it's honestly kind of sweet and fun that we're back, ya know.

Erika Ishii We want to have a little camp out, and so we light a birthday candle, in the middle of our tuna can.

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

C Drifth (Lou) Awww! And that's all you need because it's so small.

Erika Ishii Mmhmm. Mmhmm. Today we're talking about Episode... 16?

Aabria Iyengar 17. Erika Ishii Episode 17.

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

Erika Ishii Oh, I see, I see. Episode 1-7, 17, "Say My Name."

Aabria Iyengar Brap!

C Drifth (Lou) [Laugh]

Erika Ishii

Which had the most beautiful balance of solemn, world-expounding lore, and ritual, and the moments that have made us cry, with Suvi describing Sky and all that entails, that I'd love to ask about, and then we end up in—

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

Erika Ishii —drunk girls in the club scene—

Aabria Iyengar Yes-uh!

Erika Ishii —with little fairies with no assholes.

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

C Drifth (Lou) There it is. We do it all, you know?

Erika Ishii And Eursulon, possibly being the worst wingman alive.

Aabria Iyengar Very surprising!

Erika Ishii Yes. C Drifth (Lou) That was a special level of—I was listening back to that, honestly, kind of cringing—

Aabria Iyengar Oh no!

C Drifth (Lou) —being like, what are you doing, dude?

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

C Drifth (Lou)

I haven't made myself cringe many times in actual play, and that one is tough—when I'm just on this insane riff, being like, the Fox is having sex with a stuffed animal to calm himself down—

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

C Drifth (Lou) —I was like, what am I saying? I have lost the thread, and I need to pull up. [Laughing] I need to pull up, right now.

Aabria Iyengar

It was—I remember trying not to, out loud, bark laugh when you were saying that, and digging in deeper. Oh, god. So good.

C Drifth (Lou) It was bad. It was bad—

Aabria Iyengar It was perfect.

C Drifth (Lou) —but it was good.

## Erika Ishii

It was SO good. And like, the Fox and Eursulon—I just—the process of them discovering the human world together and trying to navigate social etiquette, and their enjoyment of food, is just, agh, it's so sweet. But wait, Suvi, who is now known—

Aabria Iyengar Who?

Erika Ishii —as the Wizard Sky. Aabria Iyengar Yes!

Erika Ishii

The enormity that she takes upon herself with taking, as we find out, a grand name with a storied history of wizards.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Does she do that because she always has something to prove—okay, this is less of a question, more of me saying—

Aabria Iyengar Sure!

Erika Ishii —I feel like Suvi always feels like she's got an enormity of shoes to fill—

Aabria Iyengar Oh, yeah.

Erika Ishii

-and Sky encompasses that as well. Just that whole arc of the overachieving, of proving herself, of having to be-push always, be the best she can be.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah, 100%, I think a lot of that is like understanding—the understanding that she's a nepo baby—

C Drifth (Lou) [Chuckle]

## Aabria Iyengar

-but still is setting out bigger and bigger things for herself to run down, to prove herself. For me, I know we talked about it a lot before—or if we've talked about it—just sort of in terms of inheriting a title, but for me and my endless sports analogies, it really does feel like when you are a prodigious athlete, and you know the next team you're going to go on—uh, soccer. Soccer is a famous one. Number ten is like, the star athlete number. So it's that idea of like, I'm calling my shot, I'm going to be number ten. I'm going to tell you I'm the franchise player here. And there's things around choosing your number that happens in sports a lot.

#### Aabria Iyengar

So for me, that was just like the analog too. There's a couple S names that are like picking big, famous, nearly retired numbers. And if you're going to pick that number, you better do something with it. So, that was—yeah, that was where that came from, and the other thing I just want to say, there's a couple of

questions from it. So to answer Allison's sort of question about why I picked Sky, there was a moment when we first started recording and that very first day when we began with Brennan describing—he starts with snow, and describes the sky, and then introduces the Citadel. And that's how we get to meet baby Suvi for the first time.

#### Aabria Iyengar

At some point when we were recording that, I started editorializing, and describing the scene as my adult—as adult Suvi's memory of that. Because at some point I say, like, when I remember this, this is the thing I regret most. So, that—in that moment, I remember sitting in the chair going, so if this is Suvi's memory, why is the first thing that she thought of the sky? So when we eventually started talking about namecloaking and what she would want her name to be cloaked as, it was really nice to bring it all the way back together and say, the reason she remembers the sky first when she remembers this night is because she's remembering where her name comes from. And I always knew I was going to come back and name her Sky, BECAUSE of that very first day.

C Drifth (Lou) DAMN.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah!

C Drifth (Lou) Talk about foreshadowing.

Aabria Iyengar Hey! [Laugh]

C Drifth (Lou) Talk about some goddamn foreshadowing!

Aabria Iyengar Put a little mustard on it!

C Drifth (Lou) Holy—that's fuckin' crazy.

Erika Ishii Your fucking mind, Aabria. I can't—

C Drifth (Lou) Now how—be real. How conscious of that were you? Were you like—I mean, did you know that namecloaks were a thing—

Aabria Iyengar Well we had talkedC Drifth (Lou) —when you described it that way?

Aabria Iyengar We were talking about what cool shit—

C Drifth (Lou) Aabria is now getting—has gotten, like—

Erika Ishii You didn't even—

C Drifth (Lou) —so close to the microphone on this.

Aabria Iyengar So close!

Erika Ishii You guys didn't even know that you were going to have—that S-names was a thing on purpose, yet.

C Drifth (Lou) Yeah, exactly!

Aabria Iyengar Hey.

C Drifth (Lou) I'm like—

Erika Ishii You invented that in the moment!

#### Aabria Iyengar

We invented S-names in the moment. But, we had talked about wizard shit, like what wizard shit was going to happen, and we had talked about wizards hiding their true names REALLY really early, and I was having a panic attack during that scene, because all I was doing on the mic was crying. So in my head, I was like, why am I sitting here and just fucking crying? Why did I start saying, "When I remember this," I'm not present in the moment, what the fuck am I doing? And eventually, got to the point where I'm like, well, let's make it purposeful. So that was a panic choice. It's not brilliant, it was me trying to make sense of why I didn't say shit the whole time, and then the shit I was saying felt tonally inappropriate.

C Drifth (Lou)

Okay, audience, I want you to know you just witnessed one of the craziest things anyone has ever seen. That was—what's 17 plus 9?

Aabria Iyengar 26.

C Drifth (Lou) 26. That was a 26 episode alley-oop that you just watched.

[Aabria and Erika cackle]

C Drifth (Lou) Aabria, in like 2021, threw a basketball up in the air, and it floated there for 26 episodes, and people went, why did Aabria throw a basketball up in the air? And then, time-shifting Aabria jumps from the sky—

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

## C Drifth (Lou)

-and dunks the basketball, in the craziest thing—I think they retired the alley—we're going to retire the narrative alley-oop after this moment, because why—why would anyone try—like that's, some of the crazy—26 episodes just. "Oh, oh, oh, oh! Bang!" Like that's—ah, that blows the roof of everything.

Erika Ishii Narrative edging. Narrative edging.

Aabria Iyengar Narrative edging.

C Drifth (Lou) That's insane, dude.

Aabria Iyengar I heard that's bad for you.

Erika Ishii What?! No-uh! Some people like that sort of thing.

Aabria Iyengar [Cackle] Erika, you don't have to fight that hard, dude.

C Drifth (Lou) Yes. Go to the mat for edging, yes!

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh] Don't let this be the hill you die on.

Erika Ishii Narrative—like, I need a story, to just make me feel things. Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

Erika Ishii

And then also, I enjoy how much the convergence of the Wizard, the Witch, and the Wild One universe, and Cram Daniels is converging with the alley–narrative alley-oop.

Aabria Iyengar Yes! [Laugh]

C Drifth (Lou) Narrative alley-oops, dude.

Erika Ishii Narrative alley-oops. Oh my god. That's insane. Aabrea—

Aabria Iyengar Hey, thanks.

Erika Ishii

-no, that's truly insane, because also, too, then when you look back on why you were like that, it's like you were in the moment, but then also recalling it, and also acting out just the trauma, in that moment, of that silence, of her not being able to say anything, or not being able to do anything, and then-[laughing] refer to that in action. That's-

Aabria Iyengar Hey. Hey. We have to make it make sense.

C Drifth (Lou) Amazing.

Erika Ishii Oh my god!

C Drifth (Lou) I was going to say, I also—this—this whole scene was incredible, and just the—Brennan is—oh, by the way, Brennan is still in Panama—

Aabria Iyengar Yeah, what's going on with that?

C Drifth (Lou)

-with Lou. I haven't gotten any text updates yet, so I'm assuming they've been captured, and are planning some sort of elaborate scheme, that involves, probably, a lot of voices-

Erika Ishii Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar I bet it would be fun, though.

C Drifth (Lou) —to get out. I'm sure they're both together in one of those rope cages? Like in—

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh] Yeah!

Erika Ishii Yeah, yeah yeah yeah.

Aabria Iyengar With a third guy.

C Drifth (Lou) With a third guy! You know there's a third guy.

Aabria Iyengar There's a third guy.

C Drifth (Lou) Who's been there for way too long and has like, a big beard—

Aabria Iyengar Yep!

C Drifth (Lou) —and they're like, we're new. And he's like, welcome to the jungle.

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Erika Ishii A couple of our guests have reached out to me, and have said that they're going to go try and make a rescue party that's going to go down there and rescue our boys.

C Drifth (Lou) I know—my cousin is John Economy—

Aabria Iyengar Yes. Oh! Yes. C Drifth (Lou)

-and I know that he is planning—he has chartered a plane, and is gonna go down there and try and help out, and get a few—

Erika Ishii Oh my god. He chartered a plane?

C Drifth (Lou)

He's good friends with Clip Tastic and Unkie Deauk, and I [audio cuts out] try to do their part. I think as huge fans of the pod, who just want to make sure that Brennan gets back in one piece.

Erika Ishii Mhm mhm.

Aabria Iyengar That's beautiful.

Erika Ishii God. Yeah. Thank you so much to our guests, who truly go above and beyond.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah.

C Drifth (Lou)

Hey. We do it because of how talented you guys are. And speaking of how bad we want this, it is—there's something to this episode, and the whole ritual of the namecloak ceremony, that is just such a reminder of how—that this is going to be... A lot.

[Aabria and Erika cackle]

C Drifth (Lou) It's a moment where you're like, oh! If we were doing this in 50 episodes, it would be like, "Oh great Suvi, here's your namecloak!"

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

C Drifth (Lou) And we'd like, move on. And instead Brennan's got like lightning striking the tower.

Aabria Iyengar Oh my god.

C Drifth (Lou) Four different descriptions of Sky, from four—it was like—I was like, oh, we are—and we're meeting all the other archmages. Erika Ishii

Yeah, there's so many archmages and they all have their own thing like where's their little-

C Drifth (Lou) They got their own vibe.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah! I want to know everything about them.

Erika Ishii Where's the office style [cuts out] of them, and their meetings, and the way that they discuss things.

C Drifth (Lou)

Yes. It feels—the true width of this world is—is crazy, to be like, we're gonna talk about all this stuff, eventually—like, right now it's a blip, right now—

Aabria Iyengar Yeah.

C Drifth (Lou)

-it's a moment, but I—we're going to be talking to all these other different—I was listening back today being like, yeah, god damn.

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

## C Drifth (Lou)

There are a lot of archmages that we have no interaction with, who I believe one day we will, uh, I can only assume—there's no way [cuts out] I don't know, yeah, that was for that moment, we'll see that—wasn't that fun?

Erika Ishii Welp! Dusts off his hand.

C Drifth (Lou) Exactly. Clean! Done. Moving on.

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh] Got it!

Erika Ishii

I love the sound design, and it was so grand and really drove home just the attention to ritual and—I am someone who—I am not spiritual or religious, but I adore ritual and ceremony, because it's something inherent to our humanity, of just needing fussy little moments to bring us together, right?

C Drifth (Lou) Mhm.

Erika Ishii And, god, Brennan is a king of fussy little moments.

Aabria Iyengar It's so good.

Erika Ishii

He loves a fussy little tradition! And so—and creating them and having the weight of all of that, agh! But the thing that I love, about all of the lore that gets dropped in the past couple of episodes, especially this one, is that there's a deep personal connection to each of it, and once again, Suvi is the representative of the empire in our narrative.

C Drifth (Lou) Mhm.

Aabria Iyengar I'm a cop!

Erika Ishii Yeah.

[Aabria and C Drifth laugh]

Erika Ishii

I mean, truly if you want to understand a world, you got to understand its power structures.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah—so, yeah, it's one of those cool things where you're like, oh, man. We obviously don't know very much about the workings and power of the world, but it's so nice to get glimpses, based on ritual, the size and gravity of that ritual. Like having Steel say Suvi's full name, not her true name, but her full name under a bell, just because very few people know what it is, and you still shouldn't be able to hear it, like, it's just that layers of like, what do you hide, and what do you show, and what do you make big and grand, and what secrets do you keep even within your rituals? It's very very cool.

Erika Ishii

Holy shit. Holy shit, wait, I just had a flashback to—this is a fucking meta alley-oop of you being—saying, like, "I ask myself when I create characters, what are the secrets that this world keeps?"

Aabria Iyengar Yeah! What's the lie this world believes? What's the lie this person believes?

C Drifth (Lou) Mm.

#### Aabria Iyengar

A lot of Suvi's is built into her love and trust of the Citadel, and the fact that the Citadel is this thing that we have no idea what it believes in total, and we just have this sort of secondary understanding of the shape of it, via its influence and other things, becomes this really fun—it'll be fun to—again, this is such a long game that you can feel the length of it, in the like, oh, we haven't scratched the surface of like, hitting that—we haven't even hit the lie yet, to even begin to work through it, and past it.

C Drifth (Lou) Mm. Mm. Mm.

Erika Ishii

And, uh, secrets, secret secrets. The moment, that we get in flashback, of Suvi sharing her true name with-

Aabria Iyengar Agh!

Erika Ishii —her friends.

Aabria Iyengar

[Sobbing noises] So good, okay, Erika. I do want to shout out how fucking funny this scene was, telling Eursulon—like, look, I'm an only child, I can only guess at what sibling dynamics are like, but it felt really—I'm doing an approximation every time I try.

Erika Ishii No, it is, it is.

#### Aabria Iyengar

But it felt like, I just was so charmed by having this moment that was really important to Suvi, but immediately gets put away to like, wait, what's your thing? A shield? What's a shield? Like, I just love that moment so much, and I just love Eursulon so much, and the willingness to protect the slip of paper of the name was so cool. And then getting into like, ah! The shield! I just—i just love that so much. And then chopping the legs off a chair. God! Ugh! Sorry. I have a good time.

#### C Drifth (Lou)

But it is—I feel like there's something I'm often trying to chase for in actual play, where I think there's got to be balance, right? It's like we just saw this beautiful scene that was like, deeply choreographed, and is like—and then also and Brennan's execution is just fucking flawless.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah. Truly. C Drifth (Lou)

This person speaks, this happens, this bell rings perfectly and the sound cue is amazing. It's like, I don't know, I think there's like—there is something that's like, this scene should be weird and messy. This scene should be you trying to do a thing, and me being like, I'm actually thinking about a lot of other things—

Aabria Iyengar Yeah!

C Drifth (Lou) —and I don't completely understand your thing? So—

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

C Drifth (Lou)

-sorry, what do you want? Because I actually—I almost feel almost bad listening back to it, like, am I undercutting all of the intensity of the moment before, by just—

Erika Ishii

It's such a sibling moment. It's like, "Oh, you're graduating from law school? Incredible. I need to get my transmission replaced." And it's like, "What?!"

C Drifth (Lou) Yes.

Erika Ishii "I'm about to walk up on the—okay, alright."

Aabria Iyengar I like that, again—

Erika Ishii "Let's talk about your thing for a second." It's so funny.

Aabria Iyengar An only child. It felt really good. I was like, "Oh, is this what this is—this is great, I'm having a great time!"

Erika Ishii As an older sibling, it is exactly what it is like.

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

Erika Ishii Exactly what it is like. C Drifth (Lou) They did it.

Erika Ishii And just also, the moment with Steel, I forgot—the Eursulon moment with Steel, of—

Aabria Iyengar Oh my god, yes.

Erika Ishii —the offer to help return, to become unwayshadowed.

C Drifth (Lou)

That was like a—I was really—speaking from the inside, I was like—and I think there was a question about it that I pulled—in the moment when that happened, I was actually deeply confused.

Aabria Iyengar Ooh!

C Drifth (Lou)

It's a weird thing where I'm like, the energy and the moment and the style I feel like we've kind of found ourselves in, I was like, I don't really want to stop and ask, I'm like—I don't want to stop and ask a bunch of questions about what Eursulon would know? I just wanted to move from a place of what I felt like Eursulon knew, in that moment about his wayshadowedness, which is, nothing.

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

C Drifth (Lou)

So it was like, in the moment where Brennan is like, "Do you want to become unwayshadowed?" I think there was, like, the curiosity of Lou to be like, "Wait, wait, wait. I barely understood when you told me I was wayshadowed in episode 12 or 13 or whatever that was. And now it's coming back around," and I feel like there's—I think I ended up moving from a place of, like, Eursulon just doesn't wanna—like, it's too much.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah.

## C Drifth (Lou)

Too much in this present moment to be like, "Let's have a conversation about the nature of your wayshadowedness, and the ways in which you could return back to the world." Like, it's like somebody being like, "We could go—let's have a long talk, about kind of what you're going through," and you being like, "Nah dog, what's up? Can we uh—"

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh] C Drifth (Lou) "Ey, what's up! Let's get back into it!"

Erika Ishii We should go back to training.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah!

## C Drifth (Lou)

Exactly. It is that, I think just like—I don't know, I'm always—there are moments where, in a fantasy story, and I think especially in a fantasy genre, where I'm—I really like playing things as human as possible. And I feel—I think there's always part of me that feels a little bad, of like, does Brennan need this as a lore dump moment to kind of explain—

Aabria Iyengar I feel that, yeah. [Laugh]

### C Drifth (Lou)

-the nature of wayshadowing, and kind of how it could be unresolved? I was like, But Eursulon has no-cannot take in that information in the kind of way that's like, "Here, have a seat. Let's have a glass of water, and let's talk about why you can't go home." And I'm like, "Absolutely not!" I think that's just not the way—Eursulon hates talking.

Aabria Iyengar [Laughing] Yeah!

Erika Ishii Yeah.

#### C Drifth (Lou)

Hey, that's why we got—we got Quest Fever, baby! You know it's just like, that's—that's what it takes for action, so. I remember that moment feeling very like, "Oh, I don't wanna—I don't wanna do this right now!" [Laugh] I've just been presented a big thing, and I want no part of it. For now...

Aabria Iyengar There is something really—

Erika Ishii For now...

#### Aabria Iyengar

It feels like a really grounded thing of like, when you're inside of your body in that really fun way while you're training, you're like, what do you mean have a deep conversation? That's not the vibe. And it's—yeah, it made perfect sense.

C Drifth (Lou) It's too bright in this room, ya know?

Aabria Iyengar Yeah!

C Drifth (Lou) If you want to hit me with a 50% dimmer—

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

C Drifth (Lou)

-like a painting of a pasture, a big leather chair, and you wanna go "You could maybe go home" maybe I'd be-maybe, but you can't-not on the training ground, not while I'm sweating!

Aabria Iyengar Yeah.

C Drifth (Lou) Just imagine if you were just, like, mid run and somebody was like, "Can we talk about your dad?"

[Everyone laughs]

C Drifth (Lou) No!

Aabria Iyengar No!

C Drifth (Lou) Quite simply no!

Erika Ishii No, no no no no no.

Aabria Iyengar Okay, can I fold in a bit of a fan question? I think you covered a lot of it, but just, if there was anything else you wanted to touch on—

C Drifth (Lou) Fold! Fold!

Aabria Iyengar We got a really cool question from Steve, he says, "Good Stevening," which is delightful. Erika Ishii We've had this Steve before.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah!

C Drifth (Lou) Yes.

#### Aabria Iyengar

He's our Steve. Does every wayshadowed Spirit instinctively know what they must do to regain their Breath, or is Eursulon's awareness of his quest unique?

C Drifth (Lou)

I-the sense I get—and the creator of the rules of Spirits is not here, he's in a rope cage somewhere in Panama, hanging from, probably, I'm assuming, one of those big, like, mangrove trees.

Aabria Iyengar [Gasp] Yeah! Ooh, what a vibe.

## C Drifth (Lou)

But my sense is that they're all unique, that everyone—even in the description Steel gives is like, "Some people have had their talisman taken, some people have had this." I think that everyone's—each Spirit trapped herem there are many different circumstances under which a Spirit can lose touch with their Breath. And I think even Eursulon has like—there's a lot, like even in the fact that he lost his Breath, and is only now encountering people who can explain to him his Breath and his relationship to it, and what creates that divide. I think it is a very unique experience for each individual Spirit who loses touch.

Aabria Iyengar So cool.

Erika Ishii Yeah. It seems like it, because I remember Orima saying, like, "Oh, some of them leave it in an item."

C Drifth (Lou) Yes.

Erika Ishii I think even Steel asks, Is it in a talisman somewhere? And we know that it is in a memory of a concept.

C Drifth (Lou) Yes. Ah, god.

Aabria Iyengar Fuck. C Drifth (Lou) [Chuckle]

Aabria Iyengar Speaking of like, long, slow burns. That's just so good.

C Drifth (Lou) Yeah. We're gonna—I mean we're writing a book series together.

Aabria Iyengar Ey!

C Drifth (Lou) It is—it does feel like I'm going to change, like I'm going to get a face tattoo—

Erika Ishii [Cackle]

C Drifth (Lou) I can only picture us finishing this, all looking very differently and being like, "And thus our story is complete," like it just feels—

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

Erika Ishii The time skip moment and stuff, and I have bangs, and—somehow.

Aabria Iyengar [Laughing] Bangs!

Erika Ishii Right? And Brennan's got the full beard and stuff and you've got a face tattoo.

C Drifth (Lou) Yeah, I have a full Levar Burton style—

Aabria Iyengar Ooh!

C Drifth (Lou) —visor that I wear.

Erika Ishii Yes yes, good good, yeah yeah. C Drifth (Lou) It's the future!

Aabria Iyengar It's the future now!

Erika Ishii Aabria is a hologram.

Aabria Iyengar Oh, yeah. Yeah.

C Drifth (Lou) Yeah, exactly. Yeah.

Erika Ishii She is one with the hive mind.

Aabria Iyengar Oh! I'm a singularity? That's nice.

[Aabria and C Drifth laugh]

Erika Ishii Yeah, you are—you're like—yeah. Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar I got Transcendence'd.

Erika Ishii Yes.

C Drifth (Lou) Yes.

Aabria Iyengar Like, what's his name. Johnny Depp in that movie that no one watched, but I think I liked it.

C Drifth (Lou) Which one?

Aabria Iyengar Transcendence, when he turns into a little computer man?

Erika Ishii What?! C Drifth (Lou) Oh. That feels fake. That feels like you made it up.

Aabria Iyengar It does feel fake, but it is a real movie.

Erika Ishii It seems like, is this a—

Erika Ishii Tens of people watch this.

Erika Ishii The Sinbad movie?

C Drifth (Lou) Oh, yeah. Is this a Kazaam Shazam?

Erika Ishii Is it a Kazaam thing?

C Drifth (Lou) This is a full Shazam situation.

Aabria Iyengar Berenstain.

C Drifth (Lou) I feel like we gotta—

Erika Ishii Oh we gotta—

C Drifth (Lou) —talk about this party.

Erika Ishii Oh.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah!

C Drifth (Lou) We could also answer questions. Erika Ishii

It was so good, it was so so good. I love it! In this sort of, like, brutalist war games? Like-

Aabria Iyengar Hell yeah.

Erika Ishii

-beer garden? And there's, like, little sausages with toothpicks in them, and the cake, I was so proud of the cake.

Aabria Iyengar

Eursulon and the Fox, like, identifying the spices in the sausages was, ugh. Yeah, there's something so real about that, of the little thing you hyper focus on in a big party where you're like, I don't go here, so I'm just going to go have my fun in the corner of this party.

C Drifth (Lou)

Yeah, I can't really have a conversation with most of these wizards about anything too interesting, so I guess me and the Fox will just play the game of can you name the spices in the sausage?

Erika Ishii I love Eursulon turning the Fox into a little gourmand, it's sooo—

Aabria Iyengar Yeah!

Erika Ishii —cute.

C Drifth (Lou) Bit by bit.

Erika Ishii Yeah like, he's learning about food and spices, he's learning to gamble.

C Drifth (Lou) Yes.

Erika Ishii I love the little adventures of Eursulon and the Fox. It's just truly a delight. And I love the philosophical discussions of the different schools of magic with the wizards?

Aabria Iyengar Boo, cauliflower, tomato, tomato.

Erika Ishii [Laughing] C Drifth (Lou) And as you said Erika, we finally got to see Ame's baking skills come out.

Aabria Iyengar Dog! That cake is so cute.

C Drifth (Lou) Are there full spheres floating above the cake? Was that—

Erika Ishii Yeah, there's like a little celestial—it looks like one of those little the model galaxies—

C Drifth (Lou) Mobiles?

Erika Ishii —little mobiles, yeah.

C Drifth (Lou) Now, is that—are those also cake—

Aabria Iyengar Oh!

C Drifth (Lou) —or are those just decorations?

Erika Ishii They're truffles, they're like little truffles.

Aabria Iyengar Nice.

C Drifth (Lou) [Disappointed] Okay.

Aabria Iyengar Okay, I feel better about that.

C Drifth (Lou) Alright.

Aabria Iyengar As long as it's not solid fondant. I fuckin' hate biting into a nugget of fondant.

#### Erika Ishii

No no no no no, I know, I know. It would be like, you know, the different kinds of candies and chocolates, or rolled in different kinds of things. It was so fun to build that cake. Like, I'm bad at cooking and baking in real life? I'm better at baking because that's more of a science and chemistry thing than it is cooking, and cooking is. I like mixing drinks because that's also chemistry, but like, I just never sit down to take the time to do it. So the idea of coming up with magical confections, it just tickles me so much.

#### Erika Ishii

That was a thing that I used to love about Harry Potter, was it's like, these are magical things! But then sort of grounding them and like, well, what would the laws—what would the actual sort of laws of magic be for the application of these? And the idea of baking in sort of like a cure wounds—like, if I could make a pedialite electrolyte cake [laughing] for like when people are going to be drinking a lot—

Aabria Iyengar Oof.

Lou Wilson Yes.

Erika Ishii —I absolutely would.

Aabria Iyengar Oof, so real.

Erika Ishii And so I did a little sketch of the cake in my notebook, and I hope to see—

C Drifth (Lou) What?

Aabria Iyengar Aww.

Erika Ishii

-and I want to see other little fan arts of it. And the idea of-of Eursulon and Ame holding the cake between them and Eursulon being like, I helped!

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

Erika Ishii

I did it! It was mostly me! Yes, yes, very helpful. And I imagine that the Fox got to lick the batter on, like, little beaters.

C Drifth (Lou) Oh, of course.

Erika Ishii Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar So cute.

Erika Ishii So cute. Also, we feel Silver is fine, I guess.

Aabria Iyengar Goddamn, what?! Get off my man.

Erika Ishii He's—

Aabria Iyengar He's great!

Erika Ishii He's perfectly nice.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay, this feels rude and pointed. He threw a whole party. I'm going to defend this man that we know so little about, so much, because I'm on Tumblr now, because I got kicked off of Twitter, and Tumblr does not care for Silver.

Erika Ishii [Laughing]

C Drifth (Lou) Wait, do people not like—wait, do people not like Silver?

Erika Ishii They think he's just fine.

Aabria Iyengar Okay. There may have been a moment—

C Drifth (Lou) Is it because he's a cop, or is there a moment that he does something that people don't like? Aabria Iyengar

No, it's more of a like—there was a moment when Suvi was explaining her name to Ame that people on Tumblr have maybe decided was gay as fuck. [Laugh] And deeply Sapphic. And they're like, who is this boy standing in the way of a ship that we just set sail?

C Drifth (Lou) Got it.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah. Yeah.

C Drifth (Lou) Got it. Well, as a friend of a person who sometimes plays the other PC in the group—

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

C Drifth (Lou) —it would be awesome if that ship could sink.

Erika Ishii [Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar Oh my god! What would you do if we were just sitting here and were just like—

C Drifth (Lou) If it was just, I just became—

Aabria Iyengar [Laughing] A third wheel?

C Drifth (Lou) —a third wheel in this campaign. I don't think—there is not a more cursed experience.

Aabria Iyengar Oh my god!

C Drifth (Lou) I don't think there could be a more cursed experience in all of D&D than the other in a three person party, two of you start dating—

Aabria Iyengar That's so funny. C Drifth (Lou) —and I'm just like.

[Everyone laughs]

Aabria Iyengar That's hilarious. And I have a new fear now. Oh my god.

C Drifth (Lou) I do think I would retire.

Aabria Iyengar [Cackle]

C Drifth (Lou)

I think Eursulon would be like "I'm actually, uh—this was fun. This was a lot of fun. You guys are my true friends. And if you need me, I will be performing three nights a week at the Citadel."

Erika Ishii Oh my god!

Aabria Iyengar This is how you just brute force unwayshadow yourself, you're like, actually I'm gonna go back now!

C Drifth (Lou)

I'm going home. What's up, Steel? Let's figure this shit out. I'm ready to talk about it. We can talk wherever you want. I'm not sure you heard, Ame and Suvi have moved in together, and—

[Aabria and Erika crying laughing]

C Drifth (Lou) −I kind of need a new thing. Gosh.

Erika Ishii Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar That would be—

C Drifth (Lou) Truly so cursed.

Aabria Iyengar That would be so fucking cursed, oh my god! Well, now I want to do it just to bother you, butC Drifth (Lou) God, please-

Erika Ishii I will initiate scenes only with Aabria, ever.

Aabria Iyengar And they'll just be so obviously, like—

Erika Ishii Ame goes over to Suvi and is like, "Hey can I talk to you for a moment away from Eursulon?"

Aabria Iyengar [Laughing] Jesus!

Erika Ishii "Just for a minute." And it'll be only that every episode.

Aabria Iyengar Every episode.

C Drifth (Lou) Every episode is just like, "Babe, we gotta figure this out."

Aabria Iyengar BABE!

C Drifth (Lou) "Eursulon, you're also here." [Laugh]

Erika Ishii [Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar Does the arc then become how does Ame and Suvi proposition Eursulon to be their unicorn?

C Drifth (Lou) To join the thr—

Erika Ishii Oh yeah, to join the throuple.

C Drifth (Lou) Exactly. It just becomesAabria Iyengar Yeah.

C Drifth (Lou) We have two arcs that are "What's up, man."

Erika Ishii Arc 5 baby, arc 5. [Laughing]

C Drifth (Lou) [Laughing] Arc 5.

Aabria Iyengar Oh my god. Horrifying.

C Drifth (Lou) Oh, god.

Aabria Iyengar I'm sure everything with Silver will go fine, the episode ended well.

Erika Ishii Yes.

[Aabria and C Drifth laugh]

Erika Ishii Man. What is this Pride & Prejudice shit.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah. That's good.

Erika Ishii The hand squeezing ass. Bullshit.

Aabria Iyengar Well it's one of those—

C Drifth (Lou) It's also—

Aabria Iyengar Oh, go ahead.

C Drifth (Lou) Oh, go ahead. Aabria Iyengar

I was going to say, it's one of those fun things where you're like "Oh yeah, I want my character to be in a relationship, and it'll be really nice," and then you get it, and you're like, "Oh, do I have to keep doing this? I kind of wanted that just to happen, and then I don't want to think about it anymore."

C Drifth (Lou) Yes.

#### Aabria Iyengar

So there was a moment like, yes, I'm very sad about whatever's happening with the cliffhanger, and Silver being redeployed, but there is a little part of me that's like. "Oh okay good. Cool cool cool." I don't have to live in this romantic moment, where there's four of us at a table and I'm just sitting here staring at Brennan like, "And our characters fuck now? I guess? Let's go do that?"

Erika Ishii Fade to black, fade to black!

Aabria Iyengar Fade to black! Banana, banana.

Erika Ishii

Banana banana banana! God damn it. We shouldn't quote—I find myself quoting my friends things that—sometimes things that I haven't even been there for.

Aabria Iyengar Oh yeah!

Erika Ishii

And it's just embarrassing, honestly. But, yeah, I uh, it's funny. Romance in D&D, especially in a long term campaign is like, well, ya know. A will they/won't they is fun, and a quick sort of meetup is fun. But maintaining a relationship, whether it is just like, romantic or sexual or otherwise, is hard, just like in real life.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah.

Erika Ishii

And it's not like the sexiest thing, you know? It's a thing that requires care and time and thoughtfulness and it's like—

## C Drifth (Lou)

In the performance element of all of D&D. It does feel crazy to perform—but it feels both honest, but also strange, to perform the acts of a relationship that are most important?

Aabria Iyengar Yeah.

Erika Ishii Mhm.

C Drifth (Lou) It feels inauthentic to not portray the part where you're like, "How'd you sleep."

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh] Yeah!

C Drifth (Lou)

You feel like you're like, "What, oh, this is a relationship where we never just kind of make conversation that is kind of bland, and kind of just meant to be like, I'm in this with you—

Aabria Iyengar Yeah!

Erika Ishii Yeah.

C Drifth (Lou) —every moment of the day." But it also is like, "Wait, what is this show? What's this show, that's just me—"

Aabria Iyengar That's exactly it.

Erika Ishii

I think that I really do love seeing these quote/unquote, unsexy parts of being in a relationship with somebody. And I just was rewatching one of my favorite noir is "The Thin Man." It's got Nick and Nora, which is, remember we were talking about—

Aabria Iyengar Yeah!

Erika Ishii —the Nick and Nora glasses.

Aabria Iyengar Yep. Love it.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, Nick and Nora are a married couple, and when you meet them, they're married, and they just have this incredible playful dynamic that's just—they're just so—such good partners. And it's like, that's exciting to see. And then, of course, the Mortisha and Gomez of it all. Or like in Harley Quinn the TV—the animated tv

show, like, there's one point where they're having a relationship issue, and they need to really talk to it, and it's just heartfelt and beautiful and vulnerable scene, and it's happening while they're trying to stake out, like, a Gotham Sex Party.

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

Erika Ishii Like an Eyes Wide Shut party and it's like—

Aabria Iyengar Yes!

Erika Ishii —but it's awkward and weird and I love it. Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar That's so good.

Erika Ishii

And I love seeing I think, on one hand, I would like to have known more about this Silver, and the kind of relationship—

Aabria Iyengar Alright.

Erika Ishii

-discussions that they have. But yeah, on the other hand, too, it's a lot to kind of—especially with an NPC—have them be in a sort of steady relationship. That's a lot.

C Drifth (Lou)

I also just—I honestly just took a moment to re-listen to the end of the episode, because it is—there's this really fun thing that Brennan does, where he does not change intonation between how Silver speaks, and him ending the episode?

Erika Ishii [Laugh]

C Drifth (Lou)

It just feels—it is so—I don't know, there's something so funny to it just being this through line that's like "And the Fort Kierna just got attacked. I have to leave tonight. And that's the end of the episode."

[Aabria and Erika cackle]

C Drifth (Lou) It feels like Silver knows exactly what he—it feels like a full turn to camera momentErika Ishii Silver spikes the camera.

C Drifth (Lou) —where Silver goes like he's like, "what's up. Drama." And then he just whiffs looks at camera, winks—

Erika Ishii "Join us next time on—"

C Drifth (Lou) Exactly!

Erika Ishii "—Worlds Beyond Number: the Wizard, the Witch, and the Wild One."

C Drifth (Lou)

Because I was thinking I was like, Is that—did I make that up, that it just feels like—it really feels like Silver ends the episode. He says, "I have to go tonight." You go, "No." And then he says, "The episode's over," in the exact same tone.

Aabria Iyengar The same voice? That's so funny.

C Drifth (Lou) There's not like a cut and like a "It's Brennan again!" It's like Silver spikes the camera, ends the ep. i just—agh.

Aabria Iyengar Nice. That's so funny. Wait! We cannot leave this without talking about those fucking ice fairies.

C Drifth (Lou) That's right.

Erika Ishii Oh my god. I have never heard—our goal—

Aabria Iyengar Jesus.

Erika Ishii —we know we're on the right track when we can hear Taylor laughing from the other room.

Aabria Iyengar Yes!

Erika Ishii

I think Taylor almost peed himself, or hurt himself laughing at this one. I think he said this is the hardest he laughed during a recording EVER. And like. Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

Erika Ishii

[Laughing] Those little stupid guys. I love them so much! Just like "I'm the stupid one!" And then Suvi being like "Oh my god I want to keep them!"

Aabria Iyengar I want that one.

Erika Ishii And The Fox being like, "You can do better man," like—

Aabria Iyengar Bruh.

C Drifth (Lou) It is—I feel like when Brennan comes back, this is like a moment to bookmark, of like—

Aabria Iyengar Yeah.

Erika Ishii Yeah.

## C Drifth (Lou)

-because I know we talked about it on the day, but there—he did describe there was some moment where he was like, "Oh, okay. I guess they won't be serious anymore." Because it does relistening to it. It is like, oh there's nothing initially that's like, these two guys are going to tell you about how they don't have assholes, and are like—

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

## C Drifth (Lou)

-rip their heads off, and are doing a full vaudeville routine with their body parts, but it does very much become that, in the most delightful way.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah. C Drifth (Lou)

And so I am like—when did he realize that that was—because I know he told me that that's not how it started. It did not start—

Aabria Iyengar Yeah!

C Drifth (Lou)

He did not go like, "And then these silly little ice pixies will walk in with fuckin' straw hats and canes, and be like—"

Aabria Iyengar Inherit the wind and stars.

Erika Ishii

That's the thing is it's like—it's a really, actually, very anxious moment—for Ame this is like her worst nightmare.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah!

Erika Ishii

Like, she spent her whole life in service of others, and then she's like, "Yeah, I could relax. I could go to my friend's party. I could get a little drunk." And then they're like, "Heed our word Witch of the World's Heart! You have great duties that await you! We have called many a time upon the guardian of your sanctum! Be this your sanctum?" No, it's a bathroom! Being like oh god—truly, that is Erika, my nightmare, of being like—

Aabria Iyengar Yeah.

Erika Ishii

-look, I work so hard. I prepare myself so much. I always know what to say. And then the one time, literally getting caught with my pants down, being like, ope!

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

Erika Ishii

I'm not ready. But it led to—I wrote down this quote, it was my fav—it really feels like the culmination of everything, of like, "I shall bear this news hither, that the grove of the well is no longer safe, and that the Witch of the World's Heart hides by the side of the Wizard Sky in a bathroom covered in sausages!"

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh] There is something really funny. I feel like it's a very long form improv instinct, to just describe what's happening? Just be like, just so you know, here's where we're at right now. And you're like, god, it's bad when you say it.

Erika Ishii [Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. It's so good and so funny, and you're like, don't say it, because that means we're too drunk to be good at jobs now.

Erika Ishii Oh my god.

Aabria Iyengar It's so real.

Erika Ishii

Because it really was, that moment of holding your hand in the bathroom being like, "Oh my god, your lipstick is so pretty. Oh my god, you're the best. I love you. I love you!"

Aabria Iyengar Man, girl bathroom time. So good.

Erika Ishii

It really is, truly—yeah. There's been talk of an inciting incident of a D&D party being like, in a bathroom somewhere, because there is no camaraderie—

Aabria Iyengar True.

Erika Ishii —like the camaraderie from the ladies restroom—

Aabria Iyengar God.

Erika Ishii

-at a club while you are drunk, it's truly incredible. And it felt like the perfect moment for something of such great weight and consequence to suddenly come literally crashing in, and then it just can't help but be so elevated, and all so silly. I love those little guys.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah.

Erika Ishii [Laughing] And then he explodes! Aabria Iyengar

And then he explodes. And there's even in the silliness of having Eursulon step away too, there's something very fun, in the fact that this is a very funny scene, but everyone is still very much themselves, and doing what their character would do, and kind of hitting their tropes and their archetypes, where—

C Drifth (Lou) Yes.

Aabria Iyengar —Eursulon is guarding the bathroom door, and doing—

C Drifth (Lou) There it is dude.

Aabria Iyengar —maybe a questionable job—

C Drifth (Lou) Very questionable job.

Aabria Iyengar —of turning up that heat, but he's doing it!

C Drifth (Lou) Hey, next time, next time they won't catch me slipping like that, you know?

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

Erika Ishii Oh my god.

#### Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Same with Ame, who is drunk, and going through drunk girl in the bathroom things, and still has to find compassion and communication between disparate people, and figuring out what the fuck these ice fairies want, and what Ingdry wants, and—yeah, it's very cool. And then, of course, Suvi just on the side being like, I don't know what this interaction is, but I will help you be the best at it. And not helping!

Erika Ishii [Laughing] Yes!

Aabria Iyengar I'm not helping!

Erika Ishii Oh, what a good moment. And the Fox, the Fox, just bein' the Fox. Aabria Iyengar Jesus.

Erika Ishii Oh my god.

Aabria Iyengar I'm about to not want to do this anymore. So good.

Erika Ishii I'm about to put your hands all over my body.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah. Oh, put your mouth on my butt.

Lou Wilson There it is.

Aabria Iyengar You're like, yeah, that's what that sounds like.

Erika Ishii I'm about to not want to do this anymore.

#### Aabria Iyengar

De-lightful. I have a question. My dear C Drifths, do you—at any point do you wish that you had been in the room for that moment? Do you think you would have changed any of the balance of us fucking it up?

C Drifth (Lou) The kind of vibe?

Aabria Iyengar Yeah.

## C Drifth (Lou)

I'm glad I wasn't there, I feel like there is—I mean, Eursulon is very observer before—I don't think Eursulon would have any sort of intention or desire as to make it right, as to be like it should be a way, and I should be doing something in this moment? But I do, I really like—I mean, think it's one of the beauties of this campaign that I don't feel like I have to be in the mix, or like we don't have to do everything together all of the time.

Erika Ishii Yeah. Aabria Iyengar Mhm.

### C Drifth (Lou)

There was just part of me that was like, no, it feels right, that—that—what's happening in here, there is a desire for it not to be known or talked about or gossiped. And so, somebody needs to prevent people from not entering that space. And I feel like that feels like—because Suvi knows everything, and Ame understands everything, and Eursulon is big and can block the door.

[Everyone laughs]

#### C Drifth (Lou)

And I think there is also just a trust in Eursulon that's, like, Suvi and Ame can handle anything that's put in front of them. What is my role in this space is like, well, to give them time and energy to understand what is happening. So I think there's part of me that's like, oh, I don't actually need to be in there, because I think I would just be looking at the two of you being like, "Well this is shit you understand, right?" Because I'm just going to be asking you questions about what we're witnessing.

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

Erika Ishii God, I love that.

C Drifth (Lou)

Eursulon found his space in that, and I think it's very much—it's still a part of it, it's just not—it's on the other side of the door.

Aabria Iyengar Nice.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, I really like how—I mean, and that trust sort of extends to us as players, too, where we're like, you guys have got this. I'm very cool just sitting and listening to one or both of you just go do your thing.

C Drifth (Lou) Yeah.

Erika Ishii It's the best seat in the house.

Aabria Iyengar Truly.

C Drifth (Lou) There it is. Erika Ishii Yeah!

Aabria Iyengar Okay.

Erika Ishii Okay, so. Wow, I could talk about those sphincter-less little fairies forever.

Aabria Iyengar Yes.

Erika Ishii And how brilliant you all are, but alas, we must go. And, yeah, thank you so much for joining us, Mr. Drifth.

C Drifth (Lou) Hey, it was no trouble, thanks for having me.

Aabria Iyengar You're my favorite.

Erika Ishii Yes.

C Drifth (Lou) What? That's incredible! Didn't the last guy bring a whole game, and thing to do?

Aabria Iyengar Yeah! It started off rocky.

Erika Ishii We should—yeah, but yeah, I think he definitely earned a spot back on here. He's got to come back and do that for us sometime.

C Drifth (Lou) Okay, but—

Aabria Iyengar We'll see who survives Panama.

C Drifth (Lou) Can I come back?

Aabria Iyengar Yeah—you, yes. C Drifth (Lou) Is this a whole thing?

Erika Ishii Yes, definitely.

C Drifth (Lou) Oh, okay!

Erika Ishii Yeah yeah yeah.

C Drifth (Lou) Oh, sick!

Erika Ishii Next time you can bring a game too!

Erika Ishii Look, there could have been a lot of tension in that. Could have been a whole game. It's Thanksgiving. I'm full of turkey. Yes. Just yes.

C Drifth (Lou) Okay. You guys want me to bring a game? I can figure something out. I'll cook something up.

Erika Ishii Oh hell yeah.

Aabria Iyengar Yeah, you have homework to come back.

C Drifth (Lou) Okay, great, great. I'm gonna go—I have a full time job and a family, but I'm going to make some space and some time, to come up with a fun little game we can play.

Erika Ishii Perfect. Incredible. Then we'll see you and play it then.

Aabria Iyengar [Laugh]

C Drifth (Lou) Hell yes. Erika Ishii I have been your host, Erika Ishii. Crackle crackle, Ahoohoo. Aabria?

Aabria Iyengar A crackle crackle, ahoohoo. We'll see you next time.

Erika Ishii And Mr. C. Drifths

C Drifth (Lou) Ahoohoo. Crackle crackle. And I'm bringing a game, baby.

Erika Ishii Yeah!

Aabria Iyengar Yeah‼

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