

Worlds Beyond Number

Space Cram: Episode 02 - The Menlo County Summer League 3X3 Part 2

Final Version

[World's Beyond Number intro music rises urgently with orchestral strings and flute]

Erika Ishii

This is the sound of Worlds Beyond Number.

[The other instruments fade into a lone flute and violin pluck. A melodic chorus of "Cram Daniel!" Foot steps and grim organ music]

Aabria Iyengar

As Minyos turns and storms away to let the game happen organically, however it's going to shake out, with full and perfect confidence in his son, the future scourge of this and all worlds, you have but a few minutes before the lunch break at this tournament wraps up, and the final match in this 3X# tournament is set to begin. All of the attention, the hundreds of mostly bored adults and younger siblings that have been at this tournament since six this morning, are turned into a single half court of a regulation basketball court. I guess I'll just use that word twice. That's great. We're doing great here.

Lou Wilson

Works great.

Aabria Iyengar

Words are good. And all eyes will soon be on you. You have no visual on Move.bin, as they are in the home locker room of this middle school gym. And you four, along with your fourth, Jenny Schaub, are in the away locker room, painted a sickly medicinal pink due to some pseudoscience about how colors affect aggression. Jenny's got her headphones on. She's getting in the zone. She's listening to jams that will, in fact, pump her up. And you guys have a couple minutes, for any final preparations for this game.

Aabria Iyengar

And I will say up top. I know you have banked truly hundreds of thousands of tokens, but whenever you face off against your nemesis, doing what it will take to right the timeline, the mechanics of other games and other worlds and other stories and other conflicts will come into play. And all of those will be handled by opposed d20 roles.

Lou Wilson

Does that include his family members?

Aabria Iyengar

It does not.

Lou Wilson

Mm, okay. I mean, I think Slam's just pacing back and forth, doing his best not to do a complicated move and overthink things.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laugh]

Lou Wilson
Just keep his mind clear.

Aabria Iyengar
I'll give you the token for it anyway.

Lou Wilson
You know what? Thanks. Keep his mind clear. Remember the mission. Remember, between Cram, and Clam, and Jenny Schaub, we have everything we need.

Aabria Iyengar
Clam, do you have any final preparations before you enter into your final game?

Erika Ishii
I'd like to go leave the locker room, and seek out our friend Ram.

Aabria Iyengar
Friend is such a strong word.

Erika Ishii
Yes. Our dear ally Ram!

Aabria Iyengar
You peek outside, to the front of the gym, where that collapsible table was, and you see it's all folded up. All of the papers are sort of like stacked on top, and she is instead sitting in a little folding chair, deeply uncomfortable, next to the big tournament board, and she's busy erasing and filling in the bracket, and showing the two of you about to face off for the finale.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)
Ra—uh. Renée?

Renée Samuels (Aabria)
Oh!

Clam Blamielle (Erika)
[Clears throat]

Renée Samuels (Aabria)
Yes. Hi.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

I would like to apologize for the way that my teammates and I acted earlier. As you might imagine, adjusting to every time period has a little bit of a warm up phase. But that's not your issue and I'm not trying to make our problems your problems, even though we are trying to save the world and such. We have a critical mission that we all must work together for, and I apologize that you had to pay the price for that.

Renée Samuels (Aabria)

Oh!

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

We did what we had to do to get it done. Someone in the sports world and a small business owner, I think you can a little bit understand that.

Renée Samuels (Aabria)

So that kind of monologue came with a lot of apologies, which was—

Aabria Iyengar

And as she speaks, she's writing on the board like a little line that looks almost like an EKG going above and below.

Renée Samuels (Aabria)

The apology parts, they were going up, but then there was a lot of presumptions about what I should expect and how I should have reacted, and what I need to do because of a mission that you assume I understand. So we're coming out a little neutral, but I'm going to take the win and say, you're forgiven, Miss Blamielle.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Thank you. My ancestors, and my progeny, shall all speak the name of Renée Samuel with reverence! Now, I ask you, what can we achieve by working together? You and us?

Renée Samuels (Aabria)

Okay, um—

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Perhaps do you need—are you looking for sponsorships? Like we can make jerseys with your—

Renée Samuels (Aabria)

Oh my gosh. Actually—actually yes! We have another one of these tournaments truly next weekend, right here—

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

You do this every weekend?

Renée Samuels (Aabria)

Not every weekend, like we take the 4th off and like Labor Day.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)
[Sucks air through teeth, grunts]

Renée Samuels (Aabria)
But we have to keep the kids busy and focused and in very strong air conditioning during hot summers. You know, this isn't Flag—we don't have Flagstaff money, so—

Clam Blamielle (Erika)
[Laughing] Well who does!

Renée Samuels (Aabria)
—we kind of try to get them in the central air. So, yeah! If you and your group of other children are interested in sponsoring the next weekend's tournament, I would love to have a conversation about that. How do you think I—we can help you?

Clam Blamielle (Erika)
Can you tell me a little bit about the Binyas family?

[Drum heavy jazzy heist music]

Clam Blamielle (Erika)
I'm sorry, the Mouf-Binyas family?

Renée Samuels (Aabria)
Yeah. Well, I'm going to stop you, up top. They are not hyphenated in that way. Best I heard—

Aabria Iyengar
And she leans in and gives that absolute, like—little tea. Little tea. She's got a little tea elbow on her knee.

Renée Samuels (Aabria)
[Slyly] So, from what I heard, they were married, and then, IN the delivery room, had some sort of big argument, talked about splitting up. One parent got one of the twins, other parent got the other. And it wasn't until recently that the kids even knew about each other! And now they're kind of inseparable. But I don't think the parents are getting back together, but, you know.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)
But they still attend sporting events together?

Renée Samuels (Aabria)
Yeah. They're attempting some very enlightened co-parenting.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)
Sure, sure, sure, very suburbia of them.

Renée Samuels (Aabria)
Yes.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Yes. All right, well, thank you very much for your consideration and for reaching out in friendship.

Renée Samuels (Aabria)

Is that what this is? Okay!

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Yes! You have made a very powerful ally in Clam Blamielle!

Renée Samuels (Aabria)

Okay! Um—that's—

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Good day to you, Renée! Thank you.

Renée Samuels (Aabria)

Shit, okay!

Erika Ishii

Okay, I go back to the locker room. So, I relay everything to my compatriots and I say

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

So it would seem, that there is a bit of a rift in the Binyas family!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Mm! A rift? Much like a rift in time...

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Yeah.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

That's all.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Okay.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Perhaps an opportunity to exploit it will emerge, and we will capitalize.

Aabria Iyengar

You see, right about this time, a little alarm goes off on Jenny's wrist, and she takes down her oversized headphones and goes

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

Okay! Are you guys ready to go? We all feeling good, and limber? Still warm?

[Echoing locker room doors]

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

I'm feeling good.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

You're breathing real loud.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Yeah.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

Is that, like, excitement?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Um. No, it's a punctured lung.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

That's right!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Yes.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

I was gonna—oh—

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

I'm huge now!

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

Oh shoot!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

But the puncture is still there.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

It's alright, dogs don't need to breath.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Don't need to breathe.

[Echoing in the background, an announcer introduces the next game]

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
It's a key fact.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
It's a key fact. Now, I'm choosing to breathe, which is the reason you're hearing it.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)
Yeah!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Once we get out on the court, I'm going to stop and I'm going to play through it.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)
But is the choice to breathe, does that have anything to do with the—

[The announcer calls for the Fly Green Tomatoes, the crowd cheers]

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)
Like, is the lung still punctured if you don't use it?

Lou Wilson
I look now to the man who gave me that key fact.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I'm going to use another token for a rewarding move to know a key fact. I'm going to say

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
You don't use lungs to breathe.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Well, then what do I use, Cran?

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
Your stomach. That's a key fact I know!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
That's a key fact. Hm. Well, then I'll be just fine.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

Okay. All right, well, I guess our general plan: if you need me, you can sub me in whenever you want, but you guys got this, or?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

100%.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

Okay, well, let's get some paws on in here!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Paws on in!

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

We're going to say team on three!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Actually, we actually already do this without you, Jenny.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

Oh, I'm sorry. That was very presumptuous of me, I'm so sorry. Go ahead, you go.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

No, Jenny's right.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

No!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

On three, we say "team."

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

No names? No names?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

No Bartimus? No Artemis?

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

No Bartimaeus, no Artemaeus.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

Who's Barti—

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

No Slim Jimuels?

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
No Slim Jimuels.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)
Who's Slim Jimuels?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
These are all friends of ours that have died along the way.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)
[Gasps]

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Anyway, team on 3

[All in unison] One, two, three.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)
Team!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
[In Unison] Team!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
Bartimaeus Cow!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
I do wish he was here.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
Yes.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)
You guys are the saddest people I've ever met! But like, in demeanor, not... Other things. Okay! Let's go!
We're gonna do great!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Yes.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)
Watch out for Watchya.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Watchya?

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

Watchya tends to play a little dirty.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Alright, I'll take care of Watchya.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Great.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

Alright.

Aabria Iyengar

And she's going to lead you out to the court. The lights drop in this gym, but because it is 2:00 p.m. in the summer, it does not get at all darker. It actually just gets a little bit cooler, which is nice, and there's no spotlight, but you see a couple parents with their little flashlight cams are all faced on you, and you get the full, like

3X3 Announcer (Aabria)

[Echoing out through the gym] And now, welcome to the final of week two of the 3X3 Tournament. Our challengers are the—

Aabria Iyengar

And then the ruffling of papers.

3X3 Announcer (Aabria)

Fly Green Tomatoes!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

[Clapping rhythmically] Yes! Alright! Okay! Here we go! Okay! Alright! Okay! Yes, here we are now! Alright!

Aabria Iyengar

The gym is doing it!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Here we go! And—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[All in unison begin singing "Celebration" by Kool & the Gang] Celebrate good times, come on!

Lou Wilson

We just start doing the electric slide!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Massive dog, little newt—

Erika Ishii

Squeaking—my feet— squeaking noises!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And this is the elongated eight and a half minute version.

[Epic orchestral fantasy music]

Aabria Iyengar

Yes! It is the club mix. I'm going to need all of you to spend one of your countless thousands of tokens in order to sway the gym to your side. And you see that a gym that seemed hesitant, ambivalent, barely paying attention? After eight minutes of the same song, eventually you start singing along, and you look and you see 90% of this gym is rocking right on with you. Except for a stony upper right corner, where Move.bin remains unmoved by your show of delightful musicality and good sportsmanship.

Lou Wilson

Mm.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

[Panting with effort] Okay, that was great. Everything went according to plan, it seems we have the gym on our side.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Out of breath] Gym's on our side now.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Also, we riled everybody up, so all of the people that participated in that little fest? They get a token.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh!!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Moreover, if they were celebrating, that counts as following my advice, which means they gain another token.

Lou Wilson

And if they in any way feel spurred on to action of any kind, perhaps to do the electric slide in their bleachers, they got a token from me as well!

Aabria Iyengar

I mean—so, system as written is that NPCs don't really need tokens, but I want them, so I will give myself 300 tokens.

Lou Wilson

There it is, you have it.

Erika Ishii

[Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

As a gym full of people have a very good time. And now I'm like you. With power!

Erika Ishii

[Laughing] Man, the inflation rate on tokens in this economy.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, it kind of jumped up quick! And all of a sudden, as everything simmers down and you're all standing at the center of your court, the contingent in white, the fans of Move.bin all stand up in unison and begin stamping their feet, riling up, not a crowd—the crowd is on your side, but they don't care, because all of their eyes are on the opposite corner, where from the locker room erupt silently, moving in perfect unison, your opponents, led by your nemesis, Nunya Binyas.

[Sinister music]

Aabria Iyengar

He's about 5'11", which is huge for a twelve year old. Close cropped, platinum blonde hair, angular, handsome features, and pale gray eyes. And behind him, a perfect carbon copy, Runya Mouf wearing number two. And close by, again in perfect lockstep, you see the ringer in their squad, a 6'3" boy. Watchya Tone. He's got dark skin, the beginnings of a mustache, and mutton chops, with close hair and a fade, that looks like a sort of bad approximation of the haircut of his teammates.

Lou Wilson

Mm.

Aabria Iyengar

He's looking around at everyone. Definitely giving that kid that's like, oh, you're NBA draftable and about to go into a farm program, and this is your last year before you disappear, and then you're going to be drafted. He's wearing number 44. And there is no sub. And you see the referee—short, balding, ruddy skinned man—is going to run over and he's just waving his hands, going,

Referee (Aabria)

Okay, we had a special exemption earlier, but you do need four people to play.

Aabria Iyengar

And Minyos walks casually down from the stands, leans in and whispers something to the referee. The referee's eyes go wide. He nods and looks over and makes eye contact with Renée, who is impassive, but just nods and goes

Referee (Aabria)

Well, it looks like we had some exemptions to that rule earlier, so we're going to allow it here for the final. We'll walk that back and we can play as normal. We'll play as normal. That's—

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

This is absolute horseshit, Ram! You're running a kangaroo court in here when anything goes? Anything goes?

Renée Samuels (Aabria)

You're a giant dog!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Fuck you!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

A twelve year old giant dog!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Yes!

Renée Samuels (Aabria)

Language!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Who goes to this middle school!

Renée Samuels (Aabria)

Language! We have Christian teens—

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

You're not—

Renée Samuels (Aabria)

—we had one in here earlier!

Erika Ishii

[Laugh]

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

You're not my mother.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Christ's not real!

[Whistle]

Aabria Iyengar

You hear some, like, mixed applause from crowd.

Lou Wilson

[Laugh]

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Sings "Celebration" again.]

Aabria Iyengar

One more token to get the crowd going, "I guess we're gonna— what is happening? Alright!" And the referee is going to have all of you meet in the middle. Jenny looking very sheepish, and kind of hiding behind the bulk of Slam Jamiel, not wanting to look at her former teammates. And the referee looks at you all and says

Referee (Aabria)

We're going to have a good, clean game. I think your games earlier went a little weird, but—

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Laughing] How so?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

In what way?

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

In what way?

Referee (Aabria)

Okay, uh—

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

What do you speak of?

Referee (Aabria)

Well, the first game, I believe, was forfeited because the entire other team started crying. Don't really know why.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

That's on them.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

We were crying too.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Yes, we were.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

That wasn't just them crying.

[Cram Daniels voice echos in the background unintelligibly]

Referee (Aabria)

Okay, but you didn't cry and leave.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Mm.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

That's because we're not quitters!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Not quitters.

Referee (Aabria)

Okay, well—you know what? If this wasn't a tournament that I have to work for the next eight weeks this summer, I would probably look into it a little more, but I'm going to let it slide because I want to get home for my stories. I've got the Good Wife on demand.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

God, I love that show.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Yes.

Referee (Aabria)

Yeah, it's really good.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

She's a person of color, right?

Referee (Aabria)

I don't—I don't see color—

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Julianna Margulies?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Yeah.

Referee (Aabria)

I don't see color.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

I wonder let me—

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
[Skeptically] You don't see color?

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
I have Wikipedia open in the principal's office.

[Cram Daniel echoing in the background again]

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Julianna Margulies feel—I mean, I just always thought she was, you know.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)
Ethnically ambiguous.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Yeah, I always thought she was half and half.

Referee (Aabria)
She gotta lil something.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Yes, we're—

Referee (Aabria)
I don't think I should be able to say that.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Yeah, well you already—

Referee (Aabria)
I'm white.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
—you already don't see color.

Referee (Aabria)
Yeah!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Anyway, let's ball motherfucker!

Referee (Aabria)
Hey, big guy, you gotta watch the language.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
What? What? I'm a giant dog.

Referee (Aabria)

Didn't you bite someone earlier?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

No, she kicked me.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

How could he have bit her if she kicked him!

Referee (Aabria)

Fair. I will not inspect any of this further, because we have to finish this final so we can give Nun—uh, we can... See who wins, and they get a trophy.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

What was that?

Referee (Aabria)

To play fair.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

What was that?

Referee (Aabria)

Alright!

Aabria Iyengar

And he just jams the whistle in his mouth, tweets it two times.

Referee (Aabria)

Alright, let's go, a little coin flip to see who gets to start on offense.

Aabria Iyengar

We're going to go full luck check. Who's going to stand for the coin flip?

Lou Wilson

I push Clam forward.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Oh!

Referee (Aabria)

Clam. Alright, heads or tails?

Aabria Iyengar

You gotta call high or low.

Erika Ishii
High. 13!

Aabria Iyengar
For 13, a heads comes up on the quarter.

Referee (Aabria)
Okay do you guys want to start on offense now, or in the event of overtime? [Long pause] Real quick, you guys gotta know—there's very few questions—

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
Huddle up huddle up huddle up huddle up huddle up.

Referee (Aabria)
Oh, a whole huddle. Do you need me to—

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
One moment.

Referee (Aabria)
Sure.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
Parents: Ashkenazi.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Really?

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
Yeah. Austria, Romania, Hungary, that part of the world.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Okay!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
There you go.

Aabria Iyengar
Do you still have that kindle are you just looking things up on—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
What's that? What?

Aabria Iyengar
Where'd you get that information?

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Where—oh Julianna Margulies? [Mightily] I am a great and powerful wizard! I consulted the stars, and sun, and moon, and I said, "From whence hail Julianna Margulies?" Did you know that her mother was—her former last name before marrying was Goldberg, but she changed it to Gardner, and that she was a ballet dancer and Eurythmy teacher?

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Eurythmy?

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Eurythmy, it's a sort of—

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Like, what the Eurythmics?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, that's what I was thinking!

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Would it be for the Eurythmics?

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Close, but eurythmy is actually—you know what? That's interesting, hold on one second. [Yelling with cosmic power] Stars and sun and moon!

[Everyone laughs. A basketball is dribbling]

Aabria Iyengar

The ref is just kind of standing there like

Referee (Aabria)

Ba ba ba. Ba ba bahhh.

Erika Ishii

We're all still in a huddle, occasionally one of us will pop our head up.

Aabria Iyengar

Nunya is just sort of standing around like he's just going full figure eight dribbling between his legs, staying warm, staying loose.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

We'll take the ball first.

[Funky bassline, chill beats]

Referee (Aabria)

Oh? Oh, great, okay. You taking it, up top?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Yeah. I'm the point guard for the team, so I'll take it.

Referee (Aabria)

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

And the ref just hands you—just leans up and offers you the basketball.

Lou Wilson

I pop up on two legs, grapple it, just start dribbling—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Your head on the ceiling of the fuckin' gym.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] Yeah!

Lou Wilson

Exactly!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'll be like

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Hey, Big Dog?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Yeah?

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Remember this: Eurythmy was an expressive movement art created by Rudolph Steiner!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Steiner!

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Ah, yes!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

They teach it in Waldorf schools.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Okay. Understood.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yep. I actually did it when I was a kid!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Now that's the kind of data I need. That's a key factor!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
Get 'em big dog. Ruff!

Lou Wilson
Just start—yeah, just start dribbling.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)
Ruff!

Aabria Iyengar
Watchya is going to come up because, I guess, you are the closest in height.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Great. So I'll square up with Watchya. Check the ball.

Aabria Iyengar
Perfect. He puts a little spin on it, throwing it back, hoping that the English on it would be hard for your lack of thumbs. I'm going to spend one of my tokens that you're just going to struggle to kind of save face as you—

Lou Wilson
Got it.

Aabria Iyengar
—get control of it, of the rock again.

Lou Wilson
I take a second, come down, get it, I'm going to take one token to overthink things.

[Cram Daniel screams some sort of incantation in the background]

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Yeah, I'm ready, because I'm prepared, and preparation is 100% of practice, and luck is not real. It's a determination of factors.

Watchya Tone (Aabria)

Less talk more rock, ya oversized Pomeranian, let's go.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Fuck you.

Lou Wilson

I'm going to drive right, and pass the ball to Clam.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah! Clam?

Erika Ishii

Clam takes it and—

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] I'm going to punish you for your lack of basketball knowledge. Here we go!

[Everyone laughs]

Aabria Iyengar

I'm kidding, what are you doing?

Erika Ishii

Clam takes it and dribbles it down the court.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay! Good!

Erika Ishii

And goes for a layup!

Aabria Iyengar

You go for a layup. And this is where you run into not Nunya, but Runya. And Runya is going to spend a token to block your shot.

Erika Ishii

Okay, well, I will also spend a token and, even if the—this shot can be blocked, but I will say

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Your parents argued in the delivery room about which one of you would be the spare! And you were chosen!

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] Oh my god. Runya, who was sort of sprinting after the ball to keep it from going out of bounds, lets it bounce off of his foot and rolls, and just looks back at you.

Runya Mouf (Aabria)

What? What are you—what are you talking about?

Aabria Iyengar

And you see, his countenance goes from absolute shock, and concern, and that edge of an emotional response, and at a quick eye dart over to Nunya, schools his face, he goes,

Runya Mouf (Aabria)

Fine. Dead ball, I don't care. What are you saying? We all trash talk.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Dead ball!

Runya Mouf (Aabria)

Ugh, fine.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

What was once living is now dead!

Aabria Iyengar

And he's going to grab the ball from out of bounds and toss it to you, Cram Daniel, at the top of the key to restart play.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I am going to hold a hand aloft as the ball—because I'm still two inches tall.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And as the ball is on the way, I am going to go

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Primal yawp]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And I'm going to use my one D&D character ability and cast meteor swarm at 9th level.

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Rage-fueled screaming] METEOR SWARM!!!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And I'm going to attempt to kill the opposing team, and reign fiery basketballs—thousands of them—into the opposing hoop.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Mightily] Basketball magic be mine! Wizard of the Court am I! Behold these hoop dreams, and count them reasonable!

Aabria Iyengar

You can feel it in the air, in upper atmo, the pulling together of elements in their basest form as you build basketballs. You call Spaldings into being, and they crash through, burning up on orbit. They begin to tear into the top of the gym. And then Minyos raises a little hand and looks up, and with a flick of his wrist—

Erika Ishii

Counterspell!

Aabria Iyengar

You already used yours! You use disguised self! [Laugh]

Erika Ishii

God dammit. [Incredulously] Wait, we only get one?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, I did say one!

Erika Ishii

[Gasp]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

We get one.

Aabria Iyengar

And he counterspells.

Lou Wilson

I'm a monk.

Erika Ishii

Fuck!

Lou Wilson

Don't look at me.

Aabria Iyengar

He counterspells your meteor swarm and makes eye contact with you and just mouths at you, Cram.

Minyos Binyas (Aabria)

You're the leader. Play fair. Come on, Captain.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Oh, you know I'm the leader? I know a key fact, too. You're dead!

Aabria Iyengar

[Wheezing laugh]

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Laughing] You've been dead for years. I can know any fact I want! My character sheet says so!

[Aabria and Erika are laughing. Someone pounds the table.]

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

You're freaking dead, guy, you're a ding dang ghost!

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] He begins to clutch his chest. And you see the horror in his eyes, as he registers that he has no heartbeat, and maybe never did!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

That's right, this game's GM-less motherfucker! What's even true?

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] I guess anything you say! And he gets up and sprints out of the gym. You see that his ex-wife, the mother of his children, Pawty Mouf—

Erika Ishii

[Laughs]

Aabria Iyengar

—gets up, and looks for, just a moment, concerned, as if the ghost of care would drive her to see what's going on with Minyos. Then she sits back down, crosses her legs, places her hands gently over her knee, and nods at the referee.

Pawty Mouf (Aabria)

Continue. We only have ten minutes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Very well. I will take the basketball. It is much bigger than me. I will begin to roll it down the court—

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—running behind it, and at the very last second—

Aabria Iyengar

Uh huh? Play basketball, Brennan.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—I'm going to—hold on, I'm going to see what my moves here are. I'm going to gain a token by being inflexible, and I'm going to run in front of the rolling ball and straighten myself as rigidly as possible, to create a ramp for the ball to shoot up and go into the hoop from the three point line.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs] Alright. So you become inflexible. You become a ramp for a regulation size 3X3 basketball. This has got to be an opposed roll, since it's Cram Daniel versus Nunya Binyas. That is a 10 on the dice.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

18!

Aabria Iyengar

And in defiance of physics and the laws of momentum, you're able to score, from behind the arc, the first two points of this game.

[Jazzy hip hop beat.]

Aabria Iyengar

And now we're going to turn the scoring of this game into opposed checks with the group. So let's go from there to Clam Blamielle. You face off against Runya Mouf, who seems a little shell shocked after that early shit talking, so let's get an opposed role up top and we'll see how your matchup is going.

Erika Ishii

That's an 11!

Aabria Iyengar

Against a 6. Please explain to me, Clam, how you are able to absolutely body your matchup.

Erika Ishii

Although his technique be better than mine, I hold the edge of being a twelve year old girl!

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Erika Ishii

So I'm going to make myself look good by destroying his brain from the inside out. Every chink in the armor, every tiny insecurity, every possible road that I could go down to make him insecure, I do so. Questions about whether his parents love him! How his brother is better than him! How he has, perhaps, a receding hairline, even as a twelve year old! There is nothing I won't stoop to in order to take this man down.

Aabria Iyengar

Runya continues to back off of you and, at best, can be described as playing a zone defense in a 3 on 3 man situation. Man on man situation. So give me... Yeah, go ahead and give me a perception check, it's still going to be a flat D 20 roll, but I want to see if you clock this.

Erika Ishii

An 11!

Aabria Iyengar

That'll do it. You notice as he sort of backs off, finally, he just sort of mutters under his breath.

Runya Mouf (Aabria)

Oneya was right...

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

[Gasp] There is another!

Aabria Iyengar

And anytime the rock is in his hand, he is quick to pass. He no longer wants to be a part of this. And the clock is running down and the score, while tight, remains in the Fly Green Tomatoes favor. So now we come to Slam Jamiels.

Lou Wilson

I'm going to use stunning strike to break—

Aabria Iyengar

[Guffaw]

Lou Wilson

—the ankles of my defender?

Erika Ishii

[Breathless laughter]

Lou Wilson

And give myself advantage.

Aabria Iyengar

[Crying laughing]

Lou Wilson

You have to beat a 16.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] With a 15 on the dice.

Lou Wilson

I just straight up sun him, pat him on his head twice, and fucking break left. But I think as I do it—because it's a key fact, dogs breathe from their stomach.

[Mournful cello music.]

Lou Wilson

And I feel the fractured rib rip through my lung—which I don't need because I don't breathe from it—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Lou Wilson

—but then reach my stomach, and I can feel it touching, just touching my stomach. And while I'm able to pass the rock off to Cram for a sick 3, by drawing the defenders into the paint, I know that if I shoot the basketball one more time...

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing]

Lou Wilson

The rib will puncture my breathing vessel, my stomach, and I will die. But my teammates don't need to know that...

Aabria Iyengar

Incredible. We come down to the final 30 seconds. Move.bin is using their one timeout per game, and you see that they are all shouting at each other, trying to figure out some sort of strategy, they have no coach. Jenny huddles you over and goes

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

Okay, guys, you're two points away from winning!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

We gotta give it to Slam.

[Sinister, suspenseful music]

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

What do you mean—

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

We gotta get the rock to Slam!

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

No, you're—

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Are we sure?

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)
No, yeah, absolutely!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
Cram, he's your rival, I'm your trainer, this is YOUR moment.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
Slam, I can smell it on the wind. You're about to show these chodes the true meaning of basketball.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)
Yeah, I don't think we have to call them chodes, but I agree, generally with—

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
Shut up, Jenny!

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)
Wow! Rude!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
Hey, shut up. Really. Really. We invited you into this, alright?

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
I'm also twelve.

[Aabria and Lou laugh]

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
Now, in this world, I'm twelve, kind of.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)
And he still thinks that girls have cooties.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
They do. And I know that as a key fact.

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
That's a key fact.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
That's a key fact. Wait a minute, it is a key fact. Cooties!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And I'm going to gain another token by hyper fixating on something off topic.

Aabria Iyengar

As the newt mutters to himself ominously, you see Jenny kind of just raises her hands to be granted permission to speak.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Yes, go ahead Jenny.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

I know you seem really hesitant about this, but—

[Cram Daniel yells something to the cheering crowd in the background]

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

—it's probably a good idea. Everyone's sort of collapsing on Cram, so maybe if we can pull focus and kick it out to you, you can score the winning two pointer!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

And then you'll win, and you'll be alive forever.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

[Resigned sigh.] Yeah. It's what I need to do.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

It's the only way.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

It's the only way.

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Go out there and get him!

Erika Ishii

And i'm gonna take a point, for ignoring another's pain.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Let's run it. We'll run the play.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

Okay!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Find me in the corner. I'll shoot the J, and we'll win the game, save the universe, live forever.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

Perfect. The other stuff seems crazy, but good job! And I'm really proud of you! And I didn't really get to do anything but, thanks for letting me get to be with my team again. This is nice.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

We're gonna change your name.

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

What?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

From this point forward, you will be Jam Shramuel.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs]

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

Jam Shramuel?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Is that alright? Does that overlap with anything else we've—any other

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Hey, J-bone? Guess what, toast's ready. We about to put the jam on 'em.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

[Gasp] What?

Jenny Schaub (Aabria)

[Gasp]

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

We about to put the jam on 'em.

Jam Shramuel (Aabria)

Oh, that's really good. Okay, I'm in, I wasn't in, and now I'm in, great. Take it home! We're almost there!

Aabria Iyengar

And you hear one more whistle from the ref. Final play. Let's go. One more round. You guys start with the ball. Up top, Nunya Binyas is going to go ahead and check it back to you, Cram.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Under his breath] Come on and Cram, and welcome to the Clam. Come on and Shram, welcome to the Samuels. It's Renée, welcome to the Jam.

[Everyone laughs]

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Barks out the tune to "Get Ready For This" by 2 Unlimited]

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Everybody get up now!

Aabria Iyengar

They all do!

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Yes!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[To the tune of "Celebration" by Kool & The Gang] Celebrate with Cram, come on!

[Cram and Slam sign the tune to "Celebration"]

Aabria Iyengar

An immobile basketball is just in front of you, Cram.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'm holding it there with my mind, and I say

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Good people of Menlo Park!

Aabria Iyengar

No!!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

While the clock is running and we 'bout to put the jam on 'em! I'm a wizard from the future, I'm not a newt I'm a man, I just was a newt when I was twelve! This kid becomes bad, later! And we need to stop him! And if that doesn't make sense to you, then get ready to celebrate, because this dog's about to live forever! Clam, hit it!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And—

Aabria Iyengar

Opposed roll to pass the ball to Clam. I've never rolled this bad in my life. A natural 1.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Natural 1 for me as well.

Aabria Iyengar
What!!

Erika Ishii
[Squees]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
But, I would like to spend a token, to use one of my rewarding moves, which is put things together. And I would like to put together that roll with this one, which is a 19! That's a natural 20 over two dice!

Lou Wilson
It's a natural 20 over two dice!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
[Laughing] Over two dice!

Lou Wilson
Perhaps one of the first in history, but it is a natural 20.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
In history!

Lou Wilson
Two dice have come together, to create—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
[Yelling with increasing desperation] I have a move called put things together. It's a whole move. It costs a token! I can put things together. What those things are, we don't know! So what's to stop it from being that d20 with a 19 on the top, and that one with a 1 on the top!

Aabria Iyengar
Hey, everyone playing Tournament Arc at home. Don't let your players play the brains like I'm letting my players play the brains. Because you're going to kind of lose the threat of this real quick. And it's a GM-less system, so if you're the GM, it's going to feel crazy. But—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
[Menacing whisper] In a GM-less system, who is there to stop me?

Erika Ishii
Who GMs the GMs?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Ipsos GM-us!

Aabria Iyengar

With a natural 20, you're able to sort of just mentally juke the ball between Nunya's legs, and it gets over to Clam. Clam, what do you do? You see, since you are at sort of the corner elbow, inside the key, everyone seems to be collapsing in on you, since they think you're going to take the shot.

Erika Ishii

I—I—I accept the ball, it's hovering in my hand. I fake to the left, and then I do a no-look chest shot! Passing it to Slam!

Aabria Iyengar

Alright, give me an opposed. Roll, please let me roll better. I got a 13!

Erika Ishii

That's a 16, baby!

Aabria Iyengar

It's—

Lou Wilson

Hell yes.

Aabria Iyengar

—bad here. It's bad here.

Erika Ishii

A no-look shot chest pass all the way over to Slam!

Aabria Iyengar

You're saying two words that mean different things, but I love you so much.

Erika Ishii

[Laughing] Yeah!

Aabria Iyengar

The enthusiasm carries, as Nunya sort of pushes his brother Runya out of the way—Runya playing incredibly weak D, too far off from you—you see that Nunya is going to collapse in, and as you get the no-look chest pass off, he turns to look in the direction you've passed, and is going to absolutely catch you across the face with an elbow.

[Everyone gasps]

Aabria Iyengar

And a full size human elbow against a two inch pixie, I think you see stars, and swirling flickering light behind your eyes as you are concussed. But the rock gets to you. Slam Jamiels. You are outside the arc they'll never get to you, you've got all kinds of time to line up your shot.

Lou Wilson

Slam receives the rock, is going to spend a token to have an emotional realization.

[Aabria and Erika cackle]

Lou Wilson

I think in the—in the kind of, what I'm assuming is bullet time in this moment, I'm gonna receive the ball but then kind of put it under my arm.

[The crowd cheers. Aabria and Brennan laugh]

Lou Wilson

Put my hand on my stomach, realize that, for thousands of years I've been training Cram and Clam for this moment. It wasn't me who was training them. They were training me. To be the best version of myself, to put myself before others. I remember when I was just a dog. I'd do anything for a treat. But now? Here I am, alive with wisdom, friendship, biting young women, and knowing that people will always be at my side to back me up and lift me up.

Lou Wilson

I pick the ball from under my arms, bring it over my head, look over at Cram.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Hopeful whisper] You've got it.

Lou Wilson

Down at Clam, I guess, on the ground.

Erika Ishii

[Grunting in pain] On the ground, and I reach up a tiny pixie hand, and I say

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

I kinda like-like you.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Well. We'll figure all that shit out in the next life.

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Lou Wilson

The bone RIPS through my entire body. Straight up compound fracture. Fuckin' ball goes up, bone comes out, and Slam Jamiels hits the floor dead.

[Reverberating thud]

Aabria Iyengar

We see it in slow motion. As your paw and the ball separate, and we follow the ball—a perfect spin, a perfect arc—nothing but net. And, blurry in the background, and with a final sickening thud, the massive body of a big blonde dog hits, and pants no more. The gym erupts in shouts of celebration.

[Everyone laughs]

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Shocked panting horrified breath] The gym... What!? The gym what? What does the gym do?

[Aabria, Erika, and Lou laughing joyously]

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] The gym erupts in celebration, as the buzzer hits, as the Fly Green Tomatoes have won. And the first and only kaiju in this world is no more.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Cram, wide eyed, is just getting sprayed with hot dog blood, as the gym erupts and cheers around him. His little newt wizard hat.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Traumatized] What the fuck is going—what the fuck is—what the fuck is— everyone's screaming. Everyone's fucking screaming. What the fuck is—

Erika Ishii

Clam is like, hovering still like, what was it, four—two feet—two inches from the ground, still squeaking, like, unconscious.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'm going to look up, how many points did—was it Move.bin?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Move.bin, scored 9 points.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Scored nine points, and we scored? 21?

Aabria Iyengar

21, to win the game.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Devastating realization] He didn't even need to shoot the jumper! We were so far ahead. It was 18 to 9. Wait! I got mixed up!

Aabria Iyengar

19 to 9. You scored two points from behind the arc.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

It was 19 to 9! Wha—

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

[Weakly] Cram.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Oh my god, my friend, are you still alive? He's still alive, Slam! Slam! Stay with me! Slam! Slam!

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

[Weeping] Come on, Slam.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Slam!

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

Come on and Slam!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Cram?

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Yes, yes—wait, why did we do this? We were so far ahead!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Because you believed in me, Cram!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

I always believed in you!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

You looked at me, and you said "you had to do it."

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Wait, did you know that something was wrong with your body?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

[Weakly, sheepishly] Yeah.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Sadly] Why didn't you fucking say anything, you stupid fucking dog.

Lou Wilson

I'm going to take a complicating move, as the thing that holds me back, rears its head again.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Weeping] Why didn't you fucking say anything?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

[Crying] I'm just a trainer.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

What?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

I wasn't supposed to be a player!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

So you didn't say that you had a fuckin' loose rib in your torso?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

Yeah, it's been holding me back this whole time?

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

What?

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

It reared its head again!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Oh god, you big beautiful dog. Wait, wait, I'm covered in your blood, all these people can't stop cheering. They keep playing "Celebrate" in the background!

Slam Jamiels (Lou)

They're all doing the Electric Slide! Someone's going to fall!

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

[Screaming] Stop doing the Slide you monsters! The floor is wet with dog blood!

Aabria Iyengar

You all feel your wrists begin to itch.

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

No! Not now!

Erika Ishii

As I start to fade, as we leave, as the gram takes hold, I point to Runya Mouf and I say

Clam Blamielle (Erika)

[Weakly] What can we accomplish by working together?

Aabria Iyengar

And in that glitch moment, you see that Nunya has turned and stormed away, Watchya is actually just screaming, facing into the crowds, he's also covered in hot dog blood and isn't handling that well. And Runya looks at you, with eyes that seem to know more than a twelve year old ever should, and he points back as you begin to glitch and find oblivion once more, and says

Runya Mouf (Aabria)

Find me in the future.

Aabria Iyengar

And you glitch, and lose yourself to the void.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Do I have one moment?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah. I said "begin to," go have a moment?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I look at Slam. Do I get the sense that Slam will not be able to join us in any of our future adventures in other worlds unless I can do something in this moment?

Aabria Iyengar

Give me—just give me a luck check.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That's actually a natural 20.

Erika Ishii

[Screaming]

Aabria Iyengar

Shut up!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

On a single d20 this time!

Aabria Iyengar

On just one? And not 13 fusions?

Lou Wilson

No token spent.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
No token spent.

Aabria Iyengar
You run over, you feel the panic overtaking your tiny newt body. A grief and a fear that belongs to a grown adult artificer warlock?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yes.

Aabria Iyengar
Stuffed into this tiny two inch body. And then a flash of knowledge, something that gets covered up every time you return to void. This is not the first time that you have lost Slam. Every time you jump, you lose Slam Jamiels. He dies again, and again, and again.

[Null Host mutters, echoing in the background. Somber piano and violin music]

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
This life... Endless worlds, spinning through infinity. A single thread connects them all. In each world, I lose my closest friend. And in each world, we play basketball.

[Everyone laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I hold a little newt hand to you, and I go

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
Slam Jamiels. Let me put you from your misery.

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
[Whining]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And I ask myself

Cram Daniel (Brennan)
What have I prepared for this situation?

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And I hold, and I make real in front of you, a single glowing token.

[Everyone laughing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That goes from the above-table metanarrative reality, into the narrative reality, and I put it in your mouth.

[Confused dog whine, choking]

Cram Daniel (Brennan)

Choke on this, my friend. Let this push you from your pain.

Erika Ishii

[Laughing] Stop doing the DJ hand thing, it's so upsetting!

Aabria Iyengar

And you glitch away, Cram, having done one last favor to your friend. And Slam Jamiels, you feel the blackness overtake you, not with glitch, and void, and return, but in death, as always. And as you move back to the present, to the future, to the failure state of the world, you hear that voice again, the harbinger of the Null Host, as they seem to grab you by your throat and whisper in an ear.

Null Host (Aabria)

We are coming. You're getting closer. And in worlds beyond number—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

No.

Null Host (Aabria)

—you will ball and die.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, I get to say it. Shut the fuck up.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

No. Not here. Not like this. Not like this!

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, like this.

Erika Ishii

Well, you should have got it out in Arc One when you had the chance, huh?

Lou Wilson

This is it.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] This is it.

Aabria Iyengar

And, with a breath like a kiss on your cheek, you hear,

Null Host (Aabria)
This is it. Try again.

Aabria Iyengar
And you are suddenly rocketed back to consciousness in the world—

Slam Jamiels (Lou)
[Gasp, heavy breathing]

Aabria Iyengar
—in that blasted hellscape. And your next adventure will come at you at some point, in some way, and only you remember how that game ended. You look at them, and they don't see you with eyes that have processed your loss, they have forgotten again, as they always do. And the fight continues.

[Somber piano and violin music drifts away.]

Aabria Iyengar
And we'll see you next time for more Space Cram. And I got to say the name of the podcast!

Erika Ishii
YEAH!!!

Aabria Iyengar
SUCK IT!

[Everyone cheers and then sings, in unison:] Come on Cram! And welcome to the Clam! Come on and Slam. And welcome to the Shram! Celebrate good times, COME ON! [Claps and does the tune to Celebrate, then collapse into laughter and fade away.]

[Reverberating musical sting] Cram Daniel! [The Cram Daniel Theme Song shreds in the background]

Taylor Moore
Ha ha! Oh yeah! That was Lou Wilson, Erika Ishii, Brennan Lee Mulligan, and your game master in the streets, Nunya Binyas in the sheets, Aabria. Iyengar! This chapter of Cram Daniel is powered by Tournament Arc from Biscuit Fun Games. Check out the show notes for the link to their page! This episode of Cram Daniel was edited and designed by Michael Wolf! And the Cram Daniel theme song appears courtesy of the great Night Yor! Check out the link in the show notes to Night Yor! YouTube page! See ya next time, on the court!

[The Cram Daniel Theme Song fades out]