

# Worlds Beyond Number

Fireside Chat: A County Affair Ep 1 - "CRIME-a-Doodle-Doo!"

Final Version

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

Erika Ishii

To all of you listeners out there, welcome to the Fireside Chat for the first episode of A County Affair: Crime-A-Doodle-Doo. I am your host, and first-time GM, Erika Ishii.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Wait, are you allowed to host if you're the GM?

Aabria Iyengar

Erika does what Erika wants.

Lou Wilson

Wow. I did have that same thought and was waiting for somebody to say that somebody else was going to have to do it and then Erika didn't say it, so I said, go off.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I don't mean allowed... it's like how you don't allow the chef to clean up after dinner. Like you already did so much you're not allowed to do that, so—

Erika Ishii

You guys can ask me questions.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Ok, good.

Aabria Iyengar

Gonna!

Lou Wilson

I feel like it's more on us that none of us stepped up to say we would host.

Erika Ishii

I was waiting and I was met with silence.

Lou Wilson

One of us will step up and host the second episode.

Erika Ishii

Sure! Sure, sure, sure.

Lou Wilson

We will. I like, promise. I like, totally promise.

Erika Ishii  
I am here with—

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Love a hard promise that one of us will. It would be so easy to say "I will." You're like, as God is my witness, someone in this room will follow through.

Lou Wilson  
Erika, I'm going to get down on my knee and I'm going to tell you that somebody, one of us, one of us. Could be Brennan, could be Aabria. I'm also here; will host the second Fireside. I promise you.

Erika Ishii  
We are also, as was mentioned in the prior sentence, in the same room together.

[Altogether] Hoorayyy

Lou Wilson  
Ah yes.

Aabria Iyengar  
The energy is different.

Erika Ishii  
I am here with Aabria Iyengar.

Aabria Iyengar  
Hi. I play Philip, a goat.

Erika Ishii  
And possibly the devil.

Aabria Iyengar  
Who could say?

Lou Wilson  
Who can say?

Erika Ishii  
Brennan Lee Mulligan!

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Bok-bok-bagok, it's Ruthie the chicken, with a gun!

Erika Ishii  
And...?

Lou Wilson  
Lou Wilson.

[The rest of the cast erupts in cheers]

Lou Wilson  
I always come for the first Fireside Chat. All right. I never

Aabria Iyengar  
Wait, so that's why he can't host next time. He won't be here.

Lou Wilson  
That's what—

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
You motherfucker!

Lou Wilson  
I gotcha bitches! I gotcha, I gotcha!! YES!

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
God damn it. You can't see it right now, but there's a chopper outside with a rope ladder and it's got Panama and big block letters on the side. Panama Airways.

Lou Wilson  
I've befriended the president and he allowed me to use his presidential helicopter.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Marine.

Lou Wilson  
No. But yes, I always make the first Fireside and if there was any sort of prequel, I might be here for that as well. But everything else, I'm sending a guest.

Aabria Iyengar  
Can we put it in the—oh yeah

Erika Ishii  
And Lou Wilson plays Itsa Winnerbaby.

Lou Wilson  
I do, yes. I play Itsa Winnerbaby. Neigh!

Erika Ishii  
I was so nervous coming into this and just immediately sitting down at the table, it was an absolute delight. And it all just kind of wrote itself. We used the system Roll for Shoes, I wanted something that was rules-light and could get crazy, which indeed it was. I also introduced the mechanic of uh,—

Lou Wilson

Brennan. Why are you laughing? Brennan has two hands over his mouth.

Aabria Iyengar

It's because Brennan's favorite thing when we get a little fun quirky thing is like, what's this new system? How can I [ominously] break it immediately?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

No, no, I'm sorry. This is unrelated. I read the first question, and it's making me laugh, SO hard.

Aabria Iyengar

What?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I don't—Maybe it's not—

Aabria Iyengar

Just read it now.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Sorry, but I don't know if—

Aabria Iyengar

Read it now!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Okay. It's from Ruvi. Like, Suvi. Thank you, Ruvi.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, yay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Thanks, Ruvi. They write to us—and god, this is maybe... I don't think this is going to hit—I don't think it's going to hit anyone as hard as it hit me. It's just, it's a vein of humor that I feel deeply in my bones. Ruvi's question is, "Is A County Affair at all inspired by Orwell's Animal Farm, parentheses, which I've not read for context."

[The cast explodes into laughter]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[While laughing] Because Ruvi... Because here's the thing, Ruvi. If you haven't read the book—

[Faint laugh deep in the background]

Aabria Iyengar

Got Taylor!

Erika Ishii

We got Taylor!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Ruvi, you got Taylor, HARD. Here's the thing, Ruvi.

Aabria Iyengar

Ruvi, you've absolutely blasted both the white men involved in this podcast.

Lou Wilson

Congratulations, Ruvi.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Here's the thing, Ruvi. If you haven't read the book, here's the situ—you have taken this car careening off the highway to an exit, which is one dead end street, because if you were at a dinner party and you were like, is that inspired by Animal Farm? Full context. I haven't read it. And I say, yes, you have one response left, which is "Nice." And then that's it. That's it. That's it. That's the whole...[Sigh] That got me so good.

Lou Wilson

No, I see Ruvi's play. Ruvi wants a full summary, a spark notes of Animal Farm from us, that then we can connect contextually with which parts. I think Ruvi has an assignment due tomorrow on Animal Farm.

Aabria Iyengar

Every one of us is going to do one of the paragraphs Schaffer. We're going to do a Schaffer essay real quick here right now.

Lou Wilson

We got you, Ruvi.

Aabria Iyengar

Love it. Intro, three body.

Erika Ishii

You know what? I mean. There are animals. There's a farm. The animals talk.

Aabria Iyengar

There you go.

Lou Wilson

I mean, there are threats... There are threats to send the horse to the glue factory.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, Boxer.

Erika Ishii

Oh Boxer.

Aabria Iyengar

Too soon!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I can't—I can't stop thinking about this question.

Aabria Iyengar

Brennan's still dying

Erika Ishii

Brennan!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

No, because here's the thing. Saying I haven't read the book for context would be perfectly reason—like, the reason you say that, if you're going to someone and you're like, "Hey, I wanted to ask a question. I have a question for you about Animal Farm. By the way, I haven't read it." You would say that to someone in conversation because you're like, "Oh, don't launch into a complicated thing because I haven't read it, so here's my knowledge base so that you don't speed past where I'm at." But here's the thing. Ruvi is not in this room. Ruvi is not here.

Aabria Iyengar

Ruvi will be responding on Tumblr directly.

Lou Wilson

But Ruvi's gonna start reading Animal Farm, if we say yes.

Aabria Iyengar

And don't give spoilers! Don't Give Spoilers!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's so funny to, in parentheses be like, "Slow your roll, dude. I haven't read it." And I'm like, I can't even respond to you. You wrote this days ago. You're at the mall right now, or a movie or at your job.

Erika Ishii

You know, where the youths hang out!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Where the youths hang out!

Aabria Iyengar

A mall!

Erika Ishii

Instead of writing their five paragraph essays about Animal Farm

Aabria Iyengar

They're in the Hot Topic!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Maybe if they spent less time at Zumies, you'd be able to write a goddamn essay on time, Ruvi!

Lou Wilson

I like to believe that... Ruvi's a firefighter. They listen to our podcast while they—

Aabria Iyengar

Fight fires?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Fight fires.

Lou Wilson

—Grease the pole. No, you need to focus. You can't put on a podcast when you fight fires. That would be out of control. Just... [Yelling] "Dave, Dave!"

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see a whole line of New York's Bravest just hosing down a five alarm fire in an old Brooklyn townhouse. And just one of those little earbuds. This is Ira Glass. And today: a stove—

Lou Wilson

[Mimicking fearful screams]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—and America's—

Lou Wilson

Miss, jump!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—America's oldest butter churn.

Lou Wilson

Miss, please jump!

Erika Ishii

[Screaming] No, I can't! My baby's still in here.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Pause. A watch broken, sitting on a mantelpiece. I'm talking to Victor Case.

Lou Wilson

Ruvi! Ruvi, we need you!

Aabria Iyengar

Counterpoint. This American life keeps your heart rate down, if you need to conserve oxygen.

[The cast bursts into laughter]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Just cut to Aabria in that submarine being like, I've got all of you fucking. I got Ira Glass baby. I'm basically lichen for the next—

Lou Wilson

Everyone hates being on Aabria's submarine because it's just every room is like, it's scientific.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's scientific.

Aabria Iyengar

Put on the Moth, and I'm basically a tardigrade. I cannot die.

Erika Ishii

We really are the polar opposite of the Moth in terms of storytelling podcasts.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

This is the one piece of—we create a lot of lore in our stories, but we create just as much, if not more lore in real life. We are dedicated to destroying the Moth.

Erika Ishii

Right.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Tell the Moth that we're still out here, coming for them. Okay?

Erika Ishii

Yes.

Lou Wilson

I know we've never really talked about it publicly on the podcast, but when we started the pod, how much we hate the moth!

Aabria Iyengar

I think we talked some shit. I think that was us

Lou Wilson

We talked—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You know, there's, people have, like, sister cities. I think podcasts have enemy nemesis.

Aabria Iyengar

Nemecities?



Lou Wilson

When did we talk about how much we hate The Moth?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'm going to go to the World's Beyond Number Wiki.

Aabria Iyengar

Shout out to Sven!

Erika Ishii

I want to say that it was either in the first Instagram live or in—wait a minute. Remember when we did, like, a little "What is Worlds Beyond Number, and why are we using games? Right? And then we were like, "We're coming for your ass, Ira Glass."

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, we did call some shots early.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Lou Wilson

Respect.

Aabria Iyengar

For reasons I don't remember, but I'm still committed to, because I'm the one that brought that—

Lou Wilson

I just want to know when somebody, when like, a white dude in a cardigan pushes me down why I'm on the ground.

Erika Ishii

It's that we're going to get tote bags thrown over our head, pushed into a van... I love you.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes. I love you so much.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah. A 55 year old man who's telling a story about how he used to smoke cigarettes hiding from nuns, after school.

Lou Wilson

Full, like, jumps up and, like, scorpion kicks me in the chest. "Ahh"

Brennan Lee Mulligan

My God. An army of divorced dads are running down the street after me. Yeah.

Lou Wilson

Wow. This is a hot start, I'll tell you.

Aabria Iyengar  
This is great!

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
We're keeping in the spirit of A County Affair.

Lou Wilson  
Yes. The fireside of the show should reflect the same energy.

Erika Ishii  
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Ruvi, I really love your question, and I do genuinely mean it. It's just so funny to add the parentheses, "Which I've not read for context."

Erika Ishii  
We're not making fun of you for not reading it. We're laughing at the fact of the social conventions that that parentheses denotes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Let me point out, if someone said, "Is A County Affair at all inspired by Orwell's Animal Farm, I would not assume that they had read it. So being like, is this inspired by Animal Farm? And then being like, full disclosure, I haven't read it is, it's protecting—there's an old College Humor story, in the writers room for College Humor that in a script, Raph Chestang put in the action description, like, he was like, "Charlie is walking through the hall of his home into the living room," and then he put in parentheses, "fully clothed." You go like, yeah, man. Yeah, for sure.

Aabria Iyengar  
[Laughing] What??

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Yeah, exactly.

Erika Ishii  
It's like Dolphin safe.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Yeah, dolphin safe.

Erika Ishii  
You're like, what's the alternative?

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Fully clothed.

Erika Ishii

Fully clothed. All right. To answer your question a little bit, I feel like any anthropomorphic animal thing that any animal storytelling where there is some sort of message about human nature owes some debt to Animal Farm. But I described this one as Charlotte's web meets Ocean's Eleven,

Aabria Iyengar

Yess

Lou Wilson

Mmm.

Erika Ishii

Which is, ya know. I love heists, I love heists so much.

Aabria Iyengar

So fun.

Erika Ishii

They're like, so hot. And, oh my God, for my birthday this year, I—

Aabria Iyengar

[Excitedly] Yeah!! I was going to tell the story, you beat me to it!

Erika Ishii

Yeah, actually, I want to hear your part of it, because Aabria was part of the Heist. Aabria was "the mark," and my girlfriend conscripted Aabria and some other friends to throw me a Heist. So I had—

Aabria Iyengar

A heist on a cruise ship!

Erika Ishii

A heist on the JoCo cruise ship. And there was a red string laser maze that Aabria made.

Aabria Iyengar

Ryan did too. Ryan did most of that.

Erika Ishii

So cute. So cute.

Aabria Iyengar

It was very fun.

Erika Ishii

Like, we had magician friends that she had know do card magic to tell what the code was for the wall safe, which she guessed. She guessed that there was going to be a four digit code to a safe.

Lou Wilson

That was before you got on the cruise.

Erika Ishii

Before we got on the cruise.

Aabria Iyengar

I think we got confirmation. There were so many messages sent to JoCo, and they were like, "oh, my gosh, you're talent. Do you need something? We're like, no, just like, three weird questions, and don't worry about them. How many numbers on the safe? If I brought a bunch of—can you crawl over the divider between balconies.

Erika Ishii

And do you have blueprints for the ship?

Aabria Iyengar

yeah, exactly.

Lou Wilson

Oh, wow.

Aabria Iyengar

But we're going to have a normal day. This is going to be so fun.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, it was great.

Aabria Iyengar

Paul was so worried.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, man. Because I did, I did. I climbed over—you know we all have balconies to our rooms that lead to a direct drop down into the ocean, and uh—

Lou Wilson

I'm sorry, what?

Erika Ishii

Yeah, we all have balconies.

Lou Wilson

The balconies part I get, I guess. Then what did you do with said balcony?

Erika Ishii

So I climbed over the divider—you can't see there's a divider between them and—

Aabria Iyengar

For privacy

Erika Ishii

—over here, over the divider into Aabria's balcony.

Lou Wilson

At any point was there a chance you could have fallen into the ocean?

Erika Ishii

Either on the way over, or when I realized that I had forgotten the MacGuffin item—

Aabria Iyengar

That's very funny

Erika Ishii

—I had to climb back over the divider and then back over into Aabria's room once again.

Aabria Iyengar

Wild. Now, I do remember looking up like, a day later and I was like, there's a little lock. We could have maybe just asked someone to leave it unlocked. But I'm glad you didn't die!

Erika Ishii

Yeah, mine was the fun way. Anyway. I love heists. I love heists. And it felt so ripe for hijinks. There was originally a thought of maybe using Honey Heist because I have run that before, it's super fun. But I wanted something that was a little more open ended for people, where the mechanics are really just like, stacked on top of each other to snowball into something crazy. And indeed—

Aabria Iyengar

We played it normal, though,

Erika Ishii

You know, in the first episode, I think there was "Create Monster: four."

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Hell yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

That's Brendan's problem.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Hell yeah.

Erika Ishii

Any other good questions? None that have—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Oh, let me see. Okay, this is a great one. Speaking of "Create Monster: four," this one's from Jonathan Holland.

Thanks, Jonathan. For Erika. What made you decide to GM the game? And why did you choose Roll for Shoes as the system to use? Did you consider any other system?

Erika Ishii

Well, yes, I considered Honey Heist, as a matter of fact, but yeah, a lot of the mechanics there like, proscribe story or character, and I wanted to leave it more open ended. Roll for Shoes was perfect because you just really, truly roll for anything and you can get extra specialized in things which really lends itself to a heist. Especially if you start out like, I'm the hacker and then you end up going into social media management. [Laughs]

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

God, and the characters everybody came up with were just so screamingly funny, even off the bat.

Aabria Iyengar

Hell yeah. Okay, I have a question, Lou. How did you come up with the name Itsa Winnerbaby.

Lou Wilson

It's so funny, I feel like I went through a phase or at least a moment where probably when I was watching BoJack Horseman, where I was really googling what horse names—I knew that there's a history of race horses having comical names or just like, strangely worded names, and I remember there were two, I remember I had two options. We all met when Erika was on my bathroom floor before the session. I remember we met at my house and I remember I had two names and I don't remember what the other one was, but I feel like Itsa Winnerbaby just felt right. Just like... Itsa Winnerbaby. It's like naming a ship. Like you want it to be a little bit goofy and a little bit silly, but then it's funny to—normally those things aren't personified or played and have to live with said name. But it was fun to play somebody who has just such a stupid fucking name.

Erika Ishii

Then in the moment of Thatsa Loserhoney.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Lou Wilson

Hey, ya know. We were in full chaos mode at that point. I'm just trying to keep up.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That's a little bit of a reference to—

[Erika laughs, after a long pause Brennan wheezes laughter]

Aabria Iyengar

What just happened?

Lou Wilson

Yeah, I'm like what is Brennan going to say

Aabria Iyengar

A moment of telepathy occurred.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I was about to call back to something that has not been on microphones before.

Erika Ishii

It has, we've definitely referenced it before.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

We've referenced it before, but—

Lou Wilson

What the fuck are you two talking about?

Aabria Iyengar

I don't know what's happening, and I don't like that I don't know.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Well, sorry. Itsa Winnerbaby and Thatsa Loserhoney—because I said Thatsa loserhoney, and it was a reference to "I'm da Joker, honey" which is—

Lou Wilson

Oh, "I'm da Joker, Baby."

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Ah, "I'm da Joker, Baby."

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, I wasn't there for that.

Lou Wilson

Oh, no it is honey.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It is honey, "I'm da Joker, honey." Which was an incredibly—to even recount it beggars the imagination

Lou Wilson

Impossible, impossible.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Just one of those things of mania where I think Lou had created a drawing, a hastily drawn scrawl of the Joker with a speech bubble while we were eating masa at me and Izzy's old apartment that just said, and he had a speech bubble saying, "I'm da Joker, honey." And it was "I'm D-A, da, Joker, honey."

Erika Ishii

It was on a napkin.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It was on a napkin. And the bit was, I was like an art critic and asking Lou questions about his magnum opus for, like, I think, a good 20 to 30 minutes.

Lou Wilson

We leaned in.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

We leaned way into the bit.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Just a little parenthetical for the audience. If this feels like it's not hitting and you're not quite there, I also wasn't there. I've heard this story a billion times, and it's not funny to me. If no one's got your back, I got your back. They love this story so much, and I'm like, "Okay!"

Lou Wilson

Just imagine, right, you're with your friends, you're eating a big old slice of pizza, and you look over and your friends got a funny photo of the Joker. Now, you know Joaquin Phoenix? He plays the Joker. What's the name? What's the other guy's name? Heath Ledger. He plays the Joker, right. You look at this picture of the Joker.

Erika Ishii

Mark Hamill.

Lou Wilson

Mark Hamill. He voices the Joker. Occasionally you see this picture of the Joker and he says, "I'm da Joker, honey." And then your friend, he looks over and he takes it seriously. I mean, what's not funny about that?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's just really funny. It's really funny.

Erika Ishii

Well, I still have that drawing because.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, incredible!

Lou Wilson

You still have it?

Erika Ishii

Yes! You made it for me because we were having a discussion about how much of a red flag it is for you to have a T shirt of all the different kinds of Jokers. Cesar Romero Joker. That's very specific. And it's like, okay, maybe you like Cesar Romero. Mark Hamill Joker. You're a fan of Batman the Animated Series? One of the best stories ever. And then it ends, of course, at the Joaquin Phoenix and, oh, God, we didn't even talk about the Jared Leto Joker. Anyway.



Lou Wilson

Oh Jesus. You mean my Joker?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That's MY Joker.

Lou Wilson

My Joker. Golden Gun Joker? Hell yes dude.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'm trying to think of, without judgment, the Joker on a T shirt that would make my head whip to see what the person's deal was the fastest, I think Jared Leto pulls ahead of Joaquin Phoenix.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, I think so.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I think if I see Joaquin Phoenix, I'm like, I get it. I get what your deal is going to be. If I saw someone wearing a Jared Leto Joker T shirt, I'm like, I have no clue what this person's deal is going to be. A person that I would have presumed fictional up to this moment where I'm seeing it in real life.

Lou Wilson

That's just somebody who spent over 60 hours learning how to throw a playing card so hard it could pierce an apple.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Because Jared Leto was going for the demographic of people who will tell you that Heath Ledger's Joker is their favorite Joker. And he did not succeed.

Aabria Iyengar

He was coming for the crown.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

He was coming for the crown, and he missed. So anyone wearing his T shirt, you'd be like, what did you like that he did that you don't like that other Jokers did?

Erika Ishii

That other Jokers did—also, that ended up with a beef between him and Die Antwoord. So.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Something about Suicide squad created a beef between Jared Leto and Die Antwoord?!

Erika Ishii

[Laughing] They made a diss video about how he was jocking their style.

Lou Wilson

Respect.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Jared Leto said Die Antwoord was jacking his style?!

Aabria Iyengar

That's great. Because in my head, I was like, yeah, because he kind of looked like that. And then you said I was like, yeah.

Lou Wilson

Can we go around just real quick? Top three Joker—top two Jokers. Let me get everyone's top two Jokers.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Okay, top two. Gotcha.

Lou Wilson

Who wants to kick it off?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Mark Hamill twice.

Lou Wilson

Okay, Mark Hamill twice.

Aabria Iyengar

Woah! This is Heath erasure. He did great.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

He did great!

Aabria Iyengar

For me, it's Heath and Mark.

Lou Wilson

Heath and Mark. Erika?

Erika Ishii

It's absolutely Mark and Heath. And that is how we got to this drawing. Because after this, I was like, oh, yes. I was ranking them. And I said, absolute red flag to have Joker on your shirt. That being said—

Aabria Iyengar

How many Joker cosplayers do you think you've hooked up with?

Erika Ishii

Okay, so every one of my boyfriends has dressed up as the Joker

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
[Low, into the mic] Oooh, no no no.

Lou Wilson  
Now you all know something about Erika that you can't unknow. It's impossible.

Aabria Iyengar  
I love it.

Erika Ishii  
And! And, I had a picture of the—

Aabria Iyengar  
[Absolutely screaming] NO! NOO!

Erika Ishii  
—Heath Ledger Joker—

Lou Wilson  
I can feel us falling down a black hole. Like, this is, we're just

Aabria Iyengar  
Full Stop

Erika Ishii  
—doing the Clockwork Orange Kubrick face.

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah-ha-ha [Laughing]

Lou Wilson  
Cold wind is passing my face as we disappear.

Erika Ishii  
[Barely able to speak] It was above my bed, in my sewing room.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
This is like you're ziplining at night and you hear the rope snap.

Lou Wilson  
Yes. You're just like "Aah, there it goes."

Aabria Iyengar  
Erika, I'm not going to leave you by yourself. I've got a multiple Vash the Stampede cosplayer body count. So we're good. You're good.

Erika Ishii  
Right?!

Aabria Iyengar

I'm with you. I get it.

Lou Wilson

What the what-what?

Aabria Iyengar

Don't worry about it. I said that in a way that—

Lou Wilson

What's Vash the Stampede?

Aabria Iyengar

He's the main character from Trigun in anime from back in the day.

Erika Ishii

Right. And then now there's the reboot of it, and there's just a whole other generation of Vash cosplayers.

Lou Wilson

Have you kissed anybody in a costume before?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, but I was also in costume.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay, that's not not what we're saying.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

No, you can't cross the streams. You either have to both be in costume or neither of you.

Lou Wilson

Okay, that's it. Yes. Many times in my life—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I just invented this rule, and I'm adamant about it.

Lou Wilson

Multiple times people have tried to kiss me while I was wearing a costume, and they weren't. And I said, I'm going to go change. You stand right here. Let's sustain this moment, this intensity, this tension, while I go put on a normal T shirt.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I definitely have the—well, I'm not going to tell that story, but then.

Erika Ishii

[Yelling] Okay, ya gotta!

Aabria Iyengar

[Absoutely shrieking] YA GOTTA!

Lou Wilson

I feel like this fireside—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

We are unicycling in between various canyons and craters.

Lou Wilson

It snapped. It snapped!

Aabria Iyengar

Hey, Taylor, cut out the next minute. I want to hear this story.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

No, it was the—it was the

Lou Wilson

Taylor screamed no.

Aabria Iyengar

I was hoping we would just pretend that we all heard the story.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

No, you've heard the story before, but it's the essentially,

Erika Ishii

When you're watching Lord of the Rings? It's that one?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Oh—

Lou Wilson

No, it's the wolf one, isn't it?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's the wolf one.

[Altogether, laughing] It's the wolf one.

Lou Wilson

Honestly, we should just leave it at that. There's something crazy— Brennan's wolf story, which—

Erika Ishii

Justice! Justice for the princess!

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Justice for the princess. That's our first patreon stretch goal.

Lou Wilson  
When we get 100,000 Patreons, Brennan will—

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
[In unison with Lou] Tell the wolf story.

Aabria Iyengar  
Incredible. Incredible.

Erika Ishii  
And you'll be just as angry as we were.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Oh, God. Nothing has made Erika or Aabria more angry.

Aabria Iyengar  
I was standing on my patio furniture yelling, "justice for the princess" when I first heard the story.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Sorry. Hey.

Lou Wilson  
Wow. So, call your friends, beg them to join the Patreon, and let's get to 100,000.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Let's get to 100,000!

Aabria Iyengar  
Look, if we get to 2—

Erika Ishii  
Hashtag Brennan's wolf story.

Aabria Iyengar  
—If we get to 200,000, we get the princess. I run a one on one, and there's a redemption arc.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
There you go.

Erika Ishii  
What were we talking about? Oh, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar  
Who could say?

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Should we do another question?

Lou Wilson  
Yeah, maybe that'll get us back on track. One can only hope.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Great.

Aabria Iyengar  
Did we get your two Jokers?

Lou Wilson  
Jared Leto. Jared Leto.

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah, perfect.

Lou Wilson  
[To the tune of Amadeus] Jared Leto, Jared Leto. Jared Leto.

[All together] Jared Leto, Jared Leto. Jared Leto.

Lou Wilson  
No. [Goes back to singing] Jared Leto. Jared Leto. Oh-oh-oh, Jared Leto. Ahhh. Jared Leto.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
I'm going to say [Starting to sing] Jared Leto. Jared Leto.

[The cast sings again]

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
I know this is sacrilege. I know this is sacrilege. It's Mark Hamill and it's Jack Nicholson.

[The whole cast] Wooo!

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Because Heath's performance is otherworldly.

Erika Ishii  
Yeah, that's an acting performance.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
But he is single handedly lifting up a character in a movie. And because you cannot necessarily divorce the character, if you said, who's the best actor? Like the best acting performance of the Joker, it'd be Heath Ledger. But who's the best Joker? The Joker in Nolan's Batman universe is suffering from being in Nolan's Batman universe,

which is one that kind of hates superheroes. Catwoman doesn't even have cat ears. She just has fucking goggles. Like you know, it's like a whole—

Aabria Iyengar  
She had a headband.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Yeah, [sighs] it's like, oh, god, we can like this. It's okay to like this. And I think Jack Nicholson's Joker is the man for the hour. I think it's the right person for that movie. And I think he fucking nails it. And yeah, it's just Jack Nicholson. But, it's Jack Nicholson!

Erika Ishii  
Yeah, the music video for the Jack Nicholson, you know Batman movie with Prince. It's Prince, and it's like a bunch of sort of hot Jokers and hot bat-people.

Aabria Iyengar  
What?

Erika Ishii  
It's unhinged. And it's beautiful.

Lou Wilson  
That's why I love Jared Leto's Joker, because I feel like it embraces the Joker's sexuality. That Joker fucks. All the other Jokers I feel like are abstinent. But Jared Leto's Joker? Mm.

Aabria Iyengar  
You do make a very fair point.

Lou Wilson  
He's poly. You know Jared Leto's Joker is poly.

Erika Ishii  
Ooooh, god!

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Jared Leto's Joker mentions that he's poly in the first three minutes of any conversation.

Lou Wilson  
As do the people who wear Jared Leto's Joker on their T shirts.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
I'm going to say something right. If you can either—I don't think you can post photos in the comments of the patreon, but if you can tweet at our official accounts, any pictures you find—don't invade people's privacy. But like, if you're in a store somewhere and there's actually a Jared letter [Laughs] Jared Letter.

Lou Wilson  
[In Amadeus melody] Jared letter, Jared Letter!



Brennan Lee Mulligan

The baby boomer version of me calls him Jared Letter. I love Jared Letter.

Lou Wilson

I saw that Dallas Buyers Club, and I love that Jared Letter.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I was going to say if you're in like a hot topic and you actually see a t shirt of a Jared Leto Joker—

Erika Ishii

Or if you yourself have a t shirt of the Jared Leto Joker, first of all, I'm sorry.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you can't buy it and cheat! You can't buy, you have to already own it.

Lou Wilson

And you have to already be poly. You can't become poly after you hear—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[In gruff voice] Honor system.

Aabria Iyengar

Honor system.

Erika Ishii

What's the next question?

Lou Wilson

Jared Leto

Brennan Lee Mulligan

We cannot be in the same room altogether.

Lou Wilson

I tell you, I felt us fall as soon as we admitted to Erika's cosplay past, I was like, oh, here it goes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It actually is against California state law to kiss someone who is cosplaying as a poster you have in your room.

Erika Ishii

Buddy, I got bad news for you.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

We're going to jail.

[Erika is laughing so hard while talking they are incomprehensible]

Lou Wilson

Okay, I've got a question. Okay, I've got a question from Brandy DeSylva. Thank you, Brandy DeSylva.

Aabria Iyengar

Brandy, help us back.

Lou Wilson

She asks, was it fun to let loose and be murder hobos. Also, good job on making an ending that was satisfying but not really a "good" ending.

[Everybody bursts into laughter]

Aabria Iyengar

Now my problem is, I don't know what you mean—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Why is good in quotation marks?! I have a lot of punctuation issues.

Lou Wilson

So I definitely read the first part of Brandy's question and was like, now, that's fun. So let's start there. Was it fun to cut loose as murder hobos?

Aabria Iyengar

Hell yes. I think there was something really fun in knowing that this was Erika's first time and being deeply committed to not easing you into the process.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Erika Ishii

It was definitely a trial by fire. I love that. This was a hazing.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Erika Ishii

It was fully a hazing.

Aabria Iyengar

This was absolutely, a lovely hazing.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Also I think too, Erika did such an amazing job as GM. You really did. You fucking crushed it homie—

Lou Wilson

Truly.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—and you had no reason to be nervous going into it. But I know that you were nervous going into it and so I hope that you are never nervous again because you crushed it.

[Erika squeal-croaks]

Aabria Iyengar

Hell yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I will say whatever this murder hobo energy is, right, I think that there's that skew towards chaos. I cannot avoid playing that way, when someone tells me that something is a one shot. I think it is the difference between a handkerchief and a paper towel. If you tell me that I don't get to keep something, that it is fundamentally like, "it's a paper towel, just wipe it up" and you go, okay, I'm going to treat this very differently. If you tell me that this universe only exists for 4 hours. OOH baby, it's going to get weird because sustainability stops being a concern.

Lou Wilson

You're not going to have to—we're not going to ever get to a place where it's like, well, how many weapons does uhh...

Aabria Iyengar

Ruthie.

Lou Wilson

Ruthie. I was about to say Ruby. How many weapons does Ruthie keep inside of them? We don't, we never have to get there. It—never so many that we have to ask the question. I mean, it's a lot, but it's not so many that we actually beg to know how

Brennan Lee Mulligan

A million percent.

Erika Ishii

It's funny, I think when people use the term murder hobo in a game context, it has this connotation of just sort of like wrecking the world up, and sort of foiling the GM's plans to keep things on the rails by just really being careless with the world. And I feel like it wasn't necessarily your body count was extremely high, but it was all in service of the story and it all—big swings. I think some of those swings just happened to kill people in hilarious ways. But I think it was like, yeah, we all have that energy for one shots where we just have to take big swings. I think people tend to be kind of delicate with them because they're used to playing a longer game, but all of us are very used to really kind of, god, expanding to spill, expanding to fill the space and time we are given.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I really love that. I think that's absolutely accurate. I think that also murder hoboism—I've used this analogy in the past, but you don't find out that your cake is missing an ingredient necessarily when you're doing the mixing. You find out like when it's been in the oven for 45 minutes and you're like, why is it still wet? And you go, oh God, the baking soda or the eggs or I fucked something, you know, something that happened way before wasn't added. And I think that murder hoboism for the most part comes from. Disattachment to the world. If you think about, what is actually the frightening part of blowing up your own life? Why don't you scream at your boss? Or why don't you burn your work down? Why don't you pop off and do something in real life?

Lou Wilson

Brennan, are you okay, man? Are you all right?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Why don't you just fucking do what you feel like doing for once in your fucking life and take all your clothes off and run down the street with a katana. Okay?

Aabria Iyengar

Like Jared Leto would do.

Lou Wilson

That's exactly what Jared Leto does. I've seen the David Ayer cut.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Hey, Lou.

Lou Wilson

Yeah?

[Brennan makes a buzz-humming sound]

Lou Wilson

Oh, my fucking god!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Let's put a smile on that face.

[Erika starts making a crying moan sound underneath everything... for a while]

Aabria Iyengar

Damaged. You can see it right on his face.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

He's so damaged. He got a tattoo saying it to let you know!

Aabria Iyengar

Erika, look away. It's too powerful!

[Erika stops moaning]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I think it's like, in making a D&D character or something, I have seen murder hobo behavior at tables the most, not as a reflection of the values of the people playing, because even a great, very dedicated role player person, if you drop them in a world where they have no relationships and they have no stakes and they have no roots, it's all going to feel disposable. And if the world also doesn't seem like again, when you think about, why don't I blow my life up?

You're like, oh, well, my family, and my friends, and I have to pick up milk on the way home because someone that I love can't have it in their coffee if I don't get it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's all these attachments to the world, and if all that goes away and you're just like a specter or a ghost floating out in life, then, yeah, you would behave totally differently. When people are asking about murder hoboism, I think the solution is not like, play a more reasonable character. It's like, spend more time in character creation, creating relationships, motivations, backstories, things that will anchor you to feeling the weight of consequences. That's how I feel anyway. I think it's a reaction to detachment, not a reaction to an actual desire for that kind of behavior.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. And that's the truth. If a GM doesn't give you any consequences for sort of blowing up your life, then what's to stop you?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah. And sometimes people think consequences is like the town guard showing up, and it's like, okay, the town guard come and arrest me and throw me in jail. But I don't have a life or a family or any goals or wishes. So I'll just be in the jail, and I'll try to burn the jail down, and I'll smash my head on the bars and throw my body against the stone wall, like,

Erika Ishii

God, are you okay?

[Long pause, Brennan makes a "zyoom-ohh" sound with his mouth]

Aabria Iyengar

Jack Nicholson!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Y'ever dance with the devil in the pale moonlight?

Lou Wilson

This is why I make each one of my characters have a secret child. Every character I've ever played? Secret child.

Aabria Iyengar

Who was Whitney Jammer's secret child?

Lou Wilson

Hey, you don't wanna—a lot of things happened at that—I think I grew up in the South Side of Chicago, you know? Life was real, and I had mouths to feed. That's why I went to wizard school and abandoned my secret child. I had to be right, for my secret child.

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Unbelievable.

Aabria Iyengar

I don't even remember the original question, but yes. Yes to what everyone has said.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Also, good job on making an ending that was satisfying, but not really a "good" quotation mark ending.

Erika Ishii

Okay, we have a second episode.

Aabria Iyengar

That's crazy. We're gonna come back to that.

Erika Ishii

We're going to come back to that in the next episode.

Lou Wilson

We're going to circle back to that specific questions.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Because I'm going to think about that a lot.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

This next question comes to us from Spencer thanks, Spencer. Lou, or to whichever guest was invited to be there in his stead.

Lou Wilson

No, it's me.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's me. When did you decide that? It's a Winnerbaby. Oh, wait, this is not an episode. One question. We'll do this next one.

Aabria Iyengar

Come up with a new question.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

New question. Oh, this one's from Anxious amphibian. Oh, thanks, anxious amphibian.

Lou Wilson

Thanks, Anxious Amphibian

Aabria Iyengar

Aww, nervous frog.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

There's a lot of reasons for anxiety. Should you be in the water? Should you be on land? You got a lot to figure out!

Aabria Iyengar

Stop, you're not, you're not helping.

Lou Wilson

I've got a few more questions you can ask yourself, Anxious Amphibian.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Dear WBN: your shit slaps. Aww thanks, Anxious Amphibian.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

My mind started doing alliterative—it just started going like Nervous Newt.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah! Same, same.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Do you know what I'm saying? It started going like—

Erika Ishii

Yeah, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Skittish Salamander was where I was at.

Lou Wilson

Oh, save it for the Cram Daniel talkback.

Erika Ishii

Anxious Axolotl.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, awww!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Anxious Axolotl!

Lou Wilson

I'm not going to do one.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That's because you're a fearful frog.

Lou Wilson

Oh, don't. Don't you fucking dare! [Rushed] Jared Leto's, my favorite Joker.

Aabria Iyengar  
A Trepidacious Toad!

Erika Ishii  
[shocked] Oh!!!

Lou Wilson  
Stop it! All of you, stop it! I'm a Bold Barracuda and you know it. And I know that's a fish and not an amphibian! I know it only belongs in the water, fuck you.

Aabria Iyengar  
Are you Legends of the Hidden Temple? I feel like you jumped genre.

Erika Ishii  
That's literally what I was about to say!

Lou Wilson  
Yeah, I jumped to Legends of the Hidden Temple. I'm a Jumping Jaguar, you fucks!

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Well, ya know, Stephen J. Gould would agree with you.

Lou Wilson  
Who is Stephen J. Gould?

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
I'll talk about it later.

Lou Wilson  
All right? If we get to 150,000 patrons, Brennan will tell you who Stephen J. Gould is.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
100,000 patrons, by the way. We absolutely shatter the platform. We make headline news the world over. 100,000 patrons on Patreon, completely reshape the entire platform. You get "The Wolf Story," and then 150,000, I will tell you who famous biologist Stephen J. Gould is.

Lou Wilson  
Now, you could go Google it, or, you could call your entire family. At Thanksgiving, you could make a speech!

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
[Absolutely out of control laughing] Take out so many credit cards, make fake identities for each one, go to jail for credit card fraud.

Lou Wilson  
And then in prison, be listening on your Walkman.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
To me reading the first paragraph of the Wikipedia article for Stephen J. Gould. Oh, I feel so lightheaded.



Erika Ishii  
My throat hurts.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Anxious Amphibian, "Dear WBN, your shit slaps. Erika, what was it like preparing for A County Affair?"

Aabria Iyengar  
Hell yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
"What inspired the choice to have a Heist and use Roll for Shoes."

Erika Ishii  
Oh, well, we've covered my love for Heists and why we use Roll for Shoes. But I ended up watching a lot of, I rewatched Chicken Run.

Lou Wilson  
Ahh yes, Chicken Run. I remember that.

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
That's a great comp. Great comp, great comparison for... yeah absoutely.

Erika Ishii  
Right?. There's a new one gonna come out.

Aabria Iyengar  
What?

Erika Ishii  
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar  
Nice

Erika Ishii  
Chicken Run 2. And then,

Lou Wilson  
damn them chickens still runnin'?

Aabria Iyengar  
Never stop runnin'.

Lou Wilson  
They ain't tired.

Erika Ishii  
And Oceans Eleven and Thirteen

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah, we gotta skip Twelve

Erika Ishii  
And I never saw Twelve

Aabria Iyengar  
Don't worry about Twelve.

Erika Ishii  
I saw parts of it on an airplane. And I'm like, I get the gist, I guess.

Aabria Iyengar  
The only important part of Oceans Twelve is the Night Fox doing laser capoeira to the—something Tea. It's like Mint Tea. Is the name of the techno song.

Erika Ishii  
Yeah, it was very good.

Lou Wilson  
It's never as long as you want it to be when you go back and rewatch it, though. Every time I watch it, I'm like, that happens so—in my head, it's like, 90 minutes of this dude doing fucking Capoeira. And every time I watch it, it's like, that was 25 seconds. And then he was there.

Erika Ishii  
Yeah, I have a playlist of music where it's, like, inspirational for it, obviously, like, Oceans Eleven stuff and sort of Vegas music and, oh god, what else was there? Like Cowboy Bebop. Yeah, as we said, Cowboy Bebop. And also Archer. And yeah, it was just really fun preparing for it and then also looking at different barnyard animal stories. And I had decided because I feel like all of our campaigns and all of our characters have these themes running through them without being very overtly, like, Animal Farm is about something specific. I'm not going to say it, so that—

Aabria Iyengar  
yeah, no spoilers for Ruvi!

Erika Ishii  
So Ruvi can—

Aabria Iyengar  
Write your essay!

Erika Ishii

—on their own. But I wanted to have elements of talking about sustainability in it and, like, corporate greenwashing. The idea of, like, oh, yeah, because we have this packaging and we call this stuff like, that means it's ethical to eat. There's no real ethical consumption in capitalism. We are all part of an ecosystem that is fundamentally flawed. But yeah, just like, how that impacts the people or those that are producing. Um, yeah.

Lou Wilson

I'm a Bold Bullfrog.

Erika Ishii

[Gasps] Oh, that's good

Aabria Iyengar

That's really good. But bold doesn't really line up with anxious?

Lou Wilson

Wait, but weren't we doing ones that were—[Deep sigh] Brennan can you—Yeah, no, I get it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It was synonyms of anxious.

Lou Wilson

Yeah, okay. Why doesn't everyone—well, I guess I was standing out and I was a Bold Barracuda, but now I'm a Bold Bullfrog to fit the amphibian thing and not do... Everyone's looking at me like they're disappointed, so, I'm gonna—Brennan, will you ask another question while I think harder about what I am?

Aabria Iyengar

Right now you're a bullied bullfrog.

Lou Wilson

Fucking shut up, Aabria. Aabria shut up. I'm having a hard enough time. No one likes the Jared Leto joke as much as I do.

[The cast laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Wow, incredible. This one comes from Denton. Thanks, Denton.

Aabria Iyengar

Thanks, Denton.

Lou Wilson

Denton, thank you.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

"As a self proclaimed 'rules guy,' I wonder how Brennan felt playing such a chaotic character. Does being a player allow you to turn that part of your brain off?" Thank you for the question, Denton.

Aabria Iyengar

No, turns that shit up. Sorry. I'm going to answer for you.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

The thing you miss when we record here is that you can't see Brennan... There's a little squint and a little head tilt as you watch the numbers and math fly around in his brain. And then all of a sudden, like picking a lock in a heist, you see the moment in which he's, like, broken the game, and you're like, "oh, no, here we go." Erika as someone who followed in your glorious footsteps with Cram Daniel and had Brennan absolutely blow up a system, yeah, you could just watch it. I don't think you're less of a rules guy when you have nothing to lose. I think you're more.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

it's a false dichotomy. [The cast bursts into laughter] Rules—like, order and chaos are not opposites. They are names of deities that we invoke to place ourselves in our little position in a universe that we are seeking to understand.

Like—

Aabria Iyengar

Brennan, stop being profound with silly questions.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

In the grand mathematics of the cosmos, all things are accounted for. And what we name chaos is that which we do not understand. And what we name order is that which we do. But we are but specks on the face of mother void.

And so you know—

Aabria Iyengar

[Whispering] Mother void

Erika Ishii

Oh, no.

Lou Wilson

I'm a Having-Kittens Hellbender.

[Everyone wheezes with delight]

Aabria Iyengar

That's it.

Lou Wilson

Does that work? Does that work?

[Everyone is laughing uncontrollably]

Aabria Iyengar

That was four words!

Lou Wilson  
Does that work?

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
AI is never going to catch us, baby. Whatever that was, that's the pure human spirit. that was absolutely—

Lou Wilson  
No one's told me if I did a good job. They've just been laughing through it.

Aabria Iyengar  
We don't know what a hellbender.

Lou Wilson  
I don't know. It's an incredible amphibian, according to one article.

Aabria Iyengar  
Oh yeah! It's a kind of salamander.

Erika Ishii  
I'm Erika Ishii

Aabria Iyengar  
Damn, we just ending it?! Is that how we're ending this?

Lou Wilson  
Did you answer—how'd you feel about being a rules—?

Aabria Iyengar  
Oh, Brennan wasn't done opining

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
No, no no no. I'm done opining, we absolutely... No. Denton it's a lovely question. Chaos is not the opposite of rules. [Erika yells] These are one and the same. And we imagine the hubris of a puddle saying how fortuitous it is that the pavement they rest on is their exact shape. And calling that a coincidence. It's not a coincidence. It forms to the shape. That's what a puddle is. So our ability

Aabria Iyengar  
It's too fucking deep. Brennan, I have never seen someone beat the brakes off of their degree more than you.

Lou Wilson  
I do feel like, of anyone I know who went to school, nobody like, is—the pinata came down off and everyone took the candy and went home. And Brennan's still beating—[mimicking sound of a hit]"g-dah!" Into the dirt.

Erika Ishii  
Kid! Kid, we already took all the candy out.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
I think—this is fucked up, but the analogy just used did happen in my life.

[Erika and Aabria at the same time, shocked] What?!

Lou Wilson

No! No! 200,000 patrons. No, go ahead.

Erika Ishii

200,000 and they get to hear your pinata story!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

No, because the pinata has—there was a pinata that clearly had other compartments in it. And I hit it with the stick when I was a little kid and the candy one came out but there were other compartments. So we weren't finished breaking the pinata

Erika Ishii

Was it one of the traditional ones with the multipointed star? And so all the—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

No no, it was like a donkey, a donkey one, like a horsey one. But it had multiple compartments in it. And I was very young. It's a fuzzy memory, but it's like hitting the pinata. Candy comes out, and then I'm still hitting it. And it's like, no, the candy came out. And I was like [In a serious voice] "It was never about the candy." It was never—

Aabria Iyengar

Just imagine a little Brennan in his little puffer and his little Timbs like, I need my bacon, egg, and cheese. I'm going to beat this pinata to death.

Lou Wilson

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You fucking bystanders, help yourself to my candy. Meanwhile, I'm going to finish the fucking job.

Lou Wilson

My pinata trauma is that they always made me go last because they were like, you're going to win. They're like, you have to let all these weak children go first. Because I was a strong child. I was a strong child! They were always like, Lou, you go to the back. Because all of these other people need to have even a chance before I fucking just full Barry Bonds, ON steroids. Fuckin'—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That creates, I can tell—

Aabria Iyengar

That swollen ass head, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—that creates that vibe with other kids, too. I understand why parents do that. But you have to consider what that does. Because now another kid comes up and they're like, do you want to go on the bouncy castle? And you go like, you only are walking around on the face of this world because these people have your back.

Lou Wilson

Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Any other day—

Lou Wilson

They protect you.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—any other day, baby. If you catch me out here in pinata land, mano a mano, this goes down very fucking different.

Lou Wilson

exactly.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. The big kid problem of like, I've never gotten the dub on a pinata in my life. And I've never had a class photo where more than my neck was shown because I've always been in the back. I don't like dressing up. And I'm like, no one's going to see the back of my 'fit if we're in a group shot. Yeah, I'm in the fucking back. Don't worry about me. I'm just this.

Lou Wilson

Tell 'em.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You got to tell him.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. What were we talking about?

Lou Wilson

Brennan's a puddle and he fits in whatever vessel or space.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Um, Denton. Denton, man.

Lou Wilson

The intimacy we've had with the people who have asked the questions this episode, it's like, we're here talking with you.

Aabria Iyengar

Ruvi did this. Ruvi, by adding a parenthetical that put us into active conversation with them, gave us a vibe.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, it's true. Denton, I'll catch you later, man. I'll explain it more in detail.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, I have a whole thing about the term chaotic, definitely. But that's a whole other episode.

Aabria Iyengar

The look you're giving me, right? Yeah. I feel ya.

Erika Ishii

You know.

Lou Wilson

[Almost an Italian accent] It's another podcast.

Aabria Iyengar

It's another podcast.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

1 million Patreon subscribers, and we break down the use of the word chaotic and what it describes, and what it doesn't.

Lou Wilson

Bada boom. Bada bing.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Sighing] Well, I'm uh [struggling] uh, what's the word?

Lou Wilson

Strung out Spring Peeper?

Aabria Iyengar

You were waiting.

Lou Wilson

I just wanted to have two.

Aabria Iyengar

He was like, fucking double barrel, let's go.

Lou Wilson

I mean, I uh, I—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

"You will never catch me sleeping again."

Erika Ishii

When Brennan hears something funny—

Lou Wilson

A tattoo on both my forearms of anxious synonyms and amphibians.



Erika Ishii

There's a moment when Brennan hears something funny where he [struggling to speak between laughs] retreats into his own brain.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes! Yes. He processes inside and then decides how much we all get of his joy.

[Erika scream cries muffled by fabric]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Oh, my God.

Aabria Iyengar

This is good.

Lou Wilson

Well.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

There it is.

Lou Wilson

There it is.

Aabria Iyengar

Also, I'm going to say it. You did a great job. Both of those were great.

Lou Wilson

Thank you. I had a lot to make up for, and I'm sorry I told you to [aggressively] shut the fuck up.

Aabria Iyengar

I don't think you said fuck.

Lou Wilson

Okay, well, I meant to say it, and I forgot, and I apologize for that as well.

Erika Ishii

How long have we been sitting here?

Lou Wilson

Normally, when we're on Zoom, we're all staring at a clock, so we know exactly when it's supposed to be over. But I have no sense. We've only been talking for 15 minutes.

Aabria Iyengar

I would absolutely believe that if you said it's been a half hour.

Erika Ishii

there's also another human in this house who's listening to it.

Lou Wilson

There's also a full moment in this episode where Aabria goes, "If you don't understand what's happening" I've like, that was so—Never have I had a moment of being like, yeah, we're making this for people, but they have no idea. They cannot keep up. But it's worth it. It's worth it because you get to some really good juice.

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God.

Lou Wilson

Taylor, has it been an hour? [Taylor from far off: "Yeah"] Okay, cool.

Erika Ishii

Alright, well, that's... that's us, for the first episode of A County Affair: Crime-a-doodle-doo. I'm Erika Ishii.

Aabria Iyengar

I'm Aabria iyengar.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'm Brennan Lee Mulligan.

Lou Wilson

And I'm [To the tune of Amadeus] Jared Leto. Jared Leto. [Everyone joins in] Jared Leto. Jared Leto. Jared Leto. Jared Leto. Jared Leto. Jared Leto. Jared Leto. I don't know. We'll fix it in post.

[Elvis - A Little Less Conversation plays]