

# TraWorlds Beyond Number

Fireside Chat: Episode 20 - Episode 20 "Later Than You Think"

Final Version

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

Erika Ishii

Hello everyone, and welcome to Worlds Beyond Number, Fireside Chat for Episode 20: Later Than You Think. I'm your host, Erika Ishii, and I am joined by Aabria Iyengar.

Aabria Iyengar

Ahoohoo, crackle crackle, so good to be here!

Erika Ishii

Oh my gosh, there's so much I want to talk about for Suvi. You did so good for Suvi this episode!

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Erika Ishii

Sorry, sorry.

Aabria Iyengar

We are killing it. No no no! We're excited, you're good, ugh! I just cannot wait to talk about this episode.

Erika Ishii

You're good! I know, same. And our guest today, Mr. Dick Goose! Dick?

Aabria Iyengar

Uh.

Erika Ishii

Mr. Goose?

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, um. So his—so his camera was off, I just thought he was going to be audio only.

Erika Ishii

Okay. Uh, there might have been a mix up with the schedule. Taylor? Okay, Taylor's saying that he's—huh. Hang on a second. Cut this part out, Taylor.

Aabria Iyengar

Yep.

Erika Ishii

He came very highly recommended and I am a little bit [Nervous chuckle]

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, yeah.

[iPhone Default Ringtone]

Erika Ishii

I'm upset with Craig—

Aabria Iyengar

Oh! Okay, hold on. Go ahead and grab that.

Erika Ishii

Okay. Hello?

[Peal of thunder]

Lou Wilson

[Shakily] Hi? Erika! Erika! It's Lou.

Erika Ishii

Oh my god, Lou what are—

Lou Wilson

We're in Panama.

Aabria Iyengar

Wait, Lou!?

Lou Wilson

Yeah, hold on—I'm going to put you on speaker. Brennan, it's Erika and Aabria.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Aabria, Erika—

Aabria Iyengar

Oh my god!

Erika Ishii

Brennan!?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Listen, we don't have time—[Frantically] Shut up!! Listen

Erika Ishii  
Where are you?

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
I'm in Panama—

Lou Wilson  
[In unison] We're in Panama!

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
I'm here with Lou, and Tomahawk, and—

[Epic retro 80's-style synth action music]

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
—where's Adonis? Adonis should be nearby.

Erika Ishii  
And Adonis, is Adonis Gunz here?

Adonis Gunz (Lou)  
[Running up, frantically] Guy, guys guys.

Erika Ishii  
They found him!

Adonis Gunz (Lou)  
Bridge, 500 yards. Dick Goose is in the chopper just on the other side of the bridge. It's a dead sprint. It's a dead fucking sprint. I won't lie, this is a seven out of seven on the danger scale, alright? A straight up seven out of seven.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
What Dick is saying is it's a ten out of ten on the danger scale, okay?

Adonis Gunz (Lou)  
No, no motherfucker. It is a SEVEN out of SEVEN, alright? I need everyone—eyes on me, eyes on me right now—who are you talking to?

Lou Wilson  
We called the—

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
I have a baby.

Lou Wilson  
What?

Adonis Gunz (Lou)

What?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

What?

Aabria Iyengar

What?!

Erika Ishii

Where did the baby come from?!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

We can get into it, but me, and Dick, and Adonis, and Tomahawk, we gotta get out of here right now. Aabria and Erika, I need you to use the podcast equipment to overtake the surveillance system that they're using here. We are dead men walking.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay. I'm hacking in right now.

[Clackity keyboard hacking noises.]

wbnOS Mainframe

Worlds Beyond Number mainframe initiated.

[Clackity]

wbnOS Mainframe

Government firewall breached.

[Clackity]

wbnOS Mainframe

Launching Fortunate Horse Global Protocol.

[Clackity]

wbnOS Mainframe

Crackle Crackle Virus compiled.

[Clackity]

wbnOS Mainframe

Click accept to take control of all security systems in Panama.

[Mouse click]

wbnOS Mainframe

Click confirm to confirm acceptance.

[Click]

wbnOS Mainframe

Acceptance confirmed.

[Clackity]

Erika Ishii

Alright.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Okay.

Erika Ishii

I know that John has been helping—he's been eyes in the sky right now, so if we can get word from him as well.

[Blaring klaxon]

wbnOS Mainframe

Alert. Alert. Hostile forces approaching. We've got company.

[Screeching megaphone]

Russian Mercenary (Aabria)

Mulligan!

Lou Wilson

Yeah.

Russian Mercenary (Aabria)

Wilson! Hand over the baby.

Lou Wilson

Ah, shit!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Screaming defiantly] NEVER!

[Machine gun blasting]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Mimics machine gun noises with his mouth]

Adonis Gunz (Lou)

Get down! Get down!

Lou Wilson

Run! Everyone!

Russian Mercenary (Aabria)

After him! After him!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Singing "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor] It's the eye of the tiger, it's the thrill of the fight! Ris—is it help—

Lou Wilson

Stop singing, god dammit! We gotta go!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It helps me run faster!

Adonis Gunz (Lou)

Snipers in the trees, everybody—

[The baby cries as bullets whiz past through the leaves]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

We gotta jump for it! [Slow motion jumping noises]

Lou Wilson

Grab my—[Slow motion jumping noises]

[Somber synths, the crashing of waves and wind along the Panamanian coastline. Our heroes silently arc through the air in slow motion, before their yells come crashing back to the fore as they slam onto the ground.]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Machine gun noises]

Lou Wilson

Shit, there it is! There's the chopper!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Does it help if I make gun noises with my mouth!?

Aabria Iyengar

You have missile fire incoming.

[The pounding 80's synth returns in full force]

Lou Wilson

Shit!

[Missiles scream through the air, on a direct strike path.]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Straining with effort] Using the power of my mind, to stop these missiles! [Grunting, saying the words of power through gritted teeth]

[The missiles are blasted out of the air with a psychic energy projection, crashing and exploding far off in the distance]

Lou Wilson

Holy shit! Brennan, I had no idea you could do that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Catching his breath, badassly] Neither did I... Until right now.

[Synth pounds]

Lou Wilson

Okay, here's the chopper!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Here's the chopper. Here we go!

[The synth blasts over the sound of helicopter rotors spinning up]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Comfortingly] Okay sweetie, we're going to go in the chopper. We're going to go in the chopper sweetie!

Lou Wilson

Dick! Pull up, pull up Dick! Pull up!

Dick Goose (Lou)

I got this, boys! I'm taking you home!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Thank you, Captain Goose. Thank you so much.

[The baby cries out]

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
It's okay, sweetie.

Dick Goose (Lou)  
[Catches breath.] Well, I don't know. Do you guys want to do the podcast? We should be in the studio in—

Erika Ishii  
Yeah, okay.

Aabria Iyengar  
What?

Dick Goose (Lou)  
—two to three minutes? If that works?

Erika Ishii  
Goose, bring 'em in.

Dick Goose (Lou)  
Yeah. I'm on it.

[Synth and chopper slowly fade away]

Erika Ishii  
Oh, hi, it's a baby! There's a baby.

Aabria Iyengar  
Oh my god!

Erika Ishii  
Oh, god.

Aabria Iyengar  
There's a baby. And I didn't know I could be a hacker—what is—Erika. What the FUCK is happening?

Erika Ishii  
Wow. What we did is we just brought our boys home.

[Door slams open. The baby cries.]

Erika Ishii  
Awww, and who is this?

Aabria Iyengar  
Oh hi!



Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Out of breath] So. Dick Goose just rescued me from Panama. I hope that Adonis and Tomahawk are okay. Thank you so much for helping me hack. You may notice that I've been sprinting through the Panamanian jungle with a baby in my arms. Unrelated to the events that saw me kidnapped, and in Panama, myself and my wife, Isabella Roland had a baby.

[Aabria and Erika make tearful noises]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

We had a baby, and I feel very—you know I'm looking into—it feels like—this studio feels like we're a safe distance from the armed militants that, you know, took me captive. It's a long, long story.

[Somber synth, as though Brennan is looking off into the middle distance, which ends abruptly.]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Is Lou anywhere, I heard—

[Baby babble]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Oh, it's alright, sweetie.

[Skype ringtone]

Aabria Iyengar

Wait, you don't have eyes on Lou?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Um.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Tomahawk here. Lou stayed on the chopper with Dick once they dropped us off.

Erika Ishii

What, why?!

Aabria Iyengar

Why?

Tomahawk (Lou)

I don't know, something about lost treasure, and the secrets of a forgotten world or something. I don't know.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, okay.

Erika Ishii

Oh, it's that whole like, Atlanta thing.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, yeah. Okay.

Tomahawk (Lou)

The Atlanta thing?

Erika Ishii

Yeah. You know.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, you know, the lost city of Atlanta.

Erika Ishii

[In unison] The lost city of Atlanta.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Atlanta, okay. Ya know, honestly? I'm mostly just muscle. I was just, you know—I love danger and I'm all about that lifestyle, so—

Erika Ishii

Yeah, well our boys aren't, and—

Tomahawk (Lou)

—that's why they picked me, I don't ask the big questions.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Erika Ishii

Yeah, and our boys aren't about that life, so thank you so much for bringing them home. It was a rough—like, listen. I love doing this show with Aabria—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

—and our rotating guests. We started a—

Aabria Iyengar

Very fun!

Erika Ishii

I think you know Craig? Sumgee?

Tomahawk (Lou)

Oh of course, he's my cousin.

Erika Ishii

So, Brennan, we started a new segment while you were gone.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Bag It or Tag It, and it's where—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Oh! My captors were—the militants that I was with were kind enough to actually play the Firesides for me!

Aabria Iyengar

Oh that's really nice!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

So I love—huge fan of Bag It or Tag It.

Erika Ishii

Oh so you're up to date—

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, great. Okay.

Erika Ishii

Oh okay! Well, fantastic!

Aabria Iyengar

So you're actually caught up?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'm totally caught up. Very very exciting. And I'm so happy to be here!

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, that's great!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Should we run through intros again now that I'm back?

Erika Ishii  
Uh, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah. Tomahawk—

Tomahawk (Lou)  
I think we're all settled.

Aabria Iyengar  
Tomahawk do you mind sitting in? I just terminated Goose's contract so he can go find Atlanta, but—

Tomahawk (Lou)  
No that's—yeah, I'm all about it.

Aabria Iyengar  
Thank you SO much.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
Uh, I'm bleeding, if that's okay.

Aabria Iyengar  
Oh! Yeah.

Erika Ishii  
Absolutely. If you talk to Adonis as well, like, really appreciate the boots on the ground.

Aabria Iyengar  
Deeply.

Erika Ishii  
I'm in a text thread with John and—who says he was happy to help supply—

[The baby coos a solitary coo]

Erika Ishii  
—be the man in the—the eyes in the sky, and the money in our bags.

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah.

Erika Ishii  
His words not mine.

Aabria Iyengar  
We also already did my intro, so I can do some field triage on your multiple bullet wounds—

Tomahawk (Lou)  
Oh, thank you!

Erika Ishii  
Oh!

Aabria Iyengar  
—while we're kind of getting started. Yeah, I'm going to step away. I'm still here.

Erika Ishii  
Woah, okay.

Aabria Iyengar  
I'm still here. Hold on.

Erika Ishii  
Alright. Okay.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
Luckily, I've been shot in that one perfect space in the side where you can still kind of operate—

Erika Ishii  
Sure.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
—and kind of go through a whole thing.

Aabria Iyengar  
It missed ANY vital organs.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
Exactly.

Erika Ishii  
Good. Good good good good good good good good good good good.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
But yeah, let's get after it.

Erika Ishii  
Alright. Taylor, make sure to cut that all out. Hello, everyone—guh—hello, everyone back here at the Fireside. I introduced my dear Aabria, and I'm here with Tomahawk.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
Hey, what's up? It's Tomahawk, back from the very first—or I think the second Fireside. Good to be here.

Erika Ishii

Yeah! Ahoohoo. And we have our returning GM, Brennan Lee Mulligan.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Ahoohoo, crackle crackle, and all wonderful things. I'm so happy to be back. And a huge thank you to my wonderful friends and collaborators here at Worlds Beyond Number for allowing me a very long, wonderful paternity leave, to be with my newborn child and my wonderful wife! It was an incredible boon—

[A single baby noise]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—that was sadly, again, interrupted by being kidnapped in Panama.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, I was about to say, I don't, like—

[Another baby noise]

Erika Ishii

—hell of a way to spend your paternity leave, but, you know, you do you.

Aabria Iyengar

Tomahawk—sorry, I'm so sorry to cut in. Taylor, cut this out, Tomahawk, do you have any medicine allergies?

Tomahawk (Lou)

Just latex.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Shellfish.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Honey.

Aabria Iyengar

Honey?

Erika Ishii

Honey?

Aabria Iyengar  
I don't think that's—

Tomahawk (Lou)  
Yeah, arugula. None of these are medicines.

Aabria Iyengar  
None of those are medicines. I just meant, like, erythromycin. Because this is going to need some antibiotics.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
No, I'm all good on erythromycin.

Aabria Iyengar  
Okay, great. Sorry keep going.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
Thank you.

Aabria Iyengar  
[Loudly] Crackle crackle! Doin' great!

Erika Ishii  
So, in Episode 20, Later Than You Think, we get some dire prophecies, and Suvi—

[Baby cries]

Erika Ishii  
—discovers, by accident, class oppression.

Aabria Iyengar  
Ya hate to see it, honestly?

Erika Ishii  
I'm so excited to get into this, because Aabria literally rolled a die to see how unaware of it she was.

Aabria Iyengar  
[Laugh]

Erika Ishii  
And unfortunately, Suvi is now very perceptive, and thus is now aware of the wage gap. So. Ya know. Well done.

Aabria Iyengar

It's one of those crazy things where like, Hana and that whole interaction with the aereth—the little aereth pool—was like a thing in the backstory I built for Suvi like, VERY very early on. So I was so excited to meet her finally at the Citadel like, this is going to be so cool, I'm so excited to see where she is and what she's doing. I did not think it was going to be the level of bummer that it was.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

And that's a skill issue on my end. I was like, yeah, I bet it's not even that bad. I bet it's very cool to be an artifice—oh NO. Oh no.

Erika Ishii

The energy you came in with—

Aabria Iyengar

Was not acting!

Erika Ishii

Oh my god. Oh my god, that was devastating but once again, Aabria making the tough choices so that Suvi doesn't have to.

Aabria Iyengar

Suvi will move through this world without a shred of self awareness, and we love that for her.

Erika Ishii

But starting back at our discussion with the pretty icky Pomeroy.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh my god, yes.

Erika Ishii

I think all of them are really processing a lot of things right now. Definitely, most of all, Eursulon. Tomahawk, what was that like, while we were having this somewhat normal conversation, having to have Eursulon parse all of this and this new worldview.

Tomahawk (Lou)

I think it's one of those talks that's just like, you can't decide what to focus on? You can't decide if you're like, "Okay, so now we got a Spirit trapping Spirits?" I think it's the reason, I—or I'm assuming Lou—chose to really grab onto like, the Kalaya of it, because it's just, like—like in a social interaction, with that many eyes, with all of that going on, it doesn't feel like a moment to start just taking swings.

Tomahawk (Lou)

I think there's something to it that's like, we're still in the Citadel. This is—I'll tell ya, me—a lot more people are looking at me, asking me what I'm doing, and asking me to fit in, than even are asking Pomeroy. This



is—Pomeroy is in his space, so I think there's something to the comfort of Kalaya and kind of resting—Eursulon really resting on that. You know, aside from, I think, the confrontation—the incredibly light confrontation, I think, between him and Suvi—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Tomahawk (Lou)

—toward the end of the talk, which is that kind of like, "Am I allowed to be mad at my friend because they do this stuff? They don't do it, but their friends do it, and they speak very highly of their friends." So it's—I don't know. There's so many layers to it that I think it's really hard to parse out in a social interaction like that, and to do it fucking live.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Because there was something that Lou said, which was that wizards—he realizes wizards feel like, something like entitlement to Spirits, and he feels like maybe that means he doesn't belong in the Citadel. And that's—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It was a—

Erika Ishii

—that's a big feeling.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It was really fun, I think, to drop the bomb that Pomeroy was at the Citadel willingly.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Erika Ishii

Eugh.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I really enjoyed that, because—it's a funny thing, because I think that the vastness of the world—when people think of a vast world, they don't just mean, like, "Ooh, the continents are big." It's like the complexity, the moral dimensions, the social dimensions are—have constant exceptions, and nuances, and edge cases. So in the Citadel, to be like—here's the worst case scenario, right? A gallery of trapped Spirits. Also, Eursulon is a Spirit who walks here freely as a guest, and Pomeroy works here, gladly. And the weird, twisted thing, where you see him be like, "I could never have hoped to catch this many—"

Aabria Iyengar

Agh.

Erika Ishii

Eugh. And it's the pride in his work that sustains him, more than the eating of them, like BLECH.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Right. Like, he discovered about himself that literally he's like, "Oh, I thought it was blood that fed me, but it's actually just HAVING them. That's what sustains me." And I think it's a very—it adds a dimension of, like—I don't even know—I guess complexity is the right word for it? But it forces Eursulon into a situation where it's like, there's not some cackling wizard being like, "I'm capturing Spirits because I think I'm better than them!"

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's like [Laugh] it's like, who knows why the wizards captured these specific Spirits? Who knows if all the paintings were captured for the same reason? Here's Pomeroy, who's their jailer, who is a Spirit, and here's Obelfind, who's captured in the collection, who you have to—where, if the goal is the Wizards are doing this for nefarious reasons, you have to go like, "Okay, they captured Obelfind for nefarious reasons. Do we like this guy? Does he seem chill? Does it feel like it's good if he's out and about?" And it's a—it's not something designed to make you automatically ham-handedly arrive at a conclusion. Right?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's supposed to be there to—I think of like, the—yeah, it's there to—that's the kind of world building that feels vast to me, that I think THIS adventure is about.

Erika Ishii

I think, you know I've said before that my power fantasy in Dungeons and Dragons isn't like, winning and killing, it is having agency in a world, and knowing I'm doing the right thing, and having an impact on my community, getting 8 hours of sleep and having it refresh me, ya know [Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

Ooh! The dream!

Erika Ishii

The dream. But, I think having such a nuanced world like that, and being like "Incarceration, how do we feel about it?" Is like—that's not fair! I have to think about that in daily life! But now, having it be in a different thing—and there is no real world analog—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

—for this kind of a thing. That is the thing I think we all talked about when we first started this podcast. We were like, we don't want things to necessarily have real world analogs that are clean and uncomplicated. And this was a really good example of that, and each character reacted in a way that I think is perfectly valid. I just ugh—also, I would like to say I saw some fan art of Obelfind, and they made him, like, Lucifer statue hot.

Aabria Iyengar

YEAH! Yeah that was—that was too hot.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Very—very night on Bald Mountain.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] Yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

A lot of obliques, a lot of obliques.

Erika Ishii

Oh god. Cum Gutters.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Sputtering laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

Uh, Brennan, can I just yell at you for—I feel like, more than anything, this was the episode that was like, Eursulon and Ame really do have to leave? And I had—there was like, this one little moment I remember while we were recording this episode, and I was like, "Agh, this feels like when your dad is like, all right, time to wrap up the sleepover. Everyone's got to go home."

Erika Ishii

And it was like Noooo!

Aabria Iyengar

And I was like, noooo! Two more hours, we can get lunch!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Let us find out about more kinds of sandwiches!

[Aabria, Brennan, and Erika laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

We are drawing from our—a lot of our favorite inspirations for this world and this story come from—you know, Miyazaki we've cited as an influence a lot, a lot of times. And I think that—not the Miyazaki that is like, the cottage core, cutesy one, but the one that, like Mononoke and stuff like, has violence and has some messed up stuff in it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And so there's that Japanese principle of "ma," of having pauses and downtime, where if you watch—even very plot-focused movies like *Mononoke* or *Spirited Away* or things like that, have these periods where it is just about soaking in the richness of the world, or having a moment of seeing the characters at rest, so in a moment of dire action you feel the weight of that.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

So, to me it's like—it's not even about coming in as the dad at the sleepover—although the paternal vibes have never been stronger than they are now.

Erika Ishii

Mmmmmmm!

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's about being the dad at the sleepover, it's about—it's more about the idea of the world moves ever onward, and to the degree—and I think the Citadel has to have a huge open door towards being an NPC. Towards being like, do you want to hang out and just work here? You could have Chura's Chowder every day. You could get a job. And maybe your life wouldn't be great. Maybe you're working in Tilliver Mill in the hot, sweaty factory, but you're— you know—

Erika Ishii

You get to go to the Bloody Carnival every night!

Aabria Iyengar

Ooh!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You get to go to the Bloody Carnival every night. And it's the—I think that what Sly brought into it was a reminder that the world moves on without you. And if you don't move with it, if you don't jump on the merry-go-round, you will be left behind right? I think that's a big part.

Aabria Iyengar

Wild.

Erika Ishii

The title of the episode was, did you request that from Taylor? The "Later Than You Think?" Because early on in the development of all of this, you shared that song, "It's Later Than You Think," and it's like a storytelling song about how—

[Baby babbling continuously in the background]

Erika Ishii

—if you let things slide and you're working too hard and you—that things will pass you by. And we were all terrified of this?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I think it's an incredible—I did not request the title. It's an incredib— [Laugh]

Erika Ishii

[Gasp]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Laughing] I have—

Erika Ishii

Awww! What's she doing?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Whenever there's talking, she talks. She is really—

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] Yeah!

Erika Ishii

Awww, hi little bean!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

She is really me and Izzy's kid. Izzy, by the way—we are very conflicted, because we're incredibly proud parents that want to sing about our baby from the rooftops.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. [Squee]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

But also, we're in the position where we're kind of making the call not to share her name and face until she can agree to that in English words.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Or Spanish or French. You know, whatever.

Erika Ishii  
Well wait a couple of months, and then I'm pretty sure she'll want to, you know—

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
But Izzy did suggest some namecloaks for her—

Aabria Iyengar  
Ooh! Yes!

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
—to refer to her by namecloak? So Iz likes Sunny or Star or Stargirl.

Aabria Iyengar  
Aww!

Erika Ishii  
Awwwww!

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
And Aabria very, very jokingly referred to the Wizard Spit-up which is—

Aabria Iyengar  
[Cackle]

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
—while accurate, maybe not what we're going to go for.

Aabria Iyengar  
[Laugh]

Erika Ishii  
Ohhhh. You didn't like my name? Did Izzy like my name?

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Izzy loved your name.

Erika Ishii  
Thank you.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
It was wonderful. But when I talked—

Aabria Iyengar  
Sunny.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
The Wizard Sunny.

Erika Ishii  
I like Sunny. I like Sunny. Oh my goodness. Ugh.

Aabria Iyengar  
I was going to vote for naming her after Tomahawk.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Aww, thank you.

Aabria Iyengar  
Who got you out of the Panamanian jungle.

Erika Ishii  
Yeah. Sunny—

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Tomahawk—

Erika Ishii  
—Tomahawk Roland-Mulligan.

Aabria Iyengar  
[Laugh] Yeah! Middle names are pretty cool.

Erika Ishii  
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Tomahawk, as a vibe match, is right up there. It's pretty—

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah.

Erika Ishii  
[Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

Look, I was just looking at the sort of like, top down satellite video footage, and I did see that baby? Very effective with the machete.

Erika Ishii

Mm.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Oh, she's a pro.

[Sunny continues to babble]

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Mhm.

Erika Ishii

Also, she also runs hot. I saw the infrared scans, she runs hot like her dad!

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Very, very accurate. She absolutely does. But there's a—I think that—so what's funny about "Later Than You Think," which I think made it on one of our inspiration playlists, is that that's a song about enjoying yourself and not overworking yourself, so props to Taylor—

Erika Ishii

I know!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

—props to Taylor for the irony in, kind of the reverse message, where there's been—it's felt like the hints of summer of the children's adventure have been so potent in the Citadel. And there's this one-two-three punch in this episode, where we start with Pomeroy, which is a huge punch to kind of the, for lack of a better word, like simplicity of the face that the Citadel shows its guests. Then there's the wizard Sly, that is really about the quest, right? And then there is Tilliver Mill, which is sort of about Suvi's relationship to this place and having some hard reckonings, I think. So, yeah. "Later Than You Think" in reverse is, I think, a very cool thing for the title.

Aabria Iyengar

Alright, we gotta talk about Sly.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.



Tomahawk (Lou)  
Mm.

Erika Ishii  
Uncle. Uncle Sly.

Aabria Iyengar  
Ah! Uncle! Yeah Brennan, did you know that you were making the sort of prototypical black uncle in that moment?

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
It's so funny. I just thought—it's just like—Umora feels—it's—sometimes npcs just like, spring to mind for you.

Aabria Iyengar  
[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
And I was trying to think of, who is Grandmother Wren's best wizard friend?

Aabria Iyengar  
Awww!

Erika Ishii  
Awww!

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
And this guy—and I was like, this guy jumped into my head. Because there's a thing where—without giving any spoilers—because of who Suvi is, everything we know about wizardry is mediated through the Citadel.

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
But also, to me, wizardry is much lar—like, the Citadel claims wizardry for obvious reasons, because it is so incredible and vast and mighty and powerful. But the truth is, wizardry is much larger than the Citadel. And so I didn't want to have—especially after Arc One, I didn't want to have this idea that, for lack of a better word, wizards are shady, power hungry—so, to me, Sly is my wizard version of Grandmother Wren. He is—

Aabria Iyengar  
Ooh! Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Like everything that you love about the incredible good old witch? Sly is that of the incredibly good old wizard. And for me, that is a white-bearded older man in a flat cap and camel hair long coat with gold filigree on the collar and—

[Sunny begins to cry]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Ohh, sweetie. Yes.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Rapidly] The ultimate wizard is the ultimate uncle, I'll be right back!

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Erika Ishii

Okay!

[The sound of Sunny crying gets further away]

Aabria Iyengar

So sorry. I'm just going to jump in really quickly. I did notice while Brennan was talking, he's got some machete wounds. And I don't think those are from Sunny, I think those might be from those Russian agents so, before he loses a bunch of blood, I'm going to hop on over and try to bandage those, let's keep talking.

Erika Ishii

Okay.

Aabria Iyengar

Awesome.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Okay, great. I'm feeling much better, by the way. Great hands.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah? Okay. Thank you.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Yeah! God.

Erika Ishii

[Giggle]

Aabria Iyengar

It's good to get to use these skills.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Mhm. Mhm.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. Now, Tomahawk.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Mhm?

Erika Ishii

There was a moment where I feel like he really—you rolled to ask why—to find out why he isn't the most important wizard, Sly. It had very big, like, "Why is your head so good?"

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Erika Ishii

"Do you have free will?" energy.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Yes. Well, I think there's just—it's like, interesting. I don't know. We don't often interact with chronomancy and kind of like—or I guess isn't chronomancy, but like, divination.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Tomahawk (Lou)

We interact with prophecy a lot in fantasy, and it's very like, "oooOOOooooOOOOooooo!"

Erika Ishii

Yeah, very woo-woo. Yeah, even for fantasy

Tomahawk (Lou)

Could it be true? Will it be revealed to be like—will it be that like, "Oh, the red in the prophecy was a tomato that you cooked—"

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] Yeah!

Tomahawk (Lou)

It's like, there's so much mystery?

Erika Ishii

[Laugh] Sure.

Tomahawk (Lou)

And so I did think it was fascinating to meet, like, a guy who's like, "I'm just telling it like it is on a regular basis. Just people, you're going to die if you don't do this." And so it just felt like so why—

Erika Ishii

Yeah, no bedside manner.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Yeah, why isn't every person of power on their knees in front of this man being like, "Divine my path." And I think that's like—you know, I think that power structures and all of these things are very new to Eursulon, and I think that it's just like—I think I—Eursulon's understanding of what it means to be powerful and important, kind of meeting hierarchy and meeting—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Tomahawk (Lou)

—goals that aren't the ones you trumpet about, they're the ones you hold close to your dark, dark heart.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Tomahawk (Lou)

So I think there was something very—I really liked Sly, and I think how kind of forward Brennan played him, because I think it really made for, I don't know, prophecy that just hit different.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, yeah. The unambiguousness of it. And I, in that moment, was also Ame being like, "Okay. Okay. Everything's fine. Everything's good." Ame fully having a panic attack, and Suvi being like "Okay!"

Aabria Iyengar

I wanted to shine a light on how fun it was that like, as Sly gives the sort of very brusque, "Here's exactly how bad everything's going to be in three days," watching and especially hearing back, Erika like back away from the narrative a bit to have Ame freaking out in the background while the rest of us were kind of like,

"Alright! Well, aren't you quirky and fun? Let's find out more!" And you can feel the tension of like, "Why isn't Ame talking? Oh, we're just getting some weird, ragged breaths in the corner. This isn't going well." [Laugh]

Erika Ishii

Crying into her pita wrap. [Faux sobbing] "It's so good."

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah! It was so good.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, that was me, Erika, in that moment, sort of being like "Okay, okay. How would Ame process this?" So, yeah, but to reiterate, he said in three days, otherwise it'll be too late, they are trying to destroy Ame, and therefore her station of the Witch of the World's Heart.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

And her existence threatens the nature of magic in the world of Umora—or is what—why the witches want to get rid of her.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

And the only way to sort of win this argument is, if they get rid of her station, they have to magically get rid of another.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Mhm.

Erika Ishii

And Ame has to convince them there's not another station they can get rid of. Suvi has to be there, otherwise she will—Ame will die. Ame will not succeed.

Aabria Iyengar

Crazy.

Erika Ishii

And Suvi will not be given permission to go with her.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

And Eursulon needs a shield, otherwise the two of them will be dead within the year—or two years? Or within the next couple years.

Aabria Iyengar

One year. Yeah.

Erika Ishii

One year, man. So that was a lot.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

And Ame is like, "Okay, give me two minutes to process." And then doing a full emotional—like, a full self scan? It was like, doing—

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh] Yeah!

Erika Ishii

—the scan of like, what's wrong with my—

Aabria Iyengar

The countdown!

Erika Ishii

Yeah yeah. And then decid—saying, like, "Okay, well, I'm freaking out because I didn't want to go back because I'm still processing Grandma Wren's death—"

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

"—and I'm—" you know, and all of that so—[Laughing] and Suvi being like, "I don't know how to respond to that!"

Aabria Iyengar

I like that Ame's sort of panic blurt is just full emotional candor.

Erika Ishii

[Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

Like, "Here's exactly how I feel about this. I'm sad and have been avoiding this because of Grand—" I was like, "Oh my god! Oh my god, you're just saying it!" That's hilarious. Something about highly emotionally

competent people being like, "The thing I blurt isn't a fear or a weird chunk of a thought, it's just like, here's exactly what's happening, and there's nothing to do it, but to put it all out there, and wait for people that I love to process it with me," is one of those things where it's both funny and tells you a lot about Ame's maturity level and how important she is interpersonally, and really leans into— like, yeah, the Witch of the World's Heart.

Aabria Iyengar

There's something about putting your heart out there in moments of crisis that's like—ah! I don't know. It was just a really cool thematic thing you did in the midst of getting a big plot push, during a funny scene and playing a high, not-great emotion, really well so—

Erika Ishii

Thank you!

Aabria Iyengar

—Erika you are amazing, and it's so dope watching you work every time.

Erika Ishii

I love you. I love you. Ah. Brennan, hello.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The Wizard Sunny has—

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The wizard Sunny decided that she was incredibly hungry. [Laugh]

Erika Ishii

Awww!

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] Aww!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And so that's what was happening. But, we are back—

Erika Ishii

Yeah, according to John Economy, the rations—there were a lot of rations—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Erika Ishii

—being funneled into the encampment. So I can only assume that that was Sunny—

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Mhm.

Erika Ishii  
—snackin' as much as her daddy.

Aabria Iyengar  
That's a really fair point. How do you give an almond to a baby with no teeth?

Erika Ishii  
In a milk? You milk it.

Aabria Iyengar  
Ohhh! That makes sense.

Erika Ishii  
You milk the almond.

Aabria Iyengar  
That makes sense!

Erika Ishii  
Oh my god, is she on almond milk already?

[Aabria and Erika cackle]

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Let me tell you, as someone who has to milk a lot of almonds, it's hard and upsetting. Finding the nipple on an almond is just incredibly challenging.

Aabria Iyengar  
[Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
It's really really tough.

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah. Is it okay if we ask you things about the jungle? Is that weird? I'm sorry.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
No! No, ask me things, no, it's completely lovely to ask me things about—I don't want to get too far into it, but—

Aabria Iyengar  
No, you're right. You're right, we can get back to the—



Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Maybe some other time, I'll—

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah.

Erika Ishii  
Yeah he just got back.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
—recall the events.

Erika Ishii  
Machete wounds are not yet dry, so, I mean—

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah.

Erika Ishii  
Yeah, maybe we'll chat about it another time.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
These wounds should dry off in another 15 or 20 minutes, so.

Aabria Iyengar  
I wasn't going to say it sort of on the mic, but it is kind of—I'm panicking, because even as I am sort of stitching your machete wounds shut, they are closing and healing in real time, and I do think we have to have a conversation about that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Maybe. And maybe for a later time, you know?

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah, okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
Wait. Not to change tack all of a sudden, but there was also—yeah, I feel like this was a lot of fun of the like, the classic thing in act structure of, like, meeting the allies, right?

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan  
And this was a lot about like, Ame running down Grandmother's list of allies, or you know, people I know at the Citadel. Erika, what did this episode meet your expectations when you got that list of people you were going to meet at the Citadel?

[Sunny babbling]

Erika Ishii

Well, first of all, I think I—when I had—because I think the names were given during the flashback episode?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

And so I was so in it, and we were, like, ya know.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Erika Ishii

It was just like an hour and a half of us doing intense two person story improv and so I looked at—I had been going by my notes, and I didn't realize that Pomeroy's true name was not like, a second person—

Aabria Iyengar

Ah, yeah.

Erika Ishii

—for a bit, and then we had to have that sort of clarification. But, yeah, I—it's so interesting that all of the contacts also have a significance in Suvi and Suvi's parents' lives.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

So whether it's for Gult, looking at the flawless sapphire and his connection with the taboo of passage and Wren and Stone, like, working on the doors—

Aabria Iyengar

Dog.

Erika Ishii

—Interesting. Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Oof! The conspiracy board I was feeling in that moment, where I was like—

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

—what do you mean the stars weren't lining up? Oh my god, that book that Suvi brought—wait, hold on a second. Like ah! I struggle so much with the like, I'm going to sit here and be in character as Suvi, and then Aabria is like, "Hold on. That felt like a clue."

Erika Ishii

Yes.

Aabria Iyengar

"Shit. Stay here."

Erika Ishii

Same.

Aabria Iyengar

"Don't go away. Be in character."

Erika Ishii

But I still haven't—like, I can't pull that thread yet.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, exactly.

Erika Ishii

I don't understand where it goes in this tapestry! But, you know, now that we have you back, I feel like there's so much that I want to ask about—about the Citadel—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

—and about it's just, truly sprawling history and—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah! If there's stuff about—either this, or audience questions.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

But if there are any things about the Citadel from my captivity/paternity leave, by all means, feel free to ask away!

Aabria Iyengar

Amazing.

Erika Ishii

Oh my god. Oh! The flora and fauna of the place being—because when was the last time we had you? We had you for episode—the first one—

Tomahawk (Lou)

Brennan has not been on.

Erika Ishii

—episode—do we get you at all for this chapter yet?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Not for arc—

Tomahawk (Lou)

Never

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Not for Chapter Two, I don't think.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I could be wrong.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, no, you're right. Well, first of all, thank you for Losario.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh my god.

Tomahawk (Lou)

[Laugh]

Erika Ishii

Yes. That's important.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Good call, Erika, up top. Thank you.

Erika Ishii

Yes yes yes, first things first. And just the—god, the richness of Haverword and of the different courts.

[Sunny noise]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That was hugely fun. The Bloody Circus. And then to the animals and stuff, that was really fun to think of, like—so there's the faunalogues, right? The unfamiliar.

Aabria Iyengar

God, I love those portmanteaus.

Erika Ishii

The unfamiliar!

Aabria Iyengar

Nicely done.

Erika Ishii

And the fox.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The fox, yes.

Erika Ishii

Figuring them out. And the butterflies—the butterflies!

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. The Xiao Court butterflies are un. Real. There's so much hostile anti-Spirit—adorable, but hostile architecture inside the Citadel that feels so cool. And then I look at the Spirit and the Witch, and I'm like, "Hey, how you guys doing? Because I think all of this is great." Oh, no.

Erika Ishii

Ey? Ey?

Aabria Iyengar

These snitch ass butterflies. Before we get into asking Brennan a bunch of catch up questions, though, let's finish talking about this episode, because I do want to talk about Tilliver Mill a little bit, and more importantly, the shield.

Erika Ishii

The shield!

Aabria Iyengar

Because that felt like a very cool moment, and I do want to talk to Tomahawk about, like—I don't know, what did it feel like to select an important item for you? Like, I don't know. So often in fantasy, we're sort of like, oh, you rock up and you find it, like you loot it from a corpse or it's the end of a quest. How did it feel to have something that you got to select and make important for yourself and for your character?

Tomahawk (Lou)

I think it was like, a very unique, strange experience, because I think there's honestly something really nice sometimes to when somebody is just like, "I don't know, here."

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Tomahawk (Lou)

You just kind of go, "Okay, sick. I'll make this cool. I'll make this fun."

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh] Yeah.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Yeah, I think there's something to it being like, everybody make a—I personally got slightly uncomfortable, because I was like, what if I just say I don't want Aabria's shield, which I ended up doing.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh] Yeah! That was great.

Tomahawk (Lou)

But it was like, everybody made a shield. I was like, everybody, including me, made a shield. And I was like, "Alright, well. I kind of, like, made my shield."

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Tomahawk (Lou)

It felt weird to make my shield, but then also have two friends make shields and go like, "Okay, so is it rude if I—"

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Tomahawk (Lou)

"—leave a friend's shield behind?" Like, "What a beautiful description. Uh. No?"

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Tomahawk (Lou)

I was really hoping—it started to get to be too much, but I was like, y'all got to let me take more than one shield.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh] Yeah.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Because if I take one shield, I'm going to take the shield I made!

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah, obviously!

Erika Ishii  
Ohhh!

Aabria Iyengar  
And for what it's worth, I rolled the lowest, I was like, I'm going to describe a shield that is GONNA be wrong for Eursulon, so that's fine.

Erika Ishii  
Yeah, that was pretty good.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
Hey, that was great.

Erika Ishii  
Like, hitting that buckler—

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah!

Erika Ishii  
—and being like, oh, that's clearly going to be too small.

Aabria Iyengar  
Exactly!

Tomahawk (Lou)  
So that was—I thought—I was honestly—the moment gave me more social anxiety than anything.

Aabria Iyengar  
[Laugh]

Tomahawk (Lou)  
Just being like, "I hope my friends aren't mad that I don't want their little shield!"

Aabria Iyengar  
[Laugh] Tomahawk. I got to be so clear. You cannot make me mad or sad when we are in the game. It is all good.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
Thank god.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh] But, yeah, what a fun task. And it was very cool to listen to everyone's—they're just such interesting—they always point—like all the choices, and descriptions, and decisions made about each shield, like, I feel like you can sit there and point back to like, "Oh, that's why that character would have found something like that." Of course Ame finds in a bustling, fairly modern mill, the dusty, forgotten book of a shield in the corner.

Erika Ishii

[Giggling]

Aabria Iyengar

You describing blowing on it and the dust going away. I'm not going to lie. That put me out in the funniest way. I'm like, "How? What musty tome in this full factory." It was so good and correct, though. And then Eursulon's big steel door? Ugh! Just—yeah, of course those are the shields that everyone got drawn to. It's so good.

Erika Ishii

And I think I loved that everybody matched them to their roles. There's a lot of trust in Brennan to have sort of both like, an actual piece of gear, that also has narrative significance, be in our grubby little hands. But Tomahawk, did you—like, did you know what kind of shield you were looking for?

Aabria Iyengar

Ooh!

Erika Ishii

Or that Eursulon was looking for, and that's why you described yours the way you did?

Tomahawk (Lou)

To an extent, yeah. I think that I was like—yeah, I think the first—I think especially if you get told that your shield is going to save somebody's life and if they don't, die, I think you pick the shield— I thought of a tower shield as being the most like, this is a shield-shield.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

[Laugh]

Tomahawk (Lou)

This is a thing things don't get through shield—I don't think he's thinking from the place—because he's never fought with one.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.



Tomahawk (Lou)

I don't think he's thinking from the place of finesse, or the ability to move, or the ability to still strike AND shield. I think he is looking for a shield that protects.

Aabria Iyengar

Ah!

Tomahawk (Lou)

I think that there's no shield that perhaps seems better suited for that task—

Erika Ishii

Ahh!

Tomahawk (Lou)

—than the one that is biggest, heaviest, and strongest.

Aabria Iyengar

[Sob]

Erika Ishii

Oh my god.

Aabria Iyengar

That's really good.

Erika Ishii

Also, I think he's still under the impression that he has to have different shields for different kind of things?

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Tomahawk (Lou)

That as well, of course.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay. One of us isn't socially adept and didn't know how to say, "When you're not looking, I'm going to firebolt your chair shield into cinders, because I don't want to die in a year."

Tomahawk (Lou)

Mm.

Erika Ishii

[Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar

"So instead I'm going to lie badly. Like you're supposed to to your friends." [Laugh]

Erika Ishii  
Aww. Awww.

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah, I like the idea that eventually we'll have a bag of holding that just has Cher Horowitz from Clueless's little wraparound of a bunch of different kinds of shields that Eursulon—

Erika Ishii  
AGH!

Aabria Iyengar  
—can pick from, to match outfits and enemies.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
Oh, without a doubt.

Aabria Iyengar  
[Laugh]

Erika Ishii  
Oh my god.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
Well, I could also see myself going for like, a kind of Kratos in God of War 2 situation—

Aabria Iyengar  
[Gasp] Yeah.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
—where you have just like—you just switch out the amulet and it's like, the shield serves a different purpose!

Aabria Iyengar  
Ooh that's cool.

Erika Ishii  
Yup.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
All I know is that Eursulon needs multiple shields. It's not negotiable.

Erika Ishii  
[Giggle]

Tomahawk (Lou)  
And all the magic—I will bend all of the magic of the Citadel toward my needs.

Aabria Iyengar

I like that for you! How fun!

Tomahawk (Lou)

Thank you-uh!

Aabria Iyengar

Let's talk about Ame having the conversation with, like Gult.

Erika Ishii

Ohhh, yeah—oh! Yeah! So we got some cool lore about that about, you know—yeah, again, the stars not aligning for the doors—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

—to be right, and then the sort of intersectional committee of people to work on that, you know, artificer, wizard, witch. And Grandma Wren knowing more about the taboo of passage, about roads, and having that be an aspect of the travel doors?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

What does that mean?

Aabria Iyengar

I. Don't—every time we get lore, I'm like, "Ah, yes. A scillion new questions I don't have answers to!"

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Also shout out to making the artificers have to have side jobs. That—that one hurt. Brennan, fuck.

Erika Ishii

That was really brutal.

Aabria Iyengar

The like—Oof. They expect the artificers to bring their own materials? That's crazy, when juxtaposed next to—especially, ESPECIALLY juxtaposed to Sly's sort of—look bless his heart, I love Uncle?

Erika Ishii

Shoveling flawless rubies, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah! But his misappropriation of stuff, just because he's like, I'm going to solve my little problems by asking for 85 grand worth of flawless rubies. And we've got Gult over here in the corner being like, "[Strained] I had to bring my own supplies, so I had to take three extra side jobs to afford them." Ah. The class imbalance is—it's bad. It's bad here. And I feel bad about maybe telling Ghost [Muffled] she should have come here.

Erika Ishii

Oh no!!

Aabria Iyengar

Oop!

Tomahawk (Lou)

No, Ghost is gonna do great.

Aabria Iyengar

[Unconvinced] Yeah!

Tomahawk (Lou)

It's better—I would argue it's better. It's better!

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Tomahawk (Lou)

Let's be real!

Erika Ishii

Did we start Ghost on her villain arc?

Aabria Iyengar

Oh my god, are we going to have to fight Flicker again?

Tomahawk (Lou)

Damn, dog—

Erika Ishii

Well, think about it. When she touches things, she makes them un-magic.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, no.

Erika Ishii

She's kind of like that little—imagine her with an army of like, jewel hoppers?

Aabria Iyengar  
Oh no.

Erika Ishii  
[Cackle]

Tomahawk (Lou)  
Hey, if you're suggesting I'm going to have to kill Flicker one day, I'm down, dude. I can't wait.

Erika Ishii  
[Gasp]

Aabria Iyengar  
[Laugh]

Tomahawk (Lou)  
That's the fight that was supposed to happen, that never did—

Aabria Iyengar  
[Laughing] Yeah!

Tomahawk (Lou)  
—because of some quick thinking.

Aabria Iyengar  
[Laughing] Sorry!

Tomahawk (Lou)  
It's long overdue.

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah!

Tomahawk (Lou)  
It's the match people have been talking about for years!

Aabria Iyengar  
Hyuh.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
The Strongest Man in Silbry V. The Candle Construct.

Aabria Iyengar  
Oh my god. I want that matchup.

Erika Ishii

I do want to see the poster for that, at least. Like, the fight night poster?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, Rumble in the Jungle.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Of course.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh man. Ooh, I want to see Eursulon just fuck something up. Like, we need, like, a cool Gladiator moment.

Erika Ishii

Gladiator.

Tomahawk (Lou)

But like Brennan said, we've been in our ma era.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] Yeah!

Erika Ishii

[Laugh]

Tomahawk (Lou)

This is our downbeat.

Aabria Iyengar

Very fair. Ah, man.

Erika Ishii

When we were joking about how coming from island nations suddenly makes you get other island nations, like, in the idea of Ireland and Japan just being like, yeah. I see you. I get it. The contemplation of nature and the serenity it brings in contrast to all the carousing. But actually—ooh! Ooh ooh! I wanted to ask, Sly had some wise words for Eursulon.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Yeah. On the right path. On the right path. Yeah.

Erika Ishii

[Softly] You're on the right path!

Tomahawk (Lou)

There was something honestly very comforting about it, [chuckling] just like— I think especially after—you want to talk about a one two of how to have a better day after having a bad start is like, have somebody tell you that you are on the right path, AND that your sister got out alive.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Tomahawk (Lou)

I think it was just—very comforting words from Sly for Eursulon, I think especially given the tumult and kinda—of muddledness that's kind of come with the Citadel over the last couple of days for Eursulon.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, but—I mean, shit, that's a really fair point. It's been a BIG day for Eursulon.

Erika Ishii

Oh god.

Aabria Iyengar

Holy crap. Where is he sitting now? With the, like, "Cool, there's a whole jail. And my sister was in it. But she's out. But she came through at a—" like, there's so many things happening, and even with that little bump of, like, "Hey, you're going through all of this, but the going through of it is good and okay and keeps you on the right path." What does Eursulon wa—yeah, where is he at now? Am I allowed to ask that? I could just sit and wait quietly.

Tomahawk (Lou)

Yeah sure! I mean—

[Aabria and Erika giggle]

Tomahawk (Lou)

—I feel like I built Eursulon to be someone who is bad at perspective, and is bad at bigger picture thinking, and is very like, forward momentum. What's pulling me, and how am I reacting with that? And so I think there's something to this moment, where I don't think Eursulon has put all the pieces together. Which is, I think, kind of why I mentioned at the beginning, it's like this—he is in the moment, with all the confusion around Pomeroy and trapped Spirits and yada, it's like your sister escaped. And that's what—

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Tomahawk (Lou)

So I think that there's something to—I don't think Eursulon is—I think in a way, that's very human, and trying to protect himself—I think is like, trying to focus really hard on specific things and goals that are right in front of him. Get a shield. Find out what happened to Kalaya, like these are—I don't think—I think the energy of meeting new people and all of these things, has all created a space in which Eursulon hasn't had to sit with the larger realities of his life. But something tells me they just flew in on a beautiful skyship—

Aabria Iyengar  
[Laughing] Oh god!

Erika Ishii  
Oh god.

Tomahawk (Lou)  
—over Hanover.

Erika Ishii  
Yeah. Mom's back.

Aabria Iyengar  
I'm. Sure. It's. Fine, and good, and not going to be a problem in the future. Hohh.

Erika Ishii  
Also, it's interesting that when Eursulon's like, havin' a moment about Kalaya and Suvi reminding him, "Well, the person who jailbroke her was my father. Soft."

Aabria Iyengar  
Yeah! I think that was a nice moment, that—ah, god. There's something very weird in that Suvi is very happy to have been associated with helping Eursulon's family, but there is still that weird sort of mental distance Suvi has with her parents, in a way, that's like, "Hey. The most important thing that that bought me was getting—or trying to work her way out of the dog house with her brother." Yeah. Not to constantly throw this character under the bus, but like—

Erika Ishii  
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar  
—when you are just sort of getting a first look at who your parents are as people, you're like, I don't know them, I'm learning it in an almost academic way? There's not really emotional resonance here, other than going like, "Hey, this wasn't my fault. And if it makes you feel any better, apparently I get some credit for helping stop it. So are we good?"

Erika Ishii  
[Laugh]

Aabria Iyengar  
And I think there's something like—it's not great but, I think Suvi's only good at putting bandaids on things. Yeah.

Erika Ishii  
You know, I think Suvi is the kind of character that I think when I was in my tough times, was hard for me to like, I think.



Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Erika Ishii

Well, and hard for me to watch, because I was like, oh, she makes a lot of this sort of unaware mistakes or careless mistakes that I do, and it's hard to see and hard to parse, but like, I remember watching stuff like Good Place and being like, I just need to know that in a complicated world, people can learn, and be better. And I don't know how long we're going to be doing this and how much—or where Suvi's journey is going to take her, but like—it's been fascinating, too, because going outside—it just really struck me of the Suvi going outside and getting hit with a chill, and being like, oh, I'm going to blame this on the weather.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Erika Ishii

Yeah, and about Eursulon too, because there's something inherent in the nature of Spirits that's so immediate?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Brennan has described Spirits as sort of being, I don't know, inevitable, or they—they live, and they drink deeply, and they don't necessarily have these larger, grander schemes, but then like, how Eursulon can have more perspective or if he needs it.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

But, in any event, I think now that Brennan has, what looks like passed out from his machete wounds? Do you think he's okay?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Okay, I do want to have a conversation with that, kind of while he's down and Sunny looks totally fine.

Erika Ishii

Oh she's fine.

Aabria Iyengar

Did you hear the part when we were leaving, and he was doing—it sounded like he was doing magic, and then his wounds were closing? What is happening? What hap—

Tomahawk (Lou)

Yeah I saw that, he's—

Aabria Iyengar

Tomahawk, what happened down there?

Tomahawk (Lou)

He stopped a bunch of bullets with his mind.

Erika Ishii

What?!

Aabria Iyengar

What?!

Tomahawk (Lou)

One warrior to another, I must say. It's not my story to tell, but I'm sure one day he'll be ready to tell it.

Erika Ishii

Okay, well, let's let him sort of sleep it off for now, and we'll make sure Sunny is happy and good.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah!

Erika Ishii

Love you so much!

Aabria Iyengar

[Yelling] Put that machete down! Ugh! She just goes straight for weapons!

Erika Ishii

She's perfect! She's ours, she's ours!

Aabria Iyengar

[Laugh]

Erika Ishii

Alright everybody, thank you so much for joining us. I'm Erika Ishii. Ahoohoo, crackle crackle. I've been here with Aabria Iyengar.

Aabria Iyengar

Ahoohoo, crackle crackle, we'll see you next time!

Erika Ishii

And Tomahawk.

Tomahawk (Lou)

We brought the boy home.

Aabria Iyengar

Ah!

Tomahawk (Lou)

Ahoohoo, crackle crackle.

Erika Ishii

Thank you, thank you—thank you from the bottom of our hearts. And Brennan Lee Mulligan.

[Long pause]

Erika Ishii

He'll—

[Slowly building somber synth drone.]

Tomahawk (Lou)

He's passed out, I don't think he's gonna—

Erika Ishii

He'll be fine, he'll be fine.

Tomahawk (Lou)

He's back.

Aabria Iyengar

Do you want me to puppet him like—

Erika Ishii

Yeah, he's back. Yeah, yeah yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, he's back.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, put him up to the mic there.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Okay, that's good.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay, I'm just gonna—

[Brennans head clonks into the microphone.]

Aabria Iyengar

Okay he's on—I'm just gonna make him wave, no one sees these, but he's waving bye.

Russian Mercenary (Aabria)

Aw, okay, goodbye! Goodbye!

Aabria Iyengar

Sunny, put down the knife!

[Chill synth beats kick up and a soft melody plays out and fades away.]