

Worlds Beyond Number

Fireside Chat: Arc One - The Wizard, the Witch, and the Wild One

Draft

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

Erika Ishii

Hello, everybody, and welcome to the Fireside Chat for The Wizard, the Witch and the Wild One, Arc One.

That's right. We are going to be covering everything, everything in the first 14 episodes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Wait, Erika, what the heck is a Fireside Chat?

Erika Ishii

Well, I'm glad you asked, Brennan, because a Fireside Chat is what we call the little episodes that we record after our show airs and put onto our Fireside, which is what we call the Patreon, so that the algorithms on social media don't kick us off.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Cackles, then whispers shiftily] A little peek behind the curtain.

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughing] That's very funny, I didn't know that's why we did that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Gotcha!

Erika Ishii

That, and because it's a lot cuter.

Aabria Iyengar

It is cuter.

Erika Ishii

Come on, come on, come on.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

How to use branding to trick the machine overmind, brought to you by Erika Ishii.

[Aabria laughs and claps]

Erika Ishii

All these little tips. If you would like to talk about your OnlyFins, that's what you call it. Or you put a little "at" symbol or something instead of the "a."

Brennan Lee Mulligan

What if I want an actual spicy accountant?

[Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii

I mean, you can do that, but just know that the algorithm might bury your request for one.

Aabria Iyengar

Just go to H&R Block and just rub pure capsaicin all over.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, I want a guy who's like, [like Gilbert Gottfried] "Your 10-99s are all over the place!"

[Laughter]

Erika Ishii

For... For your OnlyFans?

Aabria Iyengar

Hm?

Erika Ishii

Oh you want... What?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

There's a—there is a term that is used by some OnlyFans creators, where they call themselves a spicy accountant.

Aabria Iyengar

Spicy accountant.

Erika Ishii

Oh, spicy accountant? Yes, that's right. That's right.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And I was saying I want a literal version.

Erika Ishii

I mean, you say accountant is like, definitely been a term for any—anyway, I'm Erika Ishii. I'm here today, joined by Aabria Iyengar. Ahoohoo.

Aabria Iyengar

And crackle, crackle to you all.

Erika Ishii

Now, what is ahoohoo and crackle, crackle?

Aabria Iyengar

If you were part of this beautiful Fireside, you would know that we have a bunch—honestly, too many sign-ons.

[Erika laughs] These are some of them. And now you can say them and act like you've been in the know the whole time.

Erika Ishii

[Very serious] Brennan. [Breaks into laughter]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That's me. I'm Brennan. Hi, gang! Thanks so much for coming by the Fireside. We're so happy to have you and so excited to jump into a big ol' breakdown, recap, answer some awesome questions from fans over by the Fireside for Chapter One, the first 14 episodes of The Wizard, the Witch, and the Wild One.

Erika Ishii

And the last person on mic here in the room with us...

Lou Wilson

Something you have to understand is that the actor and voice actor Lou Wilson, who normally voices Eursulon during the podcast, does not attend most of the Firesides because he is walking—he is circumventing the Americas. He is currently—

Erika Ishii

Circumnavigating, perhaps?

Lou Wilson

Circ—uh...

Brennan Lee Mulligan

He's circumventing them. He's dodging it, baby.

[Everyone laughs]

Aabria Iyengar

He's dodging!

Lou Wilson (Jonathan Venus?)

Left and right. He is circumnavigating the Americas, so I am here in his stead. I will be chatting. I understand a lot of what he was going through while playing Eursulon, so I will be explaining to that—explaining that and speaking on his behalf. And my name is Jonathan Venus.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, Jonathan Venus might sound a lot like Lou Wilson.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Jonathan Venus

I sound a lot like him.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You sound a lot like him.

Jonathan Venus

Which is part of the reason.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

But I want you guys to know that this—that you are hearing Mr. Venus. [Erika bursts into laughter]

Aabria Iyengar

Brennan Lee Mulligan has his hands over his eyes.

Jonathan Venus

You could just call me John.

[Crosstalk]

Erika Ishii

Massaging the orbitals of his eye socket.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And is there a hefty chance that after listening to the preludes in the first 14 episodes, this is the first time you're hearing an episode of just the four of us? Talking about the four of us, I of course mean Aabria, Erika, myself, and—

Jonathan Venus

Jonathan Venus.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Not Lou Wilson. Yeah, for sure. It's probably your first time doing that. But the important thing is Jonathan is here in Lou's stead. And if it feels confusing, you got to get by that Fireside.

Jonathan Venus

Let me tell you, for five dollars, this all makes a lot of sense, [Aabria and Erika cackle] but we're excited to come out here and introduce the public to what it's like to be by the Fireside.

Erika Ishii

I mean, this plus even more unhinged nonsense.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes. We stay on our bullshit on the Patreon.

Erika Ishii

Oh, it's so good.

Aabria Iyengar

It's good.

Erika Ishii

It's so good. But I... This is... We're doing—we're here for more than just an advertisement for our incredible deal of a Patreon [Aabria howls laughing] that only costs you five dollars a month to be by the Fireside.

Aabria Iyengar

I think we could cross it off.

[Crosstalk]

Erika Ishii

Alright, okay, we cross that off. Alright. Put it on the board.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You can't see this. We are all wearing houndstooth jackets.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Like 1980s car dealership, like, being, like, "Crazy Eddie's, come on down right now! Everything's got to go!"

Lou Wilson

Room is filled with those inflatable...

Erika Ishii

Wacky inflatable arm guys.

Lou Wilson

Yes.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

If you listen, you can hear them. [Pause]

There they go.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

There they go. It's a beautiful sound. [Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii

My mom said she wants to have one of those at her funeral.

Aabria Iyengar

Amazing.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

What?

Lou Wilson

Respect.

Erika Ishii

To point people to the venue.

Aabria Iyengar

I like that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Does she want it like a jet black one, like, in mourning?

Erika Ishii

No, she didn't specify.

Aabria Iyengar

Like a sad one?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

A sad one.

Erika Ishii

I think she just wants one to [starts cracking up] point people to her funeral.

Lou Wilson

Also, a sad one is just one that's not inflated, right?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Lou Wilson

Just one that is laying.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You could do one that kind of is like puffs, so it sort of like flails and flops and someone like, wailing and mourning.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Oh, that's pretty good.

Lou Wilson

Save that for your independent film. [Brennan laughs]

Aabria Iyengar

I want one just in case, so I can know when an alien gets close.

Erika Ishii

Oh, Nope is so good.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

It's so good.

Aabria Iyengar

We saw it together!

Lou Wilson

I had a full moment of being like, "What the fuck do you mean?"

Erika Ishii

Kiki Palmer! Kiki. [Aabria and Erika laugh]

But on this Fireside episode, it's just completely on the rails.

Aabria Iyengar

Mhm!

Erika Ishii

We're going to answer all of the questions that you asked.

Aabria Iyengar

All of them.

Erika Ishii

All of them!

Yeah. That was good. Well, actually, first of all, how are we doing, gang?

Aabria Iyengar

Hey.

Erika Ishii

Hey, how are we doing after our first arc? And actually, we have completed the second arc and are planning on our third?

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, yeah.

Erika Ishii

But now that we've actually heard—because we don't hear all of the episodes much more than maybe a day before.

Aabria Iyengar

Seconds before you all get it.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, two seconds before you all get it. And it's our first time, sometimes, hearing the full mix and the sounds and the songs. Now that we've heard and revisited Umora and these characters in our first arc, how we feeling, Aabria?

Aabria Iyengar

I just—I'm so deeply in love with this world and our little Troika of troublemakers and the ways in which... It doesn't quite feel right to call them a party yet, but there are people that are tied together by something and they're discovering what they love and who they are to each other and to the world in real time.

It's just such a beautiful way to start a story that feels like, "We're going to be here and we're going to see so much from these people. So let's see a good and exciting beginning."

I'm just feeling really grateful, and I think you guys are just the absolute best.

Erika Ishii

Oh, there's a really good question from Zach Turner. Thank you so much. Zach.

"What is your favorite moment of someone else's from Arc One?" Oh! He provided examples. "Example, Aabria, what's your favorite Lou moment?"

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, my gosh. Well, it feels really easy to say that the level up...

Erika Ishii

My God.

Aabria Iyengar

... Of, like, Eursulon embracing himself and his power and the thing that he knows in his heart that he has to do. It was just the coolest thing. And I think I was actually a little misty in the studio, like, "Please, this is so good." And it was so powerful. And to praise Lou specifically, Jonathan, please pass this on.

Jonathan Venus

Of course, hey, I take copious notes.

Aabria Iyengar

Thank you.

I just. There's just a moment after everything begins with his level up where you hear what this deeply internal character, like, what all of this means to him. And it's just one of my favorite monologues I've ever heard in a story period, not actual play or narrative play. It was just gorgeous.

Jonathan Venus

Wow. I can't wait to tell Lou that. [Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii

Yeah, and Mr. Venus, did you? You got a chance to listen.

Jonathan Venus

Oh, I'm by the Fireside. I listen to every episode.

Aabria Iyengar and Erika Ishii

Aww.

Jonathan Venus

I'm all the way in.

Erika Ishii

That's really lovely. So, how are you feeling about the conclusion of this arc?

Lou Wilson

Good. I think—it was... It's one of those things where, when you start something, you can have a bunch of thoughts about what it'll be and you can have a bunch of thoughts about what it'll feel like. And I think when it asks as much of you and you are excited to give as much of yourself, and the people who are participating in it are excited to give as much of themselves as was given in this space, in this setting, I think it really went above and beyond in terms of depth and breadth from what I ever expected this to be.

I think it was way... I think there's a big part of me that's like, "Oh, I thought we were just going to play D&D." [Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii

Right. Yeah.

Lou Wilson

And we did something else.

Erika Ishii

It's true, it's true.

Lou Wilson

Just undeniably, we did something just—that I don't have a precedent for in my head.

Aabria Iyengar

Fuck yeah.

Lou Wilson

I never, you know... 14 episodes in, it's like, "I'm sorry, this is how we start?"

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs] Yeah.

Lou Wilson

It took us 14 episodes to get to level one. I mean, that alone, I think there's so much—there's so much here that I can't wait to continue to dig into. And, or go ahead.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I was going to say, and Arc Two feels—like that's the funny thing is we're doing this Arc One wrap up with the second chapter right around the corner, and we know the exponential amount of how the world grows and expands.

Lou Wilson

Oh, yeah.

Erika Ishii

It's unbelievable. I can't believe you did that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

So it's like... Yeah. It's like a whole—we go full tesseract. [Erika laughs]

Lou Wilson

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Four-dimensional cube, baby. Let's go.

Lou Wilson

And I think just to throw it back to you, Aabria, real quick, I think one of those moments—those touchstone moments when I realized how deep we were going to go is when you killed Captain Emliss. I think it's—there was a full, like, I don't know, we had—the campaign had been so fun and at times, like, sad, but then everyone was supported, and that was just a cutthroat, dirty, nasty moment [Aabria cackles] that was like, "Oh, okay, so we're in the mud."

There's no—we are not afraid to have our characters be, to experience everything. And I think Brennan has said it many times, we're not afraid to do something nasty and then figure out how we're going to clean it up and put it all back together.

Erika Ishii

[Laughs] Ham! How are we going to clean up all this ham?

Lou Wilson

Exactly.

Aabria Iyengar

Bit janitor, help, help. [Aabria and Erika laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

There you go. The bit janitor is something that you can find on our Patreon. [Aabria and Erika burst out laughing again]

Erika Ishii

Now, we checked the box.

Yeah, Brennan, there are a lot of questions here for you, including from May: "What were your favorite things to plan for in this arc?" Because Lou is talking about how we planned for things and how man plans and God laughs. So...

Lou Wilson

And you're in many worlds, Umora's God.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. What made you laugh?

Lou Wilson

Yeah, what made you—what were you excited to plan? And then what were you excited to laugh at?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I don't know if that expression means that God is the man laughing at his own plant, where he's like, "God, you're crazy for this one."

Lou Wilson

"God, you're wild. Damn, God."

[Laughter]

Aabria Iyengar

That's very funny.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'll tell you what. They can only see a little bit of the light.

Aabria Iyengar

I'm going to give the rest of the spectrum to shrimp.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Shrimp!

Lou Wilson

"Shramp."

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That's how God says shrimp.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Shramp.

Lou Wilson

Shramp.

Aabria Iyengar

Shramp.

Erika Ishii

Shramp.

Lou Wilson

God in his infiniteness, "Shramp."

Erika Ishii

Do crawdaddies also...?

Aabria Iyengar

No.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Dang, y'all, I'm [crosstalk]

Erika Ishii

[Yelling into the skies] No!

Lou Wilson

Look at that. We made God Creole. All this and more

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[In a Creole accent] You know, when there was only one set of footprints, that's 'cause I got in my fan boat. [Muffled, sobbing laughter from Erika]

Aabria Iyengar

My God... Bayou Christ.

Lou Wilson

Bayou Christ.

Erika Ishii

[Attempting a Creole accent] Now, listen here, sir

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[In a Creole accent] The Father, the Son and a big plate of gumbo. [In his normal voice] Now I'm on this. This is just—

Lou Wilson

I mean, you get—I tell you, when you find a lane so beautiful, [laughter] it's the clarity of it, right? It's just like, "By you Christ" is like, "Oh!"

Brennan Lee Mulligan
There you go. There you go.

Aabria Iyengar
That's what the B.C. in dates means. [Erika yells]

[Everyone laughs]

Lou Wilson
I immediately just started thinking about, "Okay, so 25 Bayou Christ."

[Muffled screaming from Erika]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
25 Bayou Christ. Well, gang, laissez les bons temps rouler.

Aabria Iyengar
Hey...

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Hey now. My favorite thing to plan in Arc One. Well, I think that there is a... The coming together of the group at Eursulon's Fair.

[Laughter]

Lou Wilson
Don't start this because we will fight again.

Erika Ishii
It's funny.

Lou Wilson
It was going to be funny. We talked about it in the supermarket at our first camp. It was going to be funny.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
This is an amazing part of the process where it really is—to discover after the fact that you were like, "This is going to be hilarious." When you pitched the character, I was like, "Wow, the most tragic man of all."

Lou Wilson
We're just—this is—we're now rehashing things. Now you're watching a married couple fight yet again.

[Laughter]

Aabria Iyengar
You paid five dollars for it.

Erika Ishii
Daddy and Daddy are fighting at the table.

Aabria Iyengar
Won't someone think of us?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I think my favorite thing to plan is probably, number one, knowing that we were going to see our three heroes in their disparate worlds and watching them come back together and rejoin. That was very fun to plan. And then I think also, a lot—basically, chapter one is sort of going to be carved into two halves, the first half of which is an introduction, I think, to the deeply personal worlds of the main three characters. And then there's sort of the first place they adventure to, which is the second half of that chapter, revolves around Port Talon.

Planning Port Talon was very, very fun and kind of being like, "What is our landing pad for an area of the world that has witchcraft, wizardry, and the world of spirits co-mingling and touching and then an indication of what normalcy is and also how things are changing?"

So you have Port Talon, you have Will Gallows, you have the crime, you have what's going on with the wizards and the Imperium. And then also seeing a world that exists in time. There's a world building thing that I love, is always to come to a place where something is different than it used to be. I feel like you get more texture when you get to Port Talon with the wizard walls and the kudzu and the witchfires.

And you go like, "Yeah, we're going through something right now." You didn't arrive in our neutral state. You can infer our neutral state by how we're reacting to the presence of something new. And I think it's also a good thing for PCs and storytelling in general for PCs to—I think it feels a little bit weird when I'm playing a game and the world, especially when I'm playing a low level character, if the world is like, "Oh, my God. Well, you're the biggest deal thing happening here."

It's like being at a party where everyone turns to look at you and you don't know anyone there. You're like, "This is not a good feeling. I don't want the whole—I'm first level. I don't want the whole town to look at me.. It should be normal for someone with a cloak to walk into a tavern. Please don't all stare at me."

So the idea of getting to Port Talon and having big things happening with the derrick in the harbor, the broken stone face, the Ace of Wands, Finley's shop, the witchfires. There's something that I think is what I look for in those fantasy worlds that was fun to plan for of, "You get to a place and you are the agency and the point of view rather than the focus of all these NPCs."

You get to go exploring. It's not the setting exploring you.

Lou Wilson

Everyone wasn't waiting for you to show up in town and go, "Oh, shit."

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Shit!

Lou Wilson

"Wait, things could be different?"

[Everyone laughs]

Erika Ishii

I mean, we talked about it a lot in the formation of the world and the stories we wanted to tell about, "How do you prevent an adventuring party from feeling like colonizers?" [Laughs]

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Yeah.

Erika Ishii

Pretty much, like, to put a kind of fine point on it. Yeah. Because the idea that you come in and suddenly you can be the hero that will save this town, like, well, why wouldn't they, the people who live here know best?

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Erika Ishii

You know, and I think you did an incredible job of giving us each little anchor point that gave us either history in the town, like with Eursulon, or status in the town, like with Suvi, or just like a reason to be there and a unique skill that is useful in just exactly this instant with Ame.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. That's a very, like—just shout out to you, that's a really hard needle to thread of having the world care a little bit that you're there. It's important that this group was here at exactly this time. The events unfolded the way they were because we were the exact catalyst for a lot of things popping off.

But, yeah, it's very hard to do. It's easy to say this world exists for you and therefore will care about you above everything else. But to make a world that's like—it's very much that feeling of, like, you arrive as an adventurer and the entire setting is like, "Uh-huh? You're here? Great. File-in. We're doing shit. You're a part of what's happening."

Erika Ishii

And we kind of do have Steel as the universe telling us that, of being like, "Why did you go run off on your own? This is a supremely stupid thing that you did. Like, I told you not to—" Just truly being the voice of reason against adventuring in general. The Empire hates adventuring. Like, honestly. Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Steel hates that she's in a D&D game and that's the funniest thing in the world.

Erika Ishii

She's the only one that sort of knows it. Sometimes it's like, "You know. Sometimes I feel like people are acting in their own self-interest, not because they're selfish, but because there's some sort of story they want to be telling." [Aabria howls with laughter]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, I think that there's like—first of all, I deeply appreciate that. And I think, too, that there's something that I always think about of the stories that really matter to me, that are from this fantasy kind of genre. It is that there are elements of gaming that create the groove that the marble is supposed to go down. So, you play a video game or you run a D&D module and there is a slot left for adventurers. Like, here's a tavern that has a table open for people that we don't know who they are, but they're going to come in, they're going to be violent, they're going to have weapons, and they're going to have magic. And there's a problem that nobody here can solve. And it's like no one's responsible for it, no one's solving it, but ambiguous X-shaped strangers will show up and solve it.

And you can feel the absence of that. But when you're consuming a story, like a movie or a book or something like that, often the world is represented as like—you know, you watch Ghibli Miyazaki things and it's like, you know, before Sen shows up in Spirited Away, the bathhouse is working fine. She shows up and her problems are her own. And it's like, hey, you fucked up—

Erika Ishii

She just happens to be there.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You happen to be there. So the idea of if you three were not there, what would have happened? Right. Morrow would have Naram under the derrick, Orima would continue to try to break down the walls, the Empire would find out or not find. Like, Morrow would get attention or not get attention.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Naram also, we discover, has the ability to break out, but not without hurting the people of Port Talon.

Erika Ishii

Yeah

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And in all of this stuff, it's like if you don't arrive, it's like something—the steam would break out of a valve. Maybe a year later, or 10 years, or something else, something would happen. Right?

Lou Wilson

Arthur's moving out for sure. [Crosstalk]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Arthur's moving.

Aabria Iyengar

Arthur!

Lou Wilson

Ghost of Flicker, stay chilling.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah.

Lou Wilson

You know.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah. Arthur the innkeep?

Aabria Iyengar

How's Arthur doing? I love him.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I think he's doing great. I think the gold pieces were huge. And because one byproduct of the actions you took is that they don't have to put the witchfires back because Orima retreats, because Naram is free. Which means that they can reopen the gate and those villages can—there's a big public works project of getting the kudzu out of those villages.

Aabria Iyengar and Erika Ishii

[In unison] Make rope. [Laugh]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Make rope!

But I think that looking at all of the world building there, it's like the Empire does its thing without you guys there. The spirits do their thing without you guys there. And from what we've seen of witches, we have Ame, who basically the only—we see Grandmother Wren, and it's like this one person who seems to be dedicated to almost like a form of heroism, an interesting sort of witchy form of it, of like, "We speak for both worlds. And we try to mediate and bridge the gap."

You doing your thing is like going to the city and being like, "Oh, there's conflict here. Let's see if we can ameliorate it."

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It was beautiful. I loved it so much.

Erika Ishii

It's just so fun. Because I think the big power fantasy in D&D for me, and for all of us, we're here to tell story. We're here to sort of have fun with our friends. But it feels good to have agency in a world and to be able to affect it in positive ways and happen to feel that weight. And it's really hard to do that without being like, "Well, the world is—you are the center of the world." Because then it's a different power fantasy when it's that, I think.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

There is that, like—and there's a lot of great tropes and genre things that do express the kind of like, "Oh, here's your connection to the core problem of the world and why you're supposed to solve it." And what I love about a lot of the media that we used as the inspiration for this world and story is specifically that it can start reasonable and small, where it's like, "Well, you solved the problem—"

Like, you're saying, it's like, what was the problem that Ame was trying to solve? It's like, you discovered that there was a problem. You had the vision in front of the Ace of Wands. Something was wrong. You learned about Naram and Orima, and Wavebreaker was the sword, and you found that in the library.

And so you go—in other words, it's not like the Neverending Story where someone's like, "The boy, the boy, the boy to save our world." You're like, "I'm the only witch I see here. And I found out that this is going on, so I guess it's on me." And every character had those moments. For Suvi, it's very much like, what was—Suvi's arc was, "I needed to say goodbye to Grandmother Wren, When I got there, her passing had this incredible magic ramification. My method of communication broke. We needed to find this sword, and the first chance I get, I'm, like, finding these guild mages. And that could have been where I could have rested, except that I saw a fucking wild one pinned to the bottom of the ocean! And then my friends ran into the kudzu!" [Aabria and Erika laugh]

Erika Ishii

Quest fever!

Aabria Iyengar

Suvi's just like, "Can we just check things off on, like, a list? I feel like you're starting a new thing, but we haven't finished the other thing, and maybe this is—I think I need to go to therapy." [Lou laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And then for Eursulon, too, like, the quest fever of it all is fun. To me, there's something about the idea of telling an epic story. I know I always go back to it, but Frodo is supposed to bring the Ring to Rivendell.

Aabria Iyengar

[Exasperated] I don't understand what you're saying. [Brennan laughs] What is any of these words?

Erika Ishii

Okay, all right. You've seen the first two.

Aabria Iyengar

Have I?

Erika Ishii

Yes!

Aabria Iyengar

I don't remember anymore.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I love that Frodo's not a chosen one. I love that Frodo is, "The Ring—your uncle found the Ring, and then he retired and left. And a wizard told you, hang on to this. I don't know exactly what it is. And then the fate of the world popped off, and it wasn't that you have the secret shard of whatever in your chest, and you're the golden boy." It's just like, "Shit, man. It's you or it's nobody."

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And I think that that is a beautiful thing that all of you have done expertly well, of having heroics, and not just choosing to do heroic things, but choosing to resist doing heroic things, which has made this first arc so relatable and human and awesome.

Aabria Iyengar

Thanks. What about you, Ame? Erika.

Erika Ishii

Wow...

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs] Dang it.

Erika Ishii

Oh, gosh. This character is something that has been knocking around in my head, I guess, and just sort of, like, percolating for so long, I think. Not specifically Ame and how she is, but mean, the whole reason that Brennan built this class with the designers and sort of collaborating was I kind of made a wishlist of things that I wanted. And at first, I was like, "I want to be able to do this." Oh, my God. Yeah. There was, like, the Shaharazad thing where I was like, the idea of telling stories, and that sort of has a magical effect, maybe. And then we thought that would be too self-congratulatory, unlike this podcast where we're talking about our storytelling.

Aabria Iyengar

L.A., baby.

Erika Ishii

[Laughs] It's true. But the idea of a witch—crafting and consequences is the thing that I always said that I have written in the front of my notebook. And I loved the idea because I love D&D. I've been playing it since I was 14, I

want to say? And I have always wanted to play with a group that is just completely story-forward and not about that sort of power fantasy, because that's well and good, and I love home games with that.

But I wanted to tell this story where it's so easy to become a murder hobo. We talked about this in one episode about being a murder hobo, and that's because you don't have an attachment to the world and you don't feel like there are consequences and you don't have to live with them. And I think there are some other characters that have played in other worlds where having to balance all of those idea of consequences and care for community was like, "Well, that's a difficult thing, and that's something that I struggle with in real life, so how can I explore that?"

And it just was like, "Oh, witches are about consequences." You do not want to cross a witch. Otherwise, you will be cursed in an ironic and sometimes funny punishment commensurate to your wrongdoing." And they are part of a community. And we said that witches live in a little village. And I was like, "Oh, the witch, she lives in that cottage or she lives in that tower." And they have these, what became sanctums. She's there and she's part of the community. That's why you don't see witches adventuring, really. They're not very mobile, most of them.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, I think it's very, like, yeah, the sanctum thing is really fun. It was very fun to explain how witches are geared towards being an NPC class that you want to see them.

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

They're not the like—and again, to me, adventure means the most in a world that's not made for it. It's the idea, like, the greatest hero is the one that is not walking down the paved highway to adventure. Right? It's like, no, the brambles in this forest do not want me to venture here. And yet here I venture. Wait, I want to answer Zach's question because I have favorite moments for all of you. [Aabria and Erika ooh and ah in wonder] I'll whip through it really quick.

Erika Ishii

Okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Aabria. It's really easy. Lightning fucking speed. Heartbreaking, heart shattering. My dad.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Oh.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, my dad was so, so good. It was so fitting that it was one of Suvi's last moments, given where she starts in the Preludes.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Because so much of the arc was this incredible lift from Aabria of the kid we saw in the Preludes and who exists, by the way, in the Children's Adventure, which we have an eight episode character creation miniseries that exists on the Patreon, so you can hear—and we actually recorded it chronologically first. You can go hear us make up these characters as little kids.

Erika Ishii

[Excitedly] I love them as kids so much.

Aabria Iyengar

I love them so much.

Erika Ishii

[Voice getting higher and higher in pitch] I still think about, like, tiny Suvi... [Aabria laughs]

Tiny Eursulon...

Brennan Lee Mulligan

So, seeing tiny Suvi in the Preludes and then seeing the person that fucking murks Captain Emliss and keeps the crew safe and scares off Adelaide and whips out the staff, calls to order, gets people into the chantry, finds you all safety and gets the innkeeper. And then at the very end, it just ends on this very soft, like, "Who are you talking to?"

"My dad."

Aabria Iyengar

Ugh.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And it's heartbreaking.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Adult Suvi doesn't show you that soft, nougaty center a lot, and it's very meaningful in that moment that it came [snaps] so quickly.

Lou Wilson

Soft, nougaty center. Something about it.

Erika Ishii

I'm a Milky Way.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah...

Lou Wilson

Ugh. Ugh!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Eursulon.

Lou Wilson

Hilarious carnival.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

What's that?

Lou Wilson
Hilarious carnival.

[Everyone bursts out laughing]

[Crosstalk]

Erika Ishii
Wait, I didn't like, finish that sentence! I didn't finish that sentence!

Aabria Iyengar
Ugh!

Lou Wilson
Hilarious carnival?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah, the carnival where your dream of being a knight sees you opposite some actor playing a knight while you play the monster while wearing your true form.

Lou Wilson
See, but you're saying it in a way that's not as hilarious as it could have been.

Anyway, what were you going to say? [Muffled crying from Erika while Brennan and Aabria laugh] We'll fight about this off mic.

Aabria Iyengar
The best part was, I think the reaction that Eursulon had to seeing Ame and Suvi was actually like, Lou seeing Erika and Aabria and being like, "What?" That was just one to one. Just like, "Is this your thing? Jesus."

Brennan Lee Mulligan
That's also a brilliant move from Erika and Aabria as the two of them because there's a little like min-maxer brain where, you know, the part of you is like, "Oh, I know that if my character is judging Eursulon..." Because I'm also reading the story—that's the weirdest thing about actual play, right?

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
God.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
All of us, we're all just like you, listening right now, every time we sit down to play, I'm excited to hear another chapter of my favorite story.

Erika Ishii
God, yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Because I don't know what's going to happen.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughs] Yeah.

Erika Ishii

I get to sit and listen to the rest of you guys.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, I got the best seat in the fucking house watching the three of you. But that moment where you could have—because there's a part of you that goes, "If I am judgmental of Eursulon in this moment, it's going to hurt him." But then both of you go, "No, no, this is what my character..." [Erika and Aabria laugh]

Lou Wilson

You set them up too.

Erika Ishii

It's funny!

Lou Wilson

It's absolutely vicious.

Aabria Iyengar

It was good.

Lou Wilson

You go, "What does Eursulon see on Ame and Suvi's faces?" And then you both proceed to say the worst possible scenario.

Aabria Iyengar

Pity and contempt. Is that what you wanted?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, it's literally— it's like, that's the two flavors of the energy drink of these two, of the pity from the witch and contempt. The wizard is like, "What the fuck is this?"

Erika Ishii

And the witch is like, "Oh no, you're so..."

[Everyone laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

"You're being taken advantage of! You're not big and strong. You're the victim!"

Oh, God. Hell. Fucking hell. Bottled, concentrated Hell.

Erika Ishii

I think it was—and it was like we were supposed to be just watching. And you said if you had completed the rest of the play, it would be funny. But of course we interrupted where the kids are booing, like in a pantomime. The kids are booing Eursulon. And Ame's like, "Boo yourself!"

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah. You yell—oh, a guy thinks you're heckling. He, like, doesn't understand the concept.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, the pitchfork.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, the learned yokel.

Aabria Iyengar

The learned yokel! The strongest NPC.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The strongest NPC. We'll find that learned yokel.

Lou Wilson

He's coming back.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That learned yokel is actually Arthur's nephew, and he helps him run the inn because there's so much business.

But my favorite Lou moment is post-derrick. Favorite Eursulon moments, post-derrick, where Suvi has started to compartmentalize and rationalize. Ame has arrived at, "This is what's got to happen next." And totally shocked me, but in the best way of shocking, where I'm like, "Oh, that's inevitable." Right? Like, a shock that you go, "Of course." Which was Eursulon being like, "What the fuck can we do?"

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, God.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

"What can we do?" And seeing the difference that, as different as Ame and Suvi are, each of them had the benefit of an institution. Ame's institution was a single grandma, but what a grandma.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. A brick shithouse. An absolute unit of a grandmother.

Erika Ishii

The platonic ideal of a grandma. [Laughs]

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And then Suvi has the Citadel, the most institution-y institution that ever institutioned. And you see Eursulon being like, that's the moment where all the things Eursulon has said—like, they talk about show, don't tell, right?

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Like, we have the inferred characteristic that Eursulon's had a hard time. That's showing us that Eursulon had a hard time. Because if you've actually had a hard time, you don't go, "Yeah, let's take a huge risk that we have no idea if we're even capable of."

Erika Ishii

Well, and it's crazy because he even says, like, "I'm scared. I'm scared of losing the little bit of happiness that I have." And that's the thing that in real life, nobody is willing to admit to themselves when they get angry.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And also the idea, too, of, like, there's a certain moment where if you're being heroic and you're, "Wait, like, we're talking about saving people from Godzilla. I'm one of the people running and screaming on the street. Like, I am very much the kind of people that need saving. So, this idea of the life I've led and I've been hiding in barns and fucking hedge mages are trying to run down and capture me in Pete's Dragon-style, find out what of my organs are magical. This is a fucking nightmare out here. I need help." And the idea of that coming from someone who then has that moment under the derrick with the sword.

Aabria Iyengar

God.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That moment hits so much harder from a guy who said, "I don't think I can do this." It's like, oof.

Lou Wilson

Hey, that's because we got time, baby.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah...

Lou Wilson

You know? It's crazy.

Erika Ishii

We got time.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And then my Ame moment that I truly love so much is the entire scene with Orima in the chapel.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, my God. So good.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Which I think is one of the most expert, clever, like, every step on a two-inch ledge 40 stories up, choosing your words carefully without any hesitation, because in that scene, I was trying as hard as I could to find a reason to come down like a ton of bricks. And really, as Brennan was like, "If you say anything that provokes me or insults me, I'm, like, hanging by a thread," and you gave me no surface. There was no surface area I could touch.

It was a perfect Nausicaä Ghibli heroin, fucking beat-for-beat scene of the kind of victory that you had said mattered to you in this story of, "We are going to avoid destruction, understand everybody." And even the moment, especially that moment where you're talking to her and you are like, "I am here to represent you and help you, and I cannot abandon the people of Port Talon, who I also represent." And you're like, "Oh, that's the character." And you walking out of that, being a true witch and no longer an apprentice, it was like, that fucking—

Aabria Iyengar

Is incredible. Everyone, Erika is crying and should because you fucking killed it. [Erika wails] That was so great. So good.

Erika Ishii

[Crying] I like storytelling so much. It's just so fun. And, like, cannot belabor this point enough that for five dollars a month... [Starts laughing]

Aabria Iyengar
God damn it.

[Everybody laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
A weeping Patreon pitch.

Lou Wilson
It never stops.

Erika Ishii
[Laughing through tears] You can also experience some of the magic that we talk about.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I promise you, there is a visible tear on Erika's face.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I'm not fucking with you. It's not a bit.

Erika Ishii
And we have—

Aabria Iyengar
For five dollars, you can see a bad picture of Erika crying that I just took.

Erika Ishii
Oh, God, it's just such a privilege.

Can I just say, too, the Fox was one of—the Fox, one of the most surprising things. Originally, I thought that the Fox would be a silent familiar, and that it was going to be, like, an excuse to talk out loud, and I would be piloting him in combat and such. And instead... [Laughs]

Aabria Iyengar
He's the little guy of all fucking time.

Erika Ishii
He is the little guy.

Aabria Iyengar
Damn.

Erika Ishii
I love him so much. I love him so much. And it's so uncanny to me how, Brennan, you just play him. He's so perfect. He's so perfect. He's just a little guy and he cares so much, but he just doesn't understand. And also, the original concept for Ame, too, was like, oh, she's a trickster. Oh, she's fun. And you see that a little bit more in the kids campaign, because immediately, right off the bat, when you meet Ame, she—

Aabria Iyengar

Okay, calm down. [Aabria and Erika laugh]

Erika Ishii

Okay. Well, like, ten minutes after you meet Ame, she is burdened with great responsibility and having to show up. But in the Children's Adventure, you see how sort of wild and mischievous she is. We were like, "Oh, well, we need that to counteract the sad boy."

Aabria Iyengar

Damn, the Fox exists just for you.

Erika Ishii

No, it was originally supposed to be Ame. But then Ame, in some ways, the Fox coming in and being the mischief of Ame was incredible, because sometimes the Fox will say things where it's like, oh, I mean, even the part in Port Talon where the Fox runs away, because that's what Ame wanted to do.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Erika Ishii

The Fox is—we said witch's familiars, turns out, are the thing that they need to work on.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, well, it feels like there's something sort of fascinating about the idea of—I knew that I wanted witches' familiars to be more than like, you have a mechanical animal that helps you, right?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Like, "Hey, check it out. I have a help action with two hits." [Erika laughs] I didn't want that. To me, the idea of, like, what is the actual narrative of this in the world? And my favorite types of familiars have been those that have a very delineated relationship where, for example, in *His Dark Materials*, it's literally understood that the demons are your soul.

Erika Ishii

Pan, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That is your soul. And it takes a certain form, like after you hit puberty, it fixes in a static form. There's something about witches' familiars in this world as an element of your personality that you put into an external thing based on some kind of relationship. It's like a type of compartmentalization. Almost like handing—you're carrying too many bags, and you're like, "Here you carry this."

Erika Ishii

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Right? You know, Ame is the little girl who put "be kind" on her wall. And so it feels like there's a mission. Her version of Eursulon's quest or Suvi's Citadel legacy, like her parents, is this little thing of "be kind" on the wall. And that's what Ame has sort of given herself. And it feels like witch's whole deal is this liminal space being between two worlds. So you're like, "I am going to take 'be kind' onto myself, and that's my project. And here's this other thing that I'm giving away to make room for 'be kind.' And the Fox is going to carry all of the mischief." Which is a cool way

of thinking of a dual-purpose soul, of the relationship you have to your familiar, and it begs the question, what the fuck was Taro?

Erika Ishii
Oh!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And the idea of, like—

Aabria Iyengar
Grandmother Wren's mischief and her playfulness.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah!

Aabria Iyengar
Like, the thing she had to put away when she had so many things for so many people and stretched so thin. And that's why Taro runs around and lets us try to catch him, and then shows up somewhere else, and fucks around with Ame in the morning.

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
He's all the ways in which Grandmother Wren wished she could be more playful with Ame.

Erika Ishii
Yeah...

Aabria Iyengar
And it's just so sweet. It's so good.

[Erika screams and screams with excitement]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I love it. I love it.

Aabria Iyengar
Fucking Taro.

Erika Ishii
Woo!

Aabria Iyengar
[Whispering] It's important to have a nemesis.

Erika Ishii
It's so important to have a nemesis! [Aabria laughs]

The kids say things.

Aabria Iyengar
The kids say things.

Erika Ishii
And it's so cute.

Aabria Iyengar
Just a shout out to the Children's Adventure because it becomes this beautiful well, of, like, "Here's a thing that I can reference in my character later that people can point at that's like, 'Uh oh, this is a thing that stuck a little too hard.'" Like, did Suvi remember it's important to have a nemesis a little too hard? For the rest of her life? [Erika cackles]

That's a thing we might find out later and be like, "I learned a lesson, and I don't remember where I learned it, but I'm just walking around with a paradigm in my head that I don't remember how I got." And that's been true.

Erika Ishii
Oh, my God. Right? You know, if you—it'll, what was it? What was it?

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, if you're good, the adults will treat you more kindly.

Erika Ishii
No, no. But there's also from, like, when she's crying with Eursulon, and Grandma Wren is like, "Oh, you shouldn't cry on him." Or something, and you're like...

Aabria Iyengar
Oh! Yeah, was I—was that like, not trying to wash you? I don't remember.

Lou Wilson
That, I also—I feel like I have something. Thoughts. I have a memory of that moment.

Aabria Iyengar
Don't cry on Eursulon. Yeah, that's the thing. I was like, "I'm sorry. Don't get eye stuff on you. I don't know why. Maybe you'll die."

Erika Ishii
I don't know. Somebody will let us know.

But in any event, yeah, there's still so many more questions, so many more questions to respond to. We don't necessarily all have—have all the time for...

What are we looking forward to in Arc Two? Without giving anything away. What are we looking forward to for our characters or for the world? What are hopes and dreams for the future?

Aabria Iyengar
I just don't want anything bad to happen to Suvi ever again.

Erika Ishii
Oh.

Lou Wilson
Yeah. I'm hoping we kind of wrap this all up in Arc Two, you know?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Oh, yeah, yeah.

Lou Wilson
Like, everyone just gets, like, a two-bedroom condo.

Aabria Iyengar
[Laughs] Oh, yeah.

Lou Wilson
Like, a fun dog or, Ami's already got the Fox.

Erika Ishii
I've got a cool dog.

Lou Wilson
And, like, a middle class job, and we all just kind of make our—

Aabria Iyengar
I still want 100 more episodes, but I want them to be utterly conflict-free.

Lou Wilson
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
That's the funniest thing.

Erika Ishii
A farming sim.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Honestly, you and the whole internet, you know what I mean?

[Crosstalk]

Aabria Iyengar
This is, like, comfort media. Please do not challenge.

Erika Ishii
Yeah, The Wizard, the Witch, and the Wild One: The Farming Sim. [Aabria cackles]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You're not going to be out here mining bells or whatever the hell you people do. [Erika laughs]

Aabria Iyengar
I'm clicking cookies, bitch. Don't worry about me.

Lou Wilson
I'm clicking cookies.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I am clicking septendecillion cookies right now.

Aabria Iyengar
Are you still doing it?

Erika Ishii
God.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Let me just open up—

Aabria Iyengar
No! [Laughs]

Lou Wilson
Septendecillion?

Aabria Iyengar
That's very fun.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Hold on. Right now, I am currently baking 22.991 sexdecillion cookies per second.

Aabria Iyengar
That's very fun. That's very fun. I never got into Cookie Clicker. Adventure Capitalist was always mine.

Lou Wilson
Adventure Capitalist?

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah. It's just lemonade. It's the same thing, but dollars. And you're just clicking and then you buy things that make more money and then you reset. It just feels good to watch a thing happen and you're like, "I'm a part of that, kind of."

Erika Ishii
I just run around in Ghost of Tsushima. Like, sometimes if there's a thing that needs doing, I'll do it. [Aabria laughs]
But mostly just me, running through fields.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah, just vibes.

Erika Ishii
Yeah, just vibes.

Lou Wilson
Just vibes.

Aabria Iyengar
Blood moon cooking sim.

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
That's my Zelda experience, every time.

Erika Ishii

Yeah, that was—yeah. I spent like, 40 hours cooking.

Anyway, actually, this does bring me to my point of, like, it is nice just to have cozy moments, and I think that's a thing that I enjoy the most in this and look forward—I do look forward to, in the future. Like, the little moments. Yeah. All of the burning questions we have about the curse on Ame and about Suvi's parents and about will Eursulon ever get a chance to return home? Will Fox get a good rubbish heap? All these good questions. But then also it's just the little moments of, like, a little, I guess, sleeping on the potatoes, like folding laundry in the little peasant's cottage.

Aabria Iyengar

Eh, I didn't like that part. [Erika and Lou laugh] I'm just better with the task.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I have a question I want to pose here. We're talking a little bit about the Children's Adventure, which, again...

Aabria Iyengar

[Laughs] No!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[Laughs] Jules asks. Thanks, Jules, for the question. If the young versions of our heroes from the Children's Adventure met their adult selves at the end of Chapter One, what would they think of them?

Aabria Iyengar

[Cackles] Someone else go first. [Erika laughs]

Lou Wilson

Gosh. I mean, Eursulon, I think would be—I mean now at the end of Chapter One. At the end. Right? With Wavebreaker, with his friends. I think that there's a lot that young Eursulon would admire about current Eursulon. I do think mine would be mostly positive. Like, there is something to—I mean, I'm not a knight. I don't have a horse. I'm not Sir Curran, but I have a sick sword, and I'm still with my best friends. So I do think young Eursulon would be, like, pretty tight, dude.

Aabria Iyengar

Aw, that's really cute.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Love that. I love that.

Lou Wilson

I also think Eursulon has pretty low expectations.

Aabria Iyengar

Damn.

Lou Wilson

I guess maybe if anything, there's like, "Whoa, we're still here?" [Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii

Yikes. Yikes.

Lou Wilson

Maybe there's a little bit of that. But I think coming to accept that we are still here, then it's like, "Oh, okay, well, we have a sword. We're with our friends. Not bad."

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I think this question would be—yeah, the operative point here is comparing the chosen adventure. Or like, as Jules—the way the question is actually worded. At the end of Arc One. Beginning of Arc One.

[Everyone starts hooting and hollering]

Lou Wilson

He'd think he's hilarious.

Aabria Iyengar

No!

Lou Wilson

That performance is incredible.

Erika Ishii

It's funny.

Lou Wilson

It's funny.

Erika Ishii

I think little Ame and Ame currently would just be two absolute firecrackers. It would be bad and explosive—they would cost so much mayhem. If little Ame had the Fox. Can you imagine? Because Little Ame has the time and the wherewithal to have as much mischief in her body as the Fox has. And so if the two of them get together.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, double barrel shenanigans.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. And then Ame—because you still see it in Arc One, even. Especially, well, in Arc One Ame's in a coma. [Bursts into laughter]

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, at the end it's like, "Oh, no, I'm asleep." That's really funny. That's actually really funny.

Lou Wilson

Damn, wake up, Ame. Ame, I'm trying to see what's going on.

Erika Ishii

Oh, God. Okay, you go next.

Aabria Iyengar

That's really funny.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'll throw something—this is like my little, like...

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, get in there.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
This is me doing my, like, I'm trying to insight check your guys' characters. I think Eursulon meeting, end-of-Arc Eursulon, exactly as Lou described it. I think little Eursulon meeting, beginning-of-Arc Eursulon.

Aabria Iyengar
Hoo.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Really rough for little Eursulon.

Erika Ishii
Aww.

Lou Wilson
Terrifying.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Terrifying.

I think Ame, beginning or end—end, she's asleep.

Erika Ishii
Well, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
End or beginning of Arc One Ame, I think is rough for adult Ame. I think adult Ame—

Erika Ishii
Oh, shit.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Is—because I think looking and seeing precocious firecracker little like, yeah, "I'm running around. I made a friend. Here we go. We're going to the woods!"

Erika Ishii
Yeah, that's so true.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And then you have adult Ame. That's like, "I'm taking care of the world." [Erika breaks out into uncontrollable laughter]

Erika Ishii
It's true, it's true. Yeah, that's true because I feel like little Ame would be like, "Oh, my God. We're taking care of the whole world. We're a full witch. Like, we've got a little Fox guy and he's the best. We eat raw fish together." It would just be very cute. But, yeah, adult Ame is like, "Damn, why can't I go run around in the woods with those two?"

Aabria Iyengar
But also like, what a traumatized little girl.

Erika Ishii

Yeah...

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I think looking and being like, "Oh, this kid." I don't know. The idea of looking back at your past self and being like, "Hey, there are some haymakers on your way. Look out. Ah! Some stuff's coming!" Like that idea of—yeah.

Erika Ishii

Oh, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Well.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

What about for Suvi?

Aabria Iyengar

I like this pointing in both directions. I think little Suvi looks at adult Suvi, learns in that moment, "Hey, your parents died. The Citadel and Steel raise you. You found your friends again, and they led you in an adventure that's leading to your court martial. You're going back under bad terms."

I think little Suvi would be like, "This all went wrong, and that's crazy." And then I think adult Suvi would look back at little Suvi and go, "I do not recognize you."

I think there's something really important in the things you have to put away in order to be who you need to be. And she'd be like, "That's just a small child." I think she would treat that the same way you meet your cousin's kid, that you're like, "I guess I know you. We have a passing resemblance, but I don't feel anything important about that."

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Hoo.

Lou Wilson

Got 'em.

Aabria Iyengar

Got 'em.

Lou Wilson

Got 'em.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Hey, Lou, is that funny or sad?

Lou Wilson

That's [high-pitched] hilarious. [Everyone laughs] Capital "H," hilarious.

Aabria Iyengar

I'm glad the spirit of Lou has possessed our friend, Jonathan.

[Crosstalk]

Jonathan Venus

Also, my name is Jonathan Venus. I'll respond to Lou to keep up with everything.

[Crosstalk]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Gosh.

Jonathan Venus
That's okay.

Erika Ishii
It's called acting.

Aabria Iyengar
Yes, acting, sorry.

Jonathan Venus
I understand. I understand. I don't want to ruin the flow so, you know.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Sorry, Mr. Venus.

Jonathan Venus
Again, you can call me John.

Aabria Iyengar
What about Johnny? What about JB?

Jonathan Venus
Absolutely fucking not.

Aabria Iyengar
Okay, okay, fair enough.

Erika Ishii
Okay, so I think we got to wrap it up.

Aabria Iyengar
No!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Wait. There's one question that we really got to—I would really feel sad if we didn't.

Erika Ishii
Oh, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
This one's from Ogre Salad, thank you.

Erika Ishii
I was getting at—that's was, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Oh, sorry, go for it.

Erika Ishii

No, no, no, no, no. I want to hear you say it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Ogre Salad asks, thank you, Ogre Salad, "So far, in all of Arc One, which character or NPC canonically has the juiciest dumper, the fattest booty, the widest trunk, which may or may not be full of junk?"

Aabria Iyengar

Incredible.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Here's the thing. So, which character or NPC canonically has the juiciest. I know who it is. Do you guys?

[Crosstalk]

Erika Ishii

It better not be Morrow.

Lou Wilson

Do you actually—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It's Morrow. It's 100%.

Lou Wilson

Is it actually?

Aabria Iyengar

Obviously. Obviously. Obviously. Obviously. [Erika laughs]

Lou Wilson

Who has the juiciest dumper? Morrow?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Wearing robes, you can see it from the front.

Aabria Iyengar

Morrow is double fucking caked up.

Lou Wilson

Just fucking—just on the side, it's like.

Aabria Iyengar

Bro, when Morrow bops up and down with excitement, you just hear. [Soft clapping]

Lou Wilson

Oh, my God.

Aabria Iyengar

It's great.

Lou Wilson

Now I feel like—now that you've gotten here before Arc Two comes out, go home, relisten to the Morrow episodes, and just listen because Taylor has—they're in there. Taylor, put those little claps in there. You just missed it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, 100%. 100%.

Aabria Iyengar

Wait, why is the answer not, like, human glamour Naram?

Erika Ishii

Because he hates us.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. It's fucked up. It's fucked up. Hate it. Hate it.

Erika Ishii

Because he is against the monster fucker agenda.

Lou Wilson

Wait, who are the top three dumpers?

Erika Ishii

Yeah, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

Top three dumpers.

Lou Wilson

Also, I fucking hate the word dumpers.

Aabria Iyengar

[Cracking up] Yeah, I do too.

Lou Wilson

What are the top three boo-tays?

Aabria Iyengar

Ooh.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Boo-tays.

Speaker 2

Top three boo-tays that we've seen thus far...

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah.

Lou Wilson

[Laughing] Okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
We haven't seen them.

Lou Wilson
Okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You know what I'm saying? It's like...

Aabria Iyengar
Clocked.

Lou Wilson
We haven't seen them.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Clocked, clocked.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Okay, top three. Morrow number one.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Lou Wilson
Woo!

Speaker 3
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
I feel like Steel's tight. She keeps it tight.

Aabria Iyengar
I don't know how caked up we are in the Citadel.

Lou Wilson
Yeah, I think she's just got a good, well-shaped, but not a boo-tay.

Erika Ishii
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
She could, like, bounce.

Lou Wilson
But not a boo-tay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
No, it's not a boo-tay. It's not a boo-tay.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah, yeah.

Erika Ishii
Bounce a mark off of those.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I'm going to say Morrow number one. Number two...

Lou Wilson
Willie Gallows? Willie Gallows? [Aabria laughs] Willie Gallows is a sickly—

Brennan Lee Mulligan
See, now that I'm actually—I'm, like, spinning out, putting too much thought into it. Okay. Here's are top four.

Aabria Iyengar
Oh, okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
I'm going to let you put them in...

Aabria Iyengar
In our order. Got it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
In the order you want.

Erika Ishii
But unequivocally, number one is morrow.

Aabria Iyengar
Morrow. For sure.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Morrow is number one. So basically we're going two, three, four.

Aabria Iyengar
Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And it is Galani. [Erika gasps]

Aabria Iyengar
Oh-ho!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

So I think it goes like this. I think it's Galani. And then I think up there is also the mustachioed bartender from the Ace of Wands.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes! Yes!

Lou Wilson

Wow.

Erika Ishii

Yes! Eursulon. Has. A. Type.

Lou Wilson

He's got ass. Wow.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

He's got ass.

Aabria Iyengar

Incredible.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And then I think, stealth? Stealth? Arleigh Price.

Erika Ishii

Oh!

Aabria Iyengar

Arleigh! Okay!

Lou Wilson

If I could just make a quick, brief request for anyone who's an animator out there. If you could draw Morrow or animate Morrow, just twerking on top of the derrick.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes.

Lou Wilson

I don't think anything would make me happier.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

100%.

Lou Wilson

Just a full, like, feet on the wall, just twerk over Naram trap below.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, just pussy-popping over Naram.

Lou Wilson

Exactly. That's all I want.

Aabria Iyengar

Yes. All wizards do that. It's our excessive display. We're just like, "Yeah, this is how you establish dominance."

Lou Wilson

Exactly. Yes. [Laughs] That really threw me off. I really had never thought about Morrow's butt.

Aabria Iyengar

I did.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I think that there's a thing where people go, like—because the question presupposes this, like, "Oh, who's got the thickest rear end?" And you're thinking of attractiveness. But it's like, "Well, if you're compartmentalizing to these individual body—" like, you don't conceptualize of Morrow as an attractive character. But that's not the question. You pinpointed it and it's a roll of the dice. And Morrow, he's got some shorts that say "juicy" on the back.

Aabria Iyengar

Let's fucking go. It must be your ass because it's not your face. [Erika laughs and groans]

Lou Wilson

There it is. Brennan, who's got the biggest ass? The juiciest dumper?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Juiciest dumper.

Lou Wilson

In Arc Two. [Aabria laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

In Arc Two. Okay, this is a little flash forward. This is a little sneak peek.

Lou Wilson

Wow.

Erika Ishii

Oh my God.

Aabria Iyengar

This is the best question.

Lou Wilson

The slimmest tease. Nobody talk about what they're excited about in Arc Two, but who's got a good ass?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah. Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

In Arc Two. Oh, I know exactly who it is.

Lou Wilson

Really?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Mr. Racamanti.

Lou Wilson
Wow.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Lou Wilson
Okay.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Yeah. Losario Racamanti.

Lou Wilson
Can't wait.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Erika Ishii
Oh my God.

Lou Wilson
Can't wait for you all to meet that ass.

Erika Ishii
All right, everybody, for this and more asses, please continue to listen to Worlds Beyond Number, or join us on the Fireside. Thank you. I love you all so much. And folks at the table, an absolute honor. An absolute honor. I'm Erika Ishii. Crackle, crackle and ahoohoo.

Jonathan Venus
Hey, it's your boy JV. It's been a pleasure meeting you guys on the public. Hope to see more of you by the Fireside. Crackle, crackle. Is that what we say?

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah, that's what we say.

Erika Ishii
Yes, crackle, crackle.

Jonathan Venus
Okay, crackle, crackle and ahoohoo.

Aabria Iyengar
I'm Aabria Iyengar. This is just my favorite thing in the whole world. Thank you all so much. Crackle, crackle.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Hey, it's Brennan. What a joy, an honor and a privilege to be by the Fireside with you all. Thank you so much for listening. Thank you for enjoying the pod. And coming up very shortly, Chapter Two of The Wizard, the Witch, and the Wild One, only here on Worlds Beyond Number. Crackle, crackle, ahoohoo.

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