

The Fox's Playlist - Liner Notes

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1. **The Fox (What Does the Fox Say?)** **Ylvis**

*"You're my guardian angel
Hiding in the woods"*

Simply had to include. An ode to the Fox and the things he says. I imagine this song as the spell Ame casts in order to find her familiar at Mr. Soup's shrine. Picture a whole music video of it with drone shots around the shrine and Ame and Suvi trading off vocals. I hope the visual of that brings you as much joy as it brought me!

2. **Up on the Hill Where They Do the Boogie** **John Hartford**

*"I wonder what they're doin' when they do-do the boogie
And I wonder what I'm doin' here?"*

The sonic landscape of the Fox's mind prior to receiving sapience. His knowledge of human beings and their activities and locales has been boiled down simply to "Them", "The boogie", and "Up on the hill". The fact that a bunch of words have seemingly been omitted from the song seems relevant as well for an animal that was given the gift of speech.

3. **Once in a Lifetime** **Talking Heads**

*"And you may find yourself in a beautiful house, with a beautiful wife
And you may ask yourself, "Well, how did I get here?"*

The strangeness of sentience, the alienation of becoming aware of one's self and the circumstances of one's life, the fact that all creatures gain consciousness *after* they already have pre-existing personality traits and relationships. This song actually plays in its entirety during the split second where the Fox has an entire human language downloaded into his brain. Special shout out to the "water flowing underground" in Grandma Wren's cottage. Turns out David Byrne is a *huge* WBN fan, and also a time traveler.

4. **Best of Friends - From "The Fox & The Hound" / Soundtrack** **Pearl Bailey**

*"They'd say you're both being fools
You're breaking all the rules
They can't understand
The magic of your wonderland"*

An anthem to the Fox and Ame - At the end of the day, the Fox loves "the boss" with all his heart, even if he's a little butthole most of the time. Had Grandma Wren been able to see Ame and the Fox first meeting, perhaps this song would have been sung from her perspective.

A witch's familiar is her companion through thick and thin.

**5. A Chicken Ain't Nothin' but a Bird
Cab Calloway**

*"Say, everyone's talking 'bout chicken
Chicken's a popular word
But anywhere you go, you're bound to find
A chicken ain't nothin' but a bird"*

Counterpoint to the above: Let's always remember that my guy is also in it for the chickens.

**6. The Rocky Road to Dublin - Live
The Dubliners**

*"Hunt the Hare and turn her down the rocky road
And all the way to Dublin, Whack fol lol le rah!"*

I think this is the sound of the Fox focusing intently, his hunting/searching theme. This song kicks up while the Fox is tracking Eursulon, leading Suvi and Ame to their old friend. We don't often associate focus and concentration with wild things, but I think there's a headspace that wild animals can get into where they're paying the *most* attention it is possible to pay.

**7. The Best Things In Life Are Free - Live
Sam Cooke**

*"The sunbeams that shine
They're yours, and they're mine
Love can come to everyone
The best things in life are free"*

The thing the Fox was most impressed by in the Callibell Chantry was the fish slurry - In a world with lots of incredible, flashy magic and opulence, the Fox's values remain practical and grounded - Read in a different way, this is either the Fox's philosophical manifesto, or could just be an ode to stealing. Picture the Fox launching into this song after eating the crew's apples on the Roan!

**8. Rescue Me
Fontella Bass**

*"Rescue me or take me in your arms
Rescue me, I want your tender charm
'Cause I'm lonely and I'm blue
I need you and your love too
Come on and rescue me"*

He's just a lil guy! The score for the Fox's daring escape through the witchfires of Port Talon, the Fox knows enough to know that "The Boss" doesn't want anything bad to happen to him, a fact he will gladly exploit as often as he needs to.

9. Voice in My Throat
Pearl and the Beard

*"I walk down the road and I'm alone again but
(All these years I've travelled down a lonely pathway)
You will be the voice in my throat
(You have been the voice in my throat)"*

The spiritual component of the Fox and Ame's relationship, the part that is cosmic and profound and magical. In many ways, the Fox is a part of Ame's soul, there to support, challenge, bedevil and soothe as any good soul does. The scene where Ame uses her telepathy to communicate with her familiar for the first time is set to this song for me, and to the specific moment where the Fox reveals his trick to get Ame to pursue Orima's shrine and "do what she wanted to do."

10. Let's Misbehave
Irving Aaronson and His Commanders

*"There's something wild about you child
That's so contagious
Let's be outrageous
Let's misbehave"*

Follow up to the point above: Sometimes to be someone's guardian angel, you must also be the devil on their shoulder. Put differently: Maybe guidance looks like temptation in a world where doing what's expected isn't the same as doing what's right. Jiminy Cricket with a little anarchy patch. You get it.

11. Don't Fence Me In
Ella Fitzgerald

*"Let me be by myself in the evenin' breeze
Listen to the murmur of the cottonwood trees
Send me off forever, but I ask you, please
Don't fence me in"*

Mostly, the Fox just hangs out - But I think the number one *motivator* for the Fox, the thing that kicks him into high gear, is to not be trapped. He doesn't have a need to go anywhere in particular, but when he starts to sense that he's losing the ability to go to new places *in general*, he springs into action. The Fox getting out of Port Talon and through the wall is something that I think is borderline magical. Though he has no spells and only 2 hit points, I would say that the Fox has a passive magical ability to *find ways out*, writ large.

12. Ya Got Trouble
Robert Preston

*"Friend, either you're closing your eyes to a situation
You do not wish to acknowledge
Or you are not aware of the caliber of disaster
Indicated by the presence of a pool table in your community"*

The Fox is a damned liar, and we love it for him. He has a special loyalty to Ame and her companions, who he can be his honest self around, so we don't see it too often, but I think the Fox sees lying as being just obviously more fun and interesting than telling the truth. Much like this song as well, I think the Fox sees every lie not only as a way to deceive somebody, but also a way to make fun of the person you're deceiving.

13. The Gambler
Kenny Rogers

*'Cause every hand's a winner
And every hand's a loser
And the best that you can hope for is to die
in your sleep"*

There's a weird fatalism to the Fox's point of view - "If I don't do what I want, they've already caught me," that comes from an acceptance of the natural world, of the highs and lows of being a living thing. The anxieties of the human world, the pressure to steer our own destinies and stack the deck in our favor, the panic and shame when we fail to do so, none of that exists in the Fox's brain. You run and eat and sleep and play until one day you don't anymore, and that's the whole deal and it's a pretty good one.

14. Oo-De-Lally - From "Robin Hood"
Roger Miller

*"Robin Hood and Little John
runnin' through the forest
jumpin' fences, dodgin' trees
an' tryin' to get away
contemplatin' nothin'
but escape an' fin'lly makin' it
oo-de-lally, oo-de-lally
golly, what a day"*

The Fox's relationship to Eursulon - As Ame's familiar, the Fox's relationship to her is profound and magical, the Pantalaimon to her Lyra. I think Eursulon is the first low stakes, chummy relationship the Fox has made as a sentient creature - Like a buddy or a coworker. He recognizes Eursulon as a fellow creature of the forest, and sees himself and Eursulon as being in similar predicaments: Sensible beings lost in a strange world, constantly needing to stay one step ahead of the dangers that await them, and marveling at the absurdities of the human world.

15. Short People
Randy Newman

*"They got little hands
And little eyes
And they walk around
Tellin' great big lies"*

This song is for Suvi's relationship with the Fox - picture the moment where Suvi threatens to kill the Fox, and he responds with "Okay" and then retreats back into the Kudzu - The camera trains on Suvi, and she launches into this song. The backup singer is Ame.

16. My Way - 2008 Remastered
Frank Sinatra

*"For what is a man, what has he got?
If not himself then he has naught"*

A weird one on the list - I think this would be the Fox's favorite song - in other words, me, Brennan, DOESN'T think this song is a perfect match for the Fox, but the Fox would insist it is. He'd love the romance and the drama of it. I think he would cry listening to it, and he'd be like "This song really speaks to me," and I'd be like "Really? I don't think you'd ever feel the need to explain yourself this much - this whole song is about advocating for yourself, which you would only do if you were really bored. I also don't think you have even a few regrets, I think you have literally zero." And then the Fox would look at me and go "Okay" and then he'd press the button on the jukebox that plays My Way and he'd cry again.

17. Outfox The Fox
Danny Kaye, The Jud Conlon Singers

*"Only the sprightliest sprite,
The nimblest elf,
The wickedest witch
Or the devil himself
Can ever outfox the fox"*

If we develop time travel for the pod (David Byrne! Reach out to us with your secrets!) then it would make sense for Danny Kaye to voice the Fox. The exact right mix of goofiness, dashingness, foolishness and cleverness. Also, I don't know if you noticed, but I book-ended the playlist with songs that literally have "The Fox" in the title. Felt appropriate. That kind of structural symmetry would go completely unappreciated by the Fox. Love that little guy.