

00:00:00 Dan Host On this episode, we discuss: *Zarkorr! The Invader*.
00:00:05 Stuart Host Zzzz from Mars?
00:00:08 Dan Host No, just—the invader.
00:00:09 Stuart Host Oh, okay.
00:00:10 Elliott Host Don't worry—we hadn't heard of it, either!
00:00:13 Music Music Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.
00:00:40 Dan Host Hey, everyone! And welcome to *The Flop House*. I'm Dan McCoy.
00:00:42 Stuart Host Oh, hey, Dan! It's me—Stuart Wellington!
00:00:45 Elliott Host And over here, in Los Angeles, it's Elliott Kalan! Living in a different time zone which occasionally causes scheduling problems. But you know what? We're three friends who pull together through thick and thin.

[Dan laughs.]

00:00:58 Dan Host So we get over it.
00:00:59 Elliott Host *[Laughs.]* Yes.
Like, do you remember that time—do you remember that time when Stuart was late for his own wedding, and oh boy. We had to drive him cross-country in only 17 hours to get him there! And it was crazy. And that song, *[singing]* “Bop, bop, bop, badaadaadaadaah” was playing the entire time.

00:01:14 Stuart Host Do you guys—do you guys remember the time that, uh, the Pharaoh wanted to entertain his queen so this, like, kinda rapscallion character showed up at court? I think he, like, morphed out of a pile of sand?

00:01:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** I don't remember that. *[Laughs.]*

Elliott: Yep. Yeah—I—I do remember that time.

00:01:29 Stuart Host **Stuart:** And then he—and then he sang a song.
And then he sang a song about, like, being in love with the queen and you're like—what?

00:01:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** I get what's going on.

00:01:36 Dan Host **Stuart:** That was crazy.
I feel like Elliott bringing up our scheduling difficulties now is him, like, laying the groundwork so I'm not *[though laughter]* mad at him later when we—

[Elliott laughs.]

—try and hash out—hash out how we're going to schedule things?
Um—
00:01:45 Stuart Host Yeah. Little does he know that that's making Dan even more angry.

[All laugh.]

00:01:49 Elliott Host Oh, no! Well, it does remember that—it does remind me of that time when—similarly—the Pharaoh asked me to sing a song and entertain his bride and I sang a song about how I was in love with the bride. And then I was—and then they were like, yeah. Michael Jackson just sang that song yesterday.

[Stuart laughs.]

And I was like—what?!

00:02:04 Stuart Host [All laugh.]
 Yeah.
 00:02:06 Dan Host Um—
 00:02:07 Stuart Host Yeah, yeah, yeah. Your eyes popped out of your head. [Laughs.]
 00:02:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Okay, so—

00:02:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Yeah. Like a tech-savory wolf. Yep.
Dan: Let me explain a few things. Number one—

00:02:13 Dan Host **Stuart:** Um, we're *The Flop House*.
 First principles—we're *The Flop House*. We watch a bad movie and then we talk about it. Number two, the movie that we watched, uh, this time around is not our usual thing of... recent movies, uh... we've done a few movies in the theater recently. Normally we do stuff that's new to, like, streaming or DVD, but anyway.
 00:02:33 Elliott Host And usually it's a big-budget spectacular!
 00:02:36 Dan Host Yeah. But uh... this week-
 00:02:38 Elliott Host Or at the very least—whatever horror movie we could find at the moment.
 00:02:41 Dan Host Yeah. This week, though, we're getting around to finally—
 00:02:44 Stuart Host This is more of like a mumblecore art house movie. Right?

00:02:48 Elliott Host [Elliott laughs.]
 00:02:51 Dan Host [Through laughter] Yeah! Yup. Zarkorr the Mumblecore. Yes! Sure. Yeah. After—after months and months of other stuff that we kinda had to, like, run through, we are getting around to the contest winners who designed our *Flop House* merch. Um—
 00:03:01 Stuart Host Oh, great!
 00:03:03 Dan Host And doing—one of the prizes was to pick a movie for us to talk about and the first, uh, contest winner—there were two—the first one is Elizabeth Stege [pronounces it "Steggy"]. Uh, I asked her how she pronounces her name and I believe that is correct.
 00:03:18 Elliott Host Steggy?
 00:03:19 Dan Host Steggy.
 00:03:19 Elliott Host Like a nickname for a stegosaurus in a kid's cartoon show?
 00:03:22 Dan Host Well, that's what—that's what she said. She said it starts like "stegosaurus" and then there's an "e" at the end. So.
 00:03:28 Stuart Host Or, like, what would be—what—like, Plates? Uh, Fin? What—what would be a good nickname for a stegosaurus?
 00:03:34 Elliott Host I mean, I think—either Steggy, or like... yeah. Maybe—maybe Plates could be it. Y'know. If he's like a rapper. And they call him Plates. I mean, they also—
 00:03:42 Stuart Host Or if he—or if he works out a lot and he's always pushing plates around.
 00:03:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Or if he's a busboy? And he's always carrying plates?

00:03:50 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Uh-huh. That's also true. Yeah.
 Let me just tell you—bad idea to hire a stegosaurus as a busboy. One, they can't stand on their hind legs for very long so they can't carry the plates. Two, you got that thagamizer at the end of their tail—that's the actual scientific word—thagamizer—uh, for the spikes.

It was decide—uh—Gary Larsen did a joke about it in *The Far Side* and scientists realized—oh, we don't actually have a name for it! So

I guess we'll just call it that. So it's called a thagamizer. But uh—it's—while it's swinging that thing back and for bussing tables, you know it's just killing people.

[Dan laughs.]

You know it's just impaling them on the spikes. And then you got the worst problem of all—stegosaurus has got a tiny little pea brain. It's roughly the size of a walnut. And people are gonna wanna eat that delicious walnut. So they're just going to crack open the head of your busboy, dip out that walnut, and then you gotta get a new busboy. My—

00:04:33 Dan Host

You know what? I gotta—I gotta tear up my business plan now.

00:04:36 Elliott Host

Yeah. Now here's another bad one to hire as a busboy:

00:04:43 Stuart Host

Tyrannosaurus Rex. Little bitty arms! Can't carry a lot of plates!

00:04:49 Elliott Host

I've—well, wait. I've never heard—heard that. I always thought Tyrannosaurus Rexes were the one with, like, super big long arms. Uh, no. That's just that one Tyrannosaurus Rex that has the workout tapes? Where he—that are called "Blast your tit—your itty bitty arms." *[Laughs.]*

00:04:56 Stuart Host

Yep. Blast 'em. Yep.

00:04:57 Elliott Host

It's called—yeah. It's—it's called Tommy T-Rex: Itty Bitty Arm Blaster. And it's—

00:04:59 Dan Host

What if I got Theodore Rex to be my busboy?

00:05:03 Elliott Host

Now, then you're just gonna have a lot of shenanigans. And you're also gonna have to deal with Whoopee Goldberg hanging around the restaurant. I mean, that's great!

00:05:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: Who wouldn't want Whoopee? A huge star?

00:05:12 Elliott Host

Stuart: Yeah. I mean, she'll—she'll bring people in.

Yeah. She'll—well, she'll bring in Billy Crystal. That's who she'll bring in.

[Dan laughs.]

00:05:16 Dan Host

That's about it. Yeah.

Um... guys, let me get to *[though laughter]* what I was gonna say.

[Elliott laughs.]

00:05:20 Stuart Host

Okay.

00:05:21 Dan Host

Which is, uh... I asked Elizabeth, uh, to contribute a—you know, a few words saying why she chose—of all movies—this movie that no one *[though laughter]* has heard of.

[Elliott laughs.]

Zarkorr! The Invader.

00:05:31 Stuart Host

Okay.

00:05:32 Dan Host

Uh, and... she said:

"Zarkorr is quite possibly my favorite B movie and it's not one of the better-known ones, so I suppose I mostly just wanted to share it with others! I found it at a going-out-of-business sale for a video rental joint sometime around 2004. For me, it strikes that perfect balance of being overacted and dumb, cheaply-made, etc, but with

the occasional moments of brilliance and several aspects that are genuinely unique and interesting.”

00:05:59 Stuart Host It’s funny—I would’ve thought that, like, rentals of *Zarkorr* would’ve saved the business! But I guess not!

00:06:04 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*
 “I don’t know if you’ll feel the same way, but I love how fucked up the alien race is; how terribly the protagonist reacts to suddenly needing to save the world—I think I would do a similarly shit job of it, to be honest—how cryptozoology is apparently a thing but cryptozoologists sure as fuck don’t believe in aliens—”

[Elliott laughs.]

00:06:36 Stuart Host “—and how thoroughly uncharismatic and awful the nerdy hacker character is. Also, it has a rad closing theme. I don’t know. It’s Full Moon Features doing a Kaiju flick. If nothing else, that’s fairly unique. I hope you guys enjoy watching it!”

00:06:39 Elliott Host Oh boy did we ever! Don’t wanna rush to the end.

00:06:45 Stuart Host Stuart, were you excited when the Full Moon logo came up and you saw Charles Mann’s name in the opening credits?

00:06:50 Elliott Host Yeah, yeah, yeah! I hopped up, uh, out of my chair and I started running in circles while lying on the ground.

00:06:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk Yeah. *[Laughs.]* The old “Whoop, whoop, whoop” and then—and you said, “Oh, what a good boy am I!”

00:06:56 Stuart Host **Elliott:** ‘cause—I—
Stuart: Uh-huh. And I—
 I did it so fast that I bored a hole in the ground and I went to the center of the earth—

[Elliott laughs.]

—and I told the magmen and they came back and watched the movie with me.

[All laugh.]

00:07:04 Elliott Host Oh, did—I mean—spoil—did they like it? Not to jump to final judgments. How did the magmen feel about it?

00:07:08 Stuart Host Oh, they were kind of concerned about its portrayal of—well, I don’t want to talk about it.

00:07:13 Elliott Host Okay. Well, why don’t we get into it? *Zarkorr! The Invader* starts as many spine-tingling terrifying movies begin: with 90 seconds of the plainest credits I’ve ever seen. It is just like they said, what is the—what is the cheapest font that we can get? Well this is the font that comes with the video editing software you’re gonna use. Just give it to me. Great. Perfect. Yes. Of course. Uh, we then go to Mt. Aurora, California, at 10:10PM. The time—

00:07:38 Stuart Host Did you just say “Carif—” did you say “California” wrong?

00:07:41 Elliott Host I don’t think I did. Uh, let’s check the tape. *[Imitates tape rewinding.]*
 We go to Mt. Aurora, Cugalugaluga—

[Stuart and Dan laugh.]

You're right, Stuart! *[Through laughter]* I did! On reviewing the tape—instead of saying “California,” I said “Cugalugaluga,” which is not the name of that state.

[Dan laughs.]

00:07:56	Stuart	Host	And I should know! I live here!
00:07:57	Elliott	Host	Yeah. So—
<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>			
00:07:57	Stuart	Host	Yeah. You checked your driver's license right before saying that word.
00:08:02	Elliott	Host	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Yeah! Just to make sure I was pronouncing it right. Because California—it has the pronunciation on the license because this state is full of dumb people, as we know from '80s movies about the entertainment business.
00:08:11	Stuart	Host	It's broken down phonetically.
00:08:13	Elliott	Host	Exactly. Uh—and—
00:08:15	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Elliott: Broken down emotionally!
Stuart: What, like—			
00:08:16	Stuart	Host	Yeah. Uh, dumb '80s movies like <i>Less than Zero</i> and—and what? Uh—
00:08:21	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: <i>Beverly Hillbillies?</i>
Dan: Uh—			
Elliott: Uh—			
00:08:21	Elliott	Host	And—yeah. Yeah.
00:08:22	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Elliott: And, uh—and uh— <i>Sophie's Choice</i> .
Dan: <i>St. Elmo's Fire?</i>			
00:08:25	Elliott	Host	Yeah. And uh—you know, uh... other '80s movies like, uh, <i>Children of a Lesser God</i> . <i>Howard's End</i> . The—like, your classic California movies. You know. Uh, so anyway. We're in California. It's 10:10PM. This will become important because the time is the same everywhere in the world, despite how time works in real life. As we'll see. Uh, and 10:10PM is most exciting because it's the Tintin of times, if you pronounce it Dan McCoy way.
00:08:49	Dan	Host	Yeah, that's true.
00:08:50	Elliott	Host	Now Dan—did you think that Tintin the cartoon boy—was—that his name was just Ten-Ten and he was a robot?
00:08:56	Dan	Host	No, I—I can <u>read</u> and understand, uh, words.
<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>			
And I—I—I don't—I'm not confused by that. And also, I'm like—I guess both of you guys—			
00:09:05	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: Are you guys talking about Tan-tan?
Dan: —I can— <i>[Laughs.]</i>			
00:09:07	Dan	Host	I got—unlike—I guess—both of you, I can understand words via context clues?
00:09:12	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: Uh-huh.

Elliott: Ohhhhh.

00:09:14 Dan Host **Dan:** Like, I can think, like—
Oh, he's probably not thinking of the metal tin; he's thinking of the number ten. And uh—and so—like, I mean—homonyms do exist in the world. Uh, guys. Are you—are you confused by those regularly—

00:09:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** —in your—

00:09:29 Elliott Host **Elliott:** I mean, I—I just—
I worried that you would be listening to “Love Shack,” the hit song by the B-52s, and they'd say “Tin roof rusted” and you go, ten roofs! What kind of mansion is this? *[Laughs.]*

00:09:37 Stuart Host Uh-huh! And they're all rusted?

00:09:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** I better get to work!

Dan: I wouldn't call that a shack!

00:09:41 Elliott Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
[Through laughter] Yeah! Ten roofs on a shack? Oh boy! Anyway, it's Mt. Aurora, California. It's 10:10PM. And a pack of blue-collar joes witness an avalanche from which a monster emerges! Which we assume—we later learn is the titular Zarkorr. And he's kind of like, uh... y'know. How would you describe him? Like—he's like Godzilla but he's got devil horns and... uh, not a lot of lower body movement? Mainly just—just waist up? Uh—

00:10:03 Dan Host And you would—you would kind of assume this from the movie? But, uh... if you do any research on the film? I—I guess they just sort of had these special effects and wrote a movie around them. *[Laughs.]*

00:10:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Oh, cool!

00:10:16 Elliott Host **Elliott:** That seems—
I mean, I don't know how you'd—how you'd get that. I mean, the fact that the hero of the film and Zarkorr—the monster—almost never appear in the same—

[Stuart laughs.]

—scene, let alone on camera together. Uh, Zarkorr's kind of unsteady on his feet. Which is understandable. There's fire and magma erupting behind him.

00:10:30 Stuart Host And he just woke up.

00:10:32 Elliott Host And he just— *[Through laughter]* That's true. Who knows how long he's been sleeping for?

00:10:35 Dan Host That's true.

00:10:35 Elliott Host Uh, but he does manage to destroy a miniature gas station. Cut to Newark, New Jersey—11:30PM.

00:10:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Now, yeah.

00:10:41 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Yeah. We—we—
We hover over the skyline of the sprawling cityscape of Newark, New Jersey. *[Laughs.]*

00:10:46 Elliott Host Not since—not since the HBO production, uh, logo have I seen a miniature city created with such—just—love.

[Dan laughs.]

00:10:59 Dan Host In every single bit of it. And yet it still looks like a tiny little miniature. Now—
[Through laughter] I gotta say that this is one thing I appreciated about the movie? 'Cause like—the movie does this transition where the camera is zooming through these miniatures, uh, to go into this guy's apartment, uh, window. And... you know? The movie could've been satisfied by just, y'know, going out on the street and doing a static establishing shot of a building.

00:11:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart and Elliott:** Yeah!
00:11:20 Dan Host And no one would be any the wiser.
00:11:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** But they're like, no.

00:11:23 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Throw in the, uh—
Yeah. Throw in the *Seinfeld*, uh, baseline right in there.

[Elliott laughs.]

00:11:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk You got an intro!
Elliott: Yup. And that—

00:11:29 Dan Host **Dan:** The movie is like, no.
00:11:31 Elliott Host We gotta swoop through these skyscrapers.
Dan. Dan. They wanna get across the excitement, the enthusiasm, the exuberance of Newark, New Jersey. Which is—y'know—it's the hottest city on the East Coast, as you know. And as a New Jersey boy, I was like—finally! Newark is getting its due! Small quibble: 11:30PM at Newark, New Jersey is actually two hours before the events we just saw in California at 10:10PM. Again, this seems to exist in a world where there are no time zones?

[Dan laughs.]

00:12:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk And it's the same time everywhere in the world and that really threw me off? Uh... the—as we'll see as we go on—
Elliott: —time is an interesting proposition.

00:12:03 Elliott Host **Stuart:** It took you—it took you out of the movie.
It—yeah. It—after—after—I was like—Zarkorr. Puppet monster that walks out of a mountain? I totally buy it.

00:12:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Newark, New Jersey? It—it—

Stuart: And destroys a very realistic-looking mountain town?

[Elliott laughs.]

00:12:13 Elliott Host Yeah. Uh, Newark, New Jersey looks totally like a real miniature city. I am buying this. 11:30?! Hold on a second! Ho-ho-ho-ho-hold on! I found the one plot hole in *Zarkorr! The Invader*.

00:12:23 Stuart Host And—and this is where we're introduced to our hero, right? Tommy, the postal worker who watches cartoons at night?

00:12:28 Elliott Host Yes. It's 11:30 at night. He is still in his postal worker uniform. So either he is leaving to work the night shift, or that's the only clothing he owns.

[Dan laughs.]

Is his one uniform. Like a cartoon character. Which is—makes sense! ‘Cause he’s watching cartoons on his TV in his kitchen. When a tiny woman materializes on the counter and tells him—

[Eerie, otherworldly sound effect plays in background.]

00:12:48 Dan Host —that she is a mental project—
Sorry. Uh, so Audrey bought me, uh, this little soundboard for uh... for Christmas and I thought that, y’know, just to spice things up, make things a little more like a morning zoo crew, I could, uh... y’know, just toss in a few little drops every once in a while?
00:13:03 Elliott Host Sure! Yeah, yeah. Give us another drop. Yes. So it’s—so let—let’s—let me re-set you up. So a—a tiny woman who is an alien materializes in his apartment.

[Sound effect of something dropping from a great height, then crashing when it hits the ground.]

00:13:13 Stuart Host Oh, shoot!
00:13:17 Elliott Host Wait—so— *[Laughs.]* So she fell off a cliff? I don’t— *[Laughs.]*
00:13:19 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* Yeah. I don’t—y’know, I don’t know how she materializes there. Maybe—
00:13:22 Elliott Host So Dan—
00:13:23 Dan Host She jumps into a *[though laughter]* portal.
00:13:25 Elliott Host When she gave you this, did she say “this oughta spice things up a little bit?”

[Dan laughs.]

‘Cause you might be using it wrong. If that’s the case.

[Dan laughs.]

00:13:31 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* I don’t know. Uh—I think I know what you’re implying and I’m not quite sure how that would work.
00:13:36 Elliott Host I mean, I guess—I assume that this is—Dan, and I don’t wanna air your dirty laundry on the—on the podcast too much in public.
00:13:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Dirrrrty laundry!
00:13:44 Elliott Host **Elliott:** But I have to assume that a lot of your love play—
A lot of your love play involves you being the wolf from a Tex Avery cartoon?
00:13:48 Dan Host *[Laughs.]* Uh-huh. I mean, that is kinda my personality. To some degree. But uh, yeah. I don’t think—it’s not integrated, let’s say.
00:13:56 Stuart Host Yeah! You think you’re some kind of a beast in—partially in the shape of a man, forced to wear a man’s clothing, but deep down you’re a boiling...
00:14:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** —cauldron of... sexual energy.
00:14:06 Dan Host **Dan:** Yeah. With—I assume—constantly—
—like, painful eyes from all the popping that happens.
00:14:10 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** I—certainly. I mean—
00:14:12 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Oh, yeah. Must hurt.
And when your head turns into a steam whistle, that can’t feel good.

00:14:15 Dan Host Yeah. Well, anyway, I'm gonna set this, uh, soundboard aside for just a second and then, y'know, like every once in a while maybe it'll come back. I dunno.

00:14:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Sounds great. I love it.

00:14:22 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Cool. I mean—
I mean, we have—we have been talking—y'know, we've been doing this show for a little while now, guys, and we've been talking about ways to spice things up and I think, uh.... this is a step in the right direction, Dan! I like it!

00:14:33 Dan Host *[All laugh.]*
I just wanted to be proactive, guys.

00:14:35 Stuart Host Yeah! Well, you're—you're picking up stones and seeing what's underneath!

00:14:39 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*
And as often happens, you find great things when you pick up a stone—

[Dan laughs.]

—and look what's underneath. It's rare the times that I've picked up a stone and looked and looked underneath and not been like, this is good!

[Dan and Stuart laugh.]

00:14:52 Stuart Host I'm glad I found this!
Yeah. Uh, been playing a lot of, uh, *Legend of Zelda*. And a lot of times when I pick up stones there's just, like, rupees sitting there?

[Elliott laughs.]

00:15:00 Elliott Host And I'm like, okay!
Guess I'm going to India! So anyway. The, uh... so this tiny woman materializes and tells him—I'm a mental projection from a superior alien race. We have set a monster, Zarkorr, to destroy the earth unless you can stop him. It's a test of humanity. And we picked you because you are the most middling, non-exciting, average man out there.

And his response is—his immediate response is—"Okay." *[Laughs.]* Just kind of a little resigned. And I wish they had run with that. Because then he's like, wait, wait! This is crazy! But I love the idea of somebody being told that and just being like, uh, oh—okay! Like, what do I do?

00:15:34 Stuart Host Yeah, I mean, he has—he—he certainly has a, uh, he has a put-upon—he has a certain put-upon energy when explained that he is the only one who can stop them. In fact, we have one of my favorite line readings in the movie—

00:15:48 Clip **Clip** "How in God's name am I supposed to fight an 180-foot dinosaur?!"

00:15:52 Stuart Host How am I supposed to fight—

[Elliott laughs.]

00:15:56 Elliott Host —a 180-foot dinosaur? Now—
Well, I just like that Stuart noticed Dan’s soundboard game and decided to immediately obliterate him by taking it to the third level. *[Laughs.]*

[Bugle plays an abbreviated version of the “Call to Post” tune—the “do do do doo, do dooooo” tune usually preceding the “Charge!” command on a cartoon battlefield. Bugle is then followed by the sound of a slide whistle; a rattle; a wooden recorder, flute, or penny whistle; and a scratchy recording of someone laughing wildly with a faintly sinister edge.]

00:16:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Wow. He—he was—yeah. *[Laughs.]*

Elliott: Was that one bite?

00:16:13 Stuart Host **Dan:** *[Through laughter]* Yeah, that was one!
Yeah. He was saving that one for a big—big slam-u moment.

[All laugh.]

00:16:17 Stuart Host So the—so this alien, who is—is basically like, uh, if that alien that talks to Fred Flintstone was played by Amy Dolans from—

00:16:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Yeah. Great Gazoo character.

Stuart: Yeah. Uh—and—

00:16:29 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Yeah, yeah. Well, if the—
If—you mix the Great Gazoo with Christina Applegate from *Married With Children* and you get this character.

00:16:35 Stuart Host Yeah. And there’s—there’s a moment where he’s like, why do you look the way you look? And she’s like, well, the alien intelligence is trying to—trying to come up with a form that you find the least intimidating. And I’m like—guys—a—that—if you think that a guy like him is not intimidated by young, scantily-clad women? You are wrong, my friend. *[Laughs.]*

00:16:56 Elliott Host Very good point. Very good point. Uh—

00:16:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Although she is three inches tall. Maybe that’s the compensation.

00:17:03 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Much of society ill’s her. I get—yeah. You’re right.
Uh, so she can crawl—so at night while he’s sleeping she can just crawl into his mouth and pull all his teeth out? Uh, that’s pretty scary.

[Stuart and Dan laugh.]

00:17:10 Dan Host Now, I—I—I wanna say—

00:17:11 Stuart Host What does she even need all those teeth for?

00:17:13 Elliott Host I—that’s a good question!

[Dan laughs.]

00:17:15 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* I— *[Laughs.]* You know, uh—

00:17:18 Stuart Host Is she going to use it, like, as an ottoman or something?

[All laugh.]

00:17:22 Dan Host Uh—maybe she’s—she knows the monster from the first season of *Channel Zero* and she’s—

00:17:28 Stuart Host Uh-huh. And she’s trying to replenish—

[Dan laughs.]

00:17:31 Dan Host —his body? Yeah.
00:17:31 Elliott Host Uh, what I—what I—
00:17:36 Stuart Host So, uh, she also—she also tells him—she informs him also that life
00:17:37 Elliott Host has no meaning and there’s no life after death.
00:17:37 Dan Host That was great. I love that.
00:17:39 Dan Host Yeah.
00:17:39 Dan Host He accepts that pretty—pretty easily.
00:17:46 Crosstalk Crosstalk Now, this notion of him being, like, the absolute mean human
being—the—the middle-of-the-road—
Dan: Uh-huh. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Elliott: By—by “mean” you mean “average.” Not like—*[makes angry growl noises]* “Oohh! Errr!”

00:17:50 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Most average. Yes. Yes.
00:17:51 Dan Host Not like a bully.
00:17:58 Elliott Host Well, he—he says he’s the mean later. I should—so I use that
00:18:00 Dan Host term? But I guess it was confusing. Um—this notion of him—
00:18:01 Stuart Host It’s okay. No, I—also—I—I think that’s his rap name. “The Mean.”
00:18:02 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* Okay.
Mmmm.
But him being the most average, uh, person on earth—now... I feel
like maybe I’ve seen this in science fiction before? This notion? I
don’t know where though? But I did like it. I did like the idea of—I
thought it was kind of fun, this alien race testing humanity by
choosing... the most average person.
00:18:21 Stuart Host Yeah. Um—
00:18:23 Elliott Host Yeah. No—
00:18:24 Stuart Host And it also—the way he behaves—if he is the most average, man.
Ugh. Woof. *[Laughs.]*

[All laugh.]

00:18:32 Elliott Host Well that’s the—I was like, ugh, holding humanity to a pretty low bar
if this is the average. ‘Cause his—his plan is to go kidnap
somebody, basically.
00:18:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Because—
Stuart: I... love it.
00:18:40 Elliott Host They turn on the news and, uh, the news is interviewing a pretty
cryptozoologist named Stephanie Martin. But the news anchor does
not—is not really interested in Stephanie’s answers and keeps
cutting her off. *[Laughs.]* To, uh—because she’s bored by what
she’s saying?
00:18:51 Clip Clip “Whateverrr!”
00:18:51 Elliott Host And she’s basically like—

[Dan laughs.]

00:18:55 Dan Host Uh, sorry. I missed it. What was that one, Dan?
[Through laughter] Sorry. I thought this was appropriate at that time.

[Plays “Whateverrr!” clip again.]

00:18:59 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*
 Dan! I want you to—Dan, to like hold up a finger so that I know to pause when it—

00:19:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** When the sound is coming.

00:19:05 Elliott Host **Dan:** *[Through laughter]* Sorry. *[Laughs.]*
 So I can enjoy it so much. Uh—

[Stuart laughs.]

And the tiny—and the tiny lady is like—hey. Write all this down. Zarkorr can't be beaten by earth weapons, including swords *[Elliott pronounces this with an audible "w"]*—and she pronounces it “s-words,” which I found amazing—but there are things on earth that you can use to stop him, and Zarkorr is keyed to you.

So he's gonna travel across the country to you and kill you. And you've gotta stop him. But here's a hint: Zarkorr contains the key to his own destruction. And you better act fast, Tommy! And then she disappears and we never see her again in the film, which is too bad! Because I liked that Great Gazoo type chemistry that they had together.

00:19:36 Dan Host Yeah. Well I—I mean, she talks about how he's the only one who can see her? Because... she's projecting into his mind? And so I assumed that she would come back later on and that would be, like, a plot point that like—he's the only one who can see her and everyone thinks he's crazy.

00:19:52 Stuart Host I like—I like the point when this very average man, when she's explaining the rules of the movie to him—he's—she's like—you might wanna get a pencil and paper. And he's like, ugh. Do I have to?

[Dan and Elliott laugh.]

How about I just use a tape recorder? *[Laughs.]* And she's like—of course that wouldn't work because only you can hear me and yadda, yadda, yadda.

00:20:10 Elliott Host But she does not become part of his team of heroes that she assembles. So Zarkorr, meanwhile—in-between most of the Tommy scenes, is just footage of Zarkorr stomping around different towns. Blowing up miniatures. I just get—assume that every time we're not watching Tommy, we're watching Zarkorr just kinda like... making his way across the country in the dark.

It's always nighttime wherever Zarkorr is. It's never daytime. Perhaps he brings a plague of darkness with him. A cloud cover that blots out the life-giving sun. But more likely they just didn't think that much about it and the darkness really hides the fact that it's like, a—a puppet suit that they're using?

00:20:43 Stuart Host Oh, okay.

00:20:45 Elliott Host I—I would assume. So anyway—1:33AM. Tommy, for some reason, has taken two hours to get his act together and go on down to the news station so that he can... essentially—like—go find the cryptozoologist. This takes the form of him creeping her out and ends with her—him in a standoff holding a gun to her with the security guards.

00:21:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Yeah. I kinda loved—

00:21:04 Dan Host **Stuart:** Oh, man.
—this development ‘cause it was— *[Laughs.]* It was like—okay. You’re—you’re gonna save the world. Like, this guy immediately gets himself into a hostage situation.

00:21:13 Stuart Host *[All laugh.]*
Yeah. It’s—it’s—it’s kinda—it reminded me a lot of like... the times that I’ve seen an intricately-plotted roleplaying game and the characters immediately, like, get themselves into deep shit by doing something dumb. Like... 30 minutes into this movie, we’re in, like, a tense hostage situation.

00:21:36 Elliott Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
I’m like—man. This is not gonna help them stop Zarkorr. *[Laughs.]* No. And I have to admit—at the time I was like, come on, dude. But then I started thinking about it and I was like—well, what would I do in that situation? I don’t know! Could I have come up with a better plan than try to kidnap a cryptozoologist I saw on TV?

00:21:58 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Dan laughs.]*
Probably not! What this also implies is that the news station just has her on call at the studio all night? To cover—I guess—during their live coverage of the Zarkorr, uh, invasion as he walks across the town?

00:21:59 Stuart Host **Elliott:** Uh, and—
Stuart: I mean—
—that’s the life of a cryptozoologist! I like that the, uh, security guards are like—he’s like—you can’t take me to jail! And they’re like, yeah, we can’t. We’re just security guards. But we have guns and *[though laughter]* we can kill you.

00:22:12 Elliott Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
They’re not great security guards. There’s one that really wants to be a martyr and keeps saying, just let me—just take me out. Just let me go in and get him. Uh, and—the soundtrack of the movie—this is a problem it has throughout the film.

It can’t decide whether this was supposed to be a tense scene or a goofy scene? The movie is like *[singing; alternating between a dramatic, tense tone and a cheerful, upbeat one]* Bum, bum, bumm! Bup ba doop boop boop boo! Dun dun dun! Du duh dun! Dee dee dee dee dee! And I was like—guys, how am I supposed to feel?

00:22:34 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*
You gotta help guide me through this! *[Laughs.]* I will say—the music is definitely a little overbearing? Like, it’s mixed pretty loud and it gets kinda Mickey Mousey sometimes? But—

00:22:42 Stuart Host That’s how you get that Full Moon flavor, baby! *[Laughs.]*

00:22:43 Dan Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
 But I also kinda like it? Uh, and I looked it up. It's by, uh, Charles Mann's brother, who did, like, almost all of the Full Moon stuff. Like—including, y'know, like, *Castle Freak* and like he did the music to—

00:22:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Oh, *Castle Freak*! Never heard of it!

Dan: *From Beyond.*

00:22:59 Elliott Host **Elliott:** He did the music for—
 —*Reanimator*. Like, did—and—understand—he's good at—and *Head of the Family*. He's good at this! He's got "band" in his name. Music is in his blood!

00:23:05 Stuart Host Yeah. One-man band. Um, the—

00:23:08 Elliott Host I'm looking now—he did all four of the *Time Warrior* movies?

00:23:12 Stuart Host So he ends up—he ends up taking the cryptozoologist at gunpoint into the bathroom—

[Elliott laughs.]

—and then, like, two cops show up and he somehow manages to convince one of the cops to... put a gun on his partner, who he describes as "like a brother to him."

00:23:31 Elliott Host *[Dan laughs.]*
 Yeah! So this—one of the cops, uh, is a... uh... is a UFO guy already. And he's like—ah, see? This all makes sense! Cattle mutilation! Crop circles! It's all been there! And so this cop is like—you know what? I'll help. Oh, the cop's name is George.

By the way. Uh, and he handcuffs the other cop and they go on the run. And this is why—I mean, Tommy's an average guy but you know what? George? He's kind of an average guy, too. And there's kind of, like, an average guy understanding between the two of them.

[Stuart laughs.]

And so that's why he's like—I can see into his soul. Meanwhile, again, Zarkorr—he shows us now that he has eye lasers. He's just blowing stuff up. And our heroes are in the cop car and they listen to a radio report of Zarkorr defeating the Air Force. So, uh, nothing can stop him. There's nothing. Uh, they—Tommy finally convinces Stephanie to help. That's the cryptozoologist.

And the three of them hide the squad car in what the chyron describes as "the warehouse district, New Jersey. 6:17AM." Now here's two things I love about that—one, they must've been driving around for like three hours. Two—so this is the warehouse district for the whole state? 'Cause usually, like, a city has a warehouse district. I assume by warehouse district for New Jersey they just mean the northern half of the state.

00:24:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Since the southern half is fairly rural.

Stuart: Yeah. Or—or Camden.

00:24:44 Elliott Host Could be—it could be the city of Camden. That’s true. *[Laughs.]* Yeah. Uh—but as a New Jersey guy I was like—yeah, I guess the—New Jersey is kind of the warehouse district for the entire country. But uh—the specificity of it I liked. Anyway.

They argue a lot, and Stephanie is like—I know someone who can help us. And this is when—maybe my least and most favorite character in the movie—decides to make his entrance. Now, uh, what was his name? I don’t remember what it was. But this is, uh, the wheelchair-bound nerd hacker. Who—

00:25:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —has apparently been—

00:25:17 Elliott Host **Stuart:** He does not like that term. No, he doesn’t like the term “hacker.” He prefers to call himself a “cybernaut.” He has a nervous laugh and is constantly talking. He’s very much the Elliott Kalan of the movie, which means he is very annoying. But he’s also, like—

00:25:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** A creep.

00:25:28 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Yeah. He’s got some— He’s got some serious Joaquin Phoenix, uh, vibes here.

00:25:32 Elliott Host *[Elliott laughs.]* But he’s also like a creep. So he’s like—oh, did you—did Stephanie tell you? She lost her virginity to her English teacher? They talked about it on the phone. I recorded it! And it’s like—oh. So you’re a— you’re a maniac. Like, you’re a terrible person.

But uh—this guy—he really chews the scenery and he decides he’s gonna get them some information by hacking into government weather satellites. This takes roughly—what? Half the movie? That they’re just hanging around in his lab and he’s just hacking?

00:25:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Like, what’s going on with that?

00:25:58 Dan Host **Dan:** Like, I— I personally thought that this movie had, like, a promising beginning? I was thinking like—

00:26:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** No, it was great!

00:26:04 Dan Host **Dan:** Oh, this is kind of fun! You know? Like, I like the—the notion of this guy being, you know, chosen to—to prove that humanity should still exist? And then they go to this place and they’re just hanging around, uh, this computer guy. And I’m just like, okay. Well, I’m losing interest rapidly, movie. Uh—

00:26:20 Elliott Host Yeah.

00:26:22 Dan Host *[Elliott laughs.]* Can you do something?

00:26:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** They, uh—

00:26:23 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Yeah. It— The movie begins almost like a Jerry Forward episode of *Rick & Morty*. *[Laughs.]*

00:26:29 Dan Host Yeah!

00:26:31 Elliott Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
 Uh—and then—but they get—they get really, uh, holed up at this place for a long time. Uh, eventually they somehow—and I couldn't quite follow their logic—decide that the monster is made out of laser light? And therefore must have an off switch. They all just kind of accept this and...

00:26:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** And run with it?

00:26:48 Dan Host **Dan:** Well, I—yeah.
 I don't know about the laser light part. I don't know how they figured that out. But like the off switch thing—the notion, I guess is... that was the code? They like—the monster holds the defeat within itself?

00:27:01 Stuart Host Uh-huh.
 00:27:01 Dan Host And because he is the most average person in the world? Like, this is just dumb enough but just clever enough an idea?

00:27:11 Stuart Host Oh, yeah.
 00:27:11 Dan Host That he would come up with it? *[Through laughter]* Is their logic, I guess?

00:27:14 Elliott Host Maybe. I don't know. It's one of those things where they're like, we've gotta find the off switch. Instead they end up finding some other thing. Like, it's not really an off switch. But—he just—

00:27:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** I mean, long story short, he—

00:27:23 Stuart Host **Stuart:** I don't know—
 I don't know how you turn your TV off; I usually, uh, refocus its eye lasers back on itself.

00:27:33 Elliott Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
[Dan plays noise akin to video game bleeps.]

00:27:33 Dan Host Okay?
 00:27:35 Elliott Host I don't know if that was the most appropriate one, but.
 I mean, you should probably save that for when Zarkorr gets defeated.

00:27:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** No, no, this—

00:27:39 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Which is pretty soon—
 —'cause there's not a lot that happens in the movie. And the movie's only an hour and fifteen. It's that sweet 75-minute sweet spot. So anyway. There's a lot of mumbo-jumbo and radar hacking and they find out we gotta go to a small town in Arizona called Williston, Arizona. They fly there because despite the monster on the loose destroying the country, there are still regular flights—

[Dan laughs.]

—from Newark to—to Phoenix—or—where was it? Phoenix that they went to and then they had a rental car or something? It's, uh—infrastructure is still working fine. Uh, they go there and everyone at this town has been waiting around for some government people to deal with this little flying saucer that crashed into the local diner! It's a little bitty—it looks like a Weber—one of those little Weber grills that you get when you have an apartment and you're just gonna grill on the patio. You know.

00:28:16 Stuart Host And they—and they show up wearing suits, so everybody assumes they're government agents.

00:28:21 Elliott Host Yeah. And—yo uhave to assume that they were like, oh, here comes the men in black, galaxy defenders! Here come the MIBs. Here come the MIBs!

00:28:27 Stuart Host Yep. The forget-me-nots.

00:28:29 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Yeah. Exactly.

00:28:31 Dan Host **Dan:** I—I—I liked this, too. The notion that this whole town was like, uh, like when they showed up and like, finally! Like they'd been expecting them but they—it's a case of mistaken identity. That was—

00:28:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** —kinda fun.

00:28:39 Elliott Host **Elliott:** And they're wearing— They're wearing suits now because, uh, the nerd goes, hey! While I'm looking up this stuff, go take them to get some clothes since it's you, a mailman, and a police officer. Uh, and you're not gonna get too far in those uniforms. And they had the opportunity for a shopping montage and they did not take it. And I am very disappointed.

00:28:56 Dan Host Yeah.

00:28:56 Stuart Host I do love that the costuming in this movie feels a little bit like they just went to, like, whatever... central casting, uh, like warehouse they could find. And they're like—well we have this, uh, postal worker uniform—

[Dan laughs.]

00:29:10 Dan Host —so you're gonna be a post office guy.

00:29:10 Elliott Host Yeah. 'Cause he never—aside from picking up one of those postal bins to get into the TV studio when he first goes to meet Stephanie, he doesn't do anything there he needs to be a mailman or a postal worker.

00:29:20 Dan Host So you wanted to use—him to use his special mailman powers to defeat—

00:29:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** —Zarkorr somehow.

00:29:26 Elliott Host **Elliott:** I mean, if there— I wanted there to be a part where it's like—oh! What's in this Arizona town? Oh, Williston, Arizona! Oh, yeah! That's zip code duh-duh-duh-duh-duh-duh! There's a special mail route that goes there! Or—for instance—what if he's like, I'll disguise myself as a letter; mail myself to Zarkorr.

[Stuart laughs.]

00:29:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk Zarkorr will open me. I'll jump out, and then I'll catch him in a bag— **Elliott:** —just like Lock, Stock, and Barrel do with Sandy Claws!

00:29:45 Dan Host **Dan:** Now, is this some sort of—

00:29:48 Elliott Host —Flat Stanley situation you're talking about? Or— I think it would have to—well, before that he'd have to use a steamroller to flatten himself, a la Kevin Kline at the end of *A Fish Called Wanda*. Uh, so they could fit into that envelope. Now—

00:29:56 Stuart Host Yeah. Or Judge Doom. The—
00:29:56 Dan Host Well, he's not so much flattened as just pushed down into some cement.

00:30:01 Elliott Host Okay. Then a Judge Doom scenario. Thank you, Stuart—
00:30:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** For—for correcting me on that. And Dan.

Stuart: The, uh—

00:30:05 Stuart Host *[Dan laughs.]*
Or—or—or if there's a moment where, like, the—he—he had to, like, get to Zarkorr but the only way he could do is get past, like, a dog. And he's like—

[Elliott laughs.]

00:30:16 Elliott Host Oh no! My greatest enemy, the dog!
I would love that. Or if it was like—

00:30:19 Dan Host *[Dan plays sound clip of cat screeching and fighting.]*
00:30:21 Stuart Host Sorry. I don't have a dog on there. So—
00:30:21 Elliott Host Uhhhhh—
Now Dan, I think—as you may remember from our *Cats* episode, Judi Dench told us—cats are not dogs!

00:30:25 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*
00:30:26 Elliott Host Oh, then I'm sorry.
Uh, that's—just go check out the *Cats* episode! Smile and stan. So anyway—the uh—uh, so yeah! Or if there was a part where they were like, no one can get past it! He's creating hail, rain, snow, and dark of night! And he'd be like—none of those things will stay me from my appointed routes.

00:30:41 Dan Host Alright. I like that one.
00:30:42 Stuart Host Yeah, yeah, yeah.
00:30:42 Elliott Host I'm just saying, make the most of it! The cop they use a lot of his stuff. He has a gun. He handcuffs his partner. And then later on—for one minute, he becomes very religious when they show up at the town—

[Dan laughs.]

00:30:58 Stuart Host —and I didn't really understand that? But uh—anyway. They find this—this crashed little flying saucer and they just take it.
Well, it's kind of like the movie *Signs*, Elliott. Where—that shows, like, that the—the difference—like, faith, y'know, it's the same in—no matter what you have faith in! Y'know?

[Elliott laughs.]

00:31:13 Elliott Host Whether it's, uh, whether it's like magic or like, coincidence or whether it's, uh, water killing aliens or something!
Oh, yeah, yeah, sure. *[Laughs.]* Any of those things. Uh, and also that—I mean, aliens are out in space so they're closer to heaven. Right?

00:31:20 Stuart Host That's actually true. Yep. Technically true.

[Dan laughs.]

00:31:23 Elliott Host Mm-hm.
00:31:23 Stuart Host 'Cause heaven is not a place on earth, despite what the song says.
00:31:26 Elliott Host No. And hell is not for children, despite what that song says. So there's a lot of misperceptions about heaven and hell out there.
00:31:33 Dan Host Heaven is a place where nothing ever happens, though. I am told.
00:31:37 Elliott Host Uh... I mean, that is something I've heard but I don't know it for sure? I've also heard that there's a highway to hell—

[Dan laughs.]

—but I haven't seen it.
00:31:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** And I have not driven on it.

Stuart: And I also—
00:31:46 Stuart Host I also heard life is a highway.
00:31:48 Dan Host Oh, wow!

[Elliott laughs.]
00:31:49 Elliott Host I mean, to be honest—life—if you do it the wrong way, is a highway to hell. I assume. If there is such a thing. Uh, now—
00:31:55 Stuart Host Or the right way.

[Dan laughs.]
00:31:56 Elliott Host Uh—I don't—I've heard that you could also walk on sunshine. So maybe there's a highway to heaven, too!
00:32:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** But—unless that's—

Dan: Yeah.

Stuart: I also heard that—
00:32:04 Stuart Host —children shouldn't play with dead things!

[All laugh.]
00:32:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Guys, who slew Auntie Rue? *[Laughs.]*

Elliott: And there's a—
00:32:11 Elliott Host Guys, what—I wanna give you some directions. Okay. you wanna avoid the highway to hell. Don't take that exist. That highway goes to the danger zone. You don't wanna deal out that one! No, no. Stick to this one: the highway to heaven.
00:32:21 Stuart Host I also heard that, uh, don't tell mom the babysitter's dead?

[All laugh.]
00:32:26 Dan Host You heard that?
00:32:28 Elliott Host But don't—but don't tell her it's me, also. Don't tell her it's me, aka, the boyfriend school.

[All laugh.]
00:32:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** And I'm killing Stu.

Elliott: Okay, but guys—
00:32:36 Elliott Host But guys—but guys—who's Harry Crumb?

[All laugh.]
00:32:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** John Candy? *[Laughs.]*

00:32:44 Elliott Host **Elliott:** And—and—
One more question for you. One more question. What about Bob?

00:32:49 Stuart Host *[All laugh.]*
Yup!

00:32:53 Dan Host *[Dan plays clip: "Ohhhh Yeah!"]*
00:32:54 Elliott Host Alright. Sorry.
00:32:55 Dan Host What sound was that?
That was—that was an "Oh yeah"? Like a sort of a—bowmp,
bowmp chika—doom doom doom doom.
00:33:00 Elliott Host Like the song by Yellow. As—as seen in the Twix commercials.
Smile and stan. Anyway, the heroes take this little flying saucer.
And uh, Tommy is like—we gotta head straight to Zarkorr.
00:33:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** And then Zarkorr's still—

00:33:10 Stuart Host **Stuart:** It kinda looks like a—
00:33:13 Elliott Host Like an old-timey construction worker's hat. But real big.
Yeah, yeah. Yeah! So let's describe this flying saucer. It's like a
con—it's like a... it—I couldn't tell—at one point they refer to it as a
"sphere," but I thought it was just like a dome. Like—
00:33:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** What is it—

00:33:24 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Yeah. Like a weird plate.
And they say that the, uh, that it's, uh, that diamonds won't scratch
it. Which is weird that this dude found it and he's like, I'm gonna
start rubbing diamonds on this!

00:33:34 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*
They're like, uh—it's really funny 'cause they're like—they're like—
diamonds won't scratch it. Look at this! Nothing can get through it!
And they're like, did you try to open it up? And it's like, yeah, dude.
That's how we figured out the information we just gave you!

00:33:45 Elliott Host *[Dan laughs.]*
I think the heroes are not really paying attention at that point. So.
They're gonna go to where Zarkorr is. They encounter a roadblock,
uh, and they try to bluff their way through it which does not work at
all. Uh, George the policeman is like—hey, uh, my mom's in there. I
gotta go *[though laughter]* find her.
00:33:59 Stuart Host That was—that was great. That was great. It was terrible. It was
such a—like a—fuck-up. It was awesome.
00:34:05 Elliott Host Yeah. And, uh, and the guy's like—everyone's been evacuated.
Which is not true, 'cause when Tommy finds himself in the town,
there's people running around! But uh—Tommy is like super
intense.

00:34:25 Stuart Host He's almost in a trance now. As if he's come to accept the
importance of his mission and that he really is the only one who can
save the world from Zarkorr. Guys, did you feel like he like suddenly
started taking things seriously?
00:34:25 Crosstalk Host Oh, yeah.
00:34:25 Crosstalk **Stuart:** He certainly stepped up his game.

Elliott: Okay.

00:34:28 Stuart Host **Dan:** I mean—
The—and there’s a moment where he—he’s so—he—he has a plan
and he’s like, okay. I got this, guys. Trust me. And George, like
nods his head he’s like, sure. Tommy’s got this. And then like...
Stephanie in the back—her name’s Stephanie, right?
00:34:40 Elliott Host Yeah. Stephanie.
00:34:41 Stuart Host She’s in the backseat like kinda takes a second looking at both of
them? She’s like, uhhhh—do you have a plan?

[Elliott laughs.]

00:34:56 Elliott Host Like, I do like that she is the—she is clearly much more intelligent
than these two guys and is just being dragged around by these two
maniacs.
Yeah. It takes her a long time to get on board with their “saving the
world” idea? Which—to be honest—again, if I was in her position? I
gotta say—it would take me a while to come around to it! I would
not be a George and just be like—yeah! That makes sense. I’d be a
Stephanie!

00:35:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** I mean, it’s—she did—

00:35:12 Stuart Host **Dan:** I don’t think—she’s—
She did have a gun held, like—she did have a crazy guy show up at
a news station and post—post office worker’s uniform.

00:35:19 Dan Host I don’t think she’s so much against the idea of saving the world, but
the methodology is kind of... her argument.

00:35:25 Elliott Host Oh, no. no. She’s—she’s like, tear it all down. It’s time to restart
from the beginning. Yeah. This place is too corrupt. She’s a real
Joaquin Phoenix in *Joker*. It’s the second time we’ve mentioned it in
this movie.

00:35:35 Stuart Host She’s got a—yeah. She’s got a tape that queued up to—what is
that? “Wave of Mutiliation?” To play? As, uh, the whole world
collapses?

00:35:42 Elliott Host Oh, I thought you were gonna say “Rock & Roll #2.”

00:35:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** When he’s dancing and— *[Laughs.]*

00:35:46 Dan Host **Dan:** I mean, if you’re making a *Fight Club* reference—
—it’s “Where’s My Mind.”

00:35:48 Stuart Host Uh-huh. Oh! “Where’s My Mind.” Thank you, yeah. Yeah, whatever.

00:35:50 Elliott Host Oh, yeah, that reminds me—dude, where’s my car?

[All laugh.]

[Dan sighs.]

00:35:56 Elliott Host *[Singing]* I love movies whose titles are question marks!

[Dan and Elliott laugh.]

[Regular voice] Because it’s like—the moviemaker is saying—I can
only promise you that the movie will answer—

[Dan laughs.]

—this one question. If you were wondering—if you’re so dumb that
when you watch a movie you’re having trouble figuring out what the

characters wanna find out, let me just put it in the title. So that you know for sure.

00:36:14 Stuart Host Yeah! It's like, uh, it's like how my friend Alejandra was saying that the cover of every book should ask a question that only the interior can answer. And that's kinda what the question as a movie title does! Like, who is Harry Crumb? I don't fucking know! He's stuck to a window!

[Dan laughs.]

That's about it!

[Elliott laughs.]

00:36:31 Dan Host That's all anyone ever knows about him!

00:36:34 Elliott Host Yeah. Or like the title of—

00:36:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** *Hot Dog: The Movie*. It's like—

Stuart: Is it—is it—is it this guy? Is it—

[Dan laughs.]

00:36:38 Stuart Host Is it John Candy? I don't know!

[All laugh.]

Doesn't say so on the cover!

00:36:43 Elliott Host Do you think there's some guy who—when *Who's Harry Crumb?* Walked out, passed by the poster and was like—I don't fucking know! Don't ask me, dude!

[Dan laughs.]

00:36:49 Dan Host Yeah.

00:36:49 Elliott Host Just like—'cause at the time, also, everyone was talking about it. *Who's Harry Crumb? Who's Harry Crumb* was on everybody's lips. So you think he was constantly being like—why is everyone trying to ask me who Harry Crumb is? I don't know! And eventually it drove him insane.

00:37:00 Dan Host I mean, that was—

00:37:00 Stuart Host Oh, wow.

00:37:02 Dan Host —my reaction to *Meet Joe Black*. I'm like, what if I don't wanna? Don't tell me what to do! You're not my dad, movie!

00:37:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart and Elliott:** Yeah.

Stuart: I feel like—

Elliott: Yeah. Good point.

00:37:09 Stuart Host I feel like every movie that is just the—the... the name of the main character, it should have "meet."

[Dan laughs. Elliott joins in.]

00:37:16 Dan Host *Meet Citizen Kane*.

[All laugh.]

00:37:20 Stuart Host *Meet Nell*.

[All laugh.]

00:37:24 Elliott Host *Meet Hoffa*. Yeah. So this—

00:37:28 Stuart Host *[All laugh.]*
 00:37:31 Elliott Host Yamma Meet Hoffa. *[Laughs.]*
 So—but then the movie *Dave* would be called *Meet Dave*, which is already a movie. Stuart? We've got a problem.

00:37:35 Stuart Host *[Dan laughs.]*
 Oh, no, no! Ahhh! How do I untangle this?

[All laugh.]
 Okay, we gotta work our way backwards.

00:37:42 Dan Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
 Yeah. If you call it *Meet Meet Dave*, you're just saying, like, you gotta meet the movie. Like you're holding up a DVD and like—meet *Meet Dave*.

00:37:48 Stuart Host But uh—but uh—wait. A movie's not a person, right?

[Dave and Elliott laugh.]
 So we can't do that. But there are some movies that have the name of a person. Oh, I'm so confused!

00:37:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Hmm.

00:37:58 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Oh, man.
 What—and so you could have a movie called *Meet Erin Brockovich*, which makes sense. But then what about a movie called, like... uh, what if it was like—*Meet Zorro*, and you'd be like—wait. But Zorro—he's a guy but he's not a real—he's a fictional character! What if it was a movie that was called *Meet*, uh... *Meat*. And the movie's about meat?

00:38:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Uh-huh. Or—

00:38:15 Stuart Host **Elliott:** I don't understand!
Meet Midnight Meat Train?

[Dan laughs.]
 And you're like, oh my god. I don't know—

00:38:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Wait, I gotta get a—I gotta leave the house? So—okay.

Dan: They were running into that homonym problem I was talking about before!

00:38:23 Stuart Host Yeah.
 00:38:23 Elliott Host I gotta go meet this train at midnight? Like, I'm gonna be sleeping!
 00:38:27 Stuart Host Yeah. I'm busy feeling Minnesota right now! I can't do that!

[All laugh.]
 What a dumb name. *[Laughs.]*

[Elliott laughs.]
 00:38:37 Elliott Host Um—okay, guys. Long story short—actually, very short story—

[Dan laughs.]

—a little bit shorter. ‘Cause the movie is not very long. Tommy just drives through this roadblock after his friends get out of the car. He runs into town. Uh, and the monster shoots his labor—lasers at him. He holds up the saucer like Jason with his shield. Uh—no, no, not Jason. I’m sorry. Like—

00:38:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Perseus with his shield.

00:38:58 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Perseus. Yeah.
But like—Perseus reflecting the eyebeams of Medusa, he reflects Zarkorr’s eye lasers back on him. Zarkorr is destroyed. And—

[Dan plays clip of people cheering.]

Tommy wakes up in a hos—

[Dan giggles.]

00:39:08 Dan Host Wait, what was that?
00:39:14 Elliott Host Sorry, hold on. *[Plays clip again.]* That says “goal.”
Oh. *[Laughs.]*

00:39:15 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*
Just ‘cause, y’know, his—his aim was so good—I’m thinking—y’know, this is—this—alright. Hold on. This bit is over except for—I do have to—before I retire it—uh—there’s a sound effect that’s, uh, listed as “twaddle”?

00:39:27 Stuart Host Uhhhhh...
00:39:27 Dan Host And I just gotta see—

[Elliott laughs.]

—what that is. So hold on.

[Plays clip: Someone babbles “Tok tong! Tiddley too!”]

00:39:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk Oh, that’s good!
Stuart: Oh, that’s pretty great. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Dan: I kinda like that one! Alright. So that’s—that’s that.

00:39:36 Stuart Host **Elliott:** Yeah, sure. Now—
Dan’s—Dan’s making a note on the device. He’s writing—“Use only for love play”—okay!

00:39:43 Dan Host *[All laugh.]*
[Through laughter] Yeah, I was—I have a—I have a—I have a card here where I’ve been ranking the sounds.

[Elliott laughs.]

00:39:48 Stuart Host I think “twaddle” is at the top.
00:39:51 Dan Host Oh, wow. Yeah. It’s—it’s just—yeah. Just upset the whole rankings.
Mm-hm.

00:39:52 Elliott Host Now, I—the thing is, uh, you guys may not know this. I don't need a portable soundboard because I have one. It's called "Sammy Kalan, six-year-old"—

[Dan and Stuart chuckle.]

And he'll just walk around going, "Boom boom boom-boom! Waaaaaow!"

[Dan laughs.]

00:40:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Huh, that's great.

Stuart: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:40:04 Stuart Host You uh—you're pushing for him to be one of the cast in, uh, *Police Academy Kids*, right? *[Laughs.]*

00:40:09 Elliott Host Yeah, yeah, yeah! It's called— *[Laughs.]*

00:40:12 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** *[Through laughter]* It's called—it's called *Police*—

Stuart: Taking over the Michael Winslow role. It's called *Police Academy Junior*. And, uh—it's—they're all the kids of the characters in the previous *Police Academy*. And there's no reason Sammy can't be Michael Winslow's son! Come on! And so, uh, I think there's like a little Hightower who's really short? Which is—that's the joke? Is that—

00:40:28 Stuart Host Oh, that's hilarious.

00:40:29 Elliott Host She's really short but her name is Hightower. And then there's, uh—uh—Bobcat Goldthwaite's character's—

00:40:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Who's named Bobkitten. Yeah.

Stuart: Zed, yeah.

00:40:38 Elliott Host But, uh—and—there's—I don't remember the names of the other characters. There's that lady who's real tough? There's Steve Gutenberg. Uh... there's—

00:40:43 Stuart Host Mahoney.

00:40:44 Elliott Host Yeah. Mahoney. And uh—

00:40:45 Stuart Host Tackleberry.

00:40:47 Elliott Host So—so Tackleberry—uh, their kid is like um...

00:40:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** A pacifist. Yeah.

Stuart: He doesn't like, guns. Yeah. He's a pacifist, yeah.

00:40:53 Elliott Host No, no. Hates guns and is really into collectible card games? And—and is always like—and also, apps with in-app purchases? So Tackleberry's like, I can't afford this on a policeman's salary! You're buying all this Minecraft stuff in the app! And he's like—eh, whatever! It's not real money! And he's like, yes, it is real money. This is terrifying. Uh—

00:41:11 Dan Host Yeah. Now, Elliott—I wanna just rewind a moment, though. Now, this Hightower child—

[Stuart laughs.]

—you said the thing is that she's really short. Now, is it particularly funny that a child is—is small? Because it is my experience that most children are actually short.

00:41:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Naturally.

00:41:28 Elliott Host **Elliott:** That's a good point.
Well, there is—that is fair that children are naturally shorter than adults. But there's also, uh, height as you—I mean, height's not binary? Height is a—is a very fluid, uh—uh—

00:41:38 Dan Host So you're saying that the—this—this child can be as small as, like, the character in this movie, uh—the—the alien, uh, intelligence, maybe.

00:41:46 Elliott Host I mean, children can be as small as a single cell!
00:41:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Really early on. When they're just starting. Yeah. And then—

Dan: Yeah.

00:41:52 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Yeah. Apparently—
According to some online, uh, resource, my friend's child, uh, is about the size of a chinchilla growing inside of her stomach!

[Elliott laughs.]

00:41:59 Dan Host Oh, interesting.
00:41:59 Elliott Host Not as soft, though! If you—not as soft. If you touch that growing baby it would be real icky sticky and not—

00:42:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —at all soft like a chinchilla.

00:42:07 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Oh, cool. Thank you for warning me.
I was about to—

[Elliott laughs.]

00:42:08 Dan Host Yeah. I don't know much a—I don't know much about children. I just know—as Stuart said earlier—they shouldn't play with dead things.

00:42:13 Stuart Host *[Laughs.]* Yup.
00:42:13 Elliott Host I mean, that kinda goes for everybody, right? Like...
00:42:16 Dan Host Well, morticians?
00:42:18 Stuart Host Uh-huh! Yeah!
00:42:18 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** If people weren't playing with dead things—

Elliott: I don't know if I—

[Dan laughs.]

00:42:20 Stuart Host We would have, like, all of our medical advancements in human history.
00:42:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Think about that, Elliott!

Dan: Depends on what “play” is defined as, I guess.

00:42:27 Elliott Host **Elliott:** *[Laughs.]* Yeah. See, I would—I would call that work.

[Dan laughs.]

But, y'know. I guess if you love your job, you never work a day in your life, so.

[All laugh.]

00:42:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk So that's—
Elliott: There's some mortician who's like—

00:42:36 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Yeah, yeah, yeah! The Victor Frankenstein, Stuart. There—there's some mortician who has an assistant and the new body comes in and he goes—it's playtime! And the assistant is like, uh, I wanna work somewhere else. *[Laughs.]*

00:42:44 Dan Host Yeah.

00:42:46 Elliott Host So, guys—

00:42:46 Stuart Host He's like, I thought this was just a job where I got to eat sandwiches! *[Laughs.]*

00:42:51 Elliott Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
The guy's—okay. Let's just throw out that myth right now. In every movie, the guy doing the autopsy's always eating a sandwich. And I'm offended by that. I have a full three-course Italian meal. That's right: there's a pasta course; there's a meat course; and then a cheese course. Every time I'm autopsying a body.

00:43:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk I won't settle for a regular sandwich. So—would you like more riga— *[Laughs.]* Would you like more lasagna Bolognese while you're cutting open that corpse? And he's gonna be like—uhh—I don't know if I want any. No, no, no—you should have some. It's—it's delicious. And then, uh, maybe like—
Elliott: Uh, what would you like—

00:43:26 Dan Host **Dan:** How about these seven fishes? Would you like some of those?

00:43:29 Elliott Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
Oh, so it's a whole feast of the seven fishes every time that they've got work to do, huh?

00:43:32 Dan Host Yeah.

00:43:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** So anyway, there's—there's—

00:43:36 Elliott Host **Dan:** Uh—so you—wait. The ending of this movie. *[Laughs.]*
There's two minutes that are still left. Tommy wakes up in a hospital. He's now famous. Everybody loves him. And the reporter from earlier is like, there are even some people who want you to run for president! And he goes, okay! And that's how the *[though laughter]* the movie ends!

[Dan laughs.]

00:44:12 Stuart Host With the—with the promise of a Tommy third-party campaign for president on the Zarkorr-killing platform. And then, uh, there's a really rocking song over the credits about Zarkorr! Like, I love any movie that has a song about the main character or the monster? And this one takes itself—this one's having fun but it takes itself seriously. It is not telling jokes about Zarkorr. It is warning you through the medium of rock'n'roll about Zarkorr.

Stuart: Yeah. Dan was singing his favorite theme song that mentions the main character, uh, that played over the credits of *Meet Joe Black*?

[All laugh.]

Do you wanna sing a couple bars of that, Dan?

00:44:20 Dan Host Yeah. Uh—it's like—it goes, uh—*[singing]* He's really Death! Death in human form! Meet Joe Black! Meet Joe Black!

[Elliott laughs.]

00:44:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Regular voice]* It's pretty good.
Stuart: That's what was going on!

00:44:33 Dan Host **Elliott:** And they had the—
Yeah.

00:44:34 Elliott Host Yeah. Yeah, Stuart, I know you missed the first ten and last ten minutes of the movie. So you were like—why is everyone being so awkward around this Joe Black guy?

00:44:40 Stuart Host Yeah.

00:44:41 Elliott Host Did you—did you ever see—there's this scene in the movie where, uh, Anthony Hopkins is, uh, trying to come up with a fake name to describe Death to his kids? And they're like—what's his name? Uh... he has a name, right? Um, yeah. It's—and I—I remember Conan O'Brien did a bit where—when the movie came out where they just were looping that moment—

[Dan laughs.]

—over and over again pretty much? Or re-editing it so it stretched on for like a minute?

[All laugh.]

Of him not being able to come up with a name?

[All laugh.]

00:45:08 Dan Host It was really funny.
Funny stuff.

00:45:08 Elliott Host It was, uh... yeah.

00:45:11 Dan Host Okay.

00:45:11 Elliott Host It was a funny thing. Funny bit. So—Zarkorr, guys. Uhhhhh...

00:45:14 Dan Host Final judgments! Is this a good-bad movie, a bad-bad movie, a movie you kinda like? Elliott, what were you gonna say?

00:45:20 Elliott Host Guys, I'm gonna—I'm going to admit it. This is a movie I kinda liked. For three main reasons: one, I love giant monster movies and I love giant monster movies where the special effects are not amazing. Like, to be honest? I would rather watch *Zarkorr: The Invader* than *Godzilla*, uh, the most recent one? What was it called? Was it called *Godzilla*—

00:45:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **All three:** *King of the Monsters?*

00:45:40 Stuart Host *King of the Monsters?*

00:45:41 Elliott Host Yeah. I would rather watch this than that. But also—it was kind of like a... goofy movie that, like, had a few funny—like, genuinely funny ideas and moved along fast. And guys—it's so short! There's—there's something—

00:45:54 Dan Host Yeah. It's an hour twenty.

00:45:55 Elliott Host Real—there's really something joyous about starting a movie and being, like, oh! I'm gonna finish this kind of before I realize I'm watching it!

[Dan laughs.]

00:46:03 Stuart Host Uh—
00:46:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk Yeah.
Elliott: But I feel like it—

00:46:04 Stuart Host **Stuart:** That's—that's why—
I was so excited when I'm like, we're half an hour into this, uh, 75-minute movie. And they're still in a hostage situation in a—

[Dan and Elliott laugh.]

00:46:15 Dan Host —TV station.
00:46:17 Elliott Host Yeah. So—
I feel like this—they kinda—they knew exactly what kind of movie they were making and they made it and... I enjoyed it. But what did you guys think?
00:46:23 Dan Host Yeah, what did you think, Stuart?
00:46:24 Stuart Host Yeah. I'm kinda in the same boat. It—I might lean more toward, uh... like, a good-bad movie. I think it's fun to watch with people. I mean, I had fun watching it by myself, but... uh, you know! If, uh... you know, if you're comfortable with yourself, like—

[Elliott laughs.]

00:46:42 Dan Host —you can—you can have a good time just by yourself, you know what I mean, Dan?
00:46:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk I have a good time by myself all the time!
Stuart: Oh, awesome! Wait a minute...

Elliott: Ew. Gross. Dan. Oh, Dan. Ew.

00:46:48 Dan Host **Dan:** Ahhhhh...
So—no, no, I'm—I'm with Stuart in that I think it's kind of between a movie you kind of like, kind of... good-bad. However... I— [sighs.] I don't know. I—I really wished I had been watching it with other people. As it was, at an hour twenty, I was kinda like—okay. This could be half as long. 'Cause the middle—

[Elliott laughs.]

00:47:17 Elliott Host —sags a lot. Uh—I—I—I would say, y'know, like—it's not streaming for free anywhere? You—like, I had to pay to rent it? And I wouldn't [though laughter] necessarily recommend anyone do that. But.
00:47:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk No, I agree. I agree.
Elliott: I don't think it is worth, uh—I don't—I don't [inaudible].

Dan: But if you get the—if you get a bunch of pals—

00:47:22 Dan Host **Stuart:** Uh, it might be—it's—
—to kick in, uh, five cents so each—
00:47:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** —each watch—

00:47:25 Stuart Host **Stuart:** I mean, it's—I think it's—
—streaming for free on the Full Moon Video App.

00:47:28	Dan	Host	Oh, okay. So if you already subscribe to the Full Moon, uh, Video then—
00:47:32	Stuart	Host	Yup.
00:47:33	Dan	Host	There ya go.
			<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>
00:47:35	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: Then—then Stuart wants to be your friend.
			Elliott: I mean, you're describing Stuart.
			Stuart: Go on.
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
00:47:38	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: Uh—
			Elliott: But—
			Stuart: Cool.
			Dan: Guys.
			Stuart: So. That was final judgments.
			Elliott: I think there are worse—
00:47:42	Elliott	Host	—there are worse things you could put in your eyeballs and your earholes than this movie.
00:47:47	Dan	Host	Like—like needles!
00:47:49	Stuart	Host	Uh, yeah!
00:47:50	Elliott	Host	That goes without saying, Dan!
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
			Why would you even suggest that?
00:47:52	Dan	Host	I didn't suggest it! You suggested it!
00:47:55	Elliott	Host	Uh—
			<i>[Stuart laughs.]</i>
			I was talking about, like, I dunno, other movies?
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
00:47:59	Stuart	Host	What about those weird little, like, candles that you burn to burn off all your earwax?
00:48:03	Dan	Host	Yeah. Ear candles? What about those?
00:48:05	Elliott	Host	I mean—I mean, don't put 'em in your eyes!
			<i>[Stuart laughs.]</i>
			You don't have eye wax! That's crazy!
00:48:09	Dan	Host	Don't talk to me about what I have.
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:48:11	Elliott	Host	It's—okay. Fair point. Sorry, Dan. I didn't mean to judge. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			Maybe your eyes are full of wax!
00:48:15	Music	Music	Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.
00:48:20	Promo	Clip	Music: Gentle, upbeat piano music.

Helen Hong: Hey, J. Keith.

J. Keith van Straaten: Hey, Helen! I hear you have a true/false quiz you want me to finish!

Helen: I do! Here we begin: We host a trivia gameshow podcast on the MaxFun network called... *Go Fact Yourself!*

J. Keith: True!

Helen: Correct! The show is all about celebrity guests answering trivia questions about things J. Keith enjoys.

J. Keith: False. We sometimes don't talk about baseball or cats.

Helen: Thank god. It's questions about things they enjoy! Next, we bring on surprise experts every episode.

J. Keith: True!

Helen: Correct! Final question: It's just the two of us sitting alone with these guests.

J. Keith: False.

Helen: Correct! We have a live audience at the Angel City Brewery!

[Audience cheers and claps.]

Helen: See?

[A bell dings.]

Helen: You can hear *Go Fact Yourself* every first and third Friday of the month, and if you don't listen, you can go fact yourself!

J. Keith: True!

[Music finishes.]

[Sound of a gavel banging three times.]

00:49:07 Promo Clip

Music: Upbeat music plays under dialogue.

Speaker 1: Judge John Hodgman ruled in my favor.

Speaker 2: Judge John Hodgman ruled in my friend's favor.

Speaker 3: Judge John Hodgman ruled in my favor.

Judge John Hodgman: I'm Judge John Hodgman. You're hearing the voices of real litigants. Real people, who have submitted disputes to my internet court, at the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast. I hear their cases. I ask them questions—they're good ones—and then I tell them who's right and who's wrong.

Speaker 1: Thanks to Judge John Hodgman's ruling, my dad has been forced to retire one of the worst Dad Jokes of all time.

Speaker 3: Instead of cutting his own hair with a Flowbee, my husband has his hair cut professionally.

Speaker 4: I have to join a community theatre group.

Speaker 5: And my wife has stopped bringing home wild animals.

Judge John Hodgman: It's the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast. Find it every Wednesday at MaximumFun.org, or wherever you download podcasts.

[Sound of a gavel banging three times.]

Speaker 1: Thanks, Judge John Hodgman!

[Music ends.]

00:50:05	Dan	Host	Let's move on to... uh... our sponsor this week? Uh, now, of course... <i>The Flop House</i> is largely sponsored in part by listeners like you, and in March the, uh, Max Fun drive will be coming up but we don't need to talk about that <u>just</u> yet. It is also sponsored in part by... Squarespace! <i>[Deep voice.]</i> Squarespace! <i>[Regular voice]</i> Which is a company that allows you to make websites. Well, it doesn't <u>allow</u> you to make website. Like—y'know—like, you can make a website—
00:50:34	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i> Dan: —no matter what.
00:50:34	Elliott	Host	Elliott: It's—you have— You don't need Squarespace's permission, man, Get off my back, Squarespace!
00:50:38	Dan	Host	Yeah. It—it will <u>help</u> you. It will assist you in the making of a website. If you are... not a programmer? If you do not know html? This is a very convenient way of doing it. It'll allow you to blog or publish content; sell products and services of <u>all</u> kinds; and much, much more! By giving you beautiful customizable templates created by world-class designers, everything optimized for mobile right out of the box—a lot of people are going to be looking at your website on an iPhone or other smartphone! I wouldn't—I—sorry for shilling for Apple. Any—any phone.
00:51:08	Stuart	Host	Yeah.
00:51:08	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: You know, you want your website to look good.
00:51:10	Stuart	Host	Stuart: Any kind of phone. Not a— Not a burn—burner phone, though. Right?
00:51:12	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: No.
			Elliott: No, no. Or a rotary phone.
			Stuart: Not a flip phone.
			Dan: Or hopefully—

00:51:14 Dan Host **Elliott:** But you said smartphone. Yeah.
00:51:17 Stuart Host Hopefully not one of those exploding Samsungs, either.
00:51:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** But it's a new way—

00:51:21 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Dan! Dan!
It sounds like you're still talking down Apple's, uh... rivals!

[Dan laughs.]

00:51:30 Dan Host When you're talking about one of those 'sploding Samsungs. So maybe, like, don't mention brands of phones.
Yeah. Well, anyway, it's a new way to buy domains. Choose from over 200 extensions. Free and secure hosting. Go to [Squarespace.com/flop](https://www.squarespace.com/flop) for a free trial and when you're ready to launch, use the offer code FLOP to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain.

00:51:49 Elliott Host Now, Dan, I had an idea for a website and I was wondering if Squarespace could help me.

00:51:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Probably, but I'm not gonna listen—

Elliott: Uh—

00:51:54 Dan Host **Stuart:** Uh-huh.
—'cause I gotta go pee. You talk about it.
00:51:56 Stuart Host I mean, you can tell me. Or we can just pause the recording.
00:51:59 Dan Host *[From a distance and slightly echo-y]* Nope!
00:51:59 Elliott Host I mean, I could—nope! Okay. I'll tell Stuart 'cause Dan had to announce his peeing. So—anyway. I mean, now I want listeners to go back and listen to the last ten, fifteen minutes of the show. Knowing that Dan had to pee probably that whole time. And see, like, what does it—what does it make you think about the way he's saying?

Does it add a little bit of extra, like, meaning? A frisson to it? Is it like, now it's like a Harold Pinter thing! It's about what he's not saying! And what he's not saying is he has to urinate. His bladder's filling with liquid to the point where—he need—his body needs to release it and he's not gonna do that just sitting next to Stuart in his living room! Or is he?

00:52:32 Stuart Host No. I mean, maybe! You know? What was that website idea you had? *[Laughs.]*

00:52:38 Elliott Host Uh, I kinda want to save it 'til Dan comes back. But I guess I'll talk about it now. So—my idea was—we all love parkour, right?

00:52:44 Stuart Host I do! Certainly!
00:52:46 Elliott Host It's a way to get through urban environments in—without just walking around. But it's been so long that we've had parkour, and it's time for a new development. What about a new way to get around or through the bodies of monsters? I call it: Zarkour. And it's a way to, like... travel up and down a monster in just imaginative ways using, like, natural handholds and not just walking around. So anyway—

00:53:07 Stuart Host It's kinda like *Shadow of the Colossus*, basically.
00:53:09 Elliott Host Uh—yeah! I guess that's a way to put it. So I wanted to do a website called Zarkour.org—this is a nonprofit—that shows people and helps connect people who have an intere—shows people how

to climb around monsters and connects people who have a shared interest in climbing around monsters!

And there's a dating aspect of it, too. Because it's hard to find someone who's also interested in climbing around monsters to share a—a life with? Or even just to have some fun with. So anyway, that's Zarkour.org, a nonprofit, uh, about monster-based parkour. And perhaps romantic opportunities—

00:53:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: —that arise from it!

00:53:42 Stuart Host

Stuart: How are you gonna—

How are you gonna monetize this, Elliott? Is it gonna be, like, a subscription-based service or is it mainly going to—is there gonna be, like, a—like a shop element where you sell, like, branded merchandise?

00:53:50 Elliott Host

Now again, it is a nonprofit. So everything we make gets poured right back into mapping monsters and coming up with new ways to get around them and climb up or through them or—over them. But we would make money. We would sell branded merchandise and we'd also have, like, a donor page.

We'll of course be reaching out to corporate sponsors and grants from, uh, places like, uh, the Ford Foundation. To make sure that we can get that money together. Because there's a whole world of monsters that need climbing on out there. And there's a whole world of lonely people who like climbing on monsters who need to be connected.

00:54:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Stuart: Yeah. Connected, yeah.

00:54:23 Elliott Host

Elliott: Whether that's for—

—a casual encounter? Or something a little more formal! There's no strings attached when you're climbing a monster!

00:54:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: And there doesn't need to be—

00:54:30 Stuart Host

Stuart: Unless you have a string attached to the monster—

—while you're climbing.

00:54:31 Elliott Host

I mean, I wouldn't call that Zarkour, though. That's more kind of old-fashioned monster climbing.

00:54:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Stuart: Oh, okay.

00:54:36 Elliott Host

Elliott: Zarkour is—

It's all handholds or footholds. You're not attached to anything. And you're looking for: what is the most interesting route around or through this monster?

00:54:43 Stuart Host

Yep. And—and your friends can stand and TikTok you while you're doing it.

00:54:48 Elliott Host

Oh, for sure. We actually—we have another app that you shoot videos with called ZikZok. And uh—

00:54:52 Stuart Host

[Through laughter] Yup!

00:54:53 Elliott Host

It's like—it's for monster climbing but it's these little videos that you make. Sure.

00:54:56 Stuart Host

Uh-huh. Yeah.

00:54:57 Dan Host

Okay! Well, I'm back, so let's move on. Hey! Hey, uh, we're doing a live show in Toronto on April 18th.

00:55:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: Mm-hm!

00:55:06 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Wowwww.
00:55:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk It's part of the What The Film Festival.
Stuart: Uh-huh!

Dan: Um—

Elliott: And—

00:55:10 Elliott Host We're gonna be putting up a ticket link on our website,
FlopHousePodcast.com/events! Right, Dan?

00:55:15 Dan Host We will! Yes. I will get on that the moment I remember to do so.
00:55:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Which will be—

Stuart: And a little closer to the, uh—

[Elliott laughs.]

00:55:22 Dan Host Hopefully very soon. *[Laughs.]*
00:55:22 Stuart Host And a little closer to the, uh, the actual event we will announce the
movie that we are going to be reviewing for that show. Either...
either on Twitter—well, probably on Twitter and on Facebook. Uh,
y'know. Something like that.

00:55:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Yeah. And we—

Elliott: And on this—

00:55:38 Elliott Host And on this very show, likely!
00:55:38 Stuart Host Oh, most likely. Uh—I'd also like to, uh, take a moment and plug a
friend's business? Uh... this Toronto show, uh, was helped in part
by my friend's travel agency. It's a small travel agency called
Huckleberry Travel. Uh, they've been friends of the show for a while
and they've certainly helped with, uh, my and Dan's travel. Um—

00:56:00 Dan Host Yeah. We went to an—we went on an Alaska cruise together!
Stuart and I and some others.

00:56:04 Stuart Host And—and they did such a, uh, hands-on, uh... travel agent job.
They actually came along on the cruise with us.

00:56:11 Dan Host Now, they won't do that, I think for you, the, uh, listener.
00:56:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Maybe! Maybe.

Stuart: I dunno! Maybe if your trip's super badass!
00:56:17 Stuart Host Uh—so yeah. Check out HuckleberryTravel.com. Please.
00:56:21 Elliott Host Once a—a friend—a friend of mine and I went on a trip on a log raft
down the Mississippi River, and they really helped us with it.
Huckleberry Travel.

00:56:29 Stuart Host Uh-huh.
00:56:28 Dan Host Uh... and of course we're gonna try and do—we hope to do a ton
more, uh, live shows this coming year. We're—

00:56:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** We're in talks—

Stuart: I mean, not a ton.
00:56:38 Dan Host Well, no. Not a ton. But we're—
00:56:38 Elliott Host No; 2,000 lbs worth of live shows. *[Laughs.]*

[Dan laughs.]

00:56:42 Dan Host We're working, uh, with our booking agent to arrange a lot more
shows so we may be coming near you! Who knows.

00:56:49 Elliott Host But I would also—I would also say: if you are—manage or own a
venue, and you'd be interested in us coming by, why—why not
reach out to us?

00:56:58 Dan Host Yeah!

00:56:58 Elliott Host Either through our website or on Twitter, uh, or through our Facebook page! And let us know if you think you would have interest in having *The Flop House* come to your venue! We'd love to get a sense of what's out there! But where we'll be for sure is in Toronto, April 18th, at the What The Film Fest.

00:57:14 Stuart Host Yeah. No—no *Texas Chainsaw Massacres*, please. Don't invite us to do a show and then murder us.

00:57:18 Elliott Host Oh, man. Or invite us to do a show and it turns out it's like a weird gross town that has a roller coaster that strips the flesh off of people's bones?

00:57:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** We do not need that.

00:57:27 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Oh, that actually—
That actually sounds pretty good.

00:57:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Now, Stuart—

00:57:28 Dan Host **Elliott:** Nooo! *[Laughs.]*
Was Leatherface inviting that van of—of kids to do a show? Is that what was happening *[though laughter]* in—

00:57:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** *[Through laughter]* —*Texas Chainsaw Massacre?*

00:57:36 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Yeah, yeah, yeah! That's—
Well, I mean, his—his brother is the one who kind of invites 'em when he gets in the back of the thing and starts acting all, uh, bonkers.

00:57:42 Elliott Host The hitchhiker, eventually named Choptop.

00:57:44 Stuart Host Yeah.

00:57:45 Dan Host Okay.

00:57:45 Elliott Host Now, uh—now—what—uh—actually—uh—uh—I—I'm sure—I guess you guys don't realize that that movie was the first South x Southwest.

00:57:52 Dan Host Okay. Anyway.

00:57:53 Elliott Host That was the first South x Southwest festival was a van full of kids getting killed by Leatherface. *[Laughs.]*

00:57:56 Stuart Host Oh, wow. Well, the—not all the kids got killed!

00:57:58 Elliott Host One got away. That's true. One got away. And she was like—I went to this amazing festival.

00:58:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** And that's just word of mouth! That's how it grew!

Stuart: Uh-huh. YOLO! *[Laughs.]*

[Elliott laughs.]

00:58:05 Dan Host Unless—work—I mean, still better than the Fyre Festival, weirdly.

00:58:09 Stuart Host Yeah! Yeah.

00:58:10 Dan Host Uh—now—unless there are any more objections from the floor, we're gonna move on to letters.

00:58:14 Stuart Host Oh! A letterbag!

00:58:15 Dan Host Letters from listeners. Listeners like you. Uh, this first letter is from Brendan, last name withheld.

00:58:22 Stuart Host Mm-hm.

00:58:22 Dan Host Who says:

00:58:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk "Good afternoon, Flopsters! I recently attended the Judge—"
Dan: "—John Hodgman—"

00:58:28 Elliott Host Elliott: It is—
00:58:30 Stuart Host It is the afternoon! How did he know?
00:58:31 Dan Host Mm-hm.
00:58:31 Elliott Host Who knows?
00:58:31 Elliott Host Who's his source?!

[Dan laughs.]

00:58:33 Dan Host Um—he could be outside the apartment right now!
00:58:36 Stuart Host Yeah. He's standing over Dan's shoulder, threatening to chop off his head if he stops podcasting. The way Robert Howard claimed Conan would do.

00:58:44 Dan Host Okay. Uh—thi— [Laughs.]
00:58:46 Elliott Host Wait. If Robert—so—
00:58:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk Elliott: Conan's a big—

00:58:48 Elliott Host Dan: Oh god.
00:58:50 Stuart Host Was a big podcast fan?
00:58:50 Stuart Host Yeah! Yeah, yeah. 'Cause Robert Howard did a podcast with his buddy H. P. Lovecraft.

[Elliott laughs.]

00:58:56 Dan Host They would Skype. [Laughs.]
00:59:01 Stuart Host Alright. I was taking that moment to put some chapstick on. Okay!
00:59:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk Yeah, yeah, yeah.
00:59:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk Stuart: He's—this is drying him out.

00:59:02 Elliott Host Elliott: Dan, we don't need to know—
00:59:02 Elliott Host —these things! Dan, we don't—we didn't need to know about the peeing. We didn't need to know about the chapstick. Remember the time you opened a package during the episode?

00:59:08 Dan Host That was—
00:59:08 Elliott Host Your life?
00:59:10 Crosstalk Crosstalk Dan: That was content for the episode.

Elliott: You—you— [Laughs.]

00:59:13 Dan Host Stuart: Yes. It's all hot content.
00:59:13 Dan Host People were amused that there was a waterpik inside. I—I firmly believe that.
00:59:16 Elliott Host I'm just saying that you need to have a division between your personal life and your professional life. Or else you're not gonna know who you are! Are you the Dan character, or are you Dan the man? Are you Dan in real life? Or—or do you not have a pillow made out of pancakes?
00:59:28 Dan Host That's somewhat true. That is true. Uh, okay. Well anyway! Brendan writes:

“I recently attended the Judge John Hodgman live show at the Murmrr Theatre in Brooklyn. At the beginning of the show, Jesse was warming up the crowd and—in an apparent attempt to fire up the audience—he mentioned there was a special guest in the crowd—our own Dan McCoy! What followed was complete silence.”

00:59:49 Stuart Host Oh man, yeah. Well, that's better than boos!
00:59:51 Dan Host Now, I gotta—I got—I gotta take issue with this. Uh, there was—I would call it a smattering of applause. [Laughs.]

00:59:57 Stuart Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. It was like, uh, it was like when we—uh... when we went to that, uh... *Stuff You Should Know* at the Bell House? And, uh, I was trying to sneak out of there and then Chuck, uh, Chuck was like—yeah! And if you come by after, Stuart and Dan and *The Flop House* will be around! And I'm like, god dammit. No one clapped.

01:00:17 Dan Host *[Dan and Elliott laugh.]*
Yeah. No, I—there were—there were—there was some, uh... there were a few... uh, people who recognized, uh, *The Flop House* and were cheering. Uh, it was not, like, however, uh, Hodgman's, uh, book reading at Books Are Magic, where he also did *[though laughter]* the same thing. Saying, Dan McCoy of *The Flop House* is in the crowd. And there—I would say—uh, the bet—the response, uh, could be best described as “baffled.” But uh—

01:00:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk
Dan: Moving on.
Elliott: Wow. Well, I mean—

01:00:43 Elliott Host
Stuart: Yeah.
I went to—I went to a, uh, John Hodgman book reading event and he made sure to point out that Cory Doctorow was in the crowd. My name went unmentioned.

01:00:51 Stuart Host *[Dan laughs.]*
Oh, wow. Yeah, I mean—was that the book event that I showed up at and then left before it started? Yeah.
[Elliott laughs.]
I didn't—I didn't like the—I didn't like the energy in the room.

01:01:01 Dan Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
There were—there were a bunch of dogs there and—
01:01:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** —outside—

01:01:05 Dan Host **Stuart:** Wow! Dude!
No, actual literal dogs.
01:01:06 Stuart Host Okay.
01:01:07 Dan Host And, uh, Audrey was— *[though laughter]* was visibly more interested in the dogs than anything else that was going on? And John invited her to go to the back room where the dogs were hanging out.

01:01:16 Stuart Host Wow.
01:01:17 Dan Host Anyway. Uh, so—move—uh, continuing with the letter:

“This was a bizarre experience. I wanted to yell out, but I didn't. I think I was a little afraid of being berated by John Hodgman for yelling during his show.”

It wasn't really during his show.

Uh, but anyway:

“It’s been bothering me all week, so I wanted to write in to tell you I love your show and you deserved a better welcome. Raow raow. My question: Is there anything significant that you remember from one of your own live shows that either didn’t make it into the official recording, or that just doesn’t translate to the podcast medium? Brendan, last name withheld.”

01:01:52 Stuart Host

Um... yeah! I mean, uh... mine was super recent. When, uh, I managed to bring Dan to tears with my PowerPoint presentation. Uh, that was—that was a really special moment. ‘Cause Dan couldn’t really start the podcast.

01:02:05 Dan Host

[Laughs.] No. Stuart did a new presentation in Boston that was... maybe the most I’ve ever laughed? *[Laughs.]*

01:02:12 Elliott Host

[Stuart laughs.]

It was—it was very magical. That was—yeah. I—I kinda wish we had stopped the show right there and just told the audience to leave, ‘cause that would’ve—that was the highlight.

01:02:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Stuart: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

01:02:21 Stuart Host

Dan: Yeah.

I mean, I was running around ripping people’s eyes out of their heads ‘cause I didn’t want them to have to look at anything else afterwards.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:02:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk

But—

Dan: I would not—

01:02:30 Dan Host

Stuart: The cops got mad at me.

There’s nothing that’s coming—I know that there’s good stuff that happens beforehand that, uh, people don’t get to hear. The only thing that’s coming to mind is, like, visual stuff. Like, often when Elliott is singing his songs, that is the cue for Stuart or I or both of us to leave the stage and go get beers.

01:02:46 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: Or—or I’ve seen you lie down on the stage.

Stuart: Check our phones.

[Dan laughs.]

01:02:49 Elliott Host

As if I’ve murdered you with my music.

[Dan laughs.]

01:02:51 Stuart Host

Dan climbed under the, uh, climbed under the table once.

01:02:56 Dan Host

Yeah. A lot of visual humor.

01:02:58 Elliott Host

Yeah. I—so—but it’s not like, uh, it’s not like an Iron Maiden concert where we’re coming out in different costumes or there’s like a big, like, Eddie that comes out and—

01:03:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: —we have to fight him off.

Dan: Why don’t we do that?

01:03:06 Stuart Host

Stuart: Well there was that—

There was that one time where I—uh—I—the stage had a giant Eddie hand and I climbed up and the hand, like, lifted me up into the sky? And people were losing their minds.

01:03:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Yeah. That was the—

01:03:16 Elliott Host **Dan:** I mean... speaking of—
01:03:19 Stuart Host When we—when we were performing in Rio before 200,000 people.
01:03:19 Dan Host Yeah.
Speaking of costumes—I mean, not to suggest that Stuart’s clothes are—are a costume, but people are missing the amazing shirts and cardigans that Stuart often wears.

01:03:28 Stuart Host Yeah. I mean—I—I have to—Dan and Elliott, uh, dress so nice. I have to—I have to bring my own flavor, you know.

01:03:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Mm-hm.

01:03:36 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Mm-hm. Yeah, sure.
Uh, so I guess—I mean, the thing that—mostly—people miss is they don’t get to see our presentations. But uh... y’know. Uh, they should start coming to shows! You know? And—and capture the magic! Should we do more special for the shows? Perhaps even have... an animal on stage with us? Hmmm! Perhaps some kind of... dare I say... house alligator?

01:03:59 Stuart Host Mmmm! A new—a new character! I think we could do it. Uh, we shouldn’t bring a cat due to allergies.

01:04:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan and Elliott:** Yeah.
01:04:06 Stuart Host And the fact that I think a cat would not like it.
01:04:07 Dan Host No.
01:04:09 Stuart Host And there would be pee, probably.
01:04:10 Dan Host Even Archie Preps—the most laid-back cat I’ve ever encountered—would probably panic in an audience full of people.

01:04:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart and Elliott:** Yeah.
01:04:17 Elliott Host Dan, that sounds like a Disney movie from the ‘60s—Archie the Laid-Back Cat?

01:04:20 Stuart Host Uh-huh.
01:04:22 Dan Host I—y’know, I would love it. *[Through laughter]* Let’s—let’s make it! Let’s go back in time and let’s make it.

[Stuart laughs.]

01:04:34 Elliott Host Uh, this next letter is from Rusty, last name withheld. Not—not my best friend from growing up. Um—
01:04:38 Dan Host Rusty Shackelford, uh, the—the pseudonym from *King of the Hill*. Okay. Uh, Rusty writes:

01:04:57 Elliott Host “*Flop House* crew! I recent—I relatively recently found your podcast, back in July, and have been vorasist—voraciously consuming your content. And I just wanted you guys to know, I regard each of you as avatars of my own psyche in a way. Elliott—”
01:04:57 Elliott Host Interesting.
“Elliott is the superego, with his hypercerebral and historical film appreciation. Stuart is the id! As he shares my low of brine, yesna, and other goopy, gory, and insane horror cinema. And Dan? The superego. Who acts as a middle ground. Being both a huge pervet—pervert—and an intellectual in his own right. Who maintains order in *The Flop House*.”

01:05:21 Stuart Host I don’t mean to split too many hairs, but that’s two *[though laughter]* superegos.
01:05:24 Elliott Host Yeah. I was just thinking about that. One of us has to be the ego, and the other one the superego. Uh, you know what? Dan—I’ll take

ego. That's fine. I'll be a living planet with a beard made out of moss.

01:05:34 Stuart Host Oh, man.

01:05:35 Dan Host Okay. Uh—yeah. I don't know which one—I'm—uh, I'm reading it here. I don't know which one he meant for which person. Um...

01:05:43 Stuart Host What—maybe one of 'em, he meant, is like a really good ego.

01:05:46 Dan Host Yeah.

[Elliott laughs.]

“Uh, now the sweet, sweet question: What Dungeons and Dragons class and alignment do you feel best represent you? I would postulate Dan is the pensive half-elf ranger who wears the scars of his past proudly and has a badass cat companion.”

01:06:04 Stuart Host Mm-hm. Yup.

01:06:05 Dan Host “Stuart is the hale and hearty dwarven cleric, worshipping some kind of dwarven party god.”

01:06:10 Stuart Host Sure, yeah.

01:06:11 Dan Host “I know there's one—it's in the 3.5 edition book, *Races of Stone*. But I got rid of that book because I thought it was mostly useless to me.” This aside—

01:06:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Side piece of info.

01:06:20 Stuart Host **Stuart:** I mean, I feel like most books—

01:06:23 Dan Host —are basically useless.

What?! *[Laughs.]*

[Stuart laughs.]

“Elliott, of course—”

01:06:26 Stuart Host Now that there's movies and books on tape.

01:06:27 Dan Host Okay. “Elliott, of course, is a—

[Elliott laughs.]

—half—is a halfling bard, because he is small, cunning, and I picture halflings as eating tons of chicken.”

01:06:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** I'm a bit—I'm a bit—

01:06:37 Elliott Host **Elliott:** You gotta believe it. I—

I think—I think you can base that on the scene in *Masters of the Universe: The Movie*, where there's that, like... he has that, like, dwarf companion? He-Man does? And that guy loves the chicken that they find.

01:06:48 Dan Host Yeah. I'm a bit fuzzy on alignments or I'm too lazy to superimpose my ideas. Pick one. I don't care. Keep on shining, you crazy diamonds. Rusty, last name withheld.

01:07:01 Stuart Host Oh yeah. Obviously, I'm... I'm lawful good. You know. I love playing by the rules—

[Elliott laughs.]

01:07:06 Dan Host Uh...

01:07:07 Stuart Host Just, like, being cool and nice. But within the rules.

01:07:13 Dan Host Uhhhhh...

01:07:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** No, Stuart.

01:07:17 Dan Host **Stuart:** Dan's neutral evil.
[Laughs.] Okay.
[Elliott laughs.]

01:07:18 Elliott Host Sure.
01:07:21 Stuart Host Yup! And I'm probably a neutral milk hotel?
01:07:21 Elliott Host Oh, wow!
'Cause like—
[Dan laughs.]

01:07:31 Stuart Host —I don't—I'm not necessarily good or evil; I'm just a normal person.
But also—I've got a lot of calcium and protein and also, uh, y'know, I let people stay at my house sometimes.
01:07:34 Elliott Host Yeah! And you—you have the prestige class "King of Carrot
01:07:36 Dan Host Flowers."
[Through laughter] Yeah. Exactly.
It's weird that the neutral milk hotels get all the attention? Like, what about the good milk hotels out there?
01:07:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Like, if you're looking on Yelp—

01:07:44 Dan Host **Elliott:** It's funny because—
01:07:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk —you want a good milk hotel.
Stuart: Just like Tommy in the movie *Zarkorr*. You know.

01:07:47 Dan Host **Elliott:** Yeah, yeah. The best—
01:07:47 Elliott Host Yeah.
The best milk hotel doesn't get a lot of press, but the best exotic marigold hotel—apparently—gets the most press of all the exotic marigold hotels! Yeah.
01:07:56 Dan Host *[Sighs.]* Well, that's letters, guys. *[Laughs.]*
01:07:58 Stuart Host That's the letters.
[Elliott laughs.]

01:08:00 Dan Host I suddenly got really worn out. But we got one more... segment.
01:08:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Op! Wait! Hold on!
Dan: And that—

01:08:06 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Woop! But!
Do you hear that? *[Singing, and continues singing until indicated otherwise]* Why—it—it sounds like Dan's got a problem with energy! Time for a song! A surprise song to get him all lifted up! Let's lift Dan's spirits with a surprise song 'cause nothing makes energy like the magic of music!
Hey everybody! All across the world! Let's dance in our seats and dance on our feet! 'Cause we gotta show Dan there's a reason to live! Daannn! Put down all those things! That make you sad. 'Cause it's time to be happy with music! Dan's favorite music is Talking Heads, which sounds just like this. This is what an average Talking Heads sounds—

01:08:43 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Okay. Come on.
Elliott: —sounds like.

01:08:45 Stuart Host Mm-hm!

01:08:45 Elliott Host Hey. It's me—David Burn. And I'm talking to Dan through the power of music! Dan! Dan! Daaannnn! Are you feeling the power? Feeling the magic? Feeling the notes and feeling the lyrics? Do you have the energy of the old spirits? In your body right now? That's me—David Burn! Saying, well Dan, do ya? Do ya? Do ya? Yes? Or? No? Can you sleep on it?

[Dan laughs.]

Baby, baby, can you sleep on it? That's right, it's me, Meatloaf! Another guy who is singing to Dan. I'm also a popular foodstuff! But don't eat me! Because that would be the end of my time as a music superstar. Hey, David Burn, does it ever feel good to not be named after a food? No, Meatloaf—

01:09:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** *[Sighs.]* Oh, god *[inaudible]*

01:09:35 Elliott Host **Elliott:** This is me, David Burn now—
—saying I've always envied that you are also a food! So Dan—I think it's clear. That it's time for us to continue—

[Dan laughs.]

—newly revitalized! Newly reenergized! Newly reaching up to the skies!

01:09:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Alright.

01:09:52 Elliott Host **Elliott:** For the last segment—
—of *The Flop House*—

01:09:53 Dan Host Thank you.

01:09:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** With Dan. And Stuart. And Elliott.

Dan: Oh—okay.

01:09:55 Dan Host **Stuart:** Yep.
Alright.

01:09:57 Stuart Host David Burn may not be a foodstuff, but he is something that can happen to foodstuffs!

01:10:02 Dan Host Yeah. That's true.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:10:04 Stuart Host That's very true.
Get it?

01:10:05 Dan Host Yeah, I do. Um—so.

01:10:07 Elliott Host Stuart? This is David Burn—

01:10:08 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* Goddammit!

01:10:08 Elliott Host —again—and you've given me a new lease on life! I finally know what it's like to be happy! Dan? Take that as an inspiration! Let's go into this recommendation with maximum energy!

01:10:25 Dan Host Uh, okay. So—I'll go first. Um, I'm—I'm gonna recommend, uh, two movies at once because I feel like they are, uh, pretty linked, actually. Uh—in—in style.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:10:38 Elliott Host They're *Ghostbusters* and *Ghostbusters 2*.

01:10:39 Dan Host No, they're not—

[Stuart laughs.]

—they're not actually related in any other way that—than—that I saw them, uh, very close to one another? But they reminded me of one another. I watched a movie called *VH-Yes* and I watched *Greener Grass*. And both of them are kind of... they're movies that have a narrative, but also feel very much like... uh... sketch comedy movies.

Um... *VH-Yes* is a movie that is, uh... kind of... found footage-y? It's about a kid who gets, uh, a camcorder and he records, uh, snippets of his own life. Uh, while you see in the background his, uh, parent's marriage is dissolving? But it also then, he uses the camcorder to record a bunch of snippets of late night TV. And this, uh, all occurs—it's a—it's a period piece. It occurs in the '80s.

And I found it very... it spoke to me because I was that kid? I... uh, saved up a bunch of money from a paper route? And I bought a camcorder? Uh, and filmed a bunch of stuff, and I also—of course—snuck out and stayed up late and watched, uh, late night television. And, uh, there's a lot of stuff—

01:11:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** —in the movie—

01:11:50 Stuart Host **Stuart:** I get it, dude.
You're a bad boy.

01:11:52 Dan Host [Dan laughs.]
Yes!

[Elliott laughs.]

Uh, the—the... late night TV stuff's all very funny. It's got people like Tom Lenin in it. Uh, uh... uh... Tim Robbins. Shows up. It's funny stuff, but then—like—there's actually kind of moving stuff? In the... uh, framing? Uh, stuff? And I won't—I won't kinda get into that further.

But also—*Greener Grass* I would describe as... kind of if *Wet Hot American Summer* was also *Blue Velvet*? Uh, it's a lot of, like, very... the comedy of absurdity; the comedy of people acting very awkward and strange with a lot of commitment? Uh... it—is set in suburbia but it's not, kind of, the tired dark side of suburbia thing so much as it is about a woman whose life is deteriorating because she is so... polite and passive and—and like feels the need to be polite to the degree that it screws her over in a number of ways.

And both of these movies, um... aside from being kind of strange? Take an interesting sort of tonal turn. That I won't get into. But uh... I liked them both. Stuart.

01:13:09 Stuart Host It's funny that you should recommend *Greener Grass*, 'cause I'm going to recommend a movie that also has a color in the title!

01:13:15 Elliott Host Ohhh!

01:13:17 Stuart Host I'm going to recommend, uh, the movie *Color Out of Space*, starring Nicolas Cage, directed by Richard Stanley. It is a horror movie. Uh,

based on a short story by H.P. Lovecraft. And, uh... it is, uh, yeah! It's like—silly and funny. Uh, and... the—it's filled with special effects and music and—

[Dan laughs.]

—acting. Uh—

[Dan laughs.]

01:13:44 Elliott Host Okay. So it's a movie.

[Dan laughs.]

01:13:48 Stuart Host So let's establish the minimum of—that it takes to be a movie. And Nicolas Cage gives this performance that's like... almost so crazy—like, it's crazy enough that it—because everything else around him is so normal? That it—it's kinda like Al Pacino in *The Irishman*.

01:14:21 Dan Host Where it takes me out of the movie and at no point am I not thinking—oh yeah! That's, uh, that's Nicolas Cage. Or that's Al Pacino. But at the same time, there's something so, like, charming about how over-the-top and silly the performance is that I don't think I'd—I don't think I'd change it for anything in the world.

01:14:32 Stuart Host Yeah. And—let's be clear, though, Stuart. Uh, when you say “everything else is normal,” you mean that everyone else in the movie is acting in a naturalistic style, unlike Nicolas Cage. The movie is bonkers. *[Laughs.]* Crazy the stuff that happens in it.

01:14:38 Dan Host Yeah. It's bonkers crazy but it's also like—I dunno, I feel like it's—ehhh, I feel like it's pretty straightforward. It all—it all makes a lotta sense.

01:14:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk Uh, yeah. I saw it at the same, uh, time as Stuart and I—I would've recommended it if I hadn't been pretty sure that Stuart was—

01:14:45 Stuart Host **Dan:** —gonna.

01:14:45 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Yeah! It's—'Cause it's—I don't know. It's like—it's so silly and weird and—and it still manages to be pretty scary and it does some stuff that I don't feel like I've really seen before. And it plays with, like, the—I don't know. It—it does stuff, uh, that I—I wish I saw more in, uh, Lovecraft, uh, interpretations.

01:15:05 Dan Host Yeah. I think it finds interesting ways to take the cosmic horror, like, unexplainable, undecipherable stuff. And—and show it as best you can.

01:15:14 Stuart Host Yeah. And then we got to watch a Q&A, uh, a filmed Q&A afterwards where Nicolas Cage, uh, was dressed like a crazy biker man and Richard Stanley just mumbled through every—

[Dan laughs.]

01:15:25 Dan Host —single question. It's—it's so great.

01:15:26 Elliott Host Nic—Nicolas Cage—

01:15:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk Was Richard St—was Richard Stanley wearing his, like, wizard's hat? Or like, warlock's hat?

01:15:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** That he al—he seems to wear in his interview?

Dan: He didn't have the hat on—

01:15:32 Dan Host **Stuart:** Yeah.
He had his hair that makes it look like he's wearing a wig that no one would ever choose—
[Elliott laughs.]
—as a wig.
01:15:38 Stuart Host *[Mocking voice]* Mm. I—no one would ever choose it as a wig.
[Regular voice] Yeah. He's so funny, man.
01:15:42 Dan Host Nicolas Cage's jacket though, uh, I described it as, um... he looked like a wrestler who's also a rockabilly guitarist? *[Laughs.]*
01:15:49 Stuart Host Yeah! Yep!
[Elliott laughs.]
01:15:51 Dan Host It was pretty good.
01:15:53 Elliott Host Uh—okay. Well I'm also recommending a movie in theaters... in 1952. It's called *Sudden Fear* and it stars Joan Crawford and Jack Palance. Uh, Joan Crawford is a successful, wealthy, Broadway playwright who gets into a romance with a young actor played by Jack Palance. And—spoiler—he's—there's something sinister going on. 'Cause it's Jack Palance. You can tell almost from the minute he walks onscreen. Uh, Gloria Graham is in it, too, playing the kind of character Gloria Graham plays—a kind of like, uh, sneaky, conniving, uh, lady.

And... it is this kind of... interesting combination of... a film noir and a woman's melodrama? There's a lot of, like, Joan Crawford being—in the throes of love and then falling from those heights into... kind of passionate sadness and tears. But there're also some genuinely, like, very tense and very creepy noir-ish scenes. And, uh, there's a moment involving a wind-up metal dog that I didn't expect to see onscreen? That I found very, uh, very eerie and strange!

But anyway. It's called *Sudden Fear*. Uh, and it's from 1952 and it's available on the Canopy app. If you can get that through your local library! And I thought it was—it was one of these movies where I was like—how have I never heard of or seen anything about this movie before? 'Cause I found it super entertaining and really well-made. Uh, and everyone in it is great! So that's *Sudden Fear*, starring Joan Crawford!
01:17:18 Dan Host Excellent, guys.
01:17:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Excellent.

Stuart: Love it.
01:17:20 Dan Host Did a great job.
01:17:22 Stuart Host Uh-huh.
01:17:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Stuart, you did a great job.

Stuart: I wanna—I wanna know more about this—
01:17:23 Stuart Host —wind-up—wound-up metal dog, you know?
01:17:26 Elliott Host I mean, I don't wanna—I don't wanna, uh, build it up too much, but I did think that might pique your interest, Stuart. That there's a—for some reason, there's a scene where two characters decide to start

01:17:38 Stuart Host playing with this wind-up metal dog. And I'm like—why is this the moment they started to do this? But.
Why—when you just said pique like that, you held up a VHS copy of *Dante's Peak*.

01:17:46 Elliott Host *[Dan and Elliott laugh.]*
I'm really into puns these days.

01:17:49 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*
Inexplicable, baffling ones. Elliott, I wanted to say, also, you did a great job. I was—I—I told Stuart—and then Stuart, like, sorta cut me off in the middle with his dog talk? I just didn't want you to feel left out.

01:18:01 Elliott Host Uh, okay. Thanks. I— *[though laughter]* I appreciate it.
01:18:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** *[Through laughter]* I want to spread the compliments around... equally.

01:18:08 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Oh, wow. Elliott's still not very good at taking a compliment.
01:18:09 Stuart Host *[Through laughter]* No, no! It's just—the, uh, I—
01:18:11 Dan Host He's still got his armor up, huh?
01:18:13 Stuart Host I just didn't want you to feel left out. That's all.
They power their shields down there, uh, Vice-Admiral Thrawn or whatever!

01:18:18 Stuart Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
I know he's a Grand Admiral. *[Inaudible.]*
01:18:20 Dan Host Uh...

[Elliott laughs.]

01:18:22 Elliott Host Hey!
I—I'm glad you corrected yourself, Stuart. 'Cause the listeners were pissed. I could feel it. It was like a great disturbance in the Force, as if one of us—

[Stuart laughs.]

01:18:30 Stuart Host —had said something slightly wrong.
01:18:30 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* Uh-huh.
Elliott, you talk quickly. Do you wanna give the usual spiel about, uh, Max Fun and all that?
01:18:35 Elliott Host And I'm also Jewish, so it's okay for me to give a spiel! Whereas—

[Dan laughs.]

01:18:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk —if one of you guys did it, it might be a little...
Elliott: I don't know. Kind of like—

01:18:42 Elliott Host **Dan:** Appropriation.
Appropriating another culture? Uh—hey, everybody! We're a member of the Max Fun—Maximum Fun—podcast network and there's a lotta great shows in the Maximum Fun network. I would recommend you don't just stop with us! You go on and listen to one of the other ones! There's a lot of great ones about movies; there's a lot of great interview podcasts; there's a lot of great ones about TV; there's one about work processes—come on.

Just try some other, uh, Maximum Fun podcasts! There's advice shows! Y'know, there's all sorts of stuff! There's great podcasts on there. Go to MaximumFun.org to look at 'em! Uh, also? If you like this podcast, hey—why not say something nice about us on iTunes? Review us there. Review us anywhere you see podcast reviews. Tell people about us. Tweet about us. Instagram about us. Send letters to your grandma about us. Write a postcard so the mailman can see it 'cause you know they read—

01:19:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: —those postcards.

01:19:24 Dan Host

Dan: Hey, if you're in the media—

Y'know, uh, say something about us on—on a bigger platform! We've been around for 12 years now, so it's hard to get, uh, people excited about *[though laughter]* publicity?

01:19:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Dan: But—if you wanna—

Stuart: Yeah. You heard all those great—

01:19:35 Stuart Host

Elliott: Well they—when—

You heard all those fucking great drops Dan was doing!

01:19:37 Dan Host

Yeah!

01:19:37 Elliott Host

Yeah. *[Laughs.]* Yeah. Don't wait to talk about us when one of us dies or all of us in some kind of freak accident? Talk about us now, while we're still alive! You know?

01:19:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: And also—

01:19:44 Stuart Host

Stuart: I mean, it's—

—at least gonna look like an accident. Um—

[Elliott laughs.]

And also—

[Dan laughs.]

01:19:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: *[Through laughter]* Wait. Hold on.

01:19:49 Stuart Host

Stuart: Uh, you mentioned the—

You mentioned the network and we also mention that the, uh, episode today—the movie was chosen by a contest winner. Uh, who designed merch and that merch is available for purchase at, uh, at MaximumFun.org, right?

01:20:01 Dan Host

Yes. And if—unless, uh, something drastic happens that forces us to change our plans, we will be doing the next contest winner next episode, Uh, so look forward to that!

01:20:12 Elliott Host

And then after that we'll go back to the big-budget Hollywood spectacles that you're used to! But hey—it's fun to do these lesser-known movies, too. So! That's *The Flop House* on Maximum Fun. Our editor is Jordan Kauwling and for *The Flop House*, you are—what was your name again?

01:20:25 Dan Host

Dan McCoy.

01:20:26 Elliott Host

And the other guy, what—wait. Who—who are you?

01:20:28 Stuart Host

I'm Stuart Wellington!

01:20:30 Elliott Host

And who am I?

01:20:31 Dan Host

You're Elliott Kalan.

01:20:32 Elliott Host

Oh, that's right! Goodnight, everybody.

01:20:34	Dan	Host	G'night.
01:20:34	Music	Music	Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.
01:20:41	Elliott	Host	<i>[With staccato enunciation]</i> Oh, great. Let's do this thing!
01:20:44	Dan	Host	Okay.
01:20:44	Elliott	Host	And Jordan? I know that was not as funny a usual pre-start as we usually have? Uh... I apologize.
01:20:51	Dan	Host	Maybe she could, uh—I don't know. Like, add some sound effects under it or something.
01:20:55	Elliott	Host	Yeah. Some "boi-oi-oi-oi-ing"s! Or <i>[makes horse mouth noise]</i> .
01:20:57	Stuart	Host	<i>[Singing]</i> Dumb. Do. Do. Do do do do! Do do do do do do do!
01:21:01	Dan	Host	Yeah.
01:21:03	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org .
01:21:05	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:21:06	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:21:08	Speaker 4	Guest	—Audience supported.