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| 00:00:01 | Dan McCoy | Host | On this episode, we discuss: <i>Bloodshot!</i> |
| 00:00:06 | Stuart Wellington | Host | A phrase that is <u>never</u> mentioned during the movie! That's—is that true? I can't tell. |
| 00:00:10 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Dan: No. They never say “Bloodshot.” |
| 00:00:12 | Griffin Newman | Guest | Elliott Kalan: I don't think they ever call him “Bloodshot.” Yeah. I think they call him Bloodshot! I think Guy Pierce says “You are Bloodshot now” when he wakes up. |
| 00:00:17 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> Dan: We're all Bloodshot now! Elliott: He says “You are the Bloodshot now, dog.” |
| 00:00:22 | Music | Music | <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments. |
| 00:00:49 | Dan | Host | Hey, everyone! And welcome to <i>The Flop House</i> . I'm Dan McCoy. |
| 00:00:51 | Stuart | Host | Hey, I'm Stuart Wellington! |
| 00:00:53 | Elliott Kalan | Host | I'm Elliott Kalan, owner of a brand-new hot water heater because mine was leaking. How's everybody doing today? |
| 00:01:00 | Dan | Host | Save that juicy— <i>[Elliott laughs.]</i> |
| 00:01:03 | Elliott | Host | —uh, talk for after we introduce our guest. You know him. Not juicy—leaky! |
| 00:01:05 | Dan | Host | <i>[Dan laughs.]</i> You know— <i>[Stuart laughs.]</i> |
| 00:01:25 | Elliott | Host | —our guest from <i>The Tick!</i> Where he played Arthur. You know him from the <i>Blank Check</i> podcast. You know him for being, uh, a tie for, uh, my girlfriend Audrey's second-favorite podcaster after Hallie Haglund. Tied with Elliott Kalan for second-favorite podcaster. I assume I'm in the top 25 at least. Uh— Mm, don't make an assumption, Dan! You know what happens when you assume! |
| 00:01:28 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | <i>[Stuart laughs.]</i> Stuart: Yeah, yeah, yeah. |
| 00:01:30 | Griffin | Guest | Dan: It's Griffin Newman, everyone! Hello! Hi! Uh, if you can please add to my, uh, credits, uh, Griffin Newman: World's #1 Bloodshot Fan? |
| 00:01:37 | Dan | Host | Mm-hm. <i>[Laughs.]</i> |
| 00:01:38 | Stuart | Host | Yeah, yeah. <i>[Laughs.]</i> <i>[Elliott laughs.]</i> |
| 00:01:40 | Griffin | Guest | Yeah. You're a real Vin addict! Right? I'm a Vin addict. I'm a big Vino. But I also— <i>[Stuart laughs.]</i> |

00:01:51 Dan Host I feel like truly I may be the only person who has voluntarily watched this movie two times now. And—
[Through laughter] Yeah. Stuart—Stuart said you were watching it and I'm like, I follow him on Instagram. I'm pretty sure Griffin has already seen *Bloodshot!* *[Laughs.]*

00:01:59 Griffin Guest *[Elliott laughs.]*
 00:01:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk I'm telling you—
Griffin: I got—

00:02:00 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Wow. Which only—
 00:02:03 Griffin Guest —sounds a little creepy there. Right?
 I got a lot of new stuff on the second viewing? And I am not joking at all. I—

00:02:07 Dan Host Oh, wow. *[Laughs.]*

00:02:08 Griffin Guest *[Stuart laughs.]*
 00:02:12 Elliott Host —am so happy I spent the extra hour and fifty giving it another run. So—before we get into *Bloodshot*—'cause on this podcast we watch a bad movie and then we talk about it—uh, Griffin—I wanna know why—what is it about the Ds? And I'm talking about, of course, Eddie Deezen—

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:02:28 Griffin Guest —that really speaks to you that you're such a big fan of him? What is it about Vin Diesel that like you really relate to so much? Because you are a big Vinhead.
 Yeah! Yeah, yeah, yeah. I mean—y'know, it's taken me a while to fully analyze what it is, uh, that, uh... y'know, attracts me to him so much. 'Cause it's—y'know. It's—what is love? How do you define it? Y'know?

00:02:41 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
 Well, let's say—let's try to kind of graph it out. Some kind of Vin Diagram, if you will.

00:02:46 Griffin Guest This is what I will say. I think, uh—an ex-girlfriend of mine summed it up the best. Because any ex-girlfriend of mine essentially has to take an undergraduate course on Vin Diesel? Uh, whether or not they want—not, like, as a prerequisite? But it comes with the territory of spending—

00:03:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** —that much—

00:03:02 Griffin Guest **Elliott:** It's a post-requisite!
 Yes. It's a post-requisite.

[Elliott laughs.]

Once they've signed up to spend time with me.

[Dan laughs.]

Um—there's a heavily-curated playlist of things that we have to watch. Uh, some short form, some long form! But, uh, I was explaining, uh, my love of Vin Diesel and my love of, uh, Guns 'n' Roses? Who are my favorite band of all time? And she said—I get

it. I think I finally get it. You like things that are like a parody of masculinity.

[Dan laughs.]

00:03:29 Crosstalk Crosstalk
00:03:31 Stuart Host
00:03:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott and Stuart: Oh, okay!
Yeah, yeah, yeah. I can see that.
Elliott: There is definitely—oh.

00:03:34 Stuart Host

Stuart: I mean, I get—
—the appeal to some extent. Y’know. You guys all know I’m pretty into D & D. And by that I mean... Diesel and Deez Nutz jokes.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:03:48 Dan Host
00:03:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk

That’s my whole joke, guys!
Now I—
Elliott: That’s good. That’s good. *[Laughs.]*

00:03:51 Dan Host

Dan: I have to admit a certain amount of—
—confusion about this. Because like—I like Vin Diesel, but I’m not quite sure why. Because—

00:03:57 Elliott Host
00:03:58 Dan Host

You’re not in like with him.
Because I feel like... in his non-voice acting roles, he does not exude much in the way of personality.

00:04:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Griffin: Well, I—

Elliott: Oh, I disagree with you there. But—Griffin, what were you gonna say?

00:04:11 Elliott Host

Griffin: Yeah. I wanna hear your defense, Elliott.
Oh no! I think kind of a caricature or an exaggeration of masculinity makes sense. To me, Vin Diesel—even when he’s playing a serious part? Is always pretty—is always winking?

00:04:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: There’s always a part of him—

00:04:25 Elliott Host

Stuart: Like Xander Cage?
When he’s playing a serious part like Xander Cage or Pitch Black or, uh, Fast? ‘Cause the—

[Dan laughs.]

00:04:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk

—he’s—in *Fast & the Furious*—
Elliott: —his character is Johnny Fast.

Dan: Johnny Fast.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:04:33 Elliott Host
00:04:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk

And then the late Paul Bet—uh, I was gonna say “Paul Bettany.”
Dan: *[Through laughter]* The late Paul Bettany!

00:04:36 Dan Host
00:04:37 Elliott Host

Elliott: The late Paul Walker is— *[Laughs.]*
Oh, God forbid!
Is of course, Roger Furious. But uh—

[Dan laughs.]

00:05:08 Griffin Guest It's—that—there's something about him that's always kind of like... about to look at the audience and be like, can you believe I get to do this shit? And I really find that endearing about him? That he doesn't—of all the—if you compare him to someone like, um... ironically, Jason Statham, who is a much winkier performer? I get the feeling that he's like, no, no, no. I could do all these things. If you asked me to do them in real life, I could do 'em. Whereas Vin Diesel is like—this is all made-up craziness. Like, let's just blow it out. Let's have fun with it. Like—Griffin, is that how you feel? Or—Yeah! 100%. You—you nailed that perfectly. And I think if you wanna like establish, y'know, three points on a masculinity scale—right?

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:05:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk And it's... cinematic masculinity. Like our modern action star. Right? And it's Statham, The Rock, and Vin Diesel. And I'm not ranking them in terms of, uh, quality—although Vin is obviously the top. But I'm saying like, if you look on the—
Griffin: —spectrum here—

00:05:30 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Wow. That's—
00:05:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk I mean, Statham is a pretender to that one.
Stuart: There's a lot of bald dads out there that are angry!

Elliott: There's a lot of Rock fans.

Dan: I don't—I mean, I've got a—

Griffin: I'm throwing this out! I'm throwing this out!

00:05:37 Dan Host **Dan:** I don't—I—
I just don't—I feel like we're running down Statham a lot more than I'm comfortable with.

00:05:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** 'Cause I feel like—

00:05:42 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** I—I love—
I love Statham. I love Statham. But I do think there's a distinction. Which—as Elliott said—Statham is... more... openly winking to the audience. Right? Whereas Vin has a greater level of sincerity than Statham. But is also more self-aware than The Rock. Who is so fully buying his own bullshit. Y'know?

00:06:02 Elliott Host Yes.

00:06:02 Griffin Guest And Vin's like—right between the two. Statham... for me... though I love him, is a little bit too winky to be able to fully emotionally invest in him as a protagonist. The whole movie's always in quotes. And then The Rock is buying his own bullshit a little bit too much. And I think Vin is this perfect balance in terms of the, like, machismo baldies of the 2000s and on.

[Multiple people laugh.]

Where he, like, means everything he says in like a John Wayne kind of way. Where it's like—it does not resemble normal human behavior. But it is imbued with as much emotional integrity as possible? But he is also so aware that he is himself, like, a special

effect. Like his voice; the fact that his name is goddamn “Vin Diesel” which was by choice?

[Stuart laughs.]

00:06:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Griffin: Like, everything about it. Yeah.

00:06:52 Elliott Host

Elliott: Well that’s the thing—
Someone once told me that the name “Vin Diesel,” he came up with because when he was young he spent time around... uh... in the drag community?

00:07:00 Griffin Guest

Uh-huh.

00:07:01 Elliott Host

I guess? And there’s something about him that is, like—

00:07:03 Stuart Host

Drag racing. Right?

[Dan laughs.]

00:07:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: Drag racing, yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

00:07:06 Elliott Host

Griffin: Both!

00:07:07 Griffin Guest

That’s the—

00:07:07 Elliott Host

Both!

No, but there’s something in him that is kind of like... a—I assume—I don’t know anything about his personal life. I have always assumed he’s straight but I don’t know. Like, a straight man who is like—I am going to totally absorb into me that kind of, like, comment on masculinity that is part of drag? You know? And I’m going to make that part of my persona in a way that is both straightforward and both comment-y? But he—it’s weird that like when you’re talking about bald masculinity, the person I would compare Vin Diesel the most with—strangely enough—is Telly Savalas?

00:07:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Griffin: Yes! Yes!

00:07:37 Elliott Host

Elliott: Where it was—

Where it had a similar sense of like... this guy means what he says but he also knows that what he’s saying is kind of crazy.

[Stuart laughs.]

00:07:46 Griffin Guest

And like—but he’s going all out with it. Y’know.

Elliott, I hate to tell you this, but I might fuck you by the end of this episode.

[All laugh.]

00:07:52 Stuart Host

I am so turned on.

00:07:53 Griffin Guest

Oh, man.

You are taking things out of my mouth—things that I—A, have said about Vin to other people? And B, things I have never even figured out how to verbalize before.

[Dan laughs.]

Do you know—

[Elliott laughs.]

Do you know that Kojak is one of Vin Diesel's favorite characters of all time? For the last five years, he has been trying to set up a Kojak movie.

00:08:09 Elliott Host That's crazy that he hasn't been able to set up a Kojak movie!
00:08:12 Griffin Guest It is his dream job? He has it set up at Universal where he makes the *Fast & Furious* movies and presumably he should be able to make whatever the fuck he wants, and he has been announcing it for five years that he's doing a Kojak movie.

[Multiple people laugh.]
00:08:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** As he would be—

Griffin: As a tribute to his mother—
00:08:25 Griffin Guest —who apparently he used to watch it with her all the time and it was his favorite.
00:08:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** When he was a child.

Elliott: Oh, that's very sweet.
00:08:30 Elliott Host He would be a great Kojak. I wish that he was not—they'd have to find some way to make him not look like a superhero? At least a little bit? Maybe a moustache?

[Dan laughs.]

But like—he—
00:08:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** But like, he would—

Griffin: Well if you've ever—
00:08:40 Griffin Guest —seen paparazzi photos of Vin on vacation in-between movies? I will say—I think he has the capacity to look like not a superhero.

[Multiple people laugh.]

And he is also—and I say this with all due respect—52 years old. A fact that I like to circulate as much as possible is Vin Diesel and Paul Giamatti were born one month apart.

[Multiple people laugh.]

So he puts a lot of effort—
00:09:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** —into being as— same doctor!

Stuart: Same doctor! Same doctor delivered them both!

[Elliott laughs.]

Elliott: Same hospital? Yeah.

Griffin: Same doctor. Same room? Uh—
00:09:11 Elliott Host So you're saying that the modern version of *Twins* is Vin Diesel and Paul Giamatti. Playing the Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito roles.
00:09:17 Stuart Host This is like a Salman Rushdie, uh... magical realist novel.

[Multiple people laugh.]
00:09:23 Griffin Guest Yes!

[Multiple people laugh.]

And I'm also saying—with all due respect, because it is a testament to his work ethic? But pretty much I'd say give him one lazy weekend and Vin Diesel can no longer—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—like like a superhero.

00:09:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: Alright. That is fair.

00:09:37 Dan Host

Dan: Stuart—this is very—Stuart—

00:09:38 Griffin Guest

This is very stupid but I need to get this out.

00:09:38 Dan Host

Please.

00:09:41 Stuart Host

Vin Night's Children.

00:09:42 Dan Host

Yeah. Oh— *[Laughs.]* Yeah.

00:09:42 Stuart Host

Alright. That's it.

00:09:44 Griffin Guest

“Vin Night's Children.” Yeah. I like it.

00:09:44 Stuart Host

Yeah.

No, it's perfect. Um—and—

[Elliott laughs.]

—to go back to comparing Vin Diesel and The Rock—one of the things that I feel like I—one of the things that gives Vin the edge for me is I don't feel like at any point in the future, am I going to have to worry about having to vote for or against him in a political—

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:10:00 Griffin Guest

Yes!

00:10:00 Stuart Host

—race.

00:10:00 Griffin Guest

Yes! I feel like there is something to him... for as much as he is, like... was one of these guys who was tip of the spear on social media? Is constantly posting, like... fan art of himself with like “Live, Love, Create”—

[Multiple people laugh.]

“Happy Friday” and shit like that? It feels like he has cultivated less of a... cult of personality around him. Than someone like The Rock who is also selling us, like, his fucking workout equipment and his, like, tequila. And is constantly toeing that line of, like, I don't know. Do you want me to be president? And I also think—

[Dan laughs.]

—as you said, like—The Rock wants to be... and I'm sorry that I'm gonna go hard after The Rock here, but you have to, if you're ever talking about Vin Diesel. If you really want to defend Vin Diesel's honor—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—you have to compare him to The Rock. Because The Rock is the one who—who most people accept as the best at what he's trying

to do. Right? Which I reject. Because I think The Rock—A, is less in on the joke and what we're talking about. I do think the key to Vin Diesel for me is—Elliott, as you said—that he kind of is giving... a drag performance of an action star. You know? It is like... you know, he's doing to Arnold Schwarzenegger what, like, a drag queen is doing to Judy Garland. In a certain way.

00:11:16 Elliott Host Yeah. It feels like the only thing that makes the XXX movies bearable is that Vin Diesel is like... whoa. This isn't real. Can you imagine this stuff? Like, any moment with him, he's playing it—like—it—if there—if—to have—and I don't mind knocking Jason Statham. I don't have the same affection for him. But like, if Jason Statham was in *XXX: Turn of Xander Cage*, the moment when that roomful of women makes him have sex with them to get his coat back? And he's like—the things I do for my country! Jason Statham would say that in this kind of leering, like, yeah. I get to have sex with these women now! Whereas Vin Diesel was like, can you believe how silly this scene is? Like—

[Dan laughs.]

00:11:50 Griffin Guest —alright! *[Laughs.]* And I also think you look at the first XXX and the third XXX and the third one is the one where it feels like he has claimed some level of authorship over the movie?

[Dan laughs.]

And it is so much better and so much less toxic than the first one? Which is Vin being self-aware in a movie that is kind of horrifying. *[Laughs.]* You know?

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:12:13 Dan Host Like, the third one feels like it's totally on his level. We were all tired of our daddy's James Bond and it was time for a not-our-daddy's James Bond. Like, I was like—ugh. How many times is my daddy's James Bond gonna be inflicted on me?

00:12:23 Stuart Host And by the time the third XXX came out, we were ready for not our daddy's XXX! *[Laughs.]*

00:12:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Yeah.

Griffin: Right!

00:12:27 Griffin Guest **Dan:** You know? Right!

00:12:28 Elliott Host I just—I remember that—when the first XXX came out—and this is a quote I had to—I researched 'cause I remembered it and I wanted to make sure I got it right and I used it in a presentation when we talked about XXX before a live audience. Were the producer—or it was either the producer or the director was like, we basically took the best parts of *Dirty Dozen* and *Kelly's Hero* and—*Kelly's Heroes* and smashed them together into one movie. And I was like—*[though laughter]* Whoa. That's—

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:12:53 Griffin Guest That's such a hubristic thing to say! Like that's such a crappy thing to say. And they did.
But also, if that's what you thought you did, do you hate *Kelly's Heroes* and *The Dirty Dozen*?

00:12:58 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
Yeah.

00:12:59 Griffin Guest Um.... No! I mean, like, I have affection for the first XXX but then... like, only on Vin levels and for it being such a... painful time capsule of the year 2003. But—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—I think, like, XXX 3 I was like, well, I like, y'know, I have to do my duty as like a civilian and go see the new vin movie in theaters. And then was surprised by how much I actually liked it. And to go back to The Rock thing, it's like... you go to *Hobbes and Shaw* where every character has to exist in a scene next to The Rock to prove how masculine The Rock is? And it doesn't feel like it's a joke, even though it is supposed to be a joke only in the sense that it makes The Rock look funny? So that you know he's funny on top of being... kind and the toughest guy? But also something like... that... um... uh, Vanessa Kirby has to be sexually attracted and—to The Rock in *Hobbes and Shaw* despite being, uh, 20 years younger than him. And, uh, literally, uh... he is, uh, a—not a human in that film. Um, it is scientifically impossible that the two of them are together. Uh—

[Stuart laughs.]

Whereas in, like, XXX, uh, *State of the Union*—or not *State of the Union*. I'm sorry. *Return of Xander Cage*, the third entry in the XXX trilogy—uh, the two quote-unquote—

00:14:17 Elliott Host The last of the X's.

00:14:17 Griffin Guest Yes.

00:14:18 Elliott Host There's triple x. This is the final x. Yeah.

00:14:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** Uh—X, X, Triple X, cubed.

00:14:24 Griffin Guest **Dan:** I mean, god willing, Elliott, who knows?
Yeah. Uh—

00:14:25 Elliott Host It—maybe they'll be XXX 3: *One More X!*

00:14:28 Griffin Guest X 9. Um—but in that film, the two quote-unquote hot girls are attracted to each other! Which it just feels like is something that The Rock would never do! Like, have two hot women in a movie who are like, we don't wanna fuck you. We're gonna fuck each other. And it is not treated as a joke and also there isn't a sex scene.

00:14:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart and Dan:** Yeah.

00:14:50 Dan Host Alright. You've turned me around! You all turned me around!

00:14:51 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** Right? There's like, a certain generosity to Vin Diesel.

00:14:54 Stuart Host **Elliott:** Okay.
Yeah.

00:14:54 Dan Host Yeah.

00:14:56 Stuart Host I mean, it—when we were watching, uh, XXX 3: *Return of Xander Cage*, I got such a moment of genuine joy when Ice Cube showed

up and like the audience I was watching it with just screamed even though none of them had seen the second movie!

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|---|
| 00:15:13 | Griffin | Guest | <p><i>[All laugh.]</i> But isn't that, like, the entire power of what he pulled off with the <i>Fast & Furious</i> franchise? Is like, <i>Fast 5</i> has the energy of—this is the <i>Avengers</i>. We're finally uniting all of the greatest cinematic characters.</p> <p><i>[Dan laughs.]</i></p> <p>And it's characters that you ostensibly did not care about before.</p> <p><i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i></p> <p>You're like, they've got the guy from 3 <u>and</u> the guy from 2?!</p> <p><i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i></p> |
| 00:15:41 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | <p>Like, it's the same franchise! And he made it seem like somehow it was, like... a world-shattering crossover event. Stuart: Yeah. Oh, man.</p> |
| 00:15:43 | Elliott | Host | <p>Elliott: So speaking of— —world-shattering crossover events, so. <i>Bloodshot</i>. The movie we're ostensibly supposed to be talking about today. Although this has turned into a podcast about <i>XXX: Return of Xander Cage</i>, which is fine.</p> |
| 00:15:53 | Dan | Host | <p><i>[All laugh.]</i></p> |
| 00:15:55 | Elliott | Host | <p>We've already done that one! <i>[Laughs.]</i> Now, <i>Bloodshot</i> is the first entry in the Valiant cinematic universe. And I don't know how familiar you guys are with Valiant Comics. And if you wanted me to—</p> |
| 00:16:03 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | <p>Elliott: Say anything about them or not.</p> |
| 00:16:05 | Dan | Host | <p>Stuart: Barely. I mean, please talk about—I mean, I'm only familiar with them inasmuch as I know that they were kind of a product of the '90s comics boom. And, uh—</p> |
| 00:16:13 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | <p>Elliott: Yes.</p> |
| 00:16:14 | Stuart | Host | <p>Stuart: And, uh— And I know that my friend Alejandra is currently writing <i>Doctor Tomorrow</i>, which is great! And being published by Valiant Comics.</p> |
| 00:16:20 | Elliott | Host | <p>I'll—I mean, the Valiant Comics of today is a very different publisher—like, I've written stuff for Valiant Comics. Like, the current one. They've actually put out a number of good books now. But Valiant in the '90s was very much, like... Image had come out. Image Comics. And it had toppled Marvel and DC from the #1 spots for a little bit. And Valiant was a bunch of people who—very talented people—who knew comics. Who had long careers at Marvel and DC and were like, we're gonna create a new universe. And they just couldn't quite capture the magic. And eventually it was sold to Acclaim, the video game maker. It was Acclaim Comics. Now it's Valiant Comics again and it's kind of new versions of those</p> |

characters. But *Bloodshot* is kind of the Punisher of the Valiant Universe? As opposed to, uh, X-O Manowar; Iron Man; or, uh, Solar Man of the Atoms, uh... Superman; or Ninja-Ks—

00:17:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** *[Inaudible]* I guess—

Stuart: Harbinger was like—

[Griffin laughs.]

00:17:07 Stuart Host Harbinger was like the X-Men. Right?

00:17:09 Elliott Host Harbinger was basically the X-Men. And if—if this—if *Bloodshot* does well enough they have plans for a Harbinger movie. And there's also, like, uh... but Valiant was this—there was Wry in the Future Force. Valiant was this world that like... they also had—they had some of the old Gold Key characters. So I think Magnus Robotfighter and Solo were in there. But like—

00:17:25 Dan Host Now, wait. Just let me pause you for just a second. You said that, uh... he was the, uh, Punisher of that universe. Did he use, like, guns and such a lot more in the comics? Because I watched this movie and I'm like, okay. He is now technology Wolverine is what I thought.

00:17:40 Elliott Host Well he always had that—the nanotech in his system. Bloodshot. But he basically used it in Punisher-type missions to shoot people. You know.

00:17:49 Dan Host Okay.

00:17:49 Elliott Host He was like—if Punisher and Wolverine were the same character—which might've been what they were thinking! When they created him! Like, people love the Punisher. They love Wolverine. What if they were one character? And you know what? Slap a chromium on that cover! Give that a chromium cover so it's really shiny!

00:18:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Diecast.

Elliott: Then we can charge—

00:18:03 Elliott Host \$2.95 on the—not diecast! If you're thinking of diecast chromium I think that was the *Turok: Dinosaur Hunter #1* cover. But uh—but it was—but I see what you—and die cut, I think is what you meant. Diecast would be like—you'd be making like Matchbox cars. But uh—someone write in and correct me! I might be wrong. I don't know that much about production techniques for these things. But uh—

00:18:21 Dan Host Okay. Sorry. You had gotten up to Gold Key before I interrupted.

00:18:23 Elliott Host *[Laughs.]* No, no. But anyway. So that—so Valiant was one of these companies that was never—was kind of the #4 company for a while just because... there was room for a #4 company? There was no one else—y'know, after DC, Marvel and Image? But they were never quite as big and they've been through ups and downs. Now it's—and now they've put out a lot of great books. But like—the—

00:18:43 Stuart Host Yeah. I mean, it was back in the day when the only other option was reading, uh... what the self-published *Elf Quest* comics.

00:18:48 Elliott Host I mean, that's a great option! Or *Bone*, from Jeff Smith's cartoon books. Uh... the—but it's like, a—it's a weird universe to use. To try to make a film universe out of it. And when they announced this, it does feel a little bit like, oh, okay. This is the film universe that you could get. 'Cause Marvel and DC were taken, and Image does not exist as one. It's all creator-owned by their individual creators. Uh, and that—and you're not gonna go to get a Malibu Press universe together.

[Stuart laughs.]

00:19:18 Dan Host 'Cause Marvel bought and buried all those characters. So. Well also I will say watching this movie—it was about halfway through that I'm like, oh, yeah, I think this is based on a Valiant comic. 'Cause it doesn't necessarily feel like a superhero story so much as just, y'know, like, a throwback sci-fi action movie.

00:19:32 Griffin Guest It totally—

00:19:32 Elliott Host This? Yeah. I mean, this same movie, I could see watching it on HBO as a teenager. Like... in the middle of a Saturday. And I'd be like, oh, okay! This makes sense. I'm neither surprised nor am I disappointed. *[Laughs.]*

00:19:45 Griffin Guest *[Dan laughs.]*
I was, uh... my sort of closest, uh, uh, Vin cohort in terms of the guy I constantly check in with, uh, for Vin updates. One of a couple people I, uh, check in with after, uh, there have been Vin updates in the world. Is, uh, John Gabrus of the *High and Mighty and Action Boyz* podcast? And, uh... I was, like—after I watched it for the first time, telling him, like, my takes on it? I was like—it feels like... uh... a Schwarzenegger in a racer zone. Like, it feels like it is pulled off of the timeline from 1997. Um—if I can offer a quick—

00:20:22 Stuart Host I feel like Guy Pearce is a slightly more intimidating villain than James Caan.

00:20:27 Griffin Guest *[Dan laughs.]*
Maybe!

00:20:29 Elliott Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
Maybe. Um...
I mean, this is—this movie—it—rather than fitting into like a Valiant cinematic universe, it kind of fits into a—don't trust Guy Pearce as the head of a technology company universe.

00:20:38 Griffin Guest Mm-hm!

00:20:40 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
Mm-hm!
I was like, how many movies am I gonna see where Guy Pearce is like an evil scientist businessman? Uh, if—

00:20:44 Dan Host Audrey was like, has he ever just played a straight-up, like, good guy? I'm like, well... I mean...

00:20:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** L.A. Confidential, but he was kind of a dick?

Elliott: Kind of?

Griffin: Yeah.

Dan: And then like—

00:20:54 Dan Host **Stuart:** Time Machine?
Lockout? But he was also kind of a dick. *[Laughs.]* Like, I'm not sure!

00:20:58 Griffin Guest Um, if I can offer a quick addendum, uh... to your Valiant, uh, breakdown. Elliott. Um—this movie was announced as Sony Gets the Valiant Comics Rights, uh, four-movie universe planned. And what they announced was—uh—it'll be like Harbinger; Bloodshot; then I think Harbinger 2; and then they were gonna do a crossover. That's what I think was, uh, sort of thrown out. And then when Vin got attached, *Bloodshot* became the first thing and they were like, we will use this to launch, uh, everything else. Um, and to your point, like, the weirdness of trying to launch a Bloodshot cinematic universe—a thing I experienced—

[Dan laughs.]

—from working on *The Tick* is, uh, very often these large companies that buy the rights to obscure, uh, creator-owned comic book companies? Uh, and properties? Don't understand that everything isn't as popular as *The Avengers*? [Laughs.] There's this like—

[All laugh.]

[Through laughter] There's this assumption where they're like, well, they like comic books, right? So every character has as big of a built-in fanbase? Um... but, uh—that was announced. *Bloodshot* was announced as the first step of this thing.

00:22:04 Elliott Host So you're saying when they put out the *American Splendor* book, they were like—this is just chapter one!

00:22:07 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** The *American Splendor* cinematic universe!

00:22:10 Elliott Host **Griffin:** 100%
It's comics, right? Then we'll do *Mr. Natural*.

[Dan laughs.]

Then Harvey Pekar and *Mr. Natural* crossover in the sequels.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:22:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** We're doing a Pekar-verse!

00:22:17 Dan Host **Dan:** Whereas, uh—
I'm like a comics fan, who was alive through that period, and if you asked me for a Valiant, uh, comics character I'd—I—after Turok, I would tap out. [Laughs.] So.

00:22:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Really?

Stuart: So—

00:22:29 Stuart Host **Dan:** Yeah.
Dan's dying for the *Krazy Kat* movie.

[All laugh.]

00:22:32 Elliott Host Well the—I'm amazed that there is not already... a—a movie out there that's like the Sunday comics cinematic universe but it's all the public domain ones? So it's like *Krazy Kat*; Katzenjammer Kids; like... uh...

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 00:22:42 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Griffin: Well there's that, like, insane, incomprehensible-looking new CGI Scooby Doo movie? |
| 00:22:49 | Griffin | Guest | Elliott: The Yellow Kid, I guess? Nemo? Which is that with Hanna Barbara? Where it's a new CGI Scooby Doo movie that is also simultaneously six other Hanna Barbara properties? |
| 00:22:58 | Elliott | Host | <i>[Dan laughs.]</i> Well I mean, but Hanna Barbara's been doing that for decades! |
| 00:23:01 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Elliott: 'Cause they had Laugh Olympics and they had <i>[Inaudible]</i> Erasers and— |
| 00:23:04 | Elliott | Host | Griffin: Oh, totally! Yeah! But—oh! Actually, the weirdest one is that Tom & Jerry movie that's also a Willie Wonka movie? <i>[Laughs.]</i> |
| 00:23:08 | Griffin | Guest | Yes! Right? Right? Well there's that series of like—the other ones are like public domain because there's Tom & Jerry Sherlock Holmes; Tom & Jerry Wizard of Oz; and then <u>Wonka</u> is so specifically Gene Wilder Wonka— |
| | | | <i>[Elliott laughs.]</i> —with all the same designs and characters. But this is—I don't mean to drop a big bombshell here—but I was, uh, doing my research before we recorded, and it turns out as seemingly the move of, like, dumping thing overboard, uh, right before the ship hits an iceberg, uh... |
| | | | <i>[Dan laughs.]</i> Sony, like, <u>five</u> months ago, sold off all the remaining Valiant rights. <u>Before</u> this came out. |
| 00:23:44 | Elliott | Host | Ohhh. |
| 00:23:44 | Griffin | Guest | And so they were like, yeah, no, Paramount—you can make <i>Harbinger!</i> That's fine. So it <u>seems</u> like if any other Valiant movies get made, they will <u>not</u> be connected to this in <u>any</u> way, even though that was the <u>explicit</u> design of this movie. |
| 00:23:57 | Elliott | Host | I mean, I'm gonna tell ya—I don't think <i>Harbinger's</i> gonna get made. Because even as a kid when that came out, I was like—what kind of name for a comic is “Harbinger?” |
| | | | <i>[Griffin laughs.]</i> Like, it's such a weird word to like make your—to name a thing! Like, I don't—it doesn't make sense to me! So. |
| 00:24:10 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Griffin: Well, only— |
| 00:24:11 | Stuart | Host | Stuart: I certainly had trouble— —pronouncing it as a kid. |
| 00:24:12 | Elliott | Host | Yeah. |
| 00:24:13 | Griffin | Guest | Only Christopher Nolan could get away with a blockbuster called <i>Harbinger</i> . He's the only guy who can just put <i>Harbinger</i> on a title and people'd go, like, that sounds smart! Like, that actually—yeah! |
| | | | <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> |

00:24:22 Elliott Host I bet this has—I bet this is a movie about ideas!

00:24:25 Griffin Guest Yeah!

00:24:25 Elliott Host Uh, speaking about a movie that’s not about ideas—*Bloodshot*.

[Dan laughs.]

00:24:31 Stuart Host Stuart, do you want to tell us what happens in this movie? *[Laughs.]*
Yeah. Let me, uh, so we’re about 30 minutes into the podcast—

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:24:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk —let’s start talking about the movie. Uh—
Dan: That’s fine! No—

Elliott: I mean, to be fair—

00:24:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Uh—
Elliott: To be fair, we have been on point this whole time. This is the most—

00:24:39 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Let me—uh—
Look at—let me look at my seven pages of notes.

00:24:43 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
Wow. Somehow—somehow this is both the most time we’ve taken before talking about the movie and the most on-topic we’ve ever been.

[Multiple people laugh.]

So Griffin, I appreciate your being here for that.

00:24:51 Stuart Host *[Griffin laughs.]*
Okay. *Bloodshot!* We, uh, the movie opens in Mombasa. Uh, we’re introduced to Vin Diesel, playing a character we know as “Bravo Six.” Later find out his name is Ray Garrison. Uh, he’s talking to his buddy Marines over his headpiece. They’re doing a lot of sit reps.

[Elliott laughs.]

00:25:18 Crosstalk Crosstalk He disobeys a direct order and he breaches the—what—the... the terrorist cell by himself and kills a bunch of terrorists? And saves the, uh, the hostage?
Griffin: Yeah. My—

00:25:20 Elliott Host **Elliott:** There’s a house full of hostages and terrorists.
And he just walks right in.

00:25:21 Griffin Guest My—my note I wrote here is, uh, “Vin Diesel casually 52-year-old soldier—”

00:25:29 Stuart Host *[All laugh.]*
Yeah. There’s, like, it’s similar to any time when Tom Cruise plays a soldier and you’re like—uh, he’s not a frontline soldier anymore.
Right? *[Laughs.]*

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:25:39 Griffin Guest Right! This guy's, like, a grunt?
[Multiple people laugh.]

00:25:42 Elliott Host He has a—
I mean, maybe he was—I wouldn't be—maybe—if this was—if this was a different time—if this was—

00:25:46 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Ten years ago.

00:25:48 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Yeah. Like the Civil War? *[Laughs.]*
Well, no. But if this was like ten years ago, you could say that he was, like, uh, he was called back in. They were doing that a lot with people in the National Guard or people who had had their hitch and they were being brought in for a new—like, but I guess in the Navy they call it a hitch. But—

00:25:58 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** They shoulda had, like, uh—

00:26:01 Dan Host **Elliott:** Or their tour, I should say.
Like, a—aren't you a little short for a stormtrooper scene. *[Through laughter]* Where it's like—

00:26:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Aren't you a little old for a soldier? *[Laughs.]*

Griffin: Right! Aren't you—

Elliott: Aren't you a little old to be going after—

Dan: Then, like, explains it. Well, y'know—

Elliott: But he's so good at what he does!

00:26:11 Elliott Host **Griffin:** But—yes.
I mean, the real question is—at 52, he really should've been promoted—

00:26:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —much higher up the ranks. Like, that's the sad thing.

Griffin: I was gonna say that! This guy hasn't put in for a desk job yet?

00:26:17 Griffin Guest There are ways to stay—
[Elliott laughs.]

—in the military. And I do think—I think you're right. There was a ten-year grace period where you could take any over-a-certain-hill action star and say, look. After 9/11... they wanted to go back—

00:26:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** —into the battlefield.

Elliott: Yes. Everyone was called back in. Right.

00:26:33 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Yeah.
He's fighting in Mombasa. So this is a... this is, like, one of these operations that the public doesn't even learn too much about.
[Stuart laughs.]

And so—and like, where we're assisting local forces. So it's not like he's fighting the Taliban. And makes me wonder—I don't know what

Mombasa looks like. But where they were looked so generic to me that I won—it kinda felt like they—it was just supposed to be anywhere and they just kind of named it later? You know? I don't know.

00:26:55 Griffin Guest This movie was shot entirely in, uh, Cape Town, South Africa? Uh—I think partially 'cause the director was there and I assume they were able to get some sort of a government grant or tax rebate? But also because it feels like a place that looks like eight different places so they could just shoot different areas and later decide which chyrons they would put over? Identifying, like, the—no, this is Australia! Um... this is Madrid. Like—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—everything is like—uh, Mombasa!

[Elliott laughs.]

00:27:21 Stuart Host This is Italy, but a different part than the other part of Italy—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—we were in before.

00:27:26 Elliott Host That also explains why—what—the first time he sees the skyline, where his, like, the Guy Pearce's building it, I was like—I don't know what city this is supposed to be. Like, I don't recognize this skyline at all.

00:27:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** And I don't know the Cape Town skyline! So. That could be it.

Griffin: I—I feel—I feel pretty certain—

00:27:39 Griffin Guest —they did not pick the specific cities until ten months after production wrapped.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:27:46 Elliott Host They're like, the movie is supposed to be released tomorrow. Can we name where it's taking place?

[Griffin laughs.]

Uh, yeah. Throw some chyrons up. They're in Budapest now. Oh, okay! *[Laughs.]* Uh—so—

00:27:54 Stuart Host So, uh, despite having a, uh, an opening similar to *The Marine*—starring John Cena—wait. Is it John Cena? I don't remember. Um—

00:28:01 Elliott Host Yeah.

00:28:03 Stuart Host Who's in *The Marine*? Um—

00:28:03 Dan Host Yeah. You got it.

[Elliott laughs.]

00:28:04 Stuart Host Oh, perfect. Nailed it in one. Um—so he—there's no repercussions. He and his buddies go back. He—and by “buddies” I mean other marines. Uh, they talk about why—the reason they do this is because of Vin Diesel's wife.

[Multiple people laugh.]

Uh, who he meets.

00:28:18 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* Yeah. He's like, that's why you—that's why we fight, boys! And I'm like, wait. Are they all married to her?

00:28:24 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]* Yeah. It's just like the end of *Horsefeathers*, Dan. They all married her in the same ceremony. *[Laughs.]*

00:28:28 Griffin Guest At the very least they all covet her. And then—

00:28:30 Dan Host I mean, fine!

00:28:30 Griffin Guest They've been on a vow of celibacy for twenty years waiting for their chance.

00:28:36 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]* They call him “boss,” which I was like—“boss?” I thought somebody else was giving the orders. But don't worry about that. Uh, so they go for a walk along a pier and then they have a candlelight love scene—

00:28:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** —and they talk about his scars.

00:28:46 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** It's just like—
It's like a very simple post-special-ops mission vacation.

00:28:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]* **Elliott:** *[Through laughter]* Yeah. He's going on—he's going on his—

00:28:54 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Yeah. On the Amalfi Coast.
He's going on his covert-moon. That's, uh, the little trip with his wife after each covert mission where he, just, y'know, gets to forget about his troubles. They just go to the Italian coast.

[Stuart laughs.]

00:29:10 Dan Host They loll around in bed in their underpants because like all married couples in PG-13 movies, they wear their underpants when they're in bed together.

00:29:10 Elliott Host Well— *[Laughs.]*
And then they—and what else do they do? They just kinda hang around—they go to a fish market and it's just laughing, loving. Life-ing.

00:29:16 Dan Host *[Griffin laughs.]* I mean, they're—they're not—they don't have the underwear on the whole time. There's a, like, a PG-13 sex scene that happens. And they, like—

00:29:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** There's some side-boob. Yeah.

00:29:24 Dan Host **Dan:** I don't—
Yeah.

[Elliott laughs.]

I don't know whether... this is actually the way it was shot in the movie? Or how *[though laughter]* I just remember it in the movie? But I remember them having sex in like one of those movie rooms that's like filled with a lot of tulle just sort of hanging from the ceiling? Like—

[Griffin laughs.]

00:29:41 Elliott Host —the phoniest, like, fabrics just sort of, like, blowing around?
00:29:41 Dan Host Oh, “tulle” like—like the fabric.
00:29:43 Elliott Host Yeah. Yeah.
00:29:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk I thought you meant “tools,” like—
Elliott: —in a warehouse or like a repair shop.

Dan: The band.

Stuart: *[Laughs.]* Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, like—

00:29:48 Stuart Host **Dan:** —hanging—
Yeah, like the Cenobites are gonna show up. *[Laughs.]*

00:29:50 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
Yeah. Like he get—Vin keeps hitting his head on the chains that are hanging above them. Yeah.

00:29:54 Stuart Host Yeah, yeah, yeah.
00:29:54 Griffin Guest I don’t know if you guys know this too, but the actress who plays his wife is, uh, Tallulah Riley, who is also on *Westworld*. But was married, uh, two separate times to Elon Musk? And I find that fascinating because she seems to only appear in projects that feel like they could’ve been written by Elon Musk?

00:30:19 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
00:30:19 Elliott Host *[Through laughter]* That’s great.
00:30:20 Griffin Guest She’s drawn to a certain type.
00:30:20 Elliott Host Yeah! Yeah.
Uh, and—Dan, you’re remembering it right. They’re basically having sex in like a—the video from “I Will Do Anything for Love.”
00:30:27 Dan Host Like a *Penthouse* centerfold or something? Yeah.
00:30:30 Elliott Host Mm-hm. Yeah. Uh—so—and then—but Stuart, what happens? It sounds like the movie’s over! Everyone’s having a great time.
00:30:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** They love it.

Stuart: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay. So—mission accomplished!

00:30:39 Stuart Host **Griffin:** Perfect happy ending!
Unfortunately... the next morning, uh, a team of two guys attack Bravo Six—aka Ray Garrison—aka Vin Diesel—

[Elliott laughs.]

Uh, he beats the shit out of them and then as he’s leaving he bumps into a guy and then he falls asleep and you’re like—I guess he got drugged. Smash cut—he wakes up. Tied with a, like, hempen rope to a chair in a meat locker filled with meat. Uh, the guy who knocked him out shows up. Uh, and then dances to Dan’s favorite song—at this point I’m sure Dan was pretty into the movie.
00:31:09 Dan Host Mm-hm.
00:31:09 Stuart Host Uh, Talking Heads’ “Psycho Killer.” Um—and then—
00:31:11 Elliott Host I had the same thought when “Psycho Killer” started. I was like, oh! They’re pandering to Dan right now!

00:31:16 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*
00:31:19 Elliott Host *[Through laughter]* You're also a big Talking Heads fan!
00:31:22 Dan Host I am! I am. But I just—when I think Talking Heads, I think Dan.
00:31:24 Griffin Guest Okay.
This was the moment where I fully fell in love with the movie. I mean, I was like—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—I was pretty in just from the name above the title? But the second we got to the—the second-best—
00:31:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** —ever use of “Psycho Killer” in a film?
Elliott: Valiant Comics.

[Dan laughs.]
00:31:38 Griffin Guest I knew I was in love.
00:31:41 Elliott Host Now the first one, I assume, would be in my college screenplay, “Psycho Killer.”
00:31:45 Griffin Guest Correct.
00:31:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** And then “Stop Making Sense” is third. *[Laughs.]*

Elliott: About—
00:31:47 Elliott Host Okay. Yeah. “Stop Making Sense” is number—third. Yeah.
00:31:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** *[Through laughter]* What was your “Psycho Killer” screenplay about? *[Laughs.]*

Stuart: Uh, so, uh—yeah. We're—
00:31:54 Elliott Host This is a screenplay I wrote in, uh, one of my screenwriting classes at NYU. And it was about—there is a—there is a serial killer who is—who is stalking New York. And a, uh, a big-time director who's had a couple bombs under his belt has decided he's gonna go back to his indie roots and he's going to make a movie about the serial killer on the real locations that the serial killer's killing people? And the serial killer gets really interested in this movie 'cause he's like, oh! This is how I'm gonna like—this is how people are gonna remember me! And basically is stalking this director and like killing people around him to get him to do the things he wants in the movie. And anyway. It's like—it was written by me at a time when I really didn't know how movies were made?

[Stuart laughs.]

So there's a lot of stuff where I'm like, using terminology that—where I'm like, if I look back at it now I'm sure I'd be like, that's not how that works.

[Multiple people laugh.]

That's not a thing you can do.
00:32:36 Stuart Host That's not what “Craft Services” is!

[Multiple people laugh.]
00:32:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** Yeah. Weird that you put those into the screen directions?
Dan: They're all making dreamcatchers at craft—

00:32:44 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
There's a lot of, like, smash cut rack focus to ultra-closeup. That kind of stuff. Yeah.

00:32:50 Griffin Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*
It's weird that you put in screen directions for what was going to be on the craft services table?

00:32:56 Elliott Host *[Dan laughs.]*
I got—look. I was really building a world.

00:33:00 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
Okay. So we have forgotten about our pal Vin. Vin is tied, once again, with, uh, hemp and rope to an office chair—

00:33:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** —inside this meat locker.

Elliott: Thank you for specifying the kind of rope. I appreciate it.

00:33:09 Stuart Host *[Dan laughs.]*
I just think it's kind of funny because up until this point you're like, I bet this, like, they would use like high-tech handcuffs. But no. Um—

[Elliott laughs.]
So... uh, you think they're just gonna be intimidating Vin Diesel, but nope! They bring his wife in. Oh, man. They just crossed the fucking line!

[Griffin laughs.]
Uh, the guy then, uh, uses one of those, uh, pneumatic, uh, pneumatic bolt pistol things? And, uh... asks Vin some questions that of course he doesn't know 'cause they're above his pay grade. And then he kills his wife anyway and then he shoots him in the face.

00:33:38 Dan Host Yeah.

00:33:38 Stuart Host End of the movie. Right?

00:33:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Now—no, hold on.

Stuart: Nope!
00:33:42 Dan Host Now I wanna say—now, uh... I'm not gonna spoil the twist of the movie at this point, even though the trailer does it. Uh... we will spoil the twist, y'know, in another 20 minutes or probably an hour.
[Laughs.] The way we're—

00:33:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*
Dan: Taking our time.

00:33:57 Elliott Host **Elliott:** The way we're talking—
—it'll be tomorrow. Yeah.

00:33:59 Dan Host But... y'know, Audrey was watching this with me. She's much more, uh, vocal when we watch movies at home than—than I normally would be. But like she's like y'know like chatting about the movie and she's like—like—at this point, she is... not angry, let's say, but pointing out... that this woman is like the laziest version of a wife in

one of these situations where she's just waiting around at home to like—

[Stuart laughs.]

—leap on him and have sex in this, uh, drapery factory afterwards. And then like—

00:34:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Dan: —she's immediate—

Stuart: Who do you think lit all those candles?

Elliott: Uh—

00:34:29 Elliott Host

Dan: Yeah.

00:34:31 Dan Host

Drapery showroom, Dan.

[Through laughter] Yeah. And then she is immediately fringed to give him a motivation. And... there is a reason why this is all so, like... lazy. That we'll—will come up later in the movie. *[Laughs.]* But at this point you're like, okay. Well I've seen this movie a million times before.

00:34:45 Griffin Guest

100%. Watching this for the first time—without getting to the spoilers yet—watching for the first time, I was accepting the sloppiness and the shortcuts in areas like that as like—I guess this is what I fucking have to tolerate to get a Vin Diesel *Bloodshot* movie?

[Dan laughs.]

Like, as long as—

[Stuart laughs.]

—they get to the—y'know, the good stuff? I'm fine if like... the setup is—is sloppy? Watching it the second time, I am—actually kind of astonished by the artistry of... how transparently clockwork all of that stuff is.

00:35:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk

[Dan laughs.]

Stuart: Yeah. That's why I keep bringing up the rope!

00:35:20 Elliott Host

Griffin: Um, I also wanna point out—yes!

It—I also—

[Elliott laughs.]

—all—every single detail for me feels so perfectly chosen once you understand what the twist of this movie is. I also just wanna point out—the way you know that this is a film made by a director who understands Vin Diesel as a star. 'Cause I stop-watched it. I believe it is 4 minutes and 52 seconds in. Once they've landed the plane at the base and Vin turns to all his grunts and says, like, that's who we're doing it for? He wastes no time to immediately take off his uniform and reveal the wifebeater underneath.

[Multiple people laugh.]

Which is—for Vin Diesel, pulling off an outer layer, revealing a wifebeater is like Captain America picking up his shield. It is the moment—

[Stuart laughs.]

—you know you are cooking with gas?

[Dan laughs.]

00:36:03 Elliott Host Well you know—Vin Diesel, uh, if—he’s had a lot of foes on film. But his greatest enemy is sleeves.

[All laugh.]

00:36:10 Griffin Guest *[Through laughter]* Yeah! Famously overheated arms. Vin Diesel.
00:36:14 Elliott Host Yeah. Yeah.

00:36:16 Stuart Host And I’m glad that he’s never—he has yet to come across a necktie or a bowtie. ‘Cause I feel like—

[Elliott laughs.]

00:36:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk —that is a battle he cannot win. *[Laughs.]*
Elliott: No.

00:36:22 Elliott Host **Griffin:** Yes.
I mean, they—so—just to jump in, it was originally reported that Jared Leto was gonna star in this film as *Bloodshot*. How different—up to this point—do you think this movie would be if it was Jared Leto—

00:36:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** *[Through laughter]* Oh, jeez!

00:36:37 Griffin Guest **Elliott:** —instead of Vin Diesel?
Uh, well—I’ll tell you a big difference. I would not have seen it. Uh—

[Multiple people laugh.]

I’d say that’s an immediate difference. I would have no opinions on it *[though laughter]* other than my absolute revulsion at the very premise. Um—I also think—I think, like, the thing we’re sort of talking around here is that, like... the movie doesn’t work unless you, A, have someone who is... an action star. Is proven in this genre because of what this movie is ultimately doing narratively. And B, is someone who is so self-aware about how they’re action persona plays. If you cast it against type and pick a guy like Jared Leto and go, like—it’s Morbius! The thing is we’ve never seen a hero who looks like this before! Then the whole thing is fucking nonsense.

00:37:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart and Dan:** Yeah.
00:37:19 Yeah. Well—uh—

00:37:20 Stuart Host So—so we get our opening credit sequence. Uh, we can only assume that Vin Diesel is dead and then, of course—nope! He wakes up. He’s in a secret lab. Uh, he’s in a secret lab and he is introduced to, uh, KT? A young cyborg woman. And— *[Laughs.]*
Uh... who is this? Uh...

00:37:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Guy Pearce.

Stuart: Emil—Doctor Emil Harting?

00:37:41 Stuart Host Who is played by Space Jail himself—Guy Pearce!
00:37:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Mm-hm. Prometheus himself.

00:37:47 Dan Host **Dan:** Now, Guy Pearce—
00:37:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk His casting is a clue to the twist of the movie!
Griffin: Hmmm!

Dan: Can you figure it out? *[Laughs.]* Hmm!

00:37:53 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Can you guess it?
It's—he is one of those act—and I love him as an actor. He's so good in *Memento*. He's so good in... uh... The Proposition? The Western that he's in? Like—but—that—but like... the—he's like MaxFun Sido at this point where the minute he shows up you're like, oh, the bad guy? *[Laughs.]*

00:38:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[All laugh.]*
Griffin: Uh—and—

00:38:10 Stuart Host **Stuart:** But at the same time, like—
He brings—I think he brings something extra to it that like... yeah, you might—it might spoil the twist, but at least it's gonna be fun the whole time.

00:38:18 Elliott Host Oh no. He's—he does this stuff great. I like it. It's in his sleep he can do this stuff. But it's—at this point it's like, I wanna see him do something where I don't automatically know—

[Dan laughs.]

00:38:32 Dan Host —the minute—literally the minute I see his name in the credits. Well
00:38:34 Elliott Host it's like—it's like in, um... uh...
Geostorm?
What was it—*Geostorm*, yeah!

[Dan laughs.]

00:38:37 Dan Host When Ed Harris shows up and you're like, oh, the villain! *[Through laughter]* Like—
I love that I knew—

[Stuart laughs.]

00:38:40 Elliott Host —exactly *[though laughter]* where you were going, Elliott.
00:38:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Laughs.]* Yeah. That was—that was—
Elliott: —pretty amazing. It's like we were—

00:38:41 Elliott Host **Griffin:** But to this point—
00:38:43 Griffin Guest —talking with our nanobots. Yeah.
To this point I think, like, if you see Ed Harris's name in the opening credits of a film like *Geostorm* you go, ugh, he's the villain and he's going to sort of be phoning it in. Like, this—I'm not gonna get full Ed Harris here. He's not gonna leave it all on the dance floor—

00:38:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** —for fucking *Geostorm*.

Elliott: This is not *Pollock*. He's not gonna do that.

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 00:39:00 | Griffin | Guest | <p>Stuart: This is not <i>Milk Money</i>. Right! Right!</p> <p><i>[All laugh.]</i></p> <p>But whereas, like, if you see Guy Pearce in the opening credits? You're like, well, they've—they've already spoiled for me that he's the villain? But I know he's gonna have fun with it. Like, this guy is actually gonna try to entertain himself playing this. Um, Stuart—</p> |
| 00:39:14 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | <p>Elliott: I guess so.</p> |
| 00:39:16 | Griffin | Guest | <p>Griffin: —just quickly, uh— —because I feel like you glossed over this—you said that KT is a cyborg. Now I assume the parts of her body that have been augmented are something <u>really</u> cool that would help her fight—</p> <p><i>[Dan laughs.]</i></p> <p>—like big robot arms—</p> <p><i>[All laugh.]</i></p> |
| 00:39:27 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | <p>—or laser eyes? Elliott: Or maybe she has rocket feet?</p> <p>Griffin: She's got, like, guns?</p> |
| 00:39:31 | Stuart | Host | <p><i>[Dan laughs.]</i> Well we later find out that KT was a navy swimmer?</p> |
| 00:39:33 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | <p>Griffin: Uh-huh? Okay.</p> <p>Stuart: And she—</p> |
| 00:39:37 | Griffin | Guest | <p>Griffin: Robot legs can swim really fast!</p> |
| 00:39:40 | Stuart | Host | <p>Tell me. Does she got a motor or a fan? What does she got? So she was horribly injured and the only thing they could do was replace her... uh... what—she couldn't breathe? So they put in like a robot <u>breathing</u> tube?</p> |
| 00:39:49 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | <p>Stuart: In her neck? Or chest?</p> <p>Griffin: She's got robot lungs!</p> |
| 00:39:52 | Stuart | Host | <p><i>[Laughs.]</i> But that's great because that means that she—what? Can like... filter out, like, poisonous gas? <i>[Laughs.]</i></p> |
| 00:39:58 | Elliott | Host | <p>Uh—she can breathe through anything. Water—gas.</p> |
| 00:40:02 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | <p>Griffin: She's like a human Brita filter!</p> <p>Elliott: Nope. That's it!</p> |
| 00:40:04 | Griffin | Guest | <p>Yeah.</p> |
| 00:40:06 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | <p>Elliott: Yeah.</p> <p>Dan: Now I—</p> |
| 00:40:06 | Dan | Host | <p>I wanna say that she is played by Eiza González, who, uh—who has been in, um, y'know, some fun movies like <i>Hobbes & Shaw</i> and <i>Baby Driver</i>. But she's also—this is her <u>fourth</u> <i>Flop House</i> movie. She was in—</p> |
| 00:40:18 | Elliott | Host | <p>Stuart: Wow! Wow!</p> |

00:40:20 Dan Host **Dan:** *Jem and the Holograms*.
00:40:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk She was in *Welcome to Marwen* and she was in *Alita: Battle Angel*.
Dan: Which I don't believe we've released yet. Yeah. But we—we watched it.

00:40:28 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Yet to be released! Yeah. But we did do it.
That's the movie where—and spoiler alert for that one, where we talk about Dan's love of backstory and elaborate world-building histories.

00:40:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** [*Inaudible.*] [*Laughs.*]

00:40:36 Dan Host **Dan:** I do not—
—have that love.

[*Stuart laughs.*]

That is something that has been placed on me—

[*Elliott laughs.*]

—because I asked for one line of explanation for a key plot point. But anyway.

00:40:43 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** I gotta say—I don't want to spoil the rest of the movie—

00:40:46 Stuart Host **Elliott:** I don't know if I'd call it a key plot point.
00:40:51 Griffin Guest —but... for a character with—let's just say, a limited power suite. Yes.

00:40:51 Stuart Host [*Elliott laughs.*]
They find many opportunities to use—

[*Dan laughs.*]

00:40:56 Elliott Host —her powers for her benefit.
I mean, that's imagination! That's what Jack Kirby would do! He'd say, okay. The Hulk is super strong. Okay. I could have him just punch and lift things, but what if he slapped his hands together and created a shockwave? What if he jumped so far that he could basically fly? Like, what if he could blow his—with his enormous lungs and knock people over? You gotta find different ways to use those powers, y'know?

00:41:13 Stuart Host What if he went undercover as a robot clown working at the circus?

00:41:17 Elliott Host [*Multiple people laugh.*]
He—okay. He wasn't necessarily undercover. He was hypnotized. And they—

[*Multiple people laugh.*]

—and they disguised him as a robot clown working at the circus. It wasn't like he did that as a plan; he just found himself in that situation.

[*Stuart laughs.*]

00:41:28 Dan Host Now, that is a reference I can enjoy without actually knowing *[though laughter]* what it's referencing. *[Laughs.]*

00:41:33 Elliott Host *[Stuart laughs.]* Okay. Well, it's a—it's a—it's a major part of Marvel history! *[Laughs.]*

00:41:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Imagining the Hulk as a robot clown. Delights and amuses! No matter what your experience!

Elliott: *[Through laughter]* For a—for a—for a very brief time he was—for a very brief time he was hypnotized—

00:41:44 Elliott Host **Stuart:** So at this point—
—into thinking he was a robot clown in the master of—in the Ringmaster of Crime circus.

00:41:48 Dan Host Great. I love it. *[Laughs.]*

00:41:50 Stuart Host So, uh, at this point, uh, Doctor Harting explains that Bloodshot has been killed. He's been killed in action. And they brought him back. Uh, except his body had been anonymously donated, uh, by the military—

[Dan laughs.]

00:42:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk —and nobody had picked up his body.
Dan: They just left him in the drop box. *[Laughs.]* Outside.

Stuart: He had no loved ones.

00:42:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Elliott laughs.]*
Stuart: Yep! *[Laughs.]* They just dropped him through a drop box.

00:42:12 Stuart Host **Elliott:** Yeah, they—they put him in— *[Laughs.]*
They said, uh, please replace blood with nanites, which is what they did.

[Dan laughs.]

00:42:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk Nanites are nanobots—
Stuart: —that will heal any damage that is caused to his body. What's up?

00:42:19 Elliott Host **Elliott:** And—and this is—they call it—
And it's—it's called Project Bloodshot.

00:42:22 Stuart Host Uh-huh. Project Bloodshot.

00:42:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Through laughter] Now— *[Laughs.]* look. This—

00:42:25 Stuart Host **Stuart:** So they—and they demonstrate—
—by cutting his hand, and he goes—owie!

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:42:32 Dan Host And then, uh, and then we get a close-up of his hand. *[Laughs.]* His hand healing. *[Laughs.]*
Now—it will surprise no one that the science of all this is questionable. *[Laughs.]* But when they say like, oh, you put nanites

00:42:43 Griffin Guest in my blood and she's like, *[though laughter]* no. Your blood is
00:42:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk nanites. I'm like, what?
Important distinction!
Elliott: I mean, I—

Griffin: There's no blood left!

Dan: Yeah. And it's—

00:42:48 Elliott Host **Elliott:** He has no blood.
He just has—I mean, to be honest, you don't—as long as you've
got something that's gonna bring oxygen and things like that around
your body, you don't need blood.

00:42:55 Dan Host Sure. Great. But spoiler alert! There are a couple times in this
movie where he basically gets blown apart? *[Laughs.]* And then he
comes back together? And I'm like—uhhh, okay. I don't *[though
laughter]* know at this point nanorobots explains this.

00:43:06 Elliott Host Well they—and also, he—
00:43:06 Stuart Host I do like that when... uh, Doctor Harting cuts his hand to
demonstrate his Bloodshot powers, he does, like, he's like—ow!

00:43:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** And that was literally the only time—

00:43:16 Stuart Host **Elliott:** And he reacts in pain!
—in the rest of the movie when he's getting shot and blown apart
that he seems to register the, uh, injury.

00:43:20 Elliott Host That's—that's the thing. When he—has has nanites that heal him.
But like, literally he's being blown up. Half his head gets blown
away and then reforms? It should hurt so much! But he said he's
just like, whatever. I don't care. Like, he feels no pain now.

00:43:31 Griffin Guest It's mind over matter, okay? Physically pain—

[Stuart laughs.]

—is a mental prison! 'Cause the whole point is—

[Stuart laughs.]

—Guy Pearce cuts his hand? He thinks it hurts 'cause he doesn't
know that he's fucking Bloodshot yet!

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:43:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** I see.

00:43:48 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Oh, yeah. You're right.
So every time—so now when he gets hurt, he's like, ow! And then
he looks at his tattoo that says "You are Bloodshot."

00:43:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** And he's like, oh yeah! Right!

Griffin: And he's like, oh! Never mind!

[Dan laughs.]

00:43:55 Griffin Guest 'Cause that—no, that is a big—this is important detail! This is where
this movie starts to start to... y'know, riff on *RoboCop* and
Memento. The Guy Pearce of it all becomes a little clear! He also
doesn't remember who he fucking is! He doesn't remember shit!

00:44:10 Stuart Host Yeah. He doesn't remember anything. He's introduced to a couple other enhanced soldiers: Tibbs, who, uh, lost his eyes but now has robot eyes and can see everything? And then, uh—

00:44:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** —Dalton?

00:44:22 Elliott Host **Elliott:** His enhancement is actually kinda crappy—
—in that he has cameras on his chest and they're hooked up to his eyes.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:44:29 Griffin Guest So if he wears a shirt or is not—and is not wearing a harness he's still blind again. *[Laughs.]*

00:44:30 Elliott Host He's V-neck only! *[Laughs.]*

00:44:30 Stuart Host Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:44:37 Elliott Host And then—and there's Dalton, who has a pair of robot legs. And Dalton is played by the guy from—he's that hunky *Outlander* fellow. Right?

00:44:37 Elliott Host Mm-hm. Yeah, yeah. And I—now—and this again is a tipoff that if someone has artificial legs they're gonna be the murderer, just like the real-life artificial leg murderer—

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:44:46 Dan Host —Oscar Pistorius.
Okay. Um—wow.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:44:49 Stuart Host That's—
Oh, wow. Yeah. Dan doesn't wanna get sued *[though laughter]* by the—

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:44:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk —Oscar Pistorius *[inaudible]*.
[So much laughter and crosstalk occurs that only a few words can be heard here and there.]

Dan: Well— *[Laughs.]*

Elliott: He—

00:44:53 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** This—
—this movie above all else is anti-Pistorius agitprop. That's—that's the number one goal of this film.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:44:59 Elliott Host The scene—the scene where—the scene where Dalton, uh, fires through a bathroom door at his wife and then tells everyone—

[Stuart laughs.]

—he thought it was a burglar? That seems pretty on the nose.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:45:08 Griffin Guest Look, I just wanna say—South African director! Filmed in Cape Town!

00:45:12 Stuart Host
00:45:15 Elliott Host *[Elliott laughs.]* That's, yeah, that's, uh... connecting the dots. So—
Now, now Stuart—now, wait! But they're not the only cyborgs 'cause what about Guy Pearce?

00:45:18 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** Mmmmm!

00:45:19 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Oh, yeah, I forgot! Dr. Emil Harting has a cyborg arm that he lost in a tennis cancer accident, I think?

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:45:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk I can't remember.
Elliott: Yes. Yeah. He was—

00:45:27 Dan Host **Dan:** I don't—I think it's called—
—just call it a disease when cancer's involved.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:45:32 Elliott Host I don't think there's a—an accident. Necessarily.
00:45:35 Stuart Host But they make it very clear that tennis was involved in some way.
00:45:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk Tennis was very important to him.
Stuart: But it also makes him strong!

00:45:39 Elliott Host **Elliott:** He goes—he—
Actually, that would've been a pretty good joke if he was—if he just had—lift up his robot arm and he's like, yeah. Tennis elbow. What are you gonna do?

00:45:45 Stuart Host *[Griffin laughs.]* That's a very *Jonah Hex* reaction.

00:45:47 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
00:45:48 Stuart Host Yeah. That's true.
So, uh—Vin Diesel has a nightmare about... something or other. He punches the wall and then he's like, wait, I can punch a wall? So he goes down to the basement and he starts punching the shit out of stuff and doing curls with the biggest weights.

00:45:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Yeah.

00:46:01 Stuart Host **Elliott:** Wait—
00:46:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk Exactly what we would all do if we got super-strength.
Elliott: This is the part where he's—he's—

00:46:06 Elliott Host **Dan:** He was just punching the shit out of a load-bearing, uh—pillar. He's punching a support pillar until it's cracking and the ceiling is dropping. And then he's like—oh, maybe I shouldn't do that?
[Laughs.]

00:46:13 Griffin Guest *[Dan laughs.]* But you guys are—are missing a very important detail. Which is—he is also laughing while doing this. It is a—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—an amazing touch that he thinks this is so much goddamn fun already.

00:46:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk
00:46:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott and Stuart: Yeah.

Elliott: He—he’s—

00:46:27 Stuart Host

Stuart: So he then—

He then watches, uh, KT do some, uh, underwater Tai Chi. He’s very impressed. Uh, she... gives him this spiel and hands him a coin. Then she starts doing—

00:46:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Stuart: —uh, drinking with him.

00:46:38 Elliott Host

Elliott: She hands him a—

She hands him a challenge coin. Which usually you’re given—you know what? I guess she’s giving it to him to like accept him as part of the group. Usually you get it for some sort of accomplishment. But she just kinda hands it to him. And that’s a big thing. Especially for these former military people. You don’t just go handing out challenge coins willy-nilly. So already you’re like, oh, this is pretty—this is pretty hardcore for people who just met that day and who—she doesn’t seem to like him very much until this moment.

00:46:59 Stuart Host
00:47:01 Griffin Guest

Yeah. They’ve gone through some shit. The—uh—

It’s the ultimate peer-to-peer currency. And I also wanna point out that, uh, they start drinking together but it’s not just, oh, let me take a bottle down from the shelf. And we’ll have some drinks. She steps over to a table near the gym where she’s been swimming—

[Stuart laughs.]

00:47:22 Elliott Host

—and there is a full display of multiple different liquors and spirits.

‘Cause they work hard and they play hard! And sometimes—

sometimes it’s like *The Prisoner*—you go work for a workout.

Someone tries to kill ya. You go to a bar. You realize you’ve been poisoned and you have to drink a little bit of every single drink there so you throw up the poison! It’s just like Patrick McGoohan!

00:47:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: So like I guess that’s their setup for it.

Stuart: So the—and this—

00:47:38 Griffin Guest

Griffin: If there was a full bar at most gyms—

—I would be going to the gym on a regular basis.

00:47:42 Dan Host

[Dan laughs. Elliott joins in.]

And this was a very important point in the movie, too. Because this was the point in the movie when I googled “Can Wolverine get drunk.” ‘Cause, uh—

[Griffin laughs.]

00:47:52 Elliott Host
00:47:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk

It’ll, y’know, raised a lot of questions for me!

I mean, Wolverine—to—he—he has been drunk in the comics.

Dan: Yeah. Well, the—the answer I got—

Stuart: Yeah. For me, this was the—

00:47:57 Dan Host —is that he needs to drink a lot more, of course, because of his healing powers.

00:48:01 Stuart Host This is the one part of the movie that I gotta—I gotta give it some shit, Griffin. I gotta call it out. Because... the reason they're drinking is 'cause she's like—you lost your memory. You don't remember what you like to drink. And I'm like—that man knows. He drinks fucking Corona, baby.

00:48:17 Griffin Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*
Yep! No, I agree. I agree.

00:48:19 Griffin Guest *[Dan laughs.]*
It is actually a major logic flaw in the movie. I don't like to point out plot holes, but that—that just—

00:48:32 Elliott Host *[Dan laughs.]*
—does not track for one second. He's got Corona in his blood as much as he has nanites in his blood. You can't pull that out of the man.
But we don't have time to focus too much on what he likes to drink, because speakers that have not been set to any radio as far as we can tell start playing "Psycho Killer," the song that was playing when he kills his wife. Or when his wife was killed.

00:48:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Stuart laughs.]*
And—when he kills—well, I mean—you'll see. But the—when he—
Elliott: When his wife was killed, and—
Dan: It triggers him as—almost as if it is some kind of trigger!
[Laughs.]
Griffin: Yeah. A literal and figurative trigger.
Elliott: *[Laughs.]* His memories come *[inaudible]* back.
And at no point is he like—wait a minute. Why did that speaker start playing a song?

00:49:01 Griffin Guest *[Dan laughs.]*
But this is once again, like, watching it the first time I was like—okay. This movie just wants to get through the beats as quickly as possible with zero elegance. I'm watching it the second time? I'm like, the transparency of... and now she's finished her final line of dialogue so the music is gonna start playing randomly. It's the same song that was playing. It's—is chef's kiss for me.

00:49:20 Stuart Host Yeah. So at this point, it—it triggers him. He has a flashback to his wife being murdered. He realizes that his wife's been murdered by this guy, uh, what is his name? Maximillian Axe or something?

00:49:31 Elliott Host Uh, Martin Axe.
00:49:31 Stuart Host Martin Axe. I'm sorry. So he, uh—he—
00:49:33 Elliott Host I mean, Maximillian Axe is an amazing—

[Dan laughs.]
—name that they should've gone with.

00:49:37 Dan Host Yeah. Max Axe.
00:49:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** So—Max Axe. So—

00:49:39 Elliott Host **Elliott:** The guy they have playing him—
—is not cool enough to carry the name Maximillian Axe.

00:49:42 Stuart Host *[Dan laughs.]*
He then walks to—he just walks with no security to the parking garage. Takes, of course, a pickup truck. Drives away. Doesn't have to see security at all. Uh, he starts talking with Guy Pearce, who's like—hey, you can't leave! Like he's talking to him through the nanites in his blood.

00:49:58 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** They're like—

00:50:00 Stuart Host **Griffin:** You have speakerphone in your head.
Yeah. Basically. And he's—this is one—this is one of my favorite bits in the movie, where... y'know, they're doing a little bit of back-and-forth and Vin's like, *[tough voice]* I just gotta kill the guy who killed my wife! *[Regular voice]* And Guy Pearce is like, no, you have to come back. He's like, *[tough voice]* I always come home! *[Regular voice]* Which was a little bit of banter he did with his wife, but for Guy Pearce he's like—wait. What?! *[Laughs.]*

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:50:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk Like—he uses banter that he does with his wife and Guy Pearce is like, uh, I'm not part of—this isn't an inside joke for me, dude! I don't listen to your podcast!
Elliott: But I like—it—if—

00:50:30 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** Yeah. It's almost like—
—he's reciting hacky action movie dialogue. A-wink-a-wink-a-wink!

00:50:35 Elliott Host *[Dan laughs.]*
But I wish Guy Pearce had been like—uh, wait. This is just like a temporary residence.

[Dan laughs.]

00:50:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk Like, it's not your home. Like, we're gonna set you up with an apartment I guess. Like, this is—do you really think you live here now? Because we gotta—we've got fast turnaround. And Vin Diesel was like, no, man. This is my home now. I made it my own. I peed on everything. And Guy *[though laughter]* Pearce is like, why did you do that?
Griffin: But I also love—

00:50:55 Griffin Guest **Stuart:** So we—
I mean, sort of the self-aware brilliance. Guy Pearce plays this scene. You're like, he's not putting up enough of a fight? He's not getting freaked out enough about the fact that this guy's going rogue? Uh, because—

00:51:06 Elliott Host And they—and they—
00:51:07 Griffin Guest —he's playing this scene like he has a hard out and they only have two takes to get it done and he's just trying to do the bare minimum.

00:51:14 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
Well and the—they're—in retrospect, you know that they are putting on a little bit of an act. 'Cause then the tech guy is like—oh my god. He's download a million things a minute into his computer brain! In the way that people in worse movies are always stating out loud the thing they're amazed at—

00:51:30 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —that someone else is doing.

00:51:32 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** Right. And the—
—tech guy is even more apathetic. Like, he can't even find a take on his character. He is so dispassionate when he says, like, *[in apathetic tone]* "Sir, there are five vans following him." Um, but—but also, it—there's a great touch where Guy Pearce says, like—"Garrison, what are you doing?!" And then he turns around? There's no response? And he goes to the tech guy and he's like—is the mic on? And the guy's like, no. And he's like, Jesus Christ! Turn the mic on! And then he just does the line reading again?

00:51:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*
Dan: They should—to the fact that this is a little—

Griffin: He says, "Eric, open a channel." That's what it is. Yeah.

00:52:02 Elliott Host *[Dan laughs.]*
I would say that—this tech guy is one of the things that rubbed me more so the wrong way in this movie, y'know, once the twist and everything. Because he is such—because for all the things in the movie that seem to be cliché? For a purpose? He is just... cliché? And there's a bit about how he has a small penis that seems totally unnecessary?

00:52:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Dan laughs.]*
Stuart: Not only that he has a small penis—

00:52:22 Stuart Host **Elliott:** And makes him— *[Laughs.]* And it's like—
—but he wants it enhanced—

00:52:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** —by Guy Pearce.

Griffin: He wants a robot penis. He wants a nanite penis.

00:52:25 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Yeah. He's about to ask—
He's about to ask to have it enhanced. And it was like—did we really, like... is this really worth the movie—the runtime?

00:52:32 Dan Host *[All laugh.]*
[Through laughter] I gotta say—

00:52:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** When they set up that joke—

00:52:34 Dan Host **Elliott:** Make fun of this nerd's penis?
I didn't like it? But when they pay it off I kinda like it 'cause Guy Pearce is so dismissive... while still, like... y'know, like, sort of like transmitting to the audience, like—he knows what this guy is secretly asking about? But he like just has no *[though laughter]* time for it?

[Elliott laughs.]

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|---|
| 00:52:47 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Dan: So I kinda laughed at that. |
| | | | Stuart: Yeah! |
| 00:52:49 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Stuart: Well it's—it's like— |
| | | | Griffin: Well, also— |
| 00:52:51 | Stuart | Host | When—when you know your staff wants—has some kind of bullshit, uh, requests. And you're like—well, I wanna make them say it out loud. <i>[Laughs.]</i> |
| | | | <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> |
| 00:52:59 | Griffin | Guest | But—but also I—I would argue there's a reading of this film in which that character—the tech guy—is the ultimate villain. Because he is the world's most despicable person—a shitty writer. <i>[Laughs.]</i> |
| | | | <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> |
| | | | Who is just cashing in his checks. |
| 00:53:12 | Elliott | Host | Oh, yeah. Well he's—he's the one who—he's just doing a job and he doesn't care who gets hurt. But it just—there was just this moment of like— <i>[resigned voice]</i> okay. Yeah. The nerdy character has a small penis. I get it. Like, nobody else in the movie is held up to that kind of casual ridicule? |
| 00:53:24 | Griffin | Guest | <i>[Through laughter]</i> Yeah. |
| 00:53:25 | Elliott | Host | Y'know? And considering there's a <u>super</u> cool tech guy later on who—who helps the hero, it like just made it even more so— |
| 00:53:32 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Elliott: —like, oh, okay. This— |
| | | | Dan: So you're offended— |
| 00:53:35 | Dan | Host | —on behalf of nerds, is what you're saying. |
| 00:53:35 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Elliott: Yeah! Basically! Yeah! |
| | | | Stuart: Yeah. |
| | | | Dan: Okay. |
| 00:53:37 | Elliott | Host | Yeah. Nerds. The people and the candy! |
| 00:53:38 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Elliott: But Stuart, continue. What does he do next? |
| | | | Griffin: But one guy's an artist— |
| 00:53:39 | Griffin | Guest | —and the other guy is just like a hack fucking specs screenwriter. Y'know? |
| 00:53:44 | Stuart | Host | Yeah. Yeah. |
| 00:53:45 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Elliott: I mean, a specs— |
| | | | Stuart: So at this point— |
| 00:53:46 | Elliott | Host | A specs screenwriter's doing it out of passion. |
| 00:53:49 | Griffin | Guest | No. This guy's writing specs <u>just</u> to be sold. You know what I'm saying? |
| | | | <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> |
| | | | He doesn't even <u>like</u> them. |
| 00:53:55 | Stuart | Host | So at this point, uh... as we've already addressed, it seems like— |
| 00:53:59 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Stuart: —Uh, <i>Bloodshot</i> — |

Elliott: Oh, so you're saying he's Max Landis! Okay, never mind. Totally. Then I get it. Okay.

Griffin: Exactly. Yeah. There ya go. Yep. Yep. Yep. Yep. Yep.

Dan: Oh, god.

Stuart: It is—it is—

00:54:04 Elliott Host

Elliott: I didn't realize it was Max Landis. Now I hate him. Tiny penis and all.

00:54:06 Dan Host

[Griffin laughs.]

Guys, guys, guys, guys we—we're infuriating Stuart to—to unsustainable *[though laughter]* levels.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:54:13 Stuart Host
00:54:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk

We're interrupting his plot summary. Uh—

Elliott: So Stuart—

00:54:15 Elliott Host
00:54:15 Stuart Host

Stuart: So—

—he steals a plane, right?

Well, yeah. He steals a plane. He, uh—it seems like he has the ability to download information and skills directly to his brain. He teaches himself how to fly on the fly.

00:54:27 Elliott Host
00:54:29 Stuart Host

[Multiple people laugh with varying degrees of sincerity or scorn.]

Oh, shit! *[Laughs.]*

He tracks—he tracks down, uh, Martin Axe. Uh, and he stages an ambush in a tunnel using a semi-truck filled with flour.

00:54:40 Elliott Host
00:54:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk
00:54:43 Stuart Host
00:54:44 Elliott Host
00:54:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk

I have to admit, this sequence I found really confusing.

All: Uh—

What part about it? *[Laughs.]*

I mean, just—not the purpose of it or anything?

Elliott: But just like the actual *[inaudible.]*

Griffin: The spatial geography. Yes.

Elliott: The spatial geography.

00:54:50 Elliott Host

Dan: Can we—

I like—it was very hard for me to figure out who would—where he was and who was who and what and it was—it was a tough scene for me to—to—to figure out like moment by moment.

00:54:59 Dan Host

Yes. I would like to talk a little bit about this inasmuch as, like, I think that the film... looks good? Like... like... like, the vibe of it—like, it looks good? But in terms of the action sequences—other than the final action sequence—which I actually liked quite a bit—The final one I thought was really good. Yeah.

00:55:13 Elliott Host
00:55:15 Dan Host

Um... it is... it does fall prey a lot to the problem of a lot of modern action sequences, where the fight choreography is not thought out particularly well. The... they're trying to cut a lot to make it seem exciting. Which makes it... sort of confusing just about the spatial—

like—like—this—this scene looks great ‘cause you’re in this like tunnel with all this, like, flour around like snow.

00:55:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** And there’s a—

00:55:40 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** And it’s lit only by—
—like, road flares!

00:55:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** It’s red lights and flour.

Dan: Yeah! It’s emergency lights. Yeah. It looks great.

Elliott: Headlights!

00:55:45 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. It’s like, uh—
It’s like, uh, like a samurai movie. With like... blood falling on the snow. Um—

00:55:49 Dan Host Yeah. Well this director—by the—I just wanted to say. Like, his job before this, like he—he is—he has one TV credit. One episode of television. But otherwise he is the video game director of cutscenes. So...

00:56:00 Stuart Host Oh, okay.

00:56:01 Dan Host Do with that as you may.

00:56:03 Griffin Guest He comes from the same company as—

00:56:06 Elliott Host Wait, wait, Dan. What—what—what can I do with that?

00:56:10 Dan Host *[Griffin laughs.]*
Uh... y’know... you—

00:56:10 Elliott Host You said do with it as I may! I don’t even know where to begin with—

00:56:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** He said—tell it to the Marines, maybe?

Dan: *[Through laughter]* You can file it away—

00:56:14 Dan Host **Elliott:** —what I can do.
—and then on some, uh, some holiday, uh... y’know, like, deep into the future—perhaps a birthday? Y’know? Like, you can sort of, like... pull it out. Y’know. Ponder it. For a moment. Think about the time that’s passed since we had this conversation. And then put it back into the old memory bank! *[Laughs.]*

00:56:30 Elliott Host *[Through laughter]* Sweet. Okay. Griffin. What were you gonna say? I will do that, Dan. Thank you.

00:56:33 Griffin Guest *[Dan laughs.]*
This guy comes from the same—he might’ve even been a cofounder of the same video game cutscene-slash-special-effects house that... the *Deadpool* guy came from and the *Sonic the Hedgehog* movie came from.

00:56:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Oh, wow!

00:56:46 Griffin Guest **Stuart:** Ohhh! Okay.
So they are like the new film brats. Taking over the industry. Except instead of all having the same alma mater that they went to for film school, they all worked on the same video cut scenes together. Um, I do like though—even though... I think—I—I agree that the choreography is not great. And it’s a little incomprehensible. I like that Bloodshot has to function as, like... his own... art director and

his own, like, gaffer? Like, he's setting up good lighting. And like good—

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:57:13 Stuart Host —at most for his fight scenes?
And I like that—I like that all the fight scenes in this movie look different.

00:57:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Yeah!

00:57:18 Stuart Host **Griffin:** Yes.
Like, they're distinct, different things. Like, there is some thought being put into that.

00:57:22 Griffin Guest I—I think this movie has visual thought. Yeah.
00:57:26 Stuart Host So he wipes his—he—he kills all the mercs. Uh, he blows up a bunch of stuff.

00:57:30 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** He manages to—

00:57:32 Elliott Host **Elliott:** And every time you think—
—he's defeated the mercs, there's like three more that pop out of a car. That's—that was one of the things, I was like—how many guys are there?

00:57:37 Stuart Host *[Dan laughs.]*
And Martin Axe not only is terrified of being attacked, but he realizes that there's something up. And we learn that Martin Axe knows more about Bloodshot than, uh, he should. Right?

00:57:48 Griffin Guest But also, Martin Axe—chin stroke—in no way resembles the guy from the opening of the film! Does not seem—

00:57:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Stuart laughs.]*
—like the same man who would wear, like, Bermuda shorts and flip-flops and a big—
Elliott: And a fur coat.
Griffin: —winter coat while dancing to “Psycho Killer.”

00:58:00 Griffin Guest **Dan:** Yeah.
He seems very timid and terrified.
00:58:02 Dan Host Yes.
00:58:02 Stuart Host Yeah.
00:58:03 Elliott Host Now, we should make it clear—this is Martin Axe and not the character Martinex, from the *Guardians of the Galaxy*.

00:58:10 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
00:58:11 Elliott Host *[Through laughter]* Yup! The, um—so—
00:58:13 Stuart Host That's a Marvel character, not a Valiant character.
So of course Vin Diesel kills him anyway. He heads home. He meets up with the rest of the team at an airfield where they seem annoyed? But they bring him back anyway. Uh, they mention something about his nanites almost being out of juice or something? Uh—and this is when we get the twist, guys. Who wants to talk about the twist?

[Long pause.]

00:58:35 Dan Host Uh... I think—
00:58:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** —Griffin. His whole thing is Vinhead.

Stuart: I guess I will!

00:58:39 Dan Host **Elliott:** I mean—
00:58:41 Stuart Host Okay. You do.
Okay. So—

[Elliott laughs.]
—this is when we find out that this is—this is just one of many missions that Bloodshot's been on. That he has had his memory erased and reset, given a new implanted memory with a new target each time. It's the same script that he's working off of. And that explains all of the clichés, guys! It was intentional!
Ohhhh! It's like *Wild Things*! It's supposed to be dumb!

00:59:00 Elliott Host

00:59:05 Dan Host *[Stuart laughs.]*
Now, I wanna— *[Laughs.]* I wanna take a moment here to address... the... this twist. Now... I think you can make a case for, like... maybe why it makes sense? And I will... after this? But for the most part, the problem with this twist is—it makes a lot more sense as a critique of action movies? Than it does as like a thing *[though laughter]* that would happen in life. Because this is a—

00:59:29 Elliott Host Well, wait. Dan. So—hold on.
00:59:29 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Wait, what?

00:59:31 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Wait. If I can interrupt your—
I interrupt your criticism. Uh. You're right. In real life, if you're using a reanimated—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—Marine's corpse filled with nanobots—you would probably not go to these elaborate lengths. You might even give it no personality. Although as we later learn on, Guy Pearce says he's the perfect assassin for these moments because he's so passionate because he has a reason to do it. But I think you're right, if only—and I'll help you with this one thing—it means every time they reboot him, Guy Pearce has to give him the same tour of the facilities?

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:59:58 Stuart Host And I think that would get old pretty fast.
And they had to fix—they had to fix that load-bearing pillar each time!

01:00:01 Griffin Guest Yeah!
01:00:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Yeah you're right—that pillar—

01:00:02 Elliott Host **Dan:** Here's the thing—
I meant—I—here's the thing. I bet that's not even a load-bearing pillar! That's probably an elaborate, like, Universal Studios backlot tour thing where they're like, okay, and he's punching it and... hit the button so that the ceiling drops just enough—

[Stuart laughs.]

01:00:15 Dan Host —so it looks like *[though laughter]* it was weakened. Well, you've interrupted me for enough. Uh—

[Stuart laughs.]

As Jesse would say, shut your piehole. I just wanted to say—

[Elliott laughs.]

Like, it makes sense in the—like, you're-if you're subverting the idea of a revenge movie, like, this is great. But in reality it's kinda like—okay, well why not just like reanimate a dude who doesn't care if he's killing a bunch of people? *[Laughs.]* And just—

[Stuart laughs.]

—have that dude kill a bunch of people without going through this elaborate charade every time. And—

01:00:43 Griffin Guest So this is my counterpoint. It makes no sense in a technical real-world level. But.

01:00:48 Dan Host Yes.

01:00:48 Griffin Guest You kind of have to accept the movie on, like, a Paul Verhoeven level. Which is... because it's even underlined in the dialogue about, like, explaining to Outlander guy that he's better because he's more passionate. Because he has a backstory. Like, essentially saying—this guy gets to be the lead of the movie and you don't. Because he has some weird charisma. He is emotionally accessible.

[Dan laughs.]

And also the audience is given a reason to root for him. Like, he cares. Um, I think the movie works as like a meta-commentary on movie stardom. And like what you need to do to make an audience care about an action movie.

[Stuart laughs.]

01:01:25 Dan Host There is a throwaway line, too, and we have no reason to necessarily believe it because it's from Guy Pearce, our unreliable narrator. But there's a throwaway line about how like he's the one guy they were able to make this work with? And so if that's true... then you can make an argument, okay. Like... they have to go through this charade because real-life Vin Diesel, uh, whatever his fucking name is *[though laughter]* in this movie—had—

01:01:48 Elliott Host Ray Garrison.

01:01:49 Dan Host Has, like, a moral sense. So they need to like give him a motivation.

01:01:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** I would say even the—

01:01:56 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** Much like movie stars—
—have some “it” factor that you can't manufacture.

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:02:05 Elliott Host You can't build it in a lab. You can harness it. You can develop it further. But you either got it or you don't, kid!
Well, as we know—

[Stuart laughs.]

—as we learn, Guy Pearce is eliminating people he used to work with. Who are now business competitors of his. And so if it was someone like Dalton he was sending out, then Martin Axe could be like, hey, Dalton, I'll pay you twice what Guy Pearce is paying you and then he'd just switch. But if this—if the killer—if the assassin thinks that Martin Axe killed his wife, nothing's gonna stop him. So you need to—that's why they want those fake memories—

01:02:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —is 'cause the—he can—you can get—

01:02:30 Dan Host **Dan:** Well, he is—he is a soldier.
So I feel like you could give him a simpler lie, where you're just like—oh, this is a bad guy and he needs to be taken out.

01:02:35 Elliott Host Are you implying that our soldiers are not intelligent enough to see through lies?

01:02:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** 'Cause I would say the soldiers I know have—are very intelligent people!

Dan: I'm implying that, uh, that—that people in the military are—

[Stuart laughs.]

01:02:43 Dan Host —uh, actively, uh... uh... encouraged to follow the chain of command without asking questions.

01:02:50 Elliott Host But here's the thing. Then Guy Pearce has to pretend he's in the military. Which he could do, which would be a different type of choice. But—

01:02:55 Dan Host It's a simpler lie, is all I'm saying! *[Laughs.]*

01:02:58 Elliott Host But I'll say that Vin Diesel—then he's gotta buy insignia and uniforms—

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:03:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk Oh, boy. And then he's up against that—
Elliott: —that stolen—the idea of stolen valor.

Dan: *[Through laughter]* You're talking about money outlay is the problem!

01:03:07 Elliott Host But Vin Diesel—'cause usually military people only take orders from higher-ups in the military. It's not like if you went up to a soldier and were like, hey, do this for me, they'd be like—I gotta follow orders!

01:03:16 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Okay, boss!

Stuart: Yeah, yeah, yeah! It's not like—it's not like this is *The Game* or something.

Dan: I know, Elliott. But surely the man—

Elliott: Yeah.
—who has engineered all this could not pretend to be part of the military. *[Laughs.]* That is a bridge too far, sir. *[Laughs.]*

01:03:20 Dan Host

01:03:27 Elliott Host I mean, that's—then you get a thing like in *The Game* where the guy is—that guy is talking to him and then he sees the guy later on a commercial for medicine? And it's like—maybe they—maybe they should've hired an actor—

[Dan laughs.]

—who does commercials. [Laughs.]

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:03:41 Griffin Guest I also—

01:03:41 Elliott Host Maybe they should've hired a guy who really works on the stage mostly.

01:03:42 Dan Host I mean, ultimately, isn't that part of *The Game*, though, Elliott?

01:03:46 Elliott Host Oh, yeah. It is—I mean I guess—it's an intricate game.

01:03:47 Dan Host Yeah.

01:03:49 Griffin Guest It's also like—it has to be emotional and personal for him. Because he has to think that he is betraying orders to do quote-unquote “the right thing.” Like, he has to be motivated by a self-righteousness. I also love that Guy Pearce's big evil plan is essentially—I want to fire everyone else who helped develop this script.

[Multiple people laugh.]

So I can be the only one who gets residuals. Y'know? Like, that's his big plan! Is like—we're gonna sell it and I'm gonna make a ton of money and the ends will justify the mean. I—I can be the only one with credit on this thing.

01:04:23 Elliott Host So in a—in a weird way, uh, if we're mapping the Valiant universe onto it, it's almost like Jim Shooter—one of the founders of Valiant, former Marvel Editor-in-Chief—is like—okay. I gotta kill Bob Layton and David Michelin—all these other guys who worked with me on Valiant properties so that I can be the only—which is not really a Phil Shooter thing to do. It's kind of more of a Stan Lee thing to do? In a way? [Laughs.] But uh—

01:04:43 Griffin Guest Guy Pearce is kinda playing Stan Lee in this movie! But it's a lot of those like comic book universes—uh, not the universes, but the actual, like, stories of the publishers themselves. Where it's like—all the grunt work goes up to the top. And then everyone gets thrown out and they're like, yeah! I just one day thought of *Spider-Man* singlehandedly.

01:05:00 Elliott Host Mm-hm. Oh wow. They're—this movie's so deep!

01:05:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Stuart, tell us more about what happens.

Stuart: Yeah. So we—we cut back to—

01:05:05 Stuart Host We cut back to Vin Diesel lying on a table, a man apart, Vin Diesel. Lying there. Uh, Dalton... explains everything that's going on 'cause he resents Vin Diesel. Uh—

01:05:14 Griffin Guest 'Cause he's not a movie star!

01:05:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** He doesn't have it!

Stuart: Harting is planning—yeah.

01:05:16 Stuart Host Harting is planning on selling the technology. He just has one final... uh... guy that he needs to kill. Uh, Baris? Baris was his—his final, uh, partner who—

01:05:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Chuck Baris. Has to be killed.

01:05:31 Stuart Host **Stuart:** —now needs to be eliminated. Chuck Baris.
Um, so... at this point, they go through the whole routine again. We see bits of the routine and we can see how... uh... it's fraying at the edges a little bit. And how—

01:05:40 Griffin Guest And it's like a mundane day at the office for everyone. Like, now that it's been exposed? It's like, his whole emotional backstory can be covered in a really, really wrote montage.

01:05:50 Stuart Host He, uh—at this point, we are introduced to Baris, who has an army of goons because everyone seems to be able to hire an army of goons. Uh, and he has his own tech guy, played by... *New Girl's* Lamorne Morris, with a... English accent? Is that his real accent?

01:06:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** No. Absolutely not.

Dan: No. No. I think he's a Chicago guy.

01:06:11 Dan Host **Stuart:** Okay. I was gonna say—
I think.

01:06:12 Elliott Host No, it's a—that's a pretty heavy Chicago accent.

01:06:15 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
He's got a lot—

01:06:15 Elliott Host *[Adopts Cockney accent]* And we all were in the Windy City and we were gonna have some of that deep dish pizza! Oh!

01:06:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Go Bulls!

01:06:22 Griffin Guest **Dan:** And you know—
[Mimicking Elliott's accent] Put a lot on my hot dogs, mate!

01:06:25 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
I would say he's playing this role with a lot of verve! I don't think that the jokes that are given to him are particularly good? But he's doing his—his level best to, like, give everything he can to this.

01:06:34 Elliott Host Oh, no. He's—he's very admirable. In the amount of enthusiasm he's giving. But—y'know. He gets to play himself! A local Chicagoan—

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:06:48 Griffin Guest —with that famous Chicago accent! *[Adopts Cockney accent]* It's the Second City, love! But y'know, we're the first city in the hearts of our neighbors. Uh— *[Laughs.]*

01:06:56 Dan Host I will also say, I—I auditioned for and actively pursued this role?
Uh—and none of that stuff was in the script? It was—

01:06:57 Griffin Guest Oh, yeah.
—very lacking in any sort of characterization? So it really feels like he threw on a lot of choices that I think largely work. To try to define this guy's personality in some way.

01:07:09 Elliott Host So—was that true? Where you're trying to get that role?

01:07:12 Griffin Guest Oh, so badly you have no idea. Yes.

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:07:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk Yes. A full-court effort. Multiple tapes. I made a direct plea? Like, I sent like a video testimonial in addition—
Griffin: —to my audition.

Stuart: You offered to have your memory wiped? And go on a revenge spree?

[Multiple people laugh.]

Stuart: All of it.

01:07:28 Griffin Guest I said do what you want with my body. I will anonymously donate it to you.
01:07:33 Dan Host I'll imagine that I must give the best performance of my life in order to avenge my wife if you put me—

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:07:40 Elliott Host Did you do an English accent for the tape?
01:07:43 Griffin Guest I didn't, no, 'cause that wasn't in the script! It was just like there was none of that. It was, uh... I—I think he pretty much—like, the dialogue is pretty much the same? But it feels like none of that—none of his character choices were in the breakdown. Um—

01:07:57 Elliott Host I see.
01:07:57 Griffin Guest So I think he did a pretty creative job. With this role.
01:08:00 Elliott Host Yeah. I—and, uh, Stuart, did you mention that that, uh, the swimmer has started getting upset?

01:08:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** At the way they're treating him?

Stuart: Yeah. So she's—

01:08:06 Stuart Host She obviously is not comfortable with what they are putting, uh, Bloodshot through. And she is getting upset with, uh, the whole situation. But, uh, Harting is like—this is just one last time, then we can sell it and we're done. So—

01:08:20 Griffin Guest She's stuck on, like, season six of a shitty TV show. And she's like—I'm tired of playing this same part over and over again.

01:08:26 Elliott Host She's, um—oh, what's her name? From, uh, *Fresh Off the Boat*?
01:08:30 Griffin Guest Oh, she's Constance Wu. Yes. *[Through laughter]* Exactly.
01:08:33 Elliott Host Which is a show I like, but she's the one where they're like—good news! We got another Bloodshot mission! She's like, oh, fuck. I gotta—I gotta do the Bloodshot thing again? Oh, man.

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:08:41 Griffin Guest I have, like, offers!

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:08:44 Stuart Host So we now, uh... so Bloodshot shows up to Baris's compound, and we have an action sequence that is mainly through, like, what—like, uh, heat-based security cameras? Of him, uh, like, killing his way through goons.

01:08:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Baris brings his—

Griffin: Well, 'cause the nanites make him really hot.

01:09:02 Griffin Guest And it—in every sense of that word. Uh, but uh—

[Elliott laughs.]

—also enough that he glows. His red chest glows, much like the Grinch learning to love Christmas.

01:09:11 Elliott Host Or I would say much like Iron Man, the first character in a different, much more successful cinematic universe of comic book

characters. Almost as if they're trying to fool us at times into thinking we're watching an Iron Man movie.

[All laugh.]

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 01:09:24 | Stuart | Host | Uh, so he fights his way through there. Uh, we find out that Baris's tech guy, uh, what's his name—Wallie? Wendell? Something— |
| 01:09:32 | Elliott | Host | Wigans! |
| 01:09:32 | Stuart | Host | Wigans? |
| 01:09:34 | Elliott | Host | Wigans. |
| 01:09:34 | Stuart | Host | Wigans actually has a portable EMP device that they have to charge up so they can take out Bloodshot. Uh— |
| 01:09:41 | Elliott | Host | And Wigans is a—is a legendary techie guy. The—the techie guy that works for Guy Pearce is like, Wigans?! He's the king! I used some of his code for Bloodshot! |
| 01:09:48 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Dan: And Wigans is— |
| 01:09:50 | Dan | Host | Stuart: Yeah. So he is— —dithering around in a way that initially you think is just 'cause he's, like, an—gonna be an annoying comic relief character. But he has his reasons for taking his time. With his EMP. |
| 01:09:59 | Elliott | Host | He has his raisins? |
| 01:10:00 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Stuart: He has his raisins, yeah. |
| | | | Dan: I <u>clearly</u> said reasons, Elliott. |
| | | | Griffin: And they're golden! |
| 01:10:04 | Griffin | Guest | <i>[Elliott laughs.]</i> They're golden. I wrote here—in my notes, I wrote, uh... "Guy Pearce is the hack filmmaker who has indie posters on his wall"? Uh, "Wigans is the indie filmmaker trying to sneak through the studio system but he's too esoteric to make something successful." |
| 01:10:19 | Elliott | Host | <i>[Dan laughs.]</i> Ah. And I—in my notes it just says: "Wigans. IRO. Wisecracker." |
| 01:10:25 | Stuart | Host | <i>[All laugh.]</i> So... uh, Bloodshot fights his way through there. He kills Baris and you think that he has managed to avoid the EMP. But <u>somebody</u> —who we later learn is Wigans! Triggers it anyway, taking out all the power and disrupting, uh, disrupting Harting's plan and his surveillance and control over Bloodshot. The end of the movie! |
| 01:10:45 | Elliott | Host | <i>[Laughs.]</i> End of movie. This—there's a moment here where it feels like the movie is trying a little too hard to—to call it—call out cliché things? Where the tech guy is like—he's got an EMP—an electromagnetic pulse! That'll shut off all the electricity! And Guy Pearce is like, I know what an EMP is! |
| 01:10:59 | Stuart | Host | <i>[All laugh.]</i> So of course, uh, Wigans wakes, uh, Bloodshot up using some, uh, like, a car battery. Uh, and they basically explain at this point, like, they talk a little bit about his powers and they're like, oh, wow! Now you're free of their control. We can do whatever we want. And he's like—well what I want is to find my wife! And kill this guy! And we're like—okay. That makes sense. |

01:11:18 Dan Host But he's not completely free of their control in some sort of like... vague way. I mean, like—like they can come back in and like hijack him. And this is one of the moments where I was a little confused, plotting-wise. It felt like maybe something got cut out? Maybe the script got changed? 'Cause we leave Wigans in such a way where as you think, like, okay, well he's gonna continue to work, uh, for Vin Diesel... on this problem of, like... totally liberating Vin Diesel from their control. But then the next time we see him—spoiler—like, the swimmer is like... like, kind of hijacking him and taking him off so the two of them can work together to help Vin Diesel. I'm like—wait, hold on. Like... in-between times, like, what was Wigans doing? Like, was he trying to help? Was he just, like, ignoring him? Like, I don't get...

01:12:07 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** —what was going on.

Elliott: I'm—I was confused that—we get—

01:12:10 Stuart Host **Stuart:** I think he's—he said he was like—
—trying to hack the nanite sample that—that he gave him.

01:12:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Yeah, well they said that at the end of the scene—

Stuart: They tried to like—
—but then we don't see any of that. Like... he just—

01:12:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** —kinda disappears from the movie.

Elliott: But the next—

01:12:18 Elliott Host The next time we see Wigans, he also has like his own personal bodyguards?

01:12:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Which confused me. Yes.

Stuart: Yeah.

Elliott: Yeah. And so—

01:12:24 Elliott Host I was so confused 'cause I was like—wait a minute. So is he rich?

01:12:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk Like, I don't understand—I don't know what—what—
Elliott: Wigans was working for Baris—

Griffin: Well they say—
—and he refers to himself as an indentured servant. But then like... I—I—but he also—he writes open source code. So like is he a wealthy tech guy? Or is he like an anarchist tech guy who doesn't make money but is like a crazy master? You know?

01:12:30 Elliott Host

01:12:43 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** He's just out on his own.

Griffin: Well there's a—there're a couple—
Look. There are a lot of layers to Wigans. It's a multifaceted—

[Elliott laughs.]

—character.

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:12:49 Elliott Host Okay? If I can—
I can see why you wanted to play the character so badly!

01:12:51 Griffin Guest So badly! I mean, first of all, they explain that he is... a sort of, uh, gone-to-seed former child prodigy. Which is the number one thing I auditioned for. Whenever I see that in the logline—

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:13:03 Stuart Host —I think I have a chance.
01:13:04 Griffin Guest Yeah, like a Billy Quiz boy type thing? Yeah. Just broken child genius. Uh... ten years later. Is—is kinda my wheelhouse. But—so yes! He was sort of this child prodigy. I think they show a newspaper clipping that he won some sort of... coding award. *[Laughs.]* In line, elementary school.

[Stuart laughs.]

01:13:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk But I think—yes! He does open source. Because he’s a fucking artist, Elliott. Okay? He’s not about—
Griffin: —working for the man! He’s got stuck—

01:13:28 Griffin Guest **Elliott:** Yeah, but that’s why I—so where’s his—
He’s stuck in this fucking shitty contract! He got sold—

[Stuart laughs.]

—a false bill of goods. He’s stuck on a first-look deal with this shitty fucking guy—

[Elliott laughs.]

—and to continue the analogy, he lets Vin Diesel go because he’s still in the seduction period of like... he has gotten access to a coffee meeting with a major movie star. Who he’s trying to convince to sign on so that he could get financing for his project. Like, he’s got a vague idea of like—this is how I could use you and it would be for good. But I don’t totally have my shit together enough to get you to sign on for this yet.

01:14:04 Elliott Host I think the metaphor works perfectly. If it’s—in terms of filmmaking. It does not make sense in terms of the immediate story of the film.

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:14:12 Griffin Guest Absolutely not. Absolutely not.
01:14:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** I will concede that.

01:14:16 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Well he’s like—
He’s like—he’s like, *[Cockney accent]* Bloodshot, I’m gonna work on this problem for ya. I’ll see ya, I guess, when I get around to it. Do you want status updates? Vin Diesel: *[Vin Diesel accent]* No, that’s okay. I got some stuff to do.

[Dan laughs.]

[Cockney accent] Alright! Do you want my phone number? *[Vin Diesel accent]* Nah. That’s—I’ll find you.

01:14:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** It’s okay. I got nanites in my head.

Stuart: And Vin Diesel—

01:14:28 Stuart Host And Vin Diesel does have stuff to do. Because he goes to London.
[Elliott laughs.]

01:14:48 Griffin Guest He tracks down his wife, Gina's, flat. And, uh, he knocks on the door and they—y'know, they have a reunion. But then we find out—she's actually remarried. They're not together anymore! She has a child and it's been five years since she last saw him. What?! Not only that—like, they broke up long before... he then was taken by Guy Pearce.

01:14:54 Dan Host Yeah.

01:14:54 Griffin Guest Like, not only has she moved on? But his memory of them being together up until the end is, like, far far in the past.

01:15:02 Elliott Host It's—I mean, that memory—I would go as far as to say what they're telling us is all of that memory is false.

01:15:07 Griffin Guest Yes.

01:15:08 Elliott Host This is literally—they took his last regular—serious girlfriend, and just slapped her face and name onto the idea of a wife. And—who knows how—and she makes it very clear, like—this was—it wasn't like—oh, this, y'know, uh, there was something happened and it got in our way. Like, she did not want to be in a relationship with him anymore.

01:15:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Maybe they saw each other *[inaudible]*.

01:15:29 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Well, she suggested—
—she wanted him to stay and not leave. I mean, that indicates that she did like him.

01:15:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** It fell apart organically. Yes.

Elliott: Not—not that—not that she didn't like him, but that—

Dan: Yes, but she also—but she also reacts with a little fear of him?

01:15:38 Dan Host When he comes on—

01:15:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Yeah, he's scary!

Elliott: She does, sure!

01:15:39 Elliott Host If Vin Diesel showed up on your doorstep, even if you're a fan—

01:15:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** No, I know, but like, I do think that it implies—like, her reaction—

Elliott: —of his, you'd be a little afraid! *[Laughs.]*

01:15:45 Stuart Host **Stuart:** 'Cause she realized—
—she could just lose her—leave her current life behind to leave with Vin Diesel—

01:15:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** —if he wants her.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:15:51 Dan Host **Dan:** Her reaction implies—
—to me... that they not only broke up, but it was a bad breakup. And she's, like, she's not unhappy to see him in the same way that you might not be unhappy to see someone that enough time has passed that you're cool with them again, and like, it's like nice for

01:16:13 Elliott Host old times' sake. But she seems a little nervous in a way that suggests that things ended very badly.
Yes. And here there's something very realistic in this scene, which is that her young daughter will not stop trying to get her attention and make her come into the house while this hulking man is standing there upsetting her. And so it's like—I—look. I'm living that life right now, people.

[Dan laughs.]

It's very hard to—like—you can tell a kid—I'm talking to my ex and he's a super Marine assassin and so I'm a little bit afraid—

[Dan laughs.]

—of why he's here? The kid does not care. They just wanna come and show you their new Paw Patrol thing.

01:16:36 Griffin Guest I—I fully love this scene because I feel like... this—the real Gina that we're seeing for the first time—is the only character who is not in the movie *Bloodshot*. It's just like—

[Multiple people laugh.]

I just have a day to do! And—and—yeah! The arc of this scene is like... that was a bad breakup but I've moved on. I don't hold it against him anymore. My life turned out okay. He shows up on her doorstep. She's like, oh, this is like funny and weird. I guess you're in the neighborhood? We'll catch up for a couple minutes. Then she starts to become scared that he's a psycho. And then she goes all the way around to feeling actually bad for him. Where you can tell—

[Stuart laughs.]

—by the end of the scene, she's like—is he having, like, a psychotic break? Like, he's not making any sense and my note I wrote here is: "Love that the Gina scene is fully embarrassing. Just a completely earnest faceplant."

[Elliott laughs.]

Like, there is a level of vulnerability to how much Vin is failing in this scene? And to the point also where Vin Diesel—famously deep-voiced man—his voice cracks a couple times in this scene? Where he goes, like, *[gruff Vin Diesel voice]* When was the last time you saw me? And she goes, five years. And he goes, *[gruff, cracking voice]* Five years?! *[Regular voice]*

[Multiple people laugh.]

And he sounds like Cookie Monster? Like, it's—he's doing both, like, a falsetto vibrato? But um... it is this thing where he just like cannot fathom... that even though everyone was lying to him, he assumed that she must have been waiting out there for him in his life.

01:18:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** And he's just being told, like—

01:18:03 Griffin Guest **Elliott:** Well, also—and also—
He was forced to method act. Like, he was using a backstory of a woman... to map onto the—

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:18:13 Elliott Host —scenes that he was playing on a day-to-day basis.
There's something about, like, you're saying that every other situation it's like, oh, I can tough-guy my way through this. But—

01:18:18 Griffin Guest Right!

01:18:18 Elliott Host There is no way—aside from becoming a monster and doing something monstrous—there's no way to tough your way out of, like... going to visit someone you think you're in a relationship with and them being like, no. Uh... this is not happening.

[Stuart laughs.]

01:18:39 Griffin Guest And so he's not just deal—like, he's not just dealing with the fact that, oh, all of my memories are different and I don't have a life. It's also like, yeah. Embarrassment. Like, oh, this is awkward. I don't even know—now I feel like a jerk and—

01:18:39 Elliott Host Yeah.
She feels bad for me and I don't want that! Like, I want her to think I'm cool! Like—I'm a cool guy! I'm a Bloodshot!

[Griffin laughs.]

01:18:46 Stuart Host And I'm assuming he's thinking all that stuff—he's thinking, like... why did that—why did this specific conditioning work so well on me? What does that say about my personality?

[Elliott laughs.]

01:18:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk So while he's having these thoughts he then gets attacked by Tibbs and Dalton—
Stuart: —who are on the hunt.

01:18:59 Elliott Host **Elliott:** And this must be such—
This must be such a relief for him. To be like, oh, thank goodness.

01:19:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** I don't have to be—a fool!

01:19:04 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Oh, I can just—I can just battle.
In front of my ex-girlfriend! Yeah, I could just battle these guys.
This is what I can do—like, I—that's something I wish they had shown a little bit more of. Him being, like, oh, thank god. I can get into a fight now. Rather than having to deal with these emotions!
[Laughs.]

[Dan laughs.]

01:19:13 Griffin Guest I don't have to find an out for this conversation anymore. I don't have to pretend like I have to be somewhere.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:19:18 Elliott Host He doesn't have to go—*[makes phone buzzing noise]* vert! vert!
Oh, that was my phone!

[Multiple people laugh.]

Hold on! Uh—uh, new girlfriend? Oh, yeah, I'll come have sex with you!

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:19:27 Stuart Host I gotta go.
Uh... so... this is basically a chase sequence where Bloodshot is running away. Dalton is firing these, like, EMP bullets at him? That like... sterilize his nanites or something? Uh... while... Tibbs is like, doing all kinds of hot dog stunts on his fucking motorbike.

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:19:46 Elliott Host This is—and—and, uh, there's some really great comic relief policemen in a car.

01:19:50 Stuart Host That is great. Where they— *[Laughs.]* He, like, kicks the car and there's like three slow-motion shots of these two cops, who— despite being in London—are eating American-style donuts—

[Elliott laughs.]

01:20:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Through laughter]* and coffee!
Griffin: Are fucking, like, Keystone Cops. Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

Elliott: And they're just going, whooooo! *[Laughs.]* Yeah.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:20:05 Dan Host But no. You—like—yeah. The car is like sort of like at half speed, spinning around, and Vin is backing away using the car—

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:20:16 Stuart Host —as a, like, shield as it rotates. *[Laughs.]* It's pretty great.

01:20:21 Elliott Host Yeah. And it keeps cutting to them going, whaaaaat?! Noooo!

I just watched the begin—the first half of *Onward* last night? And like these cops could've been in *Onward*. Like, that's—

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:20:28 Stuart Host —how suddenly cartoonish they are.
Yeah. I—I kinda wanted a scene with these two cops telling their, like, friends and family after—like, the night after this, uh, this situation. What they saw and what just happened.

[Dan laughs.]

But um—

[Elliott laughs.]

So—uh, at the—y'know, the fight continues. Dalton's robot legs get knocked off. It looks like Vin's got him. And then Tibbs drives up and stabs him in the back with a jackknife? Which I guess logs him onto the internet. And then they shut him down remotely. Which—

01:20:54 Dan Host Yeah. And he has, like, three seconds to pull this knife out? And I'm like, in my—I'm just like yelling, like, Vin! Vin! When they like jab you with a thing you pull it out! 'Cause you gotta know—

01:21:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** That they're trying to hijack him into the matrix!

01:21:07 Dan Host **Stuart:** He's too jacked.
But like—

01:21:07 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** But he's, like, too into it!

01:21:10 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** But if it—if there's one thing I know about Vin Diesel? It's that he never pulls out.

[Multiple people laugh.]

No one has ever believed in the pullout method less than Vin Diesel.

[Multiple people laugh.]

No! He's—he's—he's—never enters unless he's invited? But he never pulls out. I wanna make this very clear.

01:21:25 Stuart Host Okay.

01:21:25 Dan Host Okay.

01:21:27 Stuart Host The—I mean, also, like, just logistically, I don't think he can get his arms all the way around to his back.

[Griffin laughs.]

01:21:33 Griffin Guest He's just too muscly.
[Through laughter] That is also true.

01:21:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Just use those neck—use those nanites—

01:21:36 Elliott Host **Dan:** Well he could just flex!
—to extend his arms a little bit! Like, come on!

01:21:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Or tell the nanites to push that thing out.

01:21:40 Stuart Host **Stuart:** That would've been awesome!
Okay. So now KT goes on her own mission? She, uh... she waits outside for Wigans to leave his hotel with his security detail. She uses her, uh, her special breathing abilities to blow poison smoke into people's faces. But she herself is unaffected by that smoke because—as we've addressed—she has special breathing abilities because of her cyborg lungs. She then beats up some dudes with one of those rods? And then, uh, captures Wigans. Although—when she returns to Harting, she says—Wigans got away. What?!

01:22:12 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** Hmm.

01:22:12 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Hold on.
Now, what if—now here's—guys. What if... she got mistaken and she went—while she was capturing this Wigans, she thought the mission was to go kill Wiley Wigans, star of *Dazed & Confused*? And... acci—but he got away.

01:22:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** I mean, you're—

Elliott: Like, but—so—it's—

Griffin: What you're describing now, Elliott—

01:22:28 Griffin Guest **Dan:** I think—
—isn't an action film. It's a tragedy. I—I—
[Multiple people laugh.]
I cannot even—even for laughs on a podcast imagine what would happen—
[Multiple people laugh.]

01:22:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk —if we were to lose Wiley Wigans?
Elliott: *[Through laughter]* Okay. I'm sorry. I apologize. I shouldn't have—
Griffin: Austin film scene staple.

01:22:42 Dan Host **Dan:** Well, I mean, luckily—
01:22:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk —he's far too wily *[though laughter]* to be captured by—
Dan: *[Inaudible.]*
Griffin: He's the wiliest of all Wigans!
Elliott: He—of course—

01:22:48 Elliott Host **Stuart:** *[Through laughter]* Yeah!
Wile E. Wigans—
[Multiple people laugh.]
He was able to use his ACME devices to get away.
[Multiple people laugh.]

01:22:53 Stuart Host So while—while KT is deceiving them, Harting has a chat with Bloodshot in the... what, neural realm? Which is basically one of those like inevitable like... uh... you know, is it worth fighting? Yadda, yadda. You—you should just do this 'cause what—what is life anyway? Etcetera, etcetera.

01:23:08 Griffin Guest Well he essentially gives Bloodshot a series of notes. He gives him a round of notes. *[Through laughter]* He's like, can I just give you—
[Elliott laughs.]

01:23:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** —just a quick pass on some of this stuff you've been doing? Yeah! But then if—but then it even—
Elliott: You're really, really going with this analogy. Keeping the analogy going. I love it. I love the determination.

01:23:19 Griffin Guest —gets down to, he goes, like, I made you the best version of yourself. And—and Bloodshot says, your best version of me. And he's like, look, I made you sad. I killed a fake girlfriend. Like, but I got you there! And he's essentially the abusive director saying, like—
[Dan laughs.]

—look, if I got the performance out of you, isn't that, like, what you wanted at the end of the day?

01:23:39 Stuart Host Yeah, Shelley Duvall!

01:23:41 Griffin Guest Right!

01:23:42 Elliott Host It was—it was— *[Laughs.]* It was hard for me to pay attention to this since I was still blown away from the five or six minutes they spent building the fake Italy?

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:23:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk That they're in?
Elliott: We're just watching computer graphics unfold?

01:23:54 Dan Host **Dan:** Yeah. They did a real... *Serenity* where the— *[Laughs.]*
—graphics just sort of... yeah, came out.

01:23:56 Elliott Host You don't need this much Italy for this conversation they're having.

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:24:01 Stuart Host We don't need the mountains. *[Laughs.]* Like— *[Laughs.]*
So now that KT has lied and said that Wigans is on the run—he's in the wind—uh—

[Elliott laughs.]

—they decide to stop draining the nanites out of him and instead they gotta reboot Bloodshot and they have to map Wigans' face back on the murderer of his wife. KT interrupts the sim. Uh, while we find out that Wigans—who is in the wind—is actually in a, uh... a van underneath the building and he starts—he hacks into the Bloodshot system, waking up Bloodshot. Bloodshot wakes up. Uh, KT, uh, uses her breathing ability again to sneak around, uh... sneak around Guy Pearce. She then uses her breathing ability to blow up the server system.

01:24:42 Elliott Host I mean, I don't know that she used her breathing ability for that.

[Dan laughs.]

01:24:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk She just— *[Laughs.]*
Elliott: She just walked in and blew it up.

01:24:47 Stuart Host **Dan:** She kinda just threw a grenade.
Uh, I don't think you could've done it with your human lungs!
[Laughs.]

01:24:49 Elliott Host Right.

01:24:49 Griffin Guest But also, she—she blows it up with similarly Bloodshot-esque, very moody red lighting, uh, explosives. Because she now needs to prove that she also can be an action star.

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:25:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Now here—now this was—this was—

01:25:04 Dan Host **Dan:** She also—blows it up with great trust that the—
—the—the windows behind her are not gonna burst. *[Laughs.]*

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:25:10 Crosstalk Crosstalk Spraying glass into her! *[Laughs.]*
Griffin: She could breathe the glass, though.

Elliott: That they are explosion-proof glass. Yeah.

Stuart: And that those—

01:25:15 Stuart Host **All:** Yeah.
 And—and the belief that those servers aren't 100% necessary to the functioning—

[Dan laughs.]

—of these nanites.

01:25:21 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
[Through laughter] That's a good point. Now, uh, this is around the point when I started realizing that this movie is basically *Tootsie* as an action movie? When both were about somebody who's forced to really transform themselves and become a new person. Not because it's best—really—for them, but because the system around them has decreed that that's the only way they're gonna survive. In the mode that is... y'know, most comfortable with them. The only way they can survive. And that—again—there's a woman assisting who doesn't really get her own full life or story. But is still necessary to making, uh, Bloodshot—or as I call him, Tootsie—uh, y'know, successful. Until he can turn the tables. And reveal himself again.

01:25:59 Griffin Guest Well cause—there—look, she's trying to take control of her narrative again. She's trying to restart her career in her own terms. And she's the one who proactively reaches out to Wigans! And is like, we should be united in this. Figuring out how to bypass the studio system.

01:26:14 Elliott Host So you're saying she is Elizabeth Banks, creating her own projects, so that she's more than just like... an actress who at some point will have to play moms, even though she is only ten years older than the kid playing her child. And so she's gonna make her own stuff. I see. I get that. It makes sense. Yeah.

01:26:31 Stuart Host So... now Dalton, uh, puts on an exo suit because those robot legs alone aren't gonna kill Bloodshot. So he puts on this exo suit that has two extra arms, and then he gets in a fight with Bloodshot. Uh, this is a pretty cool fight. Like, I like that the exo suit arms basically are just a little bit longer? So it gives him some reach?

01:26:49 Dan Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
 No. it looks like he's wearing, like, the arms from that scene in *Nightmare on Elm Street* where Freddy just extends his arms—

[Elliott laughs.]

01:27:00 Stuart Host —really silly? *[Laughs.]* And scrapes the—the fences? I—
 Yeah. It's trying to—psychological warfare right there!

01:27:02 Dan Host Yeah. I'm gonna say, like—I'm not gonna pretend I didn't like the movie up until this point? But I also, when he put on these *[though*

01:27:14 Griffin Guest *laughter*] extra-long robot arms, I'm like, okay. Well this is the movie I really *[though laughter]* wanted to be seeing. 100%. 100%. Um, so I—as—as—I believe I would assume the only person who has watched all the special features on the digital release of *Bloodshot*.

01:27:24 Elliott Host
01:27:26 Griffin Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]* I think that's a fair—that's a fair assumption. Yeah. *[Laughs.]* And this—this goes back to the point of the earlier action sequences not being, uh, terribly exciting. Even if the movie itself is kinda stylish overall. Uh, this movie had a budget of like \$40 million. Which is very, very budget for something that is trying to, uh, kickstart a cinematic universe based on comic books. Um, but there is an alternate ending with, uh, a director's intro. That is this final battle, except it just happens, uh, without any CGI in the, uh, swimming pool. That Eiza González does her dances in. Uh, and then he just drowns him to death.

01:28:01 Stuart Host
01:28:02 Griffin Guest Oh, okay!
And, uh, they said that they—that was the ending in the script, with the budget they had. And they screened it for the studio and they were like—this is the most anticlimactic thing of all time.

01:28:13 Dan Host
01:28:13 Griffin Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]* Oh, shit!
So this entire final action sequence is like the one reshoot in the movie. That is them saying, like, we'll give you a couple extra million dollars. Make your videogame cutscene. Like, we know you can do that. Do your insane comic book fight scene. And it's why it's the only fight scene in this that is actually pretty exciting.

01:28:31 Elliott Host I mean, that explains why they spent a cert—a good amount of time setting up that swimming pool.

01:28:35 Griffin Guest Yes!
01:28:35 Elliott Host 'Cause otherwise there's no reason for her to be a swimmer; no reason for her power to be special breathing; no reason for them to have a pool. Like—

01:28:43 Griffin Guest Swimming pool was supposed to be the Chekhov's gun, that then... Vin Diesel transfers so many nanites to this guy that he becomes heavy and drowns in the pool.

01:28:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Dan laughs.]*
Griffin: It is a terrible, terrible alternate fight. Yeah.
Stuart: Oh, wow. That's amazing.

01:28:57 Stuart Host **Elliott:** That is pretty anticlimactic.
Yeah. And—and he's like—I wish I had the lung breathing power insteaaaaaad!

01:29:03 Griffin Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*
01:29:03 Elliott Host Right!
The—it's, the, uh—'cause this scene is a really fun, like, creative action scene. And the only—the only issue I had with it was that they seemed to keep forgetting that Vin Diesel has nanites in his body and can come back from anything? 'Cause they're just dropping him down elevator shafts and then they're surprised when he comes back?

[Dan laughs.]

01:29:23 Griffin Guest And it's like, yeah, dudes! He's full of nanites! *[Through laughter]* I don't know what to tell ya!
But then also, this is when he like goes turbo and finally transforms into something that vaguely resembles the comic book character. Like, he gets his sort of kabuki bloodshot getup where he's pale white and his eyes are red.

01:29:36 Stuart Host The thing about this exo suit is it reminded me of the movie *Elysium*, if the movie *Elysium* was cool and had longer arms for the exo suit.

[Multiple people laugh.]

Uh, so yeah. So the—the—they get in this big fight. It's crazy. They end up on these, like, giant elevators. Uh, Tibbs, uh, joins in in the fight and you're like, whoa, dude, you don't even have an exo suit! And of course, uh, Dalton ends up letting Tibbs die. And he thinks he's got Bloodshot, but of course Bloodshot kills, uh, Dalton, and he falls all the way to the bottom and you're like, oh, man, he's almost dead! And then, uh, nope! He's not dead. And he interrupts, uh, Harting, who—yeah. What's his name? Harting? Harkness? Whatever?

01:30:14 Elliott Host Harting.

01:30:15 Stuart Host Who is trying to escape. Uh, he throws a robot arm through his car. *[Laughs.]* Uh, and... Harting shoots him—shoots Bloodshot with a grenade. Which, uh... maxes out his—depletes his nanites, I guess? 'Cause using the nanites a lot—his nanite percentage goes down, like, two percent or something.

01:30:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** And you're like—what the fuck?

01:30:36 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** But he—he sees this. Guy Pearce has a readout on his robot arm and it says, "Nanite levels depleted" at a certain point. And that is one of those lines—even if it's not spoken out loud—if your movie can somehow get to "Nanite levels depleted" as three words in a row—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—you have me.

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:30:55 Stuart Host It's so great because, uh... 'cause Lamorne Morris—Wigans—is—is—is watching the nanites reducing at his computer screen. And as soon as they hit zero, all of his monitors turn off. *[Laughs.]*

[Dan laughs.]

01:31:06 Elliott Host That was—that was one of the stranger things earlier, too, when he sets off the EMP. His—Wigans' monitors don't turn off? They just say "no feed"?

[Griffin laughs.]

So I guess maybe his stuff was shielded? I don't know. But it just seems very funny that it like shut off everything and then—but his stuff is fine.

01:31:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** But I guess he shielded.

01:31:22 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** He's got some hand crank computers. Yeah. But I also—

01:31:22 Elliott Host *[Elliott laughs.]*
He has—he has a horse walking in a giant wheel. And that's what powers his computers.

01:31:27 Dan Host I mean, he is the one guy who knew *[though laughter]* that this was coming. I don't know.

01:31:30 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Yeah.

01:31:30 Elliott Host **Elliott:** That's fair.
That's very fair.

01:31:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** But—but Harting is also—

01:31:33 Griffin Guest **Stuart:** So he has a Conan pushing the wheel.
—making like the argument of like—well you can't kill me! I'm the only person who understands how to use you. Like, I made you. You're—you're like inherently tied to me? And what I wrote down here was: "It's literally about the three POC characters fighting for autonomy and control of their narrative. And the conventional white man's fight against irrelevance." And then my next note is: "I love this movie. I can't wait to watch it a third time."

01:32:04 Stuart Host *[All laugh enthusiastically and at length.]*
Uh, so yeah. So, uh, at this point his nanites are depleted. Uh, Guy Pearce shoots another, uh, grenade at him. The last bit of nanites are used to strip the casing off the grenade. Guy Pearce walks up and he's like, the nanites are gone. It's just you. And then, uh... of course, Vin Diesel reveals—I mean, at that point you're like, yeah. He's just Vin Diesel. You're totally dead, dude!

[Dan laughs.]

01:32:41 Griffin Guest So he holds out in his hand that he's got the, uh, grenade which he drops on the ground and it explodes, killing Guy Pearce and—
theoretically—killing, uh, Vin Diesel. Finally, he can rest. His—his—his hard work is over.

01:32:51 Crosstalk Crosstalk He knows for the first time—much like Murphy realizing he is Murphy and not RoboCop—he realizes for the first time just who he is inside. His true heart—
Griffin: —is enough—

01:32:53 Griffin Guest **Elliott:** I mean, that's—
—to be a hero.

01:32:53 Elliott Host That is something that—that I feel like it's weakened slightly by the fact that the audience has no idea who he really is inside.

01:32:57 Griffin Guest Oh, no, we haven't met Ray Garrison.

[Multiple people laugh.]

We don't know him at all.

01:33:00 Elliott Host *[Through laughter]* No. All we know is that he has an ex-girlfriend.
[Multiple people laugh.]

01:33:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk That he still has feelings for. And otherwise, I don't know if he was really in the military. I guess so. When he says—I said I'd always come home! And she's like, but I wanted you to stay at home. He could've been a traveling salesman! I don't know! Like, it's—maybe—
Elliott: Maybe he was working—
Dan: As opposed—as opposed to the colorful character Murphy was—
Stuart: He could've been an actor!—before he became *[though laughter]* RoboCop.
01:33:18 Dan Host
01:33:20 Elliott Host No, but I—but you see Murphy's fam—you know what Murphy's actual family is.
01:33:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** You know he can do the gun trick?
Stuart: And he likes spinning pistols around!
01:33:26 Griffin Guest Exactly!
01:33:26 Elliott Host I mean, I think—and I think that's one of Verhoeven's jokes is that Murphy has more personality as a robot than he did as a—as a human being. But like, you know—when he's like, I know who I am now, the audience is like—great. Are we gonna—
[Dan laughs.]
—can I find out? Is that— *[Laughs.]* 'Cause I know your name—
[Griffin laughs.]
—is your name really Ray? I think that is. Or is that a nickname? Like, I don't know.
01:33:43 Stuart Host So we, uh... of course, at—next thing we know, Bloodshot is waking up from a new fresh injection of nanites. They're hanging out in a trailer somewhere along Pacific Coast Highway 1, I bet. Uh—
01:33:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** —which is along the South African coast. *[Laughs.]*
Elliott: Wigans is—
01:33:56 Elliott Host Wigans is dressed so stylish.
01:33:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** For this *[inaudible]*.
Griffin: He's gone Hollywood!
Stuart: Yeah.
01:34:01 Griffin Guest He sold his first script!
[Multiple people laugh.]
They—he's now on the other side! He's new money.
[Elliott laughs.]

01:34:08 Dan Host Yeah. I didn't quite understand the logic of this, where it's just like—okay. Well, we blew up the bad guys so now I guess I'm rich? But—whatever.

01:34:14 Stuart Host Well, that's the thing—he—he secretly has been running the exact same con—

01:34:19 Dan Host Ohhh.

01:34:20 Stuart Host —that Harting has been doing. And Harting was his last rival in the game. Right?

01:34:24 Griffin Guest Yeah.

01:34:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Could be.

01:34:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Now he controls Bloodshot!
Stuart: Uh, although is Bloodshot controlled? We don't know.

Griffin: He's an artist!

01:34:33 Elliott Host *[Stuart laughs.]*
That's what he's been telling people, anyway. But then, uh, they, uh, now they're all—it's really funny because Vin—and then Vin Diesel tells KT, he was like, now we get to choose our own destinies. And they all drive off together and I'm like, so why are you guys a team now? Like—

01:34:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** There's nothing holding you together except—

01:34:47 Elliott Host **Griffin:** Hell yeah they are!
—that—that you were all part of this thing—but like, why? What is keeping them together?

01:34:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** What are things they can do together?

Dan: But it's all so perfect!

01:34:53 Griffin Guest *[Elliott laughs.]*
Yeah. What can they do together, Elliott? Um, well she can breathe shit while he's punching people and Wigans codes.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:35:03 Elliott Host Sounds like a perfect trio to me! *[Laughs.]*
No. I mean—it—in terms of powers, yes. They—it meshes perfectly. Uh—

01:35:06 Griffin Guest So complementary!

01:35:08 Elliott Host But it's like—but Wigans is like, hey. I've known you for a couple days and you tried to kill me for a little bit. And KT is like—hey. I've seen you be used over and over again as a robo-assassin. I guess we're a family now? And I—it is—Vin Diesel—I guess everything with Vin Diesel is about family ultimately. So.

01:35:23 Griffin Guest Every Vin Diesel movie's about family. And also—

01:35:25 Elliott Host *Fast & Furious. Bloodshot. Olive Garden.* It's all about family for him.

01:35:28 Griffin Guest And Vin Diesel also, uh—or not Vin Diesel, but the movie at large, including Vin Diesel—uh, it plays the, uh, the *Total Recall* card. Which is you have this shot of them driving into the sunset and then they literally lampshade it and say—driving off into the sunset? Are we sure this isn't a simu— and it cuts off “—lation” and goes to credits.

01:35:49 Stuart Host Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's like, uh, yeah. It's the spinning top at the end of *Inception*.

01:35:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** And I—and—

01:35:55 Dan Host **Dan:** Yeah! Well the—
The end scene is so perfect that it does—you—it is impossible not to have that thought? Like, is this just another level of manipulation? And then the movie—as you say—lampshades it. And, like—I—I like how kind of lightly they treat it? But also... the more I think about it, like, the idea that maybe they were trying to start a Valiant universe? Like, it's much more ballsy [*though laughter*] that they end the movie this way. 'Cause it suggests that any possible sequels are all also just a fantasy that Bloodshot is having.

01:36:23 Elliott Host Oh yeah. And it's all in—it's all in the *St. Elsewhere* kid's head. Ultimately. All these movies. That's—but that—I was waiting for the, uh, mid-credit sequence where they're like, sir! Sir! Uh, this killer on the loose—don't worry. We'll stop him with the Harbinger Project.

[Griffin laughs.]

01:36:44 Stuart Host But then what you said makes sense that they don't have a scene like that. But they—I was waiting for that mid-credit sequence when they set up characters no one has heard of ever.
Yeah, yeah, yeah. They're like, excuse me, Mr. Toyo Harada?

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:36:52 Griffin Guest We have information about the Hardcore Project! Or whatever. Yeah, I mean, aside from the fact that the audience wouldn't recognize those names, it also just feels like—to your point, Dan, y'know—and I—I think to this movie's credit, whether or not it was, y'know, intentional on the filmmaker's parts—few films have ever felt less conducive to building out a bunch of spinoffs?

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:37:11 Elliott Host Yeah. Since—since the movie—it is like they tried to make a *Total Recall* universe and they'd be like—and like—oh, yeah, yeah. All that stuff was real. All this stuff happened. You went to Mars and all that stuff.

01:37:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** You're like what the fuck happens parallel to this?

01:37:22 Griffin Guest **Elliott:** It's—it's totally.
What are you talking about?

[Elliott laughs.]

01:37:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** Like, I love that the movie is—

01:37:25 Griffin Guest **Stuart:** Yeah. What—I mean—
—sort of such a failure at building out a cinematic universe that it becomes a perfect self-contained movie.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:37:31 Stuart Host It did such a bad job at it that if they were to say *Bloodshot 2's* coming out next summer, we would all be like—yes, please!
[Laughs.]

01:37:38 Griffin Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*
 Yeah!

01:37:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Uh, okay.

01:37:41 Stuart Host **Stuart:** So yeah!
 Why don't we go into final judgments, guys?

01:37:44 Dan Host Yeah. This is where we say whether it's a good-bad movie, a bad-bad movie, or a movie we kinda liked. But I think *[though laughter]* we all know that we enjoyed this movie. So. *[Laughs.]*

01:37:51 Elliott Host I—I think there's a—I think there's a continuum of enjoyment. I think we all kinda liked it. I don't—I think that Griffin may be the only one who loves it—

01:37:58 Griffin Guest Correct.

01:37:59 Elliott Host —entirely.

01:38:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** And purely—

01:38:00 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** And I think—
 I think it's the best movie you've ever covered on this podcast.
[Laughs.]

[All laugh.]

Uh, and I wanna plant this flag now before there's some five years later John Wick, Jack Reacher-style reassessment from, uh, the people—not you guys!—but the people who have dismissed this movie out of hand. Here's another thing, another little nuance I like in this movie. There's this scene where, uh, uh, KT comes to Guy Pearce and is like, I want out of my contract. Like, I wanna go on to, uh—

[Stuart laughs.]

—appear in Marvel movies or whatever Constance Wu was trying to do instead. Um, and Guy Pearce tries to make the argument for why what they're doing is still like artistically valid? And, um... uh... she's saying, like, he deserves to like be let go of this. He deserves to not be run through this simulation over and over again. And Guy Pearce really earnestly says, "What he deserves is a military funeral." Because I feel like—

[Stuart laughs.]

—unlike a lot of movies where they try and fail to build up a sort of ideology that the villain thinks that he's the good guy? This is a movie in which the villain wants to get brownie points for being woke. Like, he wants to pretend that he is actually the most considerate and empathetic and that he is doing this for a better reason and a greater cause and the ends justify the means. Um... not just that like—y'know. Ultimately this will pay out, but also like, you don't understand—I'm actually more considerate than you are. I recognize that—

[Stuart laughs.]

—he’s a fucking hero.

[Stuart laughs.]

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|--|
| 01:39:34 | Stuart | Host | Yeah. He’s the real ally in this situation. |
| 01:39:36 | Griffin | Guest | Yeah! He’s the ultimate ally! |
| 01:39:39 | Dan | Host | I mean, I will say, like—I may overvalue this movie just because there’s... there are a few things I liked better than like a scrappy little, uh, sci-fi action movie? |
| 01:39:49 | Griffin | Guest | Totally. |
| 01:39:49 | Elliott | Host | Or a Scrappy Doo! |
| [Multiple people laugh.] | | | |
| 01:39:52 | Dan | Host | Or Scrappy Doo. Love him. [Laughs.] Most people say he ruins Scooby Doo. Not me! [Laughs.] |
| 01:39:57 | Griffin | Guest | He perfected it. [Laughs.] |
| 01:39:59 | Dan | Host | No, but like— [Laughs.] It’s a kind of like... knowingly, uh... B-level genre movie that I’m programmed to respond to anyway. But this is a fun version of that! |
| 01:40:10 | Griffin | Guest | Totally. And I think, like, sort of—the parallel to what you’re saying, it’s one of the reasons I for <u>so</u> long would always argue the value of... the, y’know, annual, uh, January-February Liam Neeson action film? ‘Cause I was like, these are the <u>only</u> movies that are disconnected from any fucking cinematic universe. Even the <u>one</u> series he has— <i>Taken</i> —is clearly making it up as it goes along. |

[Dan laughs.]

And they’re just like so in control? And like, full ownership of what they are? And not trying to be what they aren’t? And like living in the beautiful space of just like, this is just like—it’s a \$20 million action movie that comes out in the winter? And so rarely do we get a film like that that also is, uh... a sci-fi film. Or, y’know, has special effects. Or... is based off intellectual property. Because the second those elements get involved they’re like, this has to be a four-quadrant start of a larger franchise. And it feels like this movie just backed away from all of that! Whether by design or whether by just sort of a lack of conviction at the studio level? That this [though laughter] could lead to any sequels? It’s like this movie is just so fully what it is.

| | | | |
|----------|---------|-------|--|
| 01:41:23 | Elliott | Host | And I would say, uh, that it’s—the Liam Neeson parallel also, like, how many other films are dealing with the things that the elderly have to face than Liam Neeson’s movies or <i>The Farewell</i> ? That’s pretty much it! |
| 01:41:34 | Griffin | Guest | Yeah! |
| 01:41:34 | Elliott | Host | It’s like last year if you wanted to see a movie about the elderly, it was just <i>The Commuter</i> or <i>The Farewell</i> . |

[Griffin laughs.]

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|---|
| 01:41:39 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | That’s all you can— [Laughs.] Elliott: That’s—that’s all you got! |
| 01:41:41 | Dan | Host | Dan: It really deals with, like— —how many cuts an old man needs to get over a fence! |

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 01:41:43 | Elliott | Host | <i>[Through laughter]</i> To look like it's—to make it look like he's jumping over a fence! Yeah! That's it! |
| 01:41:47 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Elliott: <i>[Inaudible.]</i> |
| 01:41:49 | Stuart | Host | Stuart: Yeah. I mean, so many— So many, uh, like, if I want an action fix and it isn't going to be like a big, uh, like a big-budget franchise movie, I have to go to like VOD Scott Adkins action movies. So this is—yeah. This is <i>[through laughter]</i> pretty nice. |
| 01:42:02 | Griffin | Guest | The movie this reminds me of the <u>most</u> —now that you've pulled out Scott Adkins, Stuart—is, uh, I think it's the <u>fourth</u> <i>Universal Soldier</i> movie? |
| 01:42:11 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Griffin: <i>Universal Soldier</i> , uh, <i>Day of Reckoning</i> ? |
| 01:42:14 | Griffin | Guest | Stuart: Yeah! Yeah, hell yeah! Which is also about... uh... a sort of guy who is reprogrammed over and over again. <i>[Dan laughs.]</i> |
| 01:42:27 | Music | Music | To think that he is acting out a sort of self-righteous mission but is actually just like fulfilling everyone else's desires. |
| 01:42:32 | Promo | Clip | Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments. <i>[Radio interference followed by laidback music with a snare drum beat. A phone rings as the DJ speaks.]</i> |
| | | | Radio DJ: Welcome back to <i>Fireside Chat</i> on KMAX. With me in-studio to take your calls is the dopest duo on the West Coast, Oliver Wang and Morgan Rhodes. |
| | | | <i>[Click.]</i> |
| | | | Go ahead, caller. |
| | | | Caller: Hey. Uh, I'm looking for a music podcast that's insightful and thoughtful, but like, also helps me discover artists and albums that I've never heard of. |
| | | | Morgan Rhodes: Yeah, man. Sounds like you need to listen to <i>Heat Rocks</i> . Every week, myself—and I'm Morgan Rhodes—and my co-host here, Oliver Wang, talk to influential guests about a canonical album that has changed their lives. |
| | | | Oliver Wang: Guests like Moby, Open Mike Eagle, talk about albums by Prince, Joni Mitchell, and so much more. |
| | | | Caller: Yooo! What's that show called again? |
| | | | Morgan: <i>Heat Rocks</i> . Deep dives into hot records. |
| | | | Oliver: Every Thursday on Maximum Fun. |
| 01:43:18 | Promo | Clip | <i>[Music suddenly gives way to static and a dial tone.]</i> Music: Quiet rock. |
| | | | Aimee Mann: Hello, this is Aimee Mann. |

Ted Leo: And I'm Ted Leo.

Aimee: And we have a podcast called *The Art of Process*.

Ted: We've been lucky enough over the past year to talk to some of our friends and acquaintances from across the creative spectrum to find out how they actually work.

Speaker 1: And so I have to write material that makes sense and makes people laugh. I also have to think about what I'm saying to people.

Speaker 2: If I kick your ass, I'll make you famous.

Speaker 3: The fight to get LGBTQ representation in the show.

Ted & Aimee: Mm-hm.

Speaker 4: We weirdly don't know as many musicians as you would expect.

Speaker 5: I really just became a political speech writer by accident.

Speaker 6: I'm realizing that I have accidentally, uhhh, pulled my pants down.

[Someone starts to laugh.]

Ted: Listen and subscribe at MaximumFun.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

Speaker 7: It's like if the guinea pig was complicit in helping the scientist.

[Music ends.]

01:44:04 Dan Promo
01:44:08 Stuart Promo
01:44:10 Dan Promo

The Flop House is sponsored in part by Squarespace!

Aww!

Hey, everyone. We're all at home. Y'know? Well, not all of us. Some of us are forced to work and, uh, my hearts are with you if you're, uh, one of them. I said hearts. My multiple hearts. Uh... uh, this ad read is going great.

[Griffin laughs.]

01:44:25 Crosstalk Promo

But if you're— *[Laughs.]* If you are—

Dan: —stuck at home—

01:44:27 Elliott Promo

Elliott: Dan! How did this turn into a solo ad read—
—when we're all here? *[Laughs.]*

01:44:29 Dan Promo

[Multiple people laugh.]

But if you are stuck at home, maybe it's time to start your own website! Y'know? You can turn your cool idea into something we can all enjoy on the internet. Blog or publish content. Sell products

and services of all kinds. And much, much more. Squarespace allows you to do this by giving you beautiful, customizable templates created by world-class designers. Everything is optimized for mobile right out of the box. People can look at it on their phones; their tablets; their whatchamacallits—a new way to buy domains and choose from over 200 extension. Free and secure hosting—hey. Head 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.

01:45:16 Elliott Promo

01:45:22 Dan Promo

Now, uh, Dan, I had a question. So I have a website idea. And I was wondering if Squarespace could help me with it. Y'know? I—I thought you might have this question!

[Stuart laughs.]

01:45:29 Elliott Host

Uh... and... I think the answer is probably yes, but why don't you expound upon it at length? So the technology—I'm just not sure if it's there yet. I was so inspired by this movie I wanted to start a website called BrainSpace, where—with BrainSpace, we've got customizable templates that you can change the memories, fantasies, and also vengeance of individual people! Maybe yourself, maybe someone else. I was just so impressed in the movie at how easy it was to just go into Vin Diesel's memory and change what things looked like? Add a machete here; change a guy's face to that. I wanna make that kind of thing available to people for a reasonable price! So it's called BrainSpace.net—BrainSpace.com, of course, was taken by my previous website where it was places to put your brain if you're not using it. It's like a storage space for your brain. Uh—didn't go great.

01:46:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Dan: How did—yeah. How did it go?

01:46:10 Elliott Host

Stuart: Uh-huh.

A lot of people paid the deposit and then did not pay the fees for the monthly rate. And we ended up having to throw a lot of brains out, y'know—

[Griffin laughs.]

—just in the garbage. It's in the contract. Uh—

[Stuart laughs.]

But so—

[Dan laughs.]

01:46:33 Dan Host

BrainSpace.net, of course, would be like—hey, go into someone's brain and like—would—I wanna—things to be able to scale from one—from dreams to memories. I want, uh, 24-hour customer service and templates. Do you think they could help me set that up?

Uh, I think they could. *[Laughs.]* I just—I—I'm distracted by like—I know it was just a throwaway gag? But I am still enjoying how casually horrifying your *[though laughter]* previous website was.

[Multiple people laugh.]
01:46:44 Elliott Host Oh, BrainSpace.com?
01:46:46 Dan Host Yeah.
01:46:46 Stuart Host Yeah.
01:46:47 Elliott Host I mean, it was a—to be fair, it was the website for a physical storage space. For brains. Because let me—you know what? Have you ever heard someone say, hey, this movie—like *Bloodshot*. Just check your brain at the door?
01:46:57 Dan Host Sure!
01:46:57 Stuart Host Uh-huh.
01:46:58 Elliott Host Where are you putting your brain when you're checking it?
01:47:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Come on.

Stuart: That's a good point. Yeah.

Griffin: Mmm.
01:47:00 Elliott Host You're supposed to hold it in your hands the whole time? That's where your popcorn goes! In your hands!
01:47:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** And then eventually in your mouth—
Dan: I mean, it says specifically at the door, so you wouldn't do that.
01:47:07 Elliott Host Yeah, yeah. But where at the door? I've been to movie theaters. There's not like a bucket you can just put your brain in.
01:47:11 Dan Host Yeah, that's true.
01:47:11 Elliott Host So where am I supposed—I'm just supposed to leave it on the floor where it's gonna get, y'know, fuzz all over it?
01:47:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Or in that box with all the 3D glasses?

Stuart: Uh-huh.

Elliott: Y'know.
01:47:18 Elliott Host Exactly. Someone reaches in to get some 3D glasses so they can see a movie the way it's meant to be seen. Right in your face. Coming atcha.

[Stuart laughs.]

And they come out with a brain in their hands? And worse yet, it's your brain? Nobody wants that! That's a nightmare for them and for you! 'Cause now they gotta figure out where this brain goes! Or—worst-case scenario—they just throw it away! And you come back from the movie and you're like, oh, that was great. I really enjoyed *Jingle All the Way* and you get into the bucket—

[Stuart laughs.]

—and your brain's not there! And it's like, where to put my brain? Now I gotta find it? Oh man! So BrainSpace.com was—it was really the storage space so that you could have a place where you knew your brain was. But a lot of people, we'd take the brain—they'd pay their deposit. We'd remove the brain. And then... y'know. Put—put them in a cab. And send them off their way.

[Stuart laughs.]

And we'd never get the check in the mail. For the first month's rent. Y'know.

01:48:00 Stuart Host You'd be like—I'm putting you in a cab. Where do you live? I don't remember. Ugh! *[Laughs.]* All this again! *[Laughs.]*

01:48:06 Elliott Host Yeah. Yeah. And so—the—anyway. So—oh, speaking of which, do you guys need any brains?

[Stuart laughs.]

01:48:11 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* Uh... like... like for eating? Or—

01:48:14 Elliott Host I don't—hey. It's not my job to tell you what to do with 'em. Or even to ask what you do with them. I'm just saying I've got a surplus of a certain product—human brains—and I was wondering if you guys had a use for it.

01:48:24 Dan Host Uh, I mean, y'know? I—I—normally I'd say yes? But at this time of scarcity, y'know? *[Laughs.]* Send 'em on over.

[Stuart laughs.]

01:48:32 Elliott Host Okay. 'Cause otherwise I'm just gonna have to use my other website, SpaceBrain.com. That's where we fire brains into space.

[Multiple people laugh.]

We don't have rocket ships, per se. It's more of a catapult.

[Stuart laughs.]

And we just cut—we never see 'em again. So we just kind of assume that they leave the atmosphere and enter—probably—low orbital space. Uh... we won't find out for a while until NASA—

01:48:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —I guess tells us there are brains up there.

01:48:51 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Yeah. They could just be landing—

01:48:53 Elliott Host —in your neighbor's yard or something.

It seems likely. He definitely said he wanted to talk to me about something—

[Stuart laughs.]

—and I've been kind of dodging him for a couple weeks.

01:48:58 Dan Host Now Griffin, you are an expert improviser. What would you say about Elliott's technique?

[Elliott laughs.]

How do you—

[Stuart laughs.]

01:49:05 Griffin Guest I don't know about expert. Uh, I'm loving it! I'm all the way in. Um, and—and—speaking of improv, uh, look. I know this episode's running long. I tend to be verbose and I seem to make all podcasts longer when I guest on them. I hope you guys don't mind the arrogance. But I did come prepared—

[Dan laughs.]

—with my own sponsorship if that's fine. I'd like to do a quick ad.

01:49:26 Dan Host Oh, sure! Sure.
01:49:27 Griffin Guest If that's okay.
01:49:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Yeah. Please.

01:49:29 Elliott Host **Elliott:** It's the least we can do for you—
01:49:30 Griffin Guest —your being with us. Sure. Yeah.
Oh, of course! So this is my sponsorship. It is the official, uh, Bloodshot action figure. Uh, let me unblur my camera here.
01:49:37 Dan Host Oh, wow.
01:49:38 Griffin Guest Um—but this is—it looks like a Bloodshot, the, uh, the comic book character. But it very much has Vin Diesel's, uh, face. Despite him never looking like this in the movie. I bought this, uh, two months before seeing the film. Uh, I have just had this—

[Elliott laughs.]

—around my apartment. Uh, and this was manufactured by, uh, Todd MacFarlane. Another '90s comic edginess, uh, luminary. Uh, so I like that the—the—

01:50:05 Stuart Host Oh, you'd think you'd have people manufacture it for you!
01:50:07 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** No, no. He makes them at home!

01:50:09 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** I know!
He makes them at home. Uh, I have a feeling he's probably about to lose a lot of money on this. Um... so I wanna just advertise them.

[Dan laughs.]

Tell people to go out. Uh, it's the one reason to break self-quarantine. To leave your house and go out and buy an American Bloodshot action figure. And Dan, to answer your earlier question about whether, uh, Bloodshot in the comics uses like guns or just nanite-punches people? Of course, uh, Bloodshot comes with a giant knife. Uh, so—

01:50:35 Dan Host Oh, nice!
01:50:35 Griffin Guest —he can nanite-stab. That's my ad read.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:50:41 Dan Host Okay. Great. I, uh—
01:50:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** I hope to—I—

01:50:44 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Help prevent MacFarlane from taking a bath on that one. Look, Tom MacFarlane already has—he—he wishes he had that money he spent on Mark McGwire's home run ball. You gotta—
[Laughs.] You gotta—

[Stuart laughs.]

—help him so that not—you gotta help him have the money so he can waste that on more stuff.

01:50:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** He needs to buy more balls, folks.

Elliott: That he doesn't need to buy.

Dan: Y'know, I—I took a—

01:50:57 Dan Host I took a photo of Griffin holding up the Bloodshot, uh, action figure. Uh, this is the one time I'm gonna tell people to tweet at me if I make a mistake? Tweet at me if I've forgotten to post this on the Instagram and *[though laughter]* Twitter feeds? Uh, once this episode drops? And I'll, uh, remember to get it off my phone and onto the internet so you can all enjoy this action figure. Uh, but now, let's move on. Uh... to letters from listeners. *[Querying voice]* Listeners like you? Anyway.

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:51:29 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Through laughter]* This first one—
Elliott: Yeah. You—oh, we do have fun, Dan. *[Laughs.]*

Stuart: Anyway.

[Dan laughs.]

01:51:32 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* The kind of—that's the kind of, uh, devil-may-care *[though laughter]* attitude that I bring to this show. Uh, Jen, last name withheld, writes:

01:51:41 Stuart Host Oh, hey!

01:51:42 Dan Host “Hi, Peaches! Yesterday I got offered my dream job. I'm simultaneously incredibly excited about it while also fighting the nauseous feeling that I don't deserve it and/or am going to fail at it. You've all had some pretty amazing jobs in your time while also being pretty open about mental health. So my question to you is—what have you done to deal with feelings of imposter syndrome? Thanks for all you do! Jen, last name withheld.”

Um... I don't—I mean, like, I—I know that it took me, uh—
[Laughs.] Multiple years to feel comfortable at *The Daily Show* as a writer. Uh, and some of that was just learning that, like... the whole thing doesn't necessarily depend on me? Like... any organization you're in, uh... like... you have to realize that you're in it together? And so, uh, that takes a little of the, like, stress that might hurt yourself off of it. But you also just have to like... *[Sighs.]* This is gonna sound like a platitude, but you—you can't worry so much about... meeting others' expectations of you. You have to worry about, like, what you can control. You can't control what they think of you. You can control the work that you put in. Which will sort of help you feel good about yourself if you feel good about your own work and can take pride in your own work.

01:53:04 Elliott Host Well, I—to add onto that is that—remember that their expectations for you—I don't know what the job it, but congratulations on getting it! That's fantastic! Uh, like Dan was saying—you're probably part of a team? Even Bloodshot was part of a team. Even though the business really did seem to rely on his work mostly.

01:53:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Like, if he—if he'd failed—

Stuart: Yeah. Yeah. For the most part. Then the whole operation was gonna fall apart. Uh, which is not a great way to build a business?

[Stuart laughs.]

That it relies on one person who you have to brainwash to do the job? But... but there—y’know, you—if you are part of a team, then like... you don’t have to be 100% every day. The best is that you try to get as close to working as hard as you can to do your job? But also to remember that like... they want you to succeed? If they gave you that job, they think you can do that job? They’re not—you’re not an imposter to them. You are someone who is starting out doing a job. And so... they probably understand that you’re not gonna be perfect right off the bat. It takes time. I remember when I started as a writer at *The Daily Show*, I had already worked there for a number of years. And so I was like—I know this place. I’m gonna hit it out of the park instantly! And it took me like a year until I was consistently doing well? And they knew that. And they were like, uh, I’m sure in their mind it was like, we’re hiring him ‘cause we know he can do this job. But we don’t expect him to be the best at this job immediately. That’s just not how anything works. You know.

01:54:18 Dan Host

What Elliott just said reminded me of something that has helped me when it comes to performing? But I think it comes to... to... to just regular work as well. Um... I always think of that scene in *The Simpsons* where Lisa has that dream? Where, uh, she’s performing on stage and everyone is booing?

01:54:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Dan: And then she’s like—

01:54:37 Elliott Host

Elliott: It’s her and Art Garfunkel and—
—and all the other sidekicks?

01:54:39 Dan Host

Yeah. And then she says to herself—why would they come just to boo us?

[Multiple people laugh.]

And I think of that whenever like I have to go on stage for a—like, a live show for the podcast or whatever. I’m just like, they’re not gonna come just to boo us. If they came, they want us to succeed, like Elliott said.

01:54:51 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Dan: And so you just—

01:54:54 Elliott Host

Elliott: Your audience wants you to succeed. And your bosses want you to succeed. And they—they—the situation that they’ve put you in and they’re very aware of it? Is—this is a person that we feel can do this job. And they are learning how to do this job and they’ve just started. And they know that and you know that, ‘cause you are not an imposter. You are a person who is starting a job. And that’s a real thing that you are.

01:55:10 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: Yeah. Not faking it.

01:55:12 Stuart Host

Stuart: Only your—
Only your enemies and jealous friends want you to fail.

01:55:14 Elliott Host

[Laughs.] Yeah. And unless you got the job under false pretenses—like, if you’re—if this is *Catch Me If You Can*, then you should have imposter syndrome. Because you’re pretending to be a doctor and you’re not one and that’s terrible. Uh, my guess is that you went in there under true pretenses and they know it. Everybody’s aware of the deal—that you are starting this job and you’re gonna do great as long as you try your best and learn it! Y’know. Work as hard as you can.

01:55:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** That's why it's called—

01:55:36 Stuart Host **Dan:** I also—
—im—that's why we're talking about imposter syndrome. I thought it was you have to convince your loved one to shoot the imposter of you—
[Dan laughs.]
—instead of you—
[Elliott laughs.]

01:55:48 Dan Host Because they're evil and you're good.
I mean, in that case you just look for the goatee, Stuart. It's pretty easy. *[Laughs.]*

01:55:51 Elliott Host *[Stuart laughs.]*
No, but what if you already have a goatee?

01:55:53 Dan Host Oh, that's—yeah. If you're Kevin Smith you're screwed. No one knows—
[Multiple people laugh.]
—if you're the evil Kevin Smith or just regular Kevin Smith.
[Laughs.]

01:55:59 Elliott Host Yeah.

01:56:01 Dan Host Affable stoner Kevin Smith. *[Laughs.]*

01:56:04 Elliott Host I imagine that would be one of those situations where, uh, Kevin Smith would be like—shoot him! I'm the one in the bathrobe!

01:56:09 Griffin Guest Uh, I feel imposter syndrome with literally everything I do in my entire life. Um, but as someone who has had, uh, a largely unsuccessful career working with, uh, people who are successful at different times, uh, the biggest common thread I have found is—everyone who I respect? Uh, and especially respect more after I've worked with them and see how they work? Also feels imposter syndrome? And everyone I know who is completely certain that they know what they're doing? Uh, tends to be pretty lazy and hacky at their job.
[Elliott laughs.]

01:56:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** In creative fields, at least—
Elliott: I mean, the person—

01:56:44 Griffin Guest **Stuart:** Yeah.
I have found that to be the case.

01:56:46 Elliott Host Well, who is the person who has the least amount of imposter syndrome? Is the president. And he is the worst at his job and thinks he's the best. And like, you—it—that's not what you wanna be.

01:56:56 Griffin Guest Right. So I think—
[Stuart laughs.]

—you three all offered really good lessons about, uh, how you should learn to believe in yourself a little more? But also, it is important to have a little bit of, uh, fear that you might be an imposter.

01:57:07 Dan Host Yeah, yeah. No—there’s actually been psychological tests on this. Like, people who think that they have imposter syndrome tend to be better in their jobs than the people who have this blind faith in themselves.

01:57:18 Elliott Host There’s a thing that, uh, that uh David Bowie said that I only know about because—I think it was the moment of zen on *The Daily Show* after he died, ‘cause it’s not like I know everything about David Bowie. Where he’s talking about how—when he was working on something and he felt really kind of frightened and unsure of himself—when it felt like he had gone too far into the ocean and couldn’t feel the ground beneath his feet—that’s when he did his best work. And that’s when he did his most exciting work. Because he was kind of—he didn’t know what he was going to do and he was afraid of it. And like, I’ve certainly found in my career, I do better work when I am... unsure of myself and have to work to prove myself? And really put the effort in? Than when I’m like, oh, yeah. I can do this. This is fine. Whatever. And I don’t put in the work and it’s—it comes out fine. Y’know. So. I think—if there’s a way for you to—instead of running from that feeling, to kind of accept it and use it to help motivate yourself? That’s a good thing. And if it locks you up and makes you freeze, then it’s not a good thing and you should just remind yourself, like, everyone knows who you are. That’s a good thing. You’re not fooling anybody because there’s nothing to fool about and you’re gonna do fine.

01:58:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** And, uh, and learn from me—

01:58:21 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** If I could throw out a 30-second specific—
Oh, sorry. Uh—if I could throw out a 30-second specific story. One of my earliest jobs was playing a personal assistant to Carla Gugino? On a very unsuccessful TV show? And she’s one of those people who I think is just like, total pro. Good in everything she does. Acts in all different types of things. Different sized roles. It’s just like consummate professional actor to me.

01:58:42 Elliott Host *Flop House* listeners know I have no specific opinions about Carla Gugino—

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:58:47 Griffin Guest —one way or another.
Firmly established. Um, but, uh... I—

01:58:49 Elliott Host She’s in no way my deepest crush of all living actresses. But anyway.

[Dan laughs.]

01:58:54 Griffin Guest That’s—
She—she rules and I will say working with her, uh, only deepened my crush for her as well. But, um... we were on set and it was the last episode, what would turn out to be the last episode of this thing ever. And she was saying, like, I have no idea what I’m gonna do when this show is done. I don’t know if I’m ever gonna work again.

And I was like, you're Carla Gugino! You're, like, you—you—do 18 things a year. I like—I can't believe you wouldn't think that clearly some other things are gonna come along. And she said to me, like, I just had this moment. I remember my first big job, when I was a kid, was working on a movie where I played Donald Sutherland's daughter. And on the last day of filming, he said to me—and then this wraps and I don't know if I ever work again. And I couldn't believe that Donald Sutherland didn't know that he was gonna work again. And I now realize that I feel the same way.

[Long pause.]

01:59:47 Stuart Host
01:59:48 Dan Host

Yeah.
Elliott, do you need to do any family stuff? I saw one of your children, uh—

[Elliott laughs.]

01:59:57 Elliott Host

—come in behind you as if we were in that viral video, uh, of the newscaster.
No, it was very funny—from my point of view, uh, my, uh, it was my younger son and my wife bursting in at the same time and then her—

[Dan laughs.]

—pulling him away—

02:00:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk

[Multiple people laugh.]

Elliott: *[Through laughter]* As—as if he was—as if—

02:00:10 Elliott Host
02:00:11 Stuart Host
02:00:12 Elliott Host

Dan: It was a pretty good recreation of that! *[Laughs.]*

It was really funny.

It was great.

But uh, he just—it just means he's up from his nap. And he's at the point in his life where whichever parent he's with is not the one he wants to be with?

02:00:17 Dan Host
02:00:17 Elliott Host
02:00:19 Griffin Guest
02:00:20 Elliott Host
02:00:23 Dan Host
02:00:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Awww.

He wants to be with the other one? So.

He's got FOMO.

Yeah. Exactly. That's Fear of Momming Out. Yeah.

Well let's, uh...

Dan: We'll—we'll try and—

Elliott: Father Or Mom—Ohno!

[All laugh.]

02:00:27 Elliott Host
02:00:30 Dan Host

That's FOMO.

We'll try and keep the speed up with the rest of the show then. So you can, uh, go comfort Gabriel.

02:00:35 Elliott Host

So I can get back to my family? Who I love?

02:00:39 Dan Host

[Stuart laughs.]

I mean... some would argue that the podcast is a great source of semi-reliable income during *[though laughter]* this—

[Stuart laughs.]

02:00:48 Elliott Host —this, uh, time of uncertainty, but, uh...
02:00:51 Dan Host I mean, that still doesn't trump love. I don't— *[Laughs.]* It's—
02:00:52 Elliott Host *[Unconvinced]* Mmm.
You're right, Dan. You're right, Dan. I should put the money over my family.

[Dan laughs.]

02:00:58 Dan Host And then shout and then rain it down on them!
Uh, let's see here. Uh, John, last name withheld, writes our second and final letter of the show:

"Dear Floppers, I'm writing about your episode on *Mortal Engines*. On it, Elliott heckled the movie writers for picking stupid names for its characters. Which hit home—

[Stuart laughs.]

02:01:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk —as our daughter is named 'Hester.' We named our daughter Hester be—"
Elliott: Eeee.

02:01:22 Dan Host **Stuart:** Woooo.
We named our daughter— *[Laughs.]* Wow! I like Hester.

02:01:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Someone hisses.]*
Dan: We named our daughter Hester—

Stuart: No, I'm making fun of Elliott for being an asshole!

02:01:28 Elliott Host **Elliott:** This is—no, this is—this is everyone going like—
02:01:29 Dan Host Ooh, I can't believe Elliott did that. Ooo.
Oh, okay. "Uh, we named our daughter Hester because we enjoyed the name and the nice literary tie-in to *The Scarlet Letter*. When we saw that *Mortal Engines* is coming out—with a lead protagonist named Hester—we were afraid it would be a hit. And everyone would think that we named her after it. Thankfully, it was as unpopular as it was terrible. My question is—

[Elliott laughs.]

—what other times has a movie ruined a name for you that would have been otherwise nice to use? Keep flopping! John."

02:02:01 Elliott Host Elliott, I'm pretty sure you have opinions about names and movies. I just, uh—
Well, that's—I—I don't have a direct answer for his question, but I would say that, uh, my life, uh, being named Elliott—which I don't know if the letter writer's available—it was also the name of the main character of what was at one point the biggest movie in the history of movies in the world.

[Dan laughs.]

Uh, that certainly has been a, uh, a minor cross or me to bear? Through my life? And I have to say that like... as, uh, as much as I love that movie—that movie, of course, being *Pete's Dragon*—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—in which the dragon's named Elliott— [Laughs.] No, but like—that—that—*E.T.* came out when I was like, a—I think half a year old? So it was like... my entire life that's been the—the—the go-to point people have for the name Elliott? But at the same time, like—and it was really horrible. 'Cause every time I'd meet someone they'd go, [impersonates *E.T.*] "Elliott!"

02:02:45 Stuart Host
02:02:47 Elliott Host

Yeah. It's a specific way of saying the name. Yeah.
Mm-hm. And, uh, but I have to admit that like... I got through it. And now I never get that from anybody. And it makes me a little sad now that *E.T.* has—I guess—slipped so far off the popular consciousness that like when people hear my name, they're like, hey, nice to meet you. And they like don't even make the joke? So...

02:03:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: It's a double-edged sword, y'know?

02:03:06 Dan Host
02:03:07 Elliott Host

Dan: It might be partly because you're—
—interacting mostly with adults now.
Uh, I would get it from adults all the time until like [though laughter] a few years ago.

02:03:11 Dan Host
02:03:13 Elliott Host

[Through laughter] Oh, okay.
And uh—Mr. Jason Jones of *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* would do it every time we had a conversation.

[Stuart laughs.]

02:03:18 Dan Host
02:03:20 Elliott Host
02:03:23 Dan Host
02:03:25 Elliott Host

Even after I'd known him for years!
[Through laughter] Well, he's kind of a jerk.
Well, he's—he's just a guy like, he needles people.
A loveable jerk.
But uh, the... but yeah. So I would say, uh... I think it's good—it's good for your name to be, uh, your child's name to be something that is, uh... associated with them/ And not already associated with someone else. But on the other hand? I lived through it and look at me! Now I'm the most famous Elliott in the world! Probably, right?

02:03:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Stuart: Yep.

02:03:44 Griffin Guest

Dan: Yeah.
I will say also, I—I still—on a daily basis, have to deal with both a "Gryffindor" and Newman from *Seinfeld*. I'm getting it from both angles.

02:03:52 Elliott Host
02:03:54 Stuart Host
02:03:54 Dan Host

Oh, yeah.
Oh, yeah.
That's terrible. I used to get "Cato Kalan" for Elliott Kalan and it was like—and luckily that's not something that happens anymore. But yeah. It's bad when both your names are associated—there was a guy that, uh... I used to work with that, uh, I think Dan still works with him. He's still at *The Daily Show*, right? The guy whose last name was Blog. And he was like—yeah! I used to just get made fun of for having a weird name. But now I get made fun of for having a name that's a word. Wonderful. [Laughs.]

02:04:15 Stuart Host *[Dan laughs.]*
Yeah. I, uh, I get Stewie from *Family Guy*, or, uh... the Stuart character from the sketches on the hit Mad TV television show.

[Elliott laughs.]

Which is great, 'cause when people bring up those references I'm like, great! I don't have to talk to you at all! *[Laughs.]*

[Elliott laughs.]

02:04:33 Dan Host
02:04:34 Stuart Host
You have no sense of humor, person! Uh—the, uh--
Very strange.
And I also—I have a friend named “Junior” and I'm an enormous asshole, because I can't not say it—

[Elliott laughs.]

—with a Sean Connery accent.

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:04:46 Dan Host
02:04:46 Griffin Guest
I'm such a fucking *[though laughter]* dick!
Yeah.
I will say, though, I mean, like, I see a silver lining in what the—the letter writer said. Because... the only sort of bright side to *Bloodshot*, uh, bombing theatrically, is that I can get away with naming my future son “Bloodshot Newman.”

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:05:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk
Griffin: The name is now clear! No!

02:05:08 Dan Host
Elliott: *[Through laughter]* And no one will think that's weird! Yeah!
And—and he has to be—

[Stuart laughs.]

—a, uh, a— *[though laughter]* piano player in a tavern.

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:05:12 Griffin Guest
Oh, of course!

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:05:15 Elliott Host
And I wanna make it clear to the letter writer that I think “Hester” is a very nice name in real life. I just thought it's—it's one of those names when you give it to a character in a fantasy story you're like, oh. Okay. That's the way it's gonna be. Like, if I met someone named, uh—like, there's an actress who's on the show, uh, *Foyle's War* whose first name is Honeysuckle? And it's like, okay! Great! But if there was—if I saw a movie and they were like, what's your name? Oh, I'm Honeysuckle! I'd be like, forget it.

[Dan laughs.]

Get outta here.

[Griffin laughs.]

Like, in a—in a fictional world—

[Stuart laughs.]

| | | | |
|----------|---------|------|---|
| 02:05:48 | Dan | Host | <p>—it's just like—I gotta take—I'm gonna—I can take less, uh, whimsy. [Laughs.] I don't know.</p> <p>Yeah. No. Understandable. Okay. Well let's—I mean, we all liked <i>Bloodshot</i>. But, uh, normally our recommendations section is sort of a—don't watch <u>that</u>, watch <u>this</u> sort of thing. But y'know, if—if you are one of the many people, uh, who are spending more time indoors these days? Maybe you got time to watch both! <i>Bloodshot</i> and whatever nonsense we'll recommend! I, uh, just rewatched... a movie that I <u>know</u> I saw as a child but I've forgotten anything—everything about it so it was new to me. Uh, which was <i>Funny Face</i>. Uh, the Audrey Hepburn/Fred Astaire, uh, movie. Now I'm not gonna make... I'm gonna—I'm gonna present the counterargument to <i>Funny Face</i> first and then present the pro argument. The counterargument is that Fred Astaire was 3- years older than Audrey Hepburn. Which, uh... plays <u>very</u> strangely. Although I did some research. Apparently she was a supporter of him for the role and also, Fred Astaire always seemed so sexless that it's not as creepy [though laughter] as it might be with a different actor? But it is not the greatest. <u>And</u> also, the central romantic conflict is Fred Astaire getting <u>immediately</u> possessive of Audrey Hepburn once they are briefly together. And... uh... the movie makes a feint at, uh, presenting his possessive behavior as a bad thing before showing that the... guy that Audrey Hepburn was talking to is a cad and possible assaulter. Uh, so it excuses his behavior. The pro case is that... uh... it's—it's funny; it's colorful; uh... It's got the George Gershwin music. If you wanna hear what Audrey Hepburn sounds like, uh, singing, uh, don't go to <i>My Fair Lady</i> where she's dubbed. Go to this movie. Uh, she was a trained ballerina and she does some dance, uh, numbers that are pretty impressive when you <u>don't</u> think of Audrey Hepburn, uh, in that light? Um, also—Audrey Hepburn, Fred Astaire—two of the <u>most</u> charismatic people ever to be on, uh, movie screens! And also Kay Thompson? The third lead in it, um... I did some research on <u>her</u>. She was the... <u>coach</u> for a bunch of big Hollywood stars like Judy Garland and Fred Astaire—or, I'm sorry. And, uh, Frank Sinatra. But she only had four film roles and this was by far the biggest. And she all but steals the movie. She also—</p> |
| 02:08:17 | Elliott | Host | And she—she wrote <i>Eloise</i> . Right? |
| 02:08:19 | Dan | Host | She wrote <i>Eloise</i> ! That's the other weird thing about her! She had an amazing career. Look her up. Um... but, uh, it's just a—it's a fun, light movie. In these trying times, it was exactly what I needed to see at that time. So <i>Funny Face</i> . |
| 02:08:34 | Stuart | Host | Cool! |
| 02:08:36 | Dan | Host | Who wants to go next? |
| 02:08:38 | Stuart | Host | Uh, I'll jump in. Uh, I'm gonna recommend a movie that is, uh, it's a bit of a selfish recommendation? Um... but I am recommending a documentary called <i>Death By Metal</i> . It is a documentary about the heavy metal band Death, and the front man, uh, Chuck Schuldiner. And kind of tracks his—it's kind of like a VH1 Behind the Music for |

this extreme heavy metal band. And the, like, rise and, uh, eventual death of this, uh, kind of phenomenal heavy metal musician. Uh, they're one of my favorite bands. Uh, it's really interesting for me and it's cool to see a bunch of these, uh, these guys give interviews. These, like, crusty old heavy metal dudes give interviews years after, uh, years after they were like young, uh, denim-clad maniacs. Uh, making music in their parents' garage. And uh it includes like interviews with Sean Reinhart, who, uh, passed away a few months ago which is pretty sad. But um—uh, it's one of my favorite bands—Death—and, uh, it's a pretty fun little documentary. It's on, uh, Amazon Prime.

02:09:41 Dan Host

Now you say that that's selfish and you're saying that just because, uh, it is a thing that you like, Stuart? Or, uh—

02:09:48 Stuart Host

Well, I say it's selfish because it's, uh, I don't know how interesting it would be for people, uh, who are not interested in that specific, like, sub-genre of extreme heavy metal.

[Dan laughs.]

Uh... like, death metal—y'know, it's like eating spicy food. Like... uh, it would be like eating a fucking ghost pepper first—

[Elliott laughs.]

—and not like working your way up. Like it'll sound like garbage if you haven't listened to this sort of thing. And...

02:10:14 Elliott Host

I—I guess it—you're saying it might not have the same wide interest as the usual, uh, Korean shock-horror or—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—direct-to-video ninja movies that you like to recommend.

[Laughs.]

02:10:24 Stuart Host

[Through laughter] That's true. Yeah.

02:10:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Stuart: It is, uh, more of a selective audience—

02:10:29 Stuart Host

Elliott: 'Cause usually you—
—than, uh—

[Elliott laughs.]

—as—y'know, the, y'know, the family features I usually recommend.

[Elliott laughs.]

02:10:33 Dan Host

Yeah. I mean, I—yeah. I just—I brought it up because I think that there's a certain... uh, level of—if you don't know us by now, uh, of all of our recommendations—

[Stuart laughs.]

—that it can be assumed that if you like this kind of thing that Dan or *[though laughter]* Stuart or Elliott like, maybe you'll like this other thing.

02:10:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: Uh, speaking of—

02:10:50 Elliott Host Griffin: Well, if—
02:10:52 Griffin Guest —if you like this kind—oh, sorry. What were you gonna say?
No, I—I—I mean, uh, you go first. I have a connection to what was
just said *[though laughter]* but it will still apply in a second.

[Dan laughs.]

02:10:57 Elliott Host Oh, oh! Then you—then you go and then I'll go last. You go and
then I'll go last.

02:11:00 Griffin Guest Boy. If—if—I can alley-oop off of, uh, what—what Stuart likes, uh...
I'm gonna recommend a movie that, uh, by chance already came
up in this conversation. Uh, *Universal Soldier: Day of Reckoning*.
The fourth, uh...

02:11:13 Stuart Host Yeahhh!

02:11:15 Griffin Guest Universal Soldier movie; the second direct-to-video one. Uh, with
Scott Adkins, kind of VOD action. Uh, it is a movie that is very, very
similar to *Bloodshot* in a lot of ways? Uh... in certain countries and
on certain platforms it seems to have been retitled *Universal
Soldier: A New Dimension* now? So if you're looking for it, that's the
same movie? Uh... but it's similarly about, uh, memories and, uh...
uh, someone who has sort of been programmed to be in an action
movie. Um... and is—is the kind of movie that you should be
comparing *Bloodshot* to. And not, uh, *Iron Man*.

02:11:51 Stuart Host Yeah. Yeah. And it—it also has a little bit of the same meta-
commentary. 'Cause it has Van Damme as this ageing star and
Dolph Lundgren as this ageing guy, both of whom are like... Van
Damme gives his best, like, Colonel Kurtz impression in *[though
laughter]* this movie. *[Laughs.]*

02:12:09 Elliott Host Uh... I'm gonna recommend a movie that, uh, similarly also to
these—if you like the kinds of things that I like, then you might like
it! I'm gonna recommend—this is a Western called *Doc* from 1971.
It's about Doc Holliday and is meant to be a kind of like... gritty, uh,
anti-heroic retelling of the gunfight at the O.K. Corral. And stars
Stacy Keach as Doc Holliday; Faye Dunaway, uh, plays Kate, and,
uh, Harris Yulin plays Wyatt Earp. Harris Yulin, you may remember
best as the judge who put away the Scoleri brothers in
Ghostbusters 2, among other things?

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:12:42 Stuart Host Uh, and he's really—
But he gave them the *[though laughter]* chair!

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:12:44 Elliott Host And, uh, he's—they're—they're, uh... it's a real, like, it's a movie
that I was not super familiar with? It's directed by... Frank Perry,
who directed like, uh, *The Swimmer* and *Mommy Dearest* and *Diary
of a Mad Housewife*? This guy who had this very... uh...
idiosyncratic career. And... uh... it's—and it was written by Pete
Hamill, the, uh, the, like, newspaper columnist and memoir writer.
And it manages to... sometimes be a little too, like... super-grit for
its own good? And that characters call each other like "bitch" out of
nowhere and stuff like that?

[Stuart laughs.]

But it's such a... strangely, like... low-key and yet tense and... at times very exciting and at times very, like... touching story about a guy who is now... trapped in a life that he can't seem to get out of. And also the breakdown in a friendship between Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp and things like that. And, uh, they're all really great in it. And I really liked it a lot. It's a movie that I was not familiar with before? And I—when I walked away from it, being like, oh, I'm surprised I haven't heard more about this! So that's *Doc*. Starring Stacy Keach, Faye Dunaway, and of course—Harris Yulin. Cool! Four recommendations! Plus *Bloodshot!*

02:13:51 Stuart Host
02:13:56 Dan Host
[Through laughter] Yup.

[Elliott laughs.]

Uh... okay. Well this is the point in the podcast where we normally we'd just be like, y'know, go out and spread the word of *The Flop House*, but I think that—at least for the duration of the, um... of the pandemic we wanna more spread the message of... take care of yourselves? Uh, if you're in a place where you have the emotional and/or money resources to take care of others? Uh, we would encourage you to do that as well. Um... y'know. We're glad that we can provide whatever *[though laughter]* service we ever provide to anyone during this time. And, uh... we want you all to be well. Uh... and that's what I have to say about that.

02:14:36 Stuart Host
02:14:36 Dan Host
02:14:41 Stuart Host
02:14:57 Dan Host
02:14:57 Stuart Host
02:14:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Mm-hm.
We got a lot of nodding from everyone else. A lot of empathetic nodding.
I—I mentioned before, but I—I'd been pretty sick with symptoms, uh... matching the COVID-19, uh, and... I am feeling almost 100% better. And I feel very lucky that I've been able to isolate and... and get healthy again.
Yeah.
If anybody was worried about me.
Dan: No, I feel—

02:15:01 Dan Host
02:15:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Elliott: Yes. I was.
I feel very lucky that you have been able to *[though laughter]* get healthy again, Stuart.
Elliott: So if anyone—

02:15:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Stuart: You coulda found a new Stuart.
Dan: No! I love you, Stuart!

02:15:09 Elliott Host
02:15:11 Stuart Host
02:15:12 Griffin Guest

Stuart: We—we're—
I mean, Griffin seems to like a lot of the same stuff that you do, so I don't know. It's—
Yeah, yeah, yeah!
Well, I don't—

02:15:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk

[Multiple people laugh.]
Dan: It's more of a two Elliotts situation. *[Laughs.]*

02:15:16 Dan Host

Elliott: Uh, anyone—
To have Griffin join the—

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:15:18 Elliott Host You mean heaven? You mean the definition of heaven on earth? Yeah. Sure. It is.

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:15:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk Uh—
Elliott: To all of our—

02:15:24 Elliott Host **Dan:** I would never talk again. *[Laughs.]*
To all of our listeners, we hope you're healthy. We hope the people in your lives are healthy. If you're not doing well right now we hope you are through it and feeling better soon. Uh, and what Dan said! Do what you can to help other people and otherwise, uh, please take care of yourself. And... uh... as, uh, my—my friend Jenny Jaffe has said to me, uh, let's not all—for any of the creative types listening out there, let's not all feel bad if at the end of this we haven't written the Great American Novel? With this time we supposedly have on our hands?

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:15:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk Job one is just taking care of ourselves and take caring of each other and—
Elliott: —let's be good to ourselves.

02:15:56 Dan Host **Stuart:** While she's busy being on the fucking front page of Reddit. Right? *[Laughs.]*
I do not—

02:15:58 Elliott Host What was that? I don't know about that.

02:15:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Oh, about—

02:16:01 Dan Host **Dan:** I do not have the focus—
—to read a novel *[though laughter]* during this time, let alone... write one. So. Um—

02:16:05 Elliott Host But you've been doing a lot of dress-up, right?

02:16:07 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*
Been doing a lot of—Elliott, you made fun of that earlier. I mean, like, that is the level of distraction. *[Laughs.]*

[Elliott laughs.]

02:16:16 Elliott Host I need during this—uh...I've—
I was only making fun of it in terms of that—you sent us the letter questions this morning.

[Dan laughs.]

02:16:26 Dan Host Uh—right? Uh, when I was like, oh, he seems to have *[though laughter]* a lot of time on his hands. *[Laughs.]*
[Through laughter] Don't think that's a coronavirus thing. But uh. *[Laughs.]*

02:16:28 Elliott Host No, no.

02:16:28 Dan Host Um—

02:16:28 Stuart Host Uh—now that we have elected to not promote ourselves, Griffin, do you have anything you wanna plug or promote? *[Laughs.]*

02:16:34 Griffin Guest Uh, yeah! I mean, I'm definitely gonna plug, uh, taking care of yourself and taking care of others in this weird time. That's my primary plug.

02:16:41 Stuart Host Oh, brave! Oh, brave!

02:16:42 Griffin Guest I'm gonna second that from all of you guys. Um—

02:16:45 Elliott Host Oh, what a hero!

02:16:46 Griffin Guest And then, uh, *Blank Check* podcast, uh, my podcast with David Simms, who's a critic for *The Atlantic*, uh, which all three of you have been on. Uh...

02:16:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** We discussed *The Manchurian Candidate* remake.

02:16:57 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Yeah. That's a—it's like—
Yeah.

02:16:57 Stuart Host Yeah. It's the Cadillac of movie podcasts.

02:16:59 Griffin Guest Oh, no. I don't—I don't actually—don't know enough about cars to figure out what we are.

02:17:05 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
It's the—I feel like if—the—the *Blank Check* podcast is kind of like *The Flop House* if we knew what we were doing and put work into it.

[All laugh.]

02:17:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk Like—if we were any good at this and also were better at it.
Elliott: Then it would be *Blank Check*.

02:17:17 Dan Host **Dan:** But also, I think you can—
—vaguely map our personalities *[though laughter]* onto the *Blank Check* personalities?

02:17:20 Griffin Guest Totally. Totally.

02:17:22 Dan Host So if you like this *[though laughter]* show you'd like that show as well.

02:17:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** It was a—it was a shame our—

02:17:26 Griffin Guest **Elliott:** Just when you—if you—when you—
Our producer, Ben, was not there when you guys recorded. And that's a pretty clean mapping of three onto three.

02:17:33 Dan Host Yeah.

02:17:35 Elliott Host *[Stuart laughs.]*
My only request is that listeners from this podcast—go listen to *Blank Check* podcast, but come back and also listen to our show.

02:17:41 Griffin Guest Gotta listen to both!

02:17:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** You gotta!

02:17:43 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Don't feel like—
—your needs are being met—

[Dan laughs.]

—just by the other one. 'Cause I know how—I know what the feeling's gonna be.

02:17:47 Dan Host You know, take the favorite one. You don't have to tell us which one you like better. We would prefer not.

02:17:51 Griffin Guest Keep it in your heart. Yeah.

02:17:53 Dan Host But think of the other one as methadone— *[Laughs.]* For the—the one you like the best!

02:17:56 Stuart Host No, just—just—you can fit both of ‘em in your life. Just put ‘em on two-times speed and have your brain leak out of your nose when Elliott talks.

02:18:03 Griffin Guest *[Elliott laughs.]*
You’re—you’re not taking it to get high anymore! You’re just taking it to stay even. Y’know?

02:18:06 Elliott Host Yeah, yeah. Just to reach zero!

02:18:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Just to reach level!

02:18:10 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** And I also—I—I wanna—
—promote very relevant topical—thank you for reminding me, uh, Dan—I’m doing a weekly Instagram, uh, Live show with my younger sister. Uh, called *Meryl & Vin*, where she picks a Meryl Streep movie and I pick a Vin Diesel movie, uh, our two favorite movie stars respectively, and we compare them. So I’m doing that every Monday night at 9PM Eastern Standard Time, but then it stays up online for I think 24 hours afterwards.

02:18:36 Dan Host Uh—

02:18:37 Elliott Host So what movies—what movies have you done so far?

02:18:39 Griffin Guest Uh, we—we just started it. We did it—the first installment was *Bloodshot*, uh, versus *Mamma Mia 2: Here We Go Again*—

[Elliott laughs.]

—but that was before we figured out how to save the video? So this remains my only record of, uh, *Bloodshot* opinions. So you guys have the exclusive. Um—

02:18:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Oh, good. I was worried we got scooped!

Stuart: Oh, cool!

02:18:58 Griffin Guest **Griffin:** And then—
—week two was *Babylon AD* versus *The Hours*?

02:19:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Dan laughs.]*
Griffin: Uh... now I don’t—I—

Stuart: Wow. That was a while.

02:19:05 Dan Host **Dan:** Now, is *Babylon AD*—
—was that our lost episode?

02:19:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** I think—

Stuart: Yeah. Famous—

Elliott: That was our lost episode. Yeah.

Griffin: Really?

Dan: Yeah.

02:19:08 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Babylon babies!
We recorded it and then somehow it disappeared. So.

02:19:11 Griffin Guest Well, that's pretty perfect! 'Cause that movie, uh, pretty much doesn't exist.

[All laugh.]

02:19:17 Dan Host Yeah.

02:19:17 Stuart Host Yeah. I, uh, I'm eager for you to do the *A Man Apart*, uh, I don't know, *Ricki and the Flash* combo? [Laughs.]

02:19:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Griffin:** Yes. I—I—think—

Elliott: Mm-hm. Sure.

02:19:26 Griffin Guest *A Man Apart* is gonna be this week at the time that we are recording because that is, uh, a *Babylon AD*, *Man Apart*, and *Knockaround Guys*, are the only Vin Diesel movies I have not seen before. Uh—

02:19:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Oh, cool!

Griffin: So I'm trying to—

02:19:36 Griffin Guest —fill in the blind spots before I go in to rewatching everything.

[Stuart laughs.]

02:19:40 Dan Host I think I may have seen *Knockaround Guys* and remember nothing about it. Uh... as, I think most of America!

02:19:47 Griffin Guest Yeah.

02:19:47 Dan Host Feels about *Knockaround Guys*.

02:19:48 Elliott Host Most of America saw *Knockaround Guys*—

02:19:51 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —and doesn't remember it. That's why it was the single—

Dan: [Through laughter] They totally did. Well, it was—

Griffin: And forgot!

02:19:53 Elliott Host —most profitable movie—

[Dan laughs.]

—in the history of film.

[Stuart laughs.]

02:19:56 Dan Host [Through laughter] It was sent out with the census forms. [Laughs.] A DVD of *Knockaround Guys*.

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:20:00 Elliott Host [Laughs.] They said—they said, please classify your ethnicity, uh, and how many people are in your household. What did you think about *Knockaround Guys*?

02:20:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Yeah. Which of the *Knockaround Guys* do you identify with? [Laughs.]

Griffin: Mandatory font. Yeah.

02:20:09 Griffin Guest It was like *Coupon: The Movie*.

[Elliott laughs.]

02:20:12 Dan Host [Laughs.] Alright. Well, thank you, Griffin, for being here. I think that we can say that this movie—or this movie. This podcast was 100% better having the world's, uh, most, foremost, and funniest Vin Diesel fan [though laughter] on to talk about it.

02:20:25 Griffin Guest My pleasure. And no title I will wear with more honor than the ones you just assigned to me.

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|---|
| 02:20:32 | Dan | Host | <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> |
| 02:20:35 | Stuart | Host | So, uh, until next time—I've been Dan McCoy. |
| 02:20:36 | Elliott | Host | I'm Stuart Wellington! |
| | | | I'm Elliott Kalan! |
| | | | <i>[Extra-long pause.]</i> |
| 02:20:39 | Dan | Host | And Griffin— |
| 02:20:40 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Dan: —is looking— |
| | | | Griffin: Oh! I didn't know I was supposed to say my name! |
| | | | <i>[Elliott laughs.]</i> |
| 02:20:42 | Griffin | Guest | I'm sorry! I'm Griffin Newman! |
| 02:20:44 | Crosstalk | Crosstalk | Dan: That's— |
| | | | Stuart: Okay! Byeeee! |
| 02:20:45 | Dan | Host | Byeeee! |
| | | | <i>[Elliott laughs.]</i> |
| 02:20:47 | Elliott | Host | So long! |
| 02:20:47 | Griffin | Guest | Bye. |
| 02:20:48 | Music | Music | Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments plays at full volume, then recedes into the background as Elliott speaks. |
| 02:20:56 | Elliott | Host | <i>Bloodshot.</i> Yes. Now Dan, something I do often is I have notes—I have a rundown of the episode on my computer. And I have the name— |
| | | | <i>[Stuart laughs.]</i> |
| | | | —of the movie on there. |
| | | | <i>[Stuart laughs.]</i> |
| 02:21:06 | Music | Music | Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments continues, then fades out. |
| 02:21:14 | Speaker 1 | Guest | MaximumFun.org . |
| 02:21:17 | Speaker 2 | Guest | Comedy and culture. |
| 02:21:19 | Speaker 3 | Guest | Artist owned— |
| 02:21:20 | Speaker 4 | Guest | —Audience supported. |