

00:00:00	Dan McCoy	Host	On this episode, Cagemas has come again! We discuss <i>Prima!</i> That's right, <i>Flop House</i> fans! Our sixth Kevin Durand movie! It's Durandica!
00:00:08	Elliott Kalan	Host	
			<i>[Stuart laughs.]</i>
			It's a miracle!
00:00:13	Music	Music	Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.
00:00:40	Dan	Host	Hey, everyone, and welcome to <i>The Flop House</i> . I'm Dan McCoy.
00:00:43	Stuart	Host	Hey, I'm Stuart Wellington!
00:00:46	Elliott	Host	I'm Elliott Kalan! And we've got a special guest today. Right, Stu?
00:00:50	Stuart	Host	We do! He's a comedian. He's a writer and author. He's a TV writer and EP and all kinds of stuff. And he's a podcaster! That's right—Josh Gondelmannnnnn!
00:01:03	Josh Gondelman	Guest	Hello! Thank you for having me!
			<i>[Stuart laughs.]</i>
00:01:06	Elliott	Host	Thanks so much for being here, Josh.
00:01:08	Dan	Host	Now Josh, you were known—widely—for being one of the nicest men in comedy. How do you feel about us compelling you to perhaps say some not-nice things about this movie we watched?
			<i>[Josh laughs.]</i>
00:01:21	Josh	Guest	I'm—well, thank you. That's very kind of you to say that. And I'm excited to talk about this. I love Nicolas Cage. I love Cagemas on your show. I'm a Cagemas devotee. And so I can't wait to talk about this, good and bad. Just all discourse—valuable discourse.
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:01:41	Stuart	Host	Yeah. I believe when I was emailing with Josh I was like, "Yeah, you can kinda pick any movie you wanna talk about, <u>or</u> I guess you could be on the Cagemas episode" and I got an <u>immediate</u> response that just said, "Cagemassss!"
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:01:54	Josh	Guest	I was so excited! As a Jewish person I often felt growing up on the outside of my friends' Cagemas celebrations.
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
00:02:04	Elliott	Host	So as an adult it's nice to be able to make it my own. <i>[Laughs.]</i> It's hard 'cause it's just—and y'know, with kids now it's hard because they see all their friends celebrating Cagemas that same way, and you just forget how much you're bombarded as a kid with Cagemas. Even in schools, there's the Cagemas pageant. Cagemas carols. The Cagemas cage where they put the Jewish kids—
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			—so that they don't steal anyone's blood and make matzoh out of it. It's just a rough time of year.
00:02:25	Stuart	Host	But that's the best matzoh.

00:02:26 Dan Host *[Elliott laughs.]*  
Right. And, y’know, Nicolas Cage comes by and gives all the cage-  
man kids, y’know, white pythons and, y’know, pyramid mortuaries  
to—like, as presents.

00:02:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Yeah, yeah. If you’re a good—and Mongolian tyrannosaurus  
skulls that he has to return. Yeah.

**Stuart:** Yeah. First appearance of Superman. That sort of thing.

00:02:48 Josh Guest **Josh:** And I always—  
And I was always asking my parents, why do we celebrate Jean-  
Claude Van Damme?

*[All laugh.]*

00:02:58 Elliott Host And they were like, “It’s eight nights of Jeannuclaude!  
No, you see, he was only supposed to be able to do splits on a  
table. But he jumped and did a split on a kitchen counter! It was a  
miracle!

00:03:05 Dan Host *[Josh laughs.]*  
Yep. He does so many splits, that guy.

00:03:09 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*  
Yeah. He only had enough crotch for one split, but he did eight  
splits!

00:03:13 Dan Host I mean, it is the best way to show off that amazing butt.

00:03:16 Stuart Host Oh my lord.

00:03:17 Elliott Host It is—it is—yeah. Come on. And Dan, of course, speaking for the  
butt-worshippers. That’s his religion.

00:03:23 Dan Host Mm-hm.

00:03:24 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Now—this—why, I guess, *Primal?* That’s the question our audience  
is asking right now.

00:03:32 Stuart Host Yeah. I mean, I feel like this is a year when there’s been so many  
great Nicolas Cage movies have just poured down the pipeline.

*[Josh laughs.]*

00:03:46 Dan Host Why did we take out our panning pan, stick it into the river of  
Cagemas movies, and pull out this one?  
I mean... I do think that we had a lot of *Jiu Jitsu* partisans on Twitter  
and I’m sure we will get to that? But at this moment we’re like, “Let’s  
go with the one we can watch with our Hulu subscription—”

*[Stuart laughs.]*

00:04:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk “—rather than paying for *Jiu Jitsu*.” So that was the thing behind  
that one. And then like, y’know, the other movies he was in this  
year—like, I mean, people have been trying to get us to do *Color  
Out of Space* And I’m like, “What are you talking about? That is a  
great movie! I love *Color Out of Space*!”

**Stuart:** Yeah. I mean, I think it’s ‘cause it is a big Nicolas Cage  
performance.

**Elliott:** I still haven't seen it yet but I really want to.

**Dan:** Mm-hm.

00:04:20 Stuart Host And sometimes—y'know, I don't wanna speak ill of people—but sometimes people see a big Nicolas Cage performance and they think it's a bad Nicolas Cage performance. And I'm like, "No, no, no! No, no, no, no, no, no! No, no, no!"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:04:38 Josh Guest "That's a good Nicolas Cage performance."  
Yeah. It's like going to Benihana and being like, "Just give me the food!" *[Inaudible]* you're coming here for!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:04:44 Elliott Host You might be at the wrong restaurant if that's what you're looking for, sir.

00:04:48 Josh Guest Yeah.

00:04:50 Elliott Host *[Through laughter]* I love the idea that someone is just like, "I just had a long flight. I just wanna stop—I just checked into my hotel. What's the nearest restaurant? Ben Hana's? Okay, great. I'll try it." And then he's just like, "Give me my—why are you just flipping one shrimp at a time at me? I don't want it to go in your hat! Just give it to me! Come on!"

00:05:03 Josh Guest "I'm so hungry. I'm so hungry now."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:05:07 Dan Host "It is almost as if dinner is the show right now, and that is not what I want, sir."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:05:13 Elliott Host "Let me just bang my fist on the table in anger! Ahh! Oh god! Ahhh! It's so hot! This table!"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

"It's like the table is a griddle! What's going on here?"

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:05:23 Stuart Host "I'll be taking my business to Medieval Times from now on."

*[All laugh.]*

00:05:28 Dan Host "They have none of this shenanigans."

*[All laugh.]*

00:05:34 Stuart Host Oh man.

00:05:35 Josh Guest "Just mutton without fuss."

00:05:38 Elliott Host "Just give me—all I want is to sit at my table, eat a squab with my hands while I drink Pepsi out of a mug, and not have to deal with any sort of drama."

*[All laugh.]*

00:05:49 Stuart Host So. Um, kind of on the subject of Medieval Times, this movie begins in the rainforest in Brazil.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:05:58 Elliott Host Okay. I mean, that's an interesting segue in that those two things are not related at all.

00:06:01 Stuart Host Well, well the reason—here's the connection. If you go to a Medieval Times, there's a chance you'll see an exhibition of falconry. Falcons do not live in the rainforest—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:06:14 Elliott Host —but other birds do.  
Okay. It's a very—I mean, I feel like that is the equivalent—you took a false—you shoved it in a pumpkin and you said, “There, that works. Turn it on.” And I'm like, “Okay, I'll go with it.”

00:06:25 Stuart Host So yeah. Movie begins. Smash cut.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:06:35 Elliott Host Rainforest, Brazil: Exterior. Nicolas Cage playing a character named Frank? Walsh?  
Walsh.

00:06:36 Josh Guest My second-favorite Nicolas Cage character named Frank, after—of course—Frank Cadillac from the movie *Next*.

00:06:42 Stuart Host Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah! Is that the one where he knows what's gonna happen next?

00:06:46 Josh Guest Yeah. Oh yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:06:48 Elliott Host That's the one where he runs a deli and he's just constantly yelling out “Next!”

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

But then one day, the ticket machine breaks. Nobody has a number ticket. And he doesn't know what to do. And he goes into a spiral. Kills a lot of people. And then eventually—he like shoves one guy's hand into the meat slicer? And just keeps slicing away? And I'm like, “Take your hand out of there!” Until it's just like a stump. He just slices the hand away. Oh. What a great movie. Anyway. *Next*. That's my recommendation for this week, I guess. *[Laughs.]*

*[Josh laughs.]*

00:07:18 Stuart Host So Nextolas Cage sits at a hunter's blind, reading a real estate listing. He has a bunch of traps set up and he senses something is up in the woods. That's right—a white jag attacks his traps! And then attacks him!

00:07:33 Dan Host Now let's be clear that this is a jaguar the cat. A white Jag, y'know, the car did not like run into the tree that he was set up in.

00:07:43 Josh Guest Yeah. Not that someone's uncle who works in finance and knows what was cool 35 years ago.

00:07:49 Elliott Host Yeah, yeah. And it also wasn't the star of the TV show *JAG*, David James Elliott, who is white. Y'know. But, y'know.

00:07:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** *[Laughs.]* That's the star of *JAG*? David James Elliott?

**Elliott:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Stuart:** Was his character named “Jag”? Is that why it was called *JAG*?

00:08:01 Dan Host I've never heard of this person in my life and I know that that is a tremendously popular show.

00:08:06 Elliott Host It was on the air for ten years, Dan! He played the lead character, Harmon Rabb, Jr., a name I'm sure you're familiar with.

00:08:12 Josh Guest *[Dan laughs.]*  
Your mastery over *JAG* makes it sound like you had to write a paper on *JAG* at some point, which can't be true.

00:08:18 Elliott Host I majored—I majored in *JAG* studies. For my grad degree. I have a doctorate in *JAG*. Yeah.

00:08:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Josh laughs.]*  
**Josh:** You majored in Jagriculture.  
**Stuart:** So this white jag attacks—

00:08:32 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*  
I've always—it was always my dream to be named Secretary of Jagriculture. In the cabinet. And I was hoping Biden would tap me, but unfortunately he did not. For that job he just tapped me on the shoulder in a kind of creepy way and then said, "Hey, looking good!" And I was like, "I like you, but that was not okay."

00:08:57 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
And maybe in the next administration. Who knows. Dan, I assume that you're just more familiar with Patrick Labyorteaux character, Budric "Bud" Roberts, Jr., also on *JAG*.  
Oh, is Dan watching an episode of *JAG* now and that's why he's not paying attention to the show?

00:09:02 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yeah, that makes sense.  
So I think he might've frozen 'cause he's streaming *JAG* right now. Anyway. So Stuart, a white jaguar—a white jag-u-ar, attacks Nicolas Cage. And what happens.

00:09:10 Stuart Host From this point on—to be referred to exclusively as a white jag—attacks Nicolas Cage. They roll around on the ground—

00:09:17 Elliott Host Kills him. Movie over.

00:09:20 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:09:21 Elliott Host Very short.

00:09:22 Stuart Host They roll around on the ground and Nic manages to stab the jaguar in the shoulder with a tranq dart, and the cat eventually collapses, blood covering its maw. Nicolas Cage's blood? Thankfully not. Cut to a small village where Nicolas Cage has an argument with his driver Diego, who refuses to drive him, citing the "gato fantasma," a local legend about a white jaguar. From here on out, known as a white jag.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Nicolas Cage says, "That is not a maneater, nope"—that the white jag is worth a million bucks. So he has to drive this thing by himself through the jungle. And at this point I'm like, "Oh my god, this is gonna be like *Sorcerer*, but instead of dynamite it's a white jag."

00:10:02	Dan	Host	Now I'd like to take issue with this scene. Because Nicolas Cage, y'know, yeah. He makes a big point about how this is not a maneater. He's like only—I think he said—tigers and polar bears will stalk humans as prey. And then the rest of the movie does its best to undercut this is <i>[through laughter]</i> definitely a man-eating jag.
00:10:23	Elliott	Host	Well I think there's—oh sorry, Josh.
00:10:26	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> You talk and then I'll talk.
			<b>Josh:</b> Oh no, go ahead. I think we might be about to say the same thing.
00:10:28	Josh	Guest	Let's say it in unison. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:10:29	Elliott	Host	Okay. Uh—
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:10:35	Josh	Guest	You go first and then I'll tell ya if it was the thing I was thinking. Okay! I was gonna say that it does seem like—I don't think he's saying it's not dangerous, 'cause I had that same thought. I think he's saying the don't wanna eat you. But I don't think he means it won't kill you. Like I think he's implying, like, "This is a big dangerous cat, but they're not trying to eat and consume humans."
00:10:53	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> It's not like when the jaguar—
			<b>Stuart:</b> No, it's hunting for fun and sport.
00:10:56	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> Yeah, yeah. When the jaguar looks at a person, he doesn't see a big chicken leg?
			<b>Dan:</b> <i>[Laughs.]</i> Like a Predator.
00:10:59	Elliott	Host	Or like a can that says "Jaguar Food"? Yeah, instead he sees like a toy or a doll that he can rip apart with his mouth. Now, that's—I was gonna say that, but I was also gonna say—this beginning sets up Nicolas Cage as being not the greatest guy, and also not really being that great at his job. He's very good at catching animals, but he doesn't seem to really understand animals. And this is shown by his kind of cantankerous rivalry-friendship with a parrot that's always chasing him? And this parrot is a character that is not given his due in the movie. There is so much—like, that character has so much potential and they never use it. So coulda been his lingo, and they just don't go with it. Y'know. Disappointing.
00:11:41	Dan	Host	Well also, I—at this point in the movie, I'm like, "Is this movie going to ask me to sympathize with someone who is trafficking in endangered animals?" <i>[Laughs.]</i> "Is that the game the movie is playing 'cause I am not necessarily gonna go along with that, movie." Now by the end they make some small stabs at making his motivations more sympathetic? But it still seems like—I'm just like, "I don't <u>know</u> , guys." <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:12:07	Stuart	Host	He's trafficking animals to save an orphanage, right? Because some land developer's gonna bulldoze the orphanage so the only way he can save it is—
00:12:15	Dan	Host	Yes. And then the animals are gonna breakdance.
00:12:17	Elliott	Host	Yeah. The only way to win it back is if a white jaguar breakdances and that means they can raise the money to save the rec center orphanage. Yeah.

00:12:24 Josh Guest I would pay to see that show. I would be like, “Wow. This is great.” And if the breakdancing doesn’t work, the white jaguar could just maim the land developers.

00:12:33 Stuart Host *[Laughs.]* Oh, yeah!

00:12:34 Elliott Host That’s another good idea.

00:12:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Now Stuart, you said he’s about to—

00:12:37 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Good to have a Plan B. He’s about to get in the truck. This is going to be a *Wages of Fear/Sorcerer* style just like white-knuckle thrill-ride as he tries to drive down these rocky, steep, kind of just overgrown jungle roads with this dangerous animal in the back of the truck. It’s just a two-hander—him and the—

00:12:51 Josh Guest While he’s drinking!

00:12:52 Elliott Host While he’s drinking! It’s a two-hander, just Nic Cage and this jaguar. The jaguar versus the Cageuar in this drive. That’s the movie, right, Stu?

00:12:59 Stuart Host Yeah. That’s—you know what? You would think, like, a lesser movie would make that the entire plot. But nope. That’s just the credit sequence. Where we get somewhat thrilling music and kind of simple shots of the car driving through the jungle.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

We get all the credits during this time. The name *Primal* hits the screen. We’re pumped. Okay.

*[Dan laughs.]*

Now we mentioned earlier that sometimes Nicolas Cage will bring—let’s say—a large performance. And sometimes Nicolas Cage brings kind of a more subdued performance. We’ve already gotten a little bit of a taste of Nicolas Cage and we’re going to get, obviously, a full meal over the course of this movie.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

So what do you guys think so far? I think he’s bringing the goods today, guys! He’s chomping on a *[exaggerates the pronunciation of “cigar”]* cee-gar, he’s stomping around. He’s being a jerk to literally everybody in the movie. What do you guys think?

00:13:45 Elliott Host Now this is a—I would say this is what I would call “Middle Cage,” which is not bad. We all reach Middle Cage eventually and it’s just natural and healthy.

00:13:54 Josh Guest God willing!

00:13:55 Elliott Host Yeah! Thank you! Yes—from my mouth to god’s ears for all of us, yeah. Does God have ears? That’s kind of the weird thing. He’s just kind of a disembodied universal spirit but he’s got big ears.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:14:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk So that—this is the kind of Cage that we see in *Stolen*, where—**Elliott:** —he’s not—he’s—who does? Well ‘cause he’s got an elephant’s head, yeah.

00:14:14 Elliott Host **Stuart:** I mean, Ganesh has big ears, right? And Ganesh is a god. Ganesh? Yeah.  
But that's not his birth head. So. But—

[Josh laughs.]

It's not Nicolas Cage, big *Bad Lieutenant*, and it's not Nicolas Cage, *Bangkok Dangerous* just sleepwalking through it. This is *Stolen* Nicolas Cage where you're like, "This is the Nicolas Cage that should be starring in a one-hour procedural that I would watch every episode of and it would be super fun! Call it *NCIS: Nicolas Cage Investigative Services*."

00:14:36 Dan Host [Multiple people laugh.]  
Yeah. I would say this is a medium Nicolas Cage and then occasionally we'll get a taste of a crazier Cage in there.

00:14:45 Josh Guest I agree. I feel like you get—occasionally his line readings will be like—

00:14:49 Elliott Host O-Cage-ionally?

00:14:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Yeah, o-Cage-ionally, yes.

**Josh:** [Through laughter] O-Cage-ionally, yes. Of course. [Laughs.]

00:14:54 Josh Guest [Multiple people laugh.]  
Like when he—like, him being in a feud with a parrot. That kind of—he kind of peaks occasionally? Where someone is like, "What is this parrot?" And he's like, "A REAL EINSTEIN!" And it's like, "You didn't need to come in that hot, Cage. You really—this—like, what did this parrot do to you?" But I kind of like his—he's got kind of like an aggrieved schlub attitude. Like it's almost Cagestanza. Like, George Cagestanza. He's just like constantly coming up with rules that no one else plays by. He's mad at things that no one else knew was a thing. It's great.

00:15:30 Stuart Host And you're like—the whole time you're like, "Famke Janssen's character is flirting with you, dude! Be nice! You don't have to be a jerk to everyone!"

00:15:36 Elliott Host [All laugh.]  
**Josh:** And he's like—

00:15:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Is she? [Laughs.]  
**Elliott:** I mean, it's learning in the way—

00:15:45 Elliott Host **Josh:** I read *The Game* and I read for *The Game*—Jean-Van got it—and so this is how I treat women.  
It's the kind of *African Queen* Humphrey Boogart—Boogart. That's for Halloween.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:15:57 Dan Host Humphrey Bogart/Katharine Hepburn flirting where it's like, "We hate each other. And then suddenly we love each other." It's that kind of flirting. Y'know.  
I mean, I would say— [Laughs.] One of the things I liked about this movie is I think at the beginning of the movie, Famke Janssen? Is it

Janssen [*pronounces it "Yahn-sen"*] or Janssen [*pronounces it "Jansen"*]?

00:16:07 Elliott Host I would say Jansen, but I might be wrong.

00:16:09 Dan Host Famke Janssen is like...

00:16:12 Elliott Host Famous Amos. That's the—yeah. Famke—she goes—it's pronounced "Famous Amos" but it's spelled Famke Janssen. She makes cookies.

00:16:17 Dan Host Famous Amos is appropriately kind of... treating Nicolas Cage as like this drunk asshole. And then as the movie goes on, she acquires a baseline appreciation for like how he's good at helping in this situation. And at the end there's like, the glimmer of maybe there could be a romance. But I like that for the most part, they dispense with the idea that just because there's a man and a woman in the movie they have to like each other.

00:16:49 Stuart Host Baseline appreciation equals flirting, Dan. That's what I said.

00:16:52 Dan Host [*Multiple people laugh.*]  
[*Through laughter*] Okay.

00:16:53 Josh Guest Well this is also kind of the relationship, like, latter-day Steven Seagal has with the female leads in his movies? Where the person who's directing the movie kind of rightly realizes, like, "No one wants to see this happen."

[*Multiple people laugh.*]

Like, "Nobody wants to see them hooking up." [*Through laughter*]  
Like, Nicolas Cage is not—does not cut a sensuous figure in this movie. He's belligerent. He's rude and unpleasant and he's kinda like unkempt. It's just like—it's like a bridge too far. Like at the end of the movie where it seems like they have a kind of an appreciation for one another and maybe a companionship? You still aren't like, "God, I hope they go for it."

[*Multiple people laugh.*]

00:17:34 Elliott Host Yeah. They can make it work.

00:17:35 Dan Host "Grudging respect" is what they reach.

00:17:37 Josh Guest Yeah. Yeah.

00:17:38 Elliott Host And I think there's—I mean, Nicolas Cage and Famke Janssen are the same age, I believe. So I appreciate that the movie has two stars where, if they did get into a romance, you'd be like, "That's great. I don't have to imagine Nicolas Cage macking all over some woman 40 years younger than him." Y'know.

00:17:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan and Stuart:** Yeah.

00:17:55 Dan Host You're like, "That's great! It's nice that he found someone!"

00:17:58 Elliott Host [*Multiple people laugh.*]  
Yeah! You know what? They could build—they've got a shared frame of reference. They grew up at the same time. They're at the same place in life. Like they really could build a stable—not particularly exciting, but like, y'know, just a good relationship where they see each other when they see each other and there's no expectations because—what, are they gonna raise a family together? No! Y'know, it's companionship.

00:18:18 Josh Guest They both have their own careers. They're not expecting one to do favors for the other. One's not 26 years younger and pretending to be Spanish, let's say.

[All laugh.]

00:18:28 Stuart Host And I mean, they're gonna have that white jag money. And a house on Pine Lake? Is that what he keeps talking about?

00:18:34 Elliott Host That's what he wants. The whole time he's just talking about how—I mean, when we first see him reading that real estate magazine while he's sitting in the hunter's blind, it's like, that tableau tells us everything we need to know about Nic Cage in this movie. He is real-estate hungry. He's a hunter. And he's not taking care of himself.

00:18:46 Stuart Host No.

00:18:48 Josh Guest It also gives you the kind of like—the nuance that went into making the movie, right? Like, the magazine was called “Real Estate.” It just said “Real Estate” on the front.

[Multiple people laugh.]

There was no, like, title on the magazine. There was no location on it. They're just like, “He's looking at houses! I dunno, real estate, idiot! Write it on the front!”

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:19:07 Elliott Host Now, I just want to mention—again—'cause I don't think we're gonna talk about it much. This parrot—we learn later—has a trick where he can say, when he sees a gun he says “Take the shot! Take the shot!” This never pays off. Which is—the minute they did that, I was like, “Eventually, Nic Cage is gonna have to shoot the bad guy and the parrot's gonna say ‘Take the Shot.’” But it does not happen.

00:19:25 Dan Host Hold on. I thought... doesn't it? I think that like—later on, doesn't he say, “Hey, idiot, my gun isn't drawn.” When the parrot says, “Take the shot.” And then he like—the parrot flies off and he gets suspicious. He's like, “Oh, maybe this parrot saw another gun” and that's when he briefly finds the bad guy.

00:19:43 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** I'm getting ahead of ourselves, but.

00:19:46 Elliott Host **Elliott:** That is the most minimal—that's a minimal payoff. We're being paid pennies on the dollar if that's the payoff for that bit. The payoff should be that Nicolas Cage gets told by the parrot [through laughter] when to shoot the bad guy! [Laughs.]

00:19:53 Dan Host That's true.

00:19:54 Josh Guest Yeah. Just with kind of an “Ed Harris wearing a beret” intensity, if that makes sense.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:20:02 Dan Host It makes the most sense.

00:20:03 Josh Guest Thank you.

00:20:04 Elliott Host Now I just imagine Ed Harris coming back from a trip to Paris and he's like, “Call me Ed Paris. I'm gonna be French now.” And he's just wearing a beret and listening to a lot of Edith Piaf music? And just being like, “Oh.”

00:20:15 Josh Guest Serge Gainsbourg?

00:20:18 Elliott Host We gotta make that happen. Guys? Let's start a Kickstarter to send Ed Harris to Paris.

[All laugh.]

00:20:24 Dan Host Yeah. Forget *Emily in Paris*. *Harris in Paris*. That's [inaudible].  
00:20:27 Elliott Host Well it was originally called *Ed Harris in Paris* and then Ed Harris dropped out at the last minute and they replaced him with Emily.  
00:20:32 Josh Guest And then it was supposed to rhyme and now it still rhymes. *Emily in Paris* [pronounces it the French "Par-ee"]. I was actually at the concert where Jay-Z and Kanye West performed "Ed Harris in Paris" like thirteen times in a row? And people were psyched. It was fun.

[Elliott laughs.]  
00:20:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** So Nicolas Cage is loading his exotic—  
00:20:52 Stuart Host **Elliott:** So where does he drive through?  
Nicolas Cage is loading his exotic animal collection onto a container ship.  
[Josh laughs.]  
He's annoyed because the ship is going to have to stop at Puerto Rico and that's gonna mess up his timetable. When a bunch of armed soldiers—led by a US Marshall played by Michael Imperioli—arrive to escort a prisoner—played by the one, the only Kevin Durand—*Flop House* fave! Who is doing like a kind of a Hannibal Lecter soldier type thing?  
00:21:23 Elliott Host In my notes I refer to it as "Hannibal Lecter by way of your friend's uncle's impression of Hannibal Lecter."  
00:21:30 Josh Guest [Multiple people laugh.]  
It also felt to me—the Nicolas Cage presence also made it feel like, "Oh, this is Cyrus the Virus. Like, this is *Con Boat* is what we're about to do."  
00:21:40 Dan Host Yeah. That is definitely *Con Boat*. It is *Animal*. It is *Snakes on a Plane* with more animals crossed with *Con Boat*. And I think Kevin Durand is also like—he's like, "Well, Nicolas Cage is in this movie. I got whatever scenery he is leaving unchewed, I gotta jump on that. I gotta eat up those scraps."  
00:22:02 Elliott Host [Inaudible] is like, "I better match Nic Cage's intensity" and then after the third day of shooting is like, "Are you gonna amp it all, Nic? Or am I like—'cause I feel like I'm unbalanced here." So just—I just wanted to pitch to you guys this idea off of the concept *Con Boat*, which I love. Okay. Okay. Thor Heyerdahl wants to prove that it's possible. People can travel great distances using like a log-built raft boat. Unfortunately, his crew is made up of escaped convicts. That's right! It's *Con—C-O-N—Tiki*. And it's exploration. It's adventure. It's action. And at the end, somehow, this wooden raft explodes. Guys?  
[Dan laughs.]  
How much money will you pay me to make this movie?  
00:22:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk [Multiple people laugh.]  
**Dan:** Ummm... well.  
00:22:46 Stuart Host **Stuart:** I mean, a wooden raft's not that expensive, right?  
So you don't need that much money.

00:22:47 Josh Guest But I'm gonna need a bunch 'cause we're gonna blow it up a few times in the movie.

00:22:49 Stuart Host Oh, okay.

00:22:51 Elliott Host So you're paying for—but also, the talent I'm hoping to get in this movie is enormous. You're gonna have probably Gary Oldman as Thor Heyerdahl? 'Cause we've seen he can play someone much younger than himself in *Mank*. There was at no point during *Mank* where I was like, "No, this is clearly an old man pretending to be a much younger man."

00:23:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Josh laughs.]*  
**Josh:** It's an "Oldman" pretending to be a much younger man.  
*[Laughs.]*

**Elliott:** This is a 43— *[Laughs.]*

00:23:11 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
I'm watching a 43-year-old, and sometimes a 35-year-old in the flashbacks, and I'm totally buying the illusion that this is the person I'm seeing. And then for the—

00:23:17 Stuart Host Now, I haven't seen *Mank*, but do they do the same technique as when they do, like, *Better Call Saul* flashbacks? And they just brush Bob Odenkirk's hair forward? And you're like, "He's a 20-year-old! Slippin' Jimmy over here!"

00:23:27 Elliott Host They don't even do that. *Mank* kind of exists in a world where he is always an old man, even when he's a young man. And for the convicts I was thinking the Muppets. So that's gonna make the shoot much more expensive, 'cause I just saw *Muppet Treasure Island* and I was like, "Yes. That's how to do it. Muppets on the open seas." So that's gonna make it more expensive.

00:23:46 Dan Host Yeah. You're gonna have to have divers underneath doing the Muppet—I—y'know, Elliott, I've never financed a movie before, but that's probably not a dangerous investment. So sure. I'll— *[Laughs.]*  
I'll put money in.

00:23:59 Elliott Host I mean, it is a dangerous investment, Dan, 'cause my lawyer is a shark. Literally. And he will eat you during negotiations.

00:24:05 Josh Guest They call that "**The Most Dangerous Investment.**"

*[All laugh.]*

*[Through laughter]* Where you invest in Elliott's movie and then a shark hunts you.

00:24:12 Elliott Host Yeah. You're shipwrecked on an island where a guy is trying to sell you Bitcoin, and that's the most dangerous investment. So Stu, who else? So okay. So they're all getting on the boat. I apologize. We're like—

00:24:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** No, it's okay. We all got very excited.

00:24:26 Stuart Host **Elliott:** —ten minutes into the movie. *[Laughs.]*  
When Michael Imperioli and Famke Janssen show up. Famke Janssen plays the special doctor who's there to look after the prisoner. Now, this prisoner's not only dangerous, but he also suffers from a rare condition where if he goes to a certain altitude, he'll have a seizure and die. That's why he's on the boat and not on a plane.

00:24:47 Josh Guest This is the second movie I've seen in the last two weeks where that happens, but in the first movie it's a secret. So I won't say what movie it is. *[Laughs.]*

00:24:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott, Dan and Stuart:** Ohhh!

**Stuart:** Okay! Oh, interesting! Well that's—

00:24:58 Stuart Host **Elliott:** It's a movie called *Secret Seizure*. Yeah. Pay attention to the episode. Josh will be dropping little Easter eggs the whole time.

00:25:01 Josh Guest Little clues as to what other movies I've seen the last two weeks.

00:25:04 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yeah. *[Laughs.]* Okay. So Nicolas Case makes friends by—

00:25:08 Elliott Host Let's just say, one of them took place in 1984, and I'm not saying George Orwell wrote it. Ehhhh?

00:25:15 Stuart Host *[All laugh.]*  
So Nicolas Cage makes friends with people on the boat by being a huge asshole to everybody.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

He explains that he's selling that white jag to the highest-bidding zoo. He originally went to find a regular jag for peanuts, but now he found this white one. So man, he's gonna make bank. The feds are transporting an elite assassin counterterrorist who, as I said, can't fly because of a malformation on his brain that would kill him if he changes altitude, so there's a reason they're on a boat, guys. Okay?

*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:25:44 Dan Host Chill out.  
Also the romance of, y'know, boat travel.

00:25:47 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
That's the thing.

00:25:48 Dan Host He comes on with a big steamer trunk?

*[All laugh.]*

00:25:55 Elliott Host There are other convicts waving handkerchiefs as they leave.  
Yeah, yeah. This. *[Laughs.]*

00:25:56 Stuart Host Now the convict's name is Loffler, so I'm going to try and refer to him as Loffler, or maybe sometimes Kevin Durand for the rest of this. So Nicolas Cage introduces—

00:26:05 Elliott Host Now what's Famke Janssen's character's name?

00:26:07 Stuart Host Doctor Taylor?

00:26:10 Elliott Host Okay, you're right. It is Doctor Taylor. I didn't think you were gonna get the last name.

00:26:13 Dan Host I would not have gotten any of that.

00:26:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Wow.

**Josh:** You know she's a serious lady 'cause her name is two jobs.

00:26:20 Stuart Host *[All laugh.]*  
Professional. Yeah. So Nicolas Cage introduces the son of the captain 'cause the captain's kid—that was originally gonna be the name of the movie, is *Captain's Kid*?

00:26:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Stuart:** Realized that didn't make sense. Or *Con Boat: Captain's Kid*?

**Dan:** Cash that captain's kid.

00:26:37 Stuart Host  
00:26:39 Elliott Host **Elliott:** *Captain's Kid*.  
Or *ConBoat Captain Kid, Colon*?  
It's called *ConToddy*, and it's—three toddlers have to sail a raft across the ocean to prove that toddlers could've populated South America or wherever?

00:26:47 Stuart Host  
00:26:51 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Dan laughs.]*  
Elliott is really banking on *Contiki* jokes this whole episode, right?  
**Elliott:** Yeah. And it's not even a book I read recently.

00:26:54 Elliott Host **Stuart:** You got like four more?  
I read this book 25 years ago I think? Anyway, it's by Tot Hyerdoll. D-O-L-L, like a kid's toy.

00:27:02 Stuart Host So Nic Cage is introducing this kid to his menagerie of critters. Not actually Critters, the Crites from outer space. These are normal animals. But he describes each of these animals so you know each of the specific things he mentions are going to come back later. So when he talks about these monkeys peeling off your face? Start watching your face boys, 'cause these monkeys are gonna get loose and start face peeling.

00:27:24 Elliott Host And when he talks about how his parrot says "Take the shot," do not get your hopes up.

00:27:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** That will not play into the climax.

**Stuart:** Do not get your hopes up. You will be bummed.

00:27:30 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
Also—I don't know if you guys had this problem. I could not tell. Parrots are not known for their ability to enunciate? So I actually didn't know what that parrot was saying? I shoulda put on the subtitles for the parrot.

00:27:44 Josh Guest Yeah. Because he—the thing he was saying was the parrot hates guns. Right? That was a trait of this parrot's personality.

00:27:52 Dan Host Right. So I would not expect "Take the shot" if he hates guns.  
*[Laughs.]* Or maybe he just hates people holding guns and not shooting them. Who knows.

00:28:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Elliott:** Yeah. *[Inaudible]* Yeah.

**Josh:** Unless he's a big fan of—his favorite gun, Chekhov's.

*[All laugh.]*

**Dan:** Yeah.

00:28:06 Dan Host The parrot's like, "Production for use! Production for use!" That was for Elliott, by the way.

00:28:10 Elliott Host Oh thank you, thank you. Yeah. *His Girl Friday*. Anyway, so—also, which animals are CGI and which are not? The white jaguar is very clearly a computer-animated jaguar.

00:28:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Oh, wow. Wait—really?

**Elliott:** The monkeys—are they real monkeys? *[Through laughter]* I hate to—I hate to break it to you, Stu—

**Josh:** They reappropriated it from like a Sega CD game from 1996. *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:28:29 Stuart Host Yeah. It seemed like a demo—like a sound effect reel they would play before a DVD? *[Laughs.]* Like a production reel?

00:28:35 Elliott Host Yeah. If that jaguar were any more CGI he would be winking and rapping at some point during the movie.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:28:41 Dan Host I mean, I think that in the cages, maybe, there were some real animals? But I think everything was CGI after that.

00:28:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Even the tapirs?

**Dan:** Maybe not the snake. Maybe not the snake.

**Elliott:** The tapir—

00:28:50 Elliott Host The tapirs looked real!

00:28:51 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** I'll say that! I think they got a real tapir onto that boat.

**Stuart:** They looked delicious.

00:28:53 Elliott Host In which case, more power to ya! God help you! I've tried and it's hard to get a tapir onto a boat.

00:28:59 Stuart Host I mean, Nicolas Cage trains his own tapirs. So.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:29:03 Josh Guest Yeah.  
That's what he does—well, he trains them, and then you have to pay him to have them in the movie? It's like a grift he's got going on.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:29:09 Elliott Host They just—they wanted to—well actually, they wanted to hire his tapirs for the movie and he's like, "If I get the role." "Uh, well we kinda already promised it to Michael Dudikoff." "No, no, no. It's my movie now."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:29:19 Josh Guest "These tapirs—"

00:29:21 Elliott Host "These tapirs are the best in Hollywood!"  
"Well we'll just use pigs instead!" "Are you kidding me? I know pigs are roughly the same shape and size as tapirs, but it is not gonna look as good on camera." "No, I mean, we'll get a pig and we'll put like a little trunk on it." "No, no, no, no, no."

00:29:34	Josh	Guest	<p>“You wanna come in with a pig? Our movie <i>Primal</i> is gonna seem generic!”</p> <p>[All laugh.]</p> <p>“If we use pigs instead of tapirs!”</p>
00:29:42	Elliott	Host	<p>[Dan laughs.]</p> <p>Now imagine this same movie, but it’s made by kids and all the animals are just their pets? So it’s like dogs and cats but they’re pretending they’re wild animals? That would be pretty cute.</p>
00:29:53	Josh	Guest	<p>It would be pretty cute. Like if a bunch of kids did a <i>Be Kind</i>—was it <i>Be Kind Rewind</i>? Was that the Mos Def/Jack Black movie?</p>
00:29:58	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<p><b>Elliott, Stuart, and Dan:</b> Yeah.</p>
00:29:59	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<p><b>Elliott:</b> Or like those kids—</p>
00:30:03	Stuart	Host	<p><b>Stuart:</b> Or the little kids with like soot smeared on his face— —to look like five o’clock shadow like Nicolas Cage has?</p>
00:30:06	Elliott	Host	<p>[Elliott laughs.]</p> <p>Oh yeah. That’d be adorable. Yeah.</p>
00:30:09	Stuart	Host	<p>Chomping on a cee-gar. It’d be a candy cigar, ‘cause, y’know, children shouldn’t even be <u>pretending</u> to smoke a cigar ‘cause I think that just sends a bad message to kids, right?</p>
00:30:17	Elliott	Host	<p>Yeah, yeah, I think so. I mean, nobody should really be smoking cigars. I hope the tobacco lobby doesn’t come out, but there’s really no good side to it. You get—</p>
00:30:25	Stuart	Host	<p>I mean, they smell bad and you look like an asshole!</p>
00:30:27	Dan	Host	<p>I don’t know. How—</p>
00:30:30	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<p>[Multiple people laugh.]</p> <p><b>Dan:</b> —without cigars, how would you know—</p>
00:30:32	Elliott	Host	<p><b>Elliott:</b> Yeah! I mean, best-case scenario— Best-case scenario, you look like Rudy Giuliani and is that <u>really</u> such a good-case scenario?</p>
00:30:37	Dan	Host	<p>[Josh laughs.]</p> <p>But without cigars how would you know that someone was a newspaper editor? Like—</p>
00:30:42	Josh	Guest	<p>That’s true!</p>
00:30:42	Elliott	Host	<p>But you might also think they’re just very rich!</p>
00:30:44	Dan	Host	<p>That’s true.</p>
00:30:45	Elliott	Host	<p>If they’re chomping on a cee-gar.</p>
00:30:48	Stuart	Host	<p>Okay. So...</p>
00:30:48	Elliott	Host	<p>Only one person should chomp on cee-gars, and that’s the alligator from <i>Pogo</i>. So.</p>
00:30:55	Josh	Guest	<p>This—it’s—okay.</p>
00:30:55	Dan	Host	<p>Or Mrs. E. C. Segar.</p>
00:30:59	Elliott	Host	<p>[All laugh.]</p> <p>Whoa! Whoa! Dan, some blue humor about the creator of <i>Popeye</i>!</p>
00:31:06	Josh	Guest	<p>At this point in the movie, right, when they bring in Loffler and they’re like, he’s being openly contemptuous of them in a very— that, I think, was that vibe of his open contempt for the law that was—whose charge he was in? That’s what felt, to me, like <i>Con Air</i>.</p>

And it was like, at that moment, like, as soon as they lock him into that cage and she's watching over him and she's like, "I'm always on call as his neurologist," I like turned to my wife and was like, "How many minutes do you think until he fakes a seizure and gets out and kills everyone?" Right? That's what we're angling for here? *[Laughs.]* It could not be otherwise.

- 00:31:43 Stuart Host Yeah. Basically the next scene. He says he wants a Coke. They don't bring him a Coke, of course. I mean, it's probably because of branding or something? Eventually somebody gives him a Coke and that's what lets him do a seizure? Are we to believe that he managed to get ahold of the coke and then he let the foam... fake a seizure? Do—I don't know. It doesn't matter.
- 00:32:01 Elliott Host I don't remember them handing him the Coke. I thought they put it just far enough outside his cage so that he couldn't reach it to taunt him. And then he was like, "Oh, that's the last straw. Now I'm definitely killing everybody on this boat."
- 00:32:10 Josh Guest "Now I'm gonna kill all these army men and women."
- [Elliott laughs.]*
- 00:32:13 Stuart Host Yeah. So he fakes a seizure. The two guards try and go in and stop him from having a seizure and of course he breaks free and murders both of them. And now that he's free, ho, ho, ho, he's got a machine gun. He leaves dead bodies in his wake—
- 00:32:27 Elliott Host One of the guards does the most foolish thing you can do if a super-assassin is having a seizure in front of you, which is he tries to open his mouth with his hands? Of course he's just gonna bite down on those hands just like Nic Cage, slicing off fingers in *Next*, the movie about the guy who kills everybody at that deli.
- [Josh laughs.]*
- And that's just a bad idea. You wanna keep your hands away from the mouth of any sort of mass murderer. That's just—I'm just gonna tell you. Unless you are a licensed dictator dentist—that's the guy who goes and handles, y'know, like, dictators' teeth, y'know, then you don't wanna put your hands anywhere near the mouth of a mass murderer. I'll just tell ya that.
- 00:33:00 Josh Guest As Busta Rhymes would say, "If you really wanna party with me, keep your hands where that guy can't eat."
- [All laugh.]*
- I apologize. That's just what my brain was gonna think at this hour of the day whether I was on this podcast or not.
- 00:33:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Uh-huh. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Elliott:** Yeah. Mr. Rhymes, we mean no disrespect at all. It was just Josh having fun. Please don't get mad. Busta Rhymes—we've had a contentious relationship with him. Y'know. So.
- [Josh laughs.]*
- 00:33:23 Stuart Host Yeah, I mean—I'm certainly very jealous of his glow-up recently. He went from, y'know, being like a larger fellow to a very in-shape fellow during quarantine. It's—I think that's the kind of thing that can inspire all of us. Okay. So—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

So they—Loffler gets loose. They make a plan to catch him that involves moving everybody to a secure part of the ship. But of course Nicolas Cage wants to feed his animals. It's been too long. They need food. However, they convince him not to worry about it.

*[Dan laughs.]*

And they wanna secure all the civilians so that the soldiers can finally hunt the most dangerous game—that's right—this guy, Loffler.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

Loffler lets out Frank's animals. Of course they try to, like—they let the cook out and they're like, "Hey, you should go to the kitchen and make everybody a bunch of food." I guess to lift their spirits.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

That's a big mistake because Loffler left a monkey trap where he left a bunch of monkeys in the kitchen.

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:34:23 Elliott Host Classic monkey trap! You just put monkeys in a room and wait 'til someone goes in.

00:34:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** And those monkeys totally murder this dude.

00:34:31 Dan Host **Dan:** Well, also, like—  
This monkey trap really works extra because apparently this chef really, really hates monkeys? Like, immediately he's just like got his meat cleaver, hacking wildly at these monkeys. Which—

00:34:46 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** —y'know, I don't know.

**Josh:** He really took his eye off the ball.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:34:49 Josh Guest Like he—there's like a murder—an assassin, right? A military-trained rogue assassin loose on the ship that they're trying to avoid. And he's like, "Oh, time to settle this score first!"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:35:01 Stuart Host Do you think he's trying to—he's like, "Maybe if I totally kill these monkeys really gross, the assassin will give himself up 'cause he'll know I'm not to be messed with."

*[Josh laughs.]*

Well his plan backfires because the monkeys knock him on the ground and strip the meat from his bones like a Critterball rolling over a running-away guy.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:35:22 Elliott Host A lotta Critter talk in this one! I like it! This is—

00:35:24 Stuart Host Oh, man, I love it.

*[Dan laughs.]*

It's on HBO Max! Or at least it was the last time I watched it on HBO Max. So— *[Laughs.]* So.

*[Josh laughs.]*

Yeah. So Nicolas Cage manages to sneak loose. He goes to find his animals. He bumps into Loffler—oh, no. He—Nicolas Cage manages to get a radio. Loffler has a radio and they kind of like bond over the radio, having both been soldiers? Nicolas Cage has to track down all his animals and of course he gets—  
Kinda *Sleepless in Seattle* moment.

00:35:51 Josh Guest

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:35:53 Elliott Host  
Yeah! There's a little—y'know, they, like, Nicolas Cage is like, "Maybe I put up too many walls with this attitude I take with everybody."

*[Josh laughs.]*

00:36:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
**Stuart:** Turns out it's not gonna work out.

00:36:05 Elliott Host  
**Elliott:** Loffler's like—Loffler's like—  
"This is gonna sound weird, but it's so awkward making friends when you're an adult. Would you—"

*[Josh laughs.]*

"Would you wanna get ice cream sometime? We don't have to sit down for a whole meal. I know it's weird. I know people go out for drinks but that kinda seems romantic. Can we just like... is it weird for two grown-up dudes to just go get ice cream together in the middle of the day?" And Nic Cage is like, "That's the least weird thing I've ever heard." And then it's like, it's the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Yeah.

00:36:32 Stuart Host  
Oh man. I'm just thinking about... thinking about pre-COVID times when you could just go for a random ice cream in the middle of the afternoon. It is really funny. Whenever my wife and I are driving around doing work, if she ever sees an adult walking around in the middle of the day just eating an ice cream cone?

*[Elliott laughs.]*

She gets, like, irrationally angry? She's like, "You have nothing to do?!"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:36:54 Elliott Host  
Really? 'Cause my immediate reaction is, "I should do that."

00:36:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
**Elliott:** "This guy has had a great idea."

**Dan:** Yeah. I don't understand. It's like—

**Josh:** Yeah, yeah.

**Stuart:** For Charlene it's like, "Oh, la-di-dah!"

00:37:03 Dan Host *[All laugh.]*  
That is like the Grinchiest response. I gotta say. Nothing's stopping her from getting ice cream if she wants to.

00:37:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** I dunno.

**Josh:** Look, buddy. You got time to cream, you got time to clean.

00:37:14 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*  
That's what they say with those topless maids. That's what they also say. *[Laughs.]*

00:37:18 Stuart Host *[Through laughter]* Okay. Okay.

00:37:21 Elliott Host Now—that was disgusting. Sorry, Josh. Anyway. So the—

00:37:24 Josh Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Thank you. Now apologize to Busta Rhymes.

00:37:26 Elliott Host Sorry. Apologies to Mr. Rhymes. I know you don't like that kind of talk. So speaking of pre-COVID times, I was with my children at a public park earlier today. Masked. Very distant from everybody else. We were safely and healthily exploring the abandoned zoo cages at the Griffith Park—former L.A. zoo—which is a wonderland of rusted metal and little baggies that used to have drugs in them littering the ground. And so—and we passed by a water fountain and my younger son, who's two, he was like, "I want a drink of water." And I was like, "No, no, that's turned off right now." And I was like, "Now that seems like the most insane idea in the world." I use "insane" not in a pejorative way. But a little bit. "To go to a thing—just out in the open in a public space—that shoots water and put your mouth right above it and shoot the water into your mouth and just kinda like—and you might wait in line to do that, behind other people, who are also just gonna put their mouths right over it." Like, that seems crazy to me now! But I used to do it. Guys, what's your feeling on water fountains? Is it as weird as it seems to me now that we live in a germ-topia?

00:38:29 Dan Host I mean, at first I was like, "What's your problem? It's shooting the water into your mouth. That water's not getting reused." But then I'm like, "There are a lot of those weirdos who put their mouth right on the thing."

00:38:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Josh:** Right. Like they're practicing for when they really get to kiss a metal robot?

**Elliott:** Have you ever used a water fountain—

**Stuart:** Yes.

00:38:47 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Water fountains are not the most efficient water delivery system, and a lot of that water just dribbles right out of your mouth back onto the fountain. So it's—

00:38:53 Dan Host Yeah, but they're not reusing that water, shooting it back into your mouth.

00:38:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Josh laughs.]*  
**Dan:** That goes down the drain!

**Stuart:** Yeah. That's not like going to like—

00:39:00 Elliott Host **Elliott:** It's not like that water goes into a—  
That water doesn't go into a separate tube to go to the wastewater area. It just falls right back into the same pipe!

00:39:04 Dan Host It's got a drain, Elliott! They're not—

*[Someone laughs.]*

00:39:09 Josh Guest That water's not what you're drinking.  
Yeah. This isn't *Mario Brothers*. They don't come out and down in the same— *[Laughs.]*

00:39:13 Elliott Host Alright. Well it seems bizarre to me now that I ever was like, "Oh, let me go to this germ bath and just shoot it into my face."

00:39:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Do you need an incredible cross-section to explain how a water fountain works?

**Josh:** It's for sure gross.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:39:24 Dan Host What seems bizarre to me is—yes. That you drank from a water fountain at any time if you thought that was how it worked.

*[Josh laughs.]*

00:39:31 Elliott Host I never thought about it before 'cause I thought I would live forever! Also, it's always seemed weird to me that I call them water fountains when I should call them drinking fountains. Every fountain is a water fountain.

*[Josh laughs.]*

00:39:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk Unless it's like a samurai chopped a guy's head off and a fountain of blood shoots out.  
**Stuart:** Or like a chocolate fountain.

**Elliott:** Like, it's—water fountain is redundant! Doesn't tell you anything. Chocolate fountain.

**Josh:** Chocolate fountain. Unless you've eaten a lot of fondue.

**Stuart:** Cheese fountain. Yeah.

**Elliott:** Yeah, that's true. And Fountains of Wayne, I guess. Yeah.

00:39:51 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Okay. So, uh...  
Nicolas Cage manages to get his most important item. That's right—his tranq gun that has a little strap that he can put around his wrist so you know that thing's not going nowhere!

*[Elliott laughs.]*

He's gonna have that until the grave. Let's see. So. They all split up—all the soldiers split up, which makes a lot of sense. This gives Loffler time to infiltrate the engineers and find out all about how the ship works. He does some really good character work with these guys so they buy that he's just a regular joe working on a boat. Of course—

00:40:24 Elliott Host They think he's one of the soldiers. He gets—  
00:40:28 Josh Guest Yeah. He gave the name of one of the soldiers, as if they know all the soldiers' names?

*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:40:36 Elliott Host And they were like, "Ah, right! Okay! That checks out!"  
From the mixer! He's like, "I hope these guys didn't talk to that soldier during the mixer when we launched the boat."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:40:44 Stuart Host That's usually what happens. Everybody gets up on the...  
forecastle? And...

00:40:49 Elliott Host Yep. The folks'll.  
00:40:50 Stuart Host And they drink champagne and they're like—they wave goodbye to the people back on dry land. Right? Okay. So—it's interesting that we've been talking so much about water fountains, 'cause the next crisis is that there is no water on the boat. And you're like, "But there's water—water everywhere! But not a drop to drink?"

*[All laugh.]*

00:41:13 Elliott Host Cue guitar solo?  
00:41:14 Stuart Host Yep! *[Laughs.]* So the captain and all the people wander into the water room. They find that the water's all drained out—like, all the tanks are busted. And there's like sparks shooting out of the control panels. And then all of a sudden, the captain gets bitten on the leg by a snake. And not just any snake, guys! A fucking bushmaster! Stuart Wellington's second-favorite snake of all time!

00:41:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** What's the first favorite? Yeah. What's the ranking? Yeah.

00:41:46 Stuart Host **Dan:** Well now we gotta ask for like the top five, I think.  
I mean, I'm just gonna go with—Bushmaster used to be my number-one snake behind, like, Emerald Viper and an Eastern Diamondback. But—

00:41:54 Elliott Host Wait. So you're saying it was your number-one snake behind two other snakes?

00:41:58 Dan Host Thank you, Elliott, for—

*[All laugh.]*

00:42:00 Stuart Host I'm getting all worked up here. You guys are confusing me with your Bushmasters, your Emerald Vipers, but my—obviously my number-one now is the fattest of the vipers. That right—the Gaboon Viper. Not the Gambon Viper; that's the one that welcomes you to the Layer Cake. But the Gaboon Viper, who's the one that's a big fatty with little horns on his nose and he looks awesome and he's super deadly. Bushmaster? Also super deadly.

00:42:23 Josh Guest It's less weird that you know this much about snakes than Elliott knows that much about JAG.

*[All laugh.]*

00:42:29 Elliott Host Wait! But Stuart, this reminds me—I meant to text you—did you see they discovered a new species of mata mata?  
00:42:35 Stuart Host No! What? My favorite turtle, the mata mata?

*[Josh laughs.]*

00:42:38 Elliott Host Mm-hm. There's a new species and it looks super crazy.

00:42:40 Stuart Host Oh my—what—wait. What does it? Don't spoil it. I gotta look it up.  
00:42:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Did somebody discover? Oh. Why am I wasting my time with a podcast when I could be looking at pictures of a sweet turt'?

**Elliott:** No, no. You—look it up afterwards. Look it up afterwards. That was my—it was my—

00:42:53 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*  
It was my—that was my second-favorite natural world discovery story recently, the other one being the 57,000-year-old baby wolf that was discovered preserved in ice. But yeah. There's a new mata mata. you're gonna like it.

00:43:05 Stuart Host Oh man. Oh man. What a teaser! Oh, whew. Okay. So Bushmaster bites the captain and of course you guys were like, "Fuck, this dude is smoked!" Because a Bushmaster's venom is super deadly. But Nicolas Cage is like, "Uh, don't worry. It'll be fine. Maybe we'll get some antivenom." Meanwhile—

00:43:24 Dan Host He knows he's lying.  
00:43:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** He knows he's lying.

00:43:28 Josh Guest **Josh:** Yeah, 'cause Famke Janssen is like, "We gotta help!" And he's like, *[deep voice]* "No, I was just lying."

00:43:31 Dan Host *[All laugh.]*  
00:43:34 Stuart Host "I was trying to keep the kid happy."  
Well he's trying to keep the kid happy and I think he's looking for an excuse to just go for a little walk. Y'know? When you're all cooped up in one room you're like—

00:43:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** I wanna—I wanna strips these getaway sticks.

**Elliott:** Well he's that age. He's gotta get his steps in. Y'know?

00:43:44 Dan Host **Josh:** Mm-hm.  
I'm not sure if we've made it clear. If we have, I forgot. That the captain is the father of the kid that has sort of melted Nicolas Cage's heart a little bit.

00:43:54 Elliott Host Yeah. It's ironic 'cause the child is the father of the man. But in this case, the captain is the father of the kid.

00:43:58 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart and Dan:** Yup.  
00:43:59 Josh Guest The—and Famke Janssen keeps trying to get Nicolas Cage to do something good.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

And he keeps being like, *[deep voice]* "No, that's not what I do, lady." *[Regular voice]* Like, his whole thing is like—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

*[Deep voice]* "I don't care about stuff! I just wanna do my thing!"

00:44:18 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*  
"Look, I'm all about real estate and selling wild animals. That's what I do. Ask me to do one of those two things. Otherwise, I'm the bad guy. Duh." *[Singing]* Doo-doo-do, do-do-do-do.

00:44:29 Stuart Host She looked at her—Famke Janssen looked at her horoscope and was like, “Convince one person to do a nice thing.” And she’s like, “Okay, I guess I got my marching orders!”

00:44:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Dan:** Guys? Uh—  
**Josh:** It’s like, “Ugh, I picked the wrong guy!”

00:44:41 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Thinking about both captains and animals, *Captain Kangaroo* could be so much more exciting than what it actually is? Like, if you were just basing it on the title? Like imagine it—a kangaroo who’s a captain!

00:44:54 Stuart Host Yeah.

00:44:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Josh laughs.]*  
**Dan:** That’s all. That’s all I wanted to say.

00:44:58 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Yeah. Sure. Well the problem is that—  
00:45:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk The problem is that he’s a captain in the SS.  
**Elliott:** So that’s the real issue. So. *[Laughs.]* That’s why they replaced him with Bob Keeshan. Yeah.

**Dan:** Oh no! Hate that kangaroo.

00:45:07 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Wow!  
No, but you’re right, Dan. It’s—when I was a kid, certainly, *Captain Kangaroo* was already not hip anymore. It had been on since my parents were kids. And I certainly had an image in my head that was not borne out when they said, “Hey, watch this!” And they showed me a man that was not a kangaroo just talking about—I don’t know what.

00:45:24 Dan Host Just got a guy with a bowl cut.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:45:28 Elliott Host And some puppets.  
Was that also the show that Mr. Green Jeans was one? Who was the guy who had green pants? And my dad would talk about how much he loved that show and loved Mr. Green Jeans and I was like, “That must’ve been a rough time in American history when you would just be excited by a man with different colored pants.”

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:45:42 Josh Guest *[Through laughter]* “Like, this is the novelty he has.”  
It would’ve been pretty fun if Mr. Green Jeans was a kangaroo.

00:45:49 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*  
Yeah.

00:45:50 Josh Guest A little switcharoo right there.

00:45:52 Dan Host I think ping-pong balls fell from the sky at certain points. That was the other big draw in Captain Kangaroo Land.

00:45:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Mm-hm. I mean, I grew up on you can’t—

**Stuart:** Not green slime?

**Dan:** No.

00:46:01 Elliott Host Well that's the thing. I grew up on *You Can't Do That on Television*. I was used to much more exciting things falling out of the sky, and also—locker room gags? Come on. When they would step out of the lockers and tell a gag?

00:46:09 Stuart Host I mean, it's crazy 'cause the whole time... I mean, correct me if I'm wrong. But they're on television!

*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:46:15 Dan Host Yeah. That's the—well I mean, they were shut down eventually.

*[Laughs.]*

00:46:20 Elliott Host Yeah.

00:46:21 Josh Guest Yeah. OSHA.

*[All laugh.]*

00:46:23 Elliott Host I mean, you can't have a restaurant that essentially serves barf and just have—just serves vomit to kids and keep that open for too long. Eventually the government's gonna find out. Yeah.

00:46:33 Stuart Host So while they're dealing with the whole snake situation, the white jag comes out of hiding and kills one of the soldiers. That's right—maybe it is a maneater! Or a mankiller. We'll find out. So the—

*[Josh laughs.]*

—other soldiers are pretty pissed off. So they decide not only are they gonna kill Loffler—which Michael Imperioli's like, "But he's my pride and joy!" They also decide—

00:46:55 Josh Guest "He has to get there alive! We have to take him in alive!"

00:46:58 Stuart Host He's very committed. He is very much, like... he watched only—he watched *Aliens*, but not after Paul Reiser dies. He's like—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

"Paul Reiser is a good guy. It's all gonna work out for him."

00:47:12 Elliott Host "Hero of the movie. If only lousy Ripley would get out of his way and just let him do his job." "He just wants one of them xenomorphs!" They also decide they want to kill the cat, which—of course—the cat in this case—the white jag—Nicolas Cage? Not a fan of this plan.

00:47:27 Elliott Host Now, this would be a bad time for me to stop momentum by making up a joke about Xenomorph's Arrow, which is a classic ancient Greek paradox in which an arrow—which seems to be an image of movement—is actually not, because a little mini-arrow comes out of the front of it and goes through Harry Dean Stanton's head. Anyway.

*[Josh laughs.]*

That's Xenomorph's Arrow. That was a waste of time.

*[Dan laughs.]*

Stuart, keep going, please.

00:47:49 Dan Host I think that's the slogan of the podcast. "Well, that was a waste of time."

00:47:52 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
"Wasting your time since 2007." Anyway. Stu?

00:47:55 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
So Doctor Taylor and Frank—this is their character's name, obviously. It's Famke Janssen and Nicolas Cage.

*[Dan laughs.]*  
Wander off to find antivenom.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
And just kind of to goof off for a little bit. Nicolas Cage used this as an opportunity to start hunting monkeys with his blowgun and it's a great scene of him dipping his little blow darts in poison and spitting them on monkeys. Using a tube, not just using his mouth. That would be silly.

00:48:19 Elliott Host Yeah. That sounds like a '90s alt-rock album? "Hunting Monkeys With His Blowgun"? I don't know why. Something about it.

00:48:25 Josh Guest Yeah. "Standing outside a broken phone booth, hunting monkeys with my blowgun with money in my hand."

*[All laugh.]*  
It's a Primitive Radio Gods.

00:48:33 Elliott Host Yeah.

00:48:33 Dan Host Primitive Radio Nic Cage. Yeah.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
*[Through laughter]* Yeah.

00:48:36 Elliott Host In scenes that almost mirror each other, we see the—

00:48:37 Stuart Host Wait, Primal Radio Gods? Is that where—

00:48:40 Dan Host **Dan:** —we should've gone with that? Oh, anyway.

00:48:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Josh:** *[Through laughter]* Primal Radio Gods. That's good. In scenes that almost mirror each other, we see Nicolas Cage hunting the monkeys, and Loffler hunting the pilot and his guard with a rifle.

00:48:45 Stuart Host **Elliott:** Ohhh. Who's the real monkey, huh?

00:48:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** So he kills the—yup. He kills the pilot—

00:48:55 Stuart Host *[Josh laughs.]*  
—and decides to—

*[Elliott laughs.]*  
00:48:58 Elliott Host The real monkey, it turns out, is man.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:49:00 Stuart Host Oh, interesting. Loffler turns the ship around and breaks everything. Go on?

00:49:05 Josh Guest When Loffler was shooting people like through the window from far away, I had the fun thought for no one, “Wow. Kevin **Durant** [Heather note: Kevin Durand plays Loffler, but Kevin Durant is a basketball player. He seems pretty specifically to be referring to the basketball player here, so I went with that spelling.] is still really great from long range, even coming back from that ruptured Achilles.”

[All laugh.]

00:49:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk Y’know, kind of a basketball/Cagemas crossover joke.  
**Dan:** [Laughs.] Yeah. Y’know, I don’t—

**Stuart:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:49:23 Dan Host **Elliott:** Finally. Finally.  
I don’t know anything about basketball, but I know enough that Elliott’s text about Kevin Durand confused me a little bit?

[Josh laughs.]

00:49:35 Josh Guest For a second?  
That’s kind of where I live. In jokes that are mostly [through laughter] confusing.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:49:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** So they realize the boat is go—

00:49:43 Stuart Host **Josh:** Is it a pun or is it a mistake? Who knows! [Laughs.] Sorry. The boat’s going in the wrong direction. Uh-oh! Nicolas Cage manages to get the drop on Loffler. They get in a standoff. This is one of—there’s a couple more of these scenes where they basically like just get in a fight so they can interact for a little bit and talk and then they wander off in their own directions? So they get in a standoff. He—Nicolas Cage has to choose. Is he going to shoot the white jag or Loffler with his one dart in his dart gun? His tranq gun? ‘Cause that jaguar—uh-oh! Here it comes! Watch out, boys, it’ll chew ‘em up! It’s a maneater!

00:50:09 Elliott Host

[Josh laughs.]

00:50:14 Dan Host Mm-hm. Yup.

00:50:15 Josh Guest And it might eat the kid, right?

00:50:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Josh:** That’s—in that moment?

**Stuart:** Yeah. It was threatening the kid.

00:50:20 Stuart Host **Elliott:** Yeah.  
So he—instead, of course, he shoots Loffler and then he scares the cat off with his pistol and Loffler runs away. Scene over. Nothing accomplished.

[Elliott laughs.]

Except Nicolas Cage, I guess, shows that he's grown a little bit as a person. Right?

00:50:34 Dan Host I was a little confused by this, too, 'cause it seemed—like, it seemed from the way this scene was shot, at first, that Nic Cage did hit him with the dart. But then the dart was on the ground and didn't have anything missing from it. The bad guy seemed okay. I don't know.

00:50:50 Elliott Host Yeah. That was—I think that's—I think it—if I was theorizing, using information from later in the movie, 'cause I had the same impression. I think the thing is like... it did hit him, but he pulled it out quickly? 'Cause later he takes a couple of those darts and it takes a while for the curare to kick in.

*[Josh laughs.]*

But here it's—I don't know if it's necessarily character growth for Nicolas Cage that he didn't let his jaguar maul a child? 'Cause he has that relationship with him that's kind of like a Wallace Beery type thing where it's like, "Ah, I'm kind of mean to this kid but I give the kid a lot of my time." Y'know. Like, "I'm kind of a rough, gruff guy, but the fact that I'm sitting here talking with the kid shows that I really have a soft heart inside." He's like—or Ed Asner in *Up*. That kind of thing. Y'know.

*[Josh laughs.]*

00:51:32 Stuart Host So this is the point in the movie where we start worrying about lifeboats. Right? There's two lifeboats, but apparently most of the crew stole one of the lifeboats and ran off which is why we haven't been seeing them. The leader of this—

00:51:45 Elliott Host Really helped cut down the budget that the crew ran away with the lifeboat. So we have to thank them 'cause it meant that many actors they didn't need to pay. Or show on camera, ever.

00:51:51 Josh Guest And that lifeboat budget was gonna go through the roof if you had to see that other lifeboat!

*[All laugh.]*

00:51:57 Stuart Host Yeah. Luckily, they're able to reuse the first lifeboat for the second lifeboat when they shoot it so that—I guess—nobody can escape using it? But then they remember, oh yeah, there's like a second, secret—like, a third secret lifeboat somewhere in the hold. We'll get to that later.

00:52:11 Elliott Host And now I know what you're thinking—"I wanna see Nic Cage get in that lifeboat with that white jaguar." Guys? That movie already exists. It's called *Life of Pi*. I think you're gonna love it. Has a lot to say about the universe and our place in it. Continue, Stuart.

00:52:22 Stuart Host So Nicolas Cage storms off to find his white jag. Loffler kills the leader of the soldiers and a bunch of other soldiers. They're basically all getting killed. Loffler manages to jump him. Beats him up. Ties him up. We see Michael Imperioli kills one of his own guys to save Loffler?!

00:52:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Huh?!

00:52:43 Josh Guest **Stuart:** Wow! He is a traitor!

00:52:45 Stuart Host He's gonna bring him in alive!

00:52:45 Stuart Host This jaguar showed his spots! Right?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:52:50 Dan Host Is that a thing? *[Laughs.]*  
Based on what we find out later, I was a little unclear about Imperiola's play here? 'Cause like... it seemed like—from what we learn—and I'll just spoil it that this guy used to work for the government. This bad guy. And—

00:53:05 Elliott Host Loffler.  
00:53:07 Dan Host And then he went rogue and they're just kind of trying to clean up their own mess, to some degree? Like it seems like they would just shoot him. But I guess he might have some information that they want or something. I don't know.

00:53:16 Josh Guest It—no, I'm with you. At the resolution—'cause he's—he's so insistent. "We've gotta bring him in alive. I'm gonna kill one of my own men so I can bring this guy in alive." And then at the end, he was like, "I have to bring him in alive!" And he was like, "Well I have compromising information on you." And it's like, "Well that's a second reason to kill him!" There's no reasons to not! I mean, other than just the goodness of humankind.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:53:40 Elliott Host Imperiola is—they reveal that he is an NSA guy. He's not this—he's there under false pretenses. But yeah. It's never clear what like—if the NSA just wants to clean up their own tracks, then killing Loffler right now would be the best thing for them to do.

00:53:57 Josh Guest Absolutely! It's such an excuse. 'Cause if they had to put up the pretense of, "We're bringing him in alive. We're gonna give him a trial." But really they were fearing that he would expose them and all the things they had him do, you'd be like, "Oh, I understand this tension." But there was no tension. Like, everybody has the same motive, which is, "We hate this guy who's murdering everyone on the boat."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:54:15 Stuart Host I really—it's really disheartening to hear you guys talk about a human life like a number on a balance sheet right now. Y'know?

*[Josh laughs.]*

00:54:24 Dan Host I mean, Imperiola shot the other guy, so someone was gonna die, Stuart. *[Laughs.]*

00:54:27 Elliott Host He slit his throat I think, right?  
00:54:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan and Josh:** Yeah.  
00:54:29 Stuart Host Up close and personal. Like he likes it.  
00:54:32 Elliott Host Also, these are fictional characters. Uh— *[Laughs.]*  
00:54:34 Dan Host *[Laughs.]* There's that.  
00:54:35 Stuart Host What?!  
00:54:36 Elliott Host But it does feel—there's something there that makes me think that there had to have been—

00:54:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —more going on with Michael Imperiola's character, and then they just like... either—

00:54:47 Josh Guest **Josh:** God. Is this... fictional... I'm sorry. Fictional characters—  
—is this the Christmas I find out Michael Imperiola isn't real?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:54:50	Elliott	Host	Oh, I didn't want you to find out this way! Uh, uh, your parents should have told you!
			<i>[Josh laughs.]</i>
00:54:54	Stuart	Host	But he's got a podcast now!
00:54:57	Elliott	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Yeah, but the tequila! The tequila commercials! He—it's—I wonder if it's one of those cases of like, "We didn't have him for as many days as we thought we had him for. And so the scene where he was gonna like do something we didn't shoot." 'Cause it really feels like there's a big chunk of movie missing that would explain why he wants him alive?
00:55:17	Stuart	Host	Yeah. There's like three walk-and-talks they were planning on shooting and they just didn't do.
00:55:20	Josh	Guest	And the movie <u>is</u> very short. So that also tracks that way. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:55:24	Elliott	Host	Yeah. Or like—'cause—I started—I'm like—is it gonna turn out that, like, he's in <u>love</u> with him or something? Like, what possible reason would he have for keeping him alive? And it's never—
00:55:34	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> "Is he working with him?" Yeah! Yeah! And that—
			<b>Josh:</b> Or that they were gonna double-cross everybody else and escape like and do crime stuff together? But there was no—
			<i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:55:41	Elliott	Host	That never happens. They never try to do it. So it's really... it feels like it's just a matter of like... "We'll figure it out. We'll figure out why he's doing these things when we get to that part. Oh, we didn't figure it out. Uh, well, uh, the movie's over. Goodbye!" <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
			And then they take all the money from the townspeople and they skip town to show <i>Primal</i> at another town—
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			—hoping that word hasn't got ahead.
00:56:00	Josh	Guest	Kind of on a <i>Music Man</i> -type grift.
00:56:03	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Dan:</b> Barnstorming grifters.
00:56:06	Elliott	Host	<b>Elliott:</b> Yeah. The town's having a town meeting and they're like—"We don't have any movies to show!" "Well, well, folks! Have I got the solution to your problems! Hello there! The name's Cage—Nicolas Cage! And I wanna tell you about a little movie called <i>Primal</i> ! In it—" And there's—
00:56:17	Josh	Guest	<i>[To the tune of "The Wells Fargo Wagon" from The Music Man]</i> Well, the Cage movie wagon is a-comin' down the street—
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:56:24	Elliott	Host	<i>[Singing to the tune of "Gary, Indiana" from The Music Man]</i> Gary, Indiana, Gary, Indiana, does not support—that's not where he's from!
00:56:28	Dan	Host	That's right. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:56:29	Josh	Guest	No, but he was in the movie about the <i>USS Indiana</i> .
00:56:32	Elliott	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> That's—yeah.
00:56:33	Dan	Host	Just use the Think System on the screenplay.
00:56:35	Stuart	Host	So yeah. We're down to—y'know, we're in the home stretch.
00:56:38	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Stuart:</b> We're down to only a few characters left. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:56:41 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Wait, Stu, one more! Wait, Stu, one more! Wait!  
*[Singing to the tune of “Till There Was You” from The Music Man]*  
 There were cobras in his house but he neVERR heard them hissing...  
  
*[Josh laughs.]*

00:56:54 Stuart Host —so they tried to kill him in his sleep... and he gave them away!  
 Dunnnnn—yeah?  
 There’s a certain art to starting a sentence knowing you’re gonna get interrupted for another song. *[Laughs.]*  
  
*[All laugh.]*

00:57:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk So we’re down to—  
**Stuart:** —just a few characters—

00:57:14 Dan Host **Elliott:** *[Still singing]* There was a skull... from a rex... but it turns out it was stolen... so he had to send it back... to Mongolia!  
 00:57:16 Elliott Host  
  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
 So these songs are now about the real Nicolas Cage, not the—  
 The real Nicolas Cage.

00:57:17 Dan Host *[Josh laughs.]*  
 —character in the movie.  
 00:57:19 Elliott Host *[Still singing]* And he was planning... to be buried in New Orleans... in some kind of pyramid...  
  
*[Josh laughs.]*

00:57:30 Stuart Host —like that. *[Regular voice]* Anyway.  
 Yeah. So we got the Doc. We got Nicolas Cage.  
  
*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:57:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk We got Raffy—that’s the name of the son of the captain.  
**Stuart:** The captain’s still clinging to life, despite the fact that his body is burning up with Bushmaster venom.  
  
**Elliott:** Yeah. Famous kid’s musician, Raffy.

00:57:42 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
 Yeah. This is the thing. They like make a big deal about how he’s dead already? And then like... he— *[Laughs.]* He hangs on through the movie for reasons that are never really explained.

00:57:52 Elliott Host He has the best-case scenario, which is like, everyone else is running around chasing this murderer or being chased and he just gets to sit back and just be in a snake-venom coma and then gets off the ship and he’s fine. Y’know.

00:58:02 Stuart Host Yeah. They’re like, “No, don’t worry about the killer. Focus on getting well.”  
  
*[All laugh.]*

00:58:09 Josh Guest That's kind of a GOOP thing, right? You go through a tough day in a snake venom coma, you get revived, all the toxins are out.

00:58:15 Stuart Host Uh-huh. Stick a magic egg up your butt and then you're healed.

00:58:19 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Is that what they say in GOOP? 'Cause if you stick an egg up your butt it will turn to goop. It'll probably crack. Y'know.

00:58:25 Stuart Host *[Josh laughs.]*  
Yup. So they find the spare lifeboat. They toss it over the side. They're like, "We're gonna get free!" And then Loffler shows up. They get the gun battle. The special raft gets shot. They use the shipping containers to kind of evade Loffler and then Nicolas Cage goes down, grabs a fucking compound bow, and he's like, "I'm gonna go hunting." And he uses Famke Janssen as bait. And you're like, "Hell, yeah, this movie's gonna get awesome." Does not stay awesome for very long because we almost immediately get into a standoff where Frank has Famke Janssen in a—Frank—Frank's Nicolas Cage. I just fucked that all up.

00:59:09 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
So many names! And my notes are so poorly written! Loffler manages to get Famke Janssen—

00:59:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk You're doing great, Stu. You're doing great. We're all flawed.  
**Elliott:** None of us are perfect.

00:59:12 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Thank you.  
You're doing great, yeah.

00:59:13 Stuart Host Loffler has Famke Janssen. He has his machine gun. He's got it like—machine gun up to her head, but he's holding it kind of awkward and you're like, "Really? Is that gonna work? I dunno."

*[Elliott laughs.]*

Nicolas Cage has him dead to right with his compound bow. He's got it pulled back and you're like, "Oh, man. This is gonna be awesome." But before he can shoot him, Michael Imperioli shows up and we have this three-way standoff where everyone's shouting. There's a lot of talking. Of course everybody starts getting shot. Michael Imperioli gets killed. Nicolas Cage gets shot. Loffler gets shot. Famke Janssen? Not shot. She survives.

00:59:47 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
Now I—this scene—I wanna—now I wanna take issue with—let's call it the "premise" of this movie.

*[Josh laughs.]*

01:00:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk Which is, I—no, I think that the movie's leading up to this moment where it's supposed to be like, "Okay, well, Nicolas Cage is this expert hunter. And now he is going to hunt this bad guy."  
**Dan:** Like, he's gonna use—yeah!

**Elliott:** The most dangerous game!

01:00:08 Dan Host —his special abilities as a hunter. And part of the problem is, number one, as we’ve said before, he’s not shown to be that great a hunter at the beginning of the movie? Like, the first time we see him he’s kind of fucking up? But number two, like... his big hunting plan at this point is like, “Okay. Famke. You’re bait. Go downstairs and make a lot of noise.” *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:00:41 Josh Guest And like the bad guy immediately—like, when he captures her, he’s like, “Okay, well, clearly you were *[through laughter]* divergent.”  
01:00:45 Dan Host Like, he knows what it is. It is the simplest plan. So.  
01:00:49 Stuart Host But this play was all for what happens later, right?  
Yeah. I mean, later on, he’s more of a cool hunter dude. But. Not now.  
Yeah. Keep it simple, Stu—stupid. That’s— *[Laughs.]* I almost said, “Keep it simple, Stuart,” which is what I tell myself—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:00:58 Dan Host —every morning.  
“Keep it Stuart, simple.”

01:01:01 Stuart Host *[All laugh.]*  
“Oh no, I messed it up!” Uh, okay. So. Uh... we—after the standoff, Loffler manages to tie the doctor and the kid up? And he leaves them with a little friend. That’s right—the Bushmaster from before! Hell yeah! Oh man, this guy’s so tough! You gotta watch out ‘cause that venom will kill you over the course of an entire movie. Maybe.

*[All laugh.]*

01:01:27 Elliott Host Frank and Loffler get—  
It feels like the Bushmaster forgot to get a poison refill before he left the house that day? And he’s just like, “I gotta make a big show of this. People are counting on me. Uh... play with me! Play with me!”

01:01:38 Stuart Host And that’s the thing about the Bushmaster is that they’re normally capable of multiple venomous bites in a row. So you would know—like, normally, you’re like, “He’s got plenty of venom in his thing! I can’t see—obviously, he doesn’t have like a little meter above his head showing these venom reserves. That would be crazy.”

01:01:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Stuart:** Or a video game that I’d play. That’s what—that’s—  
*[Laughs.]*

**Josh:** “He’s heating up! He’s on venom! Boom! Snake lock.”

01:02:02 Stuart Host *[All laugh.]*  
Yeah. That’s when they put Bane in *NBA Jam*? It’s *NBA Jam*, right?  
01:02:07 Josh Guest It is *NBA Jam*.  
01:02:08 Stuart Host Cool.  
01:02:09 Elliott Host The other thing—there’s just like so many little things in the movie where like, just say he’ll be dead in a day without antivenom. Not 20 minutes. *[Laughs.]*

*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:02:21	Dan	Host	Then it makes sense that he's alive in a day!
01:02:22	Stuart	Host	Yeah.
			Well maybe he said 20 minutes so every extra day he feels—like, the guy's like, "Aw, man. I got so much more time—I'm so much better at surviving this than I thought!"
01:02:33	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Stuart:</b> Like, "I'm a super—"
			<b>Josh:</b> That's more of a miracle of Jean-Claude Van Damme than Cagemas.
			<b>Elliott:</b> Yeah. I mean—
01:02:37	Dan	Host	<b>Dan:</b> Or just like—
			Pick a less-venomous snake, if this is your ploy! We'll still be worried for the guy if he doesn't have any antivenom.
01:02:43	Josh	Guest	Right. Just all those little things of like, "Wait a minute. Why don't you—either both of you turn on Michael Imperioli or both of you turn on Loffler. Just like... you have common interests! Why is this a three-way standoff?"
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
01:02:55	Dan	Host	Well there's also a scene later on where the kid has—or I think we actually went past it. The standoff at the top of the boat where—the deck, is what it's called.
			<i>[Josh laughs.]</i>
			Amongst sailors.
01:03:08	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> Yeah, yeah. Where they—
			<b>Stuart:</b> The roof?
01:03:10	Dan	Host	There's a shoot-off on the deck where like the kid has so much time to run away <i>[through laughter]</i> and he just sorta stands around.
01:03:14	Stuart	Host	Yeah. Uh-huh.
01:03:15	Elliott	Host	Similarly there's a scene that we've gone past where Loffler calls into the Coast Guard pretending to be a US Marshall, and calling in for a helicopter and some food? And they're like, "We'll be there in one hour!" And I'm like, "Okay, that's the ticking clock! They've got one hour to stop him before he escapes!" Never comes up again!
			<i>[Stuart laughs.]</i>
01:03:29	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Stuart:</b> No. Yeah.
			<b>Elliott:</b> It's so—like, it's not—not an issue! Not something they needed to have in there!
			<b>Dan:</b> Yeah.
01:03:34	Stuart	Host	Doesn't speak well to the Coast Guard's ability to deliver within an hour, right?
			<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>
01:03:38	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> <i>[Through laughter]</i> Very true!
			<b>Dan:</b> Yeah. And this is definitely—this is definitely one of those—

**Josh:** You get the MedEvac for free if they take more than an hour.

01:03:45 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Wow. And those are expensive. No, this is definitely a—one of those action movies, too, where the villain shoots or allows people to live at the whims of the screenplay. *[Laughs.]*

01:03:55 Crosstalk  
01:03:56 Elliott Host **Stuart and Josh:** Yeah.  
The—I think that the walkie-talkie thing, where he’s talking to the Coast Guard, I realize now it’s there to pay off. Early on he says to the US Marshall, “Oh, you’re from Virginia but you grew up in this place and that’s why your accent sounds like that?” And I guess he’s supposed to be, like, mimicking his accent over the call? But it just sounds like his regular voice? And it’s like, I don’t buy him as a Hannibal Lecter-level chameleon. Y’know.  
He just sounds kind of friendlier.

01:04:19 Dan Host

01:04:22 Josh Guest *[Elliott laughs.]*  
Over a radio? The Coast Guard is gonna be like, “Wait a minute!”  
*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:04:30 Stuart Host “This isn’t a Virginia accent!”  
“I’m looking at your Facebook page and it says that you grew up in Virginia but you don’t sound like a Virginian!”

01:04:37 Dan Host Yeah. “I called up a YouTube thing—one of those ones where someone explains a bunch of accents? And this doesn’t sound like Virginia.”

01:04:44 Stuart Host “See, I was catfished this one time, and ever since I’ve been extra-careful.”

01:04:50 Josh Guest *[All laugh.]*  
“Fool me once... *[through laughter]* shame on me. Or shame on you.”

01:04:54 Stuart Host So— yeah. *[Laughs.]*  
*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:05:06 Josh Guest So we have our big climax. That’s right. We’re back in Nicolas Cage’s menagerie room. Filled with empty cages and a couple of tapirs and monkeys.  
The ironic thing is, I’m sure at Nic Cage’s house he does have a menagerie room.

01:05:09 Stuart Host I’m sure he does. So he’s running around shooting Loffler with blowgun darts. He manages to get a couple of ‘em in him before they both whip out knives and we have a knife fight. It’s looking tight, but eventually the poison manages to whittle down Loffler, who gets his ankle stuck in a noose and then he gets hauled up and then left to be a meal for a white jag, who shows up and is like, “Thanks for the handoff, dude!” And then he gives Nicolas Cage a high-five—

01:05:37 Elliott Host “Tag in! Tag in! Tag me in!” *[Laughs.]*

01:05:40 Dan Host I do wanna say—I don’t—I mean, it’s hard—this movie is shot very dimly—

01:05:43 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** —a lot—

**Elliott:** Beautifully. Oh.

**Stuart:** Well?

**Josh:** Yeah.

01:05:46 Dan Host And so it's hard to tell what's a stuntman? But when I do see Nicolas Cage's face I'm like, "Oh yeah, not bad! Not bad, Nic Cage. You're still—" I mean, like, he's 56 years old! He's not in his prime *Con Air* shape but he's doing well.

01:05:57 Elliott Host There's a—one of the earlier fights between him and Loffler, Loffler's about to shoot him and Nic Cage jumps up and slaps the gun out of the way and like launches himself? And that one moment, I was like, "That was a really—" Like, I was impressed by that move. I was like, the speed and the aim and that move. But his—

01:06:13 Josh Guest The director was the guy who was a stunt director and coordinator, I think, previously. And so I was like, "Oh, this checks out. Yeah."

01:06:22 Elliott Host Something I wanna mention about the jaguar, 'cause this is our last opportunity. Every now and then you get to see a little bit of jaguar vision. And—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

It is like blurry and—it's like fisheye and black-and-white. And I'm like, "So the ultimate hunter in the jungle sees worse than I do?"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:06:41 Josh Guest "A man who needs glasses? Like, this is ridiculous!" Yeah. It was—that ploy at the end to get him into the loop, like you could—he was really telegraphing it. Like, it was borderline like, "A little to the left..."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:07:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk And then I turned and said to my wife, who graciously watched this movie with me, I said, "Y'know, in screenwriting sometimes you save the cat and sometimes the cat saves you." And again—  
**Josh:** A joke for no one to enjoy. Yeah.

**Dan:** She walked out of the room.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:07:03 Josh Guest I had to say it out loud so it didn't poison my brain.

*[All laugh.]*

01:07:08 Stuart Host Luckily you saved it for the podcast! So Frank has saved the day—

*[Josh laughs.]*

01:07:11 Elliott Host You diffused that poison out among multiple people so that it's not dangerous, it's just irritating.

01:07:16 Stuart Host It's—yeah, *Ringu* style.

01:07:17 Josh Guest It's more of a *Primal* Bushmaster-level venom. *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:07:23 Stuart Host So Nicolas Cage has saved the day. A bunch of guys show up. They're like, "Oh, cool! Well, you can leave with all your treasured animals as long as we see your paperwork." And he's like, "Uhhh..." And then Famke Janssen shows up and was like, "Uh, Loffler burned *[through laughter]* his paperwork."

*[Dan laughs.]*

Which is awesome. What an awesome lie. Great.

01:07:41 Josh Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
01:07:42 Stuart Host *[Through laughter]* So good!  
01:07:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk Encouraging this fucking poacher. Well done.  
**Stuart:** And he's like, "Oh, man!"

01:07:47 Stuart Host **Josh:** *[Through laughter]* It also—"Maybe we're gonna get married or something? I dunno." Like, doesn't he talk about how he's like, "Oh, maybe I'm gonna go to the same place she's at—"

01:07:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** "So we can start this dating in earnest!"

**Josh:** Yeah.

**Dan:** Yeah. He's—he talks to the parrot about it.

01:07:58 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Yeah. Well she—she gives him—  
And she gives him her number in Adelphi in case he's ever around there and he says to his parrot, he's like, "They've got a zoo in Adelphi!" Because we learned earlier he worked at what, eight zoos in ten years?

01:08:07 Josh Guest Eight zoos in ten years. That's so funny.

*[Stuart laughs.]*

01:08:15 Elliott Host Such a funny detail. And she's like, "You have a problem with authority, huh? Eight zoos in ten years?" *[Laughs.]*  
I want to see so badly the prequel to *Primal* that's got, like, *Primal* beginnings where it's just him as the shittiest zoo employee?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:08:30 Josh Guest Who's like, always getting his boss mad at him? Like he just can't remember to close the door on the gorilla cage or something and they get out, like—  
I don't really—in what world do you even get hired at zoo number six—

01:08:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Josh:** —after five years? Is it just like with like priests—it's like—

**Dan:** Yes! I do not think this is a profession where they keep giving you chances. *[Laughs.]*

*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:08:39 Josh Guest It's like priests and cops where you just like kill an endangered animal or you kill a fucking iguana and then they just move you to another parish?

01:08:51 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
"Transfer him to San Diego. Anything goes over there. Yeah, yeah."

01:08:55 Stuart Host *[All laugh.]*  
"Okay, Nicolas Cage! You're gonna have to turn out your pockets. Yeah, no. I see the *ZooBooks* stuffed in your pockets."

01:09:04 Dan Host "No, those are not—you didn't bring those from home. I know you stole them."  
01:09:07 Elliott Host "I see the cockatoos stuffed in your—"  
01:09:12 Stuart Host So he's doing the interview, Stu? You're saying its his job interview and he's cheating off of a *ZooBook* that's stuffed in his pocket?  
I was just saying that he worked in the gift shop at the zoo.  
*[Laughs.]*  
01:09:14 Elliott Host Oh, I see, I see. He's just stealing copies of the magazine *ZooBook*.  
01:09:18 Josh Guest But he's like a badass zoo employee? He's like, "Y'know, I've met Ranger Rick. He's a fucking animal."

01:09:24 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
I mean, yeah, he's a raccoon, right? *[Laughs.]*  
01:09:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Josh:** Yeah. *[Laughs.]* Yeah, but like, he's a savage.  
**Dan:** He is a raccoon.

01:09:30 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
I wanna say, this ending, too, is what I referred to before. Where they make a slight stab at making you think, "Oh, this poacher isn't so bad 'cause he's like, 'Oh, I'm gonna take this cat to a reserve for endangered animals. I'm not gonna sell it to a zoo for big money.'" And you're like, "Okay, great. I guess you're wonderful now."  
*[Laughs.]*

01:09:50 Josh Guest *[Elliott laughs.]*  
"You're not gonna have your... you're not gonna get your house to show up your dad!"  
01:09:55 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* Yeah!  
*[Stuart laughs.]*  
*[Through laughter]* I mean, I'm glad he had his change of heart, but it does seem like just an afterthought of the movie. Like, "Uh, okay, and he's... not—not bad. He's okay." *[Laughs.]*

01:10:07 Elliott Host Wait. Did we talk about that? I forget. About how his motivation behind buying a house is so his dad can come over and not use his fishing boat?  
*[Josh laughs.]*

01:10:16 Stuart Host And he can just show him how great his life is?  
I get it.

01:10:17 Elliott Host And make his dad mad about it?

01:10:17 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yeah. I get it. *[Laughs.]*

01:10:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** *[Inaudible]*, man.

01:10:21 Josh Guest **Josh:** It rules.  
It's so funny. He—like—his whole thing is to spite his father.

*[Dan laughs.]*

Like, there's all these threads—

*[Elliott laughs.]*

—there's like a bunch of balls that they throw in the air and then don't even try to catch? They're just like, "Hey, check out how many balls we threw! That's pretty cool, right?"

01:10:35 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
He's a super badass—he's a super badass hunter who has serious daddy issues and cannot hold a job at a zoo. He's just like got a lot going for him!

01:10:43 Dan Host He has a parrot that follows him around. It's not his parrot until the end of the movie, where he names him.

01:10:48 Josh Guest They're kind of frenemies.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:10:52 Elliott Host And then Famke Janssen's character like—  
"Is that your parrot, Frank?" "No, he's kind of a frenemy of mine."

*[All laugh.]*

01:10:59 Josh Guest "Uh, we went to college together. We hang out when he's in town."

*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:11:03 Elliott Host "But I don't even know why. I mean, like, he'll be in town—get this. He'll be in town. He'll call me to hang out on the last night when he's about to leave? And he's like, 'Hey, hey, could I stay at your place?' And it's like, you weren't gonna get in touch with me until the place you were staying fell through, were you? But I let him, 'cause, y'know, we've got those memories. Y'know."

01:11:19 Stuart Host "And we went out to dinner and like the check came and I'm like, 'I dunno, 50/50's fine, right?' Like, I guess. But he doesn't even reach for that thing. He just lets me pick it up every time."

01:11:30 Elliott Host "That parrot—we go out for tapas, our group of friends, and he just put down like eight bucks and be like 'I gotta run. This should cover me.' And we'd each have to pay like sixty dollars!"

01:11:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** "And nothing came down to my end of the table."

**Josh:** "I didn't have any drinks." Oh, yeah. Like that makes up for it.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:11:43 Dan Host I've come to enjoy tapas as I've made my way in the world, and now can go out for tapas on occasion? But man. That—when I was

young, what a bad idea for a group of *[through laughter]* friends to go out for tapas.

01:11:56 Elliott Host Yeah! It's terrible! Well I mean it's essentially a scam. Where they're like, "Here's your dinner. It is four tiny pieces of something and that will be \$75—"

01:12:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** "—and you are still hungry!" *[Laughs.]*

01:12:09 Josh Guest **Stuart:** "But there's—but there's five of us!"  
Have you ever been to a place where you don't know that it's tapas? You're like, "Oh, this place looks good! The menu looks good! All the food is a regular price!" *[Laughs.]* And then it comes and it's like—you're like, "Is this a prank?!"

01:12:20 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*  
That was—I remember visiting friends in Portland and they were like, "We gotta go to this restaurant. It's great. We'll go for brunch." And I'm like, "I could really go for a big brunch. Love it. What'll I have?" And we sit down and they're like—and the waitress says, "Now, we are a small plates, family-style sharing restaurant—" And I almost walked out of the restaurant I was so mad.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:12:42 Stuart Host I felt like I had been brought there under such false pretenses.  
*[Laughs.]*  
This is some quality, like, '90s CBS-style jokes here, guys.  
*[Laughs.]*

01:12:47 Josh Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
*[Through laughter]* I still am mad about it. I'm as mad about it as Paul Reiser was mad about it on *Mad About You*, I imagine.

01:12:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Stuart:** *Mad About Food.*

01:12:57 Josh Guest **Elliott:** No, no, but that was a different kind of mad!  
I'm crazy for tapas!

*[Elliott laughs.]*

Small plates and family style always go together. And it's like, "What is this, a Great Depression-themed restaurant?"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:13:09 Elliott Host "There's only a little bit of food and we all have to share it!"  
"Look guys. We've gotta—this is gonna cost us a lot of money and we've gotta stretch it. We've gotta make it last. So nobody be greedy." Now what if *Mad About You* was originally called *Mad At You*—

*[Josh laughs.]*

—and it was about a couple that needed a divorce but they refused to divorce 'cause their apartment was so great? And then CBS was like, "We love it. We were wondering if the couple could be in love

still.” And Paul Reiser’s like, “How am I gonna make this work? How could I possibly make this work?”

01:13:32 Dan Host I mean, you watch that show—they’re barely in love.

*[All laugh.]*

01:13:38 Josh Guest Those characters.  
01:13:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk That would’ve been a good name for it. *Barely in Love*.  
01:13:43 Stuart Host **Dan and Elliott:** *Barely in Love*.  
01:13:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk People woulda thought it starred bears.  
**Stuart:** So let’s close the book on this guy.

**Dan:** So I think we—yeah. Let’s do our Final Judgments—

01:13:48 Dan Host **Elliott:** It’s a movie.  
—about whether this is a good-bad movie, a bad-bad movie, a movie we kinda liked. This—y’know, as always, barely fits into any of these categories.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Like I was watching and I was, y’know, Audrey got bored pretty quickly and then she was like, “This is bad-bad, right?” And then she’s like, “Or did I not pay enough attention to it?” And I’m like, “Well, the fact that you stopped paying attention to it indicates that yes, it is boring in a lot of ways. But you probably would enjoy it more if you like engaged with it.” Like there’s stuff in it that I liked. I liked Nicolas Cage. I liked the villain. Famke Janssen doesn’t get a whole lot to do? But she’s—I like her as a presence in movies and she felt like nice and competent. Like she just exuded competence and I—and whenever it went big, it was kinda fun. But so much of this movie just like... does not engage with what makes the premise fun. The premise is fun ‘cause there’s a bunch of these animals loose on this damn ship. And that feels like an afterthought. Like most of it is just like walking through like warehouse, like... the hold of the ship with guns. Y’know. And it’s poorly lit. Poorly shot. So y’know sometimes I kinda liked it, sometimes I thought it was just bad. What do you guys have to say?

01:15:07 Stuart Host Yeah. I’m with ya, Dan. I would say—I dunno. I think this is a movie I actually kinda liked. It’s like dumb in a way that I enjoy. It is—as Josh said—it throws a bunch of balls in the air. It does not really care if they catch any of them. It’s—like, the action scenes are not particularly thrilling, but it was like, I dunno. It was dumb in exactly the way I want a movie I watch for *The Flop House* to be. And yeah. The actors were fun to watch kind-of act in the movie? Yeah! Thumbs up.

01:15:39 Elliott Host Yeah. It’s— *[Laughs.]* It’s like a thumbs-sideways movie.

*[Josh laughs.]*

It’s like not—it feels really like... y’know—like we’ve said it before. I’m sick. I’m lying on the couch. It’s a Saturday afternoon. This is available. Okay. Sure. This’ll be fine. It like is never quite what *Stolen* is? Y’know? But it’s kind of like *Stolen*.

01:16:02 Dan Host Yeah. It’s one of those movies that’s sort of fun but you won’t be mad if you fall asleep. *[Laughs.]*

01:16:06 Josh Guest For sure!

*[Elliott laughs.]*

That's the perfect way to—it's like, however much of the movie you watch, you'll enjoy that much. It's like a continental breakfast movie.

01:16:14 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
I mean, I think it's a better movie if you fall asleep for a certain amount of it 'cause it's like a repetitive movie where—like you said, Dan, it doesn't live up to the premise of "They're trapped on a ship with a killer and a bunch of killer animals." So it's kind of like—if you watch the beginning of it and then fell asleep and dreamed most of the movie and then woke up for the very end? You'd probably have a pretty positive experience. You'd have a better story. Yeah.

01:16:37 Josh Guest I don't think it was a bad-bad movie because there was—at no point was I like... like, mad that I was watching it? It's 97 minutes. There's like enough fun stuff where I'm like, "Ah, they tease that the snakes were there and then the snake's great. He's got a bow and shoots the guy through the shoulder and the bow and he pushes the arrow through his shoulder—" It's like—just like—I—I—so I don't—but I also don't think it's good. Like, good-bad movie in that it's not tight. It doesn't pay off the stuff you want it of pay off. The Michael Imperioli stuff, the parrot saying—talking about the gun doesn't pay off in a very satisfying way. But I do think—my dad has a phrase for a movie like this where he describes it as having—I texted this to him immediately after I finished. I said, "Have you seen *Primal* with Nicolas Cage? It's got a lot of good beatin'-up."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And it felt very '90s. Like it felt like, here's the premise. We're just gonna more or less do that for 90 minutes, and then you're gonna go home and you're gonna forget whether it was this one or that one that the monkeys ate the cook.

01:17:45 Dan Host I do think that there is something to—it might just be pure nostalgia of like us all being the same sort of general generation. Like... these sorts of action movies were more of a part of our youth? And now, y'know, like anything that isn't a big blockbuster does get sort of shunted off like this film did. And so I do think that yeah. I am more apt to be gentle on a movie like this, too, because I'm like, "Oh, y'know. Like a basic action movie. With a premise but not a lot of bells and whistles."

01:18:21 Elliott Host Yeah! I like that kind of thing and I'm happy—I think it was—it did a good enough job where that it wasn't like super—it wasn't perfectly executed but also I didn't feel like I was being insulted watching it? Where they were just like, "Look, some idiot's gonna watch this on a plane and that's how we make the money." Or like whatever. I—so I will say I kinda liked it. Dan, like you said—a nostalgia for those Seagal/Van Damme/Cage movies of like the mid-'90s.

01:18:48 Stuart Host And basically no animals got killed in the movie, right?

01:18:51 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* Basically.

01:18:52 Josh Guest Those two parrots, right?

01:18:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

01:18:57 Josh Guest **Elliott:** Yeah. I mean, Loeffler does shoot two parrots point-blank, but.  
The least—I think they chose that specifically, right? ‘Cause they couldn’t kill the snakes for plot reasons and they’re like, “We can’t kill a mammal! That’s fucked up!”

01:19:06 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
01:19:08 Dan Host “People won’t stand for it!”  
01:19:08 Elliott Host Yeah.  
01:19:13 Promo Clip Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.  
**Music:** Upbeat, cheerful music.

**Dave Hill:** Hi, it’s me, Dave Hill—from before—here to tell you about my brand-new show on Maximum Fun, The Dave Hill Goodtime Hour, which combines my old Maximum Fun show—Dave Hill’s Podcasting Incident—with my old radio show—The *[Censored]* Damn Hill Show—into one new futuristic program from the future. If you like delightful conversation with incredible guests, technical difficulties, and actual phone calls from real life listeners, you’ve just hit a street called Easy. I’m also joined by my incredible cohost, the boy criminal Chris Gersbeck. Say hi, Chris.

**Chris Gersbeck:** Hey, Dave. It’s really great to—

**Dave:** *[Interrupting.]* That’s enough, Chris. And New Jersey chicken rancher, Dez. Say hi, Dez.

**Dez:** Hey, Dave!

*[A chicken bawks.]*

**Dave:** The Dave Hill Goodtime Hour—brand-new episodes every Friday on Maximum Fun.

**Chris:** Plus, the show’s not even an hour. It’s 90 minutes.

**Dez:** Take that, stupid rules.

**Dave:** We nailed it!

01:20:00 Promo Clip *[Music ends in a drumroll.]*  
**Music:** Upbeat, fun music.

**Emily Heller:** Does our podcast deep-dive into the weirdest Wikipedia pages we can find?

**Lisa Hanawalt:** Yees! Do we learn about scam artists, remote islands, horrible mascots, beautiful diseases, and mythical monsters?

**Emily:** Yes, yes, yes, absolutely, and yes! Do we retain any of this knowledge?

**Emily & Lisa:** Eeeeh?

**Lisa:** Probably not.

**Emily:** I'm Emily Heller.

**Lisa:** I'm Lisa Hanawalt.

**Emily:** We make art! And comedy. And TV shows. And also the podcast [Baby Geniuses](#). For the past eight years, we've been trying to learn new things about the world and each other every episode.

**Lisa:** But let's be honest, this podcast is mostly about two friends hanging out, shooting the breeze, and making each other laugh. We're horny. We like gardening and horses. And we get real stupid on here.

**Emily:** But, like, in a smart way!

**Lisa:** Yeah.

**Emily:** Join us! Every other week on Maximum Fun.

**Music:** *Baby Geniuses, tell us something we don't know!*

*[Music ends.]*

01:20:46 Dan Host  
01:20:49 Stuart Host  
01:20:51 Crosstalk Promo

I think we have a couple of Jumbotrons this week.

*[Deep, gravelly voice]* Jumbotronnnnn!

**Elliott:** The biggest of trons.

**Dan:** Uh, Stuart, why don't you kick us off?

01:20:55 Stuart Promo

**Stuart:** *[In announcer voice]* J-J-J-Jumbotrons!

Of course, Dan! I would love to. Let me do this.

*[Dan laughs.]*

Oh, I know why this one was given to me!

"Anime has invaded our world. Goku is a household name—but most parents don't know that he started out in the Japanese comics anthology magazine *Weekly Shonen Jump*. But for every *Dragon Ball Z*, there's a series that died in obscurity. Why? On each episode of the podcast, *Shonen Flop*, David and Jordan read a cancelled jump series and determine if it was a forgotten gem or if it was really, truly a flop. Please do not sue us over the title. So subscribe to *Shonen Flop* on your podcast app of choice and follow our Twitter, @ShonenFlopcast."

*[In singsong voice]* Wow. You gave it to me because I'm the ultimate otakuuu!

01:21:52 Elliott Promo

*[Elliott laughs.]*

That's what they call him! Ultimate Otaku. I have a Jumbotron, too, so maybe this is the same kind of niche nerd excitement.

01:22:00 Crosstalk Promo

**Elliott:** Let's go! Okay.

**Stuart:** We'll find out!

01:22:02	Elliott	Promo	So.
			“If you’d rather buy from local businesses than corporate websites, Sook lets you do it with one click. A free shopping assistant for Chrome, Sook makes it easy to browse and buy from the best small businesses in your community. Whether you’re looking for clothing, home décor, kids’ gear, or more, Sook makes it easy, convenient, and affordable to spend your money where you live. Sook is free for small businesses and the communities that love them. Know a small business we should add? Just email us! So go download Sook—that’s S-O-O-K—for free from the Chrome store. That’s S-O-O-K from the Chrome store.”
01:22:33	Dan	Promo	And I think, Elliott, you had a quick plug that you wanted to do?
01:22:38	Elliott	Promo	I did! So I have a comic book series coming out next year from AfterShock Comics. It’s called <i>Maniac of New York</i> and it is available for preorder now! So call up your local comic book store. Say, “Hey, I wanna get <i>Maniac of New York</i> .” It’s kind of a take about a masked killer who is running loose in Manhattan—taking Manhattan, if you will. It’s a completely original idea based on nothing.
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
			And it is by me and the great artist Andrea Mutti, who you may know from <i>Hellblazer</i> , among other things. I’m very excited about it. Comes out next year from Aftershock Comics. <i>Maniac of New York</i> . Preorder it nowwww!
01:23:12	Stuart	Promo	And is it—is it inspired or related in any way to the short comic we did when we did our batch of charity comics that are available on our website?
01:23:20	Elliott	Promo	Yes.
01:23:21	Stuart	Promo	Great.
01:23:22	Elliott	Promo	That’s a good point. If you wanna get kind of a sneak peek of it, there is a comic book of the same name in our—available on our <i>Flop House</i> website. You can buy it now and all the money goes to charity. And that was kind of a... demo run. You might say. For this. That was kind of like me brainstorming ideas that I am then using in a greater narrative sense in this one. So yeah! Good call, Stuart! If you want a sneak peek, just go do that and all that money will go to a good cause!
01:23:50	Stuart	Host	Yeah! If you’re a sneak peek freak.
			<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>
01:23:53	Dan	Host	Let us move on to Letters from Listeners. Like you. Anyway. <i>[Through laughter]</i> This first one is from—
			<i>[Josh laughs.]</i>
			What?
01:24:04	Elliott	Host	Uh, you seemed like you were opening that up for—what you said had a lot of like, closure to it? And then suddenly you opened it up in a way that made me ask questions about what was going on in this situation. And—
01:24:15	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Dan:</b> Yeah. Well I mean— <i>[Laughs.]</i>

**Elliott:** It became ambiguous. It was very concrete and became ambiguous.

01:24:18 Dan Host If you're listening, y'know, you don't know—maybe this was your letter! Until you hear it, it's like a Schrödinger's Letter.

01:24:26 Elliott Host Schrödinger's Letter. Well, Schrödinger's Letter was, "Dear Petco, I'm not sure if my cat is alive or dead."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:24:32 Josh Guest "How do I find out?"  
And Petco's like, "Dude, this is not on us."

*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:24:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Does Schrödinger's—is—

**Elliott:** "I want a refund or maybe I don't? It depends on what happens when I open the box."

01:24:42 Stuart Host Does Schrödinger have really nice handwriting? Because he's a really good pianist, right?

01:24:47 Elliott Host Yeah. Yeah.

*[Josh laughs.]*

01:24:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Josh:** Well he's always practicing. We don't know how good he is.

**Elliott:** He loves Beethoven.

01:24:52 Dan Host **Dan:** I actually—I was in the process of thinking—"Is there a Schroeder joke here?" And I had decided there wasn't. So I'm glad that you jumped in.

*[Josh laughs.]*

01:25:08 Stuart Host So this letter is from Trevor—not Noah—last name withheld. Which only makes me think it's Trevor.

01:25:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk It's more likely. Yeah.

**Dan:** Yeah. More likely.

**Elliott:** Possibly. Yeah.

01:25:12 Elliott Host Does he refer to you as Employee Dan?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:25:14 Stuart Host You should read it in his accent, Dan.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:25:18 Josh Guest Just in case it's him.

*[All laugh.]*

01:25:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** It is impossible—it is impossible to do a South African accent.

**Elliott:** It would be insulting not to, Dan!

01:25:25 Dan Host It is... so hard.

01:25:27 Stuart Host Yeah. No one's ever done one.

01:25:29 Dan Host Um... so. This—yeah. From Trevor, not Noah, last name withheld.

"Hey, Peaches! I'm a big fan of *The Flop House* but my wife has only heard bits and pieces, usually while riding in the car together.

We had just finished watching a TV show and out of nowhere she looked over at me and said, 'Bow! Ma-mow!' I thought maybe this had something to do with our cat, who was sitting nearby, but when I didn't respond she stared at me and smiled."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

"Um... um, okay,' I said, not sure what she was expecting. Louder this time. 'Bow! Ma-mow!' You know! Like the cat!" I thought about the thousands of cats I know, both real and fictional."

*[All laugh.]*

"But I never thought she would bring up your show. 'From *The Flop House*,' she said. She was very excited to use a reference to something I liked. 'Oh,' I responded. 'No, it's 'ra-row.'" But she was not deterred."

01:26:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** I like hers better. *[Laughs.]*

*[All laugh.]*

01:26:28 Dan Host **Dan:** "I told her I would write—" Yeah. "I told her I would write this email and she hasn't stopped misquoting the beloved housecat ever since. There's no deep philosophical question here. I thought you guys might enjoy knowing there's some force of the population that is acquainted with your podcast, even if they don't know the details. Thanks for keeping me sane in 2020. Trevor."

01:26:46 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Okay. So I think—

01:26:48 Stuart Host **Dan:** What a delightful story. I think there's a 50/50 chance they were either watching *Blue Bloods* or *MasterChef Junior*.

01:26:56 Dan Host Why do you—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:26:58 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** I mean, are you—are—are—are we betting on this? Are you asking us—

**Dan:** I want you—show your work on this one.

*[Stuart laughs.]*

01:27:02 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Yes!  
01:27:03 Stuart Host Are we supposed to take that action? I need to see Elliott pull some money out. I need proof that you're actually good for it.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:27:08 Dan Host Okay. Well, alright. Let's go roundtable. Say what show we think that they're watching and if any of us gets it right, this letter writer must write in. So you're saying either *Blue Bloods* or—what was the other one?

01:27:22 Stuart Host *MasterChef Junior*, obviously.

01:27:24 Josh Guest Was there a cat on the show? I just got totally derailed by how he knows thousands of cats.

01:27:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[All laugh.]*  
**Stuart:** I don't think they specified.

**Dan:** We he saw *The Brett Gelman Show*, so *[through laughter]* that's why he—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

**Josh:** Yeah.

**Elliott:** Yep.

01:27:38 Dan Host That's a joke for only the people here. Um—  
01:27:40 Elliott Host I'm sure there's somebody else who has been to the UCB Theatre at some point in the early 2000s who might've seen that show.  
01:27:47 Dan Host *[Laughs.]* I'm gonna say they were watching *The Repair Shop*, which is a very comforting show on Netflix. Anyone else?  
01:27:54 Elliott Host I'm gonna say it was either... *Young Sheldon*.  
01:27:59 Stuart Host Oh wow.  
01:28:00 Elliott Host Or *Dark*.  
01:28:02 Stuart Host Oh wow.  
01:28:03 Elliott Host They're kind of the same show.  
01:28:04 Stuart Host Yup.

*[Josh laughs.]*

01:28:07 Dan Host Josh, do you have a guess here?  
01:28:08 Josh Guest I feel like they said... he said "watching TV" but I think on TV they were watching the movie *Inside Llewyn Davis*.

*[All laugh.]*

01:28:14 Dan Host Wow.  
01:28:14 Elliott Host There is a cat in it! Alright.  
01:28:15 Josh Guest A famous cat-featuring film.  
01:28:17 Dan Host There are a couple of cats.  
01:28:18 Elliott Host Now I'm just excited because this means we have reached that legendary status where people are regularly misquoting us and thinking that they're quoting us? Our show? Like, that's our "Play it again, Sam," y'know?

01:28:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Is "Bow ma-mow!"

01:28:34 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Is that—is that from *Cheers*?  
That's from *Cheers*, yeah.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:28:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk The episode where he brought in his sousaphone and he just—  
**Elliott:** He wouldn't stop.

**Josh:** They were trying to get him to return to baseball. *[Through laughter]* They were like, "Oh, play it again, Sam!"

*[Stuart laughs.]*

01:28:45 Elliott Host The—that like, someday in the future, someone's gonna go—there's gonna be some BuzzFeed article that's like, "'Bow ma-mow'?" Here's what they were actually saying on *The Flop House!*"

01:28:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Yeah.

01:28:58 Josh Guest **Dan:** Mm.  
It's a real Mandela Effect.

01:29:00 Elliott Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
Yeah. Oh let me—I was—followers of my Twitter account will know that I have a beef about this. Which is that I think it's real unfair that Nelson Mandela—a global hero of freedom—that his name got put on the effect that is basically just people being like, "Nuh-uh!"

01:29:14 Josh Guest *[Josh laughs.]*  
"The Mandela Effect? Do you mean 'Bringing liberation to a people—an oppressed people in a nation against all odds?' "No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no."

01:29:22 Elliott Host No, no. "It's showing incredible resilience and endurance for decades until finally the moral arc of the universe bends towards justice?" "No, no, no. It's about thinking that it's Berensteen bears."

*[All laugh.]*

01:29:44 Dan Host So I wanna—I'm trying to create a movement so that the Mandela Effect becomes the name for when you get superhuman strength to lift a car off of a child that's been pinned under it? Let's see if it works out. Everybody, that's the Mandela Effect now.

01:29:45 Elliott Host Okay. Well—  
And the other one is the Babaloo Mandel Effect. When you remember something wrong—

*[Dan laughs.]*

—that's now named after Babaloo Mandel, writer of *Gung-Ho*, among other movies.

01:29:55 Dan Host Who—who's the other member of that team?

01:29:57 Dan Host **Dan and Elliott:** Lowell Ganz.

01:29:58 Dan Host Yeah. Okay.

01:30:00 Elliott Host Ganz and Mandel. Yeah.

*[Dan laughs.]*

01:30:02 Dan Host Funniest— *[Laughs.]* Funniest names in comedy writing teams.

01:30:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel.

01:30:08 Elliott Host **Elliott:** I think they—  
I think they got the jobs off the names. Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

01:30:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Babaloo Mandel sounds like a—

01:30:13 Stuart Host **Josh:** That was their packet.  
—something that Dennis Miller would've said a lot in the '80s.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:30:18 Josh Guest Yeah!

01:30:21 Dan Host *[Dennis Miller impression]* "This guy makes Lowell Ganz look like Babaloo Mandell."

*[Josh laughs.]*

01:30:24 Stuart Host Oh, that's pretty good!

01:30:25 Elliott Host And someone's like, "Dennis, they work together. They're not that different." "Oh, uh..."

01:30:30 Dan Host *[Laughs.]* So this next and final letter is from Heather, last name withheld. And Heather writes, "How do you all have such nice teeth? Are they natural? Thanks, Heather."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

I can only answer for myself. I had braces.

*[Josh laughs.]*

01:30:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** For years as a child.

01:30:51 Dan Host **Elliott:** Answer for me, Dan.  
I probably didn't wear my retainer as much as I should, so they're drifting a little back crooked as I age. But that's my story. What about you guys?

01:31:02 Elliott Host Uh, my story is very exciting and different. I also had braces. And my teeth are also drifting back. And on my bottom jaw, one of the teeth—it's drifting, but you can only feel it from the back. If you look from the front, I don't think you can tell. So that's the little secret I have is that my tongue is constantly caressing the place where two of my teeth overlap. Pretty erotic, huh?

*[Josh laughs.]*

01:31:22 Stuart Host Uh-huh.

01:31:23 Dan Host Stuart?

01:31:24 Stuart Host Oh, I thought Josh was gonna talk about my teeth. But I guess I'll fucking do it.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:31:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Josh:** We're saving it—we're saving that for our podcast, *Stuart's Teeth*.

**Dan:** I mean, like—I mean—maybe he should!

**Stuart:** *[Through laughter]* Yeah.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:31:35 Stuart Host That's where I go through my collection of antique teeth.

*[All laugh.]*

Uh, yeah. So I also had braces. But interestingly, I didn't have braces until I was like 18. I had to have corrective surgery because I developed an underbite late in life. Uh—

*[Josh laughs.]*

"Late in life" as in, like, *[through laughter]* when I was 17.

*[All laugh.]*

01:31:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Stuart, that would be so sad if that was—

**Dan:** I mean, that's late to develop an underbite, to be fair.

01:32:03 Elliott Host **Josh:** You've been dead for a couple decades. Right?

01:32:06 Dan Host Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's late in life in medieval times. Sure.

01:32:08 Stuart Host But you had—you had—yeah. You had jaw surgery.  
Medieval Times restaurant? I did. So I had corrective jaw surgery where they put me under and they like... peeled my lips back and then they had to cut my lower jaw and push it backwards and cut my upper jaw and pull it out a little bit. And that's why when you look at me, you're like, "Why does he look like a perfect specimen of a human?" Well it's because it's created by science. It's not—y'know.

01:32:33 Dan Host Now, would you recommend this procedure, Stuart?

01:32:36 Elliott Host *[Josh laughs.]*  
I mean, look at the results! He's super handsome!

01:32:39 Stuart Host Yeah. I mean, I think they speak for themselves. Although I do remember waking up from that surgery and immediately vomiting a mixture of the pizza I'd eaten the day before and blood? So I don't recommend that part *[through laughter]* of...

01:32:50 Elliott Host Like a vampire Ninja Turtle.

01:32:53 Josh Guest I'll tell you what—this listener got more than they bargained for with their question.

01:32:58 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*  
Stuart, you reminded me of a surgery I had forgotten about where my teeth were not coming in fast enough for my orthodontist's liking, so they pulled two of my teeth, cut open the gums, and put brackets on teeth that had not come out yet and they slowly pulled those teeth down with little chains. Like, over time.

01:33:16 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Oh god.

**Stuart:** Gross.

01:33:17 Stuart Host **Elliott:** Horrible.  
I love the idea that this is the type of question that somebody's used to asking at parties and is like super bummed that it turned into a long conversation.

01:33:27 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Jordan, go back and put a content warning in for "Tooth Violence," please.

01:33:35 Elliott Host *[Josh laughs.]*  
Yeah. Josh, you also have great teeth.

01:33:36 Josh Guest Thank you. I feel like my teeth are fine. Here's—this is my dental secret. When I was like a tween, I had a couple teeth that just didn't—I have like two fewer teeth than I should? Not to brag.  
*[Laughs.]*

01:33:50 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Oh, wow. I'm not gonna make that joke.

01:33:52 Josh Guest And so they were like, "Look, there's a little extra space in your mouth. We could give you braces, but that's a whole thing. Or we could shave down your two fang-like teeth next to your front teeth so that they'll just be a little stumpy, but we won't have to put the whole thing in to line them up." And my parents and I were like, "Yeah, do the weird thing that no one's ever done!"

*[All laugh.]*

And so I'm... not very self-conscious, but whenever I think about my teeth I remember that the two teeth next to my front teeth are just short little guys. They're like little sidekick teeth.

01:34:29	Dan	Host	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> Okay. So there ya go! <i>[Through laughter]</i> Um... some of you are horrified, some of you are aroused.
01:34:36	Stuart	Host	I love that some people listen to our show as they're going to sleep and this will certainly affect their dreams.
01:34:42	Elliott	Host	<i>[Josh laughs.]</i> Let me cute this up with some cute teeth talk. My older son, Sammy, he has lost both of his front two teeth so he has got a super-classic adorable kid face. But with the second tooth—we put it under his pillow and he wrote a letter to the tooth fairy asking if <u>this</u> tooth fairy was the <u>same</u> tooth fairy that took his last tooth. And the letter he got in response explained that it's the same tooth fairy 'cause this is the tooth fairy that handles California, and there are different tooth fairies for every state and major city. And country. And he was very excited about learning that.
			<i>[Josh laughs.]</i>
01:35:19	Josh	Guest	So there's a network of tooth fairies out there, all working regionally. Let's support 'em as best we can in these hard times. The New Jersey tooth fairy? Michael Imperioli!
01:35:26	Elliott	Host	<i>[All laugh. Someone claps.]</i> He'll sometimes come when the teeth aren't ready to come out yet. And he'll just stick his hand in the kid's mouth and be like, "Come on! Wiggle it out, buddy! Come on! Get it out of there!"
01:35:35	Dan	Host	"They're coming out sometime!" Um... okay. Well—
01:35:38	Elliott	Host	And then he takes a big roll of bills out of his pocket—not in a wallet—and just peels off two ones and throws 'em onto the bed and walks out.
01:35:46	Dan	Host	<i>[Josh laughs.]</i> Let's do the final segment of the show, which is recommendations. If you want something maybe a little better than <i>Primal</i> —
01:35:55	Elliott	Host	Is that possible?
01:35:58	Dan	Host	<i>[Josh laughs.]</i> Who knows? Well let's see. I—in honor of Cagemas, fortunately, I actually watched a Nicolas Cage movie that I had not seen before. I'm surprised I hadn't seen it before. It took me a very long time. But I watched <i>Valley Girl</i> , which I—
01:36:11	Elliott	Host	Ah!
01:36:12	Dan	Host	—enjoyed quite a bit. It was like—y'know, like, I grew up with these '80s teen comedies and so it was nice to find one that I—like, I hadn't seen before that I could enjoy that also was like— <i>[Laughs.]</i> Had like a very minimal, like... objectionable amount of stuff in it. Like there's nothing in it that upset me. I mean, Nic Cage gets a little stalker-y at the end, but other than that it's—

01:36:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** It's a very sweet movie.

**Stuart:** That movie has my number-one hamburger bite I've ever seen in a movie.

**Dan:** Oh, yeah?

01:36:46 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
That's also ranked next to my favorite snakes, if you're wondering. It's in my journal.

01:36:51 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
It's number-one behind two other hamburger bites from other movies.

01:36:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Josh laughs.]*  
**Stuart:** I'm never gonna hear the last of that.

01:36:58 Elliott Host **Josh:** Number three is a snake biting a hamburger. Oh, if only a snake bit—a Bushmaster biting into a hamburger? Why haven't we seen that in movies yet?

01:37:02 Stuart Host *[Through laughter]* Oh my god. That's gonna be my next tattoo.

01:37:05 Elliott Host *[Josh laughs.]*  
You know the Lumiere brothers were like, "This is why we created this medium. To see a snake biting into a burger." And it just hasn't happened yet.

01:37:14 Dan Host  
So this movie is from 1983. A lot of people probably know about it already so I won't go too much into it. But it's a... it was made to capitalize on the brief cultural fascination with the idea of the Valley Girl, which came out of—in some part—the Frank Zappa/Moon Unit Zappa song, "Valley Girl," which is really like... sort of shitty and snide about Valley Girls in a way that the movie is not at all. It's directed by Martha Coolidge and I think it's one of these cases where having a woman director do this movie that focuses, in large part, on this young girl, allows her to be a little more complex than otherwise would be the case. Otherwise they could just be making fun of this.

But it's a Romeo and Juliet tale. A Valley Girl falls for a punk from not the Valley, played by Nicolas Cage. And two things I wanna say about it is like, number one, I think movies get punks wrong a lot of the time? Like I feel like in movies they are just shown as these forces of aggression? And y'know the punks that I knew from college... I feel like... a lot of them used this aggressive stance to cover up for a lot of sensitivity. This was like their way of kind of dealing with the world. And Nicolas Cage felt like one of these people I could have known.

And I also wanna say that y'know just at the beginning of his career, sometimes you forget what a dreamboat this guy was? Like, you look at him in this movie. He's got beautiful eyes, and you can see how, like, there's no way this young woman would not fall for this guy. Like... he is—he just wants to be with her. He's so sweet. And it's just a really, like, sweet movie that you know that these kids aren't gonna stay together. This is a high school romance. But it's a

01:39:28 Josh Guest movie that is as much about, I think, the lead becoming a better person and learning what it is to strike out and make your own path as it is about the romance? So I was touched by it. It's a lot of fun. I'm gonna go on the similar theme of good Nicolas Cage movies from the '80s. And this is one that maybe a lot of people have seen. It escaped my viewing. I was trying, for years, but it kept escaping.

01:39:44 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]* Every time you thought you'd catch it, you'd go to the snare and it would be empty. With just like some drops of blood where it chewed its way out.

01:39:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Y'know. *[Inaudible.]*

**Josh:** A taunting note.

01:39:52 Josh Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]* "Mr. Gondelman, you should've caught me. I gave you all the clues." Or some such.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:39:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk But *Moonstruck*.  
**Stuart:** Yes.

**Josh:** Which like—a classic that I've missed out on.

01:40:03 Josh Guest **Elliott:** Yeah, it's a great movie. My—early this year, my wife had been like, "Oh, let's watch *Moonstruck!*" We had a night off to watch a movie. She's like, "How about *Moonstruck?*" I said, "Sure." I didn't know anything about it. The only thing I knew is, it's either the one where Nicolas Cage eats the bug, or it's not! And folks! It's not.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Cher and Nicolas Cage play people living in like Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, in the '80s. Very Italian neighborhood. Cher gets engaged. Her fiancé leaves to go see his... grandmother, I think, in Italy? And he tasks her with inviting his estranged brother, Nicolas Cage, to their wedding. And when she does, he's unreasonable and sexually magnetic and it's—like you said—I felt like I did some bagging on Nicolas Cage for being, y'know, older—slightly-older-than-middle-aged and a little disheveled in *Prima?* But this is Nicolas Cage where you're like, "Oh, this guy gets after it. He really brings it in the sack."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And it's like kind of the central theme of the movie is Nicolas Cage is so good at sex he'll change your life. The whole course of your life.

01:41:19 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]* Yeah. You're like, "That's what a white tank top is supposed to look like on a person."

01:41:24 Josh Guest *[Through laughter]* Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

01:41:26	Stuart	Host	Yeah. That movie's so much fun. I saw it for the first time as well during quarantine, and—which is still going on, obviously.
			<i>[Josh laughs.]</i>
			And it had been one of my wife's favorite movies so we got to watch it together and it was like—the moment that it clicked that it's basically like a Shakespearean comedy but set in Brooklyn was—that's when I was like, "Oh, I get this movie and I like it a lot!"
01:41:52	Josh	Guest	Yeah. And his—the scene that introduces him is like—I think about it all the time now. The scene where she comes to his bakery—or the bakery where he works to invite him to the wedding. And he's just like—it's <u>big</u> Cage, but it also is big Cage in a way that like is within the scope of what he's supposed to do in this movie? It's great.
01:42:16	Dan	Host	I also wanna just give a little behind-the-scenes—we're using Skype for this call. God knows why 'cause many better things exist now. With the Skype reactions—
01:42:28	Elliott	Host	Dan. Dan. It's inertia.
			<i>[Josh laughs.]</i>
01:42:30	Dan	Host	Yeah. The Skype reactions—when I said <i>Valley Girl</i> and when Josh said <i>Moonstruck</i> , both times Stuart did the heart reaction.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
01:42:40	Stuart	Host	I was like, "Oh, quick, I gotta show 'em how much I love it!"
01:42:42	Dan	Host	Yeah.
			<i>[Josh laughs.]</i>
01:42:43	Stuart	Host	<i>[Pointedly.]</i> "Without interrupting."
01:42:45	Elliott	Host	Mmm.
01:42:46	Stuart	Host	So I'm going to break the chain. And I'm going to recommend a new movie that does not feature Nicolas Cage. I'm going to recommend a movie called <i>Sound of Metal</i> . It's on Amazon Prime right now. It's about a young punk-rock drummer played by Riz Ahmed who starts to lose his hearing and he has to figure out a way to kinda live a life as a deaf person. And this is a character that as we get to know him, we realize that being a drummer and that sort of thing had also been a way for him to run away from other past issues. And it's a fairly straightforward drama, but it's shot beautifully and it has a couple of very amazing performances, including from Riz Ahmed. Who just looks—oh, man—like a whole dang meal, this guy. And the—also I want to mention that my buddy Harry did some of the drum work for it? So I get to continue the recent trend of Stuart name-dropping people involved in movies that he likes.
01:43:55	Josh	Guest	Wooo!
01:43:57	Elliott	Host	He did it! Good job.
01:43:58	Stuart	Host	Thank you. Thank you.
01:44:01	Elliott	Host	Name dropped. Clang. That's the sound of the name dropping. I'm also not gonna recommend a Nicolas Cage movie. But—because it's Cagemas—I'm recommending a movie that partly takes place at Christmas? So that's a connection, I guess? This is—I'm gonna recommend the movie <i>The Silent Partner</i> from 1978, starring Elliott Gould, Christopher Plummer, and Susannah York, which is a—I don't wanna talk too much about the plot 'cause it's twisty and turny. But essentially, Elliott Gould is a mild-mannered bank teller who

decides he's going to take advantage of the fact that he suspects that a man—played by Christopher Plummer—is planning to rob the bank to actually kind of pre-rob the bank? And gets involved in, y'know, vengeance and twisty turns and things like that. And it's really good. It is—even though it is listed as a comedy in some places—

01:44:52 Dan Host

Wow.

01:44:53 Elliott Host

—it is not a comedy. It is a very, like... it's a thriller that is both super smart and very well made and also kind of sleazy in an enjoyable way? There's like... it's a pretty respectable sleazy thriller that has two scenes that are gruesome. There's two violent scenes where women are the targets that I'll warn you about. One of which enters into, like, Giallo territory for a moment. But Christopher Plummer is super scary in it and Elliott Gould is very good in it as a... kind of... not bumbling guy, but a believably, like, guy who got himself in too deep? And it's—you get to see beautiful Canada in the late '70s. And all the house interiors and clothing implied by that. And features a performance by an actress named Céline Lomez? Who I was not super familiar with? And she's great in it. And she plays a character who has more going on with her than it seems at first. But *The Silent Partner*, if you're interested in a taut thriller that is, y'know, just that great slice of '70s movies, you could do worse than that. I'd recommend it.

01:46:07 Dan Host

Yeah. I appreciate—that is like a mean movie in a lot of ways. Which is what I—I mean, if it's a comedy, it's a comedy in the sense—like, a very, very dry sense in the way that people who love thrillers, I think, will sort of chuckle at how, like—

01:46:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Dan:** —brutal it gets. Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

01:46:25 Elliott Host

**Elliott:** At mean things that happen to people. Yeah. But I would not—but it is a thriller. And I watched it being like, “Oh, I've heard of this movie before but I don't really know much about it, and it's listed as like a comedy-thriller,” and almost instantly I'm like, “This is not a funny movie. Like, this is great, but this is not a funny movie.” Even though John Candy is in it in a small role, not being funny. It's a—

01:46:42 Stuart Host

Impossible.

01:46:43 Elliott Host

Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

*[Josh laughs.]*

01:46:45 Stuart Host

I mean—a little bit.

01:46:47 Elliott Host

He's got “Candy” in his name for god's sakes.

01:46:48 Josh Guest

He does have “Candy” in his name.

He is delicious in this movie.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:46:51 Elliott Host

And Christopher Plummer manages to be—just every time he's on screen, genuinely, like, y'know, frightening and eerie in a way that I did not expect. So.

01:46:58 Stuart Host

Do you think when they made the *Super Mario Bros.* movie—

*[Dan laughs.]*

—Christopher Plummer was mad that he didn't get hired to play Mario 'cause he's like, “I'm a Plummer! It's in my name!”

01:47:08 Elliott Host You know he sent his tape in and was like, “I should’ve worn a moustache when I did the audition. That was my problem. I didn’t wear a moustache on my tape.” So.

01:47:17 Dan Host Y’know, Elliott, you were just like sort of gesturing at a Christopher Plummer voice? But I could at the same time hear it.

01:47:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Oh, thanks.

**Stuart:** Yeah.

01:47:26 Elliott Host **Dan:** Really, I think you captured something there. Thank you. I appreciate that. There’s one moment in this movie—I’ll just tell you how it got at me particularly. Where Christopher Plummer knows where Elliott Gould lives, and he is—he’s always calling him from a payphone outside that he can see him from. And Christopher Plummer comes up into the hallway and starts talking to him through the mail slot? And it is—it was so frightening to me, the idea that it’s like, “Oh, there’s just a door between these two guys and they’re looking at each other through this mail slot.” And it’s like—tapped into the same thing that is like, when you have a dream where you’re going to the bathroom but someone can see you going to the bathroom? Like, that kind of fear of exposure, you know?

01:48:00 Stuart Host The ultimate fantasy? Yeah.

01:48:03 Elliott Host *[Josh laughs.]* Well, I mean, not for me! But—so anyway. But it was just—there were little things like that that are like super creepy and then the movie gets—yeah. Very brutal. So. That’s my recommendation.

01:48:15 Stuart Host Cool.

01:48:16 Dan Host Well, guys? Josh, it’s been such a pleasure to have you on. Is there a thing—or multiple things—you would like to plug?

01:48:23 Elliott Host Mmm?

01:48:25 Josh Guest Oh, thank you! Sure! And this has been such a pleasure for me! I’m such a fan of the show and I really enjoy hanging around and talking about Nic Cage. I have a podcast called *Make My Day* It’s a comedy game show where there’s only one contestant, or two contestants playing as a team so the contestants always win. I have a book called *Nice Try* that’s an essay collection that I’m very proud of and still exists.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And *Desus & Mero* comes back on January 31<sup>st</sup> for season three and I’m very excited and I think it’s a fun show that people might like if they haven’t tried it.

01:48:58 Stuart Host Yeah, it was a big part of my quarantine was watching their current episodes and then catching up with some of the old ones.

01:49:05 Josh Guest They’re so funny. And I say that, like, I’m very proud of the show and the work that we do on it, obviously? That the whole team does? But also, it’s just like watching the tapings because they’re so spontaneous. I laugh a lot just like, “Well, I wouldn’t have come up with that.” Just like a very funny way to feel about a show that you write for. *[Laughs.]*

01:49:25 Elliott Host I was doing a show that never ended up going into production for truTV? And they were like, “We really want the hosts to have like a real *Desus & Mero* vibe. We want it to be like *Desus & Mero*.” And

01:49:42 Stuart Host I'm like, "You're not going to. Like, it's not going to happen. Those two guys have that. That's it."  
Yeah. You—we want you to give us the dictionary definition of "charisma," basically.

01:49:49 Josh Guest *[All laugh.]*  
Yeah. You mean two guys who have like incredible synergy, incredible charisma, incredible chemistry, and their list of references include "everything that's ever happened."

01:50:03 Dan Host *[All laugh.]*  
Okay, guys. Well, yes. Again, thank you, Josh, for being here. Thank you to Jordan Kauwling for making us sound good by doing editing and sound stuff and all sorts of things I don't understand. If you listen to the podcast when I did it, you can hear the improvement.  
*[Josh laughs.]*

01:50:43 Stuart Host Thank you to our network, Maximum Fun. Please rate us on iTunes. Well, I hope. Let people know about the show. Check out the other great podcasts at MaximumFun.org and I think that's it. Thank you so much. Another Cagemas in the books. I've been Dan McCoy.  
01:50:45 Elliott Host I've been Stuart Wellington!  
01:50:48 Josh Guest I'm still Elliott Kalan!  
Oh! I—I was—I've been Josh Gondelman.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:50:52 Elliott Host I didn't wanna intrude.  
This is something we continually forget to tell our guests, that they should say their names too at the end. This happens a lot.

01:50:58 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** I was just thinking—

01:51:00 Dan Host **Stuart:** I like it this way.  
I was just thinking, I'm like, "Oh, did we figure it out? Like, that seemed like a pretty smooth ending. Did we figure it out?" And then it turns out we didn't.

01:51:07 Stuart Host We nailed it.

01:51:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Josh laughs.]*  
**Elliott:** No. We were—

**Josh:** This was my fault, not yours. *[Laughs.]*

01:51:10 Elliott Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
We were walking over the house and we said, "Didn't trip over our own dicks this time!" And then suddenly what was in our path? Our own dicks.

01:51:17 Josh Guest *[Through laughter]* And I tripped over 'em.

01:51:20 Dan Host *[All laugh.]*  
See ya next time! Bye!

01:51:22 Elliott Host Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.

01:51:33 Stuart Host I'm not an accent guy. I think we've covered that on the show. I'm more of a, y'know, like a hype-man type character?

01:51:40	Elliott	Host	Mm-hm. Yep. Yep. For <i>Castle Freak</i> .
01:51:43	Stuart	Host	Yep.

*[Music ends.]*

01:51:49	Music	Transition	A cheerful ukulele chord.
01:51:50	Speaker 1	Guest	<a href="http://MaximumFun.org">MaximumFun.org</a> .
01:51:52	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:51:54	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:51:55	Speaker 4	Guest	—Audience supported.