

Worlds Beyond Number

The Wizard, the Witch, and the Wild One

Children's Adventure: Episode 07 (Version 0)

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

All right. We return now to Grandmother Wren's cottage outside the village of Toma. And last we left, we were talking with our wonderful heroes, I guess not even heroes, just children. Just tiny little kids.

Lou Wilson:

Don't put that on us. Don't put that on us.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Don't put that on us. You're just little kids. We go to the week going right around the solstice, which is, in some ways where, yeah, it's the longest day, but it also, in some ways, is just the beginning of summer because the days actually get hotter after the solstice. In that week that Lohan comes and fences and spars with Eursulon in the mornings and Ame has learned to speak with Nicholas the goat and Suvi, you had that interaction with Grandma Wren, where you say, "I don't need to go get flowers in the woods."

Aabria Iyengar:

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

At the end of that week, you all wake up one morning to hear the familiar noises of breakfast being made in the kitchen by someone who is not Ame. Ame, you listen now and sure enough, Grandmother Wren is out there and you see that she's happily making breakfast as you all come in. She says, "Oh, good morning, children. Very good to see you. Glad you're all awake and all right."

Erika Ishii:

Good morning, Grandma Ren.

Aabria Iyengar:

Suvi snorts awake, if you're okay with it. I think Suvi has been grabbing onto your fur in the middle of the night as a comfort thing.

Lou Wilson:

Of course.

Aabria Iyengar:

Cool. So I think I've just got a fist full of butt tuft, but as I just snort awake, I "Oh!"

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You see that Grandmother Wren, looks at you, Suvi, and puts breakfast out in front of everybody and everyone here make a perception check for me.

Erika Ishii:

Ooh.

Lou Wilson:

Now that I have 12 wisdom.

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh, look at you.

Lou Wilson:

I'll see all.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Oh.

Aabria Iyengar:

Incredible. So terrible. My problem is I got a three.

Lou Wilson:

Got a six, six.

Erika Ishii:

13.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

13.

Lou Wilson:

That breakfast was too good.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Breakfast. Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar:

It's too good.

Lou Wilson:

That breakfast too good. Ame's good. But I mean that Wren breakfast that grandma Wren, that grandma Wren breakfast.

Aabria Iyengar:

Black. She's been practicing for centuries.

Lou Wilson:
Centuries.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
You once again have fresh fried eggs over a hardy jook in front of you.

Aabria Iyengar:
Oh.

Erika Ishii:
Oh. Sizzling.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
And everything's sizzling. It's very warm. It's very good. On a 13 perception check, you notice that underneath Grandma Wren's sleeves, her sleeves are a little bit sort of flowy that she has gauze around her forearm that's tied up around her forearm, but it doesn't, nothing looks, it doesn't look horrifying. It's not like soaked with blood. And it's a gauze around her arm and she feeds you all breakfast and says, "I was delighted to see that Nicholas seemed very frisky when I got back. And the lawn seems very freshly eaten, almost as though he hasn't been being fed every day."

Erika Ishii:
Huh? Well, he ate. Oh boy. He did. He ate eat. How was your trip?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
"Eventful, necessary." You see, she looks out and you see way off at the very top limb of a massive oak tree that's kind of blowing in a sort of pleasant summer breeze. Taro is standing on a leaf on a tiny branch, and it's kind of really moving back and forth in the top windiest branch. She goes, "Ah, Taro!" And gets distracted from sort of grilling you. After breakfast grandma Wren, comes over to you Suvi, and says, "Could I talk to you in my spinning room for a moment if that's all right, Suvi?"

Aabria Iyengar:
Suvi just nods and gets very quiet.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
She takes you into the spinning room that kind of faces the road, which is the same room. You heard her speaking with Jasper in, she's got the big spinning wheel and a loom and a bunch of other stuff here.

Erika Ishii:
Do you want to go listen out the door, Eursulon?

Lou Wilson:
Is that not rude?

Erika Ishii:

Yeah. Yeah. Manners are not really binary like that.

Lou Wilson:
Let us listen.

Erika Ishii:
Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
I'll need stealth checks from Ame and Eursulon.

Lou Wilson:
Thrilled to do it, thrilled to do it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
And I'll say in this moment, you can do this with advantage.

Lou Wilson:
Hell yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
You'll...

Lou Wilson:
A nat 20 from Eursulon.

Aabria Iyengar:
Dang.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Dang, Woohoo.

Aabria Iyengar:
That's a bad bear,

Lou Wilson:
Ame I will remember this forever. Manners are not binary.

Aabria Iyengar:
Oh no. We're teaching him bad lessons!

Erika Ishii:
10.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

10. I'll say I'll on a Nat 20 from Eursulon, we'll treat this as a group stealth check.

Erika Ishii:

Yeah. Yeah.

Lou Wilson:

Okay. Yeah. Hey, thank you. Hey, thank you.

Erika Ishii:

Thank you.

Lou Wilson:

We're children. All right. We're children.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You're children.

Lou Wilson:

We're not heroes. We're children.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

We're not heroes. We're children.

Aabria Iyengar:

Not heroes. We're children.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

But now I'll ask for perception checks from both of you as well. We'll treat this as a group check as well, so we can take the higher of the roles.

Erika Ishii:

Ooh.

Lou Wilson:

Oh, that's another big six for Eursulon.

Erika Ishii:

That's a 19 total.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

19 total.

Aabria Iyengar:

Let's go!

Lou Wilson:

Let's go.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

So all of you can hear this through the door, but I'll remind you that with the door closed, you can only hear what's being said. You can't necessarily see the facial expressions of the people talking or any sort of nonverbal reactions that they have "Right before I left, Suvi you were very observant and noticed that I was asking you for something I didn't really need. And I know that you've been here for a couple of months and I want to say that you have been nothing but the kindest and most respectful guest I have ever had in my home."

Erika Ishii:

I mean, come on.

Lou Wilson:

Is it a competition to be nice and respectful?

Erika Ishii:

No. But if it was, she wouldn't be winning.

Didn't you tell [inaudible 00:07:20] how good I am?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You see grandmother Wren looks at you and says, "I know it has not been easy. It is always frightening to be asked to do your best in a situation that you did not choose. And I think that you have handled it with a lot of bravery. And I want to ask how you came to know that part of your stay here was not just keeping you safe from the dangers you have faced, but when you discovered that those dangers might still be out there."

Aabria Iyengar:

And Suvi takes that big pause because she remembers being given the big understanding of that by Ame, but is a lot of things but not a snitch. And she's just sort of begins squirming a foot on the ground and trying to build another way to have gotten to that conclusion. And eventually will just say, "Well, Ame and I were talking about it and it's I'm always somewhere else. And I realized that the only people I know here are you and Ame and Eursulon, but they know other people. I don't get to know other people."

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

"I'm sorry for that. "

Aabria Iyengar:

It's okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

"Your mother and father are old friends of mine who I met many, many years ago when they were much younger. And I regret not having spoken to you about them before because obviously.... How much do you know about your home, where you come from and the nature of your mother and father's work?"

Aabria Iyengar:

And I think Suvi looks like she's on the brink of tears, not just thinking about her parents, but realizing that all of her information before this summer was very coddled and protected. And she's learned so much by running around with her friends that she doesn't, she's like trying to justify how little she learned before she got here. "I know that they do that there are wizards and that they work for the empire and that my mom's friend and my dad's friend help. And sometimes they have to fight, but I don't know why they fight."

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

"Well, you know about as much as I do. I don't know why they fight either. Your mother and father both are wizards of the citadel, which I know you know as your home. It is a marvel to behold great glass tower in the center of a white desert. Your mother and father, I met when they were much younger when they had first met and fallen in love. This was before your mother was the sage of the fundament. And your father was the provost of the eighth. The citadel saw in them their tremendous capacity for magic. And your mother's friend Steele is also a wizard of the citadel. Your father's colleague Yoran is not a wizard of the citadel and Yoran is not of the empire. He is of a different land." And you see, she looks at this little kid in front of her. He's from a land called Gouthmay, which is in a different part of the world than the empire.

Aabria Iyengar:

Suvi's going to kind of tiptoe and whisper into grandmother Wren's ear.

"Is he like... "Yeah, she'll tiptoe over. Yeah. In whisper his ear. "Is he like Eursulon?"

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

"No. No, he's not like Eursulon, Eursulon is one of our honored friends and there is magic everywhere, all throughout the world. But there are many trees in the forest that have nuts. But you still must find a way to crack them open. And many different people find different ways of availing themselves to and from and of magic. Myself and young Ame are of a similar tradition. We are witches and we attempt as best we can to help the magic of the world of spirits find its home here in the mortal world in that the bridges between the two might be kept healthy and safe and whole. That a balance between this world and the world beyond might be maintained that all things might exist in harmony with each other."

Aabria Iyengar:

Will I be a witch too since I've been here?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Well, if you wanted to be a witch, I would certainly be happy to teach you. Your mother and father are wizards and they crack the nut a little differently. Long ago, but not so long I suppose in terms of the ages of the world, the very first very clever wizards found a way to speak and write, but more importantly think in a language of magic itself. And it marked the first time that the powers of the unseen world could

be wielded through cleverness itself as opposed to broaching some kind of relationship I suppose you could say with the world of spirits. Eursulon can disappear and put on other forms in the same way that he can breathe and run. It is a part of him. And Ame and I, we can sometimes speak on or act on behalf of the unseen world. Your mother and father speak and think in a language that means they don't have to ask for help.

Aabria Iyengar:

Can I make an insight check?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar:

To see how she looks about this information?

Oh my gosh. A 19! Finally.

Lou Wilson:

Let's try it. Go!

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

On a 19. Well I'll roll my little.

Aabria Iyengar:

Don't you out roll me Brennan, don't you do it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

There's nothing in grandmother Wren's face that seems to be dismissive of your parents. I think what you see is a genuine concern and I think it's hard to parse it into what a kid would understand, but you're very brilliant. So I think that it occurs to you for the first time that grandmother Wren is older than your parents, than your parents are than you. And there's a degree of, you suddenly think that she thinks of your parents like kids.

Aabria Iyengar:

Yeah. Okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

"All of this is to say that all of this knowledge is yours. You are very, very young, but of course you are old enough to know these things and understand them, to understand the empire of Kim Sarazan and the imperium and the citadel and all of these things. Your parents, I don't know everything, but I know that your parents found out some very dangerous things. One thing that both wizards and witches have in common is they know how important a secret can be and they know that the most important secrets can be very, very dangerous. And I think you remember how dangerous the night was when your parents decided that you would be safer with me."

Aabria Iyengar:
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

"Now there's a lot of reasons for that. You remember the rules I gave you when you came to the house?"

Aabria Iyengar:

Yes. No roads and do your chores and don't go out after nightfall.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

"That's right. Now those rules are good ideas, but they're also part of a spell that's keeping you safe while you're here. And it's a spell that I can only cast on the very young, otherwise I would've loved to have cast it on your mother and father too, although I doubt they would've let me because they're very bold and very brave and don't like to ask for that kind of protection."

Aabria Iyengar:

What are you protecting me from?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Here you see grandmother's eyes go a little glassy and you can see that she... Give me, oh actually on that same 19 insight check... She knows what she's protecting you from and she's seeing it in her mind's eye right now. "Right now I'm protecting you from everything because I don't know exactly what I'm protecting you from. There was a man who came here earlier in the spring who is a junior vizier to the Saraz imperium, a wizard trained of the citadel, but not working for the citadel. I know this is complicated, but..."

Aabria Iyengar:

Suvi is looking out the window, remembering watching him like kind of walk by. So just very clearly telegraphing that she remembers seeing him.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

It looks like grandmother Wren sees you thinking of that. And she goes, "That man's name is Jasper. And he knew more than I thought he did about the fact that I was good friends with your mother and father. You see, strictly speaking, men like Jasper don't understand why a witch and wizards would be friends, but the truth is witches and wizards don't become friends. I grandmother Wren, became friends with Soft and Stone because I loved them. And I am more than a witch and they are more than wizards. We are all people, first and foremost. Even those of us who are not human are still people. So it was a surprise to me that Jasper knew that I was close with your parents. And because it was a surprise, I didn't want to let him know that you were here. Because I just didn't know if what he was saying was true or not. Does that make sense?"

Aabria Iyengar:

Yes.

Can I ask what he was saying?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

"He was saying that your mother and father, in addition to being in danger, might also be in trouble, which is similar to danger but a little bit different. My expectation is that before long your mother and father will come to retrieve you. They mentioned to me that the end of the summer was the latest that they would be."

Aabria Iyengar:

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

"So I don't want to tell you that much more because I think it's up to them to tell you as much as possible. But I was away over the solstice because Yoran, your father's associate has gone missing. And I met up with some friends of mine that the wizards don't know about to see where he might be. All of this is to say Suvi, that you deserve to know that you are being hidden because I think, and I didn't have time to ask, but I think your mother and father are taking the summer to find out the truth and to hopefully discover who they can trust and who their real friends are. Because I'll tell you this, all the magic in the world, there is nothing more precious than a true friend."

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh. Okay. If they don't come back, can I stay and become a witch?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

She puts a hand on your shoulder.

Aabria Iyengar:

I'll try really hard.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

"We don't have to think like that, Suvi. You can stay whether or not you want to become a witch, you can always stay here." And you see that the dappled sunlight hitting the outside of the windows moves through this workshop and gleams off of the thread still attached to the spinning wheel. As grandmother Wren leans over and she kisses you on the forehead. And I think Ame and Eursulon, you both feel something move in that same way of when you're in the ocean and a big wave comes, but it's the kind of rolling wave that just picks you up and your stomach kind of rises for a moment. She looks at you and says, "No matter what, this cottage will always be a home for you. And you will always have my protection."

Aabria Iyengar:

And Suvi once again in tears is going to throw her arms around grandma Wren.

Thank you. I love you. I'm sorry. Thank you.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

"There's nothing to be sorry for my child." And in the hug that she returns to you that grandmother Wren is not a name, she is your grandmother. She hugs you tightly. And after that day, the summer continues. For Ame and Eursulon who hear that conversation, what is it that you sort of... Do you ever, do you remain hidden? Do you keep it secret that you heard that interaction?

Erika Ishii:

What do we do?

Lou Wilson:

Good question. I think I, think Eursulon doesn't understand all of the people's names and shit, I think doesn't mean anything. Like there's a, there're large chunks of the conversation that I think Eursulon is very confused or drops out of. But I do think the tears are not... The wave and the tears. It's all Eursulon can kind of grab onto because I think as Ame asks him that, she's not okay?

Erika Ishii:

No, her parents are in trouble and I think she's scared that they won't come back and if they don't come back she gets to stay with us but then if they don't come back. Well that's like the way that you're not able to get back to your home and there's always going to be a little bit something missing. I hope they come back, but I guess we should train extra hard to keep her safe. But I don't think she'd want that because grandma Wren said her parents are like that too. Let's just train really hard and make it so that she can be safe if she has to stay. Which I hope she doesn't have to stay. She doesn't want to.

Lou Wilson:

And we'll protect her.

Erika Ishii:

Yeah.

Lou Wilson:

Yeah.

Erika Ishii:

Okay. But we won't tell her. But don't, don't tell her.

Lou Wilson:

Okay.

Erika Ishii:

Because she wouldn't want us to do that.

Lou Wilson:

All right.

Erika Ishii:

Okay. Good. Good talk.

Lou Wilson:
Great.

Erika Ishii:
Thank you.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Okay.

Lou Wilson:
There are more eggs.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
The first interaction you guys have, just give me some deception checks and an instant check.

Aabria Iyengar:
Let's go! 18.

Erika Ishii:
18.

Aabria Iyengar:
Deceive me.

Lou Wilson:
I got five.

Erika Ishii:
What?

Lou Wilson:
I think the next time you see Eursulon, he's carrying his stick or he's carrying the broom handle.

Erika Ishii:
The broom handle!

Lou Wilson:
... Just starts carrying the broom handle around the house.

Erika Ishii:
I got a 17.

Aabria Iyengar:
Not good enough.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
I don't think that you guys blurt anything out, but I think Suvi, you have just taken this observant feat. I think the unmistakable change in energy of your two friends suddenly feeling a sense of responsibility, let's call it. Eursulon's got his stick by his side. Aame how does your behavior change around Suvi?

Erika Ishii:
I am applying myself a lot more to my studies and I think that I'm, when you're looking at books on things, I'm like, "Oh that looks interesting. What does it mean?" With no real dedicated interest but trying onboard enough of it that might be useful.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Going into the rest of the summer, I think let's just, I want to roll our final ability scores. If there's any other proficiencies you guys want in childhood, but of course you can save them for adulthood as well. And that makes sense.

Lou Wilson:
We have three more?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
I think you have three more. You should have checked off three.

Lou Wilson:
Yeah.

Erika Ishii:
Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar:
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Amazing.

Aabria Iyengar:
I'm just staring down wisdom. Oh, I got to roll you. But I'm afraid.

Lou Wilson:
Yeah, I feel the same way.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
What's your wisdom going to be right now?

Aabria Iyengar:

At the very worst it's going to be an 11.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Okay. Okay.

Aabria Iyengar:

I feel the same about Con. I'm looking at Con right now and being like, what was I thinking?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Incredible.

Erika Ishii:

My strength is a six.

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh no!

Lou Wilson:

[inaudible 00:30:41]

Erika Ishii:

Well, it'll be total eight perhaps.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Perhaps.

Aabria Iyengar:

It could be incredible.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Let's go ahead and roll another set of abilities scores and we'll decide what it means in a second.

Aabria Iyengar:

Yeah. All right. You want to go?

I'll go.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Yeah, go for it.

Aabria Iyengar:

Okay. I'm going to roll my wisdom. A six! Yay! We're going to be okay.

Lou Wilson:

We're going to be okay.

Erika Ishii:

Man we are wise.

Aabria Iyengar:

We are wise little babies. Oh, thank god.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Oh my God. So wait, and you only had one more die or do you have, oh that was it. That was it. So what does your wisdom become now?

Aabria Iyengar:

It's going to be a 16.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Oh my god.

Aabria Iyengar:

We're going to be, okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Here's the bizarre thing because I was preparing for a story beat where you wanted to study witchcraft and kind of like couldn't do it. That's not really true necessarily because wisdom is the ability score for witchcraft. So I think that conversation with Grandma Wren, I don't know, it seems like you...

Aabria Iyengar:

Suck it, I'm a witch now.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

I'm a witch now.

Aabria Iyengar:

This is called the witch and the witch and the wild west.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Incredible.

Erika Ishii:

Surprise Wren!

Lou Wilson:

Time for a [inaudible 00:31:56] change.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Surprise!

Aabria Iyengar:

I like the idea that there's like, even if she would start to mimic Ame and follow around grandmother Wren, she, her heart's really not in it. And I think there's got to be something about intention in magic and that she's still holding on to, my parents will come back and they're wizards, so I'm a wizard. And it wasn't until that conversation that she really internalized that wizards and witches are different things. So she's still living on the side of a binary that she doesn't want to quite commit to until she has to.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Lou Wilson:

I'm going to roll int.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Go for it.

Lou Wilson:

It feels like-

Aabria Iyengar:

Let's go.

Lou Wilson:

Feels like everyone's trying to be bookish. So I feel like we go through a few weeks of everyone reading books and Eursulon is right there with you. we got tutor all. We're going to do them at the same time because I'm just, that's a six.

Aabria Iyengar:

Lets go!

Erika Ishii:

Yay. You learned to read!

Lou Wilson:

A 12. I can read! I was fully ready to be a seven.

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh my god!

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

I think that means this is all checking out to me. I think growing up in a witch's cottage, there's just, you spend your childhood and adolescence in a witch's cottage, surrounded by books and brilliant spell casters. I think there's just a level of osmosis that you've got going on.

Aabria Iyengar:

You just osmosed literacy and that's important.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

That's how it goes down the first time at least.

Erika Ishii:

So right now I have a potential full intelligence of 10, so I... Let's roll dice. Yeah! Six!

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Is that sixes across the board?

Aabria Iyengar:

Let's go!

Erika Ishii:

So 14, which 14 is like respectable.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

14!

Aabria Iyengar:

That's awesome!

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

I true... Incredible. Okay, so 14, going ahead you have a 14 intelligence. So across the board for kind of all of you. I think that there is truly, this summer... Coming from that conversation with Grandma Wren, I think that doors are opened and a different version of your future where Ame is just learning witchcraft, solo, doing chores in a cottage or Suvi is just in a library in the citadel. I think each of you begins to see how complimented the other side of this is by what remains available to you. That it's that there's a certain degree of... Where do you think in that summer, especially after the solstice, as the days start to get really hot and the trees are at their full green, the full bloom of green and the forest trees where you realize what that other ability score begins to do for you.

Lou Wilson:

I'm sorry, what?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Where I'm sort of saying each of you has just rolled. I think it's just like each of you has just rolled a six in an ability score that you didn't need. It's a weird chapter of your summer where you suddenly become well rounded.

Lou Wilson:

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Everyone rolled a six. Everyone rolled a six in a thing they don't need to be powerful, but yeah.

Erika Ishii:

For me it definitely is. I have zero interest in books like zero. Magic is learned by going and talking to things and learning about their nature. You don't read about a person to know them, you talk to them and then you spend time with them. It's important to Suvi and I want to learn things that maybe the things in my immediate surroundings can't tell me about because hey, Ame's made sort of a by rote memory of a lot of these names and a lot of them are very wrong in her memory, but she needs to figure out things like what's a citadel and what's a provolone of the eight?

Aabria Iyengar:

That's a cheese as cheese. That's a cheese. Come on provolone. That's a cheese.

Erika Ishii:

So she is learning books both to help well round out education that that's important. And because also if Suvi does stay, she wants, well she wants to have something in common. I want to have something in common with her and she's spending more time with books. So maybe if I learn more about books, I can spend more time with her too.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

That's so sweet. I think Ame becomes your library companion. And I think in as you are memorizing books, it's just as easy to memorize a book by describing what you just read to a friend who's interested.

Erika Ishii:

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

So you find a buddy to absorb your library studies. Oh, and I think Suvi as well. So Ame gets that sort of six in intelligence. You get your six in wisdom and-

Aabria Iyengar:

Just following her around kind of trying to learn a bit of the witch training she's putting herself through.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

I think that there's a moment. And then for Eursulon as well, getting this six in intelligence.

Aabria Iyengar:
Let's go buddy.

Lou Wilson:

I think it seems like we're having a book phase this summer where instead of playing, we just read. And so I guess Eursulon, I mean, hey, I'm not, it's only going to be a 12. So I think it's just more, I enjoy reading now. I find the kinds of books that I like and the way I like to pull data from stories.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

I think that you probably find... Once you realize that once all these symbols get cracked for you, I think that there are a lot of things. There's the books that Suvi enjoys. There's the books that Ame enjoys of dense, arcane stuff and histories. And then over here there's like botanist books and stuff like that. But grandmother Wren also has a lot of stories and genealogies and things of, there's the stuff about Sir Kirin and the Battle of Starling Ford. And I think probably you also find books about spirits and there's an interesting thing to see what people know. And you also, I think find a lot of stuff about knights and about the old world and about all of these elements of how big the world gets.

I think that there is a moment where it all sort of clicks for you in terms of what you all learn from each other. And this is just a small moment that summer as it gets into the hottest part of the summer. You're all in the hot musty attic together. Because in a story Eursulon finds about a knight who was slain in a great battle as a terrible ogre, which is something like of the spirit world of a time when spirits walked this earth more. And also there is a word the name of your world, which I will say for the first time now. Because there's actually two words for it just in our world that there are many languages that refer to the earth in many different names. There is the word for your world in imperial is Umora, U-M-O-R-A. But the word for that that you had heard your entire life growing up because you don't really think of the world as a globe like the empire thinks of it. You thought of it as a realm, as another plane, another place, a strange way to only move sideways through hedges and mirrors, which is Kadani, K-A-D-A-N-I. And some of these old stories, it seemed like you can't help but notice that it must have been way easier to get here from fairy, from the world of spirits than it used to be. Because there's a story about a 12-foot tall ogre with antlers who had a morning star, a massive spiked ball at the end of a wooden haft that caved in the helm of this knight. And in describing the armor, you remember...

Erika Ishii:
Oh my goodness!

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

And there's a moment, I think in the attic with the three of you where you... in the same, you real, see how important it is to be able to listen and apply the knowledge you got. And I think Ame, you see that people will listen to you more when you know things that are important to them.

Aabria Iyengar:
Manipulation. Perfect.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

But there's this moment of like, oh, the things in books help people listen to you sometimes. And you being like, oh, you can know a lot of things in books and it's way more helpful if people listen to you.

Aabria Iyengar:
So real.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
And in speaking and saying some of the things from the story Eursulon found, the suit of armor stops kind of moaning and it leans in and actually pulls one of the rusty old swords out of the bathtub and nods and hands the sword to all of you.

Aabria Iyengar:
What?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
And just as a fun little moment, everyone describe one detail about the sword that the suit of armor pulls out of the bathtub. You can describe the blade. You can describe the pommel or the hilt or the cross guard.

Erika Ishii:
Oh, I can tell that. I guess I can tell that it looks, even though it's a little rusty, it's still good steel. I can see the wavy patterns on it and it looks strong and it's got good heft to it. So I know it's still good somewhere. It hasn't completely, it hasn't rusted through.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
I love it.

Aabria Iyengar:
Ooh, what's on the pommel? That be something good on the palmer?

Lou Wilson:
Got to be something good on the pommel.

Aabria Iyengar:
Something good. Oh, I think it's like a bald fist. But the longer you look at it, you realize like it's got too many fingers.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Love that. Love that.

Lou Wilson:
And I think that the, what do you call the part that guards the hand?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Oh, so it can either have a cross guard or a basket hilt or something. Whatever you think it should have.

Lou Wilson:

Oh, I think we'll take a cross guard and I will say, I think there are, there's a detailed kind of, it's like carvings not the right word because it's carvings the wood, but there's an etching in the metal along the cross guard resembling crashing waves.

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh.

Erika Ishii:

Oh.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

So you have this moment together in the hottest days of summer as this suit of armor hands you this thing. And you do see this element of what happens when you don't rely just on your strongest suit. It's a metaphor.

Aabria Iyengar:

Take it. Take it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Let's roll another ability score. I think you only have, there's only one or two left, right? Is it two left?

Aabria Iyengar:

Two left!

Lou Wilson:

Two left.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Two left, all right. Let's do it.

Aabria Iyengar:

Okay. It's the hottest part of the summer. I'm going to roll my Constitution.

Erika Ishii:

Yeah same.

Lou Wilson:

Let's all do it. Okay, this one's practice just to see. Oh, look at that. Four ones.

Aabria Iyengar:

You're right, I should.

Lou Wilson:

Four ones.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You rolled four ones?

Lou Wilson:

I was just, but that was practice. But I just rolled the dice to see what was going on. And I got four ones, which is, I'm glad they all got them out.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

I just want to see what the odds of that are?

Lou Wilson:

It's five die, four ones and one two.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

That's one in 1,296 to roll four ones.

Aabria Iyengar:

Amazing!

Lou Wilson:

Well, hey, what are the odds of rolling two sixes? God, please, please don't fuck me.

Aabria Iyengar:

One in 36.

Lou Wilson:

Please don't fuck me.

Erika Ishii:

Oh!

Lou Wilson:

Two sixes!

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You just rolled two sixes!

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh my god!

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
You just rolled two sixes!

Aabria Iyengar:
That's insane!

Erika Ishii:
A cold shot! A cold shot!

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
A literal cold shot. I, hold on, just let me take a, I mean, we're doing a fucking podcast people need to believe us. Insane.

Lou Wilson:
But in the picture, it'll look like 69.

Erika Ishii:
Nice!

Aabria Iyengar:
I didn't bring my phone into the studio, so I can't take a photo of it.

Lou Wilson:
Oh, thank God.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Okay.

Lou Wilson:
That was I, if that had, honestly, I had a one waiting in the wings for my con, so thank fucking god.

Aabria Iyengar:
Amazing.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Okay, what is so what's the con going to end up being?

Lou Wilson:
Con will be 16.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Hell yes!

Aabria Iyengar:

Yes. Let's go.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Hell yes.

Shoot. Damn, okay.

Aabria Iyengar:

Scared to follow that up.

Erika Ishii:

Yeah.

Lou Wilson:

Whoa. Oh god, what a relief.

Aabria Iyengar:

It's a three for you girl.

Lou Wilson:

It's a three for you girl.

Erika Ishii:

Is that total?

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh, it was already going to be a three.

Erika Ishii:

14.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

14.

Erika Ishii:

That's pretty good.

Lou Wilson:

I totally respect that.

Erika Ishii:

Okay. I've got 11 right now and a two waiting in the wings. So potentially 13, which is not shabby.

Lou Wilson:

Not shabby.

Erika Ishii:

I can only roll one die. So let's see how that goes. Oh a four. All right.

Aabria Iyengar:

Let's go!

Erika Ishii:

Doubled it up.

Lou Wilson:

Doubled it up.

Aabria Iyengar:

It'll be 15! That's beautiful.

Lou Wilson:

We're respectable. We are a hardy, there's nobody here who's deeply frail.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Love that. Love that.

The summer wind's on its way, the summer gets hot, the chores get harder. As the summer continues and it starts to get into the heavy, the humidity starts to pick up going towards the end of the summer. So the sort of lily and algae and little things like that and the stream really get really verdant. The insect and bird life in the forest really takes off. And I'll say also that this is a cicada summer. So there's a moment where there's just like, there's two wild weeks of just bugs everywhere and an explosion of bird life and insect life. And you see a ton of small predators take into the forest just gorging on cicadas. So it's like wild cats and foxes and things like that that just scarf up these bugs. And I think there's one-

Erika Ishii:

Bugs!

Aabria Iyengar:

No!

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

I think there's probably one night because you all rolled pretty well for that constitution. I think there's a couple nights of where everyone has to sleep above the sheets because it's so sweaty and hot. And there's a night, that full moon in on that hottest part of the week casts... It's a bright enough full moon that night to actually cast some shadows, like moon lit shadows in a full moon. And I think that there's a moment of getting up in the night to get a drink of water Suvi, where you look out on the road and see a figure standing in one of the shadows cast by a tree on the road.

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh no. Does it look like they're looking in our direction?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Give me a perception check.

Erika Ishii:
Sweet.

Aabria Iyengar:
Now my passive perception has gone up by five because of observant. But let's see what the dice do.
That's a three.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
So with a three in perception, you look and see that you were mistaken. You look deeper at the shadow and it's just a shadow. But it was a scary shape from one of the trees.

Erika Ishii:
Oh boy.

Aabria Iyengar:
I run back to the room and grab a tuft. A sound, I saw it was nothing. It's nothing.

Erika Ishii:
I look out the window is there, is there? What, what it?

Aabria Iyengar:
Nothing. It was a shadow. It's fine.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Each of you can give me a perception check if you'd like.

Lou Wilson:
13.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
13.

Aabria Iyengar:
16.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Question for Eursulon. Have you ever in living at the cottage for a couple months now, have you ever, do you think walked out on the road before? No?

Lou Wilson:

I don't think so. I know I think Eursulon aside, the only thing Eursulon has tried or wanted to do alone was play swords.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Yeah.

Lou Wilson:

I don't think everything else, Eursulon I think has not had a lot of solo time. So if Suvi can't go near the road, I don't think I've ever been like, "Come on to the road."

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

What's the closest you've ever gotten to the road Suvi?

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh man. I think during the week, the week where grandmother Wren was gone, she probably got within a foot of the road and was kind of just looking at it and investigating that like why is this a rule? And then of course things better of it and walks away.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar:

But close.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Close.

Lou Wilson:

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Close. Yeah. I think even standing a foot away from the road, there is something about the magic of it and the fact that when you're standing on grass, you're just standing on a patch of grass. But when you're standing on a road, you're kind of standing on something that goes. And so in a weird way, looking at it and feeling that connection like a river or a stream of blood to being like, I can be standing on this... When I'm standing on grass, someone else standing on grass somewhere else in the world, I suppose there's a connection, but it's not a strong one. But if I'm standing on a road, I'm standing on the same road for someone that might be standing in a different time of day. If a highway is long enough, I could be on it at noon and someone could be on it in the dead of night but if it's the same road, then we're standing in the same place in a strange way.

And the road kind of hums with a magic in that moment. And you're like a little oh, creepy.

Lou Wilson:

Creepy.

Aabria Iyengar:

Nope, nope, nope, nope, nope, nope.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

On a 16 Ame, you don't see anything that night. But I think there's some investigation the following day. And you see that there is a tree that does cast a shadow from where the moon was that night. And I think that what you would see is that the only, you can't put anything together, but you do see that there is that tree that cast that shadow, where Suvi thinks that she saw that figure. It's the last tree before a tree that has a signpost nailed into it. And that's doesn't necessarily mean much to you young kids, but it's the only thing you can kind of put together where it's like, oh, this is the last big tree before the tree with a sign in it.

Erika Ishii:

Well, what does the sign say?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

The sign says to Silbery, which is just pointing down the road to I think like a larger town.

Aabria Iyengar:

It's just a shadow. We can you let it go. It's okay.

[inaudible 00:52:36]

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

And I should say the sign, the sign just says Silbery. It just has the name of the town and points in a direction.

Now let's roll our last ability score.

Aabria Iyengar:

Yay.

Lou Wilson:

This is it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

This is it.

Lou Wilson:

All right.

Let's see?

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh god.

Lou Wilson:

This is all five. Just to see.

Erika Ishii:

Okay.

Aabria Iyengar:

I'm going to do what you do. You got to warm them up. What am I? The hubris?

Lou Wilson:

No, you don't want to. You don't want to. No, I don't want to blow it all.

Aabria Iyengar:

No, you-

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You don't want to dry pull? Dry Pull the string? Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar:

The hubris of rolling a die raw is crazy. Why would you do that?

Lou Wilson:

The hubris. The hubris.

Whoa.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

What was that?

Lou Wilson:

Oh!

Aabria Iyengar:

That's a lot of threes.

Erika Ishii:

That is a lot of threes.

Aabria Iyengar:

Eight die, six threes.

Lou Wilson:

Eight dice, six threes.

I, okay, so this is cha.

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh are you also charisma?

Lou Wilson:

I'm also charisma. Oh, I'm only rolling one dice. I'm only rolling one dice. I have a four.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Okay.

We're looking pretty good.

Lou Wilson:

Minimum 17.

Aabria Iyengar:

Wow.

Lou Wilson:

So the question is, can we do better?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Yeah. Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar:

Come on get a six.

Lou Wilson:

If we got a six, it'd be a full 19.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You already dropped two sixes into this, essentially. Yeah, right?

Lou Wilson:

I think easily. Yes.

Aabria Iyengar:

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Lou Wilson:

Come on.

That's a five.

Aabria Iyengar:

Yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Wow!

Aabria Iyengar:

Let's go!

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Wow, wow, wow!

Lou Wilson:

So I will have an 18 cha as a level one character.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

So by the end of that summer. And are you adding that in now or are you staying where you are for the moment?

Lou Wilson:

I think a lot of these are more, I think there's so much I so much is volcanic for Eursulon in these first couple of... These first three months are I think maybe half of some of these is coming in. Half that int, half that wis.

But I don't think he, there's any Suvi level of dedication to his craft. I mean, maybe he puts on a few inches, maybe he gets more comfortable in his glamour, but I don't think it's like we're an 18 at that age.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Awesome. What are, let's go for it.

Aabria Iyengar:

Yeah, all right. Charisma.

Here we go.

Erika Ishii:

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar:

Our fallback is a 12, so we'll be okay.

That's a five.

Lou Wilson:

That's a five.

Aabria Iyengar:

Here we go. I get the roll one more time. Okay. Six. Okay. It's a five. All right.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Hell yeah!

Aabria Iyengar:

We're at a 14 for charisma.

Lou Wilson:

Dog!

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

These are some stacked characters. Okay, well that's great.

Erika Ishii:

I think I've found my dump stat.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Oh my god.

Okay.

Erika Ishii:

Of wait, I always forget dump stat always feels like it should be the low one.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar:

It is.

Erika Ishii:

Okay good.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

For sure.

Erika Ishii:

Okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

So are you rolling for strength now or?

Erika Ishii:

I'm rolling for strength. I have a six currently.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
And it could bump to an eight.

Erika Ishii:
It could bump to an eight. Odds are not great that I'll get higher than that, but you know. Okay, let's take a look.

Aabria Iyengar:
Come on a six!

Erika Ishii:
One die.

Lou Wilson:
Big six!

Aabria Iyengar:
Come on a six.

Erika Ishii:
Six!

Aabria Iyengar:
Yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
This is fucked up, dude. This is fucked up. Where-

Erika Ishii:
We're a stacked party.

Aabria Iyengar:
We are a stacked party.

Lou Wilson:
We're barely stacked.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Okay. So in adulthood you will move to have a 12, which makes sense. You're like a young farm girl. You're like out here working and lifting and stuff like that. You're just, just little.

Aabria Iyengar:

You're country strong baby.

Lou Wilson:
Country strong.

Erika Ishii:
Yeah.

Lou Wilson:
Big country.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Yeah.

Erika Ishii:
Don't mess with... With the-

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Okay, so wait, I want to go around and-

Lou Wilson:
This is crazy, my stats are, this is like wild.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Erika Ishii:
Don't mess with Toma.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Don't mess with Toma.

Aabria Iyengar:
No.

Lou Wilson:
I mean, my lowest debt is a 12.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
That's pretty wild.

Aabria Iyengar:
That's great.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

I mean, I will say this, D&D is balanced for a four-person adventuring party, and we are planning on playing a long campaign with these characters. Being stacked is a little bit necessary, like the action economy of three people fighting, it's good that you guys are stacked. The game is not meant to be kind to a three person adventuring party.

So, wow! Sick as hell.

Aabria Iyengar:

I can't believe you guys. Ugh, these are goods. Ugh, this is great.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Now I'm going to let you guys know-

Aabria Iyengar:

My lowest is strength.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

I'm going to let you guys know because now we're going to start to wrap up our children's adventure. You guys have your ability score, and if there's any last proficiencies or tools or languages or anything like that that you want to add in childhood or any class features you want to add in childhood, now is the time.

But I will let you know that at the very end of this, I'm going to add a curveball. One last surprise thing, which is we're going to tell our final chapter of this little children's adventure, and then depending on how the end of the children's adventure goes, I will allow you one time and one time only, because once we start playing the adult adventure, we're locked in. At the end of the children's adventure you can, if you feel it makes sense, you don't have to, but you may elect to switch two of your ability scores if it makes sense, which I think would be almost a big change in destiny or almost the beginning of your adolescence as you decide something about what's important to you, if you want. Of like your life's headed in this way and you make the active effort to be different than you were going to be. Something to think about as you move towards adulthood.