

Becca: Graham, you look so handsome.

Graham: Thank you.

Becca: You got a shave and haircut. My goodness.

Graham: My mom said the same thing.

Molly: [in a singing voice] Shave and a haircut. Shampoo.

Becca: You look great. I was going to say, you look nice, but then I was like, "Oh, we need to record this [crosstalk]."

Graham: Oh, we have evidence now.

Becca: Yeah, exactly.

Molly: It's on the record.

Graham: Yeah. Bring that to a court of law.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: Your Honor, I would like to state for the record that Graham looks nice.

Graham: The record clearly says my mom thinks I look handsome, Your Honor.

Molly: [laughs]

Becca: And we have some corroborating evidence from my mom friend, who's the quintessential mom friend of all wine mom friends out there.

Graham: It's true.

Becca: Graham, you don't understand when I was-- [crosstalk]

Graham: No, I saw the Target glasses.

Molly: [laughs]

Graham: [laughs]

Becca: Those are all gifts. I will say this. I have a friend's mom who got me a wine glass that says gGood day, and then bad day, and-

Molly: don't ask.

Becca: - don't ask.

Graham: [laughs] With different gradations.

Becca: Yeah, [00:01:00] exactly. Like, more wine as it goes and both Molly and Mike became totally obsessed with this wine glass. Whenever one of us would get it, we just go, "Don't ask."

[laughter]

Becca: But my dishwasher washed away the gradations. So now, it's just a regular wine glass.

Graham: Oh, I thought it was going to be just a wine glass that only said, "Just don't ask on it."

Becca: [laughs] I'm not usually a fan of those things but there is one coffee mug that Sarah Bell owns, my friend, Sarah Bell, that has coffee levels on it and it's like, "Don't talk to me," "Getting closer," and the third one is just, "I will poop."

[laughter]

Molly: That's so good.

Graham: Oh, I really like that.

Becca: I just like that it's predetermined. I will poop.

Graham: I will poop.

Becca: It almost sounds like a threat.

[Pod and Prejudice theme]

Becca: [00:02:00] This is Becca.

Molly: This is Molly.

Becca: We're here to talk about Jane Austen.

Molly: We are here specifically to answer your questions that we posted on to the world on the internet/

Graham: World wide web.

Molly: -the World Wide Web. We are here specifically to talk with Graham.

Graham: Did I ruin my intro? Did I come in too early?

Molly: No, no, no. No, it was a nice teaser.

Becca: For those of you who have been listening to us for a while, you might remember Graham, our audio engineer. Graham, say a good old big hi to the people.

Graham: Hello people.

Molly: So, we put out a call for questions to all of you. We got so many but we don't have enough time to answer all of them. So, we've selected approximately 30, maybe 29. I don't remember how many. We're going to talk about them and Graham is going to ask them to us, propose the questions, be our host, if you will. I think we should just dive in. What do you all think?

Becca: I think so. I just wanted to say a big [00:03:00] thank you to all of our listeners and our followers on Instagram who sent us questions. We loved all of your questions. We have only time for a few but I just wanted to say thank you anyway and you guys are great.

Molly: Yeah. It did make us very, very happy to see how many questions we got because I feel like there's always like, "Oh, I don't know. Will people ask us questions?" and then they're just spilling in, and it's so exciting to see that you are listening and want to know things. So, thanks for participating.

Becca: Absolutely.

Graham: Thank you, everyone. The first question I have is a fun one. It is try ranking all of the Austen men from *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility* in one list.

Becca: I feel like Wickham goes to the bottom.

Molly: I guess I agree. Wickham and then above Wickham is probably Willoughby.

Becca: Yes. Then above that I put Mr. Collins.

Molly: Sure. Actually, can we put Mr. [00:04:00] Collins below?

Graham: That's unfair.

Becca: I was going to suggest that actually.

Graham: That's unfair to my boy.

Molly: I think that's unfair to movie Collins, but I think that book Collins is a big asshole.

Graham: That's fair. Yeah, okay.

Becca: The other thing is that, yes, Willoughby is a villain and Collins is not. But Willoughby has a lot of intrigue, and he's hot, and he's one of Jane Austen's best fleshed-out villains.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: So, I think he gets a little edge over Collins because you just look at Collins and you're like, "Oh,

no."

Graham: He's just some guy.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Yeah. I also want to make a case for-- not that I like Willoughby, I don't. But imagine being in Willoughby's position for a minute. When you are in a situation and it gets out of your control and you're like, "Hmm, I wish I could reel this back in but it's too late." I feel like-- and I'm not-- This is devil's advocate.

Becca: Because [00:05:00] I was going to say, the thing he did that got things out of control was seducing and impregnating a 15-year-old girl.

Graham: [laughs]

Molly: Yes, yes. I think he's not a good guy.

Graham: Fellas, don't you hate it when?

[laughter]

Molly: But I'm saying that, I think that he is just aware enough of how shitty he is that he has remorse and that puts him above Collins who I don't think has remorse.

Graham: Yeah.

Becca: Or any awareness at all.

Molly: Or awareness in general. Yeah, okay. So, we've got Wickham and then Collins, and then Willoughby.

Becca: Here's a question. How far out are we ranking? Are we ranking just potential love interests, or we ranking guys like Daddy Bennet and Mr. Palmer?

Molly: I'm including Daddy Bennet and I would like to include Mr. Palmer, but I think that if we include Mr. Palmer, we have to include Mr. Jennings, and then we have to include all of the-- Mr. Forster--
[crosstalk]

Becca: Like Mr. Jennings.

Graham: [laughs]

Molly: Mr. [00:06:00] Sir John Middleton.

Becca: There you go.

Molly: [laughs] So, let's keep it to love interests and Daddy Bennet.

Becca: Okay, okay. Love interest and Daddy Bennet makes things simple, because I was going to be like, "Because if we're doing more, we'll have to add John Dashwood and he's at the very bottom."

Graham: Yeah.

Molly: Yeah, you're right.

Becca: Okay. So right now, we have Wickham, Collins. Willoughby. That leaves obviously our four boys, Bingley, Darcy, then Eddie, and Brandon-

Molly: Mm-hmm. And Daddy Bennet.

Becca: -and Daddy Bennet.

Molly: So, I think that I'm going to put Eddie at the bottom.

Becca: See, I'm going to put Daddy Bennet at the bottom of the five.

Molly: [laughs]

Graham: Yeah. That's the correct answer.

Molly: Fine.

Becca: Yeah, I was going to say, I think Graham's going to back me up here.

Graham: Yep. Sad that we don't get the love for Colonel Fitzwilliam that he deserves.

Molly: Oh, shoot. Please [crosstalk]

Graham: No, I'm kidding. [00:07:00] We don't need Colonel Fitzwilliam. He's just in my heart.

Molly: Fine. Okay, yes, fine. Daddy Bennet, I understand logically why that needs to happen where it's going to happen. So, Daddy Bennet and then Eddie.

Becca: I think that's fair.

Graham: Yeah.

Molly: And then, Bingley.

Becca: Yeah. And then, this gets hard because you have Brandon and Darcy at the top. To be clear, we love all of our four boys. In my list, Bingley would probably go closer to the top.

Graham: Higher up. Yep. Same.

Becca: Just love that little nugget.

Molly: Well, do you want to make a case for him?

Becca: I agree that Bingley's number three on this list because in my brain, we're also including whether or not they're kind of iconic, whether or not they're emblematic or crucial to the story. Bingley's fantastic, but he's of the four love interests we're discussing the least in the book.

Graham: Yeah.

Becca: So, I think that he is rightfully [00:08:00] below Brandon and Darcy. That being said, I think every woman should want a man who just earnestly loves and respects them as much as Bingley loves and respects Jane Bennet.

Molly: Absolutely.

Graham: Yep.

Becca: And it's all immediate and he's automatically nice to everyone in her life. It's wonderful.

Molly: In terms of who gets the top billing, Darcy or Brandon, if we're ranking as love interests, it's going to have to go Brandon and then Darcy at the top.

Graham: Yep.

Becca: I agree. I agree, with the caveat that Alan Rickman's Colonel Brandon is chef's kiss.

Graham: I'm excited to watch it.

Molly: Also, with the caveat that as a person, Brandon is a better person. But as a love interest, Darcy's a more intriguing love interest.

Becca: I would agree with that. Okay, that's our first question.

Graham: Okay. Second question, kind of tying a little bit with what we talked about with Willoughby. How does Austen [00:09:00] write female villains compared to male villains in your opinion?

Molly: I think that's something that we talk about a lot on the show is this concept of girl mean, and I feel she makes her female villains much more savvy and kind of petty, and her male villains are just bad people.

Becca: I think that's right. I'm going to add a caveat here that Molly's only read two books, and I am only going to answer for those two books.

Molly: Mm-mm.

Becca: Because there are later books with later villains that we have not gotten to that add a little bit more color. But if we're just talking about *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*, I think there's a couple trending things. One being that Jane Austen writes a lot more female villains who are of higher class. The men of high class are all gentlemen in these books.

Molly: Yes, yes. But it's interesting, if we include class in [00:10:00] the classification, a lot of her female villains that are high class are just mean, whereas the female villains of lower class are conniving, Lucy Steele.

Graham: Yep.

Molly: The male villains are all actually-- aside from John Dashwood, who I wouldn't really classify as a villain so much as just an idiot.

Becca: A weenie.

Graham: [laughs]

Molly: A weenie. The male villains, Wickham and Willoughby, have both fallen from high class and are struggling financially, and that's something to take into account as well, is that her class commentary, I think is more of a thing than her gender commentary in this case.

Becca: I agree. I do think there's something to what's threatening about both Wickham and Willoughby are their--

Molly: Pedophilia?

Becca: Yes. But I was going to say deceptive seduction. They're both taking advantage of young, impressionable women. [00:11:00] But Lucy Steele's also doing that with young impressionable men. So, I think it's interesting that Lucy in this world acts more like the male villains than the female villains like Catherine de Bourgh, or Fanny Dashwood, or Caroline Bingley. But it's also interesting because I think we can all agree Lucy Steele is the smartest and coolest of the villains.

Molly: Oh, yeah.

Becca: So, I think that for the most part in Jane Austen, the women tend to be slightly more fleshed out. I think Willoughby is actually a pretty good example of how the male villains can also be fleshed out. But I think she gave her top villain spot to a lady and I am on board with that. [laughs]

Molly: Oh, yeah.

Graham: Okay, great. What are some unexpected things that came out of starting Pod and Prejudice?

Becca: Oh, that's a good question. I think I'm thrilled and floored by how many people love our podcast. It's really [00:12:00] nice.

Molly: Yeah, I think for me, it's a similar answer in that I definitely wanted people to love our podcast

but when we started it, we were like, "It's okay if nobody listens. We want to make good content," but it's definitely going to be a small niche, because it's Austen and blah, blah, blah. But at that time, I didn't really understand how large the Austen fandom was, and how they are interested in a lot of the same things that we're interested in. There's a huge fantasy crossover and all of this stuff. So, the number of people listening to the podcast has been a lovely surprise. During the pandemic, there was a time when a lot of people were crafting and sending us stuff and that was really sweet.

Becca: Really fun fact, you guys. During that time, someone sent us some lovely painted prints of two love interests.

Graham: Oh, yeah.

Becca: At the time, one of them was Darcy and one of them was Alan Rickman's Colonel Brandon. [00:13:00] And Molly was like, "I don't know who this other guy is. So, I'll take the Darcy one," and I was like, "Hahaha." I was like, "I'll take the Colonel Brandon one." But I was like, "I'll take the other guy," and now, Molly's furious that I got Colonel Brandon.

[laughter]

Graham: Do you think love and dating is easier or harder after reading Austen?

Becca: So, I have never dated before reading Jane Austen. So, I'm the wrong person to ask about this. We'll defer to Molly on this one.

Molly: I think because I'm not primarily dating men, my perception of love and dating is not super-duper affected, because I'm not comparing the people that I'm dating to Mr. Darcy or Colonel Brandon for example. But I don't know. I'll circle back to this question once I've gone on a few post-pandemic dates in the far future because we are living in a cyclic hell cycle.

Graham: All right, well, on that lovely note-

[laughter]

Graham: -which Austen [00:14:00] lady do you think that you're the most like?

Molly: Oh, oh, o-oh. Can we expand this question to include all of the characters?

Graham: Yeah, for sure.

Molly: Cool, because I think that I am, unfortunately, Mr. Darcy.

Becca: [laughs]

Graham: Oh, I'm sorry. Unfortunately, you're the most loved best romantic interest in the entire Austen canon? The most ubiquitous love interest?

Molly: He's a beloved romantic interest. However, he is a disaster when it comes to expressing himself.

Becca: [laughs]

Graham: That's fair.

Becca: True. If there's one thing that *Pride and Prejudice* teaches us, it's that women actually want just a rich human disaster.

Molly: Yeah. So, I would like a lot of money and I would like to be very hot. I have one of those things. It's not money.

Becca: You are very hot.

Molly: Thank you. I fished for that one. Also, I would say I'm half Darcy and half Marianne, because when I'm talking to people that I like, I'm a disaster in expressing myself. But when [00:15:00] I am feeling my feelings, I am completely Marianne, like wailing in the top of my lungs, misting out over the landscapes, looking at the houses and-- yeah.

Graham: At Darcy Sun, Marianne Moon.

Molly: Yes, yes.

Graham: Yeah.

Molly: Darcy Sun, Marianne Moon with Lizzie Rising or something.

Graham: [laughs]

Becca: I love that.

Graham: That's nice.

Becca: I'm really just like a pure Elinor Dashwood in most ways, which most people think means I'm complimenting myself as "perfect." No, I'm saying that I'm hyperpractical on a lot of things and repress my emotions deeply within myself and tell myself, "Nope, you're going to tough it out and move forward," which is an unhealthy trait of mine. That being said, I'm getting better in my older age. I hope Elinor does as well. Yeah, I'm just very much an Elinor. I am the sense-

Graham: I love that.

Becca: -to a lot of people's sensibility.

Graham: The sense to Molly's sensibility. It's why the show works.

Molly and Becca: Yeah.

Graham: Yeah. [00:16:00] Hey, Molly.

Molly: Yes.

Graham: What do you think the plot of *Emma* is going to be?

Molly: Hahaha.

Becca: I'm so excited for this one.

Molly: So, I want to just also draw attention to the fact that this person said because it has the vaguest title, but all the titles are pretty vague. I know *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*-- I guess, okay, and *Northanger Abbey* is about an abbey and *Mansfield Park* is about a park. But *Emma* is going to be about a girl named *Emma*.

Graham: Good start.

Molly: With the caveat that I know someone who was named after this book, and loves it, and said that it's because she loves to set people up, I think it's going to be about someone who's trying to set people up. She's trying to play matchmaker. That much I think I know. But in terms of the plot, let's see. She's an only child, and she's rich, probably, and [00:17:00] she's got a lot of friends. She's a popular lady, and she goes to a lot of parties. This is so far pretty standard. But her friends are all single. So, she's trying to set them up with people.

But guess what, she falls in love with one of the boys that she's trying to set up her best friend with, but her best friend has a crush on him. So, she's doing the whole setting them up thing and she meets with him to be like, "Date my friend." But then he's like, "Oh, but I like you." She's like, "Fuck, I like you too." Then, her friendship gets ruined momentarily, and they have to talk about their feelings together eventually. In the end, female friendship is the star of the show and they forgive each other, but also, she [00:18:00] probably gets the guy. That's my guess.

Graham: I like that. It's kind of a Regency Era *Hello, Dolly!*

Molly: I've actually never seen *Hello, Dolly!*

Becca: [crosstalk]

Graham: That's fine.

Becca: Hey, Graham, you're one of the first people to witness my spoiler face.

Graham: Oh, it's good. The thing is I didn't even realize you were doing spoiler face because it's just good. That's just your face, Becca.

Molly: Resting spoiler face.

Becca: I don't want to brag but I do have a BS in theater.

Molly: [laughs]

Graham: Yeah, we all do.

Molly: Yeah, we do.

Becca: Listeners, we all have a Bachelor's of Science in theater.

Graham: That's a real BS degree.

Becca: So, we literally have each a BS degree in theater.

Molly: It's funny because that stands for bullshit.

Becca: [giggles]

Graham: Molly, we can't swear. My mom listens.

Molly: [laughs]

Becca: We're going to get another one-star review about our cussing.

[laughter]

Becca: Okay, okay, Graham. I think we're ready for the next one.

Graham: All right, next one. What would you most like to see happen in the next Austen book we read? I think we got that. Molly just gave us the play by play of what she wants.

Becca: This is what she thought would happen. What do you want to happen, Molly?

Molly: I would really [00:19:00] love to see characters who are not a high class as the star of the show. Not in the endgame has to be that they marry into a high class and not in a villainy way. I understand that, we got Elinor and Edward ending up not in a higher class, and that was great for them. They ended up middle class and happy, but they both started high class and fell. So, I would like to see characters for whom marrying up is not the goal, and for whom that's not even part of the plot. Like for Edward and Elinor, it was scandalous that they weren't going to marry up. Well, I don't know, maybe I got that with Elinor. But I think that it would just be cool to not as much as I love saying the Economics of Dating and Jane Austen.

[Economics of Dating and Jane Austen stinger]

Becca: Graham. the sound effect.

Graham: Oh, man.

Molly: [laughs] I would love to see something where that's not [00:20:00] the entire plotline.

Becca: All right. I will neither confirm nor deny any of that.

Graham: I like another-- a new inciting incident that isn't-- Oh no, our money.

Molly: Yes, yes, you're right. That too.

Graham: Seems like it's everyone so far.

Molly: Yeah.

Graham: Who do you think would make the best femslash pairing, you two?

[sarcastic laugh]

Becca: I'm still a diehard for Marianne and Anne de Bourgh.

Graham: Oh, yeah. That is nice.

Molly: What?

Becca: Hear me out. Hate sex between Elinor and Lucy Steele.

Graham: Hear me out. It saves two birds with one stone. Charlotte and Anne de Bourgh, because I feel Charlotte deserves better.

Becca: And she'd be richer. Oh, okay. Okay. Fanfic.

Graham: Okay.

Becca: Fanfic. Where Charlotte marries Mr. Collins and then there's intrigue because he always takes her over to the de Bourghs at Rosings Park, and she and Anne started an illicit affair on [00:21:00] the side that Mr. Collins doesn't notice because he's too busy gardening.

Graham: Oh, I love that.

Becca: Oh, man.

Graham: The two of them are just like reading books a little bit disheveled and he comes in and he's like, "I've made boiled potatoes."

Becca: Excellent boiled potatoes.

Graham: [laughs] Oh, that's so good, Becca.

Becca: I'm losing my mind. I would read that book, right?

Molly: Yes. Yes, yes, yes. Yes. Yes.

Graham: It's really good.

Molly: That is the answer. That is the only answer.

Becca: Okay, okay. I'm very pleased with that.

Graham: Okay, next one. Did the Emma Thompson film make you ship Mr. Palmer and Elinor too or is it just me?

Molly: It's not just you. When I read this question, listener, I lost my mind. I was like, "Oh, my God. That's why I couldn't stop watching his scenes over and over again." It's because the way that Hugh Laurie looks at Emma Thompson in that movie is like, "Oh, my God, they're in love," and like, "Oh, my God and he's so hot." Yeah, no, it's not just you. I don't have anything else to [00:22:00] say on it except for that. Yes, I ship it.

Becca: It's a hot take but I will say, when I was younger, I did I have that thought once or twice when I was watching the film like, "Does he like Elinor too?" Because Hugh Laurie definitely seems to be playing a little bit of a crush on Elinor Dashwood. It's a very, very weird acting choice but I'm into it.

Molly: Yeah, I think it makes sense because in the book it's like Mr. Palmer's an asshole, Mr. Palmer's an asshole, and then all of a sudden, he's a nice guy, and you're like, "Oh." He's being nice talent or and we talked about it as him being a good guy who's annoyed by his wife like Mr. Bennet or whatever. But Hugh Laurie plays the utmost disdain for his wife and then softens every time he sees Elinor. So, it's beautiful.

Graham: Fellas.

Molly: [laughs]

Graham: Getting into just some fun Becca-Molly questions. How did you first meet? We all know it was in college, we all know that you went to college together, that we [00:23:00] all went to the same college. But what was the context? What's the story?

Becca: First of all, we did tell the story once before on the Bright Young Things Podcast. So, you should go check out our episode with them because they do a little interview and we do answer this question there. But the long and the short of it is that we were at a party my junior year and Molly's freshman year, and Molly had heard about me while I was abroad. I came back and she was like, "Oh, my God, you're Becca. I heard we're going to be friends." I was like, "Who is this? Am I famous?"

[laughter]

Becca: We did become friends there. I think initially we weren't super close but we were always super friendly. Then, Molly and I were in a bunch of plays together, and then we got super, super close. And then, Molly moved to New York, and we continued to hang out, and this podcast has sustained that friendship.

Molly: Yeah, that's basically the whole answer.

Graham: It leads right into the next question. Were you friends at first sight because it sounds like it?

Molly: I think that we were friends before back [00:24:00] I knew that I existed because I heard that we were going to be friends and I ran up to her and was like-

Graham: We're friends now.

Molly: "This is happening, whether you like it or not."

Graham: So, what was the original pitch to Molly or the podcast pre-Austen?

Molly: My memory of how this podcast came to be is initially we wanted to do a Harry Potter Podcast. We were talking about making a podcast together because we were talking about movies and books, and we were like, "Oh, we should make a podcast." We like the same podcasts and style of podcasts. We were talking about making a drunk Harry Potter Podcast and it was chaotic and all over the place, and we didn't really know what it was going to be about or what was going to make it different from the other drunk Harry Potter podcasts out there.

Then, somehow it came up in conversation, we were texting, and I was like, "Oh, I've actually never read any Austen," because you were talking about something Austen related. Then, you were like, "What, Molly? You have to read Jane Austen." I was like, "Becca, I think that's the podcast."

Becca: Yeah, I think that's mostly how I [00:25:00] remember it. I just remember that conversation happening in person but I might have been wrong about that.

Graham: Okay. Moving away from the podcast, to the movies. If you could play any character in one of the Austen movies, whomst?

Becca: Whomst?

Graham: And why?

Molly: Ooh.

Graham: See, Becca is also wearing her Whomst shirt.

Molly: I am wearing the Whomst sweatshirt.

Graham: Do you get a bunch of compliments on your Whomst shirt?

Becca: Yes.

Graham: I do too on the tank top. Every single person I'm around like strangers, my coworkers, all tell me, it's really nice.

Molly: Shouts to Jess, who designed our Whomst shirt.

Becca: Can go get yourself one. They're really fashionable and cool.

Graham: Everyone's going to tell you that it looks really great.

Becca: So, my answer to this is I would want to play Fanny Dashwood.

Molly: Oh, that is definitely your typecast.

Graham: [laughs]

Becca: Graham, you haven't watched the film yet, but there is a moment in the film where Fanny has a little bit of an anger outburst and tries to choke Lucy Steele to death.

Graham: [00:26:00] No!

Molly: Yeah, it's so good.

Graham: I love it!

Becca: [crosstalk] and I love playing a villain and I'm very good at playing a villain.

Graham: It's so much fun.

Becca: It's so fun and so, I would just adore being that kind of character and getting to just be wretched to everyone around me.

Graham: God, I love it.

Molly: In 20 years, I would like to play Mrs. Bennet.

Becca: Yes.

Graham: God, that is Molly.

Molly: [laughs]

Graham: You have done yourself.

Molly: Thank you. Hair toss.

Becca: Graham, which one would you want to play?

Graham: I'm thinking about it and you know how I-- I'm trying so hard with *Sense and Sensibility* but there's so many balls in the air and I barely know who the men are.

Molly: Yeah, fair.

Graham: So, it's between Wickham, Darcy, and Bingley. I don't think I'm hot enough to make Wickham work. I'm a handsome man, we've established this [00:27:00] on the record. You know what? No, actually, I want to be Wickham because I once had an acting teacher tell me that he doesn't know if he wants to give me a hug or run away from me screaming. I think that's what Wickham needs. You have to like him--

Becca: That's the exact energy of Wickham.

Graham: You have to be endeared to him. If you're not, then he doesn't work.

Molly: Yeah. I was going to say you should be Wickham too.

Graham: It would be so fun.

Molly: Yeah.

Graham: Be a little terrible shit man.

Molly: [laughs]

Graham: So, are we watching the miniseries?

Molly: We will be watching the miniseries. We will be doing a lot of adaptations. A lot of you asked about what the plan is moving forward and as it was with *Pride and Prejudice*, we're going to watch the miniseries. We're going to watch some adaptations. We know that *Pride and Prejudice* has been-- the adaptations are coming, and they are still. We just really wanted to get on to the next book but we will be watching the miniseries along with all of those other things.

Becca: Yeah. I want to be really clear about this because I talk a lot about how much I love the *Sense and Sensibility* movie. That being said, [00:28:00] I also really love the 2008 miniseries of *Sense and Sensibility*, and I would never skip it. I want to be clear, it's so good. It's going to be a great time. But we're starting with the movie because just in general, we go in chronological order. But we do really want to do as much movie content as we can and obviously, we haven't gone all the way back to the 1970s miniseries and stuff.

Graham: There's a 1970s miniseries?

Becca: There's a lot from the 70s and 80s. That was on the BBC-

Graham: That it's all-- [crosstalk]

Becca: -that we haven't revisited. I've heard some of them are good. I've heard some of them are not great. The *Sense and Sensibility* one, all I've seen is a picture. Let me find it and send it to the group.

Graham: I'm so excited.

Molly: Oh, that reminds me I also want to watch the 1940s *Pride and Prejudice*. It's my grandma's favorite adaptation.

Graham: There's a 1940s *Pride and Prejudice*?

Molly: Starring none other than Laurence Olivier. Am I lying about that? Is that a complete bold-faced lie?

Graham: I have [00:29:00] no idea. You know more about this than I do.

Molly: Listeners, you can tell me if I just lied to your faces, but I'm pretty sure Laurence Olivier is the name. I'll ask my grandma.

Becca: I've heard about that but that takes place in the US.

Molly: Yeah. I think we need to watch. [giggles]

Becca: It sounds like a lot. That screenshot from the--

Graham: Oh.

Molly: The hair.

Graham: I am not against this. I know. I love the hair. It somehow feels more appropriate to Austen even though it's very, very 70s.

Molly: Yeah, is bangs?

Graham: This looks like a band that would do the most banger Beatles covers.

Molly: Oh, yeah, oh, yeah.

Becca: They look a little bit like they would also grab a beer at the bar afterwards with their fans.

Molly: Oh, yeah.

Graham: You know what they look like? Girlfriend and I like your vibe from across the bar.

[laughter]

Becca: We'll have to post a story when this goes out.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: Anyway, yes.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: That's the answer to that question.

Graham: To the miniseries. Can you rate more characters as either compost or garbage?

Becca: This is [00:30:00] great. Let's only do a couple really because this could go on forever.

Graham: Lightning round.

Becca: Daddy Bennet.

Molly: Compost.

Graham: Compost.

Becca: Mrs. Bennet.

Graham: Neither.

Molly: Mrs. Bennet, she's compost. Yeah, she's compost, compost. She-- Mm, yeah.

Becca: Collins.

Molly: Garbage.

Becca: Garbage.

Graham: Gar-- I'm--

Becca: Oh.

Molly: Were you going to say compost?

Graham: He's just a guy.

Molly: He's just a guy. You know what? Yeah, it's hard because I feel like the only truly garbage people are like-- Well, let's keep going, let's keep going.

Graham: Keep going.

Molly: He could go either way.

Becca and Graham: Yeah.

Becca: Lady Middleton. Ooh, I stumped you.

Molly: Yeah, this is hard because she's not evil enough garbage.

Becca: I'm going to say garbage. Let's do one more. Oh, I'm going to make it a far reach back. We're going to do Mr. Hurst.

Molly: [giggles] Mr. Hurst. He's compost.

Becca: I'm going to say garbage.

Graham: [00:31:00] Oh, here's a fun one. You have to marry an Austen character and you cannot get divorced. Whomst is your person?

Molly: I'm going to marry Colonel Brandon.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Yeah. [laughs]

Becca: The utter devotion and kindness, I would marry Bingley.

Molly: Aww, yeah.

Becca: He's fun and delightful.

Graham: Yeah, you would.

Molly: That's your type.

Graham: The old golden retriever gamer boy.

[laughter]

Becca: Yeah, that's right. Listeners, tell me if I'm wrong here. But I saw a couple posts online about this and I related really hard. There's an unholy partnership between Book Girls and Gamer Guys. Let us know if that describes you and your SO, gender aside.

Graham: I love that. Would you rather live in *Pride and Prejudice* or *Sense and Sensibility* and what would your life look like there?

Becca: I think this is easy.

Molly: Yeah, I would rather live in *Sense and Sensibility*.

Graham: A seaside tale.

Becca: Okay.

Molly: Oh.

Becca: I was going to say *Pride and Prejudice*.

Molly: Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, okay.

Graham: Whoa.

Molly: I would [00:32:00] rather live in *Sense and Sensibility* because there if I was going to be one of the sisters, for example, I would rather be in a family where everyone loves each other, and is nice to each other, and cares so much about each other instead of such a high-stress, high-chaos environment.

Becca: I mean, yeah. I was going to choose *Pride and Prejudice* because *Sense and Sensibility* is just filled with tragedy after tragedy after tragedy, and no matter how much everyone loves each other, it's very intense. Whereas *Pride and Prejudice*, there are some stressful moments but it's mostly just everyone hanging out and being funny together.

Molly: Graham, what do you think?

Graham: I love the idea of being near the sea but that's the only thing tying me to *Sense and Sensibility*.

Becca: Seaside tale.

Graham: Because it's a seaside tale. You can't get away from this sea. But also, I think, probably *Pride and Prejudice*. Because if you [unintelligible 00:32:55] Bennets, then nothing bad happens to you. You're just chilling. It doesn't really matter so much that like, "Yeah, your family's got financial troubles. I'm going to go [00:33:00] read and play the pianoforte."

Molly: Mm-hmm. True.

Becca: But I do take Molly's point. If the question were which family would you rather be, I think it's probably better to be a Dashwood [crosstalk]

Graham: Oh, 100% Dashwood.

Becca: They're a little bit of a healthier family unit.

Graham: Oh, yeah.

Molly: Yeah, and I didn't even think about the tragedy after tragedy after tragedy, because I feel-- not to get too dark.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: But the last few years I've become accustomed to tragedy after tragedy.

Graham: Yeah, exactly.

Molly: So, I'm thinking that I would rather be surrounded by love and friendship than chaos in such a time.

Graham: Moving a little bit away from Austen into books in general. Outside of Austen, what's your favorite genre to read?

Becca: Oh, this is such a good question. I read a lot and I am pretty busy. So, reading comes not as often as I would like it to but I have a system for reading where I read print book versions of fiction novels and [00:34:00] then I do audiobooks for nonfiction. I love nonfiction books. I particularly really like nonfiction books that deal with history, or with sociological, or socioeconomic dynamics. I think those are really interesting. But if we're talking about more fun novel-y type things, I'm a really big fantasy nerd and I also really enjoy the Liane Moriarty's clever class struggles in modern day societies.

Molly: I am also a really big fantasy nerd. So, fantasy, high fantasy, YA fantasy, and particularly outside of fantasy, romance, queer romance leaning, but occasionally-- like right now I'm reading a straight romance book and that's fun too, but I prefer it to be gay.

Graham: [laughs]

Molly: Molly has a very, very specific niche of sweet [00:35:00] little fantasy queer books.

Molly: Yes.

Graham: I love a good mystery. I love Agatha Christie. Molly, the summer you asked me to work on this show, I was reading through just a bunch of Christie novels that I picked up for \$1 apiece.

Molly: Oh, wow.

Graham: Because they're just so well paced and I love when a book has a secret and it doesn't let you know it and it's like, "Well, I'm trying to figure it out as characters are."

Molly: Yeah.

Graham: Put that into any setting, I'll read it. I love it.

Molly: A book you might like is *An Absolutely Remarkable Thing* and *A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor* by Hank Green.

Graham: Ooh, the Greens.

Molly: Yes, the Green's and it's about aliens but it's also kind of a mystery, because it's all about a puzzle that the aliens have set for the humans. So, you're reading and you're trying to figure out what the puzzle is. So, I would recommend.

Graham: I'm going to plug myself real quick. I'm actually working on another podcast. I'm cheating on

you. [00:36:00]

[laughter]

Graham: My friend, Davis, and I are working on a podcast right now called Wreck Quest.

Becca: Oh, yeah. You told me.

Graham: Yeah. So, the idea is I've fallen out of love with reading a little bit because of academia. His job is now, he's going to give me as many requests as possible to try and suss out my favorite book, the best book I've ever read. So, his recommendation for me for the next episode we're going to record is called *Gideon the Ninth*, which is a queer sci-fi murder mystery.

Molly: That's my niche.

Graham: Yeah, exactly. Queer sci-fi murder mystery. So, check out *Gideon the Ninth*. Then also at some point, maybe check out Wreck Quest when that starts dropping whenever it does. Next question. All-time favorite book?

Molly: This is so hard. I only recently and by recently, I mean probably around November 2019, started reading for fun again outside of rereading *Harry Potter* [00:37:00] because academia, like you were saying. So, I used to say that my favorite book of all time was *The Phantom Tollbooth*. It still holds up. Obviously, we read it in college and I was like, "Wow, this is a beautiful book." But the book that I've read the most recently that I want to tattoo this on my body is *Under the Whispering Door* by TJ Klune. I think that might be one of my favorite books of all time.

Becca: I love that. So, I learned to read on the *Harry Potter* books. My dad read them to me when I was four. So, they have a special place in my heart, recent events aside. But my favorite book of all time is probably *Wuthering Heights*, which I said before in the podcast and we got some backlash. But to be clear, I love *Wuthering Heights*. It's not a romantic book. It's a horror, a cautionary tale, and a little bit of a philosophical exploration of how evil forms and [00:38:00] what evil means when true love and compassion are there alongside evil. I think it's one of the most interesting books of all time. I think it's wild that it was written by a woman who was not out on the town very much and died young. So, love *Wuthering Heights*. I have to cite that one as my fav.

Graham: What is your favorite non-Austen book that you've read this year?

Becca: This was a great question and it is a different answer for me. I had to narrow it down to two because I couldn't choose, but the first one is *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett.

Molly: Oh, yeah. That was good,

Becca: A really fantastic book. It's about two light-skinned black women who are identical twins and one really explores her identity through blackness and the other passes for white through life, and it's a really interesting commentary about American identity and race dynamics. It's a really wonderful book, highly recommend it. Then, the second and this is going to be a plot twist, [00:39:00] I just recently finished *The Lord of the Rings* series.

Molly: [gasps]

Graham: Nice.

Becca: And I was kind of lukewarm on the first two books. They were really dry, and really long, and didn't have much going on. But I loved *The Return of the King* and I loved the way *The Return of the King* ended. I was alone in my house just deep sobbing when it ended. So, it's going to get a cite as one of the best books I read this year.

Graham: Wow.

Molly: That is amazing. Good for Tolkien. Good for him.

Graham: [laughs]

Molly: So, I just named one of the books that I read this year as my favorite all-time book. So, I think that's probably going to have to stick. I read *Under the Whispering Door* by TJ Klune. Additionally, *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune. TJ Klune has fast become one of my favorite authors with those two books. So, right now I'm reading another one of his books. It's a little bit weird and I'm [00:40:00] not sure if I like it as much. But those two books are definitely two of my favorites that I read in 2021. So, I'm excited to see what I find in 2022.

Graham: Yeah. More favorites. What are y'all's favorite places in the world?

Molly: Oh, I love this question. I have done a lot of traveling in my life. My family always used to go on fun trips for holidays, and I also studied abroad. I studied abroad in Russia. I think that one of my favorite places in the world is Moscow. Graham also studied abroad in Russia.

Graham: I did. It was beautiful.

Molly: But I don't know. I think honestly though, I might have to go with something a little bit not somewhere that I actually have lived, or worked, or anything, but it's one of the trips that I went on when I was younger with my family was Portugal, and I [00:41:00] just fell in love with this place, and it's so old and there's castles and stuff, and we found these ruins and there was a chocolate festival going on when we were there. So, that helped a lot. But Portugal was really cool. Ah, I don't know. This is hard.

Graham: [laughs] Becca, help her out.

Becca: Yeah. I have a lot of emotional connections to a lot of places. I've been in the world. But for me, my favorite place is always on a beach. I like being on a beach when it's deserted at night and the waves are at their wildest and you're sitting and watching the water. That is my favorite place. I particularly love this on Long Island because that's where I grew up going to the beach, but any beach where I can sit and enjoy the water late at night is my favorite place.

Molly: That is very beautiful.

Graham: Lovely. What is the best kind of jam [00:42:00] for a PB&J? Because there's a right answer.

Becca: I want to see if I have the right answer for Graham's request. The answer for me is blackberry jam.

Graham: Oh.

Molly: Actually, that sounds really good.

Graham: That's not the right answer. That's the best answer.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: Yeah.

Graham: That's the secret ending.

Molly: That was a surprise twist. I was going to say that the right answer is probably a strawberry preserve.

Graham: Yeah, obviously, it's strawberry, but hang on a minute.

Molly: But hang on a minute though, mostly recently I've been buying darker jams. I'm not a big strawberry jam person. So, I would never purchase that for myself to put on my PB&J, and I'll put up whatever's in my fridge. I got a jam called Blue-barb, which was rhubarb and blueberry. That is a very good jam. I think it is still in Becca's fridge. But it is a banger and I would put that on my PB&J, but actually blackberry is the right [00:43:00] answer.

Graham: Yeah. I am a jam boy. I grew up with a bunch of little berry bushes in my backyard. My mom made jams every single summer. So, I'm very, very picky about jams. I never once for a moment thought blackberry jam on a PB&J would be something. How did you come up with this? When?

Becca: Well, I'm not a super jam person. I didn't really grow up on PB&J. I grew up on peanut butter and banana sandwiches growing up, which are delicious. But I learned that PB&J is actually really delicious. Because I'm not a super jam person, I'm very fussy about which kind of jams I like, and I really like blackberry jams. So, I put it on most things. So, for example, last night, I had a couple cheeses and crackers on a plate for an appetizer, and I decided which accompaniment I'm going to put with it and it was just a little bowl of blackberry jam. So, I had cheese, little blackberry jam, some cracker, and it's just a really [00:44:00] good mix of sweet and sour.

Graham: Yeah, a little tart.

Becca: It's got the right amount of tart to counteract how sticky sweet peanut butter is.

Graham: Well, I know what I'm doing later today.

Molly: Yeah. I was just thinking. I don't have any jam in my apartment but I need to get some because

now I'm, one, hungry and, two, want to a PB&J.

Graham: [laughs] Yeah, right? I'm jonesing for one. What is everyone's favorite meme to quote?

Becca: Good soup, good soup. Molly and I, when we were living together, which was for just a few months until Molly found herself her own space in New York City, I showed her the good soup meme, the Adam Driver good soup meme, and it got really big, and then it just became a thing we would say to each other all the time in the apartment, and we just go "Good soup." Now, we'll say, "Okay, good. Good soup, good soup."

Molly: Yeah. [laughs]

Graham: Hey, why can't we all live in a Regency Era mansion forever is the next question.

Molly: Yeah, I wonder that too.

Becca: It's a really good question.

Molly: [laughs]

Becca: We should. [00:45:00] I mean there's the whole work, life, family obligations thing but theoretically, what would be ideal is for the three of us to go purchase a small castle in the middle of the UK or mansion, I guess, yeah. Regency Era mans. Molly and I can get those little duck bonnets that they wear and empire waist dresses. Graham, you can get those tweed pants that really accentuate the calves. You can bring your cat. I'll bring my boyfriend. Molly can bring her dog, and her mother and we can all--

Molly: [laughs]

Becca: The same for Molly wanting to bring her dog but saying, "No, my mom will kill me."

Graham: Bring them on.

Molly: Yeah. So, I get my mom and they get their pets and significant others.

Graham: We get our pets.

Becca: As if your mother's not as good as my boyfriend and Graham's cat.

Molly: My mom will be thrilled to come along.

Becca: Amazing. And will make tea buns, [00:46:00] bath buns will make like tea--

Graham: Yeah, I'll bring my spinning wheel.

Molly: Because we're actually in the modern era, we can also each have an office where we can do our work from home.

Graham: I like that.

Becca: Oh, don't say that. I'll work forever.

[laughter]

Becca: So, yes. The answer is this sounds amazing and yeah, we're going to go do that right now.

Graham: Yep.

Molly: Just become a patron so that we can afford it.

Graham: [laughs] Our new patron goals.

Molly: [laughs]

Graham: Oh, almost done. Is there any chance that we can release weekly episodes?

Molly: Sadly, not quite yet. That is a far-off goal that we have. However, with all of us at full-time jobs, it's a bit much.

Becca: We wanted to address this because we have gotten this question a few times and we would love to, but it's physically impossible right now.

Graham: It's nice that everyone wants us to do it.

Molly: Yeah.

Graham: But it's just not feasible.

Molly: Yeah, it makes us feel good but right now, it's like working two full-time [00:47:00] jobs.

Graham: [laughs]

Molly: Daytime is for work and nighttime is for podcast work.

Graham: Mm-hmm. What's going to happen after we've read all the Austens?

Becca: Quite honestly, we don't know. Here's the thing. We just finished *Sense and Sensibility*, our second Jane Austen book, and there is still movie content to do. Then, we wanted to do some extra *Pride and Prejudice* adaptation content. There are so many other books, and we've been doing this podcast for well over two years now. So, the answer is that by the time we get through all the Jane Austen books, it's going to be years later.

Graham: It might be the end of the podcast but that also might be in six years. So, we'll see.

Molly: Yeah. There's definitely a future for us and it is far enough off that when we get there, we'll know what's next.

Becca: Absolutely.

Graham: Is Becca reading books she hasn't read before we go through them or are we going in together?

Becca: Again, a very good question. We still have a few books I have read before [00:48:00] and the good news is that's going to be another few years. So, basically, what you're seeing here on the part of this podcast team is a little bit of procrastination-

[laughter]

Becca: -where we are doing the easiest part first, which is following through all the books that work with our current structure. Once we get through that, then we'll have a conversation and discuss what we want to do for the books I haven't read that are way fewer than them than there are books I have read. So, just count on us finishing up those first.

Molly: Yeah, and we love hearing from you. So, if you want to tell us what would be interesting to you as listeners, we'd love to hear that and take it into consideration when we're planning out those episodes.

Graham: All right and finally, a question asked by several people. What's the next book, what's Season 3?

Becca: We've gotten this question a couple times and we're actually not really hiding it. It's been on our Instagram. It's [00:49:00] actually on our highlight reel right now. But Molly, what's our next book?

Molly: *Emma*.

Becca: *Emma*.

[trumpet sounds]

Graham: Yeah. So, when we finish up *Sense and Sensibility*, we're going to do a little bit more adaptation work after it for a little bit. But when we plug back into doing a book, that book will be *Emma*.

Graham: I'm so excited. I'm so excited for *Emma*. I voted for *Emma* instead of *Sense and Sensibility* in the polls for the second one.

Molly: I'm excited. I'm excited to watch *Clueless* also because I have seen *Clueless*, but it was long enough ago that truly I don't remember what it's about except for that there's a yellow-

Graham: It's plaid.

Molly: -mini skirt suit set thing-

Graham: Yellow plaid.

Molly: -in it and-- [crosstalk]

Becca: Weirdly enough that actually [crosstalk] an original Austen book.

Graham: Yeah.

Molly: Oh.

Graham: She has a fun plaid miniskirt.

Molly: Nice.

Graham: Yeah. I didn't realize that was an *Emma* adaptation.

Becca: It is.

Graham: God, I fucking love *Clueless*.

Becca: Oh, good. This is the first time Graham's going to have a vague idea of the plot going into editing.

[laughter] [00:50:00]

Graham: I won't get lost. Make sure you refer to people as Paul Rudd and I'll know who's who.

Molly: Wait, Paul Rudd is in *Clueless*?

Graham: Paul-- what do you mean?

Becca: [laughs]

Graham: Oh, my God.

Molly: Listen, like I said, it's been--

Becca: Don't just say anything about it.

Molly: I know.

Becca: Don't say anything about it, Graham.

Molly: I know Brittany Snow is in *Clueless*, rest in peace, and that's all.

Becca: Okay.

Graham: I'm more upset that you didn't know that Paul Rudd was in *Clueless*.

Molly: How old was he? I feel like--

Graham: He was a young, handsome Paul Rudd.

Molly: Wow. I love Paul Rudd.

Graham: Yeah, we all do.

Molly: He's exciting.

Graham: He's the sexiest man alive.

Molly: I'm not going to fight you on that but--

Graham: He was voted.

Becca: I think he was literally given the title exactly-- [crosstalk]

Molly: Wait, he literally was?

Graham: He was knighted as the sexiest man alive.

Molly: Listen, I agree. I just didn't realize so did the People magazine.

Graham: Oh, the people of the world agree.

Molly: Wow. Good for you, Paul Rudd. All right, anyway, I'm so sorry.

Becca: Yeah, he really needs our validation.

[laughter]

Molly: Paul Rudd, if you want to come on the show?

Graham: Paul Rudd, if you want to hold my hand?

Becca: Paul Rudd, if you want to hold me gently?

Graham: [laughs] [00:51:00]

Becca: All right, on that note--

Molly: Well, thanks, Graham, for coming on and asking us these questions. This has been so fun.

Graham: Yeah.

Molly: And I can't wait to have you back on the show for more things, because-

Graham: Molly, I'm always on the show.

Molly: I love talking to you.

Graham: I just don't talk.

Molly: You're always on the show but I can't wait to hear your voice on the show more because I feel like we need to have that. That needs to happen more soon.

Graham: I would love it.

Becca: Absolutely. Thank you so much, Graham. Thanks so much, everyone, for your questions. And until next time, stay proper--

Molly: And Graham, you want to take it away?

Graham: Yeah. I find yourself a Paul Rudd.

Molly: That's exactly what I was going to say.

Graham: Oh, good.

Molly: [laughs]

Becca: Good soup.

Molly: Good soup.

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