

[Catacombs Intro music plays.]

**Sage G.C.:** Thank you and welcome to the Catacombs.

[Music fades out.]

## Introduction

[Route music.]

**Sage:** Hello everyone! Sage G.C. here. Director of *20 Sided Stories* with a very fun, very special Catacombs update.

This is the Pokémon test session/session zero, where Travis who played Xander, Jessica who played Candace, and Greg who played Skip, and myself, we gathered around a table and we spent what is about two hours talking about the characters that they're making and they've been thinking about. And we spend a lot of time picking their starters and talking about their backstory, their relationships, and their wants, their fears, all that good stuff, and we end it with a fun little improv scene. Test scene sort of. The kids in detention and kind of how they met.

There's definitely gonna be some continuity things that are off. Particularly with names and certain things that we set up, but once we actually got into recording, which was a month later after this, some of those things changed or some of those things were never brought up again.

Fun fact: Recorded May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. So pretty ancient at the time that I'm posting this. We're getting on two years here.

And yeah. Once we dived into the actual recording of the campaign, there's definitely some stuff that, you know, we dropped or, more interestingly, stuff that, in this recording, I think had a huge butterfly effect on entire episodes of the season.

So really cool. I'll let you dive in. Thank you so much for your support and enjoy.

## Pokémon Session Zero

**Sage:** So! We begin.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Sage:** So it's very much freeform. I have a list of things here that I'm gonna ask you guys. We're gonna go through but it's, like, not necessarily in a particular order. We can use as much time as you guys want to, like, talk about your relationships and the characters background and picking the class, picking the Pokémon you start with.

Etcetera, etcetera. Um, filling ourselves in on any background lore as in “lore” in quotes of the Pok...[**Professor Oak** accent] Wonderful world of Pokémon!

**Greg:** Pokéworld.

**Sage:** Pokéworld.

**Greg:** What is the wonderful world?

**Sage:** Um, yeah. So, uh, let's all connect eyes [stifles laughter]. There we go! We all have laptops. Okay, so let's settle on your age and, like, wh- like, your parental situation. How long you've lived in Pallet Town. You have all started in Pallet Town, and I'm sayin' between the ages of ten and fifteen.

**Greg:** Okay.

**Sage:** Um, I think older the more believable it'll be, but at the same time, if you think you can confidently play a ten-year-old, fuckin' all for it. So...that's- that's where I'm goin'.

**Greg:** I mean, I feel real good about my ten-year-old. 'Cause I- I'm pretty sure I played the youngest one last time, but I'm gonna see what age you guys wanna be at. 'Cause I could also be fifteen.

[Beat.]

I mean, I sound like a fifteen.

**Jessica:** I'm- I'm not, um, tied down to any age at the moment.

**Greg:** What're...what're you two thinkin' about character-wise?

[Beat.]

**Travis:** Uh, very little.

[**Sage** and **Greg** chuckle.]

**Sage:** Okay. That's what this is for [chuckles].

**Jessica:** Maybe I'm thirteen?

**Greg:** Okay.

**Jessica:** I wanna be—

**Greg:** We've got some babysitting.

**Jessica:** I think- I think, yeah, I think I'm, like, at the age- I'm like preteen, um, becoming, uh, going through my mind of being a woman. Turning into a woman, going through all that jazz.

**Sage:** And you can do plot stuff.

**Jessica:** Yeah. You know, I'm a- I'm a young girl that trains Pokémon.

**Greg:** What is that? Eighth grade? Freshman year?

**Jessica:** Uh, Eighth grade. So I'm transitioning into high school. Though I don't really think that- do we- what's going on?

**Greg:** There's Poké High.

**Jessica:** Poké High?

**Sage:** Yeah, the school life thing is on our list. Um, it works- it's- it's very unclear how it works in the games. Though, in the show- I'm actually tryin'a think. I mean Ash was *ten* and just fuckin' went on the road.

**Travis:** This isn't ten.

**Jessica:** Yeah, that was—

**Greg:** They let their kids go *outside*.

**Sage:** Ash was ten. Uh... 'Kay, well, like, in the games, uh, they- like, you'll stumble upon schools but, like, almost, like, *every* time I can recall, it was, like, geared towards Pokémon. So like...

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Jessica:** The schools?

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Greg:** They were.

**Sage:** So still, like- like, you're in a classroom, but it was still, like, the board had, like, Pokémon types. [chuckles] It wasn't, like, you know, math [chuckles].

**Jessica:** Right.

**Sage:** So, uh... But, like, in the show there was a lot more, like, uh...[snaps fingers]  
There was a lot more, like, real life roles being filled. Such as, like, hospitals and...and etcetera.

**Greg:** Mm-hmm.

**Sage:** Um... So I'm sure there's regular schools. You guys go to those. Pallet Town prob'ly has a small school.

**Greg:** Like one o' those—

**Sage:** And you're prob'ly all in, like, middle school.

**Greg:** Red house-schools. One-room classroom.

**Jessica:** Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**Greg:** Hot, single lady teachin'.

**Sage:** Mm-hmm.

**Jessica:** Like in *Holes*?

[Beat.]

**Sage:** The movie *Holes*?

**Jessica:** Th-the movie *Holes*.

**Travis:** Starring Shia LaBeouf

**Greg:** Oh, I- I forget. I haven't seen it since it came out.

**Jessica:** Yeah. Like, when they'd go in the past, and they would learn about the teacher. A beautiful teacher who's—

**Sage:** Yeah, that was a lot about flashbacks in the movie.

**Jessica:** There was a *lot* of flashbacks in that story, yeah. I forget the— Sam! 'Member? I think his name was Sam. The guy—

**Greg:** It's...no. I just remember they eat sploosh.

**Jessica:** Oh I don't even...remember that. I remember the scorpions.

**Sage:** [slow] Moving on.

**[Travis and Sage chuckle.]**

**Greg:** No, no, no. It's like a jar.

**Travis:** Sploosh.

**Greg:** It has like *sploosh*.

**Travis:** Sploosh.

**Sage:** No, we should not move on from Sploosh.

**Greg:** Okay.

**Sage:** We should keep talking about sploosh.

**Greg:** [chuckles] Sorry.

**Jessica:** Anyway.

**Greg:** I- you know, maybe I'll play a [stifles laughter] ten-year-old.

**Sage:** You wanna be ten?

**Greg:** No, well- Travis, how old d'you wanna be?

**Travis:** I was thinking thirteen or fourteen, because then you actually have half a brain.

**Greg:** Mm-hmm.

**Sage:** Mm-hmm.

**Greg:** I mean, 'cause I'm gonna go- if you guys wanna go young, I'll go old and if you guys wanna go young- or old, I'll go young. Uh. I'm gonna keep the coin flip, you know?

**[Jessica stifles laughter.]**

**Sage:** I mean, the thing is, you don't ha- it doesn't *have* to have a huge contrast, because *I* like the idea of *you* guys being friends.

**Greg:** Just a couple o' thirteen-year-olds?

**Sage:** Like- like, you don't battle—

**Jessica:** Goonies.

**Sage:** —in a team, because, like, you were, like, picked. You know?

**Greg:** Mm-hmm.

**Sage:** Like, you guys *formed* a team.

**Jessica:** Mmm. Mm-hmm.

**Sage:** I think is a stronger choice.

**Travis:** I think of- you guys ever watch the show *Home Movies*?

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Sage:** I remember it.

**Travis:** I think it's a little bit like that—

**Greg:** Like that crew?

**Travis:** —where it's, like [chuckles] I mean, maybe not. Not that much. They're a little too sardonic for their own good. But, just that, like, you can have a conversation. You're a kid but you had- there was, like, this certain sense of, like, you know...not dumb. Not dumb.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

Things'd be weird if I just fuck with you guys.

**Sage:** Well, yeah. I mean, like, Ash was ten, technically. But Ash was, like, sixteen really.

**Jessica:** That—

**Travis:** Ash is not ten.

**Greg:** He's gonna say, "Can I ax you a question?" Biking, he's gonna say "Can I ax you a question?"

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah [chuckles].

**Sage:** So yeah, I- I don't think it's, like- I don't think we're, like, *missing* an opportunity if somebody's *not* ten and you guys are all, like—

**Greg:** No, no, no. I'm comin' around to the idea of us all being, like, around the same age.

**Jessica:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Greg:** Classmates.

**Jessica:** Seems like us being thirteen or fourteen is a solid choice.

**Sage:** So let's pick.

**Jessica:** We're in the eight grade?

**Travis:** Yeah, that seems fine.

**Greg:** Alright, that's cool. Those are...decent years.

**Travis:** There's a whole lot more, like, emotional shit you can do.

**Jessica:** Yeah. exactly, like, we're going through transitions.

**Greg:** Yeah, yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Jessica:** That was an emotional time.

**Greg:** Also, think of your ego in eighth grade, and then think of your ego in ninth grade.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Jessica:** Oof. Depleted.

**Greg:** You had a bigger ego in eighth grade.

**Travis:** Oh yeah.

**Sage:** Oh yeah.

**Greg:** 'Cause you were the king or the queen of the class.

**Jessica:** See, now I just always had a very low, uh, hide in a corner, no one talk to me ego, though.

**Travis:** I think- I think esteem? Self-esteem?

**Jessica:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah.

**[Greg chuckles.]**

Eighth grade and freshman year were—

**Travis:** I like the picture she painted.

**Jessica:** I know, thank you. I appreciate it. eighth grade and freshman year were pretty much the same for me.

**Travis:** I dug eighth grade. That's when my family started being, like, I was like got into music and was in a band and shit. It was a lot of fun. It wasn't necessarily like, uh...

**Greg:** Started to actually find a real personality and stop tryin'a pin one on yourself.

**Travis:** Exactly. Yes. You find what you're into.

**Greg:** Yeah. I'm into extreme sports. I like- I guess I'll eat Doritos. No. It's not me. It's not me.

**Jessica:** Those go together.

**Travis:** You find the nucleus of what you're gonna be around that age.

**Greg:** Mm-hmm.

**Sage:** Totally. That's exactly how I would put it.

**Travis:** And then, you know, and then you realize some years later that you were an idiot.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

And that's all you get.

**Greg:** Yup. You guys don't have that, like, every two years you look back every...

**Jessica:** Oh.

**Greg:** And you go, oh okay.

**Travis:** It's a weekly thing now.

**[Chuckling.]**

**Jessica:** Every time I go to the bathroom.

**Greg:** [amused] just don't use mirrors anymore.

**[Jessica stifles laughter.]**

**Travis:** [amused] Don't go to the bathroom.

**Jessica:** Every time I go to the bathroom you sit on the toilet and just...

**Greg:** Reflect.

**Jessica:** [amused] Reflect.

**Travis:** Oh, right.

**Jessica:** Those- that's the reflecting thrown.

**Travis:** Use Reflect.

**[Sage laughs.]**

Use Reflect! It's gonna be a while.

**Sage:** Damn.

**[Stifled laughter.]**

I like those jokes.

**Travis:** Yeah, right? This is gonna be- there's gonna be a lot of 'em.

**Sage:** Using Pokémon moves and realize- yeah, yeah. Absolutely.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** So let's pick. Greg.

**Travis:** Wait, Greg?

**Sage:** Or, team.

**Travis:** [amused] Jeez, Greg.

**Greg:** Oh! Uh, thirteen.

**Sage:** thirteen, alright.

**Travis:** Thirteen. I like thirteen. We're all thirteen and may sound fifteen.

**Jessica:** Hmm. Thirteen goin' on thirty.

**Greg:** You're fourteen in eighth grade, that's too old.

**Travis:** Yeah you- somethin' went wrong.

**Greg:** [amused] You somethin' went wrong. [chuckles]

**Travis:** Yeah. Somethin' went wrong. You somethin' dumb.

**Jessica:** You are somethin' wrong, wrong, wrong, wrong.

**Travis:** [amused] Wrong—

**Jessica:** [fast] Yup, yup, yup, yes!

**Travis:** [amused] Yup, yup, yup, yes!

**Sage:** So how old are you?

**Greg:** You're having a good time.

**Jessica:** I'm thirteen.

**Sage:** Okay, so you're- you're all thirteen?

**Travis:** You have to say it, you know it's true.

**Jessica:** Yeah, I think we're all thirteen.

**[Greg chuckles.]**

Travis isn't saying anything so...

**Travis:** I'm thirteen.

**Sage:** Someone wanna be twelve?

**Jessica:** Well do you wanna be fourteen? Do you wanna be the older one of our group?

**Travis:** Uh, maybe tonight, 'cause my voice is deeper.

**Jessica:** Travis is fourteen.

**Travis:** There we go.

**Greg:** Going on thirteen.

**Jessica:** I think I might be turning fourteen in a week though, so...

**Travis:** [sings] I am fourteen, going on thirteen.

**Greg:** You love playing Nazis.

**Travis:** I love—

**Jessica:** Um, anyway!

**Travis:** —[quiet] playing...Nazis.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

**Sage:** Cool, so—

**Jessica:** I'm having flashbacks of you putting a gun to my head.

**Travis:** And pulling your hair. [stifles laughter]

**Jessica:** Yup! [stifles laughter]

**Travis:** Yup.

**Sage:** [fast] They were in Anne Frank. [loud] Okay! So the—

**[Laughter.]**

**Greg:** Listener, get over it.

**Travis:** Moving on.

**Sage:** Uh, what's the age of your parental situations? What d'you think? As a jumping off point, thinking of you're just making a choice now before you know the character.

**Jessica:** I imagine, for me, I sit at- every morning at breakfast with both my parents' faces in newspapers. They have briefcases by their sides and I sit there. I'm an only child and I eat my- my cereal with them in silence. And then at lunch [stifles laughter] They don't have newspapers anymore.

**[Stifled laughter.]**



And they ask me if [stifles laughter]...

[Chuckling.]

**Sage:** I mean, you keep going. It's fine.

**Greg:** [amused] Don't stop. This is great.

**Jessica:** They ask me about my academic achievements.

**Sage:** Oky.

**Jessica:** And also lie—

**Sage:** Strict household.

**Jessica:** They're- yes. The long story short, I live in a strict household. And...yeah. My parents are overachievers.

**Travis:** So if you had pick for—

**Sage:** Single child?

**Jessica:** Single child.

**Travis:** If you had to pick a race for your character that would be...

[Chuckling.]

**Jessica:** Uh...

**Travis:** So, you know.

**Sage:** [warning] Mm. Mm-mmm.

**Travis:** Okay, not goin' there?

**Sage:** No. Mm-mmm.

**Travis:** Okay.

[**Sage** laughs.]

**Greg:** Did they vote for—

**Sage:** Poké.

**Greg:** —Pokémon Trumps.

**Jessica:** No.

**Greg:** M'kay.

**Jessica:** They didn't.

**Greg:** Good.

[Beat.]

**Sage:** Great.

**Travis:** Magmar?

[Chuckling.]

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Magmar, the Donald Trump of Pokémon.

**Greg:** He was a hotpick.  
[Beat.]

**Sage:** Now—

**Greg:** Thanks. Bye guys!  
[**Sage** chuckles.]

**Sage:** Now Travis, let's make some choices here. What is your parental situation.

**Travis:** Um, there's a mop that I talk to. [stifles laughter]  
[**Jessica** laughs.]

**Greg:** Are you Mickey Mouse?

**Sage:** [amused] Fuckin' what?

**Jessica:** [amused] Yes!  
[**Greg** chuckles.]

**Greg, Jessica:** Yes!

**Travis:** You got it, guys. I'm Mickey Mouse.  
[**Greg** chuckles.]  
Be your own Pokémon trainer.  
[**Jessica** giggles.]

**Greg:** [Mickey Mouse] Oh boy.

**Travis:** Yeah. Uh, what I was trying to infer is that, uh, there there's a mop that I call mom.

**Jessica:** [gasps] Oh no.

**Sage:** But you have a dad?  
[Beat.]

**Travis:** What?

**Sage:** Or is it a broom or something?  
[**Travis** laughs.]

**Greg:** Or is this a commentary about like your mom just cleans stuff and is not...

**Travis:** This is a suffrage thing.  
[**Sage** scoffs.]  
This is all- [stifles laughter] This is a suffrage thing.

**Greg:** She wears a banner that says, "Women's Suffrage" on it and...

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Greg:** Trying—

**Travis:** She was Miss Women's Suffrage last year.

**Greg:** [amused] Yeah.

**Jessica:** [chuckles] Oh my...

**Greg:** I thought she was great in *Mary Poppins*.

**[Jessica laughs.]**

**Sage:** Oh boy...

**Travis:** Tuppins.

**[Chuckling.]**

Uh, I have, um...

**Sage:** Stop!

**Travis:** I'm gonna say I have a mom and a dad but they're split. My dad—

**Sage:** Which one lives in Pallet Town?

**Travis:** My mom lives in Pallet Town. My dad lives out of his RV.

**Sage:** [chuckles] Yeah! Where in Kanto, though? We gotta pick a spot.

**Travis:** Uh, somewhere like outside of, I think Celadon. He's in a Cheap Trick cover band.

**[Laughter.]**

**Jessica:** [amused] There's a cheap trick in this?

**Sage:** Oh my god. Does he hang out with the Biker gang that's outside of that, uh, fuck/

**Travis:** He *tries* to and they're not real fond of him, though.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

You know, he's a good- the problem is he's too good of a guy, you know. He means super well, but like- everyone likes to have him around and stuff but, you know, when he- but then when he drinks it gets weird.

**[Beat.]**

**Sage:** Okay, cat, you gotta...

**Travis:** [amused] There's a cat now.

**Sage:** There's a Meowth on me. Meowth over on Jessica.

**Jessica:** Oh, he's back? He's on your lap?

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Greg:** I like Persian 'cause it doesn't talk.

**Sage:** If you don't mind, I'm gonna turn your game down.

**Jessica:** Yeah, go ahead.

**Sage:** You gotta lean in a little more.

**Greg:** Some of these names...

**Jessica:** You know, you keep telling me to go in, go out...

**Sage:** Well that's what happens when—

**Travis:** Guys! [amused] Stop talking about your [stifles laughter]

**Greg:** Stop talkin' about your...?

**Travis:** Poochyena! [laughs]

**Sage:** Poochyena's a good one.

**Travis:** [amused with himself] Oh ho. Hoho ho!

**Sage:** I always like using Poochyena in Hoenn.

**Travis:** [still amused] Hoho ho!

**Sage:** Uh-oh Travis is falling over and holding his heart.

[Chuckling.]

**Travis:** What the fuck? Where is *your* heart?

**Sage:** Oh!

[Laughter.]

His *chest*.

**Travis:** Holding my left- the left side of my [chuckles] the right si—

**Greg:** You got my heart? [chuckles]

**Jessica:** Oh!

**Travis:** I don't know my left from my right.

**Jessica:** We all know anatomy.

[Beat.]

[**Greg** giggles.]

**Travis:** A who?

[**Sage** chuckles.]

**Jessica:** Anatomy.

**Travis:** [amused] Who- who's atomy?

**Jessica:** There we go.

**Travis:** Hey!

**Jessica:** Exactly.

[Beat.]

**Travis:** So yeah, my mom tries her best and my dad's in a Cheap Trick cover band and lives in an RV.

**Greg:** He tries his best at what he wants to do.

**Travis:** He's fu- yeah, he's a lot of fun.

**Sage:** Good.

**Jessica:** You love him.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** I love it.

**Travis:** Yeah, I wouldn't count on him for school supplies, though.

**Sage:** Awesome. How 'bout you, Greg?

**Greg:** I'll say single mom. Dad passed like five years back.

**Jessica:** You guys have siblings?

**Greg:** We'll say I'm- you know what? I'm gonna do older brother who went off to like business school or something like that. And he is doin' it and gettin' it done. That shit. And I'm that kid who's like, I don't have that kind of potential. So I'm gonna Pokémon my way through life.

**Sage:** Oh, and that answers a future question about why you wanna be a trainer. That's cool.

**Greg:** You're welcome.

[Beat.]

**Sage:** I don't know. Any 'yes and's to anything?

**Travis:** Oh yeah. I've got—

**Greg:** Yeah. Riff on me, riff on me.

**Travis:** Do me, do me.

[Greg chuckles.]

Yeah, I've got a half-brother. He's significantly older from a different relationship of my mother's. he is someone I don't talk to that much.

**Sage:** So wait, where is he at?

**Travis:** Uh...

**Greg:** Sexually?

**Travis:** It...[stifles laughter] Antioch? Um...

[Laughter.]

**Sage:** He could be in a different region. Anybody can be in a different—

**Travis:** Yeah, he's in, um, nah- nah. He's in...[clicks tongue]

**Jessica:** That's a very crazy town.

**Travis:** Shut up. I wish I had a map. No he works deck on a cruise—

**Sage:** You have a laptop. You can open up and look.

**Travis:** Man, look...

[Greg chuckles.]

There were decisions made before resources were gathered.

[Chuckling.]

It works—

[**Sage** stammers]

He's deck crew on a cruise ship.

**Sage:** The SS Annie or whatever. Is that what it's called?

**Travis:** Uh, Anne. I feel—

**Sage:** Yeah, Anne.

**Travis:** I imagine there's more than one ship in the entire region, but...

**Sage:** Well that's the *one*, though. In Kanto.

**Travis:** That's the one everybody—

**Sage:** That's like the Kan- yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah. Uh, yeah, he—

**Greg:** I think the term you're looking for is hearda.

**Travis:** Yeah, he- he's a ship mechanic and he's got three kids, none of which I know.

**Sage:** Okay, cool. Awesome. Now let's get into some nitty gritty. Got that sheet right there to help you guys out. Let's pick some classes.

[**Travis** burps.]

Uh-oh [chuckles]

**Travis:** Excuse me. What was that?

**Sage:** Yeah, we should do that. And I could also open some up over here if you wanna look at it.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Sage:** Yeah, there's a lot of options. And you can also customize one if you don't feel like any of them are fitting your vision for a trainer. Jessica, we talked a little bit before.

**Jessica:** Yes.

**Sage:** You were leaning towards Ace Trainer.

**Jessica:** Es.

**Sage:** More or less my fault.

**Jessica:** Yes. Completely.

**Travis:** Why?

**Sage:** But you can change your mind if you want.

**Jessica:** He wants me to be an Ace Trainer.

**Sage:** No, no, no. I- I threw that your way—

**Jessica:** Yeah and I clung onto it.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Jessica:** I like the idea. That's why I'm a single child and my parents are really...

**Sage:** Strict.

**Jessica:** Like, I'm very ambitious. Strict. That's the word I'm looking for. I forget that the—

**Travis:** Why you are a single child as in like, you had siblings and then you defeated them?  
[Chuckling.]

**Greg:** Ace Trainer, killed my siblings.

**Travis:** [amused] Yeah. I am the best.  
[**Jessica** chuckles.]

Genetically.

**Greg:** Super easy.  
[**Sage** chuckles.]

**Jessica:** Well I could be one of those kids—

**Sage:** [amused] Oh shit.

**Jessica:** I could be one of those kids, I was like a twin.

**Greg:** You ate your twin in the womb?

**Jessica:** But I ate my twin in the womb.

**Sage:** [horrified/amused] Oh my god.

**Jessica:** So I am—

**Travis:** As a show of force?  
[**Greg** giggles.]

**Jessica:** Just a show that I will come on top.

**Travis:** So success is very important.

**Jessica:** Yeah! Success is *huge* in my...

**Travis:** It's huge. So again I don't- I don't mean to circle back, but about this whole race thing in terms of—  
[Chuckling.]

**Sage:** [warning/playful] Travis.  
[Chuckling.]

**Jessica:** Travis, do *you* wanna answer the question? Are you assuming what—

**Travis:** You're—

**Jessica:** What do you have in your brain? What's your idea?

**Travis:** Uh—

**Greg:** Hey, Travis?

**Travis:** What?

**Greg:** I think you're supposed to be super racist right now. Like, I think your character should be real racist right now.

[Laughter.]

**Travis:** [horrified] Oh. My. God!

**Sage:** [amused] Throwback. Damn.

**Travis:** I am become insensitive.

[Laughter.]

**Jessica:** Young Mikel? Young Mikel?

**Travis:** What?

**Jessica:** Um, we need you to leave.

**Travis:** That's- I do not have the throat for that right now.

[Chuckling.]

**Greg:** [Young Mikel] You want your nuts on the floor?

**Sage:** [sighs] Oh god. So Jessica—

**Travis:** Nuts on the floor. [stifles laughter]

**Sage:** Um, we can just go through these. Like, so to—

**Travis:** For all the people that'e been listening since day one.

**Greg:** Thank you.

**Travis:** All four of you.

[Chuckling.]

**Jessica:** Me included.

**Travis:** [amused] Yup. Most- all four of which are sitting at this talbe.

[Laughter.]

**Sage:** Talking about my cat? 'cause you don't even listen to last couple of episodes.

**Travis:** Yeah, the cat's involved.

**Sage:** Yeah. Got it, okay. So Ace Trainer. +1 to Nerve, +1 to Swiftiness, +1 to Intuition. -1 Charisma but +1 to Confidence.

**Jessica:** Heck yeah.

**Sage:** Plus—

**Greg:** Heck yeah.

**Jessica:** I ate that fetus.

**Sage:** +5—

[Stifled laughter.]

**Travis:** Shocking. Gross.



[Sage chuckles.]

**Sage:** +5 catch rate to all types.

**Travis:** [amused] +1 to fetus.

[Greg giggles.]

**Jessica:** What was that last part?

**Sage:** +5 catch rate to all Pokémon types.

**Jessica:** So I notice, how come some- so what is the +5, +10 thing?

**Sage:** So some of the classes have—

**Jessica:** How come I have plus—

**Sage:** —have a plus to certain catch rates.

**Jessica:** Mm-hmm?

**Sage:** So like the Backpacker, which is next one on the list, he has—

**Jessica:** Or she.

**Sage:** —has +10 catch rate- he or she—

**Greg:** They.

**Sage:** —has +10 catch rate to Rock or Ground.

**Jessica:** And mines +5 to all?

**Sage:** Any. Yeah.

**Jessica:** Oh, oh, oh. I'm not...

**Greg:** Should we be getting into our Poké-types then? If we're gonna be pickin' our...

**Sage:** I mean, yeah. They kinda blur.

**Greg:** Skillsvilles.

**Sage:** Yeah.

[A beat passes while they look at the character sheets.]

You know, so...

**Travis:** I see, I see.

**Sage:** Backpacker's pretty self-explanatory. They like to explore. Biker and Cyclist, those guys hang out- either they're a Biker, right? And those are the guys that hung out on fuckin' Route- whatever was left to the city with the mall.

**Greg:** It's called Stockton.

**Sage:** The city with the mall, they're on the left side o' that and there was like ten of 'em just in one little area.

**Travis:** The Biker gang. I mean, you had to fuckin' go through a whole long—

**Sage:** And then once you pass them you get onto the bike route that goes—

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** —drops you all the way down south. And those are all the cyclists. Those are different but the class does the same. What's the thing? It was like poison, right? Yeah, Poison and Flying.

**Travis:** The whole foods crowd and the food max crowd.

**[Greg snorts. Sage chuckles.]**

Grocery Boy.

**[Greg snickers.]**

**Sage:** Uh, Birdkeeper, very self-explanatory. Kinda like Bug Catcher, the just love birds.

**Travis:** So like, not to throw shade, but like people are just like people are just like, god, birds are so fucking cool.

**Sage:** They were in—

**Jessica:** [awed] There are like mini-dinosaurs!

**[Beat.]**

[awed] Think about it.

**Travis:** [amused] See? [snickers]

**Greg:** When I originally played this game on Gameboy, I was like I wanna catch all the bird types.

**Sage:** Right? Yeah. I mean, they're the—

**Greg:** I wanna be a bird Gym trainer.

**Jessica:** They're small dinosaurs!

**Sage:** There's was- there's a region- there was a patch of grass in the south area somewhere where there was like five of 'em. Think it was actually on the other side of Cycling Road. I don't remember but, yeah. There's just like all the birdkeepers just hang out in this one little [stifles laughter] fuckin' field.

**Greg:** [Birdkeeper accent] Hey! What kinda bird you got, kid?

**[Sage chuckles.]**

**Sage:** Uh, Breeders. Uh, you played as a Breeder during our test session, Travis.

**Travis:** [amused] That was funny.

**Sage:** Bri- that was a good character. I liked him.

**Travis:** Thank you. Brian!

**Greg:** Ryan brought Pokémon together.

**[Sage stifles laughter.]**

**Sage:** Yeah, you know, Brock was a Breeder. They make Pokémon fuck and they sell them or whatever.

**Travis:** I mean, he tried. But- he tried.

**Greg:** Every episode.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** +10 catch rate to Normal and Fairy.

**Jessica:** Language, Sage.

**Sage:** Uh, *bang*. whatever.

**Travis:** Fairy's not acceptable.

[Chuckling.]

**Sage:** Sorry, sorry. Bug Catcher's obviously the nerds. Though you don't have to be as shallow as I am being. If you wanna be cool Bug Cather or, you know...

**Greg:** Like that samurai kid?

[Chuckling.]

**Sage:** Sure. They get a lot of stuff. +2 to Luck, +2 to Sense, +1 to Swiftiness, +1 to Smarts, -2 Charisma, -1 to Fence. Bug and Grass focus.

Fishermen, they're cool. And obviously since you guys are gonna play younger characters, some of these trades, like Breeder—

**Jessica:** Like Scientist.

**Sage:** Some of these- yeah. Some of those trades are gonna be like, you gonna have to decide that's what your parents did, so you're inheriting that from them. That's like- it's kinda like your electives at school right now, it's you're picking those stuff. Um, swimming a lot.

**Travis:** I wanna meet the kid whose mom was a Psychic.

[Chuckling.]

**Jessica:** Oh.

**Sage:** You could be a Psychic, that'd be cool.

**Travis:** [Psychic accent] Call me now.

**Sage:** They exist in the show and in the game. People- humans just have psychic power sometimes.

**Greg:** [Psychic accent] I love the music of George Clinton.

**Travis:** 1-800-999-Call-Me-Now. Read the card.

**Greg:** [amused] I forgot about that commercial!

**Travis:** Fuckin' Miss Cleo/

**Greg:** Miss Cleo.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Greg:** This is for this side o' the table only.

**Travis:** Yeah, man.

**Sage:** Sorry, not—

**Travis:** Infomercial. She would'a had a fuckin' Abra or some shit.

[Sage chuckles.]

**Greg:** Why does she need a number? Was the classic joke.

**Jessica:** Teacher Sage? I have to go to the bathroom.

**Travis:** And there was- she had the thing where she would have, like, the background and she'd fly around up to the front of it. Vee do do do do.

[Sage chuckles.]

Oh my god.

**Sage:** Uh, Juggler. Now, Jessica was super thrown when she saw this list.

**Travis:** 'S why I said, juggilo.

**Sage:** She's like, why the fuck is there a Juggler class?

**Travis:** Gonna be a Juggler?

[Chuckling.]

**Jessica:** Did I say that?

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Greg:** [Chuckling] Clown face.

**Travis:** [amused] Yeah.

**Sage:** Yeah, I mean, that's kind of—

**Travis:** +1 to Fego.

**Sage:** No, yeah. It's kinda up to interpretation. If they're just like, I juggle. Or they're just like, I like to embarrass myself by—

**Travis:** Or a fan of the insane clown posse.

[Sage chuckles.]

**Sage:** Sure, man. Whatever.

**Travis:** Gross.

**Sage:** Yeah, +2 to Swiftiness, +1 to Sense, +1 to Confidence. -1 Charisma. They got—

**Greg:** [chuckling] They got -1 Charisma.

**Sage:** I mean, come on, they *juggle*. Like..

**Travis:** +8—

[Greg laughs.]

That seems a bit like a personal opinon. Juggling—

**Sage:** Juggling's, like, cool. But like, is it? [chuckles] You know.

**Greg:** Oh no.

**Sage:** Okay it's impressive, but it's not cool. That's more what I'm saying.

**Greg:** Pfft.

**Travis:** Anyone listening out there who's a juggler...

**Sage:** I'm a little sorry.

**Travis:** No longer the podcast for you.

**Greg:** Like, I wanna explore this. But I also- but I'm scare to explore this. [chuckles]

**Travis:** I don't know why you were listening in the first place, but this is obviously not the podcast for you.

[**Sage** chuckles.]

**Sage:** I mean, they might get a kick out of some of you- one of yu picking a Juggler and—

**Travis:** I'm not gonna be a Juggler, Sage.

[**Sage** laughs.]

I'm not gonna try to recomvent, you know, provide- I'm not gonna compensate for your mistake.

**Sage:** My mistake?

**Travis:** Shitting on jugglers.

**Sage:** I'm not shitting on them.

**Greg:** Yeah, they're—

**Sage:** -1 Charisma. Could I pick—

**Greg:** Creating American heroes.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Could've picked -2.

**Travis:** We just lost the whole circus audience.

**Sage:** I mean, were they really here?

**Travis:** Are any of us really here?

[**Sage** chuckles.]

**Sage:** Who listens to this, *really*?

**Greg:** Is there an existential class?

[**Travis** stifles laughter.]

**Sage:** I mean, it's probably Psychic.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Greg:** I mean, does it even matter, though?

**Travis:** Does it even matter?

[**Sage** chuckles.]

Nihilist class.

[Chuckling.]

**Sage:** They got Psychic and Poison.

**Travis:** Minus nothing, plus nothing.

**[Greg giggles. Sage chuckles.]**

**Greg:** Don't play this game.

**Travis:** [amused] Yeah.

**Sage:** Lass and Youngster. I'm going to encourage one of you two to pick this one. You don't have to. Seriously though, if one or the other one's calling your name, don't let me shit on your ideas. But the Lass and Youngster are basically in the games. They were just the kid class. Like...

**Greg:** Right.

**Sage:** You know, That was just, I'm a kid. Like, they're—

**Greg:** Brawn? Oh, -1 Brawn. Okay, cool.

**Travis:** If they ever beat you, you'd be like goddamn it.

**Sage:** Yeah, seriously. And they [stammers] Joey. The infamous Youngster Joey. You know, he was- he's one o' those. They just wear shorts and hats and they're just like, [Youngster accent] Pokémon!

**Greg:** I might do that but call it a Skateboarder class.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

**Sage:** I mean, that's a little cooler. They get +2 Normal and Fighting. So... Go with that.

**[Beat.]**

Musician class. Uh, Electric and Fire is their bonus.

**Travis:** Dibs!

**Sage:** Dibs? That what you said?

**Travis:** Yup.

**Sage:** That would be cool to see, like, you know, what is the music like in Pokémon? I'm sure there's episodes where they've done it. I just don't recall.

Uh, Poké Fan is like the, whew, the calm down man. Um, no that's more Poké Maniac. Um, but Poké Fan, they're like, they go to fan clubs. They have all the merch, you know? But they're not really good at it. They're just really into it.

**Greg:** They just have all the knowledge.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Greg:** You know who you are. Somebody who's got all the knowledge on somethin' and considers themselves a master, but doesn't really have any experience. You know who you are.

**Sage:** +5 catch rate to all. Um, Psychics are cool if you guys wanna do that. You'll most likely at least encounter one, so it's all good if you don't wanna be a Psychic.

Scientist. Pretty self-explanatory. They got a lot of skill modifiers. Electric and Steel is their bonus.

And Swimmer. Love Zach's choice, being Swimmer Steve, who had a Geodude named Magic Karp.

[Stifled laughter.]

One day he's gonna swim. He's gonna get it work. Water and Ice is their bonus.

Or like I said, custom class. Which is just what it says. You add 5 positive points to anything, 2 negative points across anything. No attribute can exceed plus or minus 2. And then pick a catch rate, which is one type, two types, all types.

So yeah, dawg. What you guys doin' over there?

**Greg:** I think I might go Youngster.

**Sage:** Yeah?

**Greg:** Yeah.

[Beat.]

**Travis:** You heard me!

[**Greg** chuckles.]

**Sage:** Musician?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Greg:** [amused] "You heard me."

**Sage:** Settled? Settled?

[Beat.]

You okay?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Sage:** So...

**Greg:** I do kinda wanna do Fisherman, but I don't know how watery things are gonna get.

[Beat.]

I didn't wanna say a thing so...

**Sage:** I mean, there's a whole region where you go there.

**Greg:** [chuckles] Guys, I'm *great* for one episode.

**Sage:** There's quite a- well, I mean, there's quite a bit of Water Pokémon in the game. Once you get—

**Travis:** That's where David comes on as a sea captain.

[Chuckling.]

**Sage:** And, you know, you get the rods fairly early on. So use that to fish, catch a thing. Plus it's just your starter. You don't *have* to use- like, that doesn't mean you're good with

that Pokémon. That's not how it ever worked. It's just your catch rate. As in, if you want two Water Pokémon, you know...

**Greg:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** But we only get two.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** So what if we *need* a Water Pokémon but, like, only for that episode?

**Sage:** I mean, that's not how you- I mean, I wouldn't approach it that way. Like, you're tryin'a build a team.

**Travis:** Right. What if nobody wants a Water Pokémon?

**Sage:** Then fuckin'—

**Travis:** Nobody wants to be the Cleric, man.

**Sage:** That's fine. You're just gonna have to make it work.

**Greg:** I want Water shit, though.

**Travis:** Oh, there we go.

**Greg:** Yeah. But Dartini is not a Water Pokémon.

**Travis:** Dartini?

**Greg:** Yeah. Dar—

**Sage:** And again, you don't *have* to—

**Greg:** *Dratini*?

**Travis:** Yeah, that's it.

**Greg:** Sorry.

**Sage:** All it is, is it's giving you a plus to your catch rate. Does not mean you can't catch a Water Pokémon as a Youngster.

**Greg:** Mm-hmm.

**Sage:** Plus, uh, what are they again? Normal? Hang on. Normal and Fighting.

[**Travis** taps out a drum beat throughout.]

Um, yeah. So you know, you could...uh, ignore that. [chuckles] And I don't want- that counts a bit for Pokémon to have two types. I don't know if in Kanot there's a Normal/Water. I don't think there is. Fighting/Water! Oh, no. That's third evolution, though.

Uh, Poliwrath.

**Travis:** Good arms.

**Sage:** So bonus might not help you, but build a custom class, then.

**Travis:** Arms for punching!

**Sage:** You know? If you really want that Water bonus, you can build a custom class. Um, which now is the time.



**Greg:** Surfer.

**Sage:** Surf- that'd be funny.

**Travis:** Yeah, it's nihilist

**Greg:** That'd be funny.

**Sage:** [chuckles] Pallet Town has a lake, you know.  
[Chuckling.]

**Jessica:** Uh, wh- wait.

**Greg:** I hold this- I hold the rope and my brother used to drag—

**Travis:** You're the guy that used to stand on the surfboard.

**Sage:** [amused] Yup.

**Greg:** Man, I'd go surfing, but it's super flat today. Looks around, nothing's there.  
[Chuckling.]

**Jessica:** Oh my god.

**Sage:** Uh, cool.

**Greg:** You guys missed it! It was totally swellin'.  
[Beat.]

No waves in that, ever.

**Sage:** How you feelin', Greg?

**Greg:** Kinda warm.  
[Travis snickers.]

**Sage:** How you feelin' about your class choice?

**Greg:** Um... Kinda wanna go Dratini, and I'm just tryin'a think of like what would be ["French" accent] complimentary to it.

**Sage:** [mouth full of marbles accent] Complimentary.

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Eh...  
[Beat.]

Well, um...

**Greg:** Yeah, you know, I think- yeah, I- um...lalala. I think I'm gonna stick with the Youngster.

**Sage:** Okay.

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Sage:** You're leaning towards starting with a Dratini. As your starter?

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Sage:** It's a cool starter.

**Greg:** Right?

**Sage:** Levels late.

**Greg:** Oh.

**Sage:** So that'll be cool, but...

**Greg:** Yeah. I get a Dragonair.

**Sage:** Or Drag- No, I mean, if you guys...don't...suck.

[Chuckling.]

You absolutely should get it to Dragonite. I mean, the goal is to run through basically the equivalent, an improvised equivalent—

**Greg:** I would love to get it to Dragonite.

**Sage:** No, I mean y- look. If you guys don't get to the Elite Four, I won't be mad. But I will be severely disappointed.

**Greg:** Mm-hmm.

**Sage:** 'Cause it's not gonna be hard to get there. Now to get there and be prepared, different thing. We'll let the improv and the story and the gameplay figure that out for itself. But, you know, that plan is that that's- that's gonna be the final episode, you know. You guys got all the badges, ready for the Elite Four, go through Victory Road and you're ready to battle. You know.

**Greg:** Mm-hmm.

**Sage:** Douchebag rival shows up again.

**Greg:** Maybe.

**Sage:** Some- tie up some loose ends of some things.

**Greg:** Andy! That's a great name for a rival.

**Travis:** Yeah, dude, he could just be—

**Sage:** [amused] Just be himself.

**Greg:** [amused] Just be himself.

**Sage:** [amused] Andy.

**Greg:** I have a cousin named Madison. Screw you!

**Sage:** I hope we can do this. That'd be cool. Jessica, how you feelin' over there?

**Jessica:** Good.

**Sage:** Whatcha readin'?

**Jessica:** This usage tips that I would like to have as my starter.

**Sage:** Alright. Well seems like we're all eager to talk about it, so let's fuckin' do it.

**Travis:** Let's fuck!

**Greg:** And do it!

**Sage:** Jessica was leaning towards Vulpix, right?

**Jessica:** Yup!

**Travis:** They can do the thing.

**Sage:** Why?

**Greg:** Yeah, Jess.

**Jessica:** Well I think that where I'm—

**Travis:** [mumbles] Cute. Very cute.

**Jessica:** Well, she is real cute.

**Greg:** Foxy.

**Jessica:** She is foxy mamma. Um... No I really like have my Pokémon be a Fire-type. 'cause I feel like that matches like- I'm someone who- it's kinda like when you have a pet. But your pet is like—

**Sage:** Are we leaning- do we have any names on our docket right now?

**Jessica:** I...

**Travis:** Oh, for the Pokémon?

**Sage:** For the characters.

**Travis:** Characters. Not yet.

**Greg:** Jer'q Star—

**Jessica:** Oh my god.

**Sage:** Stop it.

**Greg:** Okay.

**Sage:** Um.

**Greg:** [amused] Jer'q Start. [chuckles]

**[Sage chuckles.]**

**Sage:** Mm? Anything?

**Greg:** Lightfighter, that was the name.

**Jessica:** Yeah, but I don't know what, like... What are, like, names in Pokémon world?

**[Greg chuckles.]**

I don't know.

**Greg:** Well I mean like... Like, what *are* names?

**Jessica:** Like Ash Ketchum. Like does it have to be a...

**Greg:** Brock, Misty.

**Travis:** Misty, Brock, Joy, Jenny. There's just fuckin' names.

**Sage:** Uh, well thing with Brock, a lot of the—

**Greg:** Giovanni.

**Sage:** All the Gym leaders have pun names as well/

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** The Poké- every Pokémon is named with wordplay.

**Greg:** There's like Sgt Bolt or...

**Travis:** Surge.

**Sage:** Surge. It was Surge.

**Greg:** Surge! Lt. Surge.

**Sage:** Yeah, yeah.

**Travis:** [amused] Sergeant Bolt.

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Sage:** All the Gym leaders have pun names.

**Travis:** Fuckin' Admiral Lightining. [snickers]

**Sage:** You wanna come up with a cool pun name, all for it.

**Greg:** It's a trap. [chuckles]

**[Travis stifles laughter.]**

**Sage:** I also don't care...

**Jessica:** I know.

**Sage:** If you wanna just be, you know...

**Greg:** Ah, Drake!

**[Chuckling.]**

**Sage:** That- [stammers]

**Jessica:** Right.

**Sage:** He's in the Elite Four.

**Greg:** For the Dragon-type.

**Sage:** Yeah, he's in- he's the Elite Four guy.

**Greg:** Oh. Now he's also—

**Travis:** He also hosted the NBA awards tonight.

**Greg:** And he also has a brother named- an older brother named Josh. In this game.

**Jessica:** And he also, um, hotline. Has a hotline.... Bling, bling.

**Travis:** Keep goin'.

**[Stifled laughter.]**

No, no, no. Keep struggling. This is good.

**[Greg giggles.]**

**Jessica:** I know. That's all I have.

**Travis:** In a good way.

**Greg:** [amused] Ow, my side.

**Jessica:** He was also- he was also in, um, on a- he's Canadian. On a Canadian, uh, teen soap opera type show? Uh, spoiler alert.

**Greg:** [laughing] Yeah, he was in a wheelchair.

**Jessica:** He was paralyzed.

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Ooh. Guess you can't decide what fuckin' NBA team to be a fan of.

**[Greg babbles.]**

**Jessica:** Degrassi!

**Travis:** Lookin' at you. Lookin' at you, *Drake*.

**Greg:** [chuckling] Callin' you out on a 20 Sided Stories podcast.

**Travis:** Come on! Throw down. Roll out.

**Greg:** Come on to the show.

**[Beat.]**

**Jessica:** Anyway.

**[Chuckling.]**

**Travis:** [mumbles] Comcast bitch.

**Greg:** [amused] Podcast bitch.

**Sage:** Yeah, I don't care what the names are.

**Travis:** [amused] Podcast bitch.

**Sage:** But, you know, be cool to pick 'em.

**Jessica:** I was- I was playing with—

**Sage:** Play around throughout the session.

**Travis:** Look at this fuckin' Michael Jackson Bellsprout here.

**Greg:** What?

**Travis:** Michael Jackson Bellsprout here.

**[Greg snickers.]**

**Sage:** Michael Jackson Bellsprout?

**Travis:** Look at this. Look at this.

**Greg:** It's the- his roots look like he's doin' a moonwalk.

**Sage:** Oh.

**Travis:** Moonwalkin'.

**Sage:** Got it.

**Jessica:** Oh.

**Sage:** Nice.

**Jessica:** I was thinking of having my name, not a pun, but I like the sound of Constance Carter.

**Sage:** Constance.

**Jessica:** I know, but I don't like the name "Constance" very much.

**Sage:** Sounds a little masculine, but you know, whatever.

**Greg:** No. That was the name of the love interest from Three Musketeers.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Really?

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Sage:** I've never heard that name outside of this room, so...

**Travis:** Oh.

**Jessica:** Whoa.

**Greg:** You need to read more books.

**Travis:** Constance Gardner.

**Greg:** [chuckles] *The Constance*.

**Travis:** Constance Gardner.

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Sage:** [amused] Constant Gardner.

**Jessica:** *Constant* Gardner.

**[Chuckling.]**

**Sage:** Never movin' up.

**Jessica:** SO that's why—

**Greg:** She was the love interest of d'Artagnan.

**Jessica:** Not really feelin' that name. That's why I'm like, that's where I'm at.

**Sage:** Constance.

**Jessica:** But I'm definitely not tied to it.

**Travis:** How 'bout Candice, or...

**Sage:** Candice. Oh.

**Jessica:** Oh, Candice!

**Sage:** That does kinda fit, in my book.

**Travis:** It's a Pokémon name.

**Jessica:** Candice Carter.

**Sage:** Oh, yeah?

**Travis:** Ooo, that's not bad.

**Jessica:** Yeah. It's gonna be Candice Carter.

**Sage:** Alright.

**Travis:** Fuck yeah.

**Jessica:** I like the name Candice.

**Travis:** It's just not porny enough.

**Greg:** Yeah, there we go.

**Travis:** It's like- yeah.

**Jessica:** Thank you?

**[Sage chuckles.]**

**Travis:** It's a good thing.

**Jessica:** I'm thirteen years old. Get- oh my god.

**Greg:** Yeah, yeah. We're *glad* that you don't have a porn name.

**Travis:** Yeah, no. For real.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

**Jessica:** Wha—

**Travis:** You got kinda close to the edge there.

**[Beat.]**

**Jessica:** You guys are disgusting.

**Greg:** And you were about to break.

**Travis:** What, what?

**[Sage sings loudly.]**

**Sage:** Sorry.

**Travis:** That made *my* throat hurt.

**[Greg giggles. Sage chuckles.]**

**Sage:** I don't even know what the words to that—

**Travis:** Somebody at work today unironically put on Eve 6 over the stereo system and I almost died.

**Greg:** Shit. I haven't heard that name in so long.

**Travis:** Right?

**Greg:** They follow it up with tattoo?

**Travis:** Uh, no. They followed it up with Everclear.

**Greg:** Oh. Better.

[Travis chuckles.]

**Sage:** You guys playin' with any names in your head?

**Greg:** I do.

**Travis:** [amused] I do.

**Sage:** For a fourteen years old Musician with a single mom and a dad living out of an RV out of town.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Sage:** With a half bro working on a cruise ship. What kinda name comin' from that?

[Beat.]

**Greg:** Trick?

[Sage laughs.]

**Travis:** Wait, what's the singer of Cheap Trick's name?

[Chuckling.]

Hold on!

**Sage:** I like where this is going.

**Travis:** Oh my god.

**Sage:** I like where this is going.

**Greg:** Are we considering Trick?

[Beat.]

**Sage:** What about you, Greg?

**Greg:** I was thinking Skip.

**Sage:** [amused] Trick, Skip, and Candice.

**Travis:** My name ain't Trick.

[Chuckling.]

**Sage:** Dammit. Skip is cool, though. I mean, that's very much a Pokémon Youngster name. You probably wear a cap backwards, I assume?

**Greg:** Yup.

**Sage:** Alright.

[Beat.]

[Travis laughs.]

**Travis:** Guy's name is Tom. He's living in after the bass player of Cheap Trick. Tom Petersson, with two Ss.

**Greg:** There we go.

**Travis:** Tom Petersson.

**Greg:** Peter's son.



**Travis:** Oh. No, wait, hold on.

[Beat.]

**Sage:** Uh...

**Travis:** Not gonna use that.

**Sage:** Okay. Skip, set in pencil?

**Greg:** It's set in pencil. Okay.

**Sage:** Cool. You know, we'll just- just to refer to the characters and get a feel for what it's like for the remainder of this. What was I gonna ask before the names? Oh, we're talking about Pokémon. Vulpix.

**Jessica:** Yeah!

**Sage:** Why? Fire.

**Jessica:** Fire, for sure.

**Sage:** Looks cute.

**Jessica:** She's also real cute.

[**Travis** and **Greg** speak indistinctly in the background.]

**Sage:** Ninetales would be a good, like, moment, you know?

**Jessica:** Yeah, yeah. And like both her and I maybe transitioning into like adulthood at the same time. It's—

**Sage:** Has you guys ever heard of podcast etiquette?

**Greg:** [quiet] Sorry.

**Jessica:** ...No.

**Sage:** Oh. Me neither.

**Greg:** 'Cause we're breakin' it.

**Jessica:** Oh.

[**Sage** chuckles.]

**Greg:** [amused] We're a bunch of podcast bitches.

**Jessica:** I thought / was in trouble. I thought—

**Travis:** Man, I don't know if this is gonna be used or not.

**Sage:** Yeah, no.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Sage:** These- just throw 'em in the Catacombs.

**Jessica:** I think we have laptops, so let's put our phones in airplane mode.

**Greg:** That's a good idea.

**Sage:** I mean, I just put mine over there, but yeah. Let's do that.

[**Greg** hums a song. **Jessica** joins him.]

**Greg:** That sound that the droid makes, in *Empire Strikes Back* when it's lookin' for the rebels.

**Jessica:** Mm-hmm.

**Greg:** You guys...haven't seen that?

[Beat.]

**Sage:** Uh, bedo bodop op sque. That one?

**Greg:** No, it's like, in *Empire Strikes Back* in the snow. It was the imperial probe droid.

**Sage:** I don't recall.

**Travis:** This is the worst podcast now.

[**Greg** sighs.]

**Sage:** [mock stern] No Star Wars no D&D. Not until I'm dead. [pants, desperate] You can't make me!

**Travis:** I'm not tryin'.

**Sage:** Not you. People.

**Greg:** I want to.

**Travis:** Who? Who wants you to do this.

**Greg:** I wanna do Star Wars.

**Sage:** People who listen to actual plays.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Sage:** It's all- like, 80%, Edge of the Empire, Dungeons & Dragons.

**Travis:** Right.

**Sage:** Seriously.

**Greg:** But I really wanna do like a, like, redneck Tatooine series.

[**Sage** and **Travis** snicker.]

**Sage:** Which, I like that idea, 'cause it's very unique, you know.

**Travis:** Redneck back Tatooine. [stifles laughter]

**Greg:** [laughing] Yeah!

[**Sage** chuckles.]

**Travis:** A lower-back Tatooine. Yeah.

**Sage:** Lower-back Tatooine. That's good.

**Greg:** No, we're havin' a good time.

**Sage:** So Travis, you're—

[**Travis** hums a tune and the others continue chuckling.]

Your character...

**Travis:** His name is Xander. Named after the last name of the lead singer of Cheap Trick.

[Chuckling.]

**Sage:** Okay, good.

**Travis:** Robin Zander. Spelt with a Z.

**Greg:** Xander Robins?

**Sage:** That's good.

**Travis:** Yeah. That's it.

**Sage:** You can come up with last names later.

**Jessica:** Is your middle name Trick?

[Beat.]

**Greg:** Please? Nickname?

**Travis:** No, but it's- it's Rick. Because of Rick Neilson of Cheap Trick.

**Jessica:** [amused] Oh my...

**Sage:** Cool, so we got- right now we have Cartis, Xander, and Skip.

**Jessica:** Cartis?

**Travis:** [amused] Cartis!

[**Greg** giggles.]

**Sage:** Uh, I have written down here—

**Jessica:** Excuse me!

**Sage:** —Candice Carter, but I just read them as one word.

**Travis:** That's not a good summation of the names.

**Sage:** [chuckling] Cartis.

**Greg:** Candid camera

**Sage:** Candice, Xander, and Skip.

**Jessica:** Yes. And thank you, Travis, for that suggestion.

**Sage:** Not bad.

**Travis:** No problem. I'm happy to see how he fucks it up in the future.

[**Sage** stifles laughter.]

**Sage:** I do that a *lot*.

**Travis:** You're *bad* at character names, it's funny.

**Sage:** But it's- yeah.

**Travis:** It's a good bit.

**Sage:** I- I- I have- I don't do it on purpose, but I also don't correct it on purpose.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** 'Kay.

**Sage:** Uh, so...

**Travis:** Just spillin' out trade secrets as we go along.

[**Sage** chuckles.]

It's like the most behind-the-scenes.

**Sage:** Oh, that's what Catacombs is for. It's like, who are these people really? Oh.

**Travis:** Oh. Oh I don't like—

**Sage:** The first thing I posted in the Catacombs, which you can go listen to, is that—

**Jessica:** Yeah, maybe we should post these. [stifles laughter]

**Sage:** —is that three minutes of prior to episode two—

**Greg:** The thank you video?

**Sage:** —of- No. That- that's the thank you video. Uh, in—

[Laughter.]

**Jessica:** [mocking] You fucking idiot!

[Laughter.]

**Sage:** Well, I mean, like...

**Travis:** There? There.

**Greg:** Yeah, that's my nickname.

**Sage:** No.

[**Jessica** groans in sympathy.]

The first- the first post in the catacombs was the false start of episode two, where I kept trying to start the episode, and I kept saying "so", and you, Travis, just kept starting bits.

**Jessica:** Oh! Yeah!

[**Greg** cackles.]

**Sage:** And then eventually—

**Jessica:** That- I was there too, right?

**Sage:** Yeah, yeah. It was us plus Garrett: and Zach. And then you were just like, people are paying money for this. Fuckin' idiots.

[Chuckling.]

**Jessica:** Oh, yeah. That was good.

**Travis:** [still on a laugh high] Oh, we have fun.

**Sage:** [amused] It was the first thing I posted. No, it was great. It was great, yeah.

**Travis:** It was great.

**Sage:** Yeah. So that's what this is about, you know?

**Travis:** The voice of the people. [stifles laughter]

**Sage:** The unprofessional side.

**Jessica:** The boys with the detour. That's you.

[Chuckling.]

**Travis:** That supposed to be an insult?

**Jessica:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Yeah. That's sounded just like a drunken—

**Travis:** [amused] The boys and the detour.

**Sage:** —a drunken joke [chuckles].

**Jessica:** Maybe it is, I don't know.

**Travis:** Where's your tires, bro.

**Sage:** Is this water?

**Jessica:** Vodka.

**Sage:** Uh, so, Travis and Greg- oh Greg. Your thing on Dratini.

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Settled?

**Greg:** Oh, okay.

**Sage:** Oh I mean, are- that was a question, sorry.

**Travis:** See, now I can't talk because podcast etiquette.

[Cat meows.]

**Greg:** I'm feelin' good about it.

**Sage:** Yeah

**Greg:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Sage:** Why?

**Greg:** The potential getting Dragonite is very, uh, delectable.

[**Jessica** scoffs.]

**Sage:** Cool.

**Jessica:** Oh.

**Sage:** Travis?

[**Greg** cackles.]

**Greg:** [mimicking] Oh.

**Sage:** From the list of the little cup- oh, did you not hear this part?

**Travis:** Go over it again.

[**Jessica** stifles laughter.]

Because I heard it, but I've never heard it referred to as little cup.

**Sage:** Oh, look up right now, Google—

**Greg:** Pokédex.

**Sage:** Pokémon little cup list.

**Travis:** Ooooooooooh.

**Sage:** First result has a list of the little cup. You're allowed, for your starter, to pick *anything* from that. I might veto it if it's OP, but pretty much all of it.

**Greg:** Preferably in the original.

**Travis:** Absolute?

**Sage:** No.

**Travis:** Oh, not in the original?

**Sage:** Your starter? I don't give a shit.

**Travis:** [slow, flabbergasted] What the fuck?

**Sage:** Now, we're goin' through Kanto, so you will not be catching things outside of Kanto.

**Travis:** Are you fucking kidding me?

**Sage:** But for your starter anything's on the table.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Greg:** You mean I can use—

**Sage:** As long as it's in the little cup list.

**Greg:** —such weird things like...horsea?

**Sage:** That's- that's Kanto. That's fist gen. [stifles laughter] First gen, very common water Pokémon.

**Greg:** Uh, dog?

**Sage:** Dog. [laughs.]

**Travis:** What?

**Greg:** Seel?

**Sage:** You're still in Kanto.

**Jessica:** Can I have Mila as my Pokémon?

**Sage:** Your dog?

**Jessica:** My dog, Mila. [stifles laughter]

[**Greg** stifles laughter.]

**Travis:** Let's just stay outta that real quick.

**Greg:** Squirtle!

**Travis:** Real quick. Man they got—

**Jessica:** That's so rare!

**Travis:** They got real fuckin' lazy with these names, man.

**Sage:** Oh. It gets so bad in the later generations.

**Travis:** Oh my god. Guys, just stop.

**Sage:** The Pokémon designs, especially. I mean, like, one Pokémon in Black and White, I think, it's just fucking garbage. Literally. It is a trash bag.

**Greg:** It's a pile of garbage getting fucked. Fucking garbage.

**Sage:** And it evolves into a bigger trash bag!

**Travis:** That's really funny.

**Jessica:** Oh, gross.

**Greg:** Doesn't it- it doesn't go into, like, a dumpster?

**Sage:** No! It's just garbage. It's the garbage Pokémon.

**Greg:** It should go trash bag, dumpster, landfill.

[Travis stifles laughter.]

**Sage:** Can you- I thought you were on cat duty.

**Jessica:** I was on cat duty, but he ran away from me.

**Travis:** [amused] Landfill.

**Greg:** And then final, mega evolution is Lil' Wayne.

**Travis:** Lil'- fuck.

**Jessica:** Oooh. [makes air horn noise]

**Travis:** Damn, he hasn't been relevant for a few years, either. I haven't seen—

**Greg:** Throwin' shade, Lil' Wayne. Come on the podcast.

[Chuckling.]

**Travis:** Alright, enemies of the pod.

**Jessica:** Come at me, Lil' Wayne.

**Travis:** Lil' Wayne.

[Greg chuckles.]

**Sage:** [amused] Wouldn't *that* be a crossover? [chuckles]

**Travis:** To have Drake on?

**Sage:** To have anything remotely in that direction of culture on this podcast.

**Travis:** We'll see if E-40's available.

**Jessica:** He's- he lives local.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** He does!

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** He's got wine and Safeway.

**Jessica:** He goes to my brother's Costco all the time.

**Greg:** Doesn't wine come in floaties?

**Travis:** I don't know.

**Greg:** Mm.

**Sage:** I don't think so.

**Greg:** Get otter. Is there an otter Pokémon?

**Sage, Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Uh, one o' the starters in...Black and White.

**Travis:** Oh yeah. Black and White. Is an otter. The—

**Sage:** Yeah. It evolves into not an otter, though. [chuckles] Super not an otter.

**Travis:** Really dropped the ball on that one.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Jessica:** A fireball!

**Sage:** No, it's like a unicorn seal.

**Jessica:** Oh, shit.

**Greg:** Like a narwhal?

**Travis:** A narwhal?

**Jessica:** Oh my—

**Sage:** Oh! It's a narwhal with- with, uh, with fins.

**Jessica:** God.

**Sage:** Like with, uh, like feet and- and it has like four limbs- limbs! Is the word I'm looking for.

**[Travis chuckles.]**

It's a narwhal with limbs, basically.

**Jessica:** Words are so good.

**Greg:** Oh! It's that poke- it was a Pokémon that I was—

**Sage:** Samurai? No.

**Greg:** I was looking at it and I was just like, that's almost a bad name.

**Travis:** Oshawott.

**Greg:** Oshawott.

**Sage:** Ah, yes. That's the fist- yeah. That's the first one.

**Travis:** How?



[Chuckling.]

**Sage:** Is there anything in the little cup that is on the—

**Greg:** Did anybody ever visit Oshawott?

**Travis:** That's amazing. This changes, uh, very few things.

[**Sage** chuckles.]

**Sage:** Still- still leaning Kanto.

**Travis:** But I am seeing some shit that I am not- I had forgotten about. Some kind of—

**Sage:** Yeah. After gen three—

**Greg:** Oh yeah, he turns into a big frickin' dog with, like, samurai armor.

**Sage:** Oh yeah. What's it called? Samurott.

**Greg:** Samurott.

**Sage:** Yeah, Samurott's weird. Weird Pokémon.

**Travis:** [mocking] Skitty? Pfft.

**Sage:** But yeah, after gen. III for me, I start- you start—

**Travis:** I agree.

**Sage:** You start losin' me.

**Travis:** Gen III had some very cool Poké- dude, Blaziken? Oh my god.

**Sage:** Mm-hmm, Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Just like the- the 'fuck you, I win' Pokémon.

**Sage:** I mean, I was always partial to Treecko and through Sceptile.

**Travis:** Sure, absolutely. But Blaziken.

**Sage:** [amused] But, you're wrong. And Blaziken's the best. [chuckles]

**Travis:** Well No, no, no. it's just like, it's a birdman that can kick your head in.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Like, there's something inherently like, what—

**Sage:** Yeah. It is the firebird. Well there's actually the

**Greg:** Wait where is- where's the first evolution?

**Travis:** Torchic. You go all the way down to T.

**Greg:** Oh, about there.

**Travis:** It's very unimpressive.

**Greg:** Very- I'm all about that Torchic.

**Travis:** Yeah, it's, uh...

**Sage:** It's further.

**Travis:** Down.

**Sage:** You're still in Gen II.

**Travis:** There. There it is.

**Greg:** There we are.

**Sage:** Oh, it's in alphabetical.

**Greg:** [adoring] Aw, it's so cute.

**Travis:** Yeah, check that out.

**Greg:** Disco pants.

**Travis:** It's fuckin, like—

**Greg:** Damn.

**Travis:** —straight up, Bruce Lee. Like—

**Sage:** And we're not- don't worry about Mega-Evolutions, it's not a thing. I'm ignoring that entirely.

**Travis:** That's fine.

**Greg:** Oh good. Dragonite doesn't have one.

**Sage:** I wanna ignore the Fairy- I'm not ignoring Fairy-type, 'cause that exists in Pokémon Showdown, but.

**Greg:** Love that Clefairy.

**Sage:** Yeah, that's a Fairy-type now [chuckles].

**Greg:** It wasn't?

**Sage:** That was—

**Travis:** No.

**Sage:** Fairy-type didn't exist until...

**Greg:** Whoa, this- there's a hacksaw- hacksaw Jim Duggan Pokémon?

**Sage:** [amused] Pfffft.

**Greg:** Timburr.

**Travis:** Timburr.

**Jessica:** Tim Burton.

**Sage:** Oh, yeah. Timburr and fuckin' Bouldur—

**Travis:** Yeah, Timburr, the Tim Burton Pokémon.

**Sage:** The evolution of that guy, it's just like has a crane or whatever with him. Or, uh...

**Greg:** He starts with a block o' wood and then an iron beam.

**Sage:** Yeah, iron beam.

**Greg:** And then two cement blocks.

**Sage:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Greg:** And he's an old scrotum lookin' thing.

**Sage:** They got really urban in Black and White, which- 'cause it was supposed to be, like, New York was there.

**Travis:** Right.

**Greg:** [amused] Ah, this is a New York type.

**Sage:** Yeah, I respect that in some regards, but like—

**Travis:** Which one was that?

**Sage:** [displeased] I don't know. The Garbage Pokémon gets me.

**Travis:** [laughing] Conkeldurr.

**Sage:** Yeah, Conkeldurr. What the fuck? Who—

**Greg:** Hey, that's like a slur. You're not supposed to call people that.

**Sage:** How did the localization team really think that was a good name?

**Travis:** [mocking] Conkeldurr. [normal] Dude, for how cool Fennekin is, the evolutions are not that tight.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Braixen and Delphox.

**Sage:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Greg:** Fennekin?

**Sage:** Like the first stage was like, that was the cool-lookin' new fox Fire-type Pokémon.

**Travis:** And they just made it like this weird, like...

**Sage:** Witch thing.

**Travis:** World of Warcraft-esque. Yeah, no.

**Sage:** Yeah. They- they really have been blowin' it on the starters since Gen IV. Gen IV had full—

**Travis:** Designers of Pokémon, callin' you out.

**Greg:** Throwin' shade.

**Travis:** Throwin' shade.

**Sage:** I don't...

**Greg:** Wait, Fennekin, okay.

**Sage:** Man...

**Greg:** Alright, that's cool, that's cool.

**Travis:** Yeah, no. Then go to that.

**Greg:** Delphox. Oh, that's...pretty lame.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Greg:** Cute dress. That is a cute dress, though.

[Laughter.]

I would take, uh, what is it Braixen... Take that one to the dance.

[Sage chuckles.]

Not it's older sister, though.

**Travis:** Fuckin' Fletchling? Ah, man.

**Greg:** Flesh light? What?

[Sage chuckles.]

**Travis:** Talonflame. I forgot about Talonflame. That's pretty cool.

**Sage:** Too urban.

**Greg:** [chuckles] Too urban in that reference? Oh, the Fletchling is just like a bird that I think actually exists.

**Travis:** Yeah, right? Then look at Talonflame. It's real, like, 'do this'. Fuckin' go, hawk.

**Greg:** Land on my arm. Little work with that.

**Sage:** Come on, Travis. Where you goin', man?

**Travis:** Sage, this is, uh, this is a big list of things. A big decision.

**Sage:** I get it. If you wanna think about it

**Greg:** It's a little pet, though.

**Sage:** —outside of tonight, I respect that.

**Travis:** Okay. Okay.

**Sage:** But the key thing is I want—

**Greg:** But hurry up.

**Sage:** It's a big theme in Pokémon, super cheesy, like the trainer and their Pokémon are bonded beyond, you know...

**Travis:** Yes.

**Sage:** Tangible, whatever.

**Travis:** That's sort of- that's what I've got spinnin' in my brain and I'm like, I need to take some, like, personality tests or something.

[Sage chuckles.]

**Jessica:** Right? That's what I feel like too.

**Greg:** Well, like are you Hufflepuff, are you Gryfindoor?

**Jessica:** Hufflepuff, obviously.

**Travis:** Ravenclaw.

**Sage:** You could also—

**Greg:** Hufflepuff.

**Jessica:** Well I wouldn't know, but you know.

**Sage:** If you wanna put it in my hands or the roll of a dice. Like, pick five and roll for it.

**Travis:** That's pretty tight.

**Greg:** Ooo, do that, do that, do that.

**Travis:** That's what I'm sayin' man. I was super into that.

**Jessica:** What was that?

**Sage:** Uh, if Travis picks, like, you know, six Pokémon that he's like, can't really decide between, roll a d6.

**Jessica:** Oh, oh.

**Sage:** Whatever it lands on is what he gets.

**Greg:** This Feebas looks like a sick Magikarp.

**Travis:** Lot of it is really just deciding if we—

**Sage:** Oh, wasn't that the ugly one, though? That Poké—

**Greg:** [mocking] Is that the ugly one?

**Sage:** No, I mean, it's described as like the Ugly Pokémon, and that's what it evolves into...*that*.

**Greg:** Which is pretty Gyrados.

**Sage:** Which is supposed to be the- yeah. It's just, like, the Beauty Pokémon.

**Travis:** Ah, fuck. Um... It's really just deciding between either Abra or one of the fire starters.

**Sage:** That's cool. I respect that.

**Travis:** But the problem is Abra, you got a Abra—

**Greg:** Isn't there just Charmander? Is that the only fire starter?

**Sage:** I feel like if you wanted Abra, you should be a Psychic type, er, class. You know? I mean, well- nah.

**Travis:** Not necessarily.

**Greg:** No. Think about this. When he starts to evolve, he can play in the folk band with him.

**Travis:** Yeah, he's like the prog rock Pokémon. [chuckles]

**Greg:** 'Cause he's got them spoons.

**Sage:** Kadabra?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Or Alakazam.

**Travis:** Total dark side of the moon vibe.

**Sage:** The spoons are drumsticks.

[Chuckling.]

**Travis:** He's a conundrummer in a band called Mind Scrambler.

**Sage:** [stifles laughter] Damn.

**Travis:** I didn't write that. That's *Xavier: Renegade Angel*, season two, Adult Swim.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

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**Greg:** You're on light. Come on the podcast.

**Travis:** Yeah. Creators of *Wonder Showzen*, if you wanna come on the podcast, you're more than welcome.

**Sage:** And there are a lot of Pokémon on this list that are fuckin' mysteries.

**Travis:** Yeah. There's, uh, this one that's called Archen that looks like—

**Sage:** Oh, the bird.

**Travis:** The fruity loops toucan with a rock face.

**Sage:** Uh, Yeah. I ha- when I play through Black and White I had- I *had* to get him.

**Travis:** It looks like he's wearing a paper mâché mask of the Froot Loops toucan.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

**Greg:** I'm into him.

**Sage:** How you doin' over there, Jess? You been kinda quiet.

**Jessica:** Uh, yeah, I'm just goin' through all the Pokémon. 'Cause I feel like...

**Travis:** [mock pondering] Hmm...

**[Sage stifles laughter.]**

**Jessica:** Yeah, it's a personality test.

**Travis:** [existential crisis] What am I?

**Sage:** Do- you're starting to feel maybe not Vulpix?

**Jessica:** Maybe.

**Sage:** 'Cause it—

**Jessica:** Well, 'cause her nature's very- it's timid, that's what the Internet tells me.

**Travis:** They got so specific.

**Sage:** Oh, that's- like, your Pokémon can have any nature.

**Travis:** Yeah, it's—

**Jessica:** Oh.

**Travis:** Nature isn't- it'll change between each individual Pokémon.

**Jessica:** Oh, cool, cool.

**Greg:** I like my Dragonite potentially being jolly when it gets older.

**Sage:** If that's- and I want that- and I want—

**Jessica:** 'Cause I want a Vulpix that's sassy- OW! Jeez, Miles!

**Travis:** Like that?

**Sage:** Miles is my cat, if you didn't learn.

**Travis:** [amused] You sure you want a sassy Pokémon?  
[**Jessica** sighs in irritation.]

**Sage:** Uh, the Pokémon—

**Jessica:** No, this is Jessica, not Candice. Candice wants a sassy Pokémon.

**Sage:** The Pokémon—  
[**Greg** stifles laughter.]

**Jessica:** Yes, I'm listening.

**Travis:** [amused] Shit.

**Sage:** The Poké- [chuckles] the Pokémon nature.  
[Stifled laughter.]

Is randomly generated when you catch the Pokémon.

**Travis:** [mocking] M'ow.

**Sage:** Why are you guys laughing?

**Greg:** [giggling] The fat cat.  
[**Sage** laughs.]

**Sage:** Oh, yeah. That's another Black/White one.

**Travis:** Check this out. Glameow to, uh...  
[Laughter.]

[mocking] M'ow.  
[**Greg** giggles.]

**Greg:** Made me laugh like that.

**Travis:** [mocking] Gimmie a steak. M'ow.  
[Chuckling.]

**Jessica:** [groans] Oh no.

**Travis:** [amused] Abilities, Thick Fat.

**Sage:** [amused] Fuckin' drunk gar—

**Greg:** [chuckling] Yes, one of those is Thick Fat.

**Travis:** [chuckling] Ah, Jesus Christ.

**Sage:** It's fuckin' drunk Garfield.

**Travis:** Oh [chuckles] god.

**Greg:** He isn't Garfield already?

**Sage:** Nah, he's just...

**Greg:** It's hungover.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** You can- Honedge. Like one of the most cheap Pokémon in the game.

**Sage:** Uh, with the natures, natures exist in Pokémon Showdown as it would in a competition.

**Travis:** Right.

**Sage:** But you'll grind to get the nature they want, 'cause they have a- yeah. Crustle, I mean, like, what the fuck?

**Travis:** Right?

**Sage:** Um...

**Travis:** That is a- that's a Paris under a piece of rock.

**Sage:** Yeah. It's a—

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Earth.

**Sage:** Urban Paris. The natures, though in competitions people will grind to catch the Pokémon they want with this nature so that it has the, you know, plus additions and for the ones they want. You guys are not gonna get that option, and whatever you catch is what you get, you know? So if you catch a Vulpix with timid nature, you're Vulpix has timid nature.

**Jessica:** That's not- I- okay.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Jessica:** That's cool.

**Greg:** No, I'm super cool with the Pokémon havin' random natures.

**Sage:** Yeah. So aside from that, picking the Pokémon that kind of like looks and feels based on type and design towards your character, go for that.

**Greg:** Got it.

**Jessica:** Man, Vulpix is still a big contender.

**Travis:** Not a whole lot of Electrics on the list.

**Sage:** Yeah, Electrics are kinda neglected. And so are poison.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Poison there was way too many in Gen I.

**Travis:** Yeah, there were a lot.

**Sage:** And then they just abandoned them. There's, like, two per Gen.

**Travis:** So many Bugs.

**Sage:** Lotta Bugs and nobody really cares.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** No one ever did.



**Travis:** No. I mean, honestly—

**Sage:** There are some cool ones, but most of them are generally on a usefulness level. Uh, not.

**Travis:** Whenever I play through Blue, I usually pick up a Weedle, just 'cause Beedrill can be pretty clutch in the first bit.

**Sage:** Yeah. In the beginning for sure. Once you get to Elite Four, though...

**Travis:** And then the Butterfree, too.

**Sage:** Yeah. Butterfree's good, 'cause it has all those—

**Travis:** Stab monster.

**Sage:** Yeah, all the stun and the spores.

**Greg:** They put you to sleep.

**Sage:** Mm-hmm. Paralyze, Sleep or Poison. Just fucking, [snaps fingers] Phu phu phu.

**Greg:** Knock out.

**Sage:** Ooo, Tyrogue. He's cool.

**Travis:** Tyrogue?

**Sage:** Fighting-type.

**Travis:** Ooo.

**Sage:** That's the pre-Hitmonchan or Hitmonlee that—

**Travis:** Galvantula. Holy shit.

**Greg:** [amused] That's my band.

**Sage:** Oh, here's- here's the Pokémon I hate. Trubbish.

**Travis:** Pfft.

**Sage:** Go to him.

**Travis:** Alright. *Magnezone*?

**Sage:** That's a—

**Travis:** That's a spaceship.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

Look at this. Look what they did to Magnemite. They made him a...

**Greg:** [chuckling] Okay.

**Travis:** That is- that is Jefferson starship. Part of it.

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Jessica:** Oh my god. And then it's Garbodor. Odor. Garbodor.

**Travis:** That is the album cover of Boston's fresh market.

**Greg:** [chuckling] Yeah.

**Sage:** Trubbish evolves into Garbodor.

[**Travis** laughs.]

Which isn't- if, you know, you weren't—

**Travis:** Ah, man.

**Sage:** In case it wasn't clear enough—

**Jessica:** Stench.

**Sage:** [enunciates irritably] Garbage smelly.

**Travis:** Trubbish...

**Greg:** Wait, what's the first one?

**Sage:** Trubbish.

**Travis:** Oh, it's a fuckin' garbage bag.

**Greg:** With a T?

**Jessica:** Yeah.

**Sage:** That's what I was tellin' you, man! Worst fuckin', stupid it- oh my god. It just looks so...

**Jessica:** And it's ears are just like the garbage bag tied.

**Sage:** It's just screaming, 'kill me'. It's just screaming it.

**Jessica:** Look at that face.

**Sage:** Callin' you out, future Pokémon design teams.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Don't do another Garbodor.

**Travis:** You, Drake, Lil' Wayne.

[Chuckling.]

Japanese people.

**Sage:** And Game Freak.

**Travis:** And Game Freak.

**Sage:** Come on the show, don't fuck it up.

**Greg:** Ooo, you know what? Mind freak also.

**Greg, Travis:** Chris Angel, calling you out.

[**Sage** laughs.]

**Travis:** You're real good friends with that dude from Korn and that's weird.

**Greg:** Yeah, that's a relationship I- I never want to join.

**Sage:** That's a thing?

**Travis:** Oh, yeah.

**Sage:** Interesting.

**Travis:** Doesn't that make a lot o' sense, though?

**Sage:** I guess. I don't know a lot about Korn.

**Greg:** Hey, lead singer of Korn, I thought you were great in Queen of the Damned.

[Beat.]

That's how their talks go.

**Travis:** Great.

**Sage:** [silly accent] Thanks!

[Greg chuckles.]

Oh, Honedge. That Poké- a fuckin' sword.

**Travis:** It is a shitty Pokémon, but man is it useful. It is a very—

**Sage:** A Ghost/Steel sword?

**Travis:** Oh, man, yeah.

**Sage:** That is a really cool type combo.

**Travis:** It is drastically overpowered. Look, if you do Swords Dance over and over again, then it's like...

**Sage:** Swords Dance. That- it's almost as if that move was made for him.

**Travis:** Like, long ago, yeah.

**Sage:** It. It. That's cool. Okay, Travis.

**Travis:** Oh, everybody waitin' on me?

**Jessica:** Yes.

**Travis:** Oh shit. I had no idea.

**Greg:** I just noticed that there's Magby is like the- the Charmander for frickin' Magmar.

**Sage:** This one?

**Travis:** Oh yeah, Magby?

**Sage:** Oh.

**Greg:** Yeah, Magby. Sorry, can't read English.

**Travis:** Baby.

**Greg:** Uh, from Japan. I'm here. I'm on the podcast.

**Sage:** That was second Gen I think they added those.

**Travis:** Yup.

**Greg:** Did they do that for Scyther?

**Travis:** No. There's no baby Scyther.

**Greg:** No baby Scyther?

**Travis:** Those were a specific baby Pokémon setting.

**Sage:** There is a Scyther evolution, though.

**Greg:** What?

**Travis:** Scizor.

**Sage:** Yeah, Scizor. That's all Gen II stuff, man.

**Greg:** Scizor...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** [amused] Ten years behind.

**Greg:** Oh, yeah, man. I'm still on the 150.

**Sage:** Twenty.

**Travis:** You ever play Super Smash Brothers Melee? Scizor.

**Sage:** Oh yeah. And I actually liked Scyther more.

**Travis:** Look at those.

**Sage:** Like, as a design standpoint. Like, it doesn't feel like he gets cooler or anything.

**Travis:** He just gets different.

**Sage:** Yeah. Travis, how're we goin'?

**Greg:** Name your six.

**Travis:** We- name my six?

**Greg:** Yeah. And then roll for 'em.

**Travis:** Hold on what's that- what's next? What's next on the docket?

**Sage:** What's on the docket, let's see.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** I mean, not a really a whole lot. It's all kind of up to us. I just wanna, like, talk about what you guys, like, what your characters probably think of each other and, like, what you guys do. [stifles laughter] You know, how each of you got into Pokémon for sure, and then, you know, within all of that to explore, we could do some improv.

**Jessica:** Oh, yeah.

**Travis:** Oooo.

**Greg:** We all love improv.

**Travis:** Love improv.

**Jessica:** Love it so much.

**Sage:** Just short scenes.

**Travis:** Ah, yeah. It's so fuckin' good. [whispers] It's so fucking.

**Greg:** Wrap myself up in some improv.

**Travis:** [whispers] God damn.

**Greg:** I wanna take that improv on a date.

**Travis:** [whispers] Show. Kids.

**Jessica:** Bring him home to daddy.

[Beat.]

[Stifled laughter.]

**Sage:** Fuckin...

**Greg:** Travis, stop holding down that improv.

**Jessica:** Whoops!

**Travis:** Oh!

**Greg:** Oh, it was Jessica that was holding the improv down.

**Travis:** Oh, goodness. I'm punchy.

**Sage:** So. What's it gonna be, man?

**Travis:** Hoo, boy.

**Greg:** Check it twice.

**Travis:** Yes. I would like to make a list. I'd like to leave this to the fates.

**Sage:** And roll for it?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Sage:** That'll be fine. I like that.

**Travis:** Everybody, he's made a decision to not make a decision.

**Greg:** Aw, Seedot.

**Sage:** And if you start- sticking for Vulpix for now?

**Jessica:** For now, yes.

**Sage:** Okay, yeah. And, you know, if you wanna change your mind you can. But be helpful to not.

**Jessica:** Okay. So I won't.

**Sage:** No, or you can!

[**Jessica** stifles laughter.]

**Travis:** You know—

**Sage:** Fennekin would also be a cool choice for you, you know.

**Jessica:** What?

**Sage:** Fennekin, that's the other fire fox.

**Jessica:** Oh.

**Travis:** Have you seen this shit? Look at this guy.

**Sage:** You were lookin' at her earlier.

**Jessica:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Greg:** Oh, which one?

**Travis:** Okay.

**Greg:** Oh, Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Travis:** Little fennec fox. The cool- the Pokémon which- I mean, the animal, when I first saw it, was like that's a real life Pokémon. And then they made it a Pokémon.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** You've seen a fennec fox, right? Oh my god.

**Greg:** Pull it up.

**Travis:** Look it up on the Internet.

**Greg:** Is there a red panda? Can I pick a red panda?

**Sage:** [thinking] Mmm....

**Greg:** As my starter?

**Travis:** There is...there's Pancham.

**Greg:** Who's Pancham?

**Travis:** He's a real panda.

**Sage:** He's a panda.

**Greg:** Oh. I like this- the tree of Seedot and where it goes. This one, Seedot.

**Sage:** Yeah.

[**Sage** and **Greg** hold one conversation while **Travis** and **Jessica** hold another.]

**Greg:** And then it turns into—

**Travis:** F-E-N-N-E-C.

**Greg:** —that ninja dude, and turns into this wise old tree master.

**Jessica:** [slow] F-E-N...

**Sage:** Yup.

**Greg:** And I'm like that's pretty cool. I'm into that.

**Travis:** Fennec fox.

**Jessica:** Oh.

**Travis:** F-E-N-N-E-C.

**Greg:** Alright, where's this panda one?

**Jessica:** Oh, that?

**Travis:** It's the closest thing we'll get to a Pokémon in real life. I wanna have him as pets.

**Sage:** I know the panda one has a first evolution, so I'm not sure- oh, Pancham.

**Greg:** Pancham.

**Jessica:** Oh, yes. I see him now.

**Greg:** Yeah, oh.

**Travis:** Big old ear fox.

**Greg:** [amused] He's a little bad boy.

**Travis:** To regulate heat.

**Greg:** Oh shoot.

**Travis:** And they make noises that are super high and chirpy that I can't handle.

**Greg:** Fuckin'...

**Sage:** Active Snorlax.

**Greg:** Nature, adamant.

**Travis:** Can I get a little piece of paper? Somethin' to write this down?

**Sage:** Oh, I can write it down for you.

**Travis:** Alright.

**Greg:** Start a little notepad on there.

**Travis:** I could just draw from a hat. Or I could roll for it.

**Sage:** Nah, we gotta roll for it.

**Travis:** Roll for- alright, RPG actual play.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

**Sage:** So let's do it.

**Travis:** Alright. Number one, Charmander. Because who doesn't want a Charizard? Are you fucking kidding me?

**Sage:** Yeah, right?

**Greg:** What up? Especially if I get that Dragonite? We could roll—

**Travis:** Ooo. Dragon friends? Roll *hard*!

**Sage:** [chuckles] Ah, shit.

**Greg:** We could be like the two dudes from Double Dragons. [stifles laughter]

**Travis:** It would be double—

**Greg:** [amused] Billy and the other guy.

**Travis:** Okay. So, Charmander. Abra. [Stifled laughter.] Every time?

**Greg:** [falsetto] Miles! Pick Miles!

**Sage:** Pick meeee!

**Travis:** 'Kay. Fletchling.

**Sage:** I don't remember who that is.

**Travis:** Little fire bird.

**Greg:** The discreet thing you can order off the Internet.

**Travis:** It's like a PIdgey, but with fire.

**Sage:** What Gen was that?

**Travis:** That's Gen III.

**Sage:** Fletchling?

**Travis:** I think. It might be Gen IV.

**Sage:** No, dude, I know Gen III really well.

[Miles meows.]

**Travis:** Gen IV, then. Or it might be Black and White. You know what? I don't know.

**Sage:** Shut up, Miles!

[Miles meows.]

**Greg:** [falsetto] I'm a Pokémon.

**Travis:** That's Cartman.

**Jessica:** Eric.

**Travis:** Yeah, right?

**Sage:** [mocking] Okay! My chicken pot pie!

**Travis, Jessica:** Ooh!

**Travis:** X/Y. Yeah, it was X/Y.

[Chuckling.]

**Sage:** I hope this can be picked up.

[Miles meows.]

Yeah, I didn't play X/Y.

**Jessica:** Y was when—

**Travis:** Dude, XY had space deer.

**Sage:** Oh! Yeah, okay.

**Travis:** Which was pretty cool.

**Sage:** Yeah. Fletchling and...

**Travis:** Um, who do I have there? Oh shit.

**Greg:** Gastly?

**Travis:** Uh, No, no, no.

**Greg:** Igglybuff.

[Beat.]

**Travis:** I will put, uh, fuck it—



**Sage:** Pinecone [chuckles]

**Travis:** No. Nobody wants fuckin' pinecone.

**Greg:** Wait, that's a Pokémon?

**Sage:** It's Pineco. That's another Gen II guy.

**Travis:** We'll say, uh...

**Sage:** I should play Gen II again. At least...

**Travis:** Dude. Great game.

**Sage:** That was kinda the peak.

**Travis:** Honestly, the mechanics they added into X and Y made it a really different and fun game.

**Sage:** No, I'm saying, like, culturally. Gen II was kinda the peak.

**Travis:** Oh. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I agree with that.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I agree with that. Um, we'll say Pikachu. We'll say- oh, sorry, and then Eevee. So yeah. Pikachu and then Eevee.

**Greg:** Oh, yeah. I picked you as an Eevee.

**Jessica:** Why? 'Cause she's so cute?

**Travis:** Oh, so I can be Jolteon.

**Greg:** Everybody likes Eevee.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Greg:** She's the cute girl at school.

**Travis:** Yeah, little Christian girl.

**Sage:** No, no, no.

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Jessica:** Eevee?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Greg:** Yeah, but she can be a bad girl if she wants to be.

**Travis:** Yeah, you're like man, I could take her places. [stifles laughter]

**Greg:** Or she could be a water girl if she wants to.

**Sage:** Uh, do you have a sixth one

**Travis:** No. Five is good.

**Sage:** What happens if I roll 6?

**Greg:** Oh, you can't be a Pikachu. You have to get Pichu.

**Travis:** If I roll 6- Ooo.

**Jessica:** You have to choose.

**Travis:** Yeah, if it rolls 6, then it's...it could be Sage's choice, if it rolls 6. That's interesting.

**Greg:** The Sage choice awards.

**Travis:** That's interesting.

**Sage:** If you asked. If you wanna trust me...

**Travis:** Oh, I don't trust you at all.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

But that's part of the fun.

**Sage:** It is- you will be starting as Pichu.

**Travis:** Huh?

**Jessica:** Yeah, not Pikachu.

**Travis:** Oh, it starts with Pichu?

**Jessica:** Yeah.

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Oh my god.

**Greg:** Is that off the table now?

**Travis:** Uh, kind of. Pichu's—

**Greg:** Also, the final evolution is Raichu.

**Travis:** Pichu fuckin' sucks.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

Like... Pichu, callin' you out.

**Sage:** [amused] Get on the show.

**Travis:** Come on this show.

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Sage:** Let's have a heated interview.

**Travis:** Yeah. Alright, then let's just do four.

**Greg:** Oh, pick Agumon.

**Travis:** And if it's a 5 I have to choose, and if it's a 6 you have to choose.

**Sage:** I could just roll a d4.

**Travis:** Nah, I don't- you don't *roll* a d4. You just throw it.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

**Greg:** It's the pyramid dice.

**Travis:** Yeah, I hate d4. Like, honestly, I can't stand d4s.

**Greg:** He's the worst Pokémon. Callin' you out d4.

**Jessica:** Calls you out, d4.  
**Travis:** Callin' out d4s.  
**Sage:** So what you're saying is I should get the two-sided d4s just for you.  
**Travis:** Grow more sides.

[**Greg** chuckles.]

What is this? Armature hour?

**Sage:** What were you sayin' for 5 and 6?  
**Travis:** What?  
**Sage:** What were you sayin' for 5 and 6?  
**Travis:** 5, I have to choose. 6, you have to choose.  
**Sage:** Well what are you choosing from? Those four?  
**Travis:** Yeah.  
**Sage:** And I have to choose from those four?  
**Travis:** Yes.  
**Sage:** Okay.  
**Travis:** Unless you just wanna stick me with the trash Pokémon.  
**Jessica:** Yeah, no. Let's think—  
**Sage:** Oh my god.  
**Travis:** Oh wait, should we put two troll Pokémon in there?

[**Jessica** chuckles.]

**Sage:** Troll?  
**Travis:** Like twoo—  
**Greg:** Koffing!  
**Jessica:** That he doesn't want.  
**Sage:** Oh! Oh, the tra- [chuckles]  
**Travis:** Oh my god.  
**Jessica:** Yes!  
**Sage:** I mean, I kinda want- yeah, like—  
**Jessica:** Yeah, let's do it.  
**Travis:** Okay, okay.  
**Sage:** You want the garbage guy? [chuckles]  
**Travis:** That's a- that's a- oh man.  
**Jessica:** Trubbish! Trubbish.  
**Travis:** I mean, I'm gonna give him away, but not this game.

**Jessica:** Trubbish!

**Travis:** Okay, we'll put Trubbish on there.

**Sage:** Oh my—

**Greg:** You're gonna Butterfree that.

**Sage:** I mean, your dad lives out of an RV.

**Travis:** Could'a found it and, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Sage:** In a trailer park. Like- like, he probably helped you catch it.

**Jessica:** Oh.

**Travis:** Okay, I'll justify that. I'll justify that super hard.

**Sage:** That'd be hella fun.

**Travis:** Oh my god. And, uh, so Trubbish...

**Greg:** And an Unknown.

**Travis:** And...ooo.

[Beat.]

**Sage:** Yeah, let's just pick a sixth, you know?

**Travis:** I'll say—

**Sage:** Like, something that you...

**Jessica:** Hate.

**Travis:** I know, they- I'm lookin'. There's gonna be one where there—

**Greg:** Or what if he gets like a super nice one, like Onix?

**Sage:** Or funny. You know, like Bidoof is just classic.

**Travis:** The fuckin'- I could do Magikarp.

**Sage:** [chuckles] Also classic.

**Travis:** Oh, that would suck.

**Sage:** Yeah, you'd be not helpful for a while.

**Travis:** Oh, I would hate that. I may pick a- I'd catch another Pokémon.

**Greg:** Give him a Goldeen.

[Plastic bottle crunches.]

**Sage:** [amused] Jessica.

**Jessica:** I'm sorry. You guys are taking forever.

**Travis:** I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

**Greg:** We'll jump in on the bits.

**Travis:** We're discovering the- we're discovering the, uh—

**Greg:** Have some verbal fun.

**Jessica:** Bleh ledar leh.

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Travis:** We're discovering the game mechanics.

**Greg:** Real good at improv.

**Travis:** This is act- that'd be a pretty fun way to roll Pokémon, though. You pick four and then you have the- the dice roll of there's two that you might end up with. Or pick five and there's one... I don't know if you'd be down for that, but I think that's a really fun mechanic.

**Sage:** I mean, do you want 6 to just be roll again?

[Beat.]

**Jessica:** Mm.

**Travis:** Uh...

**Jessica:** Or 6 could still be Sage chooses.

**Travis:** Yeah, what- Yeah, whatever.

**Sage:** But I'm gonna choose Trubbish. [chuckles]

**Greg:** Wait, what if he gets this—

**Travis:** Ass.

[Sage chuckles.]

**Greg:** This skunk Pokémon.

**Jessica:** Well that's why I said...

**Sage:** Skuntank.

**Greg:** Stunky.

**Sage:** Oh, Stunky and then Skuntank. Stupid Pokémon.

**Travis:** Hum. What is this- I'm tryin'a think of what's this fuckin'—

**Sage:** Oh, get a Diglett.

**Travis:** What's a useless Pokémon?

**Sage:** Diglett.

**Jessica:** Diglett?

**Sage:** Diglett.

**Travis:** He's pretty- like, he's not useless, but he's pretty fuckin' wuss.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** We'll do that.

**Sage:** You want Diglett as—

**Travis:** Or Foongus.

**Sage:** Foongus? I don't know what that is.

**Travis:** The evolution is Amoonguss. It's name, it's evolution name, is a fucking Incubus album.

**Sage:** Oh my god.

**Greg:** I'm looking it up.

**Sage:** Where's Foongus?

**Greg:** Foongus. Oh, I found him.

**Travis:** You'll see it.

**Greg:** Oh! Okay, Yeah, yeah. I was lookin' at this dude earlier.

**Travis:** It is a- it is a Incubus album. Oh, no Mudkip, that's it. Yeah.

**Sage:** Mudkip as 6?

**Travis:** Yup, that's it.

**Greg:** I'm trying to quote an Incubus song and I can only think of Hoobastank.

[Beat.]

**Jessica:** Hmm.

[Beat.]

**Travis:** Oof.

**Sage:** Alright guys, I'm doin' this.

**Travis:** *I'm* doin' this.

**Sage:** I know.

**Travis:** Okay, cool.

**Sage:** So we're rolling a d6. 1 is Charmander, 2 it's Abra, 3 it's Fletchling, 4 it's Eevee, 5 it's Trubbish, and 6 it's Mudkip.

**Jessica:** I mean, let's just skip it. You should just have Trubbish.

**Travis:** God I hope it's a 1. You shut up. You shut up.

[Sage chuckles.]

You shut up.

**Jessica:** 5, 5, 5! It'd be perfect for his backstory.

**Sage:** [amused] I know, I know.

[Dice roll on the table.]

**Jessica:** Oh.

**Sage:** Mudkip!

**Travis:** Ah, god dammit.

[Sage laughs.]

**Jessica:** Wait, you should just have Trubbish. Can he default to Trubbish?

**Sage:** [laughing] You don't want Mudkip?

**Travis:** No! Who wants a fucking meme as a Pokémon? This is awful.

**Greg:** [chuckles] Meme.

**[Sage laughs.]**

**Jessica:** Oh.

**Travis:** No, no, no.

**Sage:** [laughing] That was the actual, like, thought process behind putting him on the list? Was the...

**Greg:** This is garbage.

**Travis:** I have- I have backed myself into a corner.

**Sage:** There is so much facepalm happening on Travis right now. It's—

**Greg:** Hey, Trick, tell me about this Pokémon you've got.

**Travis:** I spent thirty minutes engineering a perfect system to end up with a fucking Mudkip.

**Jessica:** His name is Xander.

**[Sage continues laughing.]**

**Sage:** But, Travis. Do you has Mudkips?

**Travis:** Apparently. Yes.

**Sage:** Look- look, dude. If you really wanna reroll—

**Jessica:** No!

**Sage:** —because you don't think that joke has enough steam for your carry—

**Travis:** Oh it definitely does not have enough steam. That joke does not have enough steam. That joke didn't have enough steam two years ago.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

**Greg:** It's second evolution is the dumbest.

**Travis:** What is it?

**Sage:** Of Mudkip? [laughs]

**Travis:** Oh, Marshtomp.

**Sage:** [mocking] Meh!

**Travis:** What's the third one again? Swampert? Oh, god.

**Sage:** Swampert. Swampert's pretty cool. I think it does fit your- your redneck dad.

**Travis:** What makes him a redneck?

**Sage:** But you live in Pallet Town, so—

**Jessica:** He said trailer park.

**Sage:** Well, okay. Before we question this—

**Greg:** You said Cheap Trick.

**Sage:** —let's just quickly talk about some of the personality traits your character would have.

**Travis:** Sure. Sure, sure, sure, sure.

**Sage:** You know what I mean? Like why would he have a Mudkip? Why *wouldn't* he have a Mudkip?

**Travis:** Why would he have a mudcap?

**Sage:** Or anything but a Mudkip, you know. Like- like—

**Travis:** Right. Right, right, right, right. [normal] So I think he'd have a Mudkip because just, it's sort of unfortunate. It's just like, found a Mudkip in a swamp and it's like, uh, alright man. It's just like he's got this Mudkip and he's like, [sighs] I gotta take care of this fuckin' Mudkip now. And like that's a Mudkip, and it's like other kids have better Pokémon.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

And he's like, I got this Mudkip. Oh my god. What am I gonna do?

**Sage:** You found it with a- what's the rock stone that makes it not evolve? [chuckles]

**Travis:** Oh. Yes.

**Sage:** It has that lodged inside.

**Travis:** Yeah. It swallowed that.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

I found it choking on it, and then it just...

**[Sage chuckles.]**

Yeah.

**Sage:** 'Cause alternatively, you know, like, um... What does a Fletchling even look like? I don't—

**Travis:** It's just a little bird. Just a bird.

**Sage:** I'm gonna look for this. 'cause, like, I think that could be cool you know? I really like the idea of at least one of you guys having a Pokémon that's out of this generation. 'cause you're not gonna encounter those Pokémon.

**Travis:** Right.

**Sage:** But we can still use them as your starter.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Sage:** Oop, poniard? That's not what I meant to press. That's- who's that guy? Dark/Steel. Uh...

**Greg:** That's my nighttime alter ego. [quiet, menacing] Dark Steel.

**Travis:** Dark Steel?

**Sage:** Fletchling. Oh! This one.



**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Yeah! Yeah, yeah. And next- that was the Pidgey of X/Y.

**Travis:** Yeah. And it was the fire bird.

**Sage:** They decided to add fire. That's a cool Pokémon. [chuckles]

**Travis:** Right?

**Sage:** Why the fuck would you even...

**Travis:** Design this stupid system? 'cause I thought it'd be fun. And it was!

**Sage:** It- it still is.

**Jessica:** I really like this.

**Sage:** You got Mudkips. I mean...

**Travis:** That's pretty hilarious.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

**Greg:** Oh, I knew a guy who had Mudkips. He missed school for a month.

**[Travis laughs.]**

**Sage:** The one thing is like, with Fletchling, is that, you know, she's gonna start with fire.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Sage:** And he's gonna start with a Dragon.

**Travis:** Right.

**Greg:** Who eventually will have fire. [chuckles]

**Sage:** You also start with a fire. Very Fire-heavy team.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Don't care, don't need to. Could care. Up to you.

**Greg:** We could be called...the Trail Blazers.

**Sage:** Oh no.

**Travis:** I mean...

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Sage:** Root Blazes.

**Greg:** RuPaul.

**Jessica:** Drag race. Vroom, vroom.

**Travis:** Rand Paul.

**Sage:** [chuckling] Rand Paul. Oh my god.

**Travis:** 2020.

**Sage:** Can that please be the team name?

**Travis:** Rand Paul 2020. It's our team name. Sage, claiming it now.

**Greg:** No.

**Sage:** I don't want that to be—

**Travis:** He's got the looks.

**Sage:** Ugh. I feel like this podcast is coming off as, like, the one conservative, uh, actual play. Which is *not* the case.

**Jessica:** What?

**Travis:** Went from- when? From how?

**Sage:** Oh, you know, all the racial jokes.

**Travis:** Oh, you mean the racism because all conservatives are racist, right Sage?

**Sage:** I mean, not all. But—

**Jessica:** Oh.

**Sage:** But, uh, I mean all- I mean a whole- uh, Diglett, use Dig! Er, wait no. I need to get out! I'm just deeper, uh, uh, Pidgey use Fly!

**Travis:** Just give me fuckin' Eevee. I'm gonna make it a Jolteon eventually. That's what I'm gonna do with the actual game, but I'll run a Mudkip today.

**Sage:** Oh you wanna get an Eevee?

**Travis:** Yeah. Well I mean- yeah. 'cause I want- I basically want—

**Sage:** No, I'm always- you're always okay to plan ahead. If you know where a Pokémon is and you want that as your second type, fuckin' do it.

**Travis:** Oh I mean, I feel like when I actually, you know, when we start, like, one I might audible just to start with Eevee or something. But for the sake of this game and for how long the joke can run, which is probably one episode, I can do a Mudkip.

**Greg:** remember those Pokémon pictures I drew for like the old Dragon Viper cover team?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Greg:** Yeah. Did I give you an Eevee?

**Travis:** I don't recall.

**Greg:** Probably did.

**Travis:** Think you gave me...

[Beat.]

Oh, I don't remember

**Greg:** Just remember I gave Baranski a Diglett [amused] and he was pissed. [chuckles]

**Sage:** What about- I mean, like, and you could go Fletchling.

**Travis:** Nah, I'd just- I'd go, uh, I'm either gonna go Eevee or- or I'll stick with the Mudkip for the sake for the sake of the bit.

**Greg:** If I was to go a generation, I'd go with this Chimchar.

**Sage:** For your starter.

**Travis:** Fuckin' Chimchar? [chuckles]

**Greg:** Fuck yeah, man.

**Travis:** Oh, Infernape. Just—

**Sage:** I hate that name.

**Travis:** It's a pretty bad name, but it's a pretty cool lookin' Pokémon.

**Sage:** It's well-designed.

**Greg:** All it's missing is a bow staff.

**Travis:** Looks like a Power Rangers villain.

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Sage:** [amused] Oh man. It's good stuff.

**Greg:** All about that Fire kung fu type.

**Travis:** What're we doin' tonight anyways? What's the game? Like how-

**Sage:** Oh, I mean, like we're gonna wrap up pretty soon. I mean, it's already 11.

**Travis:** I know.

**Sage:** It's just like, uh, yeah we're not gonna like—

**Greg:** You just wanna do like, a roleplay of what they say in passing period at school?

**Sage:** This is- yeah. This is just to, like, once we actually dive into recordings we feel like...

**Travis:** Right.

**Sage:** Great about our characters and how the system works and everything.

**Greg:** Hey, uh, Trick did you get the homework?

**Jessica:** His name is Xander.

**[Beat.]**

**Greg:** I wasn't talkin' to you.

**[Chuckling.]**

[chuckling] Candice.

**Travis:** Yeah. I got- yeah I got—

**Jessica:** God, I go to school with imbeciles.

**Sage:** Okay, for now you're starting with a Mudkip.

**Travis:** I know.

**[Sage laughs.]**

**Jessica:** Wait, did you change your name to Xander—

**Sage:** No but see—

**Jessica:** —or is your name Trick?

**Sage:** I think- I think you should keep it because I like the dynamic of, like- like, they're super bonded with their Pokémon, right?

**Travis:** [amused] And I just don't.

**Sage:** Like, he caught a *Dratini*.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Maybe you caught in in the lake out back of Pallet Town, you know what I mean? Which is, like, huge ri—

**Greg:** Would that be by the lake?

**Sage:** Sure.

**Greg:** More ocean.

**Sage:** It's connected to the ocean.

**Greg:** Oh.

**Sage:** Yeah. So, like, you caught a Dratini, which is like a huge fuckin' de- a kid caught a Dratini in my backyard.

**Greg:** Is that a freshwater Pokémon?

**Sage:** That's irrelevant.

**Greg:** Sorry, keep going. You had great enthusiasm.

**Travis:** Put that on-

**Sage:** And you got a Vulpix, right? I don't know how we met the Vulpix. How d'we meet the Vulpix? Let's- let's do it.

**Jessica:** Oh my god, I have no idea.

**Sage:** I mean, let's try to come up with something.

**Greg:** It was a rescue.

**Travis:** Pffft.

**[Sage stifles laughter.]**

**Greg:** But I mean, like really, it rescued—

**Travis:** But really, it rescued—

**[Laughter.]**

Jessica Dahldren's last appearance on the Pokémon—

**Jessica:** *What* was my last name?

**Travis:** Uh, Doldrums?

**[Chuckling.]**

**Sage:** [amused] Jessica Doldrums?

**Greg:** Candice Cameron?

**Jessica:** Y- I like that visual.

**Greg:** No, Carter! Was it Carter? Candice Carter?

**Jessica:** Yeah. Candace Cameron is, uh, *Full House*?

**Greg:** Yeah. Yeah, it is.

**Jessica:** Yeah. Candice Carter is, uh, who I am.

**Travis:** Clarence Carter.

**Sage:** Anyway.

[**Jessica** groans and stifles laughter.]

What I was tryin'a say is, I like the idea of like, they're super bonded with their Pokémon, as most trainers and almost all trainers are. Like super- like the bond between a trainer and their starter is unbeatable.

**Travis:** [amused] Right.

**Sage:** But you got stuck with Mudkip and you *hate* it.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** And so you just lookin' forward to that Eevee you're gonna get.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Which is way cooler.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** And that could be the whole dynamic. Is- 'cause she has to voice Mudkip the whole time.

**Travis:** That's fine, that's fine.

**Greg:** Pffft.

**Jessica:** No I don't.

**Sage:** Person to your left.

**Jessica:** I didn't know we were sticking with that.

**Sage:** Oh, wh- maybe we're not, but I'd like that.

**Jessica:** Okay.

**Sage:** 'Cause otherwise, I don't want you to talk to yourself and the, you know, that puts the Pokémon thing to be in the other person's shoes to be like, look dude. I don't- we don't need to do more Pokémon conversations right now. As your partner, I'm going to go back in the Poké Ball. [chuckles]

**Travis:** Right. That's funny.

**Greg:** Pika, pika... What the fuck else do you want me to say?

[Chuckling.]

**Travis:** Desmond!

[Chuckling.]

**Sage:** So for now, soft pick Mudkip? Eh, eh?

**Travis:** Yeah, it's the Pauly Shore of Pokémon. Let's do this.

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Sage:** Yeah! [chuckles]

**Greg:** Oh, you found him in a biodome.

**Travis:** Pauly Shore.

**Jessica:** We're callin' you out!

**Travis:** Callin' you out.

**Sage:** [amused] Fuckin' love it.

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Travis:** Get on the pod.

**Sage:** [amused] Oh god. So how do- how did- how did Candice meet Vulpix? Fi- get her Vulpix?

**[Beat.]**

No wrong answers, this is improv.

**Greg:** No bad ideas.

**Travis:** We can come around to her.

**Jessica:** Yeah, come around to me.

**Sage:** Greg.

**Greg:** I'm working on learning about Dratini.

**Travis:** I found it in a ditch!

**Sage:** [chuckles] Mudkip?

**Travis:** I found Mudkip in a ditch. He was chokin' on a rock.

**Sage:** [quiet, amused] Oh my god.

**Travis:** I helped it stop choking, and then it's been following around- following me around ever since.

**Sage:** That's a shame. Also hilarious.

**Travis:** Yeah, it's name is Stewart.

**Sage:** [amused] You're gonna name it Stewart?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** That's a great name for a Mudkip!

**Travis:** Thank you. [stifles laughter]

**Greg:** Stewart.

**[Stifled laughter.]**

**Travis:** This is my Mudkip named—

**Sage:** God dammit Stewart. Stop using Mud Slap, it sucks.

**Travis:** It tracks mud sling—

**Greg:** Do you treat it like your mom treats you when she's mad at you?

**Sage:** [amused] Oh my—

**Greg:** When she's really mad at your dad?

**Sage:** —god. Make it so real.

**Travis:** Just like—

**Greg:** [irked] Stewart, clean your room!

[Stifled laughter.]

**Jessica:** [sympathetic] Oh.

**Travis:** It's a bit of that like...

[**Jessica** squeals on laughter.]

There's a bit of projecting goin' on.

**Sage:** I love it, dude.

**Jessica:** Oh god.

**Sage:** I want all kinds of shit like that.

**Greg:** Like your mom is mad at your dad, but she snaps out at you because you remind her of him. 'Cause you have that same smirk that made her fall in love.

**Sage:** Anybody.

[**Travis** chokes on a laugh.]

**Greg:** [chuckles] You okay? Can you breathe?

**Travis:** Chokin' on this- [coughs]

**Sage:** A quick pass around of this map, I'm gonna say, Greg, you caught Dratini right here, you know?

**Greg:** Oh, Yeah, yeah, yeah, okay. I dig that. I dig that.

**Sage:** The towns are bigger in our minds, right? But we're gonna use the actual in-game map as a point of reference.

**Greg:** No man, what happened is, on a dare, I had a truth or dare party...

[Stifled laughter.]

**Travis:** As kids have.

**Greg:** Uh, Cindy Darklighter, uh, she dared me to take old Chester's boat, little rowboat, out. And I went out into the main water, whatever that is beyond the little river.

**Sage:** Mm-hmm.

**Greg:** And fuckin'- found a fuckin' Dratini.

**Jessica:** That's cool.

**Greg:** Yeah, man. It was her.

**Sage:** Was it a big moment for—

**Greg:** It was. It was a dark night. There was a moon, though so maybe it wasn't- it was a bright night.

**Sage:** They do say Pokémon came from the moon.

**Greg:** There we go. It was a moon mon.

**Travis:** They're aliens?

**Greg:** A Poké moon.

**Sage:** That's a theory that hap- that comes up a lot in the games. Like—

**Greg:** It came from the moon.

**Travis:** Oh, Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Sage:** —they say Pokémon came from the moon. Did you know Pokémon might've come from the moon? Look at this Moonstone. Moon, moon, moon, moon, moon.

**Greg:** And they killed all of the normal animals.

**Travis:** Holy cow. Everybody in the Pokémon universe sounds either crazy or super condescending.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** They're either, like, an insane person or like, [condescending] you know...

**[Sage chuckles.]**

If you look at it this way, honestly- [quiet, irked] it's fuckin...

**Sage:** Onixly.

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Travis:** [condescending] Onixly...

**Sage:** There's many of those—

**Greg:** What kind of Pokémon do you like eating?

**Sage:** [quiet] Oh god. [normal] There is an episode where you see them eating Magikarp.

**Greg:** I believe it.

**Sage:** So it's a thing.

**Jessica:** [horrified] Oh.

**Sage:** You know.

**Travis:** Oh, fish aren't people.

**Sage:** [amused] Fish aren't people. Well Pokémon- they're Pokémon.

**Greg:** Uh, fish are friends.

**Jessica:** Not food.



**Sage:** And we settled this, I think last session we were talking about like are there animals? And there are.

**Greg:** I would eat a snarf.

**Travis:** There are?

**Sage:** There are animals.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Greg:** Wait, what?

**Sage:** Yeah. We talked about this.

**Greg:** When? At- were there ever animals in...

**Travis:** So what happens if I throw a Poké Ball at a fuckin' deer?

**Sage:** In the show you see them eating lots of food that are not Pokémon.

**Travis:** That's right.

**Sage:** And in the games there's lots of references to birds and cats and just regular animals.

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah.

**Greg:** Interesting.

**Sage:** There are regular animals that are not cool like Pokémon. Um...

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Travis:** That must suck to be a pet, then.

**Sage:** Right.

**Travis:** In this world.

**Sage, Jessica:** Yeah.

**[Beat.]**

**Jessica:** I'm thinking—

**Greg:** [falsetto] Look, I'm a Pokémon trainer.

**Travis:** Well, how many—

**Greg:** Let that lizard go!

**[Chuckling.]**

Stewart, clean your room.

**Sage:** [falsetto] I got a Charmander! [normal] I got a rock. [chuckles]

**[Chuckling.]**

**Greg:** You just threw a real rock at my Charmander, you asshole!

**Sage:** No it's a real rock.

**Greg:** [falsetto] It was a Geodude.

**Travis:** Found this Geodude. It's not a Geodude.

**Greg:** [amused] Drew some eyes on it.

**Sage:** [amused] It's a rock.

**Travis:** Yeah, some kid brings a Geodude to class.

**Jessica:** Oh! I caught a Geodude the other day, it's like—

**Greg:** No, that's a pet rock from the '80s.

**Sage:** [hushed] No, no, it's a *Geodude*, okay? Just roll with it. Get it *rollin'*. [normal] So Vulpix—

[**Greg** giggles.]

How did we get Vulpix?

**Jessica:** I'm thinking she was a gift.

**Travis:** I'm like Ghastly, you're just fucked.

[**Greg** stifles laughter.]

**Sage:** As many of these as we can do, I'm down for.

**Jessica:** I got her as a gift. Like a Christmas present.

**Sage:** [adoring] Aw.

**Jessica:** Um, as a pet.

**Sage:** From...?

**Jessica:** From my parents.

**Sage:** Okay.

**Jessica:** Yeah.

**Greg:** [adoring] Aw.

**Jessica:** But they gave—

**Travis:** Reading the paper.

[Chuckling.]

**Jessica:** He gave me the paper—

**Greg:** You shook the box and it lit on fire.

**Jessica:** [chuckles] Yeah. And I have a little scar- a little burn on my forehead.

**Greg:** Hot.

**Jessica:** I'm thirteen!

**Greg:** No, fire.

**Travis:** Uh....

**Greg:** I'm making puns.

**Sage:** I got the pun.

**Greg:** You just really don't like it?

[Chuckling.]

**Sage:** Their being uncomfortable, you know, through osmosis came over here. I'm good though. You're all thirteen. [stifles laughter]

**Greg:** Yeah, we're all thirteen.

**Travis:** We're all thirteen.

[**Sage** chuckles.]

**Greg:** I'm into Cindy, the guitar player.

**Travis:** We get it, we know.

**Sage:** Okay, that's cool. That's cool, Cindy. Cool.

**Jessica:** Um, yeah. So they originally got her as a pet for me. They didn't think that I was gonna wanna, like...

**Sage:** Train.

**Jessica:** Train her. Yeah. They just wanted—

**Sage:** Yeah. Do they disapprove of you wanting to be a trainer?

**Jessica:** Yeah, I do it in secret.

**Sage:** So that just lights more fire—

**Jessica:** That's my rebellious—

**Sage:** —under the- yup. Got it, okay.

**Greg:** The fire. Okay.

**Jessica:** Fire.

**Greg:** Fire.

**Sage:** I like it. Now—

**Jessica:** I think I might be- what is it? Um...

**Sage:** Fire sign?

**Jessica:** Arson? Arsenic? I think I might be—

**Sage:** Oh an [amused] *arsonist*?

**Jessica:** Arsonist. Yeah.

**Sage:** Oh no. [stifles laughter]

**Jessica:** I think I might be a-

**Travis:** [amused] Did you say arsenic?

**Jessica:** I know, I did say arsenic.

**Sage:** [chuckles] I might be arsenic.

**Travis:** Arcanine?

**Jessica:** Arcanine?

**Greg:** Arcanine!

**Sage:** Now how did—

**Travis:** Those would—

**Greg:** I gave her Arcanine and her face lit on fire.

**Sage:** How did Xander be in- how was he inspired to be a trainer? Aside from just, like, not...

**Travis:** Well honestly, Xander hadn't really considered the idea of being a trainer. Doesn't really come from a family of trainers. They're all pretty normal- well they're not normal folk, but there are no real trainers in the family. He's got an uncle that is a Pokémon trainer in the sense that he has a facility that trains Pokémon.

**Jessica:** Mom or dad's side?

**Travis:** Uh, mom's side. The functional side.

**Jessica:** Gotcha.

**Travis:** Yeah. You know, he has, like, a- he has like a small gym that he trains Pokémon at. You know, he's more of a Pokémon, like, personal trainer so to speak. However—

**Sage:** Okay, who is this?

**Travis:** An uncle.

**Sage:** Okay. Okay, right.

**Travis:** An uncle of mine. A small gym out in—

**Jessica:** Uncle, uncle.

**Travis:** —Vermillion.

**Sage:** You're just saying a random thing.

**Travis:** I'm saying a city.

**Sage:** I mean, I can place it on the map.

**Travis:** Yeah, whatever. Do- do what you do. Uh, and he's always cool and I look up to him. And I found this Mudkip and I told him, like, hey do you want this? He was like, no. No you keep it. He doesn't want a fuckin' Mud- first off he doesn't- he saw it and he...

**[Sage stifles laughter.]**

**Greg:** I can't see that.

**Travis:** Eh, it's a lost cause. But he's like, no keep it. Train it. It'll be good for you. And he really wants me to, you know, to like, he wants me to sort of rise above my circumstances. He doesn't wanna, like, impart too mu- he doesn't wanna like step on my parents', like, you know, it's- it'd be- it's a, you know, what's the word I'm lookin' for? Inappropriate for him try to like try to parent me outta the situation, but he was like, no it'll be good for you. Let me know if you need any tips on training this Pokémon you got there.

**Sage:** This Pokémon. [chuckles]

**Travis:** I'm like alright I'll train the fuckin' Mudkip. Jesus Christ.

[**Sage** stifles laughter.]

And I don't know how. He gave me a book. Doesn't make sense. [stifles laughter]

**Sage:** [stifles laughter] I'm just seeing Pokémon Training for Dummies.

**Travis:** Basically. And like, I- I like playing music and that's what I do.

**Sage:** Cool, man.

**Travis:** And now I gotta take care of this fuckin' Mudkip. And I really like the idea of like having like... Ah, no I'm gonna leave it- no, no, I'll leave it there. Leave it there.

**Sage:** That's good.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** I like it.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Alright. How did- I think you touched on it a little bit earlier with why you wanted to be a trainer, but is there any other deets you wanna add to it, Skip?

**Greg:** Yeah. Yeah. I'm lookin' at is as, it's like the- it's the cool, trendy thing and his older brother is, you know, a business type Pokémon.

[**Jessica** stifles laughter.]

[Beat.]

Lot o' paper cuts. [stifles laughter]

**Sage:** What's their weakness? Fun-type?

**Greg:** [amused] Fun, yeah. [chuckles] Outside.

[**Sage** stifles laughter.]

Um, and so he's like, well, you know, okay. Not gonna be able to- to live up to that. Uh, money is not gonna be a thing in my future, um, and I feel very rambunctious. Like, oh I can Pokémon.

**Sage:** Cool.

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Does anybody—

**Greg:** He's just kinda, like, goin' for it.

**Sage:** Okay. Now does anybody have the focus of, like- like- like what are the focus? Is it- do you think it should just be, be at the Elite Four or like be the best trainer or like just, I'm just here? [chuckles] That's- okay, that's Xander. Like I just hang out with you guys. Oh, we're doing this? Alright, I'll come.

**Travis:** Yeah. It's like, now I can kinda- I've got more to hang out with you guys about 'cause I have a Pokémon.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah, there's more to do.

**Sage:** But you're not, like, super into it.

**Travis:** Yeah, 'cause it's, you know, I didn't want it. It's not great, I don't like it, but, you know. It's like the kid that shows up with the bike that's like, you know, it's slower than the rest of the bikes and it's like a—

**Sage:** My parents wanted me to hang out with people more so I got this bike.

**Travis:** Well it's- yeah, it's like, oh we'll get you a bike. Like, here. And it's just like this piece of shit.

**Sage:** [amused] Yeah.

**Greg:** You know, thinkin' about it like that, it's like the- when he catches the Dratini, maybe that sort of inspires him like, oh, you know, I got this real cool Pokémon. I should do this Pokémon thing.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** It's like a moment of, like, whoa. You know, that's—

**Jessica:** You're the chosen one. Sort of this, um—

**Greg:** Whoa. I'm the Luke Skywalker of this town!

**Sage:** Yeah, that's why I couldn't go to business school, 'cause I was supposed to catch you, Dratini.

**Greg:** If I went to business school, I never would'a caught you, Dratini.

**Sage:** What's the Dratini's- you got a nickname for Dratini yet? Nickname?

**Greg:** Uh, Cindy Darklighter.

**Travis:** Jalittle.

**Jessica:** Oh gross.

**Sage:** You can think about it. I just—

**Greg:** I was just kidding! I was just kidding.

**Sage:** I spent many a time thinking about my nicknames for my Pokémon. I was one of those kids.

**Greg:** I might just call it Dratini because I wanna remind everybody, hey—

**Sage:** [chuckling] That I have—

**Greg:** —I got a fuckin' Dratini.

**Travis:** I remember my Charizard was a deep-cut, all that reference of super dude in all caps.

**Greg:** Oh, alright, alright.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Vulpix, thinking of any names or just not yet?

**Jessica:** Not yet.

**Sage:** Alright. So—

**Travis:** Had a Lapras called No Thanks. [stifles laughter]

**Greg:** Like, that's us.

**[Travis laughs.]**

**Travis:** That is not inspiring.

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**[Something thuds.]**

**Jessica:** Op!

**Travis:** Sorry.

**Sage:** Uh-oh.

**[Beat.]**

Oh no!

**Jessica:** Oooh.

**Travis:** That's goin' up on the counter.

**Jessica:** Oh.

**Sage:** I'll link. There's a picture. Well, mm.

**Jessica:** Ohho! It's cute.

**Greg:** Can we send that to you? Or should we just try to get that?

**Sage:** You know what? You know what? I'm not gonna—

**Jessica:** Can it be on the Catacombs?

**Sage:** I'm not gonna do that.

**Jessica:** You're not gonna post the picture?

**Sage:** No. I'm not gonna do that. No.

**Jessica:** Oooh.

**Travis:** For those of you who don't know, it's- it looks—

**Sage:** It's just, you know, the most cringy, like, cosplayer—

**Travis:** It's like...

**Sage:** —super Pokémon fan.

**Travis:** It's like...

**Sage:** Little too much.

**Travis:** Yeah, it's like- it's like a legit—

**Greg:** [chuckling] One of them looks like Jeff Davis from *Who's Line Is It Anyway?*

**[Travis stifles laughter.]**

**Travis:** Oh, man.

**Greg:** Not on a good day.

**Travis:** Oh. Wow, yeah. This is sad. Miles, shut up.

**Greg:** Brreow.

**Sage:** So getting to the end here.

[Miles meows.]

Shut up, Miles! You were in a box and then you left—

[Miles meows.]

I liked when you were in the box. You were very quiet in the box.

**Travis:** He got tired of the box.

**Jessica:** Sage likes to put Miles in a box.

**Sage:** No, he put himself in the box. He should've stayed there, but that was his choice. Uh, let me go to my list here. Beb deh. Okay, so school life. What is your guys' school life like? Are you good at school, do you like it there, are you ready to get the fuck out of Pallet Town?

**Jessica:** I'm very good at school.

**Sage:** But do you like it?

**Jessica:** Mm. I do it. It's really easy.

**Sage:** Okay.

**Jessica:** Yeah. I do it- like, I know that's what my parents want me to do and I'm really good at just, like, doing it. But I put most of my focus into Pokémon training

**Sage:** You wanna beat the Elite Four? Is that, like, your goal right now or be the best trainer, whatever? Or it's like, gotta catch 'em all. Is that your motto?

**Jessica:** No.

**Greg:** You didn't say that enough times.

**Travis:** Gotta catch 'em some.

[Greg chuckles.]

**Sage:** [amused] Gotta catch [normal] Gotta catch two. [chuckles]

**Jessica:** I think my goal is to be the best trainer so I could prove to my parents that I'm—

**Greg:** Like no one ever was?

**Jessica:** No one.

**Sage:** That starts with the Elite Four. For sure. Um...

[Miles meows.]

Shut- dude. Okay. *You* are such a problem for this podcast. Look at you stickin' your tongue out, you old-ass man.

**Travis:** Pfft.



**Sage:** [amused] You're that fuckin' purple cat. The Pokémon. The fat cat that's all...

**[Greg chuckles.]**

Urgh! M'ow! [chuckles] Dude! Get down! Okay.

**Jessica:** Here.

**Sage:** You—

**Travis:** For those of you participating in the audi- audio medium, there's just a cat making a fuckin' racket.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

Inserting himself into everybody's lap.

**Greg:** Also, why aren't you watching the video version of this?

**Sage:** Uh, there's not one.

**Travis:** Ooo. [stifles laughter]

**Sage:** So, yeah. School life for you two.

**Travis:** I'm a C- student.

**Sage:** Awesome.

**Travis:** I'm pretty okay with English and stuff, I just- I don't really pay much attention. I'm always seemingly just, like, about a step and a half behind everybody else 'cause I get caught up in other shit.

**Sage:** Okay.

**Travis:** And yeah, it's not that I don't wanna be there. It's just like it's really hard to- seems to- seems like it's just really hard to get there.

**Sage:** Okay.

**Travis:** Harder than anybody else. And I'm just like, why is this so hard for me? And like, I'm not- I wouldn't consider my character stupid by any means, but it's just like that, ugh this doesn't work. This is- I'm not good at this. I'm not good at this.

**Sage:** I can relate.

**Travis:** A lot of it, you know, mild anxiety.

**Greg:** I would say that Skip never does the homework but kicks ass on the tests and really upsets Candice with that. That she studies for them.

**Jessica:** Eh.

**Greg:** No?

**Jessica:** I just said that it's really easy for me.

**Greg:** Oh. I wasn't listening to you when you were talking.

**Jessica:** Thanks.

**Sage:** You fuckin- now is-

**[Greg stifles laughter.]**

Bad start, man!

**Travis:** Come to my workshop, Improv for Not Listening.

[Chuckling.]

**Jessica:** So I do the homework, like, the morning of and I always do well on them. And I take the test and it's just kinda like, this is a thing I do.

**Greg:** Nah, okay. Yeah. Does not do the homework, kicks ass on the tests. Other than that, uh, he brings a skateboard to school. He's—

**Sage:** Of course.

**Greg:** He likes to do that. He's into that. He's into being seen with a skateboard.

**Sage:** A skateboard. [stifles laughter]

**Greg:** He thinks Cindy will like that.

**Jessica:** Indy? Sage's dog?

**Travis:** Cindy.

**Greg:** No, Cindy.

**Travis:** Has his headphones out.

**Greg:** Listen, you need to *listen*, Jess.

**Jessica:** You need to have better *diction*.

**Greg:** My diction is—

**Travis:** You need to have a better dick.

[Chuckling.]

**Greg:** God.

**Travis:** Like, is his thing where he takes his headphones off and the music's blaring really loud and doesn't change it so people can hear what he's listening to?

**Greg:** Always listening to Rufio.

[**Travis** snickers.]

**Travis:** Hey, for the three of you that might get that.

**Greg:** They were very big when Pokémon hit America.

**Travis:** Great.

**Sage:** Okay. I was born.

**Greg:** Angel above me is just constantly playing. Anyways...

**Sage:** Cool.

**Greg:** He wants to be in—

**Travis:** Notable pomp punk band.

**Greg:** He wants to be in a band, but doesn't play any instruments.

**Sage:** That's cool. So do you kinda have this slight envious thing towards Xander?

**Greg:** No, more of like an admiration.

**Sage:** Okay.

**Greg:** And like a, hey yeah. We should be in a band together. Always asking and—

**[Travis stifles laughter.]**

**Sage:** But how does Xander feel about that?

**Travis:** Well it's not that Xander doesn't wanna do it, it's just like, alright I don't, uh.

**Greg:** Get an instrument.

**Travis:** Yeah, I don't really know how to, like [chuckles] That sounds like a good idea. I don't know how that's gonna happen, but alright.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

I've been- real talk, I did that before. It's like, oh we should jam! You're like, ...Uh, okay.

**Greg:** Thanks, I already made some T-shirts.

**[Travis stifles laughter.]**

Here's the T-shirt design for our band.

**Travis:** O-oh. Okay.

**Greg:** We haven't even played.

**Travis:** Xander tends to get confused in situations a lot, where people like- yeah. If anything's suggested to him, he just sort of seems to stammer on the subject until the problem goes away.

**Sage:** So how do you think you three became friends?

**Greg:** Detention. Doofus club.

**Sage:** Or would you like to just do the scene? 'Cause I would like to do that.

**Greg:** Okay.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Jessica:** Hell yeah.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Greg:** Can you add, for background noise, an air conditioner that turns on and off randomly, and a clock in the background.

**[Sage clicks his tongue like a clock.]**

**Sage:** I'll just make those noises.

**[Sage makes air conditioner noises.]**

**Greg:** And for the audience, just picture three- four students all with their heads on desks.

**Travis:** In-house foley artist. [stifles laughter]

**Greg:** Yeah. We're gonna have to kill off one of these kids. The other- the forth one.

[**Sage** and **Travis** stifle laughter.]

**Sage:** Can I see the stat list? Really quick. Let me pull up, eh. Well, I guess it—

**Jessica:** Yeah, what were you guys' classes? You were a Youngster?

**Greg:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Musician.

**Jessica:** Oh. Musician, right.

**Greg:** Yeah, you gotta work on your *diction*.

**Sage:** Oh! Dice. Jessica, dice dropped all over.

**Jessica:** Oh, gross.

[Chuckling.]

**Travis:** Oh, I spilled my dice all over you.

**Greg:** How many stats.

**Travis:** Oh I diced.

[Chuckling.]

**Sage:** Oh! Ah man.

**Jessica:** Critical success.

**Sage, Travis:** Sexsex.

[**Sage** chuckles.]

**Sage:** We are deteriorating.

**Greg:** There's like other actual play podcasts, and they're like, I made that joke like ten years ago.

[**Jessica** chuckles.]

I'm callin' out. I'm callin' you out. Throwin' shade. Come on my podcast.

**Sage:** Okay.

**Greg:** Gross.

[**Jessica** chuckles.]

**Sage:** I'm just gonna say for the sake of this test, if I have you roll for something—

**Greg:** You're gonna play as brain, right?

**Sage:** —there's no bonus. It's just roll with like, you know, success/fail.

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah.

**Sage:** Cool, let's just do the scene. So! Three of you are, I'm gonna say this is elementary school. So you're a little bit younger, maybe fifth grade.

**Greg:** Oh, sweet.

**Sage:** You know, you guys are ready to get out. Ready to get into the big leagues. You are in different teacher's classes, right? So you don't know each other very well. You've

seen each other's faces around campus. But you've all done something, right? Something that has gotten you in trouble separately as individuals. And therefore you have ended up in Saturday morning detention.

**Greg:** What? They had Saturday school for *elementary* school?

[**Jessica** chuckles.]

**Travis:** What cruel fate.

**Sage:** Saturday morning detention. No cartoons.

**Travis:** Jesus Christ.

**Sage:** No Pokémon league, uh, Twitch stream.

**Greg:** This is the stuff that only happens in Japan.

[**Sage** chuckles.]

**Sage:** And it's just—

**Travis:** He's callin' you out. [stifles laughter]

**Sage:** I'm gonna say it's just the three of you.

**Travis:** Alright.

## Dream Police Detention

**Teacher:** Alright. The clock has started. You little hooligans got four hours.

**Skip:** Do you want us to do homework?

**Teacher:** Anything but talk.

[Long beat.]

I have to go to the bathroom.

[*Stifled laughter.*]

**Sage:** [*amused*] He leaves the room.

**Travis:** Just worked his way outta that one.

**Skip:** Okay, guys.

**Candice:** He said don't talk.

**Skip:** [quiet, conspiratorial] Oh, okay, we can not talk after we figure out the plan.

**Xander:** Plan?

**Skip:** Yeah, I can't reach that window.

[Beat.]

**Xander:** W- that's not a plan, that's a fact.

**Skip:** We're gettin' outta here. We're gettin' outta here.

**Xander:** Oh.

**Candice:** Okay, and what d'you suppose is gonna happen when we [mocking] get outta here?

**Xander:** We gotta come back here on Monday. [nervous scoff]

**Candice:** They're gonna know we're gone.

**Skip:** Well, we'll come back on Monday.

**Candice:** But then we're just gonna have to come back on *another* Saturday.

[Beat.]

**Skip:** They can't make us. We can always get out of a window.

[Beat.]

I didn't think this through.

*[Sage and Jessica stifle laughter.]*

**Sage:** *The teacher comes back in.*

**Skip:** Shut up, everyone.

**Teacher:** Uh, excuse me, Skip, were you talking?

**Skip:** Yeah, I was tellin' everyone to shut up.

[Beat.]

**Sage:** *He squints his eyes.*

**Skip:** You're welcome.

**Teacher:** [suspicious] Thank you, Skip. Now—

**Skip:** You're welcome, Mr. Ecklesteen.

**Mr. Ecklesteen:** That's right. Now, [shouts] shut up! [normal] And do your homework.

[Beat.]

**Sage:** *And he sits at his desk.*

**Skip:** Mis-

**Mr. Ecklesteen:** Yes?

**Skip:** Mr. Ecklesteen, I have a- I have a math question.

**Mr. Ecklesteen:** God dammit. What?

[Beat.]

*[Travis stifles laughter.]*

**Skip:** Um, I was- I was—

**Travis:** *[amused] Whoa.*

**Skip:** —in your class and I was, um, I was helpin' my neighbor out with the test. And I thought I was doin' a good thing, and I got in trouble, and so it doesn't all add up.

*[Stifled laughter.]*

[Beat.]

Can I leave?

**Sage:** *He just stares.*

[Beat.]

**Mr. Ecklesteen:** You makin' jokes, Skip?

[Beat.]

**Skip:** Maybe?

**Mr. Ecklesteen:** You makin' jokes?

**Skip:** You gonna take me out back?

**Sage:** *Pulls out a ruler.*

[Smack!]

**Candice:** Um, uh, Mr. Ecklesteen?

**Skip:** Ow...

**Mr. Ecklesteen:** You interrupted my desk slamming routine.

**Skip:** Oh. It didn't hit.

**Candice:** Um, I just wanna s—

[Laughter.]

I just feel like I need to vocalize again that just because I corrected my teacher on, you know, Geography questions and answers, um, that's why I'm here. And I don't think I should be here just because I'm smarter than my teacher.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Look, we have maps. And for you to think that you know the Hoen region more than your teacher—

**Skip:** Miss Burdalody.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Miss Burdalody—

**Skip:** Who doesn't know how to read maps.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Ye- excuse me?

**Candice:** [whispers] She doesn't.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Alright, you know what? I've let too much talking happen. You're all gonna stop talking, and I'm gonna go back to reading my book.

**Skip:** In the bathroom?

**Mr. Eklesteen:** No on- at my desk.

**Sage:** And he sit down, put his book, leans back, and you can't see his face.

[The trio speaks in whispers throughout.]

**Skip:** Okay. We should all stack up on top of each other, then I can get out the window first. And then I can pull one of you guys up. And then the two of us can pull the last person up.

[Beat.]

**Candice:** Oh...

**Xander:** Man, I'm already in deep enough. I don't wanna make this any worse.

**Skip:** What if—

**Candice:** Yeah, I'm grounded for a *month*.

**Skip:** What if we hit him on the head so we knock him out? And then when he wakes up, we'll come back.

**Xander:** [confused] What victory do you hope to achieve here?

**Skip:** He thinks that we stayed here the entire time, but really we went out and we got soda or something.

**Candice:** What if we- we hear him snoring. We can just—

**Skip:** Get the heck out!

**Candice:** No. No, no, no, no. And pull tricks on him, make him think like he's losing his mind.

**Skip:** Yeah.

**Candice:** Like, we can change things in the room and make it- and then we'll pretend that we see it the normal way, but he sees things like upside down.

**Skip:** We can steal stuff from his desk and blackmail him.

**Candice:** No! Not that. But... That's- that's a little bit more risky. I'm just saying that we can convince him that he's gone crazy, and then he's crazy for givin' us detention.

**Skip:** Hey. Um, did you actually get in trouble for correcting Miss Burdalody, or did you light something on fire again?

**Candice:** Um... Wha- I- eh, I don't know where you heard that information.

**Skip:** I heard that somebody in Miss Burdalody's class was a Fire starter.

**Candice:** S- ...shh!

**Sage:** *Can somebody roll me Luck? Greg's goin' first.*

[Dice roll on the table.]

*You only need two.*

[Chuckling.]

**Greg:** *Okay, well I'll take the bad ones out. [chuckles]*

**Sage:** [amused] *No, no, no.*

**Travis:** *They're like twelve- twenty dice down.*

[Sage chuckles.]

[Dice roll on the table.]



**Sage:** *Ooo, 'kay, net. I haven't totally decided what the nothings are gonna do, but I'm leaning towards since—*

**Greg:** *I think I have like a +1 or 2 on Luck.*

**Sage:** *Uh, Lass/Youngsters?*

**Jessica:** *Yeah.*

**Travis:** *Yeah.*

**Greg:** *Yeah, they're pretty lucky.*

**Jessica:** *They're pretty lucky.*

**Sage:** *[amused] Oh, you have a +2.*

**Greg:** *Yeah, baby!*

**Sage:** *Okay. Well fine.*

*[Greg chuckles.]*

**Jessica:** *[mocking] Well fine.*

**Greg:** *Far fetched?*

**Sage:** *What I am leaning towards is if you get double nothings, is that we have to solve it through roleplay. [chuckles]*

**Travis:** *That's funny.*

**Greg:** *I know that—*

**Sage:** *But I'm not sure because then it's just gonna be like, as the- you might as the improviser, be like I'm gonna do it. I'm gonna do this thing, don't block me, I'm gonna do the thing. So I'm gonna see if maybe there's something more rulesy that I can add to it. But it's gonna be something interesting. That being said, you got a +2, it's a critical. You look over and Mr. Some—*

**Greg:** *Eklesteen.*

**Sage:** *Eklesteen is fast asleep, book on his face, leaning all the way back in his chair.*

**Greg:** *The book, like, elevates when he snores.*

**Sage:** *Yeah. And you hear the snore.*

*[Mr. Eklesteen snores.]*

*[The trio speaks in whispers throughout.]*

**Candice:** *This is our time. We just have to whisper things in his ear to make him go crazy. And another one of us just goes around the room and changes things slightly. And when he wakes up, we'll pretend like nothing's changed and that he's actually crazy. Then he'll resign from his position, and we will get detention never again.*

*[Long beat.]*

**Xander:** *That's an insane plan.*

**Candice:** *It's genius, is what it is.*

**Greg:** *Skip's already rearranging things. [stifles laughter]*

*[Sage stifles laughter.]*

**Skip:** I'm turning all the desks backwards.

**Candice:** I'm gonna rewrite "Welcome to Saturday detention" upside down on the whiteboard.

**Xander:** [disbelieving] You guys think just by changing things around you're gonna make this guy question that he's sane?

**Skip:** Well what d'you wanna do? Did you wanna sneak out and have a bunch of fun and then come back before he wakes up?

**Xander:** I just wanted to sit here until it was allowed to leave.

**Candice:** That's boring!

**Skip:** Yeah. What are you? A grown up?

*[Sage stifles laughter.]*

Kinda like my brother?

**Candice:** Come on, live a little. This is gonna be so much fun. If we try and convince him that he's crazy and- that's- we have power.

**Skip:** Yeah. Maybe he'll let us out early. We can play Beyblades.

*[Sage snorts.]*

**Xander:** What's that?

*[Sage laughs.]*

**Skip:** Man, you need to live your life. Let it rip!

**Xander:** Oh god, there's so much peer pressure happening right now.

**Jessica:** *I walk over to Mr. Eklesteen and I go by his ear. Very quietly...*

[Beat.]

**[Mr. Eklesteen** groans and chokes. He coughs a bit.]

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Mm. Good morning. How are you? Oh. Oh, Candice. Sit down!

**Candice:** Okay, Mr. Eklesteen. Sorry, I just thought you had a bug on your face.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Oh. Thank you.

**Candice:** You're welcome.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** I prefer Bug-types.

[Beat.]

What's it to you? Sit down!

**Candice:** Okay. I'm sitting down.

*[Greg stifles laughter.]*

**Mr. Eklesteen:** You have a stupid joke for me, Xander? *[Sage stifles laughter]*

**Xander:** [meek] ...No.

**Skip:** [defensive] All his jokes are great!

[Beat.]

I won't let you talk to him like that!

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Wait, why are you facing the other way? Why are all the desks...

**Candice:** What are you talking about?

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Did you all turn the desks around?

**Candice:** No.

**Skip:** Wake up.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Why are your backs turned to me?

**Skip:** Wake up!

**Mr. Eklesteen:** [irked] I *am* awake!

*[Travis stifles laughter.]*

**Skip:** Wake up!

**Mr. Eklesteen:** You—

**Candice:** Mr. Eklesteen—

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Skip, you keep your mouth shut. What?

**Candice:** What are you seeing?

**Mr. Eklesteen:** [irked] I'm seeing the desks are turned around. And all your backs are facing me and also, why is everything on the chalkboard spelt upside down?

**Candice:** That's not upside down. That's normal.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** You're right, it's just incorrect. Why- now it's upside- seems like it's going back and forth. How am I...

**Candice:** [worried] Do you- d'you want me to call the nurse? I think—

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Yeah, something's wrong. No, no, no, we don't need Nurse Joy in here. Uh, she's busy.

**Skip:** [whispers] Guys, get—

**Candice:** [worried] Um, well you're concerning me, Mr.- Dr. Eklesteen.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** I am fine!

**Candice:** I had an uncle once that—

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Okay, I'm gonna go- I'm gon- fine. I'm gonna go see Nurse Joy. You better not be movin' or talkin'.

**Sage:** He walks out the room and slams the door.

[The trio whispers throughout.]

**Candice:** It's working, it's working!

**Skip:** I'm movin'! I'm talkin'!

*[Travis stifles laughter.]*

**Candice:** How you feelin', Xander?

**Xander:** About the same, he's gone now. We can talk, uh, I- I'm just surprised that worked, honestly.

**Candice:** Um, hello? I'm a genius.

**Xander:** [disbelieving] Uh-huh. Yeah.

**Skip:** Yeah, it's true.

**Xander:** Yeah. You say that a lot.

*[Jessica stifles laughter.]*

**Candice:** Well, I say facts.

**Skip:** Hey—

**Xander:** What now, guys?

**Skip:** —check this out, guys.

**Xander:** What?

**Candice:** What?

**Greg:** And I pull from my backpack, three slap bracelets.

**Candice:** Whoa!

*[Sage snorts.]*

**Skip:** You guys wanna get messed up?

*[Jessica stifles laughter.]*

[Beat.]

**Sage:** Xander has this look of... That I only can describe as somewhere between not giving a shit, somewhere between that and extreme judgement.

*[Jessica stifles laughter.]*

**Skip:** Okay. I've got backups.

*[Travis stifles laughter.]*

**Greg:** *Pulls out three big, plastic tubes, pops the top off of one of 'em, upends it, and a bunch of pogs come out.*

**Jessica:** *What are pogs?*

**Greg:** *It's a bunch of cardboard disks.*

**Sage:** *Oh, the guns? The little—*

**Skip:** D'you guys wanna play pogs?

**Travis:** *Oh my god you guys. Oh. Oh no.*

**Greg:** *[laughs] Oh no!*

*[Sage chuckles.]*

**Jessica:** *[worried] Are we young?*

**Travis:** *Yeah.*

**Greg:** *[chuckling] I'm aging so fast.*

*[Jessica laughs.]*

**Travis:** *I'm withering away.*

*[Greg chuckles.]*

**Sage:** *I mean, we span a whole decade, the four of us.*

**Travis:** *Yeah.*

**Jessica:** *Yeah.*

**Travis:** *Yeah.*

**Greg:** *He pulls out Yugioh Cards. You guys—*

*[Sage and Jessica laugh.]*

**Jessica:** *Whoa!*

**Travis:** *Fucking fidget spinner and a goddamn iPod.*

**Greg:** *[chuckles] Yeah, you know, old things.*

**Travis:** *[amused] Yeah.*

*[Sage snorts.]*

**Jessica:** *No, you could do like a Furby or [chuckles] pull out a, I don't know.*

**Greg:** *You know some old stuff, like a PlayStation 3.*

*[Sage stifles laughter.]*

**Xander:** *Guys, I mean, he's gonna come back and then- then what d'we do then?*

**Skip:** *Yeah. I'm gonna clean these pogs up.*

**Candice:** *Okay but we're gonna continue the plan to make him go crazy. I have stories lined up to tell him about family members who started seeing wo- the rooms switch around-switch all over the place and words going upside down who had to be hospitalized. With this plan, he *could* go to an institution.*

**Xander:** *Should we switch it back to normal so when he comes in he thinks he's better?*

*[Beat.]*

**Candice:** *What?*

**Xander:** *Well, I mean he's gonna come back in. You know, if he goes to the nurse and then she says he's fine, he's gonna come back in. Nd if everything's back to normal, then he think, you know. If it's still fucked up, he thinks we just did it ourselves.*

**Skip:** *We could also tie a shoestring across the door and he could trip and hit his head.*

*[Jessica stifles laughter.]*

**Xander:** *That...*

**[Sage stifles laughter.]**

Sounds unnecessarily violent.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

**Skip:** Yeah, but if he's got severe brain trauma, he'll never come back.

**[Beat.]**

**Sage:** *[amused] Everyone roll me Charisma. Whoever has the highest convinces the group of their plan.*

**[Dice roll on the table.]**

**Jessica:** Oh shit. I didn't- I get—

**[Sage stifles laughter.]**

Oh.

**Greg:** *[chuckling] Yeah!*

**Sage:** *[chuckles] Okay.*

**Travis:** Cut to tying a shoestring to the door.

**[Chuckling.]**

**Xander:** Guys, I really just don't- oh god. Okay.

**Candice:** Well no one listened to me.

**Skip:** You're the one with the longest shoe string!

**[Xander groans.]**

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Xander:** I only have the one.

**Candice:** Wow, you're poor.

**Xander:** Thanks.

**Skip:** This looks great. Let's just pull the desk over here.

**[He groans as he shoves at the desk.]**

**Candice:** That's not—

**Skip:** Come on, you guys help.

**Candice:** Yeah, okay, I'm helping you.

**[She gives the desk a little shove and it moves into place.]**

**Skip:** Wow, you're way stronger.

**Candice:** Well...

**Sage:** *Alright, you guys get the trap set up.*

**Candice:** Yes!

**Sage:** *And you sit down...and- where is it set? Is it...*

**Greg:** *He's gonna open the door and it's right there on the...*

**Sage:** *It's down, though? He's gonna trip over it, right?*

**Greg:** *In the door. Yeah, yeah.*

**Sage:** *Okay.*

**Travis:** *Imagine the door will pull it taut and he'll, yeah.*

**Sage:** *So the door opens and a big-ass pink thing falls on the ground [amused] and stumbles over to the desk and knocks a bunch of shit over.*

*[Stifled laughter.]*

**Chansey:** Chansey?

*[Travis stifles laughter.]*

**Xander:** Oh my god.

**Candice:** What's happening?

**Xander:** What did you *do*?

**Skip:** I turned him into a Chansey!

**Sage:** *Then Mr. Eklesteen steps over the shoelace.*

**[Skip** groans.]

**Mr. Eklesteen:** What...

**Skip:** Mr. Eklesteen, thank goodness you're here.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** The hell...

**Skip:** That Chansey scared us.

[Beat.]

**Candice:** Um, excuse me. We're fifth graders. I don't think that my parents would like that you used H-E Double hockey sticks in front of us.

**Skip:** Oh, yeah. That too.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** I am sorry, but—

**Skip:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Eklesteen:** —my health, uh, assistance—

**Skip:** I gotta go talk to the principal about this.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** [worried] No you don't. No—

**Candice:** I'm gonna pull out my cell phone—

**Skip:** 'Scuse me, 'scuse me, pardon me.

**Candice:** —and contact my mother right now.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Uh, there is no talking allowed. Why- oh. There's blood. There's blood comin' out of her, uh—

**Skip:** [horrified] What did you do to that Chansey?

**Mr. Eklesteen:** She was escorting me! she was going to help me feel better.

**Skip:** Alright, I'm getting the authorities.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** [worried] uh, please, no!

**Candice:** Dialing up my cell phone to my mother.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** No, kids- okay, what d'you want? What d'you want? Uh, you want your Pokémon to accompany you? D'you want, um, uh, d'you wanna just go? I'll just let you go. Let you get out?

**Skip:** No more Saturday detention?

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Just go. I'll just say that you guys were here the—

**Candice:** Clear my record.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Clear your record?

**Candice:** I can *not* have Saturday morning detention—

**Mr. Eklesteen:** You have a lot of arsenic- uh, arson— [**Sage stifles laughter**]

**Skip:** She plays with arsenic also?

*[Jessica and Sage stifle laughter.]*

**Xander:** I think he's an idiot. I think this guy's a—

**Skip:** I think that girl is poison.

**Sage:** [*amused*] Fuck.

*[Stifled laughter.]*

*[Travis and Greg tap out a beat on the table and hum a tune.]*

**Candice:** Just because I have a family pet—

*[Greg chuckles.]*

Boys! Stop dancing!

*[Greg continues chuckling.]*

I'm being serious right now.

**Skip:** And *we're* serious about our dance routines.

**Candice:** Now's not the time!

**Skip:** You're right!

*[Sage stifles laughter.]*

**Candice:** Because I have a Fire Pokémon as a pet doesn't mean- [defensive] she just sometimes lights things on fire—

**Mr. Eklesteen:** You want me to pull out your record in front of the students? We were tryin'a keep it anonymous- not anonymous. Uh, we're tryin'a keep it a secret.

**Candice:** Um, I- you- you want me to call—

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Tryin'a keep it on the DL.



**Candice:** I will call my mom right now!

**Skip:** And I will run down the hall!

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Uh, okay, your parents donated a lot of money to the PTA, so we don't wanna—

**Candice:** [slow, threatening] H-E-Double hockey sticks man!

**Skip:** Can I have my skateboard back?

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Fi- you know what? Just- just- just- just go!

**Candice:** Clear my record!

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Just fuckin' get outta here!

**Xander:** [calm amidst the shouting] This Chansey's bleeding a lot.

**Candice:** Clear it.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** Opens the door!

**Candice:** Clear it! Are you clearing it?

**Skip:** Saying the F-word!

**Sage:** Opens the door.

**Xander:** [calm] Chansey's bleeding a lot.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** [sighs, worried] Oh god. Okay, uh, just, uh—

**Xander:** We need to get a towel.

**Candice:** Time is ticking. Tick, tick, tick, tick tock, tick tock.

**Mr. Eklesteen:** [nervous] Uh...

**Skip:** [yells] Nurse Joy!

**Sage:** *Roll for...what is intimidation? Um...Confidence.*

**Jessica:** *And I have a +1 on Confidence?*

**Sage:** *Yeah. It's +1.*

*[Dice roll on the table.]*

*Alright, it's critical. He immediately goes over to the desk, searches through a bunch of files, and pulls out the file of Candice Carter. Finds lots of charges of arson.*

*[Jessica stifles laughter.]*

*And pulls out a lighter.*

**Xander:** That's really thick. Really, really.

**Sage:** *And lights the fire- the files on fire.*

**Candice:** [smug] Beautiful.

**Sage:** *Stomps them out on the ground, looks you in the eyes with a glare. Tries to do the Pokémon move Glare.*

*[Dice roll on the table.]*

*17, it's efficient. You know that when you come back to class on Monday, oh boy. Have you started a trail of—*

**Greg:** Tears.

**Sage:** *[nervous] Oh no. [chuckles]*

**Candice:** It's fine. I only have a couple more months in this stinky, stupid, pooppy elementary school.

**Travis:** *Looks her dead in the eye and says, if I were you, I'd take precaution.*

*[Greg chuckles.]*

## Wrap Up

**Sage:** So season's gonna be, we're doin' the story, you guys are doin' bits. [stifles laughter]

**Travis:** Yes.

**Sage:** Good.

*[Greg chuckles.]*

Sorry. By bits I mean specifically, like, pre-'90s, like, er not—

**Travis:** That is *not* pre-'90s. That's deep '90s.

**Sage:** '90s and pre-'90s references that are specifically for us two to not... [makes 'over my head' whoosh noises]

**Travis:** Who doesn't want that- hey, look man. Never trust a big butt and a smile. I knew you were drinkin' water.

*[Jessica chuckles.]*

**Sage:** Almost got a spit take all over the mics.

**Greg:** [chuckles] We got a wind take.

*[Jessica chuckles.]*

**Sage:** [amused] A wind take.

**Travis:** You're drinking out of a bottle. Fwoof.

*[Greg giggles.]*

**Sage:** Anyway—

**Jessica:** Also, am I really an arsonist? I said that as a joke. [stifles laughter]

**Greg:** I'm into it.

**Travis:** That's you now.

**Jessica:** God dammit.

**Sage:** [tsk] Yes and.

**Travis:** Hey, okay it's a good character flaw.

**Sage:** Yeah, it is.

**Greg:** Like, you're like- you're just like you're a great kid, but you have this one little quirk.

**[Jessica stifles laughter.]**

**Travis:** Love startin' fires.

**Jessica:** I got a firey personality.

**Travis:** That's...

**[Greg snorts.]**

That's a Pokémon-grade pun right there.

**Greg:** There we go.

**Sage:** [amused] Pokémon-grade pun. Alright. There's that. Pretty solid.

**Skip:** Great. You guys wanna go see a movie?

**[Sage stifles laughter.]**

**Candice:** Ooo.

**Sage:** What kind of movies are playing in the Pokémon world?

**Candice:** There's that new Yugioh movie.

**Sage:** [amused] Oh god.

**Travis:** Pfffft.

**Skip:** Yeah!

**Sage:** So Yugioh is—

**Skip:** We love Yugioh!

**Sage:** —is the thing in Pokémon?

**Skip:** Also, Digimon.

**Candice:** [gasps] Digimon!

**Skip:** Digital monsters.

**Candice:** Yeah!

**[Beat.]**

Did you guys check out that like, Sailor Moon episode the other night?

**Skip:** I was too busy watching Monster Ranchers.

**Travis:** It's that new court drama of Kevin Spacey that looks kinda neat.

**[Stifled laughter.]**

**Candice:** I love Barney's and Friends.

**[Beat.]**

**[Stifled laughter.]**

**Skip:** That's for babies.

**Xander:** Barney's?

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Candice:** Yeah—

**Travis:** In this universe there's multiple?

**Candice:** Well no. It's like, a crossover between Barney's, like the fat—

**Xander:** The clothing store?

**Candice:** The clothing store—

**[Greg chuckles.]**

—and Barney the Dinosaur.

**Xander:** So it's a plush Dinosaur just dressed to the fucking nines.

**[Jessica stifles laughter.]**

**Skip:** Look, when we're not in fifth grade I promise we'll do good story.

**[Sage stifles laughter.]**

**Sage:** No I wouldn't- I wouldn't have you three here if I did not trust you greatly. Um, it's gonna be fun. So just to close it off...

**Candice:** You guys wanna meet my Vulpix?

**[Jessica stifles laughter.]**

She's—

**Sage:** End scene.

**[Chuckling.]**

**Travis:** This girl's gonna show us her Vulpix.

**[Greg chuckles.]**

**Sage:** [amused] Oh shit!

**[Travis drums out a beat on the table.]**

**Jessica:** [laughing] Oh no!

**[Stifled laughter.]**

**Sage:** I'll show you mine if you show me yours.

**Xander:** I don't know about you, she's a little ho.

**[Greg giggles.]**

**Sage:** Oh no!

**Candice:** Hey!

**Sage:** Oh no.

**Candice:** I'm talking about my Pokémon! My pet.

**Xander:** Oh yeah your Poké- yeah...

[**Greg** stifles laughter.]

**Sage:** So were they. [chuckles]

**Candice:** I'm gonna call my mom!

**Sage:** Okay. End scene!

[**Greg** laughs.]

**Jessica:** How many scenes *are* there?

[**Travis** hums a song.]

**Greg:** No! Was that cannon? Was that— [chuckles]

**Travis:** [sings] Poi-poi-poison. [hums]

**Sage:** Um, I would like to know over the course of, just to close it off, over the course of the couple of years you guys have been hanging out as a trio, um—

**Greg:** Dugtrio. That's what they call us.

**Sage:** What are each of your biggest accomplishments or insecurities?

**Jessica:** Just in life?

**Sage:** Like, this is stuff that you guys know about each other, you know?

**Greg:** Mm-hmm.

**Sage:** Like the big thing.

**Jessica:** Oh, like we sat around a campfire one time int eh woods and we were—

**Sage:** Talking about religion.

**Jessica:** —talking about our secrets and, like, things that go on in our parents' bedrooms that we don't understand.

**Sage:** You know, like this is the stuff that came up in your guys' secret game of truth.

**Greg:** [chuckles] I'm tryin'a figure it out.

**Sage:** Truth and/or dare.

**Greg:** [amused] Okay, here's the data that I came back with.

[**Jessica** chuckles.]

Let's compare notes.

**Sage:** It's just like, what d'you know and, like, what are you most proud of? What are you the most insecure about for your character.

**Jessica:** Mm.

**Travis:** Ah.

**Greg:** Well in seventh grade, catching Dratini.

**Sage:** Most proudest moment?

**Greg:** Super duper, uh, Cindy said my name after that.

[**Jessica** stifles laughter.]

**Sage:** Okay, cool. Biggest insecurity, though?

**Greg:** Uh..

**Sage:** Could be an event, could be a personality thing.

**Greg:** It's the potential that Mr. Eklesteen is gonna be my new step-dad. Not excited about that.

**Sage:** Oh, that's a thing?

**Jessica:** [stifles laughter] I like that.

**Sage:** That's a thing now. I'll write that down.

**Greg:** Not excited.

**Sage:** I'll write that down.

**[Jessica chuckles.]**

I'll write that down. That's good. I like that. What about you...either of you?

**[Chuckling.]**

**Travis:** The rest of you.

**Greg:** You guys.

**Jessica:** ["Sloth" accent] Hey, you guys!

**Sage:** [nervous] Oh no. Stop doing that.

**Greg:** Macabreverse! [chuckles]

**Sage:** We're so- [chuckles] Ugh.

**Greg:** What can I say? We're a bunch of Goonies.

**Jessica:** Mm-*hmm*.

**Greg:** [chuckles] Mm-*hmm*.

**Sage:** So what are Candice or Xander's thing they're most proud of? It's gotta be a thing.

**Travis:** I don't know... Hmm.

**[Beat.]**

**Sage:** Hmm.

**Greg:** Hmm.

**Jessica:** Hmm.

**Travis:** Like the other one's super easy is what...

**Sage:** Okay. Well, thing they're- what's Xander's biggest insecurity?

**Travis:** Uh, just the notion that people think he's a fuckup and kind of like can't or won't be able to really do anything just because of his circumstances. And he feels like he shouldn't be defined by his circumstances, but he keeps acting to about that par.

**Sage:** Got it.

**Greg:** Your mom needs to stop comparing you to your dad. It's really messing with you.

**Jessica:** Stewart! [stifles laughter]

**Greg:** And you need to stop treating Stewart poorly. You can't pass off stuff she's passing on to you to Stewart. It doesn't get rid of it.

**Travis:** He knows what it takes to be a functioning human being, but he doesn't have the ingrained habits.

**Sage:** That makes sense.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Greg:** Or an environment that helps.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** What'd you say his negative was? I'm writing these down.

**Greg:** Oh, uh the potential of Mr. Eklesteen might be my stepfather.

**Sage:** Oh! I did write that down. I just wrote that as a separate thing.

**Greg:** Also, that Cindy will not wanna give him any time.

**Sage:** Well, like, does that- what- like, does he feel like that's his fault or something?

**Greg:** Oh. Mm, I guess not. [chuckles] I'd imagine he tired to stop it.

**Sage:** Okay, then I want like—

**Travis:** Like, he's Dennis the Menace quest.

**Sage:** That's more like a big fear, then. What's his insecurity?

**Greg:** Hmm... Making a fool of himself in front of Cindy.

**Sage:** Just all about her, man. [stifles laughter]

**Greg:** Hell yeah, man. She's the cutest girl in the school.

**Candice:** [offended] Okay!

**Skip:** What, you're my friend! I can't think you're cute!

**Jessica:** Segway into mine.

**Sage:** Yeah?

**Jessica:** My proudest- what I'm most proud of is that I know that whatever I set my mind to, I can do. Like I do it. I convince people of many things and—

**Sage:** Doer.

**Jessica:** I'm a doer. I accomplish things. But my insecurity is that, like, *nobody* likes me.

**Greg:** [chuckles] Aw.

**Jessica:** Like I had a bir- my birthday party in the sixth grade, the only people that showed up were these two. And they have been the only two people that, like, [amused] show up.

**Sage:** That's...

**Jessica:** And I can't tell—

**Sage:** So you aren't really, like—

**Greg:** There was this—

**Sage:** Like, is your opinion of them not that high? As in, like, you don't value like, [smug] I don't need other friends. I've got Xander and Skip. Or is it just like, [sad] I wish I had other friends, 'cause all I have is Xander and Skip.

**Jessica:** [chuckles] Hmm. I don't- no I think I do value their friendship. But I think it's like, I had—

**Greg:** But you know that we're a couple o' knuckle heads?

**Jessica:** They're- yeah. I know they're a couple knuckleheads and they had—

**Sage:** You wish you could get in with the—

**Jessica:** They had birthday parties and more people showed up at their birthday parties. But, like, at my birthday party they were the only two that showed up. Nobody else came.

**Sage:** Like for some reason, you're not- you never really got into any of the cliques of Ace Trainers.

**Jessica:** Yeah.

**Sage:** You know, like, there's definitely an Ace Trainer clique at school, right? And for some reason, she's not a part of it?

**Jessica:** I guess so.

**Sage:** Probably too arrogant, so that's like her insecurity is like, that weird confusing arrogance of like- like I know I'm good at shit, but for some reason nobody wants to be my friend.

**Jessica:** Yeah. And I think it's because- and I'm in the mind of being Candice—of like, I *know* I'm really smart. And like I correct people all the time. Like I overcorrect. So like, I think if I- like...

**Greg:** Well, this is why nobody likes you, is because the first time you entered that cart, you just insulted Harry and Ron.

**[Jessica stifles laughter.]**

They were like, pfft. Fuck this know-it-all.

**Jessica:** I am Hermione Granger.

**Sage:** Okay. That's fine.

**[Jessica chuckles.]**

Proudest moment?

**Greg:** [British] You got dirt on your nose.

**Sage:** For Xander. That's all we need.

**Jessica:** [amused] Wow I did not realize, like, that is where I was going.

**Travis:** I can play Queen's "Night of the Opera" straight through on drums.

**Greg:** Hey.



**Sage:** You can play what?

**Travis:** Queen's "A Night at the Opera" straight through, front to back, on drums.

**Sage:** Have I not heard this song?

**Travis:** No their album.

**Greg:** Oh man.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Oh!

**Greg:** Do you play drums because you hope that your dad will play in a band with you, 'cause he plays guitar?

**Travis:** No there's just a- there's just a set there at the- at my dad's place.

**Greg:** Oh.

**Jessica:** You pretend it's your dad's head and you're just, rud da dum ba rah, rah, rah!

**Travis:** Nah.

**Sage:** So your instrument of choice is drumming?

**Travis:** Um...actually I don't know. I don't think so. I'm just not gonna do bass.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

It's a really proud moment.

**[Pokémon Route theme slowly fades in.]**

**Greg:** I imagine your dad is like a cool dad to you—

**Travis:** Plays bass.

**Greg:** —but he's a bad dad.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah. Exactly, you nailed it.

**Greg:** And so like your mom makes him out to be like a bad guy. And you're like no way, he lets me do all sorts of cool stuff. Lets me stay up and eat candy. And she's like, yeah. He *does*. ...Do your homework. [chuckles]

**[Sage stifles laughter.]**

Go to bed.

**Travis:** Yeah, it's his thing.

**Sage:** Alright. I think that's it, guys.

**Travis:** Ooo.

**Sage:** Thanks a ton. Let's go to bed.

**Jessica:** G'night.

**Greg:** Night, night.

**[Pokémon Route theme crescendos and fades.]**