

Ep. 191 - Potterless: A Look Back

w/ Kelly Schubert, Dottie James, and Johnny Frolichstein

MIKE = Mike

KELLY = Kelly Schubert

DOTTIE = Dottie James

JOHNNY = Johnny Frolichstein

If there is a mistake or mis-translation in this transcript please feel free to reach out to Mike for clarification! (potterlesspodcast@gmail.com)

MIKE: Hello this episode is going to be long and sappy. So let's get right into the intro of this podcast.

[Announcements 00:04 - 2:25]

Intro Music

MIKE: Hello, internet and welcome to a very special final for now (?), episode of Potterless. My name is Mike Schubert. I am a 29-year old man who never read the Harry Potter series as a kid. I read them as an adult, I made a podcast for about five years and now I am no longer going to be making it weekly because I'm going to be covering Percy Jackson and the Olympians weekly on a new podcast called The Newest Olympian. But before we make that transition, we wanted to do one final look back episode of Potterless. So you'll be hearing from three main voices, people who have been here for quite some time. I am currently sitting next to one of the guests so you probably can guess who that is. The later voices you will hear are Dottie James and Johnny Frolichstein. But right now I am joined by my wife, Kelly Schubert. Kelly, how's it going?

KELLY: I'm good. How are you?

MIKE: I'm very well, we are very much crowded around the same microphone. Our noses are not very far apart, which we have done before for some episodes of Potterless. So what a way to, to close the chapter--

KELLY: Yeah.

MIKE: --on weekly podcast. A big reason why I wanted to have you on aside from you being heavily involved in the show. And the Patreon of the show and also being my wife is that you knew about Potterless.

KELLY: In that order?

MIKE: Yeah. 'cause you [3:56] Potterless was very, very early on. You might have been the first person I told the idea to. You knew very early on that I wanted to make this podcast. From your perspective, what was it like when I actually started making moves and putting the show together?

KELLY: Yeah, I didn't think you were really gonna do it. When you told me, I mean, you told me about it like offhandedly. And I thought that's kind of a cool side project. That's kind of interesting. I didn't know about your video and audio editing skills at the time. I didn't know about, I knew you're funny. But I didn't know you were professional funny. And so, when you, when you said you had an idea, I mean, I've given you at least 100 of my podcasting ideas, but have I acted on any of them?

MIKE: No.

KELLY: No.

MIKE: No, you have not. But also you give me podcasting ideas now because I'm a full time podcaster. Which--

KELLY: Which true.

MIKE: --is like how every tech person, people pitch their apps to them.

KELLY: Yeah.

MIKE: So people pitch me podcasts all the time. It was different when we were just, did I fo- I don't know, did I tell you about it when we were in Paris is that one? Or had already been in Houston, do you even remember?

KELLY: I really don't remember.

MIKE: Yeah.

KELLY: I got to say.

MIKE: I know, I started actually reading the books in March of 2016. So that was in Houston when I actually started doing stuff for the podcast. Because I was still making the vine one when I was in France. But in for instance, when I stopped doing that, and that's where I had the idea to make Potterless.

KELLY: Uh-hmm.

MIKE: And then you, as I've said many times in the show are the driving force for me to actually do it. Because you offhandedly mentioned once that you liked Harry Potter, and I thought it would be a good excuse to keep talking to you after I left Paris.

KELLY: Yeah, I think you told me that you had an idea you were going to read the books. And since you had never read them before you were going to record your experience throughout. And you didn't like specify to do a podcast or doing a video series. I'm doing a blog. And so it just like, they were like, I'm just going to record in a journal for myself how I feel about it are like right in the margins of the books. And I was just like, cool, I've convinced him to read them. My work here is done. But my work here was not done, apparently.

MIKE: Yeah. So then I go to Houston, actually start making the show, starting in March. And then in October is when the first episodes actually came out. What was it like when I actually started making it? Because you have got to see it go from, Oh, cool. He's doing it to, Oh, nice, little side thing to, Ahh part time job to, full time job.

KELLY: Yeah, I don't think you told me that you were making like really making a podcast until you had a couple of episodes fully recorded and done. Part of that was we weren't living in the same city. And we had just started talking and and you probably wanted to, if I'm taking a guess, you probably wanted to see if the thing had legs before you showed it to me.

MIKE: Yeah. For sure, for sure. Yeah. And also, before releasing episode 1 of Potterless. I did have, I think the first four or five recorded and edited, at least to some degree.

KELLY: Yeah. So I didn't know about it until you had enough episodes, kind of almost ready for release. And then you told me you were releasing it. And then how long was that? The next two or three years, we were long distance.

MIKE: Uh-hmm.

KELLY: I would listen to Potterless, whenever you'd come visit me and then leave, I would listen to Potterless as like a comforting way to be able to, to have you around still. So Potterless has been very comforting to me throughout our relationship.

MIKE: And then you started to get involved in the show. You helped me upgrade the logo from something I made in the Mac version of Microsoft Paint. To something that you actually used your design skills to put all the little question marks in the Harry Potter glasses. And then you helped me build out the website and everything. So how did it feel to go from just

knowing I was making the show and seeing it to then actually getting involved in the production of the show?

KELLY: Oh, you're the best design client.

MIKE: Really?

KELLY: Oh, yeah!

MIKE: Why?

KELLY: Because you come to me with a sketch of an idea of something that you already have in mind. And the sketches are so bad that I know I can do better. You come to me with a sketch of what you have in mind. So you already have a little bit of an idea on the table, usually for everything. And then you give me full freedom to change it and do whatever I want. And then I get to do a first pass and a couple of options usually. And then it's very fun to have you sit in the backseat while I drive, basically and create a mesh of our two ideas. Usually you come to me with an idea, I would say nine times out of 10

MIKE: Yeah, I always try to come to these discussions with an idea whether it is working with you for the art or when I worked with Crystal who put together the Potterless and the wizard on wordmarks. Or Bettina for the theme song and stuff and that. I feel like a accurate representation of that is the text message thread that I had with Bettina going. Because she'd made the theme song for The Newest Olympian. And here's just an example because I, I am not skilled in any of these things that I asked people for help with. And I don't know the technical terms and I just tried to give as much emotion and vibes behind what I'm going for. And I always feared that that won't translate into the thing that the person is working on but it seems to work. And I always think that that's just because the people I work with are very talented. But maybe me being a, a person like this helps. So here is for example what I said to Bettina, basically the initial thoughts are this. It's for podcasts about the Percy Jackson books, which I knew nothing about. All I have to go off is Jackson and I think Percy Jackson has water powers. So my initial idea was a groove that sounded kind of like Miss Jackson by Outcast but also had aquatic vibes. I feel like On A Good One by Tuxedo has the perfect intersection of funk and aquatic sounds with the muddled bass and the wost slash twang guitar. And it would work with a song invoking Miss Jackson since it's got piano feature too, but I trust your vision here. In conclusion, the powerful piano and drums for Miss Jackson with the funky vibes of Tuxedo leaning towards authentic sounding instruments over digital sounding ones.

KELLY: I'm gonna have to go with Bettina is very talented to take that description and turn it into what it is. And I mean, you're a great client, because you come with just enough vision, but not too much vision. And that's the best thing. Is you come with just a vision that there's someplace to work off of. But not so much vision that you're looking for a specific thing from a specific person. Then you pick really talented people who can run with that and create something very cool.

MIKE: 'cause you run into that problem as an Architect were the client will sometimes get too heavily involved, and they will have power over it. Because they're the one funding the project. But they have no idea what they're doing design wise. So they will sometimes want to do really ugly things. Yes? Or do you just have to say no comment?

KELLY: Non specific clients come with too many ideas sometimes. But I don't think anybody in the design world would be surprised by that statement.

MIKE: So you started helping out the show in that regard. And then eventually you were on the show. I know, we recorded it in your old apartment in New York. It was around a holiday weekend, because we ended up hanging out with your sister and her husband a couple days after the fact.

KELLY: Oh, yeah, that was the July 4th weekend.

MIKE: Right. So you--

KELLY: The first episode I was on?

MIKE: Yeah, 'cuz you were very nervous about being on the show. And there were particular chapters you really wanted to cover. And--

KELLY: Oh!

MIKE: --you we're scared of--

KELLY: Yeah.

MIKE: --being on it. So you wanted a lot of time to prepare.

KELLY: I don't--

MIKE: No, no, no, the only- no, that's not true. The first time you were on it was one of the episodes I think it was episode 30, with Alex Moothart, we'll refer started talking--

KELLY: That was fun!

MIKE: --book five, because you hated it. And you loved it, so you were arguing.

KELLY: We recorded that in the kitchen of my first apartment in New York.

MIKE: Yes. And then the other one--

KELLY: The other one--

MIKE: --you second.

KELLY: --was my second apartment, right next door to the first apartment.

MIKE: But now was the first time you were the only guest on and it was supposed to be two episodes and it became three. Because you talked about so many different things. And we had to just stack my microphone on a bunch of books,--

KELLY: Yeah.

MIKE: --mostly Harry Potter books.

KELLY: Yeah.

MIKE: And then you're on it. What was it like for you to actually then be on the show and be a guest?

KELLY: It was fun! It's surprising how much it's just like having a conversation that we would normally have. Except you want me to sit uncomfortably close to the microphone like I'm doing right now?

MIKE: Well, the thing is, well, you don't understand is that being close to the microphone is not uncomfortably close, it's just good for audio. Because you like to lean back like this and, and talk. And that's how you get quiet, echoey audio.

KELLY: Yeah, I mean, I've realized this, more comfortable.

MIKE: I will say a couple of the times, you're better about this now as you record this one. But a lot of the times I would have to keep making lean in hand motions. Because you would start up like this. And then as the podcast went, you got uncomfortable with how close you were to the microphone. So slowly, but surely, you would back away from the microphone just like this. I feel like your ideal situation is to wear a headset.

KELLY: I'm just really helping you out with flexing your editing muscles to make all of that sound consistent.

MIKE: Oh, thanks, Dumbledore. I've made your life harder, so that you can become a stronger person.

KELLY: You're welcome!

MIKE: So then from that point on, it got to the point where the show became more substantial in terms of finances. To where it allowed me to get a job that was a big pay cut in New York. But it allowed me to move from Seattle to New York so that we could be together.

KELLY: What do you--

MIKE: And then I got to the point where I was able to do a remote part time job and then eventually went full time. What was it like for you to have the closest eyes aside from me on the growth of the show? Because, you know, I talked to you more than anyone else about what was going on. And you were helping with the website. So you were always seeing what was going on with the show and how it was developing. What was it like from your eyes just to see it bloom into what it became?

KELLY: I think it was very cool to see the group of people that kind of formed behind the show, that was the coolest thing. But I think then, and now I've never really good at sound bad but I mean, it does sound good. I've never really paid too close of attention to the success of the show. I let you gauge that, gauge how it's being received by the world. I personally have always loved it and think every- thinks everybody should love it. But I've never kept like a close eye on whether or not I think the world is receiving it well, or whether or not it's a stable enough job for you. I always feel like whenever you ask me those questions like when you were debating going full time and you asked me my opinion. My opinion was, I trust your judgment on this and whatever you think is right, even if it's turned out to be wrong, you can always find a way out of it. I just think that your success comes from being able to work in any situation and being able to adapt to any situation and read the situation well. We talk a lot about certain things, and my opinions on things and like kind of talking through big moves. But I think the majority of the conversation from my end on those is, this is what I think. But I trust your opinion, you've got a better read on this than I ever will have.

MIKE: Yeah, I think to hear you say that the it doesn't necessarily feel any different. I take it as a compliment. Because then it's, it assures me that the success of the show didn't get to my head, or change inherently how the show sounded or felt aside from now we're using a better microphone. And better editing software and better recording equipment. Which helps the show there wasn't like anything where, Oh, now the show is successful, it feels very different. I miss the old episodes, etc, etc.

KELLY: Yeah, I think that the, the vibe of you and the episodes has stayed the same throughout, in my opinion. So that if you're not checking out what the success, you know, the world's view of success is. I always view this as a project that you wanted to do. And you did and created a very good product, a very good piece of art. And that, to me is successful.

[16:19] really cool that other people think that too.

MIKE: Now we can talk all about the success of Potterless that we want. But in your eyes, it has already peaked and it has peaked for a while. Because nothing is ever going to top when I performed in Portland as part--

KELLY: Uhmmm.

MIKE: --of a podcasting specific music festival, if you will, called Listen Up. It was a podcasting. Not really a convention, it was just a bunch of live shows throughout the city of Portland, it was run by the Tourism Board of Portland. So they had ties with incredible venues where the Potterless show was inside of this old school theater inside of a hotel, where they filmed 50 Shades of Grey. It had all these interesting carved stones throughout the, the theater. And then a Horse or live show was inside of this really cool sports bar and Spirits did a show inside of a basement, Speakeasy. And beyond just the shows being really cool. There were a lot of fun things that they did for us as the podcasters throughout the city. Because the thought by them, which was a very accurate thought. And it's paid dividends because now we're devoting a thing where I just talked about it is they treated us really well and showed us a bunch of cool stuff in Portland in hopes that during the live shows, we were talking about cool stuff to do in Portland, which we did, and it was great. But you got to be up

there for part of it. And it was the most fun you've ever had with anything I've done for the show, I think.

KELLY: That was amazing. I am gonna sing some Portland praises right now.

MIKE: Sing the praises.

KELLY: We, we had such amazing coffee and tea. And that weekend was also your birthday weekend. And we don't get to spend your birthday at that point in our relationship. That was the first of your birthdays where we were living in the same city. And then you flew off to a different city. So I followed you to that city. It was your, it was the first time we got to spend your birthday together in a long time. And it was really fun to do it in Portland, we had that really amazing brunch that morning, which was really nice. That was fun, because you got to meet a lot of fans and people knew it was your birthday too. And so it was really fun, just like celebrating that in Portland. And, I remember we walked to the grocery store and we found Girl Scout cookies, and I hadn't had Girl Scout cookies in like 10 years. It was simply just the best!

MIKE: We got to stay in a nice hotel that had a very cool policy, where if you didn't have them wash your sheets and towels and stuff, rather than it just be the benefit of hey, this is good for the environment, which is I think the standard thing that hotels do, which I always tried to do. But this place said, Hey, not only is this good for the environment, but for every day that you have not washed the stuff. You get \$5 credit towards the minibar in your hotel room. So I was there for a full week. So I think we had \$20 or \$25 in credit by the end. And then it was like one of those games I don't know if you see it on Twitter where they say you have \$25 and you can make your ideal Avengers team or basketball team and the more desirable people are \$5 and the people you don't care about as much or \$1. And it was like that where you and I did a draft pick of, Ohh, I want a cashews and your--

KELLY: But we have a discussion, where it was like, okay, but you can buy pretty good cashews at a grocery store for less. But go with this weird lemongrass chocolate instead--

MIKE: Uh-huh.

KELLY: --that we're never gonna find- that was amazing.

MIKE: But the cashews came into cool jars.

KELLY: Yeah, absolutely, we did actually end up--

MIKE: And then we had \$1 left--

KELLY: I still have that jar.

MIKE: It's a cool jar! And we have \$1 leftover and you could get a pack of emergency and nothing else cost \$1, so was, sure, why not? I don't care. It was very fun. We did some really cool stuff. We visited Westward Whiskey, which is a distillery that makes their own whiskey but then also something in the process of whiskey makes making gin really easy. So they also make Ryan Reynolds' Aviation Gin. We got to sample a bunch of stuff. We went to a place that makes tea, I think it was Smith's Tea. Where they did some really funky different teas and they were really, really good. And then we looked to try buy them online and they were very expensive. But yeah, then we did some really good sandwiches at a place. We did the live shows. And then at the live shows, because it was my birthday, some people gave me gifts, which was very sweet. But in particular, I believe it was Callahan and Darius, a Producer level patron gave me a big tin of chocolates that had different flavors. And one of them was marionberry flavored chocolates. And marionberries are these berries. They're similar to blackberries, I think. I'm pretty sure they are very much like a blackberry. But they only grow in the Pacific Northwest. So you can get marionberry Greek yogurt and such. But

we had these chocolate covered marionberry infused spheres of chocolate and they were quite tasty. And you are quite sad when they were gone.

KELLY: It has been about two and a half years. Since those Marionberries, I dream about those marionberries all the time. I dream of them. And they were so good. And when we got back to New York, we started having to ration them, like I was allowed, like, one marionberry chocolate, like a week. And I started all right, I will let you in on a secret when you go to the bathroom sometimes run and get myself an extra marionberry.

MIKE: Not surprise.

KELLY: I've loved those so much.

MIKE: Now beyond doing fun things in Portland. We also did do a live show and that was your first live show. How did it feel to be on stage? It was you me and Eric Schneider we were talking about I think the middle or the end of book five.

KELLY: Sat in a really large chair, which was fun. And a warm I have puffed colors, which was great. And it was like having a conversation with you and Eric Schneider on stage. It was fun.

MIKE: You were nervous about it beforehand. But once we were actually doing it you felt fine and comfortable. Not weird with 100 people looking at you?

KELLY: Yeah. I don't like my voice.

MIKE: Why [22:06]

KELLY: Nobody likes hearing their own voice, except for you. You are now so used to it and all other editors are so used to it that they don't care. But normal people don't like hearing their own voice.

MIKE: Yeah.

KELLY: It's very jolting.

MIKE: I had that kid data me very early on because I started making videos for school in seventh grade and then YouTube videos in high school. So I got over that quite quickly.

KELLY: Yeah. I've done performances. I've been on stage and did like some theater stuff. Been in front of crowds. I did dance recitals. I was in band. I did solo performances. I have been on under pressure in front of crowds before. Usually not speaking, though, and it's, it's a bit jarring to hear your own voice. And I say a lot of stupid things sometimes like, like silly things that nobody's really going to relate to. For example, today, my mom saw my backpack. I have the, you know, it seems my Nuggets pin.

MIKE: Oh, nice.

KELLY: And she was like, what is that? I was like, Oh, I said that. She's like, what does that mean? And I was like, I don't know, mom.

MIKE: You can get one at potterlesspodcast/merch. But beyond, beyond that, beyond doing the live show, you never went to a LeakyCon with me, right? Those always haven't worked scheduling wise.

KELLY: First time was when I was in Alaska, with my brother. He biked to Alaska. So I--

MIKE: I don't know if that's the first time maybe--

KELLY: Second time?

MIKE: That was one of the times I was, I think that might have been the first time I was a guest. There was one in Dallas where I was just a panelist. That was the first one.

KELLY: Oh, and I think, I was living in New York at the time.

MIKE: Right.

KELLY: And I couldn't get off work [23:40]

MIKE: Yeah. Then the next year in Dallas was my very first one where I was a guest. And that's the one where Tom Felton was there. Megan went with me to those.

KELLY: You gave me the tickets as a Christmas gift.

MIKE: I did!

KELLY: And after you gave me the tickets, I said, Mike my brother's biking to Alaska and I'm going to be there with him that week.

MIKE: Yeah. That didn't work out too well.

KELLY: That didn't work out. Where's my Christmas gift for you do?

MIKE: I think I got you something else to make up for it.

KELLY: Speaking which, I need my birthday present redo because--

MIKE: Why?

KELLY: --the BTS concert--

MIKE: Ohhh.

KELLY: --canceled.

MIKE: That's true. Yeah. Well, you also got me the travel book for Christmas. Christmas 2019, you got me the big book of travel. So I feel like we're even.

KELLY: Honestly, I don't need anything.

MIKE: But you haven't done a LeakyCon, that will change at some point. And then you can hang out with me in the Greenroom and then see Harry Potter people. So that might surpass Portland, though I don't know if, if anything can top free marionberries and stuff.

KELLY: I know. Wasn't there a third LeakyCon though?

MIKE: Yeah, there was Boston, after that Dallas one.

KELLY: I was doing something that weekend too, I think I had a wedding.

MIKE: Yes, you did.

KELLY: Goodness gracious! LeakyCon just searches through my schedule calendar and says, Hi, Kelly got this thing, she cannot undo. Boston's close to her but let's make this hard. She's gonna have to pick between her best friends and LeakyCon.

MIKE: Now though you haven't been able to go to LeakyCon, you have been able to go to multiple visits of the Orlando and California Universal Studios theme park, under the guise of my Podcast Producer, Kelly Beckman is also going to be attending with me is that okay to get free tickets to go?

KELLY: Think I was your assistant?

MIKE: Yeah, I don't know what the terminology was.

KELLY: Your, your [25:32] yet.

MIKE: But basically, there were three times where I was able to flash my Potterless status and say, Hello, I host the most popular Harry Potter podcast. Could I get free tickets because and this was true, I ended up doing an episode about the theme parks. So I told them, it was for research for the show. And then I talked to them. And then there was a plan, I was gonna make an episode where I interviewed folks from Universal Studios, but then COVID happened. And then Universal Studios opened up during the height of COVID. And I didn't want to do an episode of them anymore, because that was not something I appreciated. And then also the J.K. Rowling stuff. So that episode kind of fell flat, though I did eventually post the one of that I did live in Florida about the theme parks.

KELLY: I do think I earned the title of associate.

MIKE: Yeah, I mean--

KELLY: I have been your, I have been your in house expert for a long time. You do ask me questions sometimes. But I will say, Disney kid at heart. I'm a Universal kid at heart. I love them both. I don't discriminate. I like them both. That was amazing.

MIKE: You know, Percy Jackson is Disney, right?

KELLY: Oh, yeah!

MIKE: Yeah.

KELLY: Yeah. I, I know. And I feel like they should make Percy Jackson ride. And then we should go, do that.

MIKE: I wouldn't be surprised if they make it after the Disney+ show pops off largely due to the success of my podcast, putting Percy on the map, of course. But--

KELLY: I'm gonna need to read the books.

MIKE: But no, I mean, you, you have always been a part of the show from helping me kind of craft the ideas behind the show to you were really early on. Because I didn't want to read chapter titles. So you would look at the chapter titles in--

KELLY: Oh, yeah.

MIKE: --the table of contents. And you would tell me oh, you should cover this many chapters. Because this chapter ends on a cliffhanger. So you're gonna want to do the next one, blah, blah, blah.

KELLY: Did you that.

MIKE: And then--

KELLY: We're not how stressful my life was when you were reading the books--

MIKE: Ohh. When I was--

KELLY: --over like--

MIKE: --a spoiler free boy.

KELLY: Three years, I monitored the Facebook posts. Like I would, every time I would go to the bathroom at work, I would check to see if somebody posted a spoiler.

MIKE: Yeah. Thankfully, we had the mod team come in and shout out to--

KELLY: Yeah, that [27:40]

MIKE: --everyone that is part of the mod team. I have not given them enough credit on the podcast. But they have done a lot. They had a lot of work on their hands when we had the two groups, the spoiler group, and then the non-spoiler group. And then things lightened up a little bit in the spoiler free boy world, but there was still a lot to do. And I hate using Facebook. So I appreciate them monitoring the group,

KELLY: I had to like, explain to my family, and like bribe them a little bit with candy, to not say anything about Harry Potter when you were over. And the hardest one was my dad because he would just genuinely forget what was a spoiler and what wasn't and that you needed to be not spoiled. So I just like always had to hover over, whenever conversation turned Harry Potter, I would hover. And just be ready to like, scream in somebody's face and just make weird noises to make them stop talking, which I have done. And then make them whisper to me what they're gonna say. And then I either, I usually prove it and you say like, oh, yeah, that's fine.

MIKE: Yeah, I mean, you helped me craft the show early on. And then you helped with the art, you've helped with a bunch of pieces of merch, the digital merch, physical merch. Obviously all the website stuff, I do a little bit of it, but you do all of the frustratingly annoying parts of it, you helped design it in the first place. So you have been a big part of the show in many different ways. Like I do, you wear a lot of hats. And I've always appreciated what you've done for the show. And then also just beyond that, just the support you've given me. And just always supporting my endeavors with this. When I decided to do a job that was a huge pay cut. When I decided to then go from that to a part time job. When I decided to then go full time with this. So you've always been supportive of the big major steps and how things have changed just in terms of how it affects our lives. And then also you've had a lot of patients with me needing to edit a lot or record at weird times or bring microphones on trips. Or turn your sister's bedroom into a recording studio in Texas. You've always been very

understanding and appreciative of things that can happen with the job. Because sometimes really strange things happen where there's a big issue and I gotta rerecord something or, Oh crap, I left something in the studio and I gotta catch a ferry. Like, there's been a lot of stuff that's come up and you have very much rolled with the punches when I think it would have been very easy for you just to get very upset with me. And you've always been nice and kind about the certain curveballs, that being a full time podcaster can throw into life.

KELLY: I appreciate podcasting for giving you a way to show your creative talents. And a way to make your job and what you do something that you enjoy and something that's fun and something that's, you know, very flexible. It comes with a lot of benefits for, for you and for our lives. And so I appreciate podcasting for what it gives. So, if every now and then you have to come and wake me up and say I gotta record something in here, be quiet now. I ca- that's the biggest thing is that, Kelly, you need to stop making noise now.

MIKE: You know? You're, I, I love you. You--

KELLY: Great, great intro.

MIKE: I do feel like when I tell you, I need you to be quiet. The little inner workings of your brain are like, Oh, no, let's make noise. [31:10] times, especially in this apartment in New York, where I'm like, Hey, Kelly, I'm about to record something. Can you be quiet and I think your stomach is linked to your ears. Because when you hear that your stomach's like, Oh, we're hungry right now. And we need to use the microwave, right now. And our microwave is so loud in every facet in that, the door is loud. The buttons when you push them are loud, the beep it makes when it finishes as loud. I feel like future home, we should upgrade to a quiet microwave. But I there's just been so many different times where you've tried to occupy yourself. You and I appreciate this so much, you are very good about being a proactive cleaner. But I do find that there have been multiple times where you tried to do some sort of weird cleaning thing while I'm recording. You decided, Oooh, I'm going to, dust in this thing or wipe down this weird thing. And then the stepstool collapses and makes it loud noise or the plates all clatter. Like--

KELLY: There's a, there was at one time there was a roach that ran out during your recording. I screamed so loud that whoever you were recording with thought that I was dying. But I do think the roach was big enough that it warranted that scream. I've taken a couple of phone calls or FaceTime calls from inside our coat closet.

MIKE: Yes, you have.

KELLY: Which, is not a lo- it's not a walk in closet.

MIKE: No, no.

KELLY: I am, I am inside the coats.

MIKE: I have said this on the show. But our closets in this apartment are just as big as a hanger. Like that is how deep the closet.

KELLY: And I take calls from in there sometimes. I've taken a couple of work calls. There's a couple times I've been on hold with an insurance company or something for like two hours. And then they pick up right as you're recording. And I'm like, well, it's closet time.

MIKE: So I appreciate you rolling with the punches. I think part of what's nice about the show becoming more successful is that there are things that have now presented themselves that make all of that easier, where we've got the studio for Multitude. So I don't have to do all the recording at home. And especially in these past couple months, we've had Sherry helping out with the editing. So that frees things up a little bit more.

KELLY: I love Sherry.

MIKE: That's something that we'll probably do with The Newest Olympian. I think Sherry will probably be the main editor for that. So with the growth of my podcasting career, there have

been some other things that have helped me not necessarily be as annoying with my career. So I appreciate you sticking with it in the early goings when there was so much more going on. And more of, stop the presses. This has to happen. Now, and especially now that it's my full time job, because that's also helped. When I was really at the peak of working at that Digital Marketing Agency in New York and podcasting. That was when my job was really busy. And the podcast was really busy. But I still had--

KELLY: I hardly saw you, yeah.

MIKE: --I basically had two full time jobs and what you just said, Have you never seen me? Yeah, that was something that we had to talk about and address of. We got to find ways to make this work. And eventually me switching to a part time job was the first step and then eventually full time. But yeah, I mean, there was there was a lot of different hiccups along the way and you weathered the storm. And you were always a big supporter of me and the show and everything. And I appreciate that you, you were such a rock during the hard times that now that it's become a full time job. And it's still a lot of work.

KELLY: Uh-hmm.

MIKE: But it's a little easier now that I don't have to also have a nine to five on top of a 9pm to 5am all the time.

KELLY: Yeah. I think that, keeps us on our toes.

MIKE: Yeah. So I cannot thank you enough. And I love you so much. And I appreciate everything that you've done for the show. Inside and out, behind the scenes, part of the show, anything, and everything. So thank you so much. And also thank you for being a big reason why the show exists.

KELLY: You're welcome, listeners.

MIKE: Your words so darn cute and I was finding excuse to talk to you. This could have always been one of those things where I'm one of those people that tells me, Urgh, I had this great podcast idea, I just never made it. And you were a big inspiration for me to actually get off my butt and do it. So--

KELLY: It's really funny thing about that is every time you say that, I don't think I realized Potterless was happening until like a year after you started it. And, and I was the inspiration for it. And I, like, like I said, kind of remember you telling me this vague idea that that was going nowhere. Kind of remember you telling me that you had edited like five episodes, and you're gonna start releasing them. And then started listening to them because I missed you but didn't realize other people listened to them too.

MIKE: Well, thank you for being the inspiration and for helping to make the show what it is. And thanks for just being so sweet to me. And thanks for doing this and recording this because it's late at night and we have to pack and then get ready to go to Philadelphia for Potterless Live in less than 12 hours [35:51] plane.

KELLY: And I got home about six hours ago.

MIKE: Yeah, from a family trip. So thank you for being a trooper as always.

KELLY: You're welcome. I love you.

MIKE: I love you too.

KELLY: I love you.

MIKE: Good bye!

KELLY: Good bye! Bye!

MIKE: Here's me talking to Dottie now.

KELLY: Bye!

[Wingardium Ad-read-osa 36:10 - 38:02]

MIKE: So I'm very excited to chat with someone who, it's been too long since she's been back on the show. It's our very own UK correspondent, Dottie James. Dottie, how's it going?

DOTTIE: Hi. It's so great to be back.

MIKE: It is a pleasure.

DOTTIE: I love my intro.

MIKE: Yeah. I'm glad, I'm glad. Thank you for being back. Unfortunately, in all of the stuff we've covered recently, it hasn't been as many British things. So I haven't had as many British quandaries.

DOTTIE: Uh-hmm.

MIKE: Because I've been doing American made spin off material. Urgh!

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: The worse!

DOTTIE: Yup!

MIKE: But I wanted to have you back on just to talk about all of the history of your involvement with the show. Because I think it's one of the more fun things that happened completely unplanned. Where I believe we got in contact because you found the show, and then you message me on Twitter saying something like, Hey, I was gonna mention you in a YouTube video, is that okay? And then I was like, of course, obviously also do want to be on the show? Is that's how it happened, right?

DOTTIE: Yeah. If something like I was doing a series on my channel, where I just like, go for stuff. And I just like, try things. And I've been listening to the podcast, getting really angry about all the wrong English things, that you are saying. And then I'm just like, do you know what? I'm just gonna message him. And I did that. And it worked. And yeah, here we are.

MIKE: Amazing. How did you find the show? Was it a Spotify thing? Did someone recommend it?

DOTTIE: Yes, it was a Spotify thing. I really liked Harry Potter at the time, obviously, I still do. But I was going through a big Harry Potter phase where I was just listening to content about Harry Potter. I was like looking at behind the scenes things and then just typed in Harry Potter on Spotify. I think that was it. Or it came up as like one of the top podcasts.

MIKE: Uh-hmm.

DOTTIE: Which it might have been at the time. Yeah, I think it came up as like a recommended podcast to me. And I was like, This is Harry Potter glasses? And it's called Potterless. What is this that I listened to? I was just so happy.

MIKE: Oh, no. I'm so glad we were able to make it work. Because first off you were an incredible guest on your first appearance. And then your feelings were you said you were frustrated about the British things I was messing up, definitely mimic that of the audience at the time. Where people were certainly clamoring for me to stop getting those things wrong. So I don't really know even how we came about to the point of asking you to be the correspondent. But I would assume some sort of strange British word came up. And I was just like, I have no idea what's going on here. Can you help?

DOTTIE: I just remember knowing that that was something I wanted to talk about on the podcast.

MIKE: Okay.

DOTTIE: When I came on, I was like, Oh, I have to remember to say like, by the way, treacle tart is real.

MIKE: Ahh, yea, yeah, yeah.

DOTTIE: But like, by the way, head boys and girls exist, like that sort of thing.

MIKE: Uh-hmm.

DOTTIE: And I still kick myself for not being able to remember each specific thing, from the very beginning

MIKE: Uh-huh.

DOTTIE: As to what actually like got under my skin. But then I also, I feel like I have a different level of appreciation for Americans that might not get British-isms. Because why would they stay they live in America, because my fiance's American, like a lot of his friends are American.

MIKE: Uh-hmm.

DOTTIE: Have never been to the UK sort of thing. So like, it became sort of part of my life even before Potterless. So it's a familiar role.

MIKE: I'm glad, I'm glad. It worked out really well. I also know one of the first things you did was set the record straight on what is England? What is the United Kingdom? What is Britain? Because I was getting all of that wrong, too. And I think we had a 10-minute tangent. But one of the funnier things about it is I will get messages. And usually this will happen on Instagram, where it's very hard to read the DMs. So I won't see stuff until later. And sometimes people have sent multiple messages. But a lot of the times people send a message and it'll say something to the effect of, hey, just listen to episode 20, whatever. You got this British thing wrong. If you need someone to explain or whatever, I can help you out. And then another message will come through four days later, where they go, Oh, I just got to the first episode with Dottie, nevermind.

DOTTIE: Nice. Okay.

MIKE: So, yeah, you certainly fit a role that the podcast needed. And some of the best things I think about Potterless are the stuff that was just completely unplanned. And I did not go into the podcast thinking, oh, yeah, I'm gonna mess up a bunch of British stuff. And then also think, Oh, of course, I'm going to have a correspondent that I will call to in the recordings and then email at weird hours. And then always Google what time is it in London to make sure I wasn't sending you messages at weird times.

DOTTIE: Ohh. It's all right. That's so kind. I really appreciate being asked to come back. I was like, so grateful. It's become like a weirdly big part of my online like thing, I think. Like people know me from Potterless.

MIKE: Yeah. Is that actually thing? I was very surprised when you change your Twitter bio, I don't know if it's still it. But at one point, it said British voice on Potterless or something--

DOTTIE: It is.

MIKE: --like that. Was that such a common thing? I didn't anticipate like when you came, I'm sure you already had a huge following social media wise. So for that to go the other direction, I, I was surprised to see that.

DOTTIE: I think podcasting again was just like a world that I hadn't cracked or like, even haven't--

MIKE: Ohh.

DOTTIE: --gotten into yet.

MIKE: Got it!

DOTTIE: So like, and it's a really nice one. And--

MIKE: Yeah.

DOTTIE: --now reminds me of like early YouTube.

MIKE: Uh-hmm.

DOTTIE: Where it's just this like people. I mean, of course, there are huge podcasts, tons and tons of money in it, like that sort of thing. But like, it still reminds me of anyone can do it.

And there are people just trying things out. And it's this community that exists there that doesn't quite exist in YouTube in the same way anymore.

MIKE: Yeah.

DOTTIE: And so I was like, I'm gonna be more of a part of that, that's really fun. And yeah, I know, when people started sort of finding online like, oh, did you know that Dottie from Potterless, does other stuff, too? Like it was interesting. I was just like, wow!

MIKE: That's wild to me that people would say, it's wild that people wouldn't know you are an incredibly talented writer, poet.

DOTTIE: Though, I loved it. I loved being found that way. I thought it was a really cool avenue to like a little window to see me through. I loved it. I still love it.

MIKE: Speaking of the early YouTube thing, I feel like my entire career has just been trying to chase the high of early YouTube when I got into it. Because I started doing it when I was in seventh grade. So 2005, 2006?

DOTTIE: Wow!

MIKE: And--

DOTTIE: Okay.

MIKE: --the biggest thing that kept me going making these videos was the people I met in the community.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: And some of my earliest YouTube friends are still my colleagues today. Like Amanda McLoughlin, I knew from YouTube.

DOTTIE: Yes.

MIKE: And now she's the head of Multitude. And same with Eric Schneider, who edits Spirits. So I've always been looking for that when YouTube got a little less fun, when more than money got involved, and it was--

DOTTIE: Yes.

MIKE: --less about anybody can make a big name for themselves. That's when I kind of stopped doing it. And then I started doing vine. And that was the same kind of thing where there was the community and it was people trying new stuff, just like you're saying. And then vine, obviously gotten murdered by Twitter.

DOTTIE: Yes, it did.

MIKE: And, then I went into podcasting. And yeah, just like you said, I found that people in podcasting, were very supportive. And some of the people who were really supportive to me have now worked with you like the team from Wolf 359, who now makes Long Story Short Productions, and they made Unseen, which you've always acted on.

DOTTIE: Yes.

MIKE: They were some of the nicest people early on. I met them as Potterless was kind of rising. And I met them at this podcaster Pool Party, which is to me like one of the watershed landmark Potterless moments.

DOTTIE: No, way.

MIKE: It was, it was this wild thing I've talked about on the show before but I happen to be in New York for an improv comedy festival. I was living in Seattle at the time. And Julia Schifini basically made me her plus one to this pool party that Lauren Shippen from The Bright Sessions was having. And I got to meet Lauren and some other Bright Sessions folks. And then the whole team who was making Wolf 359 at the time. And Gabrielle and Sarah and Zach were incredibly nice. And Lauren was amazing. And they all said, Yes, we'd love to be on your show.

DOTTIE: Nice.

MIKE: And I was there for I think, like an hour and 10 minutes, and then I believe to perform an improv show.

DOTTIE: Nice.

MIKE: I have traveled like 35 to 40 minutes by train each way to do it. But it ended up being really important, but--

DOTTIE: It's worth it.

MIKE: Yeah, it ended up being huge, because those people were like, exactly the type of people in podcasting I like to be around.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: Just like you were saying, there's big shows. And there's all different niches I'm sure. But I think Potterless and now where we both kind of operate in the podcasting space is in this nice, independent people trying new things. People pushing the creative envelope.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: And it's not like we're in the group of people that are doing it just for the money or making gross True Crime Podcasts.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: It's people doing really--

DOTTIE: Yup! That's a lot of [46:00]

MIKE: --nice stuff and, you know. Urgh! So many, so many. I feel like the world of podcasting that I've found myself in with Potterless is so different than the world of podcasting when I go to the big conventions. Not the creator focused ones, but the industry focused ones, if you will.

DOTTIE: Yes.

MIKE: And I'm very glad I'm not a part of that world. And I am a part of the ones where people are mostly making bank from Patreon and people--

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: --actually supporting them as opposed to, you know, big wig checks from giant media conglomerates.

DOTTIE: It's amazing. There's such a like, once you find one show you then like find like three others that you like, haven't heard about. Or like that these other people have worked on. And I just think it's so cool. It's like this hidden, I guess it's not hidden because a lot of people know about it. But it was to me, it's just this underground like scene of creativity that I didn't know it was existing and thriving.

MIKE: Yeah, it's been very fun. I'm glad I'm in it. I'm glad it's my job. Now I'm very fortunate for it to be the job now. And--

DOTTIE: Yes.

MIKE: --I think the other thing is you just get to meet cool people. And meeting you was very fun and unconventional. But it's my--

DOTTIE: It's been great.

MIKE: --favorite thing to do. I've met some people in the strangest ways with the Internet. And I always love and this even happened before we recorded. I feel like every time before we do an episode of Potterless or whatever together, we just catch up on each other's lives for 30 minutes.

DOTTIE: We do, and we were like, [47:11] something we're like, oh shit, we have to record.

MIKE: Oh, yeah, we were right. No, you can curse on this podcast.

DOTTIE: Okay, [47:17]

MIKE: It's a great visual. No, this one still has the ready for explicit.

DOTTIE: The, the listeners will know if I cover my mouth [47:25]

MIKE: Ohh. But yes, I feel like whether we've done Potterless episodes, or Meddling Adults or whatever, we always just catch up and stuff, which is fantastic.

DOTTIE: It's great.

MIKE: And we're like, oh, right, we have to record something.

DOTTIE: Yeah, it's great.

MIKE: [47:35]

DOTTIE: It's like, if and when I ever end up in New York, it will be great to hang out in person. I can't believe we've never done that.

MIKE: I know, it's, that's wild. That's the wildest thing about it. And this would happen with all the social media stuff I would do is, some of the people that I feel closest to from whatever, there's a handful people I've just straight up never met.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: And that's wild. Like I would still consider you a very close friend and I, we've never met!

DOTTIE: Exactly!

MIKE: It's so strange.

DOTTIE: It's weird. I was like when people are asking me if I'm like when I moved to America they like, do you know people [48:03]? Yeah, I know, like a handful of people. It's like most of them that are from podcasting.

MIKE: Uh-hmm.

DOTTIE: Who I've never actually been in a room with.

MIKE: Right. That's what happened for me. When I was an engineer, I moved around for work. I was in this rotational program. And I moved five times with the company in a span of two years. And I knew people in every city that I moved to, I think except Paris, because of either Vine or Youtuber or whatever. Like I knew people in all the different cities, which was super cool. And I think that's one of the nicest things about just the internet is that you can make friends all over the world. And it gives you a sense of home, because going to a city where you know, absolutely no one is terrifying.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: And that's what I experienced when I was in France. I knew no people. And then eventually I started doing English speaking stand up. And those were like my only friends.

DOTTIE: Nice.

MIKE: Besides my co workers and my roommates who were also my co workers.

DOTTIE: Uh-hmm. Okay.

MIKE: So, it's always been nice. And yeah, whenever you get to New York, we'll hang out and--

DOTTIE: That'd be great.

MIKE: --teach me the world of tea and all that good stuff.

DOTTIE: Yeah, you can tell me about Percy Jackson, which I've never read.

MIKE: Yeah, I mean, same. That's the whole deal. But no, I, I think moving on to Percy Jackson is going to be fun. You were saying that you're, you might read along with the podcast.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: Which would be super cool. I am very excited.

DOTTIE: It's with the emotional for like a listener to like, is he finishing this thing? It's been like years. I mean, you're, how old are you now?

MIKE: I am 29. So it's been 5 years.

DOTTIE: 5 years.

MIKE: I started the actual work on the show in March of 2018. And the show started in I think October of 2018 was the first episode went live.

SHERRY: Did you mean 2016?

MIKE: Hey, there editing Sherry and past Mike, it's me editing Mike. Editing Sherry was correct. I did mean 2016, not 2018. Time is a flat circle. And I don't know what dates are anymore. But yes, I started working on the show in March of 2016. And the first episode came out in October 2016. Silly past Mike, what a goof. Thanks for pointing that out, editing sherry. If you haven't been listening to the ending credits for the past few months, Sherry has been helping us edit the show and has been doing a phenomenal fantastic job. So if you're confused as to me referencing and editing Sherry at all? That's that explanation. But yeah, now we can get back to the podcast.

DOTTIE: Wow. That's sounds a lot of time.

MIKE: It's wild. It's also weird for me just because like so many life events have happened during that time.

DOTTIE: Yeah, it's like you got married.

MIKE: I was like barely dating Kelly when I started it. And then it went from over the course of the podcast. I've moved from Houston to Seattle, and then from Seattle to New York. And then from one New York apartment to the place where Kelly and I now live. Kelly and I went from dating to long distance to engaged to married.

DOTTIE: Oh, geez.

MIKE: Yeah. And then I just went from like, Engineer to working in podcast marketing to part time marketing, and then to full time podcaster. So just like--

DOTTIE: Oh my gosh.

MIKE: -it's super strange from just like a life perspective to be stopping. But also, I don't know, I think that the Percy Jackson show is gonna have enough of the same--

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: --vibes.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: Where it's not like I'm not doing it. I'm still doing a book-based podcast about people who have magical abilities.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: So it's not--

DOTTIE: Yeah. I'm really excited because I've only ever seen the film. Which I feel like Percy Jackson people will hate.

MIKE: Oh, yeah.

DOTTIE: Yeah, I'm super excited to listen to. It's gonna be weird. Because, yeah, I'm listening to it now from a position of also having not read these books. And reading them as an adult.

MIKE: Well, it's also gonna be interesting is that instead of it being a British book that takes place in the UK, where I'm very confused. The books now take place in New York City, which I am very familiar with.

DOTTIE: Yes.

MIKE: So if anything--

DOTTIE: You might [51:29]

MIKE: --you would have to start the Percy Jackson show.

DOTTIE: I [51:30]

MIKE: I would be your American New York City correspondent.

DOTTIE: US correspondent.

MIKE: Where I just yeah, just yell about all the different things. But yeah, I mean, they've made some New York references to parts of town where they are or where people live or whatever. It's like, oh, yeah, I get it. Cool. So it's a very different space, where I've gone from, oh, what's a treacle tart? Clearly, it's magic. To, Oh, yeah. The Met, I know where that is. It's near Central Park.

DOTTIE: Whereas if I read it, it might be like, this magical building, The Met. Is it a building?

MIKE: It is, it is Metropolitan Museum of Art, which is different than the Museum of Modern Art. They have very similar acronyms, but one is the Met and one is the MoMA.

DOTTIE: Gotcha!

MIKE: And one is near the bottom of Central Park, and one is halfway up Central Park. Which is very long and very large.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: Yeah.

DOTTIE: So yeah. Already, if I read these books, when I read these books, I'm gonna needing you as translation like--

MIKE: Yeah, you can just shoot me a text or whatever. And then in true fashion of our relationship, I will send you a voice memo from my phone. Like, I won't answer via text, I'll answer via voice memo, email it to you. My favorite thing about the voice memos, is that the way you would do it, I would usually send you a DM on Twitter or an email saying what the question is. And then you would reply with a voice memo. And because the way iPhones do it now they just auto name it based on wherever he was.

DOTTIE: Where you was. So you would just--

MIKE: Yeah.

DOTTIE: --say where like, I was moving around.

MIKE: Right. Yeah. But it's also as, maybe this is just a British thing. Because I think sometimes British phrases are so funny. Like, just the names of them are so silly. But it would just say the names of the towns that you're in, and it would just be like, you know, Brighton and Hove and pop. And it's like, Yup! Okay, that's a town for sure. Yeah. Okay.

DOTTIE: Yeah. Geez, I can't really nervous that I thought you were just gonna say the name of my street?

MIKE: No, oh, gosh, no, no. And even I would always like out of a panic of just in case something would happen. I would always immediately rename the file to Dottie and then whatever--

DOTTIE: Would you really?

MIKE: --the word was. Yeah, it just, it feels weird to have a M for a file in my downloads

[53:28]--

DOTTIE: Just my address.

MIKE: --straight up address.

DOTTIE: I've never thought about that. When I send like voice memos to people, geez.

MIKE: Yeah, it should totally be a setting in, I don't know if it maybe it isn't voice memo. And I just haven't said it. But there should be a setting where you can be like, hello, please don't tell people exactly what recorded it.

DOTTIE: Yeah, I do.

MIKE: Now and maybe they're doing this on purpose. But I have found more often now that when I record it, they do it by a establishment that is close to you.

DOTTIE: Ahhh.

MIKE: So there have been times where I've recorded a voice memo in the Multitude studio and there's a pizza shop across the street. And it'll say that you recorded it at the pizza shop, which I'm like, great. That's a lot better.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: Because, yeah, I'd be something. And this is another thing of like, Potterless getting really big is. there had to come to a point where I, there was one time on a live stream. It was just the patron monthly live stream. I didn't say where I lived, but I mentioned something. I was like, Oh yeah, I walk past this thing every day. It's really close to my apartment. And Kelly afterwards was like you have to stop doing this.

DOTTIE: Genuinely.

MIKE: You, you have to stop.

DOTTIE: Yeah, 'cuz I mean, you, I think you've mentioned like where Kelly works or worked as well. Has that been an issue at all?

MIKE: Yeah, that was okay, because that didn't come up until she wasn't working for that company anymore.

DOTTIE: Right.

MIKE: That she worked in the Woolworth Building, which is in Fantastic Beasts.

DOTTIE: That's fair.

MIKE: So that's okay. But thankfully, we've not had any sort of uncomfortable fan interaction. I think podcast listeners are very chill and stuff.

DOTTIE: That's really nice.

MIKE: But yeah, it's something that I have to be aware of.

DOTTIE: Do you get recognized?

MIKE: I have been recognized a couple of different times in New York. Which is always fun. Now it doesn't happen as much because of masks and being outside less.

DOTTIE: Yep.

MIKE: But I got recognized in Central Park once, which was cool at Puffs, which made a lot of sense.

DOTTIE: Oh, good.

MIKE: Because it was, the Harry Potter play. So someone--

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: --saw me afterwards. And they actually were at the live show that it didn't in New York last week.

DOTTIE: Oh cool.

MIKE: It was very fun. So that was super cool. And then I got recognized once on the subway?

DOTTIE: That's fun.

MIKE: Which was very cool. Just like waiting for a train.

DOTTIE: Oh, okay, I thought you meant like on the train, and then it's like you have a timed interaction. At that point.

MIKE: I did have a train was catching. I was like, I'm catching this one? Are you catching it? Otherwise, I have to say goodbye. But we're on the same train. My dream goal always though. This is like such a huge thing. And I haven't ridden the subway since January 2020. So I don't know the next time this will happen.

DOTTIE: Oh, geez.

MIKE: So my dream scenario is seeing someone laughing at their phone. And then like they hit their lockscreen and seeing the Potterless logo.

DOTTIE: It feels so good.

MIKE: That's like the niches of the niche of the niche of the niche that like I understand that is like one and god-billion--

DOTTIE: That would be so great.

MIKE: But getting recognized waiting for a train, I think was like pretty cool.

DOTTIE: Yeah, that is really awesome. I've been informed by my fiance tell you how much he loves the My Immortal episode.

MIKE: Oh, good. I had so much fun with those.

DOTTIE: He, he was getting a flight. He was on the Wi-Fi. So like we were on the phone and he was like just hit play at the same time with me like well watch this together. So we can laugh at the same time. Because he found it like that funny time watched listened to them.

MIKE: That's so good.

DOTTIE: At that point he found it--

MIKE: Ohh.

DOTTIE: --hilarious.

MIKE: Because it's him, he's a musician, right?

DOTTIE: He's a musician.

MIKE: Is he a punk musician--

DOTTIE: Yeah!

MIKE: --specifically? Or okay, I was gonna say, I feel like it is up his alley.

DOTTIE: Yeah. So, you know, like, all dimensions of Good Charlotte like, and he's read Mime also before. He's actually read more than I.

MIKE: Amazing!

DOTTIE: I think they were on tour one time and they were all reading it like him and the whole band. were reading it to each other--

MIKE: Oh, my goodness.

DOTTIE: --and laughing. So yeah, so he found those episodes amazing. And I've been, yeah, I've passed on the message now.

MIKE: Fantastic. Thank you, thank you. I did remember the most ridiculous times I recognized was in the bathroom in Italy at the museum where they have the statue of David. Someone saw Kelly in the women's restroom, and then recognize her and then came outside and saw me waiting for her.

DOTTIE: Oh my gosh.

MIKE: They were, I think they were on a school trip. A couple days later, we were on this trip. This is where I eventually proposed to Kelly, it was with--

DOTTIE: Ohhh.

MIKE: --my parents. And Kelly and then her parents who was the surprise they came up for the end of the trip. And we were in the Cinque Terre and I had been posting on Instagram where I was. And someone was also in the Cinque Terre. So--

DOTTIE: Oh, no no.

MIKE: I was getting gelato and someone screamed what sounded like Shubes. And I was like clearly this is an Italian word. That sounds like Shubes, and then they said it again. And I turned around and they were like I saw your Instagram. I, I knew you were here today. Hello. I was like, oh okay, cool.

DOTTIE: People are like sleuths.

MIKE: Yeah.

DOTTIE: People are very good at tracking things now--

MIKE: Uh-huh.

DOTTIE: --if they want to.

MIKE: But yeah, I mean, Cinque Terre is kind of tiny. So I get it. The one thing that happens to me every now and then, I will get messages from people who I knew a little bit in college. Anytime I get a Facebook message from someone I haven't heard of in five years. I know exactly what it is.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: Because it will be like, Oh, like this person who was in your Physics classes message you and like I bet they're saying they found out about the podcast. Usually, it's like my roommate was listening to a podcast on--

DOTTIE: Oh, that's so [57:58]

MIKE: --their smart speaker and I came home. Has anyone done that for you? Were someone that knows you in life, but didn't know that you were involved in Potterless? Been like, Hey, I just got to Episode 50, whatever. And you're on this podcast I've been listening to for four weeks.

DOTTIE: Yes! In a weird way. It happened with a friend who knew I was on the podcast already. But then like, had forgotten by the--

MIKE: Hmm.

DOTTIE: --time they got to my sites.

MIKE: Ahh.

DOTTIE: When my name came up they went, Woah, oh, oh, that's why I'm listening. And then yeah, it has happened actually, with a few like Harry Potter fans. I mean, because a lot of people are low key like Harry Potter fans, you know, like have read the books as a kid or something like that. But just in general, there are people that recognize me like my friends [58:36]. I was like, Yeah, I got a similar situation where they're, like, all me a friend of a friend. And then you see like the recognition like sort of dawn on their face for whatever reason for whatever, like small internet thing I've done or like, whatever. That's always fun. But then I'm like, Oh, I'm, you're about to meet me that's not online. And she's not as cool. She's a big nut.

MIKE: Oh God. When people meet me, that is always one of the funnier things is people will say things to the effect of, Oh, wow, you're so similar to how you are on the podcast. Like yeah, that'd be really weird if I was different.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: Like it would be very strange. I can get it if someone makes more short form content, like if someone is photographer or even like you, like just writes poems.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: Or does shorter things where you don't get to do it. But, by these point--

DOTTIE: The things like this.

MIKE: Yeah, like this--

DOTTIE: Useful.

MIKE: --is episode. Right. This is episode I think this one's gonna be episode 192 of Potterless.

DOTTIE: Uh-hmm.

MIKE: Like, there are, I don't know the total number of hours but like, there are literal days, if not months of--

DOTTIE: Wow!

MIKE: --audio of me speaking. Like if I was pulling a grift where I wasn't actually the personality, obviously, I'm a bit more hyperbolic on the show with so good, the worse and stuff like that.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: But like I'm an elevated version of myself. But I'm still like--

DOTTIE: [59:48] Yeah!

MIKE: Yeah, if I had kept this up for this many years, I would be an incredible [59:53] actor.

DOTTIE: Right.

MIKE: Are you jo- it would be so dedicated. If I was actually a terrible person.

DOTTIE: Imagine when you finish you just like drop and become this like low key like super shy guy.

MIKE: Yeah, I don't know. No, but that is definitely not me. I am a big old nerd for sure. And--

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: --that has come through--

DOTTIE: Well that's the best people.

MIKE: They're the best! I love it. I have to make sure when I use the word that other people use it in the way that I do.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: Because I use it is a term of endearment. I call my best friends nerds.

DOTTIE: Me too.

MIKE: And to mean or just means like a very nice person who's very passionate about something. And it doesn't matter what that is.

DOTTIE: Exactly, exactly. My favorite way to consume, like different franchises is through people that care about them. Which is exactly--

MIKE: Yeah.

DOTTIE: --what you've done [1:00:33].

MIKE: Yeah.

DOTTIE: And so for like Marvel, the only way I got into it was by watching it with my little brother who adores it.

MIKE: Uh-hmm.

DOTTIE: Star Wars, watching Star Wars with people who really care about it. It's like, oh, I'm watching you, you're the interesting thing right now.

MIKE: Yeah, I think that's what really kept Potterless going and turned it from the original idea, which was just like, oh, go through the books, I'll kind of make fun of them. And the whole thing will just be that I'm being overly critical of them.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: And then by halfway through book 3, I fell in love with it. But also what happened, it wasn't just me liking the books, it was the community that came around it. Like there was a solid amount of listeners even before it blew up. And they were all just so nice on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Patreon, all the different ways people were interacting. That's what really kept me going and then meeting other people. So yeah, I think like you were saying the nerds are what kept me going.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: And the community is like, really what made me want to do this for so long. And even made me want to keep doing it after J.K. Rowling was the worst. Like, if I don't--

DOTTIE: Oh, yeah.

MIKE: --care about the Potterless community that is fostered around the show, I would have probably just when she was being awful. I just would have stopped, like--

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: --if my only tied to making this was the content, I would have been like, No, I'm good.

DOTTIE: Yeah. And you've dealt with that so well. You've dealt with everything that she did really conscientiously. in ge- in general, I think you'll really conscientious about social issues on what in real life, but on the podcast as well.

MIKE: Thank you.

DOTTIE: You even, I think it was a phrase you used for something? And I was like, I'm going to use that because it means I don't always have to have an opinion, or is something you said I'm not very well-versed on this issue.

MIKE: Oh, I say, well-versed a lot.

DOTTIE: And, I was like, I'm stealing that. That's great.

MIKE: Yeah. I prep this a lot of things with I'm not well-versed. But, yeah, I mean, I've learned a lot from other people making stuff other Harry Potter creators. I've learned a lot from the community and stuff. I've had personal growth over the course of the show just in the way I speak and the way I address topics. And I've just like learned a lot about different issues. I didn't know in depth about the different hardships facing the trans community. And I didn't even know as much when J.K. started speaking up until I started listening and reading and having people like Jackson Bird on the show just to talk from his experience. So yeah, I mean, I've gotten a lot out of it as well, which has been really cool. And--

DOTTIE: Uh-hmm.

MIKE: --I don't know, I love all these nerds and--

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: --the people who have been on the show. And--

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: --the whole experience and getting to meet you. I'm very glad I checked my Twitter DMs that one day. And we're [1:02:45]. Because, I don't know, it was one of those--

DOTTIE: Just sliding into a podcast stem.

MIKE: Yeah. And I love the like the way you asked. It was so nice. And it was so funny, because I remember when I saw it, and I checked out your stuff. I was like, Why is she asking if that's okay? She is way cooler than me! Like this is--

DOTTIE: [1:03:02]

MIKE: --ike, why is she asking permission to talk about but like. And that's what made it nice is like I could tell from that first message. This is a chill person that would be fun to have on the show, as opposed to there are some other folks who have asked to be on the show who have very large followings who I've just not even replied to or just said no thanks.

DOTTIE: I, I remember really clearly now, I wanted to mention the podcast in a video. Because it was like things I've been like doing or listening to and things that were helping me. And I was like, I'd been using your podcast as a way of like getting myself to go out on walks more.

MIKE: Oh, so cool.

DOTTIE: So because it's like going out and just like walking in silence doesn't seem as appealing. But going out and listening to someone like rag on the Harry Potter books [1:03:41] is really appealing--

MIKE: That's funny.

DOTTIE: --even as a huge Harry Potter fan.

MIKE: I've gotten people who've messaged that they were training for some sort of Marathon half, marathon 10k, whatever. And they said that listening to Potterless, while they run was a big thing. And that to me is like if I am your motivational thing while running because I run a fair amount. And I hate every second of it.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: But I do it because it's good for me. But the moment I start running, I despise it! And I specifically have a playlist of it songs that I just cannot ever bring myself to skip. If you all want to listen to it. Just search Shubes on Spotify, and you'll find my account and it's called, Feel the Rhythm, Feel the Vibe. But those are the songs that like I just love them so much that I need motivation. So when people say that, that's the coolest. But yeah, I mean, like when your show early on, it is very tempting. When someone who's verified on Twitter or has a bunch of followers or whatever reaches out to you. It's like, oh, she gets the person on the show. They have a big following. That's always the instinct.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: But, I thankfully got to a place where I realized that. And this was nice when people would have positive reactions to whatever the episode was, no matter how big the guest was. People loved my sister on the show, even though she has not posted anything on Twitter in five years maybe? So that was cool and reassuring to me where even though that instinct is there, I shouldn't just have some alone because they have a big following. Because it doesn't mean they're going to be a good fit for the show. You didn't even ask beyond which was like step number one.

DOTTIE: Can I not?

MIKE: No, you're just asking, is it okay if I talked about your podcast?

DOTTIE: Oh.

MIKE: Which I was like, yeah, obviously, I always encourage people to shoot your shot and stuff.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: But there are ways in which people do it that is nice. And there's ways in which people do it that feel gross. And I always say no to the gross ones.

DOTTIE: Nice.

MIKE: But if someone does it in a nice way, I'll check it out. And yeah, check out your stuff. I was like, Oh, my God, British poet, like yes! Obviously, she should be a guest on the show.

DOTTIE: So much fun. I've had such a good time. It's like every time you send me like a little DM to explain something, it's like sometimes I don't even know what the thing is. And I have to Google it, and then I just like, say the Google answer. Because the books were written in the 90s by someone who grew up in like the 70s or 80s.

MIKE: Right.

DOTTIE: Like the slang is a bit off.

MIKE: Yeah. And it's also regional. If someone said some sort of idiom that was created in Minnesota, I would have no idea what--

DOTTIE: Exactly.

MIKE: --that means. There's turns a phrase I learned all the time that I've never heard of. So it's not like you could be the monolith to know everything. But at the end of the day, you knew enough and you were British and nice. And I was like, Yep, she's the UK correspondent. And that's it.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: And then, I had a listener I believe named Steven who sent in the music after I used Vivaldi - Spring. He was like, I make music and I want to make a version that like sounds more like your theme song that Patina made and that became the song. So shout out to Steven because I think--

DOTTIE: Ohh. That's [1:06:17]

MIKE: --the intro thing has been so funny and, and doing my imitation of the lifestyles of the rich and the famous guy was always who's--

DOTTIE: [1:06:24] rich and the famous guy?

MIKE: Yeah. Is that a famous British person? I'm sure it is. And I'm sounding silly.

DOTTIE: No, no, no, you're good.

MIKE: But you know the guy, there's this TV show in America that was like, why smiles of the rich and the famous and like always talks like that. So that's where the dual to James voice came from.

DOTTIE: Awesome. Oh really?

MIKE: So that was that.

DOTTIE: I didn't know how to birthplace like that. That's so good.

MIKE: Various inspirations but that was it. I was just, I felt the best introduction to me not knowing what British things were was using a song that is not made by a British person. Like Vivaldi is not British.

DOTTIE: Oooh. It's like, oh, this is niche. Have you ever seen the Minions movie?

MIKE: I have not. But I did not think UK correspondent Dottie James would ever asked me this question. So I'm happy.

DOTTIE: They go to England and there's like a bit with the Queen and like, it's all just like massively like cheap British iconography, like a cool [1:07:18]. Like the crown--

MIKE: Uh-huh.

DOTTIE: --the Queen is there--

MIKE: Keep calm, carry on.

DOTTIE: --have a [1:07:21]. It's just like, that's how Americans see us. Okay, cool. It's like that.

MIKE: My brain was, what's a public domain fancy song that they would play during tea time. And Vivaldi - Spring came up.

DOTTIE: Yeah.

MIKE: And that was like, Okay, great. Not British perfect. And then the voice I was like, clearly not a real British accent. Like the whole joke was like, That intro is like not in any way British.

DOTTIE: See, what would have been good, I guess is if I had a northern counterpart. Because I'm very southern.

MIKE: Ummm.

DOTTIE: I mean, I live in Brighton.

MIKE: Right.

DOTTIE: Which is the south it's not the most south but it is a very, very south. And northerners have a slightly different like culture.

MIKE: Okay, yeah, yeah.

DOTTIE: Probably, in the same way that different states have different cultures and things.

MIKE: I was watching some British program, maybe Taskmaster. Where they made fun of Northern Britain. And I was like, I get that this is a joke, but I do not get the joke.

DOTTIE: The joke! Exactly. As with anywhere, there's like a wedge like if people come to university from the north, and they come south, you know, people like make fun of your accent. If you're southern. And you go north, people make fun of your accent.

MIKE: Yeah.

DOTTIE: And I don't know, certain things that are like, northern in culture. So like, they have like tea time and like supper time and different words. So for like food involving chips [1:08:33] just different, different things, I don't know.

MIKE: Well, you at least knew so much more than me, which was exactly zero. And I'm very thankful to have had you on the show to lend your expertise. But also just to call you a friend.

DOTTIE: Ahh, you too.

MIKE: And hopefully whenever you come over to New York, we will hang out in person and it'll be a great time.

DOTTIE: Absolutely.

MIKE: We have tea and crumpets.

DOTTIE: It would be great.

MIKE: Whatever it is. Yeah, we can have like a cultural exchange potluck where--

DOTTIE: That is amazing.

MIKE: --I will bring the most American foods and you will bring the most British foods and we will show each other. There's some good international grocery stores in New York that I can show you that have like--

DOTTIE: Yes.

MIKE: --multiple British Isles, so you'll be set. So--

DOTTIE: That will be great. Oh, I need to show you guys British chocolate. I feel like you'll like British chocolate.

MIKE: I've had Cadbury and I really enjoyed it.

DOTTIE: Okay, great!

MIKE: They are very good.

DOTTIE: Excellent.

MIKE: That's the furthest extent, I'm always down to learn more via food.

DOTTIE: Great.

MIKE: Thank you so much for being on the show in the first place. And thank you so much for being on this little episode.

DOTTIE: Thank you for having me. It's been a literal honor.

MIKE: Oh, thank you. Thank you so much. Is there anything you want to plug? I know you've got some stuff coming out in the future. But I don't know if it's too soon to discuss any of them?

DOTTIE: I do. I have a book that is currently in the process of being finished, after years and years and years. So that's very exciting. No set date, but look out for that. All of my socials are Dottie James, D-o-t-t-i-e James, maybe an extra T thrown in there on some platforms.

MIKE: Sometimes it's two, sometimes it's three but usually by the time you get to D-o-t-t, you're there.

DOTTIE: Yeah, I come up. That's the hope, anyway. That is the hope but there is a woman. My email addresses Dottie, with three T's. Because there is a woman that has Dottie James with two T's. And she has received many of my emails.

MIKE: Ohh.

DOTTIE: Like even like family invites [1:10:05]

MIKE: Of course. Oh, yeah.

DOTTIE: So don't send anything to her.

MIKE: Yeah, as far as Michael Schubert's go, I am in a quest of out SEO-ing everyone in Germany named Michael Schubert.

DOTTIE: Nice.

MIKE: Which is a lot! Very common first name, very common last name.

DOTTIE: Oh, geez.

MIKE: But there's one guy in particular who I still have to conquer. I beat him on Google images, if you Google Mike Schubert or Michael Schubert. But every now and then some stuff will come up. There is a Mayor of a town called Potsdam.

DOTTIE: Oh.

MIKE: Where the Mayor is Michael Schubert. And he's got like, all the Big Mike Schubert stuff. Like he might have Mike Schubert on Twitter, or mikeschubert.com. Like those are all gone. So the only last foray that I can have is when people Google, like I'm the only name thing.

DOTTIE: Nice.

MIKE: Since I don't have any emails that have like my name in it, that I'm usually okay with not getting accidental stuff. But maybe one day I'll get a letter where someone writes a really harshly worded email to the Mayor of Potsdam.

DOTTIE: Yeah!

MIKE: Maybe one day.

DOTTIE: Why, why does he live in New York?

MIKE: Yeah. I don't understand why I'm writing this letter to New York, but this makes sense.

DOTTIE: Yeah. He might be Mayor forever, will he?

MIKE: Oh.

DOTTIE: Is that Mayors work?

MIKE: Right. Yeah. And, I don't know, where even, I don't, I couldn't even tell you what country Potsdam in.

DOTTIE: Ahh, me neither.

MIKE: I am so sorry. He is not the Mayor of Potsdam. He is the Lord Mayor of Potsdam, and of course, it's in Germany.

DOTTIE: If should you go to Germany, you won't be the only Shubes.

MIKE: Yeah. Here's the thing. Here's why I have to fight this guy, because he goes by Mike--

DOTTIE: Oh my goodness.

MIKE: --and I do that as well. So he specifically gets all the Mike Schubert SEO, which is what I'm after, since I don't go by Michael Schubert. Because only my mother calls me Michael. But yes, Lord Mayor Mike Schubert. But yeah, he's been the Lord Mayor since 2018. So [1:11:46]

DOTTIE: [1:11:46]

MIKE: Yeah.

DOTTIE: Maybe as Potterless can [1:11:49]

MIKE: Yeah, I think I'm get him on the pod, be like what the hell, man?

DOTTIE: If you ever read Harry Potter? No!

MIKE: I do have Google alerts set for my name just in case something comes up. It does come up a lot when other merch sites try to make illegal Potterless merch. And then I have to tell them that Wizard On! it's trademark.

DOTTIE: Oh, cool. If I [1:12:06]

MIKE: Which it is. Yeah, yeah. And I get to like sound very fancy. Because I do have an official trademark for Wizard On! Mike Schubert ones came up because I think he did something really cool. recently. Something either vaccine wise or some sort of accepting law. And that came up and the thing was like Mike Schubert does this accepting thing. And I was like, what? And then it was him. I was like, Yeah, well, still cool.

DOTTIE: You get the credit--

MIKE: Yeah, yeah, you know.

DOTTIE: --for it.

MIKE: Yeah, yeah. Maybe I was charged with that legislation.

DOTTIE: If you Google me, and for some reason, age is like one of the things that comes up.

MIKE: Oh, yeah.

DOTTIE: Because I'm 21. So like--

MIKE: Ohh.

DOTTIE: --I've just no aged for four years.

MIKE: Ohh! Yeah, yeah. If you Google Mike Schubert net worth it brings up I think some other Mike Schubert. Because he has an IMDB page. But the picture that shows up is me.

DOTTIE: Ohhh.

MIKE: And it says I'm worth I think \$13 million.

DOTTIE: That's so funny.

MIKE: Which is not even close to correct. I would love to be worth \$13 million.

DOTTIE: I mean, yeah, that's like a website where you can look at your like, stats for YouTube and things like that.

MIKE: Oh, yeah, yeah.

DOTTIE: Looking on that it says my net worth is unbelievably more than it is. Like millionaire, like, probably makes between like 1 to 3 million, blah, blah, blah. I'm like, no, I don't! Where's that money coming from and going?

MIKE: *sigh* Well, maybe one day, we'll get back to the point where we both reach our estimated earnings according to these websites, and--

DOTTIE: Yes.

MIKE: --we will have the fanciest tea and the fanciest crumpets.

DOTTIE: Yes. That's the dream.

MIKE: And that will be us.

DOTTIE: You come to England.

MIKE: Yeah, yeah yeah.

DOTTIE: Have you [1:13:30]?

MIKE: I I I was going to and then something happened. But yes, whenever it is safe enough to do so. I'm going to do a live show. And I will spoil the surprise that like you will certainly be the guest.

DOTTIE: Yes! That'll be great.

MIKE: I will wait to start recording to let you know what the big reveal is. But--

DOTTIE: I can wait.

MIKE: --I have a very fun intro of how it would bring you on stage with your great. But yes, definitely doing a London show. 1,000% whenever the world is safe--

DOTTIE: That's so [1:13:53]

MIKE: And you will be on stage and it'll be fantastic.

DOTTIE: What would be hilarious is if it's by the time I moved to the US and we just fly over together.

MIKE: We'll get first class flights but that's what we'll do with our millions of dollars.

DOTTIE: Yes!

MIKE: First Class flights from New York to London. Will drink champagne--

DOTTIE: Nice.

MIKE: --the whole way there. And then do the live show.

DOTTIE: Yup!

MIKE: It'll be perfect.

DOTTIE: Yup!

MIKE: Right. I'm looking forward to it.

DOTTIE: Yeah, me too!

MIKE: This has been British quandaries with UK correspondents, Dottie James. Okay, and to conclude this look back and to let Potterless ride off into the sunset. A sun that will rise again, eventually when I post live show audio. Some of which is with this human being. It's the best man at my wedding Johnny Frohlichstein. Johnny, how's it going?

JOHNNY: It's going really well. You don't usually start your episodes like this with me. You know, I feel like I come along and it's always like Hello, my name is Mike Schubert and I've never read this book before. And this time it's like you're a seasoned vet, you know, you're like a, you're like an old man looking wistfully upon the horizon thinking about your young life.

MIKE: One is that what you think I actually sound like. And two, this is the, I will say this is the first time aside fro- no I think this is the first time ever I've ever recorded a Potterless episode with my laptop closed. So it's a very different vibe, even live shows I have notes and stuff in front of me. So this is the, this is the most relaxed I've ever been for an episode of Potterless. It might turn out to be the longest episode of Potterless. But yeah, we're going out with a, with a different vibe and just a, a casual enjoyment of this wild, almost five year run.

JOHNNY: One, no, that's not actually what he sound like. Two, Indeed.

MIKE: So we touched on this a little bit in the live show in some of the q&a's, but I think it'd be fun to have it here. What in your perspective was the arc of Potterless like? Because obviously, you knew about me before the show. So your experience predates the show existing, you wouldn't be able to talk about me formulating the idea and stuff like that. So from your perspective, how did this all come to be and grow and change over time?

JOHNNY: Yeah. So I remember when you and I were in the third grade together, and I was like, hey, you gotta--

MIKE: If we were in the third grade together, that would have been a problem. We would [1:16:04]--

JOHNNY: Yeah.

MIKE: --that school.

JOHNNY: Yeah. You wouldn't have never had a podcast, you would have never had a job. I obviously hear you very well in college to do that you were a funny boy. And I remember very distinctly sitting in a Torchy's Tacos in Houston, Texas, in Rice village.

MIKE: Rip Twin Torchy's was good.

JOHNNY: Yeah, that was a great Torchy's. It pro- it probably--

MIKE: Not anymore.

JOHNNY: --Torchy's are good, very good anymore. Because they're all--

MIKE: They sold their soul to capitalism.

JOHNNY: Yeah.

MIKE: They've expanded too far.

JOHNNY: Everyone knows that capitalism will spoil a taco real fast.

MIKE: Yeah, it's the worst ingredient.

JOHNNY: Yeah. It's like very sour. It's like cilantro for me. Because it tastes like so for me. Because yeah, I'm one of those people that have the gene that makes it taste like so. Do you know--

MIKE: Oh, no! God, the worst. I am thankful every day that I don't have that.

JOHNNY: So anyway, we were at Torchy's Tacos. And you were telling me all about this podcast, this harebrained scheme that you were planning on launching. It seemed a little far-fetched to me at the time--

MIKE: Yeah.

JOHNNY: --for a couple reasons. Number one, you know, I knew that you'd had a decent like Vine and YouTube career. And obviously knew again, that you were very funny boy. But I was skeptical that like, not that there was a market because I knew that there's a huge Harry Potter fandom. I was just skeptical that you were going to be able to like reach a mass audience within this market. You know, you were just sort of starting from scratch in the podcast world. I was a little skeptical. And then I listened to the first couple episodes. And I was like, wow, like, I'm still skeptical. But I really hope this finds a mass audience because it's awesome. Like, the way this is structured is so fun and wonderful. And I love the sort of balance between the tangents and the story. And I love seeing this person who is my friend, read the books for the first time. And get to have all these experiences, which again, I'm not saying anything that people can't relate to right now. Because that's why I think we all love the podcast. But then it started to really pop off. And you might have talked about this already. But I remember when Spotify listed it as a featured podcast, and it totally exploded. And then I was like, oh my goodness, like, you know, it's the old adage of like, luck is where hard work meets preparation or whatever. But a genuinely good podcast got noticed by the right people. And it was good enough that when those people noticed it, they were like, we need to promote this.

MIKE: Shout out to my guy, Greg.

JOHNNY: Yeah, Greg. Can you give Greg like an edible arrangement or something?

MIKE: I sent Greg an edible arrangement. I don't know if I've told the story on the podcast before. But I used to tweet out anytime the whole Spotify algorithm thing came up. I used to tweet out regularly, I need to find out who had Spotify put me on editor's picks, and I'm going to send them an edible arrangement. And then I met someone from Spotify at a podcast convention. I think it was at PodCon 2. And this guy asked me a couple questions about stuff, gave me his card. And I was already living in New York at the time. And he said, Hey, you should come over to our Spotify studios that they just opened in World Trade Center Plaza. Like 4 Trade Center, or whatever it was instead of us. Like number 4, not the Freedom Tower, but like right next to it. And he said you should come over and tell us, they were trying to connect with podcasters in my level. So people who are independent, but not big time, people who were big enough to sort of make it on their own, but we're looking for some help. So I did a meeting with like 8 to 12 people from Spotify. And they were all going around the room saying what their titles were. And then it got to this guy Greg, and he said, Whatever he said his job title was, he then clarified I'm in charge of putting together the lists, the editor's picks and stuff like that, and my eyes just widened. And before I could even say anything he said I've seen your tweets. So then the next day I asked the guy who put together the meeting for Greg's email and info and all that. And then I had a edible arrangement sent to his office at Spotify. And let me tell you edible arrangements are expensive. They are are so pricey. I think I dropped \$70 on this bid.

JOHNNY: What?

MIKE: But it was worth it. This dude has given me like, indirectly this man has given me way more than \$70.

JOHNNY: Like \$72.

MIKE: Yeah, yeah, at least \$72. Like, I don't know what the world would be like if he didn't put me on the list. Because I did have a sizable audience beforehand. Like I was getting, like

25 to 30,000 downloads in episode before this. So it wasn't like I was tiny infant podcast. But it did jump it from that number to about--

JOHNNY: 30 million!

MIKE: It did jump up from that to about like, 65, 70 after the couple of months, I was on the Spotify thing per episode. So yeah, that was a, that was important.

JOHNNY: **1:20:39** thing is like it helped. But he had to listen to the podcast and think to himself, oh, yeah, this is a great podcast, we should put this out. And then like, it wasn't just, he listened to it, it was he listened to it and saw the value and which--

MIKE: Right!

JOHNNY: --I don't know, I was. I've been proud of you in a lot of these moments throughout this.

MIKE: Oh, man, thanks!

JOHNNY: But that was one of the big ones was like, Oh, my God, he's, he's doing the thing. This is so cool.

MIKE: The other thing was, it's not like just episode one got a bunch of listens. Because even if the concept was good, and the art was good, and the little description that showed up which I got a shout out to myself for character count. Because before it hit the dot dot dots on Spotify, I think you could exactly see, join Mike Schubert a 25-year old man, who's never had the Harry Potter series before dot dot dot. Like it was the perfect just enough before getting cut off on the app and what people would see. But yeah, people stuck with the show. So obviously, it was good. Even if I got put on Editor's pick, and all this stuff. If the show was but no one would have kept listening. There's a difference between the show getting a lot of downloads per episode, as opposed to, Yeah, the first episode blew up, but then everyone realized it was bad. So no one continued.

JOHNNY: Can you imagine what a bummer that would be if like, you got Editor's pick, and then that happened to you? And it's like, oh, no, my show stinks!

MIKE: Yeah, that would have been disappointing.

JOHNNY: I was definitely like, in addition to having been on the show, a genuine fan of it, right? I listened to every episode, you know, pretty close after when it came out. And I loved being able to do what I think a lot of people who listen to the show probably would have loved to do and text you like every step of the way while I listen. And like you would always know if I miss a few weeks behind. Because that would be like, hey, remember that episode three weeks ago? Would you set this like, I have this reaction to that, lah, lah, lah, lah. I don't know, it's just been so fun being a part of it and being sort of simultaneously in the PCU, the Potterless Cinematic Universe. And being able to, you know, sit in the role of being just like a fan. And being in the role of being like, obviously, you're really, really close friend. And it's just, I don't know, I, I wish other folks who listened to the show got to sit in this fight back then. Because it's been really fun, from all three of those perspectives.

MIKE: I think what's also been fun with your specific experience with the show is that you have been there at every stage of the show. And then you have also been a part of things beyond the podcast. Because you went to one of the first LeakyCon I went to. You went to the Dallas LeakyCon, did I, it was before I was doing mainstage stuff, I think you went to my LeakyCon, it might have been the first one that I went to.

JOHNNY: I think it was, because it was definitely not mainstage. I saw you give like a PowerPoint presentation--

MIKE: Right.

JOHNNY: --to a small room.

MIKE: I had applied as a panelist and I was accepted to give a presentation about what it was like to come into the fandom as an adult. So it was a more general thing, not necessarily just Potterless specific. Because I wasn't big enough to be like, hey, come to a Potterless thing. And I've talked a little bit specifically about my experience as the guy who started Potterless. But then also just from a bigger picture perspective. What it was like to be a fan coming in as an adult, and how that would have been different from me coming in as a kid, etc.

JOHNNY: Yeah, so that LeakyCon was super fun. Because you were big enough at that point to be recognized, but not all the time. So it was like every once in a while we would run into somebody wearing a Wizard On! shirt and they would like lose their mind. And for you that was still novel, which was I think really cool to see. Because you were like, you were like as excited about it, when it happened as the people that you met were. It was very cute. I, that happened to me a while back, I met the band, The Head and the Heart, which is like the Seattle--

MIKE: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

JOHNNY: --rock band. I met them when they were like still quite small. And you know, they were very excited, because I was so excited to be meeting them. And then you know, they got bigger, but I liked it before they were cool, blah, blah, blah, blah.

MIKE: Uh-hmm, uh-hmm.

JOHNNY: But seeing that from, you know, the side of you like empowering fans was just really, really fun. And obviously, you know, it happens more often, I'm sure than it did that time when you go to events like that. And at the live shows, it's like a similar vibe. But I think that you've also retained that level of excitement to where it's like, pretty much every time I've seen you meet somebody who listens to the show, you've been like, glowing afterwards, which I think is really neat.

MIKE: I mean, it never does get old to be recognized by people, which is very cool. I'm not gonna act like it's not very cool and it feels very good when someone says, oh my God, you're Mike Schubert, like that's wild. And it's still new. And I also think, I don't know if I've really been on the other side of it a lot. But I just tried to be as chill as possible. Because, yeah, sure, I've made a podcast that all people listen to. But like, at the end of the day, I am just a boy, I am a boy who did not read books. And then I read books, and I am not anything special. Like anytime people get over the top, flustered, it's like, you really don't have to do that. I, I am just a, a man, I am a chill person. I promise I'm regular. I, you know, put--

JOHNNY: My hands on one leg at a time.

MIKE: --my hands on one leg at a time. I'm trying to think of like a thing that's not that like. I also put too many clothes in a pay to use dryer in my apartment building. Because I don't want to spend an extra 250 on doing an extra load of dryers. Like I'm a normal person too.

JOHNNY: Actually, this is an important point. I feel like we should tell everyone. So you're very, you're very frugal person.

MIKE: Oh, yes.

JOHNNY: But I don't know if people know that you generally. But you're like a very very frugal, like, we went grocery shopping before the live show. And there was a lot of like, can we say 42 cents on a carton of things at the Meijer, shout out to the Michigan folks. There was a lot of like, you know, oh, wait, this, you know, price per ounce on this egg cart is, is a little bit less.

MIKE: I have always done this just in my life. I think my parents always taught me this of, if you're frugal and smart about your money for all the little things, it can cumulate to where if something really big, either bad happens. Like I remember, I broke my arm while

snowboarding in Tahoe in California. And because I went to the medical place that was on the mountain, it was out of my network. And I had to pay an arm and a leg to fix my broken arm and--

JOHNNY: So get the arm gloves!

MIKE: So it was a lot, they had to do three Novocaine shots to put my bone back to the way it was supposed to be. I'll keep it very vague to not gross anyone out. But they took three Novocaine shots and none of them worked. And then they just kind of had to put it back in place and it hurt terribly. And they charged me \$500 per Novocaine shot, which I felt like was a ripoff, because none of them works. And then they also charged me \$50 per ACE bandage, which is absurd! ACE bandage just cost \$6.

JOHNNY: Yeah. They got \$6 and also the hospitals are definitely buying them wholesale. So like--

MIKE: Right. Absolutely ridiculous!

JOHNNY: --at least they didn't get rid of all the wounds in your arm.

MIKE: Because I tried to be smart with money and little things like that, when those big things come up, then it's not as big of a deal. Or if you want to spend money on things that are very important, like flying to go to someone's wedding or something, then you don't have to worry about those kind of costs. So that's how I've always tried to live my life. And then the other thing is now with podcasting and stuff, I still keep that going on. Because I have no long term job security, I really have a lot of job security and that I will never fire myself as someone that's self-employed. So that's super cool. Like, I'm never gonna get an email that says, Oh, we're pivoting to video, and you're fired. So I don't have to worry about that ever happening. However, I do have no salary. And if people just stop caring about the stuff I make 5, 10, 15, 20 years from now. Oh, oh!

JOHNNY: 5, 10, 15, 20 days from now?

MIKE: Yeah. Honestly, yeah, like if people like I'm moving on to make the Percy Jackson show. If everyone just collectively decided, eh, I'm good. Oh, oh!

JOHNNY: [1:28:25]

MIKE: So I just continually try to be very frugal and save all of my money as much as I can. Because there is no security long term longevity wise to what I'm doing. I would hope that I can continue to do stuff. But it's not like when I was in Engineering where if you just put in the work and not get fired every year, you're gonna go up and up and up and be cool. And then the other thing is I don't have health insurance. So I had to pay very expensive amounts for that. But knock on wood. Kelly's new health insurance situation met getting married to Kelly great for the health insurance thing. America! Weeee!

JOHNNY: Great for the health insurance, great for the home life.

MIKE: Yeah. Leeching on to her health insurance plan is paying out dividends. But yes, I, I, I think it's funny that you picked up on my, my frugality while we were on tour.

JOHNNY: Oh, yeah. I've known before, you did frugality. But that's, I mean, yeah, I, I, I respect that and I buy it.

MIKE: I try to, I try not to be it in like a weird cheapskate anyway. But I think the, the true testament of it was when we were in LA with Multitude for Podcast Movement and we also did live shows. Where I did both of my live shows, where we did the Horse one, and then the Potterless one. Both of those venues were like a 20, 25 minute walk from public transportation. And then there was a public transportation stop right by our hotel. So I just took public transit, and everyone else took Ubers. And Eric Schneider was like you could take an Uber if you wanted. I was like, yeah, but I can just walk a little bit and take a train and then it's only \$2.75 instead of 30 hatever.

JOHNNY: Right.

MIKE: It's that kind of stuff.

JOHNNY: Right, right.

MIKE: Like I will put in the extra work to walk a place or line dry my clothes. or whatever.

JOHNNY: No! And you've never said to me like, I don't actually want to go see that movie because we can watch something on Netflix for \$0. Like, you, it's not that level.

MIKE: Right and, and that's what it always is. I tried to save money and stuff here and there so that I never have to say no to a fun thing or an important thing because of money. Like I never want to have to say, oh, man, like I can't go to someone else's wedding. Because it's just too much. I tried to save in all other walks of life so that if something important comes up, I can spend it on the things that really mean a lot to me.

JOHNNY: On the other hand, I Uber eats ice cream, like once a week. So, that's good stuff. That's just the way I like to spend my money is, you know, Uber eating ice cream. Nevermind buying ice cream before CVS closes, no, no, no, no, no.

MIKE: Ohh.

JOHNNY: Uber eating ice cream.

MIKE: The other thing I think is fun with the you and your relationship to Potterless is that you've done a bunch of live shows with me now. The first of which was that the show we did in Houston.

JOHNNY: It was, yeah.

MIKE: Okay, what was that like for you? Because at that time, I had already done a bunch of live shows. And I had also been performing onstage doing improv in Seattle for two years. So I have always been super duper comfortable with being on a stage in front of people. What was it like for you, though? Both from a performer perspective, and then also from the seeing fan interactions, us hanging out with fans at the bar after. Because this was in 2019, where that was, okay.

JOHNNY: So from the performer perspective, it was like, I don't know, it just felt like you and I like hanging out and spitballing on the couch, you know. Like, it was very, like, easy to imagine not being on a stage in front of a bunch of people. The one thing I will say it was very strange was how quickly time goes on stage.

MIKE: Yes.

JOHNNY: I remember, we were doing our one of our brackets. And we had finished the first two rounds of the bracket, which was supposed to be the point for intermission. And I was like, oh, no, like, this intermission is going to be so early. We've only been on stage for like 18 minutes. And I looked at the clock, and it was like, already 15 minutes after we started. And I was like, Whoa, that's like, very weird.

MIKE: Uh-hmm.

JOHNNY: From meeting people after the show perspective, I think the best part about that is seeing the fans of the show meet each other.

MIKE: Yes.

JOHNNY: That's definitely the coolest part.

MIKE: Yes.

JOHNNY: It's like--

MIKE: Ohh.

JOHNNY: There have been so many instances where it seems like people meet and then you see them, like exchanging numbers afterwards. And it's the most--

MIKE: Geez, ahh.

JOHNNY: --wholesome thing ever. And like, creating those connections, I think is one of the best parts about the show is. The fact that it's really it's very much like your community, right?

MIKE: Uh-hmm.

JOHNNY: So it's not just like, oh, you know, we like the Avengers, like, so does everybody, but it's very much like, Oh, these people likely have similar interests to me, therefore, I bet this friendship thing is gonna work out, that was cheesy, but you know what I mean?

MIKE: Yeah, yeah.

JOHNNY: It, it, it's very wholesome and very sweet.

MIKE: Yes. I saw that happen in the first Potterless Live show ever did in Seattle. I was very nervous that no one was going to show up. And then 100+ people did, which was wild. And after the show, there was a bar, just half a block down. And it was a pizza place in a bar. And it just had, like tables and booths of either four or six. And I remember, I want to say about like 20, 30 people came through. And what basically ended up happening was people were just put together at tables. And for the most part, people came to the show with one other person. So it was a lot of groupings of two people at this table know each other. But then either two or four other people at the table, they have no idea who they are. And I was just kind of bouncing from table to table making sure everyone was having a good time. Because that is my entire energy whenever I have a party or host one. Especially 'coz my strange life anytime I have like a housewarming party, it's like, Oh, I know this person from Vine. I know this person from Improv. This person went to school with me, here's a podcaster. My partners are always absurdly ridiculous. But at the Seattle show, just like you said, I remember when we were all leaving, when I was getting ready to go. And everyone was about hanging out around the same time, I saw everyone exchanging phone numbers with the people that they sat at their tables with. Because it makes sense. Oh, we all live in Seattle, Washington. We're all Harry Potter nerds. And we just had a fun evening together, let's hang out. And that was so cool. And that kind of thing is what makes the community beyond just in person stuff makes sense to me. It was clear and I can see this happening on Twitter, some of the same people being in each other's replies and stuff. All the names that you hear every episode as Producer level patrons in a Twitter thread talking to each other. Then eventually, we made the discord and all of that. So I agree. My favorite thing hands down about Potterless, as far as what the show has done, the community is so cool. And all of the folks that have either made in person friends, or online friends, or both, or whatever, that stuff is awesome. And seeing people communicate with each other live on Facebook, Discord, Twitter, whatever is. That's just the coolest. It's so awesome.

JOHNNY: Meeting some of the early patrons too is like super cool. Because I, I feel like I'm meeting like a celebrity. Like, we--

MIKE: Yeah, yeah. Like when we met Leon Davis. Yeah.

JOHNNY: And I was like, Oh my God, it is so nice to meet you. Like I am so humbled because I've heard you 10,000 times.

MIKE: It was very, very cool. Yeah, we did that last year in Phoenix, which was awesome. And then you were just on tour with me for two shows back to back. We did Grand Rapids and we did Chicago, which was just a wild new experience of, of doing it. Not only just doing a show but then hitting the road, checking into a hotel, soundcheck, all that stuff. Like that was a whole another beast.

JOHNNY: We had roadies, you know, dealing with our bikes and [1:35:16]. That, that's not true. It was us too.

MIKE: We had very nice people that worked for the venue's checking levels and stuff.

JOHNNY: I think we listened to like maybe like five or six total hours of music on that trip. Like in our driving and in our hotel or whatever. And it was maybe like 15 different songs.

MIKE: Yeah.

JOHNNY: We just like smashed repeat on like three artists.

MIKE: We have a very good rotation of playlists, and it's very Kim Petras and Daði Freyr heavy. And what else do you need when you have those two in your playlist?

JOHNNY: How many people are listening and know who Kim Petras and Daði Freyr both are. Like what percentage of your listeners right now do you think know both of those artists are?

MIKE: It's not a high enough percentage.

JOHNNY: That's definitely because it's not 100.

MIKE: No, right. Kim Petras should be what Ariana Grande is. But the music industry is against her. Maybe because she's trans. I don't know she's better than Ariana Grande.

JOHNNY: No disrespect to Ariana Grande. She's also great.

MIKE: No, no disrespect to Ariana Grande but Kim Petras is just better. And then Daði Freyr is perfect and everyone knows about it. The people who know Eurovision, they all know. So all the European listeners are like, Hell yeah, dude, I know Daði Freyr, Iceland's great. If you don't? Look up Daði Freyr, D-a-d-i F-r-e-y-r and Kim Petras, K-i-m P-e-t-r-a-s and you're welcome in advance.

JOHNNY: Yeah, their the best! [1:36:33] story I want to tell. You texted me one time, and you were like, by any chance were you in a Michaels in the Bronx earlier this week? And I was like, yeah. But why is, why, why do you ask? And it turns out, I had gone to get this thing framed at Michaels. And after I had left, the person who did my framing message for Potterless Discord and was like, I didn't realize that at the time. But I think I just met Gianni from Potterless. Because I think she recognized my last name because it's rather unique.

MIKE: I, I think Frohlichstein is like the new Smith. So it could be anybody.

JOHNNY: Yeah, you're right. You're right. Yeah, the fact that was me, out of all the Johnny Frohlichstein in the US is remarkable.

MIKE: Shout out to Dodger in the background.

JOHNNY: Yeah, yeah.

MIKE: No, it's fine. No, leave it, leave it in. It's fine. It's the last episode Potterless [1:37:28]

JOHNNY: Yeah, ready as a dog. All right, my dogs got zoomies right now. But [1:37:32] was like, was, was, was he there? And so Mike texted me. And I was like, Yeah. And so then we like put it all together or whatever. And I like jumped in the Discord, and I was like, Oh my gosh, like, wow, that's so cool. Like, I'm glad you love the show, like so nice to meet you. And then [1:37:46] stop, I have to go back, obviously to pick up my friend. I am and I like we coordinated on Discord to make sure that she was gonna be the one working. And then we like got to like chat and connect on it a little bit. Because just like so much fun. But that was really fun. And sort of speaks to the the community aspect of it as well, where it's like, you know, whether it's you or some of your guests, or any of the people who listen to your show. It's like, we're all sort of just like on the safety of that stuff, right?

MIKE: Yeah. And I think what's cool about it every now and then there's a common phenomenon where if I get a Facebook message from someone I've not talked to since we went to school together, either high school or college. I know with 100% certainty before opening it, that it's them explaining that they have found out the podcast or the roommate, listen to the podcast, it was a very common thing before the show got very big. And everyone knew that it was my full time job. When I was just doing it on the side. I got people message me and they would say, Oh, I just came home from the grocery store. And my

roommate was playing a podcast on her smart speaker. And it was you and all, yeah, that's me. Blah, blah, blah. So I guess people would do that to you too where if they're listening to Potterless they get to like whatever episode, you're the first one on 30 year, whatever. And then they go oh, wait, hold on, I know that guy.

JOHNNY: Oh, yeah, that happened, that happened all the time. There was a high school friend of mine who texted me about it. And it was exactly the same thing. Like wait and, I actually think the way that she asked me was like, wait a second. Is this you? Like, are you the Johnny Frohlichstein on this Potterless episode? I was like, Yes. I am the Johnny Frohlichstein on this episode and the only Johnny Frohlichstein that you'll ever run into probably for the next very long time.

MIKE: There's this guy, Joe- there's this guy on this podcast with a very unique name like yours the kinda sounds like you. And then also referenced playing frisbee and going to Rice University. Are you the same guy?

JOHNNY: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, and, and he's blonde and lives in hell in New York.

MIKE: Yeah, I could hear that he was blonde.

JOHNNY: Yeah. Oh, yeah. Exactly. No, yeah, that's always been fun. Another really fun thing was when one of AnnaGrace's friends who like loves the show.

MIKE: AnnaGrace is your girlfriend for anyone--

JOHNNY: Yeah.

MIKE: --unaware.

JOHNNY: That's right. Done. [1:39:56] we're just talking. One of AnnaGrace's friends was a, like really big fan of the show. And for his birthday, we were doing like a trivia night. And we, we told them to plan like a halftime show for the trivia night. And at halftime, and obviously, my wasn't like taken aback here. And I told them, we're going to do this, but I FaceTimed him, and like, gave the phone to AnnaGrace's friend, and he was like, floored, he was so excited about it. So I don't know, little stuff like that along the way. It's been really, really fun.

MIKE: Yeah, it's always cool. It's always a fun time, I am very fortunate to be in the position I'm in and I try to stay humble at all times. And I'm just continually very thankful that I am put in this position where I get to do this for a living. And I get to meet a bunch of cool people through it. And it's just great. It's a whole bunch of nerds just having a good time. And I look forward to the day where we can return to full normalcy of doing meetups and shows and conventions and I can finally do the Europe tour and all that stuff.

JOHNNY: The nice thing is that I do not have to stay humble on your behalf. So whenever you know friends or coworkers are like why you go to Grand Rapids. I'm like, Well, my friend has this badass podcast that has a bazillion listeners per episode. And you should listen, and--

MIKE: 69 million, baby! This episode is going to put us over 69 million total downloads. Which is the absolutely perfect place to end weekly Potterless.

JOHNNY: You know what I say to that?

MIKE: You know what I say to that? Cool!

JOHNNY: Yeah. Awesome!

MIKE: Oh, sorry. 69th, the Weed one. Ahh, blaze!

JOHNNY: Wait, yeah, yeah. From 69 million downloads.

MIKE: Blaze edit! But no, it's, it's been cool. It was very funny to hear your co workers that whole week ask you on all your different calls. Wait, so you're, you're guesting on your friends podcast, live? What's happening? Like--

JOHNNY: Like, oh, it's live? Like, can I stream it? Like no, no, not that kind of live?

MIKE: Yeah. Oh, gosh, it's so good that I will, I will never have to stop explaining to people what a podcast is. And then also, how is that my job. And I got to do it to your mom, in Chicago. I got to explain that to your mother, which was very fun. Because your mom is very sassy.

JOHNNY: Oh, yeah.

MIKE: And there are times when people don't believe that this is my job that it is frustrating and insulting. When people either say that's not a real job or whatever. But your, your mom was in more of just like, comic disbelief. But then once I explained stuff, she accepted it and thought it was cool. As opposed to continuing to having that disbelief. Which I have had with other people. Thankfully, no one really close to me like none of my close friends or relatives or anything like that, or any of Kelly's extended family. But I've had some people just kind of be very snooty about it. And I was very appreciative that mama Frohl was not snooty.

JOHNNY: Oh, no, Carol, Carol knew for sure that it was like, legit and awesome. And she like, she was definitely just teasing you and she was like, did they pay you for that?

MIKE: We gotta get Carol and Barb together.

JOHNNY: I'm just gonna say--

MIKE: That's a match made in heaven.

JOHNNY: We have to get Carol and Barb together and record it and make it like a bonus episode.

MIKE: Yes. Just no, no agenda. Just Carol and Barb.

JOHNNY: Just go, just YouTube, start.

MIKE: That'd be a blast. Oh, man. Well, thank you for everything along this journey. Thank you for always being a big supporter and a big help in times of extreme, oh shit, not even just being a supporter and a cheerleader of the show. But also, even recently, I had, I had some sort of like website, something was wrong with the live show page. And we were on the road. And I needed you to log into Wix to update it. Because I couldn't do it from the car.

JOHNNY: [1:43:38] yeah, I remember that.

MIKE: Like, stuff like that. And I feel like that isn't the first time I've had you do something like that. Like, I feel like I've put up an ocean. But I know Johnny has my back flag before. So I've always appreciated that and doing the live shows with you is always a blast. And I'm very excited in just a matter of days to do the Philly one. At the time this episode released we will be about to take the stage in Philly. So it's going to be some cool stuff. And I appreciate everything that you've done. And it doesn't stop here. You're a Percy Jackson boy. So you'll be along for The Newest Olympian ride as well.

JOHNNY: I sure will. And yeah, you don't have to thank me for any of that dawg. Like, I don't know, you're such a good friend that like this is just like none of it feels like you owe me one or anything like that. right? It's just like, you think this is a healthy relationship is what this is. This is the healthy male friendship.

MIKE: It is!

JOHNNY: I could not be more thankful for it.

MIKE: I agree. I love you. We say I love you to each other every time we say goodbye, which is great.

JOHNNY: It's very sweet.

MIKE: I think that's healthy. And yeah, I just, I just know that I can depend on you in life and friendship and stuff too. But like it's also happened with the podcast too. And I was so calm anytime I was having you on the show or doing a live show with you or anything in regards to the show at all like I supremely trusted you and all of that. And it's been really cool and I'm very thankful and I'm glad it doesn't have to end here. I'm glad it can continue with the next

Potterless style podcast as I figure out what this whole Percy Jackson business is all about. Spoiler alert. I'm obsessed with these books and every, like they are so much better than Harry Potter.

JOHNNY: Oh, wow, that's a claim and a half.

MIKE: I'm eight chapters in it's already way better than Harry Potter. We, we're, we're kidding ourselves. The books are perfect. Percy Jackson is great!

JOHNNY: We can, we can, we can get into that.

MIKE: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

JOHNNY: I want to talk about what happened on the plane back from the doer really quick.

MIKE: Oh, okay, do it. Yeah, do it, do it quick because we are exceedingly over time. It's gonna be the longest episode of Potterless ever. I don't care. But that's a good note to end.

JOHNNY: Well, you can cut this for time if you have to.

MIKE: No, no, no, please, we're keeping it in. Because you love this more than anything that's ever happened in your life. So you got to air it out to the people.

JOHNNY: So we were sitting on this flight. And we one of the flights that has little screens on the back of the chairs. So we, being a big silly boy that we are did not opt to watch a movie or a TV show or anything like that. We played the like, extremely shitty, like delta plane games. Sorry, if you're like the Delta plane game designer, I didn't mean that. They're really fun. We had a blast. And, but one of the last games that we played was like Texas, Texas Hold 'em.

MIKE: And I hate poker. I think poker is the worst. It is so overrated and not entertaining. But what happened was perfect.

JOHNNY: We were on a mission. We really beating all these games. Like we beat chess on hardmode, which was easy, because we're both good at it.

MIKE: Uh-hmm.

JOHNNY: We like beat Solitaire. We played all these games. And then we're playing Texas Hold 'em.

MIKE: We played two versions of Trivia. And we did very well on both of those.

JOHNNY: Yep! Yep, yep, yep. And then we get to Texas Hold'em and we're playing and we're like not doing very well. It's probably like 10. And then. and then we got like, ace jack of diamonds or something in our hand, which sorry, I don't know poker rules.

MIKE: It was, it was of hearts, it was hearts. I think we got either ace jack or ace 10.

JOHNNY: Yeah. One of those.

MIKE: I think we got ace 10, I think we had ace 10. And we were thinking, all right, this is pretty good.

JOHNNY: And like after the first four cards had come out, we also had--

MIKE: We also had the jack and the king.

JOHNNY: Right.

MIKE: All we needed was the queen to make a royal flush happen.

JOHNNY: And I leaned over and I'm like, Are we about to get a royal flush? And you're like, I mean, maybe. But like probably not, like--

MIKE: We both had the realization at the same time that it was possible. And it was very cool. We knew at this point we were going to win if we just got a heart we were going to get a flush. And that was going to put us in great position. So we were already betting pretty high. But there was a tiny little piece of us was like, Oh my God, but, but what if we, what if we get a royal flush? Like but what if we kiss? Like--

JOHNNY: Eee! Absolutely not! And then the fifth card turns over and it's the motherfucking queen. And we literally got a royal, with which the odds of getting a royal flush in one hand at

Texas Hold'em poker is one in 2.5 million. And I refuse to believe that the delta version of Texas Hold'em is in any way rigged?

MIKE: No.

JOHNNY: Like, there's no way!

MIKE: There's no way there's no way that they put something into the game where they said okay, after 10 hands, give them a royal flush to make them happy. Because they have no financial vested interest in you enjoying it. It's not like a slot machine type thing where they try to make a certain amount of things be a winning amount so that you're incentivized to stay. There's no, I, there can't be anything behind this.

JOHNNY: Or maybe there is because now I'm like, only flying don't let for the rest of my life.

MIKE: Yeah, let us know if you're the game designer shoot us an email. But yeah, we got the royal flush.

JOHNNY: Confetti rain down from the ceiling of the plane.

MIKE: Right. With the oxygen masks come down. Instead, confetti came down.

JOHNNY: Yeah! Yeah, and like, and then, like the flight attendants walked by, and like all of a sudden casino outfits now. It was like, it was--

MIKE: Right. It was just like if you ever are at a bar and you see someone get bottle service, or they come over the champagne bottle with sparklers out of it, they did that down the plane and gave it to us. With the one thing that I do think was disappointing is in this game, when you would win or whatever hand you had, it would display on the screen what your hand was. So it would say two pair, full house, whatever. And it did just say straight flush, which is technically the thing a royal flush is in a different type of hand. It's just the best version of a straight flush. So it's not technically incorrect. But I did want it to let us know that we did the thing.

JOHNNY: Yeah.

MIKE: We did the thing!

JOHNNY: No. It was no fanfare. There was remarkably little [1:48:58]

MIKE: And hearts is the second highest suits. So there was only one combination of cards better than what we did out of any possibility of any.

JOHNNY: Jesus!

MIKE: Spades is the only thing that could have defeated that.

JOHNNY: God. That was the coolest thing that's ever happened to me in my whole life.

MIKE: And then we talked about it for the rest of the flight and the rest of the walk from deplaning. Up until we had to take separate taxis, separate ways for me to go to Manhattan and you to go to more northern parts of New York.

JOHNNY: And then we texted about it for 10 days and then we did this recording.

MIKE: Yep! And here we are. Potterless! Bing bang boom!

JOHNNY: That's it, that's the end.

MIKE: That's it, that's how we're ending it. That's, I mean, that's literally how we're ending it.

JOHNNY: Wow!

MIKE: I mean, there will be, there will be episodes, next Monday there's going to be the first episode of The Newest Olympians over can hear what it's like. We're going to be posting live show audio and stuff like that. So the, the feed is not going away forever. The feed is staying the same. The Newest Olympians on a separate feed. But anytime you do a live show or convention or something and I'm given the audio I will post it on to, onto the feed for everyone to listen to. But, Johnny, thank you so much for joining and, and chatting. This was, this was a blast.

JOHNNY: Thank you so much for everything. This is just the best.

MIKE: This is the best and I'm glad this is not goodbye. It's just, and it's not even see you later. It's just I'll see you in this other room where we've got Percy Jackson hanging out.

JOHNNY: Because they're god instead of wizards now.

MIKE: Pretty much yeah, we got Greek gods instead of wizards. And we have a sassy character that has great comebacks. But also just a novel concept, asks questions of people.

JOHNNY: Love it!

MIKE: Hohoho! Yeah, I know Harry's this whole thing. We're like between you told him not to ask questions ever, but I appreciate the Percy Jackson. Actually, when he's wondering, what the hell is going on?! He actually asks everyone around him, what the hell is going on? It's great. I really, really like it.

JOHNNY: Well, I guess this is it.

MIKE: This is it, man. Thanks again. I love you. And--

JOHNNY: I love they say.

MIKE: --as they say in the wo- oh, yeah, Jeepers Creepers. And thank, thank you listeners for, for listening. I love you as well, listeners. And as they say in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter before they stop posting weekly episodes of a podcast that they've made for almost five years.

JOHNNY: Woah!

MIKE: Woah!

MIKE & JOHNNY: Wizard On!

MIKE: My gosh! Wow! Wow!

Outro [1:51:06]

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