

[CATACOMBS intro music plays.]

**Sage G.C.:** [eerie, deep] Welcome to the CATACOMBS.

## Kate / Una

**Sage:** Hello one at all. And welcome back to another episode of former theater kids never shut the fuck up. [stifles laughter]

Continuing my series of one-on-one conversations, I sat down with Kate Pursley. Oh, Kate. I love Kate so much. This is probably the most I've laughed, I think, recording a CATACOMBS episode. We talk about the Renaissance Fair, of which Kate and her family has a lot of history with, as well as her dad being a fencer and how she learned a bit- a little bit about fencing through him. We also get into why life is so overly complicated and how that can exhaust people, why introverts and extroverts don't exist, and lots of other little tidbits along the way, shaping the ideas that would become Una.

[Music fades in.]

At some point after this episode, and around the Session Zero that came after it, we did scrap the, like, middle aged thing, and then Kate kind of went more in a direction of Una specifically *not* wanting kids and trying to escape the family life thing. And Una became much more of, like, a Viking than a housemaid or whatever. But some of those seeds are still there, and you'll hear them in the episode to follow. So anyway, without further ado, Kate Pursley, everybody. Sit back, relax, and enjoy.

[Music crescendos and fades out.]

**Kate Pursley:** Yay! Okay, we're recording.

**Sage:** Hell yeah.

**Kate:** [Macho Man accent] Hell yeah, brother.

**Sage:** [Macho Man] Hell yeah. Snap this podcast, brother.

**Kate:** [Macho Man] Snap. It's a pirate podcast, brother.

**Sage:** Honestly, my- my- my Macho Man is not that great. It's like a very—

**Kate:** I'm shit at it. I just go, [Macho Man] hell yeah, brother. [giggles]

**Sage:** I can't imagine it's directly in your range. [chuckles]

**Kate:** [laughs] No! No, it's not. [normally] Yeah, my squeaky little voice can go like, [high-pitched] Dude! [normally] But like, not like [Macho Man] hell yeah.

**Sage:** [Macho Man] Hell yeah.

**Kate:** [Macho Man] Hell yeah, brother. [giggles]

**Sage:** Slim Jim.

[Kate laughs.]

**Sage:** Anyway, this is 20 Sided Stories, and I'm the director, Sage G.C.

**Kate:** Whoa!

**Sage:** And oh my god! Kate, Kate, Kate. Kate! Sodium nitrate.

**Kate:** It me. It's me, Kate.

**Sage:** I'm so excited you're back on the show, Kate.

**Kate:** Me too! Haha! [giggles]

**Sage:** I've said it every single time we've met up.

**Kate:** Mm-hmm.

**Sage:** When- for the Halloween show and in and around and then since then, but it truly felt like it wasn't quite 20 Sided Stories without ya.

**Kate:** Aw, shucks. Aw!

**Sage:** Everybody- Everybody loves Kate. That's the new sitcom coming out on ABC. [giggles]

**Kate:** Everybody Loves Kate. [cackles]

**Sage:** And, yeah, you know how to make me laugh so consistently. I- I- if anything, I need—

**Kate:** Oh, good. [chuckles] Ah, I was worried. [chuckles]

**Sage:** Oh, yeah? All the *not* laughing I'm doing? Jesus Christ.

[Kate chuckles.]

No, you're so fucking hilarious. You're so good at characters, and I'm, uh, I'm so stoked that you're gonna be at the cabin with us recording PIRATES OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

**Kate:** Yeah, the creepy cabin!

**Sage:** The creepy- I hope- I hope it's not creepy.

**Kate:** Well, it better be. [giggles] I mean, what's improv if you're not scared a little? [giggles]

**Sage:** Hmm. That's true. We are living on the edge.

**Kate:** Yeah, constantly.

**Sage:** It was the only Airbnb I could find—

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** —that was within, like, a reasonable range and price.

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** That- that didn't say "no parties". [chuckles]

**Kate:** That's fair. That's fair. That is completely fair.

**Sage:** So I- I picked it. So... There was probably a catch is kinda what I'm getting at.  
[chuckles]

**Kate:** Wait, what? There's probably a cat? Or a *catch*?

**Sage:** You know, like a- a *catch*.

**Kate:** Oh! I thought you said 'there's probably a cat.'



[Bell dings, record slow-down scratch.]

**Sage:** Okay, fun little editing note here. There was, in fact, a cat at the cabin, okay? Just thought that was funny. I'll put a picture of Simon the cat in the episode description on Patreon. Check it out. Anyway.

[Ringing noise fades in, tape fast forwards.]



**Kate:** Okay- [chuckles] I was—

**Sage:** I'm considering bringing my cat.

**Kate:** I was like—

**Sage:** I'm considering it.

**Kate:** You should! You should, actually. That's—

**Sage:** He's so old though. Like, I just—

**Kate:** Yeah, I haven't seen him in a minute. How is he?

**Sage:** He's doing good. He's gone through a lot of rough.

**Kate:** Yeah. [chuckles]

**Sage:** But he's doing good at this very moment.

**Kate:** Yay!

**Sage:** And, yeah, if it wasn't a white as far as it is, I definitely would do it. So I didn't have- don't have to worry about having like a, you know, somebody to come in and watch the house, but I don't know. I'm on the fence about it.

**Kate:** I feel that. Yeah.

**Sage:** That said, what—

**Kate:** My old man, Charlie, is behind me. He's 15.

**Sage:** Nice.

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Yeah, Miles has him beat by a year and a half-ish.

**Kate:** What? Miles is older than Charlie?

**Sage:** He's almost 17.

**Kate:** Holy shit. What? Oh, my God. Yeah, Charlie's gonna turn—

**Sage:** He's old. But he acts- he doesn't act like it. He hasn't slowed down.

**Kate:** Yeah! Charlie is gonna turn 16 this year.

**Sage:** Cats are crazy, man.

**Kate:** Old man cat. Old man Charles.

**Sage:** Yeah, I don't know if there's an old man cat at the cabin, but there probably will be a spooky ghost catch is what I'm saying.

**Kate:** Yeah, for sure. And we can, like, do the [softly] light as a feather, stiff as a board.

[Laughter.]

**Sage:** Yeah, invite them on the show.

**Kate:** Yeah, exactly.

**Sage:** We'll do a horror episode.

**Kate:** Be a ghost pirate.

**Sage:** [ghostly] Whoo. [normally] Yeah.

**Kate:** [ghostly] Speak into the mic. [chuckles] Whoo!

**Sage:** Yeah, please. The Chode-Shure

**Kate:** Oh my god. [laughs]

**Sage:** You're not happy with the name?

**Kate:** No.

**Sage:** I've been calling Kate's mic the Chode-Shure. Uh, Greg has it as well.

**Kate:** Oh my god.

**Sage:** It's a different version of the regular Shure mics that you probably see on every podcaster's YouTube channel in the fucking universe.

[Kate chuckles.]

It's the most, like, standardized, like, it's a pretty expensive microphone.

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** And they made a new version that's slightly cheaper but sounds pretty damn good. And I'm just calling it the Chode-Shure. [stifles laughter]

**Kate:** Yeah. Because it's smaller.

**Sage:** Yes! [chuckles]

**Kate:** But I'm going to—

**Sage:** And fatter, though. It's not just smaller.

**Kate:** It's also fat, yeah, I would say. But I- I- I'm going to name my microphone something. I've named all the electronics at the store I work at, which is a café, so we have a lot of machines. I've named all of them.

**Sage:** What's- what's your favorite name?

**Kate:** My favorite name, I think, has to be- I named the fridge Mariska. And nobody's noticed I've named the fridge.

[**Sage** chuckles.]

'Cause I- I print out them in label makers. So, like, we have a label maker.

**Sage:** [amused] You- you actually put the names, like, on the—

**Kate:** Yeah. Like- yeah! [cackles]

**Sage:** I thought this is just a fun game you play.

**Kate:** No, I label them. [laughs]

**Sage:** [laughs] Oh my god.

**Kate:** Like, the decaf espresso machine is named Darla. And then the caffeine one is named Kathleen.

**Sage:** Good. Those are good.

**Kate:** And then the tamper- we have an electric tamper named Ferdinand.

[Stifled laughter.]

And we have a grinder that's a German grinder, it's called a Mahlkönig. And I named it Klaus because my- [chuckles] coworker—

**Sage:** Of course. The one German name. [chuckles]

**Kate:** I w- I asked my coworker, Chloe, I was like, what should I name this? And she was like, Klaus, it's German. [laughs]

**Sage:** Yeah. When everybody thinks of a German name, like, that is- it's gotta be- I wonder where that ranks on German names.

**Kate:** Yeah. I don't know. That's gotta be, like, a- I wanna say a common one. Are you Googling it?

**Sage:** Yes, of course.

**Kate:** Yay! Answers! Answers! What is the most common German name?

**Sage:** Spelt with a K. I don't know if that's...

**Kate:** Yeah, that's how I spelt it. I don't know.

**Sage:** It doesn't even have a ranking.

**Kate:** *What?* Wait, what?

**Sage:** [chuckles] How do you spell it?

**Kate:** Uh, ah, god, man, this could take all day. [chuckles] C-L-A-U-S-E possibly?

**Sage:** It's not coming up. Wow.

**Kate:** Man. Are we making this up?

**Sage:** Yeah, we might. Stupid-ass Americans just being like, we know German names! It's, like, not even a popular German- [laughs]

**Kate:** Wow. Germ- Germans are like, what are you talking about? That's not even a German name. [laughs]



[Bell dings, record slow-down scratch.]

**Sage:** Fact check! I must've been spelling it wrong. I looked it up again. Klaus is definitely a name of German origin. I can't find the ranking in Germany. It might just not be popular anymore. But it's definitely a German name. And don't worry, I'm not gonna keep interrupting like this unless we continue to be dummies, which is likely.

[Ringing noise fades in, tape fast forwards.]



**Kate:** [chuckles] Oops.

**Sage:** Kate?

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Can you do with accent?

**Kate:** No. [chuckles] I can do—

**Sage:** I thought- you- you kinda, like, you moved as if you were about to do it.

**Kate:** I- [chuckles] I can do a Scandinavian accent because I have Scandinavian relatives.

**Sage:** Really?

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Oh, that's such good news.

**Kate:** My grandmother's cousin, Tor, would come over. And he'd be like, oh, hello, Kathy. How are you? How are you doing? How have you been?

**Sage:** Nice!

**Kate:** And they- like, Norwegians speak soft. So they're like, oh, yeah.

**Sage:** Yeah, there's some little details with it.

**Kate:** How are you Kathy? I'm like good. [chuckles]

**Sage:** [chuckles] Well, that's great because, I mean, I wanna hear all- all or any of your character ideas.

**Kate:** Oh, man.

**Sage:** But I will say right now there is a hole in the north. Nobody has pitched playing a character from the north.

**Kate:** Hmm.

**Sage:** So if you did wanna do is your Scandinavian accent, it's- it's on the table.

**Kate:** Oh! What if I just do a, like, Minnesota accent? [cackles] I'm like, [accent] oh my goodness.

**Sage:** it is- you are very good at that—

**Kate:** [Minnesota accent] This boat is so cold.

**Sage:** You are very good at—

**Kate:** Oh, wow. Does anyone have a little, you know, a little blanket? Some, you know, sheepskin or anything? Oh my god.

[Giggling.]

It's freezing in here! Wow! [giggles]

**Sage:** Okay, there is something to this, though.

**Kate:** [cackles] What? I need- [laughs]

**Sage:** Because I've heard- I've heard you do this voice, and you're very good at it.

**Kate:** Thank you. Also sorry. I'm, like, sniffing a little. [chuckles] It's, like, always, like- like—

**Sage:** You just did so much coke right before recording. [chuckles]

**Kate:** Yeah, just- [laughs]

[**Sage** groans and giggles. **Kate** sniffs loudly, coughs, and laughs.]

[Macho Man] Hell yeah, brother!

**Sage:** And you smoked! Wow! [chuckles]

[Laughter.]

God, you're crazy, Kate. And you have beer in front of the camera!

**Kate:** I ju- You know what? It's an Angry Orchard! [laughs]

**Sage:** You're fuckin' unhinged!

[Laughter.]

You're crossfaded x3!

**Kate:** Don't look at me! Jesus Christ.

[Laughter.]

Oh, man. [giggles]

[Macho Man] Hell yeah.

**Sage:** It's okay, how do you feel about pirates?

**Kate:** I'm excited. I'm excited because, um—

**Sage:** Sorry, to speak broadly. 'Cause you, unfortunately, weren't able to make it for the genre episode.

**Kate:** No. No, I wasn't.

**Sage:** So I'd love to know, like, what are your favorite pirate things? Like- like—

**Kate:** Well, I grew up in the Renaissance Fair in Northern California. So like—

**Sage:** It's kinda ringing a bell now. I think I remember you talking about that.

**Kate:** Yeah. My dad actually played a pirate for years and years and years, and he was a captain of a ship.

**Sage:** Oh, no shit?

**Kate:** Yeah, he played a captain. He had, like, full leather clothing and everything. There's, like, a picture of him I'll send you later 'cause it's a- somebody did a drawing of his full costume. He, like, made a lot of the pieces himself. He, like, sews leather and stuff. So, like, he had custom boots.

**Sage:** If you think he's comfortable with it or you are, you should- you should se-send it to the DM in Slack to me.

**Kate:** Yeah!

**Sage:** And I'll link it in the- [chuckles] in the episode description.

**Kate:** Honestly, he'd be fine with it.

[Chuckling.]

He'd be fine with—

**Sage:** Alright.

**Kate:** I'll send- I'll send you pictures of him at Ren Faire and stuff. But, um—

**Sage:** Don't- go down below, listeners. Kate's dad has the—

**Kate:** Yeah. Kate's dad, Greg Pursley!

[Chuckling.]

At various times in the Ren fair. And a drawing.

**Sage:** So did you- did you get a chance to, like, do a lot of roleplay stuff there too?

**Kate:** I- so basically, like, I- I was there from, like, birth till about... it was about when I was 15 when the Renaissance Fair, meaning it was based in the Renaissance era, died out. So it was in the 1500s. So all that fun poofy clothing and the corsets and the leather and the hats and the frills, all that is roughly based in the 1500s, like, the 100 years.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Kate:** They don't, like, they kinda give you a rough estimate sometimes if costuming wants to be very strict. So with the costuming, I remember it was strict too about, like, within 30 years of each other. So there was, like, a wide range of costumes. But it wasn't as strict as let's say, like Dickens fairs in San Francisco, which I also grew up in.



And when I was- I started doing Dickens Fair from when I was 12. And I- it stopped two years ago. And I'm 26 currently. So I've been in rent fair, like, my whole life.

**Sage:** [impressed] Damn.

**Kate:** And, uh, yeah, Dickens Fair is the era between the 1850 to roughly late '60s.

**Sage:** Right.

**Kate:** So we can't really go outside of that range because hundreds- you don't realize how, like, costumes and, like, wardrobe change so much within hun- a 100 years.

**Sage:** Oh, totally.

**Kate:** Like, think of, like, the '20s versus the '80s. So yeah, so I grew up in the Ren Faire. I wore cute little girl, like, dress clothes and had little, like, tiny corsets. It was, like, bodices. They weren't really corsets, they just, like, were little vests that you, like, got to lace up and stuff.

**Sage:** Gotcha. So you didn't pass out and fall off a cliff like Keira Knightley in the *Pirates of the Caribbean*. [chuckles]

**Kate:** No. No, no, I was not Elizabeth Swanning as a little five-year-old. [laughs]

No, we had, like, cute little, like, vests and they, like, lace up with leather laces and stuff. And it's just like a vest you wear over your poofy, poofy shirt. And it's so much fun. You have poofy skirts to run around in. And my dad had leather boots, poofy black pants, a leather vest, leather gloves, and a leather feathered hat. He was hella cool.

**Sage:** Nice.

**Kate:** He looked hella cool.

**Sage:** Did you get to play a pirate like him, though?

**Kate:** Oh, yeah! I would- I would love to play a pirate like him.

**Sage:** No, but did you get—

**Kate:** And now I get to.

**Sage:** Oh, so you *didn't* get to?

**Kate:** Oh, no, no, I didn't. I was too young. Like, I was, like, basically like- we- I was one, very shy.

**Sage:** Mm-hmm.

**Kate:** So I did not talk to people. When I was five- [chuckles]

**Sage:** It's kind of hard for me to imagine shy Kate.

**Kate:** Right now, I talk- I talk so fucking. [laughs]

[**Sage** chuckles.]

But when I was, like, really young, I was very, very shy. I did not like talking to people who were not my fam- *immediate* family members.

**Sage:** Right.

**Kate:** And, you know, this is Ren Fair, there's a ton of people.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Kate:** My dad has a ton of friends. So all of them would just be like, Hi, Katie! And then I'd, like, hide or I'd be like, hi. And then they'd be like she's scared, she's scared. [chuckles]

**Sage:** [chuckles] Don't tap on the glass!

**Kate:** Don't tap on the—

[Laughter.]

[giggling] She'll lash out.

[normally] So I remember a pair- I don't really remember this that well, but everyone loves a story from when I was five years old. It's my dad's favorite story to tell about me. They, like- we would have to do this thing called Build for Ren Faire. And it means that you- if you have a booth, you have to build it yourself.

**Sage:** Oh.

**Kate:** No one's gonna come in and do the sets for you.

**Sage:** Yeah, right, right, right.

**Kate:** So you have to build your entire set, entire back area, basically like your green room, your kitch- all of it yourself, and you get the amount of lot that you rent off. So if you want a bigger lot, you need to pay more. If you want to smaller a lot, you don't need to pay as much. But you buy the hardware, you buy all the supplies, and you put whatever you want on that lot, and you have to decorate it yourself and paint it and maintain it.

**Sage:** Gotcha. Damn.

**Kate:** So like, during build, you know, they- my dad- it was crazy. They, like- our booth was a, like, a U-shape.

**Sage:** Mm-hmm.

**Kate:** So we had three sides, a stage, a three-piece stage that had three different levels so they could do fencing bouts, 'cause my dad taught fencing lessons.

**Sage:** Oh my god, that's amazing.

**Kate:** Yeah! So, like, and my dad is, like, trained in foil, épée, and saber. So he's trained in all of it.

**Sage:** Jeez.

**Kate:** He competed in fencing in San Francisco in California.

**Sage:** That's badass.

**Kate:** Yeah. And he placed a couple of times. Like, he was like, I was too old to join the Olympics at that point.

**Sage:** Right.

**Kate:** But he was really good, yeah. And he knows the current Olympic coach- like the coach for the men's fencing.

[Dogs bark and howl in the background.]

Oh, wait, hold on my dogs are howling.

**Sage:** [amused] Thought that's what I was hearing.

**Kate:** They do this, like, once a day.

**Sage:** Yep. I remember my mom's dogs did it too. I've tried- I remember I tried looking it up and there's not, like, a clear... like, the reason for, like, why dogs will just, like, start doing that together...

**Kate:** I- I don't know, yeah.

**Sage:** Like, I couldn't- I couldn't- there's not, like, a definitive answer. There's like a couple of theories is all I could find.

**Kate:** Apparently, in the wild, wolves will howl to find each other.

**Sage:** Yeah. So it's- it's probably that instinct just kinda coming out.

**Kate:** But I don't- I'm like- with the dogs, I'm like, bitch, you're standing right next to me. You know where each other- they're *right there*. [chuckles]

**Sage:** [chuckles] You act so oppressed.

[Laughter.]

You're fine.

**Kate:** You're fine! You're not- you're not, like, a yard away from each other and you can't see one- you're *right next* to each other.

**Sage:** A yard is three feet by the way. [chuckles]

**Kate:** Oh my god. I'm thinking of a back—

**Sage:** [chuckling] You mean like a football yard.

**Kate:** A full-ass backyard!

**Sage:** [chuckles] Yes.

**Kate:** Not, like, hundreds of feet away. No, they're *right there*.

**Kate and Sage:** Anyways.

[**Kate** laughs.]

[The dogs stop barking and settle down.]

**Sage:** God, finally, we can get this- [chuckles] freakin' dogs.

**Kate:** Jesus Christ! [chuckles] Fuckin' Christ.

**Sage:** No, we love dogs.

**Kate:** No, we love dogs. Dogs are great.

**Sage:** This is a pro-dog show.

[Kate chuckles.]

**Kate:** So, yeah, no. He, like, started doing Renaissance Fair.

**Sage:** He's a swashbuckler.

**Kate:** Yeah! So he's like, the captain of a ship. And like, it's kind of like this, like, we docked. And now you can come on to our ship, and we'll teach you fencing lessons.

**Sage:** Oh, that's cool.

**Kate:** Yeah, it's really cool! And like—

**Sage:** And did you learn much?

**Kate:** I learned a little bit. I got really- I was so shy. My dad was like- he taught my older two siblings had a fence and my mom had a fence. And he's taught many other people how to fence.

**Sage:** Mm-hmm.

**Kate:** But Coleen and I were just like, [hisses in a breath through her teeth]  
So we know the basics of foil, and we know, like, good form and, like, good footwork and that kinda stuff 'cause we've watched it all of our life.

**Sage:** That's more than- right.

**Kate:** But like- [chuckles] like- it's like when you, like, can understand a language, but you can't, like, read it.

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

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** That's significantly more than the average person could say. I- [stifles laughter] I don't think I've ever even held a foil, right? Is that what you call it?

**Kate:** A foil. [chuckles] Yeah, it's a foil.

**Sage:** Okay. [chuckles]

**Kate:** A foil- there's like three techniques. So foils the basic. So like, the reason why foil was invented was originally it was used to practice for, I believe, saber. 'Cause like, there's different point systems to fencing. So it's like different body parts.

**Sage:** Right.

**Kate:** So I believe saber is the head and the chest. And then épée I think is everywhere. I could be getting this wrong. I think I'm getting it roughly right. And then foil is, like, to practice, so it's like the chest, the face, and the arms.

**Sage:** Okay.

**Kate:** And there's different points for each one.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Yeah, and I know how to do about and that kinda stuff. Like, all- all the fun things.

**Sage:** Dude, Kate, you gotta- you gotta use this in your character! This is—

**Kate:** I know. [chuckles]

**Sage:** This is so juicy and fun!

**Kate:** [giggling] Okay!

**Sage:** Like- like—

**Kate:** I'm glad.

**Sage:** Yeah! [chuckles] Especially if you're a northerner and you have either a Scandinavian or a Minnesotan accent.

**Kate:** Yeah. [accented] Minnesota accent! [laughs]

**Sage:** But you're also like a- like a, you know, a pro fencer in this world.

**Kate:** Yeah. [laughs] I just picturing like a really badass mom, like, [accented] oh, yeah. This is a good épée.

**Sage:** Yeah, exactly. And you're, like, the one person on the ship who, like, actually knows how to, like, handle a sword.

[Laughter.]

**Kate:** That's hilarious.

**Sage:** No, I love that. I love it.

**Kate:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sage:** Hell yeah.

**Kate:** Hell yeah.

**Sage:** So the- one of the big themes that I'm trying to hit on with this story, you know, we're gonna let the story tell us where to go, as we always do with the improv.

**Kate:** Mm-hmm.

**Sage:** But I do try to, like, to have like a- like a backbone as to what it's gonna be so that when the listener gets to the end of it, they kinda feel a sense of completion. Right?

**Kate:** Right.

**Sage:** The characters went through some sort of arc. And specifically in this case, I put in our little pitch packet, *change*. And if I'm not mistaken, I mean, you were talking about this right before recording, you're going through great change right now yourself.

**Kate:** Yes. [chuckles] Yeah, I am. I—

**Sage:** But it's good, right?

**Kate:** It's good!

**Sage:** You feel- you feel excited.

**Kate:** I feel really excited. I feel good about it. I think- I think if I was gonna implement that into my character just as a baseline of, like, change, I would probably be like, oh, I am from the North. I am bored up there, and I just wanna go on an adventure. [chuckles]

**Sage:** You're bored? [chuckles]

[Kate laughs.]

Honestly, like, pretty good. Pretty good backstory. I'm just bored.

**Kate:** I'm bored! [laughs]

**Sage:** The simplicity of it. Like, well, 'cause it's so funny, 'cause I sit here and I, like, you know how I am, and I will get so fuckin'...

**Kate:** In your, like, details—

**Sage:** In over my head and overthinking all these little things.

[Kate giggles.]

And then it's just like, what's the reason? Why would they do this? What do they want? And it's just like, I'm bored!

**Kate:** I'm bored!

[Laughter.]

I'm bored!

**Sage:** Fuckin' excitement! I need to do something.

**Kate:** I'm bored! [laughs.]

**Sage:** No, I- [laughs] No, but I mean, it's a good reason.

**Kate:** Yeah!

**Sage:** I think- I think a lot of people don't realize that.

**Kate:** I- I think, like, what really stuck to me with, like, going through acting, and we were in the same program.

**Sage:** Mm-hmm.

**Kate:** Uh, the other program I did did nothing for me. [laughs] But—

**Sage:** Really?

**Kate:** Yeah!

**Sage:** Oh, wow.

**Kate:** I was like, whoa, I'm- I'm not learning anything. But that's not the point. The point is what I really took away from learning, especially from Beth, was she always was, like, it's- it doesn't have to be that complicated.

**Sage:** And that's one of the acting teachers in our- in our program.

**Kate:** Yeah, she was a- she's an acting teacher, Beth McBrien at DVC Diablo Valley College. Shout out!

**Sage:** And here's her address and her Social Security Number. [chuckles]

**Kate:** Yeah. Also, she loves horses.

[Laughter.]

She just was always like, that's- no, too complicated. [giggles] Like... Improv, I think, also beat that whole...

**Sage:** Right, right, right.

**Kate:** You have to think about every little detail. Because it's like, I think what I always have found really interesting is how so many people can just relate to really basic things.

**Sage:** Yeah, yeah.

**Kate:** And that's not to say that's a bad thing. That's to say, like, nothing ever has to be that complicated to stress you out or make you happy or make you sad. [chuckles] Or—

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Or just make you wanna change something about yourself. It can be like, I'm fucking bored! [laughs]

**Sage:** No, it- it's beautiful.

**Kate:** Yeah!

**Sage:** Because, like, I- I've definitely felt like- I've- I've mentioned this to a couple of confidants, so to speak. And I don't have, like, a thes- a thesis on this. But—

**Kate:** Oh. Oh, get your- get your cozy sweaters on and get your cappuccinos out.

**Sage:** [laughs] I—

**Kate:** Sage is about to spill the tea. [laughs]

**Sage:** No, no! It's- it's really simple, actually. It's exactly with what you're saying. Like, I- the past, like, two years have been so difficult for everybody.

**Kate:** Mm-hmm. Yeah.

**Sage:** And the whole world has felt, uh, just so much crisis and- and fear and unknown. And we're dealing with challenges we don't- we don't know, like, how to solve and things change.

**Kate:** Mm-hmm.

**Sage:** And so many people have died. It sucks! And now we're like, [weary sigh] at the bottom of everything, the more I, like, try to dig about, like, what the fuck is going on with, like, humanity, right?

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Philosophy has all these, like, explanations for, like, human nature. And, like, you can go through so many different philosophers and, like, why they- they explain their theories the way that they do.

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** And you can go in any matter of field that, like, talks about, like, human- the human experience. And I'm just like, dude, no. Like... [chuckles]

**Kate:** It's—

**Sage:** We're just n- n- like, we were just never meant to do this!

**Kate:** No! [laughs]

**Sage:** Like, this is just too complicated! This is just too hard! [laughs]

**Kate:** We- we've really fucked ourselves in comple- like, just com- how complicated people make life, like, in general. Like, why—

**Sage:** It was never supposed to be like this!

**Kate:** No, it was not! And it's like, that's why I think, why am I stressed all the time? Why do I hate my life? Why do I feel like everything is crumbling around me? Like, and I think a lot of people were feeling that even before the pandemic.

**Sage:** Absolutely.

**Kate:** And I think it all has to come- like, it all comes down to "I don't feel fulfilled in myself. And I feel like I'm being crushed."

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Kate:** We live, especially our country, we live in a country where we don't take care of each other. The economy doesn't really take care of us. The government doesn't seem to take care of us.

**Sage:** No. The—

**Kate:** And it's just, like, now catching up to us. Like...

**Sage:** The American way, the American Dream, literally, is- is just like this, um...

**Kate:** Is a dream. It's a dream.

[Laughter.]

**Sage:** And we all just woke up.

**Kate:** And we all just woke up! And—

**Sage:** But it's all- and, like, it- it, like, worships this idea of, like, individualism.

**Kate:** Yeah!

**Sage:** And, like, everybody should be so self-sufficient.

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Like, almost to an extreme.

**Kate:** You have to- like, you have to work so hard. And if you don't work hard, we're gonna get nowhere!

**Sage:** You're a fuckin' loser! [chuckles]

We were- we were in tiny tribes. We were in small tribes.

**Kate:** Yeah!

**Sage:** Everybody contributed to something they were good at.

**Kate:** We've made it too complicated.

**Sage:** And we just hung out most of the time.



**Kate:** Yeah!

**Sage:** And then we went and picked berries from trees. And when we saw a gazelle, we threw a spear at it. And that was life. [chuckles]

**Kate:** Exactly! That was life. Now it's just too much, I feel. Like, ugh. And it's not just our countries, it's the whole world.

**Sage:** Of course.

**Kate:** I feel like the world is just, like, it's so heavy, so intense to go through. And I think the thing about it is, it's like there's just so much pressure to try and fix everything.

**Sage:** Right.

**Kate:** And pretend to be something that you're not and fit into these molds. And it's just too much. Like—

**Sage:** It's like overcorrecting, you know.

**Kate:** Yeah! I had to realize, like, okay, if I fuck up, I fuck up. I have to own up to it. If I feel like I haven't done something wrong, I had to admit it. I think I've done nothing wrong. If like, I don't like someone, I don't have to like someone!

**Sage:** You don't have to! [chuckles]

**Kate:** But I shouldn't be fucking *mean* to them.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Kate:** So it's like, you know, I think about the things I did as a teenager, and I'm like, what the fuck was I doing? [laughs]

**Sage:** [chuckles] I'm sure we all have. At least once. And if you haven't, oh boy, take—

**Kate:** You're lying! Everyone's like, oh my god!

**Sage:** You're lying! You're wrong. [laughs]

**Kate:** You're lying! You're lying. No, oh, the amount of stupid shit—

**Sage:** So much stupid shit.

**Kate:** The stupid shit you say, so much stupid shit. And it's like, you know, as long as you just own it, and you're just like, yeah. [chuckles] It's okay!

**Sage:** That's part of the experience is, like—

**Kate:** It's part of- yeah.

**Sage:** —you have to make mistakes to get better.

**Kate:** Yeah. Yeah!

**Sage:** And you're not always gonna get it right.

**Kate:** No one comes out perfect.

**Sage:** And it's never gonna be perfect ever.

**Kate:** Ever.

**Sage:** It's just take the problem in front of you and acknowledge what you can do about it and what you can't. [chuckles]

**Kate:** Yeah. Once you realize- like, for me, I realized I was like, I don't like big groups.

**Sage:** Oh! Okay.

**Kate:** I- well, I like- I like hanging out at parties and stuff and, like, going out and doing things. But I don't like having, like, what I call the inner circle of my friends. Like, I have, like, inner circle, mid circle, outer circle, and then the abyss.

**[Sage chuckles.]**

And it's like, inner—

**Sage:** I hope I'm not in that one.

**Kate:** No! The inner circle is like my family, my best friends. And then middle circle is like my really close friends, like you guys, improv buddies, Greg, you, Jessica, Jeremy, David, Colleen, like, Mariah. Like people- Aubrey! I'm listing them off 'cause I know somebody's gonna be like, she didn't fuckin' name me.

**[Laughter.]**

**Sage:** [mock sobbing] Kate didn't mention me!

**Kate:** [mock sad] Oh!

[normally] You know, and then there's, like, the people that I hang out with that work and stuff.

**Sage:** Mm-hmm.

**Kate:** And, like, people I know or have known over the years. And then there's the people who I just know from time to time, or I don't fucking know you at all. You know? [chuckles] It's like I had to realize. I'm like, I like inner circle. I like living in the inner circle. And I like being in the middle. But the outer circle, I'm like, that's my social time. [chuckles]

**Sage:** Right.

**Kate:** That's when I need to, like, stretch my brain. [chuckles]

**Sage:** So you- you would describe yourself as an introvert.

**Kate:** Yeah, I would describe myself as an introvert who, like, passes as an extrovert.

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Like, 'cause I used to be really, really shy.

**Sage:** Right.

**Kate:** And then my grandpa died. And I was like, oh my god, I have no friends. I'm- don't talk to anybody. [laughs]

**Sage:** Oh shit.

**Kate:** And then I was like, I like drama! I like art! I'm zany! I'm Kate! [giggles]

And, like, and I started talking to more people and, like, getting to know people. And then like, I kept that up and was like very hype all the time and super down to talk to people. And then I got into college and a lot of shit happened between the age of 19 to 23 that fucked me up.

**Sage:** As it does. As it does.

**Kate:** As it does to everyone!

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Kate:** And I was just like, ah!

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Ah! [chuckles]

**Sage:** But here you are now, ever stronger from it.

**Kate:** But I'm fine! Because that made me realize it's like, I *can* talk to people. I *can* still be zany. But I can also just stay at home.

**Sage:** Yes.

**Kate:** And- and do something I like to do. [chuckles]

**Sage:** You- you figure out like your- your gauge, your needs, and how much you do one or the other on your own. And it's different for everybody.

**Kate:** Yeah, it's not all black and white.

**Sage:** That's why the whole introvert/extrovert thing is actually kinda stupid, because—

**Kate:** It's kinda bullshit! Because it's like, with everything, there's a spectrum. It's not just 100% or 0% yeah.

**Sage:** I know lots of people that would describe me as one. And then lots of other people who would describe me as the other.

**Kate:** Same! I would say the same.

**Sage:** And it's like- it's just- it's just 'cause I'm- [chuckles] just kind of- I don't know, like, sometimes I wanna fuckin' *not* talk to anybody. And other times I'm like, let's party! It sounds fun!

**Kate:** Yeah! Yeah.

**Sage:** I- you know, it changes ebbs and flows with, like, what's going on with your life.

**Kate:** Mm-hmm!

**Sage:** And, uh, we all have different times you need to recharge.

**Kate:** Yeah! Exactly. I've had a- I've had people describe me as very extroverted. But those who, like, actually *know me* know me, are like, she might come.

[Laughter.]

Like... you... [giggling]

If you don't- like, if you know me as an acquaintance, they'll be like, Kate's coming! But if you know me well, you'll be like, she might? [giggles]

**Sage:** She- mm. [chuckles] I hope Kate comes. [chuckles]

**Kate:** I hope she does! [chuckles] Yeah.

**Sage:** I hope you show up to record this- [chuckles]

**Kate:** I- [laughs] No, this is different!

[Giggling.]

No, but, like, at one point, I remember my friend, Aubrey, was, like, talking to someone who's just getting to know me. And he was like, does Kate hate me or whatever? Or- I don't remember. But, like, basically Aubrey had to be like, no, that's how Kate is. [laughs] Like...

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Kate:** This is a normal thing.

**Sage:** And like I was saying, world is- like, the world is so complicated, now more than ever. It's like sometimes you don't- you don't necessarily know how you feel until, like, the minute of.

**Kate:** Right.

**Sage:** And you're like, you know what?

**Kate:** I don't wanna go. [chuckles]

**Sage:** Actually, I'm not in the mood to talk to anybody. Like, I- like- and not even it's like a mood thing. It's just more like, what can my brain *reasonably* achieve right now? [chuckles]

**Kate:** Right? It's like, I—

**Sage:** I'd rather not go embarrass myself just kinda like, [pained groan]

**Kate:** Oh my god, there's been so many times where I've been fried and I push myself to go and do something, and it wasn't like it was embarrassing, but I was like, I added *nothing* to that.

[Laughter.]

**Sage:** That's so funny.

**Kate:** There was *no* good that came out of that. [laughs]

**Sage:** Well, you don't have to worry about that with this. That's—

**Kate:** Phew! [laughs]

**Sage:** I have hopefully made that *very* clear how *badly* I and we want you on the show. So...

**Kate:** Oh, yeah.

**Sage:** You contribute very much.

**Kate:** You made that abundantly clear. [laughs]

**Sage:** Yes. Yes. Even the Discord! They're all- like, I have- nobody knows yet, the time of recording this, that Kate Pursley is making her to return. But they're gonna *love* it.

**Kate:** Oh, what? [chuckles]

**Sage:** I'm so excited.

**Kate:** Man.

**Sage:** So let's talk about that contribution.

**Kate:** Yeah!

**Sage:** What- what kinda character idea do you have floating around right now?

**Kate:** I- well, now I'm thinking of the Minnesota lady.

**Sage:** Which is so funny.

**Kate:** I can't- I think I wanna honestly play her. But I was also thinking of this side character that I like, uh, [accented] whose name is a, ah, I want to say Sam, and he's a little cabin boy.

[Giggling.]

**Sage:** So Greg told me this. Steve.

[**Kate** cackles.]

And I'll tell you the same thing I told him, which is not "no". [chuckles]

**Kate:** Yeah! [laughs]

**Sage:** They can certainly exist.

**Kate:** Yes. [chuckles]

**Sage:** Yes. But they don't need a character sheet. [chuckles]

**Kate:** [giggling] No! Exactly. [accent] Little, little cabin boys.

**Sage:** [accent] Some can be on the ship somewhere.

**Kate:** Sam is hiding in the cupboard.

**Sage:** Do you need me to load the cannons?

**Kate:** Do you need me to get you some bread or water? Um, we don't have much supplies left.

[Laughter.]

**Sage:** That sounds like a mouse.

[**Kate** laughs.]

Maybe it *is* a mouse. [chuckles]

So that was one idea you had. But now this- this Minnesota voice is like wait a minute.

**Kate:** [accent] Minnesota lady. Oh wow.

**Sage:** Putting a- putting a Minnesota mom into a swashbuckling pirate adventure...

[Kate laughs.]

**Kate:** We don't know if she's a *mom*. I don't know. Maybe she is.

**Sage:** Well, then, how old is she?

**Kate:** I don't know, maybe 30? I don't know. 35?

**Sage:** Maybe 30? I don't know. [chuckles]

**Kate:** 35!

**Sage:** 35! You're of age. [chuckles]

**Kate:** I'm of age, okay. I *could* have a kid. Haven't yet.

**Sage:** I mean, that could be a thing. That can be part of—

**Kate:** [giggling] Oh, I'm thinking of so many things now.

**Sage:** That could be part of the bit, right? Where, uh...

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** You know, like, you don't have kids yet. And you're like, well, it might be time. [chuckles]

**Kate:** I ju- I'm just like, [accent] you know, my internal clock is ticking. And I was like, basically a housemaid and fro for my siblings. And they're just like, you know, you just get- start thinking like, is this my life? [dramatic housewife laugh]

[Laughter.]

I just imagined her having, like, a lot of, like, mental breakdowns during conversations.

[Laughter.]

**Sage:** So I'm- I'm struggling too to figure out, you know, so I have the bare bones of this world's, like, geography figured out.

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** The Private Isles at least.

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** We're gonna start at The Private Isles. And we're gonna leave The Private Isles and head off into The Public Domain.

**Kate:** Mm-hmm.

**Sage:** And on The Private Isles, I kinda have, like, these eight- the- the main cities, there's like eight main cities, and they all kinda have certain cultures that they're being inspired by, especially with Eurasia at the- in the 1700s.

And in the northern region, you know, I have, like, basically the equivalent of Scandinavia and the equivalent of a lot of Slavic countries or Russia.

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** But I can't say Minnesota is, uh, referenced on there. [chuckles]

**Kate:** Minnesota.

**Sage:** Minnesota is... [chuckles]

**Kate:** The thing about it is the Minnesota accent comes from Norwegians and Swedes who settled in the Midwest. That's why their accents sound like and that's why they pronounce their OHs and AHs a lot.

**Sage:** Okay. Okay.

**Kate:** Yeah. So it's- it is Scandinavian. It's a form of Scandinavian accent, like Creole is a form of French accent.

**Sage:** Right, right.

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** 'Cause here's the- like, the- the- specifically the, I'm calling it Bjordland, the- the Northern—

**Kate:** [amused] Bjordland! Bjordland! [chuckles]

**Sage:** If you're Bjordlandic.

**Kate:** [accent] I'm Bjordlandic. I am- you know, I'm 29. I am very nervous about having children and making babies. I don't know how to do that. I've seen a cow give birth a couple of times. But you know, that's not the same thing.

[Laughter.]

**Sage:** You're not a cow.

**Kate:** [accent] I'm a cow.

[Laughter.]

**Sage:** Their whole shtick is, like, isolationism.

**Kate:** Yes! Cheers to that!

[Laughter.]

**Sage:** So you're- okay. God, you're so good at this shit. That's so funny.

[Kate continues cackling.]

So what- okay, so how 'cause this, you are Bjordlandic, and we can say on that island, like, yeah, there's lots of different smaller towns. Obviously, there's- there's one main—

**Kate:** I'm down to do a- I'm down to try a Scandinavian accent, honestly.

**Sage:** I mean, I like this Minnesota- it seems like you're comfortable with it.

**Kate:** [Minnesota accent] I like Minnesota.

[Scandinavian accent] But I also like a- a Scandinavian accent.

**Sage:** So I'm thinking though, it's just an idea that we'll bring it to the Session Zero, nothing's set in stone here.

**Kate:** Mm-hmm. Yeah.

**Sage:** But if she was a middle-aged woman, who's Bjordlandic—

**Kate:** 29! Okay?

**Sage:** Okay, okay, fine. Fine. Not quite middle-aged but it's on its way. She at some point maybe moved, like, from there.

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** You know. So that- that will kinda be the big ponderous question is like what would bring you to, like, probably to the West is probably where we're gonna start, in one of the Western seas.

**Kate:** I think- I think she should've been, like, probably, like, betrothed or something and freaking out about her age, freaking out about the fact that she's, like, in baby range.

**Sage:** You said she was a housemaid.

**Kate:** House- yeah, housemaid. [chuckles] And just like- [giggles] Just, like, being really nervous- [laughs] at the concept of marriage and childbirth. [laughs]

**Sage:** So like, this is- this is almost like a midlife crisis, then.

**Kate:** Yes, this is a midlife crisis.

**Sage:** It's like oh god, wait, it's- I'm on the brink of- I have to- like, if I'm- if I'm gonna have, like, a family and kids, it's about- like, this is the time. Ah, forget it! Let's just go on an adventure instead! [chuckles]

**Kate:** Yeah, exactly! Fuck it!

**Sage:** Yeah.

**[Kate chuckles.]**

But then maybe- maybe she- she finds a- find something along the way. Or not.

**Kate:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Sage:** Or maybe the lesson ends up being never- you're never too old to be a pirate.

**Kate:** Who knows? I will find out!

**Sage:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Wah!

**[Laughter.]**

**Sage:** No, that's really funny though. And I definitely want you to think about too, like, how- how would she have swashbuckling experience? Like sword- sword combat and fencing.

**Kate:** Oh. [chuckles] Oh, I mean a lot lords know how to fence. [chuckles]

**Sage:** So, like, she was just taught, like, on the property that she was a housemaid for and stuff like that?

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Sage:** Okay.



**Kate:** Mm-hmm. Hey, yo, and Scandinavian cultures, they're very pro-women.

**Sage:** It's true.

**Kate:** Not unlike Norwegians to be like, fence, yeah.

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

**Kate:** I mean, my dad is 50% Norwegian. So...

**Sage:** Nice. I think- I mean, this- so far, I'm all in.

**Kate:** [giggling chant] Scandinavian. Scandinavian.

**Sage:** I don't think anybody else is gonna bring a Minnesotan accent.

**Kate:** No. [chuckles]

[high-pitched] But definitely Sammy, the little cabinet boy, will make an appearance.

[Music fades in.]

**Sage:** Oh, of course.

**Kate:** Even if for a short moment to peek his head out of the cracks of the cabinets.

**Sage:** Yes, please keep going.

[**Kate** laughs.]

**Kate:** Yes. Please continue to run me, Kate. [laughs]

**Sage:** [chuckles] Let's just do this. This is the whole show.

**Kate:** Okay!

**Sage:** It's just the two cabin- [chuckles]

**Kate:** Just the two cabin boys! [laughs]

**Sage:** No, this is great, Kate. I'm excited about it. Yeah.

**Kate:** The intro music is "Cabin Fever". [laughs]

**Sage:** [amused] Pfft!

**Kate:** [sings] Cabin fever, ah!

[Music crescendos and fades out.]