

The Hamilcast: A Hamilton Podcast

Episode #6: The truth is in ya face when ya hear the British cannons...

Hosts: Gillian Pennsavalle and Bianca Soto

Description: Gillian and Bianca talk Broadway bootlegs and Chapter 4 in Chernow: "The Pen and the Sword." Also, Gillian's Hamilton FOMO made her temporarily lose her mind so she tells a cautionary Craigslist tale.

Transcribed by: Autumn Clarke, Proofed by: Joan Crofton
The Hamilcast's Transcribing Army

Ok, so we are doing this . . .

GILLIAN PENSAVALLE: Hey everybody! Welcome to the Hamilcast, I am Gillian.

BIANCA SOTO: I am Bianca.

G. PEN: It's just us this week.

B. SO: Yeah, no guests, we'll have guests in a couple more episodes, probably.

G. PEN: Yeah, Chernow's getting really dense.

B. SO: Really dense, lots of information.

G. PEN: So much. All the information

B. SO: I think I've reread the chapters multiple times and I keep being like, "How did I miss that entire part?"

G. PEN: I know! And whenever we go through our prep, I'm always, it just feels like I've never read it before. [Laughter] Apart from the show I'm always like, "Wait, who was that? What was that guy's name?"

B. SO: I know I read this more than once, and I'm still learning new things. It's just a lot of information. But it's great, it's all very interesting, it's just a lot packed into that tiny font and all those pages.

G. PEN: It's a lot. And I take so many notes as I'm reading too

B. SO: Right, I'm the same way where I, because to me everything's important, because if it was put in the book, it must be important, and then I'm like, "Well, I

want to highlight everything,” but I’m not going to just turn this into the Ron Chernow reading hour because that would be a long time.

G. PEN: Yeah, and I don’t know if we said this either on Twitter or in one of our other podcasts, there’s a reason, I mean, the show would be days and days long if they kept everything in.

B. SO: It would be eternal.

G. PEN: There’s so much, and every new name I’m like, “Who? What? How important?” I mean, they’re all, everyone’s important. We’re all snowflakes. But today we thought we’d get into the bootleg debate.

B. SO: Hmm...

G. PEN: Because it’s all over the internet

B. SO: See, I didn’t even know it was all over the internet until I saw Lin address it, I guess. Somebody mentioned something to him on Twitter and he wrote back. I honestly had no idea this was even going on because, to me—

G. PEN: The Hamilton bootleg specifically

B. SO: Yeah. I mean the fact that there are bootlegs of Broadway shows in general is astonishing. The fact that people are doing it and getting away with it is what’s crazy to me because you would think that those ushers would just be all over you. They yell at you for taking a picture! I’ve been yelled at for taking a picture of my Playbill sitting in my seat because it’s technically copyrighted material. Okay, fine, I get it. How are people getting away with recording entire productions?!

G. PEN: I don’t know. I don’t understand how physically they’re doing it, and we’ll get into what it means to do it and why people hate the idea that bootlegs exist. But just the fact, I don’t know how they come to exist. That’s my question. I don’t know how people get away with it, and granted, you know, I’ll YouTube if I want to hear a certain performance, I’ve definitely gone down the YouTube rabbit hole.

B. SO: Of course, I think everybody does. I think the worst part about all of it is that it’s video of the actual show which is A) illegal B) disrespectful to the performers and the creators who are pouring themselves onto the stage every night, so I understand, I guess there’s just two sides to this debate though, there are, I’m sure there are people who are downloading it, I don’t even know where you get it because I don’t know how to do that kind of stuff, so I’m fine. But there’s pro-bootlegger and anti-bootlegger camps.

G. PEN: The Hamilton specific issue: Lin says, and I think most creators would agree, that it was supposed to be experienced in a certain way. He wrote it in that way, everyone, the cast, and the crew, and the creative, everyone came together to present this certain experience in a very specific way.

B. SO: Absolutely! And you know what, and I can totally understand that because even things that are professionally recorded and are released with the consensus of everybody, for instance, the Rent DVD, which is a whole thing, it's an actual performance, the last performance, and it's released on DVD and you can get it and everyone can watch it...it's not the same. You know, as someone who's seen Rent several times, there's just something that you lose in the translation of seeing it live and then, as much as I just love it and I want to maybe rewatch it over and over again so that I always have it, you can't really replicate the experience and the feeling of actually seeing it live. And I think that I guess tarnishes it especially if you haven't seen it before

G. PEN: And I think there are pro-bootleg people—for the record we should say we are not, we are anti-bootleg.

B. SO: We are anti-bootlegging, we are not a fan, we do not think you should be doing it, so yeah. Just to put that out there.

G. PEN: Yeah, and this is coming from people who, like I said, YouTubing stuff, but the quality is really shitty and it's stuff that I've seen before, and I think some of the people who are for it will argue, "Well, Lin said," this is what I've seen on Twitter, that Lin has said it's going to be filmed anyway, that Hamilton will be filmed, so what's the difference? But the difference is that it's going to be the cast and creative and the producers and everyone behind it presenting it in a certain way.

B. SO: Right, not some janky, downward angle from the mezzanine or wherever people are doing this at because I would imagine you wouldn't be able to do it from the orchestra, you'd have to lift something up in the air—I have no idea! I have no idea the logistics of pulling something like this off.

G. PEN: Yeah. I don't know. And also there are people who live far away, can't afford it, don't want to miss out on the original cast

B. SO: Of course, I understand the desire to see the original cast, one hundred percent, believe me, I get it.

G. PEN: Oh yeah. Me too.

B. SO: Oh right, sorry.

G. PEN and B. SO: Ooh!

G. PEN: So mean!

B. SO: We'll get to that.

G. PEN: Yeah, okay.

B. SO: We'll get there. But of course I understand that and there's a very real possibility that a lot of people aren't, most people aren't going to, especially if they don't already have tickets secured, I think it's now sold out through next January.

G. PEN: 2017?

B. SO: Correct.

[Laughter]

G. PEN: Oh boy.

B. SO: 2017

G. PEN: Yeah.

B. SO: So of course there's a desire and you just really want to see the original cast, then people will also argue that it's not going to diminish their desire to actually come see it and pay to see it—a regular price, that is.

G. PEN: I don't think it's going to make anyone say, "Okay, now I don't want to see it, or I'm not going to go see it."

B. SO: Yeah, oh, I'm good I don't need to see it now—maybe it would even make people want to see it more. I don't know.

G. PEN: I would think!

B. SO: It's going to light that fire, like, "I need this in my life."

G. PEN: Yeah. But I think there are things that happen, I don't know, there's just something about the idea of being in a theater, in that theater, seeing it on this grand scale in front of you, I think it sort of, it takes away from it.

B. SO: Right. It's just the fact that you can't replicate the experience of live performance, live theater, it's just not a thing. It doesn't happen.

G. PEN: And some of those bootlegs, well, what's on YouTube, some of those really bad quality things—

B. SO: I haven't even seen those. I'm sure they're horrible.

G. PEN: Yeah, I mean a couple times, I don't want people to think, "Oh, you know Gillian is pro-bootleg," but I just think you miss out on that, especially when there's that zooming and they're following one character because the whole point is that you're watching everything on the stage, so it feels like it takes away from it

B. SO: And there's so much going on on the stage, there's no way you can capture that in just one video. I don't even know. It just—no.

G. PEN: And no matter what I think about it, I always get tripped up on the logistics. How are they doing this?

B. SO: I have no idea how they're doing it! I don't know if some usher is asleep on the job, I have no idea. I just—I would be terrified, I would be so preoccupied that I was going to get caught the whole time that I wouldn't have even watched the show, probably.

G. PEN: I know! Is it worth it?

B. SO: No! It's not worth it. Can you imagine getting kicked out of Hamilton?

G. PEN: No! And that's the thing, you love it so much, I think, I think that you would have to really love it so much to want to do this, maybe, because there are people like scalpers who are buying up twenty tickets and then selling them, so there is that. I would like to think that if you're willing to risk this, you're doing it because you think it would be a nice thing for these people not in New York to be able to experience it. I think that it's a very small chance that that's what happened—

B. SO: That they're just do-gooders? [laughs]

G. PEN: That they're just trying their best, but even, let's just say for the sake of argument, let's just say they are, right? It's still going against everything the thing that you love is standing for.

B. SO: Yeah.

G. PEN: And now Lin hates you.

B. SO: Yeah, so now you have to live with that now too.

G. PEN: Yeah. He hates you on Twitter.

B. SO: It's not great, guys.

G. PEN: But I get it.

B. SO: I mean, obviously, of course, you just, it's hard not to feel tempted, I guess, especially if you want to see it and you haven't seen it, just wait, y'all, just either wait for it—

G. PEN: Just you wait! [laughter] for it!

B. SO: I would be willing to bet all the dollars that it is going to be recorded professionally and done in grand fashion, because why else wouldn't it be? And then we'll all get to have it somehow, I don't know if they'll maybe release it in theaters or even if you have to get into the Lincoln Center performance library, or somehow. I think it will be, I don't think they're—obviously, they're not dumb—nobody would be dumb enough not to have it documented. You know what I mean? It needs to be documented, it needs to exist in its original form forever and ever, and I'm pretty sure that that will happen.

G. PEN: If only because of what it's done for history, for Broadway, for just everything, just because of that. Not because it's the greatest thing that's ever happened to me and everyone.

B. SO: Correct.

G. PEN: But I get that—I call it my Hamilton FOMO, the “fear of missing out,” because it's real.

B. SO: It's getting really real, actually.

G. PEN: It's getting really real! Okay, so I want to tell you guys a story. This is Gillian's story time.

B. SO: Gillian had a momentary lapse in sanity.

G. PEN: I lost it, I blacked out, I had one of those things where like, now I understand what it's like to have a walking blackout where you're semi-fully functioning, but you're not doing anything that you normally would do at all. So here's what happened: I lost my mind and I very often, you know we enter the lottery every day, my husband and I both do it, we enter the lottery every day, and we're really trying to win but how hard can you try other than pressing “submit”?

B. SO: As we've said, there must be a glitch in the system because we should have won by now.

G. PEN: I know! I don't know why we haven't won yet. But I do check the TicketMaster resale pretty often.

B. SO: Oh, really?

G. PEN: Yeah! And sometimes pretty close—

B. SO: They're absurdly expensive

G. PEN: Absurdly expensive! That's a whole other thing, I don't really understand why people would do that to other humans and just make them so expensive. But sometimes if it's closer to the show time I'll check and just see because I've heard rumors that they come down, but I've never seen them lower than three hundred dollars.

B. SO: They don't, people say that all the time about tickets on StubHub and stuff for sporting events, and a lot of times I'll check that a couple hours before because I live fairly close to Yankee Stadium and whatnot and I'll be like, "Oh, maybe there's, maybe it dropped in price?" No, it never does, I don't know who these people are that are like, "Their prices are plummeting!" and they're not.

G. PEN: Yeah, I think you have to go at like 8:01 and be in the hotel across the street with the printer across from the Richard Rogers and I mean, according to what I've read on the message boards, that's how you do it. So I've been looking and I had this, I don't even know, I can't even explain why I did this, but I went, I just looked on Craigslist.

B. SO: [Singing] Dun, dun, dun!

G. PEN: And I don't know why, I just thought, "You know what? I'm just going to look and see if there's anything close to face value," and here's my thing—I'm already justifying it because I feel like everyone's like, "What a crazy person."

B. SO: [Laughing] "Who does that?"

G. PEN: Who does this?! But so I had an instant group text with Ashley and Bianca, which we have anyway all the time, and I was just like, "You guys, I found this thing," and so before going into it—now I have to backtrack because I'm not telling the story very well. But before going into it, I thought if it's shady, look—we know all about this. If it's like, a printout ticket, no. I'm going to make whoever meet me at the theater to prove that it's real. I'm going to do whatever I have to do, if I have to ask this person to call TicketMaster in front of me, I'm not

going to fall for something stupid. That part I knew. I didn't go that crazy, I wasn't like, you can hand me a magnet and I'll accept it.

B. SO: "Sure! Here's five hundred dollars, thanks!"

G. PEN: Exactly, I stopped at that, I knew that that wasn't going to be what happened. But I was texting with someone, and the person was totally into it and didn't have any qualms about meeting me at the theater, said they had the receipt, and it was feeling, I put myself on this insane emotional rollercoaster of feeling insanely giddy but also—

B. SO: Terrified.

G. PEN: —terrified, really anxious, completely unsure about—

B. SO: But you were talking to a couple people, no? Or you found another one but you didn't ever contact the other person?

G. PEN: Yeah, I ended up, like I set up a meeting time with somebody. And I was like, "This is crazy!"

B. SO: For tickets for that night

G. PEN: For that night, yeah, so that added to the emotional rollercoaster, like, "I could be seeing it, my whole life could change in a minute," I had no idea what was going on. And thankfully, the person never showed up.

B. SO: Which like, why are you going through the trouble of saying you're going to meet someone if you're scamming them? I don't even understand, I mean, I understand scammers because they exist and they suck and they just want your money, but then once you start calling them out and being like, "Okay, I need to meet you at the theater," why is he agreeing to it? You would think he'd just stop responding at that point.

G. PEN: I know. Also, his name is Jason. So if anyone falls into this fit of insanity, Jason is definitely a no-go. Because he was into it, and I was like of like, "Well he's so into it," and Bianca was like, "Yeah, but why isn't he going?"

B. SO: Or why isn't he going to the show if he has tickets for tonight?

G. PEN: And I was going to ask, I had all these plans of what I was going to do and how I was going to prove the tickets were real because I needed them to be real.

B. SO: But there's also no way that the Richard Rogers can confirm that they're real until you go in or do not go in that night.

G. PEN: Right. This is now becoming a PSA, everybody. Because Ashley told me that her friend told her that they can't scan the tickets, proving they're real, without making them invalid for the show. So then I also had this idea that I was going to just tell this person, "Okay, well then if they're really real, then you'll have no problem coming back at 7:00 or whatever, and just me and Michael walk in and you can watch us scan it and then once we're in, then we'll pay you." I was going crazy!

B. SO: In theory, if he can make it to the Richard Rogers theater for show time, he would be going to the show, so it doesn't make sense why he'd be selling them.

G. PEN: Nothing makes sense about this.

B. SO: None of this makes sense. And then we felt so bad because both Ashley and I were like, "Well, just if he forwards you a confirmation e-mail, that can be photoshopped very easily."

G. PEN: Absolutely.

B. SO: Or just retyped, you can just forward and change everything.

G. PEN: Yeah! That's why I was like, "I'll just make him call TicketMaster in front of me." The bottom line is I needed the tickets to be real.

B. SO: Of course! I was saying you should just have him log into his TicketMaster account on his phone in front of you and show his purchases, but that never had to happen because he never showed up.

G. PEN: Right, but I'm saying I needed them to be real like my soul, I know I needed them, so I justified it in this ridiculous way, and I say that thankfully he never showed up because what the hell was I thinking? Why did I do this to myself for absolutely nothing?

B. SO: It just seemed like maybe a long shot, maybe there is a person who had a family emergency and can't use their tickets tonight and just wants someone else to enjoy it and—while that's a nice thought, there's, out of, I don't know, probably hundreds or thousands of posts on Craigslist for that, maybe one of them is genuine. I don't know. Don't do it.

G. PEN: Yeah, and the thing is, as someone who is a born and raised New Yorker who is skeptical of everyone and everything, that just went out the window because I just wanted it so bad! I know better! If anyone else that I knew came up to me and said that they were planning to do this, I'd be like, "Why are you—"

B. SO: "Are you stupid? No!"

G. PEN: Even though they had these plans—I would never be scammed. I know that I wouldn't go that far but I was just like, "Well okay, if they're available, then maybe they're real!" I needed them to be real so bad and they weren't. And so I put myself on this, it was an emotionally exhausting day that I completely put on myself, and so don't do it, it's not worth it, because the letdown is really, really awful. It's really terrible. So that disappointment, I think, and the feeling of really wanting to see it really, really bad—especially when you're an idiot who started a podcast about something that you've never seen before [laughter] you kind of get that urge of, "Well, what am I doing?" It's like this imposter syndrome that I have where I'm like, "Why am I doing this?"

B. SO: You're like, "What am I doing having this podcast about something that I've never seen? What is wrong with me?" I think that's fine though, I don't think that you're crazy for wanting to have done this because you already love the show regardless, it's just going to be more exciting when you do finally see it, and you are seeing it!

G. PEN: That's in September!

B. SO: You have to keep that in mind, you do have tickets, they do exist, and they are face value, they are real.

G. PEN: I bought them myself!

B. SO: I know. You just have the urge to see it beforehand, which I totally understand because I want to see it too.

G. PEN: So this is our little PSA/therapy session for all the people out there who have yet to see it who maybe consider doing things that they totally know are not the way to go, I'm telling you from experience, don't do it. You'll feel really, really shitty. You'll feel dumb. I feel dumb even though nothing happened. Just the thought that some guardian angel would come and hand me these Hamilton tickets [laughter] just, it hasn't happened yet, but, Bianca, you're right, I'm seeing it.

B. SO: And then there's the issue of the cancellation line because then you tried to go that route when you realized that James was not showing up.

G. PEN: Jason.

B. SO: Jason. Ugh, that's even worse. Sorry. Sorry to everyone named James, I apologize.

G. PEN: I know. I have two very dear friends named James.

B. SO: Oh no! I'm so sorry!

G. PEN: They're great! But Jason—I'm sure there are lovely Jasons, but this particular one...

B. SO: I actually don't know any lovely Jasons, so [laughter] I apologize if you're a lovely Jason out there.

G. PEN: Yeah, so then I just thought, "You know what? I'm going to—" and I never said anything to him either, I didn't text back, I just, he wasn't coming because I spooked him with my million questions.

B. SO: Clearly, but—ughhh, I'm so angry! Why are you agreeing to meet somebody in person and then not show up? If you're going to scam someone, just stop responding when you realize they're trying to verify you. I don't know.

G. PEN: But I tried the cancellation line but I was not at all prepared clothing-wise.

B. SO: It was very cold that day.

G. PEN: And Bianca was so sweet, I told Mike, "Bianca's such a good friend!" because I was texting you how cold I was and you were like, "If I was in Manhattan, I would bring you clothes!" But you were up filming—

B. SO: [Laughing] I couldn't get there.

G. PEN: That is true friendship.

B. SO: True friendship, I was like, "I'll bring you a blanket!"

G. PEN: Did we get into, real quick, did we ever talk about the listening before or after? Did we get into that yet? Listening to the soundtrack before you see it?

B. SO: Whether you should or not?

G. PEN: Yeah, because that's a whole other argument that relates to the bootleg—

B. SO: No, I cannot, I can't, I can't, I can't get into that because—look, I understand, there are, and I'm normally one of those people too, where I won't listen to something before seeing it, but it's gotten way beyond that at this point. Most people, I know Mike won't listen to it, he's really holding on tight, and good for him, like if you want to, then I totally understand that because I never listen to something before seeing it. But I don't think at this point it ruins anything, I don't

think you're doing a disservice to yourself by listening to it beforehand or anything like that

G. PEN: Somebody told me that I was doing myself a disservice and I was like, "Well, it's done now, I'm not going back."

B. SO: It's too late now, so whatever. It's just, there's—I really don't think it's that big of a deal. I really don't.

G. PEN: I don't either. And I think there are people that don't listen to it before, like Mike isn't listening to it, which I do think there's a—he's just going to have a different experience than I am. But he's also not telling me not to listen to it or telling me that my experience will be less than his, and I think it's kind of, people just need to—it's not that big of a deal!

B. SO: Yeah, I know. Your ears, your choice.

G. PEN: What does it have to do with anything else if people decide to listen to it or not?

B. SO: Nothing. Nothing!

G. PEN: Nothing. But I guess the point is, there are plenty of ways to get your Ham fix

B. SO: Like this podcast!

G. PEN and B. SO: Oh my God!

B. SO: You brought it right back around

G. PEN: Right back! And Chernow

B. SO: Right. Oh! You know what I watched the other day, they had Chernow on CBS This Morning—did you watch it?

G. PEN: Yeah! I did!

B. SO: It was cute! It was very nice, I thought they were going to get more in depth into the actual book, but it was very cool to know that the book has now been on the New York Times best seller list for like sixteen weeks, which is already far longer than it was on the best seller list when it was first released, so that's awesome. I'm sure he's loving that, it's pretty great. And they showed inside of Alexander Hamilton's house!

G. PEN: I know!

B. SO: What?! I want to go there!

G. PEN: We have to go.

B. SO: We have to go there.

G. PEN: My guide—I don't know if anyone else in New York City saw this—I have Time Warner cable and the guide had, for the full two hours, just—

B. SO: [Laughing] It just said "The Rise of Hamilton"!

G. PEN: —and I was like, "Oh sweet!"

B. SO: There's no way this is taking up 7-9 A.M. on CBS This Morning. It was like a five minute segment. But that was exciting.

G. PEN: We'll take anything we can get.

B. SO: Literally anything.

G. PEN: Absolutely anything.

B. SO: But it was very cool, and I have a bunch of friends who live up in Washington Heights, Hamilton Heights, etc. and, God, it's so beautiful up there, it really is so pretty. So any excuse to go up there and traipse around

G. PEN: Yeah. Ham style.

B. SO: Go take a picture of that Ham statue. It's so cool.

G. PEN: I know. We're nowhere near that in the book.

B. SO: No.

G. PEN: I do want to apologize because last episode I kept calling the chapter "The Collegiate" and it's "The Collegian" so I apologize. Sorry Chernow and everyone else. That's my bad. But now we're up to "The Pen and the Sword."

B. SO: That's a really fancy title. I like it.

G. PEN: I know. It's incredibly accurate because it's about really how his way with words influenced every part that he had in the revolution.

B. SO: Yeah, definitely, and Chernow mentions in this chapter that Hamilton was known to put aside his political or personal opinions when it came to doing what

he thought was right and what he felt was the right thing to do. He tells this story of the president of King's College at the time, who Hercules Mulligan calls a super obnoxious person

[Laughter]

G. PEN: I love how a lot of, not a lot of, but Chernow uses Mulligan as a source so many times, like, "According to Hercules Mulligan..."

B. SO: Yeah, as a mouthpiece for—I love it!

G. PEN: And then usually it'll say, "Yeah, but more accurately, it was probably, the truth is probably a little toned down than what—"

B. SO: Hercules likes to embellish a little bit, but if your name was Hercules Mulligan, why wouldn't you?

G. PEN: I mean, yeah!

B. SO: So he was being chased by a mob of patriots because he was actually a Tory, which is an American who is a British loyalist. [Gillian gasps] I know, right? "For shame!" [Laughter] And he's being chased and attacked by an angry mob of protestors because he's a British loyalist and Hamilton may have agreed with the sentiments of the protestors, but was not so into how they were going about it, they were really causing a ruckus and he ended up being chased out of his bedroom. And Chernow says he likely scampered away in his nightgown, which is quite a sight. So Hamilton, he basically stood atop the stairs across the—he lived nearby, because he was in, you know he lived, I guess right by King's College, still. Was he in college at the time?

G. PEN: No, he never officially graduated because the revolution happened instead.

B. SO: Right, other things happened. So he was living across the street though, and he stood at the top of the stairs and basically reprimanded everyone for how they were behaving, and saying that it was really going to hurt their cause more than help, and he regaled all these people with his words, which basically allowed him to scamper off and escape all these protestors.

G. PEN: I just love how he was like, he used his words from the very beginning, just, "No, you guys, I totally agree, but hey, get it together." And he's so young and he's reprimanding people on their behavior.

B. SO: What was he, twenty-two at the time or something like that?

G. PEN: Just about, yeah.

B. SO: That's crazy.

G. PEN: Yeah. But we also get into the pride of Mount Vernon.

B. SO: George Washington?

G. PEN: George Washington! This is really the start of their really, really great relationship and very close relationship, they kind of balanced each other out, and—

B. SO: I like how there's also a part in the chapter that mentions well before, I think about two years before Hamilton ends up on Washington's staff, that Washington paraded through the streets past the college and Hamilton was a spectator at this procession and who knew that two years later, he would be his right hand man?

G. PEN: I know! Which basically this chapter is, because it's a mess. [Laughter] It all takes place in New York and all the battles, I mean it just, it's a mess! It's a mess.

B. SO: Yeah, it basically, I guess this chapter very clearly is the very long, detailed version of "Right Hand Man."

G. PEN: So I just want to read something from the book because it's a quote from the show, yet another one. It says, "Though Washington was famous for his composure, his infrequent wrath was something to behold. He cursed the panic-stricken troops, and flailed at incompetent officers with his riding crop. Finally, he flung his hat on the ground in disgust and fumed, 'Are these the men with who I am to defend America?'"

B. SO: Wow.

G. PEN: Wow.

B. SO: I didn't even know that was a direct quote. It's pretty amazing. Because basically the Americans were getting their ass kicked and losing battle after battle, and Washington, who was known for his composure, they say that occasionally he would lose it and it was not pretty.

G. PEN: Probably a lot of pressure, I think.

B. SO: Whatever. No big deal.

G. PEN: Oh, also with “Right Hand Man”, Burr. That whole Burr conversation was pretty accurate to what was happening. Obviously they didn’t have that conversation per se, they did, maybe, but—

B. SO: Yeah, I mean it’s paraphrased, but he really wanted to be on Washington’s staff at that time, and he expected that Washington would want all of his expertise and want to have him as an aide, and Washington was like, “No.”

G. PEN: And Burr got really mad

B. SO: Real pissed!

G. PEN: And wrote him a letter basically just saying, “How dare you, I can’t believe all these lesser experienced people are getting promoted over me, I can’t believe it.” So it was basically like, “Shut the door on your way out,” essentially, just, I’m not into it. At all.

B. SO: I know. He just kept getting pushed aside. I don’t know if there was a personal reason why Washington didn’t want him on his staff?

G. PEN: I don’t think, they just didn’t click, I don’t think, it was just, they came at things from a different way and even though Washington and Hamilton did the same thing, they just connected more and it helped both of their causes, I think.

B. SO: I think it’s also interesting that there’s a whole part in the chapter that discusses a plot to capture and/or assassinate George Washington from the British loyalists because there was huge Tory sentiment growing in New York at the time

G. PEN: And he wasn’t doing that great.

B. SO: Yeah, it wasn’t going great, guys.

G. PEN: It wasn’t going very well at all, and people weren’t thrilled about it and kind of getting Washington out of the picture would be helpful for a lot of people

B. SO: For sure, and of course capturing Washington would be a massive coup to the British, especially if you’re a loyalist, you want to offer that up to them, which is just crazy, I knew nothing about this, I never knew anything about this

G. PEN: I know, I didn’t either

B. SO: But the former New York governor, William Tryon, tried to orchestrate this plot to capture and kill Washington, and even recruited people from his forces and one of his sergeants named Thomas Hickey was basically accused of helping to move forward this plot to kill Washington and he never admitted to it

but he also never denied it, and he was tried for it and was sentenced to death and hanged in the bowery. So there's that.

G. PEN: He was also handing out counterfeit money and they were eyeing him for a lot of stuff. But he was sort of the one who just took the fall for this.

B. SO: You would think if you didn't have anything to do with it though, you would protest about it.

G. PEN: Yeah, of course!

B. SO: So we're just going to go with the fact that he was very involved

G. PEN: Oh he was incredibly involved but I'm just saying, he was not, he wasn't a stand up guy to begin with. He was doing a lot of shady stuff.

B. SO: Oh no, not at all, no. This poor little lamb who was just recruited.

G. PEN: No, it made sense that he was not on the up and up. [Laughter] But then, this chapter was so crazy, so much happened, there was a lot of drama, and then it ends on a really low note because Washington is super bummed and he has to New Jersey, so that's...

B. SO: Well. At least everything is legal in New Jersey.

G. PEN: Yeah. You don't get hanged for anything in New Jersey, because you can do whatever you want. But he had to surrender Fort Lee. It's just, it was kind of like the hits just keep on coming.

B. SO: It's got to be a real blow to the—

G. PEN: For G. Wash

B. SO: [Laughs] G. Wash. G. Dubs

G. PEN: G. Dubs. Yeah, so it kind of ends on a little bit of a bummer but luckily we know how it ends.

B. SO: I mean, spoiler alert, we win.

G. PEN: We win. The world will get turned upside down.

B. SO: So it's good to know that's coming.

G. PEN: Yeah! It's coming.

B. SO: And there's a lot more interesting stuff coming too in the next chapter

G. PEN: And if you guys want to talk about stuff that we haven't covered, because it is crazy, there's a lot happening, so the podcast would be hours and hours long, so if there's something really interesting that we didn't cover, tweet at us

B. SO: Yeah, let us know!

G. PEN: @TheHamilcast or email us at thehamilcast@gmail and let us know and we'll bring it up again for sure.

B. SO: Totally

G. PEN: Because everything's intertwined even though we're going chapter by chapter, there are things, of course, we can go back because it all relates.

B. SO: Some things come back in other chapters that refer to stuff that's already happened because all of these people are important, obviously, they're in the book for a reason, we just can't get to it all because it is a lot, we would be here for five hours. And we don't want to do that to you.

G. PEN: I think a lot of people, too, are going to keep coming up again, so maybe in their introductions, we'll get to them when it's a little more meaty, without being insulting. I hope that didn't insult anybody, anyone who's ghost is going to come and haunt me. Thank you guys so much for listening!

B. SO: Thank you! I hope everybody's really enjoying the podcast, we love hearing from you, it's so awesome some of the engagement we've had on Twitter and emails, keep it coming, we really like it. You can find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram as @TheHamilcast. You can send us an email to thehamilcast@gmail.com, you can leave us a review on iTunes, that would be spectacular if you are enjoying it

G. PEN: That would be so lovely

B. SO: I am _BiancaJean_ on Twitter and Instagram where I also pretty much just talk about Hamilton things basically, so it's the same

G. PEN: I am @GillianwithaG, my show is @TheResiduals, it's about actors who do commercials. It's funny.

B. SO: It is funny. I can confirm that.

G. PEN: Mike's character's name is Pete Hamilton, not planned, so there's that, still a connection!

B. SO: That's awesome. So cool.

G. PEN: Oh! And my friend Patrick Jones is doing a comedy show with his improv team called National Scandal and I have it on good authority there will be at least one sketch involving Hamilton, maybe two. I don't know. I don't want to give too much away. If you're in New York, you can check it out on March 11th at the People's Improv Theater, tickets are five bucks, so, cheaper than the Hamilton lottery, and a lot easier to get in. Okay, thanks again, we will see you next week, I am G dot Pen

B. SO: I'm B dot So

G. PEN: Bye!

B. SO: See ya!

Thank you for reading this Hamilcast podcast transcript curtesy of [The Hamilcast's Transcribing Army](#), a volunteer facebook group who have gathered to provide people with another way to enjoy The Hamilcast. If you would like to participate in this challenging but rewarding task please join us in the facebook group.

We now include the Hamilcast Sign off from 2018 to let you know what host Gillian is currently up to.

[Music: Hamilton – The World turned upside down – Instrumentals play]

G.PEN: To support the podcast go to Patron.com/TheHamilcast you can get access to the closed Facebook group where you can submit questions up for upcoming guests, get behind the scenes access, live AMA videos and other cool rewards. My gratitude for the Patreon Peeps is through the roof and always will be.

TheHamilcast.com is the home of all your podcast needs including episodes, guest bios, and my HamilReference heavy and extensive notes on the Chernow chapters I insist on calling "Cherpters", Sorry about that.

You can listen to episodes anywhere you get your podcasts but I just sayin' if you really loved it, you would subscribe, rate and review on Apple Podcasts.

If you're looking for the podcast on social media it couldn't be easier @theHamilcast on all the things. I am @GillianwithaG on all social media, and you can check out The Residuals, my web series with Mike, you know Mike, at

TheResiduals.tv and my true crime podcast with Patrick Hinds, of Theater People
at TrueCrimeObsessed.com

Thank you again for listening to the Hamilcast, I will I will talk to you in five
seconds on Twitter.