

The Hamilcast: An American Podcast

Episode #12: He started retreatin' and readin' every treatise on the shelf

Hosts: Gillian Pennsavalle and Bianca Soto

Guests: Ashley Graffeo and Meg Smith

Description: Gillian and Bianca take a break (get it?) from Chernow to focus on the brand new Hamiltome aka Hamilton: The Revolution. Ashley Graffeo joins in on the conversation and designer extraordinaire Meg Smith of Sweet Lady Designs sits in with us for the first time.

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The Hamilcast's Transcribing Army

Ok, so we are doing this . . .

GILLIAN PENNSAVALLE: Hey everybody!

BIANCA SOTO: Hi!

G. PEN: I'm Gillian

B. SO: I'm Bianca

G. PEN: Welcome back to the Hamilcast! We have SO much to talk about.

B. SO: We have a LOT happening!

G. PEN: So we're skipping—I just want to say, real quick—we're skipping Chernow this week.

B. SO: Sorry, Chernow.

G. PEN: I'm sorry.

B. SO: But another book came out recently.

G. PEN: What?!

B. SO: I don't know. Maybe you've heard of it?

G. PEN: Yeah, it's called the Hamiltome and it's sold out everywhere

B. SO: Yeah it's affectionately called "the Hamiltome"

G. PEN: Yeah, it's called "Hamilton: The Revolution"

B. SO: Technically it's called "Hamilton: The Revolution", but whatevs.

G. PEN: But it's out, it's sold out everywhere, so we're going to talk about that, but we're also joined—I like calling it the meeting of the BFFs.

B. SO: I like that!

G. PEN: My best friend, Ashley, is here

B. SO: And my best friend, Meg, is here, who you've also heard about in previous episodes, and they're here in the same room as us! Hi guys!

G. PEN: Hi!

MEG SMITH: Hi!

ASHLEY GRAFFEO: Hi!

B. SO: You want to introduce yourselves quickly?

A. GRAFF: Sure, I'm Ashley!

B. SO: I know Ashley's been here before, but she's back, in the flesh

M. SMITH: I have not been here before, I'm Meg

G. PEN: Welcome!

M. SMITH: Thanks, guys!

G. PEN: How do you like it?

M. SMITH: I love it, I love it.

A. GRAFF: It's pretty great. Yeah.

B. SO: We're just like a triangle of ladies—not a triangle. [Laughter] A diamond!

G. PEN: Square!

A. GRAFF: It's more of a rhombus, if you will.

B. SO: We're in some sort of a configuration on opposite sides of the room

G. PEN: Yeah, we're doing—I don't know if you guys remember, but last time when Mike was here, I used to have it set up where there were tables and mic stands—the Hamilton mic stands that we got, they're named Hamilton, which is completely coincidental, but these last couple episodes we've been just in the living room, hanging out

B. SO: Taking a lounging effect

M. SMITH: I like the lounge!

A. GRAFF: It's very relaxed.

G. PEN: But if we have to travel, we'll bring the mic stands.

B. SO: Of course. When we travel.

G. PEN: When we travel.

B. SMITH: Not if, when.

G. PEN: Right! I like that.

A. GRAFF: Obviously.

G. PEN: Alright, so—I don't even know where to start, you guys.

A. GRAFF: There's a lot going on in the last week and a half in terms of Hamilton stuff.

B. SO: Yeah, so three out of the four of us have their copies of the Hamiltome—

G. PEN: I thought you were going to say three out of the four of us have seen Hamilton because that's also true

A. GRAFF, M. SMITH, and B. SO: Ooh

B. SO: That is also true!

A. GRAFF: The burn

B. SO: So sorry

G. PEN: I'm the one that hasn't seen it

A. GRAFF: It's Gillian

G. PEN: In case it's your first episode

A. GRAFF: It's Gillian

G. PEN: No, just, if you guys want to talk about the show...

[Laughter]

B. SO: [Laughing] Let's talk about it!

G. PEN: Okay, but, the Hamiltome.

B. SO: The Hamiltome! Which, apparently, is sold out on Amazon, Amazon doesn't sell out of anything, guys

A. GRAFF: It's sold out.

B. SO: Can't get it!

A. GRAFF: Nine to twelve days. Nine to TWELVE?!

[Laughter]

B. SO: That's like the longest time to wait for something!

A. GRAFF: Do you think bookstores will have—do bookstores still exist?

B. SO: Bookstores still exist!

G. PEN: The Drama Bookshop does

M. SMITH: I was there, I bought mine at the Drama Bookshop!

G. PEN: Hashtag Buy a Book!

M. SMITH: Buy a book! But they only had three left.

A. GRAFF: Ugh!

M. SMITH: They had three left that were not all preordered.

A. GRAFF: Rough. Well I'm going to try Barnes and Noble tomorrow, I'll give 14th Street a shot.

B. SO: And I can attest to just how many preorders they had because my theater company performed there last week and we were downstairs where the theater is

and it's also where a lot of the storage area where the drama bookshop is and they just had a comical amount of boxes that were all the Hamilton book. So yeah, it's not that they didn't order enough, they just had so many preorders that they had to fulfill so many of them that by the time Meg got there, they only had three left in the storage for regular public purchase.

A. GRAFF: It's exciting, it's very reminiscent of the Harry Potter book releases and I used to work in a Barnes and Noble when those happened

B. SO: Oh that's fun!

A. GRAFF: And that was insanity so I can only imagine a bookstore just for [sings] Broadway [end singing] was having quite the time.

B. SO: Yeah, it's great!

G. PEN: I cannot believe—which was the paper that did “Linsanity” when Jeremy Lin was a basketball player, that one time?

A. GRAFF: That would be the Post, most likely

G. PEN: Okay, well why hasn't the Post done another “Linsanity”?

M. SMITH: Wow, they really should be!

B. SO: They're missing an opportunity there because they publish Hamilton articles constantly.

A. GRAFF and G. PEN: Well, as they should

A. GRAFF: Hey! Look at that!

G. PEN: Have we mentioned that Ashley and I have been best friends for like twenty years?

A. GRAFF: Like, forever, it's not a big deal.

G. PEN: And I was going to say, you can—I'll give you my Hamiltome until you get yours.

A. GRAFF: That's okay. Thank you.

G. PEN: No, you can!

B. SO: Before we started recording, Ashley—

A. GRAFF: Let me just touch it.

B. SO: I was flipping through and Ashley just leaned over and so very casually was like, “Can—can I—do you mind if I look through it?” and I was like, “Oh my gosh, of course! I’m so sorry!” I was clutching it to my chest though. She had to pry it out of my hands.

A. GRAFF: As you should, it’s like a small baby. I get it.

G. PEN: So not unlike Chernow, super dense, there’s so much to get through, we can’t cover it all today.

B. SO: Not possible.

G. PEN: But we’re going to try, so that’s why Chernow—we’re just going to skip that for this week, at least, but we’ll get back to it and every episode we’ll get into the Hamiltome a little bit because we have to.

B. SO: There’s no way to possibly—there’s so much in here, just the stories and the writings and all the asides and footnotes for all the lyrics

A. GRAFF: Amazing pictures...

M. SMITH: AMAZING pictures...

B. SO: Amazing pictures. There’s just so much to get through that it would also be doing the book a disservice to try and just wrap it all up after just getting it a couple days ago. So we’ll just dive into that little by little as we go as well.

G. PEN: Can I talk about how Lin retweeted me?

B. SO: Oh! Sure!

A. GRAFF: Yes, do that. Yes.

G. PEN: So we’re jumping ahead a little bit.

B. SO: So, everyone at home, please take out your copies of the Hamiltome and turn to page eighty—what is it?

A. GRAFF: Eighty-one.

G. PEN: And if you don’t, I’ll read it. It’s during “Satisfied” and Lin is talking about Hamilton is saying, “You strike me as a woman who’s never been satisfied,” and the annotation is, “This exchange, like the six lines of dialogue, needs to carry everything in a super compact amount of time. It’s when the multiple meanings of

‘Satisfied’ will come in the handiest. Hamilton goes full Jordan Catalano here.”
Let me tell you what happened when I read that.

A. GRAFF: [Sighs heavily] Oh, Jordan...

M. SMITH: [Inaudible sighing/moaning?]

B. SO: Oh my god...We’re all collectively swooning right now, btw.

G. PEN: There are many things in the eighty pages that led up to that that made me want to—and first of all, all I want to do is write all over this thing and take notes to tell you guys about—

B. SO: No, it’s so hard!

G. PEN: But I don’t want to because it’s such a beautifully made—it looks like someone’s scrapbook that I just stumbled on, and I feel bad

B. SO: And we were talking about this before, but the pages are very delicate

A. GRAFF: It looks like an old-timey book! They’re very cool but it’s like—

B. SO: I’m very afraid to hurt the book

A. GRAFF: It’s like parchment paper

M. SMITH: Yes! Like parchment paper

G. PEN: It’s beautiful.

B. SO: Parchment paper! That’s what it is!

A. GRAFF: Papyrus, if you will.

G. PEN: There were many things that I wanted to point out, but as soon as that happened I was like, okay, well.

A. GRAFF: Obviously.

G. PEN: So I took a picture of that [laughter] because that’s what people have been doing!

B. SO: Actually a lot of people have been doing that!

G. PEN: So I took a picture and I said, “As someone who watches ‘My So-Called Life’ annually,” which is true, I have all the DVDs, and who went to a 90s theme party dressed as Rayanne Graff because it was Ashley’s theme party

A. GRAFF: That was my birthday party.

B. SO: Oh, what were you dressed as, Ashley?

A. GRAFF: I think I was just wearing a lot of flannel?

G. PEN: There’s a picture up there

[HOLY CROSSTALK BATMAN]

B. SO: Oh my god. It’s great, guys.

G. PEN: And also, I didn’t say this in the tweet because a hundred forty characters, I also that following Halloween because Ashley’s birthday is the same birthday as my husband, Mike, that’s coming up, April twenty-second, Earth Day. Happy early birthday.

A. GRAFF: Thank you!

G. PEN: That Halloween, I did Rayanne again. But I lost that flannel shirt, very Rayanne-like, and I had to wear another shirt. But anyway, so I—

M. SMITH: That’s so Rayanne

G. PEN: That’s so Rayanne! So I tweeted, “This makes me very happy” for all of that. In about four minutes, I get the notification, “Lin-Manuel quoted your retweet” and I’m like, it has to be somebody else who’s using that name or something, there’s no way

A. GRAFF: Flin-Manuel [Joking]

G. PEN: Yeah! I was like, my eyes are deceiving me, this is crazy, but no! So he said, “Yeah, the young ones are not going to get this reference,” and then he did the, “Why are you like this?—Like what?—Like, how you are?” [Laughter] To which, I replied, “Your cuticles look like little moons,” and then did the half moon emoji, or the quarter moon emoji, because it’s like...if we’re doing this, guys, okay, so we’re doing this.

A. GRAFF: You did it.

G. PEN: Let me tell you, he must have his notifications turned off

B. SO: He has to!

M. SMITH: Oh, he has to

G. PEN: Because just on my, on what he did, it has over a thousand “likes”, I could not keep up with it.

B. SO: I genuinely don’t know how he manages his Twitter to begin with. Like, the amount of tweets and mentions

A. GRAFF: Like, how does he pick who he retweets

B. SO: I don’t know

G. PEN: The thing is, he looks and pays attention!

A. GRAFF: Yeah! Of course!

G. PEN: I was like, he’s never going to see this, there’s no way.

M. SMITH: He sees everything.

G. PEN: He sees all. It was the day the Hamiltome came out, it was like three o’clock or something that afternoon because I had just gotten it and plopped down on the floor and was like, “Mike! I need to read this!”

M. SMITH: He was kind of busy that day, too

G. PEN: Exactly! There was a lot happening!

A. GRAFF: There were a few things happening

M. SMITH: There was a lot going on that day.

G. PEN: I don’t know how he reads all of his notifications

M. SMITH: He has a super brain

A. GRAFF: It’s insane

G. PEN: He has a Harry Potter time turner, if I’ve said it once, I’ve said it a million times

A. GRAFF: Can I borrow it? Do you think? If I ask him nicely?

G. PEN: I think so! We're friends now, because he quoted my retweet. That's how it works, right?

[OH MY GOD THE CROSSTALK]

A. GRAFF: Okay, cool.

G. PEN: But I did want to say, and I saved this for the air, so there is a song by Rhianna called "Stay", right?

A. GRAFF and B. SO: Mmm-hmm, yes.

G. PEN: Jared Leto and his band, Thirty Seconds to Mars, covered that song.

A. GRAFF: Yes, they did.

G. PEN: It is effing beautiful and awesome, his cover is amazing, it is not a new cover. But when Mike and I were in LA, the Rhiana version of it came on the radio, and I said to our friend Horatio that we were staying with, "Oh my god, have you ever heard the Jared Leto Thirty Seconds to Mars cover of this because it's beautiful and extra sad and extra raspy," and I knew Horatio would be into it and he was like, "No! Let's go home and listen to it!" We did. So then, it's been in my head since we got home, and that day, I'm not exaggerating, my friend Troy can attest because I was telling him that I was listening to it literally on repeat on YouTube, THEN I see this Jordan Catalano quote, THEN I tweet about it, and Lin retweets me? Thank you Jared Leto and whatever you have, your aura, your spirit animalness, I have Jared Leto to thank for Lin's retweet.

A. GRAFF: I think that's fair.

B. SO: Absolutely

A. GRAFF: That seems the most logical explanation.

G. PEN: And I didn't listen to it two or three times, I was having not the best day, one of those "I just need this", and, you guys, listen to it, it's really beautiful, it's total rock star rasp

[ALL THE CROSSTALK]

B. SO: That's awesome.

A. GRAFF: He pulls that off very well

G. PEN: [Imitating Leto] "If I was a [inaudible raspy singing]..."

[Audio fades to a clip of Thirty Seconds to Mars cover of “Stay”]

G. PEN: It’s a little Roger in Rent kind of, but it’s beautiful and gorgeous and I have Jared Leto to thank.

A. GRAFF: Thanks, Jared!

G. PEN: It’s not a coincidence, right?

A. GRAFF: Mmm, no.

B. SO: Not at all! Not even a little bit.

A. GRAFF: It might also mean that now you have to start wearing flannel and get really back into the nineties again.

G. PEN: OKAY.

A. GRAFF: I’ve never been not into the nineties. Sorry. I’m sorry.

B. SO: We are very pro-nineties in this room.

G. PEN: I don’t think there’s a room right now in the universe that’s more pro-nineties

[Laughter]

B. SO: That’s probably true!

M. SMITH: That’s true.

G. PEN: I have the picture of me and Ashley framed from that birthday party in my living room. It’s framed.

B. SO: I’m wearing knee-ripped jeans, like I’m trying to bring it back so hardcore.

G. PEN: I also have the “Daria” series, you guys, I’m in. I love it.

B. SO: I love “Daria”. It’s so funny, someone the other day—this has nothing to do with anything—but, someone the other day randomly asked me what television show I most related to my life as a teenager, and I was like, oh, that’s hard, but the first two things that came up, I was like, well it’s probably a toss up between “My So-Called Life” and “Daria”.

G. PEN: Okay, well

A. GRAFF: Fair.

B. SO: And then she looked at me and she said, “Oh, that’s why we get along!”

G. PEN: See, that’s the thing. When there are things like that and you meet someone that also gets it, then you’re like, okay, well we just level jumped our friendship

A. GRAFF: Did we just become best friends?—We did! That’s really what it is.

B. SO: That’s how it works.

G. PEN: That’s exactly what it is. Also, I just have to say, our listeners are amazing because here’s what happened: We were on Podomatic—this is nothing against Podomatic, but they have a bandwidth cap for our account. You guys listened to us so much that you crashed our bandwidth, which is bananas.

B. SO: Which we had just upgraded!

G. PEN: Which we had just upgraded, so essentially, Podomatic was going to charge us relentlessly.

A. GRAFF: So what you’re also saying is that the Hamilcast broke the internet.

G. PEN: It broke Podomatic, at least.

A. GRAFF: Let’s say the internet

M. SMITH: Shoot for the stars

A. GRAFF: Oh my god, the internet’s broken.

G. PEN: So we had to switch to Libsyn. It will not affect your iTunes, your feeds, everything is fine, but if for some reason you can’t get the iTunes feed, because we had questions about that when we first started, like where else can people listen to us that’s not iTunes, thehamilcast.libsyn.com.

B. SO: L-I-B-S-Y-N

G. PEN: Yes. So thanks you guys

B. SO: That’s amazing!

G. PEN: And also, what?!

M. SMITH: Fantastic!

G. PEN: What is happening? That's crazy, you guys are amazing, so thank you and keep listening and that's it. So, Meg, I have some questions for you. You have a store...?

M. SMITH: I do have a store! An online store.

G. PEN: Tell us about the online store!

M. SMITH: It's an online card store on Etsy. I just have a bunch of lyrical cards, a lot of Beatle stuff, and recently I started making Broadway related things, as I feel that they are—I would love to receive a Broadway notecard. Wouldn't you? Right? I think everyone in this room—

A. GRAFF: Uh, yes. Yes.

G. PEN: Is there a particular show that you're...

M. SMITH: Well, recently I did make a bunch for Hamilton and they have become a best seller.

G. PEN: Really?!

M. SMITH: Shocking.

A. GRAFF: That's crazy.

M. SMITH: Yeah, and in just a few months, specifically the Alexander Hamilton, "He who stands for nothing will fall for anything."

G. PEN: So they're real quotes from—

M. SMITH: Some are real quotes from Alexander Hamilton, some are, "I'm not throwing away my shot," things like that

B. SO: Show quotes

M. SMITH: Show quotes. They're two separate things, but you know, everyone loves Alexander Hamilton now.

A. GRAFF: As they should! That's awesome, congratulations.

B. SO: It's just another way to get your references in, it's great.

G. PEN: Where can we find it?

M. SMITH: It's on Etsy, if you go to Etsy, you can look up Sweet Lady Designs and you will find all of the cards. You can also find them uptown at the museum of the city of New York.

A. GRAFF: Whaatt?!

B. SO: All together now...

G. PEN: [Singing over a recording of "It's Quiet Uptown"] It's quiet uptown...forgiveness...[laughter] I can't bring it down. I can't bring the whole mood down.

B. SO: So what's the museum? Uptown?

G. PEN: That's amazing! So you can get them in real life too?

M. SMITH: You can get them in real life too, uptown at the museum of the city of New York, right now they have a portrait exhibit going on. They're all New York portraits by American artists from the 1700s/1800s

A. GRAFF: That's a good time

M. SMITH: It's a beautiful time

G. PEN: It was super easy to live back then, I hear

A. GRAFF: Absolutely, indoor plumbing? Who needs it?

B. SO: Nope. No problems, whatsoever.

G. PEN: Dying when you're super young and just awfulness and slavery, what? The worst.

A. GRAFF: Not taking showers, who wants that? Come on.

G. PEN: But beautiful penmanship and beautiful photography, and just a lot of gorgeous things.

M. SMITH: Beautiful, yeah, portrait painting is not a thing so much anymore, so

G. PEN: It's not!

M. SMITH: It's not.

B. SO: So how did they come to find you? Because they approached you, right?

M. SMITH: They approached me one day, one day out of nowhere I got an email through my Etsy account, and it was someone that said that they're the director of merchandising for the museum, and they wanted to know if I had more cards because they found the just the one, just the Alexander Hamilton quote, and they asked me if I had more, so I paused for about an hour and made twenty more

[Laughter]

B. SO: Of course there are more!

M. SMITH: And I was like oh! They've just been sold out, so here are all the other ones! And I sent him a list of all the other ones, and he asked me if I could print out a bunch and create them and bring them up to the museum for him to start in the exhibit the following week. It was a super quick turn around, and I did and they are uptown in the gift shop and it's delightful.

B. SO: What street is it on, do you know off the top of your head?

M. SMITH: I think it's one thirteen.

B. SO: One thirteenth.

M. SMITH: One thirteen.

G. PEN: So how do you—you make them in your apartment?

M. SMITH: I make them in my apartment, they're all hand printed, hand cut, and scratched—

B. SO: And they're lovely, we've seen them, we've sent them out to a few lucky folks

M. SMITH: Guys. I might have some in my bag for all of you.

G. PEN: What?!

B. SO: Whaaaattt??

G. PEN: WHAT?!

M. SMITH: For everyone in this room!

G. PEN: This is crazy!

B. SO: Oh my gosh!!!

G. PEN: They're right there!

B. SO: This is so nice!

M. SMITH: So not only do I have quote cards, but I've started making stationary...

G. PEN and B. SO: OH MY GOD

M. SMITH: ...in the calligraphy form...

G. PEN: You guys, if you—we are Instagramming this!

A. GRAFF: This is awesome!!!

B. SO: I swear to god, I had no idea this was happening at all.

A. GRAFF: Those are so cool!

G. PEN: Meg, thank you, SO much.

B. SO: Oh my god, Ashley even got some too!

A. GRAFF: Whaaat

G. PEN: OH MY—Meg, thank you so much, this is insane

A. GRAFF: These are so cool! Thank you!

B. SO: You guys, I realize this is riveting radio right now

G. PEN: It's terrible radio. I'm sorry.

B. SO: But we will definitely post images of this, but aside from the cards that you can find on Meg's Etsy shop, she made Gillian, Ashley, and I our own cards with our special sign off on them

G. PEN: Oh my god

B. SO: This is amazing!

A. GRAFF: This is so cool!

B. SO: It's like Christmas!

G. PEN: If the Instagram photo is blurry because I'm shaking and crying at the generosity of it...

M. SMITH: These are also for sale on Etsy and all the user needs to do is tell me the pen name that it would need and I'll create them custom

B. SO: So you can customize it!

G. PEN: You're going to be a millionaire.

M. SMITH: Yeah, they're custom!

A. GRAFF: This is going to be a big deal.

M. SMITH: I sell them in packets of six

B. SO: Meg, tell us what it's like when you're a millionaire, it's going to be great.

M. SMITH: I'll let you guys know!

G. PEN: Will you still be on our podcast?

M. SMITH: I will still be on your podcast!

A. GRAFF: Can you buy me a Hamilton ticket?

[Laughter]

G. PEN: But more importantly...Wait, so how do you—now that I'm seeing them—now my hands are really sweaty because I can't believe this is happening, I don't want to open them and ruin it, but so you make these, actually seeing them, you just do this in your apartment?

M. SMITH: I just do this in my apartment!

G. PEN: Do you design it, and then print it, you just buy yourself a badass printer?

M. SMITH: I do, yeah, just a great laser printer, some photoshop...

A. GRAFF: Wow.

M. SMITH: A good eye...

G. PEN: These are so beautiful. Oh my god.

B. SO: The envelopes are really nice too

M. SMITH: They're good old craft paper-styled envelope, so it's nice and old timey all around

G. PEN: I'm so overwhelmed, I don't even know what—first a Lin retweet, now this? What?!

A. GRAFF: Who's going to get a letter from me?

B. SO: Nobody! Because we're never going to use them

A. GRAFF: I just want to stare at them

G. PEN: And now you know who means a lot to you because if they're going to get one of these, they're pretty important

A. GRAFF: This is a big deal, I have to make a list of my correspondents

[Laughter]

G. PEN: To help each other out, we don't have to send each other ones, that'll be helpful

A. GRAFF: Yeah. Okay, cool, I'm going to take you off the list

G. PEN: Yeah, that's fine, and I'm taking you off because I can always just text you. I can text you a picture of it and say, "Remember when Meg gave us this amazing stationary?"

A. GRAFF: Yeah, just be like, just imagine I'm sending this message in this stationary, yeah.

G. PEN: Perfect.

A. GRAFF: Okay, I like it.

B. SO: That's awesome.

M. SMITH: It's made me kind of sad because handwritten, it's kind of gone away, people don't do it so much anymore, people text.

A. GRAFF: That is true.

B. SO: And I love a handwritten note

M. SMITH and G. PEN: Me too!

B. SO: When Gillian and I first rekindled our friendship, which sound very intense, but it actually kind of was

G. PEN: It's super intense!

B. SO: It actually was very intense, it was very fast and furious, and I just kind of showed up at her birthday party

G. PEN: Well I invited you

[Laughter]

B. SO: I mean, yes

A. GRAFF: [Sarcastically] What a coincidence! This is Gillian's birthday party!

B. SO: No, but like, a lot of times people will be like, yeah, come by! And it's like, yeah, I'm going to come! And then you don't

G. PEN: Here's the thing—and Ashley can attest—I don't say, "Yeah, come by," if I don't actually want you there

A. GRAFF: Yeah, no, she actually probably just won't even tell you where it is

G. PEN: I'm super blunt about things

B. SO: Yeah, so she was like, "Yeah, come by!" And I showed up at the karaoke bar, and we sang Rent duets all night

M. SMITH: Love it

A. GRAFF: As you do

B. SO: And it was wonderful

G. PEN: It's Planet Rose, 219 Avenue A

B. SO: Planet Rose on Avenue A, it's great, great place

G. PEN: It's wonderful

B. SO: And from there, I immediately got a Christmas card in the following week, and I was so excited because a personalized Christmas card is not something

that people do anymore, it's usually just, no offense everybody who does this, but boring pictures of your kids

A. GRAFF: Jumping in leaves

B. SO: Which we don't need. I much prefer a handwritten card from a friend.

G. PEN: And not to brag, but that whole day, I sat at the dining room table with my mom, who is super—not just, she's the best, but incredibly creative and talented, she hand-makes everything

A. GRAFF: She's the queen of crafts

G. PEN: I think that's where I get it from, like she's just so—everything in the house is antique, everything is from the seventeen, eighteen hundreds, like that's just how she is because it's awesome, so I made all those cards. I got plain paper and these vintage Christmas stamps and I put some glitter on them, just subtly

B. SO: It's so nice.

G. PEN: But of course I wrote to you and Ashley and our friend, Mary Kate, to enjoy the revel with some rebels on a hot night, I just had to do something Ham-like. Oh! But I remember when I texted, also because my mom was helping me out a little bit, because stamping can be kind of hard if you don't know, sometimes the edges show up on the page and it sucks and then you have to—

M. SMITH: You have to restamp!

G. PEN: You have to restamp.

M. SMITH: I know!

G. PEN: So my mom was helping me out. But I was like, "Hey, mom, what do you want to listen to? What was that? Hamilton? Great!"

[Laughter]

B. SO: What a great suggestion, mom!

G. PEN: Yeah, that was the day after Thanksgiving, so we listened to the soundtrack like three times in a row, and she, of course, loved it

A. SMITH: I'm not allowed to listen to it with my mom anymore because she's angry she hasn't seen it yet

G. PEN: But then I texted Bianca, I was like, “Hey, what’s your address?”

A. SMITH: Super cash.

G. PEN: You can’t be subtle the day after Thanksgiving, it’s very obvious, and I said, “Yeah, I’m listening to the soundtrack with my mom,” and Bianca’s text back was, “Don’t forget to write.”

ALL: Awww...

G. PEN: [Sings] “Don’t forget to write...”

[Begins playing “Take a Break”]

ANGELICA SCHUYLER: My Alexander...

ALEXANDER HAMILTON: Angelica...

A. SCHUY: Don’t forget to write...

[End playing “Take a Break”]

B. SO: And then I sent her my address and she’s like, oh, cool, so you’re like three minutes away from me right now because we’re from the same town [laughs]

G. PEN: Excellent! What is happening?

A. GRAFF: Yes, it was very convenient when you came over that day

B. SO: She could have just dropped it off

M. SMITH: She could have walked it down the street

G. PEN: I don’t know if we’ve talked about this but there was one time where Bianca came over and Ashley was over, and here’s what we did—this is not an exaggeration, it was a Saturday night

B. SO: Really wild Saturday night on our part

A. GRAFF: Pretty crazy

G. PEN: In which we played the Hamilton soundtrack, and Ashley brought over the book that we have since recommended on Twitter, the writings of Alexander Hamilton, and we read the corresponding writings and pamphlets based on the songs

A. GRAFF: To go with the songs, yeah it was very, umm...

G. PEN: The Reynolds Pamphlet...

A. GRAFF: ...wild and crazy...?

M. SMITH: Sounds like it!

G. PEN: It was in. sane.

B. SO: There was a jug of wine involved.

G. PEN: There was some wine, and there were dogs

A. GRAFF: There were dogs!

B. SO: So many dogs.

G. PEN: Again, dogs should just be involved in everything that happens all the time.

A. GRAFF: Yes. I think we listened to it twice all the way through. Well, no, we stopped at the, well obviously we stop at the end because it's too sad.

G. PEN: Right. Someone today tweeted us that they were going through the Hamiltome, which we have to get back to by the way, but they were going through it and said, oh, I'm up to right after when "Your Obedient Servant" ends, and then I was like, oh, and then they just talk it all out in Jersey and it's all fine, right?

B. SO: Everyone just goes home, it's great!

A. GRAFF: It's just like "Little Women"

G. PEN: And I said it's just like "A League of Their Own" when you turn it off right before Dottie lets go of the ball and you're like, the Peaches win the series! That's it.

A. GRAFF: Right. Or "Little Women" when Laurie asks Jo to marry him and then you turn it off and she said yes, and then everything's fine. EVERYTHING'S FINE at the end.

B. SO: I've been trying to get a group of girls, speaking of "League of Their Own", to do a group costume of the Rockford Peaches for Halloween for a long time.

G. PEN: Mike and I did it!

B. SO: Oh, eff, really?!

G. PEN: I have the Rockford Peaches costume in my closet right now.

A. GRAFF: She does.

B. SO: There goes that idea!

G. PEN: I don't know why that means it can't be done again?

M. SMITH: It can be done again!

G. PEN: I don't know why it's over now

A. GRAFF: Costumes are meant to be repeated.

B. SO: I get a lot of anxiety around Halloween

A. GRAFF: Especially if they're really good.

M. SMITH: If they're really good, it's okay.

B. SO: The Rockford Peaches is an amazing costume.

G. PEN: Two more Mike stories. First of all, Mike was right when he predicted how many followers we were going to get.

B. SO: Oh my god, I completely forgot about this!

G. PEN: He predicted on one of his episodes that by the time it came out

B. SO: We would have hit a thousand Twitter followers, and we so did!

G. PEN: We so did

B. SO: Before even the episode came out we were over a thousand, so thank you so much, everybody, for continuing to retweet us and talk about us and just listen and care and all that stuff

G. PEN: You guys are the most enthusiastic people

B. SO: [Pretending to cry] Thank you for loving me, everybody

G. PEN: And also, speaking of Mike and "Your Obedient Servant", we were talking about Hamilton, because I do that

A. GRAFF: What else do you talk about?

G. PEN: Constantly, and for some reason, “Your Obedient Servant” came up, that part I can’t remember, but I was just like, “Aw, I just love that song so much, it’s so underrated,” and he just kind of perked up and said, “Nothing about Hamilton is underrated.” And he didn’t mean it in a jerk way, like he wasn’t saying that we’re all crazy for being obsessed with it, but he was like, no, it’s getting tons of, it’s so rated, nothing is underrated, everyone gets that everything is wonderful about it.

A. GRAFF: Well, I was listening to it this morning on my ride to work, because, you know, duh

G. PEN: Because you were breathing?

A. GRAFF: Well, right. “It’s Quiet Uptown” came on, and I’m listening to it, trying not to cry, and as I’m listening to it, I’m like, “God, I wonder if people realize how good this song really is,” it’s sad, but it’s SO good, and then I was like, oh wait, yeah, no, everybody knows. Everybody knows how good it is, never mind.

G. PEN: So you’ll listen to that on your way to work early in the morning? I would skip that. Just in the context, nobody get mad at me, just in the context of early morning.

A. GRAFF: No, I completely understand in terms of mood-setting for the day, but my commute normally only takes forty-five minutes, and since the show is about three hours, I don’t get through the whole thing, so I just pick up the next day where I left off and I happened to have left off

B. SO: You’re nowhere near intermission, the first act is an hour and a half

M. SMITH: I get to “Wait For It”, that’s how far I get on my way to work

G. PEN: I love that that’s how—

[Laughter]

M. SMITH: My commute is up to “Wait For It”

B. SO: “How long is your commute?” Umm, about until “Battle of Yorktown”—ish?

A. GRAFF: Yeah! That’s usually when it ends!

B. SO: For Queens to Manhattan

G. PEN: Usually by the time I've, I've noticed actually, it's not every day, but I guess the timing of the loops work out that usually by the time, like by Wednesday, when I'm coming home, I'm putting my key in the door to "Say No to This". So it's been that many plays from Monday to Wednesday

A. GRAFF: That's fantastic

G. PEN: Oh, yeah.

A. GRAFF: I love that song. I love all the songs.

B. SO: I love all the songs!

M. SMITH: We all love all the songs

A. GRAFF: I even have some affection for "Farmer Refuted". Not a ton, but some.

G. PEN: In the Hamiltome, you guys, they talk about how—

B. SO: It's funny that you're putting your key in the door when it's like, "This one's mine," it's like walking you home, and you're home, and I like that parallel

G. PEN: The visions in my head of the choices I would make as an actor on stage and what role, it's gross, it's stupid

A. GRAFF: The picture of it that's in the Hamiltome

B. SO: Oh my god, it's sexy, I just open—where did it go, hold on—

A. GRAFF: I can't stop staring at it, it has the most sexy picture and I love it, I would not be able to say no to that

G. PEN: You guys want to talk about Jasmine real quick?

A. GRAFF: Yes.

M. SMITH: She's a delight.

G. PEN: How does she hit that note?! I think it was Leslie Odom Jr. that said—

B. SO: With the "You can stay"?

["Say No To This" begins playing]

"If you pay, you can stay..."

[End playing "Say No To This"]

B. SO: Notice I didn't try to sing that one

A. GRAFF: Should we give it a shot? No?

G. PEN: Um, I've tried. Several times.

A. GRAFF: Oh my god. It is sex personified.

B. SO: It is one seventy-nine, and it is smokin'.

G. PEN: Was it Vulture that sat down with all of them and I think it was either Leslie or Chris or Daveed that was like, "EVERY performance, she hits that note, it sounds like she's a superhero," but it's like, says Daveed Diggs, like, what are you talking about?

[Laughter]

A. GRAFF: Well, I remember as I was watching it, I grabbed my friend Kelly's hand during the song, because I was like, is she going to hit the note? Is she going to hit the note? I was like, of course, she's going to hit the note and I'm going to hear her, and I'm seeing her, and it's crazy! And she did, and I was just like, well, this is, what have I done with my life?

G. PEN: And they also mention in the book about how great it is that all of the people that were so on Hamilton's side in Act I, the same actors play all his friends and enemies

B. SO: But also Lin mentions in the very beginning, actually in "Alexander Hamilton", about how the whole part with "We fought with him, I died for him,"

G. PEN: YES

B. SO: And exactly, you know, the characters who say those lines in the first act are the ones who then, you know, Laurens/Phillip dies for him in both acts

A. GRAFF: And then, "We fought with him," but then they also fought against him

B. SO: Daveed and Oak fought for him, and then they fought against him in the second act, and Lin was like, "I was pretty proud of myself for that parallel"

A. GRAFF: As he should be!

B. SO: Yeah, I'd be pretty proud of that too! That's an amazing parallel!

G. PEN: Let me also say this—on page thirty-seven

A. GRAFF: Stop, I need this book in my life!

B. SO: You have two of them, right in front of you, Ashley!

G. PEN: But page thirty-seven has all of his notes. First of all, let me just say that it's crazy that you can see that a lot of it just flowed out of him, but I'm telling you right now, page thirty-seven, "I wish there was a war" in his writing, phone cases, posters

B. SO: Oh, heck yeah

G. PEN: That's going to be everywhere.

A. GRAFF: It's going to be huge.

G. PEN: So somebody make it and then cut me and give me royalties because I told you about it.

A. GRAFF: Also, give me one. Just give me one.

M. SMITH: You got it.

G. PEN: That's going to be—

G. PEN, B. SO, and A. GRAFF: OOOHHHH!

A. GRAFF: Look at how that worked out!

M. SMITH: Look at that!

G. PEN: I kind of forgot that I was next to the Flash

A. GRAFF: Well done!

G. PEN: Oh, also, we have a new website!

B. SO: What?!

M. SMITH: You do!

B. SO: Oh, right! We totally do!

A. GRAFF: Whaaat.

B. SO: Meg, who is right over here to my left, also made us a badass, official website, and it is gorgeous, you guys.

G. PEN: It's called thehamilcast.com

B. SO: Oh really? Shocking.

G. PEN: Well it's not like hamilcastpod or something

A. GRAFF: Hamilcast.net

G. PEN: Hamilcastshow, or .biz

B. SO: I'm sorry, I'm being a jerk.

A. GRAFF: Can I look it up on AltaVista?

G. PEN: You can look it up on AltaVista

A. GRAFF: Okay, good

G. PEN: You can ask Jeeves

A. GRAFF: Ask Jeeves! Bing, is it on Bing?

G. PEN: Ask Jeeves to Google it for you

A. GRAFF: Okay. Good.

B. PEN: [Laughing] Ask Jeeves to Google it for you!

A. GRAFF: Was that the point of him? Why does everybody go to AltaVista?

G. PEN: That "Parks and Rec" episode where Tom is like "My company did worse than a fake butler that Googled things for you," [Laughter] But there's actually kind of a funny backstory about thehamilcast.com because it occurred to me a couple of weeks ago that we should own that

A. GRAFF: Domain, yeah. Don't pull a Jeb Bush and let Donald Trump buy your website.

G. PEN: I know. Please.

A. GRAFF: That would be bad.

B. SO: Did he do that?

G. PEN: Yes.

A. GRAFF: Oh my god, you didn't—yeah! He bought JebBush.com and he had it redirected to Donald Trump

B. SO: [Hysterical laughter] I didn't know that! That's hilarious!

A. GRAFF: Yeah, that's actually, I thought it was pretty great, I was like, way to go, Trump.

[SO much crosstalk about how they all must give Trump credit for that move]

B. SO: I gotta give it up to him for that, that is hilarious. Oh my god, I didn't know that.

G. PEN: And what a bitchy high school girl thing to do. So appropriate.

B. SO: I love that. Oh my god. So anyway...

G. PEN: So I was like, we should own this, just in case.

B. SO: Right. Cut to me getting a frantic text message from Gillian

G. PEN: I'm like, "Somebody..."

B. SO: "Somebody bought thehamilcast.com"

G. PEN: "...bought the hamilcast..."

[Heavy sighs]

B. SO: Then she did some digging

G. PEN: I looked up the who is

M. SMITH: I thought I covered my tracks pretty well...[laughter] because I looked up the who is too, and I was like, great, it doesn't say my name

G. PEN: Oh, we should, we should

[Plays "The Story of Tonight (Reprise)"]

A. HAM: Oh, shit...

[End “The Story of Tonight (Reprise)"]

M. SMITH: Maybe you just looked it up differently than I did and the Internet is magic

G. PEN: But it had Meg—I’m not going to say your email address

M. SMITH: Thanks.

G. PEN: But I was like, wait, is this Meg’s—? Wait, what? Did Meg buy the—? What?! And it turns out Meg—you bought it for—

B. SO: Well, because you found out because it says she also owns my website

G. PEN: Right.

B. SO: That’s how you were like, OH! This is that Meg, and she bought thehamilcast.com, apparently. Then I was like, let me find out, and so I texted Meg, and I was like, “Hey, did you buy thehamilcast.com?” because I was like, yeah, she does that, she does these things, it wouldn’t surprise me. So then I texted her and was like, “Did you happen to buy thehamilcast.com?” and she goes, “No…” and I go, “Okay, well, Gillian said,” and then I screenshotted your text

G. PEN: I didn’t know you lied about it

M. SMITH: I forgot until—I was like a hesitant, “No…? Not me!”

B. SO: And then she goes, “Of course I bought it!” and she goes, “Happy early birthday!”

M. SMITH: I tried. I tried.

G. PEN: I ruined Bianca’s birthday present.

B. SO: Ruined my birthday present, which, for the record, isn’t for another six-ish weeks anyway, so I’m happy to have it now. I’m getting early birthday gifts up the wall today.

A. GRAFF: And wasn’t the book an early birthday present?

B. SO: Actually, the Hamiltome was also an early birthday gift

A. GRAFF: Yeah, my birthday comes first

B. SO: Sorry, guys

A. GRAFF: Give me your book. Give me your book.

B. SO: My birthday is May twenty-second, for anyone who wants to send me a gift, and then my friend Jenny happened to tell me the other day, she was like, "So I bought you an early birthday gift, I have to give it to you, though, now because otherwise you'll get it for yourself or someone else will get it for you," and I was like, "Is it the Hamilton book?" and she goes, "Yeah." [laughs] and I was like, "GREAT!!! Happy birthday to me!" So, happy early birthday to me for both the website, and the Hamiltome!

G. PEN: Meg, when is your birthday, asking for a friend.

M. SMITH: My birthday is August twentieth.

G. PEN: Wait! Okay, I'm December twenty-first.

B. SO: We're all cusps!

G. PEN: We're all cusps! Mike is twenty-second, Ashley's April twenty-second...we're all

G. PEN and B. SO: Cusps!

A. GRAFF: We're all what?

G. PEN and B. SO: Cusps!

A. GRAFF: I don't know what that means

G. PEN: A cusp is the sign, the first day or the last

B. SO: Where you lie on the change of the signs.

A. GRAFF: Ooh, got it.

G. PEN: But I am a straight up Sagittarius.

B. SO: I'm a straight up Gemini.

M. SMITH: I'm a Leo, for sure.

A. GRAFF: [Hesitantly] I'm a Taurus, I don't really believe in that stuff, so

[Laughter]

M. SMITH: We're all so confident!

A. GRAFF: But, yes, I am a Taurus.

B. SO: I'm on the Taurus/Gemini cusp, but I'm pretty Gemini. But, we're all cusp babies!

A. GRAFF: We're all cusps.

G. PEN: Wait, okay, so, Meg, hold on a second. How long after we planned that the four of us were going to be on this podcast did you make these cards?

M. SMITH: I made those cards like a month ago.

A. GRAFF: Whaaatt?

M. SMITH: I made Ashley's yesterday.

A. GRAFF: Yay! Thank you so much!

M. SMITH: When I knew that we would all be here, because no one can be left out, so I revisited podcast two or something when you were on to make sure I had the sign off correct.

A. GRAFF: Aww, thank you!

G. PEN: Meg! What are we going to do with you? The website and—oh yeah! Okay, so then Meg was like, "I'm making the website, and here's just kind of what I'm messing with," it was beautiful and so exactly our style, but I was like, I can't, like I can physically, I know how websites are made, but if you go to any website that I've created, you'll say, "Ehh." [Laughter] which is kind of what Meg has_____¹

A. GRAFF: She worked so hard!

M. SMITH: I try!

G. PEN: Editing, you know what, editing, I can do.

A. SMITH: Yes, you're very good at that, you taught yourself.

G. PEN: But I know what I like, and Meg just—it's just beautiful. Thank you so much, I'm overwhelmed by your generosity and creativity and I love it.

¹ She says "has (something indecipherable) to me"

M. SMITH: You're very welcome.

G. PEN: And everyone go buy things that Meg makes because they are handmade, personal—

A. GRAFF: Look at that picture. I'm sorry.

G. PEN: What page is it?

B. SO: Which page are we on? So that we can include our listeners

A. GRAFF: One-seventy-five.

G. PEN: I'm not going to edit this out because of how natural and organic this is, you guys, if you feel like you're hanging out with us

B. SO: We're literally just in a circle flipping through this book

G. PEN: What page?

A. GRAFF: One-seventy-five, it's Jasmine

G. PEN: It's a gorgeous picture of Jasmine

A. GRAFF: She's putting on lipstick and—

B. SO: Is there a not gorgeous picture of Jasmine?

G. PEN: No. I'm sorry. Why did I say that?

A. GRAFF: —and living her life, reaching her world. She's doing great.

B. SO: [Laughing] Reaching her world!

G. PEN: Our friend James says, he would say, "She's not marking." That's a dancing thing.

B. SO: That is a dancing thing.

G. PEN: Not marking. Living her life, not marking.

A. GRAFF: She's reaching her world, it's true.

G. PEN: Is this a new thing that everyone's going to be saying in a year and a half but your kids told you about it now?

A. GRAFF: I hope not because it's so strange, but yes, they do say, "Reach your world."

G. PEN: What does that mean?

B. SO: Live your life, or get your life

A. GRAFF: Get your potential, reach your potential, reach your world. I say it a little too often to them to where they might stop saying because I say it all the time, like, "Okay guys, take out your stuff, you know, reach your world, do what you gotta do."

G. PEN: But you're the cool teacher!

A. GRAFF: I try

G. PEN: And I tell you this, constantly

B. SO: Ashley just keeps turning to the "Say No to This" page

A. GRAFF: Oh my god, it just went right back to the picture of Lin and Jasmine, it's ridiculous

G. PEN: It's a beautiful, ridiculous picture

A. GRAFF: This book is ridiculous.

G. PEN: I know.

B. SO: There is something else I wanted to talk about in this book, can I have the book back for a quick second?

M. SMITH: I feel like it's the Bible

G. PEN: Here, you can have mine. While Bianca's looking at pictures, you can have mine

B. SO: As everybody knows, I love and adore Andy Blankenbuehler with all my heart

G. PEN: Oh my god.

B. SO: And I always have and I always will

G. PEN: Did you get to that chapter yet?

B. SO: I skipped ahead to that chapter

G. PEN: Which I told you to do!

B. SO: I know, I'm so sorry

G. PEN: Don't be sorry, it was my idea!

B. SO: It is chapter sixteen

G. PEN: It is

B. SO: Page a hundred and thirty-two is all about Andy Blankenbuehler, and actually this part—a good choreographer or a great choreographer does things that are subliminal also that you don't even know are happening and just seeps into your subconscious. And there's an example of that in here where, which I didn't notice in the two times I've been lucky enough to see the show, I didn't notice but it says right here, "Andy knew that the audience wouldn't consciously register a lot of his choices, like the fact that Burr moves in straight lines because he sees no options, and Hamilton moves in arcs because he sees all possibility," and that just immediately informs their character, it informs how you see their character and you don't realize it, but that is what a genius choreographer does and I'm just like, well, once again, Andy Blankenbuehler blows my effing mind and I don't even know what to do with that information.

A. GRAFF: Nuts!

G. PEN: Yeah, that's one of those things that's been Instagrammed and Tweeted the most

B. SO: Because it's astonishing! Nobody thinks of that

A. GRAFF: I would never think of that

M. SMITH: I would never think of that

B. SO: But it's still being, it is affecting the way you perceive the character

M. SMITH: Sure!

B. SO: And that's, just—

A. GRAFF: And now that I think about it too, it's so true, now that I'm thinking about, okay, how did they move on stage? Where were they going?

B. SO: I know! And if I ever get to see the show again before, I mean, I have tickets for October, but if I ever get to see it again, I'm going to be very paying attention to those things

A. GRAFF: I still can't decide if I want to keep my ticket in August or—

B. SO: What?!

A. GRAFF: Make an insane amount of money

B. SO: Oh.

A. GRAFF: Come on, come on! Come on—

G. PEN: I wish everybody could see my face right now

[Laughter]

A. GRAFF: You have tickets. You have tickets!

B. SO: For September...

G. PEN: For September. The cast is drip-dripping down the drain, original Broadway cast, and look, everyone's going to be amazing, it's one of those things, how many times did we see Rent? A zillion. Everyone was great.

B. SO: But there definitely is nothing like Anthony Rapp

G. PEN: There is. Everyone is like, oh my god, that's someone doing Anthony Rapp as Mark

B. SO: Exactly, it's just a whole bunch of Anthony Rapp impersonations

G. PEN: At least in my head, I feel bad. I take that back. I do take that back.

B. SO: Well, not impersonations, but there's no way to escape what Adam and Anthony infused into those characters, you can't not.

G. PEN: You know why? Because the soundtrack is just so ingrained that it becomes the original cast. I feel bad that I said that

M. SMITH: Well and their mannerisms are very specific

G. PEN: Yeah, and sometimes the people that replace them do take that on

M. SMITH: Yes, they absolutely do

G. PEN: I don't mean it like that, because that would hurt my feelings so much as an actor

B. SO: There is a specific Roger that I really loved along the way, _____²these days, his name's Manley Pope

[Collective scream-talking, generally some form of "OH MY GOD, MANLEY POPE" and laughter]

A. GRAFF: Manley Pope! I was completely in love with Manley Pope!

B. SO: [Laughing] Everybody just had that reaction!

A. GRAFF: I wish people could have seen our faces, all of us

B. SO: Everybody literally just exploded

A. GRAFF: Oh my god, we all just lit up! He was amazing.

G. PEN: I'm going to do my best with the audio levels there, you guys, but I apologize in case...

B. SO: I think we all just blew out the microphone

A. GRAFF: I just got really excited about Manley Pope, I haven't thought about him in a decade!

G. PEN: I think we might have seen him the most

A. GRAFF: I think so, yeah

B. SO: He was a fantastic Roger, and I adore him.

A. GRAFF: He was amazing! What a name!

B. SO: I even have a picture of him on my wall. I loved him. I mean, Adam Pascal is obviously king and the tops, but second to Adam Pascal would for sure be Manley Pope, and I'm glad we all agree on that, that's amazing!

A. GRAFF: Yeah, I completely agree with you.

M. SMITH: Completely agree.

² Yet again something I cannot decipher...

G. PEN: And also, from Bloodline, Norbert Leo Butz.

M. SMITH: Love him.

A. GRAFF: [Singing] Love him!

B. SO: Oh my gosh! You know what, I've seen Norbert Leo Butz in a ton of things, but I didn't see him as Roger.

A. GRAFF: I think I did!

G. PEN: I saw him as Roger and also—

A. GRAFF: I saw him as Roger

G. PEN: —Fiero in Wicked with—

M. SMITH: We saw him in Catch Me If You Can

B. SO: We did see him in Catch Me If You Can, which was a delightful show

M. SMITH: I liked that show!

A. GRAFF: I think I saw him in that too!

G. PEN: Should we tell her our Wicked story?

A. GRAFF: Which one?

G. PEN: The one where the crazy thing happened on stage?

A. GRAFF: Oh! Yeah!

M. SMITH: I'd like to hear about that

B. SO: Wait, confession, I'm a huge Broadway nerd who's never seen Wicked

G. PEN: Okay

A. GRAFF: That's okay

B. SO: Sorry.

M. SMITH: That's okay

G. PEN: That's okay, but it's funny that you saw, because we were listening to Book of Mormon before we were recording today, but it's funny because there are a lot of Wicked references musically in that show, like "You and me, and mostly me," it's basically "The Wizard and I"

B. SO: Yeah, like I know the music, but I haven't seen the show because it was so hard to get tickets for a long time and that was another impossible lottery situation

M. SMITH: Still is

A. GRAFF: I won that lottery! That's how we got to see it!

G. PEN: Is that how—?

A. GRAFF: Because I saw it two days beforehand with my mother, and then I went, and then I liked it so much that I went to the lottery, I didn't think anybody else was going to go, idiot

B. SO: Everybody goes

A. GRAFF: Everybody was there

M. SMITH: All the people go

B. SO: I'll see it one day

A. GRAFF: Well actually I went and no, I didn't win the lottery, but as soon as the lottery ended, I just went into the box office and I was like, "Can I just get two tickets for tonight?" and they were like, "Oh, yeah! Here, we have two for seventy dollars," and I was like, "Okay!" and I just bought them, and I was like, wow!

G. PEN: [Singing in the tune of "Washington On Your Side"] It must be nice, it must be nice, to get tickets to a show...

A. GRAFF: I was working at a job that paid me eighteen dollars an hour, so that was the only reason I was able to do that

G. PEN: Okay, so we went, and it was when Taye Diggs was Fiero, because we saw Norbert Leo Butz as Fiero, we went to a lot of theater in our insane amount of years of friendship, so we went, and everyone's excited because Idina was still in it and Taye Diggs was there and they were still together at the time

A. GRAFF: Kristin Chenoweth was in it, it was still the original cast, pretty much

G. PEN: Kristin Chenoweth was, it was crazy, but what happened, I don't know—spoilers—

B. SO: Was Joel Gray in it?

A. GRAFF: Yes! I think so

G. PEN: I saw him, I don't know if he was in that performance because what I'm about to tell you kind of—

B. SO: I adore him

G. PEN: —overshadows everybody and everything else that happened. So there's on scene, it's kind of towards the end, it's kind of after the climax where they realize that like, oh, Elphaba, the green witch, she's fine, whatever, but there's a scene where Fiero throws her broom back to her as kind of like, go, be who you are!

A. GRAFF: Go! Be free, my green princess!

G. PEN: That I love and whatever! Kristin Chenoweth is adorably like, hey, no! Why aren't you telling me?! It's my new philosophy—sorry, sorry!

A. GRAFF: Wrong show.

G. PEN: So, what happens is he throws the broom, Idina doesn't catch it.

M. SMITH: Oh no!

A. GRAFF: She just straight up missed it.

M. SMITH: Airball!

A. GRAFF: Clattered.

G. PEN: And instead of just picking it up and the show must go on, she turns to the audience, and does like a "timeout"

B. SO: [Gasps]

A. GRAFF: Yep.

G. PEN: Thing, because they all break and start laughing

A. GRAFF: She Zack Morris-ed it and timed out

G. PEN: And she goes to the audience, “We’re going to try that again.”

M. SMITH: [Gasps]

B. SO: [Laughing] Oh my god!

A. GRAFF: I remember sitting there and just being like, “Oh my god, I’ve never seen anything like this ever.”

M. SMITH: I’ve never seen that!

G. PEN: We were clutching each other, we were like, what—Oh. My. God.

A. GRAFF: What is happening?!

G. PEN: So then we go, because, you know, big stage door people

A. GRAFF: Big stage door

G. PEN: Did I tell you that I found one of my pictures with Daphne Rubin Vega?

A. GRAFF: [Gasps]

G. PEN: I’ll have to #ThrowbackThursday that

A. GRAFF: Alright, please do

G. PEN: I’m not wearing braces in it. [Laughter] Most of the pictures I am

A. GRAFF: I was going to say, is this, uhh, when uhh, braces are in...?

G. PEN: No no, this was one of the times we saw her at Joe’s Pub when she was doing Souvenirs, which also, Daphne, if you’re listening, please re-release Souvenirs, I loved it and I played it out now, my disc skips.

A. GRAFF: Yeah, you made me a copy of it and I lost it...

G. PEN: I get her song “Ninety Miles” stuck in my head a lot. Anyway, so we were big stage door people and we went and it took them like an hour to come out and they were so getting yelled at

A. GRAFF: They were getting in so much trouble!

G. PEN: And then when they came out

A. GRAFF: Oh, they were not nice.

M. SMITH: They had a bad day.

G. PEN: They had their tails between their legs, ears were back

A. GRAFF: Yeah, and Idina was, listen. I met her after when I saw Rent for the first time, when I was like twelve, which was probably inappropriate

M. SMITH: Definitely, but you know.

A. GRAFF: Thanks, Dad, but I met her, she was one of the nicest people ever, so grateful, so nice—not so much this night after Wicked, not so much. But I completely understand, I was angry in the moment, and I think later I was just like, yeah, I think if I just got really badly yelled at by my director, not want to talk to all the fan girls outside who are like, oh, I love you!

G. PEN: Uh, we're super cool at the stage door.

A. GRAFF: No, I mean we were the coolest ones there, obviously, like super casual, inviting people out afterwards

G. PEN: We'd never seen anything like that

A. GRAFF: And never since, never since

B. SO: You're just supposed to kind of roll with it, not just start over

M. SMITH: I mean, people break, but

G. PEN: And with Idina Menzel, Taye Diggs, and Kristin Chenoweth, people who like, this is ingrained in their muscle memory, how to be on a stage, it was just, I guess, I don't know, maybe she thought it was a flirty thing since it was her husband, I don't know what it was

A. GRAFF: I don't know what it was, but it was very strange

G. PEN: But it was very, we were like, nail marks in each other's arms, we were like, what are we watching

A. GRAFF: [Whispering] They're going to be in so much trouble! And they did! They got in trouble.

B. SO: That's insane.

A. GRAFF: Oh, that's so weird, the Hamiltome opened up again on my lap, crazy.

B. SO: Just opened.

G. PEN: Well, you guys, we have to wrap it up for this episode.

A. GRAFF: Aww.

G. PEN: I know.

B. SO: We promise we'll talk about the Hamiltome in pretty much every other episode.

G. PEN: We'll be back. Get it? You guys get that we'll be back?

A. GRAFF: Oh, I see! I see what you did there, that's a reference to Hamilton. Okay. Cool.

G. PEN: Hamilton the musical, it's an American musical about—

A. GRAFF: Yes, I see.

B. SO: Rory O'Malley recently started his—

G. PEN: Oh, yeah! He was in the Book of Mormon!

B. SO: We didn't even talk about our little Book of Mormon/Hamilton connections here, and we all love Rory and he's a delight and wonderful and maybe one day, I mean, maybe he'll still be in it in October, Rory, that would be great!

A. GRAFF: Please!

G. PEN: September!

A. GRAFF: August, whatever.

M. SMITH: Super soon! It's super soon, guys!

A. GRAFF: If anybody could see Gillian's face as she's staring at me right now...

B. SO: She's so over us

A. GRAFF: She's going to kill me.

G. PEN: I say this every time—

A. GRAFF: She's not mad, she's disappointed.

G. PEN: I'm really not full of shit when I say, here's what the show does, the show is so good that I'm like, you know what, if you guys are seeing it, that's awesome!

B. SO: Meg, how many times have you seen it?

M. SMITH: ...I've seen it five times...

A. GRAFF: Alright, well

B. SO: I didn't want to be the villain anymore

G. PEN: But you guys won the lottery in the pouring rain and there were hundreds of people there

B. SO: I won the lottery in the pouring rain, and then Meg won the lottery

M. SMITH: Another friend won the lottery. *I* have not won the lottery. So maybe I'll—

B. SO: I used to have amazing lottery luck in all the lotteries. I was consistently winning American Idiot and Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson lotteries

M. SMITH: I love Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson

G. PEN: Consistently?!

B. SO and M. SMITH: Consistently.

B. SO: Like, I was winning all the time, granted, there weren't seven hundred people at these lotteries, but I was still winning

A. GRAFF: They were like, you know what, that girl really likes this show, let's just—oh my god, Bianca! Oh my god, it's crazy!

G. PEN: But sometimes people have that luck because, again, my friend Troy, who can attest that I was listening to Jared Leto on a loop, Mike and I were in LA for two weeks and was like, "You missed so much, I won so many lotteries, I saw Curious Incident, I saw The King and I, I saw Fun Home," he just was winning them, and sometimes people just have that

A. GRAFF: Magic touch, yeah.

B. SO: I've been losing The Crucible all week, guys, FYI

A. GRAFF: I saw goody Gillian with the devil [laughter] Crucible joke.

G. PEN: Crucible joke, slash inside joke from high school where we used to run up to people and say, "I saw goody Ashley with the devil!" because that was fun.

A. GRAFF: Because Catholic school.

G. PEN: When we weren't quoting Rent, and/or Empire Records, and/or any slew of nineties-centric things

A. GRAFF: Yeah, basically

G. PEN: We were making fun of each other and everybody else.

A. GRAFF: Accurate. In a loving way.

G. PEN: We actually, there were girls that were, and then we will wrap this up, I promise, Monica and Carla were girls a year under us and they started something called "Gillashleyism"

A. GRAFF: It was a religion based after us, they wanted to worship our Gillashleyism.

B. SO: Wow! Were you cool girls in high school?

G. PEN: No, we were floaters, in the sense that we graduated with like forty-six kids in our grade

B. SO: I was a floater too

A. GRAFF: There were only two hundred kids in the whole school, so

B. SO: I went to a really small high school, my graduating class only had thirty-six kids in it

[Cross talk in which everyone says a variation of, "Whoa!"]

G. PEN: You win, fine.

A. GRAFF: Her class was smaller.

G. PEN: Well we didn't have a football team, so whatever.

B. SO: [Laughing] We didn't have any teams at all!

A. GRAFF: God! Alright! Fine! Ugh!

B. SO: But it was still the same, those thirty-six kids still managed to break off into factions and I managed to—did you like that?

["Washington On Your Side" begins playing]

THOMAS JEFFERSON: Thanks to Hamilton, our cabinet's fractured into factions

["Washington On Your Side" ends]

B. SO: I did manage to hover above them, but I never really felt like I belonged in any of them

G. PEN: Yeah, I—

A. GRAFF: Well, we had our group, but we also—

G. PEN: We did, like us and two other people.

A. GRAFF: But we still, it was floating. We floated.

G. PEN: Like Lebowsky, "You ever heard of the Seattle seven? That was me and six other guys." [Laughter] Alright, you guys, thank you so much for listening, stay tuned because next episode is very Burr-centric.

B. SO: It is! It's all about Burr.

G. PEN: We're going to get to Chernow.

B. SO: We're going to get back into Chernow, don't worry. We have not neglected you.

G. PEN: I missed him this week, now that we're wrapping up.

B. SO: I know. We'll get to him next week, I promise. And there's going to be a lot of Burr talk going on. We're going to have to celebrate somehow.

G. PEN: Yeah, we're going to have to think of a better hashtag than #BurrTalk, I think

A. GRAFF: How about #BurrItsColdInHere, no, I'm kidding.

G. PEN: #FeelTheBurr?

B. SO: Oh!

A. GRAFF: #FeelTheBurr! There it is!

B. SO: Gillian wins.

A. GRAFF: That was good.

G. PEN: Thank you. I actually feel really proud of that.

A. GRAFF: When you think of a really good hashtag, it makes your day. Well done.

G. PEN: Mike, when it was episode eleven, he was like, "It's the HamWash," and Bianca was like, "What?" and he was like, "Hamilton, plus the one dollar bill, Washington, HamWash?"

B. SO: Gillian and I were like...okay.

G. PEN: Yeah but it made perfect sense!

A. GRAFF: You say it over and over and you're like, yeah, no, yes, yes, HamWash, HamWash, HamWash

G. PEN: It flows off the tongue, HamWash

A. GRAFF: HamWash, yeah. I'm going to name my first son HamWash.

G. PEN: Well thank you Meg and Ashley, please join us for our Burr talk, will you?

M. SMITH: Sure!

A. GRAFF: Uh, yeah.

B. SO: Perfect!

G. PEN: And you can find us on our brand spanking new website, thehamilcast.com.

B. SO: Thank you, Meg, again.

G. PEN: And Meg, where can we find you and your store, your Etsy store?

M. SMITH: You can find me at sweetladydesigns.com, it has a link to my Etsy store, my web design, everything

G. PEN: And in real life, where can we, if, New Yorkers, where can we buy your cards?

M. SMITH: The Museum of the City of New York, uptown, on the east side.

B. SO: Perfect.

G. PEN: Perfect. I am @GillianWithAG on everything.

B. SO: I am _BiancaJean_ on Twitter and Instagram

G. PEN: And thank you guys so much for listening, we will talk to you soon! I am G. Pen

B. SO: I am B. So

A. GRAFF: I am A. Graff

M. SMITH: And I am M. Smith

B. SO: Later!

G. PEN: Bye!

A. GRAFF: Bye!

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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]

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