

Clapcast 45: Never Ending Pasta Math (May 2021)

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Keith: Mmm, I think it's still real.

Jack (overlapping): The never ending pasta pass—(changing vowel sound) pasta pass costs one hundred dollars plus tax, and also—

Keith: It's funny, you have the reverse A's on that.

Jack: I do! Pasta pass. Yeah.

Keith (overlapping): You have pasta pass (pronunciation guide: pæsta poss), and we have pasta pass (pronunciation guide: pōsta pæss). [Laugh]

Jack: Yeah. Absolutely. That's—[laugh]

Keith: We flipped them! [Continues laughing]

Jack: That's called the international pasta switch.

Keith: Yeah.

Jack: They teach new linguistics students about it. Hi Austin!

Austin (overlapping): Hello.

Jack: Austin—

Keith: Part of what happens when you cross the pond is the A's rotate.

Jack: Yeah, it's—it's bizarre! Um...how much—

Sylvi: That's what "Turn A Gundam" is about. [Laugh]

Austin (overlapping): Yes.

Jack: [Laugh] Uh-huh.

[**Keith** laughs]

Sylvi: 'Cause the A's rotate, and—yeah.

Jack: How much...do you think—how *long* do you think a one hundred plus tax unlimited pasta pass lasts you?

Sylvi: I mean, I—I wanna say forever, but I feel like that's—

Austin (overlapping): No, a hundred bucks—

Keith (overlapping): Right, it's unlimited.

Austin (overlapping): —a hundred—*a hundred*—

Keith (overlapping): Unlimited means forever.

Austin (overlapping): No, a hundred is—that's, like, a single seating. A hundred? *Dollars*? Is no money. [Pause]

Keith: For—

Austin: Yeah.

Keith: —for Olive Garden?

Austin (overlapping): That's—they're not give you *infinite*—

Keith: Their pastas—

Jack: Okay—

Keith: —their pastas are fifteen dollars a plate.

Austin (overlapping): Okay, in a *month*.

Jack (overlapping): So he's what I'll—

Austin (overlapping): In a *month*, maybe. Maybe a week!

Jack: Here's what I'll tell you. Let me see if it changes things.

Austin (overlapping): Yeah.

Jack: The lifetime pasta pass costs five hundred dollars.

Austin (overlapping): Oh.

Sylvi: Okay!

Austin: Then a—[sigh]

Sylvi: I'm gonna with a year for the standard, then.

Jack: Okay, Sylvi says a year.

Sylvi (overlapping): If there is a separate lifetime one.

Austin: How long does the lifetime one last?

[Pause]

Jack: (Laughing) Good question.

Austin (overlapping): Because that's how they get you.

Keith: It expires—they come to your deathbed and they take it from you. [Laugh]

Austin (overlapping): Well, you know, we live in a world in which—

Keith (overlapping): And then you die.

Austin (overlapping): —a company that—companies that make things like backpacks will say that there's a lifetime guarantee, and they do not mean your lifetime. They mean the lifetime of the product.

[Pause]

Keith: Yeah.

Austin: That's—that's how they get you.

Jack: That sucks!

Austin (overlapping): Yes. And so, my question is, is this the lifetime of the person who eats the pasta, or a (laughing) lifetime of the *pasta*?

Jack: (Laughing) Of the pasta.

Keith: There—I—the other way that people mean lifetime, though, is like a really long set amount of time, like fifty years.

Austin: Right, well that—

Sylvi (overlapping): Yeah...

Jack (overlapping): Sure...

Austin (overlapping): Yeah. Yes. Exactly. [Pause]

Jack: So...

Austin: I still wanna say—for a *hundred bucks*, maybe it's a year. [Pause]

Keith: Can I say this? I don't—I don't—I don't very much like the Olive Garden. But if the lifetime five hundred dollar pasta pass is that good—

Austin (overlapping): Oh, I would get it.

Keith: —I would—I might just go there every day—

Jack (overlapping): Yeah...

Keith: —and just get it. I'd just be like "Okay, that's my food for the rest of my life."

Austin (overlapping): So I feel like I've read this, and there are limits on the lifetime pass.

Jack: Yeah...

Austin: There are things that are like “You can’t come every day.”

Jack (overlapping): And they release a few of them, as well.

Austin (overlapping): Yeah, they only release like six a year, or something, right?

Jack (overlapping): (Laughing) “You can’t come every day.” Bullshit. Um...they release...[sigh]

Austin: I wanna google this, but I can’t, ‘cause I’ll find out if I’m—I’m gonna commit so I can google this. That’s what I’m gonna do. I’m gonna commit to a hundred dollars...is...

Keith (overlapping): To figuring this out?

Austin: A hundred dollars for the—what is it, the unlimited pasta pass?

Jack: The never-ending pasta pass.

Austin: Oh, that’s not unlimited. That’s different than never—never-ending and unlimited—

Jack: No...

Austin: —feel distinct.

Jack: Well, so, (reading) “The never-ending pasta pass...”

Keith (overlapping): “Never-ending” seems like until the end of time.

Jack: “...costs one hundred dollars plus tax [**Keith** chuckles] and offers guests tktktk of unlimited pastas and sauces from Olive Garden’s Never-Ending Pasta Bowl menu. The deal also comes with unlimited—”

Austin (overlapping): Okay, so there’s already—there’s already a limit.

Jack: “—soup or salad and breadsticks.” There’s already a menu—yeah, uh-huh.

Austin (overlapping): Because you can only buy from this limited menu. You can’t get *any* pasta.

Jack (overlapping): I can’t go in there and say “One rotisserie chicken,” or something.

Austin (overlapping): I mean, it’s a pasta.

Keith: But I feel—I feel like that is—that’s always gonna be a part of it. It’s always gonna be “Unlimited from this list of stuff.”

Austin (overlapping): “From this list of basics.” So, like if they have a yearly special—

Keith (overlapping): Right.

Austin: —lasagna, or a seasonal ravioli, that's not gonna be on the unlimited list.

Jack: And I *want* that, right?

Austin: To—you're gonna have to pay...

Jack (overlapping): If someone says to me "This is our seasonal ravioli—"

Austin (overlapping): Yes.

Jack: —I'm like "Yes, please." I'll tell you—

Keith: They have...

Jack: (Reading) "One hundred dollars plus tax for the never-ending pasta pass offers guests *nine weeks—*"

Austin (overlapping): (Muffled) Okay.

Jack: "—of unlimited (laughing) pasta—"

Austin (overlapping): So two—little over two months.

Jack: *Bullshit!*

Austin: Uh-huh.

[Pause]

Keith: That's a lot of pasta, honestly!

Austin (overlapping): Is it daily?

Jack: But compared to *five hundred dollars*? Is it daily? I don't—I don't know, is it daily?
Um...(quieter) never-ending...

Keith: No, that's the hundred-dollar one! The five hundred dollar one's lifetime. Lifetime can't be nine weeks.

Jack (overlapping): Yeah, the five hundred dollar one's—

Austin: No, that's what—Jack is saying...

Jack: No, lifetime is—as far as I can tell...forever. [Pause] What I'm saying is the cost—the cost differential between one hundred for nine weeks, and (laughing) five hundred dollars for one *human lifespan*...[**Keith** laughs] is weird.

Keith: Yeah. Well, it's a combination of two things. It's the combination of the gym membership scam, which is that you'll sign up for a gym membership—

Austin: Right.

Keith: —and then pay forever even though you end up not going.

Jack: Sure, uh-huh.

Keith: And then, also, that pasta is basically free food. It doesn't almost cost anything to make pasta.

Jack: Yeah...(Reading) "Can I use the pass at Olive Garden locations outside of the continental United States?" Well I'm learning something new just by the question. [**Austin** laughs] Ugh, no. It is only valid (laughing) in the continental United States.

Keith: That's because nowhere except the United States needs something called a "Lifetime Unlimited Pasta Pass." [Laugh]

Jack: I mean, honestly. I'd like one!

[**Austin** chuckles]

Keith: I kinda would like one too.

Jack: But again, I'd like them to give me one—

Keith (overlapping): I haven't been in years. They discontinued the only thing that I really liked from them. They had this, like, sweet pork dish. It was like the—it was like pork veneto, I think it was called. And it was like, this—this, like, you know, cut of very tender pork, and a couple decent sides, and it was like, you know, it was, like, thirteen bucks, and it was a totally *fine* dinner. And they got rid of it, and that was the only thing I ever really liked at the Olive Garden.

Austin (overlapping): Do you think that—

Jack: That's quite—that's quite sad.

Austin (overlapping): Do you think that they—

Keith (overlapping): The breadsticks are so bad that I can't—I mean—

Austin (overlapping): I don't like the breadsticks. Yeah. Compared to like—

Keith: They make—they are so salty they made me cough.

Austin (overlapping): Contrast that to the cheddar bay biscuits from Red Lobster, which are...

Jack: Oh!

Austin: ...so dense with butter—

Jack (overlapping): Never been to Red Lobster.

Austin: —that they make you want to die—

Sylvi (overlapping): Oh my gosh...

Austin: —but you'll eat another one. They're so good.

Sylvi (overlapping): They're so good, is the thing...

Austin: You know—[sigh]

Jack: American casual...casual dining is great, [**Keith** and **Austin** laugh] actually.

Keith: (Laughing) I *big* disagree. [**Jack** laughs] I hate it. [**Austin** laughs] I mean I *go*. I don't not go. But I do hate it. I mean, there's—there's wildly varying quality. Like, you know, the...the 99 is different than the Olive Garden, fundamentally.

Austin (overlapping): Uh-huh.

Jack (overlapping): Sure. Yeah.

Keith: Which is that the Olive Garden has—you know, maybe it has a steak that's fine, but you sure shouldn't have chicken there.

Jack: Yeah. Definitely.

Austin (overlapping): The Olive Garden steak—

Keith (overlapping): But the chicken at Olive Garden is fine.

Austin (overlapping): —when I was growing up—so I went through a period where I didn't like pasta because I ate nothing but pasta (laughing) for a few years. Because we were broke as shit.

Jack: Sure, that'll do it.

Austin: And so, when we got—

Sylvi (overlapping): Yeah...

Austin: —to the Olive Garden stage of, like—the Olive Garden-once-every-three-months stage, I was like “I'm getting a steak. I'm not eating pasta.” And they had a thing called the Tuscan T-bone that I *loved*. And I don't think it's on the menu anymore, but it was great.

Keith: Yeah, they get rid of all the good stuff. Whenever someone genuinely likes something—

Austin (overlapping): Mhm.

Keith: —they find out and they get rid of it. [Laugh]

Austin (overlapping): That's how it works. The—here's the other way that the—

Keith (overlapping): Yeah.

Austin: —that the lifetime pass thing works, is you *have* to buy a never-ending pasta pass to be eligible for the lifetime.

Jack: Yes. Uh-huh.

Austin: They release twenty-four thousand never-ending pasta passes—the nine week passes.

Keith: Oh...

Sylvi (overlapping): Oh my god!

Austin (overlapping): You *have* to buy one of those, and *then*—

Keith: But, it's an upgrade.

Austin: Exactly. Exactly. The first fifty pasta pass holders...

Keith (overlapping): It's not a—one hundred, then five hundred.

Austin: If you're one of the first fifty to get the twenty-four thousand—one of the twenty-four thousand, then you can upgrade. You're notified that you're one of the first fifty—it's like a sneaker drop—and you can get the upgrade, to...

Jack: (Laughing) Hype beast—Olive Garden hype beast.

Austin: And at that point, you're gonna say yes, right? Because you're gonna be like “Whoa—”

Jack: Yeah! Of course you would!

Austin (overlapping): “—I was one of the first fifty? Hell yeah I'm gonna try to get the...lifetime pass.”

[Pause]

Keith: I think I'm gonna try this.

Austin (overlapping): They next time they do these—the next drop...

Keith: The next drop, I gotta—I gotta try for it.

Austin: Hundred bucks. Hundred bucks to get in the drawing.

Keith (overlapping): Yeah. That's—I mean...

Jack: Sort of buy into the ticket, yeah...

Keith: If I—if I can commit to being just like—

Austin (overlapping): How many meals...

Keith (overlapping): —an Olive Garden person...

Austin (overlapping): Yeah, that's the thing is, how many meals is it [**Sylvi** and **Keith** laugh] before it pays for itself?

Keith: I can save some genuine money.

Austin: You can—you have to have...bought five hundred dollars' worth of basic pasta meals from Olive Garden before it pays for itself.

Jack: Well, so, here's the thing—

Austin (overlapping): Do you see what I'm saying?

Jack: [Laugh] Or you have to have bought five hundred pounds' worth of meals—dollars' worth of meals, right?

Austin: No.

Jack: Of food.

Keith: Oh my god.

Austin: No. Wait, what are you—

Keith (overlapping): This is a very funny sentence.

Jack: Well, if I'm eating *every single meal* at the Olive Garden—

Austin: Yes.

[Pause]

Jack: I'm not—I'm not doing a food shop. [Pause]

Austin: You're—so you're, like, in the Olive Garden every night—

Jack (overlapping): Like I'm not buying my...

Austin: —in this scenario. You're eating rigatoni—

Jack (overlapping): Yes! Sick!

Austin (overlapping): —(mispronounces) cavtapi—or, cavatappi, spaghetti, angel hair, gluten-free rotini, or fettuccine every night. 'Cause those are—that's what you get.

Jack: Uh-huh!

Austin: That's *it*.

Jack: Yes?

Keith: Yeah.

Jack: Uh-huh.

Austin (overlapping): Maybe you can get meatballs on top—

Keith (overlapping): Okay, this is fun. Here's the—

Austin: —maybe you get Italian sausage on top. Maybe you get good old chicken, or—

Jack (overlapping): That's a little treat for me. [Laugh]

Austin: But that's *it*!

[**Dre** laughs]

Jack: Yup.

Keith: Oh, and let's not forget about—you're paying tip—

Austin (overlapping): And you're paying tips every night.

Jack (overlapping): I call it "Jack's hell."

Keith (overlapping): —every night, you've paid full price for this.

Dre (overlapping): That one's for Jacks.

Austin (overlapping): And drinks. There's not drinks on this. [**Jack** laughs] You don't get free drinks.

Jack: And drinks. Yeah.

Austin: And if you're there with someone else—

Jack: Right.

Austin: You don't pay, they do.

Keith (overlapping): I'll have the water, thanks. [Pause] Yeah. So, this is what—this is what some of the Facebook commenters have figured out. People calculating for their whole family, quote "For a mere twenty-five hundred dollars, we can *all* eat at OG every night for the rest of our lives. At a dollar a box of pasta, it's paid for itself in less than seven years."

[**Austin** laughs, **Sylvi** groans, **Keith** cracks up]

Austin: See, this is the thing.

Sylvi: Oh, no...

Austin: Uh-huh. This is the thing.

Dre: God...

Sylvi: That is...that is—ugh...

Austin (overlapping): There's not even enough things on this menu to have a different basic pasta every night of the week. You're looping in a week.

Keith: That's the problem.

Austin: In under a week. Every six days—

Keith (overlapping): Yeah.

Austin: —you loop back around.

Keith: And...

Sylvi: Why would...

Keith: So that's the problem, and then you're also factoring in—

Austin (overlapping): Yeah.

Keith: —that you've got to tip the waiter, and that's gonna be money...

Austin (overlapping): That's still cheaper than groceries, I get it.

Keith (overlapping): ...and then, on top of that...

Austin: But like, you're gonna need groceries for other meals, you're not gonna, like, roll into the Olive Garden three—

Keith: Yeah.

Austin: Right?

Dre (overlapping): God, I hope you do.

Jack: You're a coward, Austin.

Keith: And then it's like—

Austin (overlapping): *Salad* isn't even involved—isn't even in here—

Keith: —it's so...

[**Jack** laughs]

Austin: You don't even get a *salad*.

Keith: They do free salad and breadsticks.

Austin: Oh, okay. Okay.

Keith: Don't they?

Austin: Okay. Okay. Okay. Unlimited—yeah.

Keith: Yeah. That's why the breadsticks are so bad—

Austin (overlapping): Eh, you know what, unlimited servings of soup—

Keith (overlapping): —and the salads only have one slice of tomato unless you ask.

Austin (overlapping): —of soup or salad and breadsticks, that's not—you know what? I'm back on—I'm back in. [Laugh]

Jack: The soup—how often is the soup gonna change?

Keith: Yeah, I've—

Austin (overlapping): I'm back.

Dre (overlapping): [Laugh] Austin's back!

[Jack laughs]

Keith: And I'm out. I believed—I imagine that they have several soups a day.

Austin: That's what I'm saying. The soup might save this for me.

Jack: (overlapping): Ooh...sure.

Keith (overlapping): Yeah.

Keith: Yeah. And—and, uh...I'm back out, because I'm thinking now how cheap it is to just make pasta at my house.

Austin (overlapping): Dirt cheap.

Keith: And I can make a delicious red sauce—

Austin: Yes.

Keith: —in like, twenty minutes, so...

Jack: How much pasta could five hundred (laughing) dollars buy me at Costco?

Austin: Enough for a year. Like, enough for—just pasta?

Keith: Yeah. Just pasta. Well, you can get—you can get pasta for a dollar a box. You can get pasta for three dollars a box. You can get pasta for seven dollars a box.

Austin (overlapping): Yeah, and each of those boxes is more than one meal worth of pasta, frankly.

Jack: Oh, yeah, totally.

Austin (overlapping): You know what I mean? So...

Keith (overlapping): Right, it's like three. At least. Yeah.

Austin: You're good, for...

Keith: Yeah.

Austin: A while.

Keith: I like to—I like to buy the slightly more expensive pasta, and then save money by making my own sauce.

Austin (overlapping): Sure, that makes sense.

Keith: And then my own sauce is better than the can-bought sauce, anyway.

Sylvi (overlapping): (Muffled) Yeah...

Keith: It's just—it's just tomatoes—

Austin: Yeah.

Keith: —and *stuff*. You get—you get crushed—you get—not crushed, you get whole tomatoes, take out the middle bits that are kind of yellow, and then you get a big thing of sauce for the—for, you know—and then put salt and oil in it, and you're done.

Sylvi (overlapping): This is the secret the Italians have been hiding. It's just tomatoes.

Keith: Yeah, they've been hiding that you can make—you can make tomato sauce out of tomatoes.

Jack (overlapping): [Laugh] It's just tomato.

Sylvi (overlapping): It's just tomatoes!

[**Austin** laughs]

Keith (overlapping): It's just tomatoes.

Austin: They don't want you to know!

Keith: (Laughing) They really—

Austin: They don't.

Keith: —it's just tomatoes!

[**Jack** laughs]

Jack: You go to a new land, and you say—

Keith (overlapping): They don't—what, they don't hide that?

Austin (overlapping): They don't want you to know.

Jack (overlapping): —“What's in this?”

[**Austin** laughs]

Keith: Yeah, oh okay, (laughing) they don't want you to know. [**Austin** laughs] “What's in this tomato sauce? It tastes delicious.”

Jack: Who could say?

Keith: Who could say? Yeah, we don't know.

Jack (overlapping): British person coming here and asking us what's in our tomato sauce? No.

Keith: It comes from a can—just one day tomato sauce—cans of tomato sauce started showing up [**Austin** chuckles] and we just dumped it on our pasta, [**Jack** laughs] and now we're famous.

[**Austin** continues laughing]

Jack: I think I'm just compelled by whenever someone says “If you give us X amount of money, you can have this...forever?”

Austin: Forever. Yeah, sure.

Keith: Yeah.

Jack: 'Cause futurity is compelling. It's as frightening as it is compelling.

Keith (overlapping): I do have...I do have a little bit of a—I do have a bit of an angle on that, Jack. And that's what a *store* is. (Laughing) That's what every store says.

[**Jack** and **Austin** laugh, then **Keith** cracks up]

Jack: “You give us a little bit of money...” Uh-huh. [**Keith** continues laughing] (Muffled) Yeah. I'm gonna have it forever.

Keith: I'm—I'm gonna buy—I'm gonna buy a chain of retail stores and I'm going to change all the marketing to say, like—like “Look, you can—you can—you can have this book. But if you give us X amount of money, you can have it [**Austin** laughs] *forever*.”

Jack: Forever. We—[laugh] we won't come and take it—

Keith (overlapping): Forever.

Jack: —away from you. [**Keith** laughs] [Groan] We're calling it “*sale*.” [**Austin** laughs] It's a new concept we've invented. [**Austin** continues laughing] [Pause] Why are you rolling a d100's Austin? Was that at the end of the last session?

Austin: Yeah. You'll—maybe, you'll find out. I don't know. That was not connected [Sylvi laughs] to anything you saw. I ended up not using them anyway, so it doesn't matter.

Jack (overlapping): Oh, you just—you just...

Austin: I was rolling something on a chart.

Jack (overlapping): ...decided to (laughing) roll some d100's at the end—

Austin (overlapping): I was rolling on a d—on a hundred-sided chart—

Jack: Oh, sure.

Austin: —for something, but I'm probably—

Sylvi (overlapping): Yeah...

Austin: —I probably made choices that were not in line with that anyway. Um, should we time.is?

Jack: (Yawning) Let's do it.

Keith: Yeah.

Jack: I just realized, sitting down to record—

Sylvi (overlapping): Sure.

Jack: —that my desktop background is a Stålenhag picture.

Austin: Wow. Which one?

Keith: Really?

Dre: (Intrigued) Mmm...

Jack: It's a...the...kid carrying a PC monitor into a house, and there's a *massive* ship floating in the sky behind him.

Austin (overlapping): Ah, that's a good one. Yeah.

Keith: My desktop background's Goku from Dragon Ball Z.

Jack: Hell yeah!

Dre (overlapping): Hell yeah.

Austin (overlapping): It's Goku. [Laugh]

Sylvi (overlapping): I have...the default factory one...

Jack (overlapping): Carrying a PC (laughing) monitor into a house...[laugh] What's that?

Sylvi: I still have my default, like, factory one. I still haven't changed it.

Austin (overlapping): *Sylvi!* [**Keith** laughs] Sylvi.

Jack: Damn.

Keith: Really? That doesn't—that doesn't seem like you.

Austin (overlapping): No, that doesn't seem like you.

Sylvi (overlapping): I know!

Austin (overlapping): Are you the real Sylvi?

Jack: We could—Sylvi, we could take five minutes *now*. [Laugh] We could—

Sylvi (overlapping): No, it's alright.

Keith (overlapping): Yeah, do you want to take some time to pick a background?

Sylvi: I'm gonna think way too much about this. On my old desktop...

Keith: (overlapping): I'm sure you could find, like, Jar-Jar Binks as a catboy if you want.

Sylvi: Oh, *god*. Why would I want that, Keith?

Keith: I don't know, that just seems like something you'd do. [Laugh]

Austin: Wow.

Sylvi: I mean the catboy thing, kind of...but...

Keith: Yeah. Well, you would—here's what it is. Here's what it feels like—is that *you* would find a desktop background that someone else would say "Why would you do that?" *to you*.

[**Sylvi** cracks up]

Austin: Did you know that in "Legends"—

[Timestamp 00:15:00]

Sylvi: Fair.

Austin: —Anakin was friends with someone named Catboy, who was...

Sylvi: No fucking way!

Austin (overlapping): ...this cat character? [Laugh]

[**Keith** laughs]

Jack (overlapping): Absolutely not. No. He was a—he was a cat character?

Austin: (Reading) “Catboy was an unidentified child of a feline species who lived in Mos Espa, Tatooine. He counted Anakin Skywalker and W. Wald—” who is a—who is a Rodian...

Jack (overlapping): Oh! It’s—it’s Garfield!

[**Keith** laughs]

Sylvi: Oh my god!

Austin (overlapping): Yeah, it’s a Garfield.

Keith: [Laugh] Unidentified according to “Legends” or unidentified even to Anakin?

[**Austin** and **Jack** laugh]

Austin: I think Anakin knew!

Jack: “I don’t know who he is!”

Keith: I don’t know, they called him Catboy—

Austin: Uh-huh.

Keith: —so maybe not.

Austin: Anyway, I did a search for “Jar Jar catboy” and did not find a single catboy Jar Jar.

Dre: Yeah, there’s nothing.

Jack: Bullshit!

Keith: Well I guess that’s why it’s none of our backgrounds.

Austin (overlapping): Right. That’s why. Someone has to fix this. [Sigh] *God*. Alright. We should clap.

Jack: Let’s do it.

Austin: Uh, let’s do...let’s do thirty?

[Pause]

[Several discordant claps]

Austin: Alright.

Jack: Oh, yikes!

Austin: What?

Keith: Something wrong?

Jack: Sounded like three separate claps to me—

Austin: Uh-oh.

Jack: —but I...

Keith: It did not sound like a great clap.

Austin (overlapping): Okay, we can do another one.

Dre: Yeah.

Austin: Uh...let's do forty-eight.

[Pause]

[Several discordant claps]

Austin: That...

Keith: That one was a little...

Austin: ...that was way worse—

[**Jack** laughs]

Keith: That was still bad.

Austin: —than the first one to me. It'll be fine. [**Jack** continues laughing] Thank you Ali.

[Pause]

Keith: I had a good—good espresso before we started. That's always a nice one when I do it right.

Dre: Oh, that sounds...wonderful.

Keith (overlapping): I feel like I've had this machine for, like, ten months now, and I'm still...like, not (laughing) a hundred percent on it.

Austin: Hmm.

Keith: It's hard. Espresso is hard to do...

Austin (overlapping): Yeah...um...okay.

[Transition music]

Jack: Oh my god! So here's the fucking thing...[sigh] I've been playing Super Mario 3D World, which I was playing for the first time when we were recording the first ever episode of Friends at the Table? In 2014?

Austin (overlapping): Oh, wow...

Sylvi (overlapping): Oh, wow.

Jack: I mean, not as we were—

Austin (overlapping): The *energy*.

Jack: —not as we were playing. That—you know. Before, or whatever. [**Ali** laughs] And...I hit a level that I had not played before—'cause I didn't get all the way through the game, and it's called "Chain Link Charge." And it is an—

Ali: (Quiet) Oh...

Jack: —auto scroller. So—[laugh] so those suck, first of all. And it requires you to be like cat Mario climbing up and down these chain links—

Austin: (Quiet) Oh...

Jack: —as the level is scrolling. I went into this level with twenty one-up mushrooms. Like twenty life, or whatever.

Austin: Lives, yeah.

Jack: And I left it—I left it with five.

Austin: Mmh.

Jack: Like, this level is (laughing) so hard. [**Austin** laughs] And I got it in the end, but I was—I'm...I'm not a controller-throwy or break-y person, [sound of dice rolling] but I was sitting there like—I was steamed.

Austin: Oof.

Jack: Not having a good time with the—[sigh] with that little plumber.

Austin: (Laughing) I am sorry.

Jack: Fuck that guy. [Laugh] Although, [**Austin** laughs] I think the next level is a Boo—is a ghost house or whatever, so that'll be cute.

Austin (overlapping): Oh, those are fun. Yeah, ghost houses are—

Jack (overlapping): Yeah! You know, I love Mario games. I think they're really exciting. It is just really funny that, like, past a certain point they're just like "And then we're gonna (laughing) hit you in the head with a hammer."

Austin: (Laughing) Mhm.

Ali: Mmm...

Austin: Hm. One second, I'm gonna finish eating a snack.

Ali: Oooh, what's the snack?

Austin: A donut.

Jack: Oh my god!

Ali: [Gasp] Snack talk! Ooh.

Austin: I got a donut this morning. I saved it for now. I got a glazed donut.

Ali: That's so smart...

Austin: Mhm. [Ali laughs] Thank you. I thought really hard [Ali laughs] about it. Yeah...

Jack: Professional podcaster.

Austin: I was like "I'm gonna get a breakfast sandwich, and also one donut. For right before the podcast."

Ali (overlapping): Yeah...that's the stuff.

Austin: Mhm.

Jack: I have two thirds of the theme pretty much—pretty much finished. They, like—

Austin (overlapping): Hell yeah.

Jack (overlapping): —need business on them.

Ali (overlapping): (Sing-song) So exciting...

Jack: I don't know what the last third is, and I'm just hoping that I'm gonna write up to it, in terms of measures, and then I'll know. But right now I have—

Austin (overlapping): Mmm...

Jack: —no idea what the back end of this thing is. Um...but it's going really well. There's a lot more...I spent today trying to fix, like, a bunch of tempo errors that were in the demos, Austin. Where it's like—

Austin: Ooh, yeah. Uh-huh.

Jack: I want it to sound off-kilter, but I want people to be able to track where the beats are.

Austin: Right.

Jack: And so, it was one of those days where it was, like, no real forward progress but I'll be grateful that I made those...(laughing) edits.

Austin: Yeah—yeah, when it's time to listen to it. Mhm.

Ali (overlapping): Beats-schmeats. [Laugh]

Jack: (Laughing) What's that, Ali?

Ali: Do whatever you—I said beats-schmeats. You should do whatever you want.

Jack: *Beach meats?*

Ali: Nobody needs to hear those...

Jack (overlapping): Oh! Oh. Oh. I see, I see.

Austin (overlapping): "Beach meats" is a—means a different thing. You can't say "beach meats."

[Ali laughs in the background]

Jack: Yeah, beats-schmeats.

Austin (overlapping): What's—

Jack: Who needs 'em?

Sylvi: I'm so confused right now.

Ali (overlapping): Yeah...beats...

Austin: What?

Ali: ...beats comma....

Jack: With—with—

Ali: ...schmeats...

Jack: We got in the weeds. [Ali laughs]

Austin: We're gone. This is—we're off of this one. [Ali continues laughing] What's it called when a—when, like, a flower dies again? Like a flower—like there's a verb?

Ali: Wilting?

Austin: Wilting. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Jack: Austin, writing down "kill flower."

Austin: Kill flower. Uh, this is—this is for a tweet. Not for a—not for what we're about to do.

Jack: Oh, sure.

Austin: Alright, I'm ready to time.is.

Sylvi: Okay.

Jack (overlapping): Let's do it.

Ali: Ooh. Time.is...

Sylvi: [Chuckle] Jesus...

Austin: Uh-oh.

Ali: Goodbye, emails...

Austin: Bye emails.

Jack: You see this Tolstoy quote?

Austin: I do see this Tolstoy quote. "Time and patience are the strongest warriors."

Ali: It's true.

Austin: Who's the third strongest?

Sylvi: (Laughing) Goku.

Austin: Goku.

Jack: Yes.

[Everyone laughs loudly]

Ali: I mean, duh.

Austin: Oh...boy...

[Laughter continues]

Jack: Tolstoy said that too, right?

Dre (overlapping): I hope everyone was recording for that.

Sylvi: I was recording.

Austin: Okay. Good.

[Laughter dies down, starts up again]

Jack: [Laugh] Anna Karenina...

Austin: It's true, though. Goku—

Dre: It is!

Austin: Think about Goku in the [Ali laughs] hyperbolic time ch—*time* chamber.

Dre: Uh-huh.

[Ali laughs]

Austin: Being *patient* as he gets stronger...

Ali: Uh-huh...

Dre: As he flew to Namek—

Sylvi: Yeah...

Dre: —and just trained the whole time?

Austin: Uh-huh.

Ali: Twenty seconds.

Sylvi: Okay.

Austin: I closed time.is. I was done with it.

[Dre, Jack and Ali laugh]

Ali: (High pitched) You what? [Several claps in the background] Why would you do that?

Austin: I got it! I got there for twenty.

Jack: I didn't clap.

[Sylvi and Ali laugh]

Ali: (High pitched) Did you *close*?

Austin: 'Cause we were done. 'Cause we read the quote. The most important part.

[Laughter continues]

Dre: Yeah.

Austin: I heard about Goku...

Jack (overlapping): She's just, like, eyeballs...

Dre: Just thinkin' 'bout Goku!

Austin: Mhm.

[**Ali** and **Sylvi** continue laughing]

Sylvi: Oh my god...

[**Ali** laughs]

Dre: Can't clap, thinking about Goku.

Austin (overlapping): Forty-five. Forty-five. Yeah.

Ali: Okay, yeah.

Dre: Forty-five.

[Pause]

[Loud, synchronized clap]

Sylvi: Great start.

Austin (overlapping): I think Goku would be really good at clapping.

Sylvi: Oh my gosh...

Dre (overlapping): Oh, he would be.

Ali: Oh, yeah. [Laugh]

Austin: That would be sick. Um...

Dre: Instant transmission his hands together.

Austin: Yeah...boom! And then that would be it...[**Ali** laughs] for you...buddy...

[**Dre** and **Austin** laugh]

Sylvi (overlapping): I searched "Goku clapping" and I got a finger—picture of Goku giving the finger.

[**Austin**, **Jack**, and **Sylvi** laugh]

Austin: Good. Good.

Sylvi (overlapping): Good.

Dre: Oh, yeah. Uh-huh.

Austin: That's Goku Black. I think.

Ali (overlapping): Mhm.

Sylvi (overlapping): Oh, okay, I don't watch Super, so...

Austin: Me either, but I know who Goku Black is, [Ali laughs] 'cause I fear for my life, and I need to know...

Sylvi (overlapping): That's fair. I just, like—I'm sure I'd know if I played the fighting game or something.

Austin: That's actually why. Um...where's my—where is my fucking...

Dre: I can, uh—you know, if you got Goku Black questions, I can fill you in.

[Sylvi laughs]

Austin: Thank you.

Sylvi: It's—it's, like, another guy...in Goku's body...right? I feel like I—

Austin (overlapping): No.

Sylvi: Or, okay—

Austin: It's not that—no...no. I think you're thinking of...

Sylvi (overlapping): I thought that's what—what it was. Like, not like Goku—

Austin (overlapping): You're thinking about...

Sylvi: —not like Goku is taken over like a Ginyu situation...

Austin: Mmm...mhm.

Sylvi: But like, this guy's got, like—is in, like, Goku's form somehow.

Dre: Yes.

Sylvi: Okay, yeah. (Muffled) Why do I know that?

Austin: Do you want to explain the Goku Black situation?

Dre: Uh, I believe—okay, so it is—

Sylvi (overlapping): I feel like I did a good job. [Laugh]

Dre: You did. Specifically it is an apprentice Kai—and this is one of the apprentice gods in training—

Sylvi: Okay.

Dre: —thinks that, like, the role of the gods is to rule, like, humanity and other, like, non-godlike species with, like, an iron hand. And then he sees Goku show up and just, like—Goku beats the fucking shit out of him in a sparring match, and he freaks out [Sylvi laughs] and so then he wishes to become Goku to kill Goku.

Austin: And he becomes a Goku from a different universe, right? Because *our* Goku is still Goku.

Dre (overlapping): Oh, maybe.

Austin: That's how they can fight each other. That's a—

Ali: Oh...

Austin: There's, like, eight different universes or something and he becomes...he becomes, like, universe six Goku, or whatever.

Sylvi: God, see—

Dre: Yeah...

Sylvi: —this is where they lose me. Too many Gokus.

Dre (overlapping): Yeah...okay, well, yeah. He becomes—I don't know if he becomes a different Goku—

Austin (overlapping): Mmm...okay.

Dre (overlapping): —but he, like, exists in the universe that is, like, the pocket universe that was created when Trunks went back in time and changed the timeline.

Austin: Oh my god...

[**Ali** laughs]

Sylvi: Okay, if they're doing funny timeline shit, I might be back in.

Austin: Okay. Well, *and*...

Dre (overlapping): Yeah. It's—it's future Trunks, man. Hell yeah.

Austin (overlapping): And he goes Super Saiyan Rosé, so...

Ali: Mhm.

Dre: Yes he does.

Jack (overlapping): Rose?

Sylvi (overlapping): Okay...

Austin (overlapping): ...it's the best shit in the world...

Dre: Uh-huh.

Ali: Yeah...

Austin: It's the pink-haired Goku. It's sick.

Sylvi: Yeah, no. It's...it's—they made it so you could make a trans flag out of Gokus.

Austin: That's correct, yes. [**Ali** and **Jack** laugh] That was their intention.

Sylvi: Yeah...

Dre: *God* you're right. Jesus.

[**Austin** laughs]

Austin: It's—yeah. Uh-huh. [**Sylvi** laughs] All of Dragon Ball Super—if you take all the different super forms, right—

Dre (overlapping): Uh-huh. Yeah.

Austin (overlapping): 'Cause there's—the Ultra Instinct is white—

Dre: Uh-huh.

Austin: —and then there's Super Saiyan Blue Super Saiyan. Super Saiyan *God*—wait, it's Super Saiyan God.

Sylvi: I think that's Super Saiyan God Super Saiyan. 'Cause I think that was—

Austin: Yeah.

Sylvi: —in one of the Xenoverse games. That sounds familiar.

Dre: They're the same thing. So it's either Super Saiyan Blue, which I think is the English way to say it—

Austin: Oh, okay.

Dre: —and then...the Japanese translation to English is Super Saiyan God Super Saiyan.

Sylvi: Which I love.

Austin (overlapping): That's better. That's so fucking good.

Dre: Yeah.

Austin: Shut the fuck up, ???

[Timestamp 00:25:00]

Dre (overlapping): Because Super Saiyan God is a different thing than Super Saiyan Blue. That's red hair. Red hair is Super Saiyan God.

Austin: I see. So if you're both Super Saiyan God and Super Saiyan, then you're Super Saiyan God Super Saiyan.

Dre: Yeah, it's a Super Saiyan God that has gone Super Saiyan.

Sylvi Oh, man—

Austin: Yup.

Sylvi: —I know I said I wasn't into Super, [**Austin** laughs] but I might have to check out Dragon Ball Super...

Dre: Uh, Super has some, like, ups and downs in terms of quality. But when it hits, it is *good* Dragon Ball. [Laugh]

Sylvi (overlapping): I've seen the episode where Vegeta, Trunks, and Bulma go on a family vacation, [**Ali** laughs] and that's it.

Dre: Uh-huh.

Sylvi: And I felt like I got everything I needed out of it, but this sounds alright.

[Chair squeaks]

Austin: One day I'll get there. Okay! I'm ready to do a podcast.

Sylvi (overlapping): Okay.

[Outro music begins]

End

[Timestamp 00:25:58]