

EPISODE 1:

CORDELIA:

Hey y'all, I know you're all looking forward to Ellie and Cordie's Quarantine Unboxing Video.

ELEANOR:

Unfortunately, Cordie's webcam on her computer just. . .stopped working. So I made the executive decision to make this series into a podcast, you know, like any Millennial with a microphone would do.

CORDELIA:

If you're new here, hi! I am Cordelia, but you can call me Cordie, and this is my sister Eleanor.

ELEANOR:

But please, call me Ellie. Cordelia here is uh—a genius, really— an Linguistic Anthropology Grad Student —girl get those letters!—who has already has a degree in the Classics

CORDELIA:

I'm basically your life if you had read everything your English teachers ever mentioned, which is to say a hollow shell of a human with strained eyesight and actual papercut scars. But Ellie is our STAR!

ELEANOR:

Stop it! Actually, don't stop.

CORDELIA:

—she's a performer who does all kind of magical, amazing theater and circus things, she does tricks, she wears COSTUMES — she's doing a super secret immersive show soon with some crazy company out of Philadelphia called called Cirque du Nuit—

ELEANOR:

Thank you to my agent.

CORDELIA:

You are so welcome. Invoice is in the mail, My rates are very reasonable. Frankly I've got the time because we are stuck at home because of the plague!

ELEANOR:

Which is why we're ACTUALLY here, in your ears. To mitigate the boredom, we started making unboxing videos during Quarantine, and for some reason, people find us entertaining! What you are about to hear is the audio from the original unboxing video. I hope y'all find this as interesting as we did.

ELEANOR:

Hello friends! Welcome back to our Quarantine Channel. Today, as you all know, is an unboxing! With a twist!

CORDELIA:

Right, so we got a mysterious package in the mail. There's no return address.

ELEANOR:

But it's got our address, obviously.

CORDELIA:

Looks handwritten, but it's very neat and regular. It might be some kind of font or stamp or something.

ELEANOR:

And like, a few weird stamps - like old-timey mail stuff stamps, but otherwise nothing else on this box.

CORDELIA:

Right! No markings, or labels, or branding!

ELEANOR:

Which is totally weird, so we thought it would be fun to open it with all of you on our channel!

ELEANOR:

Yeah. Anyway, here is the box! It's a little heavy, whatever is in there is pretty solid.

SOUND: eleanor shakes the box

CORDELIA:

What are you doing? Don't shake it, what if it's fragile?

ELEANOR:

It doesn't say fragile on the package.

CORDELIA:

It also doesn't say, "Please shake me!" on it either!

ELEANOR:

Okay, okay, geez. Calm your breasticles.

CORDELIA:

My breasticles are fully calm, thank you. Give me the box.

SOUND: The scissors drop.

ELEANOR:

Scissors! I thought I was gonna be the one to cut it this time.

CORDELIA:

You almost sliced your finger off, last time! Let me do it.

ELEANOR:

No, let me!

CORDELIA:

Oh my god, fine! Slice your finger off! See if I care. I am NOT taking you to the ER where we are both going to catch the plague because you decided you wanted fewer fingers!

ELEANOR:

Chill, panic queen.

SOUND: Scissors cutting tape can be heard. the box is being opened

CORDELIA:

So, real talk, what do we think this is?

ELEANOR:

Severed body parts for sure.

CORDELIA:

Ooooh, what's in the box?

ELEANOR:

WHAT'S IN THE BOX? No, really, I'm pretty sure this is mail fraud, I've been reading about that.

CORDELIA:

Woah woah woah, what now?

ELEANOR:

It's that thing where scam companies mail shit so they can establish shipping records, looks more legit or whatever.

CORDELIA:

Is that really a thing?

ELEANOR:

Girl, it was all over Facebook like, three months ago. Where do you live, under a rock?

CORDELIA:

Yes, asshole, it's called Grad School.

SOUND: Loud thump, tear, the box is fully open.

CORDELIA:

So, inside, is a book.

ELEANOR:

Anticlimactic. Are you sure you didn't just order this for one of your classes?

CORDELIA:

Do you have any idea how much textbooks cost? Believe me, I track that shit.

ELEANOR:

Anything else inside?

CORDELIA:

There is also a piece of paper.

ELEANOR:

Oooh, let's read it!

CORDELIA:

There's letterhead on it. It reads, "Brigid Nimah O'Connor". Isn't mom's maiden name O'Connor?

ELEANOR:

Yeah, it is. I wonder if this is someone who's related to her.

CORDELIA:

Huh, weird. I've never heard the name Brigid at family gatherings.

ELEANOR:

Well, we solved one mystery! Someone who may or may not be related to us sent us this box, and it's just a book. Thankfully, the bomb squad doesn't have to come.

CORDELIA:

Well, was it her? What does the note say?

SOUND: paper unfolding.

ELEANOR:

It. . .it doesn't say anything. It's just a blank piece of paper. Very mysterious and spooky. I wonder what Brigid meant with this.

CORDELIA:

No idea. Did you know that the very first recorded Salem witch to be executed was named Bridget?

ELEANOR:

Thank you, well of Semi-Useful Knowledge.

CORDELIA:

My knowledge is very useful! Let's move onto the book.

ELEANOR:

It looks super old.

SOUND: book is lifted out of the box.

CORDELIA:

Here is the book, as you can see it's got this cool tan, brownish color. It smells like an old book.

ELEANOR:

The title reads, "The Legendary Handbook". Sounds exciting.

CORDELIA:

Let's open it up!

SOUND: they open the book.

ELEANOR:

It's. . . a little dusty.

SOUND: eleanor sneezes.

CORDELIA:

Don't sneeze all over the artifact! Get a tissue, you animal!

ELEANOR:

My sleeve is a perfectly good tissue, thank you.

CORDELIA:

You are nasty. Anyway, there's no author listed, no publisher or publish date but there is Brigid's name under "This book belongs to" on the inside cover. And. . .huh, weird.

ELEANOR:
What?

CORDELIA:
There's two more lines under her name.

ELEANOR:
Ooooh, spooky! There's two of us!

CORDELIA:
That doesn't automatically mean it's for us!

ELEANOR:
I guess. . .maybe Brigid knew we'd get our hands on it some day?

CORDELIA:
If Brigid is even related to us. Oh look! A publisher's note.

ELEANOR:
Let's read what this mysterious Publisher has to say.

ELEANOR:
(reading from book:)

"Publisher's Note

It is the request of the makers of this collection of instructions that neither the books nor authors be referenced or considered as the sources of the knowledge that lies within. That which has been always Known to itself cannot be said to be learned, but rather revealed, and however much the vantage point of a viewer may change or differ upon observation, the subject is not moved, save that it is recreated by experience upon the plane of many realities.

Similarly, the Truth of the contents is not to be refuted, as they are offered not as fodder for the low metric of the Objective but rather unstoppably permeate the space of real. In short; it is not for us to judge whether this knowledge is real, but rather for us to alter our reality by how this knowledge may judge it.

The Readers are encouraged not to get too hung up about this. In light of the persistence of our actual existences, it is only by the concentrated application of Will that anything that has been can substantively change that which we accept as now. "Once upon a time" remains bound into another time, until such time as one chooses to understand their now as inheritance. That being said, to allow the fabled past or imagainitive future to be entirely dismissed in favor of the now is to imprison oneself within the narrow confines of on person's life and and what may be

reasonably accomplished. The Readers must agree; there is no adequate reason to be simply reasonable. In light of the . . .para-para. . .

CORDELIA:

Para-ontological contents of this work, the Readers shall defend, indemnify and hold the authors, publishers, scribes and orators of THE LEGENDARY HANDBOOK harmless from any and all claims, injuries, damages, losses or suits including attorney fees or blood debts arising out of or in connection with the observation of, adherence to, or investment of credulity in the instructions, believes, or forbidden ken within contained.

Should a court of competent jurisdiction determine that this Agreement is subject to THKTT 4.24.115, then, in the event of liability for damages arising out of bodily injury to persons property or fabrics of being caused by or resulting from the concurrent negligence of the Readers, the makers of this volume shall be held to the liability hereunder only as it is articulated to the extent of the Contractor's negligence. It is further specifically and expressly understood that the indemnification provided herein constitutes the Readers' waiver of immunity under Existential Insurance, Title --: I can't even read that!

ELEANOR:

What even is that?

CORDELIA:

No idea.

(Reading from book)

solely for the purposes of this indemnification. This waiver has been mutually negotiated by the parties. The provisions of this section shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement, this Nation, this Story, and most certainly, this Reader(s).")

CORDELIA:

Um. . .well. . .that's. . .

ELEANOR:

This almost sounds like a contract.

CORDELIA:

Uh, what it sounds like is the weirdest shit I have ever heard! What in the ever living fuck is this thing?

ELEANOR:

Language! Remember we are a family friendly channel according to YouTube!

CORDELIA:

YouTube can suck my left nut. Turn the page!

ELEANOR:

Okay, okay! Wait. . .look, there's like. . .two little lines to sign our names at the bottom.

CORDELIA:

I think that's just to write your name in case you lose it or whatever. Still, I don't know that I have ever seen a book start with a disclaimer.

SOUND: grunting, fingers moving across paper.

ELEANOR:

What's wrong?

CORDELIA:

I can't seem to. . .The page won't turn. It's like it's glued down or something.

ELEANOR:

Hmm. . .can I try?

CORDELIA:

Sure.

SOUND: book is handed to eleanor.

ELEANOR:

Huh, you're right. What if. . .

SOUND: book is turned upside down.

CORDELIA:

Be careful!

ELEANOR:

Well, do you have any better ideas?

CORDELIA:

Maybe. . .nah, that would be crazy.

ELEANOR:

Maybe what?

CORDELIA:

Maybe we have to sign our names to turn the page?

ELEANOR:

That's. . . a little spooky. Let's do it!

SOUND: rustling. writing sounds.

CORDELIA:

AHAH!

SOUND: Page turning.

ELEANOR:

I can't believe that worked.

CORDELIA:

Maybe this is one of those joke magic books and it only works if there's new ink on the page?

ELEANOR:

Cordie, you don't have the Rona, do you? Are you delirious? That sounds a little far fetched, even for you.

CORDELIA:

I know. . . I just. . .

SOUND: PAGE TURNING.

CORDELIA:

Woah! I would like everyone to look at this! Show the camera!

SOUND: eleanor turns the book towards the camera.

ELEANOR:

Can you describe what you're seeing? I want to make sure we're seeing the same thing.

CORDELIA:

It's a picture of a giant clock. But there's more than numbers on the clock. . .there's symbols and letters, I think that's. . .Latin, maybe?

ELEANOR:

And in the center are the hands, right? That's what I'm seeing.

CORDELIA:

Yeah, I'm seeing the same thing. Let's see what the next few pages are.

SOUND: pages turning.

ELEANOR:

It's a list of a table of contents! Each entry seems to be advice on how to. . .well, everything, it seems like.

SOUND: PAGES TURNING.

CORDELIA:

There's so many contents.

ELEANOR:

Yo. . .

CORDELIA:

It occurs to me that this would be very difficult to sort in the Dewey Decimal System.

ELEANOR:

You are such a weirdo. Are you having like, Grad School war flashbacks?

CORDELIA:

You don't even know.

ELEANOR:

We should read one aloud!

CORDELIA:

Why don't we start with the first one?

ELEANOR:

I suppose it's best to start at the beginning, isn't it?

CORDELIA:

(reading from book)

"Entry one, If lost in the woods, here is how to find your way home."

ELEANOR:

Does it say which woods?

CORDELIA:

No, it just says, "woods".

ELEANOR:

Is there a map?

CORDELIA:

Will you let me read! This is only the first page!

ELEANOR:

Okay! Jeez.

CORDELIA:

(reading from book)

"If walking through the wood one day, and you happen to find yourself lost, it is of the utmost importance you alter your circumstance as soon as possible, so you may find yourself home. First, carefully assess your surroundings using the best available eyes.

ELEANOR:

"Best available" -- why do they say that? Am I supposed to have an extra set?

CORDELIA:

I don't know.

ELEANOR:

I'll just use the spare eyeballs I have in a jar and use them as a spyglass!

CORDELIA:

Shut up!

"Second, look to the sky, if sun is directly over head, congratulations! Simply place a rock within view of the sun and wait to see where the shadow lands. Stand perpendicular to the shadow, and viola! You are facing north. Once north, follow the moss to the left. Make sure the pine needles are facing the opposite direction of the moss."

What the fuck is this thing?

ELEANOR:

Maybe it's a children's bedtime book? Let me read!

SOUND: book passes hands to eleanor.

ELEANOR:

(reading from book)

"Once you have followed the moss and pine needles, you should find yourself oncemore on or bisecting to a main trail. Once on the trail, turn right, walk one hundred paces, and you should find yourself at the entrance to the wood, and safely make your way home. Please note that it is advisable to bring proper provisions if going for a walk in the woods, and perhaps a map, a compass, and or a guide."

CORDELIA:

What if you're lost in the woods at night?

ELEANOR:

Let's see if they have a dark mode!

SOUND: page turning.

ELEANOR:

(reading from book)

"If it is dark out, extend congratulations to yourself. You have made a bone-headed move, clearly have insufficient regard for your own life to make use of this book. The authors recommend that a coloring book may better align with the Reader's dumbassery, but until such time as one can be located: Stay out of the woods at night."

CORDELIA:

Some guide.

ELEANOR:

Yeah, but the author certainly has a sense of humor!

CORDELIA:

I wonder if Brigid wrote this.

ELEANOR:

We have to find out who she is, first!

CORDELIA:

That's true. Oh my god, look at how long this video is! We should cut it now.

ELEANOR:

Yeah, but I definitely think we should talk more about this book. This thing is freaky! I like it.

CORDELIA:

That's a great idea, Ellie! Leave a note in the comments if you want us to feature the book in our next episode!

ELEANOR:

Don't forget to like and subscribe, or whatever the kids do these days, I can't tell you what to do!

BOTH:

Toodles!

CORDELIA:

So, as you can tell, we were unable to post this video.

ELEANOR:

But we have decided we want to read an entry from this book every week, and document our experiences on here! It's going to be like a whole podcast series!

CORDELIA:

Right, until the external webcam I ordered comes in, which will take like, a week.

ELEANOR:

In which case it will be a very short podcast series!

CORDELIA:

Maybe in the future we'll bring in special guests, like our Mom!

ELEANOR:

The most special of guests. Okay, until next time, thanks for listening to whatever the fuck we opened!

CORDELIA:

Hope we're not cursed!

BOTH:

Goodbye!

SOUND: outro theme