

CHAPTER 61: THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

INTRO1

Graham: Hello everyone and welcome to the 10th Wonder Podcast! This is our Chapter 61 for the Heroes episode “The Butterfly Effect.” We’re coming at you once again this week. This is the first time we’ve ever done this—have two episodes in one week.

Derek: I was kind of wondering earlier this week if we’d ever done it. I couldn’t remember a time when we had.

G: We have not. This is an extraordinary thing for us to be doing. It was a first for Heroes to have two episodes in their premiere, so it’s a first for us to have two podcasts this week. So this is Part Two, we put our Part One literally a few hours ago and now we’re recording Part Two. We hope you guys enjoyed the first part for the first premiere episode, which was “The Second Coming.” Great episode. Unfortunately, I think this episode was just a tad bit better than “The Second Coming.”

D: It was better and I always feel bad saying that because I hate comparing writers, but when it’s the same writer writing both episodes in a row, we’re okay. [laughs]

G: [laughs] It was the same writer, different directors.

D: Yes.

G: But if you look at “Second Coming” and “The Butterfly Effect” and start to really look at the story, lots of things are different. There’s way more story in “The Butterfly Effect.” There’s way less story and more action in “Second Coming.” They’re two fundamentally different episodes, really.

D: A lot of the time when you have a season premiere that picks up just seconds after a season finale, that’s what that is really there to do—it ties up loose ends. The second episode is there to propel the story forward and that’s what we really got into with “The Butterfly Effect.”

G: I think that’s why we’re so much more excited about this episode because it really is moving us leaps and bounds forward from where we stopped in “Powerless.”

D: I think it was also new to us. We saw “The Second Coming” back in July at Comic Con, so we were excited to see something new.

G: So this was “The Butterfly Effect” absolutely no connection to the movie with Ashton Kutcher. Someone asked us that: “Is Ashton Kutcher going to be in this episode of Heroes?” I said, “No...that’s cute though.”

D: That's an old, old story. I can remember reading the butterfly effect as a kid there were stories about it. Angela even explains it in the episode the theory that if you go back in time, step on a butterfly...

G: She explains it as if she had read the stories. It is part of the popular culture because of that story itself. There's a lot going on in this episode. What were some of your highlights?

D: It would be impossible to sit here and tell everything that was so cool with it. I think Peter's storyline was very cool. I'm really enjoying Hiro and Ando meeting up with Daphne and it's a good comedic break, too. There's a lot of tension. There's a lot of intense things going on throughout these first two episodes, so that's a good break in the monotony. Tracy!

G: Wow.

D: Which is interesting for me to say because the Niki/Jessica aspect has not always been one of my favorite parts of the show.

G: We weren't all that clear in "The Second Coming" who this person was. We thought, oh, it's Niki with a different personality, because that's what we're used to seeing. She's been different people on the show but mentally, not physically. We're thinking that the story is leaning towards this is a completely different person that looks exactly like Niki.

D: Well, you gotta remember the events from "The Second Coming" were the same day as "Powerless" so it would be very difficult to be in that kind of position only a few hours later.

G: And there's some major spoilers out there that we're going to go over at the end of our podcast regarding kind of Niki's and Tracy's character. Those are your highlights?

D: Yeah, that pretty much sums it up for me. Definitely I'm buying into this whole Nathan thing, though. That's what's keeping me watching right now, very intently.

G: I like it. Some of my highlights, other than it's just one the greater episodes we've seen in a while, every scene with Angela and future Peter for me. I love it! I love having her being just a little more sinister than we've seen her in the past, but she's also very knowledgeable because of her power. We know now that her power is to have these dreams and see the future. She knows what's going to happen. If you think about it and we go back and watch every episode of Heroes with the thought in mind that she knows exactly what's going on, you'll probably watch it differently and wonder why, at the end of Season One she knew the bomb wasn't going to go off. She had dreamed about it.

D: It does go into detail when Joe and Aron tell us that you can go back into the opening minutes of the "Pilot" and you can figure out what her power is. It changes the whole

aspect of the show from her point of view completely, I know for me. And then instance in which it can change because she tells future Peter, “Now you’ve changed something and now everything’s different. The fact that it can happen that quickly.

G: We talked about that in part one of our podcast how things are uncertain right now because of what future Peter did. She said “Now something different happens and it’s all your fault. Now no one knows what’s going to happen.” She did have a dream in this episode that kind of says “This might happen” and it’s incredibly scary. It’s gruesome and gory and we already talked about it because it’s on the DVD but we’ll mention more in our Recap. But all the scenes with her and future Peter are absolutely great—filled with stuff we can absolutely pick apart, great dialogue, and she’s very knowledgeable and quick to remind him that his very presence in that time line is why everything is going so horribly wrong. The fact that he stays there after she says that is even more beyond me.

D: And like we said in the last episode, it does effect everything and another thing that’s a highlight for me that I didn’t mention, Matt, his whole storyline throughout the second episode I’m really enjoying too. He’s directly related to future Peter being in the present.

G: And his whole predicament in the dessert is a great thing and a lot more was explained about where he is and when he is in this episode and I enjoyed that a lot too. And it’s really funny if you go back and watch those scenes. Another big scene for me was the Claire video. She made a new video this time with a train and this time she had to use a tripod because nobody was there with her, helping her film it. I thought that was a little poignant thing. No one’s there.

D: Very much she feels like she’s alone at this point, but I don’t think anyone would have—I don’t think Zac would have agreed to that, I don’t think Wes. I mean, there’s one thing about jumping off the rigs, but to be hit by an oncoming train is a little different.

G: Great scene. I remember when we saw that and watched it in HD, we could immediately tell she was recording something and of course the stuff written on the bottom of the screen. And I just wanted to jump and say “Yes! They’re doing another one of these!” It’s such a great throwback to Season One, even the Pilot. Other than that, the biggest scene for me was the very last scene. Wow. What a huge reveal. I know that people have been speculating for a long time now that Angela and Sylar were a little bit closer. As far as Sylar being related to some of our other characters, we’ve been speculating for a while now about that and it’s so exciting to get some validation. But those were my highlights. Obviously we were excited about this episode because it was something brand new to us and we hadn’t seen it at all before Monday night. Hopefully, if all goes according to plan, next Monday’s episode will be even better because that’s how Heroes usually ends up going—each episode is even better than the last one and they top themselves every time. That’s all for the top of the show. Let’s move on to our Headlines.

HEADLINES

Graham: Our very first headline today is extremely cool.

Derek: Heroes has caused this huge boom in bit torrents all over the internet. This comes to us courtesy of Digg. Reports are coming in that after Monday night's premiere, bit torrent trackers from all over the world have had their business night ever with the Heroes episode being downloaded more than a million times in the span of 24 hours.

G: Wow. Of course, I think more people think because Heroes doesn't air internationally, immediately after it airs in the United States. It usually takes a few days or a few weeks even to go out. I heard from some of our U.K. friends that it's not coming on over there until October 1st or something like that.

D: I can't imagine having to wait that long for this.

G: I would not be waiting.

D: I know! I would be on the bandwagon, too, I have to say.

G: Most of the people in Europe and outside of the Americas are downloading these episodes and of course, we know NBC is probably not too happy about that, but what are they going to do? It's a big thing. Bit torrent is hugely popular. Being downloaded a million times is evident of how popular bit torrent is these days. Even Jesse Alexander had something to add to this. He talked to Torrentfreak.com, which is a very popular torrent news website. He said that "People watching shows such as Lost and Heroes on bit torrent is the present world reality. TV networks have to recognize this to give their viewers more ways to interact with the shows and find ways to generate revenue from the global audience.

D: Let me just say to me, Jesse is at the forefront of this whole new media thing.

G: Oh yeah.

D: He takes it and he makes it his own, so if he says it, it means a lot. Let me just say this about bit torrent, though? Take that, Nielsen ratings! That more than makes up for a lackluster rating Monday night.

G: Exactly. Just knowing that Heroes is popular in more ways than just on TV is so comforting to me. The fact that people can say Heroes had a bad night in the ratings, but even if we do, it was also downloaded a million times all across the world and on iTunes, it's still number one, and on Amazon, it's still number one. It's being watched millions and millions of times more than just when it premiered. Of course, that doesn't

mean too much to the Nielsen advertising companies and the firms that do all that, but I think that this is just a thing that's going to have to play out. In the future of broadcasting, it's all moving towards online content and interactivity an IP television and hopefully, shows like Heroes will be at the forefront of making sure this transition happens and making sure that the old Nielsen system and advertising system and generating revenue with just commercials and TV ads is slowly starting to go away. And they're coming up with all these new ways with popular shows like Heroes do well over multiple platforms of media. And Jesse Alexander knows all about that. HE runs a website called Globalcouch.com and that entire blog is just him giving his thoughts on what he thinks about this whole new media movement and how important that is. So, check that out. We are definitely supportive of Jesse and that website and also, we want to see all this stuff happen very soon—all of this new media stuff come to light. But that's all for the first headline. Our next headline is kind of the counter off of that. This is another negative Heroes story that we've been picking up on, but the interesting thing about this is that both of these stories I picked up last night. I had just posted our first part of the episode and just got on Digg because I usually just check the front page of Digg every now and then and there were two articles on the front page that were talking about Heroes. One was the torrent story. The next one was this story. And this one was very negative. I've been very surprised by how much negative press Heroes has been getting because of the performance of the premiere night ratings. What do you think about that?

D: I'm not buying into it. I think somebody's got a vendetta and is spreading rumors. The show speaks for itself. That was a strong comeback!

G: I think it's popular to find a show that's done really well and if anything doesn't go right, they'll say, "Look what happened here! They're falling from prominence." I think it's popular to hate on shows that have been successful in the past.

Show me a TV series—an hour-long drama—that didn't dip in ratings somewhere in Season Two and was very skeptical to come back for Season 3. Lost, everything has been like that. I'm not surprised, but I think the negative press will blow over quick.

G: Hopefully so. We mentioned last week Tucker's point that if people saw this episode and the ratings were low, people that did watch will tell their friends and maybe next week will be even better. All these negative stories—and there's a lot of them—it's just surprising to me how many people just don't want to see Heroes come back. When I saw those two episodes Monday night, I was very excited. I felt like the show was restarting, things were coming back, they'll find a groove again and it will absolutely blow us away all season. I'll read through it because I think it's important for you guys to know that this stuff is out there, that not everybody likes some of the stuff that happened on premiere night. They start off the article by saying that Heroes ratings fell more than 25% on Monday from its Season Two premiere, which I think is unfair because things change from season to season. Putting that aside, because the ratings did drop, they start to go through the reasons they think the show isn't doing well, which blows my mind because a) 10 million people watched it and b) it's being downloaded

millions of times across the world. They may not count, but the show is still doing well. They called the countdown show “gaudy and superficial” among other things and we’re putting it nicely here.

D: I think a clip show is usually better suited after something or in the middle. I think Heroes did a very good job. I enjoyed it and I’m not always one that enjoys those kinds of things. Some viewers are turned off by that kind of thing and we didn’t really know from commercials that we were going to be treated to that. If you weren’t really aware when you saw...

G: We were aware of it.

D: We were, but in the general population when you see “three hour premiere event,” they’re expecting the first episode to be three hours long.

G: Yeah.

D: You’re not expecting the first and second episode and this hour-long preview, so a lot of people might not have wanted to sit around and wait.

G: But specifically the guy that wrote this blog entry said that he feels like “How dare Heroes think that it’s so popular it needs a countdown show before its premiere!” I’m like, what about NBC wanting to do something special for the fans of this show? What I think NBC was trying to do and since we have some contacts with people who are involved with Heroes, we just know that they wanted to do something special.

D: That was for the fans. That wasn’t for Heroes. That was for the fans.

G: Yeah.

D: To me, NBC is synonymous with Heroes now and I haven’t felt that way about a show since Friends or Seinfeld was on NBC. That is really a flagship show, so when they’re doing something special for the fans like that, I’m impressed and I’m going to watch it and I did enjoy it.

G: Some people saw it that way like we did and some people saw it as a gaudy, superficial kind of event. I didn’t think that way, but this person did. The next thing he goes on to say is that the season as a whole has been overhyped. What are you going to do? If you put nothing out there, then no one’s going to know about it and if you put something out there, folks are going to think you’re overhyped it.

D: Here’s the general gripe I’ve been hearing from friends of ours, Graham, and I don’t agree with this because I enjoy this line of thinking: somebody saw something in the future, they’ve come back, we’ve got to fix it again.

G: “Oh, this again?”

D: Yeah, it seems like that's it. But it's different every time and it's still fresh. I'm not really buying into that criticism because there's nothing else like this on TV right now.

G: It holds no water to say "Oh, they're just following a template here. This is how every season starts." I don't believe that for a second. I think that people that have problems with storylines in Heroes just need to watch and see if what happens a little bit later, maybe even the next episode over. Things could change drastically.

D: I know we're not going to get in depth with this, but the trailer we saw at the end of "The Butterfly Effect" the scenes we saw coming up for episode 3 and later episodes? That's nothing we've seen on Heroes before.

G: Ever.

D: It's completely fresh. It's completely new ideas and no body can sit there and go, "Oh, they're doing this again." No sir. That is new stuff and I'm very excited about it.

G: Another thing they assert is that Season Two was so bad that 25% of the audience just isn't going to bother with Season Three. Are they crazy?! I understand why you can say that Season Two was slow and some people didn't like it, but I think those are fair-weather fans.

D: I think if anyone wasn't a fan of Season Two, they just weren't a Heroes fan to begin with.

G: Exactly!

D: You can have gripes with an episode, there are ones that aren't our favorites throughout the past two seasons, but I'm not just going to turn off the show because... You've got several factors here, you've got the writers strike, the show hasn't been around in nine months. That to me, was enough reason to have a clip show.

G: Exactly! Nine months away, we might remember what was happening or we might forget.

D: Heck yes we need a premiere event! Do you remember what happened nine months ago? A lot of people don't!

G: If I hadn't been doing a podcast or anything or hadn't paid attention to Heroes throughout the summer, I wouldn't have really remembered a lot, at least of the stuff that was important to know before the episode began.

D: Right.

G: They even go so far as to say that our culture as a whole is over saturated with super heroes these days, because of movies like “Iron Man” and “The Dark Knight” coming out. Are you looking for things to say about why Heroes is doing bad?

D: That’s not a legitimate gripe.

G: No, it’s not and if our culture is “oversaturated” and yet movies are making millions and millions of dollars, I think people want to see that.

D: To me, these aren’t superheroes. They are heroes, they have abilities, they’re not running around in capes and we’re not about to see them do that, either.

G: That’s what makes Heroes so great! It’s regular people and these abilities are just thrown in the mix.

D: Yeah!

G: The abilities are what makes them special and what makes this a sci-fi show, but if you took the powers away, this would be a pretty gripping drama in and of itself. Of course, it would be a little less interesting because sometimes the powers make it more interesting.

D: Oh yeah, then you’d just have ER. It’s a great dynamic, but you’re not going to see Peter put on a cape any time soon. There’s allusions to that—the jacket and him jumping off the roof, Hiro reading comics and talking about his destiny—but this is not a comic book superhero kind of show. This is very much ordinary people being thrust into something they don’t understand but having to take the reins of it.

G: We wanted to read this because a lot of these kind of negative articles don’t get any kind of response. The last thing in this article is that in order to restart the show and get the viewers back, we need to kill off Peter and Sylar.

D: [laughs] Okay! Let’s do that!

G: Are they insane?!

D: Peter and Sylar are why I’m watching more than anybody else. Why would you... Why? That’s not Heroes anymore!

G: Normally, we don’t cover a negative article with this kind of detail, but this was on the front page of Digg, right underneath the story about Heroes doing so well on bit torrent. It was actually kind of ironic. So, I thought that we needed to discuss that a little bit, but let’s move on to talking about Beeman’s Blog this week. He had a great entry into the blog this week because he directed this episode. Very long blog. He says that the episode was jam-packed with story but they had like a practical shooting style for it. There was no real super special things they had to do that took a lot of time to finish.

He says they only took 10 days to shoot this episode. He explains in great detail all that went into shooting the Claire video scene with the train. Read that if you're interested in how they made that scene. He also talks about the challenges of working around the actors' schedules. He said that Hayden Panettiere was away for a few weeks shooting a movie and Kristin Bell was away for months shooting in Rome, so they had to shoot many of Kristin Bell's scenes much later in August—even after Comic Con. Beeman says that her scenes ended up being particularly great for a number of reasons, but for one reason he could think of was because he had from May until August to think about how he was going to shoot them.

D: Let's keep in mind, that Joe and Aron even told us in San Diego that Kristin Bell had not come back yet, so they had still not filmed her scenes from episodes 2-8 and the numerous amount of time they had to film everything. Heroes got the jump start of filming and everything because when the writers' strike was gone. The next day they were back to work. And even though they were off [for the strike] you know they were thinking about where to go with the show. Also remember a few of these scenes were already done.

G: Right, what they'll do is they'll shoot all the scenes for the episode, but leave a little hole if there was a scene that involved Kristin Bell.

D: Well, that, too, but some of this stuff was already planned for the original volume three and just carried over when they resumed again. Some of these scenes were just plugged back in.

G: Greg Beeman goes on to talk about how they shot some of the scenes with Mohinder's new powers and how difficult some of those things were. He said it took 14 takes to get Mohinder's initial jump-down from the ceiling just right because Sendhil wanted to do the stunts himself. They say, well, if the actors do the stunts, you really want to show their face while they're doing the stunts, otherwise, why show the actor doing it? So, it took 14 takes and they finally nailed it on the last one and Sendhil celebrated. There was a great celebration afterwards that they might put on the DVD as an extra. As always, Greg Beeman is letting us in on how specifically they did certain things in the episode and it's a great inside look, so head over to gregbeeman.blogspot.com and check those out. He's also posted a ton of pictures behind the scenes pictures and they're usually really funny. That's all for our headlines!

[Recap of The Butterfly Effect]

TOPICS

Is Future Peter in Control?

Graham: Okay, welcome to our topics for "The Butterfly Effect." We believe this whole episode was meant to show the viewers that future Peter is seriously the reason behind all this happening and it's meant to show Peter, future Peter in this episode that he's not in control. So, is Future Peter in Control? That's kind of our topic to go off of. He came

back to stop the future Nathan created, but ended up changing things completely. So, what are the implications of it? And Angela is very quick to tell him that “Everything you’re doing, every single thing that you try to change is ending up making things a whole lot worse.”

Derek: I don’t think he’s in control. I think he is a pawn, to himself almost.

G: What do you think he’s doing in this episode? He’s doing the string theory that we see a lot in *Heroes*. He’s trying to figure out where he can go back to fix things. We know he’s not in control because of that scene. He’s panicking almost. He’s going back and trying to pinpoint all of this stuff—things that he’s affected—and pointing with the yarn kind of, what he needs to go back and change to fix everything, or at least to go back to the way they were. So that, instead of the world blowing up, maybe he’s just “I can live with the future I was in now. Now knowing I could screw up everything and destroy the whole world, it’s going to be on me. I need to fix this.”

D: Well, and I hate to invoke a little *Back to the Future* into this [no you don’t, Derek], but it’s very much when Marty—you people understand this if you watch *Heroes*, most people have seen *Back to the Future*—when Marty loses the sports almanac and loses it to Biff, in the future and they need to go back to the future to get it, the past has already happened, they have to go back to the past in 1955 because now there’s an alternate timeline so they have to go back to before that happened to make sure it never happened. So, that’s almost like what Peter’s trying to do here, trying to figure out where everything skewed off from the timeline to change and make everything right.

G: That’s what he’s trying to do and all he wanted to do was to just make things not quite as bad as they were in his future. Now he’s made things a whole lot worse for everybody’s future in this timeline. And I think that’s why he’s staying. He knows and Angela’s letting him know that every minute you’re here, things are getting worse, but he knows that, now if I go back, the world is going to be gone because of what I’ve done. How can I fix this? It just seems like he’s a little naïve almost to think that he can fix it.

D: I’d be interested in looking more at what he’s trying to pinpoint in the apartment, though, because we didn’t get to see a whole lot of what he was trying to do. With Hiro’s, he’s got newspaper clippings and those kinds of things and he’s very in depth and methodical in his line of thought and I’d kind of like to see where Peter’s going. As much as he’s trying to trace his steps backward, he’s trying to trace his steps forward, too.

G: Very complicated stuff. I’m starting to think that time travel is not an ability I would want because you know that there are consequences every time that you use it, except for maybe slowing time or stopping it because that doesn’t affect the actual flow of time, I’m thinking that people that have the time travel ability have so much that they can and can’t do which would be no fun.

D: It really is, in the grand scheme of things, the most dangerous power of them all. More so than being able to blow things up with your mind or fling people. It affects the world instead of just a few people at a time.

G: So, future Peter, like we mentioned in our recap, tried to do this with the best of intentions, but it ended up being just disaster. It's probably a theme we're going to keep seeing in this season is that he wanted to do good, he wanted to fix things and change it for the better, but what he's done is even with the best intentions, he's gone and screwed everything up. Future Peter for all intents and purposes is absolutely not in control of the things that are going on and what he's gonna try and do is try and gain some more control. Try to have this locus of control where he can change his destiny and everyone else's destiny. It's going to be interesting to see what he does in that, if more drastic measures will have to be taken to stop him from ruining more things. How knows what's going to happen?

Tracy Strauss

G: I think a lot of people want us to talk about our theories about Tracy, so let's get into it.

D: I'm scared to, in all honesty. [laughs]

G: The nice thing to know is that it's so open and so vague, it plays into our guessing game that we tend to do. We just throw things out there. We have hunches on certain things. What I think, to start off, is that Niki is dead as a doornail—that she is gone. I think we'll find this out later, but this is a theory. I think that Niki is dead and Tracy is a completely different person who looks exactly like Niki and Jessica.

D: Okay, that's yours. Okay, here's mine. I think that Tracy is Jessica and Jessica never died.

G: But was maybe brainwashed into thinking she was this completely different person?

D: Amnesia, whatever. Grew up and lived her own life, was told different things, whatever have you. It's almost too easy though, I think. In my mind, the first thing I thought was, "Oh, the other one never died."

G: And she's not going by Jessica and we haven't heard the name Jessica around Tracy yet, only Niki. She's only being confronted with stuff that Niki's done. A big thing that I think to go back and look at is when Linderman is talking to DL and Niki and tells them how he's planned everything in their future and past. He made them fall in love, he planned everything. What if Niki and Jessica and Tracy are all part of some kind of program that Linderman has been doing behind closed doors? That's a theory that I'm hearing—that she's a clone. That would be hilarious to me because Ali Larter was in Resident Evil: Extinction and if you see the end of that movie, you are kind of seeing what people are getting at with this theory.

D: I don't want her to be a clone, though. I would almost rather her be a completely different individual that just happens to look like Niki than be a clone.

G: It seems to be that Tracy has lived a full life. That she has memories from her childhood. She has no idea she had a power. She worked hard, gone to school, went to college, got a job and is now the secretary to the governor of New York or the advisor. So how are we to say that she's cloned if she's had such a full memory or full life that we can glean from what we've learned so far? So, it seems like she's a completely different person. That's what leans towards my theory and could work for yours, too. If this happened at a very young age with Jessica. Remember, that Jessica supposedly died and had a tombstone and everything, but what if she didn't? What if Jessica didn't die and Linderman somehow got a hold of her, brainwashed her into thinking that she's Tracy Strauss and now has brought her up all the way—she's the same age as Niki because they were twins.

D: And Linderman even says "That woman's not Niki. That is Tracy Strauss."

G: "I would know."

D: Yeah, even though that's kind of in Nathan's head. They've got their bases covered here because you really can't have any proof to the contrary or otherwise.

G: It's really an interesting way that they have completely thread this whole story. The one thing that's throwing people off is that she looks exactly like Niki. People that aren't just die-hard fans of Heroes think that there's something else going on, that that's Niki. She got hit on the head or something, she's been brainwashed. But I'm thinking, no. She's a completely different person who looks exactly like her.

D: Again, the key is the events of "The Second Coming" happen the same day as "Powerless." There's no way that that woman had that kind of position with the governor that soon after she was in bar that got blown up hours earlier.

G: Exactly.

D: I mean, that's not possible.

G: So, it's not Niki. And for the folks that think that it is—and I don't think there are a lot that think that it is, but I can see where people are getting confused. That's the one thing about Ali Larter's characters on this show is that they've been very confusing from the start.

D: She's got a harder role to play than anyone else on the show does. She really does.

G: She should be paid more. [laughs]

D: She should get three paychecks!

Linderman

G: So, interesting stuff. Since we were talking about this and I think it's relevant to move on to talking about this whole Linderman/Nathan thing. What are our Nathan/Linderman theories?

D: This is the one I don't even want to touch. It's so out there and it floored me. It's something we kind of thought about in the first episode. When we came back, we said, "I wonder who knows he's alive." Then you said "No one knows he's alive or if he's alive." He's definitely in the same suit, as Tucker said, in these two episodes that he could have been in when we see him die in "Landslide." Is it another mindset of Nathan, kind of like how Monsterhead was? Is it in that light? Is he an angel? Is he a ghost? What is he? It's hard to even think about where he goes. Is part of his ability just living on, even through the death of his body?

G: Part of Linderman's ability?

D: Yeah.

G: Who knows? That's kind of out there, but nothing's really too far away for Heroes, we've seen in the past. To me, it was almost easier to think that Linderman was alive in the flesh. Because when you see the first episode you can really believe that he's alive. He didn't die. But in this episode when they throw that little wrench in and say "Oh, by the way, he's not really alive. He's just a figment of Nathan's imagination." And then we're like, okay, why? Why is he back and why have they decided to bring him and inject him into the story in this way? Is he still pulling the strings and turning the wheels behind the scenes like he was in Season One, but now he's dead and doing it?

D: It also lends to the fact why Peter and Angela weren't aware of his presence in the room in the last episode, too.

G: Right. But he wasn't there. He was in Nathan's head.

D: Exactly, that's what I'm saying. There's no reason to acknowledge that there's a third person in the room when technically, there was not.

G: I think to go off on this completely different idea. We know Linderman's power and Linderman was a disciple of Adam, right? We know that Linderman's power is to heal people, outwardly. Or to heal things outwardly. It's not like Claire's power where if she gets hurt, she heals. He could heal other people and maybe heal himself in some way. Or that Linderman's power is somehow related to Claire's power and Adam's power. Well, if you think of it that way, and we've been told that Adam Monroe can't die—he's lived for 400 years—and Claire can't die, we were told that by Sylar, who's to say that Linderman's going to die, too? Maybe he can die but his spirit lives on in some way and it's attached to his ability, so he can still be used. That's an out there theory but maybe it's getting at something. We haven't been getting a whole lot of email hitting at what is

going on with Linderman, just because it's so broad. But we felt we needed to talk about it, just a little bit.

D: There's something else to keep in mind, too. It's not him being invisible, either. He's talking and the nurse can't hear him.

G: He's appearing to Nathan and that's who he wants to appear to or Nathan is imagining him there or something like that. It's extremely confusing stuff, but we're only going to see the implications of it in the upcoming episodes.

D: That's what's going to make it or break it: whether or not Linderman can appear to somebody else. If you see somebody else interact with Linderman, it's Linderman. If you see it only with Nathan, it's Nathan and no one else.

G: That's how we'll have to gauge it, I think.

The Bigger Picture.

G: Let's talk about the Bigger Picture for a second. Lots of Season Three so far is very closely related to Season One. We all know that Season One was extremely exciting, so obviously, they're trying to go back and revisit Season One because it was this phenomenon of a brand new show being so incredibly exciting and entertaining. Season Three, what they're trying to do is go back and elaborate on it and tie the outcome of Season One into what's going on in Season Three. Some people have contacted us and have said "It makes sense now to have let the bomb go off in New York if that's what it would have taken to keep the whole world from blowing up." And we know in Season Two, the big problem was the virus and we thought, oh, that would be terrible if everyone in the world died. But what's worse than that is the entire planet being split in half and crumbling up. So, maybe the Company had it right all along. Maybe Angela saw this as far as she did, knowing that if New York blew up, the world would be saved. And if .07% of the people in the world died, then 100% of the people left over would live instead of die a few years later when the world was going to explode.

D: Right, and you have to gauge then factor of whether or not the virus broke out and if Season Two was more of a bridge from Season One to Season Three, than an actual event happening.

G: But you have to think—would the virus have gotten out if Hiro had been transported back in time at the end of Season One? He wouldn't have met Adam Monroe and Adam Monroe wouldn't have gotten evil and he wouldn't have had the virus escape I think. I think Hiro messing around in the 1600s is directly why the virus got out in the first place. It really makes things poignant how Season One and Season Three are so related right now.

D: It's the title! It's "The Butterfly Effect." You go back and change one thing and you change everything. There's no way to step back and effect one person who is so

intricate in later events like Adam or Peter or Angela and to not have a drastic effect on the future. In the same vein that causing the bomb not to off in the season finale of Season One, causing the vial not to drop in Season Two and whatever formula, whatever we're building to in this light in Season Three, if you could go back and change it one more time, what else does that change on down the road?

G: Who knows? That's what we're going to be getting at in future episodes. I think it's so interesting to see how they're trying it all into the very last few moments of Season One or into the theme of Season One, where destroying the few for the good of the many and things like that were some of our themes. But now, we're seeing this whole season is taking the end of Season One and saying "Look at this. This whole thing wouldn't have been so bad as what's about to happen right now if we don't stop something." Very interesting stuff and we're looking forward to future episodes. That's all for our topics for "The Butterfly Effect." Let's move on to our emails.

EMAILS

Derek: All right, welcome to our Emails section. The first one I've got here is from Jordan. Jordan says:

First of all, let me congratulate you guys on calling Sylar as the first Petrelli. He's giving us a little golf clap here.

Graham: Did we call that?

D: We did call that.

G: I guess we did.

D: We called that a loooooong time ago. We didn't talk about it in the episode and I kind of talked about it in the Reactions. I still want to call maybe they're twins, he and Peter.

G: That would be interesting because their powers are so related.

D: Yeah. Speaking as a twin, Graham, what do you feel?

G: I feel qualified to talk about this because I have a twin sister.

D: They're obviously not identical but they could be fraternal twins. Tucker lends the theory that Sylar is the middle child.

G: We believe there's going to be a scene next week, hopefully, next week, of when Sylar and Peter meet again, except on different terms than in Season One.

D: Is that in that one? I thought it was later down the road.

G: It's in the trailer somewhere, but I hope it's next week. We know they're going to meet because Angela now is close to both of them and it's just a matter of time before they meet again.

D: Jordan goes on to say:

Let me be one of the first to say that Heroes is definitely back. The storyline in both episodes was like the first season all over again.

I couldn't agree more with you Jordan.

In terms of the excitement, I can definitely say I can't wait to see what happens next.

But he has a thought about the future version of Claire. He says:

She seems very detached and unemotional in nature. Considering she can't feel pain any more even though that didn't happen in future Peter's timeline, do you feel there could be a chance of her turning out that way, regardless?

G: It's just one of the whole self-fulfilling prophecy things we were talking about. That you could go back and change the circumstances of something, but the outcome could still be basically the same. The same thing we were talking about with Ando in the future and the fact that Hiro is treating Ando differently and almost risking Ando's life in certain situations, it's going to make Ando actually turn on Hiro and be at odds with him. The same thing goes here. The fact that future Peter did go back and try to save Claire from becoming this evil person in the future, and to stop the future as a whole anyways, he actually caused Sylar to get to her and for her to lose her sense of pain and now she's lost her sense of self and her sense of humanity, really, and she'll go down that dark path, anyway. Interesting way to look at it, definitely.

D: Thanks for that email, Jordan.

G: Our next one is from Amy, a.k.a. ScarletLynn on our forums. She says:

Hey guys, killer premiere episode, I loved every minute and I'm looking forward to your take on it. One thing that totally amused me was when Angela walked in on Peter filling up his apartment with multicolored yarn, push pins, and newspaper clippings. Apparently, that is the definitive way to study the effects of time-travel. I love that whenever Hiro and Peter need to deduce exactly how to prevent an apocalyptic future, a trip to the local craft store is step one.

D: [laughs] Dude, when I have my own office, that's all I'm doing. All over the ceiling!

G: Why have we not done that already in our studio here and when we go live, we'll have yarn everywhere? [laughs]

D: I know what I'm doing next week.

G: She ends by saying:

I'm so glad Heroes is back and I can't wait to hear the next 10th Wonder. You guys are awesome!

Thanks Amy, for that. That's all for our emails this week. We had to have a shorter one because we have had a much longer podcast for this episode. I guess it's because we're so pumped about it.

D: It's also hard to get through the onslaught of emails we've had in the past two weeks.

CLOSING

Graham : So, guys, please be sure to email us at heroespodcast@gmail.com if anything we've said this week has kind of sparked your interest or put a theory in your mind be sure to email us and let us know. We love to use them. It really is a great back and forth. If we say something that we think and you guys kind of throw your thoughts into there. It really makes it a unique thing and I really think that's one of the best things about this podcast. We can take it from all angles and just kind of come up with some really great theories as Heroes fans as a whole. So be sure to email us. Again: heroespodcast@gmail.com. Also, our website: heroespodcast.com. Growing every single day. We have lots of news over there so be sure to check that out. Also, our forums are available there: forums.heroespodcast.com also you can reach them at starkvilleforums.com because we've merged all of our shows' forums into one area and it's really been awesome to have so much activity there. Having three shows share one forum is absolutely awesome because when the shows premiere and when things air or certain things come to light, we just at any moment, there's 50-60 people chatting on the forums. It's been really cool to see the activity there. Also our voicemail: (206) 350-7159. Send us a voicemail if we've said anything. Put that number in your phone, be sure to call us whenever you feel inclined to tell us something that you saw or you thought. It's fun to hear people's reactions right after an episode, too. So right after you watch an episode, and you're about to turn to your friend and say "That was awesome!" Take a second and call us that. (206) 350-7159. That's all for this week. We're looking forward to episode 3-03 titled "One of Us, One of Them" this Monday on NBC. Don't forget to join us again for our live show afterwards at 10 PM Pacific time, 1 AM Eastern. We've got spoilers after the break, guys. I'm Graham.

Derek: And I'm Derek

G: We'll see you later!

SPOILERS

[Trailer for "One of Us, One of Them" plays]

Graham: Welcome to our Spoilers section. What you just heard there was the very first trailer for Heroes Season Three that we've seen so far as far as our next episodes and that is episode 3-03, "One of Us, One of Them."

Derek: Hell of a trailer.

G: Oh my gosh! This was very revealing stuff. I think that they try to do this at the beginning of each season. They show stuff from more than probably next week's episode. I think some of the stuff we saw probably is going to show up a few episodes from now. Maybe not next week exactly. I think we will see a lot of it next week, but judging by what it said onscreen, it said "Coming on Heroes."

D: Yeah.

G: It didn't say "Next week on Heroes."

D: It's very much "This Season on Heroes." Keep in mind, too, we have a whole lot filmed all the way leading up to the end of December.

G: You'll have to keep that in mind because they've already shot 13 episodes of this show. Stuff that we might have seen in the trailers might not show up until December. It could be very interesting.

D: Right.

G: First off, let's kind of go by the trailer point for point. What we see in this trailer and what we hear in this trailer. We first see "Coming on Heroes" onscreen and we first see Angela speaking to Sylar and it's kind of continuing the scene at the very end of this episode and she says "You're going to need to be strong for what's to come." Those of us who watched the clip show have seen this scene already. They did show this scene at the clip show. She is kind of still talking really motherly to him and says "I have a present for you." And she brings in somebody. I don't know who this person is. We haven't heard much about her. But she's literally just feeding somebody to Sylar, allowing him to take her ability right there on the spot without any questions asked. Just giving him somebody to take their powers from. Scary stuff and we see just how sinister Angela is. So that's kind of description of what that scene is going to be like, because they did show that at the clip show. Next we see a really quick flash of Peter with a bloody gash on his chest. I'm thinking this is something we might have seen in the future. A lot of these clips take place in the future rather than where we are right now at the show. All the shots of Claire are of Claire in the future. And some of these scenes are spliced in between and we see this quick flash of Peter walking and he's got a bloody on his chest. We find out why it's bloody in a few flashes from now, I think. I think we can take that and relate on scene to another in this trailer. We hear Peter say "An injection. Abilities now are available to everyone." And we see people just flying.

D: That did it for me. I saw, like, 3 people flying on screen and was like "I'm sold! Season Three is here!" [laughs]

G: [laughs] That's going to be exciting to see I believe. Abilities are available to everyone. I think it's funny that so many people are able to fly. It's not all that special that everybody can do it.

D: It's almost like whatever you wish is the ability you get.

G: Other than Mohinder, I would have to wish for the abilities of a cockroach, if that's truly what is going on.

D: You messed up, buddy.

G: The next thing we hear is from the trailer voice guy who says "A dangerous breakthrough," and Mohinder says "The formula is transforming me." I thought it was an interesting choice of words to say "formula" instead of "serum."

D: Yeah.

G: Maybe there's more related to the formula and the serum than we originally thought.

D: Yeah and we kind of touched on that after the episode the other night. What if the formula that Hiro is chasing all over the world is some variation on what Mohinder found out after his father's research.

G: Right, someone did email me and said that they had been staring at the screen shot of the formula for days now.

D: Don't do that!

G: And they've finally figured out what it is.

D: Did they say? That's a horrible email if they just said "I figured it out and didn't tell you."

G: They sent me a Wikipedia link to an actual chemical formula. I haven't actually taken the screen shot and lined it up with this Wikipedia link, but he says the formula as he sees is the formula for mycotoxin? Some sort of toxin related to red tide, if you know what red tide is. I'm not going to get into it, because it all could be completely going off in the wrong direction, but it's interesting that people are already finding real world applications to the stuff that we're seeing on Heroes and maybe things are related and maybe not. Moving on in the trailer, we hear Maya saying to someone "What have you done?" I believe she's saying this to Mohinder. And Peter says "This world is gonna end." So, each sound byte just gets more grave. More sinister.

In a few different variations of the trailer that NBC's got, actually, three out for it now. One we see more of the destruction that Hiro was seeing in the not-to-distant future. We see Peter and Syla a little bit more interact.

G: We're still not done talking about the one that's at the end of "The Butterfly Effect."

D: Oh, right, you've got that one.

G: The trailer voice guy says "Unbelievable alliances" and we see Angela talking to Noah: "Meet your new partner" and we've seen this scene, too, because we've put these clips out on the internet. If you go to our website, you can see these clips. But Angela is going to make Noah and Sylar be partners to find these villains that have escaped. It's going to be very interesting to see that dynamic, I think.

D: Yeah, because you can tell from the look on Noah's face he's not too keen on this idea.

G: And there's another trailer where you said something about them sitting in a car together.

D: Sylar in a suit! They're both in suits and they're very much working for the Company. Sylar looks like a company man.

G: Another segment of the trailer "Good becomes evil." Future Claire is now with Peter, we don't know if it's future Peter or regular Peter. I assume future Peter because it seems like this is in the future. She's got Peter laid out on an autopsy table and she says "I want you to feel pain with every single death," and starts to cut his chest with a scalpel, which explains, I believe, why he had a bloody gash on his chest at the beginning of the trailer. Another thing is, at the end of the trailer, it says "Choose a side" and we see Peter attacking Sylar and Sylar says "You have the hunger. You are like me." And that's the end of this version of the trailer.

D: There's a different one that's not that intense. There's a funny one between Noah and Sylar in a car, like I was saying. There's a few minor differences, but what drove it home for me was seeing all those people flying in that really long one. That's a Heroes trailer right there for you, and it was an extended trailer as well because you had double the credits to go through.

G: Yeah, it's good to know that the trailer department has still got it after 9 months. So, there's a couple more things to go over for general spoilers. We have to be very quick here because Derek's on his way out the door. There's plenty of spoilers out there is you need to really find some. They're all in one place at heroeswiki.com, our friends over there do a great job of keeping track of everything. I want to talk about a picture that Greg Beeman put on his blog. There are two that I want to talk about. The first of which is a shot of Mohinder. He's looking at his back. He's got the makeup on from that scene where he's pulling that stuff off his back. This is a picture from a digital camera with a flash and you can see a lot more of it than you could in the episode when it was really dark and couldn't see things. It really does look like he's turning into a cockroach, to me. Have you seen this picture?

D: No, I have not.

G: It looks like if you were to start clawing the skin off his back,

D: No thank you.

G: you would find cockroach wings underneath it. That's what the makeup looks like. Creepy stuff. I just think that we know that his ability is buglike because we see what he's been doing. We've seen Greg Beeman describe it as "buglike" but to say it's a cockroach or a certain kind of bug? I just think it's ironic. It would be the most ironic thing in the show

D: Oh yeah! Yeah!

G: To have him turn into a cockroach when the series begins with him talking about cockroaches.

D: It's poetic justice! You've got a ghost talking to Nathan. It sounds all really ridiculous, but they're making it so BA the way they're doing it.

G: And who knows where they're going to go after these first two episodes? The next picture I want to talk about is a picture that is very revealing to Niki's storyline, and Jessica's storyline and potentially, Tracy's storyline. It's a scene, looks like they were shooting something with Niki that was kind of after the place she's in that exploded at the end of "Powerless." It's a shot of Niki in a body bag with a burned up face and bloody clothes and—she's dead. Dead as a doornail and I think that if they would show this scene, it would help a lot of people realize that Tracy really is a completely different person. As it stands now, it's a spoiler because we haven't actually seen this scene, but it's very telling, so we've put this in the AAC. Tell us what you think. I think Niki is gone. That leads me to wonder what has happened to Micah and Monica, but I don't know if we're going to see what happens to those two characters anytime soon because so much is going on in other stories. To go to that story would almost be distracting at this point.

D: Well, we do know from what you've showed me in the EPK, that Tracy makes her way to New Orleans soon, or attempts to.

G: She's on her way. She says that the last time Niki was spotted—or, she has an address in New Orleans or something like that.

D: All I can find on Niki is an address in New Orleans.

G: So, Tracy is going to go to New Orleans. Maybe we'll see Micah in New Orleans at some point that Tracy is his mom and she's alive. It would be very awkward, I believe. I don't know if we'll see Monica. I believe we'll see Monica at least once or twice before

she ends up leaving the show. We did hear that Dana Davis is not returning to Heroes other than maybe to have some closure to her character or returning in flashbacks, but that's all we have for spoilers, the inside scoop of where things are going in Heroes, so thanks for listening guys. This has been a very long 10th Wonder episode just because there has been so much to cover. A lot more to cover in this episode than in our Part One podcast just because this was a heavy episode. So much happened. So much could be talked about. Thanks for being patient for a two-part podcast this week. Thanks a lot guys!

D: Bye, everyone.