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Hello everybody and welcome to Chapter Select, a seasonal podcast where we bounce back and

forth between a series exploring its evolution, design, and legacy.

For season four we are covering the Fast and Furious series.

My name is Max Roberts and I am joined, as always, by Logan Moore.

Hi Logan.

Max we haven't recorded in almost a month, but it seems pretty appropriate. This is that this is our first

Recording we're doing again

considering that

Fast-8 is all about daddies and you're now a daddy. I am this is the first podcast I recorded since becoming a dad and

This movie is all about becoming a father unbeknownst to oneself

But yes also be about becoming a father

So I would like to report that the first time I held my child

Was not you know behind bulletproof glass. There was no airplane tracking or anything like that. Did your baby mama get offed on this?

No, it was all

Normal, I know no family quite like Dominic Toretto's so well

Well, let me ask you this would you turn against me if your child's fate was hanging into balance?

Yes

unwavering loyalty to my child that I've... and I've known the child longer than Dom knew the child.

I was gonna say, you've only known her for like three weeks.

We've known each other since we were little kids.

I was showing you pictures the other day of us at like my seventh birthday party.

But I would never actually betray you.

I would just secretly betray you and you would like know that I wasn't really betraying you, that there was a reason for my betrayal.

And then we'd like to meet in an alley and have a nuclear football and it'd be a great moment of trust.

Yes.

Max this movie's pretty dumb.

Now that we're talking about all these things, this movie's pretty dumb.

This movie is pretty dumb.

We'll get into it.

I mean, we'll share our impressions here, but let's first break down all the key things that we typically do here on Chapter Select, Fate of the Furious, which is poorly spelled.

They had a golden opportunity, man, and they didn't take it.

No, I think that's well documented, and I think we've brought that up multiple times throughout this season, actually, that it should have been F8 of the Furious, but, you know. I lay that one at the feet of F. Gary Gray, who directed the film. Fate of the Furious came out on April 14, 2017. It was produced once again by Neil H. Moritz, Vin Diesel, Michael Fottrell, and Chris Morgan. The writer this time around was Chris Morgan. The primary actors in the film included Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese Gibson, Chris Ludacris Bridges,

Natalie Emanuel, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Kurt Russell, Jason Statham, and Charlize their own this cast is getting a little bloated and we don't even have Paul Walker in it this time like I didn't even write down that uh I'm blanking on his name now Eastwood's kids in it Scott Eastwood's in it too yeah yeah the

composer once again was Brian Tyler the stunt coordinator was JJ Perry

Spyro Razzitose and Troy Robinson and the budget for this film was around 250

270 million dollars which max you wrote is tied for the 17th most expensive movie ever made

along with furious 7 and a bunch of other movies so they invested a lot in this movie but they

made back they made back about a billion dollars in profit because this movie grossed 1.236 billion

dollars worldwide not as much as furious 7 but still over a billion dollars which is pretty

Impressive because furious 7 obviously had the added

You know everything surrounding Paul Walker there, which is why I think that movie made so much money, but the drop-off here between films was

Not that vast

So rotten tomatoes score on this one critics rated this one at a 67% overall aggregate score

Audiences gave it a 72% and yeah, I don't know if you have any history with this one. I obviously do not

Now we're nearing the part where these films are a little bit more fresh in my brain

This movie is only a little over five years old

So I kind of remember the trailers that I've seen for these movies now

Okay

Yeah

Sure

So like I knew that the plot of this one was Vin Diesel turning against the family and teaming up with Charlize

But that's about it. Did you know why?

No, so I did not know the dad. So we'll all right, so we'll talk about obviously talk about okay

I wrote down all caps in my notes. Dom is a secret father three question question mark question mark question mark

I did not know that that was one thing that I straight up good not surprise. I'm glad that was a surprise

so yeah, that was a surprise but

What did you what's your own history anything special here? Just another fast movie you saw in theaters. I assume exactly this is

I'm well in the train now, you know, I'm since too fast. So it's just I'm here day one. Let's go

It was

The pitch of

Dominic Toretto is a bad dude now was always interesting ish, you know, it's like a little spicy like alright cool

I mean if you I mean you're you're you're eight films in you got to find ways to mix it up

Obviously while keeping the same I mean previously the ways they mixed it up was like Tokyo Drift

Let's introduce new characters and do something new. They're not gonna deviate from the core

Family group now, so you got to find other ways to mix it up so in this movie

They make him a secret father in the next movie. They give him a secret brother all your favorite type of plot

Yeah, all my favorite classic Uncharted 4 style plot points. I

Mean yeah, let's just get right into our own impressions. I think this movie is

Not good. I think this is bottom tier fast stuff

I would put this below seven below six of the new era

Like mmm fast and furious fast for onward this is bottom two. It's fast for and fast a dirt of two worst

I prefer five six and seven. I think this movie is booty cheeks and a lot of

I don't disagree at all it is

low on the totem pole of out of the recent out of all of them really

but it's

It's that good trash like it's just it's good trash. It's bad

But it's good trash. Entertaining trash maybe is a better way to put it.

This was my biggest problem coming into this, and this is something that

I've gotten used to from Fast Six onward. Like Fast Six, I think the plot was very cliched.

It was not that great, but it was filled with so many good action sequences.

I think the action sequences in this movie are pretty underwhelming and not particularly

enjoyable, which was the thing that surprised me the most while watching it.

I wrote down, one of my notes was just, "Wow, this movie is surprisingly boring."

Like which I think was the thing that caught me the most off guard because I'm obviously, at this point I know what the series is, I know they're just kind of fun popcorn films, I know what I'm signing up for, it's just going to be mindless action fun where we're watching superheroes in cars basically.

Like and I'm not expecting anything more than that but as far as the action sequences go, I really do feel like this is some of the worst of the modern series here.

So it is, especially coming off of Furious 7, because Furious 7 built really well.

This sequence leads into this one, leads into this. This movie kind of has two, three major set pieces. They're very far apart. And then a couple of fights in between. And one fight in particular is excellent but it's not as it's disjointed compared to previous films it's almost like Furious Six in that way where it was like here's the tank here's the plane but these set pieces don't feel as good they're not as they just feel too disjointed not as entertaining they're very singular in and how they are carried out too.

Like at least in Fast Six, the one thing I really liked about that is that there is a lot of moving parts.

Like I think about the plane sequence in the end.

You've got some people on the plane that are fighting, and you've got fistfights going on with Dom and some others.

And then outside the plane, you've got them trying to shoot the wings and keep it from flying off.

Like you've got different things going on

in different spots.

They're all part of the same set piece,
but there are different pieces of action going on
that are keeping things somewhat interesting.

You got, what's her name, Giselle, flying off into the void.

And this, like the final set piece is very much just,
oh no, there's cars chasing after us on ice, we gotta run.

And now there's a submarine,
like everything that is happening
is happening at the same time to everyone,
if that makes any sense.

And there's really nothing else,
no other variables within these action sequences
that really change things up in interesting ways.

- The only time that two things overlap really
is toward the end with the airplane and the submarine,
but they don't directly impact each other.

And so it doesn't feel as good.

I was just thinking, kind of really,
if we take these set pieces and associate it with the plot,
it's actually a lot like Fast and Furious 6.

In Fast and Furious 6, Owen is collecting pieces
to build some sort of device.

In Fate of the Furious, Cypher is collecting pieces
to build some sort of device.

But in Furious 6, those events flow naturally together,

They culminate in the bad guy being captured but then running away and it's all weaves

together.

But this movie just feels... you don't really know what Cypher's up to until the end and her whole thing is "they will notice me" but you've been a secret hacker your whole life and so her motivations never land or connect.

She's a really poor villain and I'm actually pretty not thrilled that she is gonna be reappearing

Fast 9 and then I know she's still alive at the end of that movie and Fast X she's gonna be back again. I'm not

Enthusiastic about this it feels like they got Charlize

Similar to how they got Jason Statham to play Deckard Shaw they're like oh well

We got a huge big-name actor we can't kill him off. We can't get rid of him

Not that they've been necessarily killing off villains left and right in this year

He's like Owen is still around and he shows back up in this movie, so it's not like they really write out the villains entirely

But it feels like they scored Charlize in this movie, and they're like oh, it's Charlize. She's a huge big-name actress

we have to make sure she sticks around and remains a major player moving forward and

Yeah, her character is not great. That's one of my big problems with a huge problem in this movie

She's so this is one thing. I'll say as far as the villains the past couple villains

We've had in all these movies have been directly involved with the plots

and that that would include

Kind of fast for onward fast five maybe not as much

Because it's just kind of another I forget his name, but he's just kind of crime boss

They're enacting a plane against him, but that movies even got you know

Hobbs in it so that that's even a little bit more of a direct conflict where they're facing off against a direct opponent

Which would be Hobbs and then you have Owen in six and they have Deckard Shaw in seven

her the whole time she just hides way in her plane and she is so

She just kind of is up in her ivory tower is distanced away from everything else and they're like we got to take her down

and she's like not really directly involved at any single point with

it the

Conflict with the family and I guess Dom kind of is the surrogate for that

And so Dom is the pseudo villain in the movie of sorts

But that doesn't really work because you know, he's not really bad and you know, he's you know

know at the end of the movie he's gonna be the good guy again and he's gonna save him

and you just you're more interested in figuring out how he gets out of this hold that she

has on him. So the stakes feel very low and to introduce her as this big bad that's gonna

carry forth into other movies they don't do a good job of it I think if they would have

maybe saved this plot line for let's say Fast 9 where she then turns then against them then

that would have been more effective but to introduce a new villain that you want to be

the big villain of the franchise moving forward and then she doesn't do much and the actual

villain is kind of dumb instead. It just doesn't work. Yeah, I don't like her in this movie.

Cipher strikes me as Fast and Furious' attempt to have an overarching puppet master villain.

Kind of like in James Bond with Blofeld and Spectre or in Mission Impossible with Solomon

Lane like controlling a bunch of stuff and being in multiple movies is kind of

the one pulling all of the strings but she just never connects and her plots

never really jive or make sense our whole thing here is just to get a nuke

and like intimidate world superpowers there's just nothing we're getting to

super spy evil villains that don't necessarily connect with the plot of our

characters here. It just feels

destroyed. How do you feel about the, I mean, this is a movie franchise that has obviously been going bigger and more ridiculous and get,

but I feel like this was really the movie where I felt like it is now officially getting too big and too

outlandish for its own good in some ways. And I know that it's only going to continue upping the ante moving forward with some of

the other movies, and that's kind of the MO of the franchise at this point.

when I realized that nukes were now in play and was like the key plot device in this movie like I

essentially just rolled my eyes like it's getting so outlandish that

Like there has to be a fine line

There has to be a fine line between you taking this seriously and it being so far gone and stupid town that it can't even

Engage you in a serious manner

And I'm somebody who likes really dumb stuff, so I don't mind like a good a good a good

Comparison we talked about this a lot like what amongst our friend group

Not you as much, but like Yakuza is a great example of this totally goofy games

Have a very aloof tone throughout much of the game, but they also tell these really serious compelling plots with

Interesting characters that have a lot of depth and I feel like the plots of these movies are getting so

Land-ish that the characters are now kind of getting lost in the shuffle. It just doesn't feel like it fits with the fast family

We've gone from stealing things kind of in the first five movies

Four really was busting a drug lord, but and two was as well

But like stealing things and having some sort of villain or bully in that way to six being

spy thing in Furious 7 also kind of

Really bringing us into this spy world with mr. Nobody and stuff

But nukes feels like one

Strangely feels like one step too far beyond something like God's eye where we can track anyone anywhere. Yes

nukes just feel like

one thing too much

God's eye was used in the as a plot device in the last movie to you know

Find Deckard and then take it take him down and so it was still a personal conflict at the end of the day

Nukes, it's like okay. This lady wants nuclear weapons

Why are we in an acting a team of street racers to take her down and like why?

Why is she hiring a street racer to steal the nukes? Yeah, it's just getting so

It just feels not connected. It's the ending

It's getting too absurd for its own good, which again is something that I have liked about the series a lot so far

But there has to be a line there has to be a dividing line between

Going and and they're just they're just too far past it

Well point and I imagine that's not going to get any better in the future movies

so your imagination would be correct just

Especially since I already know fast 9 is the secret brother movie the uncharted 4 plot device

Let's I think what's so funny about this too is that even though they are trying

they are getting so crazy with what the

the narratives of these movies are now and like what the actual goals are. This movie

starts off once again with street racing. It tries to keep things rooted with street

racing at least in some sense with all these movies. And I think the street race is actually

really fun in this one because he's racing a piece of junk and he's driving backwards

and a car blows up and like all kinds of dumb stuff happens in this race and that's fun.

So they keep, the street races to me are emblematic of them being like we have to acknowledge

our roots, we have to continue to acknowledge what this series is and where it came from, and racing has to be at the center.

But it's proving to be such a bizarre dichotomy now, where this movie starts off with "oh

Dom, he's still a street racer at heart!" and then as soon as that scene is over it

jumps to you know, Charlize getting involved and he's now a double agent and everything

from there on feels so silly. Exactly. In the behind the scenes for all the stunts and stuff,

F. Gary Gray talked about how fans wanted more street races and being tied to the

roots. So it feels like they just made this cold open. Yeah. That's really disjointed from the

rest of the film except for the one character cameo later who you realize, "Oh, he helped in

New York City. He was there." So this guy came from... He earned his respect. So this man now

across countries and park the car at one single spot.

Exactly. So besides that, the race means nothing, there's no real callbacks, it's just kind of a,

I guess, a character thing for Dom. Because right after that scene, there's

one quick scene with him and Letty talking about becoming a dad or whatever, and then we run into

decipher and bam we're off to the races like it's just there's I wrote down we

waste no time after the cold open to the villain and reason for Dom's turn and

it's not until 48 minutes into the movie that you learn that the the blackmail or

the leverage is his son so yes it's if you cut the cold open the movie like the

movie is fine it doesn't need it at all and it it's a great race it's fun

there's even a good Brian reference in it, you know, the Busters Poor Man Turbo. Like,

there's a nickname for Brian, like, calls it out. It's nice, but it feels out of place.

The series feels like it's, like, at odds with itself now. They don't know what to do.

They don't know if they want to keep it rooted to what it's always been or,

In some senses they're like, "Well, as soon as we started going to Crazy Town with Fast Five, that's when we started to make a lot of money,

so we gotta continue upping the ante and making things more and more crazy."

But, also, we've had these fans from the first three or four films that have stuck with us.

Yeah, I don't know. It's just totally...

It's totally going against itself.

We've already talked about Charlize a little bit and her character, Cipher, and why she doesn't work.

I don't know if there's a lot more else we need to say about her right now

I do want to point out that her treads or whatever the freak she has in this movie are horrible

Please don't wear your hair. I please don't wear your hair like that again. Charlie's very terrible

At first I thought she was just like wearing her hair like that because she was like trying to blend in when they were in

Cuba or something like that. I was like, what is she trying to look like a local?

White lady who got her hair dreaded up or something and nope she just wears it like that the whole movie. I'm like

Okay, sure you let me know which hairstyle you prefer

After f9 okay, you let me know oh no

Yeah, so we've talked about her a little bit. I think that one of the things

That I would like to hone in on a little bit more is

The character we typically with our discussions of these movies

I feel like we've gone character by character and talked about their own personal arts that they have in these movies

This movie might be the worst in the entire franchise

when it comes to

Various character arcs I feel like there is no

Good characterization in this movie whatsoever for any of the main cast members

other than

Hobbs and Shaw

-

They're the only two they are the only ones and I will say mr. Nobody so I was pretty flat on mr.

No, we can talk about that more a little bit later. I was pretty flat on him after fast seven

I do think he gets better in this. Yes. I can like I do I do like him more after his work

But Hobbs and Shaw are really the only two

That I felt anything for this movie like Tash and Roman really get nothing their whole

I mean Roman gets a lot of comedy Roman saves the final action scene in a lot of ways

Up until that point. I feel like he's even pretty flat throughout most of the movie

He's just kind of there and cracking off one-liners typically and him and Tej's whole thing

The entire movie is trying to flirt with Ramsey

Like they really they've just kind of become very one-note and I feel like they don't do much else in this

Ramsey's just kind of there. She's like, I'll try to out hack the hacker and cypher is always like no

I'm the better hacker

So she's really doing nothing. Letty's whole role in this movie is just saying I still believe in Dom. She's

extremely one-note like just

Hobbs and Shaw are the only two like it was after I watched this movie

I was like, oh I know how they got a spin-off now

It makes sense to me and that's because they take time to flesh out Hobbs way more not only with his whole soccer mom

Um, opening sequence which is great.

And the Taylor Swift references going to Tay-Tay concerts.

A lot of Tay-Tay concerts.

Him and then obviously all the banter between him and Sean when he goes to prison is excellent.

The prison scene is maybe my favorite scene in the whole movie.

It's the best scene in the movie.

And it centers entirely around them.

Uh, yeah, those, they are the only two in the movie that I felt like got any like worthwhile characterization or great character moments that I was like, wow, this will stand out within the larger series compared to what I've seen of them in the past.

Everybody else is so flat and they don't do anything with them.

And that's like, I don't even know what we would talk like.

I just outlined everybody else and like, I don't even know what we would go one by one and talk about everybody else within this room.

I just feel like there's nothing to even break down or dissect.

Yeah, I wonder if this is some growing pains, which is weird to say for a billion dollar franchise, but some growing pains after Furious 7 and losing a key member.

Reshuffling the dynamic a little bit, where are we putting the spotlight, where are we not, how does this balance?

And then having your other main character be the villain, not his normal role, also feels a little weird.

So it's all the relationships are a bit off the bat.

A villain that offered a primary character a couple movies before, or technically like three or four movies before, but he killed off Han, which I now understand the whole Justice for Han thing, because they really are just like, oh, like by the end of the movie Dom is just very accepting of Shaw, like "Oh thanks bro for saving my kid."

It's like "He killed your best friend!

What are you, what?

What?"

save that part of the discussion. I want to save that a little bit, but the one of the things I wrote down, I mean to really, I guess, get into it a little bit here in the flow because after the phone call and the blackmail and stuff, they pull off a heist in Berlin or wherever and it's kind of like the races in the past, like when Dom shows up in Tokyo or the end of Fast Five or Brian and Dom are racing, but we don't actually see the full race or know how it plays out. We kind of just know inside. We know how the heist is going to go at this point. Like they get away with the thing. Really it's a setup for, I wrote it down, Dominic Toretto just went rogue. Having him take out Hobbs, pretty cool. And it sets up the prison thing. But I wrote down really the prison. This is the birth of Hobbs and Shaw. It's like a dry run for that movie, especially this beginning portion. Their conflict is so funny. The Rock has phenomenal lines and acting in this scene where he's, you know, doing bicep curls with the bench. Yeah, they just cut to it. They just one of the scenes just literally starts with him just punching up the cement wall. Yes. Then he just does that for a good 20 to 30 seconds and Shaw's like "oh this is how you work out huh?" I'm like like he's like belittling him for punching a cement wall like as if that's nothing like what are you talking about what it is the banter between them is phenomenal and the prison break itself all triggered by Mr. Nobody well yeah it is triggered by Mr. Nobody because he's the one that opens the door but then Hob stays in the shell anyway mm-hmm you know the rock just taking rubber bullets

like they're nothing on his body Shaw doing all of the the parkour slipping around beating each other up the two of them just the rock does some parkour too the coolest part is when he slides off of that bannister into the steel cage and like bounces off of it down to the lower floor that's awesome he also has the best line in the entire movie maybe one of the best lines in the entire series where the guy says I've been waiting a long time for this and he says keep waiting b**** and then he stabs him. That's one of the...it's great.

I love the Cherokee drum line, like there's just excellent delivery here. If this was Hobbes' last Fast and Furious movie, numbered movie, what a great one to go out on. He is fully realized in this film and having Shaw to play off of that throughout the whole movie is...

Yeah, I completely agree. I guess my big question, and maybe you could answer this, you would know,

but coming off of Fast 7 and seeing how much that movie made, is that where it was then the brain

child of them creating spin-offs and then doing Hobbs and Shaw? Was that an idea they had before

Fast 8 was made, I would imagine? Because the way that this movie is set up is that everyone does

take such a back seat to Hobbs and Shaw that it almost makes me wonder if it was an intentional

choice to make viewers latch onto those characters more so that when they inevitably created the spin-off Hobbs and Shaw movie, that would be something that people would naturally want to go see.

Like I feel like every other character in this movie may have been so poorly written and just bland as intent from the script writer's perspective because they knew that this was going to become a larger franchise with other movies outside of the mainline series.

I don't know if you can have any insight on that or not.

Don't you worry, I just pulled it up.

So back in November of 2015, two years before this came out, basically right after Furious

7, Vin Diesel announced to Variety that they had written out storylines for various characters and announced they were developing spin-offs and prequels and things like that.

You know, the Marvel or the Star Wars route.

So Dwayne Johnson has hinted in the past that he'd like his character Hobbs to branch out into his own independent adventures.

So these were ideas they were toying around with and it seems like Fate of the Furious was a testing ground for Hobbs and Shaw to be put together and it comes out clearly because they're the two that get the most shine, really.

Yeah and I think this goes back to, I want to say that I mentioned this specifically with the last movie, with Fast 7 I believe, where it felt too much like a Hollywood blockbuster.

All of the other films in the series have felt, I mean obviously this is a bajillion dollar franchise and all of these movies have been made with the intent of making money,

7 was really the first one that I felt like was

Like being created as a mass-market product

and was something that was being done solely to make money rather than

Their decisions basically in fast 7 and even more so in fast 8 that I felt like were being made

Because of Hollywood executives were taking a big-picture view of what the movie was going to then do in the future

Rather than just saying what's the best possible movie we could make?

and I get those vibes a

Ton with fast eight fate of the furious here. Oh, yeah

Absolutely outside of everything with Hobbs and Shaw though the big thing that we talked about a little bit earlier

but let's maybe dive a bit deeper is

Dom and his conflict with this movie and him having a

Child of his own now with his former lover which what was her name again? Elena? Yeah with Elena

I

Don't think I think the idea of Dom being a daddy at this point is fine and is a natural

Progression of the franchise and is something that makes sense and I think even the whole blackmail idea with him also makes sense

But I don't I don't know. I I don't know if I love

It's just yeah, I don't know on paper. I think it's fine how it's implemented in this movie in some senses, but it just feels

Awkward at the same time with how it's all it just comes out of nowhere. Yeah, I guess there's nothing that's ever been hinted at

in the past and it's clear that they just

Not necessarily retconned anything, but they just kind of pulled this out of nowhere because they're like what should the next plot motivation be sure

we'll just do this and

They so at the start of furious 7 if you remember the fight between Shaw Hobbs and Elena

Elena is like three months pregnant or something at that point

Clearly not the case when you look back at that movie.

Yeah, I was just saying, then she gets blasted out a ten story window or something like that.

So they play very loose with the nine months of pregnancy.

It makes sense-ish to have a kid, it was like, how do we get a kid, we can't really have

Letty go through nine months of pregnancy, like how do we get a kid now?

And what makes the most sense?

So we use Elena.

fine everyone's obviously cool with each other in this dynamic this relationship everyone was it's cool with each other it just makes sense to have this kid here and I like it as the motivation because what else would get Brian to turn on everyone the only thing would be a son the only thing I do like the idea that the only thing he would turn his back on family for is family

[laughter]

Which is funny because coming into this movie

I knew he would be bad and I knew the whole you're really gonna turn your back on family

I remember that line from the trailers. I'm like how could Dom betray family?

What is the thing that would cause him to betray family and it's family?

[laughter]

Which is funny.

I just continues his characters through line

His morals and the things he fights for to a T, which is very hilarious in some sense

What do you think about the I'm gonna put quotes around it cuz who knows but the killing of Elena

You gotta put quotes around it dear Lord. Um, I mean

No one's not in f9

But at this point anyone could come back. So yeah, I was gonna say Han got blowed up and I know he's in the next one

Let he supposedly got blowed up, too

Yeah, I don't know it feels I feel like they did a dirty

they definitely did her dirty and

Because it feels like the moment that we have talked about in a lot of these previous movies

Or it's like we have to establish that this villain is actually very evil and they're like, huh?

What's a way we can make it known this cipher is a very bad lady

We'll just have her kill Elena and they just have her

Do that and that's I mean

It's a decent motivation. I guess for Dom and it does raise the stakes of the movie

Somewhat considerably, but yeah, they do do Elena very dirty

She just she's gone from being she Elena is a really good character in this series

And I think she's played a great role and in this movie. She largely just becomes

The mommy in distress and she can't do anything obviously she's captured in and she's in a jail and a plane

So there's not a lot she can do but she really is-

A plane that never has to land or fuel.

Yes, that too. I was gonna say that but I'm glad you did.

She's just helpless this whole movie and she's just kind of there to die.

She plays no other- there's no other purpose in this movie other than for her to explain how the child exists and then die.

And that's about it.

They really- they fridger pretty hard.

It's bad.

Sucks cuz she's so cool in five

She doesn't really have a part in six and then in seven

She has a little bit of a role at the beginning of the movie

Like there's felt like there was so much potential for Elena to be expanded upon especially with Hobbs not in a romantic relationship

but in a working relationship, so

It yeah, I'm I was mad then and I'm upset now still just how dirty they do her in this movie. It sucks

Other baby things we can talk about I know we're gonna talk about some more action scenes in a second

But we may as well talk about the action scene that the baby

Himself is involved in which is the second greatest scene in the movie

Yes

the kung fu baby scene with guns and

Alvin in the chipmunks and Alvin in the chipmunks yeah the hula hoop song for some reason which I don't I

Don't know why they chose that song, but I'm also not complaining about it. Yeah the slightest

But that scene is excellent and really established

That's the best scene with Shaw in the whole movie for sure even outside of his whole banter with Hobbes

Just in there with that prison. It's up there with the prison scene again, but I just

I was gonna say it is his sole moment in this in the

Movie to shine by himself and to have some personality and you get to see what type of person

Yeah, it is. It is very jarring though that he's gone from being this serious

Hello, Dominic Toretto. I'm gonna kill you now. Oi! to now being like

smiley killer baby

Is that was that you or him? Oh, it was him. Oh, ho ho ho poop joke

Okay, like he's made quite the pivot in one movie, right? Yes, it is. It is a very

It's quite the difference

But that scene is so fun

Yeah, it's a blast the baby the car seat just sliding around and the baby smiling the whole time

And he and before he even goes out there. He's like we're gonna have some fun, then he starts killing everybody. It's it's great

It's a lot of fun. It's silly like that's the kind of silly. I'm fine with them. He's like mmm, but what about

Owen

reappearing

He's I mean I don't even feel like there's that much to talk about he just is kind of there if you even

Expected that obviously he was a I did I just like seeing him get back cuz that was the thing I talked about in seven

I was like wow Deckard Shaw is pretty pissed off at the

Dom and the family even though his brother is very much alive and fine like

So I figured I would come back in at some point when I saw him show up. I was like, okay

I didn't really know what was going on when they first appeared. There's just they cut all sudden and there's two

jetpack dudes flying towards this plane I'm like did I miss something and then when they got there and

Put the pieces together explain Dom's meeting with Mrs. Shaw

Yeah, explain who that was is like okay, but it it didn't even really do a good job. They just kind of

Show these things and left these things kind of hanging and you don't really know what's happening for a good like

30 minutes like cuz he meets up with Helen Mirren's character

And you don't know who she is or why he's meeting up with her what the heck is going on

Until a good 35 to 40 minutes later. It's like, okay

But like that makes that meaning it that part in the movie 30 minutes prior a little bit odd

Cuz you don't really know what's going on in the moment. It's like why who is this lady?

Why am I supposed to care about this interaction between these two characters? They don't really

Introduce anything to my knowledge. You don't know that that's correct

Deckard or Owens mom if you just know Dom is doing something. He's just doing something but you don't know what

And the payoff I guess is good, but it's it's a weird introduction to her character that you don't

Understand who she actually is until so so much long later the one thing

I do want to talk about and this is the very obviously jumping the very end of the movie

And then again involves the child hmm I

Don't like this kid being named Brian neither do I I don't like it. I don't like it at all. It's too

Meta it's it's a wink and nod at the audience more than anything because in universe

Dead yeah, it's so in if they wanted to do that. It should have been Paul

I agree Paul is was the way to go if they wanted to make it a nod to Paul Walker

Brian far too on the nose Brian is still alive Mia is still alive. Their kids are still alive. They exist within this world

They're just out of the picture because they got their family and I know Mia's in fast 9, right?

She does return she this is the one she didn't she wasn't a part of and I could probably look up an interview or something

But I think it was they didn't know what to do with them and having her be there without Brian. I don't know

Brian still alive

So it's weird to just be like oh hey my best friend who you would assume Dom

You know talks to and he's also where he would have assumed would have been at the party right to reveal the reveal of his son

it's just

It's it should have been Paul. It's a it's a wink and nod at the audience and

Really nothing more and I don't love it. I'm fine with him having a son

Don't like the name choice bad like when that happened

I was like like as that having that be the final moment of the movie was really like oh

No, like I like legitimately said out loud. Oh, no. What are you doing? I was like, oh, that's not good

This is bad. This is very bad. So I

Don't know. I mean I do I do like that. They are trying I do like that

They're trying to continue to acknowledge

Paul Walker's importance to this franchise in that sense and trying to continue to acknowledge that you know

Yes, he's Paul is not gonna be in any of these movies anymore, but he is a pillar of

Why this franchise is what it is. Yeah, but that's not the way to

Acknowledge that I like the scene in the movie where the team is down and out

They don't know how to deal with fighting Dom and Romans like Brian would know what to do and then and then Lettie's like no

No more like that

felt

Appropriate enough it acknowledges him. It acknowledges the depth of their of Dom and Brian's relationship

but without

Having to draw him back into the life

For obvious reasons and I think that was also I mean not to get too much in because this is gonna be a through line

moving forward

It's just the absence of Paul Walker, you know, like literally second note

I wrote about this movie was no Paul Walker in opening credits sad face

I already miss him

Like I think this plot of Dom turning against the family would have worked out drastically better

If Paul was still in the picture

I think that would have been great because him and him and Paul are the two that have always been the sort of equals and

Dom really didn't have anybody to directly I guess Hobbes sort of was the direct person within the family that he was kind of

Squaring off with in some regards because he's the one that he runs off the road and stuff like that, but it would have been

there would have been a different feeling about it if it would have been him and Brian or the ones that are kind of

at odds with each other in this movie and

Yeah, I mean I don't want to keep bringing this up. I mean I'm sure I naturally will in perpetuity moving forward

It's not something we all do linger

It's not something I want to linger on like oh darn it'd be better if Paul Walker was in this movie because like that's just a

Given, but it does suck. I mean it just continually. It's a fact will suck until all these movies are Gone or over or whatever the heck that

Happens at the end of the what 11th movie. I guess so

We'll see how it shakes out. Let's talk about some of the other action scenes though, so we've talked broadly about

I mean we've talked about more of the

Like hand-to-hand combat scenes with like with the prison and then the baby scene on the plane with the baby carrier

We don't really talked about the car scenes though specifically the one in New York. This is the one I did not like it all

zombie time

Yeah, this is the one that to me where I was like this is one of our big set pieces in this movie

It's

Fine, I guess but it's not I think my big problem with this and you can tell me if you're wrong if I'm wrong because you

Usually know these things. I

Guess this is my problem both with this and the Indian I seen is that the practical effects look much more limited in this and

I'm gonna guess they did not have

500 cars all driving down the street at the same time. Maybe I'm wrong, but they

So you're not entirely wrong. They do have cars. There's actually more practical effects than I thought

So the parts that were filmed in New York City

They were maxed out at 35 miles an hour

Which is okay already limiting them, you know, they shut down major traffic and all that stuff

So it's that was interesting to deal with the actual like explosion stuff the pile up at the parking garage

that was in Cleveland. And that's a real parking garage and they really launched

cars out of a parking garage and piled them up below. They did not have

hundreds of cars driving in crash. There were some car scenes where it was just

one car or two that had no driver. I found this kind of funny. There were stuntmen

dressed up as car seats driving those cars, like in car seat suits. And then

obviously edited to, you know, look way better. So, but that's really it as far as practicality

goes and at least from the behind the scenes like the stretching Dom's car out, which I

think is the better part of the New York chase, like that doesn't seem to have any practicality

to it of stretching and reversing those cars. Maybe it is and it's just not in the behind

the scenes but the chase feels weird and why do we have zombie cars why does she you know

it what it's a lot of just I do like Dom taking on an armored limousine and just standing

there with a shield and taking bullets that's kind of silly yeah he goes full like army

of two in that is what he is cutting open the gas tank and getting ready to blow it

up those guys are terrible nuclear football transporters are supposed to

die for the football they just kind of handed out the better part of this scene

is the team against Dom the stretch him take the lines he's got like 3,000

horsepower under that thing try five try nine like that's yeah that's so we're

dumb and the way he takes out all the cars is fun.

That's Dragon Ball Z levels of goofiness for sure.

What's his power level? It's so good. And you know the chase and the split up and all

that stuff. Him taking Roman out, nah my Bugatti, or Bentley, this is Bentley.

Him fake taking out Shaw as well. Stone cold.

As soon as you saw Shaw die, I guess that would be the one problem, is you see Shaw die like that and it's like, okay, well, we saw him get shot off-screen, 'cause by the time it cuts and you see the shot, he's already like falling on the ground, it's like, okay, well, he's clearly not dead and obviously, he's not.

Hobbs and Shaw is a thing that happens.

Yeah, Hobbs and Shaw is a thing, so the stakes were really taken out of it, but even the way they showcase it in the movie, it's like, okay, well clearly he's not dead, so how is How is he coming back here?

And yeah.

I'm curious to see...

We've talked about this the whole season here on Chapter.

Like I've used to have context for things that happen in the future.

We talked a lot in like Fast Four.

You're running out, Luddy.

Yeah, we're talking a lot in Fast Four about how like I know Luddy comes back so her death in that movie doesn't work for me.

We're running out here.

We got Hobbs and Shaw which is just its own self-contained thing, I guess.

And then Fast 9, and I have no context for future things after that, obviously.

So this is the last one where it's really like, "Oh, they killed Deckard Shaw!"

And I clearly know that's not a thing that will happen.

So will the stakes be higher when I watch the future films?

Probably not.

They're pretty choreographed with their plots and how they work and things of that nature, but I don't know.

I guess we'll see.

New York chase scene, it's not great.

False flat.

It's very flat compared to all of the- compared to everything we have seen from Fast 4 onward, it is definitely lower down the tier list of action sequences.

The submarine sequence, on the other hand, is fun.

It has its moments.

There are different parts coming together.

Part of the team's off looking for a chip, another part's hacking a submarine.

That stuff's not even that- I don't know.

not great but there's some separation it just ends up devolving into them all running away on the ice and

trying to get away and

You as the viewer knowing that oh well Dom's gonna become the good guy here again

But how because the movie is almost over so what is going to happen and then that leads into the whole

Baby sequence which we talked about before as for the actual chase itself. I wrote down

Roman saving it saving the movie per usual because everything that happened in the chase scene up until Roman

Falling in the water and then Tej pulling him out and then him getting up and smacking somebody with a door then shooting up like that

Whole part is great. You know, I was like, okay Roman is still the one in this movie. That is

hilarious and then he gets in the car with Hobbes and then

He's got a ton of great one-liners with that where Hobbes is like

"Oh, just everybody get in front of me and we'll block it." And he's like, "What?!"

Like that's all great.

Or take the wheel when the rock takes a missile and throws it?

He takes a torpedo and just pushes it.

That's hilarious. There are moments in this scene which are

good. I also wrote down Dom punches a man's neck in half

because he throws the Game of Thrones man, the redheaded Game of Thrones man, down on the hood of the car.

just punches his head straight down and it snaps backwards. That's pretty vicious. But

yeah, otherwise I think, again the stakes of this scene feel lowered because of a lot

of what we talked about before. It's just Cypher up in the skies being like "I'm

gonna remote hack a submarine! Woohoo!" and then the submarine is chasing them. It's

like "Okay, I guess this is kind of a big crazy set piece here, but I don't feel like

I know no one here is going to die and the villains up in the sky and she's just kind of disconnected from everything and

Okay, how are they gonna get out of this? I even the action scenes themselves outside of Romans one-liners. I don't think there's anything

like visually that interesting that happens in these scenes either like I guess the sub blasting out of the ice and then them just

getting away from it and or I guess uh

When she shoots the missile and then the missile I mean that would be the only part of the scene that is really

Come on. He uses a car to take out a submarine

Yeah, that's fun, and then they form a car shield to defend him from fire

Yeah, that part is funny, and I enjoyed that part there at the end, but other than that. It's really just

Continue kind of in the same way that fast six was them on an endless runway

it feels like they're on an endless ice lake in this and it's just that's more believable like a run a

27 mile Runways, it's not feasible, but a frozen lake is however big well

They said she said oh our place

We need to get to is only 10 miles away, and then they're on that ice for like 30 minutes

It's like it's like hey, you're 10 miles. You're all driving very fast here. I feel like you'd be there by now

So they really did film on a frozen lake.

They spent six weeks in Iceland

and they really filmed a Lambo on a lake.

They really crashed the Lambo into the ice.

Like they dug an ice trench.

So that was all real.

Roman was not in the car there.

So they did that in a pool,

having it flood in and stuff

and watching him and all that jazz.

So I was surprised at how much of it was really done

on a real frozen lake.

They had so many safety teams and like ice testers

to know how thick the ice was and, you know,

all the safety precautions you would expect

for a multimillion dollar film.

They really blew up trucks.

When the sub crashes through and those trucks fly up,

the trucks are really exploding and flying up.

The submarine is not there,

but they blew those up on an ice area

with chunks of ice flying and all that stuff.

So that was all real.

I appreciate the dedication to practicality for the finale.

I wish New York got a bit more of that as well.

That was limited because they were in New York,

I think if they could have done film somewhere else.

They traded the glory of recording in New York City

for the practicality that they've been known for

for the past seven films.

But I appreciate that at least the end here

we get most of that.

- And again, because some of the trailers

for these other movies are fresh in my head,

I know that practicality is something that is only going to continue to fall by the wayside

because in the other movie we've got a double or triple decker, uh, triple, uh, uh, what are the things called?

The 18-wheeler?

Yeah, whatever.

I see that thing flipping up on its, on its face.

I know Dom then rolls a car into a jet or something.

Like it's just gonna fly out the window even more than normal.

Practicality all but leaves the station here in F9 and Hobbs and Shaw so

We had a good run everybody. Thank you for it. Thank you to all. Remember when they dragged a real vault through the streets?

Remember when it was cool?

I am curious to watch Fast 9 obviously, but I'm not

Tremendously enthused after watching Fate of the Furious here

Is there anything else you wanted to talk about here when it comes to we've I think we've talked about a lot of the stunts

And you know editing I don't know if there's anything music wise I do feel like music took a huge backseat this time around especially coming

off of fast seven which had I mean obviously the

song at the end of the film with

Was a long day. I can't see you again

I was like I don't know why I can't remember the song obviously that was a huge hit the fast seven soundtrack was a

Huge hit on its own, but cut this movie. I do not feel like had

Any notable music outside of the score of the movie itself like licensed music felt like it was pretty

Non-existent which I which was a little bizarre

Is a big bummer

so

You're now the soundtrack is I?

Couldn't tell you anything on it, which is a bummer because most of the other movies

I can so yeah most of their movies

There is at least one or two licensed tracks or songs that were made for the movie that you can

Point two I cannot think of any instances of that here with

with this

Before we do go to best car. Was there anything else you wanted to talk about in regard to the one

Lingering thing I'm thinking of it would just be with Mr. Nobody and his whole crew and then little nobody. Is that his name?

That's what they call it

Is there anything you want to say about either of

Them I again. I like Kurt Russell more in this movie

I think his I think I've just grown accustomed to what he is within this universe

he's

He I like Kurt Russell a lot in general, so I think I was just going to naturally soften on him over time

I don't know if I love little nobody it feel

Here's my problem with little nobody it feels like they're like Paul Walker's out of scene

we need somebody else young and

The that can drive a car around with them now that we can put in his role and I don't feel like he's trying to

Replace Paul Walker necessarily, but that's kind of how it comes off to some degree his naivete

I think helps a lot. He adds comedic value because he just doesn't know how to do anything

He's learning the rules the conversations between

Mr. Nobody and Hobbes about little nobody. Yes funny. I like that

It's interesting to just see this kind of character come up and try to be a part of the group

But he doesn't quite fit in because he's too much of a stickler

We'll see how he grows over time

but

Mr. Nobody's still great. He's just funny like even at the end of the prison scene. He's like well that took longer than I thought he

He's the only puppet master. I'm cool with in the

Fast and Furious universe cipher no nobody yes

I think part of why he worked more for me this time is because he did have more scenes

Quite a few more scenes with Hobbes this time and I think him and I think Kurt Russell and the rock play off each other

Quite well, and they had really fun interactions in this movie

So maybe that's why I like him more. I feel like him playing off of Vin Diesel. It's just kind of

I don't know like like

Hobbes is more witty. He's got comebacks. He's snarky Dom not so much so

Them kind of playing off of mr. Nobody and Don playing off each other's just kind of bland and boring in my opinion

Mm-hmm, but him and Hobbes are good to work off one another same way. It is with both Hobbs and Shaw. All right

Best car. Hmm

This was a hard one cuz I didn't feel like there was any single

I feel like there's naturally in each of these movies ones one that you would maybe

Gravitate towards if there was any single one like this in that movie. I feel like it might be

Romans Lamborghini at the very end just because they call so much attention to that.

It's one of my choices. I like the orange.

I like the orange on the Lamborghini too, but it is not my favorite.

I can give mine this time. My favorite, and again, this is not a...

This is not a unique car necessarily because we've seen plenty of these in the series so far and it's a car that one of the main characters drives quite frequently.

but I

Love the look of Lettie's 1966 Chevy Corvette Stingray that she has in this movie the bright red in

New York, it's awesome. That is again. Maybe I'm just a sucker for

Red cars because I bring this up a lot of times like oh cars

Red then I'm gonna be predisposed to it, but that's my favorite in the movie. I think that car looks awesome

I think that's by far the best car that Lettie's ever had in any of these movies

Weird it's like we picked the same car. I

Mean, I feel like there's really no other great choices though. I'm honest. I'm super partial to stingrays

I love them when you put them in red. It's just is great. It looks good

There are a lot of Dodge Chargers in this movie including the one at the very end with the EMP in the turbo

Jet thruster thing that lights on fire. I

the Bentley

Not my taste but it's a Bentley so it did I guess it gets in mention

But the Stingray is definitely my preferred car. It's a lower

It's a cooler

cast of cars the Impala like Dom's Impala down in

Puerto Rico is pretty cool, but that doesn't get a lot of screen time

Well shout out to the crappy like the the bug looking thing that he rides

The fleet line. Yes, that is not what I would call a best car, but just everything with that car is so

Fun in that sequence and then him driving it over the finish line and blasting it off the edge into the sea

Is all great

I think more than anything that's probably like there is no central focus on any single cars in this movie that I can recall

too much

The one that gets the most focus and attention on it is probably

that opening car he uses in the drag race either that or his

Snowmobile outfitted charger that Dom drives there at the end. It's that in the lane. Those are the ones that get the young screen time

yeah, so everything else is pretty passive and

Of everything that people were driving. Yeah, letty stingray really stood out to me quite a bit. So yeah

Real time follow-up. It wasn't Puerto Rico's Cuba. My bad. Got it mixed up. Uh

So yeah stingrays best car for fate of the furious

Max this is a weird one

And I don't know if we will even have much to say I don't know if we'll have much to say in this regard on

Our next couple episodes to be completely honest because they're so fresh

And that's the legacy. What is the legacy of Fate of the Furious and I personally

Don't have a great answer. I mean it's the first movie without Paul Walker

I don't know if people really think about it in that way. That's one of the things I had written down

It's definitely a key component, but of the movie itself I

Don't know I think

Within the larger series obviously this is the one where?

Cipher Charlize enters the picture which I know ends up being a huge thing moving forward

Honestly this movie's legacy is probably just that it set up Hobbs and Shaw to be a thing in a lot of ways

Yeah, because that's the next movie chronologically that we're going to watch here

For chapter select. It's the next one that came out in the series as well. I

Don't know there's real no real

lasting legacy or singular thing that people

Glean on to with this movie. I would say in in universe some big ones would be

Brian as in the Sun

So he introduced that, you know adding to the family in that way

outside of the

Universe first one without Paul. It's the last

Dwayne Johnson

mainline fast and furious movie and likely will be he's not in fast X and

The odds of him returning for the 11th film are super super small that that was one thing

I did want to mention real quick started but in but it is very funny that the last mainline movie featuring both

Dwayne Johnson and Vin Diesel is one where their characters are at odds with each other for the entirety of the movie

It's like art reflects life there

Because we obviously know that they do not like one another in I

wonder if that was somewhat of a

An idea from the script writers perspective like oh we know that vinan

Duane don't like one another what if we just made the movie one where they're at odds with each other once again

They have to they don't really fight at any single point in this movie or have any

They're actually not in a lot of the same scenes in this movie the more I think about it

So I wonder if that, I don't know, I'm curious, I'm very fascinated by that whole beef between the two of them.

But it is funny that they're on opposite sides of the spectrum throughout most of this movie, when they don't like one another in real life.

Yeah. The other legacy is what you said, Birth of Hobbes and Shaw, and it's like what we said at the top.

The other legacy is they screwed up the name of the movie. They didn't put an "A" in the title.

Beyond that, it's...

Mmm. It's a bummer, but it also made 1.2 billion dollars.

So it's coming off of that, and you'll notice with the grossing amounts of our next two movies how this all plays out.

Well...

How much did... eh, I mean, we'll get there obviously, but I assume Fast 9 made less money because of pandemic things, but maybe I'm wrong.

Because that movie came out in 2021 if I am correct, right because they had to hold on to it for after pandemic things

Yes, f9 came out June 25th of 2021

So they postponed it from 2020 to 21

And it was still kind of in that early time where movie theaters were open

But not everyone was going back to the theater necessarily. So I'll discuss that

Here at the end of season four I do just to go back really quickly to the title and to hone in on this very

Goofy thing with the title not being f8 of the furious for fate of the furious

I'm wondering why they decided against that because you have to guess

That somebody like working on the title of this movie suggested that be a thing and I'm going to assume that an executive was like no

We can't do that because fans won't understand it blah blah blah blah

And if that was the reasoning what's funny is that the next movie in the series is literally called f9 so mm-hmm

They clearly have no problem. Just making the title structure be f-whatever like fans will get it

So why not f8 of the furious like it would have been been so much better

They did it immediately with the next one. They just shortened to f9 the fast saga which is

Maybe the worst title of the whole bunch if we're being honest

So it's painful that they wouldn't do f8 of the furious

When they just totally in the next movie

Ended up going for it. So

Bad on you universal bad on whoever made that call

All right. I think that does it for fate of the furious

Thank you so much for listening

If you'd like to follow the show on Twitter

You can at chapter select you can follow Logan on Twitter at more man 12 in his writing over at comic book

You can follow myself on twitter @MaxRoberts143 and my writing over at MaxFrequency.net.

And until next time, adios!

Chapter Select is a Max Frequency production.

This episode was researched, produced, and edited by me, Max Roberts.

Season 4 is hosted by Logan Moore and myself.

Season 4 is all about the fast and the furious.

For more on this season go to chapterselect.com/season4.

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