

TOURIST TRAP

Written by  
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CAST

Lady Charlotte Plevins-Bainbridge (60s)  
Stanley Flowers (40s)  
Sheila Simmons (30s)  
Dr. Rufus Wharton (20s)

INT. - HOTEL BALLROOM. DAY.

A panel of three experts - LADY CHARLOTTE PLEVINS-BAINBRIDGE, DR. RUFUS WHARTON, and SHEILA SIMMONS - sit side by side on stage in front of a packed audience. To their right sits host STANLEY FLOWERS.

STANLEY

Welcome to the keynote panel here at the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions summit! Tonight we're discussing "Extreme Rides" in an effort to answer the question, "How Extreme is TOO Extreme?" Let's meet our panelists. First, Lady Charlotte Plevins-Bainbridge, owner of a remarkable 5,247 theme parks.

LADY CHARLOTTE

How DO you do, 99 percenters?! I'm told that's what you're all referred to nowadays - is that correct?

STANLEY

Well, most people typically like to be referred to by their name, or at least...

Lady Charlotte looks around the audience.

LADY CHARLOTTE

They all have names? Even the nondescript ones? How fun!

STANLEY

Next, we have Sheila Simmons, MIT graduate and extreme ride engineer.

SHEILA

Lady Charlotte, may I just say what an incredible honor it is to be sitting on the same panel as you?! My parents took me to visit Piranha World when I was just 5 years old, and it changed the course of my entire life!

LADY CHARLOTTE

Ah! One of my earliest, less impressive efforts, but...well done to your parents for introducing you to adventure having at such an early age.

SHEILA

They died on the Piranhas in Zero Gravity ride, but after that, when I was sitting in the orphanage, waiting for my new forever home, I just used to pretend you were my mom, and I turned out fine.

LADY CHARLOTTE

Sadly, I do hate children, but thank you all the same.

SHEILA

It's OK! I love you so much!

STANLEY

And finally, we have Dr. Rufus Wharton, highly esteemed trauma surgeon. Dr. Wharton, thank you so much for taking time away from your busy practice to be here.

DR. WHARTON

Thank you, Stanley. It's the least I can do.

STANLEY

Excellent. So....

DR. WHARTON

Besides saving lives, of course.

STANLEY

Pardon?

DR. WHARTON

Oh, nothing. I've just got my mind on people dying on the table in my absence. But I'm very happy to be here.

STANLEY

It's much appreciated, Doctor. Now if..

DR. WHARTON

Maybe I'll save lives indirectly through this discussion. Which to lesser minds is probably still impressive. Who am I to argue?

STANLEY

Right. Yes. Well....Lady Charlotte, over the years, you've become something of an infamous self appointed expert in extreme rides. However, a disproportionately high number of your parks have been abruptly closed due to....

LADY CHARLOTTE

Oh, you must be referring to Lava Lion Car Chase Land!

STANLEY

Well, actually, no, I .....

LADY CHARLOTTE

Turns out that issuing drivers licenses to man-eating lions was an accident waiting to happen!

SHEILA

Oh, Lady Charlotte, the way that the Haldron Collider utilized liquid nitrogen and helium to reduce the temperature surrounding the suspension bridge that passed through the volcano was genius! God I love you! When I was twelve, and I needed to find my safe space, I used to imagine you braiding my hair!

STANLEY

But to address the "how extreme is too extreme" question....

DR. WHARTON

Bite marks and lava aren't the worst thing that can happen to the human body, seeing as how skin grafting is an incredibly easy procedure to perform. Well, it is for me....

STANLEY

Lady Charlotte, I was actually referring to your...

LADY CHARLOTTE

Chernobyl Zombie Dude Ranch? That was a horrible misprint in the brochure.

(MORE)

LADY CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

We didn't mean to infer that visitors had to ride the zombie bull in order to earn a meal token. Ghastly business!

STANLEY

No, I meant your....

LADY CHARLOTTE

Ebola Cannibal Mini Golf Island?

STANLEY

Oh, that's right! With the...

DR. WHARTON

Record-breaking mass contagion rate? I had developed a vaccine for ebola-spawned zombie-ism just a few weeks prior, but far be it from me to spoil anyone's vacation fun.

SHEILA

Lady Charlotte, the way your engineers replicated a mini black hole inside each golf hole was mind blowing! The disappearances weren't your fault! Anyone with an even basic knowledge of astrophysics should have known not to retrieve the golf balls by hand! I mean, duh!

STANLEY

Lady Charlotte, I was actually referring to your Martian Attack Mega Fun Park in the works. Isn't Mars supposedly inhospitable to human life?

LADY CHARLOTTE

I posed that very question to my dear friend, Elon Musk, who is colonizing the planet, and he insisted that Mars can be whatever we mega-billionaires want it to be! There'll be some trial and error involved, obviously, but that's what you 99 percenters are for, yes? The error part, especially!

STANLEY

As an antidote to the endless pursuit of bigger and better thrills, have you ever considered something a bit more subtle and subversive? Say, an origami themed amusement park? I myself dabble in the ancient and mysterious art of origami, and...

LADY CHARLOTTE

Folding tourists into origami shapes?! OOOH! I hadn't thought of that..

Lady Charlotte claps her hands excitedly.

STANLEY

No, I didn't mean....

LADY CHARLOTTE

Can it be done?

SHEILA

I'll make it so, Lady Charlotte! Will you swaddle me?

LADY CHARLOTTE

Swaddling? Is that anything like disemboweling?

SHEILA

No.

LADY CHARLOTTE

Blechh! Then no. But if you can make the human origami thing happen, I suppose I could let you work for me....

DR. WHARTON

For liability purposes, I could restore the guests to their original shapes, afterwards. Mostly.

LADY CHARLOTTE

You know, my lawyers are always nattering on about liability! Restore the guests? You could do that?

DR. WHARTON

In my sleep. While blindfolded. Not to suggest that having attended Johns Hopkins Medical School as a child prodigy made me anything special. Obviously having been born rich, or orphaned by piranhas in a wind tunnel, are equally impressive, deliberate accomplishments.

LADY CHARLOTTE

Origami Snake Pit Geo-Storm Beach World! Oh, it does have a whimsical ring to it!

FADE OUT.