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[00:00:22] Jordan: Hi, I am Jordan.

[00:00:24] Kit: I'm Kit.

[00:00:26] Jordan: Welcome to *Starry Time* where stars plus lines-

[00:00:30] Kit: Equal stories.

[00:00:31] Jordan: This is Episode 3 on our monthly constellation, Corona Australis, the Southern Crown. Last week, we reviewed and ret-constellated the myths of this constellation.

[00:00:45] Kit: Now, it's time for our silliest segment or episode, which is called *Pop Culture Superstars*. In this segment, we share our favorite and least favorite occurrences of the month's constellation in pop culture.

[00:01:00] Jordan: Then, we take over the Constellation brand and wish upon a star for what we hope existed.

[00:01:06] Kit: This month was a little tricky because there really wasn't anything called exactly Corona Australis out there.

[00:01:15] Jordan: I didn't see a single Wikipedia disambiguation page, which is generally where I start and branch out from.

[00:01:22] Kit: Exactly. We agreed to focus on the Australis part of the constellation or on something called the Southern Crown, just to give ourselves a little bit more leeway for this constellation.

[00:01:34] Jordan: Exactly. That brings us to the twist of this segment is that we don't share our selections or ideas with each other beforehand.

[00:01:41] Kit: Occasionally, we have vast departures of what we like.

[00:01:46] Jordan: Did someone mention a Sagittarius serpentarius?

[00:01:51] Kit: [laughs] A four-foot bird that will terrorize your dreams.

[00:01:55] Jordan: AKA man's true best friend?

[00:01:58] Kit: [laughs] Agree to disagree. Let's get started on our favorites and least favorites. Do you want to start us off with your favorite pop culture appearance of Australis? I think I know what it is. I think we have the same one. Jordan, do you want to start off with your favorite?

[00:02:17] Jordan: Yes. I think they should clue you in. I'm going to start off with two words and a number, Dino Crisis 3. Ever heard of it?

Completed: 01/05/2025

[00:02:25] **Kit:** Oh, no. That's not what I picked, but tell us about it.

[00:02:31] **Jordan:** Wow. How I thought for sure. You were so confident that you knew what I had picked. Dino Crisis 3 is an action-adventure video game. It came out in 2003. It's a type of game where you fight dinosaurs or other prehistoric animals. This episode of the game, since it's the third one, is we've moved on to mutant dinosaurs. These are mutations that are created from DNA that are extracted from various dinosaur species. The game itself, it actually takes place on a space station. Perhaps this is where *Dinosaurs on a Spaceship*, the *Doctor Who* episode came from. now I'm just really glad we don't have the same one. I thought for sure you were thinking about the Australis, which is one of the species of this game. It's around 65 feet long and somehow only 20 feet tall. It's related to the Tyrannosaurus. It shares a similar body plan, although luckily the Australis does have a second row of teeth on the inside of its jaw which is a lot like a Mosasaurus. This is the best part, Kit, due to other anomalies in the species' creation-- Again, this whole episode, this whole game takes place in the 23rd century. Don't worry about it.

[00:03:55] **Kit:** Right. Dr. Wu is still alive though. Don't worry. [laughs]

[00:03:58] **Jordan:** Definitely. Due to anomalies in the species' creation, the Australis skin does not cover its entire body, so there are muscles that are exposed. I guess-

[00:04:12] **Kit:** [laughs] This is a Dr. Wu creation.

[00:04:16] **Jordan:** If you're trying to imagine it, just imagine a giant zombie T-Rex-

[00:04:22] **Kit:** Oh, God.

[00:04:23] **Jordan:** -that also has an electricity-generating organ. It's half exposed but also bleeding out electricity. It's a experimental origin, of course, created in the Ozymandias DNA library. They did thrive on board of the ship until their extinction in the year 2548. Yes, the Australis, the zombie T-Rex of Dino Crisis 3 is undoubtedly my favorite pop culture appearance of Australis and I'm somehow baffled it's not yours.

[00:05:05] **Kit:** Yes, I'm also baffled. This dinosaur sounds like a monstrosity right up there with Scorpions Rex.

[00:05:12] **Jordan:** Oh, it's bad. It's, I would say, worse than Scorpions Rex in some ways. I'll send you a picture for the socials.

[00:05:20] **Kit:** All right, great. That is not-

[00:05:22] **Jordan:** 2003 graphics also don't help which is another no pleasurable part about this game.

[00:05:29] **Kit:** Let me tell you about my favorite because I know you had some

Completed: 01/05/2025

backups. I think you'll quickly see why I thought this was going to be your favorite. My favorite-

[00:05:39] Jordan: Is it one of my top five career options?

[00:05:43] Kit: Yes, it is.

[00:05:43] Jordan: Yes, it is? Yes, that's number 2. All right. Keep going.

[00:05:48] Kit: [laughs] What we're talking about is Terra Australis which was a hypothetical continent that was believed to be present between the 15th and 18th century. The basic premise was, "We don't know if there is a continent down in the Southern Hemisphere, but there probably ought to be because there's one in the Northern Hemisphere." You'll see this Terra Australis on maps from the 15th and 18th centuries. Yes, I thought it was going to be your favorite because of your beloved field of cartography.

[00:06:31] Jordan: It is on my favorites list. In fact, it is listed above Dino Crisis 3. When you're looking at this lost continent cartography, that's my favorite of all. These imagined land masses are hypothetical continents, that's certainly my favorite. Giving Terra Australis is to do if I hadn't found Zombie T-Rex from a very obscure and bad video game which perhaps barely comes as pop culture. Terra Australis and its role in graphical development, like you said, over those three centuries definitely has been something on my mind for a long time.

[00:07:15] Kit: I also saw that Ptolemy was also somebody who was theorizing about the idea that the land in the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere should be balanced. It even ties into our good friend from our cosmic background segments.

[00:07:32] Jordan: It's a great choice, I'm not going to lie.

[00:07:35] Kit: Yes. Did you have any other favorites?

[00:07:37] Jordan: I did. I have one more favorite. Did you as well or no?

[00:07:41] Kit: Nothing I felt as strongly about.

[00:07:45] Jordan: My last choice was just Australis Aquaculture, which was on the disambiguation page. It just seemed like they were interested in sustainability, offshore aquaculture. I learned what a barramundi is, which I didn't know before.

[00:08:00] Kit: Yes, me too.

[00:08:01] Jordan: What is it? On three, let's say. One, two, three. Sea bass. Oh, okay.

[00:08:09] Kit: [laughs] It's just that I just learned that it was a fish.

Completed: 01/05/2025

[00:08:14] Jordan: Oh, great. Oh, okay. I had to learn what a barramundi was. The whole reason why it's on my top three is that I like eating fish. That's the whole reason. It's based in Massachusetts.

[00:08:29] Kit: It was also on my list because I just liked the name but then I went into a deep dive about what aquaculture was because I didn't know what it was. It's basically like farming but in water. It can be like plants. It can be fish, those things. Then, I was like, "Is this good?" I know it's sustainable according to the people that do it but should we be doing this? My conclusion was-

[00:08:58] Jordan: It's also sustainable according to the Wikipedia page about it. It's a shocker.

[00:09:02] Kit: [laughs] Yes, it's very reputable.

[00:09:03] Jordan: Yes.

[00:09:05] Kit: It seems to have pros and cons. There are some ethical concerns about fish and captivity, blah, blah. I wasn't really excited to make it my favorite, but it does have a good name, and I learned something new. I did not know what aquaculture was.

[00:09:21] Jordan: Yes, you investigated the ethics of this company and aquaculture as a whole. I learned that barramundi is a word for sea bass. **[00:09:32] Kit:** There you go.

[00:09:33] Jordan: We came together and learned a little bit about something new. All right, Kit. Least favorite again, not a wide swath of territory to choose from. Some old favorites for sure. Do you want to start this time since I started with most favorite?

[00:09:51] Kit: Yes. I don't know how to pronounce this exactly. I ended up going into the scientific names of animals. That's where I found something interesting. What I found was the Giant Gippsland earthworm, also known as *Megascolides australis*. I'm not sure. This is a native Australian worm that is 3.3 feet long-

[00:10:30] Jordan: Don't like that.

[00:10:31] Kit: Yes, and about 3.25 inches in diameter. There was a picture, and the moment I saw it, I said, "Nope. This is it for me." Giant earthworm.

[00:10:44] Jordan: Woo. I don't like that at all. That can stay on Skull Island with King Kong and the rest of the giant mutant creatures as far as I'm concerned with Australis, the zombie T-Rex. They can all live together happily on some lost spaceship continent. That's fine. That sounds horrifying. Just the other day I was reading about an earthworm that was 1.1 feet long and that was scary to me.

[00:11:13] Kit: This is too long, yes.

Completed: 01/05/2025

[00:11:14] Jordan: I was like, "Oh, I don't like the idea of it being a foot long. That's like my whole arm. No thanks." Now you're telling me about a three-foot-long one. It seemed thick too. What did you say? About three inches?

[00:11:28] Kit: Three-quarters of an inch.

[00:11:31] Jordan: Great. That's way better.

[00:11:32] Kit: Three inches, that's not a worm anymore. That's a snake.

[00:11:39] Jordan: Now that you've exposed me to this earthworm, that would've been my least favorite.

[00:11:44] Kit: It is.

[00:11:46] Jordan: I like it less than the other options that I found, but I found an Australis Motors, which is an automobile manufacturer that existed from 1897 to 1907. I think the car has maybe ruined a lot of things. At the car's origin story, if I could travel back in time and maybe make automobile manufacturing not take off, I don't think that would've had the worst results for us as a society. Another option I saw was the SS Australis, a passenger ship which again, doesn't really offend me, but industry, not my favorite. Then, my last and would've been my favorite-- Or my favorite least favorite or my least, least favorite, depending on how you want to put it would be the new-age band Australis.

[00:12:51] Kit: Oh, I liked that. I listened to some music.

[00:12:56] Jordan: Great. Then, you did better than me. I just threw it out of hand without listening. I'm glad you gave it a listen. I saw the categories, ambient music, world music, electronic music, ethnic music, symphonic music, and soundtrack and I thought, "This can't possibly be for me." The greatest part about this podcast is not only do you expose me to terrifying earthworms-

[00:13:27] Kit: You're welcome.

[00:13:27] Jordan: -but you also do the hard research on Australis, the new-age band as well. You're saying maybe I should give it a listen?

[00:13:36] Kit: It's good working music. because I listen to a lot of instrumental stuff when I'm working so I don't get distracted. It's good background music while you're doing something else, while you're-- Whatever else [crosstalk]

[00:13:48] Jordan: I should focus more on symphonic music and soundtrack and less on world music and ethnic music?

[00:13:55] Kit: Yes. It definitely doesn't-- I didn't listen to the whole catalog, but I would put it more in new-age/ambient space. Did you see the Olympic Australis, the giant Opal?

[00:14:07] Jordan: No, I did not. I love a good opal though.

[00:14:12] Kit: I did see that and I was like, "That's interesting. I don't know how I feel about it. Where did it come from?" I just had questions about it. A giant opal also called Olympic Australis.

[00:14:29] Jordan: Sounds beautiful. It's got a great name.

[00:14:31] Kit: It's got to be in Australia.

[00:14:34] Jordan: Shocker. All right, Kit. Our favorites and least favorites were quite extensive, but let's try to fill in the blanks between reality and fiction. What's something with the Australis brand that you wish existed?

[00:14:51] Kit: I struggled a little bit with this until it all came together and I was like, "Yes, this is the best idea I could come up with." Corona Australis is basically going to be a mashup between a crown that you might wear at a party or a show or to go out. It's a crown, but it's like a plasma ball crown. You know those plasma balls where they have noble gases in them and then you touch it and it's like electricity? Oops. It's that. It's a crown with electricity.

[00:15:33] Jordan: Yes, it's one of those things that like a science museum that's like an orb and you put your hand on it and then all the lightning bolts are directed to your hand. Wow.

[00:15:42] Kit: Exactly, but a crown so you wear it.

[00:15:46] Jordan: Wow. I like that a lot.

[00:15:50] Kit: I think it would be really good for Instagram.

[laughter]

[00:15:53] Jordan: Perfect. Does that count as bioluminescence? Is that biology? No. I guess that's mineral luminescence, phosphorescence.

[00:16:04] Kit: Yes, it's something to do with voltage electrodes, voltage, and noble gases. I don't know how they work.

[00:16:13] Jordan: It's a crown you wear and then-- It's a crown you wear and if someone touches it, the lightning bolts touch their finger or how does it work in regards to when you're going out?

[00:16:22] Kit: Just the plasma balls which are constantly-- You can see the electricity around them as they're just sitting there and then when you touch it, it looks like it's going to your finger.

[00:16:33] Jordan: Concentrates, yes.

Completed: 01/05/2025

[00:16:35] Kit: Right. It'll be constantly active and then if somebody touches it, it'll go to their hand.

[00:16:42] Jordan: Is there any way we can make it like a mood ring that's also a crown?

[00:16:46] Kit: Changes color?

[00:16:52] Jordan: Yes, it changes color of the lightning bolts depending on-- If someone that you don't want to see shows up, it's all bright red plasma ball, but if your friend shows up, it's your favorite color.

[00:17:06] Kit: If you wear it to a music show, it'll pulse in time with the music like a waveform.

[00:17:05] Jordan: Now we're getting somewhere. This is some Windows Visualizer 2000 stuff and-

[00:17:12] Kit: Exactly. You get it.

[00:17:14] Jordan: I'm here for it. That's the crowd I want. I wish that existed too. You're right.

[00:17:20] Kit: It would be so cool. That's what I wished for. Jordan, what did you wish for?

[00:17:26] Jordan: Kit, I think you really carried the day here. I'm jealous of your imagination and interpretation. What I wish existed was something that I just called the Southern Crown winery and it's an Australian vineyard that I own and run with my Australian friend Lee Ellis.

[00:17:52] Kit: Right. [laughs]

[00:17:57] Jordan: It's just another bargain bin cheap Australian wine, the one with the wine bottles with the kangaroo on them, the Yellow Tail, or whatever it is, they sell out. I figure you get another Australian wine, put this little constellation on there. I'm going to the wine store. I don't know what I'm looking at. I don't know what anything is. I see a kangaroo, I say, "Thanks. That looks great." If I see a constellation on a bottle of wine, I'm like, "That's the one I'm going to buy. To be fair, I do also co-host a podcast about constellations." All the same.

Even if we weren't big sellers, I feel like owning a winery sounds like fun and I'm the one who gets to pick what I wish existed. An ideal world where me and Lee run a winery together in Australia. That's the Australis Southern Crown Crown I wish existed.

[00:19:01] Kit: I like that a lot because I also agree. I definitely buy wine based on the labels. I would be very attracted to a wine bottle that had a constellation on it or

was space-themed. I'm sure this exists. It's also a good name. Corona Australis, it sounds nice and whimsical. It's got a good sound and a great marketing built-in. It has the idea of it being a crown, making it good or royalty. Whether or not that's good is a whole different thing. I like it. Sounds good, and I would buy it.

[00:19:41] Jordan: My other thing that I wish existed were just spring/summer wreaths to be more popular. I have seen them occasionally, but for the most part, you only see a wreath in winter and it's always made out of that same green and red stuff. There's all sorts of blooming going on in spring and summer. Let's get some wreathy plants.

[00:20:09] Kit: You mean on a door?

[00:20:12] Jordan: On a door, yes. I'm sure they already exist. I looked at some of them, but I think we should start using them a lot more. I don't feel like wreaths should just be a winter thing. If I showed up to your house and you're having a house party and you have a beautiful circle full of spring plants, flowers, I'm going to be like, "Dang, this is a place to be." I'm into it. What I wish existed were just spring wreaths on doors were more popular.

[00:20:41] Kit: I initially thought you meant flower crowns and I was like, "Okay, want to make it a fashion statement, just want to have flower crowns back." I think they're very festive. I like to see flowers and it would make your front door smell nice until the flowers died. That's just life.

[00:21:07] Jordan: And death. It's just one of those things you have replace every month. Maybe that is why they have winter wreath. I hadn't thought about it using evergreens and certain foliage. It's a little bit more hearty. Maybe that explains it. You learned a little bit about aquaculture. I learned a little bit about botanical sustainability. That's the beauty of this pod.

[00:21:33] Kit: It's only a matter of time before one of our wishes comes true.

[music]

[00:21:49] Kit: This has been Kit.

[00:21:51] Jordan: And Jordan.

[00:21:52] Kit: Sisters, lovers of stars and stories.

[00:21:55] Jordan: We'll see you next time.

[00:21:57] Kit: On *Starry Time*.

[music]

[00:22:20] [END OF AUDIO]

Completed: 01/05/2025